

BALLARD DOWN 2018
BIRD/WILDLIFE AND RINGING REPORT

Oliver Slessor



I returned for my second season working for the 'Birds of Poole Harbour' charity as the Ringing Warden at Ballard Down on 1st March 2018. This year I ran the site, ringing there for 9 months of the year, from the beginning of March right through till the end of November 2018. Like the year before I operated nine mist nets at the site, six 18 meter nets, two 12 meter nets and one 9 meter net. The nets were kept in the same positions as the previous year. Tape lures were used in the autumn months from late July until mid November.

More effort was put in this year to catching migrating warblers with less effort on other species. This was because I wanted to see just how good Ballard is for migrating warblers throughout the whole autumn, there were good numbers of warblers ringed at the site in 2017 but this year there was the added bonus of running the site for a full autumn season. There were certainly some interesting results gained from ringing there for most of the year and also by ringing over a complete autumn.

Through ringing for a second year one noticed just how productive the site is for migrating warblers, huge numbers of migrants passing through.

Ballard Down is a prime 'Warbler migration site' with every common British warbler species (apart from Cetti's warbler) passing through in good to excessively high numbers. Even the nationally scarce Grasshopper Warbler that is often scarce throughout most of Britain is found on migration at Ballard Down in very high numbers.

After the 23rd April there was less effort put in for the remainder of the spring season at Ballard 2018 with just some sessions taking place in the month of May. This was because I was needed to return to the work I was doing over the winter, working as a Field Researcher for the 'Sound Approach.' From mid July onwards Ballard was run consistently again for the whole autumn season.

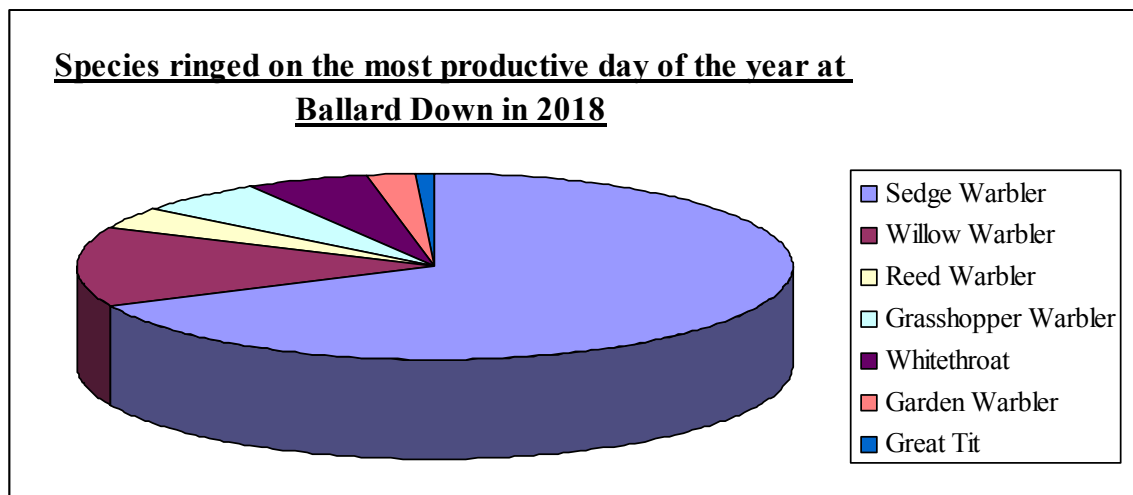
Many thanks to all those who supported me with my work throughout the season.



The view of Poole Harbour from Ballard Down. The hedgerows were particularly important for migrating warblers.

Table showing the Most productive Ringing day of the Year in 2018 at Ballard Down - 9th August. Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy

Species Number	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Sedge Warbler	152
2.	Willow Warbler	31
3.	Reed Warbler	8
4.	Grasshopper Warbler	13
5.	Whitethroat	12
6.	Garden Warbler	5
7.	Great Tit	2
	Daily Total	223



It is very interesting to see how many Sedge Warblers were ringed on a single day at Ballard Down which is clearly on a migration route for this species. This was the largest ever day catch at Ballard Down as the 2nd highest ever day catch was in 2017 with 210 birds ringed, so an extra 13 more birds were ringed on the 9th August 2018. A tape with Grasshopper Warbler, Aquatic Warbler and Sedge Warbler mix was played which helped. It is interesting that 6 of the 7 species ringed that day were warblers.

Ballard Down is clearly an excellent site for warbler migration. Ringing 152 Sedge Warbler on a single day proves that this species had a good breeding season in 2018 and that the species is doing well at the moment. The 9th August is clearly the peak time for Sedge Warbler migration in Dorset and Southern England.

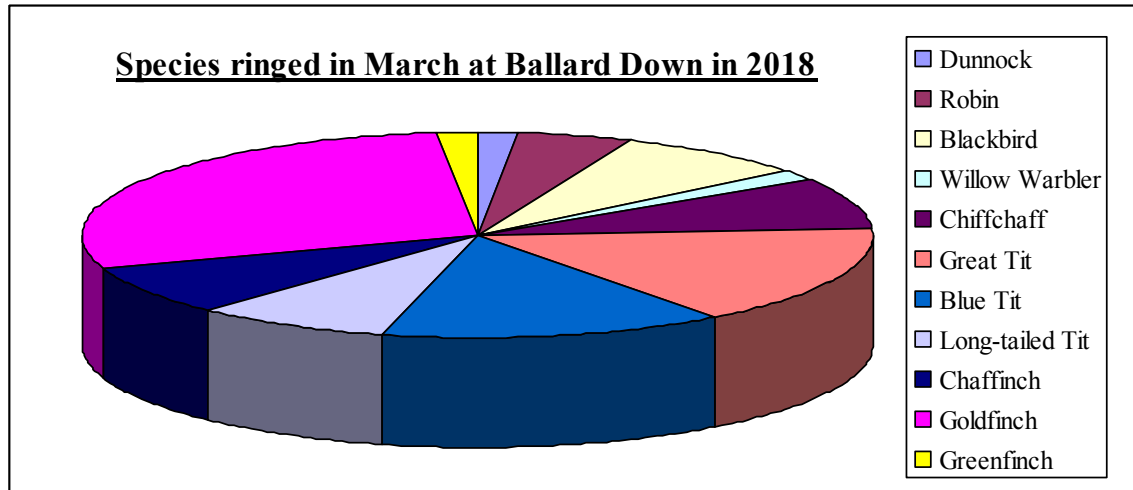
Table showing the 2nd most productive Ringing day of the Year in 2018 at Ballard Down - 28th August. Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy

Species Number	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Sedge Warbler	45
2.	Willow Warbler	14
3.	Grasshopper Warbler	35
4.	Whitethroat	20
5.	Robin	4
6.	Blackcap	41
7.	Garden Warbler	9
8.	Reed Warbler	11
9.	Bullfinch	1
10.	Lesser Whitethroat	1
11.	Blue Tit	2
12.	Chiffchaff	1
	Daily Total	184

This was also a very good day with an impressive 35 Grasshopper Warblers ringed. It was also good to catch 11 Reed Warbler and 9 Garden Warbler in a day. This was the 2nd ever best day catch of Grasshopper Warbler at Ballard Down, which is clearly a brilliant autumn migration site for this species. 8 species of warbler were ringed at Ballard on this day proving it is great for all common warbler species. Late August is clearly the peak time for Grasshopper Warbler migration in Dorset and Southern England.

Ringing in March - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of March at Ballard Down - Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy

Species Number	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Dunnock	1
2.	Robin	3
3.	Blackbird	5
4.	Willow Warbler	1
5.	Chiffchaff	5
6.	Great Tit	10
7.	Blue Tit	9
8.	Long-tailed Tit	5
9.	Chaffinch	5
10.	Goldfinch	18
11.	Greenfinch	1
	Total	63



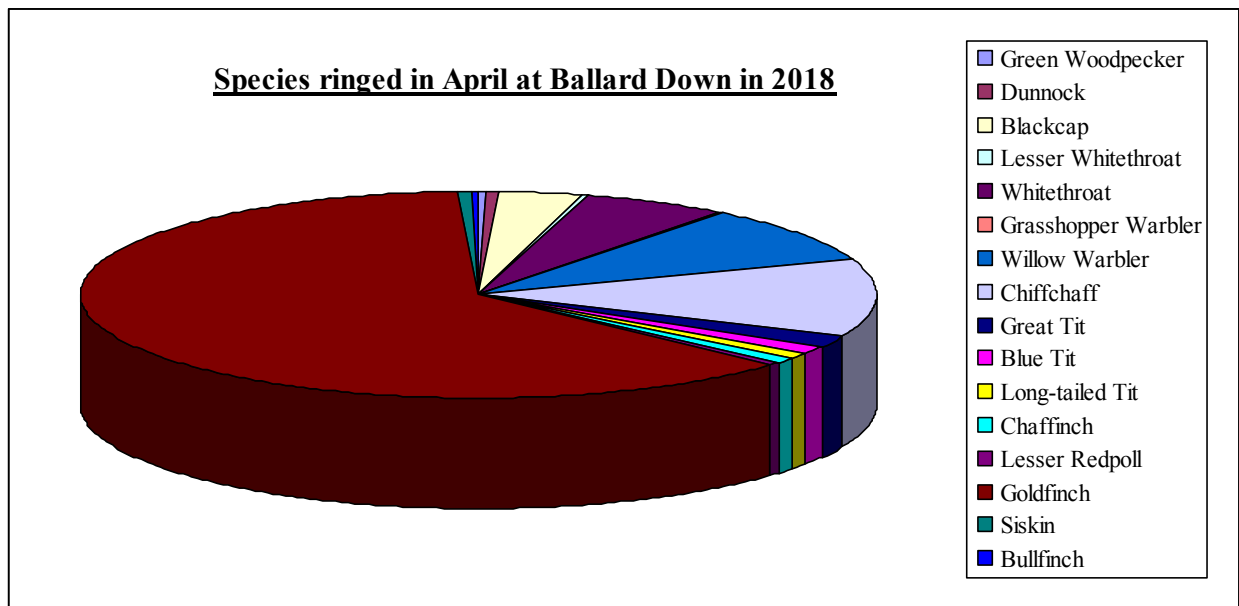
The most common species ringed in the month of March was Goldfinch with 18 birds being ringed. The 2nd most common was Great Tit with 10 birds being ringed, the 3rd most common was Blue Tit with 9 birds. This is all partly to do with the baiting up at the site, attracting the birds with Niger seed and peanuts.

There was not so much ringing done at Ballard Down in March as was hoped, this was due to the terribly windy and wet weather throughout the month preventing ringing occurring on certain days. In fact the beast from the east at the very beginning of March probably affected the early spring migrants (Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers) from arriving much earlier than they did. The first 5 Chiffchaffs of the year were ringed in March along with the first Willow Warbler of the year, which wasn't caught at Ballard until the very end of the month on 31st March.

Ringing commenced at Ballard Down on 5th March and a Blackbird was the first bird to be ringed in the year. Ringing totals were very poor throughout the month, it was a late spring in 2018 and most birds that were moving through didn't settle at the site but continued to their breeding grounds. 63 birds were ringed all month which was extremely poor, especially when the year before 199 birds were ringed in the month of March at the Fleets Lane Corner Ringing site and in 2017 at Fleets Lane Corner 99 Chiffchaff were ringed compared to just 5 at Ballard Down in 2018!

**Ringed in April - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of April at Ballard Down
Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy**

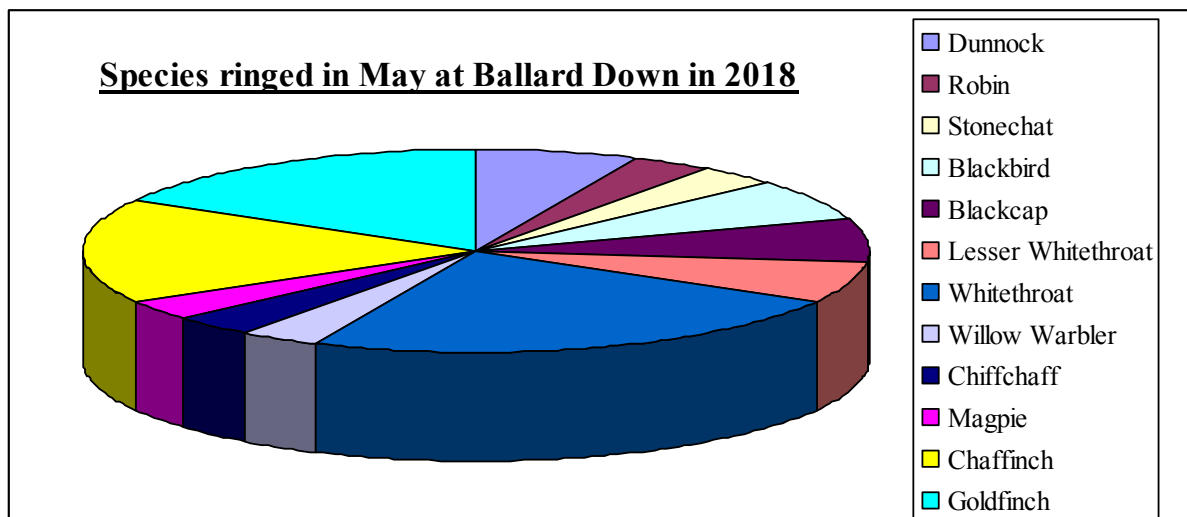
Species Number	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Green Woodpecker	1
2.	Dunnock	1
3.	Blackcap	10
4.	Lesser Whitethroat	1
5.	Whitethroat	16
6.	Grasshopper Warbler	1
7.	Willow Warbler	25
8.	Chiffchaff	35
9.	Great Tit	5
10.	Blue Tit	4
11.	Long-tailed Tit	2
12.	Chaffinch	2
13.	Lesser Redpoll	2
14.	Goldfinch	177
15.	Siskin	1
16.	Bullfinch	1
	Total	284



By far the most common species ringed in the month of April was Goldfinch with 177 ringed; this was based on regular feeding up of the Niger feeders at the site. A Siskin ringed was the first one ringed for the site. 2 Lesser Redpoll were ringed in April which were the only ones ringed for the whole year. The first Whitethroats for the year were ringed in April with 16 being ringed; also the first Lesser Whitethroat of the year was ringed that month. The first Blackcap of 2018 was ringed in the month of April with 10 being ringed and a single Green Woodpecker was ringed this month which was the 2nd one to be ringed at Ballard Down.

