

Sorby-Breck Ringing Group

July 2007 Newsletter

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

Mute Swan Migration

The Mute Swan is easily dismissed as a sedentary species with its movements overlooked. In fact the Mute Swan undergoes a moult migration within the UK. Further south on the continent some populations are migratory by nature.

The British population of Mute Swans is a lowland breeding species and in our region its habitats are often close to public places with non-breeding flocks in summer and winter influenced by weather conditions, particularly in very cold weather movement is expected. The Swan Study Groups monitoring has involved the use of large, individually marked Darvic colour rings. Often whole broods were ringed along with adults ringed during their flightless period in July and August. Recovery rates of these ringed birds are high at almost 1:5 chance of further information. A distance of 40km is used as a cut off point for noteworthy records.

There has at times been a confusing picture of movement due to the action of Swan Rescue Centres in releasing once injured birds into a 'new' locality. Our involvement with the Yorkshire Swan Rescue seeks to make clear in our area what is happening throughout Yorkshire and Derbyshire. We have introduced a consistent practice of re-release at the same site, or within the same area if the same site is not possible ruling out the mechanical movement of ringed birds.

As the local and National population of Swans grow, monitoring of our birds in this considered way is timely and the operation of the Yorkshire Swan Rescue is coordinated so that movements and population distribution are more accurately evaluated.

What rings will a Swan be wearing?

The Mute Swan is our largest British bird and the ring in keeping with this is the largest too, a 'M' size. Most BTO ring sizes are split rings rounded off, the Swan rings are 'C' clip shaped and require crimping

together differently. A 'M' size ring is shown in Photograph One. The second photograph shows a plastic Darvic ring fitted to a Mute Swan. The BTO ring is difficult to read in the field, but will last the life of the bird. Darvic's are big, bold and easily read from a distance. Together the two rings help to identify an individual Swan with field records helping to provide a life history of individual birds. A life history adds, sibling and parental information, subsequent breeding detail and accompanying detail of a bird's life history.

Sorby-Breck R. G. use RED Darvic rings with clear yellow numbers and letters. (The letters do look white from a distance.) All RED Darvic rings have been fitted to the left leg of the Swans ringed.

Have you seen a Mute Swan wearing a RED Darvic ring? Well, if you have please use our Web-site and tell us When? and Where? Any additional detail would be appreciated too, such as parents, siblings or brood mate. The information provided will add to the bird's history.

Thank you for taking an interest.

Yorkshire Swan Rescue

Yorkshire Swan Rescue is a registered charity run by volunteers. Dan Sidley is their coordinator. The group is tireless in their support of Swans.



June 2007 Totals

Monthly Species Totals Report

	Q1 2007	Apr 2007	May 2007	Jun 2007		Total 2007	Jan/Jan 2006
Mute Swan	238	29	38	30		335	19
Whooper Swan		1				1	
Greylag Goose	3					3	2
Greater Canada Goose	8	1	17			26	35
Wigeon							1
Teal							1
Mallard	2	1	3			6	7
Hen Harrier							8
Goshawk				3		3	10
Sparrowhawk	2			1		3	1
Buzzard			3	7		10	2
Kestrel				46		46	13
Merlin				1		1	13
Peregrine			2	2		4	9
Moorhen	2					2	1
Coot	1					1	2
Oystercatcher							2
Little Ringed Plover							3
Ringed Plover							6
Lapwing		1	10	10		21	65
Jack Snipe							2

