

# STATE OF THE UK BARN OWL POPULATION — 2022

‘A good year for Barn Owls despite the summer drought.’

Results from independent groups  
collated by the Barn Owl Trust



*Conserving the Barn Owl and its Environment*

*Photo: Russel Savory*

# State of the UK Barn Owl population – 2022

## Contributing groups

Barn Owl Trust	North-East Cheshire Barn Owl Group
Barn Owl Conservation Oxfordshire	North West Norfolk Ringing Group
Bisham Barn Owl Group	Oxfordshire Ornithological Society
Brandon Ringing Group	Philip Hanmer - Nat. Hist. Soc. of Northumbria Hancock Mus. R.G.
Broxton Barn Owl Group	Powys – Species Habitat Protection Group
Bucks Owl & Raptor Group	Rebekah Beaumont - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Cam Valley Wildlife Group	Scottish Raptor Study Group
Derbyshire Ornithological Society	Shropshire Barn Owl Group
East Cheshire Barn Owl Group	South Cheshire Barn Owl Group
East Cleveland Nest Box Network Project	South Cleaveland Ringing Group
East Riding Barn Owl Conservation Group	South Wirral Barn Owl Group
Garry Steele	Staffordshire Barn Owl Action Group
Gil Gaylor	Stour Valley Barn Owl Group
Glamorgan Barn Owl Group	Suffolk Bird Group
Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group	Sussex Ornithological Society
Goldcliff Ringing Group	Southam & District Owl Conservation Project
Jersey Barn Owl Conservation	The Salisbury Plain Raptor and Owl Ringing Group
Lough Neagh Barn Owl Group	Ulster Wildlife
Manchester Raptor Group	Vale of Belvoir Barn Owl Conservation Group
Middle Thames Ringing Group	West Berkshire Countryside Society Barn Owl Group
Mid Cheshire Barn Owl Group	West Cornwall Ringing Group
North Cheshire Barn Owl Group	Wirral Barn Owl Trust

## Introduction

The State of the UK Barn Owl Population (SOUKBOP) report is an amalgamation of data from groups and individuals from around the UK, who all monitor a certain number of potential Barn Owl nest sites each year. The report represents an incredible amount of work from a great number of experienced and dedicated individuals; between them, an impressive 5,404 potential nest sites were checked over the 2022 breeding period with 1,807 of these holding active Barn Owl nests.

A full list of contributors can be found on page 2, with links to their own webpages (where available) on page 31 and their comments on the 2022 season on pages 14-23. We are delighted to include data from new contributors 'Barn Owl Conservation Oxfordshire', 'South Cleveland Ringing Group', 'Lough Neagh Barn Owl Group' and 'Goldcliff Ringing Group' in this year's report.

While this report does not attempt to estimate the current Barn Owl population size, it is a useful resource when evaluating how Barn Owls have fared regionally and how this differs to previous years. With our rapidly changing climate, having a reference point with which we can compare figures to is now more essential than ever. This year the UK broke its hottest temperature on record with an extraordinary 40.3°C recorded in Coningsby, Lincolnshire on July 19th, beating the previous record only recently recorded in 2019.



## Definition of Terms Used in Tables and Text

**Start year** - The year from which we begin calculations of averages. For some projects, monitoring begun well before this date.

**Sites checked** - The number of potential nest sites that were checked (inspected).

**Nesting** - The number of sites where nesting actually occurred (one or more eggs laid).

**% nesting (nesting occupancy)** - The percentage of sites checked where nesting occurred.

**Average of All Previous Years (AAPY)** - A mean value calculated from observed or estimated figures for each year from the effective start year, up to and including 2021.

**% change from AAPY under nesting occupancy** - The percentage change between the proportion of sites occupied in 2022 and the mean proportion of sites occupied in all previous years:

$$100 \times \frac{((2022 \text{ Nesting} \div 2022 \text{ Sites checked}) - (\text{AAPY Nesting} \div \text{AAPY Sites checked}))}{(\text{AAPY Nesting} \div \text{AAPY Sites checked})}$$

**Brood size** - The number of live young counted at any time between hatching and fledging.

**Mean brood size** - The total number of owlets, divided by the total number of broods. This excludes: 1) sites where there was no nesting, and 2) nests where there were no live young.

**% change from AAPY under mean brood size** - The percentage change in mean brood size between 2022 and the AAPY:

$$100 \times \frac{(2022 \text{ Mean brood size} - \text{AAPY Mean brood size})}{(\text{AAPY Mean brood size})}$$

**E - Estimated.**

Please note that rounding table values to whole numbers can lead to apparent discrepancies in calculations of % change from AAPY.

## **\*Unusual Exclusions**

For two contributors (see below), the figures used to calculate the percentage change in nesting occupancy from AAPY are excluded from the summary row. However, the change in mean brood size from the AAPY is still included.

### **Cam Valley Wildlife Group, Somerset.**

Approximately half of the usual c. 100 nestboxes were checked this year and so results cannot be fairly compared to the AAPY. Although less boxes were checked, Gary reports 2022 as their best year yet with many nestboxes being used.

### **Yorkshire - East Riding Barn Owl Conservation Group.**

Approximately half of the usual c. 500 nestboxes were checked this year and so again, a comparison to the AAPY is fairly uninformative on this occasion. Although less boxes were checked, Rob reports 2022 as a fairly average year.



*Rough Grassland - optimum Barn Owl foraging habitat. Photos: Barn Owl Trust.*

## Caveats

1. The figures in Table I are accurate, unless marked 'E'. However, methodological variation between groups means that the summary row can only suggest how nesting occupancy and brood size changed in the UK population as a whole.
2. In some cases, averages of previous years are updated as projects accumulate enough years to rely wholly on observed data rather than estimates, or as corrections are incorporated.
3. Anomalies can arise due to year-to-year changes in numbers of 'Sites Checked', affecting comparisons both in terms of the 'Average of All Previous Years' and 'Numerical change'. This is because the editors have not imposed criteria for the inclusion/exclusion of individual sites.
4. How potential nest sites are counted and the proportion of nest sites that were monitored varies between groups and, to a lesser extent, may sometimes vary between years.
5. The probability of individual sites being occupied varies tremendously. Some datasets include sites that may never have been occupied whilst others only include sites where pairs have nested previously.
6. The vast majority of sites are checked by inspection to confirm/discount breeding, and determine brood size. However, some groups accept reports from trusted/knowledgeable site owners, particularly when nest cavities are inaccessible.
7. At most sites, only one nest inspection is carried out. Chicks may die before this nest inspection or may die between inspection and fledging. Some sites are visited more than once and figures given for brood size may be derived from either one of these visits.
8. The calculation of AAPY varies between contributors according to how many years the project in question has been running.
9. One or two individual years may be omitted from calculations of averages because of restrictions on farm visits, such as in 1996 due to BSE, 2001 due to Foot and Mouth Disease, and 2020 due to Covid-19.

