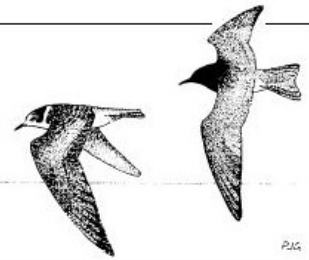


Stanford Ringing Group



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Original digital artwork by KEM

Foreword and Summary for 2021 by the Group Leader

As Covid 19 continues to affect our lives and activities I sit here thinking about 2021 with its highs and lows. I think we should start with the positives and there has been a number. To start with we have had another successful year's ringing with some 10,251 birds processed during the year of which 8,305 were new birds. This is our third highest annual total. Of these 5,528 were warblers, our second highest total. During the year we managed to ring 61 species, which again was our third highest total; so despite us ringing less frequently than usual I think we did a pretty good job!

Although we didn't ring as many birds as in 2020, 2021 had some great highs. These include Water Rail, a new species for the site. We also caught our second ever Buzzard, together with a Wryneck (our fourth ever) and Yellow Browed Warbler (seventh ever); with so few being recorded in the country this year these were exceptional for our inland site.

The last week of August saw what is now becoming our annual celebration of ringing, the second '*Stanstock*' week with various members camping out over a period of eight days. Over this period just under 1800 birds were ringed with some great species for the site, including Redstart (21!), Grasshopper Warbler (16) Spotted flycatcher (3) and Whinchat (2). Everyone who took part had a great time even if the weather could have been better.

The other two highlights of the year were the erection of an Osprey platform in a nearby field which was funded by the SRG with the help of Ian Perks who helps to run a similar scheme in Scotland and Poole Harbour, as well as working on the reintroduction of White Tailed Eagle. The second project was the erection of two Sand Martin Banks at the reservoir to house up to 96 pairs of Sand Martin during the breeding season. Many thanks go to all the hard work put into this project by PMN, one of the ringers; many hours were put in by Peter securing funding for the project via Tarmac, with the SRG again funding 10% of the project.

With all the successes of 2021 we inevitably had some lows. This year the breeding season wasn't great with periods of cold wet weather which didn't help productivity at all. Our resident species were hit quite hard with fewer juvenile birds about during the latter half of the year.



Mick and Denise in Tobermory 2019

Finally sitting here reflecting on 2021 I can't help but think of my wife Denise who unexpectedly passed away on the 8th June. Denise was a big supporter of the ringing group and at one time, when there was only me, she rallied round and helped me keep the ringing going and was in fact a very good ringer and extractor. She never gave me a hard time about all the time I put into ringing and always asked as I came through the door "*What have you caught, how many, and did you get, any rarities?*" Denise was always life and soul of the party and will be sadly missed by all who knew her. God Bless You Denise, xxx.

As ever, I would also like to thank all the ringers, birders and helpers for their continued support throughout the year as without you this just would not happen.

Mick Townsend Group Leader and Ringer in Charge

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Thanks

- Thanks again to Severn Trent Water (STW) for allowing access to their land for ringing and for financial support of our activities. Thanks in particular to Ian Martindale our ranger, and to Zara Frankton and Briony Harrison, conservation managers at STW, for guidance and providing the location for our new Sand Martin cabinets, purchased from Green Future Building, a social enterprise.
- Thanks also to Parker Farms for allowing us to use the railtrack which provides access to the reservoir and for their annual financial support. Thanks also for allowing us to camp out during the annual migration festival.
- Thanks to Ian Perks for building an excellent Osprey nest platform near to the reservoir and to Simon Watts for arranging the same.
- Thanks to Hinckley Natural History and Ken Reeves for kind donations during 2021.

Introduction to Bird Ringing at Stanford

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/>

Most birds were trapped using mist-nets, with occasional use of traps for specialist species such as Meadow Pipit. All sessions were conducted from dawn until approximately midday, with the exception of one evening session to ring in a Starling roost. A feeding station is supplied and maintained on a weekly basis in Blower's Lodge Bay with seed, nuts and fat balls. Another is maintained in the Leicestershire Paddock, by our birding colleagues.

By law, wild bird ringing in the UK is licensed by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). The procedures of the 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

New birds ringed per month in 2021											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conservation work			Ringing								
0	12	47	130	553	424	498	2656	2248	937	644	156

Conservation work ('scrub bashing') normally is carried out until the beginning of April, when the first migrants return and nest building begins. The small totals in this period illustrate occasional midweek individual ringing sessions, weather permitting.

Once again COVID 19 disrupted the year. Following Government and BTO directives, scrub bashing was limited, but fortunately group ringing started in April, in line with previous years. The group maintained social distancing at all times.

At the end of August, we had our second festival to celebrate migration, with eight successive ringing mornings taking place.

Most ringing took place at five sites:

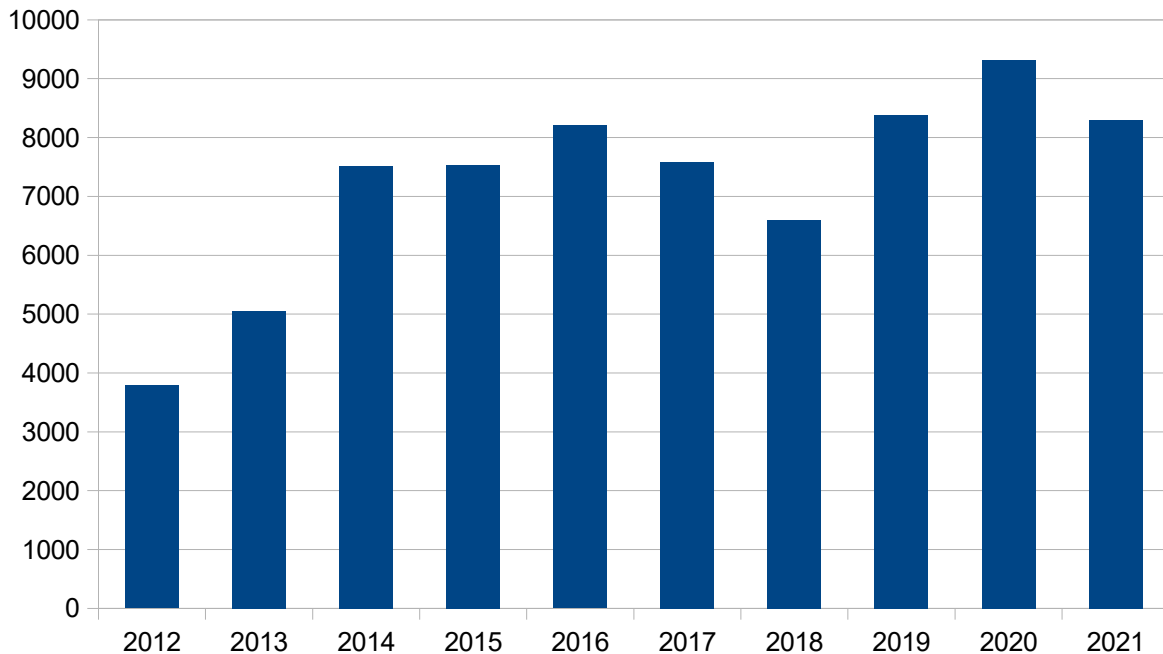
- **Paddock:** Ranged along the Leicestershire shore of the reservoir, it consists mainly of scrub, willow and shoreline.
- **Leicestershire Reed Bed:** Medium size reed bed, accessed beyond the Paddock.

- **Point:** Mix of reed bed, woodland and scrub on Northamptonshire side, situated at the end of the line of poplars, a conspicuous landmark at Stanford.
- **Railtrack:** Again in Northamptonshire, gives entry to **Blower's Bay** at the east side of the reservoir. Gives access to approximately 15 net rides. Access is by courtesy of Parker Farms.
- **Top Road:** Two lines of nets along the approach road to the reservoir, an area with beech mast to attract finches and tits

For much of the year, access to sites becomes limited due to waterlogging, so the Railtrack is the main site for autumn into winter.

Tree Sparrow, Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat populations were monitored as part of the BTO's Ringing for Adult Survival (RAS) census. The nest box ringing team was led 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.

Annual numbers ringed over the last decade



2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
3786	5062	7519	7537	8207	7385	6606	8377	9311	8305

Annual Species Accounts

Key

- **Figures in brackets and bold** show increase or decrease over a 10 year average for all species, where the 10 year average is greater or equal to five.
- **Bar charts** show breeding birds numbers ringed at Stanford over a period of 10 years, for which the 10 year average number of birds ringed is greater or equal to 10.
- Names in **red** show best ever or best equal year for species
- Names in **blue** show second best
- Names in **green** show third best

Retrapped birds: In a change from previous years, the number given for retraps shows the number of birds ringed in previous years, which were caught and processed in 2021.

Non- Passerines

Two unusual species were ringed, the second ever Common Buzzard and the first ever Water Rail in 40 years. Both were caught in our mist nets in Blower's Bay and were not targeted! Our two principle raptors were present, the Kestrel being especially welcome as these are not a bird we ring every year. Amongst our regulars, the number of Stock Dove pulli ringed was low, and no Woodpigeons were ringed. No Tawny Owls were ringed as adult, or pulli, and the three nests found all failed. By contrast, it was a good year for Barn Owl, with seven pulli and two adults ringed. Finally, it was nice to see our Great Spotted Woodpecker 'families' at the feeders in Blowers Bay and the Paddock doing so well-powered no doubt by our peanuts!

Mute Swan

One bird ringed 17 Apr

Common Buzzard

One bird ringed 23 Oct

Sparrowhawk

One bird ringed 25 Aug

Kestrel

One bird ringed 07 Oct

Water Rail

One bird ringed 11 Nov

Common Sandpiper

One bird ringed 28 Jul

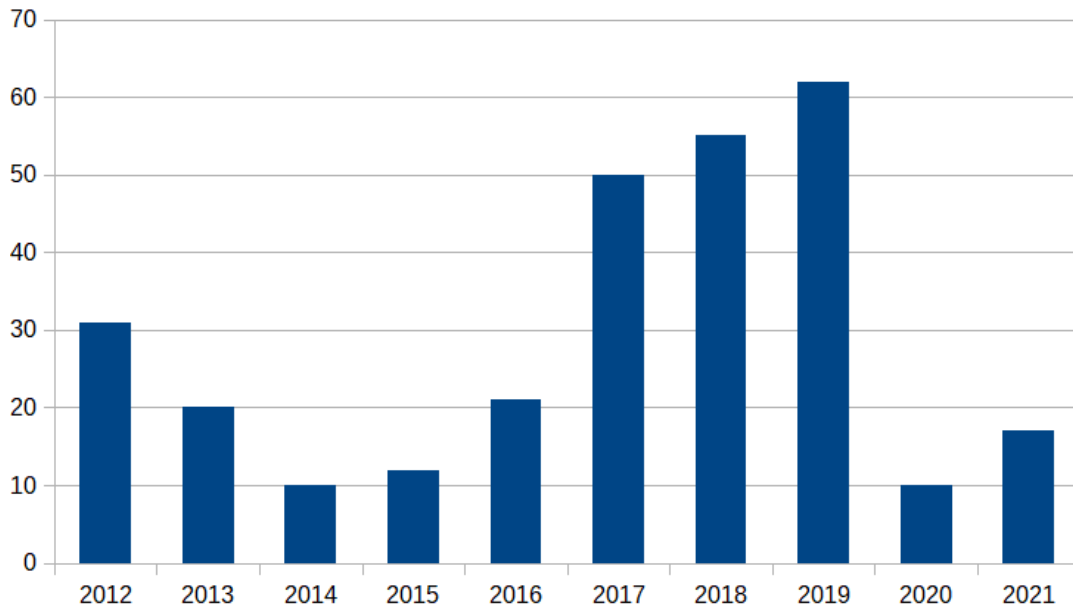
Common tern

Four birds ringed as pulli on 07 July

Stock Dove

Seventeen birds ringed, including sixteen pulli (-41%). One bird retrapped.

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

**Barn Owl**

Nine birds ringed; two adults on 17 Apr, five as pulli on 19 Jun and two on 02 Oct (+100%)

Tawny Owl

One bird retrapped

Kingfisher

Three birds ringed on 26 Jun, 31 Jul and 21 Aug (-55%)

Wryneck

One bird ringed on 28 Aug

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Ten birds ringed (+21%). One bird retrapped.

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

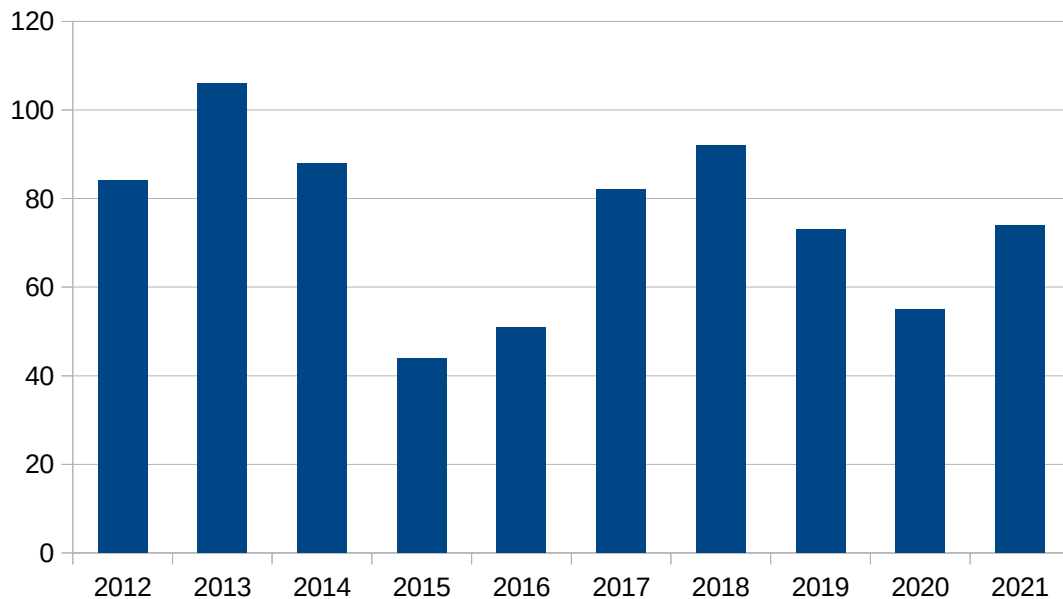
Hirundines

No Sand Martins or House Martins were ringed, despite being present during the late summer/ early autumn. Last year, only one of each was ringed, making this a very worrying trend. We hope that the new Sand Martin cabinets will add to the biodiversity of the reservoir and go some way to rectifying this. Swallows by contrast had an average breeding year.

