

Why it's impossible not to like Whinchats...

Will Cresswell (St. Andrews, United Kingdom)

I was in Africa for two weeks this November. Following the migrants to the middle of Nigeria. Catching nightingales, whitethroats, yellow wagtails and whinchats to put colour-rings and tags on to find out what they need during the winter and whether the changes in Africa will mean

some will still come back again each spring. On 23th November 2017 I took an adult male whinchat out of a net that was already ringed. MOBB (Metal Orange Blue Blue). We first caught this one as a young male on the 10th November 2012, so it was born sometime in May or June that year.



This male whinchat was first caught on the 10th November 2012. About 100 meters away from where it was originally caught, but separated by 5 years of time and over 66,000 kilometres of travel in between it was recaptured in Africa on 23th November 2017 (Photos: © Will CRESSWELL).

Probably in Eastern Europe or in Russia: most of the whinchats we have tagged have gone there to breed, although they range from Serbia to Finland to the Ural Mountains – about one quarter of Europe. And here it was again, about 100

meters away from where it was originally caught, but separated by 5 years of time and over 66,000 kilometres of travel in between. Not bad for a bird the size of a robin. It's impossible not to like whinchats.

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ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [WhinCHAT - Digitale Magazine for Whinchat Research and Conservation](#)

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