**Table I. RELATIVE CHANGE IN NESTING OCCUPANCY AND BROOD SIZE**

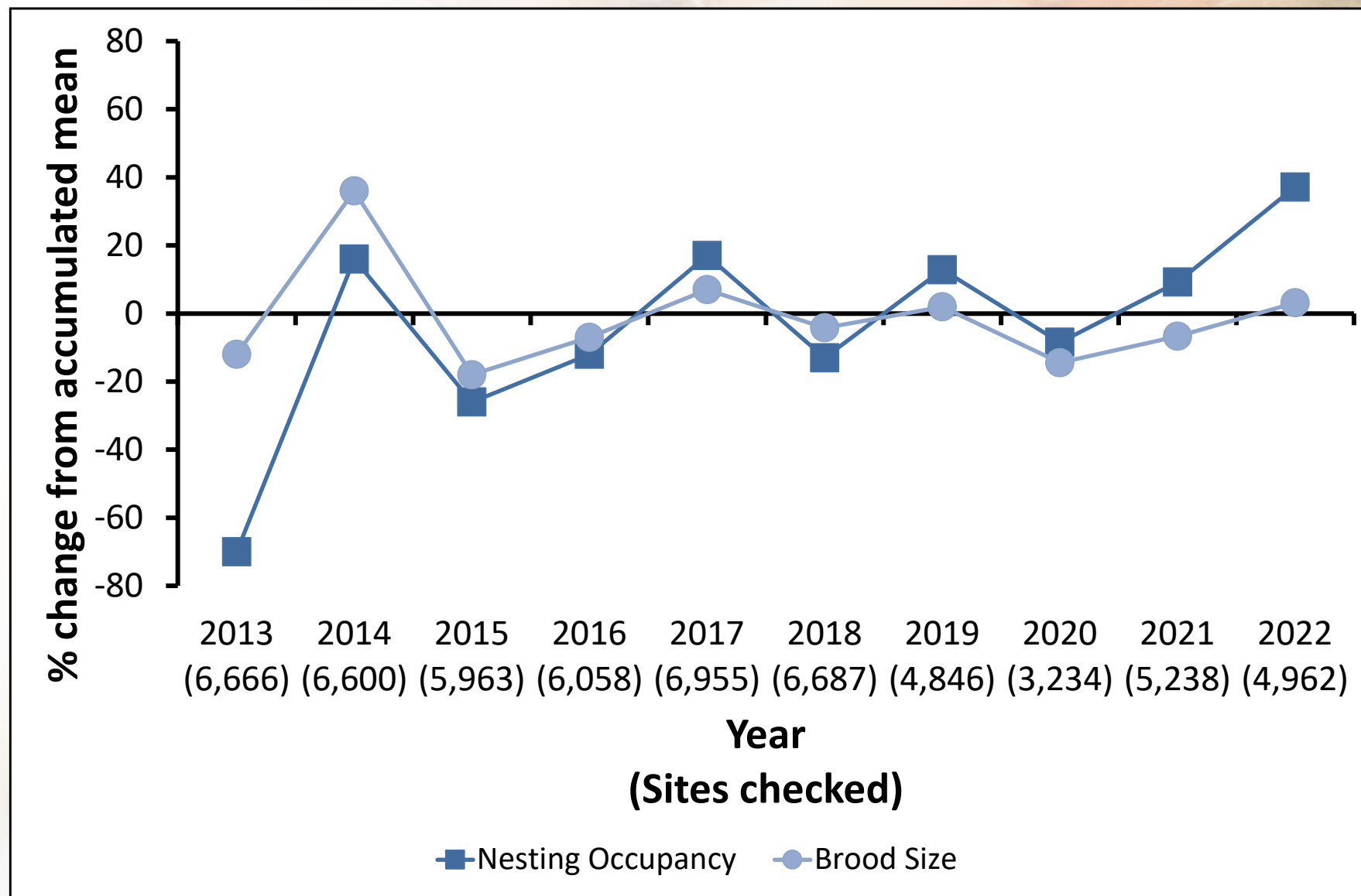
County / group	start year	Nesting Occupancy								Mean Brood Size			See notes
		2022			Average of All Previous Years (AAPY)			% change from AAPY	numerical change from AAPY	2022	AAPY	% change from AAPY	
		sites checked	nesting	% nesting	sites checked	nesting	% nesting						
Berkshire - West Berkshire Countryside Society Barn Owl Group	2010	188	35	19	150	30	20	-5	6	2.4	2.8	-14	1
Berkshire (N) & Buckinghamshire (S) - Middle Thames Ringing Group	2015	78	22	28	100	21	21	37	1	2.4	2.3	4	2
Buckinghamshire - Bucks Owl Raptor Group	2006	320 E	38	12	220	29	13	-10	9	2.3	2.6	-11	3
Cheshire Barn Owl Groups - John Wild	2006	950	167	18	1270	138	11	62	29	2.9	2.6	10	4
Cornwall – West Cornwall Ringing Group	2011	112	78	70	60	34	57	22	44	3.1	3.1	1	5
Derbyshire Ornithological Society	2019	54	13	24	76	17	22	10	-4	3.7	3.0	23	
Devon & Cornwall (E)- Barn Owl Trust	1993	61	35	57	78	35	45	28	0	2.7	2.9	-7	6
East Cleveland Nest Box Network Project	2019	136	53	39	97	35	37	7	18	3.5	2.7	30	7
Galloway W- Scottish Raptor Study Group	2013	47	22	47	63	32	51	-8	-10	2.5	2.6	-3	8
Glamorgan Barn Owl Group	2013	58	32	55	45	20	45	23	12	3.2	3.2	0	9

**Table I. RELATIVE CHANGE IN NESTING OCCUPANCY AND BROOD SIZE - CONTINUED**

County / group	start year	Nesting Occupancy								Mean Brood Size			See notes
		2022			Average of All Previous Years (AAPY)			% change from AAPY	numerical change from AAPY	2022	AAPY	% change from AAPY	
		sites checked	nesting	% nesting	sites checked	nesting	% nesting						
Gloucestershire Barn Owl Monitoring Programme	2014	198	64	32	96	22	22	44	42	2.6	2.5	2	10
Jersey Barn Owl Conservation	2006	218	54	25	118	37	32	-22	17	1.2	2.5	-52	11
Leicestershire - Vale of Belvoir Barn Owl Conservation Group (VBOC)	2013	84	42	50	168	27	16	214	15	2.2	2.3	-4	12
Manchester Raptor Group	2010	146	57	39	87	32	37	5	25	3.1	2.7	16	13
Norfolk - NW Norfolk Ringing Group	2002	241	106	44	415	177	43	3	-71	2.5	2.1	17	14
Northumberland (N) - Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group - Philip Hanmer	2006	100	39	39	100	29	29	36	10	2.9	2.3	27	15
North York Moors - South Cleveland Ringing Group	2018	38	29	76	33	25	74	3	4	3.9	3.4	16	16
Barn Owl Conservation Oxfordshire	2018	232	121	52	165	56	34	54	65	2.6	2.4	9	17
Powys Species Habitat Protection Group	2014	71	36	51	62	24	40	28	12	3.1	3.4	-8	18
Shropshire Barn Owl Group	2002	110	83	75	204	43	21	255	40	2.9	2.8	3	19

**Table I. RELATIVE CHANGE IN NESTING OCCUPANCY AND BROOD SIZE - CONTINUED**

County / group	start year	Nesting Occupancy								Mean Brood Size			See notes
		2022			Average of All Previous Years (AAPY)			% change from AAPY	numerical change from AAPY	2022	AAPY	% change from AAPY	
		sites checked	nesting	% nesting	sites checked	nesting	% nesting						
* Somerset - Cam Valley Wildlife Group	1995	56	17	30	93	11	12	See unusual exclusions		3.4	2.5	33	20
Staffordshire Barn Owl Action Group	2008	190	57	30	252	39	15	95	18	2.7	3.1	-12	21
Suffolk Bird Group	2007	795	156	20	1153	202	17	12	-46	3.0	2.2	35	22
Sussex - Terry Hallahan	2007	149	64	43	131	60	46	-6	4	2.6	2.9	-13	23
Ulster Wildlife - Katy Bell	2016	72	5	7	88	3	4	93	2	2.6	2.7	-4	24
Warwickshire - Stour Valley Barn Owl Group/ Brandon Ringing Group	2011	100	36	36	247	49	20	83	-13	2.4	2.9	-19	25
Wiltshire - The Salisbury Plain Raptor and Owl Ringing Group	2017	214	150	70	328	145	44	58	5	2.9	2.3	27	26
* Yorkshire - East Riding Barn Owl Conservation Group	2013	255 E	105 E	41	494	99	20	See unusual exclusions		2.9	2.9	0	27
Summary		Grand Total	Grand Total	% Nesting	Grand Total	Grand Total	% Nesting	% Change	Numerical Change	Mean	Mean	% Change	
		4962	1594	32	5806	1360	23	37	234	2.8	2.7	3.1	



**Figure 1.** Variation in UK summary figures for Barn Owl nesting occupancy (squares) and brood size (circles) from 2013 to 2022. The vertical axis shows percentage change in summary figures relative to the accumulating mean of all previous years. 'Sites checked' refers to the sample size for calculations of percentage change in nesting occupancy.