Swallow

Seventy four birds ringed, including 62 pulli (-1%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	5	29	5	35	0	0	0	0



Larks, Pipits and Wagtails

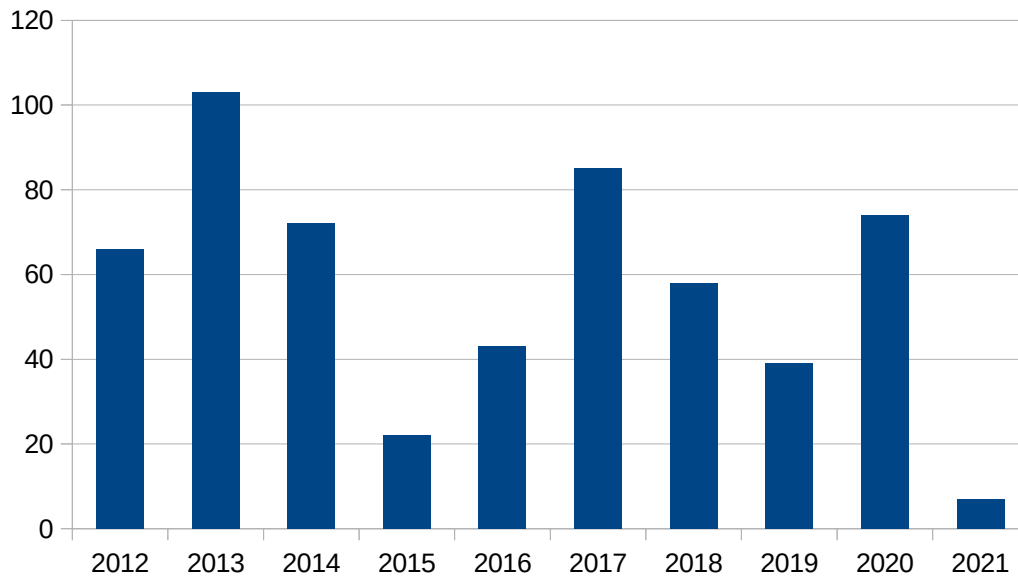
Quite a poor year for this group. Meadow Pipits, a migrant species at Stanford, were present in very low numbers only. Our resident Grey Wagtails showed little evidence of successful breeding. A single Skylark was a pleasant addition, caught at dawn in nets set out in a field behind the railtrack for Meadow Pipits.

Skylark

One bird ringed on 07 Sep

Meadow Pipit

Seven birds ringed; two on 21 Sep, five on 24 Sep and one on 07 Oct (-88%).

**Pied Wagtail**

Two birds ringed 28 Jul

Yellow Wagtail

Three birds ringed; two on 19 and one on 21 Apr

Grey Wagtail

One bird ringed 10 Jul (-83%)

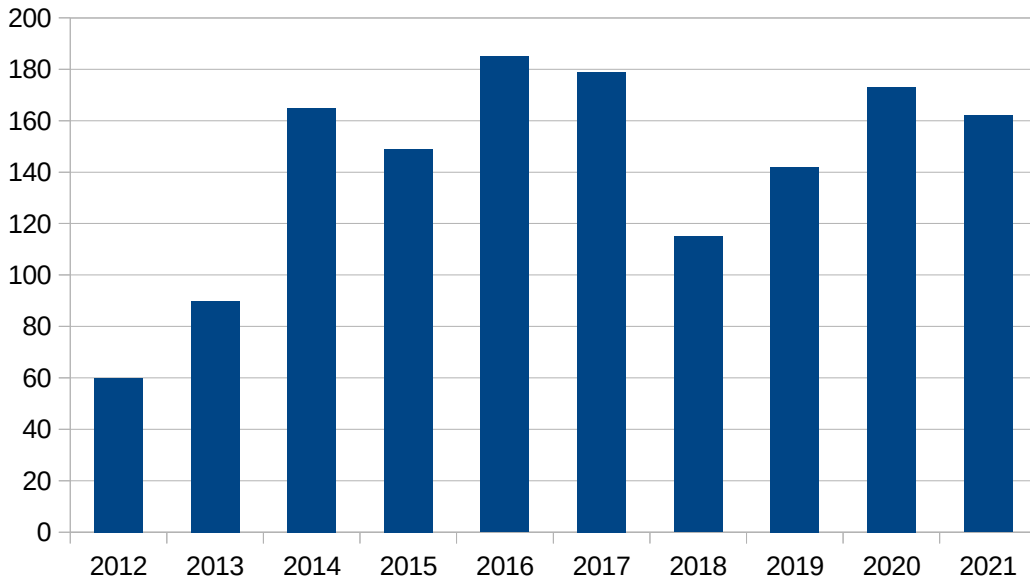
Wren, Dunnock, Robins and Chats

Wren, Dunnock and Robins are all resident breeders, and all three had good, if not exceptional breeding years. Redstart had a brilliant year arriving as autumn migrants, as did two Whinchat, a site record. A record year too for the two Stonechat, male and female, trapped at the dam in February and a record year for our migratory Spotted Flycatchers.

Wren

One hundred and sixty two birds ringed, including 16 pulli (+14%). Twenty four birds retrapped.

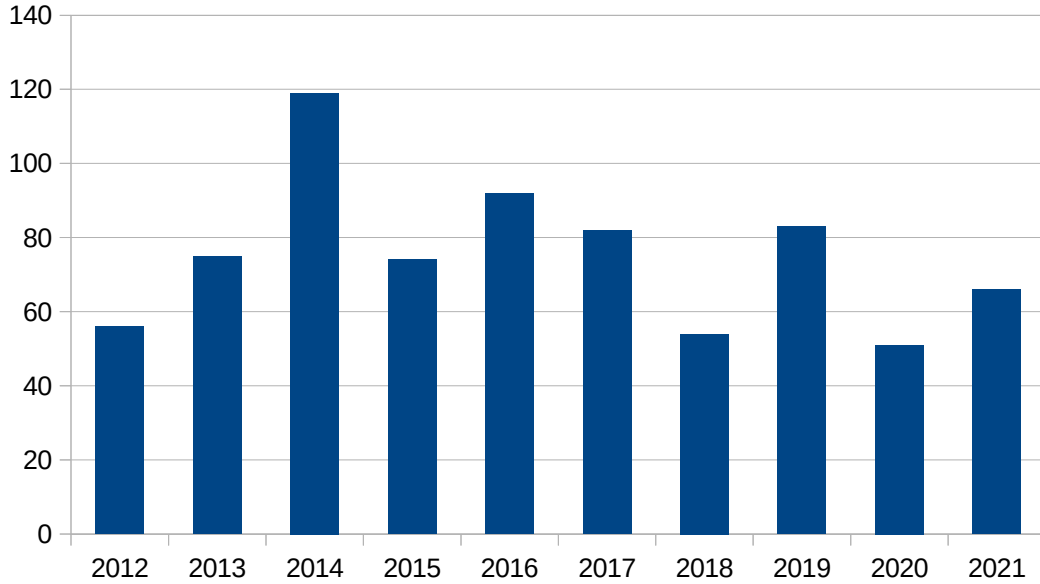
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	4	3	4	27	20	44	17	28	12	2



Dunnock

Sixty six birds ringed (-12%). Twenty five birds retrapped.

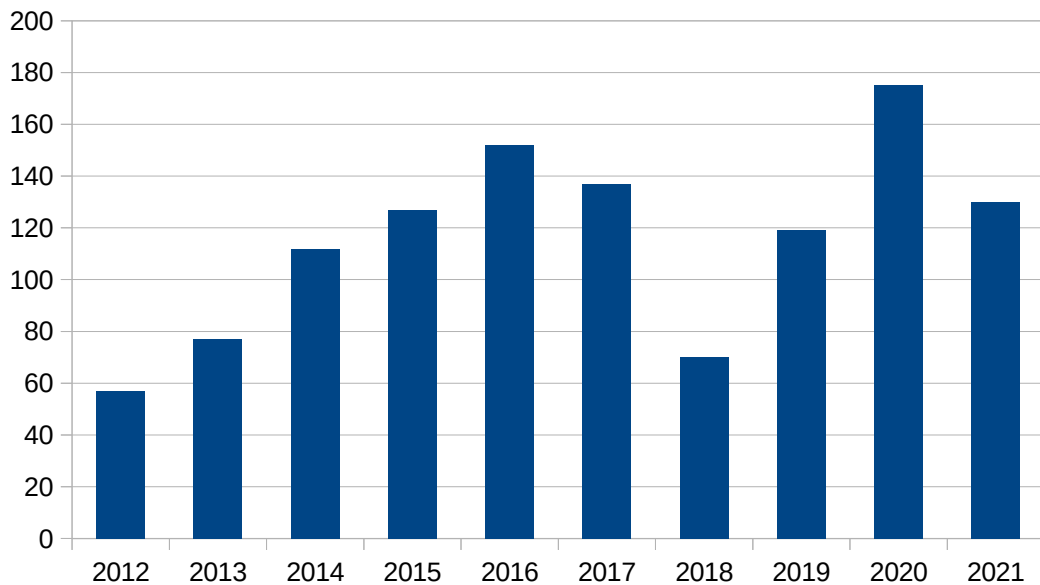
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	2	3	3	3	10	8	13	6	11	4	3



Robin

One hundred and thirty birds ringed, including four pulli (+12%). Seventeen birds retrapped.

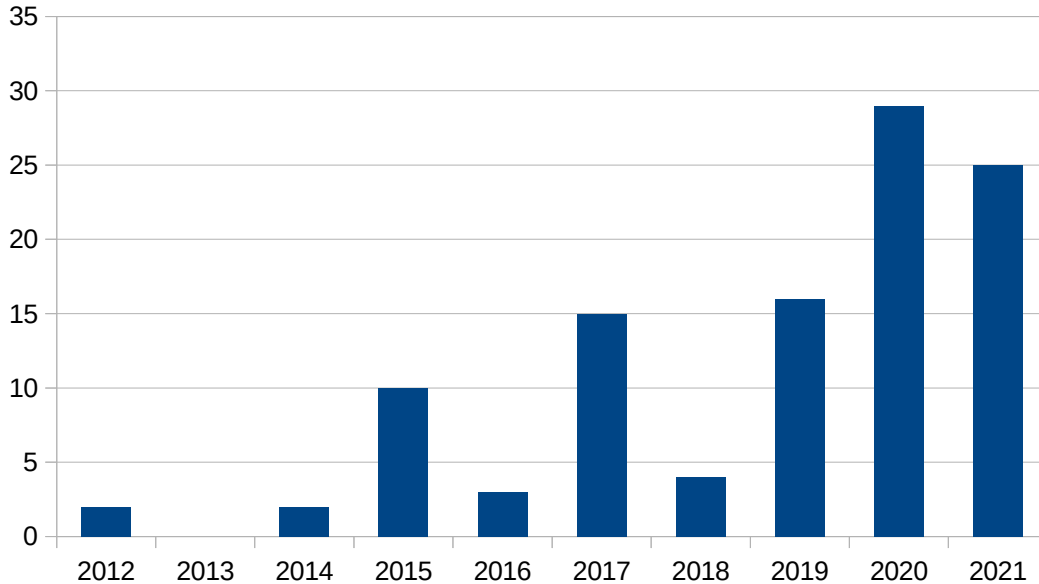
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	2	1	6	11	9	9	52	24	10	5	1



Redstart

Twenty five birds ringed (+135%).

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

**Whinchat**

Two birds ringed on 25 and 29 Aug

Stonechat

Two birds ringed on 15 Feb

Spotted Flycatcher

Five birds ringed

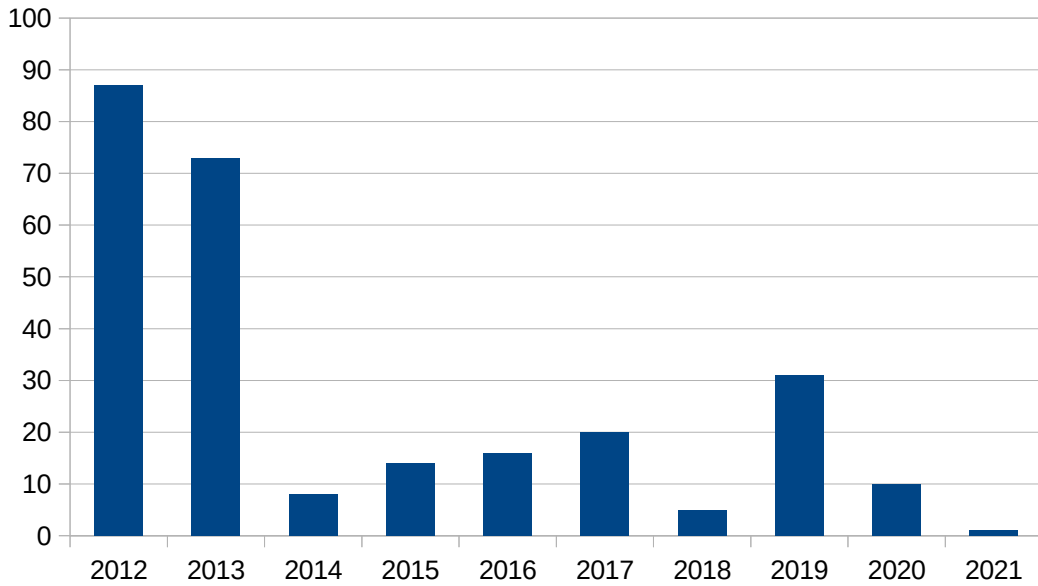
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0

Thrushes

Only one Fieldfare was ringed this year, reflecting poor abundance from this migrant species, which generally seems to be declining, or at least less available for ringing at Stanford. Redwing, our other migrant thrush were present and ringed in adequate, but below average numbers. Fortunately our two resident thrushes, Song and Blackbird had quite good breeding years, the former exceeding its ten year average, and the latter possibly showing some reversal in decline.

