

Carey Ringing Station

2025 Report



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Introduction

The Carey Ringing Station is located in the Lower Piddle Valley near Wareham, Dorset, on the floodplain of the river Piddle. The habitat is dominated by sedge, with Alder and Willow growing along ditches, and the area is bordered by mixed woodland. The land is in the early stages of rewilding to improve the habitat for wildlife.

This was the second year of intensive ringing at the site as part of a project monitoring bird migration through the area, with a special focus on targeting Aquatic Warblers; a rapidly declining species for which the Lower Piddle Valley is on the migration route. The aim is to collect valuable data on bird movements through the site, contributing to the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) [Bird Ringing Scheme](#), with the additional benefit of revealing how bird populations respond to habitat changes at Carey.

Methodology

The core season of bird ringing in 2025 took place between 14th July until 18th November, with Edward Betteridge as the lead ringer to cover the peak autumn migration periods of most common migrant passerines. As often as the weather allowed, ringing would start at first light, with sound lures turned on an hour before sunrise. Most days ringing would continue until the weather became unfavourable or it was exceptionally quiet for birds.

Mist nets were used as the primary method of catching. Many were in positions consistent with 2024, however some new positions were also trialled to improve the catch (see Figure 1). Other capture methods included dazzling (e.g. for Woodlark) and spring traps (e.g. Stonechats) were used where appropriate but not intensively. All birds were handled under licence in compliance with the BTO's standards outlined in the official Ringing Guidance.



Figure 1 - Illustrated map of mist net positions on the Carey Floodplain in autumn 2025. Blue indicates net positions used for the whole season, yellow are positions used at the start of the season to mirror 2024 but abandoned early on, orange shows new positions added throughout the season, and red shows a new net position used temporarily before being moved further downstream.

Results

Ringing took place on 110 days within the ringing season. In total 11,457 birds were trapped at Carey this autumn. Of these 10,475 were new birds, comprising 61 different species. A total of 783hrs were spent catching birds with 25 individual ringers visiting the site. An incredible 47 days saw over 100 birds being caught.

Catching totals were uploaded to the 'Piddle Valley RS' site on Trektellen which can be viewed at <https://www.trektellen.org/site/info/2827>.

Capture method	Total
Mist net	11,436
Dazzling	13
Spring trap	3
Hand/other	1
Other	4

Table 1 - Summary of birds caught per capture method.

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Number ringed	1579	2653	3742	2000	505	10479
Number of species	36	40	45	37	28	61

Table 2 - Monthly summary of birds ringed at Carey in autumn 2025 (N.B. the additional four birds included for July were the four Osprey chicks).

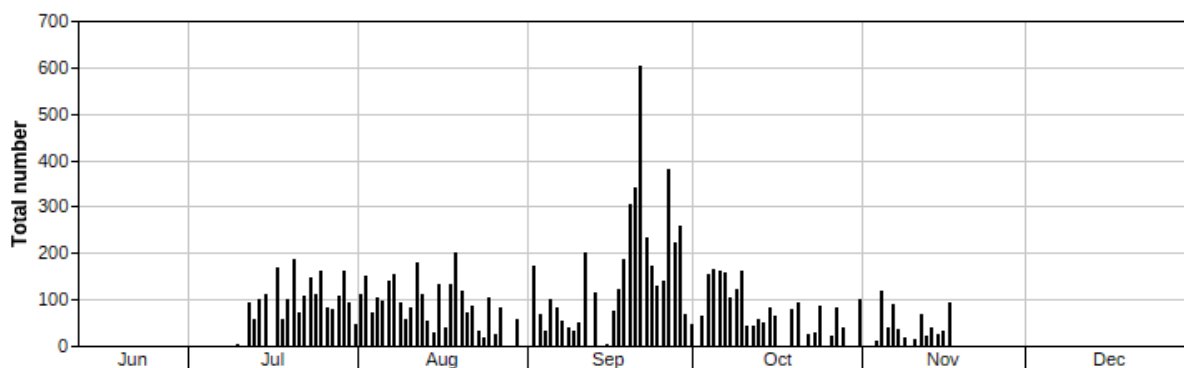


Figure 2 - Total birds processed per day.

Species	Carey 2025 Total	Percentage of average 5-year UK total 2020-24 (excluding pulli)
Grasshopper Warbler	486	28.09%
Woodlark	8	27.02%
House Martin	302	16.98%
Stonechat	142	12.80%
Nightjar	36	12.07%
Sedge Warbler	2,170	10.33%
Tree Pipit	50	5.77%
Firecrest	36	4.32%

Table 3 - 2025 Carey ringing totals compared to the five-year UK-wide average total for full-grown birds based on BTO data (2020-2024) showing the most significant species trapped at Carey in a UK perspective.

Date	Total	Highest counts
24 September	589	House Martin (258), Chiffchaff (242), Blackcap (38)
29 September	376	Chiffchaff (205), Blackcap (54), Meadow Pipit (48)
23 September	336	Chiffchaff (222), Blackcap (69), Sedge Warbler (10)
22 September	301	Chiffchaff (163), Blackcap (81), Meadow Pipit (17)
1 October	250	Chiffchaff (157), Blackcap (31), Pied Wagtail (20)

Table 4 - Summary of the top five busiest days at Carey in 2025.

Systematic List

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

A total of 36 of these nocturnal birds were ringed this year between 14 July and 20 September; with 2 August seeing the peak of five. Of these, 22.22% were adults.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Two Stock Doves were ringed this autumn; a juvenile caught in the River net on 28 July followed by a late pullus found recently fledged in the wood on 28 September.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Three Woodpigeons were ringed this year, with singles on 28 July, 2nd and 25 August.

*Juvenile Woodpigeon, later found dead in
Northern France ►*



Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Two birds were trapped this year, the first being on 11 August, a few days after the first migrants arrived onsite. This was followed by another on 1 October. However, with lots of birds present across the site from late summer, more targeted efforts with potter traps could see many more of these secretive birds caught.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

An adult female was caught in the River net on 18 July, the bird was fitted with an orange colour ring in conjunction with a National colour ringing project.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Birds were caught, presumably when going to roost, on the mornings of 16th and 18 October.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A total of 20 Kingfishers were ringed this autumn with only two of these being adult birds, both female, with 18 juveniles presumably birds moving downstream to winter. All birds were caught between July and September with three individuals being re-caught in October and/or November.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*



◀ Following on from a juvenile caught on 28 August last year, another juvenile was trapped on 30 August this season.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Three birds were ringed this year around the feeders late in the autumn, with an adult from last year also caught.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

A young female was caught in the evening of 26 September, presumably one of the juveniles born onsite.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

An adult male was trapped on 28 August.



Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

A total of 70 Coal Tits were trapped, 43 being new birds with the first being caught on 21 September followed by small numbers thereafter around the feeders. An adult bird from 2024 was also retrapped.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

This autumn 270 Blue Tits were ringed with a further 217 retraps including 11 adults and 11 juveniles from 2024 and an adult from 2020. Three local controls were caught including two 2025 juvenile birds from Arne and a 2024 juvenile from Wareham.



▲ Examples of melanistic Blue Tits trapped at Carey

Great Tit *Parus major*

In total 157 new Great Tits were ringed this season alongside 94 retraps including adults from 2021 and 2022 along with six adults and five juveniles from last year.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*



◀ Seven Woodlark were dazzled in mid-September in the fields near the Osprey nest, these were part of a 20-25 strong flock of moulting birds.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

With local breeding birds present on site during July, three adults were trapped including two from a new net position across the river. This was followed by a further five juvenile birds caught in September.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Of the 54 birds trapped this year 32 were caught on 24 September when a small number came into roost.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

In total, 303 birds were caught, including 258 on 24 September. This however, was down on last year's total of 794 with poor weather during peak passage limiting catching time.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

A total of 45 new Cetti's Warblers were ringed this season. Small numbers were caught throughout the autumn with a notable increase in late July, presumably mostly site born juveniles, with another increase mid-September to early October coinciding with juvenile dispersal. Alongside these, four birds were caught from 2024, these being two adults and two juveniles. A combination of wing length and weight will sex the majority of birds, producing a relatively even split (57.10% female: 42.90% male).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

The first Long-tailed Tit to be caught was not until 15 August, however they became more regular after that totalling 103 new birds, along with two retraps from 2024.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A total of 466 birds were ringed this year. Of these, 81.12% were juvenile birds; with notable peaks of 33 and 32 on 2 August and 27 July respectively. Sexing of known *trochilus* birds are possible, with no obviously paler *acredula*-types being trapped; sexing off wing length will correctly sex 92% suggesting 54.72% were males, a lower split than other species but to be expected with more males coming to tape.

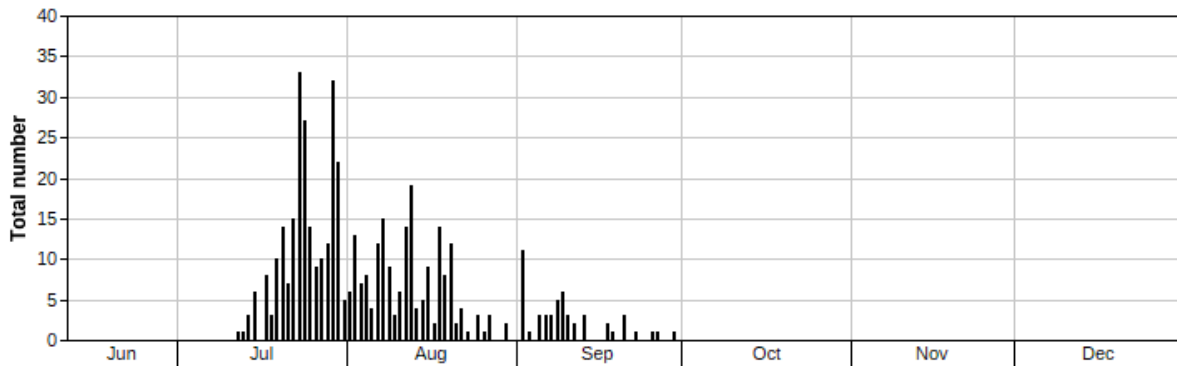


Figure 3 - Total number of Willow Warblers trapped per day.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The most numerous species with a total of 2,886 new birds caught. Early autumn saw small numbers daily, most being presumed locally born juveniles. Numbers started to pick up from September as passage got going with mid-September seeing Chiffchaffs becoming the most numerous species. Ten days saw more than 100 birds trapped; all between 23 September and 1 October when an impressive total of 1,621 birds were trapped.

Chiffchaffs are challenging to sex off wing length, with much overlap due to geographical variation. In UK breeding *collybita* birds birds with <56 or >60 can be sexed with females smaller. However, in *abeitinus* birds from Eastern Europe, females can have up to a 64mm wing. Though it could be assumed the majority of birds caught at Carey are *collybita*, 60 birds have a wing >63mm with 15 individuals being >64.5mm almost definitely being *abeitinus*, only a single pale bird visually fit this race with no *tristis*-type birds being caught. Four birds ringed as juveniles last year were also retrapped and are now presumably locally breeding birds.

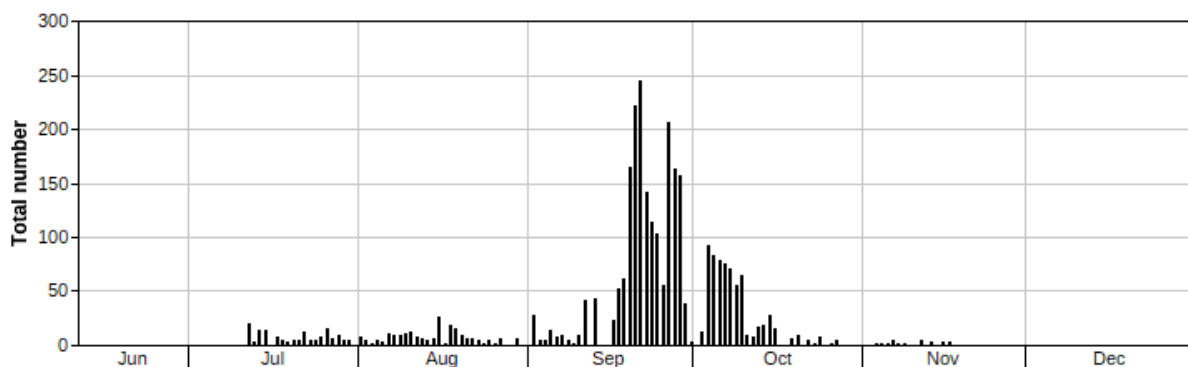


Figure 4 - Total number of Chiffchaffs trapped per day.



▲ Pale presumed *abeitinus* Chiffchaff

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus Paludicola*

The highlight of the autumn was catching a single Aquatic Warbler on 2 September. The bird was a juvenile and was carrying a good amount of fat and muscle with a weight of 15.1g. The bird was caught during a short spell of south-easterlies with short rain showers at dawn and throughout the morning presumably bringing the bird down.



▲ Juvenile Aquatic Warbler trapped on 2 September

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

This autumn saw 1770 juvenile birds trapped, 80.90% of the total for this species, similar to last year's proportion at 80.61%, suggesting that though the total number of birds was up, the proportion of adult to juvenile was very similar.

