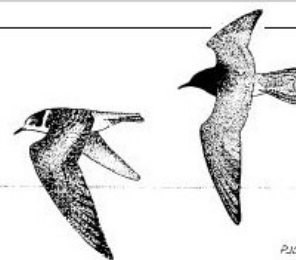


# ***Stanford Ringing Group***



## **STANFORD RINGING GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2016**




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### **Summary**

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During 2016 the Stanford Ringing Group processed over 10,000 birds of 57 species, of which 8,207 were new.

Returning adult warbler numbers were down on the previous year with the exception of Cetti's and Grasshopper Warblers, the latter having its best year for some time.

Monthly ringing totals were again exceptional during the second half of the year, boosted by migration.

The number of birds ringed elsewhere that we controlled was similar to previous years at 21. Recovery of our birds elsewhere was down on last year, at 20.

The fourth year of the British Trust for Ornithology Constant Effort ringing scheme was a success with an increase in overall numbers caught.

Two new species were caught and ringed during the year, a Common Snipe and a Wryneck

Environmental work was again carried out from January through March.

Finally many thanks to all who helped during the year, and especially to Seven Trent Water and Park Farms for allowing access to their land and to STW for their financial support.

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## Introduction

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The year started very poorly with only 788 birds ringed in the first 6 months but after that things improved vastly and we ended up with 10,015 birds processed and 8,207 ringed, our best ever year for new birds. Two new species were added to the list of birds caught at Stanford Reservoir; Common Snipe and Wryneck.

Warbler numbers increased again this year with some 4,560 birds ringed, mostly caught on autumn migration between August and October. This shows how important an area Stanford has become as a vital staging post for resting and feeding on migration south to the Mediterranean and Africa.

Common Whitethroat numbers just exploded this year. In recent years we have hovered around the 450 mark but this year numbers almost doubled, with some 874 being ringed; an amazing total for an inland site. Again Blackcap and Chiffchaff just kept coming with both species exceeding 1000 ringed, mainly during September. Unfortunately both Lesser Whitethroat and Garden Warbler fell in numbers from last year's highs and Willow Warbler numbers were low, with our worst total since 2009. Although at least one Yellow Browed Warbler was seen along the Rail Track, unfortunately we failed to catch it. Maybe next year?

Of concern are the continued downward totals for our resident finches and buntings with Chaffinch and Greenfinch numbers crashing dramatically. Yellowhammers are quickly becoming a rare sight whilst Reed Bunting numbers are still quite low for a site like ours. We had another good year for Goldcrest augmented with Autumnal migrants. One of our

controls was originally ringed on the east coast at Gibraltar Point; two days later it was caught it at Stanford, demonstrating how quickly these tiny birds travel. Finally Redwing were exceptional this year with just shy of 1000 birds ringed.

### Weather

The weather here in the East Midlands was again generally mild during the January-March period with very few frosts. April – June was cool and wet washing out many early nests with a poor success rate for the tit species in particular. July – September was warm and settled with a dominant Easterly airflow which continued through October and November. In contrast to last year December was generally mild and settled.

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## Annual Species Accounts

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**Figures in brackets and bold** show increase or decrease over a 10 year average for birds which breed at Stanford, for all species where more than 10 were caught in 2016.

### Non- Passerines

#### **Mute Swan**

One bird ringed, 25/06/16.

#### **Sparrowhawk**

One bird ringed 21/10/16.

#### **Kestrel**

One bird ringed 01/10/16.

#### **Snipe**

One bird ringed 26/11/16.

#### **Common Sandpiper**

One bird ringed 11/09/16

#### **Stock Dove**

Twenty one birds ringed, including 14 pulli **(+24%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	4	6	0	0

*Retrapped: 1*

#### **Barn Owl**

Eleven birds ringed, including nine pulli **(+547%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	0	0	3	5	1	1	0	0

#### **Tawny Owl**

Two birds ringed as pulli on 14/05/16.

*Retrapped:1*

#### **Kingfisher**

Seven birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	2	1	0

*Retrapped: 2*

#### **Wryneck**

One bird ringed 26/08/16.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker**

Six birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	2	1	0

*Retrapped: 6***Hirundines**

Few Swallows were found at their usual breeding sites, although we did have a good catch in late September on a misty morning along with good numbers of House Martin and a few Sand Martin.

**Sand Martin**

Seven birds ringed, one on 02/06/16, six birds on 18/09/16.

**Swallow**Fifty one birds ringed, including nine pulli **(+34%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	9	7	35	0	0	0

**House Martin**Seventy four birds ringed on 02/06/16 and 02/09/16 **(+233%)**.**Larks, Pipits and Wagtails****Meadow Pipit**Forty three birds ringed **(-23%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	18	0	0

**Yellow wagtail**

One bird ringed 03/07/16.

**Grey Wagtail**Sixteen birds ringed, including four pulli **(+627%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	2	8	2	4	0	0	0

*Retrapped: 4***Pied Wagtail**

Two birds ringed, both as pulli on 25/06/2016.