Fieldfare

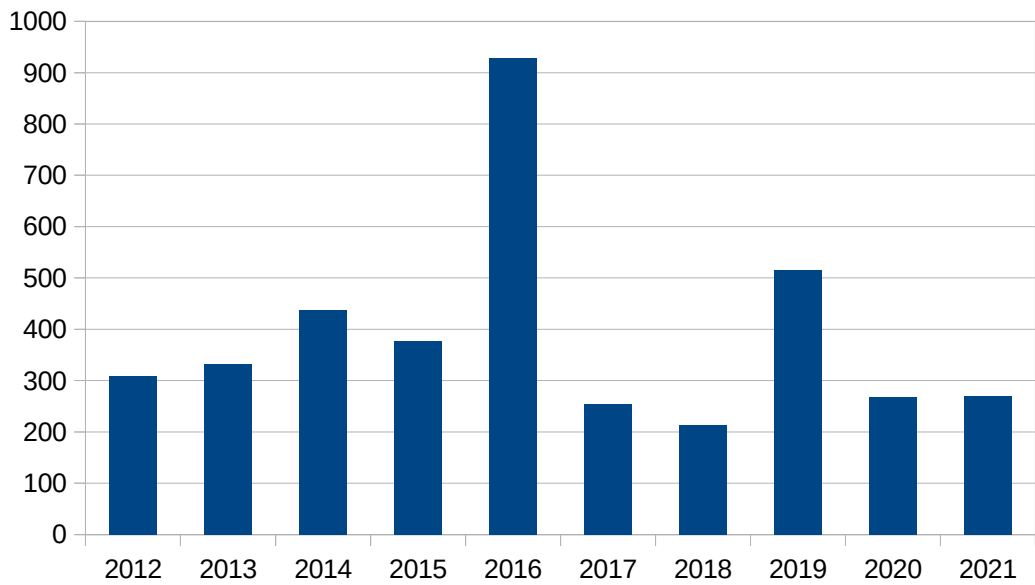
One bird ringed on 5 Nov (-96%)



Redwing

Two hundred and sixty nine birds ringed (-31%).

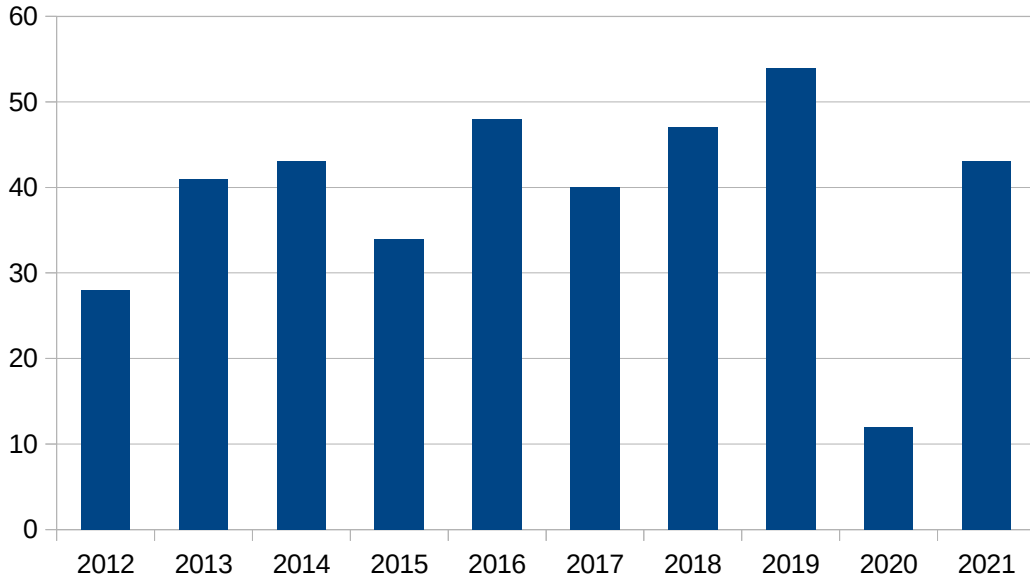
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	137	57



Song Thrush

Forty three birds ringed (+10%). Seven retrapped.

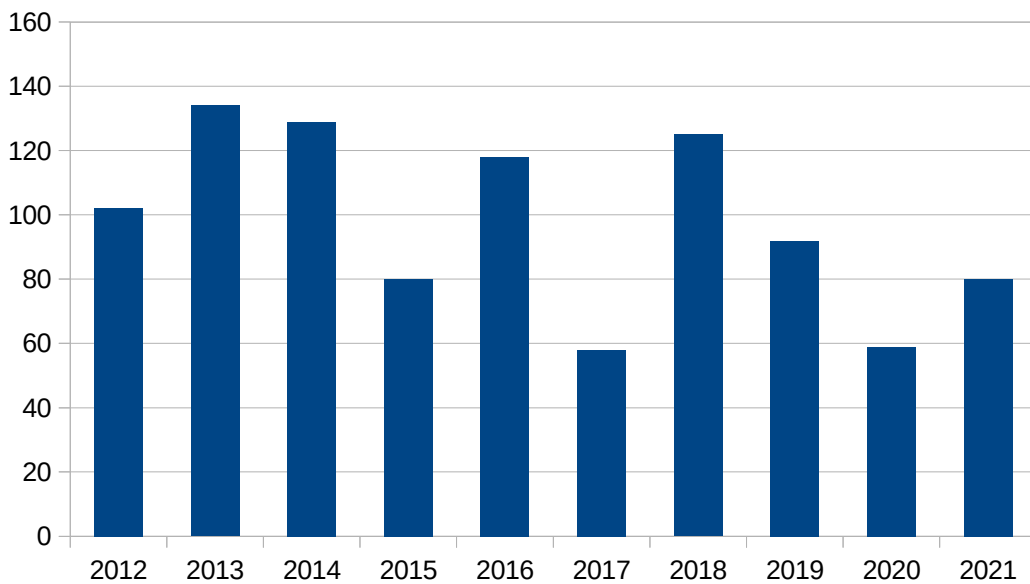
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	5	2	2	1	3	16	10	3



Blackbird

Eighty birds ringed (-18%). Eleven birds retrapped.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	1	1	3	3	2	15	2	4	18	30



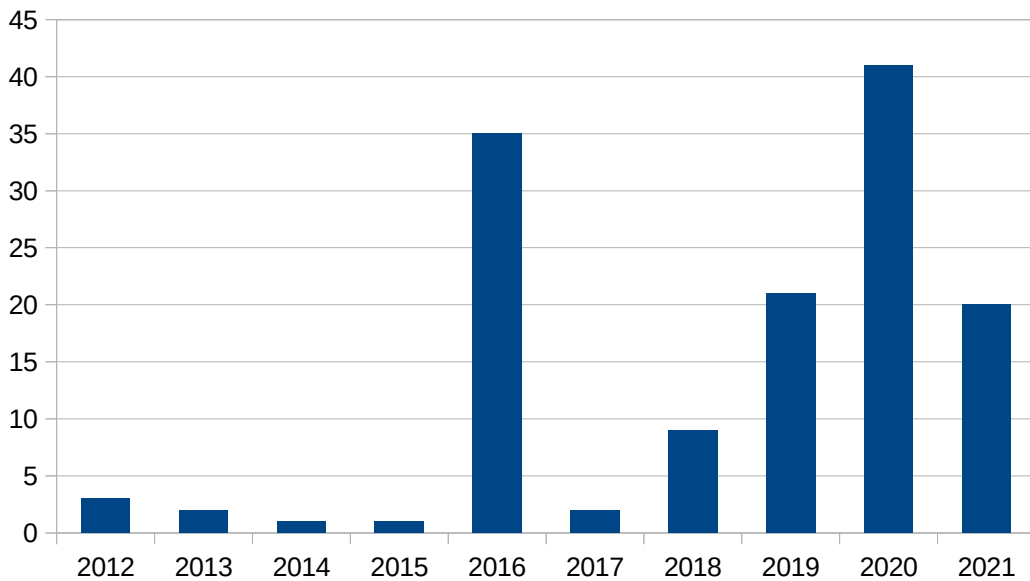
Warblers

A fantastic year for this group of birds. All of our resident warblers had numbers in excess of their 10 year average, except Chiffchaff which had a very minor decline. Otherwise it is hard to know where to start with the superlatives. Willow, Reed and Sedge all had their second best year ever; Cetti's, Garden, Blackcap Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat all had their third best year ever. To crown the year a Yellow Browed was ringed in Autumn. It was good to see that our small population of Cetti's is stable and continues to breed. A superb set of results.

Grasshopper Warbler

Twenty birds ringed (+48%).

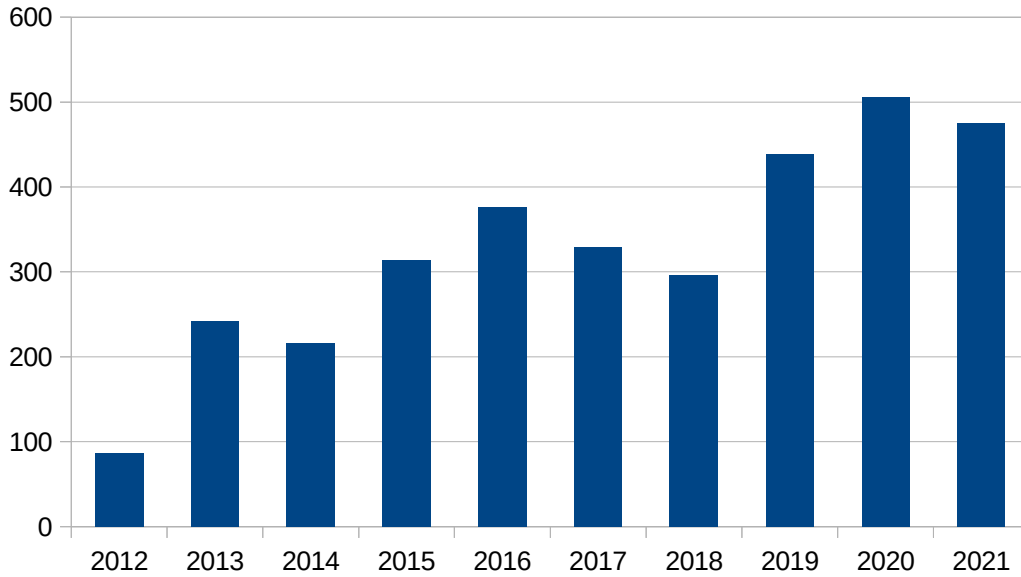
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	1	0	1	17	0	0	0	0



Reed Warbler

Four hundred and seventy five ringed (+44%). Sixty birds retrapped.

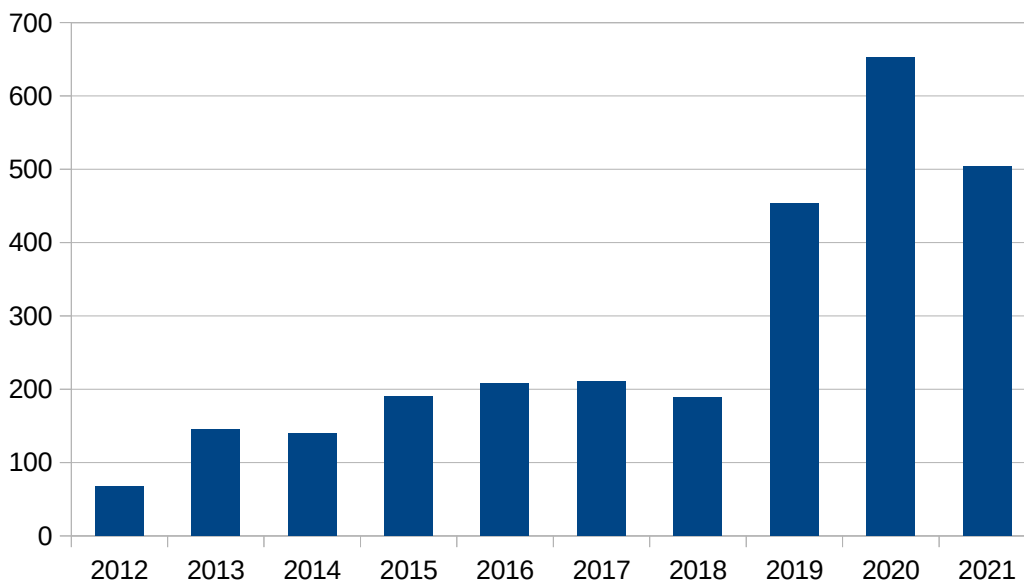
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	4	18	39	105	212	93	4	0	0



Sedge Warbler

Five hundred and four birds ringed (+82%). Eighteen birds retrapped.

