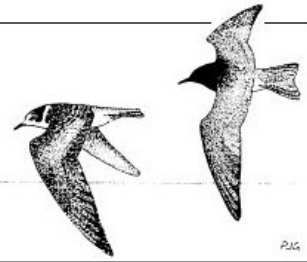


Stanford Ringing Group



STANFORD RINGING GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Some of the Team out scrub bashing in Spring: Peter N, Dave, Adam, Mick, Dawn and Pete B – *actually much nicer than they look.*

Summary

- In 2018 the Stanford Ringing Group (SRG) ringed 6,604 new birds.
- The group also re-trapped 1,912 birds.
- Nineteen Stanford birds were controlled at other sites.
- The group also controlled 19 birds, ringed at other sites.
- The total number of birds processed was therefore 8,516.
- The SRG processed a total of 63 species.
- Environmental management work continued as usual from January through to March. Many thanks to all who took part.
- Many thanks also to all those who helped during the year and to Severn Trent Water and Park Farms for allowing access to their land.
- We would also like to thank Severn Trent Water for financing the feeding station in Blower's Lodge Bay and for continuing to support our activities.
- Once again, foreign recaptures generally confirmed that our warblers fly down the west coast of France and the Iberian peninsula en route to West Africa for the winter.

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Introduction

Birds have been ringed at Stanford Reservoir since 1976. The full story of the ringing and associated wildlife activities can be found on the group's website at www.stanfordrg.org.uk. A Blog is maintained which gives an account of our activities, throughout the year. It can be found at: <http://stanfordrg.blogspot.com/>.

Birds are ringed as a group activity, weather permitting, from April to the end of December. From January to March, the group, augmented by helpers, undertake conservation work to enhance the area for birds. The main activities include cutting back broad leaf saplings to encourage the scrub which warblers and other breeding birds require, and clearing out the rides which are used to mist-net birds. A feeding station is supplied and maintained on a weekly basis in Blower's Lodge Bay with seed, nuts and fat balls.

Most birds were trapped using mist-nets, with occasional use of traps for specialist species such as Meadow Pipit. The main site used was centred around Blower's Lodge Bay, with supplementary use of the Leicestershire Paddock in summer. All sessions were conducted from dawn until approximately midday, with the exception of one evening session to ring in a Starling roost.

By law, wild bird ringing in the UK is licensed by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). The procedures of BTO's *Ringers' Manual* (2001) were followed throughout to secure the welfare of the birds.

All extraction, ringing and recording was carried out by group members who are either ringers licensed by the BTO, or are trainees under their direct supervision. All data were entered into the BTO's data manager IPMR and were submitted electronically.

The Ringing Year

During 2018 there were group ringing sessions at weekends, augmented by midweek individual or small group sessions.

Birds ringed per month in 2018

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conservation work			Ringing								
21	55	16	135	456	383	695	1272	2201	878	224	270