Ringed in May - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of May at Ballard Down
Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy

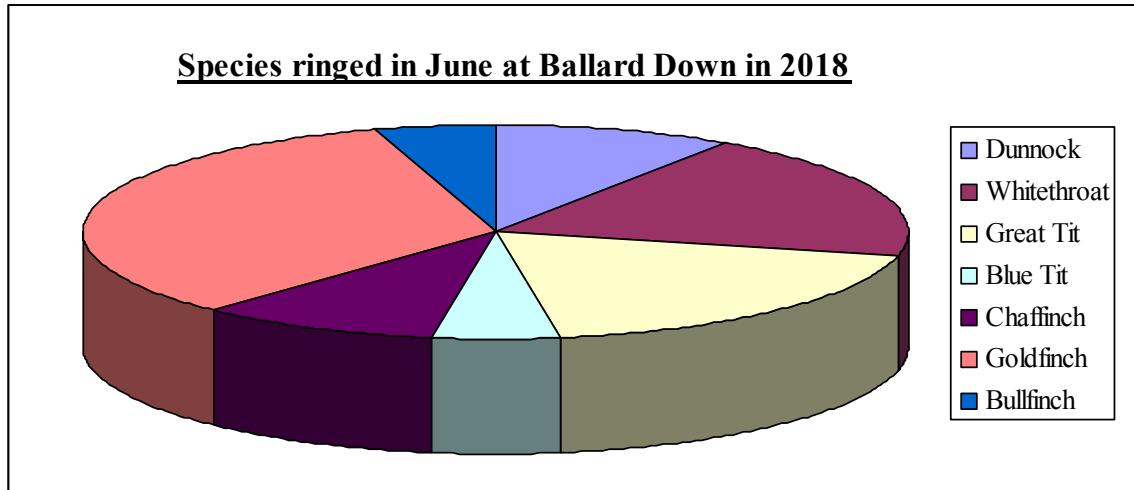
Species Number	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Dunnock	2
2.	Robin	1
3.	Stonechat	1
4.	Blackbird	2
5.	Blackcap	2
6.	Lesser Whitethroat	2
7.	Whitethroat	7
8.	Willow Warbler	1
9.	Chiffchaff	1
10.	Magpie	1
11.	Chaffinch	5
12.	Goldfinch	5
	Total	30



The most common species ringed in the month of May was Whitethroat with 7 birds being ringed; an adult female was ringed on 15th May with a well developed brood patch. On the same day an adult male with a cp (cloacal protuberance) was also ringed. On 28th May a 2nd year Whitethroat male was also ringed, again it was showing signs of breeding as it had a cp. Also on 28th May a first year/immature Stonechat was ringed (BTO age code 3JJ) proving the species had bred in 2018 at Ballard Down. Only 30 birds were ringed all month which is extremely poor (although my time was also spent this month ringing at Arne).

Ringed in June - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of June at Ballard Down
Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy

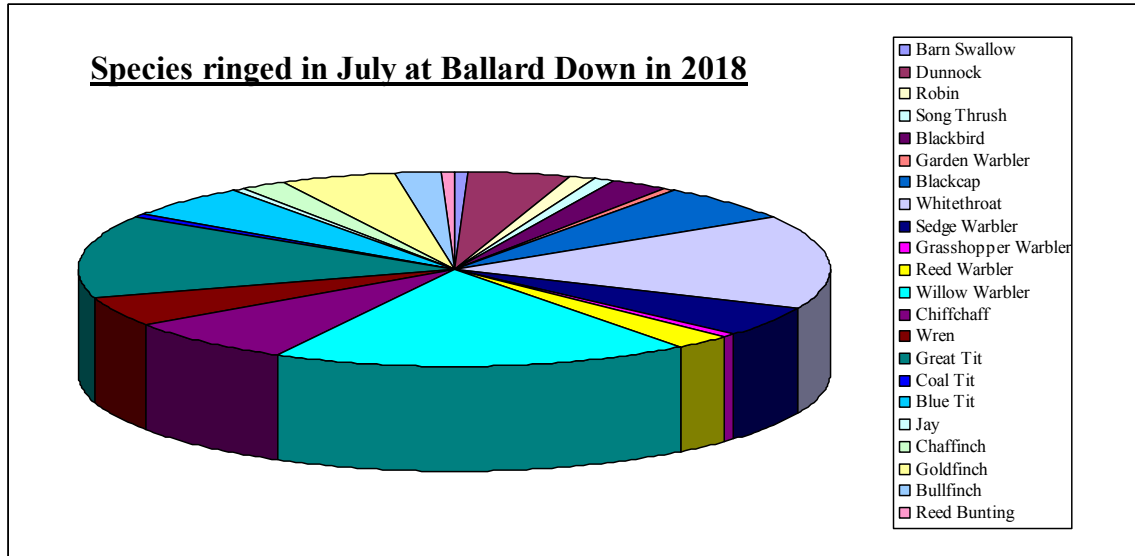
Species Number	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Dunnock	2
2.	Whitethroat	4
3.	Great Tit	4
4.	Blue Tit	1
5.	Chaffinch	2
6.	Goldfinch	7
7.	Bullfinch	1
	Total	21



There was very little ringing done in the month of June at Ballard Down. This was because it was the breeding season so disturbance to the site was kept to a minimum and instead time was spent writing up last years Ballard Report. Some ringing was carried out; the most common species ringed in June was Goldfinch with 7 birds ringed. It was good to ring 4 new Whitethroats in the month. On 1st June a 2nd year female Whitethroat was ringed with a well developed brood patch and on 11th June another 2nd year female Whitethroat was also ringed with an even more advanced brood path. On 15th June two juvenile/first year Whitethroats (BTO age code 3J) were ringed proving Whitethroats breed in 2018 at Ballard Down.

Ringed in July - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of July at Ballard Down
Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy

Species Number	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Barn Swallow	1
2.	Dunnock	7
3.	Robin	2
4.	Song Thrush	1
5.	Blackbird	4
6.	Garden Warbler	1
7.	Blackcap	10
8.	Whitethroat	25
9.	Sedge Warbler	8
10.	Grasshopper Warbler	1
11.	Reed Warbler	4
12.	Willow Warbler	29
13.	Chiffchaff	12
14.	Wren	8
15.	Great Tit	22
16.	Coal Tit	1
17.	Blue Tit	9
18.	Jay	1
19.	Chaffinch	3
20.	Goldfinch	8
21.	Bullfinch	3
22.	Reed Bunting	1
	Total	161



July marked the very beginning of the autumn migration at Ballard Down and many of the common British warbler species began their autumn migration passing through the site on their way south.

The most common species ringed in July was Willow Warbler with 29 ringed. The 2nd most common species ringed this month was Whitethroat with 25. The first autumn Grasshopper Warbler was ringed this month (27th July) along with the first 4 Reed Warblers of the autumn and the year (first one ringed on 24th July). Also the very first Garden Warbler of the autumn and year was ringed this month (24th July). The first 8 Sedge Warblers of the autumn were ringed in July (first three ringed on 24th July). The only Barn Swallow of the year to be ringed was caught this month. 161 birds were ringed throughout the month of 22 species.

The month was very quiet as migration hadn't properly started so the ringing totals were quite poor. Everything started to become more interesting towards the end of the month when the warbler variety began (8 species of warbler being ringed by the end of the month). On the very last day of the month 14 Willow Warblers were ringed marking autumn migration had really properly started.

Ringed in August - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of August at Ballard Down 2018 in comparison to August 2017 Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy

Species Number	Species	Number Ringed in 2017 in Aug	Number Ringed in 2018 in Aug
1.	Wood Pigeon	0	1
2.	Tawny Owl	0	1
	Green Woodpecker	1	0
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	0
	Sand Martin	59	0
	Swallow	1	0
	House Martin	199	0
3.	Tree Pipit	4	1
4.	Duncock	10	2
5.	Robin	12	28
6.	Redstart	7	6
	Wheatear	1	0
7.	Whinchat	0	1
8.	Song Thrush	0	1
9.	Blackbird	4	1
10.	Garden Warbler	7	89
11.	Blackcap	75	170
12.	Lesser Whitethroat	3	8
13.	Whitethroat	92	137
14.	Sedge Warbler	49	696
15.	Grasshopper Warbler	86	144
16.	Reed Warbler	20	107
17.	Willow Warbler	112	248
18.	Chiffchaff	28	10
	Goldcrest	2	0
	Firecrest	1	0
19.	Wren	10	1
20.	Spotted Flycatcher	1	8
21.	Pied Flycatcher	1	2
22.	Great Tit	9	4
23.	Blue Tit	9	3
	Long-tailed Tit	6	0
24.	Chaffinch	1	1
25.	Bullfinch	4	2
	Total	819	1672

This was the most productive month of the year by far and it is not surprising as it is the peak month of the year for warbler migration with many of the usual suspects passing through in very large numbers.

What is interesting is comparing the ringing totals from 2018 to 2017 to see the changes in numbers ringed between the different species.

There were 89 Garden Warbler ringed in 2018 compared to just 7 the year before in the month of August. This has always been one of the less common and more shy of the British Warblers so it was great to see they were passing through in such good numbers throughout the month.

170 Blackcap were ringed compared to just 75 the year before. One of Britain's most loved warblers to catch this number so early in the season was very good to see, July is not the main migration period for this species so to have this number so soon in the season shows the likelihood of it being an amazing autumn for this species.

8 Lesser Whitethroat were ringed in 2018 compared to 3 the year previously. This was better than the year before but still very poor in comparison to the other warbler species.

137 Whitethroats in 2018 with just 92 in 2017. Again another increase, good to see this species is doing well, one of Britain's favourite warblers.

What was truly incredible were the huge numbers of Sedge Warblers passing through the site with 696 in 2018 and a mere 49 in 2017.

8 Spotted Flycatcher were ringed in 2018 compared to only 1 in 2017.

2 Pied Flycatcher were ringed in 2018 which was one more than the year before. This species is still suffering in the UK and it was not surprising there was only one more bird ringed this month than the previous year.

A massive 1672 birds were ringed this month compared to just 819 the year before. This is partly due to the whole month running the site (10 days were missed in 2017 as the site only began on August 11th). Also there were no issues this year with the tape lures not working.

Ringling in September - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of September at Ballard Down 2018 in comparison to September 2017. Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy

Species Number	Species	Number Ringed in 2017 in Sept	Number Ringed in 2018 in Sept
1.	Sparrowhawk	0	1
	Kestrel	1	0
	Sand Martin	53	0
	Swallow	29	0
2.	House Martin	3	20
	Meadow Pipit	209	0
3.	Dunnock	13	7
4.	Robin	23	14
5.	Redstart	5	2
6.	Stonechat	1	1
	Wheatear	2	0
	Ring Ouzel	1	0
	Blackbird	2	0
	Song Thrush	1	0
7.	Garden Warbler	3	3
8.	Blackcap	338	542
9.	Lesser Whitethroat	1	3
10.	Whitethroat	44	12
11.	Sedge Warbler	20	13
12.	Grasshopper Warbler	22	25
13.	Cetti's Warbler	0	2
14.	Reed Warbler	14	17
15.	Willow Warbler	51	11
16.	Chiffchaff	809	162
17.	Wren	5	1
18.	Spotted Flycatcher	3	4
19.	Great Tit	14	2
20.	Blue Tit	10	3
	Long-tailed Tit	12	0
	Jay	1	0
21.	Chaffinch	10	1
	Linnet	1	0
	Goldfinch	29	0
	Yellowhammer	1	0
	Total	1746	846

Comparing September 2018 with September 2017 again species doing well were Blackcap with 542 ringed in 2018 and just 338 in 2017, an increase of 204 birds.

There were 3 Lesser Whitethroat ringed in September 2018 and just the one in September 2017, although good to catch slightly more the following year this is still very poor totals. Grasshopper Warblers were up with 25 in September 2018 and slightly less in September 2017 with 22.

There were slightly more Reed Warbler ringed with 17 in September 2018 and 14 in September 2017.

It was great to see the warbler migration at Ballard Down in 2018 was so good with most species passing through in much higher totals than the previous year.

It was good to ring one more Spotted Flycatcher in September 2018, 4 being ringed compared to 3 the previous year.

Ringed totals were down this month with only 846 birds ringed compared to a huge 1746 in 2017. This was partly due to the weather starting to get very bad but the Chiffchaff numbers were right down in 2018 compared to the year before, perhaps indicating this species didn't have a very good breeding season.

