CESnews

The newsletter of the Constant Effort Sites scheme

BTO
Looking out for birds

Number 25 **Spring 2012**

Faces change as CES expands in 2011

AFRICAN RAIN IS POSITIVE see page 4

The total number of active CESs is now at its highest for a decade, with 124 registered sites. Our thanks go out to CES Organiser, Greg Conway, who has done a fantastic job of promoting CES and encouraging registration of new sites. Greg is now handing over and returning to his previous post, organising surveys and research at BTO, and is already hard at work organising the Nightingale Survey. However, he will still be around to help and advise on CES as it continues to move forward.

Greg's successor is Allison Kew, an experienced A ringer who has been ringing since 1984. She has assisted a number of CESs in the Thetford area and is an active participant in RAS. Allison has extensive experience of woodland mist netting and habitat management which means she is in a good position to help you to deal with maturing site vegetation.

During the coming year Allison will be working with the CES team here – primarily Dave Leech and Rob Robinson – to further develop CES. Our priorities are to update all of the scheme documentation, increase the guidance available on a range of issues, finalise a revised and practical approach to habitat recording and do some myth busting – to persuade people that CES needn't be as onerous as they might think. So, welcome to the team, Allison – we hope that you and all our CES ringers have an enjoyable 2012 season.

The long and the short (term) of it

Dave Leech and Mark Grantham report on the latest results from the CES scheme, exploring the contrasting fortunes of residents and migrants in 2011 and the long-term trends in abundance.

Operating a CES in some parts of the country during 2011 was more challenging than normal. The persistent wet and windy conditions started on the south coast and then moved to the north-west towards the middle of the season. Such is the level of dedication of CES ringers, however, that the number of sites covered actually increased slightly to 124, the highest total since 2000. Of these, 14 were new additions to the scheme; while 13 sites dropped out, as many as five of these could be back in operation over the coming season. So, weather permitting (although it's not looking great as I write), we look set for a further increase in coverage during 2012.

As ever, the majority of CES ringers are operating in England, where 76% of sites are located (Fig 1). We continue to seek the establishment of more sites particularly in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. Results from a wider range of locations would be particularly valuable given the increasing discrepancies in national population trends identified for long-distance migrants such as Willow Warbler and Whitethroat.

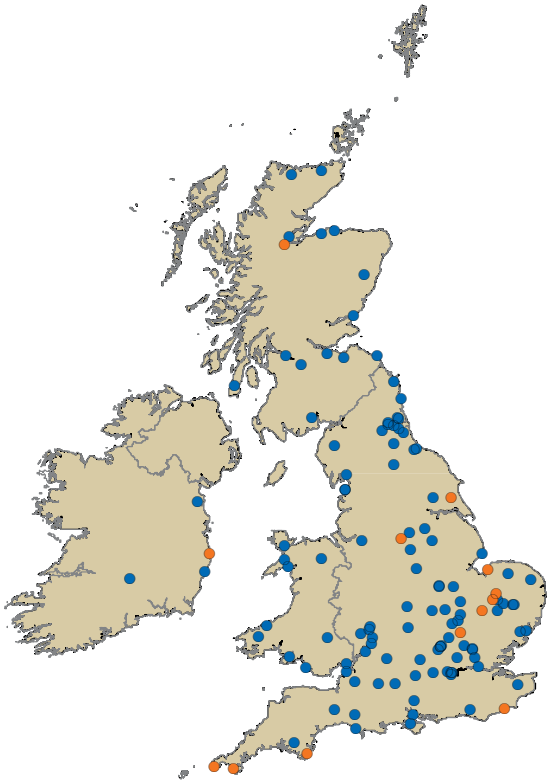


Figure 1. Location of CESs in 2011. Red dots indicates new sites.

Severe winter reduces resident numbers in 2011

Despite being warmer than the previous year, the winter of 2010/11 was the second coldest experienced in the UK for 25 years (Fig 2). Temperatures in December 2010 fell to their lowest level in a century, with significant snowfall across most of the country. The thaw started in mid January, however, and February was actually relatively mild, if rather wetter than average.

Predictably, the greatest impacts of the cold snap were felt by ground-feeding residents, prevented from foraging by the snow and frozen soil beneath (Table 1, p 4). Wren, Robin and Reed Bunting appeared to be the most severely

