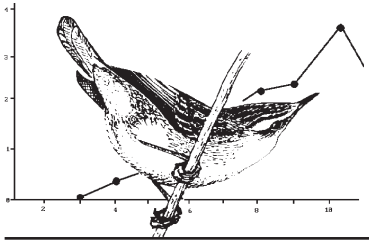
CES *News*



This is the twentieth edition of CES News*, the newsletter for the British Trust for Ornithology's Constant Effort Sites Scheme. If you require further copies, then please contact Mark Grantham at The Nunnery.*

Number 20 March 2007

The first quarter century of CES ringing is coming!

As many of you will have realised the CES scheme will be celebrating its 25th birthday in 2007! Hopefully we can make this a big year for the scheme, and end our first quarter century on a high.

During the first full year of the scheme (1983), some 41 sites contributed data and over the years this increased to a peak of 143 in 2000 (see Fig 1). To date, CES ringers at 395 sites have ringed and processed 532,747 birds, every one of which has contributed to our understanding of populations. However, though. during the Foot and Mouth crisis in 2001 we lost 27 sites. Hopefully we can still get some of these sites back, but with record numbers of ringers now, there are also a lot of new CES faces to recruit. To try to recruit more ringers into the CES scheme, we will email all ringers with a short summary of the 2006 CES year, and attach a pdf map of their part of the country, showing the location of all CE Sites and ringers. Hopefully the ringers in the gaps will then be encouraged and inspired to take up a site. If you do know any other local ringers (or even better, ringing groups) that don't yet do a site, then please do encourage them to get involved.

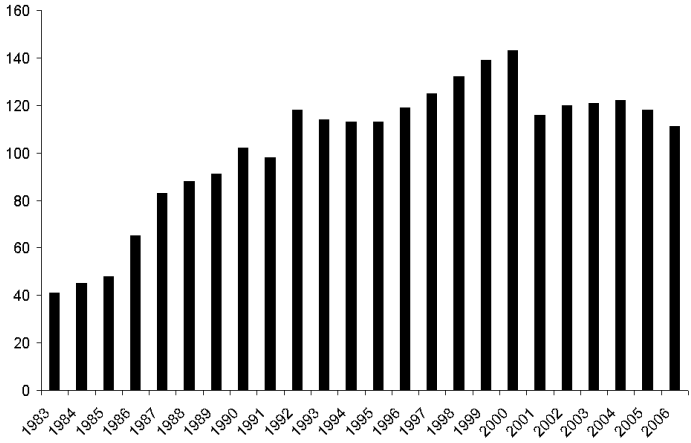


Figure 1. Number of CE Sites per year since the scheme began fully in 1983. Note the drop in the number of sites during the 2001 Foot and Mouth crisis - one we have yet to recover from.

