



Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station

Bi-ennial Report

2008-2009

October 2010

Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station

Bi-ennial Report 2008-2009

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INTRODUCTION

Kevin Sayer

This report covers the activities of Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station (CHRS) for the years 2008 and 2009. Details of ringing operations carried out at other sites over the same period have also been included. Other ringing projects within Dorset and Hampshire are still in their infancy and will be fully reported upon in future reports.

Currently all historic CHRS archives are being entered into the BTO Database using the IPMR software. Once this task has been completed then all historic retraps and recoveries will be available for this bi-ennial report. This will then allow detailed analysis of the database to be carried out which will hopefully result in various scientific papers being produced. It is hoped this exercise will be completed in time for the next report (2010-2011).

We would like to give thanks to the landowners on whose land we have carried out ringing operations during 2008-2009. At Hengistbury Head we are indebted to Bournemouth Borough Council for their kind permission and we must also give thanks to Christchurch Borough Council for the use of Stanpit Marsh. We gratefully acknowledge their support and hope that it will continue into the future.

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Table 1 - Number of birds ringed since 1956

Year	<----- Ringed at CHRS ----->			<--- Ringed outside CHRS --->			New	Retraps
	New	* Retraps	Species	New	Retraps	Species	Total	Total
1956	31		11				31	0
1957	304		37				304	0
1958	303		35				303	0
1959	667		54				667	0
1960	1,322		56				1,322	0
1961	450		46				450	0
1962	900		52				900	0
1963	1,806		57				1,806	0
1964	1,271		54				1,271	0
1965	2,688		54				2,688	0
1966	745		45				745	0
1967	751		31				751	0
1968	481		32				481	0
1969	503		33				503	0
1970	2,237		63				2,237	0
1971	2,916		61				2,916	0
1972	1,946		56				1,946	0
1973	3,397		56				3,397	0
1974	1,028		40				1,028	0
1975	1,631		53				1,631	0
1976	1,662		41				1,662	0
1977	1,706		30				1,706	0
1978	247		24				247	0
1979	419		36				419	0
1980	503		25				503	0
1981	153		18				153	0
1982	292		21				292	0
1983	1,521		39				1,521	0
1984	470		28				470	0
1985	1,692		58				1,692	0
1986	1,823		43				1,823	0
1987	1,666		45				1,666	0
1988	2,334		59				2,334	0
1989	2,714		35				2,714	0
1990	746		22				746	0
1991	311		8				311	0
1992	66		16				66	0
1993	247		21				247	0
1994	481		29				481	0
1995	527		28				527	0
1996	326		22				326	0
1997	524		21				524	0
1998	10		6				10	0
1999	389		22				389	0
2000	112		10				112	0
2001	182		18				182	0
2002	379		21				379	0
2003	722		28				722	0
2004	651		25				651	0
2005	401		24				401	0
2006	260		20				260	0
2007	316		26	133	8	16	449	8
2008	1,252	106	43	628	65	28	1,880	171
2009	1,766	181	40	288	52	23	2,054	233
Total	52,247	287	121	1,049	125		53,296	412
* KRS only								

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Table 2 – Ringing Totals to 31st December 2008

GRAND TOTALS 2008	2008		2008		Overall	Grand
	Ringed at CHRS		Ringed outside CHRS		2008 New	Total
	New	* Retraps	New	Retraps	Total	1956-2008
Grey Heron					0	1
Little Egret					0	1
Mute Swan					0	28
Canada Goose					0	1
Mallard					0	1
Pintail					0	1
Sparrowhawk	1				1	25
Kestrel					0	2
Water Rail					0	23
Spotted Crake					0	3
Moorhen					0	30
Coot					0	18
Oystercatcher					0	7
Avocet		1			0	0
Ringed Plover					0	42
Grey Plover					0	3
Lapwing					0	6
Knot			10		10	17
Sanderling					0	5
Little Stint					0	5
Curlew Sandpiper					0	5
Dunlin					0	564
Jack Snipe					0	18
Common Snipe					0	258
Redshank					0	23
Greenshank		1			0	1
Bar-tailed Godwit		1			0	0
Wood Sandpiper					0	1
Common Sandpiper					0	32
Turnstone					0	1
Grey Phalarope					0	5
Black-headed Gull					0	18
Mediterranean Gull		1			0	0
Herring Gull					0	3
Stock Dove					0	6
Woodpigeon	2		1		3	41
Cuckoo					0	4
Little Owl					0	1
Tawny Owl					0	4
Long-eared Owl					0	1
Nightjar					0	1
Swift					0	2
Kingfisher	1				1	140
Wryneck					0	1
Green Woodpecker	1		1		2	23
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1		4		5	15
Skylark					0	145
Sand Martin	1				1	1,174

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Table 2 – Ringing Totals to 31st December 2008

GRAND TOTALS 2008	2008		2008		Overall	Grand
	Ringed at CHRS		Ringed outside CHRS		2008 New	Total
	New	* Retraps	New	Retraps	Total	1956-2008
Swallow	1				1	948
House Martin					0	70
Tree Pipit					0	7
Meadow Pipit	4				4	250
Rock Pipit					0	36
Yellow Wagtail					0	2,268
Grey Wagtail					0	11
Pied/White Wagtail	67		8		75	149
Wren	33	5	2		35	735
Dunnock	40	7	7	5	47	881
Robin	58	18	13	7	71	992
Nightingale					0	19
Bluethroat					0	5
Black Redstart					0	3
Redstart	2				2	280
Whinchat					0	45
Stonechat			2		2	114
Wheatear					0	46
Ring Ouzel					0	6
Blackbird	17	7	24	3	41	1,419
Fieldfare					0	3
Song Thrush	14	1			14	405
Redwing					0	13
Mistle Thrush					0	34
Cetti's Warbler	12	9			12	137
Grasshopper Warbler	1				1	30
Aquatic Warbler					0	29
Sedge Warbler	238	1			238	13,238
Reed Warbler	137	14			137	5,689
Great Reed Warbler					0	1
Dartford Warbler					0	11
Barred Warbler	1				1	3
Lesser Whitethroat	1				1	101
Whitethroat	51	5			51	1,168
Garden Warbler	2				2	193
Blackcap	63		3		66	1,073
Greenish Warbler					0	1
Pallas's Warbler					0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler	1				1	3
Bonelli's Warbler					0	1
Wood Warbler					0	7
Chiffchaff	152	4	11		163	1,795
Willow Warbler	63		4		67	5,222
Goldcrest	35	2	63	1	98	1,019
Firecrest			13		13	54
Spotted Flycatcher					0	179
Pied Flycatcher					0	53
Bearded Tit					0	74
Long-tailed Tit	31	7	16	2	47	237