	Q1 2007	Apr 2007	May 2007	Jun 2007		Total 2007	Jan/Jun 2006
Snipe	8	2				10	5
Curlew							2
Common Sandpiper							1
Common Tern				7		7	4
Stock Dove		4	2	7		13	5
Woodpigeon		4	2	2		8	13
Collared Dove		3				3	3
Barn Owl			5	2		7	6
Little Owl				3		3	10
Tawny Owl		15	8			23	9
Long-eared Owl			6	3		9	4
Short-eared Owl			3			3	
Swift				18		18	96
Kingfisher		1	2	1		4	3
Green Woodpecker				1		1	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	2	2	6		14	6
Skylark			1			1	
Sand Martin			6	2		8	
Swallow		6	93	489		588	521
House Martin		1	30	57		88	220
Tree Pipit			1	1		2	8
Meadow Pipit		1	1			2	8
Yellow Wagtail				1		1	3
Grey Wagtail	2	6	36	15		59	43
Pied Wagtail	183	1	18	29		231	61
Waxwing							39
Dipper		25	12			37	31
Wren	23	28	31	21		103	61
Dunnock	71	37	27	27		162	100
Robin	51	30	68	39		188	135
Redstart			5	3		8	14
Whinchat							3
Stonechat							9
Ring Ouzel			4	1		5	51
Blackbird	61	68	79	35		243	154
Song Thrush	9	11	14	6		40	27
Redwing	7					7	6
Mistle Thrush		5	7			12	7
Grasshopper Warbler				1		1	3
Sedge Warbler			4	6		10	32
Reed Warbler			7	11		18	50
Lesser Whitethroat			5	4		9	4
Whitethroat		7	24	20		51	39
Garden Warbler		3	22	9		34	33
Blackcap		29	30	7		66	46
Wood Warbler							9

	Q1 2007	Apr 2007	May 2007	Jun 2007		Total 2007	Jan/Jun 2006
Chiffchaff	6	23	8	14		51	14
Willow Warbler		32	57	15		104	102
Goldcrest	30	8	1	1		40	37
Spotted Flycatcher			1	9		10	6
Pied Flycatcher			8	18		26	118
Long-tailed Tit	101	38	90	20		249	278
Marsh Tit	1		2			3	2
Willow Tit	6	4	1			11	8
Coal Tit	51	8	2	3		64	77
Blue Tit	387	42	299	68		796	642
Great Tit	174	46	223	78		521	531
Nuthatch	8		17	3		28	18
Treecreeper	7	3	5			15	17
Jay	5	1	3			9	1
Magpie		2	4			6	2
Jackdaw	1	1	4			6	
Rook			3			3	
Carrion Crow							1
Raven		2				2	4
Starling	8	15	63	59		145	75
House Sparrow	8	7	15	19		49	92
Tree Sparrow	15	15	103	177		310	291
Chaffinch	183	73	55	49		360	292
Brambling							12
Greenfinch	57	34	19	31		141	246
Goldfinch	49	6	7	7		69	169
Siskin	7	2	13	12		34	759
Linnet				1		1	3
Common Redpoll							2
Lesser Redpoll	39		6	1		46	18
Bullfinch	12	37	20	11		80	28
Yellowhammer	18	10	5	3		36	33
Reed Bunting	27	10	4	9		50	47
Grand Total	1875	741	1666	1542		5824	6012
Total Species	40	50	65	61		84	94

RECENTLY REPORTED RINGING RECOVERIES AND NOTABLE RETRAPS

Mute Swan

Z40989	06/02/2005	5	Rother Valley CP, S Yorks (KV)	
	25/02/2007	XF	Rother Valley CP, S Yorks	0km, 2yrs19days taken by dog
ZZ8139	13/01/2007	8F	Fairburn Ings, W Yorks (DNS)	

	01/03/2007	XF	Fairburn Ings, W Yorks	0km, 47days <i>hit powerlines</i>
ZZ8163	14/01/2007	5F	Fairburn Ings, W Yorks (DNS)	
	01/03/2007	XF	Fairburn Ings, W Yorks	0km, 46days <i>road casualty</i>
ZZ8175	16/01/2007	8M	Pugneys CP, Wakefield, W Yorks (DNS)	
	26/02/2007	VV	Parkgate, Rotherham, S Yorks	27km, 41days <i>identified by colour rings</i>
ZZ8225	19/02/2007	5F	Fairburn Ings, W Yorks (DNS)	
	28/02/2007	XF	Fairburn Ings, W Yorks	0km, 9days <i>lead poisoning</i>
Stock Dove				
EH11862	28/07/2006	1	Elmton, Derbys (HV)	
	27/02/2007	XF	Clowne, Derbys	3km, 214 days
Barn Owl				
GJ62867	15/07/2006	1	near Carsington, Derbys (RAK)	
	13/02/2007	XF	Stonebroom, Derbys	20km, 213dys
Chaffinch				
V317302	29/12/2006	3F	Renishaw Park, Derbys (DA)	
	31/03/2007	R	Doe Lea, Derbys (RH)	14km, 92 days

David Williams