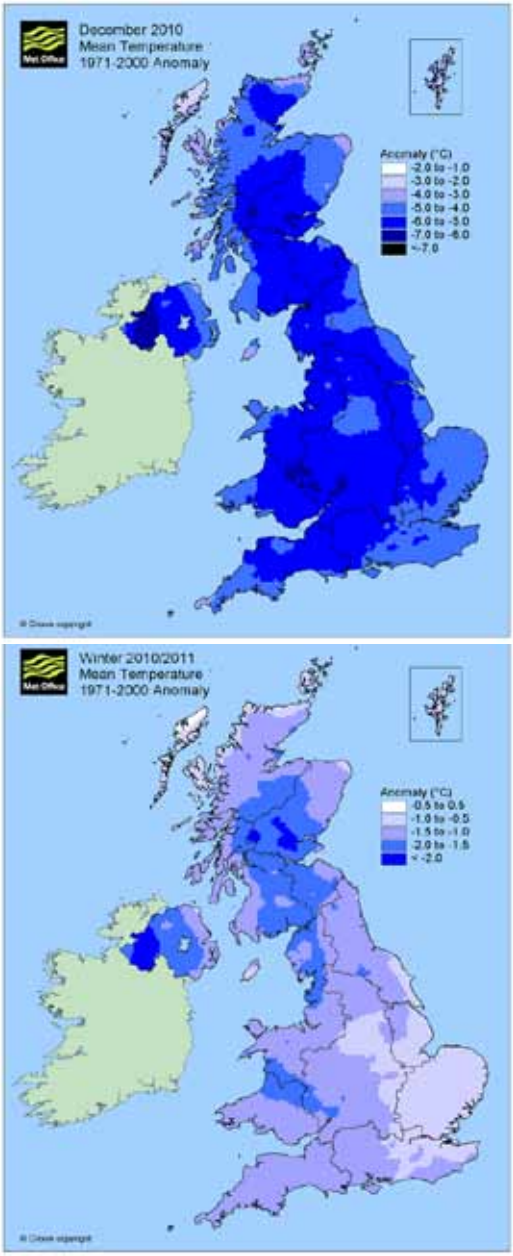


Figure 2: Temperature anomaly maps for the UK over winter 2010/11 and December 2010 show the extreme conditions experienced by resident species, particularly in the north and west. (© Crown copyright, Met Office)

affected, the proportion of individuals surviving from the previous season down by 30–50% on the five-year average. For Robin and Reed Bunting, these were the lowest survival rates recorded since CES began in 1983 (Table 2). Long-tailed Tit survival was also significantly reduced, the small body size of this species a distinct disadvantage in the harsh conditions.

As a result, adult abundance of all four of the above species fell well below the five-year average, with Reed Bunting numbers the lowest ever recorded. Cetti's Warbler, another species known to be vulnerable to cold winters, was also scarce although insufficent data are currently available to calculate survival rates. Poor productivity during the previous season may explain the low numbers of Blackbird, and to a lesser extent Song Thrush, captured in 2011, while the reduction in Dunnock, Chaffinch and Greenfinch abundance continues the trend noted in 2010; the latter may still be influenced by the much-publicised trichomonosis outbreak. Numbers of both Dunnock and Song Thrush were the lowest ever recorded at CES sites.

The news was not all bad for resident species, however. Those that had a productive season in 2010, including Blue Tit, Great Tit, Chaffinch and Greenfinch, were all present in higher-than-average numbers, with Blue Tit abundance the highest recorded since the initiation of CES. A warm, dry, breeding season was good for breeding success, with the numbers of young fledged per pair significantly higher than the five-year average for nine of the 15 resident species monitored, and the highest ever for Dunnock, Chaffinch and Bullfinch. Blue Tit alone experienced a poor breeding season; while this may reflect a lack of synchrony with food supplies as caterpillar populations hatched early in the warm spring, it is surprising that Great Tit did not exhibit a similar reduction in productivity.

Table 1. CES Results for 2011 based on 123 sites. For long-term trends, '+' indicates an increase of 1–24%, '++' of 25–50% and '+++' of >50%, while '-' indicates a decrease of 1–24%, '--' of 25–50% and '---' of >50%. Values for 2011 are also compared to five-year average (2006–10), with significant decreases shown in orange and significant increases in blue. '*' denotes a small sample size.

	Adult abundance		Productivity		Adult survival	
	1983–2011	2011 vs 2006–10	1983–2011	2011 vs 2006–10	1983–2011	2011 vs 2006–10
Blue Tit	+	46	---	-29	+	19
Great Tit	+++	10	--	15	+	-10
Willow Tit *	---	45	--	-36		
Cetti's Warbler *	+++	-28	--	1		
Long-tailed Tit	++	-11	-	7	–	-32
Chiffchaff	+++	45	-	-3	+	11
Willow Warbler	---	22	--	-20	+	-1
Blackcap	+++	46	-	18	++	5
Garden Warbler	-	13	--	-27	+	-6
Lesser Whitethroat *	---	9	-	-27	--	-24
Whitethroat	--	55	--	-2	--	-2
Sedge Warbler	--	6	--	-1	+	33
Reed Warbler	--	20	++	-1	+	3
Treecreeper *	++	15	-	24		
Wren	+	-32	-	40	+	-29
Blackbird	-	-9	-	14	+	18
Song Thrush	--	-30	-	44	+	14
Robin	++	-32	-	51	+	-54
Dunnock	-	-23	-	47	+	-2
Chaffinch	+	-11	++	46	+	17
Greenfinch	+	-29	--	83		
Goldfinch	+	20	-	-18		
Bullfinch	-	26	++	33	–	11
Reed Bunting	---	-24	---	5	–	-58

African rainfall benefits migrants

Overwinter survival of long-distance migrants is largely dependent on the amount of rain falling in Africa during the period June – October, which influences vegetation growth and therefore food availability during winter and on passage. Sahel rainfall during the 2010 season was the highest experienced since the late 1960s, and it is therefore no surprise that the survival rate of Sedge Warbler, a species known to be particularly sensitive to this climatic factor (Peach *et al* 1991), was significantly greater than the five-year average.