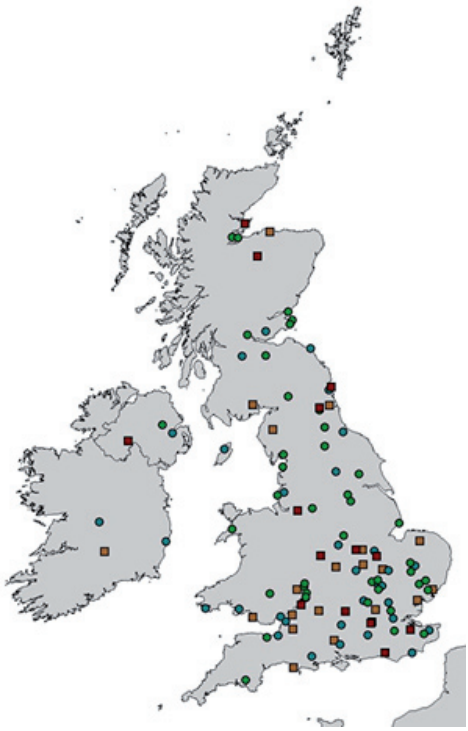
CES in 2006

More new sites join in time for a wet and windy 2006

For many of you, 2006 was definitely a year of dodging rain showers and windy days. It can be difficult to fit in standard visits when the weather is so uncooperative, and as ever we must say a big thank you to everyone for their hard work during the year. Sixty percent of sites were able to make all 12 visits, with a further 20% missing just a single visit, and in total, your combined 46,461 feet of netting caught 38,698 birds during the season! As we go to press in mid-March, we have received results from 111 sites (see Fig 2), and it's good to see several new sites entering the scheme. They are Waterhay (Cotswold Waterpark Ringing Group); Longstock (Martin de Retuerto); Pensthorpe (Holme Bird Observatory); Ashton's Callow (Alex Copland) and Thurles (Alex Copland again). This brings the country totals now to 85 in England, 14 in Scotland, six in Ireland and six in Wales.

CES birthdays

It is always difficult to properly (personally) say thank you to everyone every year, so this year we thought we'd highlight some of the sites celebrating birthdays. Special mention must go to the three sites that are still going strong from the very start of the scheme. One of these (Tewinbury) has been run by Robin Cole religiously for the whole period, having missed only seven visits out of the 300 over this time! This site alone has contributed more than 7,000 individual birds to the scheme, and Robin deserves an extra big Thank You.



25 years (including pilot years) – Tewinbury (R Cole); Treswell Wood (Treswell Wood IPM Group); Llangorse Lake (Llangorse Ringing Group)

20 years – Kippo (Jim Cobb)

15 years – Turnhouse (Lothian Ringing Group); Bainton (Chris Hughes (ex Richard Wakeling))

10 years – Stockbury (Rod Smith); Levington (Paul Newton & Mick Wright); Little Crosthwaite (Peter Davies); Braes (Jim Cobb); Arley Hall (Mark Woodhead)

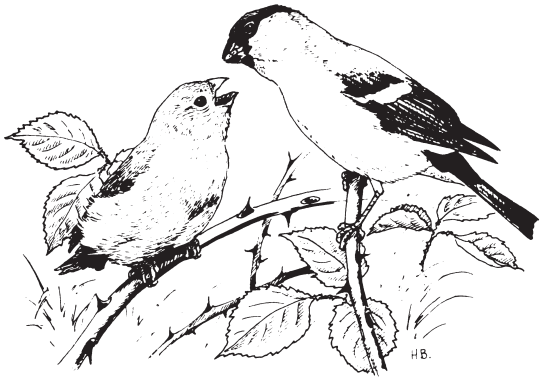
5 years – Gosforth Park (Natural History Society of Northumbria)

Figure 2. All of the 111 sites operated in 2006 are shown on the map (left). The circles show the scrub sites (wet scrub are blue (31%) and dry scrub green (37%)), dark brown squares are the woodland sites (13%) and light brown squares the reedbed sites (19%). The addition of the two new Irish sites plugs a nice gap, but there are still some other areas still to fill.

The 2006 results

Comparing the numbers of adults caught in 2006 with those in 2005 (see Table 1), six species showed significant changes, although all of these were actually reversals of the trends reported in 2005. Five species showed a decrease in numbers (Robin, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Bullfinch) with only Whitethroat showing an increase. Many factors will affect this index, and for migrants such as Whitethroat, conditions in the wintering areas and along migration routes will play a large part in determining the survival rate of adult birds.

One species of continued concern though is Bullfinch. With adult numbers down 16% compared to 2005, and productivity also down 10%, the negative trend for this species continues. As part of a big jigsaw, your CES can tell us a lot about populations of species such as Bullfinch. The population has halved since the 1970s and there aren't any immediate signs of recovery. Bullfinch was recently also added to the Nest Record Scheme Concern List due to increased failure rates at the egg and chick stage.



