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## CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD RINGING REPORT 2011

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This year's ringing report is again based on the BTO's online ringing pages (at <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports>). These summaries are now available for the six years 2006–2011. Each annual report comprises a computer-generated totals list plus a table displaying a hundred or so recoveries selected as exceptional in some way (longevity, distance moved, low number of recoveries from/to that country etc.).

### **The year**

2011 proved to be another record-breaking year for Cambridgeshire ringers. The final tally of 19,886 new birds ringed was over 18% up on the previous record, 16,825, set in the previous year. This new high was probably due to a combination of factors: increased activity by the County's existing ringers; one or two new ringers; and a quite exceptional breeding season, particularly for *Acrocephalus* and *Sylvia* warblers, which pumped up late-summer catches.

The new total takes Cambridgeshire to 18th in the British and Irish County rankings, punching well above its weight in terms of population and area, despite having no bird observatories, or opportunities for seabird colony or coastal wader ringing.

The year's total of 98 species ringed was also a record, beating the previous 97 (equalled in both 2007 and 2008). However, for the fourth year running there were no new ringing 'ticks' for the County. As usual, the changeover in the mix of scarcer species year-on-year was something of a lottery. From 2010, six species (Little Grebe, Coot, Common Sandpiper, Wryneck, Wheatear and Carrion Crow) didn't make it onto this year's list. Eleven other species, mostly still with single-figure lifetime County totals, hadn't been caught in 2010.

No major County rarities were ringed in 2011. Notable, however, among the less usual were the County's 8th Whooper Swan, 5th/6th Buzzard pulli, 6th Oystercatcher, 11th Firecrest, and perhaps surprisingly, only our 30th/31st Rooks.

There were no changes in the top four species ringed, which together accounted for nearly 40% of the overall total. Blue Tit retained its unassailable lead at 2497. 1716 Reed Warblers nudged ahead of 1666 Great Tits for second place, in turn just ahead of 1647 Blackcaps.

This Blackcap total, almost twice that of 2010 (862) is astonishing, and it flags up the increasing importance of sound-luring outside the breeding season (defined as September to April for most species; and only for short periods each day). 'Tape-luring' – as ringers persist in calling it, although it is now more usually MP3- or CD-based – has been made much easier with the recent introduction of cheap players (or iPods, mobile phones) and of portable amplifier-speakers.

This report has commented before on how ringers tend to concentrate on some habitats at the expense of others – 'fishing where the fish are'. Working the wetlands, reedbeds and scrubby areas is simply more productive than trying to catch woodland or prairie-farmland birds. It is not surprising that Cambridgeshire

ringers caught more Reed Warblers than any other counties except Sussex and Suffolk. This report has also attempted, over the years, to draw some conclusions about population change – namely species doing better or less well – from comparing the numbers caught year-on-year. For many species, sound-luring now makes any comparative study of population change by annual ringing total pretty much impossible.

Many species respond quite remarkably to sound-lures and are easily captured as a result. The star performer is indeed probably Blackcap, which readily respond in April and in September. Quite amazing numbers can be coaxed out of even superficially unattractive habitat. To catch 20–30 birds in just one short net in an hour or so is not unusual. Perhaps the star exponent of sound-luring is the Rye Bay Ringing Group, whose autumn Blackcap total in 2011 also increased – but from 8,630 (2010) to 13,067!

Many species are now almost entirely caught by focused sound-luring, at the expense of more general random catching. As ringers increasingly experiment with new catching strategies, and even with new audio ‘mixes’, this will impact on which species they will target, which they can catch and also, no doubt, to the composition of the sample caught. Unsurprisingly it is juvenile male Blackcaps which overwhelmingly dominate autumn sound-lured catches, and this same age–sex disproportion may be mirrored in other species: September fly-over Meadow Pipits; wandering November Goldcrests; pre-roost hirundines, wagtails and winter thrushes; and game-strip finches and buntings.

While this distortion is no more artificial than catching with bait – Blue Tits on peanuts, Goldfinches on nyjer, garden Blackcaps on fat-blocks, or Fieldfares on windfall apples – its effect may be even more significant in terms of any long-term statistical analysis of raw numbers, or of age–sex survival.

Perhaps these ‘effort-based’ fluctuations at least provide a nice contrast with the fortunes of resident species entirely unaffected by sound-luring, global warming or deforestation in the Sahel. For these, the annual ups and downs probably do genuinely represent good and bad years.