The lack of a similar increase in the survival rates of other long-distance migrants is initially puzzling, particularly given the increased abundance of Reed Warbler, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and Willow Warbler in 2011. However, it is important to remember that the survival rates calculated are for adults, the natal fidelity of first-year birds being too low to produce sufficient sample sizes. These results therefore suggest that it is the offspring from the previous year that have benefited most from the wet conditions in Africa, as might be predicted if they are less efficient when foraging and migrating. Reed Warbler, Garden Warbler and

Table 2. Significant changes in abundance, productivity and survival in 2011 – previous highest/lowest year since 1983 given in brackets

Lowest abundance	Highest abundance
Cetti's Warbler (2001)	Blue Tit (ever)
Long-tailed Tit (2009)	Great Tit (2007)
Wren (1991)	Chiffchaff (ever)
Blackbird (1997)	Willow Warbler (2004)
Song Thrush (ever)	Blackcap (ever)
Robin (1991)	Garden Warbler (2001)
Dunnock (ever)	Whitethroat (1996)
Chaffinch (2010)	Reed Warbler (2004)
Greenfinch (2010)	Goldfinch (1990)
Reed Bunting (ever)	Bullfinch (1996)

Lowest productivity	Highest productivity
Blue Tit (2008)	Great Tit (2010)
Willow Warbler (2007)	Blackcap (2009)
Garden Warbler (2008)	Wren (1992)
	Blackbird (2007)
	Song Thrush (1985)
	Robin (1987)
	Dunnock (ever)
	Chaffinch (ever)
	Greenfinch (1990)
	Bullfinch (ever)

Lowest survival	Highest survival
Long-tailed Tit (2009)	Sedge Warbler (1996)
Wren (1996)	
Robin (ever)	
Reed Bunting (ever)	

Willow Warbler populations also appear to have benefited from a very productive breeding season in 2010, as may those of the short-distance migrants Blackcap and Chiffchaff, both recorded in their highest numbers ever on CESs.

Unlike resident species, migrants experienced a very average breeding season, with levels of productivity generally similar to the five-year mean. Blackcap was the only species to exhibit significantly higher breeding success in 2011 which, coupled with the increase in abundance, explains why record numbers were caught at many coastal sites during autumn migration. Garden Warbler and Willow Warbler fared less well, possibly because invertebrate numbers were reduced by the dry conditions, or vegetation growth was retarded, as the summer progressed.

Taking a long-term view

While it is interesting to place the 2011 season in a broader context, and such comparisons can

PHOTOS: ANNE CARRINGTON-COTTON

Sedge Warblers experienced higher-than-average survival rates between 2010 and 2011.

PHOTO: AMY LEWIS

Chiffchaff were recorded in their highest numbers ever on CES in 2011.

tell us a lot about the population processes that determine abundance, the ultimate aim of CES is to monitor and understand the factors driving long-term population trends.

Although CES focuses on a subset of those habitats covered by the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), the trends in abundance are generally very similar, with species such as Song Thrush, Willow Warbler, Willow Tit and Reed Bunting displaying significant declines, while numbers of Robin, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Long-tailed Tit and Great Tit increase rapidly.

Crucially, CES data also provide information about the possible causes. The increase in Blackcap numbers appears to be driven by increasing survival, as one might predict for a species that is now able to winter closer to the breeding grounds, thus reducing mortality on passage. Conversely, and in agreement with Nest Record Scheme information, the results suggest that declines in both Willow Warbler and Reed Bunting numbers are driven by falling productivity.

PHOTO: DICK JEEVES

Long-tailed Tit numbers at CESs have increased over the last 30 years.

PHOTO: AMY LEWIS

CES results suggest that falling Reed Bunting numbers are related to reduced productivity.

Interestingly, the results for the majority of long-distance migrants caught at CESs suggest that numbers have fallen over the last 30 years, even for those species such as Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler that BBS has identified as increasing and stable respectively over the last 30 years. This may suggest that increasingly dry conditions in the south and east of Britain & Ireland, where CES coverage is greatest, are reducing the quality of wetland and scrub habitats, in many cases appearing to reduce breeding success. However, species may currently be able to compensate at a national scale by expanding their range northwards and westwards as the climate in those areas becomes more suitable, thus explaining the contrasting results. Establishment of more CESs in these areas would provide vital information about spatial variation in the fortunes of migrant species.

