

## St Edmund's CES 2014

The 2014 inaugural CES on St Edmunds Fen has proved very worthwhile. The table below (a version of Michael's Reedbed CES table) shows the results as I have calculated them (by hand). Each entry is a different individual. Some individuals were retrapped on a CES session but had not been previously handled on a CES session; thus retraps headings.

<b>WFG</b> <b>St Edmund's CES</b> <b>2014</b>
---

	New adults	retrap adults	All adults	New juvs	Retrap juvs	All juvs	Total birds
Jay		1	1				1
G S Woodpecker				2		2	2
Green Woodp				1		1	1
Wren	6	2	8	34	3	37	45
Dunnock	3	3	6	6		6	12
Robin	1	2	3	30	4	34	37
Blackbird	7	2	9	9	1	10	19
Song Thrush	1	2	3	3		3	6
Cetti's Warbler		5	5	1	1	2	7
Sedge Warbler	3		3				3
Reed Warbler	4	4	8	12	1	13	21
Garden Warbler		1	1				1
Blackcap	5	8	13	38	4	42	55
Chiffchaff	5	7	12	15	7	22	34
Willow Warbler				9		9	9
Long-tailed Tit	3	6	9	24		24	33
Blue Tit	1	3	4	16	8	24	28
Great Tit	7	2	9	17	7	24	33
Treecreeper		2	2	2		2	4
Chaffinch	1	2	3				3
Bullfinch	3	1	4				4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>358</b>

Numbers:

We caught 358 individual birds on CES. Sessions 8 (18) and 12 (24) were the weakest. Session 8 caused me to reflect on past years, via the Piggeries logbook, which revealed that early mornings in mid-July have never been very productive. Session 12, end of season, most adults in full moult and no sound lures small numbers are to be expected and 6 of those caught had been handled previously on a CES session so effectively only 18 that time too.

Repeat catches:

Surprisingly few birds were caught on more than one session; only in the final three sessions did we begin to ratch up numbers of previously caught birds (that don't count!); 6 on session 10, 7 on session 11 and as already noted 6 on session 12.

Comparison with 'Standard' sessions:

Standards had nets open for approximately 17 hours per session, which multiplies up to 68 per year. CES has had nets open for 6 hours per session which multiplies up to 72 hours, not altogether dissimilar. The average of recent years of Standards amounted to around 80 individual birds per annum. With 358 birds CES proved more productive with an average of 4.9 birds per hour compared with an average of 1.2 birds per hour on standards.

HCP – the dilemma:

I have expressed my view that HCP is not sufficiently productive to merit further use (next year – 27 birds by my reckoning). However, although it was the weakest site by far it caught a Jay, one of the GRSWOs, half of the Song Thrushes 3/6, and 2/3 Sedge Warblers. From that you will realise that I have NOT excluded HCP in my analysis and welcome opinions. Of course using those nets is a bit disheartening with so few birds caught, and adds to the net round BUT should we consider another season on HCP? I admit to being 'on the fence'.

Communities diagrams:

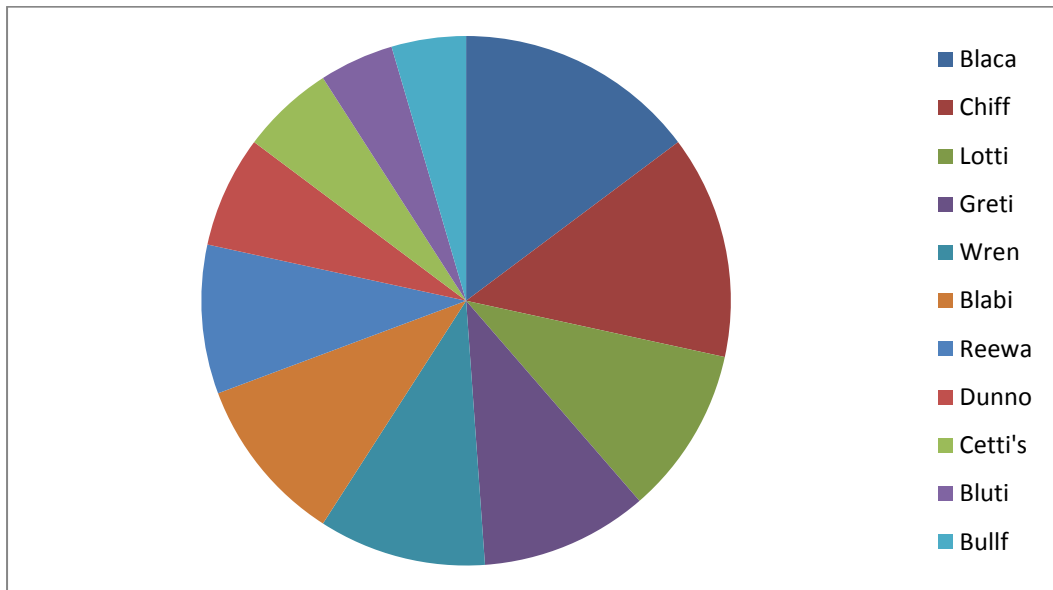
See below, one each for adults and juveniles.

You can see that typical of these charts only 4 and a bit species take up 50% of the total population in each case and while Robin juveniles score heavily the number of adults is so low (actually 3) that they do not appear on the community chart.

*Beware* the same species may be in different colours in the two diagrams.

I hope that everyone who took part in St Edmund's CES feels that it was a worthwhile experience (not always of course in the field) now you can see the results. With Michael we will combine the St Edmund's with the reedbed findings which will give us a very good picture of the small birds populations on the Fen from the two typical habitats. Our challenge is to keep going, next year will be more valuable both to us and to the BTO. This was a good idea and thanks to all who helped.

Adults



Juveniles

