

Report on Ringing in Madingley in 2018
Tony Fulford December 2018

Approximately 25% of all the birds ringed in Madingley since 2009 were ringed in the Wood this year thanks to the support of 19 volunteers. Twenty-three ringing sessions were held in Jan, Feb, Jul, Aug, Nov and Dec. Blue and Great Tits nesting in boxes in the Wood had a bumper year; pulli and their parents were ringed by Liisa, Cecilia, Verity, Tony, Mark and Hannah R in May and June.

In total during the year we made 1691 captures plus 48 records of birds detected by their PIT tag when entering a nest-box. The captures included 811 Blue Tits and 680 Great Tits; other species are listed in Table 1 below. The number of Great Spotted Woodpeckers (the 4th most frequently captured species) seems particularly large while only one Marsh Tit was captured all year – perhaps these observations are related.

Table 1 – Species Totals

Species	Captures	Individuals	BTO Rings Fitted	Adults/pulli ringed*	Control Individuals
Blue Tit	811	464	372	203/169	2
Great Tit	680	328	266	110/156	
Blackbird	5	5	4		
Blackcap	1	1	1		
Brambling	2	2	2		
Chaffinch	56	44	41		
Coat Tit	23	13	9		1
Dunnock	1	1	1		
Goldcrest	7	7	7		
GS Woodpecker	27	15	11		
Jay	2	2	2		
Long-tailed Tit	18	16	13		
Marsh Tit	1	1	0		
Nuthatch	23	8	4		
Robin	11	6	4		
Treecreeper	16	12	11		
Willow Warbler	1	1	1		
Wren	6	5	5		

* only GT and BT pulli were ringed.

Disease

A couple of unringed GTs (one in Jan; one in Dec) had encrusted legs and were not ringed. We have had similar problems with some Chaffinches: a one-legged individual appeared frequently until Jan, but the problem has not been noted since.

Only one possible case of pox recorded: a Coal Tit, found to have a lesion on its face in Jan, recovered and was retrapped in Nov and Dec with no sign of it.

PIT tagging

In April we introduced IB Tech's integral PIT tags, replacing the two-colour-ring system. Totals of birds tagged are given in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - PIT tagging totals

	Fitted tags	Retrapped	Lost/malfunctioned & replaced
Blue Tit	374	411	41
<i>(old-style/IB Tech)</i>	<i>(56/318)</i>	<i>(162/245)</i>	<i>(38/3)</i>
Great Tit	266	378	41
<i>(old-style/IB Tech)</i>	<i>(18/248)</i>	<i>(104/263)</i>	<i>(36/5)</i>
Total	640	789	82
<i>(old-style/IB Tech)</i>	<i>(74/566)</i>	<i>(266/508)</i>	<i>(74/8)</i>

The move to IB Tech tags has generally been successful. All ringers agree how much easier it is to extract birds wearing these rings from nets, and we no longer have to rely on Mike Francis (previously Hannah) to hand make the tags. The tags are also quicker to fit. No bird has yet been found to have lost an IB Tech tag. They are also safe for pulli; all pulli ringed this year were fitted with IB Tech tags.

Database Collation and Paperless Data Collection

All the ringing data back to 2012 (when PIT tagging in Madingley Wood began) has been pooled in a single database (in MS-Excel) and a laborious process of data cleaning completed (special thanks to Tony). There is now a single top copy of the database, currently on Tony's computer, and a backup copy on a USB drive kept in the hut in the Wood. The idea is that all future data corrections should be made to this database.

The Excel database allows us to enter and check data directly to computer. This has proved successful and is now routine.

Acknowledgements

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