809 Chiffchaff ringed in September 2017 but only 162 in September 2018.



One of the 4 Spotted Flycatchers ringed at Ballard Down in September 2018

Ringling in October - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of October at Ballard Down 2018 in comparison to October 2017. Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy for 2018

Species Number	Species	Number Ringed in 2017 in Oct.	Number Ringed in 2018 in Oct.
1.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	3	1
	Swallow	31	0
	House Martin	1	0
	Meadow Pipit	13	0
	Pied Wagtail	2	0
	Duncock	10	0
2.	Robin	20	6
3.	Redstart	2	1
	Stonechat	1	0
4.	Song Thrush	8	5
	Redwing	1	0
5.	Blackbird	5	4
	Fieldfare	1	0
6.	Blackcap	68	141
7.	Lesser Whitethroat	0	1
	Dartford Warbler	2	0
	Grasshopper Warbler	2	0
8.	Cetti's Warbler	0	1
9.	Chiffchaff	496	128
10.	Yellow-browed Warbler	2	3
11.	Goldcrest	168	10
12.	Firecrest	11	1
13.	Wren	18	7
14.	Great Tit	37	15
15.	Coal Tit	3	1
16.	Blue Tit	40	9
17.	Long-tailed Tit	94	6
18.	Chaffinch	42	9
	Brambling	1	0
	Linnet	3	0
	Lesser Redpoll	220	0
19.	Goldfinch	228	44
20.	Greenfinch	8	1
21.	Bullfinch	17	2
	Yellowhammer	7	0
	Reed Bunting	1	0
	Total	1566	396

Comparing 2018 with 2017 in the month of October birds on the increase were Blackcap with 141 in 2018 and just 68 in 2017. 1 late Lesser Whitethroat was ringed whereas none were ringed the previous year in October. A single Cetti's Warbler was ringed and again none were ringed the year before in October (or any months in the previous year). There was an increase in Yellow-browed Warblers with 3 being ringed in October 2018 and just 2 the year previously. The ringing totals were right down this month with a very poor 396 birds ringed compared to a huge 1566 birds ringed the year before. Again, bad weather conditions prevented certain sessions occurring, far less numbers of Chiffchaffs passing through than in the October the previous year and hardly any finch movements this year, e.g. no Lesser Redpoll were ringed in October 2018 compared to 220 in October 2017.

Ringing in November - The table below shows a complete list of all species Ringed in the month of November at Ballard Down 2018 in comparison to November 2017. Species and figures in bold are particularly noteworthy for 2018

Species Number for 2018 birds	Species	Number Ringed in 2017 in Nov.	Number Ringed in 2018 in Nov.
	Sparrowhawk	1	0
1.	Water Rail	0	1
	Snipe	1	0
	Meadow Pipit	3	0
2.	Duncock	4	1
3.	Robin	5	8
4.	Song Thrush	10	7
5.	Redwing	5	3
6.	Fieldfare	0	4
7.	Blackbird	20	1
8.	Garden Warbler	0	1
9.	Blackcap	2	24
10.	Chiffchaff	12	13
11.	Yellow-browed Warbler	0	1
12.	Goldcrest	25	25
13.	Firecrest	2	3
14.	Wren	8	2
15.	Great Tit	10	1
	Coal Tit	6	0
16.	Blue Tit	18	8
17.	Long-tailed Tit	43	24
18.	Chaffinch	97	1
	Brambling	7	0
19.	Goldfinch	365	9
20.	Greenfinch	1	1
21.	Bullfinch	21	1
	Reed Bunting	1	0
	Total	711	139

21 species were ringed in the month of November 2018, 3 species less than in 2017 when 24 were ringed. November was a very interesting month with a Water Rail added to the Site list and Ringing list, this species was completely unexpected as Ballard Down is the wrong habitat for the species. Also of note was a late Yellow-browed Warbler ringed. A very late Garden Warbler was ringed too. 24 Blackcap were ringed in November 2018, an improvement from only 2 the year before. It was certainly a very productive year at Ballard Down for this species. 3 Firecrest were ringed, one more than in 2017. Unfortunately no Brambling were ringed in November compared to 2017 when 7 were ringed. Only 1 Greenfinch was ringed which was the same as 2017. There was not the big finch movements in 2018 compared to 2017 so the numbers were right down on many of the finch species. 4 Fieldfare were ringed in November 2018 compared to none in November the year previously.

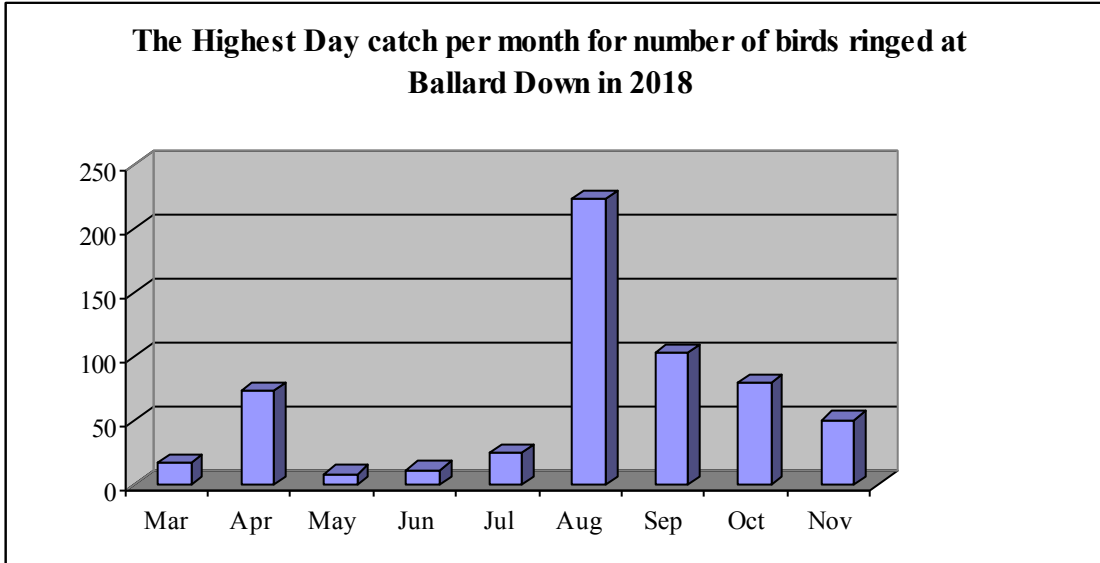
The Highest Day catch per month for numbers of birds ringed in 2018 at Ballard Down NB: number in brackets is actual date

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
17 (31 st)	73 (14 th)	9 (15 th)	12 (15 th)	25 (6 th)	223 (9 th)	103 (14 th)	80 (8 th)	51 (15 th)

The Highest Day catch per month for numbers of birds ringed in 2018 at Ballard Down in comparison to the highest day catch per month for number of birds ringed in 2017

August 2017	September 2017	October 2017	November 2017
156	210	203	137
August 2018	September 2018	October 2018	November 2018
223	103	80	51

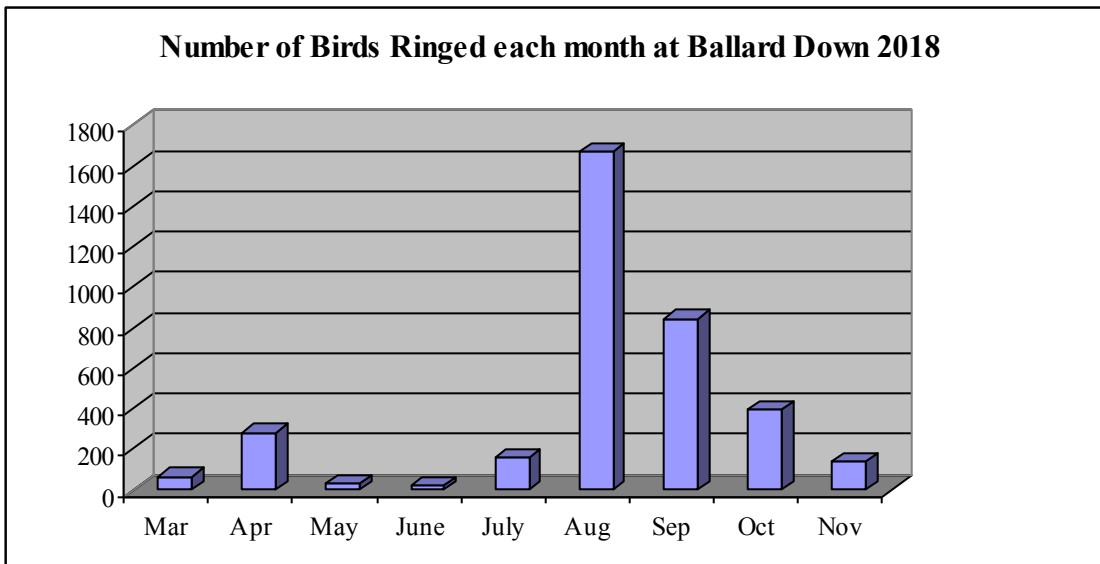
It is interesting to see how productive August was in 2018 with a very impressive 223 birds ringed on one day, a far more productive figure than the 156 ringed in 2017. Although August was highly productive in 2018 the numbers of birds suddenly fell when September arrived with far lower totals in 2018 than in 2017. Although 103 birds ringed on a day in September 2018 is still a very impressive day catch it is half the number ringed in 2017 when 210 birds were ringed. Due to the weather just becoming worse and worse throughout the autumn allowing less ringing sessions to take place big changes were noted with ringing totals in the months of October and November. Although ringing 80 birds in a day is good it was nothing compared to the 203 ringed the year before for the month of October and 51 was quite poor in comparison to the 137 ringed in November 2017.



Monthly Ringing Totals at Ballard Down 2018

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
63	284	30	21	161	1672	846	396	139

August was clearly by far the busiest month of the year at Ballard Down in 2018. A very impressive 1672 birds were ringed. This month really stands out in comparison to all the other months of the year when ringing occurred at Ballard Down. It is the prime month of the year for migration and the totals speak for themselves.



By studying the graph above, autumn was clearly much more productive than the spring at Ballard Down. August was by far the most productive month, with September being the 2nd most productive month. Spring was very poor in comparison to the autumn.

The weather was very productive for ringing throughout the month of August allowing a lot of ringing to take place. In late autumn the weather was not so good meaning there were many days ringing just couldn't happen. By studying the graph above August really is the prime month for big migration at Ballard Down, this makes sense as many species move on during this month (mainly the warblers) migrating south to their wintering grounds in Africa.

Birds confirmed Breeding at Ballard Down 2018
Species in bold are particularly noteworthy

<u>Species Number</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Earliest date fledged young recorded</u>
1.	Duncock	28/5/18
2.	Blackcap	28/5/18
3.	Stonechat	28/5/18
4.	Goldfinch	11/6/18
5.	Great Tit	15/6/18
6.	Chaffinch	15/6/18
7.	Whitethroat	15/6/18
8.	Blue Tit	1/7/18
9.	Blackbird	1/7/18
10.	Chiffchaff	1/7/18
11.	Bullfinch	6/7/18
12.	Wren	6/7/18
13.	Reed Bunting	6/7/18
14.	Jay	16/7/18
15.	Robin	24/7/18

15 species were confirmed as breeding at Ballard Down (close to the ringing site) in 2018. The site remains an important breeding location for iconic British warblers the Whitethroat and Blackcap. Also for one of Dorset's most iconic heathland species the Stonechat. It was interesting and most rewarding to catch a juvenile Reed Bunting on 6th July (BTO age code 3JJ) a species of conservation concern. It was also great to ring juvenile Bullfinches at Ballard, another species not faring so well in certain parts of Britain. Many of the species that bred in 2018 at Ballard Down had late fledglings. This was due to the terrible weather that occurred in Dorset in March, breeding was much later in 2018 than it should have been. In 2017 when I was ringing during the spring and summer months at Fleets Corner the fledglings were recorded much earlier.

Ringling Totals at Ballard Down 2018

Species in bold are the top ten most common species ringed

Species Number	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Sparrowhawk	1
2.	Water Rail	1
3.	Wood Pigeon	1
4.	Tawny Owl	1
5.	Green Woodpecker	1
6.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	1
7.	Barn Swallow	1
8.	House Martin	20
9.	Tree Pipit	1
10.	Duncock	23
11.	Robin	62
12.	Redstart	9
13.	Whinchat	1
14.	Stonechat	2
15.	Song Thrush	14
16.	Redwing	3
17.	Fieldfare	4
18.	Blackbird	17
19.	Garden Warbler	94
20.	Blackcap	899
21.	Whitethroat	201
22.	Lesser Whitethroat	15
23.	Sedge Warbler	717
24.	Grasshopper Warbler	171
25.	Cetti's Warbler	3
26.	Reed Warbler	128
27.	Willow Warbler	315
28.	Chiffchaff	366
29.	Yellow-browed Warbler	4
30.	Goldcrest	35
31.	Firecrest	4
32.	Wren	19
33.	Spotted Flycatcher	12
34.	Pied Flycatcher	2
35.	Great Tit	63
36.	Coal Tit	2
37.	Blue Tit	46
38.	Long-tailed Tit	37
39.	Magpie	1
40.	Jay	1

41.	Chaffinch	29
42.	Lesser Redpoll	2
43.	Goldfinch	268
44.	Greenfinch	3
45.	Siskin	1
46.	Bullfinch	10
47.	Reed Bunting	1
		3612 = Total

47 bird species were ringed at Ballard Down in 2018; this is slightly less than in 2017 when 52 species were ringed. 5 more species were ringed in 2017.