## Wren, Dunnock, Robins and Chats

All three resident species showed an increase on last years numbers with Wren and Robin having their best ever years. After last year's great success with the chats we came back to reality with only three Redstart this year.

## Wren

One hundred and eighty five birds ringed, including five pulli **(+75%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	2	7	30	46	26	60	9	4

**Retrapped: 64**

## Dunnock

Ninety two birds ringed (+3%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	0	2	3	22	12	26	15	7	4

*Retrapped: 64*

## Robin

One hundred and fifty two birds ringed, including four pulli **(+64%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	3	6	11	28	49	29	19	4	3

*Retrapped: 116*

## Redstart

Three birds ringed, on 18/08/16, 06/09/16 and 08/09/16.

## Thrushes

A great year for this group, with good numbers passing through between October and December. Blackbirds were up to over 100, Song Thrush had their best ever total and Redwing, with a staggering 928, birds kept us busy. Unfortunately Fieldfare numbers were again low with only 16 caught.

## Blackbird

One hundred and eighteen birds ringed (+20%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	4	4	14	25	8	20	28	14

*Retrapped: 47*

## Fieldfare

Sixteen birds ringed (-58%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	5

### Song Thrush

Fourty eight birds ringed (+43%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	3	1	1	7	4	17	10	5

*Retrapped: 13*

### Redwing

Nine hundred and twenty eight birds ringed (+89%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	254	264	410

*Retrapped: 2*

### Warblers

What an absolutely fantastic year for this group with a total of 10 species of Warbler breeding on site for the first time!

This year's habitat management was designed to suit Grasshopper Warbler, and it seems to have been a great success with four pairs attempting to breed, which resulted in record numbers being ringed. Cetti's Warbler continued to colonise the area and bred for the second year with possibly eight singing males in the spring. However we do not think they were particularly successful breeding this year due to the wet and cool weather conditions, but we did manage to ring 19 birds.

Sedge Warbler had a good year with just over 200 being ringed and Reed Warbler achieved their best total to date. This is mainly down to Adam's team ringing in the Leicestershire reed bed during August. Common Whitethroat numbers just exploded this year. Previously we have hovered around the 450 mark but this year numbers went through the roof with some 874 being ringed, an amazing total for an inland site.

Again Blackcap and Chiffchaff just kept coming with both species exceeding 1000, ringed mainly during September. Unfortunately both Lesser Whitethroat and Garden Warbler fell in numbers from last year's highs and Willow Warbler numbers were poor, with our worst total since 2009.

### Cetti's Warbler

Nineteen birds ringed (+400%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	3	0	3	5	0	4	2	0

*Retrapped: 32*

### Grasshopper Warbler

Thirty five birds ringed (+337%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	4	4	1	11	11	4	0	0	0

*Retrapped: 20*

**Sedge Warbler**Two hundred and eight birds ringed. **(+29%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	9	8	54	85	50	0	0	0

*Retrapped: 57***Reed Warbler**Three hundred and seventy six birds ringed **(+70%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	4	27	97	173	72	1	0	0

*Retrapped: 123***Lesser Whitethroat**Eighty seven birds ringed **(+40%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	7	1	28	29	20	0	0	0

*Retrapped: 10***Whitethroat**Eight hundred and seventy four birds ringed **(+119%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	4	18	21	179	577	73	2	0	0

*Retrapped: 127***Garden Warbler**Sixty seven birds ringed **(-14%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	5	3	16	39	4	0	0	0

*Retrapped: 50***Blackcap**One thousand six hundred and twenty three birds ringed **(+127%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	3	12	17	117	189	1095	188	2	0

*Retrapped: 139***Chiffchaff**One thousand, one hundred and sixteen birds ringed, including XX pulli **(+1117%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	4	4	11	63	48	692	294	0	0

*Retrapped: 69*



**Willow Warbler**

One hundred and fifty five birds ringed **(-13%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	6	5	10	27	74	32	1	0	0

*Retrapped: 34*

**Crests, Tits, Treecreeper**

A mixed year. Goldcrest had a very good year with excellent numbers caught during Autumn, which logically represent mainly continental migrants.

No Firecrest were caught this year however 1-2 birds were seen on a number of dates on the Leicestershire side of the reservoir.

The Tits as a group had a very poor year, especially during the breeding season, probably due to the weather. Prolonged rain at the wrong time was likely to have washed the insects out of the trees and on to the ground, robbing the birds of their main food source, as we had a number of boxes with dead young. Both Blue and Great Tit numbers fell. In addition there were no new Marsh or Willow Tits and only a hand full of Coal tits. A disastrous year!

We had a couple of ringing sessions on the top road under the Beech trees which augmented the tit numbers somewhat, but the best birds found there by far were the two Nuthatch we caught. Just to complete the disappointing news for this group, Treecreeper also dropped in number from last year's 25 to 15.