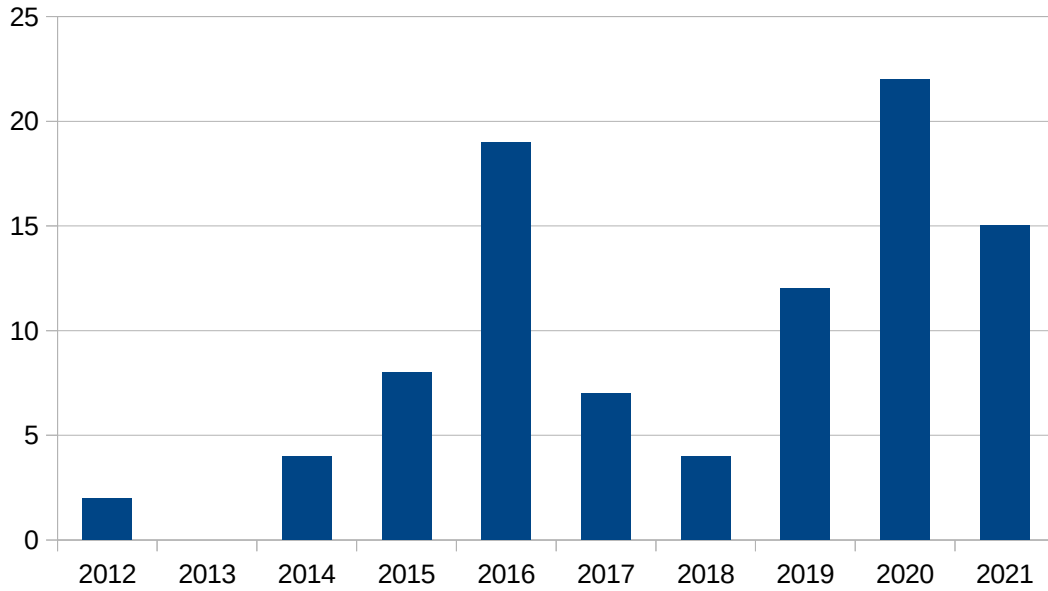
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	9	18	20	31	395	31	0	0	0



Cetti's Warbler

Fifteen birds ringed (+61%) Five birds retrapped

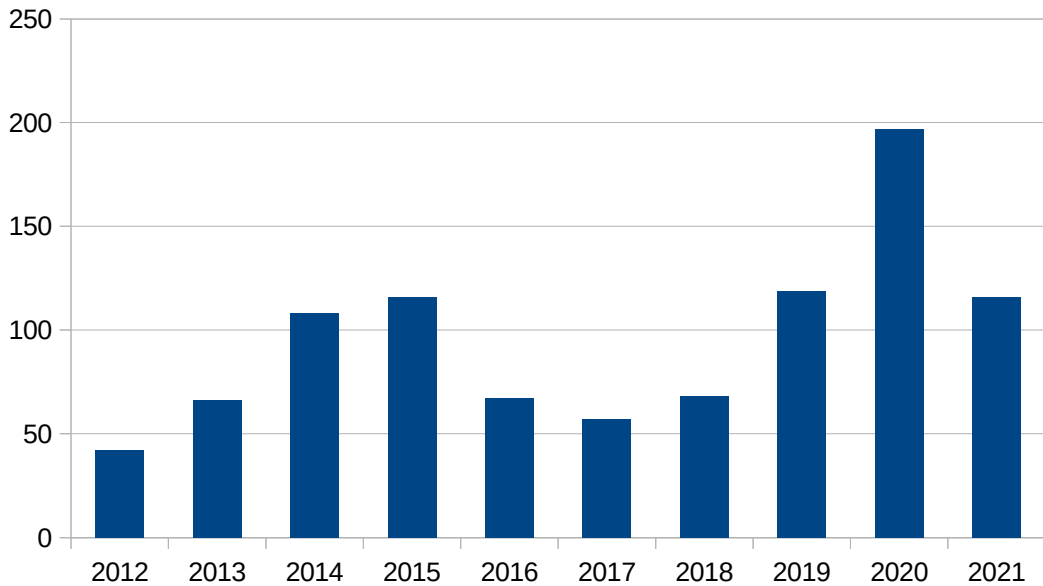
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	1	5	4	0	4	1	



Garden Warbler

One hundred and sixteen birds ringed (+21%) Twenty four birds retrapped

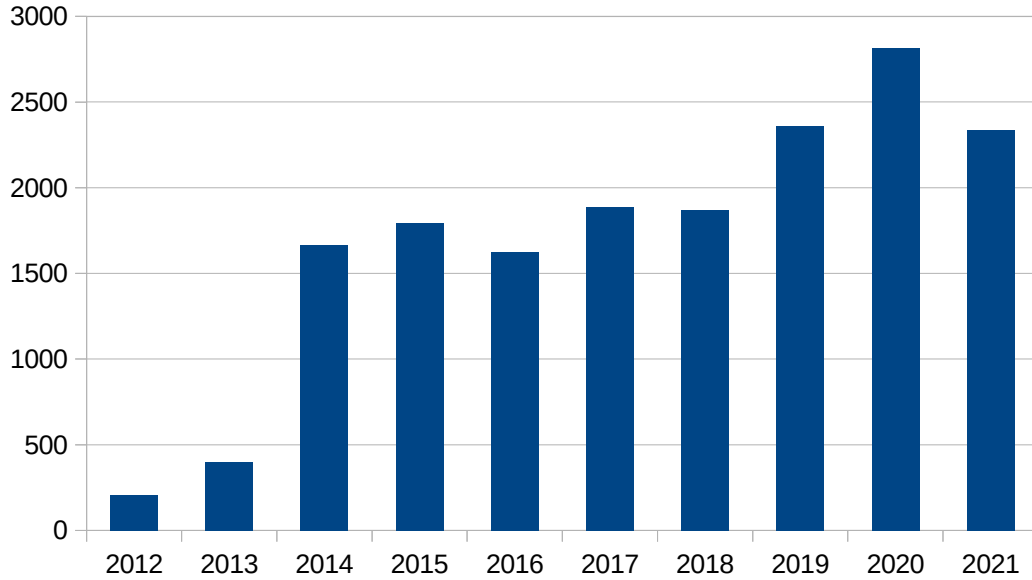
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	8	10	22	72	4	0	0	0



Blackcap

Two thousand three hundred and thirty seven ringed (**+37%**). Five birds retrapped.

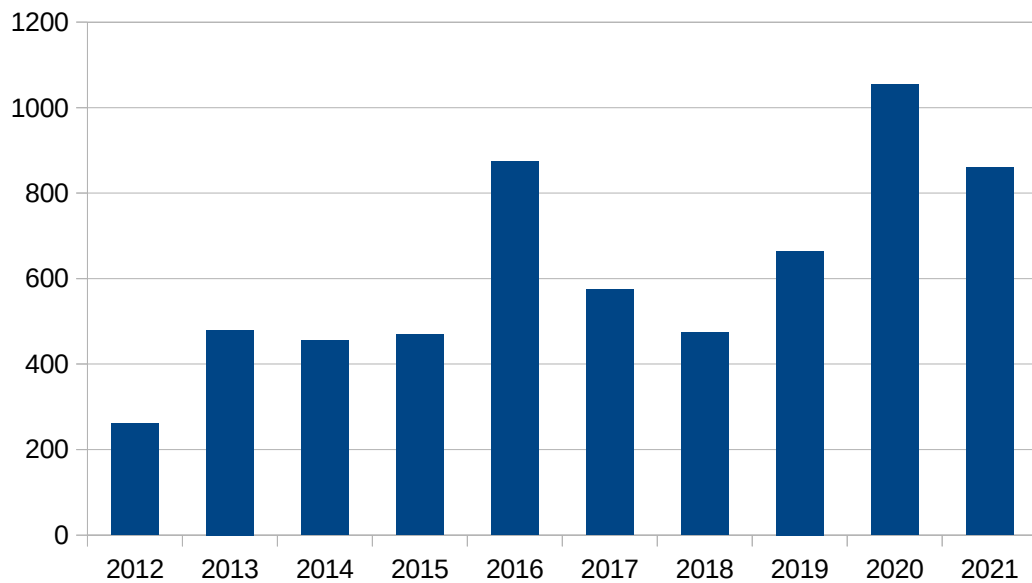
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	21	25	17	48	392	1554	277	1	1



Whitethroat

Eight hundred and sixty birds ringed (**+39%**). Thirty seven birds retrapped.

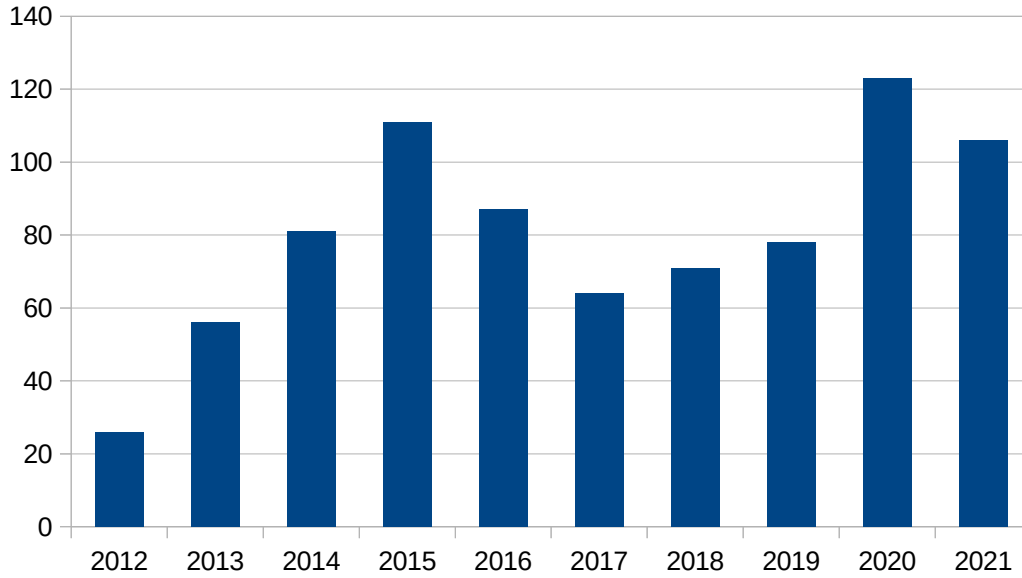
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	10	36	44	82	639	49	0	0	0



Lesser Whitethroat

One hundred and six birds ringed (+32%).

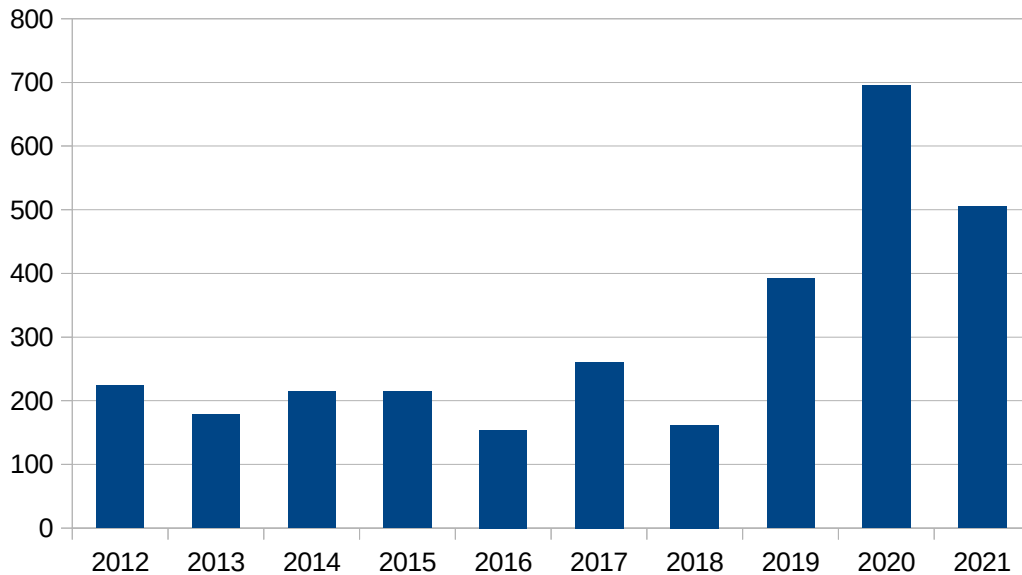
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	6	5	9	73	12	0	0	0



Willow Warbler

Five hundred and five birds ringed (+68%). Fourteen birds retrapped.

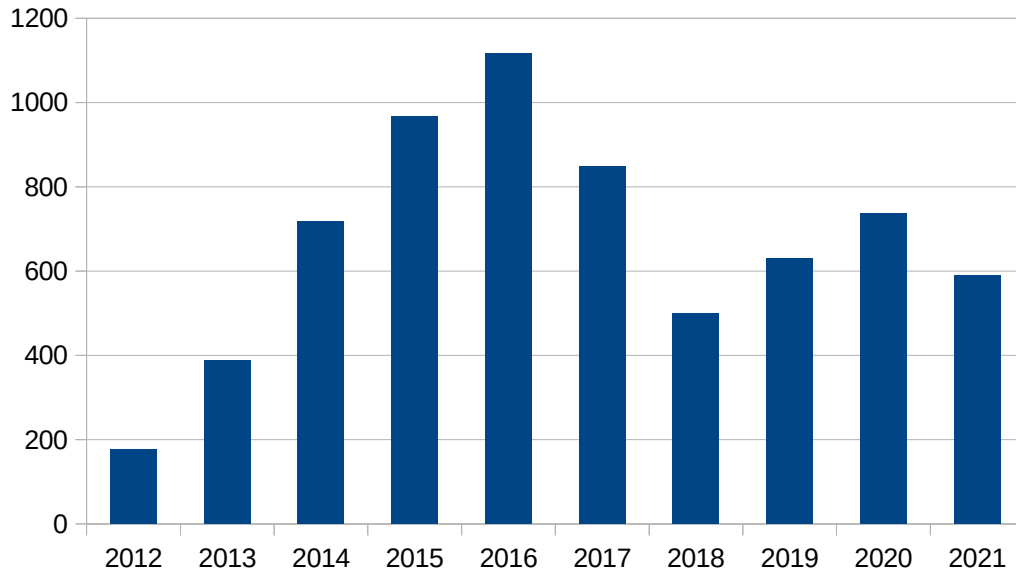
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	4	8	25	29	418	21	0	0	0



Chiffchaff

Five hundred and ninety birds ringed (-11%). Eight birds retrapped.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	9	22	3	22	28	71	278	155	2	0

**Yellow-browed Warbler**

One bird ringed 12 Oct

Crests, Tits, and allies

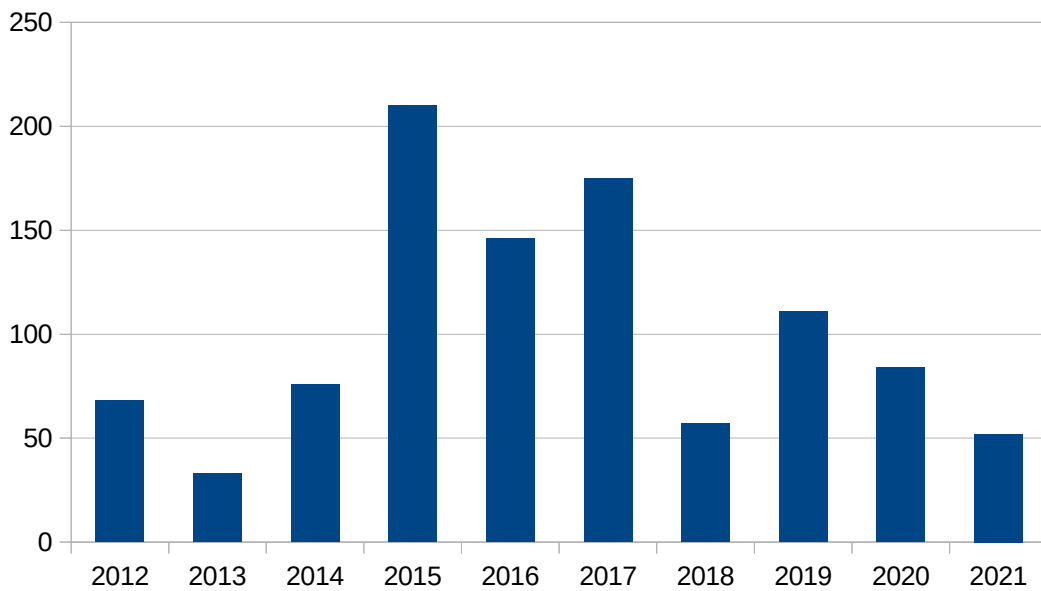
Goldcrest had a poor year, with half the ten year average ringed, and this seems to follow a downward trend which is of concern. The main breeding tits, Long Tailed, Blue and Great all had strong breeding seasons.