Hilary Burn

To get a better feel for how the season went, we can look at changes in productivity. In 2006, there were some very big changes, but as for adult numbers, some of these were due to a reversal of fortunes compared to 2005. Of the significant changes, the increases seen in Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Blue Tit and Great Tit were all reversals of poor seasons in 2005. The only other significant increase was for Blackbird, and this may have been due to quite a mild winter and spring.

The significant declines in productivity were more general though. The most affected species were some of our resident insectivores, with Wren, Dunnock, Cetti's Warbler and Chiffchaff all suffering. This may well be due to very poor spring weather washing out or chilling breeding attempts (as happened on all of the nests we were following at The Nunnery). Despite a generally warm year, the March temperature was actually a degree lower than average and rainfall was 30-40% up on average. For many early-nesting and ground-nesting species, this would have spelt disaster for first broods. Unfortunately, just when later clutches were laid or chicks being reared in May, the weather was equally poor, with most areas seeing over 50% more than normal rainfall.

To put these declines into context, we can compare productivity in 2006 with the long-term average. The most significant changes were for Blackbird, Reed Warbler and Greenfinch, where productivity was high, and Wren, Dunnock, Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff and Reed Bunting where it was lower. The decreases are explained above, but it is interesting to note the figure for Reed Bunting; even though productivity increased slightly on the 2005 figure, it was still 28% below the long-term average. This long-term drop in productivity has probably stopped any recovery in the population (34% decline since 1966).

Table 1. Changes in captures on CES sites from 2005 to 2006

		Adult numbers		Productivity		
		% change vs 2005	Long-term trend	% change vs 2005	% change vs 1983–2005	Long-term trend
Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	– 10	↑	**–28 ***	**–28 ***	↔
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	+ 3	↔	**–32 ***	**–23 ***	↓
Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*	**–14 ***	↑	+ 16	+ 2	↓
Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	– 7	↓	**+22 ***	**+27 ***	↓
Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	– 3	↓	– 19	– 11	↑
Cetti's Warbler	*Cettia cetti*	+ 27	↑	**–62 ***	**–63 ***	↔
Sedge Warbler	*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*	+ 1	↓	**+22 ***	– 2	↔
Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*	+ 1	↓	**+27 ***	**+14 ***	↔
Lesser Whitethroat	*Sylvia curruca*	+ 14	↓	- 13	– 15	↔
Whitethroat	*Sylvia communis*	**+58 ***	↓	+ 15	– 5	↔
Garden Warbler	*Sylvia borin*	– 4	↓	+ 4	– 4	↓
Blackcap	*Sylvia atricapilla*	**–10 ***	↑	+ 11	+ 4	↔
Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*	– 8	↑	**–21 ***	**–22 ***	↓
Willow Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	– 5	↓	+ 9	– 5	↓
Long-tailed Tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*	– 7	↑	+ 2	– 12	↔
Willow Tit	*Poecile montanus*	+ 31	↓	+ 22	– 8	↔
Blue Tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*	**–25 ***	↔	**+67 ***	+ 7	↔
Great Tit	*Parus major*	**–15 ***	↑	**+32 ***	+ 7	↓
Treecreeper	*Certhia familiaris*	+ 16	↔	+ 5	– 24	↔
Chaffinch	*Fringilla montifringilla*	– 6	↔	– 3	+ 9	↑
Greenfinch	*Carduelis chloris*	+ 9	↔	+ 8	**+45 ***	↔
Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	– 28	↔	+ 44	– 2	↔
Linnet	*Carduelis cannabina*	– 10	↓	+ 42	+ 40	↓
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	**–16 ***	↓	– 10	– 6	↔
Reed Bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	– 8	↓	+ 7	**–28 ***	↓

The % changes shown are between the 2005 season and the 2006 season. For productivity, the % change is also shown compared to when the scheme began in 1983.

The long-term trends indicate if the general trend during the whole period of the CES scheme shows an increase (↑), a decrease (↓) or shows stability (↔). For more details on these trends, see the Wider Countryside Report on the BTO website (www.bto.org/birdtrends).