**Goldcrest**

One hundred and forty six birds ringed **(+108%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	1	4	13	29	92	3	4

*Retrapped: 28*

**Spotted Flycatcher**

One bird ringed 23/08/16.

**Long Tailed Tit**

Forty eight birds ringed **(-21%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	2	0	0	3	6	4	8	14	0	11

*Retrapped: 57*

**Coal Tit**

Four birds ringed, 3, 11 and 28 September and 01/12/19.

*Retrapped: 1*

**Blue Tit**

Three hundred and thirty two birds ringed, including 164 pulli **(-18%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	10	6	158	19	27	21	35	30	6	20

*Retrapped: 187*

**Great Tit**

Two hundred and fifty seven birds ringed, including 137 pulli **(-22%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	6	4	85	55	25	11	10	26	2	33

*Retrapped: 201*

**Nuthatch**

Two birds ringed, on 01/12/16.

**Treecreeper**

Fifteen birds ringed **(-11%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	0	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	2

*Retrapped: 11*

**Corvids****Magpie**

One bird ringed on 29/08/16

**Jackdaw**

Five birds ringed on 22/05/16 as pulli.

**Sparrows and Finches**

Tree Sparrow have maintained their numbers and continue to do well as a breeding bird, their flock is often present at the feeders. Bullfinch numbers remain steady over their 10 year average, but had fewer numbers compared to the last two years. This pattern was also evident for Goldfinch and Linnet. Both Greenfinch and Chaffinch continue to have a worrying consistent decline in their numbers. In summary, the majority of the breeding finches at the reservoir continue to cause concern with sharp decreases in their numbers over at least the last two years.

**House Sparrow**

Two birds ringed, on 13/03/16 and 14/07/16.

**Tree Sparrow**

Five hundred and twelve birds ringed, including 59 pulli **(+53%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	0	35	13	43	19	93	48	31	111	63	42

*Retrapped: 207*

**Chaffinch**

Fifty one birds ringed **(-79%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	0	1	2	14	8	7	8	5	5

*Retrapped: 19*

**Greenfinch**

Fifty six birds ringed **(-52%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	4	6

**Goldfinch**

Seventy three birds ringed **(-5%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	25	36	7	1

*Retrapped: 3*

**Linnet**

Thirteen birds ringed, including four pulli **(-63%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	1	3	9	0	0	0	0	0

*Retrapped: 3*

**Common Redpoll**

One bird ringed 24/10/16

**Lesser Redpoll**

One hundred and forty one birds ringed **(+43%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	8	0

**Bullfinch**

Thirty seven birds ringed **(-3%)**.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	1	1	8	8	6	9	1	1

*Retrapped: 26*

## **Buntings**

Yellowhammer have had a very poor year, with just 4 birds ringed. Reed Bunting had a close to average year.

### **Yellowhammer**

Four birds ringed, one on 23/08/16 and three on 08/10/16.

### **Reed Bunting**

One hundred and fifty nine birds ringed **(-14%)**.

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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	1	5	13	47	17	16	44	10	5

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*Retrapped: 48*

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## Notable Birds Ringed at Stanford During 2019

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*First ever Common Snipe ringed at Stanford by MJT*



*Common Sandpiper trapped at the dam by AGH*





*Juvenile Cetti's Warbler- proof of breeding at Stanford*



*Juvenile Yellow Wagtail- another breeding success at Stanford.*



*Yellowhammer duly ringed- a rarity during 2016!*



*Bird of the year?*



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## Nest Recording

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There were no real surprises for 2016 with the usual species recorded, although there were only 113 nests of 16 species. Some species are missing from the lists of previous years due to special circumstances.

**Barn Owls** fared better this year with two attempts and **Tawny Owls** also nested twice although only 50% of the four eggs laid reached a ringing size. The floating rafts in Blower's Bay broke their moorings and were not reinstated in time for species such as **Common Tern** and **Oystercatcher**, although the latter probably bred nearby after a pair with a single newly fledged young visited regularly. **Kestrels** once again failed to find Stanford nest-boxes to their liking as they made no attempts to use any.

On a more upbeat note **Tree Sparrows** had a record year with 14 nests recorded and also a record 59 pulli ringed with only two broods failing to fledge.

Both **Great** and **Blue Tit** species were held back initial laying by the weather till 27th April compared with 20th April in 2015, the second year in a row that both have been delayed by a week.

**Mute Swan:** Two nests were records this year with both successfully raising broods of five and three birds respectively.

**Mallard:** A female was seen with seven ducklings and visited regularly

**Stock Dove:** Sixteen nest attempts was the best total for the past four years although survival rates were lower this year. Fourteen pulli were ringed from a total of 31 eggs. Four nests failed at egg stage and three were predated at either egg or juvenile stage. Several boxes were found to have adult remains inside after being killed by mammalian or avian predators.

