

Manx Ringing Group Ringing report 2007

There were 647 birds ringed of 38 species during the year. This total is lower than last years, but more consistent with previous year's totals, mainly due to the 3 resident ringers having less time available to engage in ringing activities and then poor weather when time was to hand!

The total consists of 363 full grown birds and 284 pulli (birds ringed in the nest) and included some notable species such as Great Northern Diver, Peregrine, Water Rail, Grey Plover and Sandwich Tern.

The majority of full grown birds were captured using Mist nets (328). Thirty one birds were caught by dazzling on the lower shoreline of coastal areas at night, this method accounts for the vast majority of the adult shore birds shown in the totals.

A Peregrine survey resulted in an excellent total of 14 pulli being ringed.

The Hen Harrier project which had commenced last year progressed as planned; resulting in 5 pulli being satellite tagged and one further bird wing-tagged. A small selection of the results of the satellite tagging can be seen in the recovery report.

A Water Rail caught in a garden in Glen Chass in January provided a rare chance to ring one of these very secretive birds.

Keeping with the unusual, an opportunity to ring a bird rarely caught in the British Isles arose in April, when a local vet had a Great Northern Diver handed in. It had been found on Port Erin beach following a period of prolonged Westerly gales. After 24 hours of recuperation the bird was found to be fit and was released in Derbyhaven Bay. It was in good body mass condition and was in full simultaneous moult of its wing feathers, resulting in the bird being flightless (as is the norm for Divers); this probably being a factor in the bird being washed ashore in the first instance.

A total of 52 Swallow pulli were ringed during the nesting season this year, the vast majority of which were, as usual, from Eary Farm, near Little London and Lower Ballafodda, Ronague.

The nest boxes at Close Sartfield NR and The Curraghs Wildlife Park were surveyed again this year but with reduced effort due to lack of time available. The total of 109 pulli from these nest boxes included 24 Tree Sparrow.

A total of 57 Chough were ringed, all of which having unique colour ring combinations added, to aid the ongoing study of this species on the Island by the Manx Chough Project.

Many recoveries of ringed birds come from people finding a dead bird and taking the time to report it. It is always worth taking a few moments to check if a dead bird is ringed. If it is, the following details should be noted: The ring number, museum name, species (if known), finding circumstances (including cause of death), location (include a Grid Reference if possible) and date. You can either send the details to us or to the address printed on the metal ring. You can also now report a ringed bird via the internet at www.bto.org and follow the links for reporting ringed birds. If you do send the details direct to the address on the ring or report it via the internet to the BTO then we would be most grateful to hear of the details from you so that the record can be included in future reports.

The ringing group can be contacted via the Manx BirdLife (previously Manx Bird Atlas) offices at 35 New Road, Laxey IM4 7BG, on telephone 861130 or email to chris@manxbirdatlas.org.uk or via the ringing group secretary (Kevin Scott) at kev@wm.im

Finally, we would like to pass on our thanks to the following people for their enthusiasm in letting us ring at their properties: Judith Burn, Liz & Glenn Jensen, Mr & Mrs Solkin, Nick Pinder (Curraghs Wildlife Park) and Manx Wildlife Trust (Close Sartfield MWT reserve). As usual, we would also like to thank the many landowners/farmers who assist with allowing entry onto their land to carry out our work.

Last, but certainly not least, we would also like to thank all the people who have taken the time to send us the details of ringed birds they have found, each and every record assists us in adding to the picture of Manx birdlife.

The Manx Ringing Group operate as part of the Manx BirdLife charity and under licence by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and its ringers hold a current permit issued by the British Trust for Ornithology.

Ringling totals 2007

Species	Full grown	Pull	Total
Great Northern Diver	1	0	1
Fulmar	1	0	1
Hen Harrier	0	12	12
Kestrel	0	4	4
Peregrine	0	14	14
Water Rail	1	0	1
Moorhen	1	0	1
Oystercatcher	3	8	11
Ringed Plover	8	1	9
Grey Plover	1	0	1
Sanderling	1	0	1
Dunlin	5	0	5
Curlew	2	0	2
Turnstone	13	0	13
Herring Gull	0	6	6
Sandwich Tern	1	0	1
Collared Dove	2	0	2
Swallow	0	52	52
Wren	5	0	5
Dunnock	6	0	6
Robin	12	0	12
Blackbird	12	0	12
Song Thrush	2	0	2
Sedge Warbler	3	0	3
Blackcap	2	0	2
Willow Warbler	6	0	6
Long-tailed Tit	9	0	9
Coal Tit	12	0	12
Blue Tit	82	40	122
Great Tit	67	47	114
Chough	0	57	57
Raven	0	2	2
House Sparrow	17	17	34
Tree Sparrow	0	24	24
Chaffinch	25	0	25
Greenfinch	23	0	23
Goldfinch	39	0	39
Siskin	1	0	1
Total:	363	284	647