Significant changes are indicated with an asterisk and highlighted in red (decrease) or green (increase).

A tale of two warblers: the ups and downs of our breeding 'Phylloscs'

As I'm sure many of you will have noticed, the two common *Phylloscopus* warblers have suffered very different fates in recent years. Just as we have stopped bemoaning the crash of the Willow Warbler, we are now perhaps starting just starting to see a similar trend in Chiffchaff.

Between 1967 and 2003, there was a 60% decrease in the number of pairs of Willow Warblers in England, and they are currently 'Red-listed' as a species of conservation concern. The decline was most evident from the mid 1980s, though there are some very large regional differences in this trend. Since 1994, the BTO has produced regional trends for many species using BBS data (www.bto.org/birdtrends) and the percentage change in population for these two warblers is shown in Table 2 (no trends are given for Chiffchaff in Scotland or N Ireland, where the species is quite scarce):

Table 2. Population changes (since 1994) of the two common Phylloscopus warblers by country.

	Willow Warbler	Chiffchaff
UK	0	+76
England	-31	+77
Scotland	+43	-
Wales	-23	+66
N Ireland	+60	-

A similar trend is also shown in the CES results. For Willow Warbler, the number of adults caught has declined by 69% between 1984 and 2006, and this does also seem to have been more pronounced in the south, with many Scottish sites reporting good years for Willow Warblers in 2005 and 2006.

Chiffchaff, oddly, shows the opposite trend. Since 1978 the population has seen a 152% increase in numbers, with the greatest increase being in the mid 1980s. Again, CES results show a similar trend, with a 64% increase since 1983. However, the last two years have seen some quite drastic changes in catches of Chiffchaffs by CES ringers, with the species disappearing completely from some catch totals. Although this is bad news for Chiffchaffs, there does seem to have been a concurrent upturn in the fortunes of Willow Warblers (the graph below shows smoothed trends for the two species since CES began - no prizes for guessing which is which).

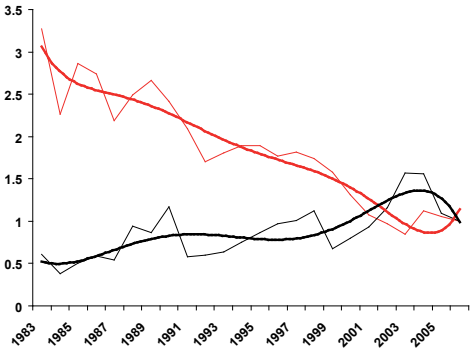


Figure 3. Trend (and smoothed trend) in the number of adult Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff on CE Sites (the population in 2006 is set to one).

So why might this be? The longer-winged Willow Warbler is a long-distance migrant, spending winters south of the Sahara. Most birds return in early April with first breeding on average in mid May. In contrast, the shorter-winged Chiffchaff makes a much shorter winter migration to the near continent. Hence they can arrive back on territory earlier (in mid March) and many will be laying clutches in late April. So could it be changes in spring weather that are the root of the problem? Perhaps only time (and more CES birds caught) will tell.

Interesting captures

For most of us, it's a rare treat when our CES offers up a nice bonus bird. The highlights of the year for some included a few unlikely species:

Woodcock – Invererne, Forres (Moray) and Catterick Garrison (North Yorkshire)
Buzzard – Chew Valley (Avon)
Little Owl – Wraysbury Soft Rush (Berkshire) and Alton Water (Suffolk)
Long-eared Owl – Ferry Meadow CP (Cambridgeshire)
Dipper – Whittle Wood (Northumberland)
Mallard (2) – Winchester College (Hampshire)

good numbers of some interesting species:

50 Swift – Wilstone Reservoir (Buckinghamshire)
25 House Martin – Williamthorpe (Derbyshire)
2 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker – Much Marcle (Herefordshire)
7 Wheatear – Watercombe Waterworks (Devon)