Coal Tit remains hanging on in small numbers, and only one Willow Tit was ringed in the paddock. Two Nuthatches, presumably a pair, were ringed on the high road in autumn.

Goldcrest

Fifty two birds ringed (-49%).

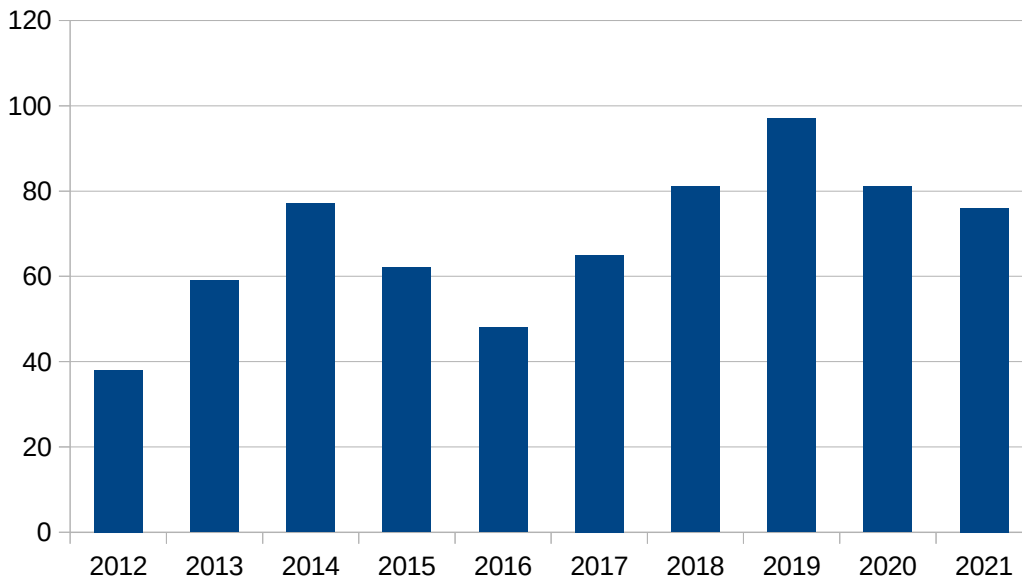
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	11	21	10	1



Long-tailed Tit

Seventy six birds ringed (+11%). Sixteen birds retrapped.

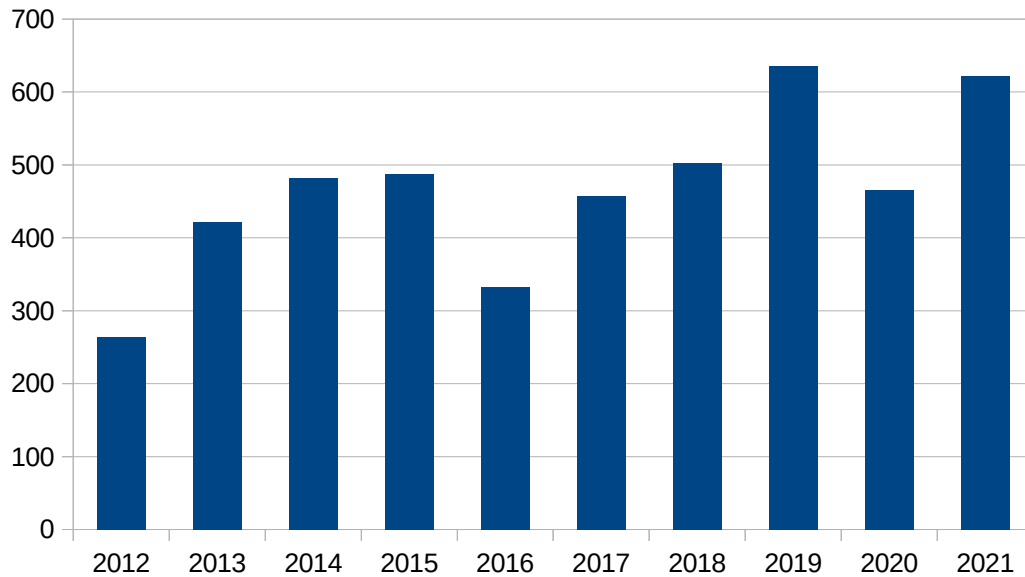
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	2	1	3	0	21	18	10	20	0



Blue Tit

Six hundred and twenty two birds ringed, including 230 pulli (+33%). Ninety three birds retrapped

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	3	9	10	222	29	24	69	65	79	93	19

**Coal Tit**

Five birds ringed (-19%)

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

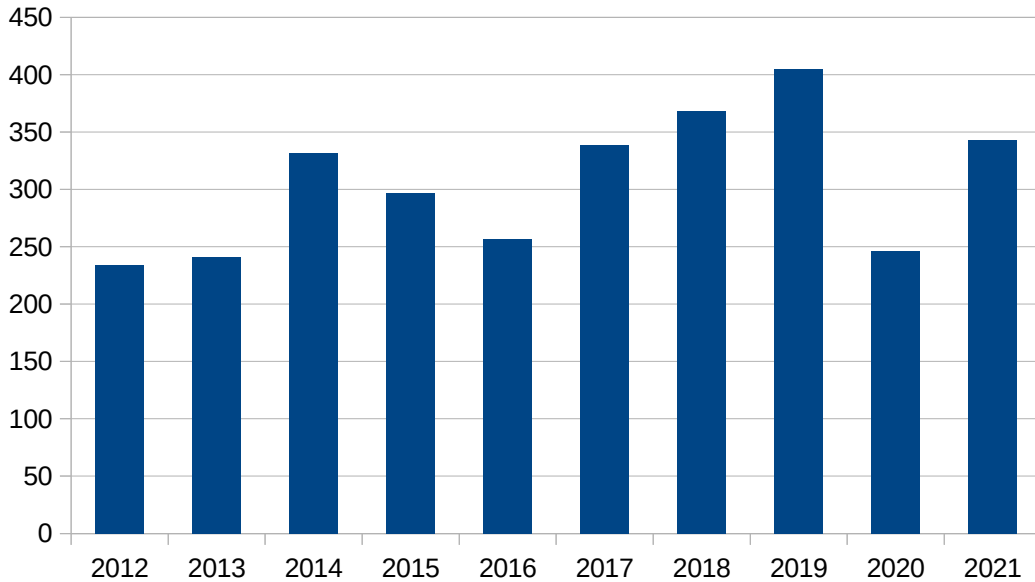
Willow Tit

One bird was ringed on 11 Aug

Great Tit

Three hundred and forty three birds were ringed including 197 pulli (+12%). Fifty six birds retrapped.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	8	3	132	74	9	9	17	37	51	2



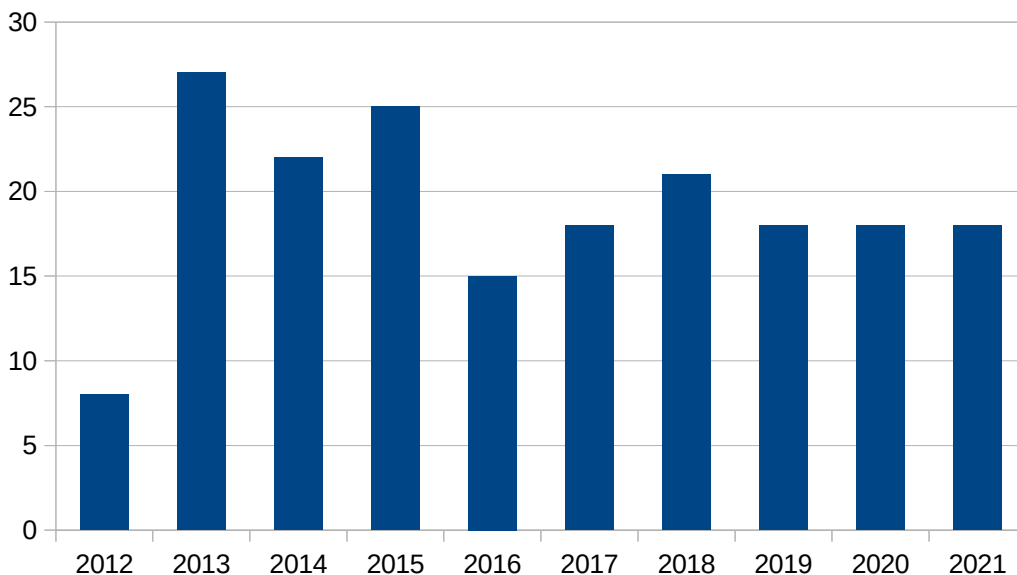
Nuthatch

Two birds ringed on 15 Nov

Treecreeper

Eighteen birds ringed (-5%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	0	2	3	2	7	1	1	1	0



Corvids and allies

Jackdaw had an excellent year, ringed by our nest box team, led by AGH. Otherwise, a solitary Magpie was the only corvid ringed at the site. A record number of Starling was ringed, due to one evening session in the Point reed bed where the birds were roosting.

Magpie

One bird ringed on 19 Oct

Jackdaw

Nineteen birds ringed as pulli (+93%)

Starling

Forty six birds ringed; one on 26 Nov, 45 on 01 Dec on **(+333%)**

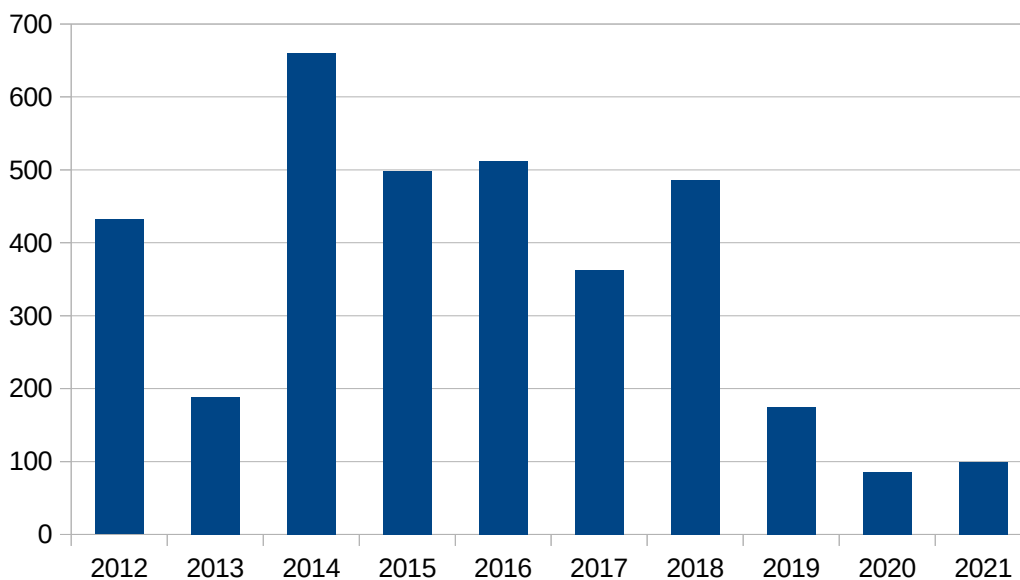
Sparrows and Finches

A marginally better year for some of our resident birds. Although our Tree Sparrows had a relatively poor year, there is some evidence that their numbers might be stabilising albeit at a low level, although only seven pulli were ringed, which is of concern. Numbers of Chaffinch were high, bolstered by ringing sessions on the High Road. The remaining resident finches appear to have made a slight recovery this year from historically low numbers. Three Brambling were a bonus, but Lesser Redpoll had a disappointing year.

Tree Sparrow

Ninety nine birds ringed, including seven pulli **(-71%)**. Six birds retrapped.

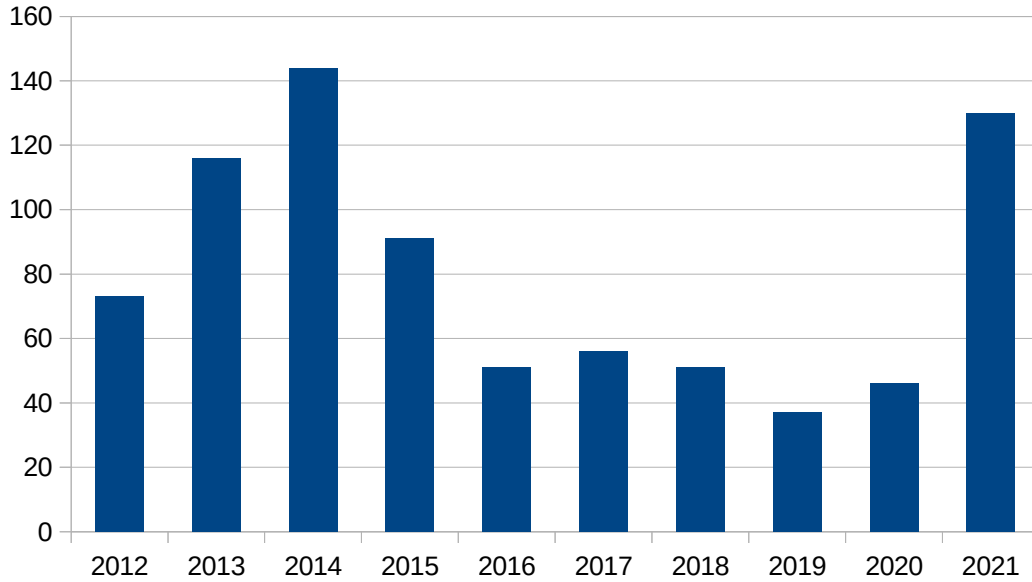
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	6	8	5	2	6	22	6	11	8	25



