

NEWBURY RINGING GROUP

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Constant Effort Site Ringing Thatcham Marsh Local Nature Reserve 2014 Report (Incorporating 2013)



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Introduction

The Constant Effort Site (CES) scheme uses captures from standardised mist-netting to monitor key aspects of the demography of common breeding birds. Sites are situated throughout Britain and Ireland and dedicated ringers erect mist-nets in the same positions, for the same length of time, during twelve visits spread between the last week in April and the 31st August each year, depending on how weekends fall, (sites are visited once during every 10/11 day period).

Changes in the total number of adults caught provide a measure of changing population size, while the proportion of young birds caught forms an index of breeding success. Retraps of adult birds ringed in previous years are used to estimate annual survival rates. Habitat details are updated periodically.

More information on the CES scheme and the latest results can be found at www.bto.org

We have ringed Thatcham Marsh Local Nature Reserve (LNR) since 1967 and operated it as a CES site since 1993. It is Phragmites reed bed habitat with scrub and is good for Warblers - Reed, Sedge and Cetti's in particular. The CES standard nets are set along a grass covered ride with reed beds each side and consist of one ride with 6x18M and another with 5x18M of mist net (198m long and 2.7m high). Additional nets are erected in nearby scrub adding usually up to 75M of net in up to five rides depending on the number of ringers available.

The CES at Thatcham Marsh LNR is 22 years old with all 12 visits completed for each year. This is 264 visits equating to 1320 hours approximately; a considerable commitment of group members' time.

Report on the 2013 and 2014 CES Seasons at Thatcham Marsh LNR

A report was not issued for the 2013 season; data is included in this report

Schedule of Visits 2013 nets are up from approximately 06:00hrs to 10:00hrs BST (4 hours)

Visit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Date	04/05	12/05	26/05	02/06	15/06	24/06	06/07	14/07	27/07	04/08	17/08	25/08

Aborted/additional visits: None

Schedule of Visits 2014 nets are up from approximately 06:00hrs to 10:00hrs BST (4 hours)

Visit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Date	03/05	17/05	26/05	01/06	14/06	22/06	07/07	13/07	26/07	03/08	16/08	24/08

Aborted/additional visits: None

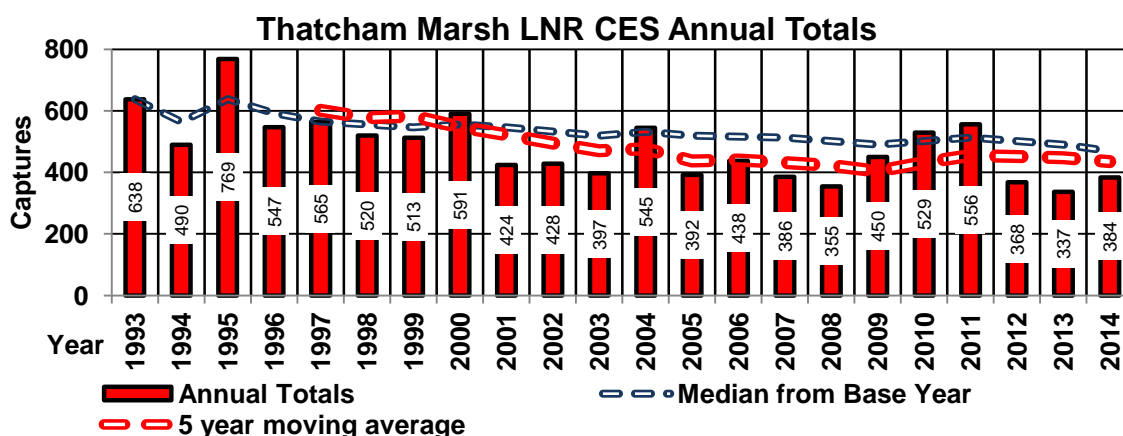


Figure 1 above shows yearly capture totals from the standard nets only. It shows 2013 to be a poor year in fact the worst year since the CES started. 2014 shows a slight improvement on 2013 but is still at the lower end of the data set that defines the latter years of the CES at this site.

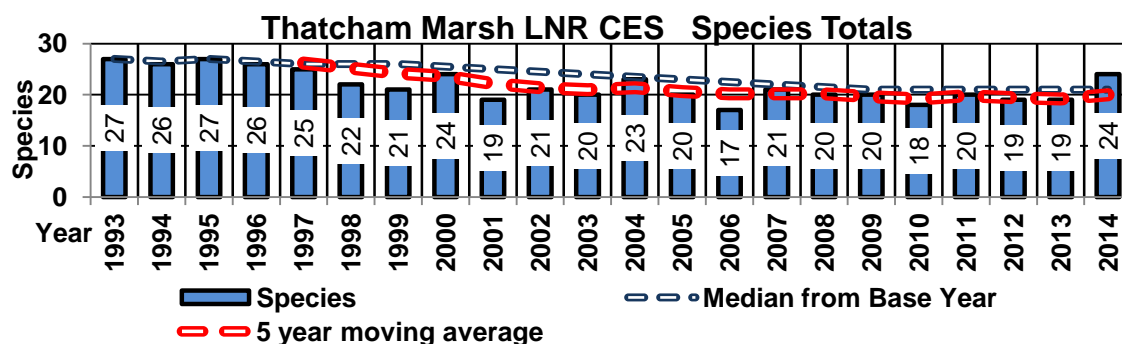


Figure 2 above shows yearly species totals from the standard nets only and gives an indication of species diversity over the years. 2014 shows a diversity of species not seen since 2000 and is due to one or two fortunate captures.

