



STANFORD RINGING GROUP – ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Summary

- In 2014 the Stanford Ringing Group processed 10299 birds of 56 species, of which 7519 were new birds.
- 2014 was an unprecedented year for warbler numbers with 3604 birds ringed.
- The East Midlands weather was kinder to us this year with a basically warm and dry period April - September, and no prolonged periods of rain.
- The breeding season was good with high productivity.
- Monthly totals were excellent and 3 months recorded best ever totals , 5 with second, and 1 with third best. September was exceptional with 2488 birds ringed (exceeding many of our previous annual ringing totals).
- We enjoyed our best ever catching year but controlled just 15 birds. To date we have received notification of 29 recoveries.
- Environmental work continued as usual from January through March.
- We completed our second year of the BTO Constant Effort Scheme.
- Thanks to all those who helped during the year, and to Severn Trent Water and Parker Farms for allowing access to their land and to Parker Farms for their financial support.

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Annual Review – Ringing at Stanford Reservoir

As a ringing site, Stanford definitely comes in two halves. Firstly January-June is extremely slow with not a lot of ringing undertaken due to other commitments such as scrub clearance and nest recording. Visiting 100+ nest boxes each week is time consuming and does not leave much spare time for general ringing other than for the Constant Effort Site. Therefore this year's total of 1400 birds ringed by the end of June represented a really good effort. From July to the year end presents a totally different story with a further 6119 birds ringed, bringing us to our best ever year total of 7519. A quite staggering total for a small inland reservoir. We also completed our 2nd year of the BTO Constant Effort Site project with again all 12 visits completed.



Scrub clearance is an essential annual task at Stanford

Effects of the Weather

The first winter period was very wet but mild with the Spring and Summer basically dry and warm without prolonged periods of rain. This resulted in our resident species probably surviving the winter better and able to commence breeding earlier than in 2013 (productivity certainly improved due to the dry and settled conditions). The Warblers arrived in the spring in much the same numbers as in 2013 with the exception of a reduction in Reed and Sedge Warbler and an increase in Blackcap (which had obviously had a good winter as they were up by 50%). October—December was really quite windy and coupled with other factors (I was not available) the ringing effort was not quite up to where we would have liked but we still managed to ring 1725 birds. A negative during this period was that we only caught 7 Lesser Redpoll - a real disappointment as this species is usually a good source for both Recoveries and Controls. The Redpoll sound lures were going as usual but the birds simply didn't turn up. I hear they remained in Scotland in 2014 where a bumper crop of seeds and the mild weather meant they did not have to move.

Species accounts

Wren-Dunnock-Robin

These three species continue to rise in numbers caught from the disaster of 2012 when breeding success was virtually none existent due to continuous rainfall throughout the breeding season. This year's continued rise in numbers was probably due to the long settled spring and summer resulting in good productivity. We recorded record numbers for both Wren and Robin with 2nd best for Dunnock.

Hirundines and Pipits

Not a great year with only 1 House Martin, a handful of Sand Martin, and a few adult Swallow to add to the pulli we ring locally. One of the Swallows we caught on the Reservoir margin was subsequently caught in East Sussex just prior to nipping over the channel on migration.

This years Meadow Pipit catch was not very good mainly due to breezy conditions and the overall 'avalanche' of birds we experienced in September made it very difficult to target Pipits in a field. The one success we did have however was managing to catch 2 Tree Pipits in August, the first at Stanford since 1976.

Thrushes

Following on from last year's bumper catches of Thrushes we again had a pretty good year. Again Blackbirds were in good numbers with 129 caught. Although the period November/December did not produce as many as last year (56), the adult/Juvenile ratio was much better suggesting a more successful breeding season. Again Redwing numbers were good with some 437 being caught which is our second best year. Song Thrushes continued in the same vein as last year with us catching 44 compared to 41 in 2013 (a great improvement on recent years). The only blip this year was Fieldfare, where we had an absolute disaster with only 8 being caught. This species is never easy to catch but this year they just did not turn up in any numbers for us to target.



