



# Welsh Kite Trust Christmas Cards

We still have ample stocks of various of our Christmas cards so have decided not to print a new design until we have run these stocks down a bit. We will be producing a new card ready for next Christmas but in the meantime hope you will support us by purchasing cards from the selection illustrated below. All cards are exclusive to the Welsh Kite Trust, are beautifully printed on top quality card and represent excellent value for money - money of course which all goes towards furthering the Trust and its work.



This card design by Terence Lambert, is available in a DL format (100 x 210mm) and also as our usual large size card (shown on the right) which is approximately 8 x 6 inches (204 x 150 mm)



Nick Derry



Colin Woolf

All these cards (shown in miniature here) are outstanding value for such high quality cards and The Welsh Kite Trust is indebted to Colin, John, Mike, Nick and Terence for allowing us the free use of their excellent artwork and images.

We would also like to thank Colin for the production and design of all the cards shown.



Mike Attwood



John Schmitt



John Schmitt



# BODA WENNOL

CYLCHLYTHYR YMDDIRIEDOLAETH BARCUDIAID CYMRU

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WELSH KITE TRUST

## WELSH POPULATION EXCEEDS 500 BREEDING PAIRS?



## POBLOGAETH PARAU BRIDIO DROS 500 PÂR?

# REPORT ON THE RED KITE BREEDING SEASON IN WALES 2005

The big question at the beginning of the 2005 breeding season was “will the Welsh kite population exceed 500 breeding pairs?” The 2004 figure of up to 400 - 450 breeding pairs plus an approximate annual increase of around 10% ought to take us tantalisingly close to this milestone figure – five times the population level that triggered the move towards the formation of the Trust in 1996.

2005 started off very promisingly with a warm spell in March and April that really encouraged the kites to get breeding underway. The breeding season was one of the most synchronised in memory with most nests started within a short time period in early April. There were only a small number of later nests, although these did include the two Shropshire nests mentioned in the last Newsletter.

Sadly both of these nests subsequently failed so we still await the first Shropshire kite chick from the New Kite Era. The Herefordshire nest fared better, successfully fledging two healthy chicks. These three nests are included in the figures as honorary Welsh kites as we believe this to be the origin of the adults.

Another welcome development was the discovery, by Steve Roberts and Jerry Lewis, of a nest just on the Powys side of the Gwent /Powys border and suggestions of at least two other pairs settled in the area. Breeding kites have not been recorded in Gwent for well over 100 years.

Our monitoring of nests in Wales continued at a very satisfactory level. In all over 515 previously recorded nesting sites were visited and at least 381 territorial pairs were located, a slight increase on 2004. The 2005 distribution of known territorial pairs by Watsonian Vice County was as follows;



Photo: © Mike Hayward

Cardiganshire	157
Carmarthenshire	74
Radnorshire	58
Breconshire	34
Montgomeryshire	27
West Glamorgan	11
Meirionydd	9
Pembrokeshire	6
Caernarfonshire	1
Mid Glamorgan	1
Shropshire	2
Herefordshire	1

The apparent drop in numbers in Breconshire was due to reduced monitoring rather than any real decline.

The breeding status of 36 of the territorial pairs identified was uncertain but of the other 345 pairs at least 329 pairs (95.4%) built nests and a minimum of 306 (88.7%) laid eggs. A minimum of 221 pairs (64%) were known to have hatched at least 339 young and at least 202

(58.6%) of these pairs went on to successfully rear a minimum of 316 chicks (1.56 chicks/successful pair, 1.03 chicks/egg-laying pair).

The collecting of productivity information from this data has inherent bias because several of the nests were not found until late on and some have an unknown outcome. The inclusion of the nests found late over-estimates success rates and productivity whilst those with an unknown outcome obviously cannot contribute data. For these reasons our productivity figures are calculated from a sub-sample of nests where the outcome was known and the nest was discovered at the egg stage or earlier. In this sub-sample of 287 nests at least 269 (93.7%) laid eggs and a minimum of 198 pairs (68.9%) hatched at least 305 young. 181

pairs (63.1%) were successful rearing at least 284 chicks (1.52 chicks/successful pair, 1.06 per egg-laying pair, 0.99 chicks/territorial pair.). Rather unexpectedly 2005 turned out to have been the most productive breeding season for kites in Wales since 1992.

To aid our continuing research on chick dispersal and survival rates 187 chicks were ringed and 186 of these were also fitted with wing-tags.

Known brood sizes in all nests were 102 x 1, 86 x 2 and 14 x 3 chicks – 1.57 chicks/successful pair. This data includes a proportion of nests that possibly contained more chicks than the number reported (lying flat, therefore not visible in the bottom of the nest). For those nests that were climbed for ringing, i.e. where the brood size

is known for certain, there were 71 x 1, 41 x 2 and 12 x 3 chicks, 1.52 chicks/successful nest. Unusually this figure is actually less than the mean figure for all nests and suggests that we chose the wrong nests for ringing!!

The above figures are calculated from known nests and visited territories. The breeding range of the Red Kite in Wales now encompasses about 50% of the landmass of the principality and is impossible to search completely. We rely heavily on reports from landowners and other members of the public to report new pairs. Even so many pairs go unrecorded.

In 2005 82 recently occupied territories were either not checked or not checked sufficiently to say whether pairs were present. Analysing comparative data from 2004 and 2005 it is likely

that around 81% of the 27 sites used in 2004, an additional 22 territories, were in fact occupied. At a guess perhaps 50% (28) of the 55 others not checked or known since before 2004, may also still have existed bringing the total of breeding pairs to 430. It is highly likely that we miss between 10 – 20% of all nests (43 – 86) and this would indeed mean that the real total for Wales now hovers around the 500 pairs, rearing approximately 500 young.

It is immensely pleasing, especially to everyone that has been involved in preserving the Red Kite in Wales, that it is now at the stage where we can no longer be sure just how many there are and that we will all be kept guessing as to whether the magical 500 pair milestone has actually been reached!

## A COMPARISON OF REGIONAL PRODUCTIVITY IN RED KITES 1991 - 2005

No. of breeding pairs	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Wales (monitored)	329	320	259	212	N/A	202	181	167	152	130	127	111	104	84	76
Wales (estimated)	440-510	400-450	350-400	300-350	285	259									
Southern England (mon)	119	213	177	139	132	112	75	71	52	35	24	20	9	4	2
Southern England (est.)	300+	300+													
Midlands	52	37	24	23	15	16	7	4	4	1					
Yorkshire	33	24	16	10	8	3									
North Scotland	39	35	35	35	34	32	30	23	23	17	15	8	5	1	
Stirling	25	17	18	15	10	7	4	2							
Dumfries & Galloway	12	3	4												
% of pairs successful	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Wales	63	66	59	63	59	48	65	67	65	69	63	63	59	71	54
Southern England	N/A	95	92	86	N/A	84	95	92	88	94	92	85	89	100	0
Midlands	85	73	88	83	82	63	86	50	75	0					
Yorkshire	85	79	94	90	100	33									
North Scotland	92	86	94	91	91	94	77	87	83	94	73	87	60	100	
Stirling	60	77	78	73	70	71	100	100							
Dumfries & Galloway	83	67	25												
No. of Chicks reared	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Wales (= estimated no.)	440-510	361-400+	273-312	300	247	133	165	174	129	119	117	99	82	96	62
Southern England	500+	383	312	219	246	202	155	143	100	80	55	37	14	9	
Midlands	99	55	45	43	25	22	16	3	8						
Yorkshire	52	44	32	20	15	2									
North Scotland	85	80	71	88	77	74	54	44	39	39	26	13	7	1	
Stirling	28	32	34	25	18	10	5	5							
Dumfries & Galloway	18	3	1												
Chicks/breeding pair	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Wales	1.06	1.03	0.85	0.87	0.96	0.69	0.91	1.04	0.85	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.79	1.14	0.82
Southern England	N/A	1.78	1.76	1.57	1.86	1.8	2.07	2.01	1.92	2.28	2.29	1.85	1.55	2.25	0
Midlands	1.9	1.49	1.87	1.87	2.27	1.37	2.28	0.75	2	0					
Yorkshire	1.58	1.83	2	2	1.87	0.67									
North Scotland	2.18	2.29	2	2.5	2.3	2.31	1.8	1.91	1.7	2.29	1.73	1.63	1.4	1	
Stirling	1.12	1.45	1.89	1.67	1.8	1.43	1.25	2.5							
Dumfries & Galloway	1.5	1	0.25												
Chicks/successful pair	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Wales	1.57	1.47	1.32	1.39	1.47	1.36	1.4	1.55	1.3	1.32	1.48	1.41	1.34	1.6	1.51
Southern England	1.99	1.87	1.76	1.84	N/A	2.15	2.18	2.2	2.17	2.42	2.5	2.18	1.75	2.25	0
Midlands	2.25	2.04	2.14	2.26	2.78	2.2	2.67	1.5	2.67	0					
Yorkshire	1.85	2.32	2.13	2.22	1.87	2									
North Scotland	2.36	2.67	2.15	2.72	2.48	2.47	2.35	2.2	2.05	2.44	2.36	1.86	2.33	1	
Stirling	1.87	1.88	2.43	2.27	2.57	2	1.25	2.5							
Dumfries & Galloway	1.8	1.5	1												

## ADRODDIAD AR DYMOR BRIDIO Y BARCUDIAID COCH YNG NGHYMURU

Y cwestiwn mawr ar gychwyn tymor bridio 2005 oedd 'a fydd poblogaeth y Barcudiaid Coch yng Nghymru yn rhagori ar 500 o barau bridio?' Fe ddylai ffigyrau 2004 o rhwng 400-450 o barau bridio gyda'r amcangyfrifi o gynnydd blynyddol o 10% ddod a ni yn bryfoclyd o agos i'r garreg filltir hon – pum gwaith nifer y boblogaeth a daniodd y symudiad tuag at gychwyn yr Ymddiriedolaeth ym 1996.

