

## The 2017 Belvide Ringing Report

### Overview:

The totals table below speaks for itself!! 2017 was a record breaking year for the Belvide ringing project. We ringed more individual birds from a wider range of species than in any previous year.

Why?

There are several reasons, of which the main ones are:-

- winter maintenance work ensured the net rides were in great condition ready for the ringing season
- water level management enabled all nets to be opened and provided good breeding habitat for birds
- the weather during the breeding season was reasonably good for birds
- the weather through the ringing season was good
- we have almost got the optimum sites for nets where most birds are
- thanks to a very generous donation we used new nets
- we had additional ringing help at the west end of the reservoir for the first time.

### Totals Summary -- Belvide 2012-2017

Species	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Sparrowhawk	1	0	1	0	1	0
Kestrel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moorhen	2	2	0	0	0	0
Snipe	0	1	0	1		
Water Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	(2)	0
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swift	191	2	76	0	4	58
Kingfisher	6	3	4	11	6	3
Gr Spot W'peck	0	2	2	1	0	2
Sand Martin	42	3	9	20	0	0
House Martin	45	7	87	38	0	5
Swallow	6	19	32	1	3	0
Tree Pipit	2	0	0	0	0	0
Meadow Pipit	24	8	2	142	123	2
Pied Wagtail	0	0	2	0	0	0
Yellow Wagtail	0	0	1	0	0	0
Grey Wagtail	0	1				
Stock Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodpigeon	2	0	0	0	1	0
Tawny Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robin	41	14	25	32	22	18
Redstart	1	0	0	3	0	0
Whinchat*	1	0				
Blackbird	12	9	3	18	6	12
Song Thrush	6	1	2	0	0	2
Redwing	4	0	0	6	2	19
Fieldfare	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied Flycatcher	0	1	0	0	0	0

Spot Flycatcher	0	0	0	5	0	0
Dunnock	51	17	31	17	24	11
Wren	58	40	40	47	24	12
Goldcrest	36	3	12	31	1	7
Nuthatch	2	2	4	3	1	5
Treecreeper	1	0	4	3	4	2
Cetti's Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	0
Chiffchaff	498	300	204	274	154	89
Willow Warbler	93	58	43	45	20	20
G'pper Warbler	10	0	1	0	0	0
Reed Warbler	336	178	169	199	93	41
Sedge Warbler	431	267	274	95	63	41
Lesser Whitethroat	20	17	5	10	8	3
Whitethroat	50	15	18	16	19	5
Blackcap	355	208	116	109	60	64
Garden Warbler	31	12	17	18	16	17
Blue Tit	156	69	73 (+93)	91	109	69(14)
Great Tit	60	43	43 (+38)	55	57	47(19)
Coal Tit	2	2	8	2	3	3
Long Tailed Tit	42	19	22	31	21	13
Willow Tit	1	1	0	0	2	1
Marsh Tit	1	0	1	2	2	1
Bullfinch	7	6	8	12	6	6
Chaffinch	1	2	3	2	16	5
Greenfinch	0	0	0	6	3	11
Goldfinch	18	13	6	8	5	10
Redpoll	0	0	1	0	1	5
Yellowhammer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reed Bunting	37	12	24	124	25	102
House Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tree Sparrow	39	12	0	14	10	12
Jay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magpie	0	0	0	0	0	1
Starling	0	0	1	64	0	2
Total	2714	1367	1374	1497	925	759
	Of	Of	Of	of	of	of
	44sp.	37 sp.	38sp.	38sp.	37 sp.	37 sp.

### Discussion Points:

There are many possible areas for discussion but the main ones are:-

- Larger numbers of species which don't breed at Belvide such as Swift, hirundines and pipits, are due to combined factors of suitable weather, and availability of ringers when the conditions are right.
- Most of the resident breeders such as Dunnock and Robin, have had a good breeding season, probably due to weather.
- Warbler numbers were very good. A combination of good breeding weather, habitat improvements, nationally good breeding and good catching conditions all came together.
- Tree Sparrows showed a welcome comeback after a few years of worryingly low numbers.

### Reports of Ringed birds:

More birds than usual have been reported during the year, most of these are listed below. Whilst it is always exciting to hear about movements, those below are mainly illustrative of two phenomena:-

- The two birds ringed at Chelmarsh and Aqualate, the controlled at Belvide soon after are classic cases of young birds in their post breeding dispersal where they generally explore the local area before setting

off on migration.

--The other birds are all in their early stages of southward migration having been controlled at ringing sites on their way to Africa. The Reed Warbler controlled in Seville is a bit special, and the Chiffchaff wandering over to Suffolk doesn't exactly fit the expected pattern.

## RECENT CONTROLS OF BIRDS

### RINGED AT BELVIDE

Number	Species	Age	Date Ringed	Date found	Where Found
S164661	Reed Warbler	adult	23/7/16	15/8/16	Seville, Spain
Z201209	Blackcap	juv	26/7/14	17/4/17	Portland Bird Obs
S344949	Reed Warbler	juv	22/7/17	13/8/17	Hereford
AKA6164	Reed Warbler	juv	5/8/17	26/8/17	Wiltshire
AKA6349	Reed Warbler	juv	10/8/17	2/9/17	South Gloucestershire.
AKA6256	Sedge Warbler	juv	10/8/17	16/8/17	Dorset
AKA6501	Reed Warbler	juv	16/8/17	19/8/17	Swindon
JEJ290	Chiffchaff	juv	30/8/17	16/9/17	Suffolk
JEH221	Chiffchaff	juv	21/9/17	6/10/17	Skokholm Island

(several recoveries of other Belvide 2017 ringed Sedge Warblers throughout France are shown on the map)

### RINGED ELSEWHERE

S807946	Sedge Warbler	juv	9/7/17	Chelmarsh	26/7/17	Belvide
S902870	Reed Warbler	juv	22/7/17	Aqualate	29/7/17	Belvide

The map below shows a group of Sedge Warblers ringed at Belvide and subsequently controlled in various sites in France on their way to Africa. In recent years the French ringing scheme has established several major ringing sites on large estuarine reed-bed sites throughout the country—and the results from this initiative are beginning to feed through.

Finally we would like to thank the West Midland Bird Club, and the Belvide Management Team, for their continuing support. Sue and Gladys know how much their support means to our success. Roger Clay has enabled our scope to be extended to the west end of the lake and we look forward to more interesting results from this innovation. Many members of our ringing group put in many hours of time to make this

a success but I would like to extend a personal thank you to Pete Bache who keeps the ship afloat during my absences aboard!! Finally, we really do appreciate the interest and questions from and all the visitors to the ringing station, please keep coming.

Colin McShane January 2018