Here are the numbers for six relatively stable species:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	31	52	30
Jay	13	17	13
Long-tailed Tit	441	442	446
Robin	642	502	507
Dunnock	475	394	485
Bullfinch	270	226	250

The table only includes new birds ringed. These are all relatively long-lived species and there would also have been a significant number of retrapped older individuals from previous years. Wicken Fen regularly records Robins, Bullfinches and Long-tailed Tits at five-years+.

The proportion of pulli (3749) to fully grown birds held steady at 19%. A successful pulli-ringing year depends mainly on the productivity of the core nestbox species.

Tits did well, with Blue Tit nestlings (1050) overtaking Great Tit, and passing the thousand mark, both for the first time. The larger raptor box species also had a good year – Kestrel 158, Barn Owl 603, plus 57 Stock Doves as the inevitable by-catch. As for open-nest species, apart from the Wicken Fen Reed Warbler project and 204 Swallows (which almost don't qualify as open!), getting to ringing these at the right date remains a challenge for the growing band of Cambridgeshire nesters. A significant exception to this resulted from the continuing RSPB focus on those beleaguered farmland specialists: Corn Bunting (110), Yellowhammer (21) and Linnet (25). Cambridgeshire's Corn Bunting total (pulli and fully grown) was the second highest nationally, just behind Humberside.

Highlights for individual ringers included 585 new and three control Sedge Warblers for Tony Martin at Pymore (contrast 279 and one control at Wicken, which was also a recent record there). He also secured 38 late-summer Yellow Wagtails and ringed pulli Sand Martins (44) for the first time in his new artificial colony. Stuart Sharp renewed a County tradition with some good orchard thrush catches and ringed Marsh Harriers and Hobby pulli. Mark Thomas's Gamlingay feeders boosted the County's Lesser Redpoll total to an exceptional 292, plus over twenty Commons and a Greenland bird (*rostrata*). And I myself was surprised to have five Snipe jump into a net in front of me just as I was going to take it down; and this very close to the centre of Cambridge.

With the exception of Cambridgeshire's only 2011 Firecrest, the Wicken Fen Group (WFG) recorded fewer unusual species ringed than it manages in most years. But they achieved Water Rail, Tawny Owl and Redstart, none of which is an annual Wicken bird. Plus a Coal Tit – a singleton at the feeders was only the 22nd caught on the Fen in 44 years of continuous ringing there.

WFG ringing of some kind took place on 210 days during the year, leading to a record total of 5,606 new birds ringed from 57 species, to which must be added the 834 recaptured individual birds (both residents such as Robin, Bullfinch and Long-tailed Tit; and returning Reed and Sedge Warblers, Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps and Whitethroats) already ringed from previous years. For many species: Reed Warbler (862), Blackcap and Chiffchaff (650 and 240 – those sound-lures again...), Whitethroat (145) and Bearded Tit (19) this was a record year. A Wicken record of 90 Fieldfares helped the County to a creditable total of 125 for this difficult and super-wary species, which should be seen in the context of a total of only 1393 achieved for the whole of Britain and Ireland; only Highland managed to do more.

The WFG continued its home-grown 'Standard Sites Sessions' for the 42nd year running but this year also embarked on a parallel BTO Constant Effort Sites project, joining the other CESs which have run in the County for many years: at Bainton GP (Chris Hughes), Paxton Pits (Ian Dillon), and Five Arches Pit (Alan Brimmell).

### **Ringing totals for 2011**

There are three age categories in the following summary table. Pulli are birds either ringed in the nest or as not-fully-grown dependent juveniles where the place of ringing will definitely be the place of birth. Juveniles are birds in their first calendar year. Adults are birds in their second or any later calendar year. Unaged birds are fully grown flying birds where plumage characters do not allow first calendar

year to be excluded (for example, a November Tree Sparrow or Long-tailed Tit). Recoveries are reports (captures, field sightings or as found dead) of birds away from the site of ringing, often by another ringer (a 'control'). For most species, birds caught within 5 km of their ringing site are excluded.

Recoveries may include either birds ringed in Cambridgeshire and found elsewhere, or birds ringed elsewhere and found in Cambridgeshire. Thirteen species, shown in *italics*, recorded recoveries without there being any new birds of those species ringed. Many of these are field sightings of colour-ringed birds, or rings read in the field, particularly of gulls and other water birds, many dating back to the 1980s.