## General Summary

2022 was generally a very good year for breeding Barn Owls across the UK. Nesting occupancy was 37% above the average value, with an impressive 1,807 active nests recorded. Over 50% increases in nesting occupancy were recorded in Cheshire, Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Ulster, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Yorkshire. Indeed, only West Berkshire (-5%), Buckinghamshire (-10%), Galloway (-8%), Jersey (-22%) and Sussex (-6%) reported declines in nesting occupancy.

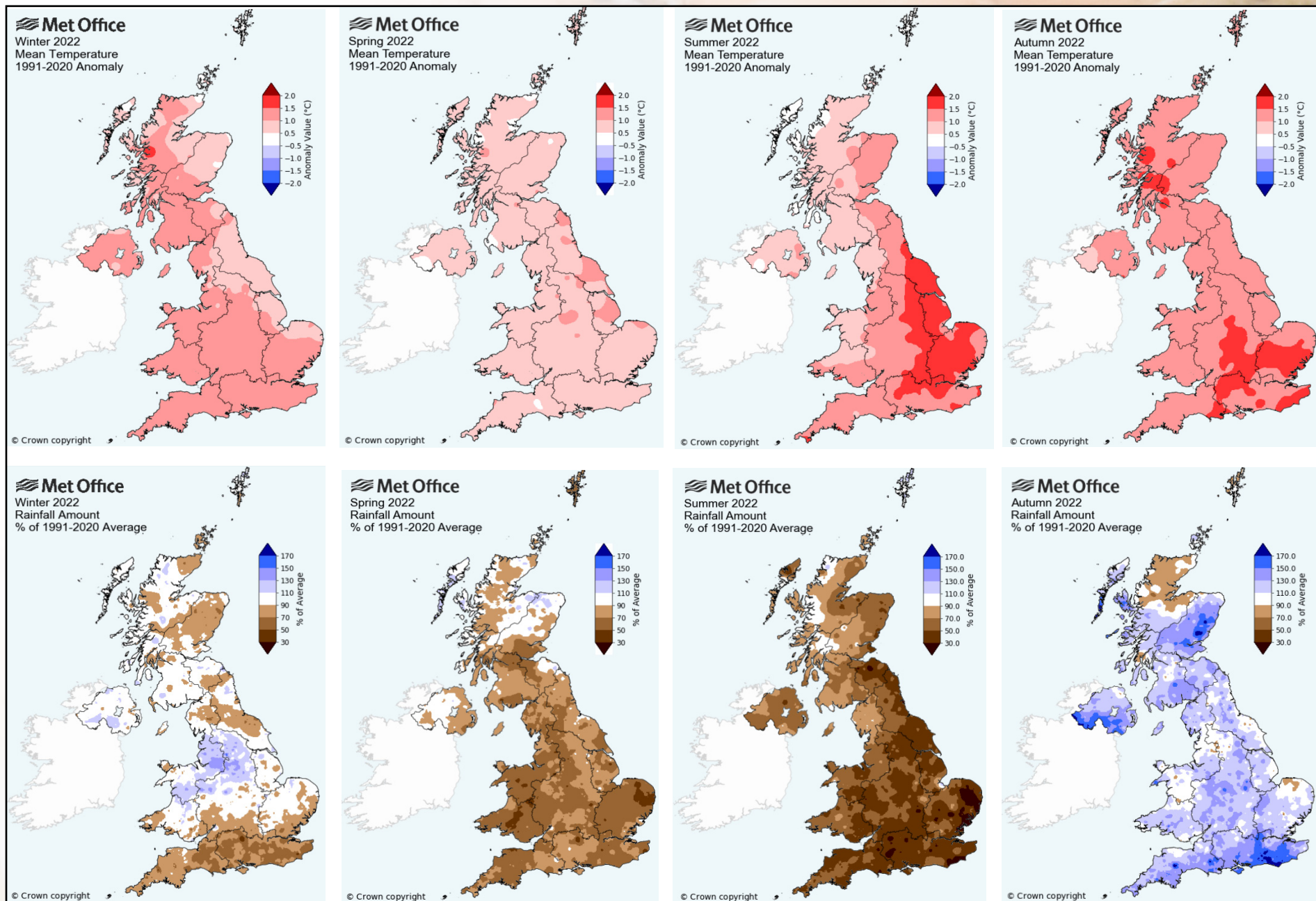
Despite the substantial increase in active Barn Owl nest sites, the overall mean brood size was only 3% higher than the average of all previous years. Across regions, the greatest increases in brood size were seen in East Cleveland (33%), Northumberland (27%), Somerset (33%), Suffolk (35%) and Wiltshire (27%). Only Jersey (-52%) and Warwickshire (-19%) observed noticeable decreases in brood size.

With an excellent increase in the numbers of Barn Owls nesting, it is a shame this peak was not followed up with above-average brood sizes to help boost the population. Perhaps this uncoupling of the normally correlated nesting occupancy and brood size is a reflection of changing climates and indeed follows on from the pattern observed in 2021. Is it possible that milder winters are allowing more birds to survive, get into breeding condition and begin nesting, but then unpredictable and unseasonal spring and summer weather conditions limit brood sizes and nestling survival?

Across the UK, the whole of 2022 was much warmer and drier than normal (Fig. 2; Met Office graphs). The winter of 2021/2022 was incredibly mild with a mixture of settled spells and wetter weather. This was then followed by a reasonably warm and dry spring and so these favourable conditions could well explain the increase in Barn Owls nests recorded. Unfortunately, the weather became hotter and drier throughout the summer, with an unprecedented heatwave observed in July and a significant drought throughout July and August with only 56% and 54% of normal rainfall in these months. This drought drastically reduced grass growth which will have almost certainly reduced prey availability just as owlets were developing and so likely limited brood sizes and second broods. The Autumn was also much warmer than normal but thankfully brought a return to average rainfall.



*Photo: Justine Hadfield.*



**Figure 2.** Deviations from the mean temperature (top) and rainfall (bottom) in the UK across the seasons (left to right: Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn). Graphs obtained from the Met Office Climate summaries accessed: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/summaries/index>

## 2022 REGIONAL ROUND UP

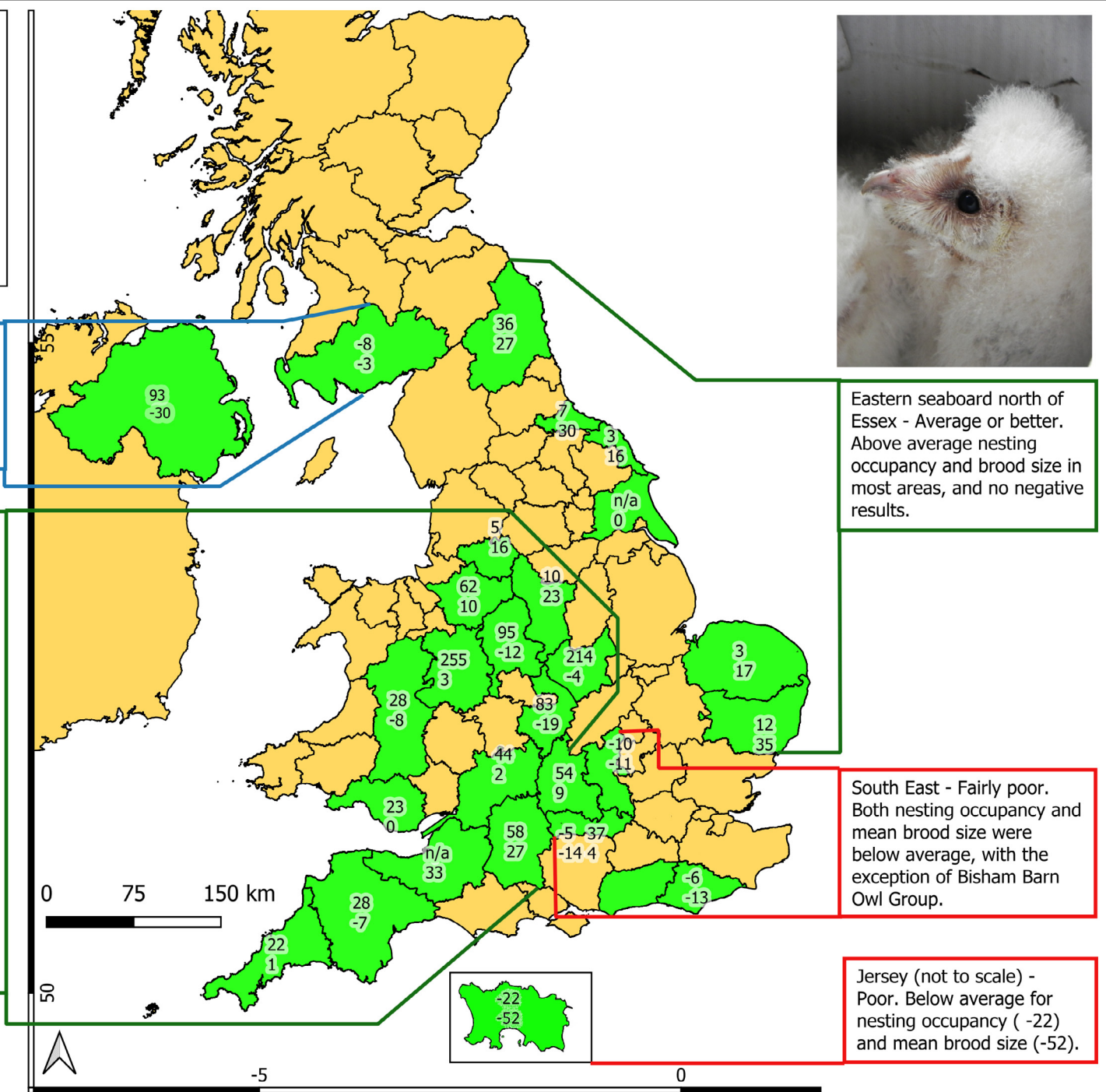
Shaded-in Counties indicate the general location of contributing projects and do not imply that sites were monitored across the whole County.