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Table 2 – Ringing Totals to 31st December 2008

GRAND TOTALS 2008	2008		2008		Overall	Grand
	Ringed at CHRS		Ringed outside CHRS		2008 New	Total
	New	* Retraps	New	Retraps	Total	1956-2008
Marsh Tit					0	3
Coal Tit			39	5	39	74
Blue Tit	37	9	59	16	96	2,820
Great Tit	34	4	59	13	93	517
Treecreeper					0	7
Woodchat Shrike					0	2
Nuthatch			5	1	5	5
Jay	1	1	3		4	6
Magpie	1				1	27
Jackdaw					0	6
Rook					0	1
Carrion Crow					0	5
Starling					0	496
House Sparrow	6		1		7	416
Tree Sparrow					0	51
Chaffinch	1		19		20	320
Brambling			4		4	24
Greenfinch	54		16		70	1,188
Goldfinch	9		11		20	390
Siskin			222	12	222	228
Linnet					0	1,037
Lesser Redpoll	31		8		39	97
Bullfinch					0	63
Northern Parula					0	1
Yellowhammer					0	3
Little Bunting					0	1
Reed Bunting	47	8			47	1,326
Corn Bunting					0	20
Swallow x House Martin Hybrid						1
Details lost						112
Totals	1,252	106	628	65	1,880	51,011
* KRS only						

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Table 3 – Ringing Totals to 31st December 2009

GRAND TOTALS 2009	2009		2009		Overall	Grand
	Ringed at CHRS		Ringed outside CHRS		2009 New	Total
	New	* Retraps	New	Retraps	Total	1956-2009
Grey Heron					0	1
Little Egret					0	1
Mute Swan					0	28
Canada Goose					0	1
Mallard	1				1	2
Pintail					0	1
Sparrowhawk					0	25
Kestrel					0	2
Water Rail					0	23
Spotted Crake					0	3
Moorhen					0	30
Coot					0	18
Oystercatcher					0	7
Ringed Plover					0	42
Grey Plover					0	3
Lapwing					0	6
Knot					0	7
Sanderling		1			0	5
Little Stint					0	5
Curlew Sandpiper					0	5
Dunlin					0	564
Jack Snipe					0	18
Common Snipe					0	258
Redshank					0	23
Greenshank					0	1
Black-tailed Godwit		1			0	0
Bar-tailed Godwit					0	0
Wood Sandpiper					0	1
Common Sandpiper					0	32
Turnstone					0	1
Grey Phalarope					0	5
Black-headed Gull		3			0	18
Herring Gull					0	3
Stock Dove					0	6
Woodpigeon	7		2		9	48
Collared Dove			1		1	1
Cuckoo					0	4
Little Owl					0	1
Tawny Owl					0	4
Long-eared Owl					0	1
Nightjar					0	1
Swift					0	2
Kingfisher	2				2	142
Wryneck					0	1
Green Woodpecker	3	3			3	25
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	1	1	2	13
Skylark					0	145
Sand Martin					0	1,174
Swallow	17				17	965
House Martin					0	70

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Table 3 – Ringing Totals to 31st December 2009

GRAND TOTALS 2009	2009		2009		Overall	Grand
	Ringed at CHRS		Ringed outside CHRS		2009 New	Total
	New	* Retraps	New	Retraps	Total	1956-2009
Tree Pipit					0	7
Meadow Pipit	3				3	253
Rock Pipit					0	36
Yellow Wagtail	1				1	2,269
Grey Wagtail					0	11
Pied Wagtail	128	1			128	269
Wren	37	8	3		40	773
Dunnock	39	14	16	6	55	929
Robin	71	20	13	2	84	1,063
Nightingale					0	19
Bluethroat					0	5
Black Redstart					0	3
Redstart					0	280
Whinchat					0	45
Stonechat	1				1	113
Wheatear					0	46
Ring Ouzel					0	6
Blackbird	42	12	13	5	55	1,450
Fieldfare					0	3
Song Thrush	14	2			14	419
Redwing					0	13
Mistle Thrush					0	34
Cetti's Warbler	22	7			22	159
Grasshopper Warbler	1				1	31
Aquatic Warbler					0	29
Sedge Warbler	472	8			472	13,710
Reed Warbler	221	37			221	5,910
Great Reed Warbler					0	1
Dartford Warbler					0	11
Barred Warbler					0	3
Lesser Whitethroat	5				5	106
Whitethroat	88	9			88	1,256
Garden Warbler	9	1			9	202
Blackcap	121	3			121	1,191
Greenish Warbler					0	1
Pallas's Warbler					0	1
Yellow-browed Warbler					0	3
Bonelli's Warbler					0	1
Wood Warbler					0	7
Chiffchaff	136	6	4		140	1,924
Willow Warbler	33	1	7		40	5,258
Goldcrest			3		3	959
Firecrest	1		2		3	44
Spotted Flycatcher	1				1	180
Pied Flycatcher					0	53
Bearded Tit		1			0	74
Long-tailed Tit	8	9	3	8	11	232
Marsh Tit					0	3
Coal Tit			30	8	30	65

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Table 3 – Ringing Totals to 31st December 2009

GRAND TOTALS 2009	2009		2009		Overall	Grand
	Ringed at CHRS		Ringed outside CHRS		2009 New	Total
	New	* Retraps	New	Retraps	Total	1956-2009
Blue Tit	71	13	53	11	124	2,885
Great Tit	38	8	36	4	74	532
Treecreeper	1				1	8
Woodchat Shrike					0	2
Nuthatch			2		2	2
Jay			1		1	4
Magpie					0	27
Jackdaw					0	6
Rook					0	1
Carrion Crow					0	5
Starling					0	496
House Sparrow			6		6	421
Tree Sparrow					0	51
Chaffinch	3	1	9		12	313
Brambling					0	20
Greenfinch	113	3	4		117	1,289
Goldfinch	5		16		21	400
Siskin			62	7	62	68
Linnet					0	1,037
Lesser Redpoll	12		1		13	102
Bullfinch					0	63
Northern Parula					0	1
Yellowhammer					0	3
Little Bunting					0	1
Reed Bunting	38	8			38	1,364
Corn Bunting					0	20
Swallow x House Martin Hybrid						1
Details Lost						112
Totals	1,766	181	288	52	2,054	52,436