Chaffinch

One hundred and thirty birds ringed (+63%). Two birds retrapped

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	2	2	1	4	10	6	3	11	82	9



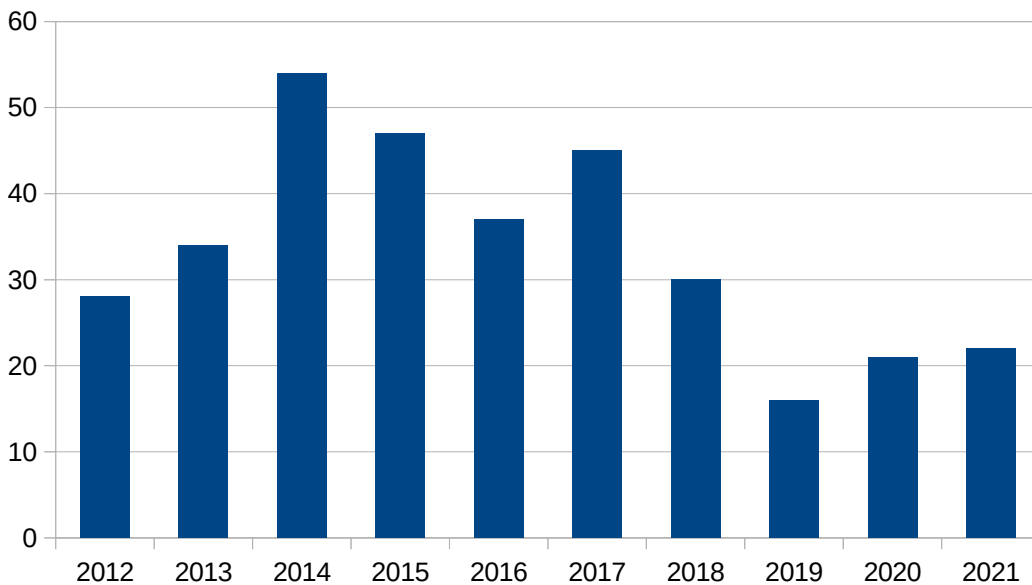
Brambling

Three birds ringed; 26 Oct, 16 and 29 Nov

Bullfinch

Twenty two birds ringed (-33%). Four birds retrapped

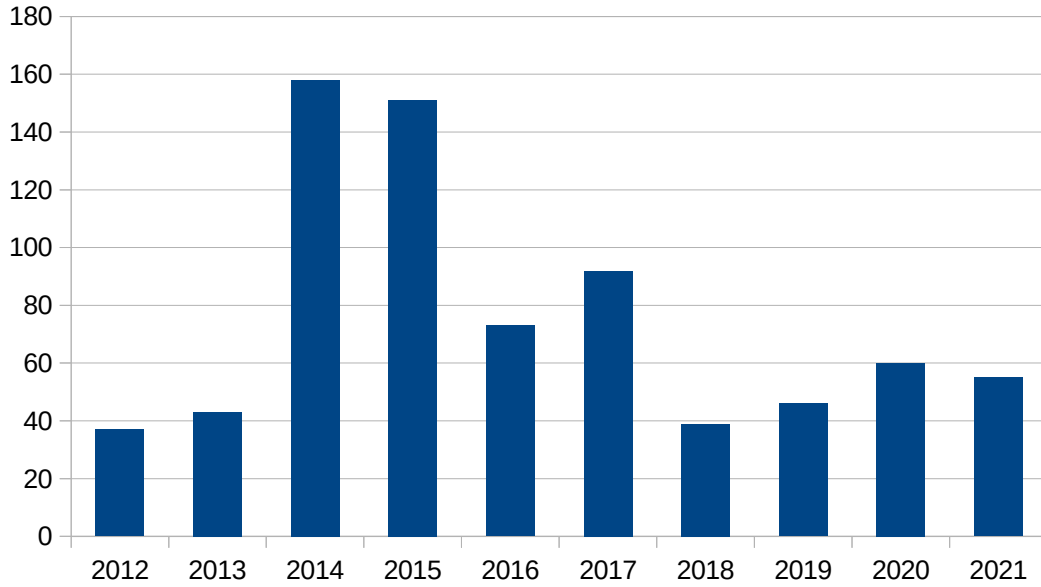
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	5	2	1	3	1	6	3	0



Goldfinch

Fifty five birds ringed (-27%)

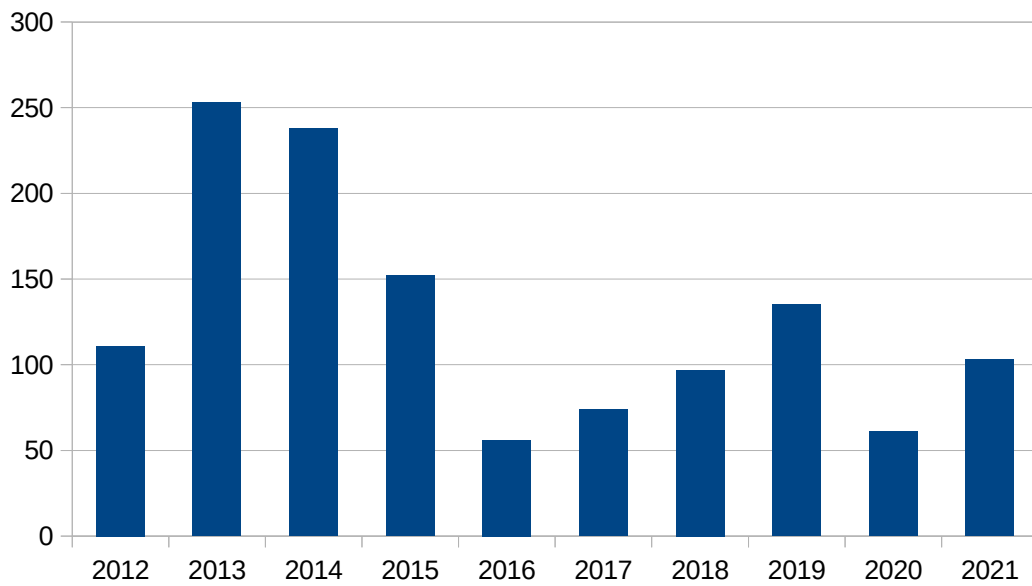
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	0	2	5	0	2	22	20	3



Greenfinch

One hundred and three birds ringed (-19%).

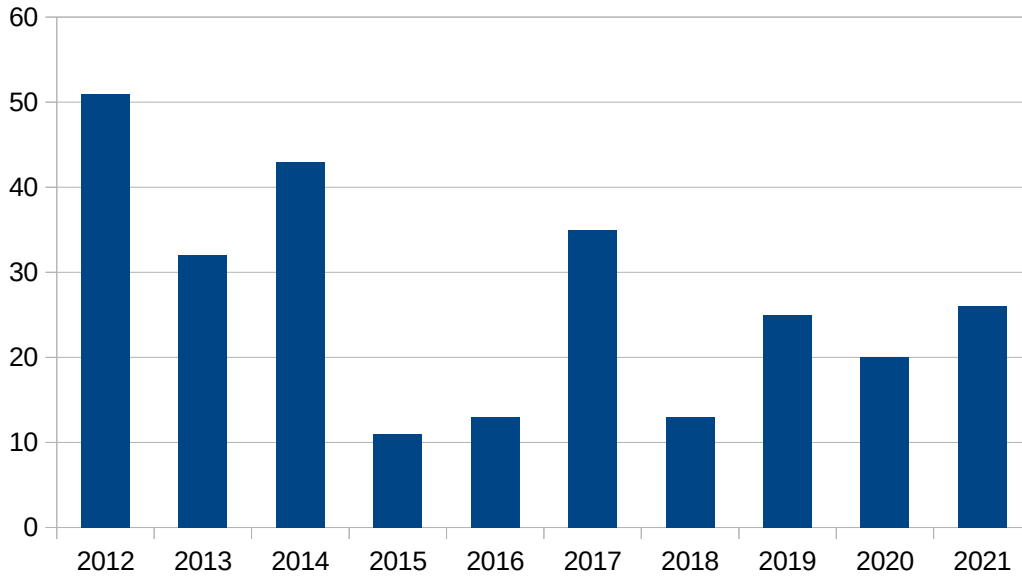
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	70	31	0



Linnet

Twenty six birds ringed (-3%). Two birds retrapped.

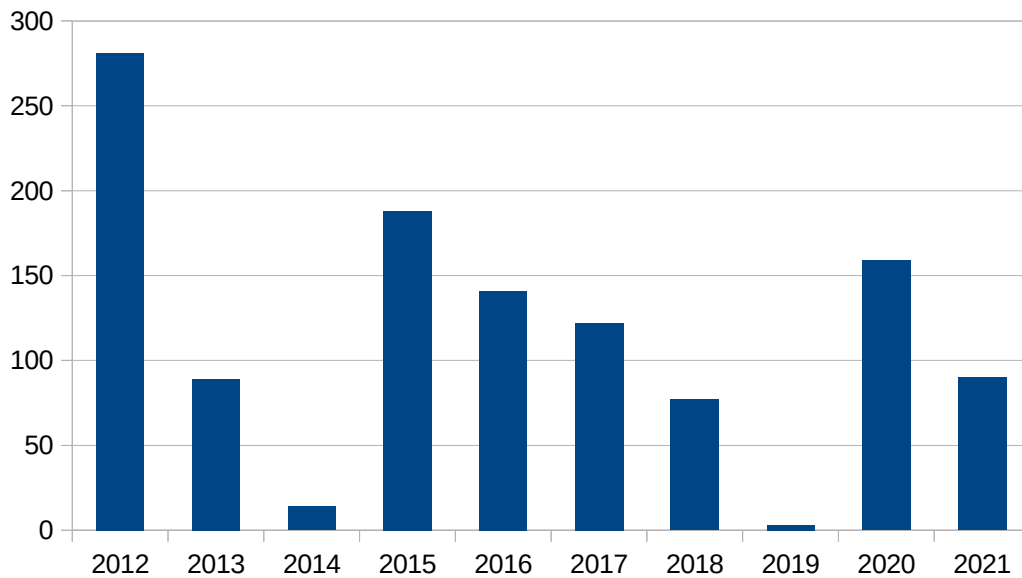
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	5	5	2	6	8	0	0	0	0



Lesser Redpoll

Ninety birds ringed (-22%).

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	40	49	0



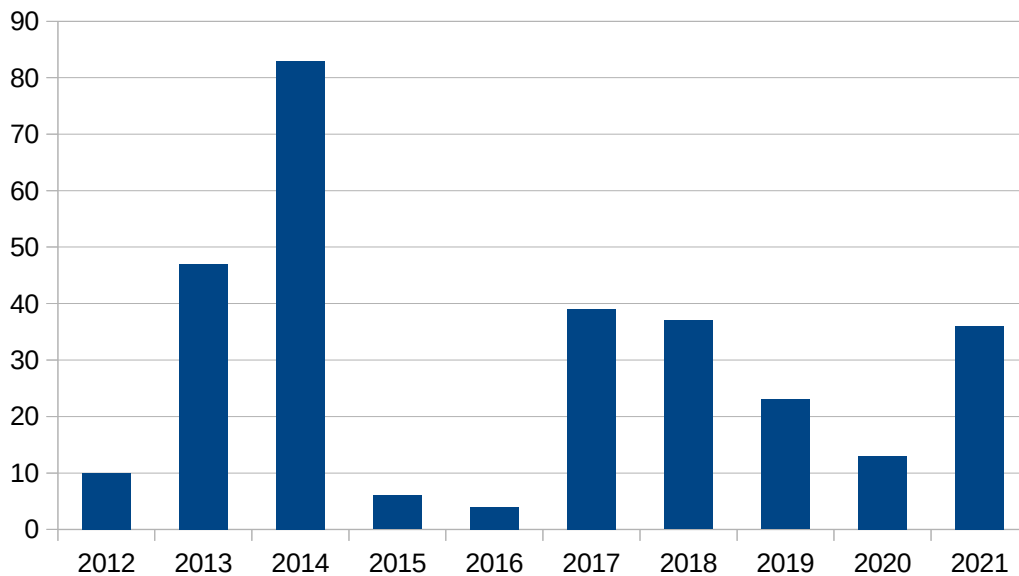
Buntings

Both resident species of Bunting were present. Yellowhammer did rather better than their 10 year average, Reed Bunting rather worse, although its presence over the last five years suggests a fairly stable population.

Yellowhammer

Thirty six birds ringed (+20%).

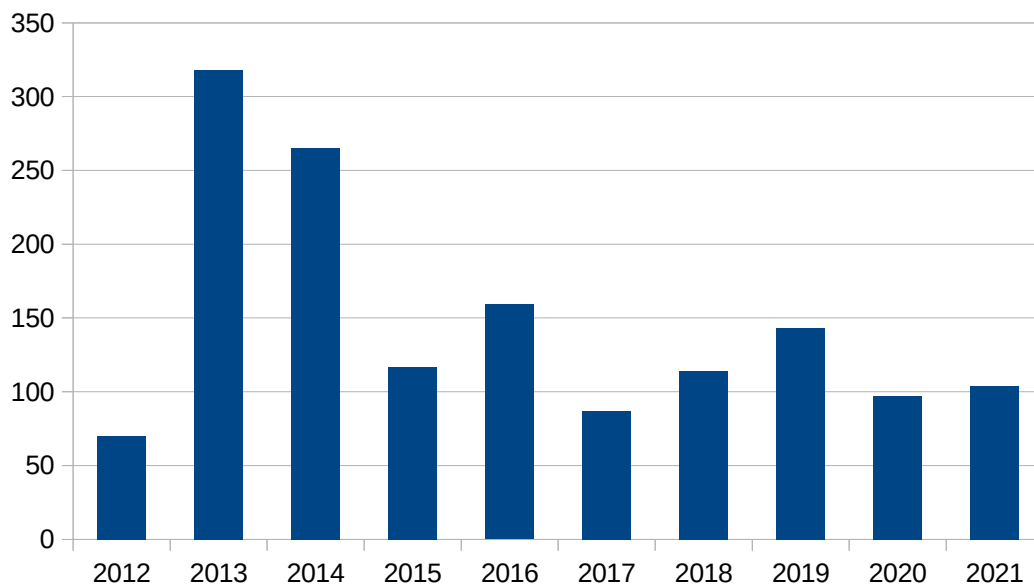
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	13	21	0



Reed Bunting

One hundred and four birds ringed (-29%). Thirty one birds retrapped.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	3	7	23	19	10	13	17	11	0



Nest Recording Report (AGH)

The year started once again in the shadow of the Coronavirus pandemic. By the time the nesting season began we were fortunate enough to start with our onsite recording, albeit in smaller teams of twos and threes due to the government's social-distancing 'rule of six' which came into effect on March 29th.

As with all years, we start to check our large nest boxes first for any signs of Tawny Owl and Jackdaw activity and we were pleased to find both species at egg-laying stage in numerous boxes across the site.