Adult birds were found to weigh significantly more than juveniles, with adults weighing 11.31g (n=398 +/-0.86g) and juveniles weighing 10.71 (n=1520, +/- 1.31g). However, there was no significant difference between overall weight of birds in 2025 compared to 2024 despite the higher numbers of individuals caught.

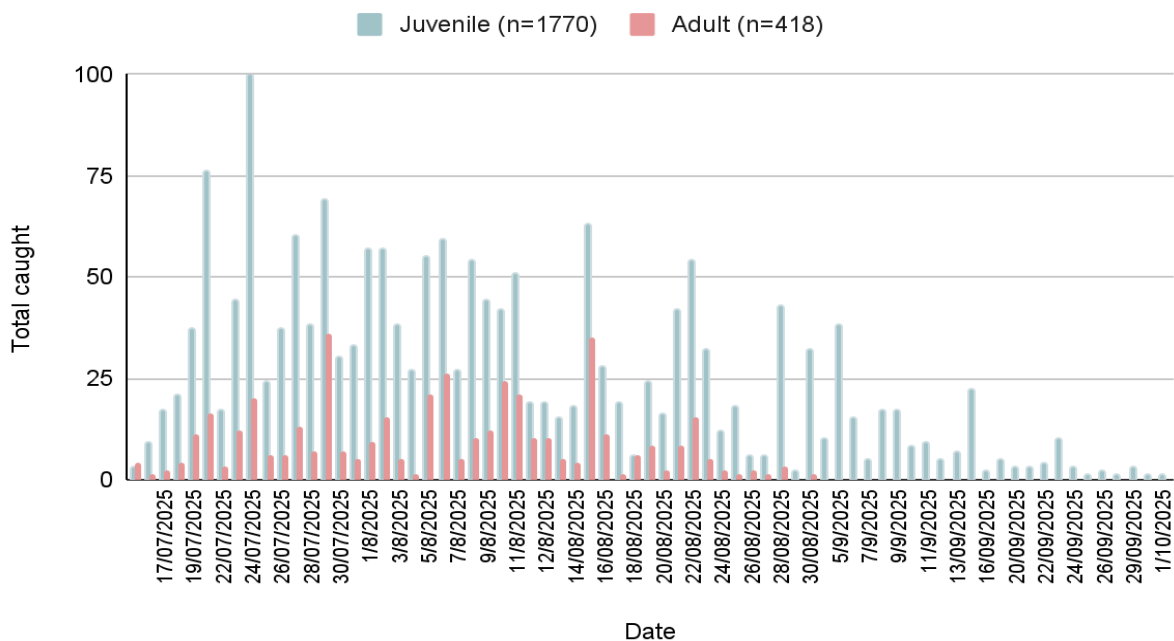


Figure 5 - Age demographic of Sedge Warblers trapped.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

In total, 289 Reed Warbler were ringed this year, up on 188 last year. The best day saw 16 ringed on 22 August with late birds on 1st (2), 2nd (1) and 22 (1) October.

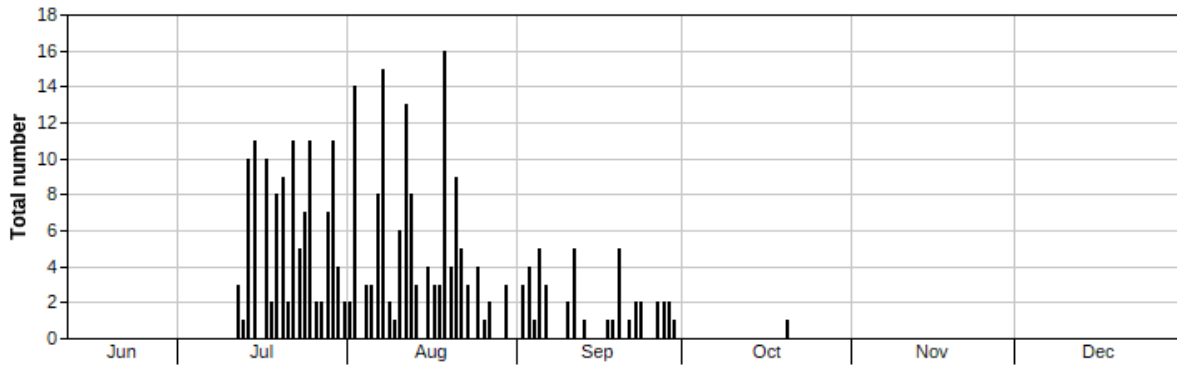


Figure 6 - Total number of Reed Warblers trapped per day.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

This secretive species is very much under-recorded due to their elusive nature. An incredible 486 birds were trapped this year compared to 259 in 2024. Birds started moving early with six on the first full day of the season (16 July) followed by highs of 28 on 18th and 25 on 21 July respectively. In total, 95.07% of birds caught were juveniles with the majority of adults moving with a second wave of juveniles in mid-August suggesting a good breeding season with birds having two broods. Adults were found to be in better condition with weighing on average 6.63% more.

