

CEREDIGION BIRD RINGING REPORT 2006 – 2007

Tony Cross

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.

After a slow but steady decline in ringing activity (and hence number of birds ringed) since 2000 there was a welcome upturn in activity in 2006 when 1,133 birds of 40 species were ringed and this was further improved upon in 2007 when 1,667 birds of 50 species were marked. Although this is an improvement it is still a long way off the heady days of the early 1990s when over 5,000 birds were ringed annually in Ceredigion. Importantly, the ringing which is still undertaken is however of high conservation value with waders, raptors and chough making up a high percentage of all birds ringed. In 2007 alone 73 young Red Kites were marked (in addition to 16 collected for translocation to Co. Wicklow in Southern Ireland). This represent about a third of all Red Kites ringed in Wales during the year and it demonstrates the continued importance of Ceredigion to this iconic species.

Despite appalling weather, 2007 was a phenomenally successful breeding season for Barn Owls in the county with over 80 birds ringed, mostly as chicks. Several pairs attempted second broods which is a common occurrence in Southern England but much rarer in Mid Wales. Unfortunately chicks from these second broods didn't fledge until well into November, when cold weather caused unusually high mortality. Two fairly long distance movements of Ceredigion bred Barn owls are shown, one to Shropshire the other to Pembrokeshire.

The number of Pied Flycatchers ringed in the county in 2007 rose to a respectable 488 but even this was still over 1,000 short of the 1991 figure. Most of these were ringed at three nestbox schemes in the Tregaron and Pontrhydfendigaid area, two by myself (each containing about 80 boxes) and one by Jerry Lewis (about 60 boxes.) Hopefully, recent concerns over the widespread decline of this species will generate further interest. Nestbox schemes are popular with visiting ringers and many suitable woods exist which could benefit from extra nest-sites. Interestingly the UK's longest running nestbox study of Pied Flycatcher, run initially by Peter Davis and then by John E. Davis was in the Rheidol Valley above Devil's Bridge. Unfortunately it was discontinued upon John's retirement from CCW, typically, just before the population took a serious downturn! It would have been very valuable to have had an unbroken run of data up to the present time. This incident highlights the value of long-term data sets and of consistent and continued monitoring in illuminating the causes of sudden, unexpected, population changes.

Wader catching at Ynyslas and elsewhere continued in 2006 and 2007 but was particularly productive in the latter year when 147 Dunlin, 36 Ringed Plover and 9 Knot were caught amongst others, including 2 Whimbrel which have not featured in these reports before. Hopefully some recoveries will result from these efforts, although as can be seen in the recoveries section below, with waders (especially the larger ones) you sometimes have to wait a very long time!

As usual thanks go to the following for contributing their totals for 2006/2007: Graham Austin (GA), Roy Bamford (RB), Tony Cross (AVC), Jerry Lewis (JML), Gareth Richardson (GR) and Arfon Williams (AW). 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 to John Davis, Peter Davis, Nigel Goodgame, Derek Hayward, Mike Hayward, Bryan Jones, Len Kersley, Red Liford, Alan Lowe, Barry Penney, Matt Prior, Dave Reed, Liz & Brian Snell and Adrienne Stratford (ASX).

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

Key to symbols and conventions used:

Age when ringed	Manner of recovery
1 Pullus or nestling or chick (no. ringed/brood size)	v Caught or trapped, released with ring
2 Fully grown, year of hatching unknown	R Controlled by another ringer
3 Hatched calendar year of ringing	vv Ring number read in field, or sight record of identifiable colour ring
4 Hatched before calendar year of ringing but exact year unknown	vB Breeding where recaptured
5 Hatched in previous calendar year	+ Shot or killed by man
6 Hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown	xF Found freshly dead or dying
7 Definitely hatched 2 years before year of ringing	xL Found dead (not recent)
8 Hatched 3 or more calendar years before ringing	() Caught or trapped alive and not released or released without ring
9 hatched more than 4 calendar years before ringing	/?/ Manner of recovery not known

Sex:
M=Male; F=Female

FULMAR

FC45205	6 nesting	02 Jun 92	Penderi, near Llandeiniol, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	xF	21 May 07	Aylburton Warth, Lydney, Gloucestershire. 5466 days, 129km.

Caught as a breeding adult, this bird was likely to have been at least 20 years old.

MUTE SWAN

U6011	6F	02 Sept 94	St. Dogmaels, Cardigan, Ceredigion (AVC)
	vv	11 Feb 06	Dryslwyn, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. 4180 days, 47 km SE

OYSTERCATCHER

FC02945	3	09 Oct 91	Ynyslas, Near Borth, Ceredigion (AVC)
	x	03 Mar 06	Grindleton, Lancashire. 5259 days, 191 km NE

At 15 years old this was a relative youngster - the European record is 43 years 4 months!

