

# Cheshire Barn Owl Report 2017



# Introduction

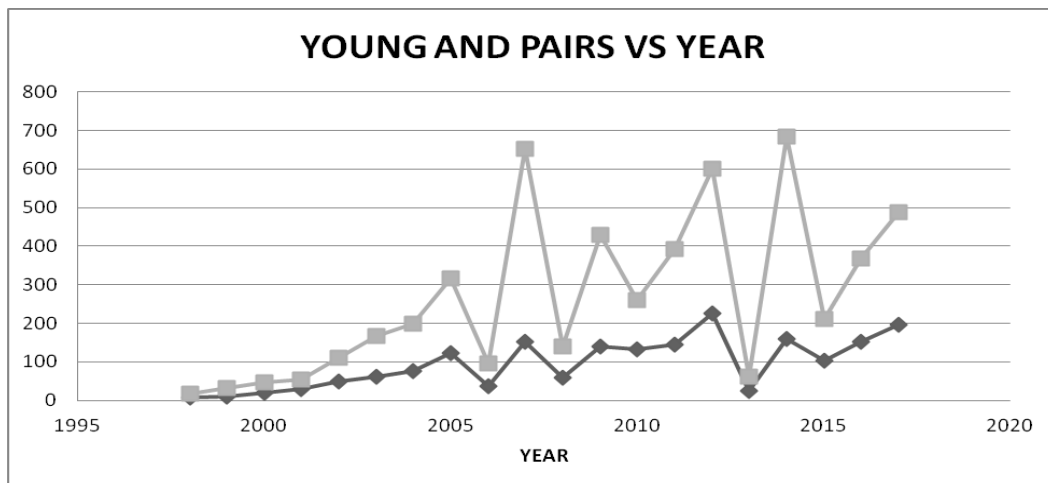
This report collates data from the Wirral Barn Owl Trust, Wirral South and the Mid, South, West, North, East and North East Cheshire Barn Owl groups.

## Summary

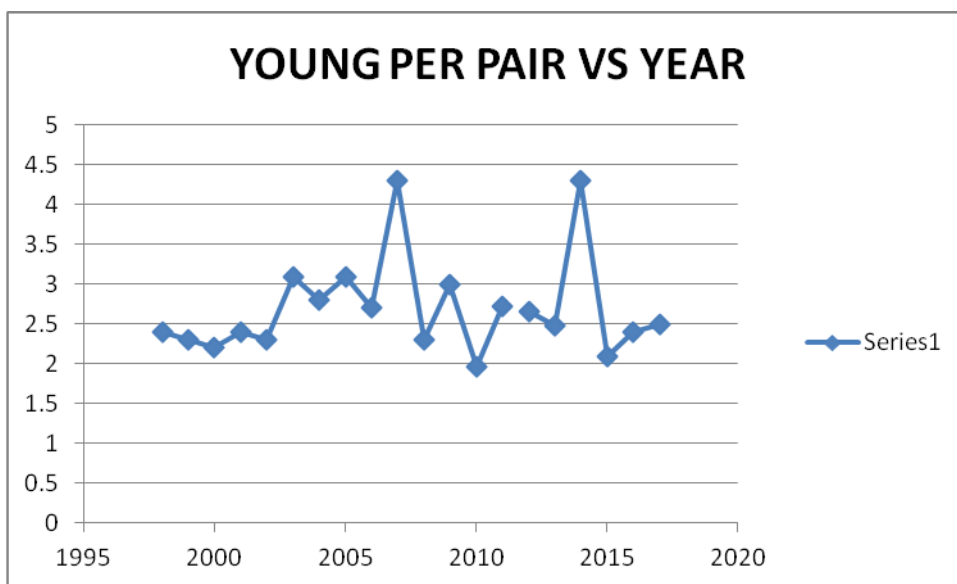
A good year for Barn Owls, with the second highest number of breeding pairs but the productivity remained below the average and was below the figure quoted by Shawyer for sustainability. (Suspect he may be wrong, our population appears to be sustainable).

Total successful pairs	196
Total counted young	489
Young per breeding pair	2.5
Boxes installed	1785

Note that in the vast majority of breeding sites the young were ringed OR were close to fledging.



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	2.4
2002	48	110	2.3
2003	61	167	3.1
2004	76	199	2.8
2005	123	316	3.1
2006	36	96	2.7
2007	151	651	4.3
2008	59	141	2.3
2009	141	430	3.0
2010	132	260	1.96
2011	144	392	2.72
2012	225	600	2.66
2013	25	62	2.48
2014	159	685	4.3
2015	102	211	2.1
2016	153	367	2.4
<b>2017</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>2.5</b>



## Type of breeding site

Group	Tree box	Barn box	Pole box	Building	Natural Tree site	Total
Mid	35	0	0	0	0	35
North	3	0	0	1	0	4
East	16	0	0	0	0	16
N/E	17	0	0	1	0	18
South	32	0	2	3	0	37
WBOT	13	0	13	0	0	26
Wirral	6	0	4	1	0	11
West	6	0	43	0	0	49
Total	127	0	62	7	0	196

## Box utilisation

	Total boxes	Boxes used	% Utilisation
Mid	472	35	7.4
East	127	16	12.5
North	70	4	5.7
North East	139	18	12.9
South	286	37	12.9
West	465	49	10.5
WBOT	152	26	17.1
Wirral s	53	11	20.7

## Discussion

Following some good early spring weather the Barn owl population has surged again. Possibly a good spring will result in around 200 pairs but the average will probably be around 150.

The adult recoveries still show around 50% of unringed birds which still indicates a good unknown population out there. It has been suggested that some of these are birds moving in from outside the area. This may be the case, but as they don't move very far, I guess most are in Cheshire.

## Acknowledgements

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