

Sorby-Breck Ringing Group

October 2006 Newsletter

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

Being a doctor now I finally get to enjoy research at its best. As part of my project I have the opportunity to travel the world and catch as many birds as possible to get their sperm samples. And as a first trip I got to meet the Northern American and Canadian bird world. I had studied those birds in guides and books before and always thought that colours are always a bit exaggerated and in this case they all seemed a bit too "tropically coloured" to actually be true. Well, I soon realised that this time it was the books for once that understated the truth.

My first mission was to track down as many New World warbler species as possible and so I headed off to discover the New World in all its greatness. My first stop brought me to Powdermill Avian Research Station in Pennsylvania. It was embedded in the vast forests of Pennsylvania full with chipmunks, groundhogs, bears and of course - birds. It was founded by Bob Leberman about 30 years ago and has become one of the major banding stations in the States. It is now Bob Mulvihill who is the station manager and Adrienne Leppold who is the head bander. I was impressed by the professionalism of the station. Apart from one more banding assistant it heavily depends on volunteers. And I was blown away when migration got closer to its peak - the variety of colours, shapes, and sizes of the birds flying into our nets was simply overwhelming. Surely enough, New World warblers were amongst the most colourful ones, but also Indigo bunting, yellow breasted chat, Northern Oriole and blue jay are simply stunning. I spent two weeks in this warm and very familiar group until early May I headed up North following the migrating birds into Ontario.

I got to know the oldest banding Station in Northern America - Long Point at Lake Erie. It had been founded about 40 years ago and is currently lead by Stu MacKenzie who is the Landbird Coordinator and Mike Boyd as his assistant. Long Point is a 30km long peninsula that reaches into Lake Erie and it is the location of three banding stations: Old Cut at the basis of the peninsula, Break Water which is half way out and The Tip at the tip of the

peninsula. It is a main migration route for New world, Warblers, Blackbirds, Flycatchers and many others to get across the lake in either direction. The number of birds coming through were absolutely mind-boggling. One morning there were about 5000 Northern Orioles flocking in from across the lake. The hummingbird feeders were regularly overcrowded which gave reason for feisty fights. Highlights there were a Prothonotary warbler, a Summer tanager and a Townsend's Solitaire. I spent a month in the beautiful, and very remote place which we had to share with countless ticks, snakes, turtles and again of course - birds.

It was an incredible experience to band in Northern America and yet I realised how much I could make use of the skills I had been taught here in Sheffield. Aging and sexing are similar to that of many European birds as molting patterns are often the same. Molt limits and pointy tips of tail feathers were amongst the most important cues. And surely enough extractions of ruby-throated hummingbirds, rose-breasted grosbeaks and Northern Cardinals will stick to everyone's memory - for different reasons.

Simone

September 2006 Totals

Monthly Species Totals Report

| | Jan-Mar 2006 | Apr-Jun 2006 | Jul 2006 | Aug 2006 | Sep 2006 | Total 2006 | Jan-Sep 2005 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Mute Swan | 5 | 14 | | 17 | 6 | 42 | 38 |
| Greylag Goose | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Canada Goose | 4 | 31 | | 2 | 1 | 38 | 12 |
| Wigeon | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Eurasian Teal | 1 | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Mallard | 1 | 6 | | 3 | | 10 | 4 |
| Hen Harrier | | 8 | 1 | | | 9 | |
| Goshawk | | 10 | | | | 10 | 8 |
| Sparrowhawk | | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | 8 |
| Buzzard | | 2 | | | | 2 | 28 |
| Kestrel | | 13 | 4 | | | 17 | 14 |
| Merlin | | 13 | | | | 13 | 19 |
| Hobby | | | 28 | 14 | | 42 | 24 |

