
RINGING REPORT

PAUL ROPER

A summary is printed in LBR 76: 179-185

Ringling in London is carried out by a range of groups, partnerships and individuals. Accurate figures rely on all ringers returning ringing data to a central point for analysis to enable a comprehensive report to be written. Due to the complexity, size and transient nature of ringing in the London Area, it is still unclear if all the ringing activity has been covered in any one year. Attempting to make any scientific comparisons on ringing data between years can therefore be rather meaningless and is not addressed in this report. Numbers of many species ringed vary year-on-year due to a range of factors such as ringer effort and coverage or weather conditions, which can have a marked effect on catching success and final totals for any year. For these reasons many changes in species figures in this type of report are not a reflection on population levels but more often ringer activity or submission of records. A good reflection of population levels is through Constant Effort Sites (CES), and there are a number running in the London Area; the data is pooled nationally and can be found on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) website:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/surveys/ces

The BTO also provides online data for ringing in the UK, set out on a County basis, which unfortunately is not a true reflection of ringing activities within the LNHS Area. It only covers Greater London, which for 2011 shows a total of only 8,527 birds ringed against the total of 20,109 birds ringed which has been submitted for the LNHS Area. Detailed information on birds ringed and recovered can be found for Greater London and surrounding counties at:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports

However, for counties outside Greater London the data contains all birds ringed in the county, so many will also be much higher than the proportion of birds ringed within the London Area.

With this in mind, the most interesting information would appear to be the totals of each species ringed and the finding situations of birds recovered away from London or caught in London but having been ringed elsewhere (controls). As with the report for 2010, this report will deal primarily with this raw data, and readers should use caution if making any comparisons with changes in year-on-year totals.

The total number of birds ringed in London in 2011 which have been submitted amounts to 20,109. This year - due to the way data has been submitted by various ringers - full-grown birds and nestlings (pulli) have not been separated; it is hoped this will be addressed for the 2012 report.

Numbers of wildfowl ringed were down markedly on 2010 with the exception of Mute Swan and Canada Goose. Wader totals are never high in London, but some renewed effort has increased the number of species ringed; five Little Ringed Plovers and 84 Dunlin are notable. Two Buzzards were ringed, and Kestrel and Sparrowhawk remain constant with 2010. With continued activity by the North Thames Gull Group at Rainham (and Pitsea in Essex) reasonable numbers of gulls were ringed and resighted in London

in 2011. This included three Caspian Gulls and 27 Yellow-legged Gulls, which were also colour-ringed, producing recovery sightings of both Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls. Hirundine numbers were on a par with 2010 but remain low. A single Waxwing was of note. Singles of Nightingale and Black Redstart were ringed, and opposite to 2010 no European Stonechats were ringed but one Whinchat was. No Wheatear means 'starts and 'chats are poorly represented on the ringing list again. Thrushes remain constant whilst Cetti's Warbler numbers do actually demonstrate that populations continue to expand in London. Seven Grasshopper Warblers, one Wood Warbler and two Firecrests are of note. Linnet numbers remain low, but Redpoll catching opportunity meant a larger number of these birds were ringed in 2011; this has also inevitably lead to many more recoveries and controls of this species, and the details on movements in the recoveries section are of interest and show that this species can move around considerably. No Yellowhammers is also a very poor showing for this clearly declining species. Full details of all species submitted are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Species totals of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2011