2013 Visit Summary (unless otherwise stated capture not affected by weather conditions)

Visit 1: 34 captures is just above the 33 average for this visit (range: 1998-7, 2004-63), the second half of the visit was affected by light rain. As 2012 8 Sedge Warbler was the best visit total for the year probably indicates passage birds rather than locals arriving. Reed Warbler 9 and 1 Cetti's Warbler

Visit 2: 30 captures is below the average of 32 for this visit (range; 1994-19, 2011-52) the second half of the visit was wind affected. Cetti's Warbler 2, Sedge Warbler 6, Reed Warbler 14

Visit 3: 29 captures is below average of 35 but better than 2012 (range: 2008-21, 1993-51)

Cetti's Warbler 2 Sedge Warbler 7, Reed Warbler 15

Visit 4: 28 captures is below the 38 average (range: 2005 & 2009-21, 2011-57)

Cetti's Warbler 1, Sedge Warbler 5, Reed Warbler 12

Visit 5: 15 captures lowest ever capture for this visit; average 43 (range: 2008-23, 1993-78), the second half of the visit was wind affected. Cetti's Warbler 1, Sedge Warbler 4, Reed Warbler 5; low numbers for these key species

Visit 6: 33 captures is one of the lowest for this visit (range: 1994-28, 1995-67), Cetti's Warbler 1, Sedge Warbler 1, Reed Warbler 21; and the last looks to be the main but late arrival. The first juveniles of the year captured: Reed Warbler 2, Dunnock 1, Robin 2, Chiffchaff 1, Blue Tit 1 a late breeding season for some residents species here

Visit 7: 45 captures, another low capture; average 58 (range: 2008-28, 1993/95-109)

Cetti's Warbler 0, Sedge Warbler 6, Reed Warbler 23; juveniles Reed Warbler 5, Sedge Warbler 2, Wren 3, Chiffchaff 6, Willow Warbler 1, Blackcap 2, Blue Tit 4

Visit 8: 25 captures also a low one; average 45 (range: 2012-24, 1997-89)

Cetti's Warbler 0, Sedge Warbler 5, Reed Warbler ; juveniles Reed Warbler 7, Sedge Warbler 3, Wren 4, Robin 2, Blackcap 1

Visit 9: 24 captures is the lowest ever for the visit; average 47 (range: 2002-29, 1998-87)

Cetti's Warbler 2, Sedge Warbler 1, Reed Warbler 14; juveniles Cetti's Warbler 2, Reed Warbler 10, Sedge Warbler 1, Wren 2, Robin 1, Chiffchaff 1, Great Tit 2

Visit 10: 28 another low capture; average 42 (range: 2007/12-26, 1995-85)

Cetti's Warbler 2, Sedge Warbler 3, Reed Warbler 18; juveniles Cetti's Warbler 1, Reed Warbler 15, Sedge Warbler 3, Wren 2, Chiffchaff 1

Visit 11: 18 captures low total for visit; average 38 (previous range: 2008-23, 1999-72)

Cetti's Warbler 1, Sedge Warbler 3, Reed Warbler 7; juveniles: Cetti's Warbler 1, Reed Warbler 6, Sedge Warbler 3, Wren 4

Visit 12: 28 captures a little nearer the average of 33 but still low (range: 2006-11, 1995-71)

Cetti's Warbler 1, Sedge Warbler 5, Reed Warbler 12; juveniles Cetti's Warbler 1, Reed Warbler 12, Sedge Warbler 5, Wren 7, Dunnock 1, Chiffchaff 1

The whole season in 2013 overall is the worst since the project began with the lowest ever total. The continuing run of wet springs coupled with pressure on the habitat is not helped by the suspected pressure on key species in wintering habitats. Reed Warbler arrived late in mid-June and Sedge Warbler numbers continue to decline here. Generally fledging was relatively late.

2014 Visit Summary (unless otherwise stated capture not affected by weather conditions)

Visit 1: 15 captures less than 50% of the 32 average for this visit (range: 1998-7, 2004-63), Reed Warbler 5, Sedge Warbler 6, Cetti's Warbler 0

Visit 2: 36 captures above the average of 32 for this visit (range; 1994-19, 2011-52); Reed Warbler 11, Sedge Warbler 4, Cetti's Warbler 4; early juveniles Robin 2, Great Tit 3

Visit 3: 31 captures is below the 35 average (range: 2008-21, 1993-51) Reed Warbler 13, Sedge Warbler 2, Cetti's Warbler 1; juveniles Dunnock 1, Robin 2

Visit 4: 35 captures is below the 38 average (range: 2005 & 2009-21, 2011-57) Reed Warbler 10, Sedge Warbler 2, Cetti's Warbler 1; juveniles Blackcap 1, Blue Tit 1, Great Tit 3, Robin 4. Great Spotted Woodpecker an unusual capture here.