Reference

Peach, W.J., Baillie, S.R. & Underhill, L. (1991) Survival of British Sedge Warblers *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* in relation to west African rainfall. *Ibis* **133**, 300–305.

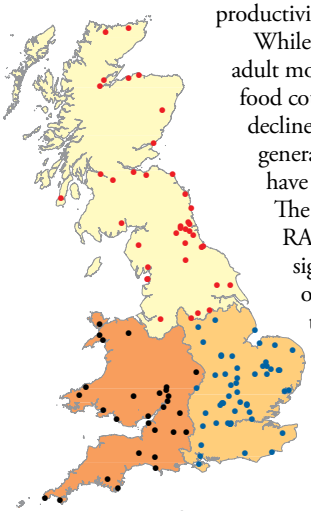
REGIONAL FOCUS: BULLFINCH

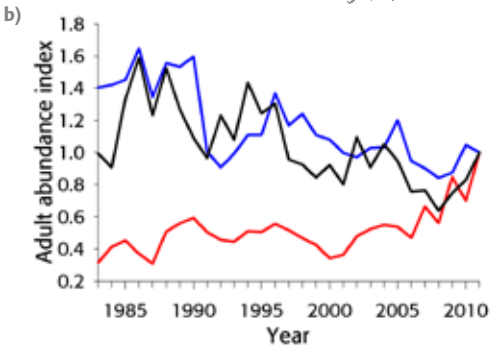
The 2011 edition of *CES News* was the first to contain a regional breakdown of the results for a range of species, dividing the UK into three broad areas – north, east and west (Fig 1a). This year we have decided to take a different approach and focus on an individual species. The decline in Bullfinch has been well documented by the Common Birds Census (CBC) and the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). Abundance has fallen by 45% since the mid 1960s, with numbers plummeting during the mid 1970s, levelling out during the 1980s and possibly even increasing slightly over the last decade.

The national trend in adult numbers produced from CES data over the past 30 years mirrors that displayed by CBC/BBS, with population size falling during the 1990s and increasing slightly thereafter, but the regional figures tell a slightly more complex story (Fig 1b). Numbers at CESs in the east and west of the UK appear to have declined consistently slowly over the last three decades, while those in the north have more than doubled since 2000. Interestingly, BBS results from Scotland over the period 1994–2010 indicate an increase of 25%, while equivalent figures for England and Wales suggest declines of 6% and 18% respectively.

Several studies have attempted to identify the drivers of Bullfinch declines but the processes responsible remain unclear. CES productivity trends indicate that the breeding success of populations in the north of the UK has been increasing, while that of eastern and western populations has remained stable (Fig 1c), which may explain the contrasting trends in abundance. Analysis of Nest Record Scheme data has identified a decline in the number of fledglings produced per breeding attempt, suggesting that the regional variation exhibited by CES results could be due to differences in the number of nesting attempts; agricultural intensification and reduction in woodland scrub have both been postulated as potential mechanisms influencing productivity.

While it has been proposed that increased adult mortality due to predation or to lack of food could also have contributed to Bullfinch declines, the national trend in survival rates generated from CESs indicates that they have held constant over the past 30 years. The increase in the number of Bullfinch RAS projects from 3 to 5 in 2011 will significantly increase our understanding of spatial variation in survival rates for this amber-listed species.





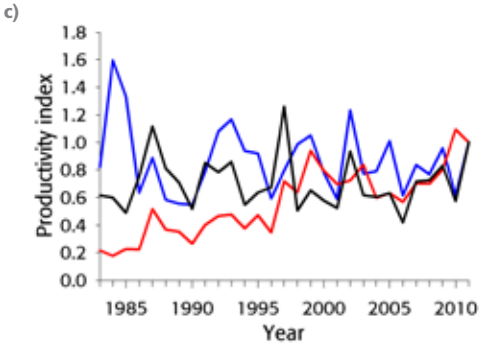


Figure 1. Regional CES results for Bullfinch, showing a) location of regions and long-term trends in b) abundance and c) productivity.

A new venture for the Slapton Bird Observatory Ringing Group

Nik Ward of the Slapton Bird Observatory Ringing Group summarises their first CES season.

Slapton Ley is set on the South Devon coastline and is formed by a shingle ridge which separates shallow freshwater lagoons from the open sea. The freshwater areas are divided into two; the Higher Ley, which is mostly enclosed by reed and willow scrub, and the Lower Ley, which is mostly open water fringed with reed.

PHOTO: NIK WARD

▲ The view looking north east up the Higher Ley to the landward ringing area to the left and seaward area to the right.

Ringing has taken place in the Higher Ley since 1960 and the Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society maintain a ringing base, which is manned by volunteers, mostly at weekends, through the autumn from July to September. The site is managed by the Field Studies Council and is owned by the Whitely Wildlife & Conservation Trust; both organisations are very supportive of the long-term ringing and monitoring activities. As it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve, Natural England have given consent to ring there.

As our regular ringing operations already covered many of the main CES visits, it was just the early periods where some extra coverage was required. So, after lots of encouragement (cajoling!!) by CES Organiser Greg Conway, it was decided to try CES ringing at Slapton.

