

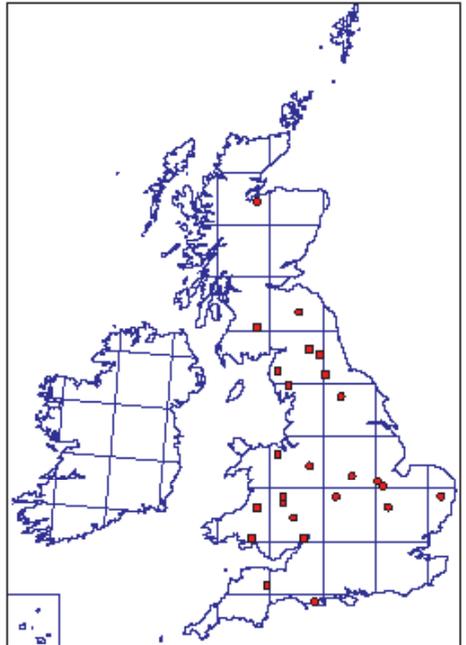
RAS Newsletter

Number Two
March 2000

RAS studies on Pied Flycatcher and Sand Martin

Since RAS (Retrapping Adults for Survival) began in 1998, we have been encouraging studies of a wide range of species (see the table on page 3). This is allowing us to find out about long-term studies that use methods compatible with the aims of RAS, and to test RAS methods for species that were previously rarely ringed. In future, the RAS Project aims to increase the number of studies (and hence geographical coverage) for suitable species.

The locations of Pied Flycatcher and Sand Martin studies (some of which have already been running for many years) are shown on the map. The spread of Pied Flycatcher studies (squares) reflects the breeding distribution of the species, with a westerly and northerly bias. Sand Martin studies (circles) have a broader distribution, with some concentration in central and eastern England. For species like these, which have a good geographical spread of studies, we should be able to undertake analyses comparing survival rates between groups of sites.



Artwork by Ian Rendall

We are keen to see this broad geographical coverage for a range of other species, because the ability to calculate survival rates on a regional basis may give further clues to the environmental cause(s) of adverse changes. For example, a spread of studies of Dippers and Common Sandpipers could enable us to look for variation in survival in relation to stream water quality, while studies of Linnets and Tree Sparrows might allow investigation of the effects of variation in agricultural practices across the country on survival rates.