However, a late spring along with early summer wet weather curtailed many nesting attempts across the country. The BTO breeding season report shows the majority of our songbird species including warblers, tits, thrushes and finches all produced fewer young. The absence of 'open nests' in this year's annual nest report reflects this trend.

133 nests of 16 species is an annual decline on both accounts and the fourth year in a row with a continuing downward trend which can mainly be blamed on poor weather conditions.

Mute Swan: One pair raised six cygnets near the Settling Pond.

Canada Goose: One pair built their nest on a grass bank at the Settling Pond and successfully raised seven young goslings which were seen on the pond in early May

Common Tern: Four chicks were ringed from three nests on the rafts in Blower's Bay.

Stock Dove: Nineteen nests were recorded with just ten of those nests raising young. This is still a lot lower than our record of 47 nests in 2018 and the culprits of adult and juvenile predation in the nestboxes still remains unclear although one pair were usurped by a pair of Jackdaws which quickly built its nest on top of the previous occupants eggs.

Woodpigeon: Three nests were found. One nest was near to hatching young but the adult was unsettled by a Buzzard close to the nest and eventually abandoned. Two other nests were observed with adults incubating eggs or brooding small young but nearby farm machinery prevented any close inspection of the contents.

Collared Dove: Two nests were noted at a nearby Farm. One nest produced one young that successfully fledged and the other nest was predated at egg stage.

Barn Owl:

Three small young were found in one box but five weeks later the box was found empty and the young were presumed to have been predated. One pair made two nesting attempts at a nearby farm. Five chicks from the first brood were ringed and two ringed from the second brood were from a clutch of seven eggs.



Inside a Barn Owl nest box

Tawny Owl: Three nests found is our second highest annual total. However, all of this years nests failed to produce young. One nest was taken over by Jackdaws which had built their nest on top of the owls single egg. A second nest, also with a single egg, was found cold and addled. The third nest with three eggs was predated at either egg or early juvenile stage when the box was found empty.

Swallow: Nineteen nesting attempts is one of our best years for this species. One pair managed to raise three broods and six pairs managed double broods. A total of 62 pulli were ringed from three areas around Stanford Reservoir, our third highest number of pulli ringed. Some young were too large to be approached at the nest and therefore several fledged without being ringed so we were close to our annual record of 72 ringed in 2019.

Robin: One open-fronted nest box with recently hatched young was found near the Settling Pond which was later revisited to ring the young.

Wren: Three pairs took up residency in our small-hole nest boxes which now seems to be an annual occurrence. Ringing Wren pulli is never attempted unless we find them in nest boxes. The confined space within the box allows us to access them without causing damage to the nest. A record of sixteen young from two broods of five and one brood of six were all ringed and once again a 100% successfully fledging rate.



Wren pulli

Blackbird: A pair made two attempts on a purpose made ledge inside a nearby woodshed. The first nest failed after one egg was laid when it become wet due to a hole in the roof. Four weeks later five eggs were laid of which only two hatched. These were ringed at (FS) feathers short stage and successfully fledged.

Blue Tit: Thirty-six nests were recorded and 230 pulli were ringed which is the second highest number of nest boxes occupied and our third highest pulli total for this species. With the late spring start and wet early summer we were surprised to find only two nests deserted at juvenile stage. One further nest was predated at juvenile stage and one was unintentionally disturbed at egg stage. Average sized broods were observed and all boxes were found empty on final inspection. Another good year for our Blue Tits at Stanford with an 89% success rate.

Great Tit: Only twenty-three nestboxes were occupied this year. On average these were smaller broods than previous years but like Blue Tits they managed to keep their young fed with just one nest found deserted just before fledging. 197 pulli ringed is the fourth highest total in the last twenty years. A 96% success rate this year for Great Tits and hopefully a steady climb up to previous numbers.

Jackdaw: A species continuing to take up residency in our large nest boxes. A record of ten nests were found this year with just two failing to produce young. Nineteen pulli ringed is our second highest since this species first used our nest boxes in 2005. Perhaps it is too early to say if this successful species is having an impact on our other early nest box user, the Tawny Owl.

Tree Sparrow: Another poor breeding season for our Tree Sparrows. Only four nesting attempts from two pairs resulted in just seven pulli ringed. An annual decline that has seen numbers drop from 600+ in 2014 to now less than 100. However, we continue to keep our feeding station replenished throughout the year and will remain forever hopeful that they return to breed at Stanford in good numbers again soon.

Summary of the Birding Year at Stanford Reservoir (CH)



Bewick's Swans in the Fog, February 2021

With 2020 being a new record for the site with 164 species, it was always going to be a hard act to follow in 2021. The site species count total for the year finished on 149 with some amazing birds recorded. The Bearded Tits found in November 2020 stayed until February 26th. A group of 18 Bewick's Swans, grounded in the fog, were an amazing sight for two lucky observers on February 6th. A singing Golden Oriole on the 29th May was the first at the site since 2002. It was only present for one day and a Turtle Dove, the first since 2007, was found the following day.

Other passerine highlights included Yellow-browed Warbler (ringed), Wryneck (ringed), Willow Tit, Marsh Tit, Grasshopper Warbler, Whinchat, Stonechat, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Tree Pipit, numerous Redstart and Ring Ouzel.

On the gull front no white-wingers were recorded in 2021 but we still had a good range of species including a first-winter Kittiwake (a species recorded for the third consecutive year), several Mediterranean, Caspian and Little Gulls. Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Black Tern and breeding Common Tern.

Waders are always in short supply when the water levels are high but we still managed to record Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Oystercatcher, Sanderling, 8 Black-tailed Godwit, Ringed Plover, several Dunlin, 5 Whimbrel, Jack Snipe, Green Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Greenshank, 4 Redshank and Curlew.

Alongside our resident geese we also recorded White Fronted, Pink-footed, Egyptian and Barnacle. In addition to the Bewick's we also had 9 Whooper Swans during the course of the year.

Birds of prey headlined with at least 14 Marsh Harrier sightings, numerous Osprey, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Hobby.

Thanks as always to all observers who have found and shared birds for us all to enjoy.

For further information contact Chris Hubbard at chris@stanfordrg.org.uk

For Absent Friends

This section records those birds who have been present on a regular basis at Stanford Reservoir in previous years and in 2021 are either absent, or who have declined so markedly that their future at Stanford is of concern.

Species	Ten year average	Ringed in 2021
Tawny Owl	2.2	0
Woodpigeon	1.7	0
House Martin	31	0
Sand Martin	5.3	0
Grey Wagtail	6.0	1
Fieldfare	26.5	1
Marsh Tit	1.0	0
Willow Tit	2.8	1

Some Notable Birds Ringed at Stanford During 2021



Yellow Wagtail



Yellow Browed Warbler



Only our second ever Buzzard



Our only Water Rail... ever!

Birds from our Migration Festival



Lovely male Redstart



One of our Whinchats



A cracking Wryneck- getting to be a regular species at Stanford!



What a beauty! Male Brambling

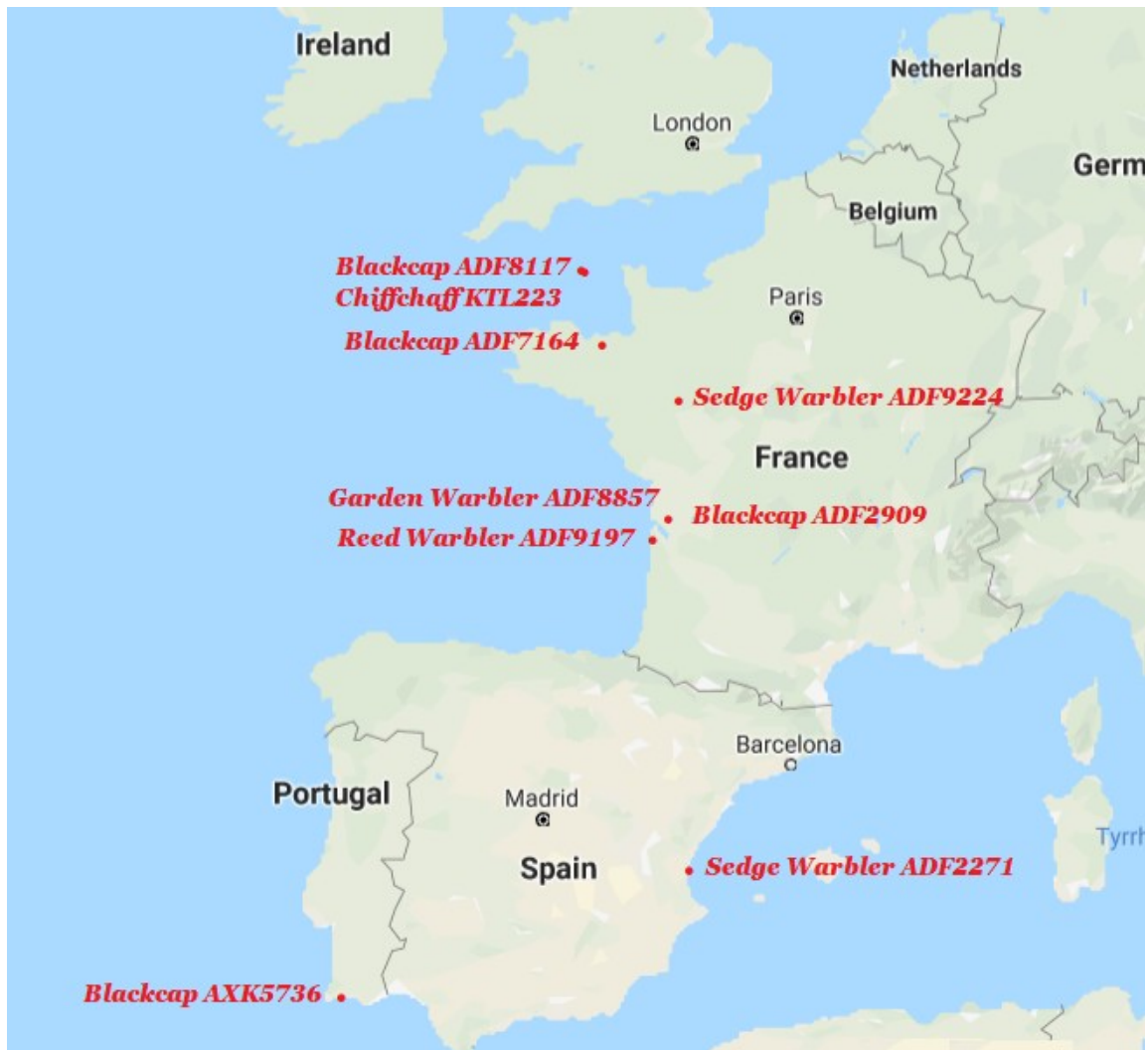


Not a rarity, but definitely a favourite; Tree Sparrow

Stanford Birds Recovered at Other Sites and Reported in 2021

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 which were found by members of the public, and were subsequently reported to the BTO. The map shows where Stanford birds were controlled abroad. Over the years most retraps have followed the western coast of Europe on their migration, and this year was no exception.

Stanford Birds Recovered Abroad and Reported in 2021



Total List

Species	Ring number	Date ringed	Site Recovered	Date retrapped	Time taken	Distance to Stanford (km)
Swallow	ADF1686	12/06/2021	North Luffenham Airfield, Rutland	12/08/2021	61 days	40
Cetti's Warbler	ADF1285	30/07/2020	Blyth End, Warwickshire	26/02/2021	211 days	41
	ADF8900	10/07/2021	Waterhay, Wiltshire	17/10/2021	99 days	103
Sedge Warbler	ADF2271	15/08/2020	Marjal del Moro, Valencia, Spain	04/05/2021	262 days	1419
	ADF9224	11/08/21	Noyant Soulaire et Bourg, Maine et Loire, France	18/08/2021	7 days	544
Reed Warbler	ADF1114	21/07/2020	Marston Sewage Works, Lincs	26/07/2021	1 year 5 days	62
	ADF9197	11/08/2021	Le Teich, Gironde, France	25/08/2021	14 days	867
	AVR4919	31/07/2021	Poole, Dorset,	22/08/2021	22 days	196
	AXK5175	24/08/2021	Pitsford Reservoir, Northants	30/08/2021	6 days	19
Whitethroat	ADF3471	27/08/2020	Farlington Marsh, Portsmouth	24/04/2021	240 days	176
Garden Warbler	ADF1799	26/06/2021	Hogchester Nature Reserve, Dorset	11/08/2021	8 days	225
	ADF8857	04/07/2021	Cabanot, Audenge, Gironde, France	26/08/2021	53 days	861
Blackcap	ADF2909	31/08/2020	Jauriac, Pommiers-Moulons, Charente-Mari, France	08/04/2021	220 days	791
	ADF7164	21/09/2020	Calvados: France	30/09/2021	1 yr 9 days	341
	ADF8117	27/08/2021	Mannez Quarry, Alderney, Channel Islands	22/09/2021	26 days	308k
	ADF8499	29/08/2021	Durlston Country Park	05/09/2021	7 days	212
	ADF8919	27/08/2021	Squires Down, Stalbridge, Dorset	03/09/2021	7 days	183
	AXK5736	04/09/2021	Fonte Benemola, Faro, Portugal	09/10/2021	35 days	1774
	AXK5740	04/09/2021	Durlston Country Park	22/09/2021	18 days	212
	AXK8526	16/09/2021	Haxton Down:Wiltshire	22/09/2021	6 days	136
	S667789	09/06/2019	Rugby, Warks	17/04/2021	312 days	12
	ADF2943	31/08/2020	De Montfort University, Leicester	18/05/2021	260 days	22
Chiffchaff	KTL223	22/09/2020	Essex Farm, Alderney, Channel Islands:	23/03/2021	182 days	309
	KTK197	23/08/2021	Darlington, Newark, Notts	26/04/2021	246 days	94
Willow	KTK874	25/08/2021	Hengistbury Head Centre,	27/08/2021	2 days	194