The figures shown for Counties are the percentage change from the average of all previous years and indicate whether the 2022 results were above or below previous results in that County. The top figure is nesting occupancy and the bottom figure is mean brood size.

Northern Ireland and South West Scotland - Below average brood size. Nesting occupancy was also slightly lower than usual in Galloway, whereas in Ulster the number of active sites recorded was similar to recent years, but this represented a higher proportion of the number of sites checked.

South West, Wales and Mid-England - High nesting occupancy but mixed mean brood size. Above average nesting occupancy across this extensive region suggests reasonable overwinter survival and favourable conditions early in the year. In the more northern counties of Greater Manchester, Derbyshire, Cheshire and Shropshire this positive result was coupled with a moderately positive mean brood size. However, below average mean brood size in Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Powys shows that as the season progressed mortality among nestlings and owlets was at least as high as usual in these areas. From the south west across to Oxfordshire the mean brood size was generally around average or somewhat better. We note that the most marked variation across the country occurred in areas where monitoring included less boxes than normal, and that this might have accentuated the results.

Created by the Barn Owl Trust using QGIS: QGIS Development Team, 2022. QGIS Geographic Information System. Open Source Geospatial Foundation Project. <http://qgis.osgeo.org>.



## 2022 Contributors' Comments and Editors Notes

### 1. **Berkshire – West Berkshire Countryside Society Barn Owl Group - John Dellow**

2022 was our poorest year in the last 8, except 2020 which was affected by Covid. We did not have any second broods. In our area it needs an exceptional season for second broods to be successful. 18.6 % of our boxes supported successful breeding, this was disappointing. We like to think that we are getting better with site selection so that we don't install boxes in unsuitable habitat. Clearly, we have a lot to learn. Our largest brood size was 4 chicks. This was only achieved at one site with the average brood size being 2.4 chicks per brood.

Note: The "brood size" statistic is based on the number of birds believed to have fledged. Unhatched eggs and chick losses before fledging have not been counted. This is consistent with reports submitted in previous years.

### 2. **Berkshire (E) and Buckinghamshire (S) – Bisham Barn Owl Group- Paul Warham**

Data provided is for our RAS project area. A higher number of nests than usual (7 out of 22) failed at the chick stage.

[Editors' note: The group name has changed from 'Middle Thames Ringing Group' to 'Bisham Barn Owl Group', and you can find their website and 2022 report by [following this link](#). The 2015 - 2021 AAPY mean brood size has been calculated and excludes estimates from prior to 2015.]

### 3. **Buckinghamshire – Bucks Owl and Raptor Group – Norman Shepherd**

[Editors' note: Due to the disruptions in 2020 and partial results from 2021, averages are based on 2006 to 2019.]

### 4. **Cheshire Barn Owl Groups – Dr John Wild**

Recovery after poor year last year. We appear to be maintaining a steady state population of around 160-170 pairs. Plus, of course, the undetected population.

## **5. Cornwall – West Cornwall Ringing Group**

Despite the drought, birds actually seemed to do OK. Although clutch sizes were the joint lowest (with 2021) for eight years, brood sizes were better than 2021 and only just short of the long-term average. Pairs along the north coast fared the best (average brood size of 3.7), followed by Lizard and Penwith (3.4), central Cornwall (3.0), whilst those in the east of the county suffered most in the dry weather (just 2.3). We continued our run of unusual movements as well, with a non-breeding male (paired with a regular female) in an established site in Penwith having been ringed as a chick in 2017 in Northumberland; our furthest movement to date (587km). We also received three reports of ringed birds dead on the A30 during the year, all on the open dual carriageway section north of Truro.

[Editors' note: This text was adapted from the West Cornwall Ringing Group blog, which you can read in full here: <https://cornishringing.blogspot.com/2022/10/barn-owl-2022-update.html>."]

## **6. Devon & Cornwall (E) – Barn Owl Trust**

Nesting occupancy includes a failed brood of four, found dead at around 4 weeks of age. The young had been dead around two weeks and two adults flushed from the site. Had the brood died because one adult had died, but was then replaced? Another nesting attempt failed after just one egg was laid. We found two pairs breeding simultaneously within 80 m of each other, which increased nesting occupancy slightly because the two nestboxes were treated as one site (as usual). Overall, a good year for nesting occupancy but average in terms of brood size.

## **7. East Cleveland Nest Box Network Project – Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Kate Bartram & Colin Gibson**

The mild winter saw barn owls start breeding a good two weeks ahead of previous years. This season we had our first clutches of eight eggs. Overall owlet survival was up with a marked increase in owlets ringed to one hundred and seventy this season from fifty-three the previous year. Four pairs had second broods. Two successful and two failed. Seventeen sites had evidence of use as roosts but no breeding activity. Three boxes were occupied by kestrels, four by stock doves and four had tawny owls. We continue to get an increasing number of boxes occupied by jackdaws in the east of our area potentially displacing barn owl breeding activity.

[Editors' note: Updated results for previous years became available and have been incorporated.]

## **8. Galloway (W) – Scottish Raptor Study Group - Geoff & Jean Sheppard**

Fortunately 2022 has been a better year than 2021 for the Barn Owls of West Galloway with approximately 50% of sites occupied as in previous years. Only one pair failed to lay eggs, being displaced by Jackdaws, and of those that laid, the majority hatched and reared large young with every chance of fledging. Brood sizes, while a little below average, were of a reasonable size with one brood of 5 and four broods of 4 suggesting that vole numbers are rising again and that 2023 could be a peak year for them.

[Editors' note: The 2013-2021 AAPY values have been calculated and now exclude estimates prior to 2013.]

## **9. Glamorgan Barn Owl Group – Guy Evans & Stephen Thomas**

Our most successful year to date. We recorded a 68% increase in active sites with a mean brood size of 3.2.

It is always difficult to understand fluctuations in breeding population however the unusually low rainfall between March to September must have been a significant factor this year.

A heartfelt thank you to those farmers and landowners who make this ongoing project possible. We are also indebted to those who have contributed nest boxes. A special mention to Rob Scott and students at Atlantic College and Barrie Gardiner of St Athan who manufactured some excellent nest boxes (Barn Owl Trust specification of course!). Finally thanks go to our legendary ringer Dave Cooksey who certainly had his hands full over the summer!