Codes used in the recovery reports

Key to reporting codes

X	found dead
XF	found freshly dead or dying
XL	found dead (not recent)
+	shot or intentionally killed by man
+F	shot or intentionally killed by man – fresh
+L	shot or intentionally killed by man - not recent
SR	sick or injured, released with ring
S	sick or injured - not known to have been released
A	alive and probably healthy - fate unknown
AC	alive and probably healthy - now captive
V	alive and prob healthy, caught and released, not by ringer
N	alive and probably healthy, caught and released but not by ringer – nesting
VV	alive and prob healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field, not by ringer
NN	alive and prob healthy, ring or marks read in field, not by ringer – nesting
R	caught and released by ringer
B	caught and released by ringer - nesting
RR	alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field by a ringer
BB	alive and prob healthy, ring or colour marks read in field by ringer – nesting
TT	Satellite tag recorded position
//	condition on finding wholly unknown

EURING age codes

Number EURING Definition

0	Age unknown
1	Pullus
1J	Fledged, but flying so weakly that it is obviously incapable of having flown far from the nest
2	Fully grown, year of hatching quite unknown (including current year)
3	Definitely hatched during current calendar year (eg first-years in autumn)
3J	Definitely hatched this calendar year and still partly or completely in juvenile body plumage
4	Hatched before current calendar year - exact year unknown (eg many adults in autumn)
5	Definitely hatched during previous calendar year (eg first-years in early spring)
6	Hatched before last calendar year - exact year unknown (eg many adults in Spring)
7	Definitely hatched in calendar year before last
8	Hatched three or more years ago - exact year unknown
9	Definitely hatched three years ago
10	Hatched four or more years ago - exact year unknown

M after the age code = Male

F after the age code = Female

Controls/Recoveries 2007

Storm Petrel

2609636	4	17/08/2006	Lowca, near Whitehaven (Cumbria)
	R	23/08/2006	Phurt, nr Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 55km WSW 6 days
2526235	4	25/08/2006	Blue Point (Isle of Man)
	R	15/09/2007	Sheepland Harbour, Ardglass (Down) 72km W 1 yr 21days
2526240	4	25/08/2006	Blue Point (Isle of Man)
	R	02/07/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 43km SSW 311 days

Shag

1180065	1	29/05/1986	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XL	16/01/2007	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 49km NE 20 yrs 232 days
1379612	1	01/06/2002	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XL	24/03/2007	Cornaa near Corran (Isle of Man) 36km NE 4 yrs 296 days
1379627	1	06/06/2002	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	16/01/2007	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 49km NE 4 yrs 224 days
1379656	1	06/06/2002	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	05/01/2007	Rhenwyllan, near Port St Mary (Isle of Man) 6km ENE 4 yrs 213 days

Mute Swan

X2282	8M	13/04/2006	Billown (Isle of Man)
	VV	23/01/2007	Ramsey (Isle of Man) 32km NE 285 days
X2284	8	13/04/2006	Billown (Isle of Man)
	VV	23/01/2007	Ramsey (Isle of Man) 32km NE 285 days
X2285	8F	08/06/2006	Eary, near Foxdale (Isle of Man)
	VV	23/01/2007	Ramsey (Isle of Man) 25km NE 229 days

Brent Goose

119808	6F	12/05/2007	Jorfi, Alftanes (Borgarfjardarsysla), ICELAND
ISR	RR	17/05/2007	Seltjarnarnes (Reykjavik), ICELAND , 35km S 5 days
	RR	24/05/2007	Seltjarnarnes (Reykjavik), ICELAND , 35km S 12 days
	VV	16/11/2007	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 188 days
	VV	27/11/2007	Langness (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 199 days

This bird was identified by colour rings and is part of the Irish Brent Goose study, as featured on BBC's Autumnwatch. It was ringed as an adult female at a staging post in Iceland whilst en-route to its breeding grounds in Arctic Canada.