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Table 4 – CHRS Monthly Ringing Totals 2008 (inc.retraps)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Sparrowhawk										1			1
Avocet			1										1
Bar-tailed Godwit					1								1
Greenshank										1			1
Mediterranean Gull							1						1
Woodpigeon					1				1				2
Kingfisher									1				1
Green Woodpecker							1						1
Great Spotted Woodpecker									1				1
Sand Martin								1					1
Swallow					1								1
Meadow Pipit					2					2			4
Pied/White Wagtail										63	4		67
Wren				2	4		11	4	6	11			38
Duncock				3	8	2	9	2	13	10			47
Robin				1	18	2	14	12	14	15			76
Redstart							1	1					2
Blackbird				2	6		3	2	3	8			24
Song Thrush				1	4	1	2	1	2	4			15
Cetti's Warbler					7		2	3	5	4			21
Grasshopper Warbler							1						1
Sedge Warbler							94	110	35				239
Reed Warbler				2	18	2	72	38	18	1			151
Barred Warbler									1				1
Lesser Whitethroat									1				1
Whitethroat				1	19	1	15	17	3				56
Garden Warbler									1	1			2
Blackcap				8	2	1	3	2	37	10			63
Yellow-browed Warbler										1			1
Chiffchaff				23	5	2	30	5	48	43			156
Willow Warbler				34	2		6	15	6				63
Goldcrest									4	33			37
Long-tailed Tit					28				4	6			38
Blue Tit				2	13	2	5	3	15	6			46
Great Tit		1		6	11		9		6	5			38
Jay				1			1						2
Magpie							1						1
House Sparrow					6								6
Chaffinch										1			1
Greenfinch		1		10	20	1	13	1	5	3			54
Goldfinch					2		1	3	1	2			9
Lesser Redpoll										31			31
Reed Bunting							20	25	10				55
Total	0	2	1	96	178	14	315	245	241	262	4	0	1,358
Species	0	2	1	14	21	9	23	18	25	23	1	0	43

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Table 5 – CHRS Monthly Ringing Totals 2009 (inc.retraps)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Mallard					1								1
Sanderling								1					1
Black-tailed Godwit									1				1
Black-headed Gull							2				1		3
Woodpigeon				1	2	1	2			1			7
Kingfisher								1	1				2
Green Woodpecker						4	1		1				6
Great Spotted Woodpecker									1	1			2
Swallow					1				16				17
Meadow Pipit					1			2					3
Yellow Wagtail								1					1
Pied/White Wagtail										129			129
Wren				5	6	7	12	3	4	8			45
Dunnock			3	6	12	2	12	3	10	5			53
Robin				1	13	7	18	9	23	20			91
Stonechat									1				1
Blackbird			1	7	18	7	5		7	9			54
Song Thrush			1	1	4	2	1	1	4	2			16
Cetti's Warbler				2	1		3	2	9	12			29
Grasshopper Warbler									1				1
Sedge Warbler				4	16		80	312	68				480
Reed Warbler				1	16		92	112	37				258
Lesser Whitethroat				2			1	1	1				5
Whitethroat				3	20	4	23	37	10				97
Garden Warbler								7	3				10
Blackcap				4	8	13	17	14	56	12			124
Chiffchaff			4	4	3	3	12	2	55	59			142
Willow Warbler				7	2		4	18	3				34
Firecrest				1									1
Spotted Flycatcher								1					1
Bearded Tit	1												1
Long-tailed Tit			2	5	6				1	3			17
Blue Tit			1	4	9	18	18	5	20	9			84
Great Tit			4	3	7	6	15	6	4	1			46
Treecreeper							1						1
Chaffinch					3	1							4
Greenfinch			5	8	21	13	21	17	8	23			116
Goldfinch										5			5
Lesser Redpoll										12			12
Reed Bunting					5		24	9	5	3			46
Total	1	0	21	69	175	88	364	564	350	314	1	0	1,947
Species	1	0	8	19	22	14	21	22	26	18	1	0	40

Recoveries and Controls

Kevin Sayer

The following pages details all significant recoveries and controls over the last few years. This report would normally only include those records received by CHRS during the previous two years (2008-2009) but as this is the first-ever such detailed report, I have included all recent significant records. As we are now receiving sighting records of colour-ringed birds, along with photographic-assisted sightings of conventionally ringed birds, these have also now been included.

Key

Age when ringed.

This is given according to the EURING code. The figures do not represent years but are interpreted as follows:

- 1 nestling or chick not yet able to fly
- 2 fully grown, year of hatching quite unknown
- 3 definitely hatched during current calendar year
- 4 hatched before current calendar year, exact year unknown
- 5 definitely hatched during last calendar year
- 6 hatched before last calendar year of ringing, exact year unknown
- 7 definitely hatched two calendar years ago before ringing
- 8 hatched more than two calendar years before ringing
- ? unknown

Sex

M/F Male/Female

Condition on recovery

- X found dead
- XF found freshly dead or dying
- XL found dead (not recent)
- + shot or intentionally killed by man
- S sick or injured - not known to have been released
- VV alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in field
- R caught and released by ringer
- N caught and released but not by a ringer + breeding
- /?/ condition on finding wholly unknown

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

X6897	5	05/05/2003	Keyhaven
	X	24/11/2005	Mudford - 2 yrs 203 days
X1948	3	18/07/1999	Christchurch Harbour
	VV	08/10/2000	Walpole Park, Gosport, Hants
	XF	16/10/2002	Whiteley, Fareham, Hants - 3 yrs 90 days
U7462	3F	23/07/1995	Christchurch Harbour
	VV	16/05/2000	Walpole Park, Gosport, Hants - 4 yrs 297 days

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Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

“KLD”	?	July 1999	Christchurch Harbour
	VV	23/03/2002	R.Itchen, Allbrook, nr. Eastleigh, Hants
“JET”	7	24/01/1981	Keyhaven
	XF	15/11/2002	Keyhaven - 21 yrs 295 days

This bird has been seen on several occasions within Christchurch Harbour between the above dates. This bird had therefore reached the age of 23 years; the BTO longevity record is 26 years and 9 months.

W22600	4	01/10/2006	Christchurch Quay
	VV	08/02/2007	Beckenham, Greater London – 142 Km
	VV	12/03/2009	Kensington Gardens, London – 140 Km

This bird was ringed by Dave Stone during one of his Autumn visits to the area.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

1299377	1	24/04/2009	Cleveland Farm, Wilts
	VV	28/06/2009	Stanpit Marsh – 103 Km

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

“W8RC”	4M	11/07/1989	Taimyr Delta, Siberia, USSR
	VV	24/12/2002	Stanpit Marsh
	VV	13/03/2003	Stanpit Marsh
	VV	13/12/2003	Stanpit Marsh
	VV	15/01/2006	Stanpit Marsh - 16 yrs 188 days

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

FX9961	1	18/06/2003	Petit Falguerec, Sene, Morbihan, FRANCE
	VV	25/03/2008	Stanpit Marsh - 352km, 4 yrs 280 days



Avocet Stanpit Marsh March 2008

This bird has been seen on many occasions around Northern France before its arrival in the UK. We think this is only the fourth report of a French-ringed Avocet in Britain & Ireland. Up to 2007, only 13 foreign-ringed Avocets have ever been reported in Britain & Ireland.

