

# North Lancashire Ringing Group

## 2012 Report

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## **A Review of 2012**

**John Wilson**

Welcome to our 2012 report. In it we describe our activities during the year along with some tentative reports of our findings over past years.

I am sure that most ringers will agree that 2012 has been one of the most difficult years, with the wet and windy weather restricting activities. The poor weather does also seem to have had a detrimental effect on the productivity of many species and these two factors are certainly reflected in our ringing totals.

Our final total of 10,251 new birds is just over 4,000 down on 2011. The species with the largest decline was Sand Martin, for which we undertake a Re-trapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project on the colonies along the River Lune, from 2140 last year to just 462 in 2012. The poor weather was mainly to blame; not only did it cause problems on the evenings we planned to go out but, with so much rain, river levels were high and we could not access some of the colonies and some were completely flooded out. Counts of the nest holes though showed a decline from last year's record population. By contrast, Swallows were up from 556 to 1400 due to the formation of a workable reed bed roost at Middleton Nature Reserve.

Turning to the warblers, all species except Willow Warbler were well down. Reed Warblers, on which we run a RAS, declined from 971 to 649, Sedge Warbler from 479 to 243, Whitethroat from 158 to 70, Grasshopper Warbler from 46 to just 11 and Blackcap from 163 to 102 suggesting poor productivity in all these species. Willow Warbler at 507 declined only slightly. Past recoveries suggest that most of our passage Willow Warblers originate in Scotland where the weather was apparently better than ours. The results for our Constant Effort Sites (CES) at Heysham and Middleton NR provide further evidence of these declines.

Of the resident species, all the tits were well down with the marked exception of Coal Tit which at 459 was 108 up. Coal Tits nest earlier than the other tits so they possibly escaped the poor weather and perhaps their coniferous habitat provided better conditions. Support for this latter view comes from another coniferous breeder, the Goldcrest, which increased from 185 to 314. All the finches except Goldfinch were down.

Perhaps the best evidence for poor productivity comes from the nestling ringing in our nest boxes, a project where effort was the same in both years. Blue tit nestlings declined from 908 to 505 this year, Great Tits from 507 to 368 and Nuthatch from 69 to 39. The later nesting Pied Flycatchers (another RAS) did better going from 515 to 451.

So, rather a disappointing year - let's hope that 2013 brings better things.

# Bearded Tit RAS

John Wilson

## Introduction

This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year of our study at Leighton Moss RSPB but it was the most difficult with poor weather and the resulting high water levels reducing our activities. However, with re-traps and sightings of our colour ringed population, we have a reasonable insight into the size of the breeding population, the survival through last winter and the productivity this season.

## Breeding Population and Survival

This year we have either re-trapped or re-sighted a total of 16 adult females and 15 adult males. Past experience is that we always miss a few and this would suggest a breeding population of ca 18 pairs. The estimated numbers of breeding pairs and the numbers of adult males and females from 2000 to 2012 is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Estimated no. of pairs and adult males and females re-trapped or re-sighted 2000-2012**

Year	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Breeding Pop	65	7	10	18	25	32	35	25	18	26	30	12	18
Adult Males	75	6	11	12	17	29	29	25	20	27	49	12	15
Adult Females	44	3	6	14	20	25	31	21	8	18	28	9	16

Survival this year has been most interesting. Of 21 adults known to be alive in 2011, 10 were present in the breeding season of 2012. This gives a crude survival rate of 48%, which is about average for adults in years with reasonable winter weather. However, of 32 juveniles ringed in the 2011 breeding season, no less than 21 survived to the 2012 breeding season - a survival rate of 66% and the best survival rate yet recorded for juveniles and only the second year in the 21 years of the study that juvenile survival has been better than adult survival. Overall this gives a survival rate of 60%, the highest yet recorded.

## Productivity

The numbers of juveniles ringed from 2000 to 2012 is given in Table 2. Productivity was very poor this year with only 17 ringed, although two un-ringed bids were seen in late October. If the results from the wigwam nest boxes are anything to go by then predation was a feature in the first broods with four of the six occupied boxes predated. Later broods suffered from heavy rain and especially the resulting high water levels and many natural nests were undoubtedly flooded out, with July recording record high water levels.

**Table 2 No. of young ringed 2000-2012**

Year	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Young Ringed	275	18	34	55	75	52	78	13	51	103	104	32	17

## Grit Tray Sightings

A total of 305 sightings of colour ringed birds were obtained between September 25<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>. A total of 40 different birds were recorded, 29 adults and 11 juveniles which represents 90% of the colour ringed population.

# Reed Warbler RAS

John Wilson

## Introduction

This year was probably the most difficult season of the 16 years we have been studying the Reed Warbler population of Leighton Moss RSPB. There were so many wet and windy days and, especially in July, a period of high water levels which seriously restricted our activities. Ringing visits were down from 64 in 2011 to 50 this year, the lowest of the whole study. Despite this, significant results were obtained as detailed below and a total of 836 reed warblers were handled, made up of 629 new birds, 204 re-traps and 3 controls.

## Adult Population

Despite the drop in coverage this season, we caught a total of 201 adults. This was still six above the average of 195 adults for the 16 years of the study and suggested a good breeding population (see Table 1 for full details). Of these 201 adults, 74 were re-traps and three were controls.

A comprehensive statistical analysis would be needed to work out survival from year to year and make allowance for the lower effort this year. Another factor needing statistical treatment is that although we work the same sites each year, many birds obviously evade capture in successive years. This is well illustrated by R510202 which was ringed as a juvenile on 11/08/2003 and re-trapped in 04, 07, 08, and 09 then again this year, 8 years and 331 days after ringing. During its life it has been re-trapped only once in each of the five years, but at five different sites! It was, however, well short of the Group's longevity record for this species of 9 years and 314 days. We also had two birds in their sixth year and three in their 5<sup>th</sup>. Of 32 birds ringed before 2011 and re-trapped in 2012, only 18 were caught in 2011 also. Of 45 birds ringed for the first time in 2011 and re-trapped in 2012, 15 were ringed as adults and 30 as juveniles. These again show the need for a comprehensive statistical analysis which hopefully will be undertaken by the BTO.

**Table 1. Adult reed warblers caught at Leighton Moss 1997-2012**

Year	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Adults	152	169	135	204	203	170	194	248	214	247	206	153	166	224	238	201

## Productivity

Table 2 shows the ringing totals for juveniles for each year from 1997 to 2012. The total of 504 this year was just 90 down on the average catch of the previous 15 years. Given the difficulties already referred to restricting ringing, there appears to have been reasonable productivity despite the cool, wet spring and summer.

**Table 2. Juveniles ringed at Leighton Moss 1997-2012**

Year	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Juvs	547	297	551	689	332	838	894	713	389	665	658	472	618	514	821	504

## Pied Flycatcher RAS

**John Wilson**

Our RAS is spread across 12 upland woodlands in the Lune valley and its tributaries; these are a part of our extensive nest box schemes which started in 1966. The nests are monitored on a weekly basis. Adults are captured towards the end of the nesting cycle and all surviving nestlings are ringed.

### Breeding Population and Survival

This year saw a slight decline of five on last years' record population (Table 1) but is still well up on numbers in previous years. This species is on the amber list with a sharp decline recorded in many areas but our population appears to have bucked the trend.

**Table 1. Population and productivity of Pied Flycatchers in the Lune Valley woodlands 2008-2012**

Year	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
No of Pairs	87	92	63	54	68
Successful Nests	76	76	51	43	41
Adults Ringed	101	96	68	51	60
Young Ringed	418	455	308	264	220

An analysis of this year's re-trap data backs up the findings of past years and shows (as would be expected) that adults largely return to the same wood each year with 81% of 49 birds returning to the wood where they were originally ringed, quite a number to the same or neighbouring nest box. Of those that changed woods, five of the nine remained in the same valley and the other four just moved to the next valley. By contrast, only 19% of the 49 birds ringed as nestlings returned to their native wood and many of the others moved quite widely within our area. That some young birds move long distances for their first nesting attempt was shown by the controlling of a female in Burton Wood which had been ringed as a nestling last year in Pembrokeshire and another female ringed as a nestling in Durham and controlled in Whittington Wood.

Allowing for the fact that only around 50% of adults are caught each year, survival of the 96 adults ringed in 2011 was around 31%. Our oldest bird was at least six years old having been ringed as an adult female in Winder Wood in May 2007 and re-trapped within the same area of the wood each year since.

### Productivity

Despite the cool wet spring and summer, productivity was good with 89.3% of nests producing young compared with 82.5% in 2011. Productivity, measured as the number of nestlings from each successful attempt, was also quite good at 5.5 young per brood. This compares with 5.9 per brood in 2011.

## Sand Martin RAS

**Richard du Feu**

The 2012 Sand Martin season was very different to both 2010 and 2011. The previous two years had seen excellent breeding success and a good return rate of both adults and juveniles (around 20% for both years). 2012 was different for several reasons. Firstly, the 2011/2012 winter in the Sahel was dry, which is normally bad for Sand Martin survival. During the northwards migration of many passerines storms caused problems in the Mediterranean and, finally, when they arrived on the Lune, colonies were repeatedly washed out by flood waters caused by the large amount of rain in the north

west in June and July.

**Table 1. Total individual adults caught at each colony**

	2010	2011	2012
Alston	-	226	12
Arkholme	325	168	27
Whittington	421	493	243
Nether Burrow	-	436	-
Total	746	1323	282

Table 1 shows the total numbers of adults caught at 4 colonies over the last 3 years. Nether Burrow was inaccessible during 2012 due to high river levels and was abandoned in 2010 before a visit was made. Arkholme flooded out regularly so no broods would have fledged until late August at best. Whittington fared best out of all the colonies with only the lower bits being flooded out. Effort in 2012 was similar to the previous two years and the number of adults caught reflects the poor return rate from 2011. Counts of active holes in the Lune for 2012 also show around a 50% drop in pairs.

**Table 2. Juveniles caught at each colony**

	2010	2011	2012
Alston	-	48	0
Arkholme	225	195	0
Whittington	595	517	178
Nether Burrow	-	212	-
Total	820	972	178

Table 2 shows the number of juveniles caught at each colony during 2010-2012. Arkholme and Alston were both visited when juveniles could have fledged, but none were caught. Measuring productivity from juveniles caught at colonies is difficult in part due to the rapid movement of juveniles to other colonies in the weeks before their southward migration. On the face of it, the productivity at Whittington in 2012 (73%) was worse than previous years (141% in 2010 and 105% in 2011); however, it is likely that many of these birds are from other colonies and the productivity may be far worse than the numbers suggest.