Visit 5: 27 captures a low total for this visit; average 42 (range: 2013-15, 1993-78), Reed Warbler 15, Sedge Warbler 1, Cetti's Warbler 2; juveniles Blackcap 1, Chiffchaff 1, Wren 3

Visit 6: 23 captures the lowest ever for this visit average 33 (range: 1994-28, 1995-67), Reed Warbler 7, Sedge Warbler 2, Cetti's Warbler 4; juveniles Blue Tit 2, Cetti's Warbler 3, Chiffchaff 1, Robin 1, Sedge Warbler 2, Wren 1

Visit 7: 38 captures, another low capture; average 57 (range: 2008-28, 1993/95-109) Reed Warbler 18, Sedge Warbler 9, Cetti's Warbler 3; juveniles Blackcap 1, Cetti's Warbler 1, Chiffchaff 1, Great Tit 1, Reed Warbler 12, Sedge Warbler 9, Wren 1

Visit 8: 30 captures also a low one; average 45 (range: 2012-24, 1997-89) Reed Warbler 14, Sedge Warbler 6, Cetti's Warbler 4; juveniles Blue Tit 1, Cetti's Warbler 2, Reed Warbler 12, Sedge Warbler 5, Wren 1

Visit 9: 54 captures, above the average of 47 (range: 2013-24, 1998-87) Reed Warbler 29, Sedge Warbler 7, Cetti's Warbler 1; juveniles Blackcap 3, Blue Tit 2, Cetti's Warbler 1, Chiffchaff 2, Reed Warbler 17, Sedge Warbler 7, Water Rail 1, Wren 5.

Visit 10: 43 around the 42 average (range: 2007/12-26, 1995-85) Reed Warbler 26, Sedge Warbler 5, Cetti's Warbler 2; juveniles Cetti's Warbler 2, Chiffchaff 3, Reed Warbler 21, Robin 2, Sedge Warbler 5, Wren 3

Visit 11: 26 captures, wind affected, low total for visit; average 37 (range: 2013-18, 1999-72) Reed Warbler 10, Sedge Warbler 3, Cetti's Warbler 6; juveniles Bullfinch 1, Cetti's Warbler 6, Reed Warbler 8, Robin 2, Sedge Warbler 2, Wren 2

Visit 12: 26 captures below the average of 33 (range: 2006-11, 1995-71) Reed Warbler 13, Sedge Warbler 2, Cetti's Warbler 1; juveniles Cetti's Warbler 5, Kingfisher 2, Reed Warbler 9, Robin 1 Sedge Warbler 3, Whitethroat 1, Wren 1

In 2014 although overall the relative numbers are at the lower end of the 22 year range, most key species had a reasonable breeding season; particularly Cetti's Warbler. The impression is that adult reed and sedge warbler left early, soon after nesting finished as most late session captures were of juveniles.

Species Results

The key species on the CES are Reed, Sedge and Cetti's Warbler. The graphs give some insight into how these key species (and some others) are doing. The graphs apply to the CES standard nets only for the CES period May to August inclusive; the required 12 visits.

Numbers of species captured each year, other than Reed and Sedge Warbler, are significantly low and any analysis should be treated as very general.

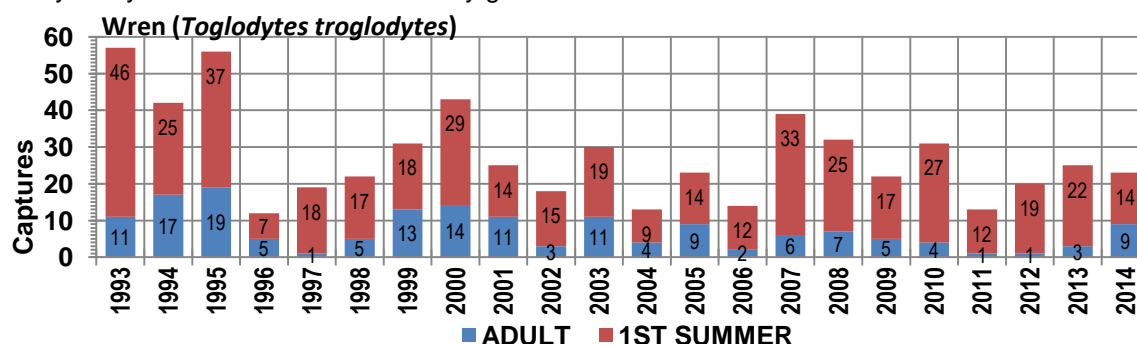


Figure 3 Wren: A good year for adults, 2005 was the last time that numbers matched 2014 totals.