*Legendary ringer Dave Cooksey of Glamorgan Barn Owl Group.*

## **10. Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group – Anna Field and Rich Harris**

Barn owls had mixed fortunes in Gloucestershire in 2022. We found a good number of active nests, initially with good clutch sizes, however many lost chicks during the extreme hot weather resulting in relatively small brood sizes at ringing. No second broods were located in 2022. Earlier this year we were successful in securing a grant from the farming in protected landscapes scheme to purchase and put up 100 barn owl boxes in the area which have all now gone up - so will be plenty more to monitor in future years!

## **11. Jersey Barn Owl Conservation – Marc Peters**

We are beginning to gather some great data following a second successful ringing season, this year's numbers are very similar to last but we have seen a long breeding season with eggs seen from January through May, peaking in March. The team continues replacing the old boxes around the island, a number of which have seen occupation soon after.

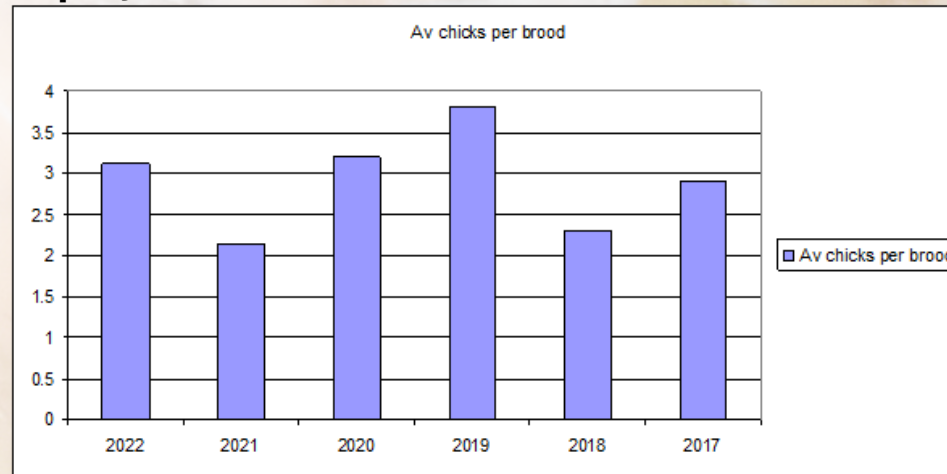
We are always looking for new sites and have this year been more active on social media which has given us a greater profile helping with donations, sightings and possible box locations. [Editor's note: The AAPY values do not include data from the years 2020 or 2021].

## 12. Leicestershire – Vale of Belvoir Barn Owl Conservation Group – Bill Glancy & Don Pritchett

While nesting occupancy was above average, unfortunately the increase wasn't as high as previous counts. Despite this fairly good start to the breeding season, brood size was slightly below the average for the group. This may be attributed to the very hot weather we had in June with a number of sites with failed eggs.

[Editors' note: The 2013-2021 AAPY values have been calculated and now exclude estimates prior to 2013.]

## 13. Manchester Raptor Group – Judith Smith



178 (E) chicks (Estimate; probably more as not all sites could be accessed and at some we were dependent on farmers' figures). The graph above should be regarded with caution as there has been great variability in the number of sites checked. New ones are being added all the time, and a large slice was lost in September 2020 when a member left the Group taking his 46 sites with him (not all of these had BOs). However, these have been more than made up for by new sites since, for example in 2020 136 were checked including his, but this year 146 excluding his.

**Second broods:** we do not routinely check for these but some come to our notice when cleaning out boxes in the autumn, planning applications or site owners notifying us themselves. This year there were 5 definite second broods with a further two sites probably having them.

**First breeding at sites:** we had first breeding at 10 sites this year. Five of these were in boxes we had installed but never used or new. The remaining five were ones that came to our notice through birdwatchers (3), rescue centre (1), and a ringing recovery (1).

**Abandoned:** we found dead abandoned owlets at 2 sites. At one, 4 large young were dead with a vole in the box and later in the summer 5 eggs were abandoned at a site with CCTV less than 800m from this site.

**Conclusion:** a better than average year

#### **14. North-West Norfolk Ringing Group – John Middleton**

The 2022 season got off to an early start with active nests encountered 4 -6 weeks earlier than last year with larger broods than last year and it looked as though it would be a good year. The early start was an indication that pairs might have second broods later in the year, as it turned out that didn't happen so although disappointing the year was an improvement on the previous two.

#### **15. Northumberland (N) – Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group - Philip Hanmer**

This study (of around 100 sites) in North Northumberland (outside the National Park) indicates that this was a much better year than 2021; although not as good as 2020. At 39% occupancy it was above the long-term average of 30%; although only 34 were successful at raising young. The exceptionally stormy weather of the winter may have disrupted some nest sites and pairs (indeed we recorded three instances in the spring when pairs seemed to have changed partners during the early stages of nesting!); we did lose some sites. However, the weather did eventually become calmer and most eggs were laid in April and May.

As the summer moved on it became hot and dry. This initially seemed to encourage some late broods; although of five which could be said to fall into this category, only three were successful with young being ringed in August. This can probably be explained by the exceptionally dry weather in August suppressing the numbers of small mammals. One of the late nests, near Longhorsley, was a replacement brood. The pair originally had 3 eggs in May but for reasons that we can't understand stopped incubating these and laid 6 more in June from which they raised 4 at the end of August. Another of the successful late broods was raised by a male who occupied a nest site all year; his mate died early in the year but he continued to occupy the site and eventually attracted a new mate towards the end of June. We were able to ring 4 young at the end of August.

The average number of eggs laid per clutch was up at 4.4 although four '6's' were recorded. The average number of owlets fledged was 2.9 although three pairs did raise 6. A total of 107 owlets were ringed and apparently fledged. 32 new adult Barn Owls were ringed and 28 re-trapped/controlled; including a pair that seems to always nest early near Bamburgh; another that was evicted from their usual box by Tawny Owls but went onto to use the tawnies own box instead!

As well as damage and disruption caused by the winter storms Jackdaws were still a problem occupying owl nest sites. The attempt of this species to bury owl eggs under 'jackdaw sticks' was again observed. Kestrels were exceptionally thin on the ground with only one pair using an owl box; although they were seen around two other sites.

Tawny Owls did take over one barn owl box and turned up in some slightly odd sites (probably the result of losing nest sites to the winter storms). However, they had a successful nesting year and they did compete (as is usual) with our rare breeding Goldeneye ducks for nest sites.

Successful Barn Owl nests were near: Whittingham, Doddington, Wooler, Alnwick, Allerdean, Fallowdon, Newton, Bamburgh, Craster, Bilton, Warkworth, Rothbury, Coltpark, Netherwitton, Longhorsley and Longframlington.

Thanks are due to all those who have helped with this project; and those that have donated money for the making of boxes etc.

## **16. North York Moors Nestbox Scheme (South Cleveland Ringing Group) – Wilf Norman**

Much better season than 2021 brood sizes considerably bigger on average, the reason vole numbers much improved.

## **17. Barn Owl Conservation Oxfordshire/Oxford Ornithological Society– Ally Bunning, with notes by Prof. Stewart Thomson**

The teams managed to monitor 232 sites in 2022.

1st egg laid 29th March (Nest cam). 173 Young ringed.

As will be the case throughout the UK the weather had a significant influence on our data, with the first egg being laid on the 29/03 and all second broods failing due to the heatwave which gave rise to poor prey availability. Mean brood size in 2022 was 2.59, compared to 2.54 in 2021 - small, but still concerning, reductions compared to the 2.62 average across the 2005 to 2021 time frame.

Comparison of the 2021 versus the 2022 data indicates that although there was an 9.5% uplift in the number of active sites (43 to 52), the increase did not result in a discernible increase in the number of chicks ringed – 175 in 2021 versus 173 in 2022. It is worth noting however, that there has been a significant number of boxes added to the overall network that we monitor (42 new boxes installed throughout 2022), with the number of sites we now monitor more than doubling over the 2018 to 2022 time frame (103 to 232).