	<b>Pulli</b>	<b>Juv</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Unaged</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><i>Recovered</i></b>
Mute Swan		12	9		<b>21</b>	
Bewick's Swan		3	7		<b>10</b>	18
Whooper Swan			1		<b>1</b>	
<i>Canada Goose</i>						2
Wigeon			3		<b>3</b>	4
Gadwall			2	1	<b>3</b>	1
Teal		14	58	1	<b>73</b>	8
Mallard		42	90		<b>132</b>	7
Pintail				1	<b>1</b>	
Shoveler			2		<b>2</b>	
<i>Pochard</i>						6
<i>Tufted Duck</i>						4
<i>Cormorant</i>						1
<i>Little Egret</i>						1
Red Kite	3				<b>3</b>	6
Marsh Harrier	6				<b>6</b>	
Sparrowhawk		11	11	1	<b>23</b>	2
Buzzard	2				<b>2</b>	
Kestrel	158				<b>158</b>	6
Hobby	2				<b>2</b>	
<i>Peregrine</i>						1
Water Rail			1		<b>1</b>	
Corncrake	2	4	6		<b>12</b>	
Moorhen			1		<b>1</b>	
<i>Coot</i>						2
Oystercatcher	1				<b>1</b>	
Avocet		2			<b>2</b>	2
Little Ringed Plover			1		<b>1</b>	
Lapwing	6				<b>6</b>	1
Ruff		2			<b>2</b>	
Snipe			6	1	<b>7</b>	
Woodcock			4		<b>4</b>	
<i>Black-tailed Godwit</i>						1
Redshank	4				<b>4</b>	
Green Sandpiper		2			<b>2</b>	

	<b>Pulli</b>	<b>Juv</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Unaged</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Recovered</b>
Black-headed Gull	1		1		2	4
<i>Mediterranean Gull</i>						2
<i>Lesser Black-backed Gull</i>						9
<i>Herring Gull</i>						13
<i>Great Black-backed Gull</i>						1
Stock Dove	57	1	11		69	
Wood Pigeon	4	2	9		15	
Collared Dove	4		6	2	12	1
Turtle Dove	2	1	1		4	
Cuckoo	2				2	
Barn Owl	603		22		625	61
Little Owl	2	1		1	4	
Tawny Owl	15	1			16	1
Swift	40		15		55	
Kingfisher		15	6		21	
Green Woodpecker		16	7		23	
Great Spotted Woodpecker		17	14		31	
Jay		2	11		13	2
Magpie		3	1		4	
Jackdaw	17	3	12		32	1
Rook		2			2	
Goldcrest		104	18	10	132	
Firecrest				1	1	
Blue Tit	1050	908	538	1	2,497	14
Great Tit	825	494	339	8	1,666	14
Coal Tit		32	28	1	61	
Marsh Tit	77	51	14		142	1
Bearded Tit	1	22	4	2	29	
Skylark	24				24	
Sand Martin	44	90	16		150	4
Swallow	204	464	70		738	5
House Martin		9	2		11	
Cetti's Warbler	2	21	9	1	33	
Long-tailed Tit		120	101	220	441	
Chiffchaff	2	411	111	51	575	1
Willow Warbler		98	76	12	186	
Blackcap	18	1273	330	26	1,647	6
Garden Warbler	2	82	67	6	157	
Lesser Whitethroat		36	22	1	59	
Whitethroat	13	397	144		554	
Grasshopper Warbler		15	6		21	
Sedge Warbler	9	795	193		997	23
Reed Warbler	173	1124	419		1,716	26
Nuthatch		3	1	4	8	
<i>Waxwing</i>						1

	<u>Pull</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Unaged</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Recovered</u>
Treecreeper		62	8	6	76	3
Wren	3	299	97	26	425	1
Starling	107	130	67	3	307	6
Blackbird	12	293	430	4	739	16
Fieldfare		13	109	3	125	1
Song Thrush	3	86	44	1	134	1
Redwing		63	61	14	138	
Mistle Thrush		3	3		6	
Spotted Flycatcher	7	1	1		9	
Robin	22	504	111	5	642	3
Nightingale		9	6		15	2
Redstart		1	1		2	
Dunnock	6	287	168	14	475	1
House Sparrow	5	27	30	51	113	
Tree Sparrow			4	17	21	
Yellow Wagtail	4	26	10	2	42	
Grey Wagtail		3			3	
Pied Wagtail	7	75	6	3	91	
Meadow Pipit	22	50	1		73	
Chaffinch	6	188	269	11	474	3
Brambling			17		17	
Greenfinch		313	233	8	554	5
Goldfinch	5	324	335	14	678	4
Siskin			4		4	
Linnet	25	24	13		62	
Lesser Redpoll		40	248	4	292	7
Mealy Redpoll			25		25	4
Bullfinch	1	167	102		270	2
Yellowhammer	21	69	40	5	135	
Reed Bunting	8	210	339	13	570	5
Corn Bunting	110		1		111	
	<b>3,749</b>	<b>9,972</b>	<b>5,609</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>19,886</b>	<b>327</b>

