

Wicken Fen Group Reedbed CES Results 2015

All twelve sessions were satisfactorily completed again this year. Very many thanks to all those who got involved through the summer.

This year we caught 252 different individual birds (114 adults, and 138 juveniles) in 301 captures from 162 metres of net open for eight hours over twelve sessions. This is many fewer birds than in 2014, but more than in 2013.

Two new species were added to the CES list – a puzzled Hobby embracing an equally puzzled, but unharmed, Kingfisher; and a passage Spotted Flycatcher on the final session.

Only 24 different species were caught. Apart from the very scarce casual species recorded during the previous four years, it was unusual to catch no woodpeckers, Whitethroats or Bearded Tits.

The main reason for the lower numbers was the fact that we failed to intercept any late-season tit-chaff flocks. In 2014 we encountered one on each of the last three August sessions; this year the flocks were about, but there was no catch. The totals clearly illustrate this (with 2014 totals in parentheses): Chiffchaff 17 (52), Blue Tit 10 (40), Great Tit 1!(20), Long-tailed Tit 2 (16) and Treecreeper 2 (12). These five species alone account for 108 of the 155 disparity between the two years (252/407).

Only ten species feature in sufficient numbers to enable some sort of meaningful year-on-year comparison: six residents; the two sub-Saharan *Acrocephalus* warblers; and the two short-range, 'Mediterranean' migrants Blackcap and Chiffchaff (both to some extent subject to the tit-flock caveat as above).

In the table below, the arrows indicate the 2015 variation from the mean of the five years 2011–15. A single arrow indicates >20%; two arrows >50%; and three arrows >100%.

	Adults					Juveniles						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		
Wren	4	7	2	10	5	→	13	11	12	21	11	→
Dunnock		5	4	4	5	↑	4	1	3	8	2	↓
Robin		1	2	8			13	12	15	20	23	↑
Blackbird	6		1	5	5	↑	2		2	3	3	↑↑
Cetti's Warbler	4	3	2	3	4	↑	5	2	2	3	8	↑↑↑
Sedge Warbler	32	9	12	11	8	↓	28	9	15	3	7	↓
Reed Warbler	70	60	41	35	39	↓	76	47	39	17	25	↓
Blackcap	12	18	11	16	18	↑	32	10	12	26	26	↑
Chiffchaff	4	8	4	12	4	↓	21	11	9	40	13	↓
Bullfinch	6	5	5	9	8	↑	1	3	1	9	3	→
All species	169	137	109	153	114	→	246	136	136	254	138	↓

While it is pleasing to see some improvement from Cetti's Warbler, with an almost complete turnover of new adults arriving this spring, both Reed and Sedge Warblers continue to bump along at significantly lower levels than in 2011–12. Even if we were concerned that willow growth along Little Drove was beginning to affect the consistency of the catch, it's doubtful that this makes much difference to these *Acros*.

The detailed tables follow.

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19 November 2015

2015 results	<i>"Old"</i>		Adults	Juveniles	Total	<i>"Old" adults' year of ringing</i>						
	<i>adults</i>	<i>adults</i>				5	2.4.6	5	2.4.6	6.7	6.11	6.13
						2015		2014		2013	2012	2011
Kingfisher	2	2	4	1	5	1	1					
Hobby		1	1		1							
Jay	1		1		1	1						
Wren	3	2	5	11	16			2			1	
Duncock	3	2	5	2	7	2						1
Spotted Flycatcher				1	1							
Robin				23	23							
Blackbird	3	2	5	3	8		2			1		
Song Thrush		2	2	1	3							
Cetti's Warbler	2	2	4	8	12		1			1		
Grasshopper W	1		1		1		1					
Sedge Warbler	2	6	8	7	15				1		1	
Reed Warbler	11	28	39	25	64			1	4	2	2	2
Garden Warbler		1	1	2	3							
Blackcap	3	15	18	26	44		1		2			
Chiffchaff	3	1	4	13	17		1	1	1			
Willow Warbler				2	2							
L T Tit	1	1	2		2		1					
Blue Tit	3		3	7	10	2				1		
Great Tit				1	1							
Treecreeper		1	1	1	2							
Chaffinch		2	2		2							
Bullfinch	5	3	8	3	11		1	1	1		1	1
Reed Bunting				1	1							
Total:	43	71	114	138	252	6	9	5	9	5	5	4

Long-run view	Adults					Juveniles					Total birds				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sparrowhawk									1					1	
Water Rail			1										1		
Woodcock	1										1				
Woodpigeon			1	1									1	1	
Cuckoo		1										1			
Tawny Owl							1					1			
Kingfisher		1		4	4	2	5	1	2	1	2	6	1	6	5
Hobby					1										1
Green Woodpecker							1					1			
G S Woodpecker		1	1	1		1			1		1	1	1	2	
Jay					1										1
Carrion Crow									2					2	
Yellow Wagtail			1										1		
Wren	4	7	2	10	5	13	11	12	21	11	17	18	14	31	16
Dunnock		5	4	4	5	4	1	3	8	2	4	6	7	12	7
Spotted Flycatcher										1					1
Robin		1	2	8		13	12	15	20	23	13	13	17	28	23
Blackbird	6		1	5	5	2		2	3	3	8		3	8	8
Song Thrush	2			1	2	4	1		3	1	6	1		4	3
Cetti's Warbler	4	3	2	3	4	5	2	2	3	8	9	5	4	6	12
Grasshopper W	1				1	1					2				1
Sedge Warbler	32	9	12	11	8	28	9	15	3	7	60	18	27	14	15
Reed Warbler	70	60	41	35	39	76	47	39	17	25	146	107	80	52	64
L Whitethroat								1	2				1	2	
Whitethroat	5	3	2	1		19	2	1	1		24	5	3	2	
Garden Warbler	3	3	1		1		1		1	2	3	4	1	1	3
Blackcap	12	18	11	16	18	32	10	12	26	26	44	28	23	42	44
Chiffchaff	4	8	4	12	4	21	11	9	40	13	25	19	13	52	17

Long-run view	Adults					Juveniles					Total birds				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Willow Warbler	2	1				8	4	3	7	2	10	5	3	7	2
Bearded Tit	1		1	5		1		2	11		2		3	16	
Long-tailed Tit	4		6	2	2	4			14		8		6	16	2
Blue Tit	3	1	2	7	3	3	10	9	33	7	6	11	11	40	10
Great Tit	3		2	4		2	3	4	16	1	5	3	6	20	1
Treecreeper		1		3	1	2	2	3	9	1	2	3	3	12	2
Chaffinch		2	1	3	2							2	1	3	2
Goldfinch	2	1		1							2	1		1	
Bullfinch	6	5	5	9	8	1	3	1	9	3	7	8	6	18	11
Reed Bunting	4	6	6	7		4		2	1	1	8	6	8	8	1
Total:	169	137	109	153	114	246	136	136	254	138	415	273	245	407	252