To end on a slightly lighter note. We never quite know what to expect when we inspect our nest boxes. This breeding season revealed a first for us – a clutch of five Egyptian goose eggs! Sadly, the birds deserted, but the find did generate a lot of discussion surrounding just exactly what species might realistically utilise one of our boxes.

## **18. Powys – Species Habitat Protection Group – Jon & Jan Sloan**

2022 was a very good year for us, although brood sizes were down on last year. We continue to find new sites and carry out work maintaining our existing ones with funds from our charity. Hopefully Avian Flu abates and the Barn Owls continue to thrive.

## **19. Shropshire Barn Owl Group – Glenn Bishton & John Lightfoot**

235 chicks were produced in nestboxes and natural sites monitored by SBOG in 2022 and it proved to be the most productive breeding season since the group was established in 2002. Fourteen new pairs were established (32 in the last three years, for example). Five of the last six years have consistently been peak years, with over 200 chicks produced in each year. Only 2020 dipped below 200, with 139 chicks. This trend is interesting because between 2002 and 2016 there was a cycle of peaks and troughs in breeding productivity. The levelling off may be attributable to climatic or environmental factors, and data from future breeding seasons might offer an insight.

## **20. Somerset NE– Cam Valley Wildlife Group – Gary Kingman**

Season started quiet with not much about, then lots of owl sightings and boxes being used. I am getting more farmers having boxes and showing an interest. Our best year yet with 17 breeding pairs – wishing this carries on.

## **21. Staffordshire Barn Owl Action Group – Helen Cottam**

In Staffordshire, we recorded 156 barn owl chicks with the largest brood size of 6 chicks. Twelve sites raised 4 young, twenty-two sites raised 3 owlets with the rest raising either 1 or 2 young. Due to volunteer shortages and unavailability not all potential breeding sites were visited this year.

The Staffordshire Moorlands continues to be the most productive region in Staffordshire with 38 pairs of barn owls recorded raising 108 young.

## **22. Suffolk Bird Group – Mike Crawford**

During 2022 we suffered the loss of a number of our monitors due to health and ageing, hence the low number of boxes checked.

However, of the boxes checked 321 were active with all the usual occupants plus in one case a Mandarin duck on eggs.

It was generally a good year for the Barn Owl population in Suffolk, but the lack of monitors is an issue which I hope we can somewhat address before the 2023 season.

## **23. Sussex Ornithological Society Barn Owl Study Group – Terry Hallahan**

2022 proved to be a challenging year for SBOSG.

Medium term illness took its toll, long-awaited, well-deserved holidays coincided with peak monitoring times, compounded by earlier (4-6 weeks) broods, of which many were missed. Note, SBOSG avoid visiting boxes at times where incubating adults may be disturbed.

The data is, therefore, a meaningless comparison with previous year's numbers, the exception being average brood size.

The group visited 149 boxes, making a total of 181E box visits. 53 boxes were occupied by Barn Owls which were chicks suitable for ringing. 11 boxes had obvious fledged broods, all of which had adults and or fledged young in the vicinity.

136 pulli were ringed. All encountered were healthy weights, only 1 brood was found where all young had died of starvation. 5 new adults were trapped and ringed at nest box sites, 2 of which were in their 4th calendar year.

5 adults were re-trapped, 1 moving 25km from a mid-Sussex group site to a South downs site. Others ranged from 3 to 14 km. 1 adult controlled moved 11km. Mean average brood size, based on successful visits 2.56.

[Editor's note: Data from SBOSG were included within the summary row calculations because the group obtained a representative sample to compare against the AAPY calculated from 2007].

## 24. Ulster Wildlife – Katy Bell

New boxes in key areas and dry and warm weather allowed our barn owl pairs to have a good breeding year. Please [follow this link](#) to read Ulster Wildlife's 2022 Barn Owl Report.

Details below on the 5 nest sites:

Site 1 - 1 chick fledged (there were 4, 1 died naturally, 2 predated by pine marten)

Site 2 - 3 chicks fledged (new site for 2022)

Site 3 - 4 chicks fledged

Site 4 - 1 chick fledged

Site 5 - 4 chicks fledged in September (new site for 2022 – see picture)



*Photo of new nest site observed by Ulster Wildlife. Katy Bell*

## 25. Warwickshire – Stour Valley Barn Owl Group and the Brandon Ringing Group – Paul Leadbeater

Notes: 1 pair not proved to breed + 2 single birds.

## 26. Wiltshire – The Salisbury Plain Raptor and Owl Ringing Group – Major Nigel Lewis

The season began well with most owls starting at the same time, by mid-April some had small young and the prospects looked good. The weather was settled, mainly dry, and hunting conditions perfect; the early first broods were a good size and fledged into a prolonged period of good weather; the owlets had every opportunity to adapt to the wild and join the adult population.

This was also true for other nesting birds of prey at the same time and could have seriously challenged the prey base. This, and the near drought conditions that followed later affected the growth of grass and must have reduced the vole population. It would explain brood sizes reducing and an almost total lack of second broods. The long overdue rain has arrived with a vengeance, we now have had serious long spells of rain, especially at night. This will put a strain on the owls but at least it is warm which will help. I conclude that the promising good year may have mis-fired, I'm worried by the latest exceptional rain, as usual much depends on the weather, especially this winter!



*This female Barn Owl was closely monitored and proved to be a terrific hunter as she successfully provisioned her 3 young on her own. Photo: Justine Hadfield.*

## 27. Yorkshire - East Riding Barn Owl Conservation Group - Rob Salter

Fairly average year for Barn Owls in East Yorkshire.

## **Extra Comments and Contributions**

### **Lincolnshire - Garry Steele**

I ringed six broods of barn owlets during the summer 2022. I also ringed a single adult female at one site where the owner thought there was breeding taking place, but this did not prove to be the case.

Of these six broods, brood sizes were:- 4, 3, 2, 5, 4 & 3.

The last of these broods I ringed was on 27/07/2022. This was very shortly after the UK's highest ever temperature of 40.3 Degrees C was recorded just a handful of miles away at Coningsby, Lincolnshire. This brood were in a pole-mounted box, fully out in the open with no shade, but had still come through this extreme heat OK.

More latterly I have also ringed 2 further broods where the resident pair have decide to breed for the second time during 2022. The first of these secondary broods was 2 in number, ringed on 30 August 2022. The second is really quite remarkable, primarily due to its extreme lateness with the first egg being laid on 12/09/2022 and with the chicks successfully fledgling in late January.

### **South Yorkshire and East Riding - Bekah Beaumont**

Bekah Beaumont monitors boxes across South Yorkshire and East Riding for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and other private sites and last year she contributed her results to this report for the first time. Although the brood size for this year is similar to last year, nesting occupancy was down from 61% in 2021 to 40%. Here are Bekah's comments from 2022: "I checked 20 boxes, 8 of which were occupied by active Barn Owl nests and the mean brood size was 3."

### **Greater Gwent Barn Owl Initiative, Goldcliff Ringing Group – Richard Clarke**

This is the first year of reporting about this new project in south-east Wales. At the end of 2022, 109 sites were included in the initiative with most being nest boxes that were installed in the southern half of Gwent between 2021-2022 by the Goldcliff Ringing Group.

In the table the number of sites checked refer to those where breeding birds were present in either 2022 or in an earlier year. In the main, occupied boxes were those that have been installed the longest which are mostly on the Caldicot Levels between Newport and Chepstow.

## Greater Gwent Barn Owl Initiative, Goldcliff Ringing Group - Continued

	2022	2021
Number of sites checked	29	9
Number of active nest sites (where nest has one or more eggs)	18	7
Mean brood size	3.00	3.29
Number of roost sites	4	2

The increase in number of active nest sites reflects the increase in the number of nest boxes being provided and although there are encouraging early signs of an increasing population, it's far too soon to draw any meaningful conclusions at this early stage of the project.

It is however worth pointing out that there were some setbacks and disappointments in 2022. Firstly, high winds early in the season destroyed or seriously damaged three previously used nest boxes and although these were replaced, none were nested in the year. Secondly, at three sites nesting attempts failed with eggs failing to hatch at two sites and owlets found dead at a third site, apparently having starved to death.