Species	2010	2011	Species	2010	2011
Mute Swan	160	108	Black-headed Gull	738	702
Greylag Goose	88	2	Common Gull	15	6
Canada Goose	39	54	Lesser Black-backed Gull	87	201
Egyptian Goose	2	1	Yellow-legged Gull	1	27
Mandarin Duck	6	2	Herring Gull	235	834
Gadwall	44	9	Caspian Gull	0	3
Eurasian Teal	68	3	Great Black-backed Gull	7	46
Mallard	63	15	Common Tern	76	51
Shoveler	13	0	Stock Dove	39	16
Pochard	4	2	Woodpigeon	27	23
Tufted Duck	74	8	Collared Dove	16	7
Little Grebe	9	2	Ring-necked Parakeet	170	239
Cormorant	7	4	Cuckoo	1	1
Grey Heron	15	33	Barn Owl	14	9
Sparrowhawk	23	14	Little Owl	0	2
Buzzard	0	2	Tawny Owl	7	4
Kestrel	21	22	Swift	5	0
Water Rail	1	0	Kingfisher	42	47
Moorhen	40	14	Green Woodpecker	21	37
Coot	96	47	Great Spotted Woodpecker	56	57
Little Ringed Plover	0	5	Sand Martin	73	95
Lapwing	0	7	Swallow	141	114
Dunlin	0	84	House Martin	99	14
Jack Snipe	4	0	Tree Pipit	0	1
Snipe	22	1	Meadow Pipit	273	220
Redshank	0	7	Water Pipit	1	0
Green Sandpiper	9	3	Grey Wagtail	29	20
Common Sandpiper	0	1	Pied Wagtail	7	2

Species	2010	2011	Species	2010	2011
Waxwing	0	1	Spotted Flycatcher	0	2
Wren	344	354	Long-tailed Tit	411	394
Duncock	371	512	Blue Tit	3261	2228
Robin	570	637	Great Tit	1812	1362
Nightingale	0	1	Coal Tit	53	45
Black Redstart	0	1	Marsh Tit	6	1
Redstart	6	4	Nuthatch	21	22
Whinchat	0	1	Treecreeper	42	31
Stonechat	1	0	Jay	30	31
Wheatear	1	0	Magpie	46	30
Blackbird	416	403	Jackdaw	18	8
Fieldfare	4	2	Carrion Crow	2	3
Song Thrush	158	162	Starling	126	86
Redwing	53	42	House Sparrow	161	39
Cetti's Warbler	34	57	Tree Sparrow	498	0
Grasshopper Warbler	5	7	Chaffinch	445	295
Sedge Warbler	561	579	Brambling	2	3
Reed Warbler	1118	1129	Greenfinch	851	834
Blackcap	1460	2478	Goldfinch	884	662
Garden Warbler	156	344	Siskin	99	132
Lesser Whitethroat	65	93	Linnet	94	75
Whitethroat	525	1272	Mealy Redpoll	0	1
Wood Warbler	1	1	Redpoll Sp	0	3
Chiffchaff	1141	1385	Lesser Redpoll	123	525
Willow Warbler	295	237	Bullfinch	37	50
Goldcrest	141	161	Yellowhammer	1	0
Firecrest	3	2	Reed Bunting	150	154
			Total	19590	20109

Reporting a ringed bird

The BTO relies on people reporting ringed birds, so if you find a bird wearing a ring or have read metal or colour ring details in the field, please report these to the BTO Ringing Unit, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU; or online at www.ring.ac

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year; a selection of these are listed below. For some species such as Sedge Warbler, clearly the French ringing scheme has been re-invigorated, and some previous years' recoveries and controls have been received, two of which are included in this report. The Moorhen recovery is interesting, as is the Bearded Tit movement from Norfolk.

The first line shows the ring number, age (and sex) when ringed, and the date and site of original ringing; the second and subsequent lines show the status, date, and site of subsequent recovery or recapture; and the final line shows the distance (1km = 0.625 miles), direction since first ringed, and time-span between original ringing and final recovery. Dates are in the format dd/mm/yy.

Key to symbols used:

ad	Adult	M	Male	VV	Ring or colour marks
F	Female	R	Caught and released by		read in the field
I	Immature plumage		a ringer	X	Found dead
J	Juvenile plumage			+	Shot/killed by man

EURING Codes for the **age** of the bird when ringed

0	Not aged	6	Third calendar year or older
1	In first calendar year and close to nest	7	In third calendar year
2	Current calendar year or any age older	8	Fourth calendar year or older
3	In first calendar year	9	In fourth calendar year
4	Second calendar year or older	10	Fifth calendar year or older
5	In second calendar year		

Recoveries and Controls**Canada Goose**

L04 699	4	22/07/1995	Nazeing GP, Essex
	VV	18/02/2011	Stanstead Abbots, Herts
	X	16/03/2011	Amwell, Herts
			local; 15 years 237 days

