

Cheshire Barn owl report 2005

1 Introduction

This report collates data from the west, Mid Cheshire, South Cheshire and Wirral Barn Owl groups.

2 Summary

There were 123 confirmed breeding pairs in Cheshire in 2005 with a total of 316 confirmed young (including second broods) .At twenty of the 123 sites the young were not counted. Using the average number of chicks per pair at the counted sites of 3.06 would give an estimated total of 376 young in 2005 . The maximum number of young produced at one site was 6.

The number of boxes installed by end 2005 in Cheshire was 506.

3 DATA

Breeding data for 2005

No of confirmed breeding pairs	123
No of pairs with confirmed numbers of young	103
Average young per pair (Of the 103)	3.06
Confirmed young owls	316
Maximum young at one site	6
Estimated total young	376
Boxes installed	506

Comparison with previous years

Note : there is only patchy data on mortality and number of birds fledged hence it is not included this year.

Year	Breeding Pairs	Young	Young per pair
1998	7	17	2.4
1999	10	32	2.3
2000	19	46	2.2
2001	29	53	1.8
2002	48	110	3.1
2003	61	167	3.1
2004	76	199	2.8
2005	123	316	3.1

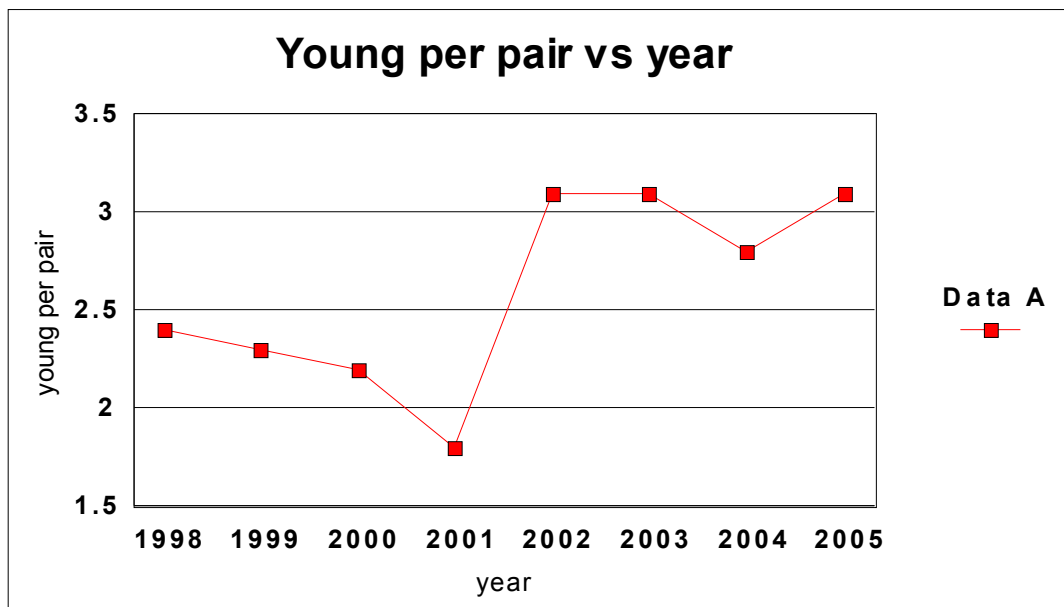
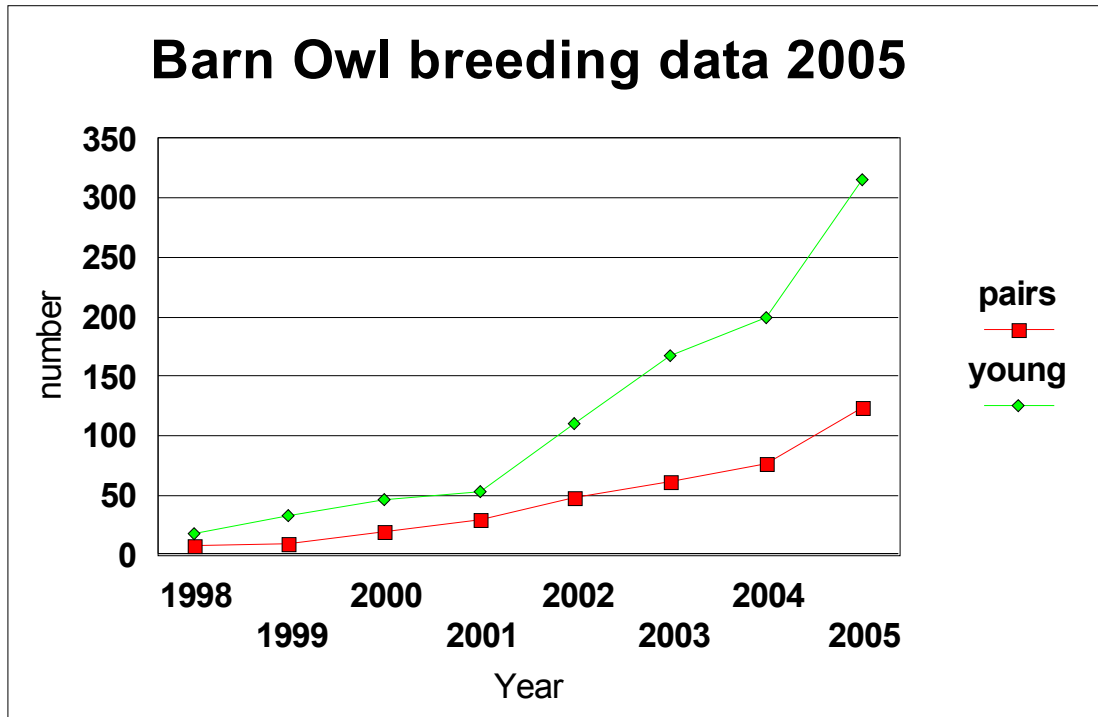
The location of breeding sites is shown below

	Tree box	Barn box	Pole box	Building	Tree site	Total
West	6	0	27	0	11	44
Mid	15	10	1	0	11	37
Wirral	23	boxes		4	3	30
South	3	0	2	5	2	12
Total	47	10	30	9	27	123

The number of boxes installed and the take up by Barn owls is shown below

	Boxes installed	Used by Barn Owl	% Utilisation (for breeding)
West	220	33	15
Mid	155	26	16
Wirral	90	15	16
South	41	4	10
Total Total	506	55	11.6

Graphs of the number of pairs and the number of young for each of the last 8 years are shown below.



The return to the previous breeding success rate probably reflects a better vole year in 2005.

Breeding success in each Barn owl area

Group	Pairs	Young	Young per pair
West cheshire	44	159	3.61
Mid cheshire	37 (17sites counted)	48	2.82
South cheshire	12	29	2.41
Wirral	30	80	2.66

Barn Owl Distribution