Hen Harrier

EL76663	1M	05/07/2007	Site Confidential (Isle of Man)
	RR	19/10/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 106 days
	RR	18/12/2007	near Stoney Mountain Plantation (Isle of Man) 166 days
FB04417	1F	03/07/2006	Site Confidential (Isle of Man)
	RR	07/05/2007	near Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 308 days

The observations for both EL76663 & FB04417 come from them having been wing-tagged as nestlings. EL76663 was observed going into the roost at Stoney Mountain. In addition, 5 chicks had solar powered satellite tracking devices attached in order to see just how far "Manx" Hen Harriers actually disperse. Of the 3 birds whose devices activated after successfully fledging all

remained on the Island. The Male took to roosting at the Stoney Mountain roost site and two Females took to roosting at the Curraghs roost site.

Sparrowhawk

DK60778	3M	29/09/2006	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	25/03/2007	Castletown (Isle of Man) 11km E 177 days

This bird met its fate by accidentally impaling itself on a garden trellis whilst hunting.

Osprey

G8234	1	12/07/1988	Aviemore (Highland)
	VV	10/09/2000	Millac (Vienne), FRANCE , 1262km SSE 12 yrs 60days
	XL	29/04/2007	Poyllvaaish (Isle of Man) 350km S 18 yrs 291days

An excellent recovery of a bird which was found as a tide-line corpse at Poyllvaaish. It would have been migrating back from Africa to its breeding grounds in Scotland when it met its fate in the Irish Sea. As shown above, it had been recorded in France during its Southerly Autumn migration in 2000.

Peregrine

GH91961	1F	04/06/1993	Site Confidential (Isle of Man)
	S	30/06/2007	Port Erin (Isle of Man) 25km (+/- 10km) WSW 14 yrs 26days

Lesser Black-backed Gull

GH87227	10	17/04/1995	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	29/06/2007	Glen Mooar, near Kirk Michael (Isle of Man) 27km NNE 12 yrs 73days

Herring Gull

GH14330	1	25/06/1986	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	26/06/2007	The Sound (Isle of Man) 1km E 21 yrs 1day

This Herring Gull may be familiar to many visitors to the sound café as one of the almost tame birds that regularly feeds on scraps and unguarded sandwiches! Its diet obviously isn't doing it any harm given its good age!

Razorbill

M58045	4	18/06/1985	Berneray, Barra (Western Isles)
	XL	03/02/2007	Niarbyl Bay (Isle of Man) 345km SSE 21 yrs 230days
M94609	1	23/06/1998	Fair Isle (Shetland)
	XL	03/02/2007	Niarbyl Bay (Isle of Man) 627km SSW 8 yrs 225days

Note the age of M58045, it had originally been caught as a breeding adult so was a minimum of 23 years old.

Blue Tit

V430123	3J	29/09/2007	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	R	06/10/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 7km WSW 7 days
	R	07/10/2007	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 8 days

A very rapid round trip from a garden feeding station in Croit-e-Caley, see also Great Tit V078711 below which did the same trip but took its time in doing so!

Great Tit

R744926	3F	26/09/2006	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	X	27/02/2007	Port Erin (Isle of Man) 5km NE 154 days
R746831	3F	22/09/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	27/11/2007	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 66 days
R747180	3F	18/10/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	14/11/2007	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 27 days
V078613	3J	28/06/2006	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	R	11/04/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 7km WSW 287 days
	R	13/04/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 289 days
V078711	3J	28/07/2006	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	R	15/10/2006	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 7km WSW 79 days
	R	27/01/2007	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 183 days

Chough

EL12692	1	26/05/2004	Holy Island, Anglesey (Isle of Anglesey)
EL67200	B	18/05/2007	Site Confidential (Isle of Man) 90km (+/- 10km) N 2 yrs 357days
EL67162	1	28/05/2006	Site Confidential (Isle of Man)
	XF	16/01/2007	Port Groudle (Isle of Man) 14km (+/- 10km) S 233 days
EL67174	1	30/05/2006	Site Confidential (Isle of Man)
	X	19/04/2007	Kimmeragh Farm, Bride (Isle of Man) 11km (+/- 10km) N 324 days
EL67186	1	05/06/2006	Site Confidential (Isle of Man)
	XL	04/02/2007	Glen Mooar, near Kirk Michael (Isle of Man) 9km (+/- 10km) 244 days

EL12692 was captured in the South of the Island and re-ringed as EL67200 due to ring wear. It confirms previous colour ring sightings showing that Welsh Choughs have reached Manx shores.

Raven

HT71714	1	24/04/1997	near Curraghs Wildlife Park, The Curraghs (Isle of Man)
	+F	05/11/2007	Sartfield, near Jurby (Isle of Man) 4km NNW 10 yrs 195days

Greenfinch

VT68857	3M	26/10/2004	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	X	03/01/2007	Port Erin (Isle of Man) 5km NE 2 yrs 69days