Doug Miller

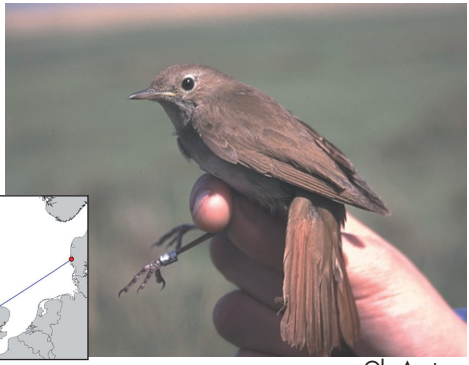
Ian Fisher

and a few rarities:

Aquatic Warbler (above) – Steart (Somerset)
Savi's Warbler – undisclosed site.
Western Bonelli's Warbler (left) – Hauxley Reserve (Northumberland). Interestingly, this is a very well-marked individual, with a surprisingly obvious supercilium.

Controls and recaptures

Nightingale – 9P86821
Originally ringed as age 5 on 1 May 2002 at Tipperne, Jylland, Denmark. This bird was recaught on Bainton CES, Cambridgeshire, on 7 June 2003 and also subsequently on 6 May 2006 at the same site.
At the time of ringing, this was only the 45th Nightingale ever to be ringed in Denmark and when it was found at Bainton it was their first recovery. The photograph here is the very bird in the hand in Denmark!



Ole Anstrup

Robin – R744208
Ringed as age 3 at Calf of Man Bird Observatory, Isle of Man, on 12 October 2005 (taking quite a westerly route), this bird was caught as a breeding male at Loch Spynie CES, Grampian, on 11 June 2006.

Reed Warbler – P713544
Ringed as an age 4 male on 5 June 2001 at Bainton CES, Cambridgeshire, this bird was the recaught on (late) spring migration on 4 May 2002 at Isolino, Verbania, Italy (also unusually far east for this species on migration). It was then recaught back at Bainton on 13 May 2004, on several occasions during the 2005 season (31 May 2005, 7 June, 14 June, 5 July) and on 2 July 2006.

Reed Warbler – J647539
Ringed as age 3J on 13 August 1994 at Lackford CES, Suffolk, the latest capture (to date) was on 8 July 2006 - at 11 years 11 months this bird isn't far off the longevity record for this species, and shows how faithful some species are to their breeding sites.

Reed Warbler – R511807
Ringed as age 3J at Leighton Moss, lancashire, on 20 September 2003, this bird was recaught as a (breeding) female at Little Crossthwaite CES, Cumbria, on 4 August 2006. This bird may have been on autumn migration when ringed and not a local juvenile (beware 3J Acros!)

Sedge Warbler – FRP 4946459
Ringed as age 4 on 5 August 2004 at Le Massereau, Frossay, Loire-Atlantique, France, and recaught on 15 May 2005 and 13 July 2006 at Conon Islands CES, Highland.

Willow Warbler – AEN339
Ringed as age 4 on 15 August 2004 at Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, Kent, (on early autumn passage) and then recaught on 4 August 2006, Loch Eye CES, Highland (presumably as a breeding bird).

A season at Finningley

Without question CES ringing is hard work, time consuming and quite exhausting, particularly if you have a large site like mine - 530' of CES nets with around 300' of additional nets too. As expected, the 19th consecutive CES season at Finningley Park, South Yorkshire, was typically tough, but 2006 yielded plenty of rewards and highs to ensure that excitement and expectation will, like returning migrants, be back for the 2007 CES season.

The 2006 season was generally a good one for us, and my dry scrub site produced record annual totals of Blackbird (83 new birds ringed), Blackcap (161), Dunnock (91) and Whitethroat (100). These are all staple diet species but the 'Brucie Bonuses' were undoubtedly the site's first Long-eared Owl (a breeding female) and two Grasshopper Warblers breeding at the site for the very first time. Most other species did well too, despite the attentions of a breeding Sparrowhawk which successfully reared five young and no doubt contributed further to my distinct lack of recoveries!

