

CEREDIGION BIRD RINGING REPORT 2008 – 2009

Tony Cross

As previously, this ringing report attempts to cover all BTO bird ringing undertaken in Ceredigion by resident and visiting bird-ringers. Those known to be operating, and whose totals (or nil returns) have been submitted, are listed at the end. If anyone knows of other bird-ringers active in the county please let me know so that their totals can be included in future reports.

In 2008, a pretty average year based on recent results, 1,693 birds of 53 species were ringed including the first Wigeon to appear in these reports. 2009 however was a much improved year, largely but not solely due to the formation of the Teifi Ringing Group. During the year some 4,782 birds of 84 species were marked which almost returns us to the levels achieved in the early 1990s when over 5,000 birds were ringed annually in Ceredigion. Importantly, the ringing that is undertaken still contains a good amount with high conservation value with waders, raptors and chough making up a high percentage of all birds ringed. The grand total of birds ringed in Ceredigion since 1991 when these ringing reports began is 48,452 of 134 species with Shelduck, Wigeon and Firecrest being new species added since the last report.

Efforts by the Teifi Ringing Group saw the marking of over 300 Sedge Warblers and nearly 200 Reed Warblers, a great contribution to our knowledge about the use of these important west coast reed beds for breeding and migrant birds. Several foreign recoveries and controls have already been obtained and more will surely follow.

Wader catching has always been a feature of the Ceredigion ringing scene but with new enthusiasts Paul Leafe and Arfon Williams joining old-hands Gareth Richardson and myself the effort and results have grown exponentially. In 2009 no fewer than 30 Whimbrel and 63 Golden Plover were ringed, absolutely amazing totals given that the British and Irish totals for 2008 were only 38 and 71 respectively!) Other notable tallies include 86 Ringed Plover, 41 Lapwing, 43 Turnstone and 7 Jack Snipe.

However, the wader which must take pride of place in this 2-year round-up is surely the Woodcock. In 2008, I was asked by Owen Williams of Trefenter whether I would train him and a colleague from the Welsh Woodcock Club to catch and ring Woodcock in order to gain more insight into the population and movements of the species in Wales. I had previously caught a few at Ynyslas in bad weather – back in 1986, so knew it was possible to catch birds by lamping. After consultation with the BTO I agreed to give it a try and we contacted local landowners and game-keepers for ideas on where we might find woodcock to attempt catching. – the answer, as it turned out, was just about anywhere! In 2008 we managed to ring 114 new birds and in 2009 another 202, and this in Ceredigion alone. The Woodcock Network, as it has become, has now ringed over 1000 woodcock (mostly in Wales but also in Northern Island, Scotland and England) since this initial approach and the two Russian recoveries listed are the early results of this increased effort. I am sure there will be many more intriguing recoveries to follow.

Notable recoveries otherwise include an amazing recovery of a Common Scoter, shot in Russia over 13 years after being cleaned and released following the Sea Empress oil spill, a Water Rail ringed in The Netherlands and killed by a bird of prey near Talybont, a Dunlin from Ynyslas caught by ringers in Portugal and an Oystercatcher from Ynyslas killed by a Gyr Falcon in Iceland!

As usual thanks go to the following licensed ringers for contributing their totals for 2008/2009: Dave Anning (DA), Graham Austin (GA), Roy Bamford (RB), Tony Cross (AVC), Jerry Lewis (JML), Gareth Richardson (GR), Arfon Williams (AW), Owen Williams (OW) and the Teifi Ringing Group (TRG). I would also like to thank the Countryside Council for Wales, Wildlife Trust (for West Wales), The National Trust, Forest Enterprise and the many other landowners who granted permission for ringing during the period. Finally thanks too to all the many people, too numerous to mention, who assisted with ringing activities during the period but especially Donall Cross, John Davis, Peter Davis, Mick Green, Mike Hayward, Jane Kelsall, Len Kersley, Paul Leafe, John Leafe, Red Liford, Alan Lowe, John Milner, Barry Penney, Matt Prior, Liz & Brian Snell and Adrienne Stratford.

