

Sorby-Breck Ringing Group

February 2007 Newsletter

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

2006

Another year has passed by, and hopefully the ringing was good for you, despite the strange weather. For a lot of species the breeding season wasn't the best, although others continued to spread. Consequently, autumn migration was quiet for most, and in many places we're still waiting for winter to really arrive!

It's been a busy year for the Scheme, especially in dealing with a case of Avian Influenza. Thankfully this was an isolated incident and the only restrictions on ringing were in the area where the bird was found.

Governments in Britain and Europe were interested in the possibility of movement of AI through wild birds, and as a result, we have had a great opportunity to develop new methods of analysing ring recovery data to map movement patterns. We have also been working closely with Defra, providing advice on the risks potentially posed by wild birds, and also with EURING on analyses of recoveries for the EU.

We've also provided more web resources through the year, and you can now download annual renewal paperwork, application forms and information sheets to take out into the field. We've also included material to use at ringing demonstrations and displays, including a set of A4 sheets showing the whole ringing process. To log on to the ringers' pages, the username is ringers and the password is pliers. Ringing sales (and general BTO sales) has also now gone online, and you can order by following the link from the BTO homepage. And don't worry; safeguards have been built into the system to prevent anyone not suitably qualified from buying rings or equipment.

In July we completed the first trial year of using a web address on 'F' and 'G' size rings. The address points to an online reporting form available in ten different languages (four European schemes are using the web address on rings). For Barn Owls, the reporting rate for rings with the web address was 55% higher than for other sequences, and we are now looking at adding the web address to some other ring sizes.

Over 100 CES datasets are now in for the 2006 breeding season, and first results show that the biggest losers were residents. This may be linked to poor weather at the start of the breeding season, and significant decreases in productivity were recorded for Wren (-28%), Dunnock (-31%) and Cetti's Warbler (-61%). However, tits bounced back after a poor year in 2005, with productivity up 69% for Blue Tit and 34% for Great Tit.

RAS had another successful year as well, with 80 data sets so far received, covering 31 species. The number of projects for Sand Martin and House Sparrow in particular has continued to increase, and newly registered projects in 2006 included Goosander, Tawny Owl and Crossbill.

2006 was the final year of the Swallow Roost Project, so many thanks to everyone for their efforts over the course of the project. Since its inception in 2002, over 47,000 Swallows have been ringed, pushing Swallow well into the top ten of species ringed.

Lastly, we just have a couple of important things to mention about data submissions. Due to some email problems at The Nunnery, some data submissions may not have reached us, so if you sent a submission in between 20 December and 5 January and have not yet received an acknowledgement, please get in touch with either nrs@bto.org or ringing@bto.org

Secondly, the Windows Vista operating system will be released shortly, and at present IPMR won't run on this. A new version of IPMR is being developed to run on this new system, but may not be fully available for some time.

So, what is there to look forward to in 2007? The main development will be the launch of ERH (Electronic Recovery Histories), which will allow you to download recoveries straight to your PC to import into IPMR. This will be a great advance, so watch this space for details.

We hope you'll have a great 2007, and if you have any queries, you know where we are.

From all in the Ringing Scheme

Stuart Sharp is going to give a talk to Sheffield Bird Study Group about 'Colour Ringing Studies' in Lecture Theatre 5 at the University Arts Tower on 14th February 2007, starting at 7:15pm. Stuart's talk will share with us some of the discoveries he has made by colour ringing Long-tailed Tits and other species in the local area. Well worth a visit.

G. P. Mawson

Message from the Treasurer - Phil Lawson

As you will see from the balance sheet we broke even on the year but our reserves are still very low. One or two people have asked how much the subs, are, I said as last year unless we decide otherwise. (£50 and £10 for trainees).

The last two years we have spent £2000 in rings each year and we can assume we will need that this year as long as our donations and refund remain at the same high level. If they do then we will be OK. If we do not receive as much we may have to reassess our subs later in 2007.

S.B.R.G Balance Sheet for Year Ending 31.12.06

Balance 31.12.06 £61.49

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
<u>Subs</u>		Rings B.T.O	£2087.50
12	£50.00	Reports & Postage	£100.00
	£600.00		
2	£40.00		
	£80.00		
15	£10.00		
	£150.00		
	Subs total	Total	£2187.50
	£830.00		
<u>Donations</u>			
Severn Trent	£500.00		
Derbyshire C.C	£250.00		
S.B.S.G	£76.25		
S.N.H.S	£120.00		
G. P. Mawson	£100.00		
Sale of Equipment	£10.00		
	Sub total		
	£1056.25		
B.T.O Refund	£363.30		
Grand Total	£2311.04		
	Balance	£123.54	

Swans R.Us

Ringers in Sorby-Breck have always ringed the odd Mute Swan and in recent years thanks to Rother Valley Country Park numbers of birds ringed have increased. In 2005 an all time high of 53 birds were ringed, mainly at Rother Valley and due to both public feeding of non-breeding

birds along with the shallow conditions of the feeding area where the birds were fed.