One of 2 Redstart trapped on passage at Stanford in September 2014

Warblers

2014 was an unprecedented year for Warbler species with 3604 birds ringed. This beats our previous best by over 1000 birds. A similar number of ringing visits have been made in each of the last 4 years so it is possible to compare adult and juvenile numbers caught for the 8 regular breeding warbler species at Stanford. The area covered is from the silver painted gate some 200m past the water tower around Blowers Lodge Bay to the Northants Reed Bed. The time period is restricted from 1st May to 31st August to exclude migrant birds and focus on breeding population only. The second table shows total warbler numbers ringed for the whole year and the whole of the Stanford Reservoir site.

Warbler species - unique birds caught (Water Tower to Northants Reedbed), 1st May - 31st August:

Year	Sedge		Reed		Les Wh		White		Garden		Blackcap		Chiff		Willow	
	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv
2014	48	26	60	23	9	36	62	168	35	39	34	39	11	99	36	47
2013	57	40	77	15	10	8	65	143	32	9	22	9	11	37	36	45
2012	32	14	43	4	6	7	64	29	30	8	33	8	13	43	53	55
2011	74	165	60	22	10	13	90	254	51	41	43	41	16	59	52	54

Warbler species - end of year ringing Stanford Reservoir Total:

Year	Sedge	Reed	Les Wh	White	Garden	Blackcap	Chiff	Willow
2014	140	216	84	448	108	1673	715	215
2013	145	151	56	482	66	404	388	178
2012	67	87	26	268	43	209	183	225
2011	259	287	50	496	85	713	382	192

Prior to 2014, 2011 had been our best breeding year (as noted above we generally recorded our highest adult numbers in 2011).

2012 was the wettest on record coupled with a poor winter/migration survival and it proved to be the worst year for both adult numbers and productivity for some time. Reed Warblers were particularly hard hit with only 4 juvenile birds caught in the area studied. In fact the majority of warbler species had a disastrous breeding season in 2012 with the smallest number of juvenile birds about for a long time. Somehow Willow Warbler bucked the trend and recorded similar numbers to the previous year and we ended up with our best ever end of year total.

We expected 2013 warbler numbers to be low but the numbers of adults returning increased for all long distance species except Willow Warbler (which decreased by about a third). The two short distance migrants, Blackcap and Chiffchaff, both fell in numbers (Blackcap by an incredible 50%). Its tempting to speculate that smaller numbers migrating to Africa in 2012 put less pressure on food availability and the prime habitat there, and that survival rates consequently increased the following spring.

Numbers of returning Warbler adults were similar to those in 2013. Exceptions were Acrocephalus species (smaller numbers in 2014) and Blackcap (which reversed 2013's 50% decrease and returned to the 2012 level).

Blackcap recorded exceptional breeding success in 2014. 179 juveniles were caught from 34 adults in 2014 compared to 17 juveniles from 33 adults in 2012. Similar breeding results must have been experienced elsewhere in the UK because during September we experienced our best ever migration with both Blackcap and Chiffchaff passing through Stanford in vast numbers. Both species produced record ringing totals, Blackcap was 135% up on the previous record to 1673 and Chiffchaff 85% to 715.

In the 39 years we have operated at Stanford these two species have shown a dramatic change in status. When we first started ringing at Stanford both species were caught in very small numbers. It took 10 years for Chiffchaff to get to double figures whilst Blackcaps were under 30 a year. A further 11 years passed for Chiffchaff to get to 30 and Blackcap to 50 birds a year and so it continued till 2003 before both species were caught in numbers greater than 100. Since

then both species ringing totals have generally continued to rise to the point where Blackcap is now the 3rd most ringed species at Stanford and Chiffchaff the 11th.

The all time Stanford species ringing totals has 5 species of Warbler in the top ten and 3 others in the top 20 - demonstrating how important Stanford is both to breeding and migrating Warblers.