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and conventions used:

Age when ringed

- 1 Pullus or nestling or chick
(no. ringed/brood size)
2 Fully grown, year of hatching unknown
3 Hatched calendar year of ringing
4 Hatched before calendar year of
ringing but exact year unknown
5 Hatched in previous calendar year
6 Hatched before previous calendar
year but exact year unknown
7 Definitely hatched 2 years before
year of ringing
8 Hatched 3 or more calendar years
before ringing
9 hatched more than 4 calendar
years before ringing

Manner of recovery

- v Caught or trapped, released with ring
R Controlled by another ringer
vv Ring number read in field, or sight
record of identifiable colour ring
vB Breeding where recaptured
+ Shot or killed by man
xF Found freshly dead or dying
xL Found dead (not recent)
() Caught or trapped alive and not
released or released without ring
/?/ Manner of recovery not known

Sex:

M=Male; F=Female

MUTE SWAN

- W02139 1F 28-08-1999 Four Crosses, Powys. (AVC)
xF (poisoned) 17-07-2008 Capel Bangor, near Aberystwyth. 72km WSW
- Z91150 1 05-09-1997 St Dogmaels, Cardigan. (AVC)
xF 22-12-2008 near Llanfair Clydogau, Lampeter. 48km E
- Z58993 6M 07-01-1990 Teifi Estuary, Cardigan. (AVC)
v 28-12-1995 Aber Dysynni, near Tywyn, Gwynedd. 67km NNE
vv 13-01-1996 Penmaenpool, Gwynedd. 89km NNE
xL c.24-02-2009 River Dysynni, Bryn-crug, Gwynedd 70km NE

GANNET

- 1235787 6 18-06-1986 Hermaness, Unst, Shetland.
xF 27-11-2009 Tanybwllch Beach, Aberystwyth. 959km SSW.

SHAG

- 1396268 1 01-06-2009 Ynys Gwylan Islands, Gwynedd.
xF 04-12-2009 Borth Beach. 56km SE

COMMON SCOTER

- GF67015 4M 10-03-1996 Borth.
Fresh dead (shot) 06-06-2009 Island Lyuymos, River Ob, Priuralskiy District,
Yamal-Nenets, (Tyumen) RUSSIA.
66°20'N 66°15'E 4,202km ENE

This amazing recovery is of a bird which has never featured in these ringing reports before as none have even been caught and ringed in Ceredigion. This one was cleaned and released following the Sea Empress oil spill disaster off Carmarthen. It shows that re-habilitation efforts for oiled birds can prove both successful and rewarding.

WATER RAIL

NLA 3M 22-10-2008 Berkeplas, Schiermonnikoog,
1516339 THE NETHERLANDS. 53°29'N 6°11'E
x (bird of prey) 24-01-2009 Tal-y-bont 688km W

BUZZARD

GF16281 Nestling 02-07-1992 Strata Florida, Pontrhydfendigaid. (AVC)
Sick (injured) 22-12-2008 Strata Florida, Pontrhydfendigaid 0km

PEREGRINE

GJ06300 Nestling (M) 07-06-2007 Site Confidential, near Ponterwyd. (AVC)
Fresh dead (injured) 24-09-2008 near Sennybridge, Brecon, Powys. 57km SSE

OYSTERCATCHER

FC45215 Adult 28-09-1992 Ynyslas, Borth. (AVC)
Fresh dead (bird of prey) 29-07-2009 Gamli Kirkjugardur, Reynir, Myrdalur,
Vestur-Skaftafells, ICELAND. 63°25'N 19°3'W
1,496km NW

FC9982_ Age Unknown 25-07-1998 Exact Location Unknown, Isle of Man.
Caught by ringer 17-09-2009 Llansantffraed, Llanon. 217km S (AVC)

FC45215 was at least 20 years old when it was killed by a Gyr Falcon. If I were an Oystercatcher I would, after a good innings, like to go out the same way!

LAPWING

DB90015 Nestling (F) 27-05-2001 Lodge Farm, Craig-Y-Penrhyn (RB).
Caught by ringer 22-12-2009 Glan-Dyfi, Ynyslas, Borth. 3km (AVC)

DUNLIN

NT50543 1st-year 21-08-2005 Ynyslas, near Borth: 52°30'N 4°4'W (Dyfed) (GR)
Caught by ringer 19-09-2009 Salinas Do Samouco, Estremadura,
PORTUGAL (38°43'N 9°2'W) 1,579km SSW

WOODCOCK

ES58635 1st-year 02-12-2008 Llety Grugiar, Llangwryfon. (AVC)
Fresh dead (shot) 01-05-2009 Anorkovo, Rostovski: (Yaroslavl) RUSSIA.
57°28'N 39°35'E 2,846km E
ES58689 Adult 30-12-2008 Tre'r-ddol, Talybont, Aberystwyth. (OW)

Fresh dead (shot) 25-04-2009 Ershovo, Pereyaslavskiy: (Yaroslavl) RUSSIA.
56°55'N 39°4'E 2,804km E

Two early returns from all the effort put into ringing woodcock by ringers operating within the Woodcock Network (see main report).