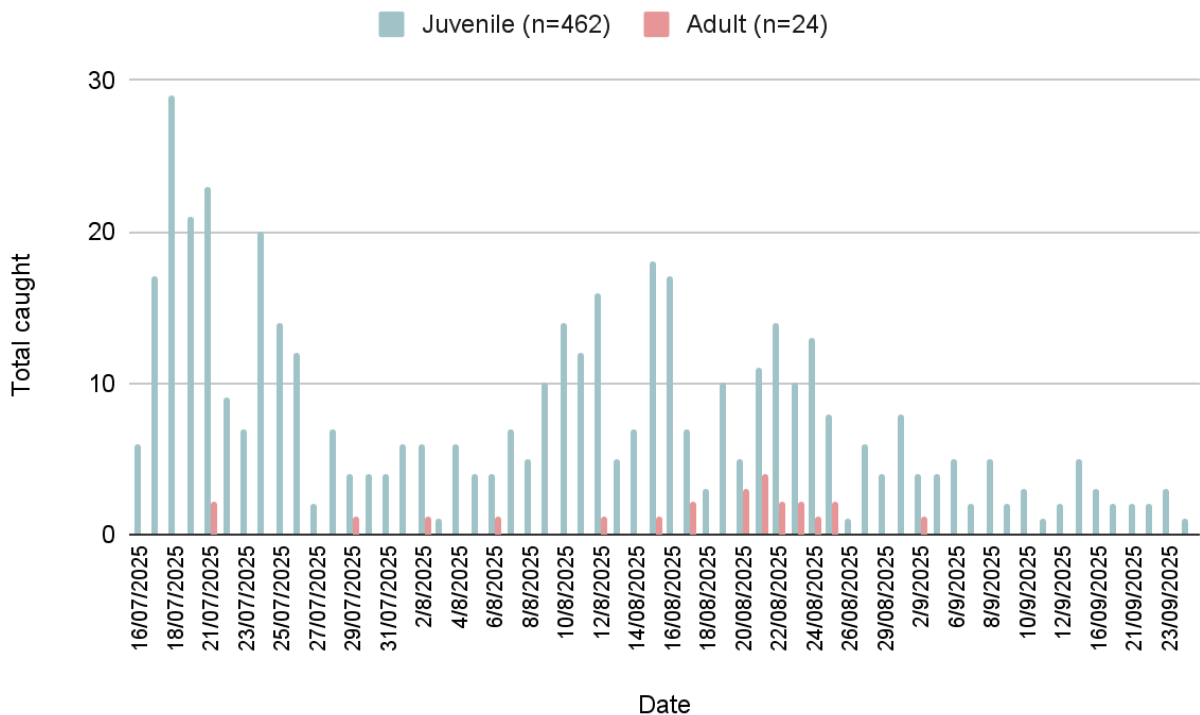


Figure 7 - Age demographic of Grasshopper Warblers trapped.

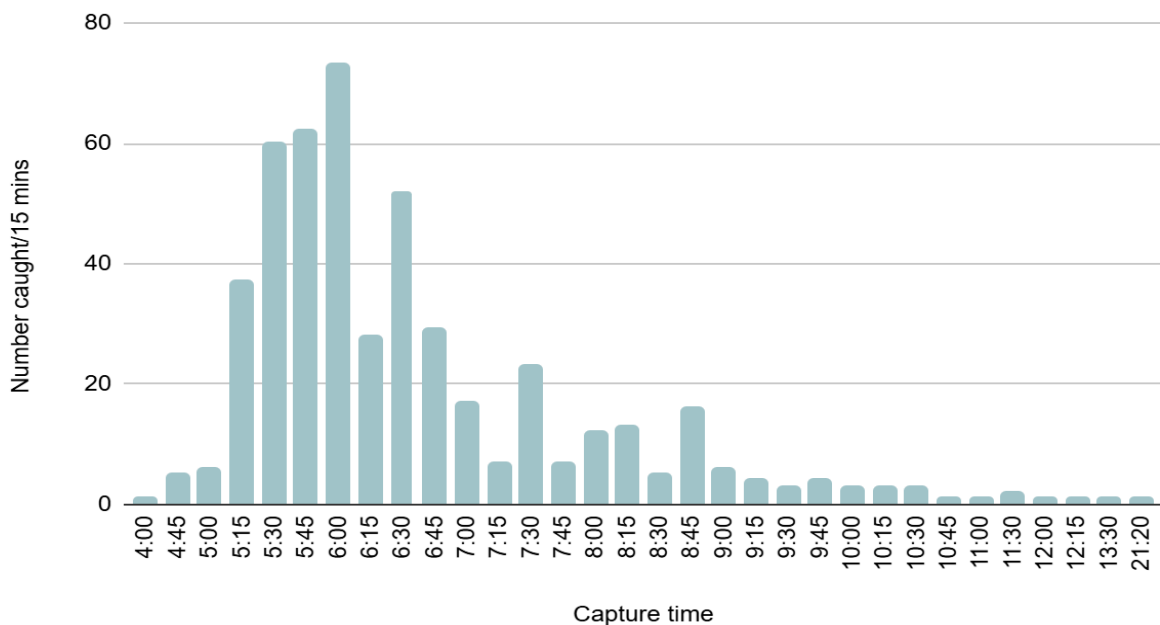


Figure 8 - Capture times of new Grasshopper Warblers trapped on the Carey Floodplain in 2025.

Blackcap *Sylvia Atricapilla*

A regular feature at Carey this autumn with 1151 birds ringed. September saw peak passage with 736 birds ringed including highs of 81 and 78 on 22nd and 14th respectively. As can be expected due to the use of tape lures, a higher proportion of the birds were males at 61.23%. The adult to juvenile ratio showed a clear juvenile bias with 92.78% juveniles, compared to 85.15% last year which could suggest a better breeding season. Interestingly, this was significantly higher than 305 ringed in 2024; in part due to a more productive breeding season and a high number of juveniles, but also the impact of new net positioning can't be ignored.

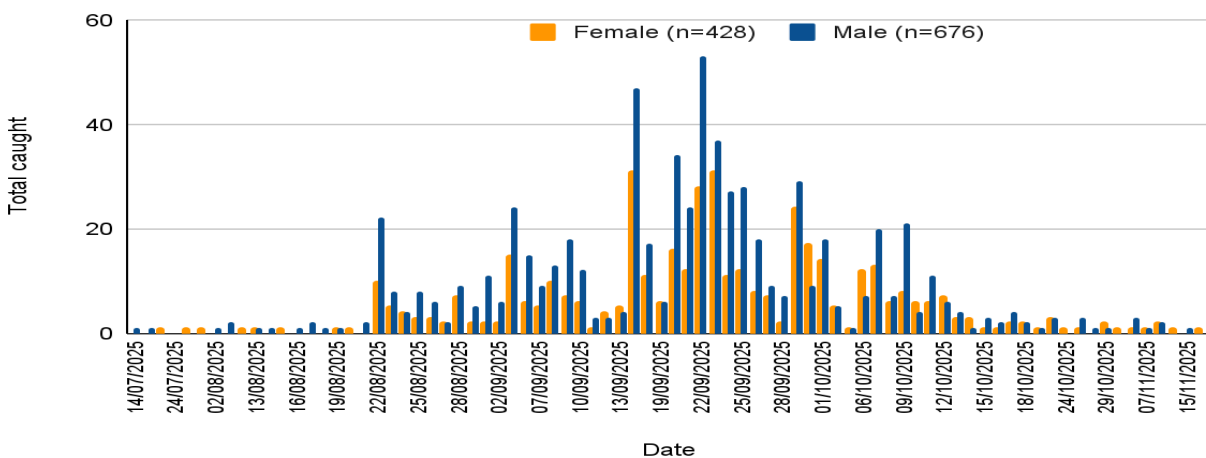


Figure 9 - Sex demographic of Blackcaps trapped.



▲ Partially leucistic male Blackcap

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

A total of 54 birds were ringed this autumn. Garden Warblers moved earlier than Blackcaps with the majority between mid-July and mid-August, with two birds caught in both September and October.