4 Cettis Warbler in 2014 was the highest catch at Stanford and gives hope for future breeding here.



Northern Willow Warbler ((*Phylloscopus trochilus acredula*) was also trapped at Stanford in 2014.

Crests ,Tits and Creepers

After a dip in Goldcrest numbers in 2013, this year was much better with a record 76 birds caught. These were mainly trapped during October/November, the period of peak migration at Stanford.

All Tit species increased this year except for Willow Tit which dropped from 6 in 2013 to just 2 this year. Marsh, Willow and Coal Tits have never been numerous and rarely do we catch double figures so nothing particularly significant is happening around the Reservoir. However it was a good breeding year for Tits and Long-tailed Tits recorded their second best year with 77 caught. Blue Tit also increased with large numbers moving through in the autumn period and Great Tit had a much improved year increasing by some 38%.

Treecreeper mirrored last year's good numbers with another 22 caught.

Sparrows, Finches and Buntings

Tree Sparrows experienced a remarkable turnaround on 2013's apparently declining population. In 2014 Tree Sparrows increased by 251% and produced our best year with 660 new and 33 birds retrapped from previous years (the oldest of these from 2010).

Finch numbers have been relatively good this year with all but one species stable or showing signs of increased population size. The most significant increase this year was Goldfinch with a 267% increase on 2013 (surprising after two consecutively poor years). Bullfinch numbers were

also up with the best ringing total since 2004 (a 59% increase on 2013). The only real blip was Lesser Redpoll with a disappointing 14 birds this year.

Yellowhammers have increased significantly over the past two years. This is probably due to them taking advantage of the winter feeding of Pheasant along the disused rail track together with a possible increase in breeding numbers/success. We have also discovered that Yellowhammer readily come to sound lures so we have targeted them a bit more during the Autumn/ Winter period. The fall in Reed Bunting numbers ringed in 2014 was due to an absence of the Autumn hedgerow roost of 2013.

A full breakdown of Ringing Totals by species per month and year can be found at http://www.stanfordrg.org.uk/srg_statistics.html

Nest Recording

Despite the good weather only 20 species were recorded breeding in 2014. With the new CES project up and running and a much reduced team, there was little time to go looking for open nests. Barn Owls once again made no attempts although Tawny Owls managed three attempts aided by us evicting the Squirrels from the large boxes in Game Wood and around the reservoir. Kestrels made one attempt in their usual box in the Leicestershire side raising 3 young. Tree Sparrows didn't start their expected colonisation with only one pair nesting but on the plus side managing to raise a second brood. After last years late spring, it seemed to be back to normality in 2014 with the first of the Tit pulli ringed on the 10th May compared with 26th May in 2013.

- Mallard - Only four ducklings were noted near a nest but soon disappeared with no further sightings.
- Kestrel – One nest record from their 'usual' box on the Leicester side and raising three pulli.
- Coot – One nest with two downy young was found between the dam and the old hide. The outcome was unconfirmed.
- Stock Dove –A species that usually produces around 15 -20 pulli a year only managed six pulli from 13 nesting attempts in 2014.
- Tawny Owl - The eviction of Squirrels from the boxes at an early stage is vital for the breeding success of Owls and proof was three nesting attempts in 2014 with three pulli ringed from two boxes and a third deserted a single egg.
- Swallow - Another good breeding season for this species with 20 nests producing 60 pulli at the nearby stables and Park Farm.
- Pied Wagtail - A single nest on top of a gas bottle at Park Farm contained four eggs but failed to hatch.
- Song Thrush - An early nest with three eggs was deserted due to its very visible location in a Dog-rose.
- Blackcap - Due to their excellent nest concealment few of these found with this being only the 4th nest found at Stanford. Unfortunately this nest, containing three eggs, was situated next to the main track around the reservoir and was soon deserted.
- Whitethroat - One nest was found with 5 nestlings, the first to be ringed for seven years.
- Chiffchaff - Only one nest was found this year containing just two young.
- Blue Tit - An average year with 23 nesting attempts resulting in 152 pulli ringed.
- Great Tit - 18 nesting attempts with 134 pulli ringed. This is the lowest recorded number of nests since 2001 and is a result of there being no boxes checked on the north side of the reservoir.