**Woodpigeon:** Five nests found were disappointingly predated at the egg stage.

**Barn Owl:** A better year this year with two attempts. Ten eggs were laid with a total of nine pulli ringed for 90% success rate. One nest was recorded at nearby Park Farm which raised three young and six young were ringed from a clutch of seven eggs in another.

**Swallow:** A domino-effect from 2015 perhaps. Last year saw one of the worst years for this species and this year was worse. Only five nesting attempts were recorded at three sites with three of those failing at the egg stage. Two broods were ringed for a total of nine pulli, the worst season since 2011.

**Grey Wagtail:** One nest was found in a traditional site under a bridge which raised four young.

**Wren:** Under the right circumstances and conditions this species can be ringed in the nest without causing any damage to the nest's structure. Three nests were found this year with five pulli being ringed in one nest behind a lifebelt. A further nest at egg stage was found behind another lifebelt on the opposite side of the reservoir but that, along with the lifebelt,



mysteriously disappeared. A third nest where the young would have been inaccessible to ring was found in the wood sheds.

**Robin:** Two nests were recorded. One brood were ringed in Game Wood and another brood fledged in the stable block.

**Reed Warbler:** Although four ringing session were held in the Leicestershire reed-bed only one nest was recorded on site and that was in the opposite Northamptonshire reed-bed.

**Blue Tit:** Twenty-eight nests were recorded of which 214 eggs were laid. From these, 182 chicks hatched of which 164 pulli reached a ringable size. The first pulli were ringed on 22nd May, compared to the 16th May last year and 10th May in 2014. Although egg-laying was delayed for the third year running there were still deserted nests with chilled eggs in May.

**Great Tit:** A total of twenty-seven nests recorded is down by 1/5th compared to 2015. One hundred and eighty five eggs were laid and 149 chicks hatched of which 137 pulli reached a ringable size. As with Blue Tits, egg-laying was delayed till 22nd May but only one nest was found deserted.

**Jackdaw:** Three nests were recorded with only 5 pulli ringed. One of those nests was unfortunately predated at the egg stage.

**Tree Sparrow:** Fourteen nests were recorded which is the best since the same number were recorded in 2012. However, an amazing 59 pulli were ringed from a total of 70 eggs laid. Only two nests failed at nestling stage due to desertion. Hopefully we'll see even better next year.

**Linnet:** One nest was found in the 'Leics Paddock' after watching an adult carrying food to the nest. Four perfectly sized nestlings were found and ringed.

## Stanford Birds Recovered at Other Sites

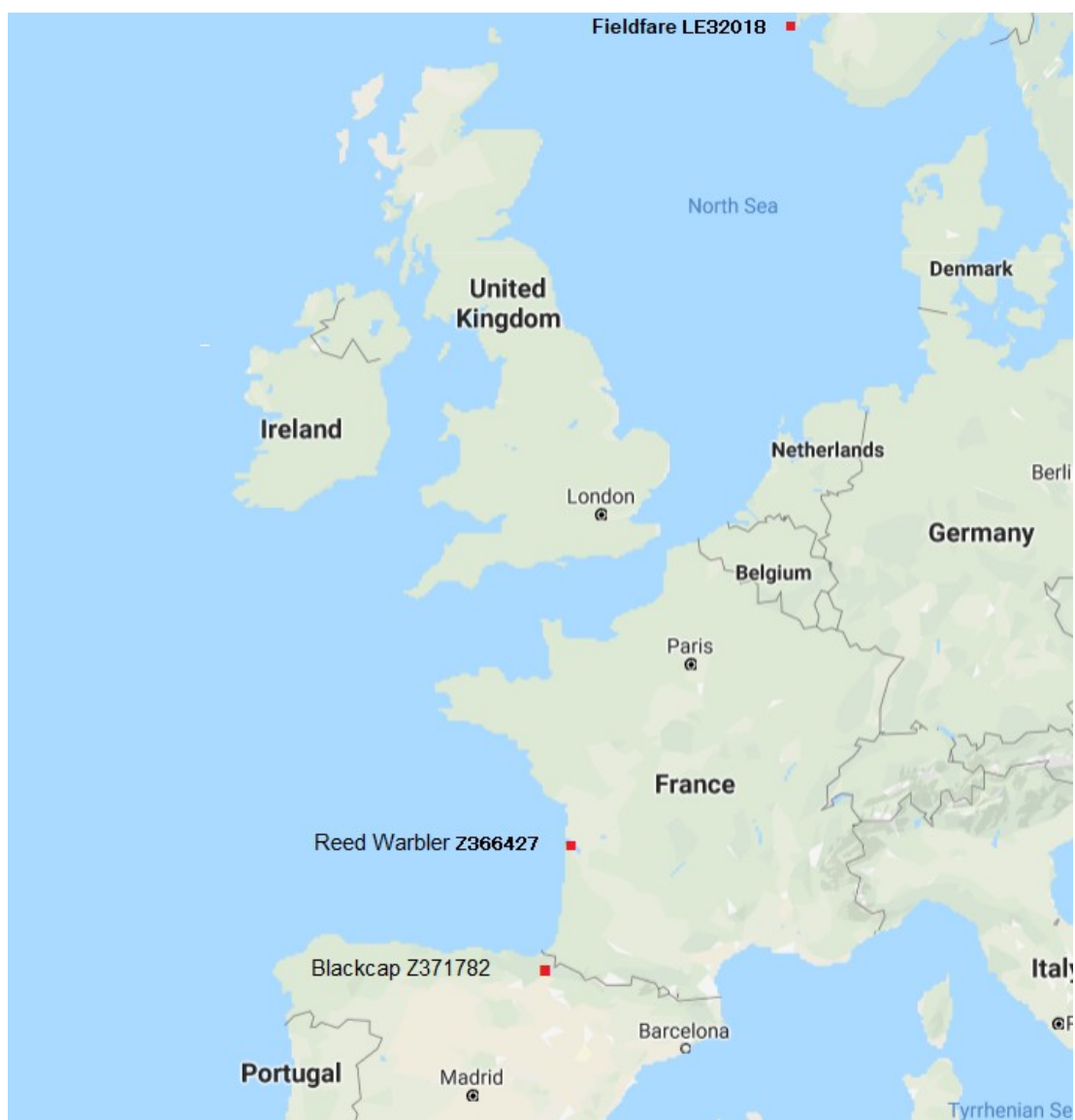
This section details the birds which were ringed by the Stanford Ringing Group and were subsequently trapped and processed by other sites, or found by members of the public, and were reported to the BTO. The map shows birds which were recovered abroad.