KITTIWAKE

ER85759 Nestling 03-07-1993 Dunbar: 56°0'N 2°32'W (Lothian Region)
Dead 15-10-2007 Aberaeron 434km SSW

MEDITERRANEAN GULL

PLG Nestling 17-06-2006 Skoki Duze, Wloclawek, Plock, POLAND
FN16045 52°36'N 19°24'E
Field sighting 25-07-2009 Aberystwyth. 1,589km W

BLB Adult 21-04-2001 Berendrecht, Antwerpen, BELGIUM
51°21'N 4°19'E
Freshly dead 26-10-2009 Lampeter. 584km W

RAZORBILL

M37929 Nestling 03-07-1979 Shiant Islands, Western Isles.
Fresh dead (storm) 20-01-2007 Clarach. 625km SSE

DIPPER

RT75199 Nestling (F) 29-04-2006 Gogin, Newcastle, Shropshire. (AVC)
Caught by ringer 05-12-2008 Tal-y-Bont, Aberystwyth. (AVC) 58km W

This is an exceptionally long movement for a British-born Dipper.

GREAT TIT

VN23665 Nestling 27-05-2007 Sunnyhill Wood, Tregaron (AVC)
Fresh dead 02-02-2008 Ty Mawr, Llanybydder. 24km SW

SWALLOW

V820926 1st-year 18-09-2007 Dwyran, Anglesey.
Caught by ringer 18-09-2009 Dyfi-Aber Leri N R, near Borth. 79km SSE (AVC)

WILLOW WARBLER

CKR102 Adult M 06-04-2009 Hilbre Island, Wirral
Controlled 04-05-2009 Teifi Marsh, Cardigan. 173 km SW (TRG)

SEDGE WARBLER

X878901	1st-year	06-09-2009	Teifi Marsh, Cardigan. (TRG)
	Caught by ringer	14-09-2009	Icklesham, Sussex. 390km ESE
BLB	1st-year	16-08-2008	,BELGIUM.
10753157			51°0'N 3°20'E
	Caught by ringer	10-07-2009	Afon Clettwr, Taliesin.
BLB	1st-year	16-08-2008	Tielt, West-Vlaanderen,BELGIUM.
10753157			51°0'N 3°20'E
	Caught by ringer	10-05-2009	Teifi Marshes, Cardigan. 564km WNW (TRG)
FRP	1st-year	13-08-2007	Mont Manet, Genets,Manche, FRANCE.
5281313			48°41'N 1°28'W
	Caught by ringer	04-05-2009	Teifi Marshes, Cardigan.438km NNW (TRG)
FRP	1st-year	15-08-2008	Tour Aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique
6035053			FRANCE. 47°19'N 2°4'W
	Caught by ringer	10-05-2009	Teifi Marshes, Cardigan. 561km NNW (TRG)

REED WARBLER

P216372	Adult Male	24-07-2000	Teifi Marshes, Cardigan. (DKR)
	Caught by ringer	20-06-2009	Teifi Marshes, Cardigan. 0km (TRG)
R336063	1st-year (M)	22-09-2002	Penclacwydd, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire.
	Caught by ringer	31-05-2009	Teifi Marshes, Cardigan. 59km NW (TRG)
	Caught by ringer	13-06-2009	Teifi Marshes, Cardigan. 59km NW (TRG)
FRP	Adult (F)	10-08-2007	Mont Manet, Genets,Manche, FRANCE.
5281225			48°41'N 1°28'W
	Caught by ringer	04-05-2009	Teifi Marshes, Cardigan. 439km NNW (TRG)

NUTHATCH

VP33141	Nestling (F)	28-05-2008	Nant Yr Arian, Ponterwyd. (AVC)
	Alive (hit glass)	11-12-2009	Llwydlo, Aberarth. 31km SW

MAGPIE

EK06638	Nestling	15-05-1992	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire.
	Unknown	27-06-2009	Aberystwyth. 112km NE

CHOUGH

EL12743	Nestling (M)	29-05-2004	Site Confidential, near Aberaeron. (AVC)
	Fresh dead	07-09-2009	Tonfanau Quarry, Meirionydd. 42km NNE (AS)

STARLING

LIK	1st-year	08-07-2002	Ventes Ragas, Silute, LITHUANIA.
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V228188			55°21'N 21°13'E
Long dead	04-04-2009		Llanddeiniol. 1,694km W
LIK 1st-year	21-06-2005		Ventes Ragas, Silute, LITHUANIA.
KV22710			55°21'N 21°13'E
Dead	24-02-2008		Cardigan. 1,739km WSW