Gadwall

FP64 735	1	26/07/2003	Rye Meads, Herts
	X	15/11/2011	Cayeux-sur-Mer, Somme, France
			206km, SSE; 8 years 112 days

Tufted Duck

FH27 850	1 J	20/08/2010	Rye Meads, Herts
	+	10/01/2011	Fégréac, Loire Atlantique, France
	(Hunted)		486km, SSW; 143 days

Moorhen

FH27 890	3	3/12/2010	Rye Meads, Herts
	X	7/11/2011	Skaerskovhedevej, Silkeborg, Århus, Denmark
			(ring found in Eagle Owl pellet) 784km, NE; 339 days

Dunlin

BT07062	4	24/07/2009	Butterwick, Lincolnshire
	R	23/11/2011	Crossness Sewage Works, Kent
			163km, S; 2 years 122 days

Black-headed Gull

EX64433	5	19/12/2010	Crossness Sewage Works, Kent
	VV	26/03/2011	Utterslev Mose, Denmark
			938km, ENE; 97 days

ST227866	1	04/07/2003	Äänekoski, Keski-Suomi, Finland
	R	10/01/2010	Crossness Sewage Works, Kent 1989km, SW; 6 years 190 days
LVR.T5922	1	17/06/07	Lake Engure, Latvia
		21/03/11	Rainham Tip, Essex 1615km, WSW; 3 years 277 days
EX43734	6	12/03/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
		26/11/11	Abergele, Conwy, Wales 324km, NW; 259 days
EG86134	1	28/06/02	Pylewell Lake, Hampshire
		15/10/11	Rainham Tip, Essex 144km, NE; 9 years 109 days

Large Gulls

The continuation of colour ringing of large gulls at Rainham by the NTGG has amassed a large number of sightings of the three main species of large gull, far too many to include in this report. Ornithologists interested specifically in these movements can visit the NTGG web site at www.ntgg.org.uk

Lesser Black-backed Gull

A small selection of interesting sightings and life histories are given in the table here with the map on page 6 showing all locations of recoveries and controls from and to the Landfill at Rainham.

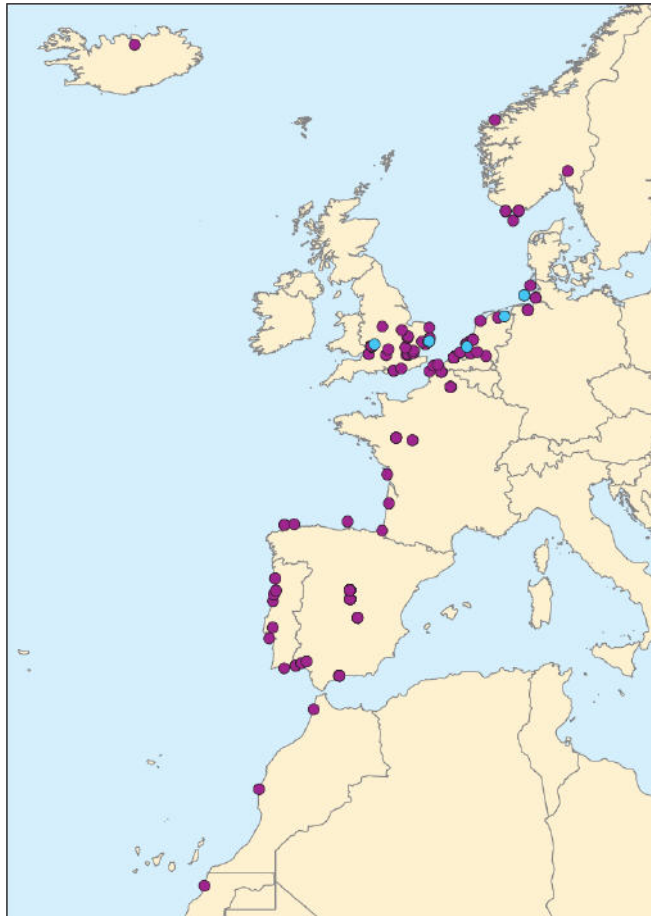
DEW.N0079	1	05/07/08	Amrum, Nordfriesische Inseln, Germany
	R	12/09/09	Rainham Tip, Essex 646km, WSW; 1 year 69 days
	VV	13/05/11	Amrum, Nordfriesische Inseln, Germany 2 years 312 days
	VV	01/07/11	Amrum, Nordfriesische Inseln, Germany 2 years 361 days
FA39691	10	29/01/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	06/05/11	Rauna, Farsund, Vest-Agder, Norway 839km, NNE; 97 days
	VV	11/08/11	Rauna, Farsund, Vest-Agder, Norway 839km, NNE; 194 days
FA39924	6 I	15/10/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	12/11/11	Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal 1407km, SSW; 28 days
		06/02/12	Anza, Morocco 2510km, SSW; 114 days
FR59712	3	29/08/09	Rainham Tip, Essex
		23/12/09	Plage Blanche, Tan Tan, Morocco 2653km, SSW; 116 days
		11/10/11	Cottenham, Cambridgeshire 89km, N; 2 years 43 days
		14/07/12	Spaarnwoude, Noord-Holland, Netherlands 325km, ENE; 2 years 320 days

