



Pied Wagtail with coloured leg ring.  
*Photos Derek Hale*

## **BIRD RINGING REPORT 2005 & 2006**

### Introduction

Bird ringing has both local and national importance. As well as the obvious use of providing information about migration routes and local dispersion, by analysing the national returns vitally important information about changes in populations and annual breeding success is obtained and published annually in *Ringling and Migration*.

Information is also gathered how birds are killed or die. The commonest cause of death reported to the British Trust for Ornithology (who runs the British ringing scheme) for instance is the domestic cat.

Birds can either be ringed as pulli in the nest or as adults. Adults can be caught in traps or in mist nets and are ringed with a metal ring on one leg. Each ring has an address and a number on it which identifies it as an individual. For some special studies coloured rings or flags are also attached to the legs (see below). Anyone finding a ringed bird or seeing a coloured ring on a live bird can either send the ring (preferred option) or the number and information to the British Museum (Natural History), London SW7, and they will receive information as to where and when that bird was ringed, together with information about the ringing scheme.

Bird ringing is a closely controlled activity and is carried out by highly trained and licensed people under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). Anyone over 14 years old with a reasonable, but not extensive, knowledge of bird recognition can become a trainee, and after one to three years can progress to an intermediate licence and then on to a full licence after three to five further years. With the agreement of a licensed ringer a small number of visitors can also accompany ringing trips. On the Isle of Wight there are now three fully licensed ringers (one a trainer), one partial permit holder, and three trainees. Contact can be made through Dr Anthony Roberts 01983 865420 or the BTO 01842 750050.

### Ringling Activities – Isle of Wight 2005

The long term study by James Gloyn of Barn Owls continues. Because of a very early breeding season and the pressure of work no barn owls were ringed during the year.

The major ringling site was the Haseley Reserve at Arreton (Map ref SZ 546856), where a total of 1718 birds were either ringed, retrapped (ringed or found within 5km of the ringling place) or controlled (ringed or found more than 5 km from the ringling place).

At Head Down, Niton, (Map ref SZ 505777) 73 birds were handled.

Ringling was also carried out at three SSSI sites with the permission of English Nature.

Attempts were made to catch waders near Wootton Creek with minimal success. The attempts were made on spring tides, and the curlew in particular left the foreshore before high tide. Two only were caught.

Further observations suggest that the curlew pre roost on the mud in front of a shingle bank, and further attempts will be made on a neap or intermediate tide when the birds will not be pushed off the area.

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At Palmer's Farm, Birds (especially acrocephalus warblers) were ringed in the reed bed and adjacent scrub with considerable success (see list). Four birds previously ringed were controlled, and one bird ringed there was found in Cowes.

On the Medina, two attempts were made to catch waders at night on spring tides. Three waders, and some other birds were caught. Previous reccies during the day had shown up to two hundred mixed waders present. No groups of waders were seen at night and it is apparent that the birds have a different strategy for the two high tides. The only way of making a useful sample would appear to on a noon tide on a grey foggy day or by cannon netting.

### Ringling Activities – Isle of Wight 2006

Ringling was again carried out at the two main sites, The major ringling site was the Haseley Reserve at Arreton (Map ref SZ 546856), where a total of 2131 birds were trapped. At Head Down, Niton, (Map ref SZ 505777), 316 birds were handled.

This year there has been a European initiative to study the declining numbers of the Swallow *Hirundo rustica* and this has biased the numbers caught compared to previous years. The swallows (and sand martins) were trapped at their autumn pre roost site at Arreton before they moved into their roost, either in Maize fields or on occasions in willow scrub.

A new site at St Catherine's Down was reccied with the National Trust warden, and 54 autumn migrating birds birds were trapped and ringed.

It was intended to ring the Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarelli* roost on Ryde Pier in 2006 but attempts were frustrated by the weather. It was however ringed on two occasions in 2007, with the assistance of 'The Island Line'. The aim was to establish the area from which these birds (some three to four hundred) gather, and whether these are Island birds only, or have a contribution from the mainland. As well as the standard metal ring these birds were also ringed with a yellow plastic ring on the other leg. This makes them easily visible by observers and reports have already been received from several sites on the Island. If you do see any of these birds we would be very grateful to receive details of place, date and which leg had the coloured ring, (see photographs) (Telephone 01983 865420 or 01983 731114). Next year the colour may be changed to give more information and then the colour will also be important.