GREEN SANDPIPER

NV67932	3	22 Jul 04	Afon Leri, Ynyslas (GR)
	R	02 Aug 04	Nanjizal, Land's End, Cornwall. 11 days, 295 kms

An interesting and fairly rapid movement by a very infrequently caught bird

BARN OWL

FP69172	1 6/6	18 Jul 05	Site Confidential near Pontrhydygroes, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	xL	28 Apr 06	Bryn Shop, Anchor near Clun, Shropshire. 284 days, 46 km ENE
FH09173	1 3/3	10 Jul 07	Site Confidential near Llangwryrffon, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	()	05 Dec 07	Flemington Farm, Pembroke, Pembrokeshire. 148 days, 90km SW.

SWALLOW

T263126	1J 2/2	04 Jul 07	Ystradmeurig near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	R	13 Sept 07	Dwyran, Anglesey. 71 days, 103 km N.

PIED FLYCATCHER

R082148	1 6/6	08 Jun 04	Llysdinam, Newbridge-on-Wye, Powys.
	vB	31 May 06	Nant-yr-Arian, Ponterwyd, Ceredigion (AVC). 722 days, 37 km WNW

GREENFINCH

TC56744	3J	11 Aug 05	Ty Mawr Caravan Park, Ynyslas (GR)
	R	12 Mar 06	Great Warford, Cheshire 213 days, 147 km NE

CHOUGH

EP99080	1 4/4	28 May 91	Site Confidential near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	vv	15 Oct 91	Bird Rock, near Tywyn, Gwynedd
	R	16 Feb 07	Site Confidential near Talybont, Ceredigion. 5743 days, 16 km.
EL12789	1 3/3	15 May 05	Site Confidential near New Quay, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	vv	18 Nov 05	Ynys Lochtyn/Urdd, Ceredigion (AVC)
	vv	11 May 06	Ynys Lochtyn/Urdd, Ceredigion (AVC)
	vv	21 Aug 06	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 51 km N
	vv	15 Oct 06	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 51 km N
	vv	21 Dec 06	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 51 km N
	vv	16 May 07	Ynys Lochtyn/Urdd, Ceredigion (AVC)
EL12918	1 3/3	19 May 06	Site Confidential near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	vv	09 Sept 06	Cwm Ystradllyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 68 km N
	vv	05 Feb 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 26 km N
	vv	14 Feb 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (AVC) 26 km N
	vv	21 Mar 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 26 km N
	vv	10 Apr 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 26 km N
	vv	16 Aug 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (AVC + ASX) 26 km N
	vv	12 Sept 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 26 km N
	vv	06 Nov 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 26 km N
	vv	20 Dec 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 26 km N
EL12919	1 3/3	19 May 06	Site Confidential near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	vv	09 Sept 06	Cwm Ystradllyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 68 km N
EL12920	1 3/3	19 May 06	Site Confidential near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	vv	09 Sept 06	Cwm Ystradllyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 68 km N
	vv	16 Dec 06	Traeth Penllech, Llangwinnadl, Pwllheli, Gwynedd (ASX) 66 km NW
	xF	30 Mar 07	Fferm Penllech Uchaf, Llangwinnadl, Pwllheli, Gwynedd. 315 days, 66 km NW
EL12984	1 4/4	24 May 06	Site Confidential near Abersoch, Gwynedd. (AVC)
	vv	22 July 06	Cilan Head, Abersoch (AVC)
	vv	05 May 07	Tregynan, Llandeiniol, Ceredigion (AVC) 57 kms S
	vv	16 Aug 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (AVC + ASX) 34 km S
	vv	12 Sept 07	Tonfanau Quarry, Tywyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 34km S
	vv	25 Feb 08	Wallog, Ceredigion (AVC) 47 kms S
EH60275	1 4/4	23 May 07	Site Confidential near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	vv	11 Aug 07	Nant Peris, Gwynedd (ASX) 75 km N
	vv	01 Sept 07	Dinorwig Quarry, Gwynedd (ASX) 77 km N
	vv	10 Oct 07	Nantlle Valley, Gwynedd (ASX) 70 Km N
	vv	1 Nov 07	Dinorwig Quarry, Gwynedd (ASX) 77 km N
EH60277	1 4/4	23 May 07	Site Confidential near Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. (AVC)
	vv	10 Oct 07	Nantlle Valley, Gwynedd (ASX) 70 km N
	vv	19 Dec 07	Nefyn, Gwynedd (ASX) 64 km N

EP99080 was the colour-ringed male breeding at the only remaining inland site in Ceredigion. At 16 years old he was just one year short of the oldest known chough from BTO ringing and was one of the very first in Ceredigion to be fitted with colour-rings. He was re-trapped along with his new (unringed) mate in Feb 2007 and bred the following summer but had vanished by the autumn. Thankfully the female soon recruited another male and the site persists.