FR59731	10	12/09/09	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	20/01/11	Oued Loukos, Larache, Morocco 1880km, SSW; 1 year 130 days
FR59752	3	12/09/09	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	11/04/11	Essaouira, Morocco 2364km, SSW; 1 year 211 days
FR59766	3	12/09/09	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	05/06/10	Stoke Orchard, Gloucestershire 164km, WNW; 266 days
	VV	17/02/11	Port Layonne, Morocco 2944km, SSW; 1 year 158 days
GG56453	1	03/07/88	Orfordness, Suffolk
		29/01/11	Rainham Tip, Essex 116km, SW; 22 years 210 days
NLA 53156	1	05/07/97	Den Hoorn, Texel, Netherlands
		12/03/11	Rainham Tip, Essex 353km, WSW; 13 years 250 days

Lesser Black-backed Gull

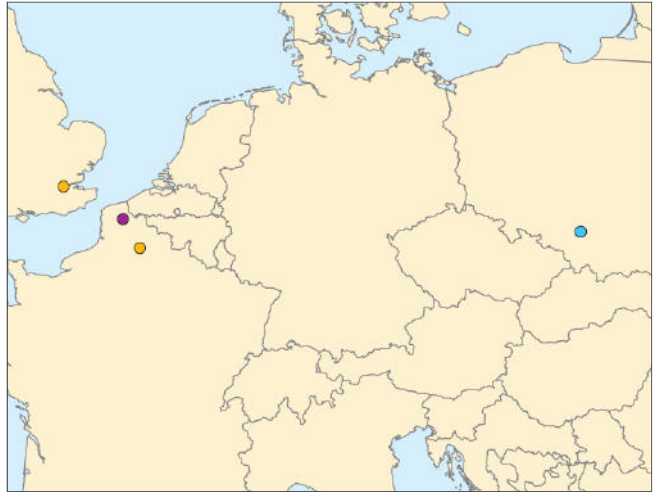
- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing locations of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip

(Garganey Consulting)



Yellow-legged and Caspian Gull

- Re-sighting locations of Yellow-legged Gulls ringed at Rainham Tip
- Re-sighting location of Caspian Gull ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing location of Caspian Gull re-sighted at Rainham Tip



(Garganey Consulting)

Yellow-legged Gull and Caspian Gull

All sightings and life histories for both these species are given in the tables here with the map above showing all locations of recoveries and controls from and to the Landfill at Rainham for both species.