Our group leader notes: *'Our furthest recovery within Britain was the Blackcap that went 180 km to Suffolk before being caught in Spain. One of our most interesting recoveries was a Cetti's Warbler, one of our breeding females, that decided to go on its holidays for a month or so to Herts before returning to Stanford late in the Autumn'.*

Species	Ring no.	Date ringed	Site recovered	Date	Time (days)	Distance (k)
Grey Wagtail	Z369518	14-JUL-2016	Pitsford Reservoir, Northampton,	13-NOV-2016	122	20
Blackcap	Z371782	08-SEP-2016	Noain, Navarra, Spain	03-OCT-2016	25	1073
Blackcap	Z371782	08-SEP-2016	Cauldwell Hall Farm, Hollesley, Suffolk	23-SEP-2016	15	179
Cetti's Warbler	Z368938	28-MAY-2016	Tewin Bury Farm, Hertfordshire	23-AUG-2016	87	93
Greenfinch	TX69015	26-OCT-2015	Rushden, Northamptonshire	15-SEP-2016	325	42
Chiffchaff	JJD405	08-SEP-2016	West Haddon, Northamptonshire	14-SEP-2016	6	10
Greenfinch	VT51406	29-OCT-2013	Theddingworth, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire	20-JUL-2016	995	9
Blackcap	Z367217	15-SEP-2015	Weston Underwood, Milton Keynes	04-JUL-2016	293	41
Blackcap	Z365947	15-AUG-2015	Langford RSPB reserve, Nottinghamshire	27-MAY-2016	286	85
Lesser Redpoll	Z368494	11-OCT-2015	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	04-MAY-2016	206	69
Greenfinch	TT38504	20-OCT-2014	Sibbertoft, Northamptonshire	18-MAY-2016	576	9
Swallow	Y774176	28-AUG-2014	Brixworth Sewer Works, Northamptonshire	18-MAY-2016	629	16
Blackcap	Y773273	11-SEP-2014	HM Prison Gartree, Leicestershire	25-MAY-2016	622	14
Long-tailed Tit	EYJ995	17-OCT-2015	Hanging Houghton, Brixworth, Northamptonshire	18-MAR-2016	153	17
Blue Tit	Z367211	15-SEP-2015	Kelmarsh Hall, Northamptonshire	30-MAR-2016	197	14
Mute Swan	Z49870	31-AUG-2009	South Kilworth, Leicestershire	02-APR-2016	2406	2

Kingfisher	SB09558	03-JUL-2015	Glebe House, Nottinghamshire	18-FEB-2016	230	70
Fieldfare	LE32018	30-DEC-2014	Vistestranden, Rogaland, Norway	03-MAR-2016	429	842
Reed Warbler	Z366427	01-SEP-2015	Roseliere, Chenac-Saint-Seurin-d'Uzet, Charente-Maritime, France	20-SEP-2015	19	766
Goldfinch	Z368799	22-NOV-2015	Chilworth, Surrey, UK	04-DEC-2015	12	140