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Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

?	1	05/08/1991	Holme-next-the-sea, Norfolk
	VV	01/05/1992	Stanpit Marsh
	VV	14/10/1999	Middlebere, Dorset, 8 yrs 70 days

Since initial ringing this bird has travelled around East Anglia and even managed a visit to Devon in 1991.

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicanus*

?	1	June 2006	Salisbury Plain
	VV	14/07/2006	Stanpit

Knot *Calidris canutus*

?	?	16/10/2001	Friesian Islands, HOLLAND
	VV	15/08/2007	Stanpit Marsh - 5 yrs 303 days

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

?	4M	27/07/2006	Kingsnorth Power Station, Kent
	VV	24/07/2007	Stanpit Marsh - 362 days

“WL-RW”	4M	08/08/1998	Terrington, Norfolk
	VV	Nov 1998	Stour Estuary, Essex
	VV	Apr 1999	Blackwater Estuary, Essex
	VV	Aug 2000	Oare Marshes, Kent
	VV	May 2001	Alftafjordur, ICELAND
	VV	11/07/2001	Cotswold Water Park, Wilts
	VV	Apr 2005	Marshside, Lancs.
	VV	Mar 2006	Mythop, Lancs.
	VV	28/12/2006	Stanpit Marsh - 8 yrs 142 days

“YY+LR”	1	12/07/2002	Road 812,north of Akureyri, ICELAND
	VV	03/11/2002	Penclacwydd WWT, Carmarthenshire
	VV	28/05/2003	Keyhaven Marsh
	VV	24/06/2003	River Yar, Isle of Wight
	VV	14/09/2003	Sturt Pond, Hants
	VV	27/03/2004	Christchurch Harbour
	VV	22/04/2004	Keyhaven

“G-LN//W”	5M	31/06/2000	Terrington, Norfolk
	VV	24/02/2008	Stanpit Marsh – 7 yrs 179 days

“O//R – RG”	5F	26/06/2005	Thorney Island, West Sussex
	VV	26/01/2008	Stanpit Marsh – 2 yrs 153 days

ES74732	4M	16/11/1998	Farlington,Hants
	VV	14/02/2010	Stanpit Marsh – 11 yrs 90 days

583042	1	09/07/2009	Holmavik, ICELAND
	VV	18/09/2009	Stanpit Marsh

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

1504963 ? 21/05/2007 Terschelling, **HOLLAND**
VV 18/05/2008 Stanpit Marsh - 362 days



Bar-tailed Godwit Stanpit Marsh May 2008

Sanderling *Calidris alba*



Sanderling Stanpit Aug 2009

Jimmy Main

B03223 2 11/10/2007 Asenko Village, **GHANA**
VV 12/08/2009 Stanpit Marsh - 5093km 1 yr 305 days

This bird was ringed by Edward Koomson of the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) as part of a long-standing study started in 2006. Other Ghanaian ringed birds from this study have also turned up on the Wash, some during spring passage (22-25 May) and others during the autumn period (17 July - 17 August).

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Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Sanderling undertake probably one of the longest migrations within the avian world. Their main breeding grounds are in Greenland ,Canada and Siberia and soon after they depart for NW Europe via Iceland. Most will stay to moult in such stopover sites as the Waddensee in Holland or maybe the Wash in England. They will then continue their migration along the Atlantic coast of Western Europe down towards Western Africa and finally onto Southern Africa where they will spend the winter. The following spring will then see them return to their arctic breeding grounds.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

DD51905	?	27/08/2006	Thorney Deepes, West Sussex
	VV	09/10/2008	Stanpit Marsh - 2 yrs 43 days

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

EW55092	1	10/06/2008	Cokes Pit, Somerford Keynes, Gloucs
	VV	27/07/2009	Stanpit Marsh - 1 yr 47 days

EL53112	1	13/06/2004	Poole Harbour
	VV	27/07/2009	Stanpit Marsh - 5 yrs 44 days

ES98593	?	10/10/1997	Poole Park
	R	19/11/2005	Christchurch Quay - 8 yrs 40 days

6H3064	8M	28/03/2008	Copenhagen, DENMARK
	VV	16/11/2009	Christchurch Harbour – 1103 Km
	VV	26/03/2010	Copenhagen, DENMARK



Black-headed Gull Stanpit Nov 2009 *Darren Hughes*

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*



Black-headed Gull Stanpit Nov 2009 *Darren Hughes*
The left tarsus shows the metal ring beginning '6'

A colour-ringed bird which was photographed by CHOG member Darren Hughes. It will be interesting to see if this bird repeats this pattern of commuting between Copenhagen and Christchurch Harbour. A 2000 Kms+ round trip!

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

E907697 7F 17/05/2007 Oost-Vlaanderen, **BELGUIM**
 VV 24/07/2008 Stanpit Marsh, 422km 1 yr 68 days



Mediterranean Gull Stanpit *Alan Hayden*

This bird has been re-sighted many times on its travels between the UK and the continent. The life history indicates a clear pattern of summer, westward dispersal from the Belgian breeding colony.

EG45303	1	26/06/2001	Langstone Harbour, Hants
	VV	15/08/2001	HHC Wick
	VV	21/08/2001	Foreland, nr. Bembridge, Isle of Wight
	VV	26/07/2002	Foreland, nr. Bembridge, Isle of Wight
	VV	27/08/2002	Foreland, nr. Bembridge, Isle of Wight
FS63806	1	19/06/2010	Jablins, Seine-et-Marne, FRANCE
	VV	29/08/2010	Stanpit Marsh – 383 Km

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*



Mediterranean Gull Stanpit Aug 2010 Alan Hayden

Another French colour-ringed Med Gull which was ringed as a pullus just to the East of Paris. Thanks to Alan Hayden for photographing it and contacting the French Ringers on our behalf.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

DS27204	3F	03/09/2005	Hengistbury Head Centre
	R	02/06/2009	Nursery, Hengistbury Head, 3 yrs 270 days

The BTO longevity record is 15 years for this species – so still a youngster!

DA31272	3	22/06/2009	Nursery, Hengistbury Head
	S	30/07/2009	Talbot Heath, Bournemouth

A youngster which was presumably 'moved on' by its parents (DS27204?).

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba/yarrellii*

?	?	Aug/Sept 07	East Kilbride, Glasgow
	VV	15/02/2009	Stanpit Marsh

A possible Icelandic breeder on its way back? A fair distance from its original location so could be of the continental race alba or 'White Wagtail'. This bird was identified by its coloured rings.