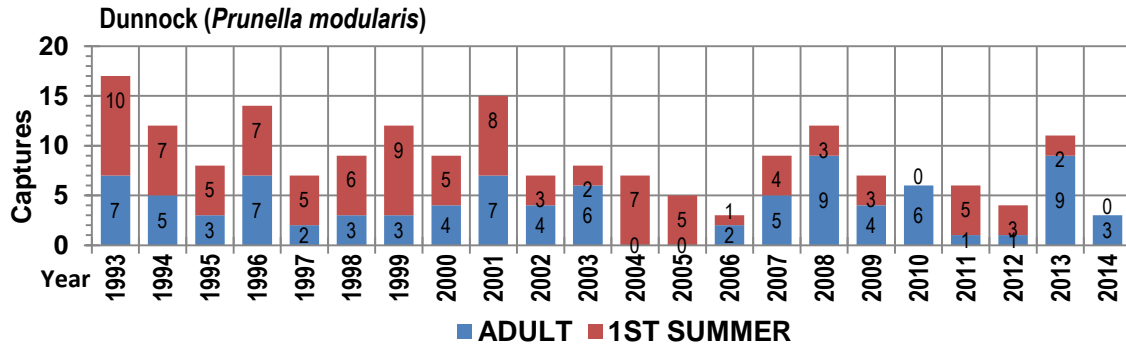


Figure 4 Dunnock not a good year; no juveniles captured.

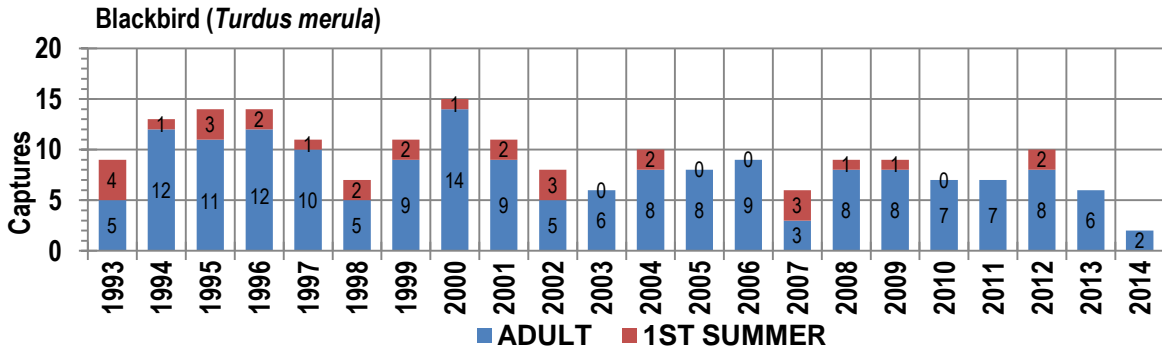


Figure 5 Blackbird very low adult numbers, no juveniles captured as for most years.

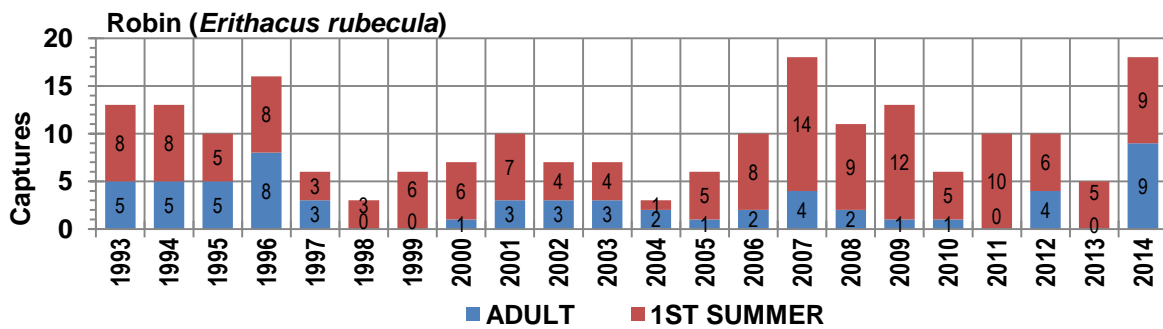


Figure 6 Robin: a good year for both adults and juveniles; indicates nesting near the reed bed.