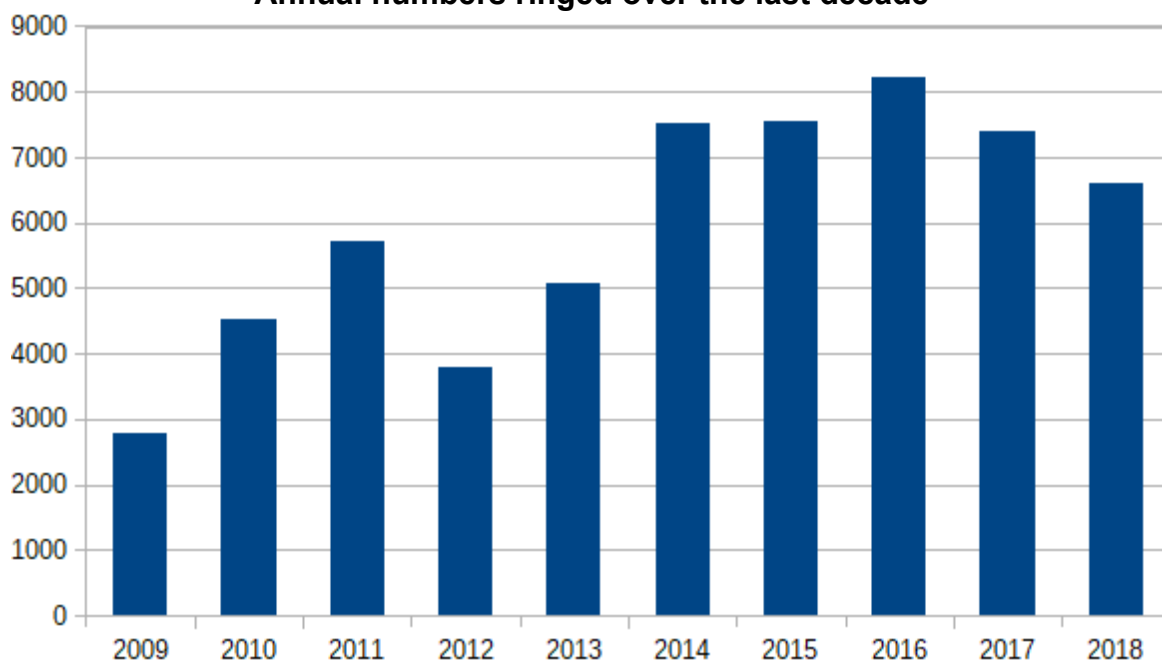
The group normally does not convene for bird ringing until April, when the first migrants return, the completion of conservation work at weekends being prioritised. The small totals in this period illustrate occasional midweek individual ringing sessions, weather permitting.

The sixth year of the BTO's Constant Effort Scheme was completed successfully. The CES runs largely from May until August, with migration making up the bulk of birds from mid August until (approximately) mid October. The Tree Sparrow population was monitored as part of the BTO's Ringing for Adult Survival census.

The nest box ringing team was lead by our Secretary AGH, and added large numbers of ringed pulli to the annual totals, specifically regarding our Owls, Doves, Swallows, Tree Sparrows and Tits.

The numbers in November and December were then boosted by numbers of migratory thrushes, mainly Redwing and Fieldfare, but also including Blackbird and Song Thrush, and of finches including Greenfinch and Lesser Redpoll.

Annual numbers ringed over the last decade



As can be seen, total numbers ringed were slightly down on previous years, probably accounted for by a damp and cool Autumn. However the area remains highly productive, particularly with regards to our main target species, the warblers and other breeding passerines and migratory warblers.

Annual Species Accounts

Non- Passerines

This was a good year for this group, including record numbers of Stock Dove, both species of resident Owl and Common Snipe (although only one of the latter has been ringed previously!). Two Cuckoos were an exciting addition. Severn Trent kindly supplied two floating platforms to encourage Common Tern to breed, and we were delighted to be able to ring two pulli, the first since 1998.

Sparrowhawk

Three birds ringed, 27 Aug, 01 Oct and 03 Nov.

Kestrel

One bird ringed, 14 Dec.

Snipe

Two birds ringed 23 Nov.

Common Sandpiper

One bird ringed 18 Aug.

Common tern

Two birds ringed as pulli 21 Jul.

Stock Dove

Fifty five birds ringed, fifty two as pulli.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	6	12	4	17	13	1	0	0

Woodpigeon

Two birds ringed as pulli 22 Sept.

Barn Owl

Four birds ringed, one adult on 17 Feb and three pulli on 04 August.

Tawny Owl

Three birds ringed as pulli, one bird on 06 Jun and two on 19 May.

Kingfisher

One bird ringed on 21 Jul.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Six birds ringed.

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

Hirundines

This was the third best year for ringing Swallow. Although only four Sand Martin were ringed, this is in line with previous years, as is the total for House Martin.

Sand Martin

Four birds ringed on 11Aug, two on 8 September and 10 Sep.

