

THE PANS WETLANDS,
KEYHAVEN, HAMPSHIRE
BIRD RINGING REPORT 2021



Juvenile male bearded reedling ringed in September.

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By

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INTRODUCTION: 6 ringing sessions were carried out across the site and across the seasons, targeting resident and migrant birds. Some of the site's key species were ringed: kingfisher, yellow wagtail, Cetti's warbler, firecrest and bearded reedling. The confirmation of the presence of these species helps to demonstrate how rich the bird life is at The Pans.

LIST OF BIRDS RINGED IN 2021

All ringing activities were carried out under the necessary BTO and NE licenses.

SPECIES	TOTAL RINGED
Kingfisher	1
Swallow	22
Sand Martin	4
Yellow Wagtail	1
Robin	3
Dunnock	4
Wren	3
Cetti's Warbler	2
Reed Warbler	25
Sedge Warbler	11
Whitethroat	3
Willow Warbler	5
Chiffchaff	7
Firecrest	1
Goldcrest	2
Great Tit	5
Blue Tit	6
Coal Tit	1
Long-tailed Tit	8
Bearded Reedling	2
Linnet	6
Greenfinch	1
Reed Bunting	7
TOTAL	130

RINGING RESULTS

REDSHANK: A chick colour-ringed on the Somerley Estate, near Ringwood, on 26.06.21 was seen by Chris Barrass at The Pans on July 27.07.21.

REDSHANK: A chick colour-ringed in the Lower Avon (south of Ringwood) on 29.04.21 was seen by Chris Barrass at The Pans on 21.12.21. This bird was also seen nearby at Pennington Marshes on 11.06.21.

2 superb re-sightings of redshank chicks ringed in the Avon Valley as part of the GWCT's ongoing study into nesting waders in that region. Not only did the re-sightings prove that the chicks had fledged, but it also revealed where some of the Avon Valley population of redshanks spend the autumn and winter.

KINGFISHER: a juvenile ringed on the River Itchen at Winchester in July was re-caught at The Pans in November, when it was identified as a juvenile female. *A lot of kingfishers from New Forest breeding sites head to the coast to winter. However, this movement of a bird from further north is unusually distant.*

SAND MARTIN: A juvenile ringed at The Pans on 20.07.20 was re-caught by French ringers in Charente-Maritime, FRANCE on 24.08.20. *This martin was migrating south to winter in Africa. (Despite being ringed and re-caught last year, the information only reached me this year).*

REED WARBLER: An adult which was ringed at The Pans in July 2019 was re-caught there in August 2021. *This bird is now 3 or more years of age – a good age for a small migrant bird from Africa.*

REED BUNTING: An adult male which was ringed at The Pans in August 2019 was re-caught there in August 2021. *It is now 3 or more years old.*

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS OF KEY SPECIES: Marsh harriers were evident during the winter, but little evidence was seen of nesting. Water rails were seen and heard throughout the year, and juveniles were seen in the late summer. A few black-headed gulls and common terns looked at the newly installed tern rafts, but no birds nested on them. However, in August up to 5 common terns were sitting on and displaying over the rafts. At the end of the summer good numbers of swallows and sand martins roosted in the reeds. In late August and early September small numbers of yellow wagtails also roosted in the reeds. There were 3 Cetti's warbler territories. A wintering firecrest was ringed at the southern end of the site in November. In early June Chris Barrass reported seeing a flock of 7 juvenile bearded reedlings and I ringed 2 juveniles in August, which suggests that a couple of pairs nested nearby.

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