- Jackdaw - Nine pulli from five nests is a new record at Stanford. Another testament to the eviction of Squirrels from the boxes.
- Carrion Crow - One nest in Game Wood and another along the railtrack clearly had nestlings but due to their high placement up the trees the details remained unclear.
- Tree Sparrow - Another disappointing breeding season for this species at Stanford although they are clearly breeding nearby with newly fledged young turning up at the feeding station. Only one box was used this year but this pair managed two broods of 5 & 6 respectively.
- Chaffinch - One nest found had a female incubating but the nest was found predated on the next visit.
- Goldfinch - One nest found containing four young were ringed.
- Linnet - A good year for this species with three nests found. Five pulli were ringed from one nest and the other two remained as unknown outcome.
- Reed Bunting - Only one nest found this year contained five eggs but was not visited again so the outcome was unknown.

Controls & Recoveries

Controls

This year we managed to control 15 birds at Stanford, one for every 686 birds processed. Considering we have had a record year of new birds ringed we were expecting a lot more controls, but what we have had has been of good quality with 6 Blackcap, 3 Chiffchaff, 2 Willow Warbler, 2 Blue Tit and 1 each of Reed and Sedge Warbler. The best to date are the 2 Willow Warblers ringed either side of the Pennines.

All controls ever recorded at Stanford Reservoir can be found at http://www.stanfordrg.org.uk/srg_controls.html

Recoveries

29 recoveries to date, this is one for every 259 birds ringed. We hope this will improve when the BTO have cleared the backlog. The recoveries have again included some good ones with quick movements, the most notable being a Blackcap caught the next day in Wiltshire, and a Sedge warbler 4 days later in Glamorgan. The most pleasing was a Swallow taken in Kapang, Congo. This is our furthest recovery of any species travelling a distance of 7128 km. We also received information on a Blackcap caught by one of our old trainees in Nanjizal, Cornwall. Other excellent recoveries were of a Chiffchaff to North Ronaldsay, a Willow Warbler to the Isle of May and 2 Lesser Redpolls, one to Morar, Highland and the other to Lockerbie. A great run of Scottish recoveries. Adding to 2013's Greenfinch recoveries from the autumn migration was a bird recovered in Cambridgeshire during the breeding season.

All recoveries ever recorded at Stanford Reservoir can be found at http://www.stanfordrg.org.uk/srg_recovs.html

