

Birdfair 2014

Every year the Hawk and Owl Trust runs a stand at the Rutland Birdfair.

2014 was a particularly good year with dozens of new members coming on board and lots of visitors to our stand.

As ever, a huge thanks to all our volunteers – it would be a very tough job without them! Here are a few key moments in pictures.



Photo 1: Hawk and Owl Trust Press Officer Lin Murray with our latest member, Mark Avery! | Photo 2: (l-r) Roger Finnermore, Penny Rowley, Luke Curno, Michael Rowley, Greg Curno, Jan Smith and Roger Moses | Photo 3: Nigel Middleton, Conservation Officer for Sculthorpe Moor, explaining the work we are about to undertake at the reserve | Photo 4: Duncan McDonald, owner of WildSounds and great supporter and sponsor of Hawk and Owl Trust | Photo 5: Greg Curno from the South West Peregrine Group measures this young bird's 'wingspan' | Photo 6: Luke Curno of South West Peregrine Group presents Chris Packham with a DVD made by Luke whilst sat tagging golden eagles | Photo 7: Our 'Birding for All' colleagues who have helped us immensely with our design for the new boardwalks and other areas of Sculthorpe Moor | Photo 8: The ever supportive and very generous Viking Optical team - big supporters of our Urban Peregrine Project | Photo 9: The wonderful East Midlands Group (l-r) John Smith, Simon Dudhill and Caroline Woodcock) and Janet Avery from Scotland, who turn out every year to man the Birdfair stand | Photo 10: The wonderful Wilde family, mum and dad with Harley on the left and Findlay on the right, who made the model of the Hen Harrier in the background.

Kestrel Highways Project Update 2014

A Better Season for Somerset/North Somerset Kestrels



Three young were ringed at Congresbury

A mild (if wet!) winter and a warm spring and summer resulted in a record number of kestrels using our Somerset boxes on the A370 and A38.

The number of kestrel pairs using our boxes took a dip in 2013 due to the cold weather.

We were determined to make a good start to the 2014 season by having as many of our boxes as possible ready, by



Colin Morris rings one of the Langford kestrels

removing any squirrel dreys or jackdaw sticks early on.

The mild winter and warm spring resulted in early indications that more of our boxes would be used this year.

In our early monitoring we found pairs mating near some of the boxes, including ones that had not been used before. One such box was at Ashton Court, which produced 5 young.

Other boxes newly used this year were at Biddisham (4 young) and Congresbury (3).

Unfortunately the early start made by the kestrels combined with some gaps in our monitoring meant that some young were too big to attempt to ring.

We also had a surprise at the end of the season when Melanie Patch from our team noticed that a box that we had abandoned two years ago for several reasons had apparently been successfully used. We are planning to reinstate this site for next year with a safer, more accessible box.

In summary, 7 of 32 boxes were used by kestrels and 2 more by stock doves. At least 23 young were hatched, of which 17 were ringed.

We will need to start work soon to replace some boxes ahead of next season. Thanks again to all of the team and to our licensed ringer Colin Morris and his able assistant Chris Perry and to all our landowners.