

# Ringling Report: Meadow Farm

January – December 2019



Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

## Introduction

This report covers ringing activities undertaken at Meadow 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 ST9577, outside of Chippenham and close to the village of Sutton Benger. The area comprises of a rich mix of habitats including grassland, woodland, river, scrub and a small area of reedbed and wetland and is adjacent to areas of arable farmland. The site falls partially within the County Wildlife Site of the River Avon. The map below shows the sites location and the nets rides (blue lines).



**Figure 1.** Location of Meadow Farm and the position of the net rides used.

## Catch Summary

Across the year a total of 20 sessions were undertaken; these were spread across the year. In total 909 new birds were ringed and 420 re-captures were processed. On average 45 new birds and 21 re-captures were processed per session. Overall 30 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 Meadow Farm in 2019

Species	01-Jan N R	10-Jan N R	24-Jan N R	14-Feb N R	08-Mar N R	21-Mar N R	30-Apr N R	16-May N R	28-May N R	18-Jun N R	05-Jul N R	08-Aug N R	26-Aug N R	14-Sep N R	30-Sep N R	20-Oct N R	06-Nov N R	19-Nov N R	04-Dec N R	31-Dec N R	Total N R
Woodpigeon		1																			1 0
Kingfisher				1	1			1 1		2	2	1	1	2	1	1		1	1 1		11 6
Great Spotted Woodpecker			1			1	2	2		1	1 2										5 5
Jay								1													1 0
Coal Tit														1			1				2 0
Blue Tit	13 16	2 14	6 9	8	2 1	1 1	1	3		12 2	19 1	37 2	18 13	25 17	21 20	13 18	9 9	5 18	3 12	2 9	188 174
Great Tit	4 6	4 9	3 6	6 3	1	1 5	3	1 5	1	28	40 9	12 9	1 15	16 9	7 2	6 7	7 3	3 3	4	4 7	144 106
Cetti's Warbler														2							2 0
Long-tailed Tit		3	5 1	1				1	4			1		6 1	1	31 7	10				51 21
Willow Warbler												1	1								2 0
Chiffchaff						2		3		2	5	6	6 1	6	5						35 1
Sedge Warbler							1	3 1	1 2	1	3 1	2 1		1							11 6
Reed Warbler							1	2 1	3	5 2	8 3	5 1	2 1	1							27 8
Blackcap							3	2 1	1 2	11	14		1	7	1		1				41 3
Whitethroat								1	2 1	1 1	1 1	2	1								8 3
Goldcrest															2	5	1 1				8 1
Wren	1 2	1	1				1	1	5 1	2	3 2	4 1	2	3 2	2 1	2 1	1		2		27 14
Treecreeper		1 1	1			1	1			1				1 1		1					5 4
Blackbird		1			1	1 1	1	2 1	2 1	1	2	1					1	1	2 2		15 6
Fieldfare																	1				1 0
Redwing	1	2														9	9	11	21	1	54 0
Song Thrush						1	1	1	1 1		1					1	1		1		7 2
Robin	1	1 3		1 1			2	1	1	1	2 1	3	2 1	4 2	2 4		1 2		3	1	19 21
Duncock	1		1 1	1	1	1	1 2	3	2		2	1	3	2 2	3	2	1 1	2	1		20 14
Grey Wagtail										1											1 0
Chaffinch	1	1		1 1	1		1		2	1	3		1	5	2	5		2	1 1	1	26 4
Bullfinch											1	4									5 0
Greenfinch	1	4		1	4	1		1		3 2	3 1	22	4			1	1 1	5	1	5	57 4
Goldfinch	6	6	1	5	11 1	2 1	5	1 2	7 3	1 3	4 1	4	1 1	16 2	16 1	13 1	22	8		4	133 16
Reed Bunting									1 1									1			2 1
<b>Session Total</b>	<b>29 24</b>	<b>27 27</b>	<b>19 17</b>	<b>14 16</b>	<b>21 3</b>	<b>10 10</b>	<b>15 11</b>	<b>19 23</b>	<b>32 13</b>	<b>72 12</b>	<b>113 23</b>	<b>105 15</b>	<b>44 32</b>	<b>98 36</b>	<b>63 28</b>	<b>88 36</b>	<b>57 27</b>	<b>36 24</b>	<b>30 26</b>	<b>17 17</b>	<b>909 420</b>
<b>No. of Species</b>	<b>9 3</b>	<b>12 4</b>	<b>8 4</b>	<b>5 7</b>	<b>7 3</b>	<b>8 6</b>	<b>8 7</b>	<b>12 13</b>	<b>13 9</b>	<b>15 7</b>	<b>17 11</b>	<b>13 6</b>	<b>14 6</b>	<b>16 8</b>	<b>12 5</b>	<b>11 7</b>	<b>14 7</b>	<b>8 4</b>	<b>7 8</b>	<b>6 3</b>	<b>30 21</b>