Swallow

Ninety two birds ringed, forty as pulli.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	19	14	16	43	0	0	0

House Martin

Fifty birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	48	0	0	0

Larks, Pipits and Wagtails

This was a record year for Tree Pipit. Although a total of only 10 have been ringed at Stanford, they have all been trapped between 20 and 24 August in each year, so this has proven to be a very brief window of opportunity to ring this elusive species. This was also the second best year for Grey Wagtail; all other numbers were in line with previous years.

Meadow Pipit

Fifty eight birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	20	0	0

Tree Pipit

Four birds ringed on 24 Aug.

Yellow Wagtail

Five birds ringed, four on 14 Jul and one on 27 Aug.

Pied Wagtail

Four birds ringed as pulli on 19 May.

Grey Wagtail

Fourteen ringed, 12 as pulli.

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

Wren, Dunnock, Robins and Chats

This was an uneventful year for our breeding representatives of this group, with numbers similar to previous years. The first ever Stonechat at Stanford was ringed this year, as was the fourth ever Whinchat.

Wren

One hundred and fifteen birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	2	3	13	22	25	36	6	7

Dunnock

Fifty four birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	3	2	1	4	9	4	4	14	10	2	0

Robin

Seventy birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	4	1	4	7	13	23	12	1	5

Redstart

Four birds ringed on 31 Aug, 06 Sep, 13 Sep and 07 October.

Thrushes

This group had an uneventful year, numbers being similar to previous years. As usual, the resident Stanford thrushes were joined by continental visitors in early winter, including Fieldfares and Redwings from Scandinavia.

Blackbird

One hundred and twenty five birds ringed, including four pulli.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	5	4	29	25	2	24	24	11

Fieldfare

Five birds ringed on 02 Nov, 17 Nov, 26 Nov, and two on 04 Dec.

Song Thrush

Forty seven birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	2	0	2	3	1	8	5	1	14	5	6

Redwing

Two hundred and fourteen birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	82	106

Warblers

This was a productive year for our resident warblers, albeit with only one juvenile Cetti's Warbler and one Grasshopper Warbler being ringed as proof of breeding. The other species had good if not exceptional breeding years. The autumn brought two rarities, a single Yellow Browed Warbler (the fourth ever) and a single Marsh Warbler, the first since 2000!

Cetti's Warbler

Four birds ringed on 21 July, 03 Oct, 17 Oct and 22 Nov.

Grasshopper Warbler

Nine birds ringed.

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

Sedge Warbler

One hundred and eighty nine birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	8	7	23	128	20	1	0	0

Garden Warbler

Sixty eight birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	7	2	20	27	11	1	0	0

Marsh Warbler

One bird ringed on 9 Aug.

Reed Warbler

Two hundred and ninety six birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	9	17	48	163	57	2	0	0

Lesser Whitethroat

Seventy one birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	7	2	6	17	27	12	0	0	0

Whitethroat

Four hundred and seventy three birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	4	15	37	120	251	46	0	0	0

Blackcap

One thousand eight hundred and sixty seven birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	35	6	26	119	220	1293	165	3	0

Yellow Browed Warbler

One bird ringed on 10 Oct.

Chiffchaff

Five hundred birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	11	6	20	29	47	273	114	0	0

Willow Warbler

One hundred and sixty two birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	5	5	23	9	66	54	0	0	0

Crests, Tits, Treecreeper

This group had mixed results. Firstly, Blue Tits had their best ever year and Long Tailed Tits had their second best. In addition Great Tits had a good but not exceptional year. By contrast Willow Tit numbers, never an abundant species at Stanford, were poor, and the group did not ring any Marsh Tit nor Nuthatch at all. The single Spotted Flycatcher was a passage bird, so the species relative abundance cannot be implied from this.

Goldcrest

Fifty seven birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	16	22	11	1

Spotted Flycatcher

One bird ringed 10 Sep.

Long-tailed Tit

Eighty one birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	6	2	3	8	5	13	17	15	10	2

Willow Tit

Four birds ringed, 18 Apr, two on 04 Aug and 06 Sep.