Return rates of adults and juveniles between years are a good indication of how well birds survived although with Sand Martins this is slightly variable due to their opportunistic nature of breeding site selection. In 2012 only 7% of adults caught in previous years were caught again which compares to around 20% in 2010 and 2011. Just 12 juveniles ringed in 2011 were re-caught in 2012 which suggests a recruitment into the local population of about 1%. Recent years have had up to 15% return rate.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of 2012 was the number of Sand Martins caught at Swallow roosts at Middleton and Gressingham. The total of juveniles caught at Gressingham was 49 which is roughly comparable to previous years with similar effort in catching swallows. This suggests that colonies in Scotland probably did quite well.

## Heysham CES

**Alan Draper**

2012 has been a difficult year for many CES sites, the weather making the 12 visits required hard to achieve and catches lower than normal.

At Heysham we did achieve the 12 visits, largely because we are normally able to pick any day of the week, unlike ringers who may be confined to weekends. Catches were not particularly low either (for this site) at 134 new-for-year birds. The habitat here is mainly advanced dryish scrub together with scattered fairly mature Hawthorn and small Willow. Some drastic management each winter attempts to maintain the habitat in addition to continuous trimming as required.

The total number of birds captured in all 12 visits has ranged between 85 and 146 over the last 13 years. These overall numbers are *terribly* low for the effort involved and are way below the recommended level of 250 new-for-year birds, but the BTO tell us that it is still a viable site producing useful data so please 'keep going'. I am often amused by articles in CES News in which ringers complain of poor catches in one visit that are far more than our yearly catch - the chance would be a fine thing!

This year's captures, with 105 New and 134 New-For-Year, were average for this site.

Numbers of local breeding birds such as Blackbird, Dunnock and Wren were up this year, with reasonable numbers of young captured, except perhaps for Blackbird young. Blackcap numbers were reasonable with 4 birds being retrapped indicating breeding on the site. Bullfinch are always caught in reasonable numbers and this year was average. Common Whitethroat were down with only a single young bird caught as were Lesser Whitethroat (7 were caught, of which 4 were juveniles, with no retraps). This latter species normally breeds here and more would be expected to be trapped. Chiffchaff, at 14, were up on last year, against the national trend which showed a 40% drop in the CES preliminary figures.

Willow Warbler productivity was 26% down nationally. However, our CES captures were average (although, of course the sample is small), but our overall captures of this species on the whole site were surprisingly higher than last year.

No adult Song Thrushes and only two juveniles were caught this season.

## Middleton Nature Reserve CES

**Peter Marsh**

Despite the CES sites being very close together, Middleton and Heysham are completely different habitats with the former being mainly wetland (and in 2012 very wetland), but with enough willow, bramble and hawthorn scrub to bring both Whitethroat species into the equation.

This site is covered for three hours in the morning with a start about an hour after dawn, so the timing varies slightly between the hours of 0530-0830 to 0630-0930. It involves just 4 x 18 metre nets, all set on one side of the bisecting road, so that the other side can be used, if needed, for either supplementary nets or casual ringing which is not constrained by CES rules governing proximate dates.

The whole idea of CES is that it acts as a barometer to identify which are good and which are not so good breeding seasons. I think the intention was that even in the 'not so good seasons', there would

still be some positive things to say about the ringing effort. What happened in 2012 can be summed up by comparing it to that piece of vinyl brought out many years ago, which consisted of silence and was bought by several people wanting 3-4 minutes of peace and quiet. Cue Middleton NR during midsummer 2012 when, for example, at the start of June, John Mason and I were sitting in the Arctic Climate Zone at Vardo with temperatures one degree higher than Middleton!

On my return from the Arctic, I was faced with a deadly mid-June silence, especially Sedge and Grasshopper Warblers, and a general absence of birds, apart from one or two Reed Warblers chugging away rather half-heartedly – perhaps their nests were just about high enough to avoid being flooded out.

The CES returns were in stark contrast to 2011. No statistically jammy Israeli-ringed Lesser Whitethroats (I was hoping this bird would return) and one of the local juveniles ringed in 2011 ended up getting no further north-west than Icklesham in east Sussex where it ended up a breeding female. Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats were both down in numbers, a triple-whammy of Sahelian drought, adverse northerly winds during the spring migration and the aforementioned awful breeding season weather.

We specifically target Grasshopper Warblers with the CES monitoring supplemented by a special licence to use limited playback during the breeding season. 25 were ringed in 2010, 44 in 2011 (plus a returning bird from 2010), but just 11 in 2012.

Sedge Warblers fared a little better as numbers were supplemented by August passage birds, perhaps from better breeding season weather conditions in the northern half of Scotland, but the scenario in midsummer in terms of local productivity was dreadful with many of the local breeding adults seeming to give up and depart a month earlier than usual.

The other problem with 2012 was that the rotational scrub clearance as part of the management for e.g. Grasshopper Warblers also, due to a communication breakdown, included some of that alongside the mist-net rides.

Do join us in 2012. Things cannot possibly be as bad! Thanks to John Mason for most sessions and Alan Draper for covering the Norwegian/Finnish absence.

## **Twite Colour-ringing at Heysham Harbour**

**Alan Draper**

Catching and ringing Twite on passage and wintering around Heysham Harbour continued this year. This project has been in operation since the first birds were seen and trapped in December 2002. These birds were probably attracted to stop off here by the presence of suitable natural seed – the area had been bare stony ground until then, and this was perhaps the first year that sufficient vegetation had begun to grow (Scentless Mayweed *Matricaria perforata* seemed to be the plant to which they were attracted in particular). Ringing effort increased in the following years as more birds arrived, attracted by the seed, the previously-ringed returning birds and the nyger seed that we provided continuously during the winter season on the catching area.

At the beginning of 2012 small numbers of wintering birds were present, most of them already ringed. Up to 10 birds were present at the turn of the year with a maximum of 22 in the latter part of January. In general, the birds' behaviour during the 2011-12 winter was a little different to previous years, possibly a result of more abundant natural food here. We did not have a regular large flock using the feeding station, but small groups coming and going. These groups often seemed to consist of different birds and were often present for a relatively small part of the day. It seems certain that the



groups were part of the larger local population as they always were virtually all wearing rings fitted during the winter, but the mix of colour combinations present varied. In previous winters, there has been a larger, more stable flock visiting more regularly and staying around for longer. In recent years, all the movement has been to the south, with the nearest known feeding sites on Ocean Edge saltmarsh (mainly autumn) and Sunderland Point. There has been no evidence of any feeding areas/observed movement to/from to the north of Heysham.

February saw rather more birds with a maximum of 42 on 20/02. Numbers dwindled through March and the last were 4 on 28/03. This is 10 days earlier than the final early spring sighting in 2011.

Ringed sessions in the early part of the year were carried out on 03/02, 15/02, 25/02 & 16/03. Only 17 new birds were caught in total since most of the wintering birds had already been ringed as they arrived in the previous autumn. These new birds would have been part of the very mobile and wide ranging population along the Lancashire coastline.

An interesting report of a Twite ringed at Heysham Harbour sighted at Whitworth Quarry, Rossendale on 1st April 2012 was received. The colour combination tells us that this individual was ringed very recently (on 3rd, 15th or 25th Feb 2012). It would appear that this bird has moved from its wintering area at Heysham directly to its likely breeding grounds, but not in western Scotland as we are accustomed to.

We are aware of only two previous sightings of Heysham birds in the Pennines and one of a Pennine bird at Heysham (but see below).

Ringed Oct/Nov 2009, Heysham - controlled Close Moss, Marsden 14/06/2010.

Ringed Oct/Nov 2010, Heysham - controlled Swales Moor, Halifax Feb/Mar 2011.

Ringed 24/09/2004, Light Hazzles - controlled Heysham 01/11/2005.

Original thoughts from ringing and recoveries/sightings in the early years at Heysham were that our birds mainly went up the western coast of Scotland to breed, and that the Pennine population was separate. It may now be that a very small proportion do indeed move to the (much closer) Pennine breeding grounds and this is certainly the case with the small proportion of birds which were trapped on the Ribble estuary in the early 2000s. However, another explanation for the three recoveries documented above could be that they had initially dispersed to the west during autumn migration (mid-Oct to mid-Nov with this species) and the absence of any winter re-trapping could have indicated that they had correctly re-orientated. The Whitworth example, however, obviously suggests that the bird had overwintered on the Lancashire coast, belatedly locating the Heysham food source.

The first Twite arrival of the autumn was one on 10/10, with two on 12/10 with 21 Linnet and 8 Goldfinch. Nine Twite were on the feeding area with a flock of 55 mixed Goldfinch/Linnet on 15/10. The mixed flock showed the Goldfinch (and Linnet) to be initially rather dominant over Twite – the Twite tended to feed slightly apart from the rest. However, as time passed, it did seem that they became a little more integrated.

By 13/12 a minimum of 53 Twite together with c13 Goldfinch and 11 unspecified Twite/Linnet were present. The numbers of Twite may possibly have been boosted by a proportion of the Walney birds running out of natural food, although this would indicate ‘midwinter migration’, for which there is no previous evidence. Perhaps more likely, it could simply have been a redistribution of the Lancashire coastal birds as the natural food ran out and Heysham became the “guaranteed food source”. On the following day a maximum of only 20 were seen.

However, the count was up again to 57-60 on 16/12, with 67 there on 19/12, and numbers continued to vary from day to day as sections of the population separated and rejoined during their very wide ranging movements around the area.

Goldfinch numbers this autumn have been unusually high around the harbour feeding area, peaking at c50. They have been accompanied by up to 21 Linnets from time to time and varying numbers of Twite, up to a maximum of c80 on Christmas Day. The more normal pattern in autumn has been for a few Linnets to arrive first, perhaps with single numbers of Goldfinch. Twite then begin to appear with these species and build up to higher numbers whilst the Goldfinch and Linnets fairly quickly move on leaving a substantial number of the Twite to remain in the area throughout the winter, with many passing through to the rest of the Lancashire coast and possibly beyond.

The first whoosh netting attempt of the autumn for Twite at Heysham Harbour was carried out on 19/10, with 41 new (+ 1 retrap) Goldfinch, 2 new (+ 1 retrap) Linnet and 5 Twite captured. Almost 50% of the Goldfinch were aged as still being 3J, notwithstanding the lateness of the season.