The others are a selection of the longest moving birds showing just how mobile some individual choughs can be. EL12918, EL12919 and EL12920 were same year siblings as were EH60275 and EH60277.

SPECIES	2006					2007	1991 - 2007 GRAND TOTAL
	AD	JU V	TOTA L	AD	JUV	TOTA L	
Little Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Great Crested Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Fulmar	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Manx Shearwater	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Grey Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Mute Swan	0	3	3	0	0	0	275
Whooper Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Canada Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mallard	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Goosander	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Red Kite	1	67	68	0	73	73	819
Goshawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	108
Sparrowhawk	0	0	0	1	0	1	59
Buzzard	0	0	0	0	2	2	121
Kestrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	157
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Peregrine	0	2	2	0	1	1	80
Water Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Oystercatcher	0	0	0	3	0	3	58
Ringed Plover	7	0	7	36	0	36	227
Little Ringed Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Grey Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	471
Knot	5	0	5	9	0	9	33
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	2	0	2	14
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Little Stint	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
				14			
Dunlin	61	0	61	7	0	147	912
Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Whimbrel	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Curlew	0	0	0	3	0	3	6
Greenshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Redshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Turnstone	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Herring Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	9

Greater Black Backed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Black-headed Gull	1	0	1	0	0	0	9
Common Tern	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Guillemot	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Razorbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stock Dove	0	4	4	2	1	3	27
Wood Pigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Cuckoo	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Barn Owl	8	46	54	9	71	80	772
Tawny Owl	0	0	0	0	1	1	21
Long-eared Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Nightjar	1	0	1	0	0	0	12
Swift	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
Kingfisher	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	1	3	0	3	16
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Skylark	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sand Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	804
Swallow	8	0	8	0	7	7	4086
House Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
Tree Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Meadow Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Rock Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Grey Wagtail	0	0	0	0	6	6	60
Pied Wagtail	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
Dipper	5	3	8	2	4	6	95
Wren	1	0	1	14	0	14	438
Dunnock	10	0	10	8	0	8	272
Robin	12	0	12	23	0	23	665
Redstart	2	19	21	1	32	33	337
Whinchat	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Stonechat	0	0	0	0	13	13	106
Wheatear	0	0	0	0	0	0	70
Song Thrush	1	0	1	4	0	4	108
Redwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Fieldfare	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mistle Thrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Blackbird	14	0	14	29	0	29	340
Cetti's Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Grasshopper Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Aquatic Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sedge Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	1116
Reed Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	884
Lesser Whitethroat	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Whitethroat	1	0	1	1	0	1	154
Garden Warbler	1	0	1	2	0	2	135
Blackcap	2	0	2	2	5	7	333
Wood Warbler	0	0	0	2	5	7	22
Chiffchaff	3	0	3	9	0	9	809
Willow Warbler	8	0	8	12	6	18	1008
Goldcrest	1	0	1	1	0	1	96
Spotted Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
Pied Flycatcher	29	237	266	59	429	488	9229

Bearded Tit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Long-tailed Tit	0	0	0	0	0	0	304
Marsh Tit	0	0	0	2	0	2	33
Willow Tit	0	0	0	0	0	0	76
Coal Tit	5	0	5	9	8	17	244
Blue Tit	102	166	268	94	164	258	5783
Great Tit	51	111	162	57	100	157	2444
Nuthatch	2	0	2	3	16	19	186
Treecreeper	0	0	0	1	0	1	61
Jay	0	0	0	1	0	1	19
Magpie	1	0	1	0	0	0	24
Chough	0	51	51	1	48	49	626
Jackdaw	0	20	20	0	16	16	80
Carrion Crow	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Raven	0	0	0	0	0	0	748
Starling	0	0	0	3	0	3	1969
House Sparrow	4	0	4	0	0	0	134
Chaffinch	33	0	33	72	0	72	1393
Brambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Greenfinch	19	0	19	6	0	6	1050
Goldfinch	1	0	1	9	0	9	59
Siskin	0	0	0	1	0	1	291
Linnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Redpoll	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
Common Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Bullfinch	0	0	0	6	0	6	233
Yellowhammer	0	0	0	0	0	0	40
Reed Bunting	1	0	1	1	0	1	372
Grand Totals	404	729	1,133	659	1,008	1,667	42,476