Coal Tit

Eleven birds ringed.

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

Blue Tit

Five hundred and two birds ringed, including 183 pulli.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	13	4	4	178	47	19	45	61	82	13	30

Great Tit

Three hundred and sixty eight birds ringed, including 156 pulli.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	5	0	3	146	29	14	14	20	67	3	67

Treecreeper

Twenty one birds ringed.

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

Corvids

Members of the Crow family are rarely encountered in the netting areas, so it was exciting to ring three members of the family this year. The Jackdaws were ringed as pulli in their nests, the Carrion Crow was caught in a net, and the Jay was a freshly fledged bird who got tangled in some sedges!

Jay

One bird was ringed on 26 Jun.

Jackdaw

Twenty two birds were ringed, all as pulli, seven on 19 May and 15 on 26 May.

Carrion Crow

One bird ringed 05 May.

Starling

Four birds ringed on 25 Nov.

Sparrows and Finches

An unremarkable year for this group of species, whose numbers were broadly in line with previous years. Our resident Tree Sparrows continue to enjoy the feeders in Blower's Bay, and to make good use of the nest boxes sited along the poplars. A pleasant surprise was a single Siskin, the first to be ringed in three years.

Tree Sparrow

Four hundred and eighty six birds ringed, of which 44 were pulli.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	29	3	27	12	65	137	81	58	40	19	8

Chaffinch

Fifty one birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	1	0	9	0	3	5	5	6	13	2	4

Greenfinch

Ninety seven birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	87	5	1

Goldfinch

Thirty nine birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	0	2	4	5	6	8	12	1

Linnet

Thirteen birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	3	8	1	1	0	0	0	0

Lesser Redpoll

Seventy seven birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	8	0

Bullfinch

Thirty birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	0	5	0	12	1	6	3	2	0	0

Siskin

One bird ringed 15 Apr.

Buntings

Both resident species of Bunting were present, with numbers slightly increased on recent years.

Yellowhammer

Thirty seven birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	25	1	6

Reed Bunting

One hundred and fourteen birds ringed.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	25	1	6