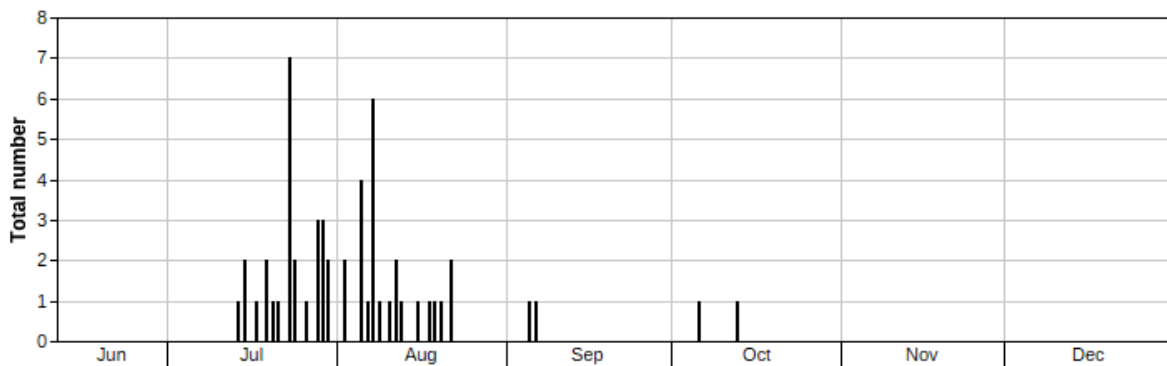


Figure 10 - Total number of Garden Warblers trapped per day.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Five were ringed this year with singles on 31 July, 13 August and 27 September with two on 22 August.

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

A total of 61 Whitethroats were ringed this year, with birds caught between 24 July and 1 October. Generally, not a common bird on site with a maximum of five on 22 September. New nets set near bramble bushes by the ringing hut helped to increase the catch. As the site develops and more scrub forms this could see more and more Whitethroat annually.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Singles were trapped on 1st and 8 October, coinciding with juvenile dispersal.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

A total of 36 birds were ringed this autumn with an even split of males and females (51.14% female) and only 8.82% being adult birds.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A productive autumn for Goldcrests saw 313 birds ringed with 308 of these being after 19 September. Juveniles were more numerous as expected comprising 79.05%, with 22.26% more males than females. A number of long winged, paler headed birds were caught late in the autumn and presumably 'scandinavian' birds.

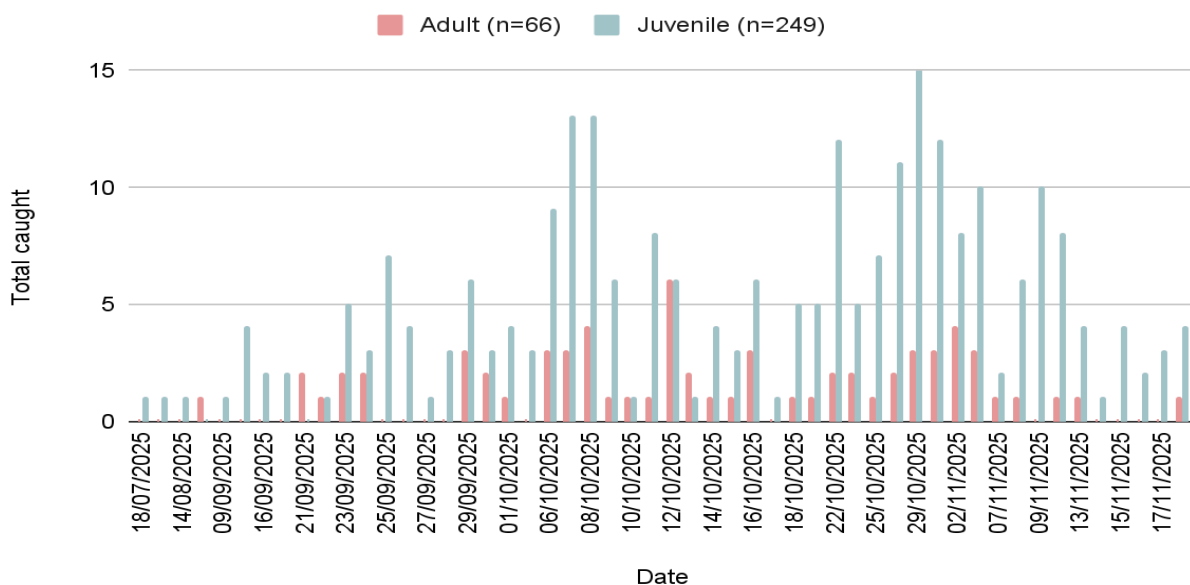


Figure 11 - Age demographic of Goldcrests trapped.

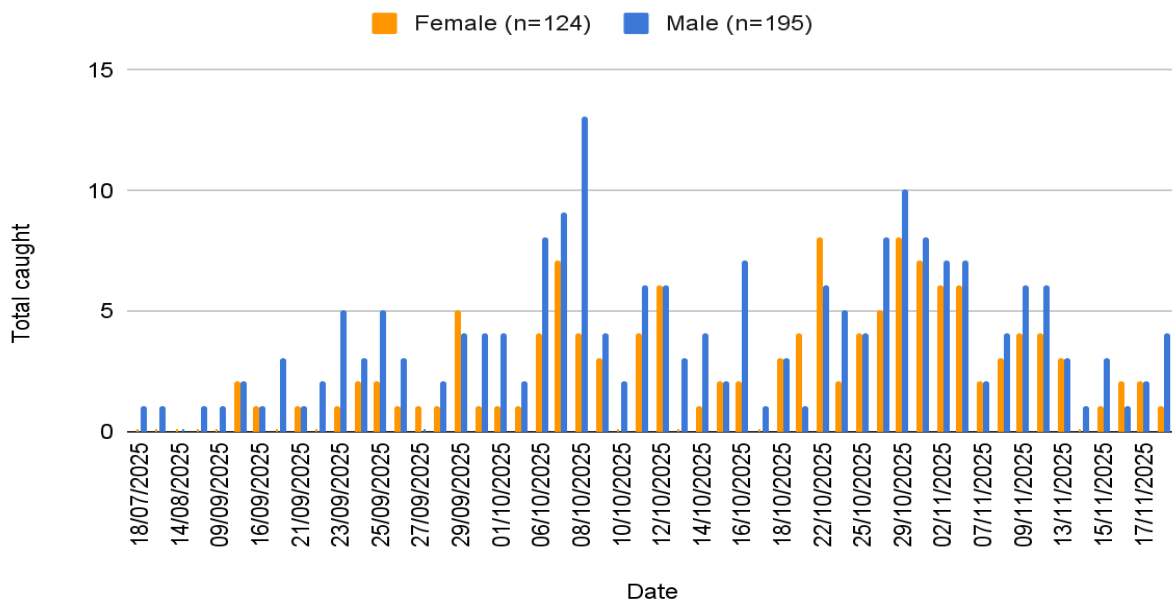


Figure 12 - Sex demographic of Goldcrests trapped.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