Further catching sessions have been carried out as follows: 22/10, 05/11, 15/11, 21/11, 27/11, 08/12 & 18/12. The number of new birds ringed during these sessions totalled 65. As the year progresses the proportion of ringed individuals naturally becomes higher until only new arrivals are unringed. The birds also become more difficult to catch as they are clearly very aware of the net paraphernalia when it is set. Quite often, as the equipment is removed, the birds are down on the seed before the car is packed up!

To date, 82 Twite have been ringed this year (17 of these in the spring period). Retrapped birds consisted of various combinations of 50 returning individuals.

So far, two Machrihanish ringed birds have been captured – one a regular from last year. The other was a juvenile ringed at Machrihanish on 21/09/2012. A third individual wearing only a right leg BTO metal ring may also have been a bird ringed there in autumn 2012 (a number of individuals were caught but not colour ringed).

**Twite Ringing Dates - N.H.Wall:**

Date	No. Trapped	New
03/02/2012	9	1
15/02/2012	12	6
25/02/2012	23	9
16/03/2012	6	1
19/10/2012	5	5
22/10/2012	7	7
05/11/2012	7	3
15/11/2012	9	6
21/11/2012	7	4
27/11/2012	15	6
08/12/2012	34	22
18/12/2012	30	12

<b>Total:</b>	<b>82</b>
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A small number of Heysham-ringed birds are present on the Duddon estuary at a feeding station there. There are occasional examples of Heysham-ringed birds moving back north to the Duddon during the course of the same autumn (a minor ‘overshoot’), but a majority of Heysham-ringed birds on the Duddon are examples ringed at Heysham during one winter period which have remained further north during a subsequent winter.

The make-up of the daily groups is an interesting situation. As the season progresses, the percentage of ringed birds naturally increases (to almost 100% at times). However, when birds are retrapped it is found that there is usually a mix of ‘regular’ birds together with groups of other ringed individuals which consist of differing individuals from catch to catch. It is therefore difficult to assess the total population in the wider area since the number at the feeding station at any one time may not be representative of the overall number. One way to assess the full population might be to locate their roosting place and count them entering or leaving and see if they are indeed roosting along with birds from other day-time locations, as suggested by the variable daily mixture of individuals visiting Heysham – we are hoping to make efforts to do this during the winter.

The colour combination currently in use at Heysham for Twite is: Left leg below tarsal joint, Red/Blue split colour over Pale Blue plain (on the right leg BTO metal only). We would ask any observers finding Twite in the area to look out for colour rings and, if possible, report an estimate of the ringed/unringed ratio of birds in the flock together with colour combinations if they can be seen. The split colours can be hard to read in the field but the plain colour itself indicates the ringing site (i.e. Pale Blue for Heysham, Yellow for Duddon Estuary etc.) so reading this colour alone is very useful.

### TWITE CONTROLLED AT HEYSHAM HARBOUR - YEAR 2012

<u>CONTROL DATE</u>	<u>RING/COLOURS</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>RINGING DATE</u>
03/12/2012	L999092 +G/W on L, R/W on Right	Machrihanish Obs. Kintyre, Argyll	Autumn 2011
15/11/2012	L999067 +G/W on L, R/W on Right	Machrihanish Obs. Kintyre, Argyll	20/09/2011
27/11/2012	L999067 +G/W on L, R/W on Right	Machrihanish Obs. Kintyre, Argyll	20/09/2011
27/11/2012	L999175+G/W on L; R/W on Right	Machrihanish Obs. Kintyre, Argyll	21/09/2012

### HEYSHAM RINGED TWITE SEEN ELSEWHERE - YEAR 2012

<u>CONTROL DATE</u>	<u>RING/COLOURS</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>RINGING DATE</u>
17/01/2012	V900440 + O/B over P	Askam-in-Furness, Cumbria	28/10/2011
27/01/2012	P over W/R	Knott End, Lancs	Oct-Dec 2009
27/01/2012	P over B/O	Knott End, Lancs	Jan-Mar 2011
01/04/2012	Pale Blue over Blue/Red	Whitworth Quarry, Pennine	February year 2012
25/12/2011	O/B over P	Pilling Marsh, Lancs	Oct-Dec 2011
27/01/2012	P over W/R	Knott End, Lancs	Oct-Dec 2009
27/01/2012	W/G over P	Knott End, Lancs	Oct-Dec 2010
02/04/2012	P over B/R	Fleetwood Tip, Lancs	Jan-Mar 2012
06/04/2012	W/G over P	Fleetwood Tip, Lancs	Oct-Dec 2010
14/04/2012	O/B over P	Fleetwood Tip, Lancs	Oct-Dec 2011
15/10/2012	W/B(?N) over P	Walney Reserve	31/10/2008

## **Pied Flycatcher 2012 – an example of the data IPMR holds**

### **Paul Cammack**

The following is a partial report on activity from two woods in the Roeburndale valley. For these two woods, nests are monitored through the breeding season and Nest Record Cards are recorded using the standard IPMR computer programme.

For each nesting attempt, the contents of the nest are recorded for each visit made to the nest. In the majority of cases, at least five visits are made to each nest. The first visit is made just before Pied Flycatchers are expected to return. About a week later, the boxes are visited again and the contents are recorded - if there are eggs, the programme will calculate the estimated first laying date for each nesting attempt. Another visit about a week later will (usually) give the total clutch size and allow an estimate of the hatching date. The next visit will (hopefully) allow a count to be made of young present (and thus allow hatching success to be estimated) and there is usually a visit to ring the young. Finally, a visit is timed for just after the birds should have fledged so as to record the outcome of the nest. After each visit, the date and contents of the nest are entered into IPMR.

At the end of the season, all the nest records are automatically collected by the programme and are sent by email to the British Trust for Ornithology where they are automatically collated into the central database and can be used for national and regional estimates of breeding success and productivity. The table below shows some of the things that the IPMR computer programme will do with the data that are already inputted into the system with almost no extra effort from the recorder.

### Pied Flycatchers – Roeburndale area

Year	Nests	Average number of eggs	Average number of pulli	Success	Failure
2012	32	6.6	5.2	66%	19%
2011	39	6.8	5.6	85%	10%
2010	25	6.9	5.4	80%	20%
2009	19	7.1	6.2	89%	11%
2008	26	6.4	3.9	50%	50%
2007	25	6.7	5.6	84%	16%

To produce this data for all your Pied Flycatchers, open *IPMR*, select *Nest Records*, select *Standard Reporting*, select *Species Summary*, fill in “Year”, “Place” and “Species”, and click *Species Summary*.

These data suggest that in this valley, the average number of eggs produced in a year by Pied Flycatchers varies from year to year but is reasonably consistent at between 6.4 and 7.4 per nesting attempt, but that the average number of pulli produced is much more variable, ranging from 3.9 to 5.9. This suggests that breeding success for this species is much more affected by the success in fledging young (with failure due to predation of young and inability to provide sufficient food for all pulli) than by success in hatching eggs (with failure usually due to predation of the eggs).

By simply altering the year or the place that you select in *IPMR* (this takes less than 10 seconds!), you can extract the data for individual years or specific sites – as below – and this gives you much more useful data at the click of your fingers (well, at the click of a mouse!). Being able to manage data so effortlessly in this way can allow ringers to consider many more questions using their data and to notice trends and differences more easily – and it should help us to focus our efforts much more effectively in terms of data collection, data analysis and conservation action.

The two tables below show the results for Pied Flycatchers in two woods in the same valley.

### Pied Flycatchers - Hill’s Kirk Wood, Wray

Year	Nests	Average number of Eggs	Average number of Pulli	Success	Failure
2012	6	5.5	4.7	50%	17%
2011	7	7.1	7.0	100%	
2010	7	7.1	6.9	100%	
2009	5	7.6	5.0	80%	20%
2008	10	7.3	6.5	90%	10%
2007	6	7.5	5.8	83%	17%

### Pied Flycatchers – Outhwaite Wood

Year	Nests	Average number of Eggs	Average number of Pulli	Success	Failure
2012	15	6.9	5.3	73%	27%
2011	17	6.6	4.9	76%	24%
2010	15	6.9	4.7	67%	33%
2009	11	6.9	6.5	100%	
2008	16	5.8	2.3	25%	75%
2007	19	6.5	5.6	84%	16%

Comparing these two tables, it is clear that Outhwaite Wood has more nesting birds (it is a much bigger wood) but the birds there appear to lay slightly fewer eggs per attempt and to have a much higher failure rate in most years. Given that this is a priority breeding bird, this type of information could be useful for locating extra nest boxes – there is plenty of Outhwaite Wood that has no boxes and the raw numbers of nesting attempts might suggest that ‘building from strength’ and locating boxes in adjacent areas of this wood would be useful, but the data above suggest that it might be more effective to use the ribbon woodland between the two woods instead. If all members of the group shared their data in the standardised BTO format, we could make data analysis much easier to attempt.

Where there are other species present, it is very easy to produce data for each species – simply with a few clicks. The table below shows slightly different data for one of these woods – there are lots of possibilities for the data that are presented – all with just a few clicks. To produce these data for your nests, open *IPMR*, select *Nest Records*, select *Standard Reporting*, select *Species Summary*, fill in “*Place*” and “*Species*”, and click *Species Survival by Year*.

### Blue Tit - Outhwaite, Roeburndale

Year	Nests	Total eggs	Total pulli	Total fledged	Average number of Eggs	Average number of Pulli	Average number Fledged
2012	29	289	150	108	10.0	5.2	3.7
2011	17	171	114	89	10.1	6.7	5.2
2010	9	90	34	26	10.0	3.8	2.9
2009	7	61	38	33	8.7	5.4	4.7
2008	2	13	0	0	6.5	0	0
2007	9	75	45	33	8.3	5.0	3.7

In the examples shown so far, the data were transcribed from IPMR and entered into tables created manually in Word, but it is also possible to export the data from IPMR into Word (or Excel, if wished) as a table like the one below – it just takes a few more steps.

The table below was created in IPMR first - Open *IPMR*, select *Nest Records*, select *Standard Reporting*, select *Species Summary*, fill in “*Place*” and “*Species*”, click *Species Survival by Year*. This produces the table of data which you can print directly (or you can, of course, just transcribe this to paper or to Word etc.).