Dechreuodd tymor 2005 yn ffafriol iawn gyda chyfnodau o dywydd cynnes ym Mawrth ac Ebrill oedd yn annog y barcudiaid i fynd ati i fridio. Dyma un o'r tymhorau hynny, o fewn cof, pryd yr oedd y bridio yn cyd – ddigwydd, gyda'r mwyafrif o nythod yn cychwyn, o fewn cyfnod byr iawn i'w gilydd, ddechrau Ebrill. Nifer fach iawn o nythod oedd yn fwy diweddar na hyn, ac roedd y ddau nyth yn Swydd Amwythig, y soniwyd amdanynt yn y rhifyn olaf ymysg y rhain. Trist yw cofnodi i'r ddau nyth yma fod yn fethiant a pharhau mae'r aros am y cyw cyntaf o adfywiad y Barcudiaid yn Swydd Amwythig. Cafwyd gwell hwyl arni gyda'r nyth yn Swydd Henffordd a gadawodd dau gyw holl-iach y nyth hwnnw. Cynhwysir y tri nyth hwn yn y niferoedd fel aelodau anrhydeddus o farcudiaid Cymru gan mai yma, yn ein tyb ni, yr oedd eu tarddiad. Datblygiad arall i'w groesawu oedd y darganfyddiad gan Steve Roberts a Jerry Lewis, o nyth oedd o fewn trwch blewyn ym Mhowys ac yn agos i ffin Gwent/Powys gyda arwyddion fod dau bar arall wedi ymgartrefu yn yr ardal. Ni fu son am farcudiaid yn bridio yng Ngwent ers dros ganrif.

Parhaodd monitro'r nythod yng Nghymru ar raddfa foddhaol iawn. Ymwelwyd a 515 o safleoedd nythu oedd wedi eu cofnodi'n flaenorol a lleolwyd o leiaf 381 o barau tiriogaethol sydd yn dangos cynnydd bychan ers 2004. Yn 2005 dosbarthwyd y parau oedd yn wybyddus i ni yn unol a Siroedd Watsonian Vice fel a ganlyn: Ceredigion 157, Caerfyrddin 74, Maesyfed 58, Brycheiniog

34, Trefaldwyn 27, Gorllewin Morgannwg 11, Meirionnydd 9, Penfro 6, Caernarfon 1, Morgannwg Ganol 1, Amwythig 2, Henffordd 1. Ymddengys y gostyngiad mewn niferoedd ym Mrycheiniog oherwydd bod llai o fonitro wedi cymryd lle yn hytrach na gostyngiad real.

Roedd statws bridio 36 o'r parau tiriogaethol oedd yn wybyddus i ni yn ansicr ond o'r 345 par oedd yn weddill roedd o leiaf 329 (95.4%) wedi adeiladu nythod a lleiafswm o 306 (88.7%) wedi dodwy wyau. Roedd lleiafswm o 221 par (64%) wedi deor o leiaf 339 o gywion ac roedd o leiaf 202 (58.6%) o'r parau hyn wedi magu lleiafswm o 316 o gywion yn llwyddiannus (1.56 cyw/par llwyddiannus, 1.03 o gywion/parau oedd wedi dodwy wyau.)

Mae i'r wybodaeth yma ragfarn gynhenid gan na ddarganfyddwyd rhai o'r nythod nes oedd yn hwyr yn y tymor, ac ni wyddys beth oedd canlyniad rhai ohonynt. Mae cynnwys canlyniadau'r nythod a ddarganfyddwyd yn hwyr yn rhoi amcangyfrif rhy uchel o raddfa llwyddiant a ffrwythlonrwydd inni, ac ni ellir cynnwys y nythod hynny na wyddys beth oedd eu canlyniadau fel rhan o'r data. Oherwydd hyn, cyfrifir ein ffigyrau ffrwythlondeb trwy ddefnyddio is-sampl o nythod ble'r oedd y canlyniadau yn wybyddys inni a'r nythod wedi ei ddarganfod tra'r oedd wyau ynddynt neu hyd yn oed cyn hynny. Yn yr is sampl o 287 nyth, roedd o leiaf 269 (93.7%) wedi dodwy wyau, gyda lleiafswm o 198 (68.9%) wedi deor o leiaf 305 cyw. Bu 181 par yn llwyddiannus gan fagu o leiaf 284 cyw (1.57 cyw/par llwyddiannus, 1.06 pob par oedd yn dodwy, 0.99 cyw/par tiriogaethol. Er syndod, dyma'r tymor bridio mwyaf ffrwythlon i'r barcudiaid yng Nghymru ers 1992.

Er mwyn ein galluogi i barhau gyda'r ymchwil i wasgaredd cywion a'r raddfa oroesi, rhoddwyd modrwy ar 187 cyw a rhoddwyd tagiau ar adain 186 o'r rhain hefyd.

Maint y nythiad ym mhob nyth y gwyddom amdanynt oedd 102 x 1, 86 x 2 ac 14 x 3 – 1.57 cyw/par llwyddiannus. Mae'r data yma yn cynnwys cyfran o nythod oedd o bosib gyda mwy o gywion ynddynt na'r nifer a adroddwyd (gorwedd o'r golwg ar waelod y nyth o bosib) O'r nythod hynny y dringwyd iddynt er mwyn modrwy, h.y. lle gwyddom i sicrwydd beth oedd maint y nythiad roedd 71 x 1, 41 x 2 ac 12 x 3 o gywion, 1.52 cyw/par llwyddiannus. Yn anarferol, mae'r nifer yma yn llai na'r nifer cyfartalog i'r holl nythod sydd yn awgrymu inni ddewis y nythod anghywir ar gyfer modrwyo!!

Cyfrifir y ffigyrau uchod o'r nythod y gwyddom amdanynt a'r tiriogaethau yr ymwelwyd a hwy. Mae tiriogaeth bridio y barcudiaid coch yn ymestyn dros 75% o wlad Cymru erbyn hyn sydd yn ei gwneud yn amhosib inni chwilio'n drylwyr. Rydym yn dibynnu'n helaeth ar adroddiadau gan berchnogion tir ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd i roi gwybod inni am barau newydd. Er hynny, mae llawer o barau nad ydym yn gwybod amdanynt. Yn 2005, roedd 82 o safle lle bu barcudiaid yn ddiweddar heb eu archwilio neu heb eu archwilio yn ddigonol i weld os oedd parau yn bresennol. Trwy ddadansoddi data cymharol 2004 a 2005, mae'n debygol i 81% o'r 27 safle a ddefnyddiwyd yn 2004, ynghyd a 22 o diriogaethau ychwanegol, gael eu defnyddio. Gallwn ddyfalu fod 50%, (28) o'r 55 arall oedd heb eu harchwilio ac yr oedd ym ymwybodol ohonynt ers 2004 neu ynghynt, yn parhau mewn bodolaeth, ac fe olygai hyn fod cyfanswm o 430 o barau bridio.

Pleser o'r mwya i bawb ohonom sydd wedi bod yn ymwneud a chadwraeth y Barcudiaid Coch yng Nghymru yw sylweddoli ein bod wedi cyrraedd sefyllfa lle nad oes sicrwydd ynglyn a niferoedd y parau bridio, a rhaid fydd dyfalu a yw'r garreg filltir o 500 o barau wedi ei chyrraedd!

## Inland Revenue Tax Refunds

The Inland Revenue has brought out a new scheme whereby any individual can nominate a participating charity to receive their tax repayments as a donation. If you would like to donate any tax refund due to you to the Welsh Kite Trust please give our unique reference code which is; BAD77MG. The Trust's name and code is also listed on the Inland Revenue website.

This scheme is only available for Self Assessment return forms issued since April 2004. This new scheme is in addition to the existing Gift-Aid scheme which continues unchanged.

## Cyllid y Wlad

Mae Cyllid y Wlad wedi cyflwyno cynllun newydd sydd yn ei gwneud yn bosib i unigolyn ddethol unrhyw elusen sy'n cymryd rhan i dderbyn eu ad-daliadau treth fel cyfraniad. Os dymunwch gyfrannu unrhyw ad-daliad treth sy'n ddyledus i chwi i Ymddiriedolaeth Barcudiaid Cymru, dylech ddefnyddio ein cyfeirnod unigryw sef BAD77MG. Mae enw'r Ymddiriedolaeth a'r cyfeirnod hefyd i'w weld ar wefan Treth y Wlad.

Mae'r cynllun yma ar gael i unrhyw un sydd wedi llenwi ffurflen Hunan Asesu ers Ebrill 2004. Mae'r cynllun yma yn ychwanegol at y cynllun Cymorth-Rodd, sydd yn parhau heb ei newid.



## WHO'S WHO OF THE WELSH KITE TRUST PROFESSOR IAN NEWTON OBE, FRS, FRSE

It was as a boy that I first read about Red Kites: in a book called *The Birds of the British Isles* by T. A. Coward. This book contained a magnificent painting of a Kite by Archibald Thorburn, and I can still picture it, as though it were in front of me now. My parents were not well off, and did not own a car, so my own birding at that time was restricted to places around my home in New Whittington, near Chesterfield in Derbyshire. Only the commonest diurnal raptors, the Kestrel and Sparrowhawk, occurred there, with the addition of the Merlin on the moors of the Peak District, which was within cycling distance. Although I read everything I could find about birds of prey, I had to wait nearly 20 years until I first saw a Red Kite in Wales, on a day-trip from Oxford where I was then based. Since that first encounter I have remained captivated by the species.

I have been intensely interested in birds ever since I can remember (I got my first bird book at age 9), but until I left home, I knew no-one with similar interests (which were in any case regarded as somewhat off centre), so I pursued my hobby alone. From primary school, I went on to Chesterfield Boys' Grammar School, and from there to Bristol University to read zoology. On the departmental notice board one day, I saw advertised a series of evening lectures organised by the Bristol Naturalist's Society, which I duly attended, coming across for the first time other people with an interest in birds. But they were generally much older than me, and I sat at the back and remained silent. However, a major breakthrough came when I attended a student conference in ornithology at Oxford, one of a series organised each January by David Lack. This was a real eye-opener, for there I met in an informal atmosphere some of the senior figures in academic ornithology, and was exposed for the first time to scientific thinking



on bird biology.