Yellow-legged Gull

GG61176	3	12/09/09	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	09/12/11	Nurlu, France
			259km, SE; 2 years 88 days
GG61183	5	29/01/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	18/11/11	Dartford, Kent
			6km, SSE; 293 days)
GG61194	8	15/10/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	09/12/11	Nurlu, France
			259km, SE; 55 days

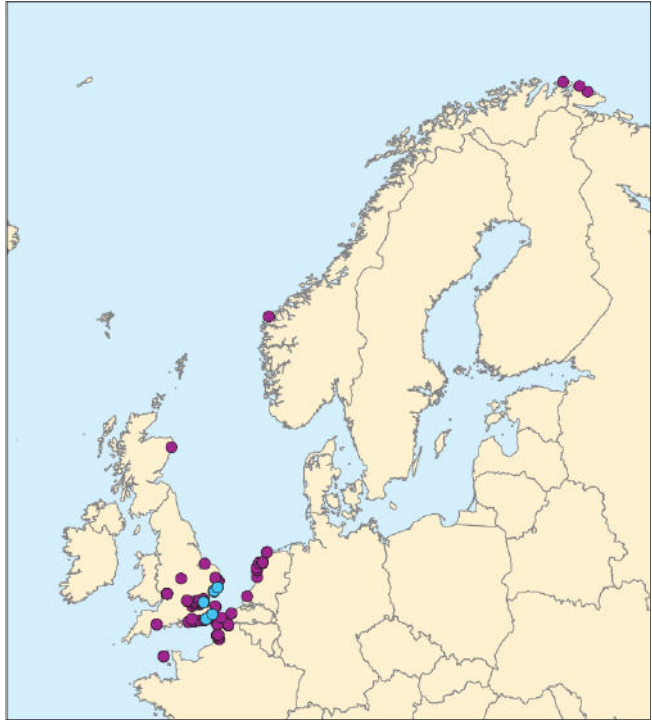
Caspian Gull

GR15619	3	22/10/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	15/12/11	Blaringhem, Nord, France
			178km, ESE; 54 days
	VV	29/12/11	Blaringhem, Nord, France
			178km, ESE; 68 days
PLG.DN253	1	20/05/10	KuŹnica WarŹy Źnska Res, Slaskie, Poland
	VV	29/01/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
			1337km, W; 254 days
	VV	05/03/11	Pitsea Landfill Site, Essex
			1315km, W; 289 days

Herring Gull

- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing locations of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip

(Garganey Consulting)



Herring Gull

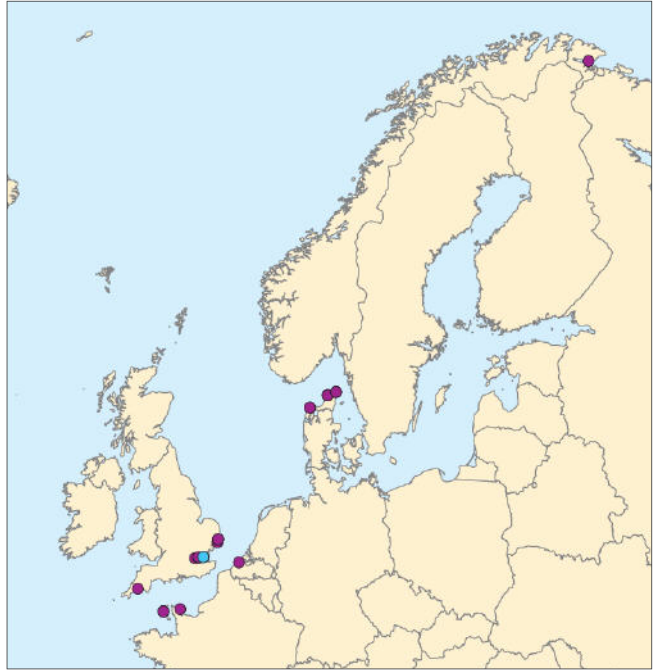
A small selection of interesting sightings and life histories are given in the table here with the map above showing all locations of recoveries and controls from and to the Landfill at Rainham.

GN88078	8	18/12/10	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	03/07/11	Båtsfjord, Finnmark, Norway 2621km, NE; 197 days
GN88086	5	18/12/10	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	21/10/11	Axe Estuary, Seaton, Devon 242km, WSW; 307 days
GN88219	8 I	29/01/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	23/07/11	Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire, Scotland 664km, NNW; 175 days

Great Black-backed Gull

- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing location of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip

(Garganey Consulting)



Great Black-backed Gull

A small selection of interesting sightings and life histories are given in the table here with the map above showing all locations of recoveries from the Landfill at Rainham.