This season 228 Wrens were trapped, including 142 new birds and five retraps from previous years; an adult and three juveniles from 2024 and a juvenile from 2022.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

A rare bird on the Flood Plain itself, but five birds were caught at the feeders near the main house.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Four birds were ringed this autumn with two in both July and November.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

A single juvenile female was trapped on the evening 6 November during a roost Wagtail catch.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

In total, 41 Song Thrush were ringed. A productive breeding season on site saw 15 birds caught in July with 19 across October and November presumably relating to migrant individuals. A single juvenile bird from 2024 was also caught.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

A total of 112 Redwings were trapped this season, 58.82% being juveniles with a noticeable arrival of adults before juveniles. Numbers however, were down compared to 182 last year with a later arrival evident.

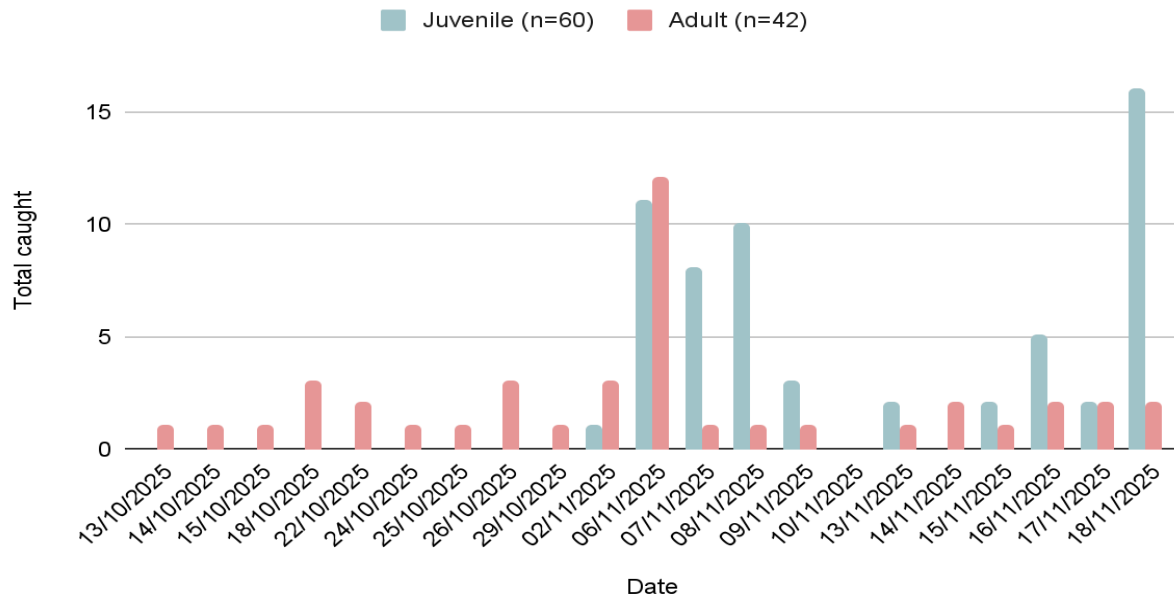


Figure 13 - Age demographic of Redwing trapped (of those aged).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A relatively uncommon bird actually on the flood plain at Carey, 28 were ringed with a maximum day count of only two. An adult from 2024 and a juvenile from 2020 were also trapped.

Fieldfare *Turdus Pilaris*

A quiet year for Fieldfare with just one female trapped on 15 November.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

A relatively rarely caught species with a total of nine birds trapped, all in August and September.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Small numbers passed through the site throughout the autumn with a total of 95 ringed; however, there were no notable arrivals with five being the maximum number caught in a day.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

In total 11 birds were ringed with seven in August and four in September with two on 22 September.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Despite small numbers present most days in September, the only bird to be trapped was a juvenile on 14 September.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Stonechats were a regular feature at Carey for much of the autumn with high single figures present daily. Small numbers of 'local' birds were caught on multiple occasions, however in general new birds were passing through most days until early October. This resulted in 142 birds being ringed with only 10.56% being adults. There was a single bird from 2020, ringed originally as a 3J; it is now an adult male that was also caught in 2024 and presumably breeds onsite.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A Greenland type Wheatear was dazzled on 14 September in the acid grassland fields.



Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

In total 35 Dunnocks were ringed this season, and late September into early October saw a small arrival of migratory birds.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Small numbers were present daily along the river, alongside migrant individuals overhead. However, birds were difficult to catch this autumn with 13 ringed.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

A total of 107 Pied Wagtails were ringed with all but one caught to roost. All were of the nominate *yarrelli* Pied Wagtails with a single juvenile from 2024 retrapped.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A quieter year for Meadow Pipits with 210 new birds ringed, less than half of last year's total of 493.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Between 25 July and 20 September, 50 Tree Pipits were caught, up slightly from 41 last year.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

A total of 42 Chaffinches were ringed, the vast majority coming to the feeders.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Male birds were trapped on 27 July and 10 August.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Eleven Greenfinch were ringed during the early autumn with these all thought to be breeding individuals.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Very few birds were observed 'on the deck' at Carey however, a small arrival of juvenile birds early August saw birds ringed on 5th and 8th respectively.

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

An influx year across the UK saw 152 ringed between 29 September and 15 November, including a peak of 22 on 6 November.



Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

In total 114 Goldfinches were caught with 76 in November and 22 in October alone. Late November saw 25 caught on 18th and 18 on 13th with birds visiting feeders set up by the river.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

A total of 19 Siskin were trapped this autumn despite a flock of around 50-100 present late autumn in Alders along the river. The birds were feeding too high for nets with small numbers caught presumably coming to drink. In late October feeders started to attract small numbers, however natural food was still in high quantity hence only small numbers caught.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

A young male was trapped early on 22 October to no sound lure suggesting the bird naturally roosted on site with the only other record being a bird circling the nets a few days later.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

A common breeder at the flood plain with 108 birds ringed during July and August alongside 14 retraps from previous years; 11 (5 adults) from 2024, a juvenile from 2023 and a juvenile from 2022. September, October and November saw fewer birds caught with 36 ringed however, most of these presumably being migrant individuals.



▲ A selection of birds caught this year, clockwise: Tree Pipit, Yellowhammer, Moorhen, Snipe, Kestrel, Grasshopper Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Redstart and Nightjar in the center.