Ringing Totals at Ballard Down 2018 in comparison to Ringing Totals at Ballard Down 2017. Species in bold are species ringed at Ballard Down in 2018 with a higher ringing total than the year before in 2017

Species Number	Species	2017	2018	Total for both years
1.	Sparrowhawk	1	1	2
2.	Kestrel	1	0	1
3.	Water Rail	0	1	1
4.	Snipe	1	0	1
5.	Wood Pigeon	0	1	1
6.	Tawny Owl	0	1	1
7.	Green Woodpecker	1	1	2
8.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	1	5
9.	Sand Martin	112	0	112
10.	Barn Swallow	61	1	62
11.	House Martin	203	20	223
12.	Meadow Pipit	225	0	225
13.	Tree Pipit	4	1	5
14.	Pied Wagtail	2	0	2
15.	Dunnock	36	23	59
16.	Robin	59	62	121
17.	Redstart	14	9	23
18.	Wheatear	3	0	4
19.	Whinchat	0	1	1
20.	Stonechat	2	2	4
21.	Song Thrush	19	14	33
22.	Redwing	6	3	9
23.	Fieldfare	1	4	5
24.	Blackbird	31	17	48
25.	Ring Ouzel	1	0	1
26.	Garden Warbler	9	94	103
27.	Blackcap	483	899	1382

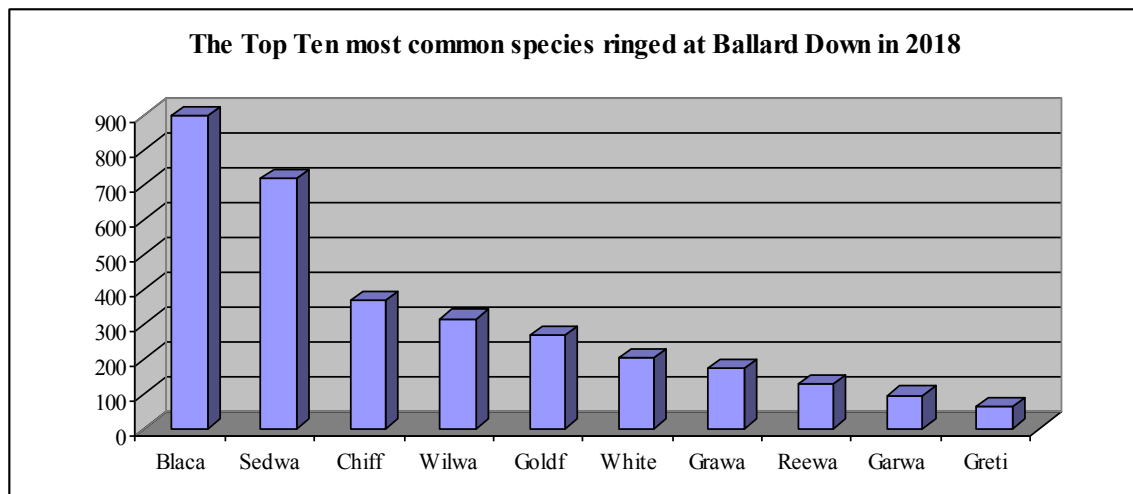
28.	Common Whitethroat	136	201	337
29.	Dartford Warbler	2	0	2
30.	Lesser Whitethroat	4	15	19
31.	Sedge Warbler	69	717	786
32.	Grasshopper Warbler	111	171	282
33.	Cetti's Warbler	0	3	3
34.	Reed Warbler	33	128	161
35.	Willow Warbler	163	315	478
36.	Chiffchaff	1345	366	1711
37.	Yellow-browed Warbler	2	4	6
38.	Goldcrest	209	35	244
39.	Firecrest	15	4	19
40.	Wren	41	19	60
41.	Spotted Flycatcher	4	12	16
42.	Pied Flycatcher	1	2	3
43.	Great Tit	70	63	133
44.	Coal Tit	9	2	11
45.	Blue Tit	77	46	123
46.	Marsh Tit	1	0	1
47.	Long-tailed Tit	155	37	192
48.	Magpie	0	1	1
49.	Jay	1	1	2
50.	Chaffinch	150	29	179
51.	Brambling	8	0	8
52.	Linnet	5	0	5
53.	Lesser Redpoll	264	2	266
54.	Goldfinch	623	268	891
55.	Greenfinch	9	3	12
56.	Siskin	0	1	1
57.	Bullfinch	42	10	52
58.	Reed Bunting	4	1	5
59.	Yellowhammer	0	8	8
		4840 = Total	3612 = Total	8452 = Total

With both years combined an incredible 8452 birds were ringed at Ballard Down. 13 species in 2018 had a greater ringing total than in 2017. These were Robin, Fieldfare, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Common Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Reed Warbler, Willow Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Pied Flycatcher. There was a further 7 species ringed for the first time at Ballard Down in 2018, these being Water Rail, Wood Pigeon, Tawny Owl, Whinchat, Cetti's Warbler, Magpie and Siskin.

The Chiffchaff is the most common species ever ringed at Ballard Down with 1711 birds ringed with both years combined followed by Blackcap with 1382 birds ringed.

The Top Ten most common species ringed at Ballard Down 2018

Rank	Species	Number Ringed
1.	Blackcap	899
2.	Sedge Warbler	717
3.	Chiffchaff	366
4.	Willow Warbler	315
5.	Goldfinch	268
6.	Whitethroat	201
7.	Grasshopper Warbler	171
8.	Reed Warbler	128
9.	Garden Warbler	94
10.	Great Tit	63



By studying the graph above it is interesting to see that 8 of the top ten most common species ringed at Ballard Down in 2018 were warblers. Blackcap and Sedge Warbler were easily the most common species ringed. What is also of interest is that more Grasshopper Warblers were ringed in 2018 than Reed Warblers and Garden Warblers. Grasshopper Warblers have always been considered quite a scarce British breeding bird but the numbers passing through Ballard Down are truly excellent.

The Top Ten most common species ringed at Ballard Down 2018 in comparison to the Top Ten most common species ringed at Ballard Down in 2017

Rank in 2017	Species in 2017	Number Ringed in 2017	Rank in 2018	Species in 2018	Number Ringed In 2018
1.	Chiffchaff	1345	1.	Blackcap	899
2.	Goldfinch	623	2.	Sedge Warbler	717
3.	Blackcap	483	3.	Chiffchaff	366
4.	Lesser Redpoll	264	4.	Willow Warbler	315
5.	Meadow Pipit	225	5.	Goldfinch	268
6.	Goldcrest	209	6.	Whitethroat	201
7.	House Martin	203	7.	Grasshopper Warbler	171
8.	Willow Warbler	163	8.	Reed Warbler	128
9.	Long-tailed Tit	155	9.	Garden Warbler	94
10.	Chaffinch		10.	Great Tit	63

It is interesting by studying the table above noticing certain species that the following year are still in the top ten most common species ringed. Chiffchaff was the most common species in 2017 but dropped to 3rd most common in 2018. Goldfinch was the 2nd most common species ringed in 2017 but dropped again to 5th place in 2018. Blackcap on the other hand which was the 3rd most common species ringed in 2017 was the most common species ringed in 2018.

The Species Highlights of 2018 through Ringing undertaken at Ballard Down

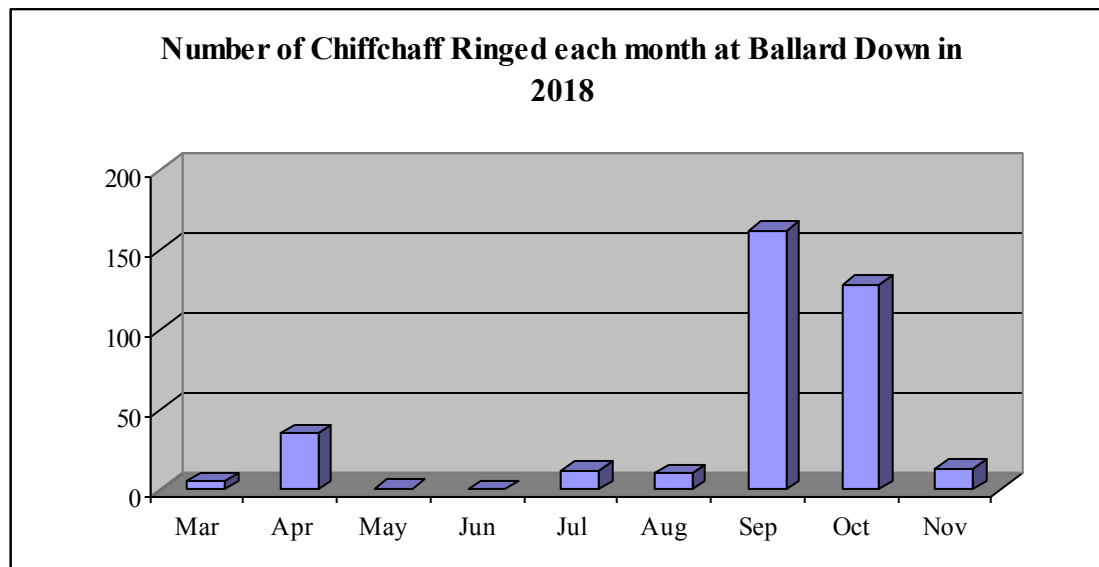


Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

This was the third most common species ringed at Ballard Down in 2018. 366 were ringed in 2018; this is a terribly low total in comparison to the 1345 that were ringed the year before in 2017. In 2018 most were ringed in September when 162 were ringed. Slightly less were ringed in October with 128. The first birds of the year were ringed in March when 5 were ringed. A further 35 birds were ringed in April. Only one bird was ringed in May. There were 12 birds ringed in July, 10 were ringed in August. This photo shows one of the earliest spring birds (photographed on March 26th) the bird shows some sticky pollen near its bill indicating it has not long arrived.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
5	35	1	0	12	10	162	128	13



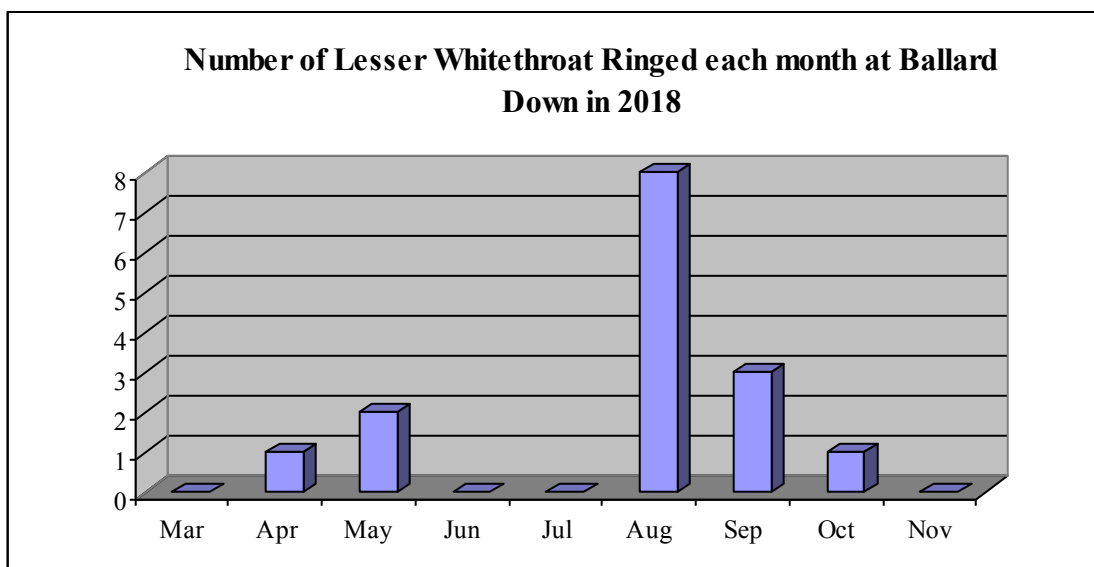


Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

15 were ringed at Ballard Down in 2018 compared to just 4 in 2017. Most were ringed in August when 8 were caught, the first of the year was ringed in April, 2 were ringed in May, 3 were ringed in September and 1 was ringed in October. To only have 15 birds all year indicates just how much this warbler is in decline compared to its much more common relatives. The graph clearly shows how August is an important month for Lesser Whitethroat migration.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	1	2	0	0	8	3	1	0



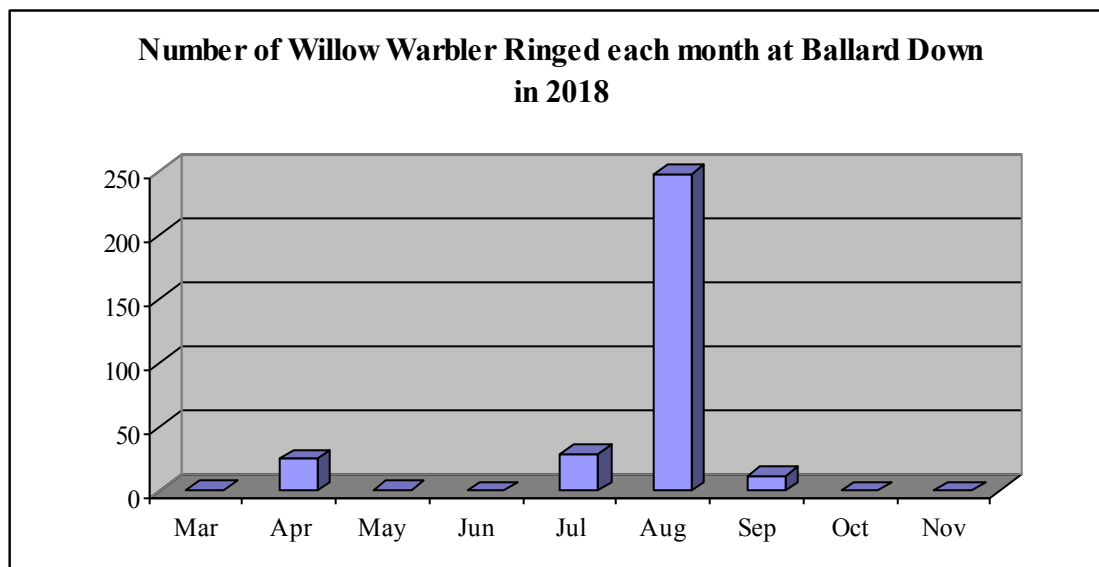


Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

315 were ringed at Ballard in 2018 compared to just 163 in 2017. This was the 4th most common species ringed all year. Most were ringed in August when 248 were ringed. The first one of the year was caught 31st March, 25 were ringed in April and one in May. July had 29 birds and September 11. (Photo shows the first bird to be ringed in 2018, a male). It is always the males that migrate through first as they want to reach their breeding grounds before the females arrive. Willow Warblers have always been regarded as one of the earlier autumn migrant warblers, moving through before their close relative the Chiffchaff and the graph clearly shows how August is the prime month for this species.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	25	1	0	29	248	11	0	0