Oldest Birds Retrapped in 2014

Ring number	Species	Date Ringed	Latest Retrap	Age
T179169	Garden Warbler	02-Jul-05	26-Jul-14	9y 0m 24d
CL87412	Blackbird	22-Dec-05	30-Jul-14	8y 7m 7d
T684126	Blue Tit	10-Jun-06	18-Feb-14	7y 8m 10d
CW04222	Blackbird	11-Oct-08	16-Dec-14	6y 2m 6d
V190161	Garden Warbler	03-May-08	21-Jun-14	6y 1m 17d
T683991	Chaffinch	26-Apr-08	19-Apr-14	5y 11m 23d
V732454	Reed Bunting	22-Jul-08	08-Jun-14	5y 10m 16d
V732487	Bullfinch	26-Jul-08	22-Apr-14	5y 8m 26d
V732630	Bullfinch	11-Apr-09	28-Aug-14	5y 4m 18d
CW04244	Blackbird	03-Jan-09	27-Apr-14	5y 3m 23d
CBY921	Long-tailed Tit	10-Sep-09	09-Dec-14	5y 2m 30d
V732691	Reed Warbler	09-May-09	03-Jul-14	5y 1m 23d
X248766	Chaffinch	26-Sep-09	25-Oct-14	5y 0m 29d
V733652	Robin	19-Dec-09	29-Dec-14	5y 0m 10d
RF20786	Song Thrush	18-Apr-09	17-Apr-14	4y 11m 29d
V733190	Reed Bunting	14-Aug-09	17-Jul-14	4y 11m 2d
X248139	Great Tit	04-Jul-09	26-May-14	4y 10m 21d
X248975	Chaffinch	13-Oct-09	06-Jul-14	4y 8m 22d
RF20800	Song Thrush	17-Sep-09	08-Jun-14	4y 8m 20d
X248545	Great Tit	12-Sep-09	31-May-14	4y 8m 17d
CW04285	Blackbird	25-Oct-09	09-Jul-14	4y 8m 13d
X248915	Reed Bunting	10-Oct-09	31-May-14	4y 7m 20d
P697338	Blue Tit	27-May-10	24-Dec-14	4y 6m 29d
X248634	Chaffinch	19-Sep-09	31-Mar-14	4y 6m 11d
V734036	Chaffinch	12-Jun-10	20-Sep-14	4y 3m 9d
X248946	Robin	13-Oct-09	20-Jan-14	4y 3m 8d
V734483	Chaffinch	18-Jul-10	05-Oct-14	4y 2m 19d
P697468	Bullfinch	18-Jul-10	20-Sep-14	4y 2m 4d
V733684	Reed Bunting	03-Apr-10	03-Jun-14	4y 2m 1d
L430118	Blue Tit	18-Oct-10	13-Dec-14	4y 1m 25d
LB15584	Blackbird	17-Apr-10	08-Jun-14	4y 1m 21d
L430134	Blue Tit	19-Oct-10	20-Nov-14	4y 1m 1d
V733970	Garden Warbler	05-Jun-10	03-Jul-14	4y 0m 29d
V733742	Reed Bunting	17-Apr-10	14-May-14	4y 0m 28d
V733917	Whitethroat	22-May-10	03-Jun-14	4y 0m 13d
V733767	Dunnock	24-Apr-10	05-May-14	4y 0m 12d

Blue Tit, Reed Bunting, Robin, Bullfinch and Garden Warbler all set new age records for Stanford Reservoir. The 9 years and 24 days Garden Warbler is just 10 months short of the National record.

Unusual or uncommon species at Stanford Reservoir during 2014

A **Bittern**, observed from the Northants point, was observed flying from one patch of Leicestershire reedbed to another on 21st Jan. **Little Egrets** were recorded in every month apart from May with three seen together in Blowers Lodge Bay walking on the weed in the margins. On 15th July a **Glossy Ibis**, a new species for Stanford and 5th record for Northants, was seen flying in from the north, circling the reservoir and heading south. A single **Barnacle Goose** was recorded several times between 11th Oct and 15th Nov and a **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** was noted on 6th Dec. A **Cackling Goose** was present between 5th Oct & 21st Oct and was likely to be the same bird that was reported at Daventry GP in July. A **Shelduck** was seen on 14th Jan and two flew east on 19th Sept. A single female **Garganey** was present on 8th Aug and a female **Scaup** was observed at the inlet on 29th Nov. **Red-crested Pochards** arrived in mid-September with numbers peaking at seventeen on 6th Nov. A female **Common Scoter** was seen briefly before flying west on 2nd Nov. Sawbills included a female **Smew** on 7th Dec, a female **Red-breasted Merganser** that stayed from 19th Jan to 16th Mar, and **Goosander** reached a maximum of 14 on 9th Mar. The first **Osprey** arrival was noted on 19th Apr with two seen fishing on 26th July and the last sighted on 6th Oct. Singles of **Red Kite** were seen from Feb through to Oct and two **Peregrine Falcons** in dispute were observed on 23rd Jan. The first **Hobby** was seen on 31st May and three were seen hunting together on 23rd Aug. Two single sightings of a **Merlin** were logged on 7th & 29th Dec. A **Quail** called from a nearby field of rape from 9th to 15th May. **Water Rails** were seen or heard in pairs on 16th Feb, 9th Nov & 16th Nov with three present on 13th Dec. Three **Oystercatchers** were seen on 31st Mar & 20th June and five turned up on the dam on 15th July, three **Avocets** flew through on 20th Aug, a pair of **Little Ringed Plovers** on 12th Apr with singles on 19th & 30th Sept. **Dunlins** were heard in flight on two occasions on 6th Sept & 6th Nov and a **Greenshank** flew east on 20th July. Two **Ruffs** were flushed from the margins on 14th Sept and a single **Curlew** was heard on 3rd July. Singles of **Woodcock** were seen on 1st & 9th Nov and 7th Dec. A maximum of fourteen **Snipe** were flushed from the waters edge on 8th Feb and a further eight on 30th Oct. A single **Jack Snipe** was among the Common Snipe on 8th Feb with another two flushed from cover on 22nd Feb. Gulls included an adult **Mediterranean Gull** on 24th Dec, and adult **Caspian Gull** on 1st Mar, 7th, 13th & 30th Dec and singles of **Yellow-legged Gulls** were noted in the roost in Feb, Aug, Oct and Nov with three seen on 26th July. A 'poorly looking' adult **Kittiwake** was present on 10th Feb and three **Arctic Terns** flew in on 26th Apr. **Cuckoo** sightings of males were common throughout May and mid-June with two seen on 18th May although no females were heard calling.