The current ringing operation uses standard ringing rides during the autumn which made choosing the location of the CES nets easy in the first place. The problem at Slapton is that the nets are set both sides of the Higher Ley (landward and seaward) which means that you need enough people to operate as two teams. I would recommend to anyone thinking about setting up a CES to think where your nets will be located – if you are able to complete a circular walk it will make things much easier.

The second challenge was to find enough

PHOTO: NIK WARD

▲ **A bonus rarity – Melodious Warbler**

volunteer ringers to man the site on CES sessions. Most ringers like myself are busy (or should I say obsessed!) through the breeding season (May to June) with nest-box schemes and nest recording, so giving up time to a new CES is not always easy. However, a few hardy souls managed to keep the sessions going during May and June until the breeding season was mostly over and more people were available to help out. This was just as well as, after a good breeding season, day totals of over 200 birds, which taught us another lesson about how many nets to use in a CES. At the beginning of the season, you might only catch 30 birds in a session as the adults are busy doing their stuff, but a burst of juveniles later on will certainly have you on your toes and you must have enough people around to cope with it!

You never know what's going to turn up at a migration site and during a CES session on 20 August a Melodious Warbler, normally more at home in southern France and Spain, was ringed. This is only the second individual to be ringed at Slapton, the first being in 1964, and was part of a small influx of this species into the country; very exciting!!

CES ringing has been very enjoyable and will provide robust data for the BTO to make more accurate regional and national analysis of bird trends. It also adds to our local knowledge and will inform future habitat management at Slapton.

If you haven't jumped on the CES roller-coaster yet, why not join the growing number of CES ringers this coming season and make the most of your ringing!

Slapton Ley is one of the CESs that captures good numbers of Cetti's Warbler. ▼

An accidental CES

Dave Leech explains how a nest-monitoring project in Norfolk spawned a CES.

The Watermill Broad CES may well be the only positive contribution that deer ticks have ever made to conservation. During a seabird ringing expedition in 2009, I started to suffer from some debilitating joint pains, which developed into full-blown arthritis, subsequently diagnosed as Lyme disease. Treatment started in May 2010 and by June I was feeling the benefits. Keen to make up for lost nesting time, I began to weigh up the late-season options and Jez Blackburn suggested I pay a visit to a reed-bed site half an hour's drive from Thetford, where he had done some ringing in the past – little did he know what he was letting himself in for.

Figure 1. An aerial view of Watermill Broad indicating the CES site. © 2012 Google © 2012 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky Image © 2012 Getmapping

Watermill Broad is a privately owned County Wildlife Site covering approximately one square kilometre (Fig 1). Previously used for sand and gravel extraction, the pits created have since been flooded using water from the River Wissey and the majority are now lined with reed fringes that range from one to five metres in width. Emergent vegetation is relatively sparse, the reed ending fairly abruptly, typically surrounded by willow or alder, segueing immediately into close-cropped grassland. As a result, species such as Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat are few and far between, but it is a veritable Reed Warbler factory, supporting an estimated 100–150 pairs.

To a nester, the opportunity was simply too good to pass up. Aided and abetted by Jez, Lee & Rachael Barber, Mike Toms and Ebay's finest chest waders, I strode into the reed beds and began my search. Once in the water, the thin fringes could be easily cold searched, the bulky nests standing out clearly in silhouette, and we were able to monitor the majority of breeding attempts, producing 103 nest records and ringing 167 pulli.

Totting up the figures at the end of 2010, the true potential of the site began to dawn on us. Not only could we collect a huge amount of information on breeding success each year, but we could also ring the majority of young produced on the site while they were still in the nest. This would enable us to follow their progress post-fledging and would also provide a

means of distinguishing individuals raised on site from passage juveniles raised elsewhere. All we needed was a standardised way of catching the birds...

And so, in 2011, the Watermill Broad CES was initiated. Located in the north-west corner, the site consists of nine nets totaling 140 m, erected the previous night and run between 0600 and 0830 hrs on a weekday morning. This allows us to pack up without being too late for work (tit flocks notwithstanding), leaving the weekends free for nest finding.

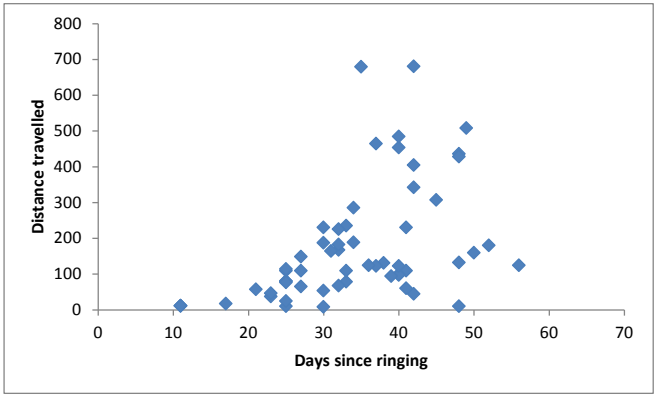


Figure 2. Time elapsed between ringing and recapture of pullus Reed Warblers.