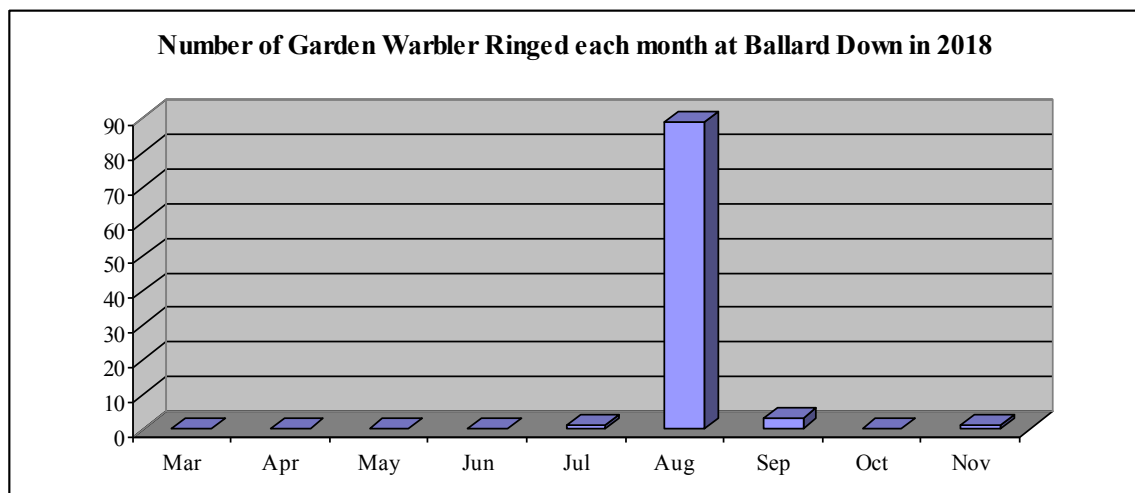


Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

This was an extremely late record in 2019 (photo above). This bird was ringed on 15th November; very few Garden Warblers are recorded as late as this individual anywhere in Britain. 94 birds were ringed at Ballard Down in 2018 compared to just 9 at Ballard Down in 2017. 2018 was a very productive year for this shy secretive *Sylvia* warbler. This total was helped by ringing through the whole of August. Most birds were ringed in the month of August with 89 ringed; there was one early bird in July and 3 in September.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	1	89	3	0	1



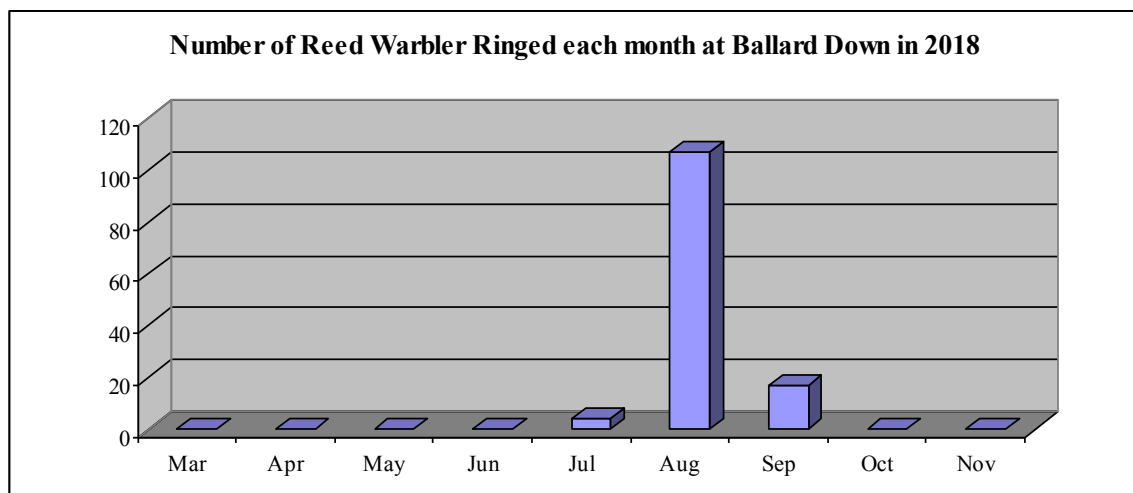


Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Common passage migrant

It was a very good year for this species at Ballard Down in 2018 with 128 being ringed. This is far more than the 33 that were ringed the year before in 2017. Almost all the birds were not surprisingly ringed in the month of August with 107 being ringed. 4 birds were ringed in the month of July and 17 were ringed in September. This was the 8th most common species ringed in 2018.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	4	107	17	0	0



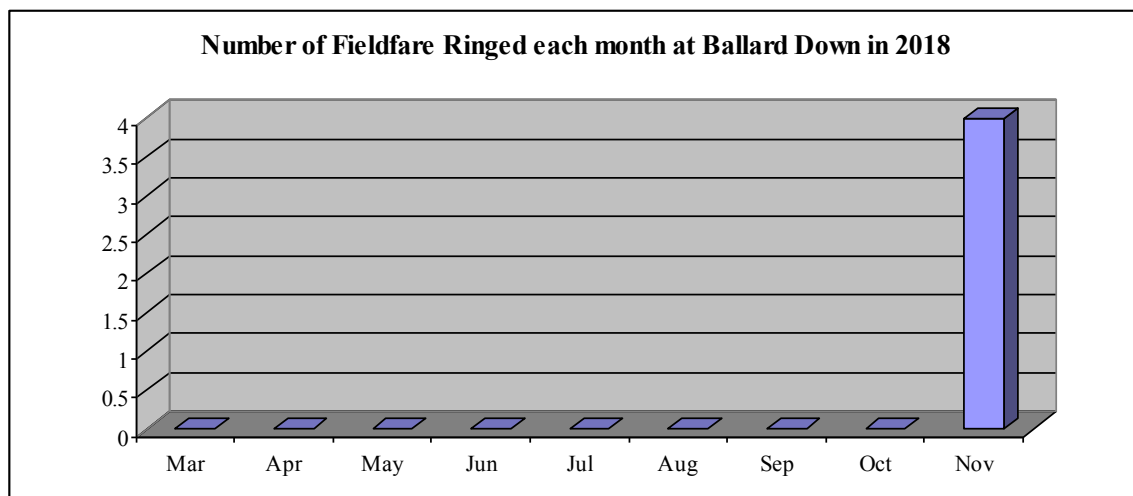


Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common passage migrant

4 were ringed at Ballard Down in 2018, an increase from 2017 when only one bird was ringed. All four were ringed on 15th November. This is a male, note the heavy black streaking on the crown.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4



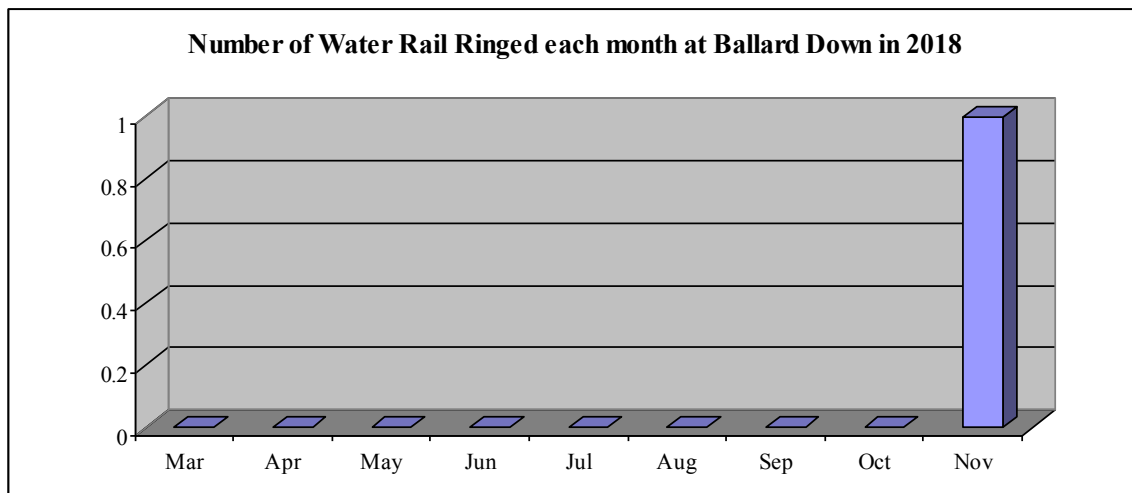


Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Accidental

This was a much unexpected catch of 2018. A first site record and the first to be ringed for the site. Ballard Down is a most unusual site to record this species. This bird was ringed on the 2nd November 2018. The habitat at Ballard Down is completely unsuitable for this species. This bird is an adult female.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1



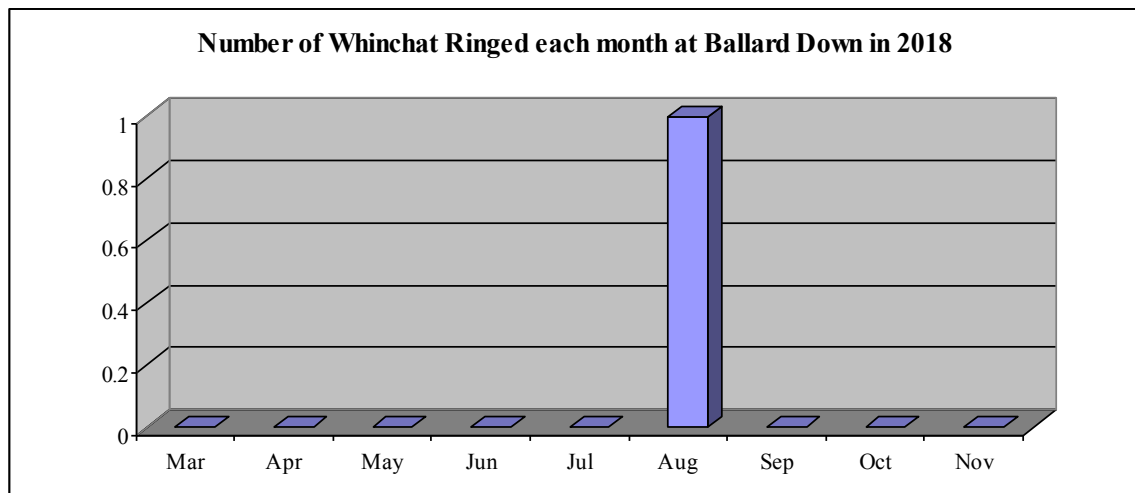


Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Fairly common passage migrant

This was a new species to the Ballard Down ringing list in 2018. This bird was caught in the bumper month of August. This is a female. Whinchat had been seen several times before at the site so it was only a matter of time before this species was caught and ringed.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0



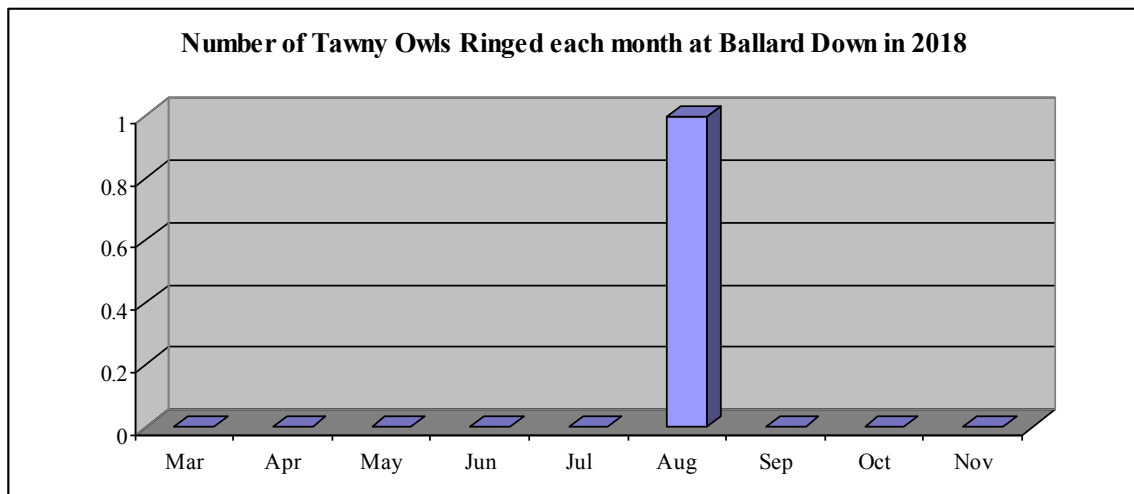


Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common Resident

A new addition to the Ballard Down Ringing List in 2018. This was a most unexpected catch although Tawnies are often heard at the site so it was hoped that one would eventually be caught, and this occurred in the month of August. This bird was an adult.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0



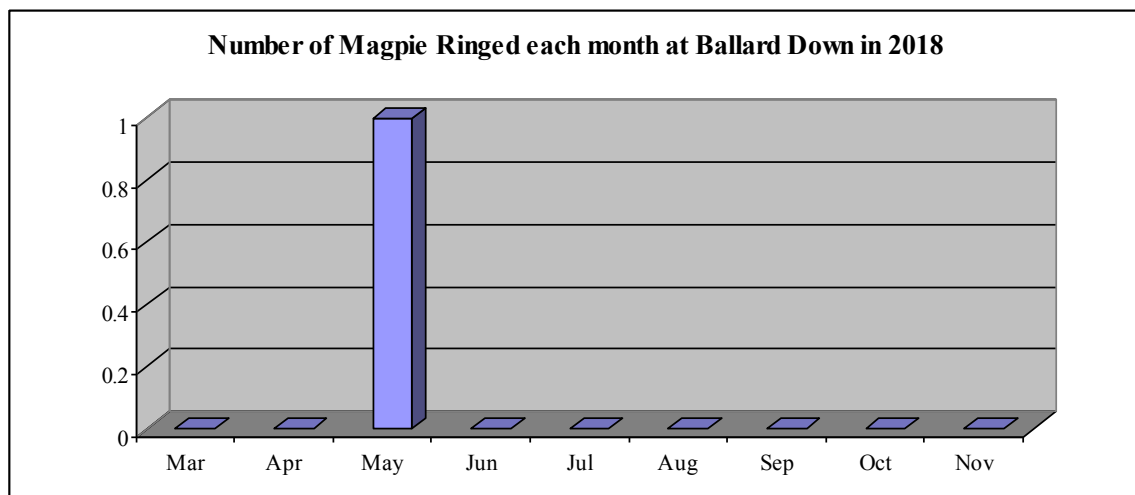


Magpie *Pica pica*

Common Resident

A new addition to the Ballard Down Ringing List in 2018. This species was caught in the spring in the month of May. This is a 2nd year bird. A very familiar and common species at Ballard Down but being a member of the crow family highly intelligent and therefore easily avoids mist nets.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0



