



Papers from Ringling Group reports

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Reports from ringling groups are welcomed by the BTO and are kept in the Chris Mead Library at the Thetford headquarters, where they are available for viewing to members or ringers. Many contain analyses or reports that may be of interest to other ringers, and these are briefly abstracted below. Reports of ringling totals, recoveries or reports restricted to local interest have not been abstracted.

- Auger, R.** (2004) Study of Blue Tit biometrics. *Runnymede and Maple Cross Ringling Group Report 2003*, 65–67.
Wing and weight distributions are given for 228 Blue Tits, split by age and sex classes.
- Birch, R.** (2004) The Shotton tern colony. *Merseyside Ringling Group 50th Anniversary Report*, 28–31.
Summary of the impact of an artificial nesting platform on breeding Common Terns.
- Bruce, K.** (2003) Movements of Solway waders. *North Solway Ringling Group Report 1963–2000*, 5–24.
Detailed summary of the ringling activity and recoveries since 1971.
- Calladine, J.** (2004) The movements of granivorous passerines on farmland in winter. *Tay Ringling Group Report 2001–2003*, 4–7.
A radio-tracking study showed that Tree Sparrows ranged an average distance of 1,200 m between resightings, while Yellowhammers and Chaffinches ranged approximately 500 m. Small patches of scrub were the preferred habitat, with Tree Sparrows being particularly associated with areas of stubble.
- Clark, J.** (2004) Effects of severe weather on wintering waders. *Wash Wader Ringling Group Report 2002–2003*, 15.
An analysis of wader body weights suggests that Redshank and Grey Plover are more prone to starvation in cold weather than are other species. Although smaller individuals were more likely to die than larger individuals, there were no long-lasting effects of mortality events.
- Cobb, J.** (2004) Finches and cover crops at sites in north east Fife in winter 2003–2004. *Tay Ringling Group Report 2001–2003*, 17–21.
An analysis of use of cover crops by finches, Tree Sparrows and buntings suggested that cover and food were both important. Artichokes proved particularly popular with the birds and it is suggested that it provided both seed for food and thick cover against Sparrowhawk attack.
- Cockbain, R., Cross, D. & Norman, D.** (2004) The Brambling invasion of Merseyside, 1981. *Merseyside Ringling Group 50th Anniversary Report*, 22–23.
Short note with information on age and sex ratios, movements and mortality.
- Cullen, Z.** (2004) The impact of trapping effort on number of birds recorded at Chew Valley Lake. *Chew Valley Ringling Station 14th Annual Report 1999–2003*, 49–52.
For Reed Warblers, 74.6% of the variation in numbers ringed could be accounted for by ringling effort, although the corresponding figure for Sedge Warblers was only 44.4%. Data from 1974 to 1998 suggest an increasing Reed Warbler population and a declining Sedge Warbler population, probably due to habitat change.
- Eades, R.A. & Okill, J.D.** (2004) Weight variations of Ringed Plovers on the Dee estuary. *Merseyside Ringling Group 50th Anniversary Report*, 18–21.
Summary of a paper originally published in *Ringling & Migration* (1976) 1, 92–97.
- Ellis, P.** (2004) Ringling Ring Ouzels in Morocco. *Tay Ringling Group Report 2001–2003*, 32–40.
A report on the ringling of 118 Ring Ouzels in Morocco. Both European races wintered together in mixed thrush flocks.
- Foster, K.** (2004) Greenfinches at Woolston Eyes 2003 – an exceptional year’s ringling. *Merseyside Ringling Group Annual Report 2003*, 71–75.
A total of nearly 1,600 Greenfinches were trapped at a feeding station in Cheshire and data on sex and age ratios are presented with some biometrics and retrap analysis.
- Francis, R.** (2003) Nest box projects. *Dartford Ringling Group Annual Report 2002*, 23–24.
Summary of Blue and Great Tit breeding data from 25 nestboxes between 1989 and 2002.
- Francis, R. & McWalter, D.** (2004) Nest box projects. *Dartford Ringling Group Annual Report 2003*, 27–29.
Summary of Blue and Great Tit breeding data from 25 nestboxes between 1989 and 2003.
- Francis, R. & Taylor, R.** (2005) Nest box monitoring. *Dartford Ringling Group Annual Report 2004*, 30–33.
Summary of Blue and Great Tit breeding data from nestboxes between 1989 and 2004.
- Harris, A.** (2005) Biometrics of Little Grebe at Rye Meads. *Rye Meads Ringling Group 16th Report 2001–2003*, 52–56.
Wing and weight data are presented from 63 individual Little Grebes. There appear to be few differences between age or sex classes.
- Hatton, L.** (2004) Monitoring the breeding population of Bearded Tits in the Tay reedbeds; reports for 2002 and 2003. *Tay Ringling Group Report 2001–2003*, 22–31.
Report gives population size estimates and sex ratios.
- Knock, R.A.** (2005) Tree Sparrow nest box analysis. *Sorby-Breck Ringling Group 2004 Annual Report*, 47–50.
Analysis of breeding data from 32 occupied nestboxes showed a hatching success of 74.5% overall, with a lower success in later nests. Fledging success from those eggs which hatched was 99%.
- Knock, R.A.** (2006) Tree Sparrow nestboxes 2005. *Sorby-Breck Ringling Group 2005 Annual Report*, 44–45.
Analysis of breeding data from 32 occupied nestboxes showed a hatching success of 70.7% overall, with a slightly lower success in later nests. Fledging success from those eggs which hatched was 98%.
- Knock, R.A., Peachy, A. & Smithson, B.S.** (2006) Brookfield Manor, Hathersage – nestbox scheme 2005. *Sorby-Breck Ringling Group 2005 Annual Report*, 42–43.
Analysis of breeding data from 24 occupied nestboxes used by tits and Nuthatch.