The total catch last year was 459 birds, of which 90 were adult Reed Warblers, 38 being retraps from previous years. A further 99 were juvenile Reed Warblers, including 57 of the 491 ringed fledglings known to have left the 217 nests monitored. As the CES only started in 2011 and nest monitoring in 2010 was concentrated on the end of the season, when breeding success is known to be lower, we cannot formally compare breeding success between the two years. It did seem like a bumper season in terms of attempts initiated, however – national CES results appear to agree, with adult numbers 20% higher than the national average. At the time of writing, 2012 is looking considerably less impressive.

Knowing which nests the retrapped juveniles were from allows us to look at the distance travelled and the time elapsed between ringing and capture (Fig 2). Chicks were generally ringed at 5–6 days old, and began to appear in nets around 20 days later as they became less dependent on their parents and better able to fly between pits. Over the next 15–20 days they started to move further, and by the end of this period we were catching juveniles from the furthest reaches of the site. After 50 days, the number dropped sharply, suggesting the birds had left the site, and individuals were generally controlled at other sites between 60 and 65 days later.

We are fortunate to have a site perfectly suited to this particular study, and we are very grateful to Angela Knapp and the trustees for allowing us to carry out this exciting project on their land. It has been hard work at times, but has always produced fascinating results – and there are hopefully many more to come!

PHOTO: DAVE LEECH

A Reed Warbler nest with a typical brood ready for ringing.

What does CES involve?

This item is for those of you reading this newsletter online who want to clarify what's involved in running a CES. Recent feedback has indicated that some of the conditions and requirements associated with CES have been misinterpreted. So, if you've ever fancied taking up a CES but weren't sure what was involved, the following summary will be of use; if you have any further questions, please contact the CES Organiser at ces@bto.org or visit the website at www.bto.org/ces.

PHOTO: KATE RISELY

What makes a suitable CES?

- Suitable habitats include reed bed, wet or dry scrub and managed woodland (*ie* woodland where vegetation height remains constant, either naturally or through management).
- You should be able to catch at least 200 individual birds per season on your CES using as many or few nets as necessary.
- There is no set minimum or maximum length of netting.
- A standard set of CES nets should be erected in the same place on each Main Visit. Additional nets can also be erected on any visit, but must not exceed the total length of the standard CES nets.
- Ringers should aim to operate a CES for a minimum of four years.

How often and when should I operate my CES?

- The season starts at the beginning of May and ends at the end of August. Twelve Main Visits are made at regular intervals during each season, each falling within a 10-day period specified in advance by the CES Organiser.
- Time spent ringing should be sufficient to enable 200+ birds to be caught each season – a minimum of three hours per Main Visit is recommended, but at sites where the catch rate is high, the duration may be lower (see Fig 1).
- All Main Visits should start and finish at a fixed hour or at a set time in relation to dawn or dusk and be repeated.
- Extra Visits can be made, but not within the three days preceding a Main Visit.

Do I have to manage the habitat?

The aim of CES is to keep factors affecting the site as constant as possible and management of habitat, particularly vegetation height, is important. In some circumstances, where management may be hampered by lack of manpower or landowner influence, there is an option to re-register the site (see Box 1).

Can trainees take part in CES?

CES sites provide the ideal training ground for new ringers, enabling them to experience a wide range of species, ages and stages of moult. Having a few extra bodies around can also come in handy when setting up the nest and keeping the rides free of vegetation.

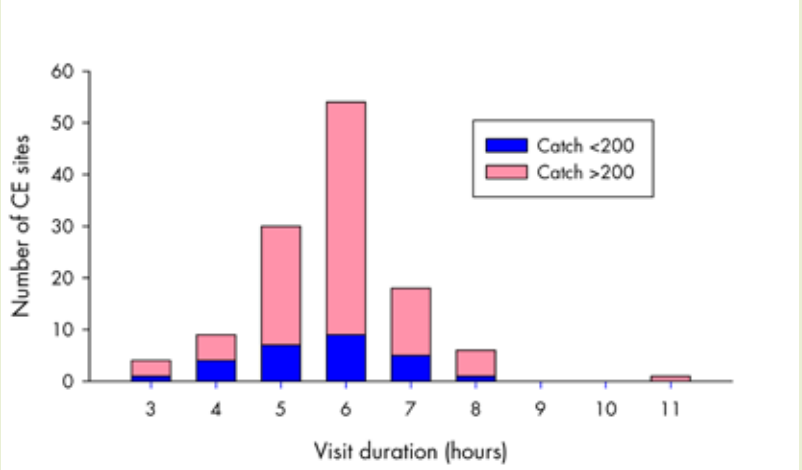


Figure 1. CES mean visit duration (hours) and frequency among sites in 2011; sites catching fewer than 200 birds are represented by blue bars and those catching more than 200 birds are represented by pink bars. The CES instructions recommend that visits should last about six hours and the mean duration during 2011 was between five and six. Prize for the longest CES session goes to Tony Crease and his team at Foxglove Covert, who operate nets for 11 hours, but three- to four-hour sessions can be sufficient at many sites – it is important to both ringers and the CES scheme that the effort is sustainable.