Species	2024 total	2025 total	Carey site total
Nightjar	22	36	70
Stock Dove	0	2	2
Woodpigeon	0	3	4
Water Rail	2	2	4
Moorhen	0	1	1
Woodcock	0	0	0
Jack Snipe	0	0	1
Snipe	0	2	2
Osprey	4	4	11
Sparrowhawk	2	0	5
Barn Owl	0	0	5
Tawny Owl	1	0	1
Kingfisher	16	20	53
Wryneck	1	1	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3	3	7
Kestrel	0	1	1
Hobby	0	1	1
Jay	4	0	4
Magpie	3	0	3
Coal Tit	6	43	64
Blue Tit	94	270	446
Great Tit	60	157	255
Woodlark	0	7	9
Sand Martin	6	8	16
Swallow	79	54	207
House Martin	794	302	1132
Cetti's Warbler	35	45	99
Long-tailed Tit	39	103	158
Yellow-browed Warbler	7	0	7
Willow Warbler	190	466	725
Chiffchaff	967	2885	4033
Aquatic Warbler	0	1	1
Sedge Warbler	1402	2170	3687
Reed Warbler	188	289	491
Grasshopper Warbler	259	486	778
Blackcap	305	1151	1527
Garden Warbler	22	54	85

Lesser Whitethroat	3	5	9
Whitethroat	49	61	122
Dartford Warbler	5	2	7
Firecrest	3	36	46
Goldcrest	12	313	338
Wren	102	142	345
Nuthatch	0	5	17
Treecreeper	1	4	5
Starling	11	1	12
Blackbird	19	28	68
Fieldfare	20	1	21
Redwing	182	112	316
Song Thrush	48	41	115
Spotted Flycatcher	3	9	13
Robin	65	95	205
Pied Flycatcher	1	0	1
Redstart	3	11	16
Whinchat	3	1	4
Stonechat	82	142	329
Wheatear	1	1	2
House Sparrow	1	0	1
Dunnock	7	35	55
Yellow Wagtail	8	0	13
Grey Wagtail	31	13	46
Pied/White Wagtail	602	107	709
Meadow Pipit	515	210	767
Tree Pipit	41	50	120
Chaffinch	9	42	58
Bullfinch	6	2	8
Greenfinch	0	11	33
Linnet	2	2	5
Lesser Redpoll	14	152	171
Goldfinch	37	114	212
Siskin	1	19	30
Yellowhammer	4	1	5
Reed Bunting	173	144	554
Total	6575	10479	18674

Table 5 - Summary of birds ringed at Carey in 2024, 2025 (until 1 December), and the overall total (2020-25)

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everybody who helped to make the 2025 season a success at the Carey Ringing Station. Particular thanks are due to Mark and Mo Constantine for funding the ringing station, Paul Morton for the advice, the grounds team at Carey for their help maintaining the net rides and infrastructure, and the Stour Ringing Group for supplying rings. Thank you also to all of the ringers who offered their time to assist with the ringing and processing of birds, helping to make this year's totals possible.

2025 Recoveries & Controls

Recoveries

By the end of 2025, ten birds ringed at Carey had been recovered elsewhere, comprising six species. The map below illustrates these, and an interactive version can be viewed [here](#). Details of these recoveries are summarised in Table 6.

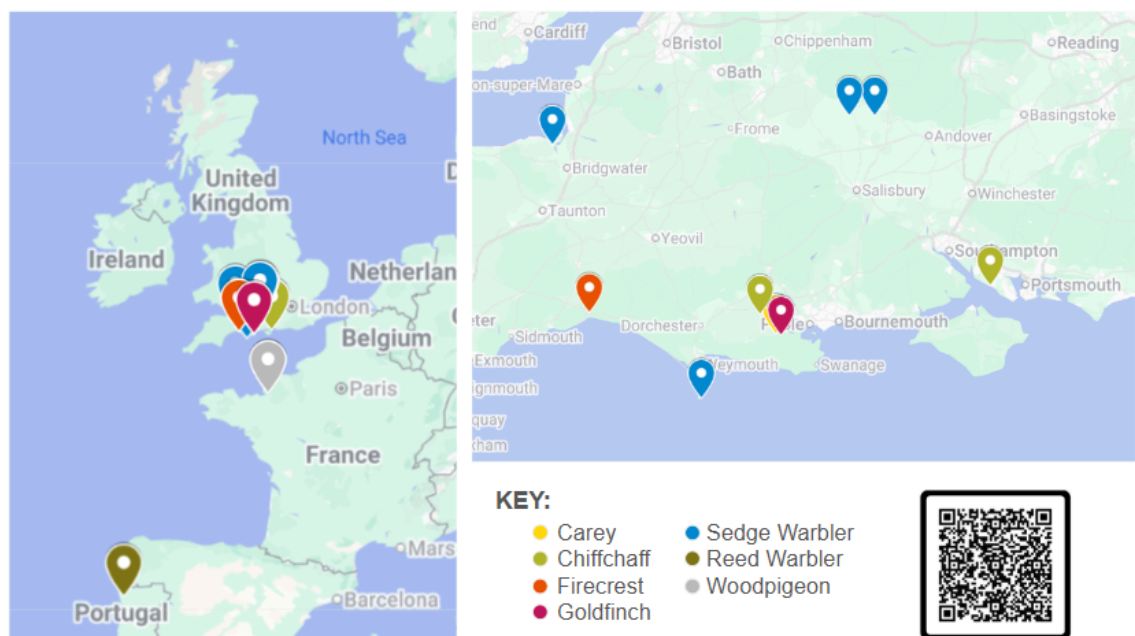


Figure 14 - Map showing the recovery locations of birds ringed at Carey in 2025. Scan the QR code to view an interactive map of the data, or click [here](#).

Species	Date ringed	Date recovered	Location of Recovery	Duration	Distance	Direction of travel
Woodpigeon	02/08/2025	21/12/2025	Le Grippon, Manche, France (Dead - unknown cause)	141 days	220km	166deg (SSE)
Chiffchaff	08/09/2025	09/09/2025	Wild Woodbury, Bere Regis, Dorset	1 day	7.5km	
	20/09/2025	30/09/2025	Titchfield Haven NNR, Hampshire	10 days	65km	79deg (E)
Sedge Warbler	24/07/25	01/08/2025	Portland Bill	8 days	29km	231deg (SW)
	01/08/2025	03/08/2025	Haxton Down, Everleigh, Wiltshire	2 days	71km	25deg (NNE)
	04/08/2025	06/08/2025	Stearf Marshes, Somerset	2 days	87km	310deg (NW)
	12/08/2025	13/08/2025	Water Dean Bottom, Wiltshire	1 day	69km	19deg (NNE)
Reed Warbler	05/09/2025	05/10/2025	Rio Tinto-Esposende, Braga, Portugal (Dead - Killed by cat)	33 days	1142km	207deg (SSW)
Firecrest	11/10/2025	08/11/2025	Hogchester Nature Reserve, Dorset	28 days	54km	276deg (W)
Goldfinch	07/10/2025	09/11/2025	Wareham, Dorset (Dead - Flew into window)	33 days	1km	91deg (E)

Table 6 - Summary of recoveries of birds ringed at Carey in 2025. N.B. Records in blue indicate local recoveries from other Stour Ringing Group site

Controls

The autumn ringing season at Carey produced 34 controls of ten species, summarised in the Table 7 below.