## Ring-Recoveries

This section of the report is once again derived from the new online BTO Summary of Ringing Recoveries.

The number of ring-recoveries reported by the public continues to fall. Once again the recoveries section is dominated by exchanges between ringers (controls). A high proportion of these are Reed and Sedge Warblers, where some 80% of all recoveries are controls. Self-evidently this means that recovery patterns for these species are very much influenced by the distribution of ringers.

The following table shows the distribution of all overseas recoveries from these two species, in- or outbound and at all times of year, involving Cambridgeshire. It

illustrates quite nicely the differences in migration strategy between the two which have been demonstrated elsewhere from the many hundreds of similar recaptures on the national database.

**Table 2.**

Spring and autumn	Sedge Warbler		Reed Warbler	
	Cambs ringed	Foreign ringed	Cambs ringed	Foreign ringed
Sweden				1
Germany				1
Netherlands			1	
Belgium	4	3	4	6
France	23	11	13	2
Spain	3	2	10	2
Portugal	1	1	5	2
Italy			1	
Morocco			4	
Mauritania			1	
Burkina Faso			1	
Senegal			1	

Cambridgeshire-caught Sedge Warblers are probably all British breeding birds, which move south to south-western France to fatten up in the substantial estuarine reedbeds which have (if only recently) become the focus of French ringing-camp activity. Very few recoveries are recorded south of the Pyrenees in the autumn, and it is assumed that most birds (and many at up to twice their midsummer weights) fly directly from France to their wintering quarters south of the Sahara, overflying the Iberian peninsula and North Africa, effectively to vanish from view unless they are picked up by intensive expedition activity (most recently focused on Senegal and Burkina Faso).

By contrast, the numbers of Reed Warblers in Scandinavia and the Baltic States are some five to ten times those of the UK, and dispersing birds from those populations are regularly drifted to our east and south coasts in autumn. Reed Warblers are also processed in huge numbers in southern France, but their fattening movement is more of a gradual trickle southwards, and they continue to be intercepted by ringers all the way down through Iberia and into north-western Africa.

For the recoveries table which follows, I've selected just twenty interesting examples from the complete BTO report.

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Please send any comments on this report and any 2012 records to [m.holdsworth@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.holdsworth@ntlworld.com) or to 4A Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge CB1 7US.

**[Mallard**

GM64771 First-year Female 01-09-1967 Borough Fen Decoy: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambs)  
 Unknown 20-11-2011 Lake Murvaul: 32°2'N 94°26'W (Texas) **USA** 7,960 km WSW 44y 2m 19d

This astonishing recovery, included in the BTO's online reports, is an unauthenticated 'ring-only' record, and thus disqualified from the national longevity tables. The current EURING record is 23y 3m; and the current UK record is 20y 5m, also from Borough Fen ringing in the 1960s. If genuine, this would also be the first Mallard to be found in the USA. Ring-only records, with no supporting corpse, are self-evidently unreliable. This ring could have fallen off a birder's or hunter's binocular strap, or even have found its way to Texas *via* the food industry! Wicken has a similar 16-year-old Starling record, based on a ring retrieved from the bottom of a GPO mailbag.]

**Tufted Duck**

FP09404 First-year Male 16-02-1998 Borough Fen Decoy, Peterborough: 52°39'N 0°14'W (Cambs)  
 Dead (in net or cage) 16-06-2003 Krokhofta, Vindbelgur, Myvatn: 65°37'N 16°59'W **Iceland** 1,721 km NNW 5y 4m

While there are over 1,600 foreign Tufted Duck ring-recoveries (both *from* and *to* the UK) – mainly from shooting – only 77 of these are from Iceland. This is the County's third such.