Am I allowed to attract birds to my site?

Sound lures should not be used during Main CES Visits, but may be used on other occasions – if lures are used then these will not count as extra visits as they may bias the numbers and age ratios of individuals captured.

Sites should not be baited between April and August as this may attract additional individuals not breeding within the CES area.

Do I get a refund on rings used during CES?

The refund is currently 11p per new bird captured in Standard CES nets – birds caught in additional nets or during extra visits do not qualify.

If you have any questions or need to discuss changes to your site, please contact the CES Organiser: at ces@bto.org.

Box 1. Can I make changes to my CES setup?

Re-registration is the way of allowing you to make periodic changes to the set-up of your site, such as the number or placement of nets or the duration of visits. This may be required if the available manpower varies or if habitat management outside your control takes place.

Your previous years, or even decades, of hard work will not be wasted as the data you have collected in previous years will still contribute to the CES analyses.

Coding Standard and Additional Nets

Additional Nets can be erected during a CES session, provided they do not exceed the total length of Standard Nets. However, the CES analyses only use captures from Standard Nets (*ie* those erected on every session), as these can be compared from visit to visit and year to year. It is therefore vital to ensure that all nets are coded as either Standard or Additional, and that captures are allocated to them accurately. Once the net type has been specified, IPMR will automatically summarise the catches into the relevant categories for the CES submission, so no further work is required on the part of the ringer. All birds caught after the CES visit period has ended, even if they were captured in Standard Nets, must also be specified as additional captures as this effort may vary from year to year. Please refer to the 'Guide to using IPMR for CES data' for details of how to use subsite codes to separate captures from Standard and Additional Nets. The guide is available on the 'survey forms' part of the CES web pages.

Alternatively, there is a very useful facility in IPMR, which allows you to specify captures from your site that should be excluded from the CES submission (*eg* roosting hirundines, waders caught in spring traps, pulli, etc) after you have entered your data. Select **Captures > Constant Effort Sites > Ringing Sessions from the IPMR menu options and specify the:**

Place code

Year

Visit date (place cursor on required visit)

Then select **View Captures** – all captures for the visit will be listed and you can exclude those relating to Additional Nets or other captures made outside of CES sessions by checking the box provided (see Fig 1).

CES Session Captures

Help

Place code: CRA Date: 25/05/2011

The captures for the session above are listed here together with their Subsite/net code. If the net is an additional net or a net excluded from CES this is indicated. Individual birds can be excluded from CES if that is required by clicking on the 'Excluded capture' checkbox.

	Ring	Species		Time	Subsite /Net	Additional Net	Excluded Net	Exclude Capture
R	X465924	REEBU	4	07:10	15CES	☐	☐	☐
R	T893430	SEDWA	4	08:00	10CES	☐	☐	☐
N	X414311	BLUTI	3J	08:00	2CES	☐	☐	☑
N	X414312	BLUTI	3J	08:00	2CES	☐	☐	☑
N	2U8876	LOTTI	4	08:10	16CES	☐	☐	☐
R	T893433	REEWA	4	08:10	15CES	☐	☐	☐
N	X414313	REEWA	4	08:10	15CES	☐	☐	☐
R	T893331	BLUTI	6	08:45	2CES	☐	☐	☐
N	X414314	REEWA	4	08:45		▩	▩	☐
N	X414315	REEWA	4	08:45	17CES	☐	☐	☐
N	X414316	GRETI	3J	08:45		▩	▩	☐
N	X414317	BLUTI	3J	08:45		▩	▩	☐
N	X414318	GRETI	3J	08:45		▩	▩	☐
N	X414319	GRETI	3J	08:45		▩	▩	☐
N	X414320	GRETI	3J	08:45		▩	▩	☐

Save & Exit

Record: 24 of 42 (Filtered)

Figure 1. Use the CES session captures facility to exclude relevant birds.

Coding Extra Visits

The 12 Main CES Visits must be coded numerically, *ie* **1, 2, 3,…12,** with each capture assigned a visit number. Extra Visits must be coded alphabetically, **A, B, C,…** etc – this ensures that birds captured will not be erroneously incorporated into the analyses. Examples of incorrect Extra Visit codes to AVOID using include:

1A, 7A, etc – these captures will treated as an additional capture on visit 1 and visit 7.

A1, A2, E1, etc – codes not recognised by analytical programs which result in errors.

