

2015 / 2016 Newsletter

Annual round-up of PEBOG news—issue two

Every winter our volunteers check all our boxes for evidence of occupation by barn owls. Signs a barn owl has been using the box include droppings, pellets and old prey remains. We do this in winter so we don't disturb any barn owls that might be breeding in the boxes- because of their rarity, breeding barn owls are protected by law. Our boxes are designed for barn owls but they're not the only animal that will use our boxes. Our volunteers regularly find evidence that Jackdaws have been nesting in the boxes, and whole families of squirrels are sometimes making a home in the boxes which causes quite a fright to our volunteers when the box is checked!

Its been another busy year for shows again, with our members manning stalls at several events including **Tulip Sunday** at Stamford Park (April), **Tangshutt Meadow** (May), **Copperas Fields** (June), **Hyde Park** in Duckinfield (August) and the Autumn Event, in **Etherow Lodge**. Below is a table set out for pellet dissection at event called 'Hoot, Screech and Tweet' in Hyde Park, it was a very popular event and we ran out of pellets to dissect!



Above is one of our barn owl boxes being installed at Lyme Park in the summer.

Last year we found a **Tawny Owl** had been roosting in one of the boxes. Whilst it was not the right type of owl we were looking for it is still great to see a range of owl species in our area.

Tawny owls are usually found in woodlands and their night-time call is a very familiar 'twit-twoo' noise, the barn owl makes a loud screeching or hissing noise!

Dan Pilkington (Lyme Park Ranger) has seen barn owls flying around the boxes at **Lyme Park** kennels this summer, and in August our members were lucky enough to spot a barn owl coming out of the barn owl box.

At our ringing site we had another brood of owlets; Neville ringed two owlets, both were good weights (350g & 377g) and estimated at 62 and 57 days old.

top right: one of the owlets being measured

Bottom right: both owlets posing for photos!



We're online!! There is now a new website for the group that is managed by our webmaster Scott. The site has barn owl information and details on how you can become a member if you aren't one already.

It also tells you how you can submit records of barn owls so we can continue to monitor the sightings in our area.

Have you seen a barn owl? Lucky you! Why not drop us an email to let us know where you saw it to help us conserve barn owls in the Pennine Edge region!

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