**Cormorant**

DKC Nestling 05-06-2011 Pikkerholm, Frederikshavn: 57°30'N 10°36'E (Jylland) **Denmark**  
 2H7823 Dead (hit wires) 13-10-2011 King's Dyke, Whittlesey: 52°33'N 0°9'W (Cambs) 878 km SW 4m 8d

This is a typical recovery. Foreign-ringed Cormorants found in the UK outside the breeding season are usually juveniles ringed as nestlings (97%), and most hale from Denmark (77 out of 175 nationally). This is Cambridgeshire's first, but there have been two others from The Netherlands, which is the second most popular country of origin for the species.

**Water Rail**

SVS First-year 28-08-2010 Flommen, Falsterbo: 55°24'N 12°50'E (Malmöhus) **Sweden**  
 6189003 Freshly dead (cat) 15-01-2011 Sawston: 52°7'N 0°10'E (Cambs) 908 km WSW 4m 18d

Very few Water Rails are ringed (75 nationally in 2011) so any recovery will be of interest. Water Rails are on the edge of their range in Sweden, and the species is only a rare breeder further north into Norway and Finland. Falsterbo Fågelstation has only ringed fifty since 1980. Most UK winter records from the north-eastern migratory population are thus from Germany and the Netherlands. This is one of only six exchanges between the UK and Sweden, and is the first overseas bird to be found in Cambridgeshire.

**Coot**

AJ54477 Adult Female 10-03-2009 Nature Reserve, North Duffield, Selby: c. 53°49'N 0°57'W (North Yorkshire)  
 Alive (ring read) 12-07-2009 Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, St. Neots: 52°16'N 0°14'W (Cambs) 179 km SSE 4m 2d

The 'sport' of catching Coots for colour-ringing, often in parks (and often by hand, with bread!) has resulted in a considerable increase in tracked movements of this facultative migrant.

**Lapwing**

DB54588 Nestling 15-05-1999 Ouse Marshes: 52°25'N 0°8'E (Cambs)  
 Freshly dead (shot) 21-11-2010 Quineville: 49°30'N 1°17'W (Manche) **France** 340 km SSW 11y 6m 6d

Whether from birds of UK origin, such as this one, or of winter visitors coming through from north-east Europe, most recoveries of Lapwings are of birds 'hunted' in France, Spain or Portugal. This is a typical example and the County's seventh to France.

**Black-headed Gull**

EN35443 Adult 05-01-1985 Godmanchester: 52°19'N 0°9'W (Cambs)  
 Dead (predated) 05-01-2011 Godmanchester: 52°19'N 0°10'W (Cambs) 2 km 26y

Possibly not the 26th anniversary celebration that this gull had in mind. The current UK longevity record is 29y 3m. Most wintering Black-headed Gulls breed in Europe, and as far east as Russia and Belarus. There have been over a thousand ring-recoveries abroad (866 *from*, 193 *to* Cambridgeshire) in fourteen different countries, mostly from the rubbish tip catches in the 1980s.

**Mediterranean Gull**

PLG	Adult	01-06-2010	Zb Przykona, Radczyzny, Przykona: 52°0'N 18°39'E (Konin) <b>Poland</b>
FN89966	Alive (ring read)	27-03-2011	Little Paxton: 52°14'N 0°15'W (Cambs) 1,290 km W 9m 26d

Almost all ring-recovery records of Mediterranean Gulls are from colour-ringed adults. Most are from the big colonies in the Netherlands, but there are now cumulatively several hundred from points further east: Germany, Poland and Hungary. This is Cambridgeshire's second sighting of a Polish bird.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**

NOS	Nestling	12-07-1997	Rauna, Farsund: 58°3'N 6°40'E (Vest-Agder) <b>Norway</b>
4198677	Alive (ring read)	28-09-2001	Grunty Fen, Ely: 52°24'N 0°14'E (Cambs) 746 km SSW 4y 2m 16d

This is the ninth Cambridgeshire Norwegian record. Like most of the others it was a nestling from a colony in Vest-Agder, the Norwegian county closest to the UK.

**Barn Owl**

GR12323	Adult Female	28-07-2010	near March: 52°34'N 0°2'E (Cambs)
	Caught by ringer	28-06-2011	near Broughton Common: 53°35'N 0°32'W (Humberside) 120 km NNW 11m

Long-distance movements of Barn owls are rare; only 350 movements over 100 km within the UK have been recorded out of over 12,000 recoveries on the BTO's database. Furthermore, some of these may be artificial – with occasional ringed birds known to have been wafted around the trunk-road system stuck to the grille of an Eddie Stobart lorry. This bird, probably monitored in a nest-box while incubating, had clearly made it up north under its own steam.