### Stanford birds recovered abroad:



## Birds From Other Sites Recovered at Stanford

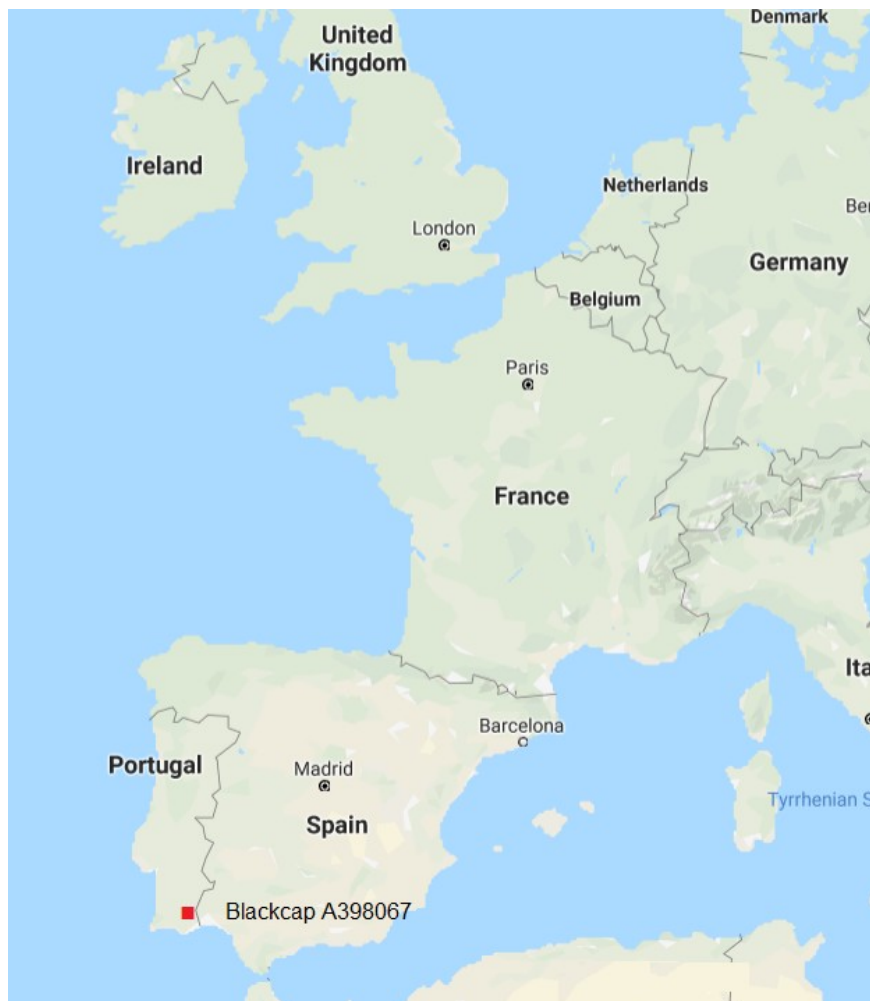
This section details the birds which were ringed at other sites and were subsequently processed (controlled) by the Stanford Ringing Group. All details were reported to the BTO, who then contacted the original ringing sites, both in the UK and abroad.

The map shows the origin of the only foreign bird for this year, in the Algarve in Portugal.

Species	Ring number	Date ringed	Site of Origin	Date trapped at Stanford	Time taken (days)	Distance to Stanford (km)
Sedge Warbler	S332977	24-AUG-2016	Rutland Water, Rutland	03-SEP-2016	10	41
Goldcrest	JHC093	07-OCT-2016	Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve, Skegness, Lincolnshire	09-OCT-2016	2	125
Goldcrest	HYN580	20-SEP-2015	Wood Walton Fen, Cambridgeshire	08-OCT-2016	384	63
Chiffchaff	BPP867	26-SEP-2016	St Abbs Head, Scottish Borders	09-OCT-2016	13	395
Chiffchaff	JDE577	16-AUG-2016	Wheldrake Ings Nature Reserve, York	08-OCT-2016	53	166
Chiffchaff	JDE772	29-AUG-2016	Wheldrake Ings Nature Reserve, York,	18-SEP-2016	20	164
Blackcap	S146124	24-JUL-2016	Queen Adelaide railway scrub, Cambridgeshire	21-SEP-2016	59	95
Lesser Redpoll	Z852678	28-SEP-2015	Fontburn Nature Reserve, Northumberland	24-OCT-2016	392	318
Lesser Redpoll	D855633	16-AUG-2015	Knowehead Cottage, Glen Isla, Angus	28-OCT-2016	439	494
Reed Warbler	S175683	10-JUL-2016	Brandon Marsh, Warwickshire	03-AUG-2016	24	22
Greenfinch	VZ92654	26-AUG-2016	Astcote, Towcester, Northamptonshire	11-OCT-2016	46	28
Blackcap	S266337	30-AUG-2016	Woolston Eyes, Warrington, Warrington	11-SEP-2016	12	143
Blackcap	D346772	12-JUL-2016	Middleton, Warwickshire	11-SEP-2016	61	43
Reed Warbler	Z166475	25-JUN-2016	Wanlip Gravel Pits, Leicestershire	18-AUG-2016	54	34
Reed Warbler	Z261778	16-AUG-2015	Kelham Bridge, Leicestershire	30-JUL-2016	349	38
Sedge Warbler	S418211	30-AUG-2016	London Wetland Centre	03-SEP-2016	4	121
Common Tern	SR43377	25-JUL-2013	Brandon Marsh, Warwickshire	12-JUN-2016	1053	22
Sedge Warbler	D416681	15-MAY-2014	Cleveland Farm, Wiltshire	14-MAY-2016	730	101