Notable Birds Ringed at Stanford During 2018



Grasshopper Warbler



Nice male Lesser Redpoll



First ever Stonechat ringed at Stanford

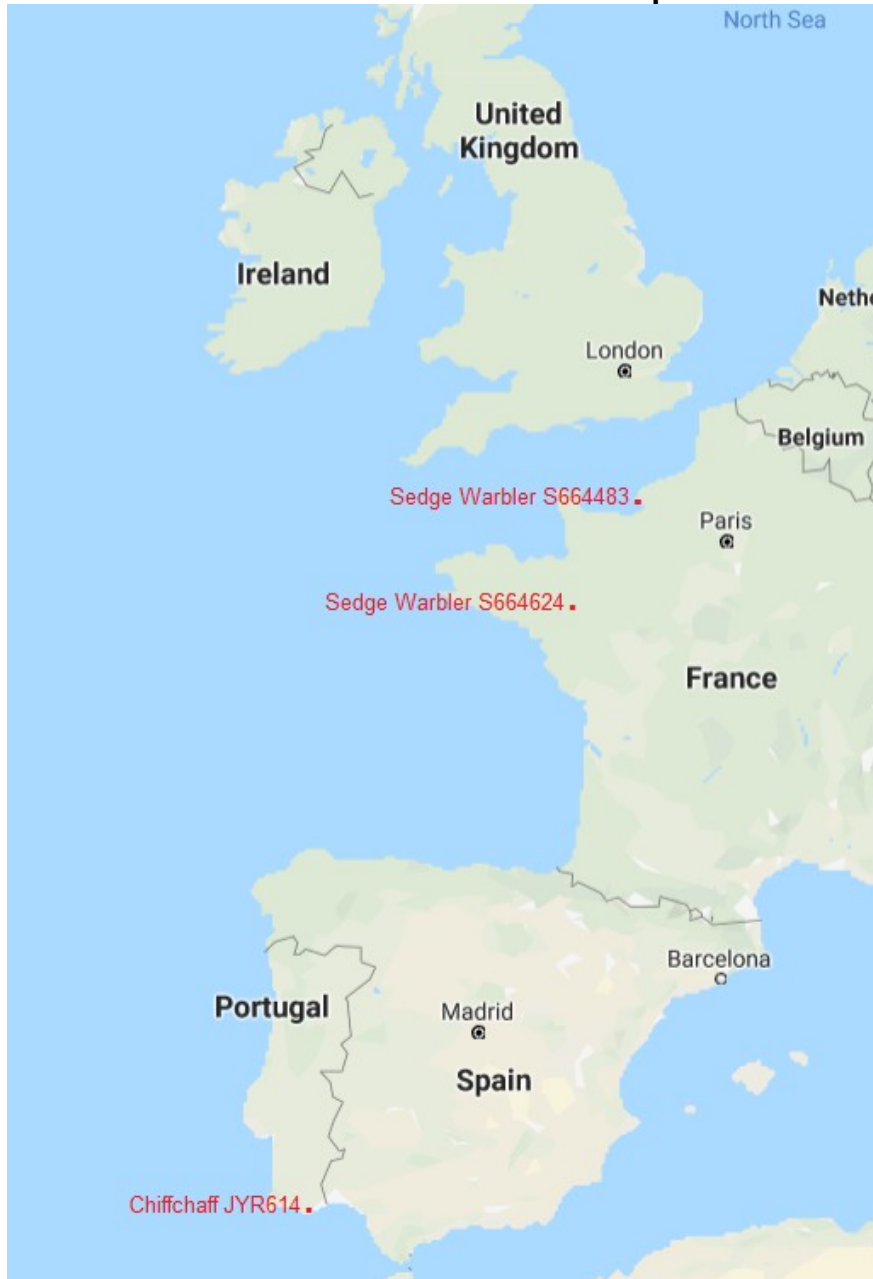


The fourth Marsh Warbler to be ringed at Stanford

Stanford Birds Recovered at Other Sites and Reported in 2018

This section details the birds that were ringed by the Stanford Ringing Group, and which were subsequently trapped and processed (*'controlled'*) by other sites; or those birds that were found by members of the public, and were subsequently reported to the BTO. The map shows where Stanford birds were controlled abroad.

Stanford Birds Recovered Abroad and Reported in 2018



Total List

Species	Ring number	Date ringed	Site Recovered	Date retrapped	Time taken	Distance to Stanford (km)
Barn Owl	GJ74744	19/08/2017	Misterton, Lutterworth, Warks	20/03/2018	213 d	5
Cetti's Warbler	Z371107	26/08/2016	Stanwell Moor, Heathermoor Pit, Surrey	30/12/2019	126d	115
Sedge Warbler	S664483	11/08/2018	Saint-Vigor-d'Ymonville, Seine Maritime, France	14/08/2018	3d	342
	S664624	20/08/2018	Noyant, Soulaire-et-Bourg, Maine-et-Loire, France	24/08/2018	4d	544
Reed Warbler	S046787	12/08/2017	Fleetwood, Lancashire	08/07/2018	330d	208
	Y247482	08/06/2013	Lax Hill, Rutland	01/08/2018	5 y 54d	38
	Z364461	27/06/2015	Brandon Marsh, Warks	10/06/2018	2 y 348d	22
	Z365424	31/07/2015	Stortons Gravel Pits: Northants	24/06/2018	2y 328d	24
Whitethroat	S666764	14/08/2018	South Kilworth, Leics	20/08/2018	6d	3
Blackcap	S048022	04/09/2017	Meltham, West Yorkshire	08/06/2018	277 d	139
	Z371828	08/09/2016	Aylesford, Kent	07/04/2018	211d	165
Chiffchaff	JYP535	18/09/2017	Heighington, Lincolnshire	06/05/2018	230 d	98
	JYR614	18/08/2018	Olhao, Quinta do Marim, Faro, Portugal	03/11/2018	77d	1789
	JYT076	29/09/2018	Cissbury Ring, Worthing, W Sussex	13/10/2018	14 d	179
Willow Warbler	JYP576	18/09/2017	Gellideg, Merthyr Tydfil, Wales	14/05/2018	238d	174
Goldcrest	JYP605	07/09/2017	Up Marden, West Sussex	21/02/2018	167d	167
Great Tit	NZ91002	07/07/2018	Stanford on Avon, Northants	17/10/2018	102d	2
Jay	DA6546 1	26/06/2018	Walcote, Leics	17/11/2018	144d	4
Lesser Redpoll	S661242	28/10/2017	Areley Kings, Warcs	23/03/2018	146d	81
Reed Bunting	TX80450	15/05/2017	Brandon Marsh: Warks	07/03/20	2y 297d	22

