

Sorby-Breck Ringing Group

December 2007 Newsletter

"To provide data from ringing activities to support the conservation and knowledge of bird species in Derbyshire and South Yorkshire."

OWL RINGING AT PRINCE EDWARD POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY
OCTOBER 2007

BY RAY KNOCK & KATE FAGAN

In October 2007 Kate and I undertook our third visit to the bird observatory at Prince Edward point, Ontario, Canada. We went later in the migration season than in previous years, to coincide with the main Owl migration period.

The observatory is one of the main sites in North America where Northern saw-whet owls are ringed, or in the local parlance, "banded". The numbers of these small owls that are caught and ringed each Autumn is quite amazing when you come from a country where owls are generally only seen or caught in small numbers. The first evening we arrived we were immediately drafted into action before we had even had time to unpack our cases! The first night produced a total over 150 Saw whet owls plus a Barred Owl. On subsequent nights the totals provided a steady passage of birds, and then one night a big influx occurred and the total ringed hit a staggering 250 Owls. A great many of these birds were caught not long before dawn and the ringing continued on into the morning. The great thing about these little owls is their tolerance of human presence. After being released they would quite happily sit on nearby fences and in the trees and I even had one join me at the ringing area for some time quite happily sitting on table next to me for about 30 minutes before deciding that it had enough of my company and flew off into the trees to find a suitable roosting site for the day.

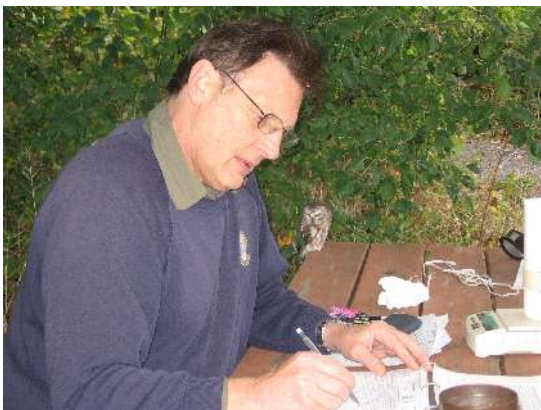
The ageing of Northern Saw whets is really interesting as they can have as many as 5 generations of feathers in their primaries and secondaries allowing ageing up to 5 or 6 years, The differences can sometimes be quite subtle and sometimes one wing can differ from the other. Some birds can be

sexed using biometrics and weight, the females being larger, but this is generally not possible with the Juvenile birds and only the extremes are possible to sex with any degree of certainty.

In total during the Autumn 2007 migration season over 1100 Saw whets were ringed, a record not only for the observatory but the highest number ever ringed at a individual Saw whet monitoring site in North America, during an Autumn season. The Saw-whet ringers run their own internet information site, and it was interesting to get information back on birds we had ringed that had already been re-trapped at sites in The United states, As these Owls can move pretty rapidly when they migrate, and it was not unusual to have ringed a bird in Ontario one night and have it reported in the Northern United states the next night.

The Saw Whets were not the only owls caught, during our stay we caught 9 Barred owls, These are very large owls and will take the much smaller Saw-Whets as a prey species, and although not undertaking as long seasonal movements as the Saw-Whets will follow the migrating Saw-Whets for short distances and prey on the mainly weaker birds.

It was our first experience of seeing these owls in such numbers and also to be there when the best ever season occurred was a bonus, although at times we did wish for quieter nights so that a good nights sleep was possible!







November 2007 Totals

Monthly Species Totals Report

	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Total 2007	Jan/Nov 2006
Mute Swan	238	125	219	14		596	53
Whooper Swan		1				1	
Greylag Goose	3		1			4	3
Greater Canada Goose	8	18	3			29	41
Wigeon							1
Teal							5
Mallard	2	4	1	2		9	12
Hen Harrier							9
Goshawk		3				3	10
Sparrowhawk	2	1	1	1		5	5
Buzzard		10				10	2
Kestrel		46	2			48	17
Merlin		1	8			9	13
Hobby			31			31	42
Peregrine		4				4	9
Water Rail							1
Moorhen	2		2	1	1	6	5
Coot	1					1	2
Oystercatcher							2
Little Ringed Plover							10
Ringed Plover							6
Lapwing		26	3			29	66
Jack Snipe				1		1	4
Snipe	8	2		1	1	12	8
Curlew							2
Common Sandpiper							3
Common Tern		7				7	8
Stock Dove		13	13			26	24
Woodpigeon		8	1	5		14	23
Collared Dove		3	1			4	5
Barn Owl		7	4			11	11
Little Owl		3			1	4	11
Tawny Owl		23	1			24	11
Long-eared Owl		9				9	5
Short-eared Owl		3				3	
Swift		18	3			21	96
Kingfisher		4	3	1		8	11
Green Woodpecker		1	1			2	1