When I was about 15, I began to take an interest in finches, which could easily be seen feeding on thistles and other 'weeds' in the surrounding countryside. I began to record systematically every plant that I saw any kind of finch feeding on, identifying the plants from a book on 'wild flowers' in the school library. So when David Lack advertised for 'student speakers' at his conference, I naively put my name forward at age 18, never having heard, let alone given, a conference lecture. I shudder to imagine now what it sounded like, delivered in my broad local accent, for at that stage I had no scientific background or training. However, I had sufficient brass-neck to offer other talks in the following two years. By then my zoology course at Bristol was coming to an end, and David Lack offered me a studentship at Oxford to extend my studies on finches for a PhD. Needless to say, I agreed there and then. The PhD was followed by a 'post-doc', which together gave me six happy years at Oxford on full time research on a subject close to my heart. This work resulted, some years later, in a book *Finches* (1972), published in the *New Naturalist Series*.

My first real job (in 1967) was with the Nature Conservancy, based in Edinburgh, to study waterfowl, especially the problems

created for farmers by growing numbers of wild geese. Although I enjoyed this work, after a few years the opportunity arose for me to switch to birds of prey which were in increasing difficulty at that time, through the use of organochlorine pesticides. This led to research on Peregrines (helped by Derek Ratcliffe), and also on Merlins and Sparrowhawks. From a scientific point of view, the Sparrowhawks proved most productive, and I began increasingly to concentrate upon them, a study which I was able to continue (increasingly on a part-time basis) for nearly 30 years. This work led to two books, entitled *Population Ecology of Raptors* (1979) and *The Sparrowhawk* (1986), both in the Poyser series. In 1980 I moved from Edinburgh to Monks Wood Research Station near Huntingdon in order to take charge of the pollution research, much of which was at that time involved with pesticide impacts on birds. Partly because of research done at Monks Wood (but mainly before my time there), the organochlorines were gradually phased out, and the affected birds-of-prey began to recover and recolonise areas from which they had been eliminated.

It was during the mid 1970s that I became involved in research on Red Kites. At that time, there was great concern in conservation circles that Kites were in low numbers, and slow to increase, despite the protection of nests by watchers. Forestry was rapidly spreading over the uplands, in areas where Kites were known to feed. The Nature Conservancy Council therefore funded a 5-year project, involving myself, Peter Davis (who had already made a close study of the species) and John E. Davis (who was especially appointed for the job). We were to study, not just Kites, but also the other two members of the carrion-feeding guild in central Wales, the Raven and Buzzard. Our aim was to study the entire Kite population (at that time only 33 pairs), and all the Buzzards and Ravens nesting within a 475 square km area in central Wales. My role was in project planning and data analysis, and the hard

work in the field was competently accomplished by Peter and John.

Our conclusions were that none of these species was seriously threatened by forestry at its current levels: Buzzards and Ravens were nesting at capacity level at some of the highest densities recorded anywhere, and the main factor slowing the rate of increase of the Kite population was poisoning, which was more prevalent then than now. If anything, our project shifted attention away from distracting issues, such as forestry, to what really mattered. The work was published as a number of papers in the scientific literature. As poisoning became less acceptable and less prevalent, Kites began to increase more rapidly, and gradually spread onto lower ground where they could produce more young. Fortunately, this increase and spread has continued to the present day, a telling testimony to all those involved locally over the years in Kite conservation.

Even at the renewed rates of increase prevailing in the 1980s, and with our greatly improved state of knowledge, it seemed that it would take centuries for Red Kites to spread back over the rest of their historic range within Britain (even if they were allowed to do so). As breeders, the birds seemed to show extreme site fidelity, and despite widespread wandering in their pre-breeding years, they were reluctant to nest at long distances from other Kites; it also seemed that they would reproduce more productively in less rainy conditions than found in central Wales. I therefore became involved (with Mike Pienkowski) in a proposal to reintroduce Kites to other parts of Britain in order to speed up the process of re-colonisation. Our plan was to attempt this in the east of Britain, separately in the northeast and southeast, and if these projects were successful, to join these areas by a series of release sites working southward from the northern site, and northward from the southern one. Our ultimate aim was to re-establish the species down the east side of the country, but hoping that the birds would

also spread gradually westward. The project was run jointly by NCC and RSPB, who appointed a project team to manage it. As the programme unfolded, it ran more or less according to our original plan, but modified in light of experience and prevailing circumstances. Seventeen years later, including the native Welsh birds, we now have more than 750 Kite pairs nesting in Britain. My only disappointment is with the situation in northeast Scotland, where continued poisoning (mostly by grouse moor owners) is still preventing the population from expanding at its natural rate.

Having retired about five years ago, I now do little serious fieldwork, but each day when I am at home I catch and ring finches in the garden, to study moult and other aspects of their biology. I spend most of my time writing (having completed another book and a few papers) and on voluntary conservation work. In particular, I have worked with the RSPB for a number of years, first as a Council member, then as Chairman of their Conservation Committee, and now as Chairman of Council. I also work with the Peregrine Fund in the United States, the organisation responsible for re-establishing Peregrines in the Eastern States, and currently engaged in programmes to reintroduce Aplomado Falcons in the southern States, and California Condors in the Grand Canyon of Arizona. In the future, I hope to continue working with birds, and for bird conservation, for as long as I can.

***More recent books authored by Ian Newton include *Population limitation in birds* (1998) and *Speciation and biogeography of birds* (2003), both published by Academic Press. He has also edited a book on *Lifetime reproduction in birds* (1989), and part-edited books on *diurnal raptors* (1990), *owls* (2002), and *study techniques for young ornithologists* (2004). In the scientific literature, he has published nearly 300 papers on birds.***



Photo: © Tony Cross

## ARE VETERINARY DRUG RESIDUES ENDANGERING RED KITES IN WALES?

### The detection of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in the feathers of scavenging birds of prey and the hair of livestock animals

NSAID diclofenac was found to have been at the root of the mass mortality of three species of Gyps vultures on the Indian subcontinent over the last decade or so. The vultures were exposed by feeding on carcasses of animals that had been administered the drug to alleviate lameness and increase their productive working life. Measures are now being taken to phase diclofenac from the agricultural ecosystem. However, other NSAIDs are also given to livestock animals, and scavenging birds of prey in agricultural landscapes worldwide may be exposed to these as well.

The outcome from exposure to diclofenac may represent an extreme example. However, in the event that other NSAIDs are found to cause adverse effects to scavenging species, our research team seeks to develop a method of detecting this class of compound in feathers as well as in animal hair. The method has a number of potential applications, some of them to do with mitigating exposure. Because drug residues persist in hair (and, we believe in feathers) far longer than they do in tissues, exposure to the drug could be verified in carcasses received in poor condition, where this would not normally be possible. The method could also be used to pre-test carcass meat put out as food during conservation/reintroduction efforts and at rehabilitation facilities for safety. Finally, this method can provide complimentary information to evaluate why some species seem to be more tolerant than others to NSAID exposure.

Looking at exposure possibilities of different species to a variety of drugs in a variety of agricultural settings, we hope to develop a sampling and laboratory analysis protocol that can be adapted by country and by species. We now have a number of collaborators here in the United Kingdom, including the Welsh Kite Trust (who supplied feathers from around 100 kite territories distributed throughout Wales), as well as some potential collaborators in North and South America. We will be attending an upcoming international conference in Greece this November: 'Conservation and Management of Vulture Populations' to learn more about the status of vultures in agricultural communities in eastern Europe, and we hope to involve more collaborators.

What we really need at this stage are samples from animals known to have been dosed with NSAIDs. If you are aware of any such studies involving livestock animals or birds of prey, we would be very grateful to receive samples for analysis.

For more information contact: Ngaio L. Richards, PhD Candidate, Department of Forensic Science and Chemistry, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, England, CB1 1PT  
Tel: 01223 363 271 Ext. 2126 email: [Ngaio\\_richards@hotmail.com](mailto:Ngaio_richards@hotmail.com)

## Dire State of Asian Vultures warns of Complacency in improved kite fortunes in UK.

Following the article by Ngaio Richards in the last issue of *Boda Wennol* and the update above I thought it would be relevant to give a bit more information on the massive crisis facing vultures in Asia.

The following is an edited account of information provided on the website of BirdLife and is reproduced with kind permission.



This photograph was taken in India in the early 1980's. Today in many areas of India vultures have already suffered local extinctions. Photo: © RSPB

Populations of three Gyps vulture species (White-backed, Long-billed, and Slender-billed) in parts of their ranges in South Asia fell by more than 95 percent in just three years in the 1990s, and all are now classified as Critically Endangered. Prior to this decline, White-rumped Vulture was considered to be one of the commonest large birds of prey in the world. Unless major steps are taken, all three species will soon be facing extinction.

The cause of the decline was difficult to pin-point and initially work was concentrated on potential infective agents. A frequently reported symptom was a drooping head, the neck

dangling almost as if broken. Afflicted birds seemed unable to recover and were soon found dead. One frequent finding in dead vultures from India and Pakistan has been the presence of severe gout in the birds. The declines have taken place across all regions and habitats in India, including protected areas and unprotected areas. No other scavenging species appear to have undergone similar population crashes, and scavengers such as feral dogs have increased in numbers at many sites, as food has become more available.

A breakthrough in the race to find a cause was announced at a meeting in Hungary on 20th

to have been exposed to the drug through scavenging livestock carcasses containing residues. Further investigation showed that diclofenac was fatal to vultures at 10 percent of the recommended mammal dose. Tissue residues in livestock treated at the labelled dose rate were sufficient to cause gout and death in vultures. Furthermore, as few as one in 760 livestock carcasses containing diclofenac at a dose lethal to vultures would be sufficient to cause the observed decline in vulture numbers (30% per year). Clearly, even small-scale usage of the drug can have catastrophic consequences.