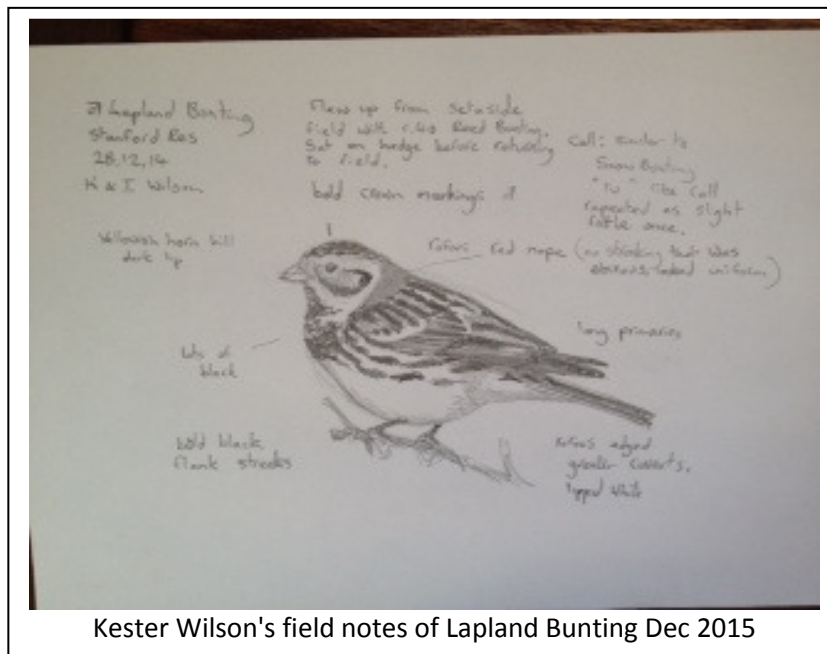
The first Cuckoo since 2003 was trapped at Stanford in May 2014.

A **Rock Pipit** flight call was heard on 1st Nov and four **Tree Pipits** were seen on 20th Aug with two the following day, singles were ringed on both days after being attracted to sound lures. First arrival date for **Yellow Wagtail** was 10th Apr with four present on 21st Apr and the last sighting on 6th Sept. Single **Redstarts** were ringed on 9th & 22nd Sept and a female **Stonechat** was seen near the weir on 30th Sept followed by a male on the disused railtrack on 30th Oct. A **Grasshopper Warbler** was heard on 19th Apr and two were noted reeling in

separate locations on 3rd July. In October **Cetti's Warblers** turned up in good numbers and some stayed the winter with two being ringed on 29th Nov.