Outhwaite Wood, Roeburndale - Pied Flycatcher										
Year	Nest count	Total eggs	Total pulli	Total fledge	Ave eggs	Ave pulli	Ave fledge	Egg/pulli survival	Pulli/fledge	Egg/fledge
2007	19	123	106	95	6.5	5.6	5.0	86.2%	89.6%	77.2%
2008	16	93	37	17	5.8	2.3	1.1	39.8%	45.9%	18.3%
2009	11	76	71	63	6.9	6.5	5.7	93.4%	88.7%	82.9%
2010	15	103	71	52	6.9	4.7	3.5	68.9%	73.2%	50.5%
2011	17	112	83	73	6.6	4.9	4.3	74.1%	88.0%	65.2%
2012	15	103	79	64	6.9	5.3	4.3	76.7%	81.0%	62.1%
Totals:	93	610	447	364	6.6	4.8	3.9	73.3%	81.4%	59.7%

In order to export the table to Word as I have done, you have to follow these steps: Click *File* and select *Output to ...*. You will be presented with a suggestion of where the file will be exported to (take a note of this), then click *Save*, then click *Create*. Now minimise (or close) the IPMR screen

and open up a new Word document. At this stage, it will be useful to make sure that the page will be wide enough to fit all the table onto – I suggest you use a landscape format (in Word, click *Page Layout* then click *Orientation* and click *Landscape*). Then you need to insert the table – go to the tab *Insert* and click *Object* and select *text from file* and identify the file that you have just exported from IPMR – it will be called something like “*NRSpecSurvbyYear*”, then click on the file and click *Insert*. The table will now be on a Word document that can be saved or printed as required, but, unfortunately, it can’t be directly imported into a normal Word document and still fit on the page (or at least, I haven’t found out how to do it yet!).

To make the table so that it will fit into a Word document for a report, you have to move the data into a new table that you make for the purpose. To do this, work on the Word document that you have just made. Highlight all the data in the table (make sure you start at the extreme left of the first row of data so you have a rectangle of data highlighted but don’t include the headings), then click the tab *Insert*, select *Table*, select *Insert Text to Table* and the new table is automatically created within the document, but you still have to make it smaller so that it fits on your ‘normal’ page. To do this, you have to resize the table manually to get it to about two-thirds of the width (using the ‘click and drag’ feature for the bottom left of the table is the easiest way to do this). Then click on the top row of the table and *Insert Rows Above* and type in the column headings for each column. Then repeat the *Insert Rows Above* procedure and *Merge Cells* to create space for the title and type in the table heading. Now you’re ready to copy the table and paste it into your report.

If this looks complex ... it isn’t (if you already use computers a bit) and it doesn’t take much time once you have done it once or twice – as the data are already in IPMR, getting them out of IPMR and into Word as a table takes about 5 minutes from opening IPMR to having the table finished in Word (5 mins 33 seconds to be exact!).

So please, continue to use IPMR for entering your Nest Records (it really is simple to do so) and let’s start thinking about how we can use our local data. Finally, I would be happy to come round to your house to work through this with you.

## **The Departure of Reed Warblers**

**John Wilson**

### **Introduction and Methods**

Little has been published on the timing of the post breeding departure of Reed Warblers within Britain. Insley and Boswell (1978) published the findings of the arrival of Reed Warblers at ringing sites on the south coast establishing that adults depart before juveniles, although they only give the data for one site, Radipole Lake. This paper details the ringing data from the NLRG area where a total of 16,269 Reed Warblers have been ringed by the group, almost all at Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve, the largest breeding colony of Reed Warblers in the North West of England. This has generated 163 recoveries (of which 144 were reported as controls) and 78 birds controlled by the Group. A total of 4121 re-traps have been documented during the last 13 years of the study.

The main study area comprised the 154.5 ha. of Leighton Moss. Reed Warblers were confined almost exclusively to the 79 ha reed bed. Reed Warblers were mainly caught as an incidental to a study of Bearded Tits (Wilson & Peach 2006). However, the two species broadly use the same areas within the reed bed. Birds were caught in six 120 m. rides distributed throughout the reed bed. Mist nets were erected in each of these rides for 4-6 hours on two to three mornings each week between June and early October.

The ringing suggested that the Reed Warbler breeding population at Leighton Moss was in the range of 200 to 400 pairs. Other sites ringed were small populations at Middleton and Heysham Nature

Reserves and at Helton Tarn. The species has recently spread to Cumbria and Stott et al (2002) estimated the Cumbria population to be around 200 pairs in ca. 12 colonies. There is also a small population breeding in SW Scotland.

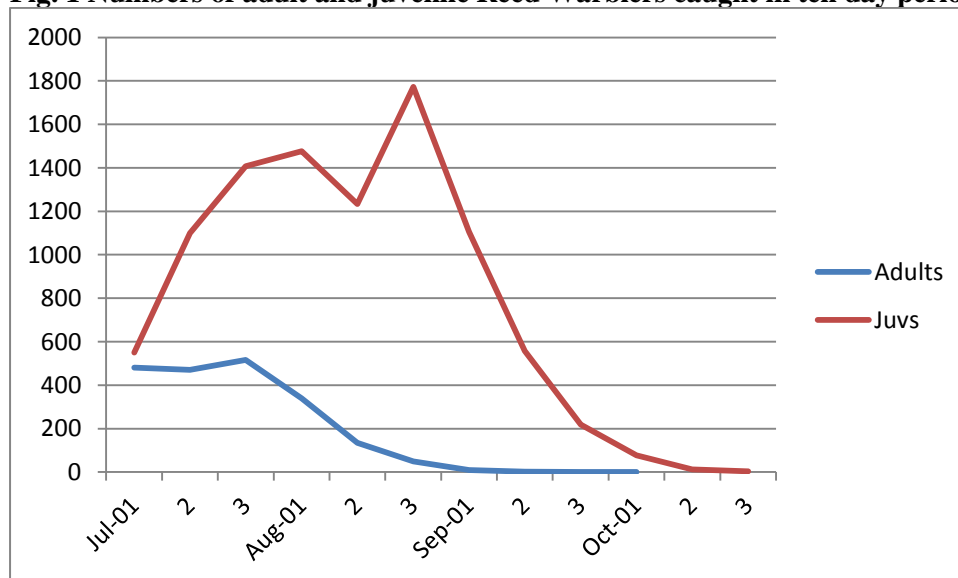
This paper examines the departure from our area by looking at the catches of adults and juveniles at Leighton Moss where ringing effort was standardised during the 13 years from 2000 to 2012 and also at the timing of controls further south in England using the whole data set.

## Results

### 1) Ringing Totals

Figure 1 shows the cumulative ringing totals in ten day periods from the first of July through to October from 2000 to 2012. Numbers of adults caught started to decline in early August with a marked decline throughout August so that very few are left by early September. During the 13 years of the study only 27 adults were caught in September. By contrast, juveniles reach a peak in the last 10 day period of August and the first ten day period of September, a time when almost all of the adults have left. There is a marked decline throughout the rest of September and by the end of the month only small numbers are left and, over the 13 year period, only 100 juveniles were caught in October.

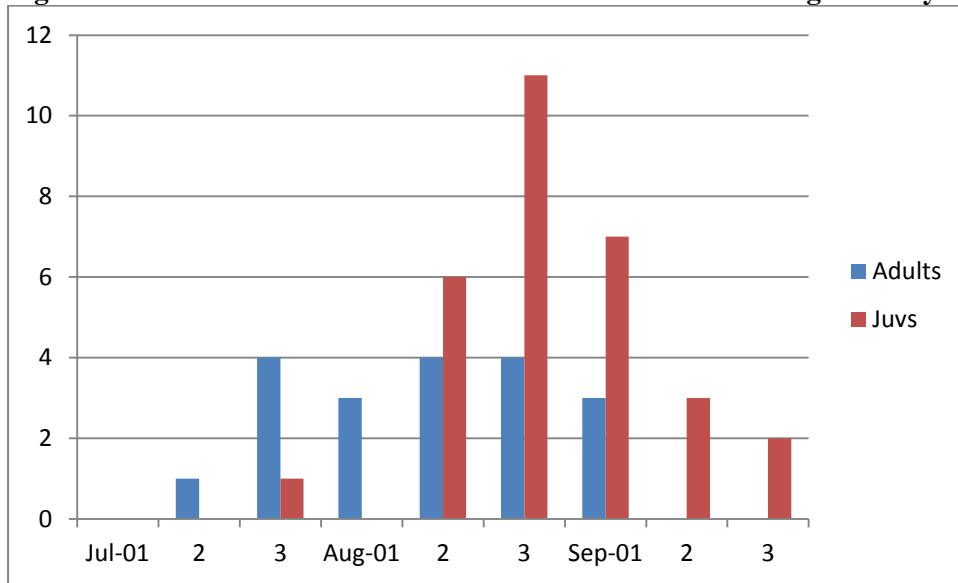
**Fig. 1 Numbers of adult and juvenile Reed Warblers caught in ten day periods 2000-2012**



### 2) Controls and Recoveries further South

Figure 2 shows the numbers of adults and juveniles ringed in our area and controlled or recovered in the south of England between early July and late October. It shows that adults start to arrive in the south as early as mid-July and continue to arrive through August and into early September. Only a very few juveniles, probably from early broods, start moving in late July with just one recovery of a juvenile on the south coast in July, and the bulk do not arrive in the south of England before the second week of August, reaching a peak in late August and continuing through September.

**Fig. 2 Controls and recoveries of Reed Warblers in southern England July to October**



The movement beyond the south of England is well shown in juveniles. Reports during August come from Belgium (2) France (11) Spain (2) and Portugal (2). September reports were from France (2), Portugal (2) and Morocco (1), while October saw reports of one each from France, Portugal and Morocco. There are only two reports of adults overseas, one in France in early August and one in Morocco in November.

### Discussion

Both the ringing totals and the recoveries in the south of England show that the majority of adults leave our area well in advance of the bulk of the juveniles. This is in line with the findings of Insley and Boswell on the south coast. Juvenile Reed Warblers initiate a partial post-juvenile moult and tend not to disperse from their natal areas until 50-60 days after ringing (Ginn & Melville 1983). In contrast, Sedge Warblers have very little post-juvenile moult on their breeding grounds and start to disperse 31- 40 days after ringing. There is little difference in the dates of departure of adult and juvenile Sedge Warblers from their breeding grounds in contrast to Reed Warblers (Redfern & Alker 1996).