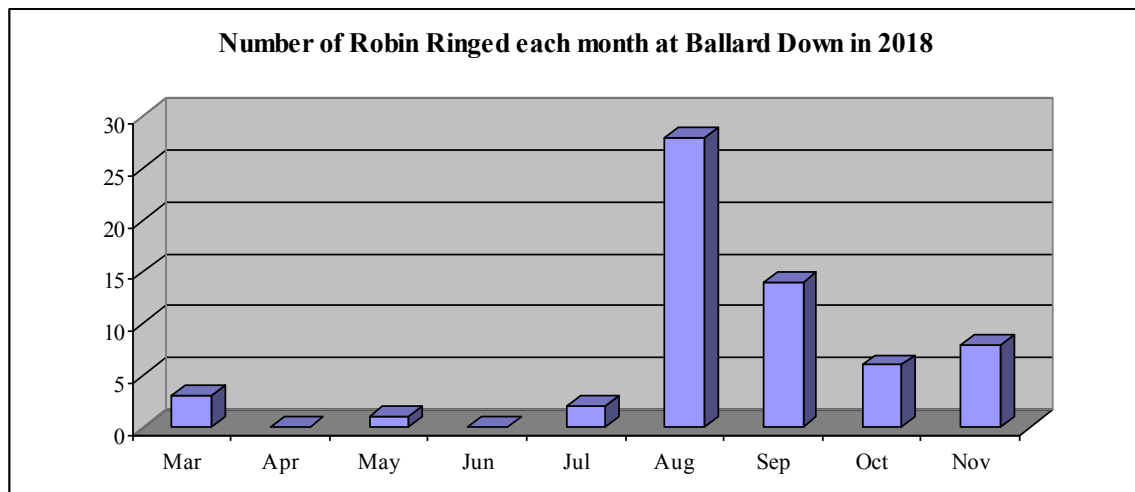


Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Common Resident and passage migrant

Most Robins were ringed in August with 28 being ringed. The first 3 birds of the year were ringed in March, one bird was ringed in May, 2 in July and there were 14 birds ringed in September, 6 in October and 8 in November. This photo shows a continental Robin ringed at Ballard Down on 24th March 2018. Note how pale this bird is on the breast compared to a 'British Robin.' It also shows an extensive amount of grey bordering the light toned breast.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
3	0	1	0	2	28	14	6	8



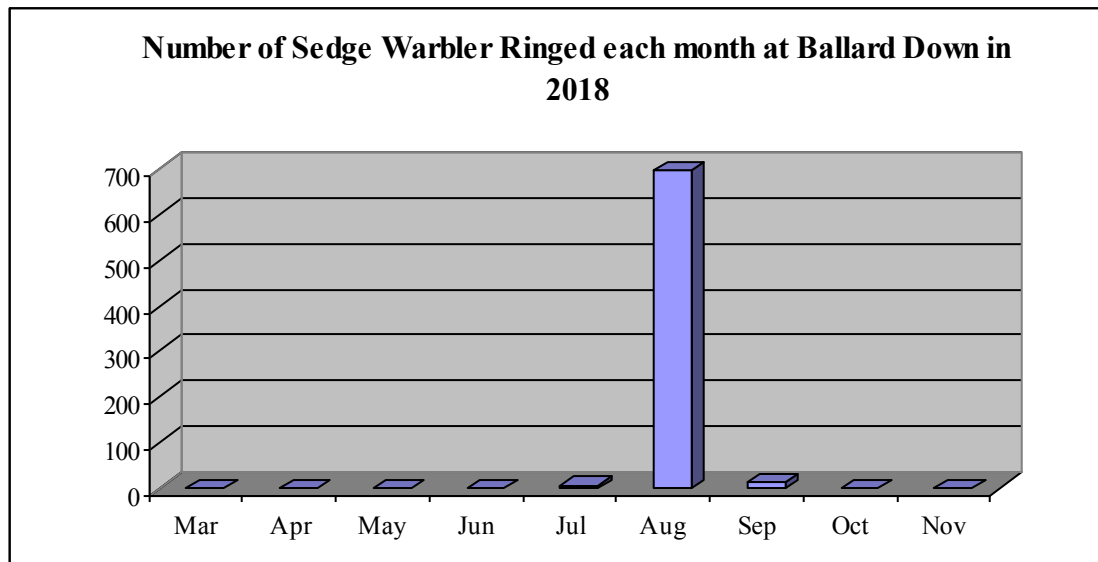


Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Very common passage migrant

This was the 2nd most common species ringed at Ballard Down in 2018 with an incredible 717 birds being ringed. This is far more than the mere 69 ringed in 2017. Not surprisingly the far majority were ringed in August with a huge 696 birds being ringed. 13 late birds were ringed in September and 8 early birds were ringed in July. Ballard Down is right on a clear migration route for this species. The graph shows just how vital the month of August is for Sedge Warbler migration.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	8	696	13	0	0



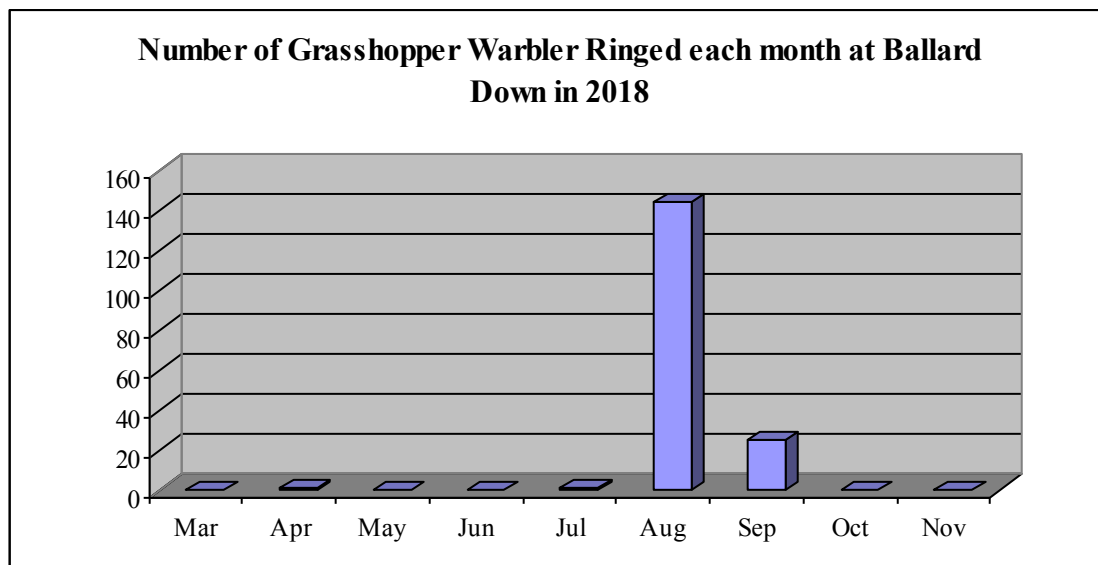


Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Common passage migrant

171 birds were ringed at Ballard Down in 2018; this is far more than the 111 that were ringed at the site in 2017. Ballard Down continues to be an exceptionally good site for this bird, probably the best in Dorset, if not the UK. It was the 7th most commonly ringed species of 2018. This is an adult bird. August produced 144 birds making it the prime month for this migrant *Locustella* warbler. There was one early autumn migrant in July and September produced 25 late birds. Interestingly the spring did produce one bird in April.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	1	0	0	1	144	25	0	0



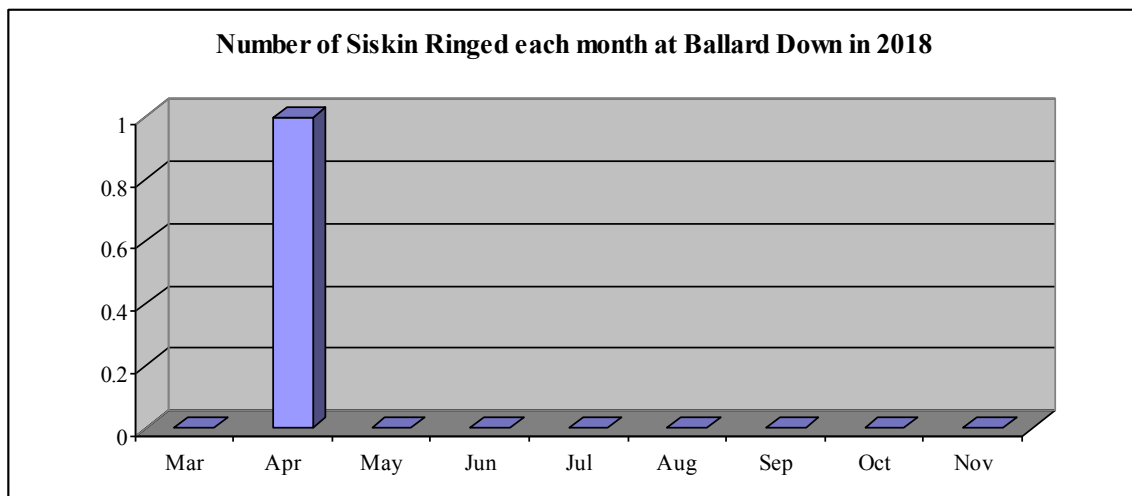


Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common passage migrant

A new addition to the Ballard Down Ringing List in 2018. This is an adult female. This bird was ringed on 14th April; a classic time of the year for Siskin migration. It was almost certainly attracted to the site by use of Niger seed being baited by one of the nets.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



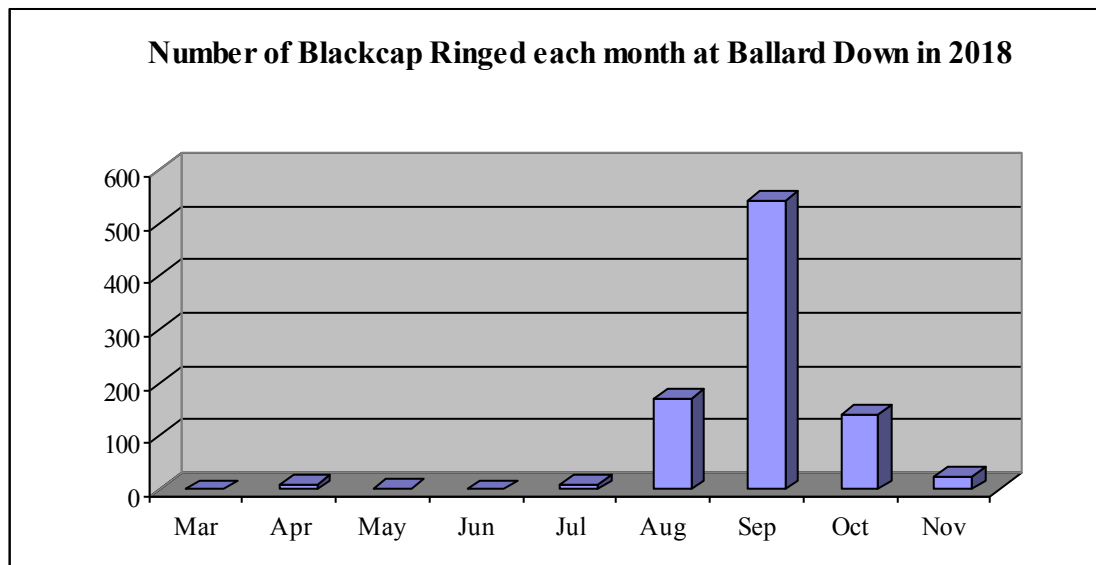


Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

This was the most common species ringed at Ballard Down in 2018; an incredible 899 were ringed in 2018, far more than the 483 that were ringed in 2017. In 2018 the majority were ringed in September with 542 birds. The first birds of the year were ringed in April when 10 were ringed, 2 birds were ringed in May. 10 birds were ringed in July and 170 in August. October had 141 birds and there were 24 late birds in November. Blackcap has always been a mid autumn migrant moving through on migration later than most of the other common British warblers. It is good to see numbers of this species are still very high in 2018 and that this is not a species of conservation concern.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	10	2	0	10	170	542	141	24