**Table 2.** Annual comparisons of ringing totals

Species	2018			2019		
	N	R	Total	N	R	Total
Woodpigeon				1	0	1
Kingfisher	4	1	5	11	6	17
Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	3	9	5	5	10
Jay	1	0	1	1	0	1
Jackdaw	1	0	1			
Coal Tit				2	0	2
Blue Tit	136	64	200	188	174	362
Great Tit	93	51	144	144	106	250
Cetti's Warbler				2	0	2
Long-tailed Tit	22	3	25	51	21	72
Willow Warbler	2	0	2	2	0	2
Chiffchaff	3	0	3	35	1	36
Sedge Warbler	1	0	1	11	6	17
Reed Warbler	2	0	2	27	8	35
Blackcap	10	0	10	41	3	44
Whitethroat				8	3	11
Goldcrest	1	0	1	8	1	9
Wren	18	6	24	27	14	41
Treecreeper	1	1	2	5	4	9
Blackbird	9	1	10	15	6	21
Fieldfare	1	0	1	1	0	1
Redwing	36	0	36	54	0	54
Song Thrush				7	2	9
Robin	18	7	25	19	21	40
Dunnoch	13	3	16	20	14	34
Grey Wagtail				1	0	1
Chaffinch	7	1	8	26	4	30
Bullfinch	2	0	2	5	0	5
Greenfinch	13	0	13	57	4	61
Linnet	1	0	1			
Goldfinch	72	3	75	133	16	149
Yellowhammer	2	0	2			
Reed Bunting				2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>1329</b>

## Discussion

2019 was an exceptional year for the site, producing a wholly unprecedented number of large catches of a variety of species. The increased in ringing in the summer months and overall more sessions also helps explain the increase seen since 2018. This year 7 new species were ringed on site. These were: Woodpigeon, Coal Tit, Cetti's Warbler, Whitethroat, Song Thrush, Grey Wagtail and Reed Bunting. The Grey Wagtail was the standout bird for me; not only a first for the site but also a first personally ringed.

Many species were caught in higher numbers than expected in 2019; for example: Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Goldfinch and Redwing. However, the stand-out species in terms of numbers caught is Greenfinch. 57 new and 4 re-captures represent 30% of the whole catch for the West Wilts ringing group in 2019. The numbers at the site have exploded this year; a welcome return after the numbers fell sharply as a result of the Trichomoniasis parasite. 11 new Kingfishers is another excellent total; showing how many birds can use a small area of habitat.

## Ringling Recoveries

In 2019, there were 6 birds ringed elsewhere and re-captured on site and 6 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 Meadow Farm that were ringed elsewhere

Ring No.	Species	Ringed Location	Ringed Date	Recovery Date	Distance Moved (km)	Days	Direction
S914174	Reed Warbler	Squire's Down, Dorset	22/08/18	16/05/19	61	267	NNE
TZ30721	Greenfinch	Watchet, Somerset	03/02/19	18/06/19	95	135	ENE
ABF6488	Blue Tit	Ravensroost Woods, Minety	16/02/19	20/10/19	13	246	SW
AFH0024	Great Tit	Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire	30/06/19	31/12/19	37	184	SE
NY93922	Greenfinch	Bailey's Farm, East Tytherton	01/03/19	18/06/19	2.5	109	NW
S789249	Reed Bunting	Bailey's Farm, East Tytherton	29/03/18	28/05/19	2.5	425	NW

**Table 4.** A summary of the birds ringed at Meadow Farm that were re-captured elsewhere

Ring No.	Species	Ringed Date	Recovery Location	Recovery Date	Distance Moved (km)	Days	Direction
ALF0763	Grey Wagtail	18/06/19	East Shefford, West Berkshire	18/06/19	43	75	E
S789439	Goldfinch	23/11/18	Sutton Benger	13/01/19	2	51	N
ALF0640	Goldfinch	14/02/19	Somerford Common, Brinkworth	03/07/19	11	139	NE
TW58539	Great Tit	08/08/19	Bailey's Farm, East Tytherton	29/11/19	2.5	113	NW
TW58568	Great Tit	26/08/19	Bailey's Farm, East Tytherton	24/10/19	2.5	59	NW
TW58585	Great Tit	14/09/19	Bailey's Farm, East Tytherton	17/10/19	2.5	109	NW

## Summary

Overall this year of ringing at Meadow Farm has exceeded all expectations thanks to a bumper breeding season for many species. The ringing totals for the site show, once again, that it is a valuable site for a range of bird species utilising the mix of habitats present. The recoveries generated from Meadow Farm also help to highlight the sites importance in the wider landscape network.

A final thank you must go to the landowners my Aunt & Uncle Alison and Derek Upton who generously allow me to ring on their land and without their support none of this work would have been possible.