Robinson, R.A. & Clark J.A. (2009) Bird ringing in in Britain and Ireland: a web supplement. BTO, Thetford. (http://www.bto.org/ringing/ringinfo/recovery_summaries.htm)

	TOTAL 2008	TOTAL 2009	GRAND TOTAL SINCE 1991
Little Grebe	1	1	19
Great crested Grebe	0	0	2
Fulmar	0	0	2
Manx Shearwater	0	0	19
Cormorant	0	0	29
Grey Heron	0	0	53
Mute Swan	0	0	275
Whooper Swan	0	0	2
Canada Goose	0	0	9
Shelduck	0	1	1
Teal	0	0	2
Mallard	0	0	4
Wigeon	1	0	1
Shoveler	0	0	1
Scaup	0	0	4
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	1
Goosander	0	0	5
Red Kite	67	48	962
Goshawk	0	0	108
Sparrowhawk	0	1	60
Buzzard	3	2	126
Kestrel	0	5	162
Merlin	0	1	34
Peregrine	1	1	82
Water Rail	0	1	3
Moorhen	0	0	4

Coot	0	0	2
Oystercatcher	10	21	89
Ringed Plover	34	86	347
Little Ringed Plover	0	0	2
Golden Plover	2	63	68
Grey Plover	1	0	11
Lapwing	5	41	517
Knot	2	1	36
Curlew Sandpiper	1	2	17
Sanderling	0	1	8
Little Stint	0	0	6
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	1
Dunlin	152	202	1266
Woodcock	114	206	323
Common Snipe	8	28	37
Jack Snipe	2	7	9
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	4
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	1
Curlew	3	21	30
Whimbrel	7	30	39
Greenshank	0	0	4
Redshank	1	5	15
Green Sandpiper	0	3	4
Common Sandpiper	0	4	23
Turnstone	9	43	54
Herring Gull	0	0	9
Greater Black Backed Gull	0	0	3
Black-headed Gull	1	9	19
Common Tern	0	0	1
Guillemot	0	0	2
Razorbill	0	0	1
Stock Dove	2	2	29
Wood Pigeon	0	0	9
Cuckoo	0	0	2
Barn Owl	80	66	918
Tawny Owl	3	1	25
Long-eared Owl	0	0	7
Nightjar	0	0	12
Swift	0	22	73
Kingfisher	5	11	38
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	7	24
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	3
Skylark	0	64	66

Sand Martin	0	5	809
Swallow	0	482	4568
House Martin	0	1	59
Tree Pipit	0	0	1
Meadow Pipit	6	25	49
Rock Pipit	0	2	9
Grey Wagtail	0	0	60
Pied Wagtail	0	38	128
Dipper	8	22	125
Wren	12	58	506
Duncock	1	70	332
Robin	28	102	777
Redstart	20	1	358
Whinchat	0	0	24
Stonechat	0	0	106
Wheatear	6	2	78
Song Thrush	2	23	129
Redwing	6	87	109
Fieldfare	2	58	61
Mistle Thrush	1	4	13
Blackbird	42	194	534
Cetti's Warbler	0	13	54
Grasshopper Warbler	0	4	45
Aquatic Warbler	0	0	3
Sedge Warbler	0	353	1469
Reed Warbler	0	186	1070
Lesser Whitethroat	0	4	29
Whitethroat	0	14	168
Garden Warbler	0	21	155
Blackcap	8	180	519
Wood Warbler	0	0	22
Chiffchaff	5	165	976
Willow Warbler	6	40	1054
Goldcrest	3	11	108
Firecrest	0	2	2
Spotted Flycatcher	0	0	42
Pied Flycatcher	367	359	9929
Bearded Tit	0	0	1
Long-tailed Tit	20	39	363
Marsh Tit	0	2	33
Willow Tit	0	0	76
Coal Tit	6	32	272
Blue Tit	295	497	6403

Great Tit	150	229	2715
Nuthatch	41	17	240
Treecreeper	2	5	67
Jay	1	4	24
Magpie	5	6	35
Chough	40	55	721
Jackdaw	12	1	57
Carrion Crow	0	1	19
Raven	0	0	748
Starling	2	5	1973
House Sparrow	1	6	141
Chaffinch	50	102	1468
Brambling	0	0	30
Greenfinch	19	28	1097
Goldfinch	1	36	94
Siskin	0	52	343
Linnet	0	0	9
Redpoll	0	0	110
Common Crossbill	0	0	17
Bullfinch	6	60	296
Yellowhammer	0	0	40
Reed Bunting	0	72	444
G.Total	1,693	4,782	48452