This is clearly an ecological disaster but it also has a direct human impact. Vultures play a key role in removing carcasses thereby reducing the risk of disease and helping with sanitation. With the vultures gone, carcasses are likely to take much longer to be stripped, increasing the risk to health. Feral dogs are filling the scavenging void, and their growing numbers also increase risks to human health and safety: they are carriers of rabies.

The birds play a part in the funerary rites of some religious groups, including the Parsees in India: bodies are exposed to be stripped by vultures. In some parts of the country vultures are now so scarce that cremation is being used as an alternative to this traditional celestial burial.

The discovery that a drug is responsible for the declines offers some hope for the vultures, but also serves as a wider warning of the risks that pharmaceuticals can pose to wildlife and human populations.

The Indian government has confirmed their intention to phase-out diclofenac within the next six months. Dr Asad Rahmani, Director of Bombay Natural History Society (BirdLife in India) added, "In taking the decision to phase out diclofenac, Prime Minister Mr Manmohan Singh has taken

the most important step yet to save these fast-disappearing vultures. However, the battle is not yet over. We have to develop conservation breeding centres as a further safeguard for these magnificent lords of the sky."

BirdLife is appealing to the governments of Pakistan and Nepal to join India in banning the veterinary use of diclofenac. Without further concerted conservation efforts the world could soon witness one of the most dramatic bird extinctions since the previously abundant Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius* was lost at the beginning of the twentieth century.

For further information go to: [http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/asia\\_vulture\\_crisis/index.html](http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/asia_vulture_crisis/index.html)

### RED KITE CROSS-STITCH

In the last issue of *Boda Wennol* we included a picture of a completed Red Kite Cross-stitch, kindly donated to the Trust by Helen Claridge, for us to auction to raise funds. Telephone and postal bids were invited, and pleasingly the cross-stitch was bought by another of our supporters, Colin Beazley, for £150.00. Our sincere thanks go to them both.

### CROES-BWYTH BARCUD COCH

Yn rhifyn olaf *Boda Wennol* roedd llun gorffenedig croes-bwyth o'r Barcud Coch a gyflwynwyd i'r Ymddiriedolaeth trwy garedigrwydd Helen Claridge i'w roi ar ocsiwn er mwyn codi arian. Gwahoddwyd cynnigion dros y ffon neu drwy'r post ac rydym yn falch o gyhoeddi i'r croes-bwyth arbennig yma gael ei brynu gan un arall o'n cefnogwyr sef Colin Beazley am £150. Llawer o ddiolch i'r ddau ohonynt.

## 2005 Breeding Reports from other UK regions

We thank colleagues in RSPB and other organisations and groups for supplying the following updates for their regions

### SOUTHERN ENGLAND

The following data does not include kites nesting in Sussex or Wiltshire as in previous reports (a pair in Sussex reared three chicks all of which were ringed and tagged, for Wiltshire see below Ed.) The Southern England Kite Group monitored 119 pairs confirmed breeding (adult seen sitting on nest or young seen). 152 chicks were ringed from 77 nests but one of these was a bird found on the ground. This total includes 42 birds sent to Northumberland, one of which died before release. 91 chicks were wing-tagged.

The average number of chicks per successful nest =  $151/76 = 1.99$  but this would have been lower had we had time to process more of the late nests.

The number of confirmed breeding pairs is much lower than the estimated breeding population as we do not have time to cover the whole of the Chilterns. Using the ratio of tagged to untagged 1st-year birds seen last autumn and winter we estimated the total breeding population to be more than 300 pairs. We intend to estimate the breeding population again by counting the ratio this autumn and winter.

*Pete Stevens, Southern England Kite Group*

### EAST MIDLANDS

Our target for the year was 50 occupied sites following the 2004 adjusted total of 39 (two of which were found in February 2005 when fieldwork began.) Fifty eight sites were

located, and 99 young resulted from 44 successful nests (90 ringed and tagged from 40 nests). Six sites were occupied by pairs where no nests were found or fledged juveniles observed. Eight sites failed and three infertile eggs were delivered to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology for analyses and archiving. Brood sizes were: 3 x 17, 2 x 21 and 1 x 6. Three long dead nestlings were noted at the time of ringing and tagging. This was a significant population increase with range extension to the north and west, and new site occupation within the core area. Near Corby, west of the A6003, six juveniles fledged from two nests. This followed a four-year period when a different pair of two year old kites failed in their nesting attempts.

Three presumed females died at or near their nests. On 18th April a fresh carcass (GN52926 - White/white black spot), picked clean, was found on a nest containing two broken eggs, on top of which was a stick nest with greenery, believed to be Common Buzzard. Another freshly dead carcass (GN28502 - White/pink G), again picked clean, was found below the nest on 20th April. Body feathers on the nest indicated death had occurred there. A pair seen overhead subsequently reared two young using the same nest which also contained two infertile eggs. These may have been laid by the female which died. It is clear replacement of the mate and clutch can result where failure occurs early in the season. At the third failed nest, GN37761 - White/blue S was found dead 30m from the nest tree on 8th June.

Red 1 featured on the video link at Top Lodge, Fineshade, the Forestry Commission District Headquarters, for the sixth consecutive year. True to form she chose a new site, but in a

precarious position in an Oak. A second visit showed the nest had collapsed and a replacement nest was found in a Lime, from which two nestlings fledged. She has finally lost both tags. Our other oldest known breeding birds still retaining tags are White/black B and White/black I, both ringed as nestlings in 1999. We believe Red £, now without tags, once again bred near King's Cliffe. This bird had been shot in the Chilterns in 1996 and released in Northamptonshire, still carrying several pellets, following rehabilitation at the Institute of Zoology, London.

Two nests were located by radio tracking the adults. One of these was Orange/white 2 (GN28494), an ex-Chilterns bird released in Yorkshire in 2002. Not recorded in Yorkshire in the 18 months following release, it was sighted in Northamptonshire on 12 December 2004.

During final nest checks in August and September, three nestlings were found long dead near their nest sites. White/orange L was found on 7 September caught by the right foot in frayed baler twine embedded in a manure heap at Colston Bassett near the Notts/ Lincs border. The farmer who found it had been searching for a missing cow which had wandered from the herd to calf. The bird was released near Bulwick 16 Sept, following rehabilitation. Our task now is to determine survival rates, and to date 27 juveniles have been recorded at a feeding site near Deenethorpe.

It would be reasonable to expect a minimum of seventy nests in 2006. The future of the Red Kite here looks secure.

Other team members were Sam Higgins, Jane Ivens, Sandra Holman, Steve & Julie Thornton and Andy Glover. Their work in the field was invaluable. We are all grateful to the landowners & gamekeepers who allowed us access to private estates.

**Karl Ivens** (tel. 01780 444394) and **Derek Holman** (tel. 01536 265040)

## YORKSHIRE

The Yorkshire Red Kite Project began in 1999, since when a total of 69 birds has been released. This figure was supplemented by an untagged bird of unknown origin which arrived in late 1999. Releases were completed in 2003. Activity in 2005 has concentrated on monitoring the expanding population and liaising with an increasing number of landowners, gamekeepers and farmers, onto whose ground the birds have spread. The considerable assistance willingly provided by all concerned is gratefully acknowledged.

The most encouraging aspects of this year's breeding performance were the increases in the numbers of territorial pairs located (48%), successful pairs (47%) and the increasing geographical distribution compared with 2004.

It was somewhat disappointing that the number of young raised (+18%) did not show a similar increase. This was largely due to 75% (21/28) of the successful nests being recorded as raising only one or two young compared with 53% (10/19) in 2004. A partial explanation for this could be that 12 of these nests involved first-time breeders. Moreover, the pairs raising larger broods tended to be more experienced pairs which bred earlier, during better weather, suggesting that conditions could also have been a factor in the lower brood sizes of the later breeding pairs.

The overall figures for known pairs in 2005 (2004 figures and % increases in brackets) are:

Territorial pairs located: 40 (27 (48%))

Breeding pairs: 33 (24 (37.5%))

Successful pairs: 28 (19 (47%))

Young raised: 52 (44 (18%))

Average young/breeding pair: 1.58 (1.8)

Average young/successful pair: 1.85 (2.32)

Wing-tags, radio-transmitters and BTO rings were fitted to a number of the young birds. With the continuing spread of the population and the vast areas of potentially suitable in Yorkshire, it is highly likely that there have been other breeding pairs which have gone undetected.