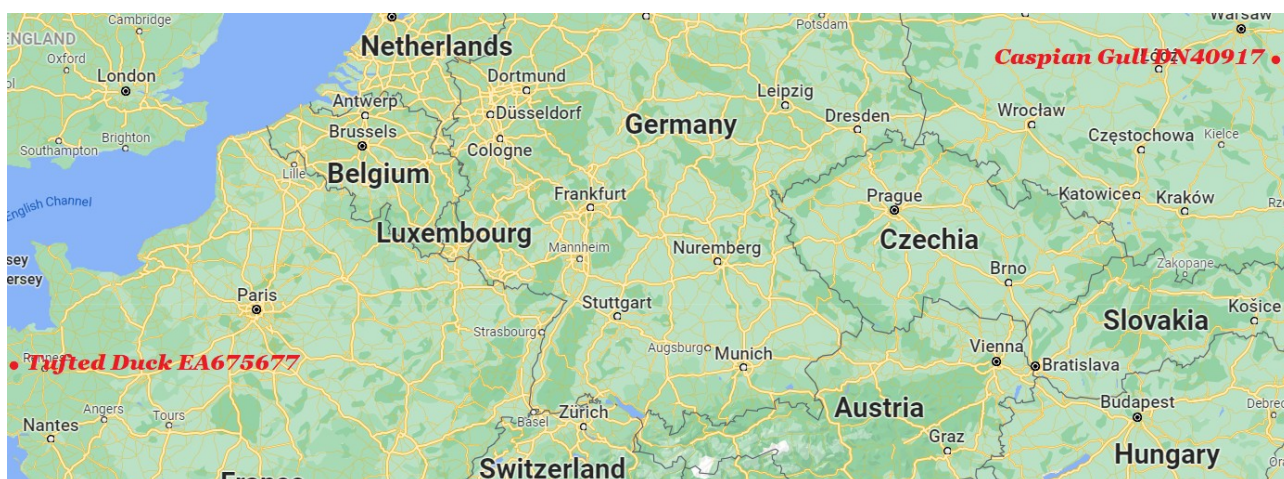
Warbler			Bournemouth			
	KTK197	23/08/2020	Darlington, Newark, Notts	26/04/2021	246 days	94
	KTL476	11/08/2021	Cissbury Ring, Worthing, W Sussex	16/08/2021	5 days	179
Blue Tit	ADF7904	04/11/2020	Sibbertoft, Northants	01/04/2021	148 days	9
Great Tit	NZ91414	23/05/2020	Pitsford Reservoir. Northants	03/03/2021	284 days	19
Greenfinch	NZ91555	18/10/2019	Corby, Northants	24/11/2021	2 yrs 37days	30
Goldfinch	ADF6992	04/11/2020	Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway	08/05/2021	185	383
Siskin	ADF6600	14/09/2020	West End, Hampshire	03/03/2021	170 days	167
Lesser Redpoll	ADF6693	19/09/2020	High Hazels Park, Darnall, Sth Yorks	14/11/2021	1 yr 56days	109
	ADF7633	12/10/2020	Ipsley, Redditch, Worcs	14/04/2021	184	55

Birds From Other Sites Recovered at Stanford in 2020

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. Disappointingly, no foreign ringed birds were trapped by the ringing group, however two birds were observed by our birdwatchers, one a duck with a nasal saddle and one a gull with a colour ring.

Foreign birds, controlled at Stanford



Full List

Species	Ring number	Date ringed	Site of Origin	Date controlled at Stanford	Time taken	Distance to Stanford
Tufted Duck	EA67567 7	07/07/2017	Sainte-Suzanne-et-Chammes:, France	14/10/2021	4 yrs 99 days	482km
Black-headed Gull	EZ70835	11/03/2017	Pitsea Landfill site, Essex	07/03/2021	3 yrs 361 days	148
Caspian Gull	DN40917	16/05/2020	Wyspana Rz. Wisla Kepa Nadbrzeska, Poland	13/02/2021	273 days	1521
Blackbird	LN09349	13/02/21	Hallaton Leics	21/13/2021	311 days	23
Cetti's Warbler	AHF5278	14/07/2019	Brandon Marsh, Warks	07/07/2020	359 days	22
Sedge Warbler	ANK6829	04/08/2020	Titchfield Haven, Hill Head, Fareham	21/08/2021	1 yr 17days	178
	ARD4117	18/07/2018	Rutland Water:	01/06/2019	318 days	40
Reed Warbler	ABF2944	25/07/2021	Holme Pierrepont	14/08/2021	20 days	59
	ADV7043	19/08/2021	Witches Oak, Derbyshire	07/09/2021	19 days	51

	AJN8894	11/08/2021	Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield, W Yorks:	28/08/2021	17 days	135
	ATT3150	10/09/2021	Stortons Gravel Pits, Northants	24/09/2021	14 days	24
Blackcap	ABL2414	21/09/2021	Gunwalloe, Cornwall	02/10/2021	11 days	390
	AHE4373	15/09/2019	Wraysbury GP, Windsor & Maidenhead	15/09/2021	2 years 20 days	114
	AHP9681	15/09/2021	Dunkirk, Little Downham, Cams	18/09/2021	3 days	92
	ALE1332	20/08/2021	Pitsford Reservoir, Northants	24/09/2021fted	35 days	19
	ALT8187	06/09/2021	Castlelevington Gill, Stocton-on-Tees	16/09/2021	10 days	230
	ANH5818	14/09/2020	Squires Down, Stalbridge, Dorset	27/04/2021	225 days	183
	ANV0101	16/09/2021	Lodge Hill, Medway, Kent:	24/09/2021	8 days	157
	AXH6128	02/07/2021	Middleton, Warwickshire	27/08/2021	56 days	44
	Z326245	23/06/2021	Lax Hill, Rutland	27/08/2021	65 days	38
Chiffchaff	LER601	25/09/2021	Ramsdale Golf Ctr, Calverton, Notts	02/10/2021	7 days	69
	LXR655	28/09/2020	The Watch House, Swansea	24/09/2021	361 days	225
Willow Warbler	LVT504	23/06/2021	Gibraltar Point, Lincs	27/08/2021	65 days	123
Blue Tit	S215583	06/03/2017	Kelmarsh Hall, Northants	10/04/2021	4 yrs 35days	13

Historic Longevity Records at Stanford

This section includes data gained from both ringing activities and our indefatigable local birders

Key:

- National longest recorded ages for these species
- New entries for 2021

Species	Ring number	Date Ringed	Latest Retrap	Age
Barn Owl	GR41954	13/06/2012	06/10/2016	4y 3m 23d
Black-headed Gull	ES46211	09/06/1994	13/04/2017	22y 10m 4d
Black-tailed Godwit	629300	12/06/2005	25/06/2017	12y 0m 15d
Blackbird	CL10718	21/10/2001	05/09/2013	11y 10m 15d
Blackcap	Z364173	25/05/2015	05/09/2020	5y 3m 13d
Blue Tit	T684126	10/06/2006	18/02/2014	7y 8m 10d
Brambling	K340529	12/11/1995	20/11/1995	0y 0m 8d
Bullfinch	V732487	26/07/2008	22/04/2014	5y 8m 26d
Canada Goose	5086101	10/07/1977	16/02/1985	7y 7m 9d
Carion Crow	FH34525	05/05/2018	17/05/2020	2y 0m 13d
Caspian Gull	DN40917	16/05/2020	13/02/2021	0y 8m 29d
Cetti's Warbler	Z371107	26/08/2016	30/12/2019	3y 4m 5d
Chaffinch	C589276	21/04/1985	26/06/1994	9y 2m 6d
Chiffchaff	JCE248	07/05/2016	14/06/2020	4y 1m 7d
Coal Tit	V733257	15/08/2009	15/11/2012	3y 3m 2d
Common Gull	EJ59783	28/02/1981	27/05/1984	3y 2m 29d
Common Sandpiper	NP00514	26/05/2019	16/07/2019	0y 1m 19d
Common Tern	SV20815	12/06/2005	11/08/2012	7y 2m 1d
Dunnock	J880172	21/12/1994	30/06/2001	6y 6m 10d
Fieldfare	CW04076	07/03/2010	01/12/2012	2y 8m 26d
Firecrest	8U2523	15/12/2001	05/01/2002	0y 0m 21d
Gadwall	FR14882	25/07/1993	25/01/1994	0y 6m 1d
Garden Warbler	T179169	02/07/2005	08/08/2015	10y 1m 5d
Goldcrest	0U0687	19/10/2002	04/12/2004	2y 1m 15d
Goldfinch	V190239	21/12/2007	08/08/2012	4y 7m 18d
Grasshopper Warbler	A889049	16/05/1981	01/06/1986	5y 0m 16d
Great Black-backed Gull	D893076	25/06/1976	07/01/1978	1y 6m 14d
Great Spotted Woodpecker	LC98526	12/07/2013	01/06/2020	6y 10m 19d
Great Tit	TE89027	28/05/2005	26/05/2013	7y 11m 29d
Green Woodpecker	DA56894	12/11/2011	24/11/2012	1y 0m 13d

Greenfinch	TE89147	11/06/2005	19/11/2011	6y 5m 9d
Grey Wagtail	Z370887	11/09/2016	19/12/2017	1y 3m 7d
House Martin	L569818	21/09/2010	19/05/2012	1y 7m 29d
House Sparrow	TV13457	26/05/2014	05/04/2018	3y 10m 10d
Jackdaw	EK41301	27/06/2000	17/01/2011	10y 6m 23d
Jay	DA56832	20/11/2003	03/04/2005	1y 4m 14d
Kestrel	EK41236	15/05/2004	05/01/2008	3y 7m 22d
Kingfisher	SB09529	05/10/2002	15/11/2003	1y 1m 9d
Lesser Black-backed Gull	GP71033	30/11/1973	08/09/1981	7y 9m 9d
Lesser Redpoll	A888944	11/07/1981	11/08/1985	4y 1m 31d
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	VA40073	04/05/1986	03/08/1986	0y 3m 31d
Lesser Whitethroat	T179490	23/07/2005	02/07/2011	5y 11m 9d
Linnet	L881442	12/05/2011	23/07/2016	5y 2m 13d
Little Owl	EK21602	13/06/1983	19/06/1985	2y 0m 7d
Little Ringed Plover	NS50051	16/06/1986	04/08/1986	0y 1m 17d
Long-eared Owl	GJ42431	28/02/1982	01/04/1982	0y 1m 31d
Long-tailed Tit	0U0554	30/06/2001	14/06/2008	6y 11m 15d
Mallard	GJ74601	24/07/1993	28/11/1995	2y 4m 6d
Marsh Tit	N592928	11/09/1999	30/03/2002	2y 6m 19d
Meadow Pipit	KP36275	18/12/1976	28/10/1978	1y 10m 9d
Mistle Thrush	CF10478	04/01/2002	19/01/2003	1y 0m 15d
Mute Swan	Z14641	11/04/1995	23/07/2009	14y 3m 13d
Nuthatch	VX88074	07/12/2000	10/11/2001	0y 11m 3d
Pied Flycatcher	A026580	17/06/1979	27/08/1983	4y 2m 11d
Pied/White Wagtail	V618724	17/05/2008	25/08/2008	0y 3m 10d
Redstart	T179382	16/07/2005	30/07/2005	0y 0m 14d
Redwing	9X04691	18/10/2013	09/12/2016	3y 1m 21d
Reed Bunting	L430916	04/07/2011	23/11/2018	7y 4m 22d
Reed Warbler	N592592	17/07/1999	16/07/2009	9y 11m 30d
Ringed Plover	BV26170	30/04/2010	15/06/2015	5y 1m 14d
Robin	V733652	19/12/2009	29/12/2014	5y 0m 10d
Roseate Tern	SX08001	16/07/1980	24/05/2004	23y 10m 8d
Sand Martin	V188647	19/06/2006	07/08/2011	5y 1m 17d
Sedge Warbler	E279852	14/07/1993	19/06/1999	5y 11m 5d
Siskin	P775474	09/03/2003	29/01/2006	2y 10m 22d
Skylark	VA40048	13/05/1985	06/07/1985	0y 1m 22d
Snipe	RB53145	17/10/1993	31/10/1994	1y 0m 14d
Song Thrush	XK48026	04/07/1981	15/07/1987	6y 0m 11d
Sparrowhawk	DA56898	13/11/2013	03/12/2016	3y 0m 21d

45

Starling	CL01659	15/12/2000	04/09/2006	5y 8m 19d
Stock Dove	EL13469	03/09/2011	19/08/2017	5y 11m 16d
Swallow	Y245575	19/05/2012	09/09/2014	2y 3m 21d
Swift	SA51643	31/05/1980	02/06/1984	4y 0m 3d
Tawny Owl	GJ74632	09/04/2005	14/07/2016	11y 3m 6d
Tree Sparrow	V733757	24/04/2010	12/04/2015	4y 11m 18d
Treecreeper	DNK885	02/07/2011	24/10/2016	5y 3m 24d
Tufted Duck	EA675677	07/07/2017	14/10/2021	4y 3m 9d
Whitethroat	P774799	03/08/2002	02/08/2009	6y 11m 30d
Willow Tit	B875399	13/05/1984	12/07/1987	3y 2m 28d
Willow Warbler	1W8238	31/07/1994	18/08/2001	7y 0m 19d
Woodcock	EK41473	17/12/2005	07/01/2006	0y 0m 21d
Woodpigeon	FR14851	09/05/1981	08/02/1989	7y 9m 2d
Wren	BVB481	10/05/2008	27/03/2012	3y 10m 17d
Yellow Wagtail	KJ15896	03/07/1976	01/07/1978	1y 11m 28d
Yellowhammer	J880259	30/01/1995	06/04/2002	7y 2m 7d

Group Members in 2021

Key:

A permit holder: Fully qualified, can ring independently

S (supervisor) permit holder: As 'A', can also train and assess ringers

C (conditional) permit holder: Can ring without supervision with agreement of S permit holder

- Mick Townsend (MJT) Co-founder, S permit ringer, Group Leader
- Adam G Homer (AGH) Group Secretary, S permit ringer, Nest Recorder
- David Neal (DMN) Group treasurer, S permit ringer
- Mel Preston (MAP) A permit ringer
- Dawn Sheffield (DS1) A permit ringer
- Peter Norrie (PMN) S permit ringer
- Gavin Bennet (GBE) A permit ringer,
- Ed Tyler (ERT) C permit ringer
- Stuart Heath (SH) C permit ringer
- Jo Underwood (JLU) C permit ringer
- Kate Moore (KEM) C permit ringer
- Theo De Clermont (TDC) Trainee ringer
- Ewan Turner (EHT) Trainee ringer
- Heather Gilbert (HJG) Trainee ringer
- Chris Hubbard (CH) Sightings Officer
- Group Supporters: Peter Bateup, Chris Begley, Alan Herbert, Bryan McCallion

Credits

- Report compiled by PMN
- Artwork by KEM
- Posted by Mike Haigh
- Thanks to Chris Hubbard and group members for photos.