Blue Tit	R147618	23-MAY-2015	Ladys Wood, Upwood, Cambridgeshire	19-FEB-2016	272	6
Blackcap	X076317	12-AUG-2015	Old Moor Field Pool, South Yorkshire	19-SEP-2015	38	124
Blackcap	A398067	11-MAR-2015	Fonte Benémola, Faro, Portugal	26-SEP-2015	199	1773

**Only one foreign control was reported in 2016!**



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## Unusual Species Recorded at Stanford in 2016

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As at most birding sites, deciding which species are genuinely scarce around Stanford Reservoir, as opposed to present but infrequently seen, is reasonably straight forward. There are a few exceptions, an obvious one being Water Rail, which is occasionally heard but infrequently seen, as of course are Barn and Tawny Owls. Similarly, four sightings of Jay in the year might suggest it is scarce, whereas a more plausible explanation is that they rarely abandon the adjoining woodland, Unlike Great Spotted Woodpeckers, which routinely desert the trees for the attraction of the feeding station on Blower's Bay.

The two migration periods also have a bearing upon which species are present or absent at appropriate times of year, as evident from the movements of various waterfowl, the weather also having a role to play. Any species occurring in past reports but omitted this year, either failed to occur, or now either occur year-round and are not considered 'scarce', e.g. Little Egret. The point should perhaps also be made that the Ringing Group's primary function is catching and processing birds using the reservoir and its surrounds, therefore much of what follows being compiled from the reports of other birders also using the area.

### Wildfowl

**Whooper Swan:** The only record this year of involved seven birds on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**Chinese Goose:** A single bird on 25<sup>th</sup> March presumably had some local domesticated connection.

**Pintail:** Just two records, a male on 7<sup>th</sup> October and a female on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Red-crested Pochard:** Two records, involving singles on 30<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Scaup:** Up to three present on at least nine dates from early November through to 27<sup>th</sup> December.

**Common Scoter:** Three on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Long-tailed Duck:** A female or immature arrived on 27<sup>th</sup> December and stayed to see the year out.

**Smew:** A female on 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December was presumably the bird still around on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Birds of Prey

**Osprey:** Just two sightings, on 9<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> September, belie this species' current status within the East Midlands, with a number of active nests within 'feeding' distance of the reservoir.

**Hen Harrier:** A 'ring-tail' first seen on 13<sup>th</sup> November to the south of the main track, was subsequently recorded at various locations around the reservoir, being present until 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Hobby:** Known to be present locally, often seen presumably hunting over the water. Twenty-one sightings between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> September all involved singles, apart from two together in mid-July.

**Peregrine:** Given the Reservoir's location, in the centre of the country and surrounded by arable or sheep-grazed farmland, six Peregrine sightings might seem excessive. However, dates suggest non-breeding birds may be involved, a single mid-April record comparing with five between 12 October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Merlin:** Two records on 18<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December suggest visiting wintering birds from populations further north.

## Waders

**Dunlin:** Single migrants of this diminutive wader on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> April were followed by a flock of 13 on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Green Sandpiper:** Singles present on six dated from mid-July through to early November.

**Common Sandpiper:** From one to five were to be seen teetering around the reservoir from late August to late September.

**Redshank:** Just a single visit, presumably involving four early migrants on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Greenshank:** Just two one-day, presumed passage birds, in late July and mid-August.

**Curlew:** At least seven records, some involving birds seen or heard passing over. Three dates in January, March and December could have involved migrant or wintering birds, whereas dates from mid-April to late June probably involve the small lingering East Midlands' breeding population.

**Whimbrel:** Two on 25<sup>th</sup> May were presumably heading north on passage.

**Woodcock:** As with the previous species, one on 21<sup>st</sup> March was most likely on passage.

**Jack Snipe:** Presumably two separate little snipe wisps, dancing their way around the water's edge on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March.

## Gulls

**Mediterranean Gull:** A first-winter bird on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**Yellow-legged Gull:** Sightings of one to three birds between 1<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January possibly involved the same birds, as may have been true for singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Caspian Gull:** Single birds seen on six dates between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> March possibly all involved the same individual; having originally been discovered on 21<sup>st</sup> December the previous year. However, one on 13<sup>th</sup> February was described as an adult, though presumably a different adult was reported for 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Little Tern:** One recorded on 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**Sandwich Tern:** Two photographed together on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**Black Tern:** Three feeding around the reservoir on 8<sup>th</sup> May, with one of these or a new bird seen three days later.