The recoveries abroad follow closely the pattern shown in the Migration Atlas, and suggests a migration strategy of short stages through the Low countries, France, Iberia and Morocco before making for the wintering areas in West Africa.

### References

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## Nestbox Productivity and Caterpillar Abundance in 2012

Kevin Briggs

Much of the nest box recording and ringing in the Group's area is concerned with the Pied Flycatcher RAS. However, much useful data are gathered on the timing of laying and productivity of other species using the nest boxes. The data from a series of lowland woods (Leighton Moss, Teddy Heights, Warton Crag, Trowbarrow, Whittington and Arkholme) that are below an altitude of 50m and upland woods (Winder, Outhwaite, Hill's Kirk, Faithwaite, Belt Wood and Blackwood) at an altitude of 100m plus are compared for this very wet year of 2012 in this article, to emphasise the differences in the breeding ecology of Blue Tit and Great Tit in our area.

The warm weather of March followed by the wetter and colder April caused many individuals to have reached nest building stages of N2 or N3 by mid-April only then to put building on hold. Nest completion and clutch initiation occurred at the end of April (or first week of May) and in one extreme example May 21. Overall, the average date of the first egg was very late (Table 1) with upland Blue Tits being six days later (May 2) than lowland birds. The earliest Blue tit clutch was initiated on April 9 in the lowlands and April 17 in the uplands some 11 and 14 days prior to the mean for each locality, respectively. Clutch size differed by only one egg between the two areas, the uplands being larger - which is surprising when the poor weather of the upland falls over the egg formation period is considered. Only 25% of the lowland clutches failed to hatch compared to 33% of upland clutches with desertion and predation (Weasel, Great Spotted Woodpecker) causing the majority of losses. The period from hatching to fledging (averaging 22 days) is the most perilous stage of the breeding cycle, but both areas only suffered a small 25 to 28% loss as this stage. Lowland birds that were successful fledged six young and upland birds seven. However, most ringers found that broods had a small number of young to ring at best, or some dead young, between the ages of five to 15 days. This was worst in the upland area where the overall success of all nesting attempts was only three young per attempt; only 38% of eggs laid producing fledged young and 53% of breeding attempts produced no fledged young. Lowland birds fared little better with 45% of eggs producing fledged young and 40% of all nests failed.

Great Tit breeding data for the two localities (Table 1) shows a similar pattern to the Blue Tit but laying is four days earlier on average with clutches one and two eggs smaller. Lowland Great Tit clutch initiation was six days earlier than in upland birds (April 21 v. April 27) and had the earliest egg laying date of April 10 (v. April 15 in uplands). Modal clutch size was very similar at six eggs but the range was very large (lowland 1-12 v. 1-11 upland). At each site all successful pairs hatched similar sized broods of five chicks but both suffered badly in converting these hatchlings into fledged young. For lowland pairs only 54 % of eggs laid produced young, despite 74% of nests successfully fledging one or more young. For upland Great Tits 57% of nestlings failed to produce young but 62% of nesting attempts were successful. For the two sites the total of young per breeding pair (3.6 and 2.9) is lower than the 4.8 young required for a breeding attempt to produce a viable population the following year (Perrins 1979).

Much of the problem of the 2012 breeding season may be down to the wet and windy weather preventing the adults from successfully foraging for caterpillars during the important stage of chick development at around ten days of age. Insufficient food would cause starvation of the young (plus frequent begging calls from the chicks increasing the likelihood of predation), selective feeding (reducing brood size) and a longer fledging period producing poor quality young with reduced post fledging survival. The matching of caterpillar prey abundance with peak food requirement for the young has also been looked at in the upland and lowland sites in 2012. Caterpillar frass (their droppings) was systematically collected each week then dried, weighed and totalled to give a seasonal spread of caterpillar abundance.

**Table 1. Comparative breeding results for Blue Tit and Great Tit in North Lancs 2012**

Species	Blue Tit		Great Tit	
	Lowland	Upland	Lowland	Upland
Laying Date (SE) Days from April.1	25.4 (0.98)	31.5(1.12)	21.1 (0.75)	27.3(1.47)
Number	54	86	76	40
Clutch Size	7.9 (1.03)	8.9 (0.28)	6.7(0.2)	6.9(1.77)
Number	58	90	79	43
Brood size at Hatching (i)	7.02(2.2)	7.75(0.30)	5.80(0.19)	5.58(0.32)
Number	44	60	69	34
Brood size at Hatching (ii)	5.3(0.47)	6.08(1.02)	5.1(0.27)	4.4(0.92)
Number	58	90	79	43
Brood size at Fledging (i)	5.88(0.40)	6.97(0.42)	4.88(0.26)	5.12(0.35)
Number	35	43	59	25
Brood Size at Fledging (ii)	3.55(0.48)	3.30(0.41)	3.64(0.31)	2.97(0.44)
Number	58	90	79	43

Notes : Lowland = 6 woods of altitude <50m, upland = 7 woods of altitude >100m

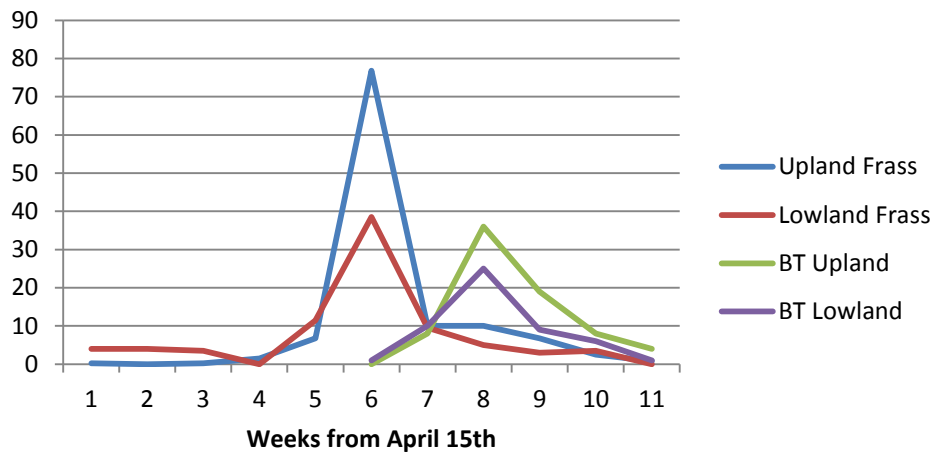
Broods (i) are for successful attempts only and (ii) are all attempts

The breeding bird has to aim at initiating egg production (variable date), clutch production and size (variable number of days), incubation period (usually 14 days) and peak brood demand (about 10 days old), some 31 days in total, to match the caterpillar (or in this case the frass) peak to get maximum productivity from its clutch. Resident species should be able to fine tune their egg laying date using local meteorological cues to time with bud burst phenology and caterpillar production. They usually get it right, but the caterpillar peak is relatively short (10-15 days) and varies year to year. Migrant species that nest in woodlands also have to do the same, but lack the local cues as they are thousands of miles away so often miss the peak caterpillar period and so can have poor breeding success.

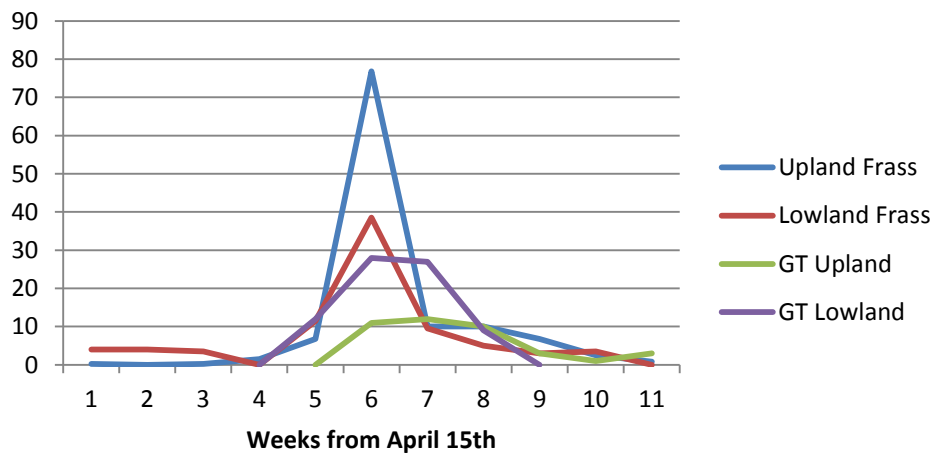
The frass peak for 2012 was May 20-26 at both sites (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2), but the amount of frass was twice as great in the uplands than the lowlands. By projecting the weekly egg laying date forward some 31 days (as explained above) it is possible to show the number of broods that would be ten days old in the peak period. This shows that most upland Blue Tits missed the frass peak period by 14 days but with a greater spread of laying dates about 25% of the Great Tits hit this period and another 25% were within a week of the peak. The data show that the frass production does continue at a reasonable level for three weeks after the peak in the upland woodlands, unlike southern English woods where the production of frass ends abruptly after the peak. This does mean that the later laying Pied Flycatcher (May 16), with smaller clutches, shorter incubation and fledging periods than tits, can catch the tail end of the caterpillar production in upland northern woodlands despite missing the peak by 14 days. In the lowland sites over 50% of the Blue Tits missed the peak by 14 days, by comparison 75% of the Great Tits hit the peak week or were within seven days each way. From very scant data, another woodland caterpillar feeder, the Nuthatch, also had broods at the correct age to maximise the peak caterpillar production.

Foraging for caterpillars in wind and rain must be more difficult than in dry, still warm conditions and each wood will have different aspects resulting in varying microclimates which will affect caterpillar production, collection and feeding rates for each bird species. There are a great number of variables to consider! One of the most interesting will be to discover the proportion of young fledglings that survived the critical two weeks after leaving the nest in the poor weather of June and July. This should be shown by winter ringing and 2013 CES sites and nest box studies.

**Fig. 1 Blue Tit Broods & Frass 2012**



**Fig. 2 Great Tit Broods & Frass 2012**



**Reference**

Perrins C.M. 1979 British Tits

**Acknowledgements.** Thanks to the many woodland owners who allowed access to their woodlands and John Wilson and Paul Cammack for their data.

## Ringing and Vis Mig – the Coal Tit Irruption of 2012

**Pete Marsh**

One of the stated aims of this ringing report when discussed at the last NLRG meeting was to “encourage others to become ringers”. Perhaps this conceals a more specific desire to produce a new generation of locally-based ringers who can carry on existing projects or instigate their own projects, rather than train a youngster to assist with a CV and job prospects, who then becomes a grateful permit recipient working in a tropical rainforest.