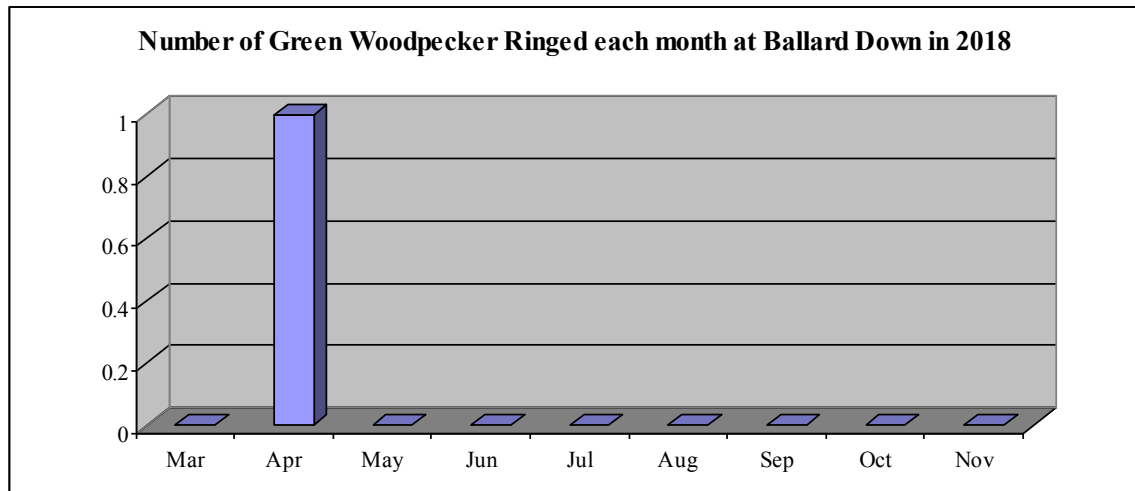


Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Common Resident

1st summer female ringed 22nd April 2018. The 2nd Green Woodpecker to be ringed at Ballard Down. Only one bird was ringed the year before but that was a juvenile bird. They are seen regularly at the site but very rarely caught. Note black moustache with no red centre sexing it as a female bird.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



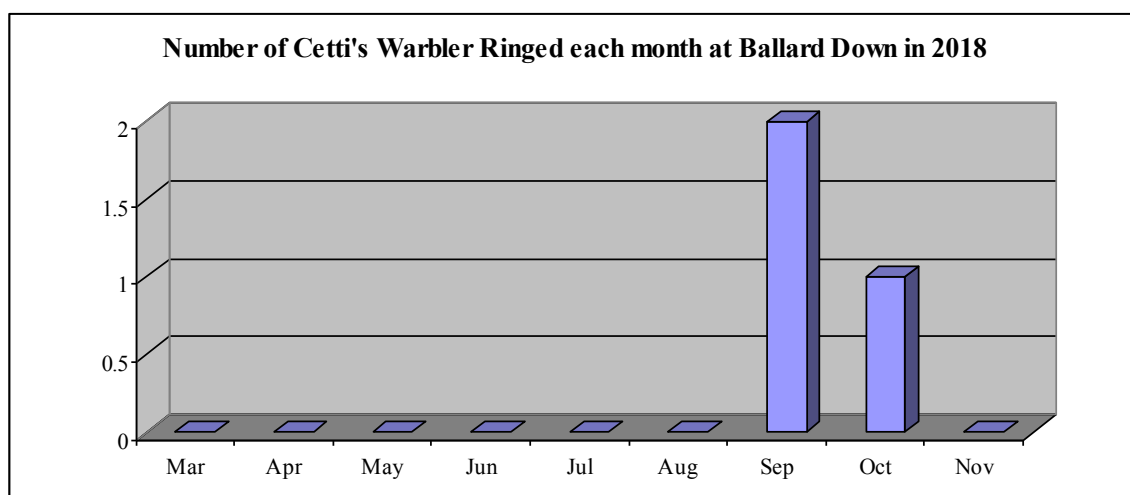


Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Scarce passage migrant

3 birds were ringed at Ballard Down in 2018. This was a new addition to the Ballard Down Ringing List in 2018. Cetti's warblers continue to do well expanding their range in Dorset and throughout southern England. It is interesting that Ballard Down is not the correct habitat for this species yet has still managed to attract 3 birds. They would be wandering individuals that probably came from a nearby breeding location with extensive reedbed habitat.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0



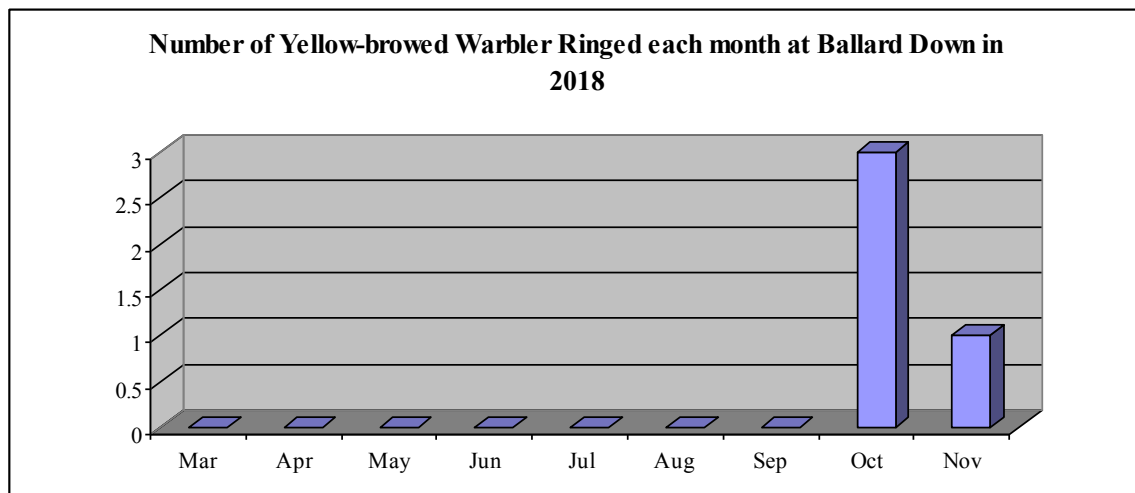


Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce visitor

It was a very good year for this species with 4 ringed in 2018, 2 more than in 2017. It was an excellent year for Yellow-browed Warblers throughout the UK. 3 birds were ringed in the month of October and there was a late bird in the month of November. There were more easterlies in 2018 than the previous year which probably helped in more arriving to Dorset and the UK. There was another Yellow-browed Warbler seen which evaded the mist nets and was not ringed.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1



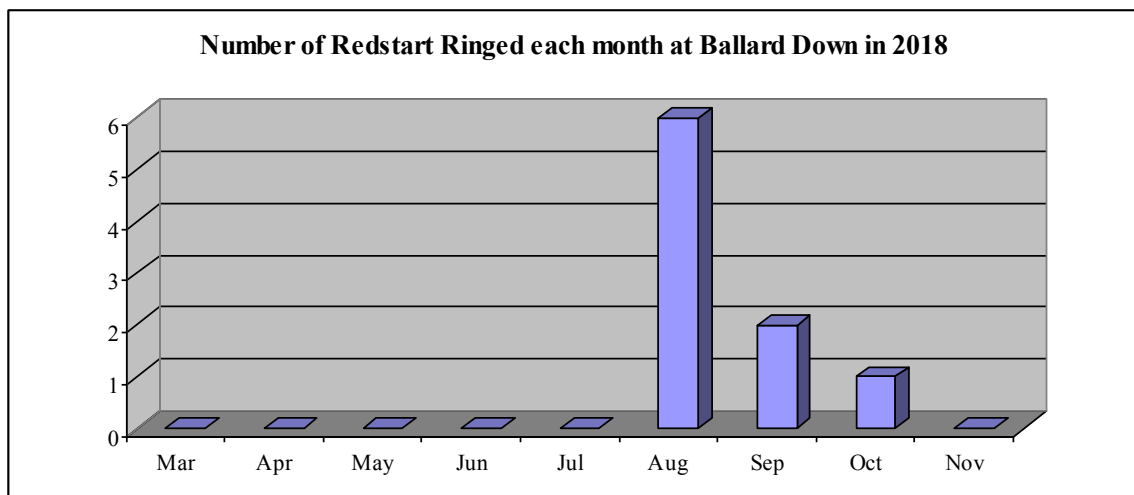


Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Common passage migrant

9 were ringed in 2018 which is 5 short from the 14 that were ringed in 2017. Most were ringed in August when 6 were ringed, 2 were ringed in September and 1 in October. This photo shows a first-winter male, note the brown fringed greater coverts confirming the age. Just like with the majority of the warbler species passing through Ballard, August is the main month for Redstart passage through Ballard Down.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	0



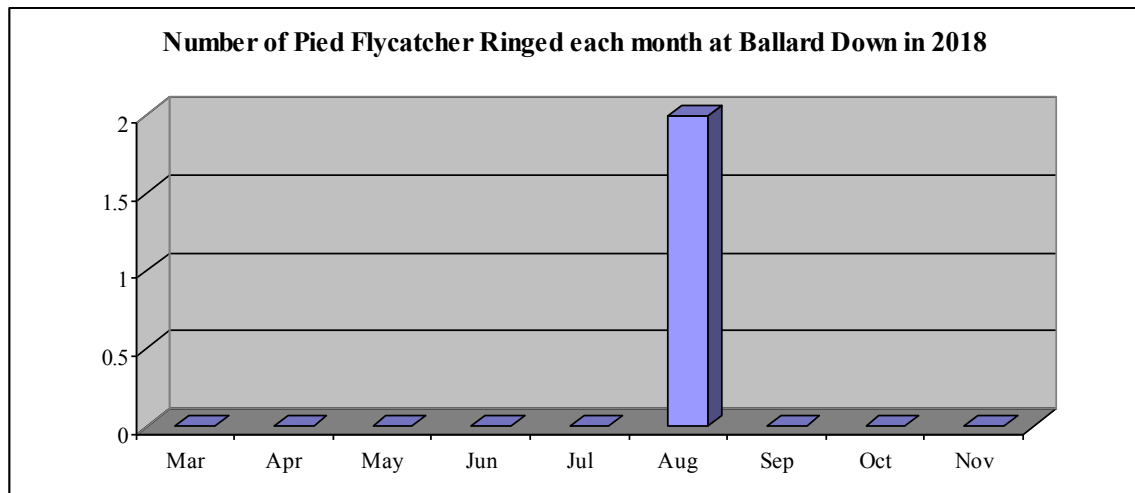


Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce passage migrant

2 were ringed in 2018, one more than the previous year. This species continues to be in decline in the UK. Like the bird of 2017 both Pied Flycatchers of 2018 were ringed in the month of August, which has always been the prime month of the year for this species. Both birds that were ringed in 2018 were immature/first year birds.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0



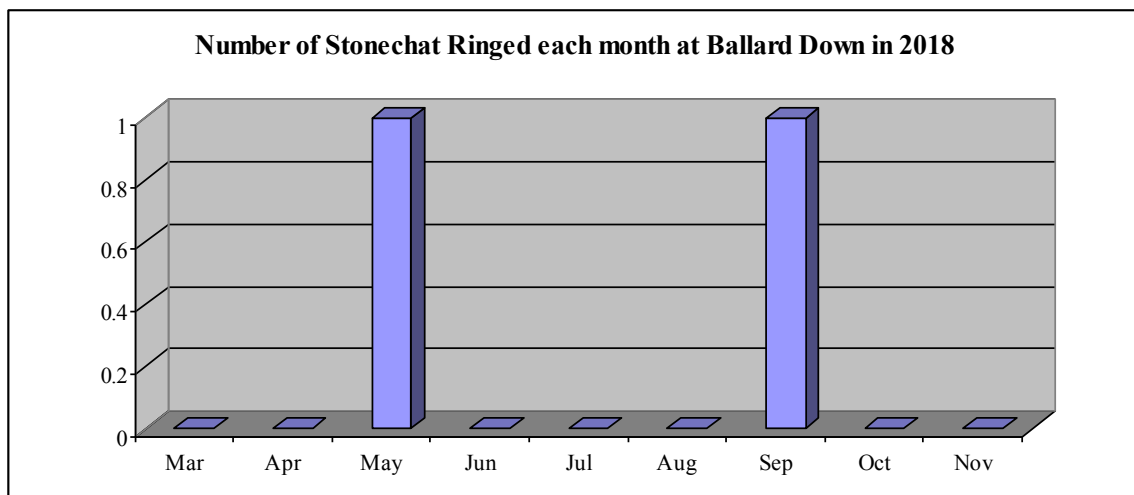


Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Common Resident

Two birds were ringed in 2018 which was the same as the year before in 2017. This photo shows a nice male with a rich orange breast and black face. One bird was ringed in May and the other in September. This is one of Dorset's most iconic bird species and is a heathland specialist.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0



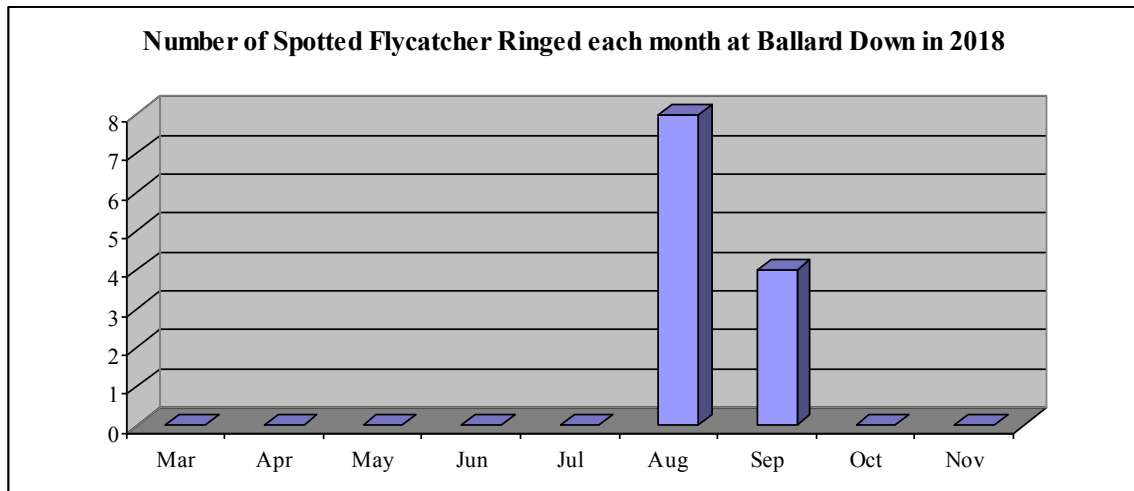


Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Fairly common passage migrant