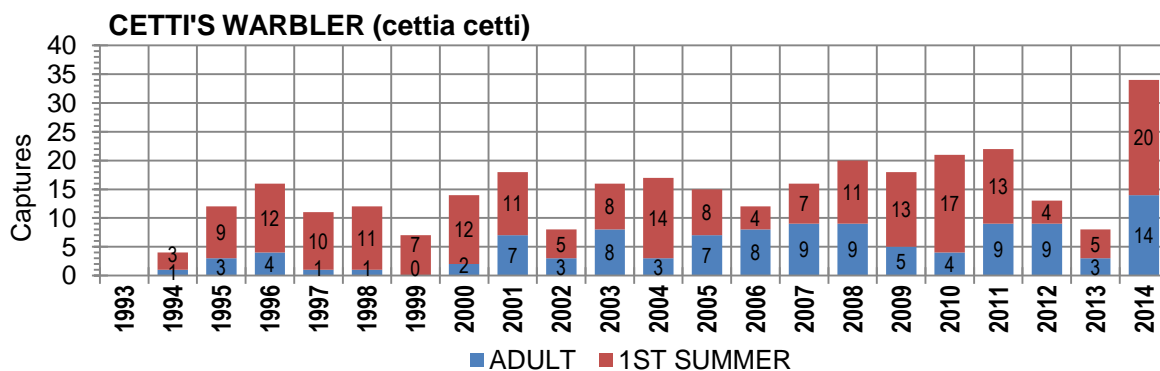


Figure 7 Cetti's Warbler The best year ever by far with plenty of adult and juvenile activity. Several different adults captured shows this multi-brooded, polygamous species' breeding activity can be fluid

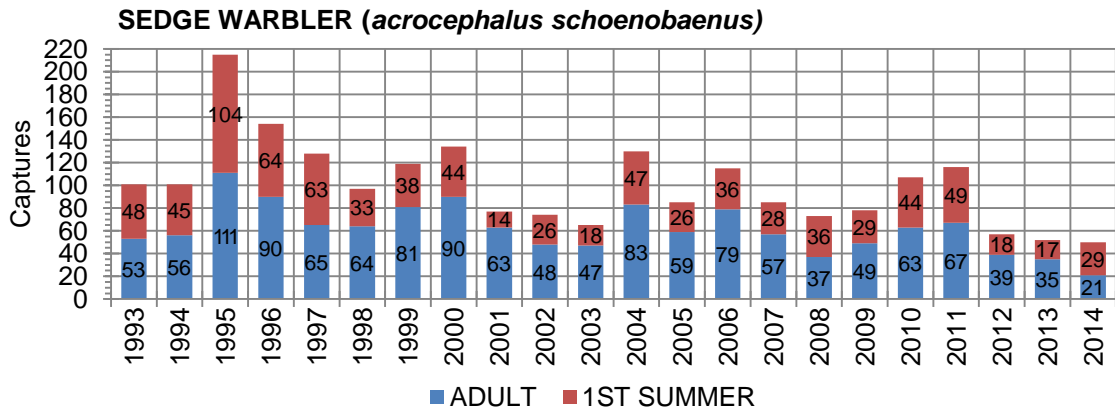


Figure 8 Sedge Warbler: another poor year although juvenile numbers better than 2012/13.

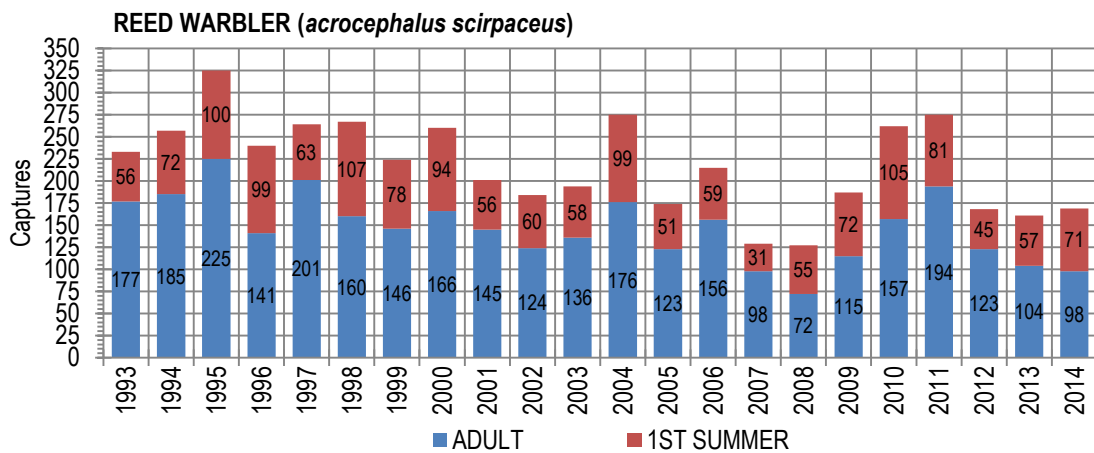


Figure 9 Reed Warbler: around the same number of adults producing more juveniles is encouraging.

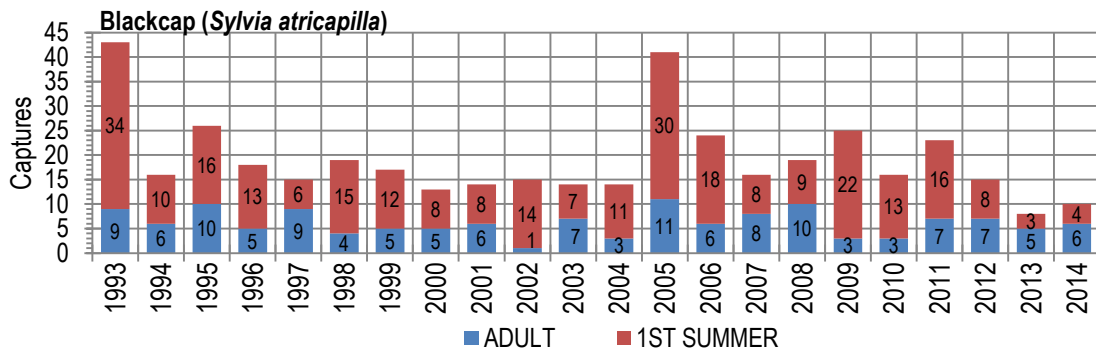


Figure 10 Blackcap: another low capture year indicating little breeding activity nearby

Other Once Regular Warblers

Lesser Whitethroat: last captured during the CES season of 2005, a passage species here.