## Passerines

**Cuckoo:** By no means a scarcity, but a bird that can be kept track of with reasonable accuracy, or certainly any calling males. The first was heard on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, with the last seen or heard on 9<sup>th</sup> August. Recorded birds were as follows; April four, May seven, June fourteen, August one on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Nightjar:** A single bird was flushed from the main access track early morning 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Wryneck:** One trapped and ringed on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Yellow Wagtail:** A male on 18<sup>th</sup> April, followed by an unsexed bird on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Grey Wagtail:** Only records this year involved single birds on 20<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Northern Wheatear:** Singles on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April were presumably on passage, also a bird on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

**Mistle Thrush:** Never a commonly recorded species at this site, or not in recent years, singles were noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of April and 8<sup>th</sup> June. Presumably from nearby habitats.

**Chiffchaff:** A bird of the sub-species Siberian Chiffchaff, treated by some authorities as a full species *Phylloscopus tristis*, was trapped and ringed on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Given their distinctive call, the presence of any '*tristis*' should not be difficult to establish.

**Firecrest:** One present on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28 November, with another by the Leicestershire reed-bed gate 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Spotted Flycatcher:** One present on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Jay:** Birds presumably originating from surrounding woodlands were noted on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 24<sup>th</sup> September and 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Raven:** Pairs of birds, or certainly two together, were noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 12<sup>th</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, with a single on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Brambling:** One in the trapping area 16<sup>th</sup> January, with two there 14<sup>th</sup> February, a male early October and another bird on 29<sup>th</sup>. Five were feeding under the beeches on the top road in late November.

**Common Redpoll:** One was present on 19<sup>th</sup> March, and presumably the same bird on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Siskin:** One in the trapping area 16<sup>th</sup> January.



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## Miscellaneous Group Activities

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### Butterflies

The first butterfly species of the year, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock** & **Brimstone** were noted on 25th March. First sighting records of other species were as follows. **Comma** on 9th April and **Green-veined White** on 23rd were the only species to appear during that month. The first week in May saw **Orange Tip** on 4th & **Speckled Wood** on 5th with **Large** & **Small White** both being recorded on 22nd. Three June species included **Large Skipper** on 5th and **Meadow Brown** & **Ringlet** both on 26th. **Red Admiral** first showed on 3rd July along with **Small Skipper**. **Gatekeeper** followed on 10th and a sighting of a single **Clouded Yellow** was a nice record on 23rd. Late summer species included **Common Blue** & **Essex Skipper** both on 16th August.

### Dragonflies, Damselflies etc

**Blue-tailed Damselfly** on 14th May is the earliest record for five years and was joined by **Common Blue Damselfly** which were noted in their hundreds. June records included **Banded Demoiselle** on 5th and the earliest sighting of **Southern Hawker** for five years on 25th. A **Broad-bodied Chaser** on 6th was the only new species for July. August saw the first appearances of **Ruddy Darter** on 1st and **Brown Hawker**, **Migrant Hawker**, **Emperor** and **Common Darter** all recorded on 16th. **Emerald Damselfly** on 24th September completed the list of 11 species for the year.

### Moths

Two moth-nights were held. A session on 17th June on the disused rail-track produced the following species: **Clouded Silver**, **Plain Golden Y**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character**, **Flame**, **Privet Hawkmoth**, **Poplar Hawkmoth**, **Brimstone**, **Heart and Dart**, **Swallow Prominent**, **Buff Ermine**, & **Shoulder-striped Wainscot**.

For our next session on 26th August we were joined by our guest Dave Goldsmith on the Leicestershire bank. A large number of Hornets from a nearby Owl nestbox found the MV lights irresistible and as a consequence entered the traps and took good numbers of moths. However, a good catch from both traps included: **Bloodvein**, **Single-dotted Wave**, **Clouded Border**, **Brimstone**, **Dusky Thorn**, **Swallow Prominent**, **Flame Shoulder**, **Large Yellow Underwing**, **Lesser Yellow Underwing**, **Small Square-spot**, **Centre-barred Sallow**, **Angle Shades** & **Straw Dot**.

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## The Team

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We appear to be going from strength to strength with more people joining the team and others moving up the ladder. New for this year are Peter Robinson who is both an "A" ringer and trainer, a much needed addition to the group.

Stuart Heath and Kate Moore, both trainees who have had experience with other groups supplement our other trainees, Max Rayner and Jo Underwood (who had a baby during the year; best wishes to Jo from all our group members).

Peter Norrie moved up this year to a "C" ringer to join Dawn Sheffield while Dave Neal attained his "A" permit. Adam Homer continues as Group Secretary and myself Mick Townsend as Ringer-in-Charge.

Mike Haigh also deserves a mention as he is our Web guru and generally sorts out all our computer/web page problems from deepest Wales. Many thanks Mike.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody within the group and those who have turned up to help as without all your unstinting help and enthusiasm our ringing activities could not continue as they are.

*Compiled by PMN*

*Thanks to Mike Haigh for help with the IT and posting*