In 2006 Sorby-Breck, through Geoff, met Dan Sibley of Yorkshire Swan Rescue. It made sense to ring birds re-released at the country park and it made equal sense to move on casual swan ringing to project status. Involving wider coverage of swans ringed and the use of Darvic rings to aid visual identification of individual birds was the next stage. Prior to this BTO rings alone proved difficult to read and recoveries usually referred to casualties.

Training Dan to ring Swans to 'C' status was a priority in 2006 and as a result our total peaked at 61 birds. Dan finally received his 'C' licence at the beginning of January 2007. Red Darvic rings with yellow letters and numbers were made to fit on the bird's left leg, with BTO rings on the right. Look out for these red darvic rings. It must be said that the yellow letters look white from a distance!

Dan is now up and ringing. January 2007 has already had 63 Mute Swans ringed and at the time of writing it is only the 16th January. Movement has been recorded through reading the Darvics. Seven birds from Rother Valley Country Park to Treeton, one from RVCP to Fairburn Ings, another Swan controlled and two Polish sub-species birds ringed.

Thanks go to Dan Sibley and his Swan Rescue helpers. The partnership has moved on our knowledge of Mute Swans already and 2007 looks set to discover the movements of the species ringed in Derbyshire and Yorkshire.

Geoff Mawson

Can you guess the species?



January 2007 Totals
Monthly Species Totals Report

	Jan 2007					Total 2007	Jan 2006
Mute Swan	78					78	4
Greylag Goose	2					2	
Greater Canada Goose	6					6	4
Teal							1
Sparrowhawk	2					2	
Moorhen	1					1	1
Coot	1					1	
Jack Snipe							1
Snipe							3
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3					3	
Grey Wagtail							1
Pied Wagtail	171					171	6
Waxwing							38
Wren	3					3	7
Dunnock	8					8	7
Robin	10					10	9
Blackbird	19					19	23
Song Thrush	1					1	2
Redwing	7					7	5
Blackcap							1
Goldcrest	9					9	13
Long-tailed Tit	54					54	28
Marsh Tit	1					1	
Willow Tit	5					5	2
Coal Tit	9					9	9
Blue Tit	105					105	82
Great Tit	62					62	36
Nuthatch	4					4	2
Treecreeper	3					3	2
Starling							4
House Sparrow	2					2	2
Tree Sparrow	5					5	6
Chaffinch	24					24	22
Greenfinch	12					12	24
Goldfinch	20					20	54
Siskin							30
Common Redpoll							2
Lesser Redpoll	28					28	5
Bullfinch	1					1	5
Yellowhammer							3

	Jan 2007					Total 2007	Jan 2006
Reed Bunting	2					2	7
Grand Total	658					658	451
Total Species	31					31	36

RECENTLY REPORTED RINGING RECOVERIES

Mute Swan

Z41192 17/09/1994 3 RVCP, S Yorks
03/09/2006 RR Pittance Park, Edwinstowe, Notts 26km, 4369days

Canada Goose

5210972 29/06/2003 4 Llangorse Lake, Powys
24/07/2006 VV Thrybergh CP, S Yorks 216km, 3yrs 25days
5237900 27/06/2004 5M Llangorse Lake, Powys
24/07/2006 VV Thrybergh CP, S Yorks 216km, 2yrs 27days
5243933 03/07/2005 5F Llangorse Lake, Powys
24/07/2006 VV Thrybergh CP, S Yorks 216km, 1yr 21days

An interesting group of sightings

Sedge Warbler

T355846 06/08/2005 3 Williamthorpe, Derbys (DA)
13/08/2005 C Tour aux Moutons, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE 654km, 7days

Reed Warbler

T210258 16/08/2005 4 Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (DA)
10/06/2006 C near Bestwood, Nottingham, Notts 24km, 298days

Blackcap

V227494 18/06/2006 3J Williamthorpe, Derbys (PH)
06/09/2006 C Icklesham, Sussex 290km, 80days

Chiffchaff

APB718 04/10/2003 2 Litlington, Sussex
08/08/2004 C Williamthorpe, Derbys (SI) 287km, 309days
06/08/2006 C Williamthorpe, Derbys (PH) 287km, 2yr 306dys

Pied Flycatcher

R590683 08/06/2004 1 New Mills, Derbys (MRG)
05/06/2005 B Kinder Bank, Hayfield, Derbys 5km, 362 days
03/07/2006 B Kinder Bank, Hayfield, Derbys 5km, 1yr 360days

David Williams