Whitethroat: just one juvenile captured this year probably dispersing or maybe on passage; recent scrub clearance associated with power lines has degraded suitable scrub habitat.

Garden Warbler no captures of this species since 2009, at least one or two territories are within hearing range of the reed bed.



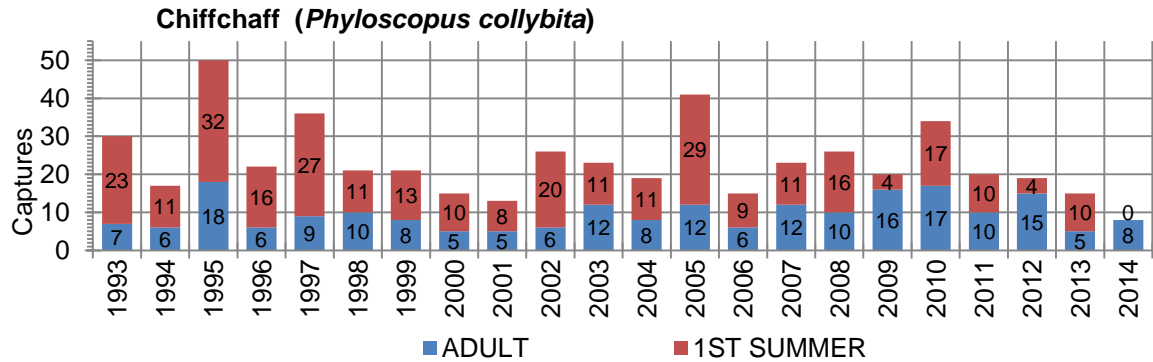


Figure 11 Chiffchaff: it was noticeable that the scrub around the reed bed held fewer territories in 2014 and it seems with little breeding success.

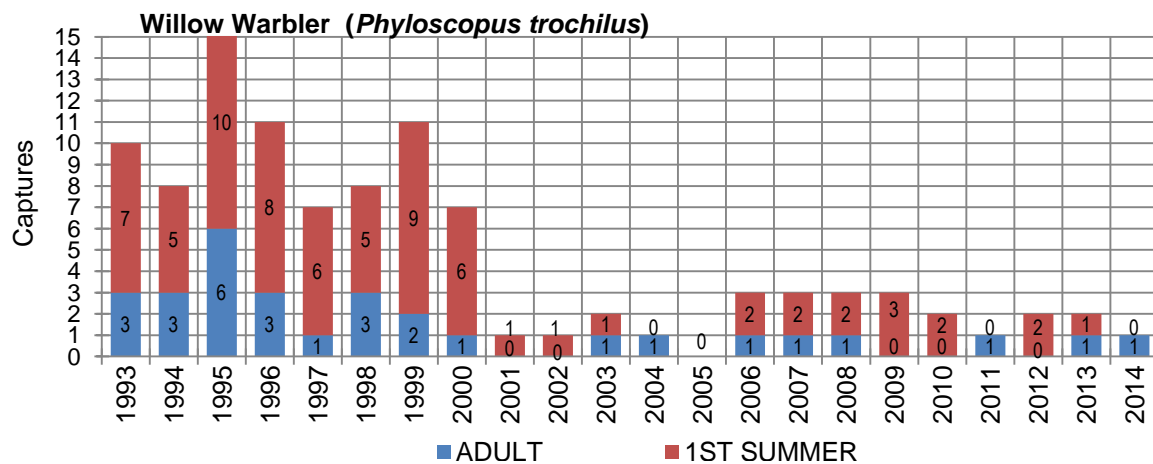


Figure 12 Willow Warbler: one or two territories in the scrub nearby are all that is left of a once vibrant population. The habitat has matured and is becoming unsuitable for this species that is declining generally in the south of the country; population limit is thought to be moving north due to global warming!

