



Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Barn Owl Action Group

BOAG

John Chester

Retired Chartered Engineer

FORMATION OF BOAG

The group was formed in 2002

- Funding from Stafford Borough Council and Alstom
- Meeting at The Trust at old Sandon Headquarters
- Number of Bio-diversity Projects discussed
- Barn Owl Conservation Project Selected
- The Trust Appointed Birmingham University Student Placement Sarah Henshall to manage the Project.

TARGET

- Barn owl population had fallen in Staffordshire to an estimated twenty-five Breeding Pairs
- We set ourselves a target to get the population up to one hundred pairs within ten years
- Supplement the lack of breeding sites due to barn dilapidation , conversion of barns to domestic human accommodation and loss of natural sites such as tree hollows

Progress

- **Group of about ten volunteers established with Schedule 1 Licences for monitoring and ringing**
- **Administration and Recording**
- **Alternative Box Designs**
- **We make and install all of the nest boxes**
- **We have installed about 450 boxes to date**
- **We have established Method Statements for making and installing boxes**
- **We have provided H&S training for ladder climbing and arboreal activities**

2017 Results

	2017	PREVIOUS BEST	WINTER 2012/2013
YOUNG	190	95	25
NEST SITES	50	33	10
ROOSTS	20	17	20

PROBLEMS

- We need to recruit more volunteers as we have installed more boxes than we can monitor
- We have had a major problem with the quality of exterior grade plywood after 2012. It was a delamination problem due to inferior bonding.
- We have had to replace many boxes
- We now use marine plywood which has improved the situation
- We have also designed a recycled plastic box and we have currently 8 boxes on sites
- Barn owls used 1 plastic box last year and 2 this year. Other species such as stockdoves, jackdaws, mandarin ducks and squirrels also like them.