

## Sorby-Breck Ringing Group

### March 2007 Newsletter

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

#### Update

A 2006 Report has been produced and distributed and in no time at all we have a March Newsletter. The mild winter draws to a close as it began with few winter migrants and a high number of retrapped birds indicating little movement and a high survival rate. Our local birds look set to start an early breeding season with populations at a good level. Already Song Thrush, Tree Creeper and Dunnock have been recorded with CP's.

The Web site is progressing well and I am looking for good photographs of birds in the hand. I would like to include a picture gallery, which can be regularly updated. Foreign trips will provide useful subjects for those interesting in ringing.

There will be NO NEWSLETTER IN APRIL; being away in Cyprus will make its production difficult. Thanks for your positive comments about the 2006 Report. I am looking forward to the coming breeding season with great interest. Good luck with your ringing.

#### Williamthorpe Ponds Nature Reserve

Williamthorpe as a site of special scientific interest moves from strength to strength. Monitoring results in 2005 and 2006 show an embedding of conservational practice with thanks once again to Derbyshire Countryside Service's enlightened approach to habitat management.

Habitat management at the site in 2006/2007 has included

- Cutting back of in-year growth to promote a healthy reed marsh and limited low level shrub margin;
- Raised banks, pools and scrapes;
- Maintained drainage channels;
- Judicial planting;
- Walkways and a winter feed site.

Without this input the site would soon become a 'choked-up' willow woodland. The plant management produces a rich habitat which in turn supports an abundant invertebrate population.

The food chain is rich throughout with plants, aquatic species, insects, mollusc, fish fry, birds and mammals benefiting from the managed habitat. Reed beds are a scarce habitat in N.E. Derbyshire and Williamthorpe's status is vital to many species. Water voles are present in the study site in increasing numbers. Reed and Sedge Warblers are there in high numbers along with Garden Warblers, Lesser Whitethroat, Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers. Ringing shows Summer Migrants have a fidelity to the site with return visits common. Migration routes from Williamthorpe to the South coast and then to France are repeated each year with birds from more northerly localities using Williamthorpe as a stopping off point on their migratory journeys Snipe too return each winter to feed on the ice-free run off.

Incidental observations from our visits in 2006, often weekly throughout the year, have seen Hobby chasing Dragonflies, Kingfishers fishing for fry, Common Redpoll (not so common) amongst Lesser Redpoll and impressive numbers of Swifts, Swallows and House Martins flying low over the marsh feeding on the insects.

Changes to the Water Treatment Plant alongside the Reserve are well underway and to be completed in 2007. An encouraging feature of the management success at Williamthorpe is that Yorkshire Water are to reinstate their site in keeping with the adjacent marsh habitat by designing a low maintenance habitat to compliment an already quality site.

Geoff Mawson

**February 2007 Totals**  
**Monthly Species Totals Report**

	Jan 2007	Feb 2007				Total 2007	Jan/Feb 2006
Mute Swan	80	71				151	4
Greylag Goose	2	1				3	1
Greater Canada Goose	6	2				8	4
Wigeon							1
Teal							1
Mallard		2				2	1
Sparrowhawk	2					2	
Moorhen	1	1				2	1
Coot	1					1	2

	Jan 2007	Feb 2007				Total 2007	Jan/Feb 2006
Jack Snipe							1
Snipe		4				4	5
Woodpigeon							2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3					3	1
Meadow Pipit							1
Grey Wagtail							6
Pied Wagtail	171	8				179	19
Waxwing							39
Dipper							5
Wren	3	16				19	17
Dunnock	8	35				43	18
Robin	12	19				31	23
Blackbird	19	21				40	34
Song Thrush	1	6				7	8
Redwing	7					7	6
Blackcap							1
Chiffchaff							1
Goldcrest	9	10				19	26
Long-tailed Tit	54	28				82	39
Marsh Tit	1					1	
Willow Tit	5	1				6	2
Coal Tit	11	13				24	16
Blue Tit	111	98				209	131
Great Tit	68	34				102	54
Nuthatch	4					4	4
Treecreeper	3					3	3
Jay		4				4	
Jackdaw		1				1	
Starling		8				8	5
House Sparrow	2	3				5	4
Tree Sparrow	5	3				8	17
Chaffinch	32	54				86	72
Greenfinch	12	20				32	114
Goldfinch	21	15				36	103
Siskin							129
Common Redpoll							2
Lesser Redpoll	30	4				34	6
Bullfinch	1	5				6	6
Yellowhammer		6				6	17
Reed Bunting	2	16				18	19
Grand Total	687	509				1196	971
Total Species	31	30				37	45

## RECENTLY REPORTED RINGING RECOVERIES

### Mute Swan

Z40957	21/03/2005	5	Wingerworth, Derbys (GB)	
	28/01/2007	VV	Bramley-Vale, Derbys	9km, 1yr 313days
W19022	18/12/2005	5	Rother Valley CP, S Yorks (GPM)	
	07/12/2006	XF	Rotherham, S Yorks	10km, 354 days

*found with injured foot and destroyed*

### Merlin

EL13260	24/06/2006	1	Site Confidential, Derbys (JA)	
	03/11/2006	XF	South Farm, Budby, Newark, Notts	40km, 132days

### Sand Martin

R589826	03/09/2004	3	Bolehill Flash, Treeton, S Yorks (SI)	
	06/08/2006	R	Kirktown of Logie Buchan, Grampian Regn	443km, 1yr 337days

### Sedge Warbler

FRP 5164294	26/08/2005	3	Mars Ouest, Loire Atlantique, FRANCE	
	14/05/2006	R	Williamsthorpe, Derbys (DA)	684km, 261days

### Chaffinch

R589757	23/06/2006	3	Barbrook Plantation, Derbys (JH)	
	30/09/2006	R	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (RAK)	28km, 99days
	23/12/2006	R	Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (AP)	183 days

### Greenfinch

BS82172	23/10/2005	4	Thrybergh CP, S Yorks (DJM)	
	07/11/2006	X	Thrybergh, Rotherham, S Yorks	2km, 1yr 15days

### Goldfinch

T689925	19/11/2005	3	Blackburn Meadows NR, Sheffield, S Yorks (KB)	
	20/10/2006	X	Westhouse, Ingleton, N Yorks	111km, 335 days

*David Williams*