

Ringling Report: Bailey's Farm

January – December 2019



Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*)

Introduction

This report covers ringing activities undertaken at Bailey's Farm between January and December 2019. Ringing was undertaken by Jonathan Cooper as part of the West Wilts Ringing Group. The site is located within the grid reference square ST9775; close to the village of East Tytherton. The area comprises of mainly tilled farmland with a variety of crops sown, field boundaries consists of large mature hedgerows. The map below shows the sites location and where nets rides are placed (blue lines).



Figure 1. Location of Bailey's Farm and the position of the net rides used.

Catch Summary

Across the year a total of 11 sessions were undertaken; these were spread across the year. In total 606 new birds were ringed and 137 re-captures were processed. The sessions on February 8th was an evening session drag netting for Skylark. On average 55 new birds and 12 re-captures were processed per session. Overall 23 species were caught. Table 1 on the following page shows a breakdown of the catch by species and session, table 2 compares 2019 to previous years totals.

Table 1. A breakdown of the ringing activities undertaken at Bailey's Farm in 2019

Species	03-Jan		20-Jan		12-Feb		18-Feb		01-Mar		19-Mar		17-Oct		24-Oct		17-Nov		29-Nov		27-Dec		Total	
	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	R
Great Spotted Woodpecker													1				1		1				3	0
Magpie																		1					1	0
Blue Tit	12	1	5	2	2	3			4	3		1	23	1	20	7	13	12	13	8	17	4	109	42
Great Tit	2	3	2	1	4	3			3	2		1	20	1	10	9	5	2	7	3	5	2	58	27
Skylark							2																2	0
Long-tailed Tit															2		7	2		1			9	3
Goldcrest															3		3		1		1		8	0
Wren	1					1					2		4			2	1	1			1		8	5
Starling													1		1				7				9	0
Blackbird	4		1	1	3					3		1	1		1	1	1				1		11	7
Redwing															14		44		26		4		88	0
Song Thrush																	1		3	1	1		5	1
Robin	3	8		1		1			4	1		1	4			5	2	1		3	1	3	14	24
House Sparrow					1				6								1						8	0
Dunnock	1	6		4	2	1			4	1			3			1	2	3	2	2			14	18
Grey Wagtail																	1						1	0
Meadow Pipit																	5		3		3		11	0
Chaffinch	13	1	5		7				9	1	1		9		12		12		15	3	10		93	5
Greenfinch	4		1		1				11		3		6		28		7		20		23	1	104	1
Linnet									1														1	0
Goldfinch									3				3		4		2				2		14	0
Yellowhammer	2				3				7	1	7	2							2				21	3
Reed Bunting	1				2				6	1	1		1						3				14	1
Session Total	43	19	14	9	25	9	2	0	58	13	14	6	76	2	95	25	108	21	104	21	67	12	606	137
No. of Species	10	5	5	5	9	5	1	0	11	8	5	5	12	2	10	6	17	6	14	7	10	6	22	12

Table 2. Annual comparisons of ringing totals

Species	2018			2019		
	N	R	Total	N	R	Total
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	1	3	0	3
Magpie	1	0	1	1	0	1
Coal Tit	1	1	2			
Blue Tit	62	11	73	109	42	151
Great Tit	47	15	62	58	27	85
Skylark				2	0	2
Long-tailed Tit	18	1	19	9	3	12
Chiffchaff	1	0	1			
Goldcrest	5	5	10	8	0	8
Wren	9	1	10	8	5	13
Starling				9	0	9
Blackbird	5	0	5	11	7	18
Redwing	10	0	10	88	0	88
Song Thrush	2	0	2	5	1	6
Robin	12	5	17	14	18	32
House Sparrow				8	0	8
Dunnock	27	14	41	14	18	32
Pied Wagtail	1	0	1			
Grey Wagtail				1	0	1
Meadow Pipit				11	0	11
Chaffinch	95	0	95	93	5	98
Greenfinch	10	0	10	104	1	105
Linnet				1	0	1
Goldfinch	1	0	1	14	0	14
Yellowhammer	52	2	54	21	3	24
Reed Bunting	10	0	10	14	1	15
Total	360	55	415	606	131	737

Discussion

2019 provided several good catches for the site adding 6 new species to the sites ringed list. These were: Skylark, Starling, House Sparrow, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit and Linnet. The Skylark were a personal highlight, not only being a first for the site but also a first ringed for me personally.

Once again good numbers of Chaffinch were caught along with 88 Redwing. This is an unprecedented number and includes 44 in caught in one session. However, the real highlight is the numbers of Greenfinch caught on site this year. 104 new and 1 re-trap represents 60% of the totals number caught in 2019 for the West Wilts Ringing Group. Hopefully this signals a recovery in numbers after the species was hit by the Trichomoniasis parasite. One negative is the numbers of Yellowhammer, these have decreased by over 50% compared to 2018. There is no obvious reason for this decline of this red-listed species; it may be a temporary blip in numbers or be a symptom of birds moving around the landscape to find food.

Ringling Recoveries

In 2019, there were 3 birds ringed elsewhere and re-captured on site and 3 bird ringed on site and recovered elsewhere. Table 3 outlines the details of birds ringed elsewhere and re-captured at Meadow Farm. Table 4 shows details of birds ringed at Meadow Farm and re-captured elsewhere.

Table 3. A summary of the birds re-captured at Bailey's Farm that were ringed elsewhere

Ring No.	Species	Ringed Location	Ringed Date	Recovery Date	Distance Moved (km)	Days	Direction
TW58539	Great Tit	Meadow Farm, Sutton Benger	08/08/19	29/11/19	2.5	113	SE
TW58568	Great Tit	Meadow Farm, Sutton Benger	26/08/19	24/10/19	2.5	59	SE
TW58585	Great Tit	Meadow Farm, Sutton Benger	14/09/19	17/10/19	2.5	109	SE

Table 4. A summary of the birds ringed at Bailey's Farm that were recovered elsewhere

Ring No.	Species	Ringed Date	Recovery Location	Recovery Date	Distance Moved (km)	Days	Direction
NY93833	Greenfinch	28/12/18	Hillside Farm, Cricklade	16/04/19	22	109	NE
NY93922	Greenfinch	01/03/19	Meadow Farm, Sutton Benger	18/06/19	2.5	109	NW
S789249	Reed Bunting	29/03/18	Meadow Farm, Sutton Benger	28/05/19	2.5	425	NW

Summary

The ringing undertaken at Bailey's Farm in 2019 show once again that this site is managed in a fantastic way for a range of declining farmland bird species. The site is a brilliant example of how farming can be undertaken in a way that benefits wildlife.

A final thank you must go to the landowner William Bailey, who generously allows me to ring on the land and without the support and good management of the farmland, none of this work would have been possible.