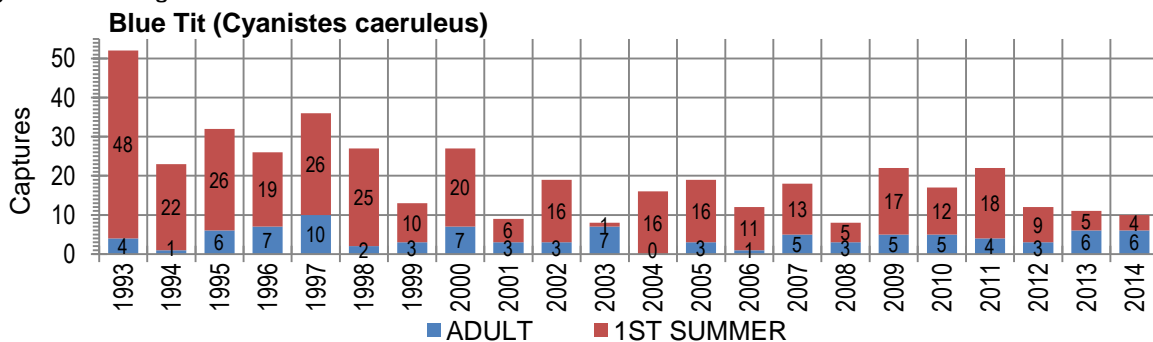


Figure 13 Blue Tit: Low numbers for a widespread species that is usually a visitor to the reed bed post fledging.

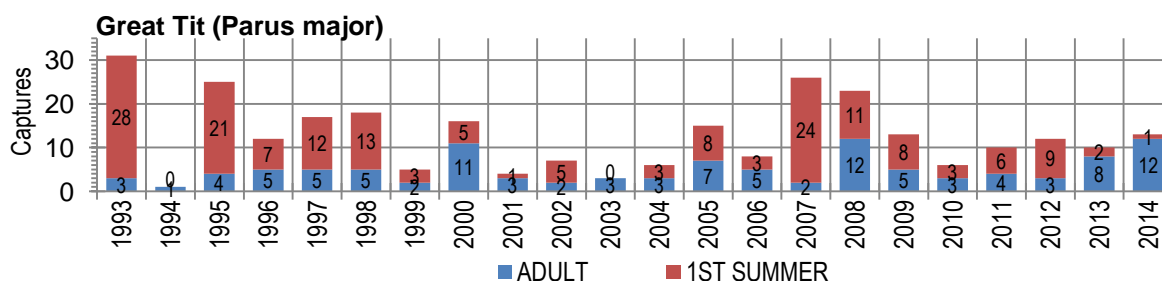


Figure 14 Great Tit: adult numbers quite good for recent years; few juveniles around correlates with poor fledging in 2014 at local nest box schemes.

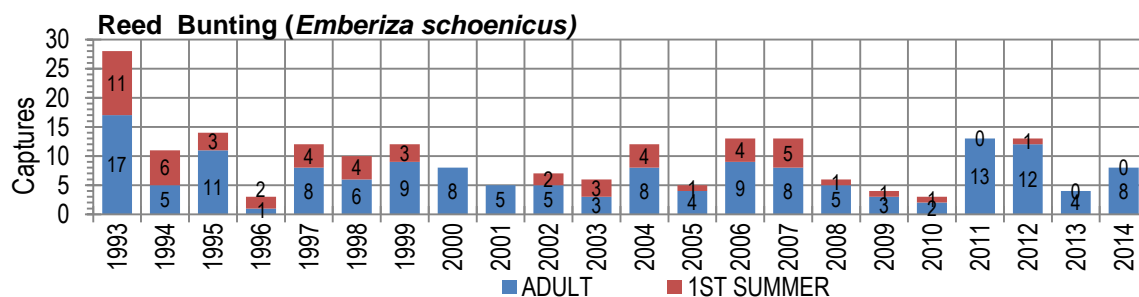


Figure 15 Reed Bunting a continuing decline with just few pairs to be found on the reed bed during the season. They probably fledge a few young each year; numbers increase in the autumn.

Species Lists

2013 Season Thatcham Marsh LNR Species (all dates)	Total Captur e	New in 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Kingfisher	1	1	1							
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	1	1					1		
Wren	63	55	5	3						
Dunnock	11	11	1		2					
Robin	21	19		1		1				
Blackbird	13	9	1		2		1			
Song Thrush	2	1		1						
Cetti's Warbler	18	11	4	2	1					
Grasshopper Warbler	1	1								
Sedge Warbler	49	49								
Reed Warbler	136	114	8	6	5	2	1			
Whitethroat	4	4								
Garden Warbler	2	2								
Blackcap	132	130		1	1					
Chiffchaff	70	69	1							
Willow Warbler	4	4								
Goldcrest	3	3								
Long-tailed Tit	9	8	1							
Blue Tit	27	20	1	2	2	1	1			
Great Tit	17	14	1	2						
Treecreeper	5	4		1						
Jay	2	2								
Greenfinch	2	2								
Bullfinch	9	9								
Reed Bunting	10	6	3	1						
Total	613	549	26	20	13	4	3	1	0	0

Figure 16 Initial Ringing Year Report for 2013 at Thatcham Marsh LNR. This schedule is for all ringing session and is not just limited to those of the CES. It shows a significant passage for Blackcap and Chiffchaff mostly this is in September when audio lures are used.