X714395	3F	29/09/2009	East Kilbride, Glasgow
	R	14/10/2009	HHC, Wick

Confirmed by the original Ringer as being of the race alba. Our second controlled Pied Wagtail from the same site in 2009. Co-incidentally, another Pied Wagtail of the yarrellii race was re-trapped at nearby Abbotsbury on 12 Oct 2009 which had been originally ringed at Dundee on 29 Sept 2009 also. A significant movement therefore of wagtails from Scotland to the south coast.

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Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

16Z65556 3 13/11/2005 Oost-Vlaanderen, **BELGIUM**
 XF 09/12/2008 Highcliffe – 414 Km

Not strictly in CHOG land but near enough! A good control nonetheless. Apparently, a cat got it!

NB. We have had a Med Gull from this same site – see above.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

P201677 3 19/08/2003 Wick
 R 29/04/2006 Wick - 2 yrs 253 days

P585225 ? 06/09/2004 Wick
 XF 01/04/2006 Southbourne - 1 yr 207 days

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

RB20508 4M 28/10/2003 Nursery, Hengistbury Head
 R 17/10/2008 Nursery, Hengistbury Head - 4 yrs 354 days

One wonders if this bird has ever left this small wood in 5 years!

LB06011 4M 05/11/2008 Ferndown, Dorset
 R 28/02/2009 Orfordness, Suffolk - 279km 115 days

One presumes this bird was of continental origin and was on its way back to breed.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

X395631 3M 25/08/2009 HHC, Wick
 R 01/09/2009 Sandwich Bay, Kent – 229 Km

A juvenile moving eastwards along the coast before crossing onto the continent.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

V680430 4F 13/09/2009 Titchfield Haven, Hants
 R 11/10/2009 HHC, Wick – 38 Km

Our first-ever control of a Cetti from a not unexpected source.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Within CHRS history we have had 23 Sedge Warblers recoveries to France, 8 of which are documented in this report. This is not that surprising since most Autumn departing birds will travel in this direction to get to their winter quarters.

R821408 3 26/07/2006 Wick
 R 29/07/2006 Titchfield Haven, Hants, 38km 3 days

P201482 3 04/08/2003 Wick
 R 12/08/2003 Tour aux Moutons, Donges, **FRANCE**, 8 days

P201541 4 08/08/2003 Wick
 R 09/08/2005 Massereau, Frossay, **FRANCE**, 388km 2 yrs 1 day

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Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

P201777	3M	27/08/2003	Wick
	R	13/06/2004	Helton Tarn, Witherslack, Cumbria
	R	05/06/2005	Helton Tarn, Witherslack, Cumbria
X395651	3	06/09/2009	HHC, Wick
	XF	09/05/2010	Castlemaine, Keel, Kerry, EIRE – 578 Km

Presumably this bird was returning to its natal area when it met its demise.

X395195	3	02/08/2009	HHC, Wick
	R	09/09/2009	Frossay, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE – 388 Km
X395346	3	06/08/2009	Wick Reedbed
	R	18/08/2009	Saint Joachim, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE – 372 Km
X395412	3	08/08/2009	HHC, Wick
	R	11/08/2009	Cardiff Wetland Reserve, WALES – 129 Km
V386446	5F	23/08/2008	HHC, Wick
	R	25/07/2009	Uskmouth, Newport, Gwent – 124 Km
R821173	3	20/08/2005	HHC, Wick
	R	20/08/2007	Saint-Vigor-d'Ymonville, FRANCE

This site is just a few kilometres inland from Le Havre.

R821968	3	23/07/2008	HHC, Wick
	R	07/08/2008	Guipuzcoa, SPAIN – 819 Km

This is only our fourth ever Sedge Warbler recovery to Spain.

X849666	3	11/07/2010	Walcot, Nr. Wellington, Salop
	R	01/08/2010	HHC, Wick – 228 Km
R821958	3	22/07/2008	HHC, Wick
	R	20/08/2008	Trunvel, Finistere, FRANCE – 360 Km
V386123	3	27/07/2008	HHC, Wick
	R	09/08/2008	Trunvel, Finistere, FRANCE – 360 Km
V386244	3	11/08/2008	HHC, Wick
	R	17/08/2008	Penn Mane, Morbihan, FRANCE – 360 Km

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

N763762	4	09/04/2009	Parque el Alamillo, Sevilla, SPAIN
	R	01/05/2009	HHC, Wick – 1519 Km

This is our first-ever control of an overseas-ringed Reed Warbler!

There are currently only 47 birds from Spain that have ever been controlled in the UK.

Google Earth tells me this bird was ringed very close to the centre of Seville.

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Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

X061071	3	25/07/2009	Woolston Eyes, Warrington, Cheshire
	R	14/08/2009	HHC, Wick – 301 Km
R821901	3	02/08/2007	HHC, Wick
	R	24/08/2007	Beachy Head, Sussex
X395529	3	17/08/2009	HHC, Wick
	R	29/08/2009	Titchfield Haven, Hants

These last two are examples of the movements made along the south coast, in either direction, prior to the Channel crossing.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

4Z9817	4F	16/04/2008	HHC, Wick
	R	26/07/2008	Slapton Ley, Devon

Only our fourth-ever recovery of a Chiffchaff.

Blue Tit *Parus ater*

J885758	4F	28/08/1999	Wick
	R	12/04/2004	Wick, 4 yrs 197 days

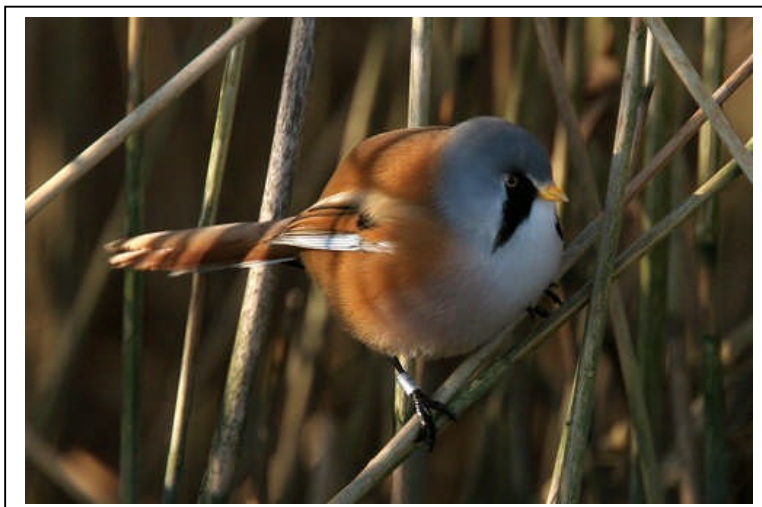
Great Tit *Parus major*

P201160	3	Jul 2002	Wick
	R	Apr 2006	Wick
	R	Oct 2007	Wick, 5 yrs 3 months

This bird sets the CHRS longevity record.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biamicus*