- Mawson, G.P.** (2005) Garden ringing – Siskins. *Sorby-Breck Ringing Group 2004 Annual Report*, 23–32.
Gives wing-lengths for each age and sex category for 102 Siskins trapped, as well as incidence of retrapping; most retraps occurred within one month of original capture. Spring birds tend to move to northeast England and Scotland.
- Mawson, G.P. & Mann, S.** (2006) Redpolls. *Sorby-Breck Ringing Group 2004 Annual Report*, 45–46. Short note on Mealy Redpolls with biometrics for four birds.
- Mawson, G.P. & Samworth, S.** (2005) Meadow Pipit migration. *Sorby-Breck Ringing Group 2004 Annual Report*, 34–37.
Autumn migration of Meadow Pipits at Agden, in South Yorkshire, extends from August to October with a peak during September.
- Norman, D.** (2004) Birds from the black stuff. *Merseyside Ringing Group 50th Anniversary Report*, 26–27.
Short note on the effects of an oil spill into the Mersey Estuary in 1989.
- Norman, D.** (2004) European–African songbird migration network. *Merseyside Ringing Group 50th Anniversary Report*, 41–45.
Summary of biometrics and capture dates for several warbler species in relation to longitude and latitude across Europe.
- Norman, D.** (2004) Thrushes at Norton Priory 1981–2003. *Merseyside Ringing Group Annual Report 2003*, 53–65.
A summary of the data collected from 4,364 Blackbirds, Song Thrushes and Redwings ringed at a site near Runcorn from 1981 to 2003. Sex and age ratios are presented, and recoveries are interpreted with maps.
- Norman, D. & Coffey, P.** (2004) Waders at New Brighton marine lake, winter 1990–91. *Merseyside Ringing Group 50th Anniversary Report*, 46–52.
Summary of a paper originally published in *Ringing & Migration* (1994) **15**, 91–97.
- Ormond, A.** (2004) Siskin ringing in a Bidston garden. *Merseyside Ringing Group 50th Anniversary Report*, 24–26.
Short note summarising ring recoveries.
- Ormond, A. & Norman, D.** (2004) Firecrests *Regulus ignicapilla* ringed by MRG. *Merseyside Ringing Group Annual Report 2003*, 66–70.
Forty-nine Firecrests were trapped between 1974 and 2003. The status has changed from being a rarity in Cheshire and Wirral to being recorded annually at a rate of 5 to 15 birds per year. Most birds wintered in the area, and sexes of trapped birds were not skewed from 1:1. There was a tendency for more males to be caught in willow scrub than in rhododendrons.
- Robertson, D.** (2004) An analysis of the Tay Ringing Group's Chaffinch recoveries. *Tay Ringing Group Report 2001–2003*, 8–16.
An analysis of 89 ring recoveries of Chaffinches from the Tay region suggest sex and age differences in movements. The majority of immigrants appear to be juvenile males.
- Samuels, E.** (2004) Pied Flycatchers at Glyn Arthur 1987–1998. *Merseyside Ringing Group 50th Anniversary Report* 32–40.
Analysis of nestbox breeding data showing the variation in clutch sizes and reproductive success between years. Mark-recapture analysis showed a slightly higher survival for female than for male adults, but birds ringed as nestlings showed a much lower return rate to their natal area when compared to other Pied Flycatcher populations.
- Sharpe, S.** (2006) Waxwings 2004/2005. *Sorby-Breck Ringing Group 2005 Annual Report*, 27–29.
Summary of Waxwing ringing in Sheffield with a list of recoveries and map on pages 12–14.
- Shaw, G.** (2003) Movements of Siskins *Carduelis spinus* into and out of southwest Scotland. *North Solway Ringing Group Report 1963–2000*, 27–35.
An analysis of Siskin ringing in the north Solway area, with recovery maps. Spring-caught birds tend to be local breeders and migrants heading towards northern Scotland. Local birds winter in Holland, Belgium and southwest England.
- Szep, T., Møller, A.P., Vallner, J., Kovacs, B. & Norman, D.** (2004) Use of trace elements in feathers of Sand Martins *Riparia riparia* for identifying moulting areas. *Merseyside Ringing Group Annual Report 2003*, 82–96.
Reprinted version of a paper published in *Journal of Avian Biology* (2003) **34**, 307–320.
- Wakeham, S.** (2004) Wader longevity records. *Wash Wader Ringing Group Report 2002–2003*, 27–28.
A review of the British & Irish longevity records for 22 wader species, including a review of those from the Wash.
- Young, J.** (2003) Rook movement. *North Solway Ringing Group Report 1963–2000*, 25–26.
Summary of the ringing activity and recoveries 1963–2000.

Addresses of Ringing Groups are available from the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Several have their own web sites. All the reports reviewed are available in the Chris Mead Library.