

MIGRANT WARBLERS IN THE LOWER SHIRE VALLEY OF MALAWI

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Seven species of migrant warbler have been caught for ringing at Nchalo in the lower Shire Valley (16°14' S 34°56' E), between March 1974 and April 1975. The earliest and latest dates of capture and the numbers caught are listed below.

Thrush Nightingale <u>Luscinia luscinia</u>	18/12 & 02/04	27
Garden Warbler <u>Sylvia borin</u>	25/11 & 09/04	65
River Warbler <u>Locustella fluviatilis</u>	21/12 & 15/03	2
Great Reed Warbler <u>Acrocephalus a. griseldis</u>	18/12 & 16/04	15
Great Reed Warbler <u>Acrocephalus a. arundinaceus</u>	25/11 & 16/04	78
European Marsh Warbler <u>Acrocephalus palustris</u>	24/11 & 23/04	29
European Sedge Warbler <u>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</u>	22/12 & 24/04	19

There have been some interesting recaptures, indicating that some birds have returned to the same wintering site in the following season - all were caught and recaptured in my garden.

1. On 09.03.74 a Garden Warbler was ringed. It was recaptured on 21.12.74.
2. Two Great Reed Warblers, were ringed on 11.04.74 and 16.04.74. They were recaptured on 10.01.75 and 20.03.75 respectively.
3. One Great Reed Warbler was ringed on 04.03.74 and recaptured on 08.01.75. It is particularly interesting to note that this was the only bird of the sub-species A. a. griseldis which was ringed during the 1973/74 season.
4. Two European Marsh Warblers were ringed on 20.03.74 and 09.04.74. They were recaptured on 19.12.74 and 12.01.75 respectively.