

2016 / 2017 Newsletter

Annual round-up of PEBOG news—issue three



IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!!

We are celebrating 10 years since we first started PEBOG and we've managed to achieve so much in that time. We've had a lot of help along the way from volunteers, companies donating equipment, materials and grants, and plenty of support from landowners to allow us to install boxes. In those 10 years we've installed more than 50 boxes and we know of at least 27 owlets that have been born in them.

Here's to another 10 great years of barn owl conservation!!

This year we have been at lots of shows again and even made some little baby owlets at the **Romiley Young Farmers Show** in September. PEBOG also had stalls at **Copperas Fields** (June), and the **Etherow Lodge Autumn Event** and on a fine August evening we held a members walk around Werneth Low.



Breeding success!!

When our local BTO ringer went, in July, to a farm near Werneth Low Country Park to check one of our barn owl boxes, he and his assistant found 4 healthy owlets in the box, which they duly ringed. Some of our members, together with the owners of the farm, were present to see the owlets being ringed. In view of the number of owlets in the box, it was decided that further accommodation was urgently needed, and a couple of weeks later we took a second box to the farm to erect in a suitable tree near the original box. The ringer checked the original box again on this occasion and found the 3 youngest owlets still there and growing well. He thought it highly likely that the eldest owlet had flown out of the box with the parent birds.



Left: four owlets from one of our barn owl boxes line up for a picture!

Meet our members!!

We couldn't run the group without the help of all our volunteers—for this edition we would like to thank Kath and Bob who have supported the group since it started and have been on the committee as Secretary and Treasurer. They are also very active with box checking, and maintain our communications with landowners, members and other relevant parties to ensure we have a busy summer of events and activities.



Additionally, 3 healthy owlets were raised in one of our boxes at **Lyme Park**, but when the BTO ringer approached the box to try to ring them, all 3 flew away! However, having then found a pair of adult barn owls roosting in another of our boxes nearby, he managed to ring the male of this pair and discovered that the female already had a ring from elsewhere.

Some of our members attended the **Regional Barn Owl Conference** held at the Lion Salt Works in Northwich in October. The conference brought all the local barn owl groups together for a range of informative talks and networking. It was the first time this event had been held but hopefully will become an annual event on the calendar for all barn owl groups.

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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