I think there *is* an opportunity here to engage the increasing number of birders looking towards local patches (partly thanks to the cost of fuel and therefore routine ‘twitching’) and ringing can become an integral part of finding out what is happening on that local patch. Some have taken this ‘localisation’ to almost obsessive lengths and have branched out from birding and going for the likes of 1000 species a year in a 1km square by counting all kinds of obscure creepy crawlies, with the obligatory moth trap and autumnal leaf-mine searches producing a fair number of these. This might seem rather odd behaviour until you realise that the by-product of the careful identification research is the development of a good all-round naturalist. The common denominator is that a desire for in-depth local patch knowledge/year list or whatever is replacing the more wide-ranging and fuel-hungry ‘target birding’ - and ringing can be part of this.

One of the things which can and is (e.g. Ian Gardner’s coverage at Fleetwood) helping ringing being an integral part of local patch coverage is that use of an appropriate MP3/CD player or two can enable the ringing operation to be productive over a short period of time with a relatively small number of nets. Therefore there is no need to spend a lengthy proportion of your available time erecting a significant number of scattered mist nets hoping that one of them might eventually be in the right place to catch a few birds.

It has also enabled a proportion of the visible migrants to be ringed, at Heysham notably Lesser Redpoll and Meadow Pipit in spring, and Grey Wagtail and Meadow Pipit in autumn. Other sites concentrate on autumnal finch passage. Indeed, vis mig captures, in addition to feeder attendees, are almost the ‘daily bread and butter’ of ringing at many observatories/coastal ringing stations. This is because ‘falls’ of *night* migrants are often few and far between, especially for us ‘west coasters’, but vis mig takes place to a greater and lesser extent on most mornings. Why not ring vis mig Coal Tit irruptions? They are a significant feature occurring with some regularity at Heysham as can be seen here:

<b>Counts of Coal Tits exhibiting irruptive behaviour and southerly movement over Heysham between mid-September and the end of October.</b>										
1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
0	30	0	600	13	10	150	94	4	85	48
1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
90	150	2	85	50	9	88	7	78	16	154
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
0	11	12	59	205	14	111	80	474		
The 1989 figures included a flock of 60 on 29/9										
The 2003 figure saw a majority of records (111) on 2/10										
No other counts saw an individual day/flock exceeding 30% of the autumn total										
The highest daily total was 164 on 9/10/12										

There were obviously considerable technological differences between the time periods of the two major irruptions in 1985 and 2012. I think reel-to-reel tape recorders had just about been invented by

1985, but at the very best, unless you had sophisticated expensive equipment, any attempts with play-back seemed to involve cumbersome battery-devouring objects providing rather fuzzy imitations of bird calls which were often treated with disdain, especially by fly-overs.

Apart from the occasional flock which just happened to choose to land by one of the nets, Coal Tit ringing over the years formerly consisted of the odd off-passage or winter resident birds which unsurprisingly failed to produce any interesting movements. Therefore the vast majority of any Coal Tit movement involved “unavailable” flocks as regards to the ringing monitoring, either passing over at electricity pylon height, often in large flocks or perhaps landing just once or twice within visual range before heading off noisily to the south.

In 2012, the end of September saw the start of a significant movement and in early October we took a decision to use play-back and see if we could catch a much higher proportion of these than usual. This did not mean hiring Motorhead’s PA system and pulling birds down from the stratosphere - this is quite rightly outlawed by the ringing scheme, but attracting a proportion of the lower-flying temporarily-landing flocks into the region of the mist nets. Indeed, several much higher flocks were out of range of the playback and seen to fly straight over without hesitating – the noisy nature of the flocks probably also masking any contact with the play-back, as also happens at Swallow roosts during the latter stages of pre-dusk assembly prior to dropping into the maize/reeds.

The results were very successful with a number of flocks caught, giving a total of over 180 birds with 147 of these caught between 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October, perhaps reflecting missed opportunities earlier in the passage period. As usual with highly synchronised migratory tit flocks, it was important to release these birds together and they often towered high into the sky and headed south. Releasing them individually ran the risk of birds losing the flock-cohesive irruptive behaviour.

Autumnal Coal Tit irruptions appear to be a relatively new phenomenon in Lancashire with a previous cited example in 1957 perhaps being part of a much wider event involving northern European tit species and seemingly limited to the east of the county. The 1985 irruption surprised the vis mig personnel along the Lancashire/North Merseyside coast and warranted a write-up in the relevant county bird report by Dr Frank Walsh. Since then, as can be seen from the table, irruptions have become more regular, sometimes limited to small or medium-scale single-date (or in the case of 1989, single flock) events, but it took until 2012 before the 1985 level of movement was repeated.

The only example of a significant spring movement that we are aware of also involved an unfortunate communication breakdown where an extensively black-bibbed and blue-mantled individual was released prior to being photographed and may have been an example of the nominate continental form. Although the presence of at least 23 birds on 17/3/2009 may not seem a lot, the usual spring status is “the occasional lingering bird on the feeders and the odd singleton passing through”. Therefore this was unexpected, although it did follow the third largest autumnal movement.

What prompts these autumnal movements? The easy answer is to refer to evacuation of the increasing number of upland conifer plantations during cone shortages, but is that too simplistic? Where do our birds come from? When/where do they stop behaving irruptively and start doing the rounds of a few garden feeders for the winter? Why do large numbers not pass through Walney Island? Hopefully the 2012 ringing programme and any in subsequent years will help to answer these questions in the form of ringing recoveries.

Going back to the theme of this article, this gives a good example of a combination of visible migration at a local patch, highlighting unexpected numbers of a certain species and a specifically targeted ringing effort. Is there anyone out there with a local patch who wants to find out even more about what goes on there by training to become a ringer?

Useful links are as follows

<http://patchworkchallenge.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/what-is-patchwork-challenge.html>

<http://skevsblog.blogspot.co.uk/>

## **Ringling Awayday**

**Peter Marsh**

It was good to catch up with the legendary Pekka Pottu whilst on a recent birding holiday with Louise North and John Mason. Last year I was muttering about the terrain and distance to some of the Pied Flycatcher nestboxes in upper Hindburndale. Talking to Pekka, you realise just how ridiculous this would be in a Finnish context.

Pekka's Smew nestbox scheme consists of 142 boxes covering a distance of about 640km (the equivalent of Devon to the Scottish Borders). Imagine a scheme such as this in an English context and all the local ringing politics this would entail! Perhaps Kane's Coot project is the nearest equivalent in terms of distance. Pekka was checking incubating female Smew during our visit with a 'night's work' consisting of 10 boxes and a 250km trip. The more northern boxes were visited during the 'night-time' equivalent of the 24-hour daylight.

The procedure is to lift the females off the nest after they have been incubating at least 10 days, cover the eggs with down (as the female would do on leaving the nest to feed), walk about 20 metres away from the box and release the bird. The importance of doing this at the appropriate time of the 'evening' is that it coincides with the period the female would leave the nest to go and feed.....and this is exactly what she does on release then, returning to the box later in the night.

## Ringing Totals 2012

	Full grown	Pulli	Retraps/ Recoveries	Total
Cormorant	0	0	1	1
Shag	0	0	1	1
Bittern	0	0	1	1
Spoonbill	0	0	1	1
Whooper Swan	0	0	4	4
Red Kite	0	0	1	1
Sparrowhawk	1	0	1	2
Osprey	0	0	1	1
Ringed Plover	0	1	2	3
Golden Plover	0	12	3	15
Lapwing	0	18	0	18
Curlew	0	2	0	2
Redshank	0	2	0	2
Mediterranean Gull	0	0	2	2
Woodpigeon	1	0	0	1
Collared Dove	3	0	0	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker	13	0	3	16
Sand Martin	462	0	165	627
Swallow	1369	31	2	1402
House Martin	6	0	0	6
Tree Pipit	20	0	0	20
Meadow Pipit	358	0	3	361
Grey Wagtail	27	0	0	27
Pied/White Wagtail	4	0	0	4
Wren	129	0	49	178
Dunnock	95	0	60	155
Robin	155	2	72	229
Redstart	7	62	5	74
Blackbird	98	5	46	149
Song Thrush	18	0	1	19
Redwing	31	0	0	31
Cetti's Warbler	2	0	1	3
Grasshopper Warbler	11	0	3	14
Sedge Warbler	243	0	41	284
Reed Warbler	644	5	227	876
Lesser Whitethroat	30	0	9	39
Whitethroat	67	3	20	90
Garden Warbler	11	0	0	11
Blackcap	102	0	23	125
Chiffchaff	159	0	24	183
Willow Warbler	507	3	36	546
Goldcrest	314	0	28	342
Spotted Flycatcher	4	2	0	6
Pied Flycatcher	51	451	75	577
Bearded Tit	11	9	380	400
Long-tailed Tit	135	3	95	233

	<b>Full grown</b>	<b>Pulli</b>	<b>Retraps</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Marsh Tit</b>	7	0	13	20
<b>Coal Tit</b>	453	7	305	765
<b>Blue Tit</b>	721	505	464	1690
<b>Great Tit</b>	342	368	300	1010
<b>Nuthatch</b>	18	39	26	83
<b>Treecreeper</b>	24	0	7	31
<b>Jay</b>	1	0	0	1
<b>Magpie</b>	1	0	0	1
<b>Jackdaw</b>	1	0	1	2
<b>Starling</b>	15	0	0	15
<b>House Sparrow</b>	29	0	3	32
<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	0	32	0	32
<b>Chaffinch</b>	354	0	49	403
<b>Brambling</b>	1	0	0	1
<b>Greenfinch</b>	576	0	68	644
<b>Goldfinch</b>	478	4	88	570
<b>Siskin</b>	172	0	22	194
<b>Linnet</b>	13	0	2	15
<b>Twite</b>	82	0	82	164
<b>Lesser Redpoll</b>	144	0	16	160
<b>Bullfinch</b>	66	0	32	98
<b>Reed Bunting</b>	100	0	18	118
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8686</b>	<b>1566</b>	<b>2882</b>	<b>13134</b>
<b>Total New Ringed</b>	<b>10252</b>			