	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Total 2007	Jan/Nov 2006
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	11	6	3	5	29	10
Skylark		1				1	
Sand Martin		8	43			51	2
Swallow		588	707			1295	850
House Martin		88	135			223	268
Tree Pipit		2	5			7	11
Meadow Pipit		2	403	28	1	434	196
Yellow Wagtail		1	1			2	3
Grey Wagtail	2	57	30	3		92	67
Pied Wagtail	183	48	64	3		298	88
Waxwing							39
Dipper		37	1	1		39	31
Wren	23	83	125	37	19	287	251
Dunnock	71	95	130	21	13	330	264
Robin	51	141	133	19	21	365	284
Redstart		8	1			9	15
Whinchat			4			4	3
Stonechat			5	1		6	14
Ring Ouzel		13				13	57
Blackbird	61	184	162	28	55	490	361
Fieldfare					2	2	
Song Thrush	9	31	30	5	2	77	58
Redwing	7			4	2	13	19
Mistle Thrush		12				12	7
Grasshopper Warbler		1	1			2	4
Sedge Warbler		10	17			27	80
Reed Warbler		18	60			78	169
Lesser Whitethroat		9	10			19	14
Whitethroat		51	67			118	92
Garden Warbler		35	31			66	61
Blackcap		68	185		1	254	170
Wood Warbler							9
Chiffchaff	6	46	298	3		353	205
Willow Warbler		105	118			223	299
Goldcrest	30	11	49	67	82	239	94
Firecrest			1		1	2	
Spotted Flycatcher		10	13			23	6
Pied Flycatcher		91				91	118
Long-tailed Tit	101	148	96	24	29	398	382
Marsh Tit	1	2				3	3
Willow Tit	6	5	16		1	28	31
Coal Tit	51	14	72	51	99	287	110

	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Oct 2007	Nov 2007	Total 2007	Jan/Nov 2006
Blue Tit	387	458	155	42	113	1155	1064
Great Tit	174	390	153	31	48	796	760
Nuthatch	8	20	4	2	1	35	23
Treecreeper	7	8	3	1	1	20	35
Great Grey Shrike					1	1	
Jay	5	4	3		1	13	1
Magpie		7	2			9	9
Jackdaw	1	5	1			7	
Rook		3				3	
Carrion Crow							1
Raven		2				2	4
Starling	8	146	22	3		179	82
House Sparrow	8	46	37	1		92	189
Tree Sparrow	15	302	129	6	10	462	453
Chaffinch	183	184	211	66	61	705	488
Brambling				1	2	3	12
Greenfinch	57	105	69	106	16	353	382
Goldfinch	49	40	49	8	30	176	219
Siskin	7	48	45	6	84	190	760
Linnet		1	10			11	11
Common Redpoll							2
Lesser Redpoll	39	7	25	173	49	293	65
Bullfinch	12	70	54	36	15	187	90
Yellowhammer	18	18	1			37	36
Reed Bunting	27	23	45	38	9	142	131
Grand Total	1875	4261	4334	844	777	12092	10099
Total Species	40	80	70	39	33	92	97

RECENTLY REPORTED RINGING RECOVERIES AND NOTABLE RETRAPS

House Martin

T197943 13/05/2007 4 near Warsop Vale, Notts
21/07/2007 RB Carr Vale SF, Derbys (GPM) 8km, 69days

Blackbird

CW81247 07/08/2007 3J Carr Vale SF, Derbys (DA)
26/08/2007 R Williamthorpe, Derbys (KG) 5km, 19days

Chiffchaff

BRR307 05/08/2007 3J Williamthorpe, Derbys (JS)
19/08/2007 R near Nether Langwith, Notts 13km, 14days

Blue Tit

V317783	10/06/2007	3J	Blackburn Meadows NR, S Yorks (SA)	
	06/09/2007	XF	Blackburn Meadows NR, S Yorks	0km, 88days

Tree Sparrow

R089680	27/03/2004	4	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (RAK)	
	07/09/2007	XF	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys	0km, 3yrs 164days <i>Found by dog</i>

TH94496	29/06/2007	1	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (BS)	
	16/08/2007	XF	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys	0km, 48days <i>Found by that dog!</i>

TH94497	29/06/2007	1	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (BS)	
	30/07/2007	XF	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys	0km, 31days

Chaffinch

V131349	30/09/2006	3F	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (RAK)	
	24/07/2007	XF	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys	0km, 297days

Goldfinch

R671979	26/12/2005	3M	Highworth, Swindon	
	01/04/2007	R	Holdworth, Sheffield (SS)	201km, 1yr 96days

David Williams