**Doug Simpson**, RSPB Yorkshire Red Kite Project Officer

## NORTHERN KITES - GATESHEAD

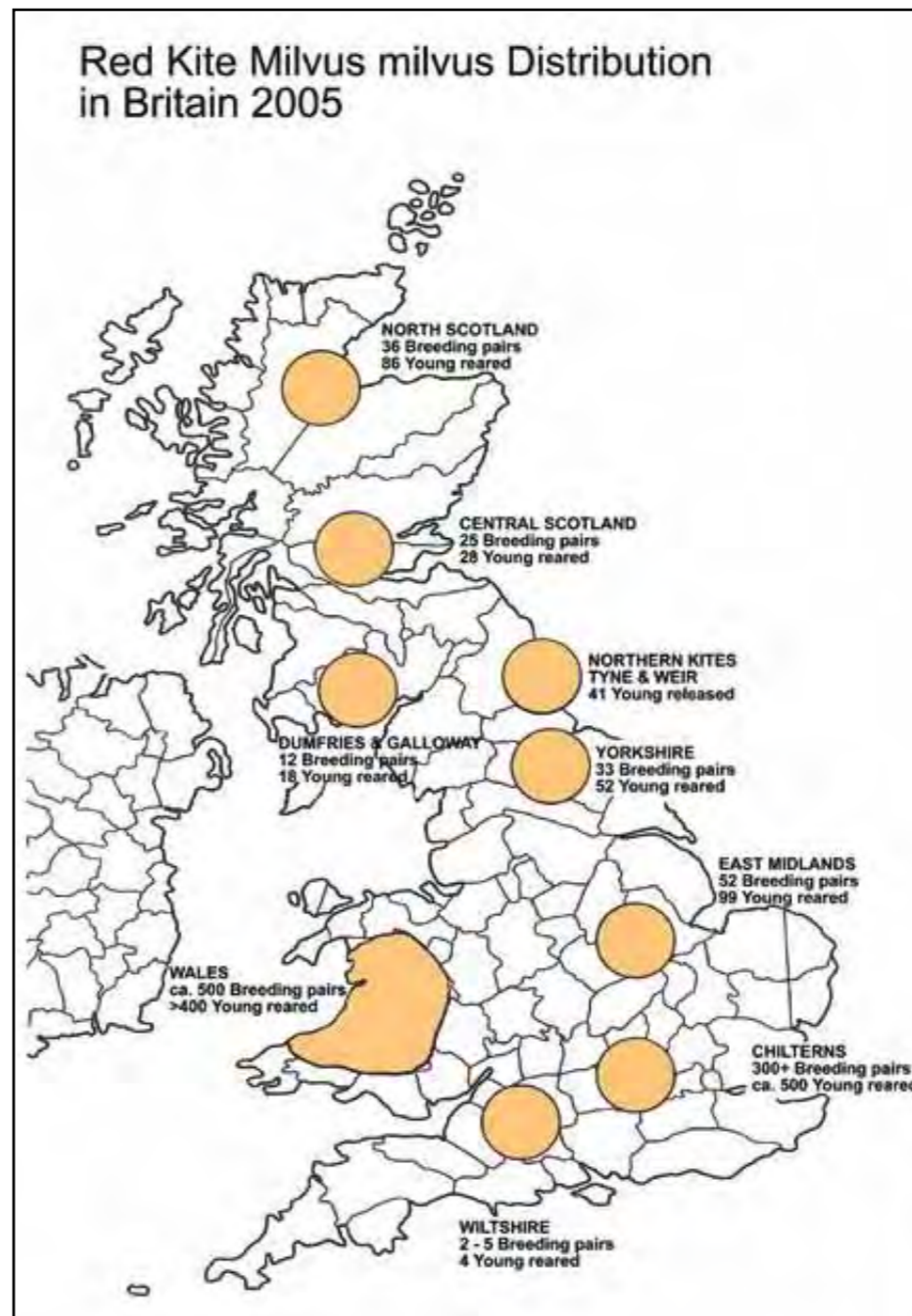
As it was only a year since the first releases it was not expected that any breeding attempts would occur. Even so three pairs were identified, two of these behaved territorially and one pair even built a flimsy nest on a hay bale - no eggs were laid. Seven of the 2004 released birds remain in the immediate release area, with two others elsewhere in northeast England and one in Yorkshire.

A further 41 young kites, sent up from the Chilterns population, were released during 2005 making a total of 61 released since the project began. At least 54 birds are known to be floating around the northeast and there have been just two known mortalities.

Autumn monitoring of birds has revealed a slow down in the rate of dispersal of this year's birds. These are still wandering in the local context but can usually be located within a short distance of the release area.

A large number of kites are still regularly noted in the Derwent valley and the Barlow Burn areas, with as many as 43 counted in late October. Many of these birds are roosting together in a spectacular communal roost in woodland close to the Sherburn Towers housing estate in Rowlands Gill (3.5 km from the Gateshead Metro-Centre and the A1).

There has been a recent, not yet fully substantiated report of a Dumfries and Galloway kite



in the Frosterley area of Co. Durham.

**Keith Bowey** (Northern Kites, Project Manager)

## WILTSHIRE

This season in Wiltshire both of the pairs that bred in 2004 were again successful. One pair had a brood of four although only two fledged successfully perhaps because the nest, in a downy birch, was too small to accommodate four full grown young? At this nest both surviving young were wing-tagged and one was also fitted with a radio transmitter. The other pair nested high in a mature Douglas fir and two

out of the three young fledged successfully.

Since the first breeding pair was confirmed in 2000 between one and three nests have been found annually in Wiltshire. This year, in addition to the two successful nests there were three pairs that probably bred and several non-breeding 2nd calendar year birds were regularly seen in new areas. Radio tracking results have shown that young kites from Wiltshire regularly spend their first year further east in Berkshire and the Chilterns, often travelling many miles in a day and frequenting several roosts in a winter.

Last winter a roost just over the border in Berkshire peaked

at about 80 kites and with at least 60 roosting again this autumn the continued westward expansion of the Chilterns population seems assured, albeit a slow process.

**Paul Castle**, Coordinator, Wiltshire Raptor Group

## NORTH SCOTLAND

### History

Starting with the first breeding attempt by a single pair in 1992 (one chick reared), the population increased steadily until 1999 when it reached 30 breeding pairs (77 young reared). The increase slowed down to 35 nesting pairs by 2002 (87 young reared) and showed no further increase until 2005 despite excellent productivity. It is now thought that increased raptor persecution on surrounding grouse-moors has resulted in very poor survival of dispersing young kites. Only 5-10% of young fledged are currently surviving to enter the breeding population when two or three years old as opposed to 50-75% prior to 1999. It would appear that the population in North Scotland is being maintained by the high survival rate of adults, which are resident.

### Breeding in 2005

This year 39 nesting pairs were located, an increase of four pairs (11%) over the previous year. This is the first detected increase in the breeding population since 2002. However, there has been little change in the breeding range, which remains confined to the western half of the Black Isle and adjacent farmland in Easter Ross.

The figures for 2005 are that 73 known nesting sites were checked of which 42 were found occupied (two by single adults). Thirty-nine pairs laid full clutches and 36 pairs successfully fledged 85 young. The mean brood size per laying pair was a healthy 2.2. The three breeding failures all occurred during incubation.

Unusually, all three involved experienced pairs and occurred when for reasons unknown, these pairs abandoned their traditional nests and occupied new ones built in 2005.

The 36 successful broods consisted of five broods of one young, 14 of two young, 16 of three and one of four. Sixty-four young were fitted with wing-tags and 15 of these had additional backpack radio transmitters fitted as part of an on-going study that started in 2004. Four young were collected for release in Dumfries & Galloway as part of their reintroduction scheme. A further 10 were collected for release at Balnagown Estate in Easter Ross as part of a short distance reintroduction experiment.

### Balnagown release programme

Balnagown Estate lies 30 kilometres north of Inverness near Kildary, Easter Ross. It is owned by Mohammed al Fayed and managed by the estate factor Gordon Robertson. In a bid to increase the red kite population in North Scotland, which at the time had not increased for three years, a plan to reintroduce young birds to a new area but only a short distance from the existing established population on the Black Isle was approved by SNH early in 2005. Balnagown Estate was approached and ambitiously supported the idea by providing materials for the release cages and considerable manpower.

Single red kite chicks were taken from ten nests containing broods of three in mid June when aged five weeks. They were housed in two large outside aviaries, six birds in an existing aviary close to the estate castle, the remaining four birds in a purpose built aviary next to undisturbed woodland 500m away. They were fed daily by estate staff under the supervision of the RSPB Red Kite Officer with road-killed Pheasant and rifle shot Rabbit and Roe Deer. They were fitted with wing-tags and backpack radio tags and released at the



Photo: © Tony Cross

end of July. A small food dump was created and maintained after the birds' release. The dispersal of these ten birds was monitored daily during the autumn. At the time of writing in early November, one bird remains in the release area, one has moved to the Black Isle and attending a communal kite roost at Kilmuir, six have dispersed in Easter Ross but remain within 10km of the release site and two have apparently left the area and are yet to be located.

The programme will continue in 2006 and 2007 with the planned

annual relocation of 10-15 young birds taken from the core breeding area.

**Brian Etheridge**, RSPB Red Kite Project Officer, North Scotland

### CENTRAL SCOTLAND

At the beginning of 2005, we were looking forward to a good red kite season in central Scotland this year as wing tag readings seemed to suggest

excellent survival of potential recruits into the breeding population. However, in reality whilst we did see an increase in the number of pairs breeding in central Scotland this year, an apparent combination of low vole populations and cold spring weather in late March and early April conspired to result in very poor productivity.

On the plus side the central Scotland red kite population increased in 2005 to 25 pairs laying eggs from 22 pairs in 2004. It is likely that other breeding pairs went undetected as some of our usual pairs decided to relocate and nests remained unfound throughout the season despite regular sightings of birds in some areas and extensive ground searches. We will wait to see how many untagged juvenile kites turn up in due course at the Argaty feeding station at Doune, Perthshire to gauge how many nests we have actually missed. Of the 25 pairs that were confirmed to have laid eggs, only 15 went on to fledge a paltry 28 young (four down on last year). This is the poorest productivity per breeding pair in central Scotland since birds began breeding again in our area in 1998.

During the course of fieldwork in 2005, Duncan Cameron and I have fitted 19 radio tags to kites, as well as the usual wing tags and BTO rings. The radio tagged birds will be monitored by a former central Scotland Red Kite Project Officer, Kevin Duffy of Natural Research, who will be studying red kite interactions with the proposed Airtricity Braes of Doune windfarm. Construction of the windfarm is due to start in Spring 2006 and reliable information should be gathered over the next few years on the impacts, if any, of windfarms on this species. Environmental Impact Assessment work, including modelling of the predicted impacts on red kites, was carried out as part of the planning application for this windfarm. Whilst it was concluded by this process that impacts arising from

the operation of the windfarm were likely to be low, Scottish Natural Heritage insisted on this additional package of monitoring measures if the development was permitted to proceed. Information gathered in this way should help with advice on the location and design of windfarms in all red kite areas in the future.

To see red kites in Scotland visit the Argaty red kite site close to the A9 arterial north/south route. For further information visit

<http://www.argatyrredkites.co.uk/>.