## Recoveries and Sightings Reported During 2012

### Bewick's Swan

119776	3F	08.08.04	HunoveyRiver.Zavorot Peninsula <b>Russia</b>
Sighted		20.2-13.3.05	Several Sites in <b>The Netherlands</b>
Sighted		15.03.08	Meggerkoog <b>Germany</b>
Sighted		9&10.11.08	Lauwersmeer <b>Netherlands</b>
Sighted		02.03.09	Suderhoft <b>Germany</b>
Sighted		11.02.10	Noordoostpolder <b>The Netherlands</b>
Sighted		3-16.03.10	Various sites in <b>Germany</b>
Sighted		12.02-5.3.11	Various sites in <b>Germany</b>
Sighted		04.03.12	Thurnham
AA1572	6F	16.08.08	Lovetskiy <b>Russia</b>
Sighted		11.01.09	Euximoor Fen (Cambridge)
Sighted		14.01.09	Feltwell (Norfolk)
Sighted		22.02.09	Bomerkoog <b>Germany</b>
Sighted		12.01.10	Welney (Norfolk)
Sighted		23.01.11	Welney
Sighted		29.03.11	Targele <b>Latvia</b>
Sighted		05.11.11	Pampali <b>Latvia</b>
Sighted		04.03.12	Thurnham



**Whooper Swan**

A8744	6M	24.08.10	Isholsvatn, Bardardalur <b>Iceland</b>
Sighted		12.01.11	Derryhowlag (Fermanagh) NI
Sighted		12.11-03.12	Melling

**Cormorant**

5262374	1	18.06.12	Puffin Island (Anglesey)
Dead	5	14.02.12	Arkholme 130 km

**Shag**

145062	1	04.06.11	Puffin Island
Sighted	5	18.02.12	Heysham 109 km

**Spoonbill**

805023	1	31.05.09	Schiermonnikoog <b>Netherlands</b>
Sighted		01.05.12	Eric Morecambe Complex 598 km W
Sighted		19.05.12	Holkham (Norfolk)

**Red Kite**

GR29061	1	15.06.11	Nr Castle Douglas
Sighted	4	16.01.12	Leighton 116 km

**Osprey**

1417412	1	25.07.10	Eliebank Forest Innerleithen (Borders)
Sighted	4	07.05.12	Leighton Moss 160 km S

**Oystercatcher**

FH23528	8	12.12.08	Heysham
Dead		29.06.11	Namos, Nord-Troondelag <b>Norway</b> 1421 km NE
FH23059	8	12.12.08	Heysham
Caught		20.03.11	Loch of Bosquoy Harray Orkney 556 km N
FH23152	7	12.12.08	Heysham
Dead		08.06.11	Upper Sanday Orkney 543 km N
FH23506	8	12.12.08	Heysham
Dead		21.05.11	Oravik <b>Faroe Islands</b> 865 km NNW
FH23183	8	12.12.08	Heysham
Dead		26.04.12	Quendale Shetland 659 km N
FH23890	8	01.02.10	Heysham
Sick		17.06.12	Glen Clova (Angus) 312 km N
496057	4	29.05.00	Flugvollur Vestur <b>Iceland</b>
Caught	8	01.02.10	Heysham 1556 km SE
FH23494	8	01.02.10	Heysham
Dead		25.04.11	Siglufjordur <b>Iceland</b> 1590 km NNW
FH24678	8	27.03.10	Hopewell Pools (Aberdeen)
Caught	8	22.01.11	Heysham 345 km S

**Avocet**

One colour ringed as a nestling at Bas Boulais Saint-Molf **France** 47 24N 2 27 W on 20.06.08 was sighted eight times in 2008 mainly at Banc de Strado Muzillac **France** 47 30 N 6 2 W. In 2009 it was sighted six times close to the 2009 location. In 2010 it was sighted 15 times mainly in the area of La Saline Neuve Mesquer **France** 47 19 N 3 31W. It was not reported at all in 2011. But from 26/03/12 it was on the Eric Morecambe Complex and bred successfully.

**Ringed Plover**

NV84035	4F	25.05.00	Arkholme
Sighted	4	16.10.01	Bare Morecambe
Sighted	4	23.06.12	Aughton 12 years 29 days
NV68844	4M	14.05.96	Arkholme
Sighted	4	05.05.12	Melling 15 years 356 days
Sighted	4	13.06.12	Melling
NV84029	4F	17.06.99	Arkholme
Sighted	4	17.09.12	Heysham

**Knot**

SR76144	6	23.03.08	Heysham
Caught	6	11.02.12	Snettisham 257 km ESE
SR76269	6	23.03.08	Heysham
Caught	6	29.08.11	Wainfleet Marsh 238 km ESE
SR76127	5	23.03.08	Heysham
Caught	6	11.02.12	Snettisham 257km ESE
SV24886	5	21.02.04	Heysham
Caught	4	18.05.07	Stavanger <b>Norway</b> Colour flagged CEE
Sighted	6	22.08.12	De Ricel (Vlieland) <b>Netherlands</b> 537 km E
SV74404	6	21.02.04	Heysham
Caught	6	25.05.06	Hlidsneskjós Kjósarsýsla <b>Iceland</b> 1556 km NW
SV74213	6	21.02.04	Heysham
Caught	6	11.02.12	Snettisham 257 km ESE
SV74680	6	21.02.04	Heysham
Caught	6	11.02.12	Snettisham 257 km ESE
XR48740	6	14.02.98	Heysham
Caught	6	25.05.06	Hlidsneskjós Kjósarsýsla <b>Iceland</b> 1556 km NW

**Black-tailed Godwit**

Sightings of colour ringed birds

- LL-GR 04.07.04 Langhús, Fljót, N Iceland
- LL-GR 04.05.05 Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England
- LL-GR 02.04.06 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 04.04.06 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 12.08.06 Holbeach, the Wash estuary, Lincolnshire, E England
- LL-GR 22.12.06 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 28.12.06 Hodbarrow RSPB Reserve, near Millom, Cumbria, NW Eng
- LL-GR 20.03.07 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 21.03.07 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 24.01.08 Marshside, Ribble estuary, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 25.01.08 Marshside, Ribble estuary, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 14.03.08 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 15.03.08 Leighton Moss Allen Pools, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 21.03.08 Leighton Moss, Allen Pools, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 19.04.08 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 19.04.08 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 20.04.08 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 21.04.08 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 22.04.08 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England
- LL-GR 31.01.09 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England
- LL-GR 01.02.09 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England
- LL-GR 06.02.09 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England
- LL-GR 07.02.09 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England
- LL-GR 12.02.09 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England

**(Black-tailed Godwit contd)**

LL-GR 13.02.09 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
LL-GR 21.02.09 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
LL-GR 06.03.09 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
LL-GR 20.03.09 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
LL-GR 25.03.09 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
LL-GR 26.03.09 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
LL-GR 23.04.09 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
LL-GR 25.04.09 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
LL-GR 05.12.09 north of village of Healing, outside Grimsby, Lincolnshire, E England  
LL-GR 28.03.10 Cley, Norfolk, E England  
LL-GR 30.10.11 Teal Bay, Morecambe, Lancashire, NW England  
LL-GR 30.10.11 Hest Bank, Morecambe, Lancashire, NW England  
LL-GR 24.11.11 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
LL-GR 01.04.12 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
LL-GR 06.04.12 Eric Morecambe pool, RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England

YN-RX 11.07.09 Siglufjordur, N Iceland  
YN-RX 20.09.09 Gilroy Nature park, West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside, NW England  
YN-RX 21.09.09 Gilroy Nature park, West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside, NW England  
YN-RX 27.09.09 Gilroy Nature park, West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside, NW England  
YN-RX 28.09.09 Gilroy Nature park, West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside, NW England  
YN-RX 05.10.09 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 08.10.09 Gilroy Nature park, West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside, NW England  
YN-RX 11.10.09 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 10.01.11 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
YN-RX 22.01.11 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
YN-RX 26.01.11 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
YN-RX 28.01.11 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
YN-RX 31.01.11 Thurstaston Shore, Dee Estuary, Cheshire, NW England  
YN-RX 06.03.11 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 20.04.11 Landeyjar, Rangárvallasýsla, S Iceland  
YN-RX 21.06.11 Langhús, Fljót, Skagafirði, N Iceland  
YN-RX 04.10.11 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 07.10.11 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 07.10.11 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 10.10.11 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 10.10.11 Leighton Moss Allen Pools, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 11.10.11 RSPB Leighton Moss, Allen Hide, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 31.03.12 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 01.04.12 Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-RX 06.04.12 Eric Morecambe pool, RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England

YN-WLflag 06.07.06 Miklaholtssel, Eyja- og Miklaholtshreppi, Snæfellsnesi, W Iceland  
YN-WLflag 11.12.06 River Blackwater, Lismore, Waterford, S Ireland  
YN-WLflag 25.04.11 Vogalækur, Mýrarsýsla, W Iceland  
YN-WLflag 23.03.12 Baldoyle Bay, Co. Dublin, E Ireland  
YN-WLflag 31.03.12 RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England  
YN-WLflag 06.04.12 Eric Morecambe pool, RSPB Leighton Moss, Lancashire, NW England

**Mediterranean Gull**

EX78711	1	03.06.03	Chomoutov <b>Czech Republic</b>
Sighted		Winters 03-12	Heysham 1466 km WNW
FN11199	1	19.05.01	Skoki Duze <b>Poland</b>
Sighted	4	04.09.10	Lancaster 1462 km

**(Mediterranean Gull contd)**

Sighted	4	06.03.11	Lancaster
FS71953	1	15.06.09	Les Huttesd'OyePlage (Pas-de-Calais) <b>France</b>
Sighted	6	03.09.11	Heysham 478 km
EX78711	1	03.06.03	Chomoutov Olomouck <b>Czech Republic</b>
Sighted		Jul-Mar 03-12	Heysham 1466 km

**Great Spotted Woodpecker**

CL25458	4M	29.03.06	Warton
Dead		22.04.12	Warton 6 years 24 days
LB13761	3	18.06.11	Rishston
Dead		21.05.12	Ducklington (Cheshire) 79 km SW

**Sand Martin**

L669533	3	12.08.11	Icklesham (Sussex)
Caught	4	11.06.12	Whittington 427 km NNW
Y765589	3J	09.08.12	Whittington
Caught	3	08.09.12	Sandwich Bay (Kent) 421 km SE
Y704278	3J	11.06.12	Whittington
Caught	3	07.08.12	Terresd'Oiseaux (Gironde) <b>France</b> 1005km S
Y152314	3J	25.07.11	Nether Burrow
Caught	4	19.08.12	Le Massereau (Loire-Atlantique) <b>France</b>
Y551211	1	22.06.12	Applegarthtown (Dumfries & Galloway)
Caught	3	26.08.12	Middleton 129 km SSE

These bring our total recoveries in Sussex to 124, in Kent 15, Dumfries & Galloway 3 and France 38.