| | Jan- Mar 2006 | Apr- Jun 2006 | Jul 2006 | Aug 2006 | Sep 2006 | Total 2006 | Jan- Sep 2005 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Peregrine | | 6 | | | | 6 | 4 |
| Grey Partridge | | | | | | | 1 |
| Moorhen | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 | 5 |
| Coot | 2 | | | | | 2 | 1 |
| Oystercatcher | | 2 | | | | 2 | |
| Little Ringed Plover | | 3 | 7 | | | 10 | 6 |
| Ringed Plover | | 6 | | | | 6 | 1 |
| Golden Plover | | | | | | | 1 |
| Lapwing | | 65 | 1 | | | 66 | 22 |
| Jack Snipe | 2 | | | | | 2 | 5 |
| Snipe | 5 | | | | | 5 | 23 |
| Curlew | | 2 | | | | 2 | 1 |
| Common Sandpiper | | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
| Black-headed Gull | | | | | | | 17 |
| Common Tern | | 4 | 4 | | | 8 | 9 |
| Stock Dove | | 5 | 12 | 5 | | 22 | |
| Woodpigeon | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 3 |
| Collared Dove | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 4 | 11 |
| Barn Owl | | 6 | 3 | | 2 | 11 | 7 |
| Little Owl | | 10 | 1 | | | 11 | 3 |
| Tawny Owl | | 9 | | | 2 | 11 | 6 |
| Long-eared Owl | | 4 | 1 | | | 5 | |
| Short-eared Owl | | | | | | | 6 |
| Swift | | 96 | | | | 96 | 103 |
| Kingfisher | | 3 | | 6 | 1 | 10 | 4 |
| Green Woodpecker | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | 1 | 5 | 1 | | 1 | 8 | 16 |
| Sand Martin | | | | 2 | | 2 | |
| Swallow | | 521 | 135 | 179 | 15 | 850 | 81 |
| House Martin | | 220 | 2 | 43 | 3 | 268 | 174 |
| Tree Pipit | | 8 | | 3 | | 11 | 11 |
| Meadow Pipit | 1 | 7 | | 14 | 77 | 99 | 128 |
| Yellow Wagtail | | 3 | | | | 3 | |
| Grey Wagtail | 12 | 31 | 1 | 17 | 4 | 65 | 167 |
| Pied Wagtail | 22 | 39 | 11 | 14 | 1 | 87 | 94 |
| Waxwing | 39 | | | | | 39 | 204 |
| Dipper | 10 | 21 | | | | 31 | 39 |
| Wren | 18 | 43 | 34 | 52 | 26 | 173 | 148 |
| Duncock | 29 | 71 | 35 | 46 | 26 | 207 | 219 |
| Robin | 29 | 106 | 24 | 51 | 15 | 225 | 225 |

| | Jan- Mar 2006 | Apr- Jun 2006 | Jul 2006 | Aug 2006 | Sep 2006 | Total 2006 | Jan- Sep 2005 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Redstart | | 14 | | 1 | | 15 | 4 |
| Whinchat | | 3 | | | | 3 | |
| Stonechat | | 9 | 4 | | 1 | 14 | 7 |
| Ring Ouzel | | 51 | 6 | | | 57 | 14 |
| Blackbird | 47 | 107 | 41 | 50 | 21 | 266 | 280 |
| Fieldfare | | | | | | | 1 |
| Song Thrush | 11 | 16 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 47 | 56 |
| Redwing | 6 | | | | | 6 | 29 |
| Mistle Thrush | | 7 | | | | 7 | 10 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | | 3 | 1 | | | 4 | 4 |
| Sedge Warbler | | 32 | 28 | 16 | 4 | 80 | 57 |
| Reed Warbler | | 50 | 47 | 38 | 34 | 169 | 100 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 13 |
| Whitethroat | | 39 | 25 | 26 | 2 | 92 | 48 |
| Garden Warbler | | 33 | 19 | 8 | | 60 | 68 |
| Blackcap | 1 | 45 | 48 | 41 | 26 | 161 | 181 |
| Wood Warbler | | 9 | | | | 9 | 7 |
| Chiffchaff | 1 | 14 | 26 | 108 | 51 | 200 | 144 |
| Willow Warbler | | 101 | 58 | 129 | 9 | 297 | 247 |
| Goldcrest | 30 | 7 | 1 | | 1 | 39 | 27 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | | 6 | | | | 6 | 3 |
| Pied Flycatcher | | 118 | | | | 118 | 107 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 43 | 235 | 5 | 25 | 7 | 315 | 311 |
| Marsh Tit | 2 | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Willow Tit | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 24 | 40 |
| Coal Tit | 33 | 44 | | 3 | 7 | 87 | 34 |
| Blue Tit | 168 | 474 | 61 | 88 | 40 | 831 | 861 |
| Great Tit | 81 | 442 | 46 | 61 | 19 | 642 | 735 |
| Nuthatch | 5 | 13 | | 3 | | 21 | 23 |
| Treecreeper | 3 | 14 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 34 | 22 |
| Jay | | 1 | | | | 1 | 4 |
| Magpie | | 2 | 2 | | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| Jackdaw | | | | | | | 6 |
| Carrion Crow | | 1 | | | | 1 | 4 |
| Raven | | 4 | | | | 4 | 9 |
| Starling | 6 | 69 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 81 | 105 |
| House Sparrow | 9 | 83 | 38 | 40 | 11 | 181 | 169 |
| Tree Sparrow | 26 | 265 | 86 | 40 | 17 | 434 | 558 |
| Chaffinch | 156 | 136 | 14 | 71 | 41 | 418 | 386 |
| Brambling | 1 | 11 | | | | 12 | |
| Greenfinch | 159 | 87 | 10 | 44 | 48 | 348 | 370 |

| | Jan- Mar 2006 | Apr- Jun 2006 | Jul 2006 | Aug 2006 | Sep 2006 | Total 2006 | Jan- Sep 2005 |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Goldfinch | 120 | 49 | 13 | 19 | 13 | 214 | 116 |
| Siskin | 419 | 340 | | 1 | | 760 | 16 |
| Linnet | | 3 | 8 | | | 11 | 23 |
| Common Redpoll | 2 | | | | | 2 | |
| Lesser Redpoll | 6 | 12 | 2 | | 1 | 21 | 22 |
| Bullfinch | 8 | 20 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 46 | 72 |
| Yellowhammer | 23 | 10 | 2 | 1 | | 36 | 14 |
| Reed Bunting | 21 | 26 | 6 | 17 | 11 | 81 | 68 |
| Grand Total | 1579 | 4422 | 920 | 1346 | 578 | 8845 | 7278 |
| Total Species | 48 | 84 | 50 | 48 | 44 | 96 | 91 |