**Duncan Orr-Ewing**, RSPB Head of Landuse, Scotland

### DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

There were 14 occupied kite territories found in Dumfries and Galloway this year. Two of the 14 territories contained non-laying pairs. At the other 12 territories, all pairs laid eggs. Two clutches failed at the egg stage, the remaining ten nests produced 18 young and all fledged successfully. All young were ringed and had wing tags fitted to them. There were two firsts for the project this year, our 2003 Galloway bred kite paired with a 2003 released kite and they fledged one young. FC Scotland land had a

### 2006 NEW YEAR BIRD RACE

We will be holding our usually New Year Sponsored Bird-Race during the first week of 2006. The competition is open to everyone. Teams of three or more can also compete for our very attractive Marie-Turner Team Trophy and have their names engraved for posterity on the brass plaque. There is also a prize for the individual raising the most money. The main idea though is to have an enjoyable day bird-watching, to see as many different species as you can in 24 hours, and hopefully raise a bit of money too.

The last few years of the WKT New Year Bird-race has seen a very small number of teams taking part, largely due to a failure by myself to chase people up in time. In an attempt to increase the number of teams participating this year Carlton Parry has kindly offered to be our official Bird-Race co-ordinator. Anyone wanting more information should contact Carlton by email [carlton@telco4u.net](mailto:carlton@telco4u.net) or telephone 01597 824250 but please note he is out of the country from 25th Nov. – 12th December.

### Ras Adar y Flwyddyn Newydd 2006

Byddwn yn cynnal ein Ras Adar Flwyddyn Newydd yn ystod wythnos gyntaf 2006. Mae'r gystadleuaeth ar agor i bawb. Gall timau o dri neu fwy gystadlu am dlws hardd Marie Turner ac fe ysgythrir enwau'r buddugol ar blar efydd. Mae gwobr hefyd ar gyfer yr unigolyn fydd yn codi'r mwyaf o arian. Prif bwrrpas y gystadleuaeth yw cael diwrnod o fwynhad yn gwyllo adar, i weld cymaint a phosib o rywiogaethau gwahanol ac wrth gwrs i godi peth arian hefyd.

Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwetha, ychydig iawn o dimau sydd wedi cymryd rhan yn y Ras Flwyddyn Newydd ac mae hyn yn disgyn ar fy ysgwyddau i gan imi fethu mynd ar ol pobl mewn da bryd. Er mwyn ceisio ychwynegu at y nifer o dimau, mae Carlton Parry yn garedig iawn wedi cynnig ei wasanaeth fel cyd-lynydd swyddogol y Ras Adar. Am ragor o wybodaeth mae modd cysylltu a Carlton ar [carlton@telco4u.net](mailto:carlton@telco4u.net) neu dros y ffon ar 01597 824250 ond byddwch cystal a nodi ei fod dramor o 25 Tachwedd hyd at Rhagfyr 12.

successful nest on it where two 2003 released kites paired and fledged two young. To date 14 of the fledged young have been identified at the feeding station at Bellymack Hill Farm.

For the final phase of the reintroduction project it was hoped to release ten young kites, however owing to poor spring weather, in Central Scotland in particular, we were only able to obtain four from North Scotland. These were collected in late June, and prior to release on the 5 August, all were fitted with backpack radio transmitters.

After remaining in the release area for about three weeks, they dispersed. Two are still present in the core area, one is in South Ayrshire. The whereabouts of the other is unknown.

Of the ten 2004 released kites, seven can still be found within the core area, one was found dead [cause of death unproven], and two have not been recorded since early spring. Of our three Galloway bred 2004 kites, two are easily seen at the feeding station most days, whilst the other has not been recorded since 18 March. It is hoped that these nine will remain with us and join the breeding population in 2006.

The Galloway Kite Trail continues to provide visitors to our area with a very enjoyable experience. Visitor numbers to the feeding station at Bellymack Hill Farm have steadily risen with approximately 750 visitors counted in August. Visitors have been delighted with close up views of up to 27 red kites interacting over the feeding area.

Thanks to everyone in the group who helped in any way in 2005, especially Chris, Ciril, Colin, Keith, Kevin and Ray for nests, tree climbing, tags and records etc.

**George Christie**, RSPB Red Kite Project Officer Dumfries and Galloway

## IUCN RED LIST CATEGORY. RED KITE UPLISTED TO NEAR THREATENED

### 2005 GLOBALLY THREATENED BIRD (GTB) UPDATE

An important component of The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) ongoing review process, is the use of discussion fora on BirdLife's website, where people can contribute information on Globally Threatened Birds and discuss implications relevant to the assessment of IUCN Red List threat status in an open, transparent and participatory process.

Last year, a new forum was set up for Europe, containing proposals based on the results of Birds in Europe. This generated considerable interest and provided information that allowed them to make the following changes to the 2005 IUCN Red List

#### Downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered:

- Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma madeira*

#### Downlisted from Endangered to Vulnerable:

- Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*

#### Downlisted from Near Threatened to Least Concern:

- Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and  
White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

#### Uplisted from Endangered to Critically Endangered:

- Azores Bullfinch *Pyrrhula murina*

#### Uplisted from Least Concern to Vulnerable:

- Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri*

#### Uplisted from Least Concern to Near Threatened:

- Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*, Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*, European Roller *Coracias garrulus*, Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*, Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* & Krüper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*

For more information go to :

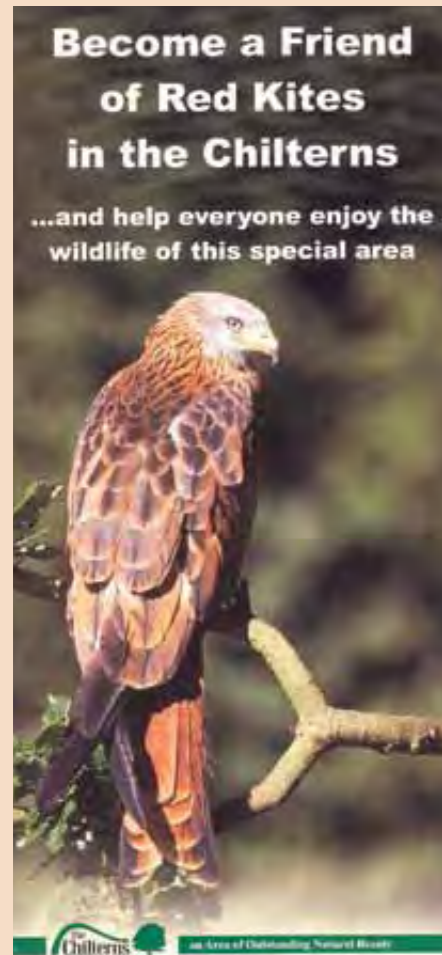
[http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/global\\_species\\_programme/whats\\_new\\_2005.html](http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/global_species_programme/whats_new_2005.html)

***This uplisting of the Red Kite to Near Threatened reinforces our commitment to continue monitoring and maintain vigilance against potentially harmful developments in the face of an increasing feeling that enough has already been done to secure the future of the Red Kite (see also the article on Asian vultures see Page 8).***



Photo: © Mike Hayward

## Friends of Red Kites in the Chilterns Donation Scheme



Red kites, released into the Chiltern Hills in the early 1990s have become a common

and much loved feature of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Public demand for information about these magnificent birds has been huge and for the last five years, the Chilterns Conservation Board has offered a programme of red kite related events and activities with financial help from organisations such as the RSPB, English Nature and the Countryside Agency and invaluable support from a large number of volunteers, the 'Friends of Red Kites in the Chilterns'.

This year, external funding for this work is no longer available, but the Chilterns Conservation Board and its volunteers are still keen to offer the public opportunities to learn more about red kites. To help this happen, a new scheme has just been launched encouraging members of the public to donate money towards red kite awareness raising work in the Chilterns.

For a contribution of £15 or more, donors will become

'Friends of Red Kites in the Chilterns' and will receive a gift pack including information on red kites and an exclusive badge and car sticker. The money raised will go towards promoting red kites and other Chilterns wildlife through CCTV Nest Watch projects, walks, talks, fun days, festivals, education work in local schools and production of literature.

"The red kites are doing fantastically well now. The population is spreading all the time and local people have a real sense of ownership," says Cathy Rose, who co-ordinates the work. "Donations received through this scheme will not be used directly for red kite conservation as the local population is thought to have reached a sustainable level, but will fund activities to help more local people understand and appreciate the birds and the countryside that supports them."

For more details on how to make a donation, contact Cathy Rose on 01844 355 506 or visit the Chilterns website <http://www.chilternsaonb.org>

## RED KITES IN CEREDIGION THE BWLCH NANT-YR-ARIAN EXPERIENCE

By **Becky Clews**, RSPB, North Wales

Summer 2005 saw the Welsh Kite Trust (WKT) teaming up with RSPB Cymru and Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) for the Red Kites in Ceredigion **Aren't Birds Brilliant!** scheme at the FCW site Bwlch Nant-yr-Arian.



A team of 22 volunteers, managed by Sion Dafis, Showing People Birds Officer for RSPB Cymru, were on site from July to the end of September almost every day. Their role was to meet and greet the 10,000 visitors (FCW figures) to the site near Ponterwyd which as well as offering year round children's play parks, woodland walks and cycle tracks, also feeds red kites every day at 3:00pm (2pm during the winter months).

Tony Cross from the WKT took part in the volunteers' training to ensure they were able to answer any questions from visitors about red kites and the work of

the WKT. This proved essential, since questions ranged from "How do you make that whistling noise from the trees to attract the red kites in?" to somewhat more serious questions about wind farms and supplementary feeding.

The team operated from the 'virtual hide' where the Y Barcod DVD was shown. In good weather a pagoda was also set up to offer children's activities, general advice leaflets and some WKT and RSPB merchandise – the squeaky red kite toys went down a scream! During feeding time, the volunteers would attend the lakeside and offer binoculars and telescopes for visitors to get even closer views. The comments written in the visitor's book tell us that the scheme was well received: "very informative", "great to have someone to talk to". The family fun day that Sion organised was also well attended despite the awful weather!

We are now hoping to extend the scheme during the winter months and hope to add on to the scheme in 2006 by offering visitors the chance to watch footage of nesting red kites.