Our thanks are due to the owners of all of these sites for permission to study the birds and to Derek Hale for the photographs.

### Training

To become a fully qualified ringer takes a minimum of three years. The ringling scheme is looking for new recruits, particularly young people.

The basic requirements are:-

A reasonable knowledge of bird recognition – but you do not have to be an expert.

Be over 14 years old when you start as a trainee.

Have sufficient time to train. This is normally a commitment of half a day on average every ten days. The minimum time as a trainee is one year, and this can be longer if time is not available.

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Finding a trainer can be done through the ringing office at the British Trust for Ornithology from whom further information about the ringing scheme can be obtained ([www.bto.org.uk](http://www.bto.org.uk) or Tel 01842 750050)

What normally happens is that an interested person will go out with experienced ringers on three or four occasions to mutually try it out - for the trainer to ensure that the potential trainee has sufficient knowledge and dexterity, and before starting on a long apprenticeship, to make sure that both are compatible to each other.

A national ringing training course is to be held on the Island in September 2007.

### Annual Numbers

The list below is the summary of the species and numbers ringed.

As large scale ringing has only recently returned to the Island, recoveries will take some years to build up. However the recoveries below are a start and there are already some very interesting results.

### Recoveries 2005 and 2006

Species	Ring No	Ringed	Date	Recovered	Date	How	Time days	km moved
Canada Goose	5090042	Haseley	06 07 05	Chillerton	17 09 05	Shot	73	7
Canada Goose	5090046	Haseley	06 07 05	Arreton	14 02 06	Dead	188	0
Mallard	GJ04402	Haseley	25 09 06	Newport	18 09 06	Shot	54	6
Kestrel	ER96738	Haseley	06 08 04	Wroxall	10 09 06	Car	765	6
Kestrel	ER96748	Haseley	09 10 05	Hale Common	25 11 06	Building Released	412	2
Kingfisher	SA75366	Haseley	10 08 05	Walthamstow	06 01 06	Dead	149	132
Swallow	V186185	Awaiting details		Haseley	07 09 06	Control	?	?
Wren	BVA031	Haseley	20 09 06	Haseley	22 12 06	Kestrel	93	0
Dunnock	J119170	Haseley	20 06 03	Haseley	27 04 05	Kestrel	677	0
Dunnock	J119355	Haseley	14 06 04	Haseley	15 07 05	Kestrel	396	0
Blackbird	RC61707	Alverstone	20 06 03	Wootton	20 04 05	Control	670	8
Blackbird	RC61708	Alverstone	01 05 03	Wootton	01 05 05	Control	693	8
Reed Warbler	T813252	Newport, Gwent	09 08 05	Haseley	18 08 05	Control	9	155
Reed Warbler	P283300	Fareham, Hants	24 07 02	Wootton	19 06 05	Control	1061	10
Blackcap	T183437	Flimby, Cumbria	12 07 04	Haseley	24 09 04	Control	744	72
Chiffchaff	ACV024	Derbyshire	27 06 04	Haseley	28 09 04	Control	93	305
Long Tailed Tit	AXP048	Haseley	02 09 04	Alverstone	09 03 05	Dead	188	3
Great Tit	J119162	Haseley	08 06 03	Kent	04 04 04	Control	301	195
Chaffinch	H415472	Haseley	11 05 02	Arreton	27 03 05	Hit Window	1051	0
Greenfinch	VN23362	Haseley	13 07 05	Wootton	08 08 05	Control	26	8
Greenfinch	VN23366	Wootton	31 08 05	Cowes	08 10 05	Cat	38	7

A control is a bird caught and released by a ringer and has moved more than 5km.