An impressive 12 birds were ringed at Ballard in 2018, eight more birds than were ringed the year before in 2017, only 4 were ringed that year. 8 birds were ringed in the month of August and 4 were ringed in September. This still remains a bird of conservation concern with numbers still much lower than they should be.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	0



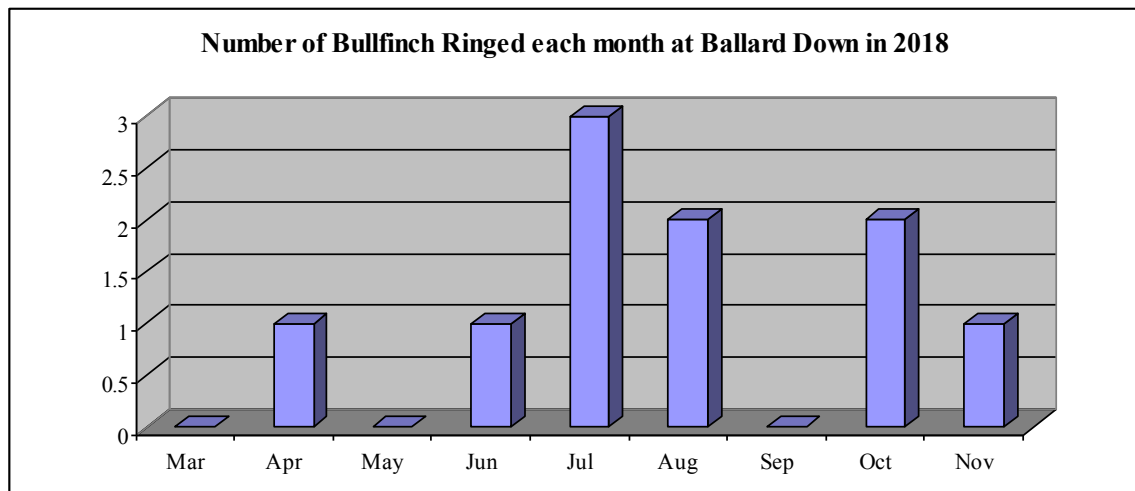


Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident and passage migrant

10 birds were ringed in 2018 including some juvenile birds. This is much lower than the year before when 42 were ringed. Only one bird was ringed in November 2018 compared to 21 in November 2017. Most were ringed in July when 3 birds were ringed, 2 were ringed in August, one in April and one in June. There were not the big finch movements in 2018 as compared to 2017.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	1	0	1	3	2	0	2	1



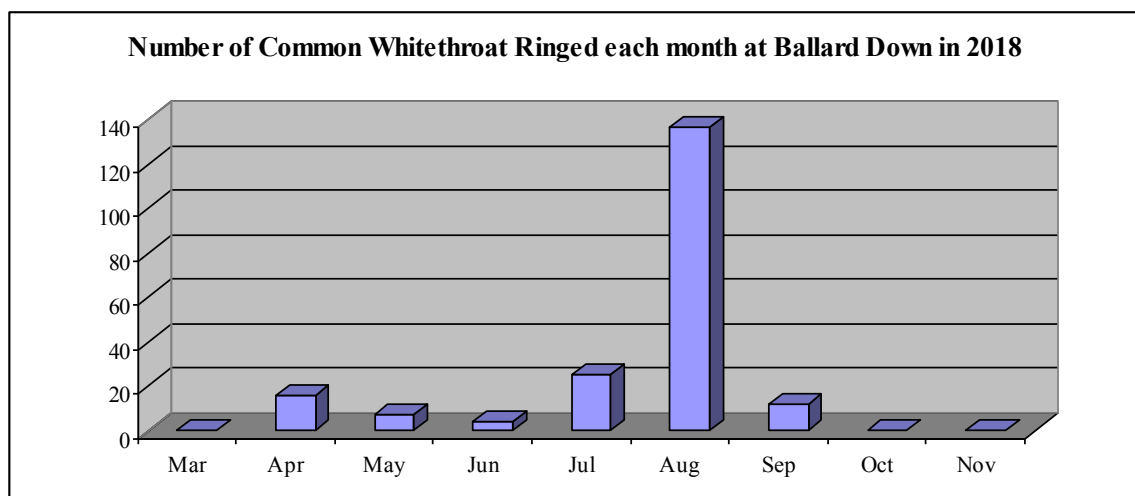


Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Very common passage migrant

201 were ringed all year at Ballard Down. A good number were ringed with 201 in total, this was much higher than the 136 ringed the year before in 2017. This photo shows a first year bird; note the dark eye as opposed to the pale eye of an adult. This was the 6th most common species ringed in 2018. Most birds were ringed in the month of August with 137 being ringed. The first birds of the year were ringed in April when 16 were ringed, 7 were ringed in May, 4 in June and 25 in July. There were 12 late birds ringed in September.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	16	7	4	25	137	12	0	0



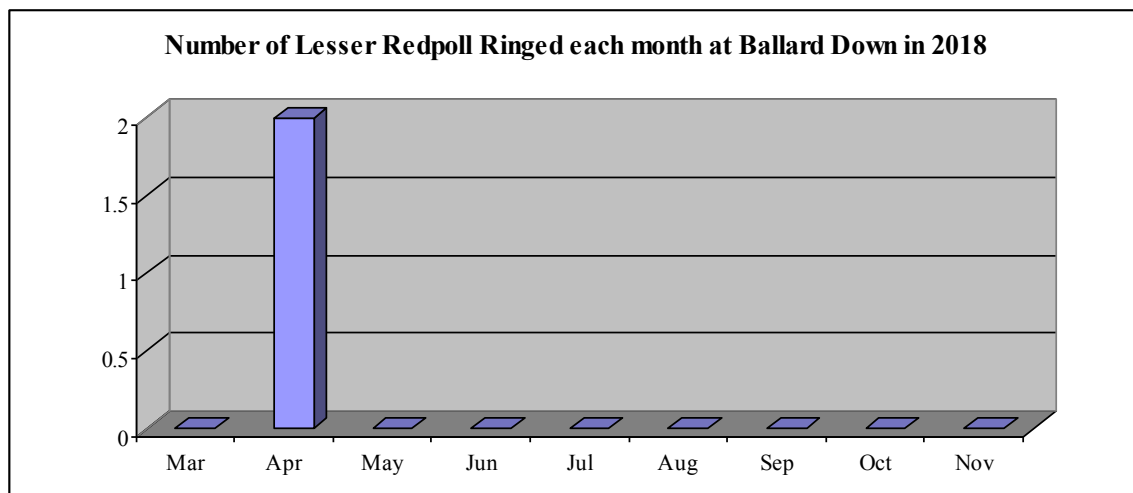


Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis flammea cabaret*

Uncommon passage migrant

Only 2 birds were ringed all year. They were both spring birds, ringed in the month of April. One was ringed on 10th April; an adult male, the other was caught on 14th April and that was a immature/2nd year bird. This photo shows the adult male; note the lovely rose coloured breast of the bird indicating the sex. There were not the big movements in 2018 of Lesser Redpolls as opposed to the year before when many were ringed.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Non Avian Records

Butterflies recorded at Ballard Down throughout the year

Species	Latin name
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Chalk Hill Blue	<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>

Many species of Butterfly were recorded at Ballard Down throughout the year. Ballard Down is a superb site for a good variety of butterflies; the rich variety of plant life attracts many species. There is notably more species diversity here than at the Fleets Lane Corner Ringing Site I was operating in some of the months of 2017.



Red Admiral caterpillars *Vanessa atalanta* - Ballard Down

Other non avian sightings recorded at the site throughout the year were Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*, Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, Badger *Meles meles*, Adder *Vipera berus*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and Slow worm *Anguis fragilis*. It was a common occurrence to regularly come across Badger and Fox.



Adder male *Vipera berus*

Two adders were found close to one of the net rides in the spring, first recorded on 26th March 2018. They were present regularly throughout the spring seen most days in late March and early April.

Controls and Recoveries for Ballard Down in 2018

Below is a complete list of all Controls and Recoveries from Ballard Down in 2018.

Willow Warbler

KJB392 Adult 20.04.2018 Ballard Down
21.04.2018 Calf of Man, Isle of Man
Duration: 1 day Distance: 427km NNW

Sedge Warbler

S354096 First-year 03.08.2018 Squire's Down, Dorset
09.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 6 days Distance: 48km SE

Sedge Warbler

D945966 First-year 09.08.2016 Greenstraight, Hallsands, Devon
09.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 730 days Distance: 130km ENE

Sedge Warbler

S461328 First-year 13.08.2017 Slapton Ley, Devon
05.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 357 days Distance: 127km ENE

Sedge Warbler

AJB1444 First-year 09.08.2018 Ballard Down
13.08.2018 Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion, Ceredigion
Duration: 4 days Distance: 248km NW
17.08.2018 Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion, Ceredigion

Sedge Warbler

AFA8662 First-year 05.08.2018 Cors Ddyga, Llangefni, Isle of Anglesey
21.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 16 days Distance: 330km SSE

Sedge Warbler

AAB3509 First-year 11.08.2018 Abbotsbury Swannery, Dorset
15.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 4 days Distance: 46km E

Sedge Warbler

ADE2388 First-year 17.08.2018 Ballard Down
25.08.2018 Squire's Down, Dorset
Duration: 8 days Distance: 48km NW

Sedge Warbler

ADE2686 First-year 25.08.2018 Ballard Down
31.08.2018 Sandwich Bay Estate, Kent
Duration: 6 days Distance: 244km ENE

Sedge Warbler

ACD0096 First-year 03.08.2018 Dyfi-Aber Leri NNR, Borth, Ceredigion
20.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 17 days Distance: 253km SE

Sedge Warbler

FRP First-year 07.08.2017 Reserve des Marais de la Taute, Marais d, Manche, France
8441201 11.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 369 days Distance: 163km NNW

Sedge Warbler

FRP First-year 15.08.2017 Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique, France
7907619 11.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 361 days Distance: 369km N

Sedge Warbler

BLB First-year 07.08.2017 Merksplas, Antwerpen, Belgium
09.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 367 days Distance: 484km W

Reed Warbler

Z181756 Adult M 28.05.2016 Slimbridge, Gloucestershire
07.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 801 days Distance: 128km SSE

Reed Warbler

S692642 First-year 28.08.2017 Titchfield Haven NNR, Hampshire
20.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 357 days Distance: 54km, WSW

Reed Warbler

S910136 First-year 30.07.2017 Chew Valley Lake, Bath and N.E. Somerset
28.08.2018 Ballard Down
Duration: 394 days Distance: 90km, SSE

Grasshopper Warbler

ALE3282 Adult 14.09.2018 Ballard Down
29.09.2018 Titchfield Haven NNR, Hampshire
Duration: 15 days Distance: 54km, ENE

Blackcap

ADE2617 First-year F 22.08.2018 Ballard Down

17.09.2018 Boulins, Saint-Julien-du-Sault, Yonne, **France**

Duration: 26 days

Distance: 478km, SE

Full List of Bird Species Recorded at Ballard Down 2018

Species number	Species	Latin name
1.	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
2.	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
3.	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
4.	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
5.	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
6.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
7.	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
8.	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>
9.	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>
10.	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
11.	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
12.	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
13.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
14.	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
15.	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
16.	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>
17.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
18.	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
19.	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
20.	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
21.	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
22.	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
23.	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
24.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
25.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
26.	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
27.	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
28.	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
29.	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
30.	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
31.	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
32.	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
33.	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
34.	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
35.	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
36.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>

37.	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
38.	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
39.	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
40.	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
41.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
42.	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
43.	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
44.	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
45.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
46.	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
47.	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
48.	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
49.	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
50.	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
51.	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>
52.	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
53.	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
54.	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
55.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
56.	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
57.	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
58.	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
59.	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
60.	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
61.	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
62.	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
63.	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
64.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
65.	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
66.	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
67.	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
68.	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
69.	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
70.	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
71.	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
72.	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
73.	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
74.	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
75.	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
76.	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
77.	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
78.	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
79.	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
80.	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
81.	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>

82.	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
83.	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
84.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
85.	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
86.	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
87.	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
88.	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
89.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
90.	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
91.	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
92.	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
93.	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
94.	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
95.	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
96.	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
97.	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
98.	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
99.	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
100.	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
101.	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea cabaret</i>
102.	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
103.	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
104.	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
105.	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
106.	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>

106 bird species were seen from Ballard Down in 2018.

Red Kite, Marsh Harrier and Nuthatch were all recorded at Ballard Down in 2018 but not seen in 2017. The only species not recorded in 2018 but seen in 2017 (and also ringed) was Marsh Tit. On certain days when ringing was not possible due to windy weather a census was taken monitoring birds at Ballard Down, walking from the Studland beach car park to Old Harry Rocks, it was during this census that certain species could be seen that were difficult to observe from the ringing site, e.g. Rock Pipit and Rose-ringed Parakeet.

Plants recorded at Ballard Down 2018

Species number	Species	Latin name
1.	White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
2.	Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
3.	Red Valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>
5.	Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
6.	Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>
7.	Greater Knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>
8.	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
9.	Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
10.	Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
11.	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
12.	Bay Willow	<i>Salix pentandra</i>
13.	Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
14.	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
15.	Marjoram	<i>Origanum majorana</i>
16..	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
17.	Wild Clematis	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
18.	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
19.	Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
20.	Wild Rose	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>
21.	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
22.	Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>
23.	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
24.	Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
25.	Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfolia</i>
26.	Ladies' fingers	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>
27.	Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
28.	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
29.	Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
30.	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
31.	Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
32.	Cock's Foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
33.	Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
34.	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
35.	Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>
36.	Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
37.	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
38.	Pendunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
39.	Common Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>
40.	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
41.	Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
42.	Soft-brome	<i>Bromus hordaceus</i>
43.	Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>

44.	Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
45.	Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>
46.	Greater Burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>
47.	Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>
48.	Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
49.	Cat's Ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
50.	Maritime Pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>
51.	Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
52.	Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
53.	Rough Meadow-Grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
54.	Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
56.	Devil's Bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>