**Swallow**

Y471042	3	10.8.12 14.15	Heysham
Caught	3	10.8.12 20.40	Gressingham 17 km ESE
This was feeding around the office at Heysham, then roosting 17km away six hours later!			
Y519776	3	16.08.12	Harewood (N.Yorks)
Caught	3	20.08.12	Middleton 90 km W

**Grey Wagtail**

Y153813	3	31.08.12	Heysham
Caught	3	10.12.12	Calne Sewage Works (Wilts) 295 km S
V901624	3	18.08.09	Heysham
Sighted	4	09.10.12	Coven Wolverhampton 203 km S

**Robin**

Y764123	3	03.09.12	New Laithe Farm
Dead cat		30.09.12	Barnoldswick 18 km E

**Meadow Pipit**

L742790	3	15.10.11	Sowley Pond (Hampshire)
Caught	5	24.03.12	Heysham 376 km N

**Cetti's Warbler**

X945739	4	13.03.10	Leighton
Caught	4M	25.04.11	Farlington Marsh 390 km SSE
Caught	2	03.10.11	Farlington
Caught	2	08.10.11	Farlington
Caught	6M	14.01.12	Farlington
Caught	4	04.02.12	Farlington

### Sedge Warbler

L502656	3J	26.06.11	Middleton
Caught	4	05.05.12	Wicken Fen (Cambs) 285 km SE
Y001442	3	28.07.11	Icklesham (Sussex)
Caught	4	25.07.12	Leighton 432 km NNW
Y763330	3J	19.07.12	Leighton
Caught	3	08.08.12	La Maziere (Lot-et-Garonne) <b>France</b> 1113 km S
Y763734	3	07.08.12	Leighton
Caught	3	14.08.12	Squire's Down (Dorset) 357 km S
AT14015	3	30.07.11	Bentveld (Noord-Holland) <b>The Netherland</b>
Caught	4	30.07.12	Leighton 528 km WNW
Y763541	3J	28.07.12	Leighton
Caught	3	16.08.12	Wicken Fen ((Cambridge) 291 km SE
6785266	3	18.08.11	Tour aux Moutons (Loire Atlantique) <b>France</b>
Caught	4	03.08.12	Leighton 763 km N

This brings the total recovered in France to 37, Sussex to 34, Cambs. to 2, Dorset 19 and The Netherlands to 3.

### Reed Warbler

Y151507	4F	04.07.11	Leighton
Caught	4	04.04.12	Forinhos Beja <b>Portugal</b> 1898 km
Y151909	3	23.07.11	Leighton
Caught	3	22.08.11	Braudet Saint Louis (Gironde) <b>France</b> 1005 km
Y332150	3	26.08.11	Leighton
Caught	4	09.08.12	Braudet Saint Louis (Gironde) <b>France</b> 1001 km
T027898	3	31.08.11	Little Crosthwaite (Cumbria)
Caught	4M	05.07.12	Leighton 58 km SSE
V778046	3J	19.07.07	Leighton
Caught	4M	29.05.12	Brockhole Quarry (Lancs) 46 km SSE
Y763516	3J	27.07.12	Leighton
Caught	3	20.08.12	Tidmor (Dorset) 397 km S
Y349625	4	01.09.11	Betley (Staffs)
Caught	4	10.08.12	Leighton 131 km NNW
6583584	4	25.08.11	Blaye (Gironde) <b>France</b>
Caught	4F	19.06.12	Leighton 1018 km N
L160654	4M	18.06.10	Leighton
Caught	4	02.08.11	Icklesham (Sussex) 432 km
Retrap	4M	28.05.12	Leighton
Y763712	3J	07.08.12	Leighton
Caught	3J	26.08.12	Frodsham (Cheshire) 97 km S

We now have 17 recoveries in France, six in Portugal, five in Dorset and 40 in Suffolk.

### Lesser Whitethroat

X947154	3	27.07.2011	Middleton
Caught	4F	05.06.2012	Icklesham (Sussex) 423 km SE

This bird was re-trapped at Icklesham on 13/6 and 5 & 14/7 so was apparently breeding there.

### Whitethroat

Y471202	3	31.08.12	Middleton
Caught	3	08.09.12	Fleetwood 14 km SW

### Chiffchaff

DJV360	4	31.03.12	Woolston Eyes Warrington
Caught	4M	10.06.12	Heysham 77 km NNW

**Goldcrest**

DTY456	3M	01.10.12	Heysham
Caught	3M	13.10.12	Embley Wood (Hampshire) 354 km SSE in 12 days.

**Pied Flycatcher**

V979308	1	12.06.09	Ladybower Reservoir (Derby)
Caught	4F	18.05.11	Outhwaite Wood 100 km NW
Caught	4F	22.05.12	Outhwaite Wood
L927171	1	04.06.11	Pengelli (Pembrokeshire)
Caught	4F	15.06.12	Burton Wood 267 km NNE
V576256	1	15.06.08	Chipping
Caught	4M	13.06.12	New Laithe Farm 8 km
L714439	1	08.06.11	Moor Piece
Caught	4F	05.06.12	Bowston (Cumbria) 56 NNW

**Long-tailed Tit**

BNT396	2	16.10.10	Lancaster University
Caught	2	10.08.12	Middleton 7km

**Blue Tit**

Y333905	1	01.06.12	Whittington
Caught	3	15.10.12	Over Kellet 12 km SW
L444287	1	21.05.11	Deep Clough Farm
Caught	5	15.02.12	Brookhouse 5 km
Y470538	5	23.02.12	Heysham
Caught	5	25.02.12	Brookhouse 15 km in 2 days
Y333136	3	14.10.11	Heysham
Caught	5	11.02.12	Bowerham 8 km

**Great Tit**

TJ42299	1	25.05.12	Whittington
Caught	3M	01.11.12	Teddy Heights 15km W

**Coal Tit**

L333947	3	23.09.10	Heysham
Caught	6	28.01.12	Topthorn Barn (Cumbria) 40 km
Y555028	2	15.12.11	Thornton (Merseyside)
Caught	5	04.03.12	Bowerham 63 km
L771889	3J	16.06.12	Higher Thrushgill
Caught	5	15.01.12	High Greenfield (N.Yorks) 25 km

**Treecreeper**

DED435	2	13.10.11	Heysham
Dead		09.03.12	High Bentham 28 km ENE

This bird was found in the radiator grille of a van but the nearest the van came to Heysham was to Kirky Lonsdale.

**Greenfinch**

T346027	5M	19.01.11	Heysham
Dead		02.06.12	Bailrigg 8 km
TS05845	4F	28.10.11	Rossall School
Caught	6F	13.03.12	Bowerham 23 km
TS17420	3M	14.10.11	Bridgnorth (Shropshire)
Dead	2	20.09.12	Silverdale 182 km N
TR79779	3F	13.10.11	Heysham

**(Greenfinch contd)**

Dead	2	25.10.12	Leyburn (N Yorks) 66 km ENE
TS69040	5M	23.01.12	Over Kellet
Caught	5M	30.04.12	Ponteland (Northumberland) 120km NNE
TS98503	3JM	13.09.12	Heysham
Caught	3M	25.10.12	Fleetwood 15 km SSW
TP09032	3J	14.07.10	Over Kellet
Dead		29.02.12	Grange-over-Sands (Cumbria) 14km NW

**Goldfinch**

L642376	4M	06.12.10	Atherton (Gt Manchester)
Caught	6M	06.01.12	New Laithe Farm 47 km N
D057099	4F	16.10.12	Port e Vullen Isle of Man
Caught	3F	19.10.12	Heysham 98 km ESE in 3 days

**Siskin**

L714293	5M	13.03.12	New Laithe Farm
Caught	6M	06.06.12	Drummond Inverness (Highland) 407 km NNW
L714120	5M	08.03.11	Over Kellet
Caught	4m	25.02.12	Wigton (Dumfries and Galloway) 138 km
L760514	4F	07.07.11	Pebbles (Borders)
Caught	5M	21.02.12	OverKellet 173 km
L502747	3F	01.11.10	Leighton
Caught	4F	09.03.12	Lockerbie (Dumfries & Galloway) 113 km

These recoveries make a total of 12 from Northern Scotland and ten from Southern Scotland.

**Twite**

L999092	3	20.09.11	Machrihanish B.O (Argyll & Bute)
Caught	5F	03.02.12	Heysham 239 km
L999067	3	20.09.11	Machrihanish B.O (Argyll & Bute)
Caught	5F	16.3.&25.2.12	Heysham

Details of colour ringed sightings are given in the report on Twite.

**Lesser Redpoll**

L771045	5	04.04.11	Thrushgill
Caught	6M	13.03.12	Cubbington (Warwick) 207 km SSE
6343163	3	26.10.10	La Neuville (Nord) <b>France</b> 50 29 N 3 2 E
Caught	4M	24.03.12	Heysham 565 km NNW
L771690	5	06.08.11	New Laithe Farm Newton
Caught	6M	09.01.12	Dukes Warren (Surrey) 339 km SSE
L770572	5	11.04.11	New Laithe Farm
Caught	6M	25.02.12	Culford School (Suffolk) 277 km
L458922	3	15.10.11	Sandwich Bay (Kent)
Caught	5	02.05.12	Heysham 423 km
L082193	4F	31.10.10	Grimley (Worcestershire)
Caught	6F	03.04.12	Over Kellet 212 km N
Y470740	5	01.04.12	Heysham
Caught	5M	07.04.12	Bidston (Wirral) 72 km S
L771036	5	03.04.11	Thrushgill
Caught	3M	21.10.12	Ebchester (Northumberland) 204 km NNE
V603159	4M	31.10.09	Grimley (Worcestershire)
Caught	4M	15.09.12	Leighton 218 km N

Our first Redpoll from France.

**Reed Bunting**

L445448 3M 01.10.11  
Caught 4M 01.02.12  
Y332553 3M 19.09.11  
Caught 5M 10.01.12  
T825950 4F 13.08.08  
Caught 6F 16.03.12

Middleton  
Ripon Parks (N Yorks) 91 km E  
Leighton  
Betley Mere (Staffs) 131 km  
South Walney  
Heysham 19 km