The all-nets annual total of 1,234 captures is my best year to date and covered 35 species. This is a tribute to the excellent support and commitment I have had from my trainee and two 'C' ringers. It is always nice to handle species such as Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker, adult male Kestrel and, unusually for my site, a couple of 3J Goldcrests. Nest finding always fills in any quiet periods and 2006 was also pretty good with 127 nests of 23 species found on site. Interesting nestling species added to the totals included Sparrowhawk (5), Kestrel (3), Little (2) and Barn Owls (3) and Lapwing (4). Unfortunately though, success wasn't that good with an overall failure rate of 58%.

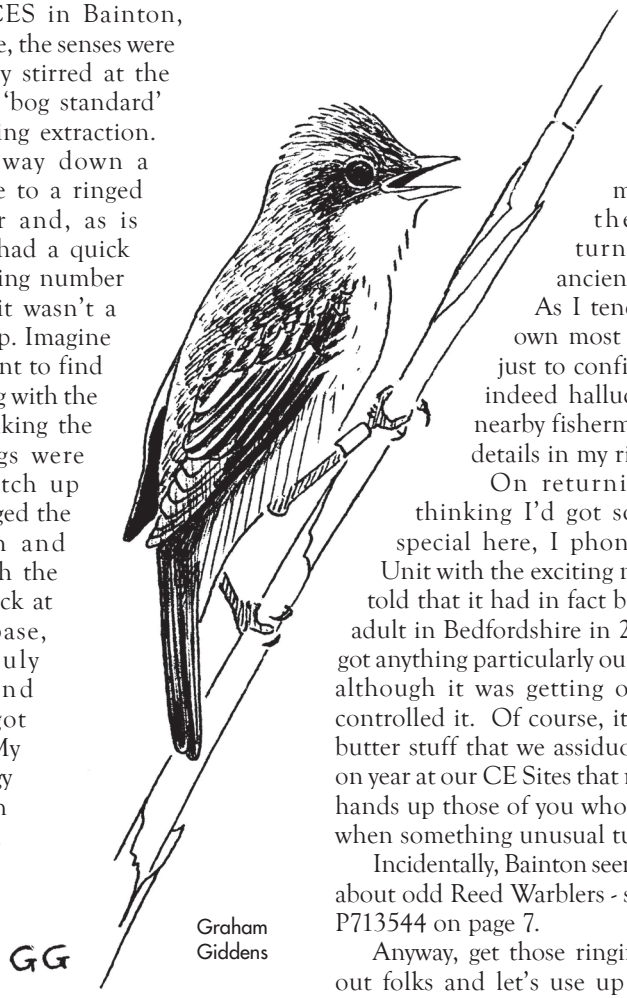
What was particularly pleasing however was the number of 'old summer migrants' returning to the site from previous years. Blackcap were quite exceptional with 22 individuals back, Willow Warbler (14), Whitethroat (7), Chiffchaff (4) and Garden Warbler (3). No national longevity records yet, but there is always hope and the 2007 CES season is now just around the corner... enthusiasm & excitement building.

Dave Hazard

Dave Hazard

Acrocephalus scirpaceus 'oddicus'

Every now and again you just get one of those eye-popping moments when ringing, and normally it's because a totally unexpected bird finds its way into your net. So, ambling along a net ride on 12 July 2006 at my CES in Bainton, Cambridgeshire, the senses were not particularly stirred at the sight of a few 'bog standard' warblers awaiting extraction. Working my way down a 60' net I came to a ringed Reed Warbler and, as is my custom, I had a quick glance at the ring number just to check it wasn't a same day re-trap. Imagine my astonishment to find the ring starting with the letter E. Thinking the early mornings were starting to catch up with me, I bagged the bird sharpish and carried on with the net round. Back at the ringing base, birds were duly processed and eventually I got to E830987. My admittedly dodgy eyes hadn't been deceiving me, and the ring number did indeed start with E.