RECENTLY REPORTED RINGING RECOVERIES AND INTERESTING RETRAPS

Wigeon

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|-----------------------------|---|
| FR59602 | 12/02/2006 | 5M | Thrybergh CP, S Yorks (DJM) | |
| | 26/04/2006 | X | Thrybergh CP, S Yorks | 0km, 73days <i>tested & did not have avian flu</i> |

Swallow

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|---------------------------|------------------|
| R778195 | 20/08/2003 | 3 | Winterset Res, W Yorks | |
| | 13/05/2006 | C | Treeton SF, S Yorks (RW) | 27km, 2yr 266dys |
| R618465 | 05/09/2003 | 3J | Denaby Ings, S Yorks | |
| | 13/05/2006 | C | Treeton SF, S Yorks (SPS) | 15km, 2yr 250dys |

House Martin

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| T396620 | 24/09/2004 | 3 | Filsham, Hastings, Sussex | |
| | 13/05/2006 | C | Treeton SF, S Yorks (KB) | 309km, 1yr 231dys |

Dipper

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|---------------------------------|----------------|
| RW61948 | 11/05/2005 | 1 | Rivelin Valley, Sheffield (MS) | |
| | 29/05/2006 | C | Wharncliffe Side, S Yorks (SPS) | 6km, 1yr 18dys |

Reed Warbler

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| P014026 | 19/08/2000 | 3 | Icklesham, Sussex | |
| | 03/06/2006 | C | Poolsbrook Marsh, Derbys (RAK) | 295km, 5yr 288dys |
| T210402 | 18/07/2004 | 3J | Williamthorpe, Derbys (CEG) | |
| | 24/06/2006 | C | Poolsbrook Marsh, Derbys (AP) | 8km, 1yr 341dys |

Garden Warbler

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| R566990 | 11/09/2003 | 3 | Icklesham, Sussex | |
| | 10/06/2006 | C | Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (RAK) | 280km, 2yr 272dys <i>also at Cowers Lane on 1st & 29th July 2006</i> |

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| R999938 | 27/07/2004 | 3J | Brandon Marsh, Warks | |
| | 06/05/2006 | C | Cowers Lane, Belper, Derbys (RAK) | 73km, 1yr 283dys |
| | | | | <i>Previously at Cowers Lane on 23rd July 2005</i> |

Wood Warbler

| | | | | |
|--------|------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| ACV351 | 02/06/2004 | 4 | Rivelin Valley, Sheffield (SI) | |
| | 20/05/2006 | C | Rivelin Res, Sheffield (IB) | 6km, 1yr 352 dys |

Blue Tit

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| P273677 | 01/07/2001 | 5F | Williamthorpe, Derbys (GB) | |
| | 09/09/2006 | R | Williamthorpe, Derbys (RW) | 0km, 5yrs70days |
| | | | | <i>Long-tern retrap</i> |

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|----------------------------|--|
| R982331 | 05/03/2005 | 5 | Thrybergh CP, S Yorks (DW) | |
| | 10/05/2006 | XF | Thrybergh CP, S Yorks (DW) | 0km, 1yr 66dys |
| | | | | <i>dead in nest box - nest later used successfully by Great Tits</i> |

Great Tit

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|-------------------------|---------------------|
| T531316 | 07/02/2006 | 5F | Dronfield, Derbys (GPM) | |
| | 09/04/2006 | C | Kilnsea (SBO), E Yorks | 113km, 61days |
| | | | | <i>continental?</i> |

Greenfinch

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|---------------------------|---------------|
| VE72427 | 11/12/2005 | 3F | Clayworth, Retford, Notts | |
| | 28/04/2006 | XF | Besthorpe, Notts | 25km, 138days |

Siskin

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|----------------------------------|--------------|
| T974365 | 29/03/2006 | 6M | Chasewater, Staffs | |
| | 04/04/2006 | C | Dronfield, Derbys (GPM) | 77km, 6days |
| T116219 | 21/05/2006 | 3J | Pittance Park, Edwinstowe, Notts | |
| | 18/06/2006 | C | Holdworth, Sheffield (KC) | 45km, 28days |

Of interest, a first-winter Mediterranean Gull at Rother Valley CP for c.20 minutes on 21st September bore a red colour-ring with white lettering and the letters PAR + an unreadable digit. This bird was one of five rung as chicks at Paczkowski reservoir, Poland 50;29N 16;58E. Information courtesy of Mark Reeder, RVCP web-site.

David Williams