MA26830	10	29/01/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	31/07/11	Vadsø, Finnmark, Norway 2582km, NE; 183 days
MA26832	5	29/01/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
	VV	22/05/11	Hirtshals, Denmark 924km, NE; 113 days
MA26833	5	29/01/11	Rainham Tip, Essex
		14/08/11	Chouet Landfill Beach, Guernsey 292km, SW; 197 days

Bearded Tit

L370 607	4 M	24/07/2010	Haddiscoe Island, Norfolk
		21/02/2011	Rye Meads, Herts 141km, SW; 212 days

Kingfisher

SB71818	3	07/06/2011	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	07/08/2011	Crossness Sewage Works, Kent 31km, SSE; 61 days

Reed Warbler

L914585	3 J	27/06/2011	Crossness Sewage Works, Kent
	R	03/08/2011	Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth, Dorset 160km, WSW; 37 days
X813692	3	26/07/2009	Crossness Sewage Works, Kent
	R	11/08/2009	Les Barthes de Quartier Bas, France 903km, S; 16 days

Sedge Warbler

V417126	3J	2/08/2007	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	10/08/2009	Chenac, St Seurin d'Uzet, Charente, France 699km, S; 739 days
V418879	3J	26/07/2008	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	17/08/2008	Hondarribia, Guipúzcoa, Spain 945km, S; 22 days
X049710	3J	16/08/2009	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	29/08/2009	Bassins de Tailles, La Neuville, France 256km, SE; 13 days
X390761	3J	24/07/2010	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	09/08/2010	Tour aux Moutons, Donges, France 517km, SSW; 16 days
X390841	3J	24/07/2010	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	15/08/2010	Ile Nouvelle Blaye, France 741km, S; 22 days
X584486	3	28/08/2010	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	15/08/2011	Marais de Pompas, Herbignac, France 514km, SSW; 352 days
L152704	3J	31/07/2011	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	15/08/2011	Le Massereau, France 523km, SSW; 15 days
5149 428	3	06/08/2008	Etang de Kergalan, Plovan, France
	R	16/07/2009	Rye Meads, Herts 531km, NE; 344 day

Whitethroat

X584 134	3 J	14/08/2010	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	28/08/2010	Noyant, Soulaire-et-Bourg, Maine-et-Loire, France 513km, S; 14 days

Blackcap

L170681	3J	06/07/2010	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	19/04/2011	Kessingland, Lowestoft, Suffolk 186km, NE; 287 days
L497512	3 M	31/08/2010	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	25/04/2011	Tielt, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 270km, E; 237 days
Y443196	3 F	15/09/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	25/09/2011	Gibraltar Point B.O., Lincolnshire 195km, NNE; 10 days

Garden Warbler

Y243336	3	12/08/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	18/09/2011	Icklesham, East Sussex 99km, SE; 37 days

Chiffchaff

DPA832	3	18/09/2010	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	20/09/2011	Woolston Eyes, Warrington, Cheshire 259km, NNW; 1 year 2 days
DPA912	3	30/09/2010	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	03/04/2011	Thornton, Leicestershire 148km, NNW; 185 days
DRH719	3 J	14/07/2011	Edenderry, Offaly, Eire
	R	07/09/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey 496km, ESE; 55 days
CND221	1 J	26/06/2010	Rye Meads, Herts
		25/10/2010	Morón de la Frontera, Sevilla, Spain 1685km, SSW; 121 days

Chaffinch

L631461	4 F	21/10/2010	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	X	22/11/2011	Ballywilliamroe, Bagenalstown, Carlow, Eire 459km, WNW; 1 year 32 days

Goldfinch

X972798	3 M	05/11/2009	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	27/11/2009	Wales Farm, Plumpton, West Sussex 64km, SSE; 22 days
	R	21/10/2011	Wales Farm, Plumpton, West Sussex 64km, SSE; 1 year 350 days
X050 350	3	22/10/2009	Rye Meads, Herts
	R	24/10/2011	Branston, Lincolnshire
	7		161km, N; 732 days

Mealy Redpoll

L603206	3	30/10/2010	The Haven, Thorpeness, Suffolk
	R	07/03/2011	Shooters Hill, Kent 131km, SW; 128 days

A map of all recoveries and controls of Lesser and Mealy Redpoll is on page 13.