GG Graham Giddens

It just so happens that the European longevity record for a Reed Warbler (12 years 11 months) belongs to E872034, an adult male ringed by my good friend Richard Wakeling at Bainton on 25 July 1988. This bird remained reasonably faithful to the site, although he did transfer his affections to Rutland Water one year when he was controlled at their CES, until he put in a final appearance at Bainton on 16 July 2001. Having an anorak moment, I thought to myself that surely the site hadn't turned up another ancient Reed Warbler. As I tend to ring on my own most of the time and just to confirm that I wasn't indeed hallucinating, I got a nearby fisherman to record the details in my ringing book.

On returning home, and thinking I'd got something really special here, I phoned the Ringing Unit with the exciting news – only to be told that it had in fact been ringed as an adult in Bedfordshire in 2002. So I'd not got anything particularly out of the ordinary, although it was getting on a bit when I controlled it. Of course, it's the bread and butter stuff that we assiduously record year on year at our CE Sites that really counts, but hands up those of you who don't get a buzz when something unusual turns up.

Incidentally, Bainton seems to have a thing about odd Reed Warblers - see the history of P713544 on page 7.

Anyway, get those ringing boxes cleared out folks and let's use up those old rings ASAP – but preferably not on Reed Warblers please!

Chris Hughes

Returning Reed Warblers

Newbury Ringing Group have ringed in the Thatcham Marsh reedbeds since 1967 and have IPMR records entered back as far as 1974. Originally, the ringing was in rotation with other sites and so not very consistent until the early 1980s. From this time, priority over other sites was given in summer to the reedbed rides to ensure sessions were regular and in 1993 it became a CES. Much to our surprise, we have ringed more birds per year since starting the CES than before, and we have maintained 100% of visits to date. (*To be commended – Eds*)

Our main quarries are Reed and Sedge Warbler, and from 1994 Cetti's Warbler as well. Reed Warblers are relatively site faithful, especially bearing in mind that they are a long distance migrant. Conversely, Sedge Warblers are not so faithful and we get very few, if any, returning birds. I have often wondered what proportion of our Reed Warblers return from previous years. Using IPMR it is now quite easy to do a basic analysis of this sort. The table here shows the number of new birds ringed each year and the numbers of retraps from the previous years.

Years	Ringed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2006	136	12	9	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	
2005	108	13	7	4		2		1	1		
2004	236	16	7	4	1	1	1	1			
2003	123	14	1	4	1	3	1				
2002	142	9	2	1	5	2			1		
2001	112	11	3	7	1	2	1	1			
2000	172	14	11	6	1	1	1			1	
1999	177	15	9	3	6	1	1		1		
1998	187	15	10	6	3	1			1		
1997	138	10	11	5	4	1	1	1			
1996	174	16	9	2		2	1	1	1		
1995	185	21	7	3	8	2	2	1			
1994	147	13	8	5	3	3	2		1		
1993	114	12	9	8	3	2	1	1	1		
1992	116	21	4	6	4	2	1				
1991	195	10	8	5	3	1					
1990	188	9	10	9	2	1		1			
1989	173	10	8	2	2		1				
1988	97	8	2								
1987	109	5	3	3	2		1				
1986	54	3	3	3	1		1				
1985	36	4	2								
1984	52	9	3		2		1	1			
1983	105	6	2	2	1		1				
1982	42	6	3	1	1	3					
1981	57	5	4		2	1					
1980	39	4	1	3	1	1					

Dividing the number of retraps by the number of birds ringed in their year of ringing, we find that between 5% and 14% (median 9%) of birds return in the first year, with between 1% and 10% (median 5%) returning in their second year and between 1% and 8% (median 3%) in their third year. After that, the return rate drops off to one, sometime two, individuals returning each year. To date, the oldest bird we have at the site is just under nine years old.