Annual CES Submissions

When you create your annual CES Submission file in IPMR, you should ensure that the three essential files listed below are provided; as these are all required for the CES analysis and also to qualify for your CES refund. For site number 555, the files created in 2012 would be named as follows:

S555-12.H – Visit summary

S555-12.CES – Ringing capture data

S555-12.rtf – Summary of totals and visits

These files are automatically combined into a single Zip file, which in the example above would be called **S555-12.zip**.

Depending on your email system the **S555-12.zip** file may be attached automatically to an email and sent to ces@bto.org. However, if it is not sent automatically, you will need to create an email to ces@bto.org and manually attach the **S555-12.zip** file.

The folder in which the zip file has been created can be identified using the IPMR menu option **Setup > Options** – selecting this will cause a window to pop up and the 'Output Folder' specified in this window is the one into which IMPR automatically places any ringing and NRS submission files created. Once the location is known, you can go back to your email and then attach the file by navigating to the appropriate folder – make a note of the location as it will be the same every year.

Figure 1. Window showing location of output files.

CES Birthdays

25 years

Rutland Water (Leicestershire, Colin Hewitt) & Bedfont Lakes (London, David Harris)

20 years

Lackford Pits (Suffolk, Colin Jakes), Priory Park (Bedfordshire, Edward Green), Williamthorpe (Derbyshire, David Williams), Gordano Valley (Avon, Lyndon Roberts), Helton Tarn (Cumbria, Paul Robinson) & Hinderclay Fen (Suffolk, Jacquie Clark).

15 years

Levington (Suffolk, Paul Newton), Arley Hall (Cheshire, Mark Woodhead), Little Crosthwaite (Cumbria, Peter Davies), Mains of Auchenfranco (Dumfries, Duncan Irving), Attenborough NR (Nottinghamshire, Kevin Hemsley) & Aros Moss (Strathclyde, Neil Brown).

10 years

Pitsford Reservoir (Northamptonshire, Dave Francis), Hauxley Reserve (Northumberland, Michael Holmes) & Penclacwydd (Dyfed, Heather Coats).

5 years

The Wilderness, Kintbury (Berkshire, John Swallow), Blackburn Meadow LNR (South Yorkshire, Kevin Bower), Rainton Meadow NR (Tyneside, Martin Hughes), Paxton Pits NR (Cambridgeshire, Ian Dillon), Magor Marsh (Gwent, Ian Vaughan), Llyn Ystumllyn (Gwynedd, Kelvin Jones), Hadfast (Lothian, Allan Riding), Birchwood, Chard (Somerset, Richard Ward-Smith) & Bawntaafe (Louth, Maura Culligan).

New in 2011

Tophill Low Nature Reserve (Humberside, Graham Scott), Wicken Fen (Cambridgeshire, Michael Holdsworth), Three Corner Marsh – Icklesham (Sussex, Ian Hunter), Snettisham Coastal Park (Norfolk, Trevor Girling), Ringinglow (South Yorkshire, Sean Ashton), Nanjizal (Cornwall, Kester Wilson), Gunwalloe (Cornwall, Mark Grantham),Cranwich (Norfolk, Lee Barber), Slapton Ley (Devon, Nik Ward), Brandon Fen (Suffolk, Simon Evans), Ardochy (Highland, Jacquie Heaton) & Blackditch (Wicklow, Alan Lauder).

2012 CES visit dates

Visit no	First date	Last date	No of days
1	Thursday 3 May	Saturday 12 May	10
2	Sunday 13 May	Weds 23 May	11
3	Thursday 24 May	Saturday 2 June	10
4	Sunday 3 June	Weds 13 June	11
5	Thursday 14 June	Saturday 23 June	10
6	Sunday 24 June	Weds 4 July	11
7	Thursday 5 July	Saturday 14 July	10
8	Sunday 15 July	Weds 25 July	11
9	Thursday 26 July	Saturday 4 August	10
10	Sunday 5 August	Weds 15 August	11
11	Thursday 16 August	Saturday 25 August	10
12	Sunday 26 August	Weds 5 September	11

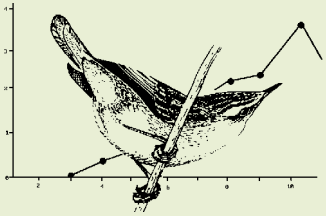
CES reporting deadlines

Virtually all the 2010 CES data submissions were received before the end of the year, a fantastic effort that is very much appreciated. Rapid submission of data allows us to process the information and produce the results and feedback promptly. This both increases the effectiveness of CES as a conservation monitoring tool and improves the chances of the results being picked up by the media, further increasing the profile of ringing and the BTO. Key submission deadlines:
Preliminary reporting – 15 October
Final reporting – 1 January (28 February for refund).
Please send all CES data submissions to: ces@bto.org

CES Forum

If you do not currently subscribe, please consider joining the CES Forum. This is a great way of exchanging details of catches and getting feedback from sites throughout Britain & Ireland as the CES season progresses.
To join, please send an email (including your name and permit number) to:
btocesforum-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

CES News
Number 25, May 2012



The newsletter for the British Trust for Ornithology's Constant Effort Sites scheme.

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