If anyone would like to help with this event in the future, please contact Becky Clews on 01492 562163 or email [Rebecca.clews@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.clews@rspb.org.uk)

## Y BARCOD YNG NGHEREDIGION BWLCH NANT-YR-ARIAN - GWEITHGAREDDAU'R HAF

Yn ystod haf 2005 gwelwyd Ymddiriedolaeth Barcodiaid Cymru (YBC) yn cydweithio gyda RSPB Cymru a Chomisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru (CCC) ar gynllun 'Tydy adar yn wych!' - y barcod yng Ngheredigion. Gweithredwyd y cynllun ar safle'r CCC ym Mwlch Nant-yr-arian, ger Ponterwyd.

Bu tîm o 22 o wirfoddolwyr o dan arweiniad Siôn Dafis, Swyddog Dangos Adar i RSPB Cymru, yn bresennol ar y safle

bron pob dydd o ddechrau mis Gorffennaf tan ddiwedd mis Medi. Roeddent yn gyfrifol am gwrdd a chyfarach y 10,000 o ymwelwyr (rhifau y CCC) a ddaeth i'r safle yn ystod yr haf.

Dangoswyd DVD 'Y Barcod' yn y guddfan drwy gydol y dydd ac yn ystod tywydd braf codwyd stondin gerllaw er mwyn dosbarthu taflenni gwybodaeth a darparu gweithgareddau ar gyfer plant o bob oed. Roedd hefyd yn bosibl i brynu nwyddau amrywiol gan YBC a RSPB ar y stondin. Yn ystod amser bwydo roedd gwirfoddolwyr wrth law i gynnig sbienddrych i unrhyw ymwelydd a oedd am gael gwell golygfa o'r barcodiaid o gwmpas y llyn. Teimlir fod y cynllun wedi bod yn llwyddiant eleni a chefnogwyd hyn gan yr holl sylwadau cadarnhaol a nodwyd yn y llyfr ymwelwyr. Mynychodd nifer helaeth o bobl y diwrnod hwyl teuluol er gwaethaf y tywydd dychrynlyd.

Er mwyn sicrhau fod y gwirfoddolwyr yn medru ateb cwestiynau am y barcodiaid ac am waith YBC yn hyderus fe gymerodd Tony Cross ran yn y diwrnod hyfforddiant a ddarparwyd ar eu cyfer. Roedd hyn yn hanfodol wrth ystyried amrywiaeth y cwestiynau a ofynwyd gan y cyhoedd yn ystod yr haf.

Darperir llwybrau cerdded a beicio mynydd drwy'r coetir ar y safle ac fe fwydir y barcodiaid yma bob dydd am 3:00yh (2:00yh yn ystod misoedd y gaeaf). Mae'r parciau chwarae a'r caffî ger y llyn ar agor drwy'r flwyddyn.

Rydym yn bwriadu ymestyn y cynllun dros fisoedd y gaeaf ac yn gobeithio ychwanegu ato yn 2006 gan roi'r cyfle i ymwelwyr i wylio lluniau o farcodiaid yn nythu.

Os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn helpu gyda'r cynllun hwn yn y dyfodol gallwch gysylltu â Becky Clews drwy ffonio 01492 562163 neu wrth ddanfôn ebost i'r cyfeiriad

[Rebecca.clews@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.clews@rspb.org.uk)

## NEW GUMMED LABELS

These new gummed labels are available in packs of 200 labels for just £5.00 + £1.00 p&p. Printed in black on "Environmentally Friendly" gummed paper they are ideal for re-using all those envelopes that you would normally put in the bin. Just stick one over the old address and use the top part to fold over and seal the envelope.

Order direct from the Welsh Kite Trust, Samaria, Nantmel, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6EN.

**THE WELSH KITE TRUST**  
YMDDIRIEDOLAETH BARCODIAID CYMRU  
*Researching and conserving the magnificent Red Kite in Wales*  
Registered Charity No.1058210 Elusen Cofrestredig

To:

*If you are interested in our work then please contact us ...*

**SAMARIA**, Nantmel, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6EN      01597 825981  
[www.welshkitetrust.org](http://www.welshkitetrust.org)      [info@welshkitetrust.org](mailto:info@welshkitetrust.org)

## RECENT RINGING RECOVERIES OF WELSH KITES

**1. GN65427** - Black/Yellow 93. Originally ringed as a single chick in a nest near Llanfihangel-y-creuddyn on 24th June 2004. This bird was found under wind-turbines on 9th March 2005 at a site near Aberystwyth. The left wing had been completely severed at the carpal joint. When first handed in the injury was fresh and still bleeding. It appeared otherwise to be in good condition both bodily and in its plumage. The bird was still alive but has since been euthanased. (See article on page 4 in Issue 17). This corpse was sent to Ngaio Richards as part of her investigation into NSAIDs (see article page 7).

**2. GN54013** - Black/White. W. Ringed as only chick in a nest near Ammanford on the 16th June 2002. Found dead under power lines not far from where it was ringed on 19th March 2005. This bird has tested positive for poison and investigations are currently in progress.

**3. GN20894** - Black/Yellow 34. Originally ringed as the elder chick in a brood of two at a nest near Pant-y-dwr, Rhayader on 17th June 2004. It was found freshly dead on 25th March 2005 near to where it had been ringed by two walkers and was handed to the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust who passed it on to us. Subsequent analysis showed that it had died from fenthion poisoning and also had sublethal levels of the rodenticides difenacoum. Local

enquiries by Welsh Assembly Government staff failed to identify the source. Two local kite pairs were missing during the following season, including the parents of this bird, and it is assumed they also fell victims to the same incident. The body has been sent to Ngaio Richards.

**4. GF52941** (Blue DI) Ringed as the elder chick in a brood of two at a nest near Llandeilo on 11th June 2005. No reported sightings until found freshly dead on the side of the road at Llanllwni on 13th June 2005. The body was sent for analysis but we are still awaiting the results.

**5. HW83376** Found dead at the side of the road just outside Devil's Bridge on 10th August 2005. Originally ringed as a single chick (male) in a nest just outside Devil's Bridge on 25th June 1985 and wing-tagged Blue P. He had fledged the nest by 12th July 1985 and was still nearby on 25th July 1985. He was next seen the following spring, on 28th Feb 1986, at Tyn Domen Tip (the original Tregaron Feeding Station) and was recorded a few times over the following year or so. On 9th April 1987 he was seen associating with Red O back at Devil's Bridge but no nest resulted. In 1988 he bred just outside Devil's Bridge in the Rheidol Gorge but the nest failed by early June. He nested at a different nearby site in 1989 but again failed. The

Photo: © Sue Wright



only subsequent record was a probably sighting at a nest near Capel Trisant in April/May 1992. He must have lost his tags soon after and has no doubt had been breeding in the Devil's Bridge area ever since. At over 20 years old this is one of the oldest kites recorded.

**6. GN54122** - Black/White E. This is the bird found hanging in a tree by baler twine on New Year's Day 2003. She was released on 13th January 2004 and had remained around Gigrin ever since, being a regular at the feeding station. When released initially it was noted that one of her feet was turned under. As this was not the reason for her being in care it was decided to release her. In August 2005 she came back in again having being found attacked and grounded by crows. Her injured foot had worsened and the other foot had developed bumble foot, probably due to it having to take all her weight all the time. Unfortunately the decision was taken that she wasn't fit to release again and as the injuries were untreatable she was euthanased. (See photo below).

**7. GN65352** Black/Yellow @. Ringed as the middle chick in a brood of three near Llansawel on June 2004. It was found trapped in a sheep fence at Banc Farm Abergorllech on 6th October 2005 but had been dead for some time so no further analysis was possible. This death mirrors the untimely death of GN65416 reported in Boda Wennol Issue 16, Page 13. This corpse was also sent to Ngaio Richards.

## SIGHTINGS OF BIRDS ORIGINATING FROM OUTSIDE WALES

**ORANGE/YELLOW 3** - (GN70333) - Ringed as a chick in a brood of 3 on 5th June 2004 at Harewood in Yorkshire. It was first seen at Gigrin Farm on 26th October 2005.

**WHITE/ORANGE D** - (GN94613) - Ringed as a chick in a brood of 3 on 6th June 2005 in Northhamptonshire. There are no local sightings prior to it being seen at the Bwlch Nant-yr-Arian Feeding Station, Ponterwyd on 16th September 2005 by Sion Dafis and Len Kersley whilst working on the RSPB/WKT/FE AWBB Project (see article on page 17).

**WHITE/ORANGE 26** - (GN94674) - Ringed as a chick in a brood of 3 on 20th June 2005 near Stamford, Northhamptonshire. There are no local sightings prior to it being seen at Gigrin Farm, Rhayader on 26th October 2005. It was still present on 9th November 2005.

**YELLOW/YELLOW 59** - Ringed as a chick in a brood of 3 on 16th June 2004 near West Wycombe in the Chilterns. Not reported subsequently in the Chilterns. It was first seen at Gigrin Farm, Rhayader on 25th July 2005 but had possibly been there for a while.

**YELLOW/YELLOW 69** - Ringed as a chick in a brood of 3 on 16th June 2004 near West Wycombe in the Chilterns. It was not reported subsequently in the Chilterns. It was first seen at Gigrin Farm, Rhayader on 25th July 2005 but had possibly been there for a while.

## OTHERS "FROM AWAY" STILL PRESENT IN WALES

**BLUE/YELLOW 54** - From the Black Isle, Inverness first seen at Gigrin Farm on 12th October 2004. Still present 20th November 2005

## STRYCHNINE PERMITS SET TO END

**Strychnine will not be authorised for mole control after 1 September 2006.**

The Welsh Assembly Government aims to issue permits to purchase strychnine up until 31 May next year, but all permits will expire three months from the date of issue or on 31 August, earliest. Applications for permits received after 28 April will be refused.

Applications to use strychnine that has already been purchased must be received by the Assembly Government by 1 August.