The first **Spotted Flycatcher** was seen on 2nd June and singles again throughout Aug & Sept with two seen on 17th & 23rd Aug. Two **Marsh Tits** were heard calling on 11th & 26th Oct with singles being ringed on 14th June, 12th & 17th Sept. Three **Willow Tits** were seen or heard on 6th Sept and two on 27th Sept, a juvenile was ringed on 26th July. A single **Brambling** on 20th Jan was the only record this year despite the good Beech crop. **Redpolls** included ten on 5th Jan and seven were ringed on 23rd Oct.

Undoubtedly the star bird of the year was a stunning male **Lapland Bunting** stopping briefly to sing on a bordering hedgerow on 28th Dec. Escaped birds included a **Helmeted Guineafowl** seen on the Leicestershire bank on 30th Dec and the only other bird of note was a **Aythya hybrid** looking similar to a **Red-crested Pochard** which stayed from 5th Oct to 22nd Nov.



Miscellaneous Group Activities

Moths, Butterflies and Dragonflies

Moth Night

Once again, ringing got in the way of our moth-trapping this year and consequently only one attempt was made on 12th Sept. Eight macro and two micro species were recorded but there were no noteworthy species present amongst the twenty-two moths in total.

Butterflies

Twenty-one species were recorded during 2014. The earliest being **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Comma**, **Peacock** and **Red Admiral** all on 9th Mar with **Brimstone** not showing itself till 29th Mar. **Orange Tip** followed on 10th April but numbers were low compared to previous years. April also saw **Green-veined White** and **Small White** with c100 of the latter seen over a field of rape on 12th July. The first **Speckled Woods** were seen with four on 5th May and as spring continued was soon followed by **Small Skipper** on 25th May. June records included **Large Skipper** and **Common Blue** on 8th, **Ringlet** on 21st and **Meadow Brown** on 22nd. Several **Large Whites** were present on 11th July and **Gatekeepers** were first seen on 7th July and over twenty **Essex Skippers** were counted on 20th July. Two **Clouded Yellows** were seen over set-

aside on 9th Aug with singles reported on 16th & 23rd Aug. Singles of **Small Copper** and **Painted Lady** were recorded on 9th Aug. The last species and a new one for Stanford was a **Camberwell Beauty** that was seen crossing the disused railtrack on 30th Aug.

Dragons, Damsels, Darters and Skimmers

Credit goes to a **Mark Piper** and **Steve Nichols** for collectively recording all but one of the species recorded at Stanford Reservoir in 2014.

The first sighting of the year was a **Hairy Dragonfly** on 5th May that briefly landed in a mist-net during a ringing session but managed to escape before a photo could be taken. **Common Blue Damselflies** were first seen on 14th May followed by **Banded Demoiselle** on 17th May. Newly emerged **Red-eyed Damselflies** were seen in good numbers on 25th May. June 26th sightings included **Four-spotted Chaser**, **Broad-bodied Chaser** and **Black-tailed Skimmer**. **Brown Hawkers** first made an appearance on 7th July followed by **Blue-tailed Damselfly** on 10th July. **Southern Hawker** was noted on 17th July and **Emperor**, **Emerald Damselfly**, **Migrant Hawker** and **Ruddy Darter** were all recorded on 20th July. A **White-legged Damselfly** on 9th Aug was the years only sighting and joined by the first **Common Darter**.

The Team

The SRG have had a number of people come out with us this year to see if ringing is for them. Unfortunately only one, **Jo Underwood**, stayed to become a Trainee. **Dave Neal**, one of our trainees, attained his C permit and we had a C ringer, **Jess O'Doherty**, join us for the summer while working up here. **Simon Watts** is still training for his C permit but unfortunately he has been unable to devote as much time as he would have liked due to work. **Dawn Sheffield** continues to make steady progress. **Mike Haigh** whilst not being an active member continues to oversee/update the Web Site. **Adam Homer** continues as Group Sec / Trainer and myself **Mike Townsend** - Group Commander/Ringer in Charge/Trainer. Many thanks to all of our group members and to those who have turned up to assist.

Without you we would not be here.