**Sand Martin**

L506587	First-year	03-08-2011	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambs)
	Caught by ringer	19-08-2011	Lagunage, Rochefort: 45°56'N 0°57'W (Charente-Maritime) <b>France</b> 713 km S 16d

A typical movement at a not untypical speed.

**Chiffchaff**

DLV600	First-year	27-08-2010	Paxton Pits Nature Reserve: 52°15'N 0°15'W (Cambs)
	Long dead	10-11-2010	Faro: 37°1'N 7°56'W ( <b>Portugal</b> ) 1797 km SSW 75d

Considering the numbers ringed, foreign recoveries of Chiffchaff are few and far between. This typical movement (from 2010) is one of only seven Cambridgeshire examples. The others are to Germany and to Denmark (one each); and one to and three from Spain.

**Whitethroat**

FRP	First-year Male	15-09-2007	Les Chamons, Marzy: 46°58'N 3°5'E (Nievre) <b>France</b>
5687630	Caught by ringer	21-05-2010	Duxford: 52°5'N 0°10'E (Cambs) 607 km NNW 2y 8m 6d

Possibly a Cambridgeshire bird ringed on its first southward migration. The second ever County exchange with France.

**Waxwing**

NW49430	Adult Female	30-10-2010	Dyce: 57°12'N 2°11'W (Grampian Region)
	Alive (ring read)	31-01-2011	Longthorpe, Peterborough: 52°33'N 0°17'W (Cambs) 529 km SSE 3m 1d

No surprises here. Aberdeen ringers colour-ringed several hundred Waxwings as they poured into the country in autumn 2010, leading to a fascinating series of re-captures and re-sightings further south during the course of the winter.

**Blackbird**

NLA	First-year Female	09-10-2009	Polderweg: 53°15'N 4°57'E (Vlieland) <b>The Netherlands</b>
L309697	Caught by ringer	27-11-2009	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambs) 332 km WSW 1m 18d
	Caught by ringer	16-03-2010	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire) 332 km WSW 5m 7d

A quite ordinary control, but interesting to speculate where else this bird may have spent the rest of its 2009/10 winter.

**Fieldfare**

XB92934 First-year Male 19-12-2010  
 Freshly dead (glass) 10-05-2011

Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambs)

Eidsvoll, Oslo: 60°20'N 11°15'E (Akershus) **Norway** 1,119 km NE 4m 21d

Enthusiastic Fieldfare ringing in Cambridgeshire orchards in the 1970s and 1980s, when over a thousand were ringed, resulted in many foreign recoveries – 61 in total and mainly on the Scandinavian breeding grounds. This is the first for several years.

**Robin**

X816768 First-year Female 25-10-2010  
 Caught by ringer 11-05-2011

Sandy Point, Hayling Island: 50°47'N 0°57'W (Hampshire)

Old Weston: 52°23'N 0°24'W (Cambs) 182 km NNE 6m 16d

A demonstration, maybe, that even a familiar garden species can pose some questions. Was this just juvenile dispersal of a UK-bred bird, or a migrant staying on to breed?

**Nightingale**

V586147 Juvenile Male 06-08-2007  
 Caught by ringer 10-05-2010

Bainton Gravel Pits: 52°38'N 0°22'W (Cambs)

Feltwell Fens North: 52°30'N 0°28'E (Norfolk) 59 km ESE 2y 9m 4d

The second year in a row for an interesting movement by a Bainton Nightingale, presumably dispersing to a new breeding site. Such movements are rarely recorded.

**Goldfinch**

BLB First-year Female 27-04-2010  
 14565514 Freshly dead 11-06-2011

Nieuwpoort: 51°8'N 2°44'E (West-Vlaanderen) **Belgium**

Whittlesey: 52°34'N 0°8'W (Cambridgeshire) 254 km NW 1y 1m 15d

An entirely typical spring-summer movement.

**Mealy Redpoll**

L704752	First-year Alive (ring read)	12-03-2011 30-03-2011	Merton Grange, Gamlingay: 52°9'N 0°11'W (Cambs) New Laithe Farm, Newton: c. 53°56'N 2°28'W (Lancashire)	251 km NW	18d
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No doubt there will be more records like this one as ringers get better at determining *flammea* in the hand. This bird was possibly en route 'home' to its breeding place – wherever that might be.