Lesser Redpoll

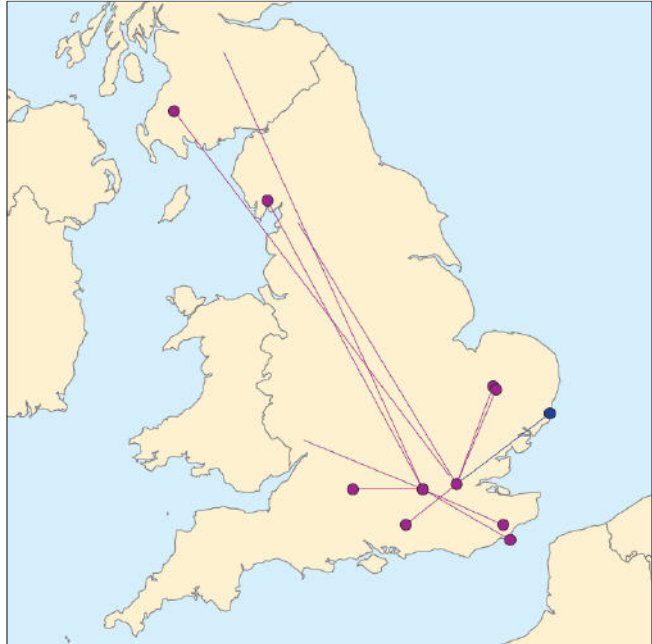
2011 saw some large numbers of Redpoll moving around the UK and many of these flocks of birds were easily catchable. This resulted in some interesting and quick movements of which the London area had its fair share.

L678495	5	21/03/2011	Shooters Hill, Kent
	R	01/04/2011	Higher Thrushgill, Lancashire 336km, NNW; 11 days
X816876	3	10/11/2010	Stanley Common, West Sussex
	R	21/03/2011	Shooters Hill, Kent 73km, NE; 131 days
L815768	5	08/02/2011	Hay Bridge Nature Reserve, Cumbria
	R	12/11/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey 360km, SSE; 277 days
R535391	3	29/10/2011	Dungeness, Kent
	R	22/11/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey 114km, WNW; 24 days
X972759	3	29/10/2009	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	03/11/2011	Newent Woods Glasshouse, Gloucestershire 144km, WNW; 2 years 5 days
X972778	3	31/10/2009	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey
	R	25/01/2011	Damhead Farm, Carlisle, South Lanarkshire, Scotland 526km, NNW; 1 year 86 days
Y232867	4 M	01/11/2011	Orlestone Forest, Kent
	R	20/12/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey 99km, WNW; 49 days
Y401970	4 M	23/10/2011	Hen's Wood, Marlborough, Wiltshire
	R	29/10/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey 80km, E; 6 days
X426896	3	02/09/11	Kirriereoch Forest, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland
	R	24/09/11	Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, Essex 500km, 144deg SE; 22 days

Mealy Redpoll and Lesser Redpoll

- Mealy Redpoll ringing location
- Lesser Redpoll ringing locations

(Garganey Consulting)



Reed Bunting

X762481	3	M	08/09/2009	Stanwell Moor, Surrey
	R		26/11/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey 5km, SE; 2 years 79 days
	R		17/12/2011	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey 5km, SE; 2 years 100 days
L151 279	4		0804/2011	Rye Meads, Herts
	R		29/10/2011	Fish Lake Meadows, Romsey, Hants 136km, SW; 204 days

List of contributors

The compiler gratefully acknowledges the information received from the following: A. G. Beasley, S. Christmas, Dartford Ringing Group, C.W. Dee, D. Harris, Hershams Ringing Group, North Thames Gull Group, M. Reed, P. Roper, D. Ross, Runnymede Ringing Group, Rye Meads Ringing Group, Roy Sanderson, R. Taylor, B. Trevis and P. Oakenfell.

Paul Roper, ntgg_sightings@hotmail.co.uk