V068583	3M	08/07/2007	RSPB Radipole, Weymouth
	VV	07/01/2009	Stanpit Marsh - 1 yr 183 days



Bearded Tit Stanpit Alan Hayden

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Bearded Tit *Panurus biamicus*

With the help of Alan Hayden's camera and the BTO's computer software we managed to read the metal ring in the field.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis flammea cabaret*

V724581	5M	30/03/2009	Nantmel, Powys, WALES
	R	06/02/2010	HWT Blashford, Hants - 313 days 194km

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

VB03327	4M	20/04/2004	Hengistbury Head Centre
	R	16/06/2009	Nursery, Hengistbury Head - 5 yrs 57 days

VB03342	?	July 2006	Wick
	N	Aug 2007	Christchurch

This bird was found injured somewhere in Christchurch in late August 2006. It was taken into care and diagnosed with a minor sprain to its left wing; it was released two days later.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

X087936	6M	11/03/2009	Ferndown, Dorset
	XF	14/06/2009	Huhus, Ilomantsi, FINLAND - 2376km 95 days

Less than 20 British ringed Siskins have been recovered in Finland. A cat unfortunately took this bird!

X614248	6F	31/03/2009	Drummond, Inverness, SCOTLAND
	R	18/01/2010	HWT Blashford, Hants - 293 days 749km

T995376	5F	25/02/2008	Ferndown, Dorset
	R	23/03/2008	Whitstable, Kent - 214km 27 days

X087951	5F	18/03/2009	Ferndown, Dorset
	R	27/03/2009	Pope's Hill, Gloucs - 120km 9 days

X087541	5F	17/03/2008	Ferndown, Dorset
	XF	09/07/2008	Braemar, Grampian, SCOTLAND - 697km 114 days

This bird had hit a glass window.

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CHRS Annual Totals 1956-2009

	1956-96	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Grey Heron	1														1
Little Egret	0											1			1
Mute Swan	28														28
Canada Goose	1														1
Mallard	1													1	2
Pintail	1														1
Sparrowhawk	20							1	1			2	1		25
Kestrel	2														2
Water Rail	23														23
Spotted Crake	3														3
Moorhen	30														30
Coot	18														18
Oystercatcher	7														7
Ringed Plover	42														42
Grey Plover	3														3
Lapwing	6														6
Knot	7														7
Sanderling	5														5
Little Stint	5														5
Curlew Sandpiper	5														5
Dunlin	564														564
Jack Snipe	18														18
Common Snipe	258														258
Redshank	23														23
Greenshank	1														1
Wood Sandpiper	1														1
Common Sandpiper	32														32
Turnstone	1														1
Grey Phalarope	5														5
Black-headed Gull	18														18
Herring Gull	3														3
Stock Dove	6														6
Woodpigeon	31			1				4			2		2	7	47
Cuckoo	4														4
Little Owl	1														1
Tawny Owl	4														4
Long-eared Owl	1														1
Nightjar	1														1
Swift	2														2
Kingfisher	128	1		1		2		3	3			1	1	2	142
Wryneck	1														1
Green Woodpecker	16					2	1		1	1			1	3	25
Great Spotted Woodpecker	9											1	1	1	12
Skylark	145														145
Sand Martin	1172									1			1		1,174
Swallow	946											1	1	17	965
House Martin	70														70

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CHRS Annual Totals 1956-2009

	1956-96	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Tree Pipit	7														7
Meadow Pipit	246												4	3	253
Rock Pipit	36														36
Yellow Wagtail	2268													1	2,269
Grey Wagtail	11														11
Pied Wagtail	74												67	128	269
Wren	607	5		2	2	12	13	14	20	11	5	9	33	37	770
Dunnock	775	2		1		1	2	13	17	9	3	11	40	39	913
Robin	765	4		7		5	13	25	27	25	12	38	58	71	1,050
Nightingale	19														19
Bluethroat	5														5
Black Redstart	3														3
Redstart	276			1						1			2		280
Whinchat	43	1					1								45
Stonechat	104	1		1			4		1	1				1	113
Wheatear	46														46
Ring Ouzel	6														6
Blackbird	1334	1	1	2	1	2	4	11	7	2	5	8	17	42	1,437
Fieldfare	3														3
Song Thrush	367					2	3	2	8	3	2	4	14	14	419
Redwing	13														13
Mistle Thrush	34														34
Cetti's Warbler	72	1		2	2	3	3	18	11	10	1	2	12	22	159
Grasshopper Warbler	26	1		1				1					1	1	31
Aquatic Warbler	29														29
Sedge Warbler	11639	249	2	220	63	61	168	286	170	84	108	47	238	472	13,807
Reed Warbler	4908	95	2	88	26	39	66	109	87	48	57	28	137	221	5,911
Great Reed Warbler	1														1
Dartford Warbler	11														11
Barred Warbler	2												1		3
Lesser Whitethroat	92							2	2	2	1	1	1	5	106
Whitethroat	952	26	1	10	3	5	36	14	24	21	14	11	51	88	1,256
Garden Warbler	180	3			1				3	2	1	1	2	9	202
Blackcap	934	2		2			3	17	25	12	4	8	63	121	1,191
Greenish Warbler	1														1
Pallas's Warbler	1														1
Yellow-browed Warbler	2												1		3
Bonelli's Warbler	1														1
Wood Warbler	7														7
Chiffchaff	1382	6	1	3		4	6	83	85	25	8	29	152	136	1,920
Willow Warbler	4758	93		25	9	24	17	30	84	64	9	42	63	33	5,251

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CHRS Annual Totals 1956-2009

	1956-96	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Goldcrest	893			1				9	18				35		956
Firecrest	41													1	42
Spotted Flycatcher	179													1	180
Pied Flycatcher	53														53
Bearded Tit	74														74
Long-tailed Tit	127			6		7	2	17	7	9		15	31	8	229
Marsh Tit	3														3
Coal Tit	33							2							35
Blue Tit	2585	19	3	10	3	5	26	16	19	12	7	19	37	71	2,832
Great Tit	360	5		2		5	2	13	9	6	6	16	34	38	496
Treecreeper	7													1	8
Woodchat Shrike	2														2
Jay	0			1				1					1		3
Magpie	24					2							1		27
Jackdaw	6														6
Rook	1														1
Carrion Crow	5														5
Starling	492						3	1							496
House Sparrow	408											1	6		415
Tree Sparrow	51														51
Chaffinch	299							1					1	3	304
Brambling	20														20
Greenfinch	1035	1				1	3	9	13	38	8	10	54	113	1,285
Goldfinch	340							12	6	4	2	6	9	5	384
Siskin	6														6
Linnet	1036	1													1,037
Lesser Redpoll	58												31	12	101
Bullfinch	63														63
Northern Parula	1														1
Yellowhammer	3														3
Little Bunting	1														1
Reed Bunting	1235	7		2	2		3	8	3	10	5	4	47	38	1,364
Corn Bunting	20														20
Swallow/House Martin Hybrid	1														1
Details lost	112														112
TOTAL	45,283	524	10	389	112	182	379	722	651	401	260	316	1,252	1,766	52,247

Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station – The Nursery

Constant Effort Site 2009

By Kevin Sayer

I decided to setup a Constant Effort Site (CES) at the Nursery on Hengistbury Head, starting in 2009. This project was an attempt to monitor the breeding species using the wood at The Nursery. I had done some ringing here during 2008 and was hopeful that enough birds would be trapped to make the project worthwhile. I had expected to catch an average of 20 birds per session over the 12 scheduled sessions which would have given me an annual total of around 250 birds. Using just 6 nets sited in the same place for each session the aim was to catch a representative sample of the birds breeding here.

Unfortunately, as the breeding season progressed the catches became smaller and I had to cancel the project before the scheduled end. The wood is used by both migrant and resident breeders so the small sample taken does give a good indication of what species are breeding here.

CHRS - CES 2009 at The Nursery

	Visit 1 6 May		Visit 3 20 May		Visit 4 2 June		Visit 5 16 June		Visit 6 22 June		Visit 7 1 July		Visit 8 18 July		Visit 10 30 July		Totals	
	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.	Ad.	Juv.
Mallard	1																1	0
Woodpigeon					1						1		1				2	1
Green Woodpecker									2								0	2
Wren	1		1				1		2	3			1				5	4
Duncock			3		1				1		1						4	2
Robin	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1		4	5
Blackbird	4		2		2		1	1	2								9	3
Song Thrush					2												0	2
Whitethroat	1				1				1	2	1	2					4	4
Blackcap			2		1		1	6	2	1	2		1				6	10
Chiffchaff			1		1		1		1								2	2
Blue Tit	1		2		1	3	1	12	1				2				5	18
Great Tit			3		2	1		1			1		1		1		5	5
Treecreeper															1		0	1
Chaffinch	1		2														3	0
Greenfinch	1		1		2	2	1	4	2	1							7	7
Totals	11	0	17	0	11	11	6	26	10	13	2	7	0	7	0	2	57	66

Visits 2 and 9 were cancelled due to bad weather. The project was terminated after visit 10 due to the lack of birds. The above totals do not include retraps. The most unusual of these was an adult female Green Woodpecker caught on 2nd June which was originally ringed at the HHC on 3 Sept 2005. This bird was trapped again at the Nursery on 1st July.

The Nursery will continue to be targeted in the future, but probably not to the same extent again during the breeding season! There is certainly scope for another CES to be carried out within the recording area. The most likely target would be the large expanse of reedbed which certainly contains numerous breeding *acrocephalus* warblers – perhaps something for the future.

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NON-CHRS ANNUAL TOTALS 2007-2009

I have detailed below the totals for all ringing undertaken outside the recording area of Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station. These include my back garden in Ferndown and other sites in Dorset and Hampshire. Future bi-ennial reports will go into more detail about these sites.

	2007	2008	2009	Total
Knot		10		10
Woodpigeon	1	1	2	4
Collared Dove			1	1
Green Woodpecker		1		1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	4	1	6
Pied Wagtail		8		8
Wren	4	2	3	9
Dunnock	10	7	16	33
Robin	5	13	13	31
Stonechat		2		2
Blackbird	16	24	13	53
Blackcap		3		3
Chiffchaff		11	4	15
Willow Warbler		4	7	11
Goldcrest	3	63	3	69
Firecrest		13	2	15
Long-tailed Tit	8	16	3	27
Coal Tit	8	39	30	77
Blue Tit	14	59	53	126
Great Tit	9	59	36	104
Nuthatch		5	2	7
Jay		3	1	4
Starling	31			31
House Sparrow		1	6	7
Chaffinch	4	19	9	32
Brambling		4		4
Greenfinch	18	16	4	38
Goldfinch	1	11	16	28
Siskin		222	62	284
Lesser Redpoll		8	1	9
TOTAL	133	628	288	1049

Garden Ringing – Siskin (*Carduelis Spinus*)

Kevin Sayer

During the late Winter & early Spring of 2008 I experienced an influx of siskins into our Ferndown garden. These were mostly attracted into the garden by several feeders containing sunflower hearts, also the adjacent Parley Common with associated lowland heath and birch scrub helped too. These birds first appeared into our garden in early January presumably as a result of their natural food sources becoming depleted and the attraction of easy food. For the next month or so numbers increased slowly with the peak being around mid-March until their total disappearance by early April. In total 221 birds were trapped during that period and the table below shows the breakdown by sex, age and wing length:-

		<----- Wing Length in mm. ----->											
Age *	Sex	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	F	M		
4	M			2	2	2	5		1				12
4	F	1	1	1	2					5			
5	M		4	12	24	29	15	6	1				91
5	F	6	10	11	13	4	1			45			
6	M			2	10	10	13	5	1				41
6	F		7	9	6	4	1			27			
TOTALS										77	144		221

* Euring codes:- 4=Age unknown, 5=Birds in their first year, 6=Birds more than one year old.

These wing lengths correlate to the measurements given in Svensson and BWPi which can be used to sex siskins, (ie. Males 70-77mm, and Females 69-75mm). Siskins can be sexed very easily on plumage characteristics – males have a black crown whereas females have a grey-green crown with dark streaks.



Male siskin

Kevin Sayer

During the following summer only a further 3 birds were trapped – presumably local breeding birds.

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Retrap Analysis

A total of 11 birds were re-trapped locally during this period – all originally caught in our garden. The table below shows all these birds together with original/retrap capture dates and weights.