## County Antrim, Lough Neagh Barn Owl Group - Ciarán Walsh

Lough Neagh Barn Owl Group had three nests with eleven owlets successfully fledged by the first week in September 2022. One nest with three owlets and two nests with four owlets each.

Only one nest was in a box which gave us access to ring the four owlets, the other nests were down a chimney and behind a water tank in the roof space of an old farmhouse. For safety reasons, both to the owls and to us these two nests were out of reach for ringing the owlets. We were hoping for a second brood at one of the nests but sadly it didn't happen. Eleven owlets is a great success for our area on the Antrim shore of Lough Neagh.

## Isle of Wight - Gil Gaylor

Gil Gaylor contributed to the State of the UK Barn Owl Population reports every year from the outset in 2013 through to 2019, so after a two-year pause we were really pleased to hear back from him. The 70 sites he reported on represent a 40% increase when compared to the average number of sites checked over previous years. In Gil's words, 2022 was 'A very good year for Barn Owls on the Isle of Wight', but this is not apparent when comparing the 2022 nesting occupancy (77%) with the average of all previous years (94%). Thus, a -22% change in nesting occupancy was possibly due to the dramatic increase in the number of sites checked. Gil estimated the mean brood size in 2022 at somewhere between three and four young, whereas the mean brood size from 2013 to 2019 was three.

## **Previous Years: 1995 to 2020**

### **1995-2009**

The only reliable estimate of Barn Owl numbers in the UK was c. 4,000 pairs in the period 1995-97 (Project Barn Owl Report, 2000) and there is some evidence that numbers increased in the period 1997-2009 particularly in eastern England. Additionally, the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-II showed a northerly range expansion since the previous 1993 atlas. These increases were probably the result of a general climate warming in the period 1989-2009 and the erection of numerous nestboxes in, for example, parts of The Fens and East Anglia. It is quite probable that in 2009 the UK Barn Owl population level was substantially greater than 4,000 pairs.

### **2009-2012**

There can be little doubt that the unusually severe winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 reduced total population size although 'before and after' population levels will never be known. In spite of these setbacks, additional data submitted to the authors suggest that 2012, with the hottest March since 1997, was quite a reasonable year. For example, the Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project which monitored a staggering 1,191 boxes in 2012 recorded 319 nests which, at the time, was the highest number since monitoring started in 2007. However, in some parts such as SW Scotland (Geoff Sheppard pers. com.) and Cumbria (Ian Armstrong pers. com.) 2012 was a very poor year and in Devon widespread nestling mortality resulted in the average brood size dropping from 3.68 to 2.75 during the wettest June since 1766.

### **2013**

Given that 2012 was a relatively good year (overall) and winter '12/13 was much less severe than the preceding three, Barn Owl numbers at the start of 2013 were probably quite reasonable (probably lower than in 2009 but possibly still higher than 1995-97). March 2013 was the coldest since 1962 and during that month the number of dead Barn Owls reported to the BTO was 280% above normal.

Without exception, every monitoring scheme that contributed data reported a high proportion of nest sites with no signs of occupation and Major Nigel Lewis's comment summed it up very well: "the worst year in the 30 years I have been owling in Wiltshire".

The State of the UK Barn Owl Population 2013 showed that nesting occupancy in 2013 was an estimated 72% below the all-years average and mean brood size (2.63) was down by 12% (based on information provided by 26 data contributors who between them checked an estimated 6,344 potential nest sites).

The widespread absence of adults from annual nest sites and exceptionally high mortality recorded by the BTO suggested that the missing birds were dead. Conversely, the exceptionally high nesting occupancy the following year suggested that the missing birds had been simply roosting away from their nest sites. Fortunately, the UK's largest county-wide survey was carried out that same year and this entailed the rechecking of all known roost sites as well as nest sites. If the birds were alive and roosting elsewhere, the big drop in nesting occupancy should have been mirrored by a similar or bigger increase in roost occupancy (bigger because of birds roosting singly). In the event this was not the case. The 2013 Devon Barn Owl Survey report, based on the checking of 1,070 sites, showed a 65% drop in nesting occupancy and an increase in roost occupancy of only 16.9%. These figures support the view that a high proportion of the missing birds were not simply roosting elsewhere but were in fact dead.

This begs the question “where did all the Barn Owls come from that nested in 2014?” They must have been a combination of those that survived 2013 and young birds produced very late in 2013 who were all probably helped by the fact that winter-spring 2013-14 was so mild that Field Voles were even breeding in mid-winter (see State of the UK Barn Owl Population 2013).

## **2014**

With a mild winter followed by an early spring and a long and pleasant summer, 2014 turned out to be the warmest year ever recorded - according to the National Climatic Data Centre. Great weather happened to coincide with a peak year for small mammals and Barn Owls had a very productive year in many areas. Berkshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire did particularly well with nesting occupancy 71 to 193% above normal (UK average +16%). Brood sizes were phenomenal in many areas with records broken in Suffolk and Wiltshire. Broods in Somerset were, on average, 84% bigger than normal (UK average +35%).

Sadly, 2014 was not an amazing year everywhere. Brood sizes in parts of SW Scotland, east Wales and the Isle of Wight bucked the trend by being no higher than normal and the mean brood size of the biggest UK Barn Owl monitoring scheme in Lincolnshire (the Bowden and Ball Ringing Group) was only 13% above their all-years average (see State of the UK Barn Owl Population 2014).

## **2015**

Overall, 2015 was a poor year for Barn Owls in the UK with nesting occupancy down by 26% and mean brood size down by 16%. Some quite extreme geographical variation occurred between regions, within regions and even within counties. Barn Owls in Lincolnshire experienced an even worse year than in 2013 with nesting occupancy 95% below the all-years average and mean brood size 41% down. In Mid Sussex nesting occupancy was 47% down but, in complete contrast, in West Sussex it was 16% up despite the fact that these areas are immediately adjacent and even overlap a little. Further north, where the Bisham BOG straddles the Berks/Bucks border, nesting occupancy was only 7% below average but the Bucks ORG reported it to be a disappointing 66% below. Given that winter

2014/15, and 2015 itself, were generally mild it is most unlikely that the poor results were due to the weather but due to a general lack of prey. It is well known that annual variations in small mammal abundance are not synchronised across the whole country and that certainly seems to have been the case in 2015.

## **2016**

Sadly, 2016 was another poor year. Data received from 32 monitoring schemes shows that the number of nesting pairs in the UK was 12% below the all years average and the average number of young in the nest was 7% below. Barn Owls had a poor to very poor year in SW and S England, Jersey, N Norfolk, parts of Lincs. and E Yorkshire, parts of Powys in Wales and West Galloway in Scotland. Conversely, Barn Owls in the west of England (from Cheshire down to Buckinghamshire), and in North Northumberland, Suffolk, and the Isle of Wight had a quite good to good year.

Globally, 2016 was once again the warmest year ever recorded. Here in the UK, winter 15/16 was the third warmest and seconded wettest recorded since 1910. With few exceptions, such as November flooding thanks to Storm Angus, long-duration extreme weather events were not a major feature of 2016. Therefore the observed temporal changes in nesting occupancy and brood sizes were probably more influenced by variations in small mammal abundance than by the weather.

## **2017**

Overall 2017 was a better year. Nesting occupancy was 17% above average and mean brood size 6.6% above average. This positive result coincided with weather that was slightly warmer than average, with marginally lower rainfall. In particular, unusually warm weather prevailed between February and June, when Barn Owl nesting commences. In fact, the Met Office reports that the spring of 2017 “was the equal-warmest on record, with 2011.”

In Northumberland 64% of boxes had active nests in them, as opposed to the previous average of 25%. In the east of the country Norfolk had a notably high nesting occupancy, with 60%, and Suffolk also had a 51% increase on the average of all previous years. These areas also produced relatively higher brood sizes. Further west, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire showed nesting occupancy that was 84%, 72% and 77% above average, respectively, and to the south Buckinghamshire reported 53% above average. Unsurprisingly, the trend was not without its exceptions. Poorer results came in from Galloway, Lincolnshire and Glamorgan, where nesting occupancy was 22%, 39% and 30% below average, respectively. Nesting occupancy and average brood size was also lower than average on the island of Jersey and the Isle of Wight.

