



CES News

NUMBER ONE
FEBRUARY 1987

This is the first edition of CES NEWS, a newsletter produced exclusively for CES ringers. Its purpose is to keep ringers up-to-date with developments in the CES programme, and to summarise current research using CES data.

By now, those of you who are BTO members will have received the January/February issue of BTO NEWS, with the centre spread devoted to CES. I have tried to determine those CES ringers aren't members, and have included a copy here for non-members only. Maybe you will be encouraged to join the BTO! Let me know if you need extra copies, for example for helpers or landowners, and I will forward them to you.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the print-out of your data for 1986. Although this has been checked against the original capture calendars, I would be grateful for notification of any mistakes. I know for example that there were occasional problems in deciphering ring numbers. The layout of the print-out is as follows:

1st page - Visit information. This gives the dates and visit numbers of main visits, plus visit letters for any extra visits.

Subsequent pages - Data. There are two columns of data per page. Captures are listed separately for each species and age-class. The captures on the main visits are tabulated, and those on extra visits are in the right-hand columns. I have arranged the main visit captures thus so that the pattern of captures through the season can be followed.

At the Ringing & Migration Conference in January several people commented that they would find it useful to have the names and addresses of other CES ringers. A register of those who have returned data for the 1986 season is enclosed.

CES PROGRESS

At the beginning of the 1986 season 96 sites were on the CES register and, to date, returns have been received from 73 sites. Some of these were too late to be included in the report. Two were from sites which had not previously registered, and it was a pleasant surprise to receive their capture information. The input, checking and correcting of the data were carried out by Bevan Heron and Jeanette Hocking of the BTO's MSC team, and was more or less complete by mid-December. Most of the research effort since September, by Stephen Baillie and myself, has been directed towards writing and developing the computer programs, four in all, for the routine processing of the data. Thankfully (!), this is a "one-off" event, and in future, calculation of the various annual CES indices should be more or less automatic. The data from 1983-1985 are also now computerised, although those for 1983 still need to be checked. If you are one of the original CES ringers, I will be contacting you shortly to ask if you would be prepared to provide your capture calendars for 1981 and 1982, so that our archive is complete. The next stage is to begin a breakdown of CES sites by habitat type, in order to carry out preliminary analyses with respect to habitat.

PUBLICATIONS

We hope that much of the research using CES data will be published in journals, so that you will be able to keep in touch with what is going on! We will also be able to keep you informed through this newsletter. I should draw your attention to a paper by Stephen Baillie and Steve Buckland, presented at the Euring Technical Conference in 1986, which presents an analysis of recaptures of Reed Warblers at Wicken Pen, to show how survival rates may be estimated using retrap data from a single site, and discusses developments for analysing the data from a number of sites.

B-RING and CES

Those of you who utilise the BTO's software for the BBC micro-computer will be delighted to know that there is a new program (CESABS) which is to be released on version 1.3. This program will allow you to prepare your CES returns as a computer file, to save filling in the capture calendars by hand. It saves us time as well, because the data is transmitted directly from the BBC Master in the Ringing Office onto the BTO's Prime computer, and doesn't have to be punched in. Obviously, your disc will be returned as soon as we have copied the data.

"Quote...unquote"

There were three comments on letters from CES ringers this year which really stick out in my mind -

"...netting rides used in CES were flooded out by Hurricane Charlie.."

"...a cat removed a Sedge Warbler from the net except for the head and ringed leg....I included this as a retrap..."

"...surely there must be an easier way of collecting the information.." !

And finally....

When I'm not working on CES, I help out with the routine processing of ringing recoveries. Being very tuned in to my CES ringers, I'm always on the look out for interesting movements of CES birds. There have been several reports of birds moving between CES sites. (Does it take a special type of bird to recognise a CES site, and should we be trying to quantify this..?) Pride of place, although a sad story, must go to Sedge Warbler C933256, ringed at Carlton Marsh (site 148) on 26th July 1986. The remains of this bird were found in the nest of an Eleonora's Falcon on 10th September at Roque del Este, Lanzarote. This is our first record of a British-ringed Sedge Warbler in the Canary Isles!

Thank you all very much for your support during the season - the feedback has been most encouraging, and the outlook for the 1987 season is excellent. However, we still need more sites, so why not try and persuade your friends to take up CES? There is still plenty of time for new sites to be registered.

Jane Marchant
13th February 1987

CHANGES IN TOTAL CAPTURES ON CES SITES FROM 1985 TO 1986

(n = number of paired sites, TOT = total captures,

* denotes significance)

Species	ADULTS (VISITS 1-6)					JUVENILES (VISITS 1-12)				
	n	TOT 85	TOT 86	% ch	SE	n	TOT 85	TOT 86	% ch	SE
Wren	32	132	100	-24*	9.3	21	239	169	-30*	9.3
Dunnock	31	186	178	-4	7.5	21	191	198	+4	21.8
Robin	31	95	106	+12	17.1	22	235	212	-8	9.8
Blackbird	32	259	298	+15	9.1	21	157	147	-6	16.2
Song Thrush	33	99	87	-12	16.7	21	63	48	-24	15.9
Sedge Warbler	16	98	128	+31	25.2	9	65	77	+19	20.9
Reed Warbler	14	138	157	+14	10.8	8	74	90	+22	25.8
Lesser Whitethroat	14	31	46	+48	45.6	6	24	19	-21	26.0
Whitethroat	16	71	86	+21	17.5	11	79	174	+120*	19.5
Garden Warbler	22	92	79	-14	15.5	17	50	60	+20	36.8
Blackcap	28	171	176	+3	9.8	20	234	206	-12	8.0
Chiffchaff	19	44	52	+18	33.9	19	203	159	-22*	10.3
Willow Warbler	33	344	329	-4	6.2	22	523	367	-30*	13.4
Goldcrest	10	34	14	-59*	8.6	8	74	22	-70*	12.4
Long-tailed Tit	22	56	36	-36*	15.3	14	121	61	-50*	18.2
Blue Tit	32	133	123	-8	12.4	21	374	347	-7	23.0
Great Tit	31	117	100	-15	12.5	22	249	200	-20	14.7
Treecreeper	14	20	21	+5	40.0	15	31	31	0	26.3
Chaffinch	31	139	141	+1	12.6	16	46	58	+26	73.1
Greenfinch	18	37	70	+90	59.8	8	17	37	+118	171
Bullfinch	26	140	128	-9	16.7	19	53	80	+51	45.3
Reed Bunting	19	54	59	+9	18.8	9	30	18	-40	26.6