Birds From Other Sites Recovered at Stanford in 2018

This section details the birds that were ringed at other sites, and which were subsequently 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 maps shows where birds from other countries which were controlled at Stanford were originally ringed.

Foreign birds, controlled at Stanford



Full List

Species	Ring number	Date ringed	Site of Origin	Date controlled at Stanford	Time taken	Distance to Stanford (km)
Mute Swan	W36246	18/07/2013	Wendover, Buckinghamshire	02/11/2019	6y107d	76
Sedge Warbler	D479094	05/08/2018	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk, Scottish Borders:	11/08/2018	6d	363
Reed Warbler	5L23216	09/08/2017	Noain, Navarra, Spain	17/05/2018	281d	1075
	A454574	08/04/2018	Lagoa de Santo Andre, Setubal, Portugal	21/07/2019	104	1592
	S385972	21/05/2017	Bevercotes Mine, Lound Hall, Notts	14/07/2018	1y54d	93
Blackcap	AJB2439	13/09/2018	Lytchett Bay, Poole Harbour: Dorset	15/09/2018	2	198
	AKB2126	07/09/2018	Llanfyllin: Powys	17/09/2018	10d	151
	ANC4786	07/09/2018	Wicken Fen: Cams	10/10/2018	33d	58
	AVA5983	25/08/2018	Newbourne, (Mill Road), Suffolk:	15/09/2018	21d	170
	AZA8634	25/08/2018	Icklesham: East Sussex	14/09/2018	20d	209
	5L29301	01/10/2017	Puente Romano, Salamanca, Spain	13/09/2018	347d	1374
Chiffchaff	188848	21/10/2016	Mannez Quarry, Alderney, Channel Islands	18/10/2018	1y362d	362
	HXR225	11/08/2018	Wanlip GP: Leics	05/09/2018	25d	30
	KTH149	15/07/2018	Swindon Sewage Treatment Works	22/09/2018	69d	106
Blue Tit	S984448	07/03/2018	Sunderland Wood, Kelmarsh Estate, Nhants	29/09/2018	206d	15
	S984609	26/03/2018	Pitsford Reservoir: Northants	03/09/2018	161d	19
Tree Sparrow	S104562	29/08/2018	Kilnsea, East Riding of Yorkshire:	02/11/2018	65d	157
Lesser Redpoll	KN98221	19/04/2016	Pitsford Reservoir: Northants	17/10/2018	181d	19
	AVA5032	21/04/2018	Watermead Country Park	23/11/2018	216d	30

Group Members in 2018

- Mick Townsend Co-founder, A ringer, trainer & group leader
- Adam G Homer Group secretary A ringer, trainer and nest recorder
- David Neal Group treasurer, A ringer
- Peter Robinson A ringer, trainer
- Dawn Sheffield A ringer
- Peter Norrie C ringer
- Ed Tyler C ringer
- Stuart Heath C ringer
- Jo Underwood Trainee
- Kate Moore Trainee
- Chris Hubbard Sightings Officer
- Pete Bateup Group Assistant

Credits

Report compiled by PMN

Posted by Mike Haigh

Thanks to Chris Hubbard and group members for photos.