	Age	Sex	Date	Time	Weight (gms)
T995302	6	F	29-Jan	08:30	12.5
T995302	6	F	20-Feb	10:30	12.2
T995338	5	M	9-Feb	10:00	12.8
T995338	5	M	17-Mar	06:30	12.0
T995343	5	F	20-Feb	07:30	12.9
T995343	5	F	25-Feb	08:30	13.0
T995343	5	F	17-Mar	10:00	13.7
T995347	5	F	20-Feb	10:00	12.3
T995347	5	F	25-Feb	09:00	12.4
T995359	5	M	25-Feb	07:30	12.2
T995359	5	M	27-Mar	09:30	12.9
T995362	5	M	25-Feb	07:30	11.4
T995362	5	M	17-Mar	09:30	12.3
T995389	5	M	25-Feb	10:30	14.2
T995389	5	M	5-Mar	09:00	13.1
T995390	6	F	25-Feb	10:30	12.4
T995390	6	F	26-Mar	08:30	14.2
X087504	5	M	5-Mar	07:00	11.7
X087504	5	M	17-Mar	10:00	12.7
X087513	5	M	5-Mar	09:00	14.9
X087513	5	M	17-Mar	06:30	13.5
X087571	6	M	18-Mar	09:30	16.1
X087571	6	M	26-Mar	06:00	14.9

The only possible conclusions from this data are that in general birds were putting on weight during the winter period presumably as a result of our feeding station. The exceptions seemed to be birds which were re-trapped early in the day before they had time to eat and put on weight.

Recoveries & Controls

Unfortunately, no birds were controlled during this period (ie. ringed elsewhere) but I did have one recovery (ringed locally and subsequently trapped elsewhere) as follows:-

T995376	25 Feb 2008	5F	Ferndown, Dorset	
	23 Mar 2008		Whitstable, Kent	214Kms, 27 days

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One can assume that this bird was about to cross the North Sea into mainland Europe and return to its breeding grounds somewhere in Northern Europe. This bird on original capture weighed 12.5g and had increased to 14.7g on re-capture.

References

Identification Guide to European Passerines, Lars Svensson, 4th Edition 1992
DVD Birds of the Western Palearctic (BWPi), Version 2.0, Oxford University Press

KEVIN SAYER
Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia Nisoria*) at Hengistbury Head – 15th September 2008

Kevin Sayer

On a typical early-autumnal morning a last minute decision to put-up an extra 40-foot mist-net certainly paid dividends. We were trapping the last remnants of the acro warblers in the Hengistbury Head Centre (HHC) reedbed but a good number of Chiffchaffs were also being trapped nearby. So the signs were good that a rarity might turn-up – and it certainly did!

At 8.00am, on about the second or third net-round a largish *Sylvia* warbler was seen caught in the afore-mentioned mist-net. I had not trapped a single Garden Warbler all summer so my first thoughts that this was what I had caught, owing to the stocky nature of the bird and its largish bill. However, the pale edges to its coverts quickly put that idea out of my head so thoughts turned to what it could be. I got the bird quickly into a bird-bag and proceeded to clear the rest of the net, mostly Chiffchaffs, and finished the net round. Whilst walking back to my car I thought of Barred Warbler as the only viable possibility.

Back at my car I checked over the bird and first of all measured the wing – 86mm. So that definitely ruled out an aberrant Garden Warbler; checking my reference books the pale edges to the coverts and other biometrics led to the conclusion it could only be a Barred Warbler – only the third ever to be trapped within the CHOG recording area and the first seen since 2003.



Barred Warbler

Kevin Sayer



Barred Warbler

Alan Hayden

The above two photos show the main identifying features of the Barred Warbler. The left photo clearly shows the pale edges to the tertials and greater coverts. The right photo shows the dark spotted under-tail coverts.

Ageing & Biometrics

The bird was aged as a first-winter (Euring Age Code 3) due to eye colour (iris very dark – adult bird would have a dull yellow or bright orange-yellow iris), lack of barring on the breast and narrow and abraded central tail feather.

The wing was measured as 86mm, the tail was 68mm, the bird weighed 28.8g and the fat deposits were scored as 5 (out of 8).

After processing the bird was immediately released into bushes surrounding the HHC but was not subsequently seen.

References

Identification Guide to European Passerines, Lars Svensson, 4th Edition 1992

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Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus Inornatus*) at Hengistbury Head – 13th October 2008

Kevin Sayer

On a day when I was ringing on my own I didn't hold out much hope of a good session, especially as the forecast was for showers later. However, with just 4 nets to tend I managed a good haul including 13 Lesser Redpoll, 12 Chiffchaffs and 8 Goldcrests. The morning soon exploded into life when around 9.00am a visiting birder who informed me that I had a Dusky Warbler in one of my nets approached me with this news. Finishing off the processing of some redpolls I quickly made my way to the net in question. There was indeed a small warbler in the net but it turned out to be just a chiffchaff. On checking a nearby net I noticed it had caught several more chiffchaffs – however on close inspection the first bird had a distinct pale-yellow supercilium and a double wing-bar. By this time I had been joined by Dave Taylor & Ian Southworth – I called them over and explained that I was pretty sure that I had trapped a Yellow-browed Warbler. Dave asked me to check the rump and crown just so that Pallas's Warbler could be ruled out.

Ian made several phone-calls with Dave to inform local birders and the information services. Back at my car I checked the identification which included ruling out the even rarer Hume's Yellow-browed warbler. The pale lower mandible and the faint crown-stripe confirmed this identification (see photos below):-



Yellow-browed Warbler

Alan Hayden



Yellow-browed Warbler

Mark Andrews

Ageing & Sexing

The bird was aged as a first-winter (Euring Age Code 3) female. The bird showed signs of abraded tips to its tail-feathers indicating a juvenile bird. The tail was measured as 38mm which according to Svensson marks it down as a female. The wing was measured at 55mm, also indicating a female, the bird weighed-in at only 6.2g.

After processing the bird was released into nearby scrub and was photographed again by Alan Hayden (see next page):-



Yellow-browed Warbler

Alan Hayden

References

Identification Guide to European Passerines, Lars Svensson, 4th Edition 1992

KEVIN SAYER
Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station couldn't operate without the kind permission of the land owners on whose land we operate.

Bournemouth Borough Council

Mr Mark Holloway
Mr Lyndon Forster
Ms Alison Smithies

Christchurch Borough Council

Mr Peter Holloway

The Forestry Commission

Mr Andy Page

Blashford Lakes – Hampshire Wildlife Trust

Mr Bob Chapman

Hengistbury Head Centre – Brockenhurst College

Mr Ted Rogers

We would also like to thank all the following Ringers (both resident and visiting) who have helped with ringing operations at various sites during the period. We apologise for any names that are missing, and we thank you too!

Annalea Beard, Andrew Carter, Andrew Taylor, Wally Evans, Barry Wraight, Brenda Cook, Ben Stoney, Brian Fisk, Barry Shephard, Carol Greig, Colin Raymond, Chris Lamsdell, David Baker, Denise Lamsdell, Ed Brett, Jackie Raby, Kathryn Ross, Louise Jane, Sarah Atkinson, Steve Christmas, Susan Graham, Shaun Robson, Sean Walls, Tim Christmas, Terry Elborn, Paul Whittaker.

We would also like to thank our fellow members of Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group (CHOG) who offer all forms of help throughout the year – come rain or shine!