## 2018

It was a generally poor year, with both below-average nesting occupancy (−13%) and brood size (−4.2%). Surprisingly good results from Shropshire (+78%) and Staffordshire (+65%) were swamped by negative reports from widespread groups, particularly northern and eastern England and south Wales. Notably poor nesting occupancy was recorded in Gloucestershire (39% below their average), Norfolk (−39%), Jersey (−40%), Suffolk (−29%), Warwickshire (−28%), and East Yorkshire (−28%).

Why did so many pairs not attempt to nest? In early 2018 an exceptionally cold easterly flow brought snow to many parts (the infamous 'Beast from the East'), including a level of 57 cm in Gloucestershire on March the 4th. Just as relevant for the Barn Owls were the cold temperatures (down to −11 °C in Hampshire on February 28th) and prolonged periods of heavy rain and high winds in February and March. These adverse conditions must have impacted on preparation for egg-laying and influenced the low nesting occupancy.

Following on from this treacherous start to the breeding cycle, in 2018 the UK had the warmest and driest June on record since 1910. There was only 48% of the average rainfall across the nation and in some southern Counties it was down to just 10%. This drought must have reduced the availability of fresh shoots to eat, imposing a negative effect on vole numbers, and consequences that moved up the food-chain at a period when Barn Owl nestlings should have been developing. Hence, an average brood size at 4.2% below previous records could also have been partly caused by the weather. Unfortunately, one of worst results came from Staffordshire (−24.6%), effectively undermining the reasonable nesting occupancy established earlier in the year. None the less, Essex, Shropshire, Powys, and West Sussex had higher than normal values for both nesting occupancy and brood size.

## 2019

This was a fairly good year with, nesting occupancy clearly above average and brood size marginally so. Regarding nesting occupancy, there was a wide range of results, from highly positive such as Gloucestershire (+101%), Shropshire (+94%), Buckinghamshire (+78%), Berkshire (+43%), and Staffordshire (+71%), to fairly negative in Galloway (−41%), Leicestershire (−19%), Powys (−21%) and some areas of Sussex (−25%). In general, however, a fairly mild start to the year seems to have stimulated a fairly high rate of nesting attempts.

Brood size was especially good in Leicestershire (+34%), Manchester area (+45%), Northumberland (+37%) and Suffolk (+37%), but also reasonable in Gloucestershire (+12%), Buckinghamshire (9%), Shropshire (11%) and Somerset (11%). However, brood size was notably poor in West Berkshire (−11%), North Berkshire/South Buckinghamshire (−18%), Cheshire (−16%), north Norfolk (−32%), Sussex (−18% and −24%) and Wiltshire (−22%). An overall result of under 2% above average suggest that good nesting occupancy may not have realised its full potential in terms of fully fledged owlets joining the population.

## 2020

A very poor year for Barn Owls, with nesting occupancy down by 8.5% and brood size down by 14% when compared to the average of all previous years.

Particularly terrible nesting occupancy was observed in Gloucester (-78%), Leicester (-75%) and Warwickshire (-87%), with poor rates seen in N Berkshire and Buckinghamshire (-43%), Galloway (-36%), Suffolk (-30%) and Yorkshire (-54%). There were some positive changes in Northumberland (89%), Shropshire (80%), Staffordshire (61%) and Ulster (70%). However, with restraints on field work imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is possible that overall nesting occupancy across the regions was actually overestimated as efforts to check nests were likely concentrated on sites where Barn Owls were more likely to be present.

Mean brood size was unlikely to be affected by a bias stemming from selective monitoring and showed an alarming reduction in the average number of owlets reared. A total of 16 out of 22 regions reported a decrease in brood size, with W Berkshire (-38.4%), N Berkshire and Buckinghamshire (-50%), Leicestershire (-59.5%), Norfolk (-35.2%), Sussex (-30.2%), Wiltshire (-38.7%) and Yorkshire (-44.4%) reporting the biggest declines. Worryingly, this means that overall, 2020 contributed considerably fewer new recruits than a normal breeding period should.

The weather in 2020 was a year of extremes and likely led to this unproductive year. A generally mild winter was followed by the wettest February on record since 1862, which will have negatively affected females trying to get into breeding condition. In contrast, the spring months were incredibly dry and hotter than normal, which consequently will have inhibited the emerging vegetation and thereby likely reduced field vole numbers during the critical period of nestling feeding. June through to September then provided very wet conditions just as young were growing and juveniles were fledging and starting to become independent.

## 2021

2021 showed a reasonable start for Barn Owls, with overall nesting occupancy 9% higher than average. Unfortunately, brood size did not continue this upward trend and was 7% below average.

Despite the overall increase in nesting occupancy, there was considerable variation across regions with substantial 50%+ increases in Leicestershire, Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Powys, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Ulster, and considerable decreases (>30%) observed in Galloway, Dorset, Northumberland and Suffolk. Mean brood size was slightly less variable across regions, with most groups reporting a drop in brood size but with Galloway showing the most catastrophic decrease of a 75% drop.

Given that nesting occupancy and brood size usually follow the same pattern within a year, (i.e. they both increase or both decrease), this led us to speculate that mild/normal weather conditions early in the season allowed prospecting adults to get off to a good start, but this was unfortunately followed by difficult weather conditions. A very dry and cold April likely inhibited spring grass growth, which in turn reduced field vole numbers just as many Barn Owls were incubating. This was then followed by an unusually wet May (171% of average rainfall) which would have negatively affected hunting when many Barn Owls were feeding nestlings or still incubating. Thus both these factors may well have restricted brood sizes.



*Ringling with the awesome Matthew Twiggs. Photos: Pip Laker, Barn Owl Trust.*

## Further Information

[Barn Owl Conservation Handbook](#), a comprehensive guide for ecologists, surveyors, land managers and ornithologists. Barn Owl Trust (2012) Pelagic Publishing, Exeter.

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[The BTO Barn Owl Monitoring Programme: Final Report 2000-2009](#). Dadam, D., Barimore, C.J., Shawyer, C.R. & Leech, D.I. (2011). BTO Research Report 577.



Photo: Guy Evans.

## Links to contributor's own web pages:

Berkshire	<a href="#">Bisham Barn Owl Group</a>
Berkshire	<a href="#">West Berkshire Countryside Society Barn Owl Group</a>
Buckinghamshire	<a href="#">Buckinghamshire - Bucks Owl &amp; Raptor Group</a>
Cheshire	<a href="#">Mid Cheshire Barn Owl Conservation Group</a>
Cheshire	<a href="#">Wirral Barn Owl Trust</a>
Cornwall	<a href="#">West Cornwall Ringing Group</a>
Devon	<a href="#">Barn Owl Trust</a>
Derbyshire	<a href="#">Derbyshire Ornithological Society</a>
Galloway	<a href="#">Scottish Raptor Study Group</a>
Glamorgan	<a href="#">Glamorgan Barn Owl Group</a>
Gloucestershire	<a href="#">Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group</a>
Jersey	<a href="#">Jersey Barn Owl Conservation</a>
Manchester	<a href="#">Manchester Raptor Group</a>
Norfolk	<a href="#">NW Norfolk Ringing Group - John Middleton</a>
Northern Ireland	<a href="#">Ulster Wildlife</a>
Northumberland	<a href="#">Nat. Hist. Soc. of Northumbria Hancock Mus. R.G.</a>
Powys	<a href="#">Powys Species Habitat Protection Group</a>
Shropshire	<a href="#">Shropshire Barn Owl Group</a>
Somerset	<a href="#">Cam Valley Wildlife Group</a>
Staffordshire	<a href="#">Staffordshire Barn Owl Action Group</a>
Suffolk	<a href="#">Suffolk Bird Group</a>
Sussex	<a href="#">Sussex Ornithological Society</a>
Tees Valley	<a href="#">East Cleveland Nest Box Network Project</a>
Yorkshire	<a href="#">Yorkshire Wildlife Trust</a>