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Isle of Wight Totals Summary 2005

	Full	Grown	Pulli	Retraps/ Recoveries	Total
Greater Canada Goose		1	12	0	13
Tufted Duck		1	0	0	1
Sparrowhawk		5	0	0	5
Kestrel		5	0	0	5
Moorhen		15	0	0	15
Lapwing		0	1	0	1
Curlew		2	0	0	2
Woodpigeon		7	0	0	7
Little Owl		0	0	4	4
Swift		5	0	0	5
Kingfisher		11	0	5	16
Green Woodpecker		3	0	1	4
Great Spotted Woodpecker		4	0	0	4
Sand Martin		10	0	0	10
Swallow		89	0	0	89
House Martin		21	0	0	21
Meadow Pipit		37	0	0	37
Yellow Wagtail		2	0	0	2
Wren		85	0	69	154
Duncock		74	0	89	163
Robin		72	0	56	128
Stonechat		3	0	0	3
Blackbird		60	8	80	148
Song Thrush		13	0	16	29
Mistle Thrush		3	0	0	3
Cetti's Warbler		1	0	0	1
Sedge Warbler		52	0	6	58
Reed Warbler		37	0	11	48
Whitethroat		124	0	40	164
Garden Warbler		7	0	1	8
Blackcap		63	0	11	74
Chiffchaff		76	0	8	84
Willow Warbler		38	0	2	40
Goldcrest		18	0	6	24
Spotted Flycatcher		0	5	1	6
Long-tailed Tit		64	0	18	82
Blue Tit		134	0	71	205
Great Tit		83	0	42	125

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	Full Grown	Pulli	Retraps/	
			Recoveries	Total
Treecreeper	3	0	0	3
Jay	2	0	0	2
Magpie	1	0	0	1
Rook	3	0	0	3
House Sparrow	1	0	1	2
Chaffinch	57	0	14	71
Greenfinch	59	0	6	65
Goldfinch	110	0	5	115
Lesser Redpoll	3	0	0	3
Bullfinch	12	0	3	15
Yellowhammer	12	0	1	13
Reed Bunting	5	0	0	5
Total for 2005 Isle of Wight 50 Species	1487	26	561	2074

### Isle of Wight Totals Summary 2006

	Full Grown	Pulli	Retraps/	
			Recoveries	Total
Greater Canada Goose	2	13	2	17
Mallard	1	0	0	1
Sparrowhawk	8	0	0	8
Kestrel	8	0	3	7
Moorhen	2	0	0	2
Lapwing	0	5	0	5
Dunlin	1	0	0	1
Jack Snipe	1	0	0	1
Redshank	2	0	0	2
Woodpigeon	2	0	0	2
Swift	0	0	2	2
Kingfisher	4	0	1	5
Green Woodpecker	2	0	1	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	0	1
Sand Martin	32	0	0	32
Swallow	476	0	1	477
House Martin	2	0	0	2
Meadow Pipit	102	0	0	102
Grey Wagtail	2	0	0	2

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	Full Grown	Pulli	Retraps/ Recoveries	Total
Wren	58	0	68	116
Duncock	54	0	77	131
Robin	64	0	63	127
Redstart	3	0	0	3
Stonechat	6	0	0	6
Blackbird	78	0	99	177
Song Thrush	29	0	11	40
Redwing	2	0	0	2
Sedge Warbler	23	0	1	24
Reed Warbler	9	0	1	10
Lesser Whitethroat	1	0	0	1
Whitethroat	58	0	13	71
Garden Warbler	5	0	0	5
Blackcap	84	0	1	85
Chiffchaff	80	0	4	84
Willow Warbler	38	0	0	38
Goldcrest	22	0	9	31
Firecrest	1	0	0	1
Spotted Flycatcher	4	0	0	4
Long-tailed Tit	41	0	14	55
Blue Tit	236	0	136	372
Great Tit	132	0	55	187
Jay	4	0	3	7
Jackdaw	0	3	0	3
Carrion Crow	1	0	0	1
House Sparrow	0	0	1	1
Chaffinch	72	0	13	85
Greenfinch	74	0	5	79
Goldfinch	55	0	6	61
Linnet	3	0	0	3
Bullfinch	7	0	3	10
Yellowhammer	11	0	2	13
Reed Bunting	4	01	5	
Total for 2006 Isle of Wight 52 Species	1893	22	597	2512

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