The 2007 Great Spotted Woodpecker was ringed as a juvenile male on the 16-Sep-2007, was recaptured the following weekend, also on the 26-Jul-2008 and not captured again until 02-Jun-2013 (5 years 259 days)

2014 Season Thatcham Marsh LNR Species (all dates)	Total Capture	New in 2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Sparrowhawk	1	1								
Water Rail	1	1								
Green Woodpecker	1	1								
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1								
Wren	47	36	7	1	2	1				
Dunnock	13	10	1			1	1			
Blackbird	7	6	1							
Song Thrush	3	2		1						
Cetti's Warbler	37	32	2	2	1					
Sedge Warbler	51	50				1				
Reed Warbler	141	124	9	3	2	2	1			
Whitethroat	1	1								
Garden Warbler	2	2								
Blackcap	40	40								
Chiffchaff	51	50			1					
Willow Warbler	2	2								
Goldcrest	9	9								
Long-tailed Tit	8	7	1							
Blue Tit	19	16		1	1	1				
Great Tit	17	13	1	1	2					
Treecreeper	5	5								
Jay	1							1		
Magpie	1	1								
Bullfinch	4	4								
Reed Bunting	15	12		3						
Total	396	319	22	12	9	6	2	1	0	0

Figure 17 Initial Ringing Year Report for 2014 at Thatcham Marsh LNR. As for 2013 schedule (fig 3), this schedule is for the all ringing sessions and is not just limited to those of the CES. It shows a poor passage for Blackcap and Chiffchaff, usually passage through the site is in September when audio lures playing song are used.



Recoveries

From 2012 to December 2014 received to date (January 2015)

The following table shows recoveries of birds ringed or re-captured at Thatcham Marsh LNR from elsewhere (more than 5 kilometres)

Ring	Species	1stDate	Ringed At	2ndDate	Recovered	KM	Days
D047206	Sedge Warbler	19/08/12	Walberwick, Suffolk	26/05/13 02/06/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	223	280 287
D166934	Reed Warbler	10/07/13	Brimpton GPs, Berkshire	22/06/14	Thatcham Marsh LNR	6	347
D483035	Sedge Warbler	08/09/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	29/09/13	Renedo de Esgueva, Valladolid, ESP	1113	21
D501354	Reed Bunting	06/03/14	Denford Mill, Berkshire	26/05/14	Thatcham Marsh LNR	16	81
DEL811	Chiffchaff	30/07/10	Brimpton GPs, Berkshire	25/03/12	Thatcham Marsh LNR	6	604
EHV344	Chiffchaff	01/09/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	16/09/13	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey	54	15
EHV383	Chiffchaff	22/09/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	25/06/14	Hosehill Lake, Berkshire	13	245
EXB469	Chiffchaff	19/09/13	Chobham Common, Surrey	29/09/14	Thatcham Marsh LNR	45	374
L007150	Reed Warbler	07/08/10	Longbridge Deverill Dorset	07/10/12	Thatcham Marsh LNR	70	792
L1200673	Reed Warbler	11/07/10	Thatcham Marsh LNR	17/08/12	Moliets de la Pipe, Moliets-et-Maa FRA	837	768
L120620	Reed Warbler	03/07/10	Thatcham Marsh LNR	26/05/12	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey	54	693
L912682	Reed Warbler	24/07/11	Thatcham Marsh LNR	11/08/12	Hungerford, Berkshire	17	384
L912894	Sedge Warbler	05/05/12	Thatcham Marsh LNR	24/07/13	Itchen Abbas, Hampshire	35	445
V501984	Reed Warbler	25/08/07	Icklesham, East Sussex	07/07/12	Thatcham Marsh LNR	146	1778
V958040	Reed Bunting	17/03/08	Englefield, Berkshire	26/02/12	Thatcham Marsh LNR	11	1441
Y118304	Reed Warbler	31/07/11	West Meadows, Newbury, Berkshire	26/06/13 14/07/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	10	694 714
Y160750	Reed Warbler	28/06/12	Farmoor Reservoir, Oxfordshire	15/07/12	Thatcham Marsh LNR	39	17
Y544097	Sedge Warbler	07/07/12	Thatcham Marsh LNR	30/04/13	Farmoor Reservoir, Oxfordshire	39	297
Y544135	Reed Warbler	28/07/12	Thatcham Marsh LNR	26/04/13	Irun, Guipuzcoa, ESP	897	272
Y544276	Reed Bunting	15/06/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	02/12/13	Brimpton GPs, Berkshire	6	170
Y544331	Reed Warbler	14/07/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	04/08/13	Icklesham, East Sussex	146	21
Y544401	Sedge Warbler	25/08/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	27/08/13	Titchfield Haven, Hampshire	65	2
Y544426	Reed Warbler	01/09/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	08/09/13	Titchfield Haven, Hampshire	65	7
Y590361	Reed Warbler	13/05/12	Kintbury, Berkshire	12/05/13	Thatcham Marsh LNR	12	364
Y847399	Reed Warbler	16/07/13	Fleet Pond, Hampshire	14/06/14 26/07/14	Thatcham Marsh LNR	34	333 375