An overview of the ringing locations of the birds controlled at Carey in 2025 can be seen here on the right, with a more detailed map below. These can be explored in more depth on an interactive map [here](#).



Figure 15 - Map showing the ringing locations of birds controlled at Carey in 2025.



Figure 16 - Detailed map illustrating the ringing locations of birds controlled at Carey in 2025. Scan the QR code to view an interactive map of the data, or click [here](#).

Species	Date ringed	Ringing Location	Date controlled	Duration	Distance	Direction of travel
Sedge Warbler	26/07/2021	Hasfield Ham, Gloucestershire	23/07/2025	1458 days	137km	178deg (S)
	11/08/2024	Westdown Plantation, Wiltshire	24/07/2025	347days	63km	193deg (SSW)
	18/07/2025	Pepper Arden, North Yorkshire	27/07/2025	9 days	417km	186deg (S)
	04/05/2024	Tatchcam Marsh, West Berkshire	01/08/2025	454 days	99km	218deg (SW)
	25/07/2025	Pentlie Castle, Cornwall	05/08/2025	11 days	152km	81deg (E)
	06/08/2025	Stanford Reservoir, Northamptonshire	09/08/2025	3 days	205km	201deg (SSW)
	06/08/2025	Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion	11/08/2025	5 days	232km	132deg (SE)
	27/07/2025	Wilstone Reservoir, near Tring, Hertfordshire	17/08/2025	21 days	160km	220deg (SW)
	10/08/2025	Oxwich Marsh, Swansea	20/08/2025	10 days	170km	125deg (SE)

	08/08/2025	Cors Caron, Tregaron, Ceredigion	22/08/2025	14 days	212km	145deg (SE)
	11/08/2025	Nanjizal, Cornwall	22/08/2025	11 days	261km	75deg (ENE)
	23/07/2025	Mullaghglass Wetland/Landfill, Antrim	22/08/2025	30 days	505km	149deg (SSE)
	23/07/2025	Seaside Dyke, Errol, Perth & Kinross	11/09/2025	50 days	637km	174deg (S)
Grasshopper Warbler	28/08/2023	Haxton Down, Wiltshire	17/08/2025	720 days	71km	205deg (SSW)
Reed Warbler	01/08/2025	Watchtree Nature Reserve, Cumbria	22/08/2025	21 days	469km	173deg (S)
	30/08/2025	East of Aqualate Mere, Newport, Staffordshire	09/09/2025	10 days	232km	177deg (S)
	20/08/2025	Wellen, Limburg, Belgium	14/09/2025	25 days	526km	268deg (W)
Blackcap	25/08/2025	Haxton Down, Wiltshire	07/09/2025	13 days	71km	205deg (SSW)
	21/09/2025	Westmill Farm, Watchfield, Oxfordshire	23/09/2025	2 days	107km	199deg (SSW)
	18/08/2025	Moss, near Askern, South Yorkshire	01/10/2025	44 days	333km	193deg (SSW)
Reed Bunting	19/09/2025	Tidmoor, The Fleet, Dorset	06/10/2025	17 days	27km	71deg (ENE)
Chiffchaff	06/09/2025	Kessingland Marsh Lane, Suffolk	24/09/2025	18 days	327km	235deg (SW)
	26/09/2025 (07:00)	Durlston CP, Dorset	26/09/2025 (16:08)	9hrs 8min	16.5km	
	08/07/2025	Pepper Arden, North Yorkshire	27/09/2025	81 days	417km	186deg (S)
	20/09/2025	Stanford Reservoir, Northamptonshire	29/09/2025	9 days	205km	201deg (SSW)
	25/08/2025	Hicks Lodge, Moira, Leicestershire	07/10/2025	43 days	232km	191deg (SSW)
	16/09/2023	Aust, South Gloucestershire	10/10/2025	755 days	107km	162deg (SSE)
House Martin	11/08/2025	Slidery, North Ayrshire	24/09/2025	44 days	568km	159deg (SSE)
Goldcrest	26/09/2025	Bempton Cliffs RSPB Reserve, East Riding of Yorkshire	22/10/2025	26 days	406km	200deg (SSW)
	09/10/2025	Lytchett Heath, Dorset	25/10/2025	16 days	8.5km	
Blue Tit	19/09/2025	Arne, Dorset	07/10/2025	18 days	6.8km	

	12/06/2024	Mistover Road, Wareham, Dorset	02/11/2025	508 days	1.4km	
	20/08/2025	Arne, Dorset	18/11/2025	90 days	6.8km	
Meadow Pipit	06/11/2023	Lytchett Fields, Dorset	(09/11/2024) 21/10/2025	(368 days) 714 days	7.8km	

Table 7 - Summary of birds controlled at Carey in 2025. N.B. Records in blue are local controls from within the Stour Ringing Group

Incidental notable bird sightings

While the main focus of the project is bird ringing, working out on the floodplain most days also gave the opportunity for some special birding moments, the highlights of which are listed below.



Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A small goose was seen going west with Greylags on 17 October and may have related to one of the nearby Pink-feets present in Dorset at the time.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

A female was seen along the Piddle with a brood of 4-6 ducklings on 17 July.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Three records, an adult male attacking the Ospreys on 1 August, a juvenile on 9 and a female on 12 September.

Goshawk *Astur gentilis*

Multiple sightings of juvenile birds in late autumn.

Harrier sp *Circus sp*

A distant ringtail Harrier species was seen circling to the west on 15 October.

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

A fine male flew low south over
the site on 8 November ►



Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

A feather was found in the netting area on 14 August was the only summer record however, in late October a vocal pair called onsite during the evening for around a week.

Merlin *Falco Columbarius*

Two different males were recorded on 12th and 13 November.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A single female-type was around the ringing hut on 10 September.

Brambling *Fringilla Montifringilla*

Singles flew over Carey, both west on 24th and 28 October respectively.