Looking at the recovery data, we presume that Reed Warblers from our area pass through Spain, Portugal, Morocco and Mauritania and the furthest south recovery is in Ghana (5,054km). It seems likely that our birds are wintering in West Africa and it is quite amazing that they return to the same area of reed each year.

A similar look at the Sedge Warbler data shows that only one or two birds return in their first year and after that, returns are very hit and miss. Presumably their more catholic habitat requirements allow better dispersal away from the natal reedbed.

Jan Legg
For Newbury Ringing Group

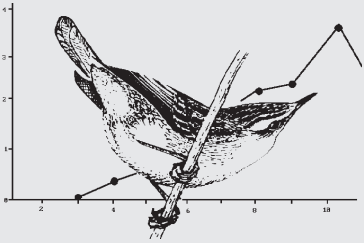
Eds: For more information on this particular subject, see the recent paper which appeared in *Ringing & Migration,* written by Chris Thaxter, Chris Redfern and Richard Bevan (Survival rates of adult Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* at a northern and southern site in England *Ringing & Migration* (2006) 23, 65–79)

Collecting extra data from CES

While you have a bird in the hand on your CE Site (or indeed elsewhere), you have the ideal opportunity to collect some valuable extra data, including recording it's breeding status and state of moult. If correctly recorded, these data are of great use and, for instance, we have recently looked at brood patch data to look at the length of the breeding season. So do routinely record these extra values for each bird you catch (if time permits of course) and remember it is as important to record the **absence** of a brood patch or moult as it is to record its presence. How else would we know when birds start or finish breeding or moult? The last *CES News* carried an article on scoring brood patches, so do refresh your memory before the season starts.

Moult codes

J = wholly **Juvenile** plumage
P = undergoing **Post-juvenile** body moult
B = undergoing active **Body moult** (not a post-juvenile moult and not part of a full moult including wings and tail)
O = **Old** plumage, no body or main moult (includes birds that have completed partial postjuvenile moult)
S = **Starting** body moult: main moult yet to start - wings and tail old
E = **Ending** body moult: main moult finished - wings and tail new
N = **New** plumage following main moult, no body or main moult (used for birds that have recently completed moult
M = active **Moult of wings and tail** (main moult)
A = **Arrested** wing moult (primaries or secondaries)
T = Partial post-juvenile moult involving **Tail or Tertials**



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Nightingale - Ole Anstrup
Reed Warbler - Graham Giddens
Western Bonelli's Warbler - Ian Fisher

The Constant Effort Sites Scheme is supported by the BTO and the JNCC Partnership and is also part of the BTO Ringing Scheme which is funded by a partnership of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (on behalf of English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales, and also on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland), The National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland) and the ringers themselves.

Special CES Workshop in Italy

For the first time, there will be a special CES session at a meeting of the European Bird Census Committee (EBBC), to be held on 17–22 April in Chiavenna, Italy. This is an excellent opportunity for CES organisers around Europe to get together to discuss the progress of constant effort ringing and is real recognition of the growth of the European CES schemes. Representatives from BTO will be attending the meeting.

New CES Organiser

After nearly 10 years organising the CES scheme, we must bid a fond farewell to Dawn Balmer, who is now moving on to the huge task of organising the upcoming Bird Atlas 2007-11 (www.bto.org/birdatlas). I'm sure many of you will miss Dawn (as we will here in the office), but I'm sure we'll still see her around. Dawn will be replaced by Mark Grantham, who many of you will already know from his work in the Ringing Unit. Mark has been ringing for over 20 years, and is currently involved with three CE Sites.

Cetti's Warbler paper 'in press'

Over the years I'm sure many of will have ringed a Cetti's Warbler or two, and all your hard work has now come to fruition. An analysis of the population increase in this enigmatic species has been accepted by *Bird Study* and will be published shortly. The paper describes the large increase in the population and shows this is not due to an increase in productivity, suggesting that increased survival is the main factor. Also described are some changes in the dispersal pattern of birds away from natal areas.