Anyone planning to make an application for a permit after 28 April, or an application to use Strychnine after 1 August, will need to provide written justification for doing so and explain why an alternative cannot be used.

Strychnine will only be authorised in the period between these dates and the end of August under exceptional circumstances.

Strychnine is very toxic and must not be disposed of through normal waster collections. Pharmacists are not required to take strychnine back. Anyone left with Strychnine is responsible for organising and paying for its safe disposal through a licensed waste collector.

Advice an alternative ways of controlling moles can be obtained from Assembly Divisional Offices. Further information is available from <http://www.pesticides.gov.uk>, Pesticides Safety Directorate's information service on 01904 455 775 or Divisional Offices.

## TRWYDDEDAU STRYCHNINE I'W DIDDYMU

**Ni fydd Strychnine yn cael ei awdurdodi fel gwadd laddwr (lladdwr twrch daear) ar ol Medi 1, 2006.**

Bwriad y Cynulliad Cymreig yw caniatáu trwyddedau i brynu Strychnine hyd at Mai 31 y flwyddyn nesaf ond daw pob trwydded i ben dri mis ar ol y dyddiad derbyn neu ar 31 Awst fan gyntaf. Gwrthodir pob cais a wneir am drwydded ar ol Ebrill 28.

Rhaid i geisiadau i ddefnyddio Strychnine a brynwyd eisioes gael eu derbyn gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad erbyn Awst 1af.

Bydd gorfodaeth ar unrhyw un a wnaiff gais i ddefnyddio Strychnine ar ol Awst 1 i gyfiawnhau'r cais ac i egluro pam nad oes modd defnyddio dewis arall.

Caniateir defnyddio Strychnine rhwng y dyddiadau hyn a diwedd Awst mewn amgylchiadau arbennig yn unig.

Mae Strychnine yn hynod o wenwynig, ac ni ellir ei wared drwy'r casglwyr gwastraff arferol. Does dim rheidrwydd ar Fferyllwyr i dderbyn Strychnine yn ol. Mae unrhyw berson sydd a Strychnine yn ei feddiant yn gyfrifol am ei wared yn ddiogel trwy gasglwyr trwyddedig.

Gellir derbyn cyngor am ffyrdd eraill o reoli'r gwadd(twrch daear) o Swyddfeydd Rhanbarthol y Cynulliad. Hefyd, mae modd cael rhagor o wybodaeth o'r <http://www.pesticides.gov.uk> neu ar wasanaeth hysbysu Swyddog Diogelwch Plau ar 01904 455 775 neu o'r Swyddfeydd Rhanbarthol.



**THE WELSH KITE TRUST WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF £50.00 OR MORE IN THE PERIOD 1st MAY 2005 TO 1st NOVEMBER 2005**

**OFFAI YMDDIRIEDOLAETH BARCUDIAID CYMRU DDIOLOCHI'R CANLYNOL AM EU CYMORTH ARIANNOL O £50.00 NEU RAGOR YN YSTOD 2003/2004**

Mr. C. D. Britton  
Mrs. M. J. Caplin, The Ivy House  
Prof. J. R. & Mrs. S. R. Coley-Smith  
Michael & Linda Hickiling  
Mr. P. R. & Mrs. N. C. Izon  
Dr. W. J. Marshall  
Mid Wales Birdwatching Holidays  
Gwyn Roberts  
Mr. T. H. Thursfield  
Lady Hugh Russell/Woburn Trust  
Mr. D. R. Willett

**We would also like to welcome the following new 'Friends of the Welsh Kite' and thank them for their support.**

**Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i aelodau newydd 'Cyfeillion Barcudiaid Cymru' am eu cymorth.**

Mr. J. Allan & family (Cambs.), Mrs. V. M. Arnold (Essex), Mrs. A. T. Bagley (Hants.), Mrs. H. M. Beale (Cardiff), Mrs. S. A. Blair (W.Glam.), Miss. N. Bray (Bucks.), Mr. D. J. & Mrs. G. A. M. Castle (Powys), Mr. G. Cheshire (Kent), Prof. T. R. & Mrs. S. J. Cox (Notts.), Mr. S. P. & Mrs. S. Daly (Essex), Mrs. H. Davies (Glos.), Mr. M. Davies (Conwy), Mr. S. LL. Dafis (Ceredig.), Mr. J. Davison (Hants.), Mr. A. R. Essex & family (Warks.), Mr. M. Evans (Herf.), Mrs. J. M. Fincher & family (W.Sussex), Mr. P. C. & Mrs. K. A. Giessler (Wilts.), Dr. M. Gillham (Cardiff), Mr. H. J. & Mrs. C. L. Gladden (Dors.), Ms. J. V. Greatorex (Powys), Rev. D. E. Hammon (Pemb.), Mrs. S. Hammond (Dors.), Mrs. M. C. Harvey (Essex), Ms. L. J. Haskell (Ceredig.), Mr. D. Haughney (Surrey), Mrs. H. Herring (Surrey), Mr. M. D. J. Holloway (Glos.), Mr. F. G. Hopgood (Hants.), Mr. S. House (Cardiff), Mr. I. R. Hudson (Mons.), Mr. J. Huxter (Edinburgh), Mr. J. K. Huxter (Wilts.), Mr. A. M. & Mrs. D. S. Jones (Birmingham),

Prof. L. Kersley (Ceredig.), Mr. G. Lewis (Bristol), Mr. G. J. Linklater & family (Herf.), Dr. J. Lloyd (Cardiff), Miss, J. Maden (Glos.), Mr. & Mrs. Marie (Surrey), Mr. S. A. Marren (Oxon), Mr. P. Martin (Flints.), Mr. D. J. Matthews (Carms.), Mr. A. Money (Lancs.), J- B. Mourambles (FRANCE), Mr. H. Parry (Cardiff), Mrs. S. K. Patmore & family (Powys), Mrs. M. Philipps (Salford), Mrs. B. Phillips (Glam.), Miss L. Plant (Birmingham), Mrs. I. Pearson (Clwyd), Miss G. Pope (Lancs.), Mr. E. Powell (Gwent), Mrs. Y. Richards (Wilts.), Mr. S. R. & Mrs. L. G. Rogerson (Som.), Mr. W. L. Ross (Carms.), Mr. F. G. Salter (Glam.), Mrs. M. J. Seligmann (Middx), Miss. B. J. Senior (S.Yorks.), Mrs. L. Shaarawy (Warks.), Miss. N. Shopland (London), Mr. A. Smith (Oxon.), Ms. C. Smyth (Cambs.), Mr. K. G. & Mrs. V. J. Stait (Glos.), Mr. J. R. C. & Mrs. H. I. M. Stock (Suff.), Mr. J. Stroud (Kent), Mrs. M. H. Tacagni (Powys), Mr. D. K. Thomas (L'pool), Mr. S. Underdown (E.Sussex), Mrs. G. Weir (Ches.), Mr. E. Williams (Powys), Mr. G. Williams (Ches.), Mr. J. P. Williams & family (Lancs.), Mr. M. J. Wilson (W.Mids.).

**Although it is not possible, for confidentiality reasons, to name all those concerned, we are indebted to Forest Enterprise, Welsh Water and all the other landowners who allowed us access for the purpose of monitoring or filming breeding kites.**

**Er nad yw yn bosibl, am resymau cyfrinacheddol, i enwi'r cyfan, yr ydym yn ddyledus i Antur Coedwigaeth, Dwr Cymru a'r holl dirfeddianwyr eraill a ganiataodd mynediad er mwyn i ni fonitro neu ffilmio barcudiaid yn bridio.**

As usual we would also like to thank the Powell family at Gigrin Red Kite Centre, Jo Lewis and the volunteers at Tregaron Kite Centre, Ceredig and Janet Morgan (Nant-yr-Arian Kite Centre), Susanna and Michael Binsted (Talsarn), Peter Faulkener and Ceri (Llanddeusant) and anyone else who provided us with free advertising opportunities or dispensed leaflets. We would also like to thank all the volunteers and staff at the Nant-yr-Arian "Aren't Welsh Birds Brilliant Project" for making it such a successful venture. Finally we would like to thank Chris Powell for his constant, free, maintenance of our website.

Fel arfer, rydym yn ddiolch i'r Powells o fferm Gigrin, Rhayader, Jo Lewis a'r gwirfoddolwyr (Canolfan Barcudiaid Tregaron), Ceredig a Janet Morgan (Canolfan Barcudiaid Nant yr Arian), Susanna a Michael Binsted (Talsarn), Peter Faulkener

(Llanddeusant) ac unrhyw rai eraill a ganiataodd gyfleoedd hysbysebu inni yn rhad ac am ddim neu a fu'n dosbarthu taflenni ar ein rhan. Diolch hefyd i unrhyw un sydd wedi danfon gwybodaeth, ffotograffau neu waith arlunio i'w gynnwys yn y cylchlythyr newyddion. Yn olaf, diolchwn unwaith eto i Chris Powell am ei fedrusrwydd a'i haelioni am ofalu am wefan Ymddiriedolaeth Barcudiaid Cymru, a hynny yn ddi - dal.

**Please note that the address for all correspondence is:**

**The Welsh Kite Trust  
"Samaria", Nantmel  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys, LD1 6EN**

**Telephone 01597 825981  
email: info@welshkitetrust.org  
www.welshkitetrust.org**

**Unless otherwise credited all articles in this newsletter are written by Tony Cross. Os na ddywedir yn wahanol, mae pob erthygl yn y cylchlythyr hwn wedi'i ysgrifennu gan Tony Cross.**

**Articles on any issue relating to kites (or advertisements) are welcomed for possible inclusion in the next issue of Boda Wennol. We are particularly keen to receive pen and ink sketches or photographs of kites for use in our newsletters and other publicity material. The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is 31st March 2006.**

**Croesewir unrhyw fater (neu hysbysebion) yn ymwneud, â barcudiaid ar gyfer eu cynnwys, o bosib, yn y rhifyn nesaf o Boda Wennol. Yr ydym yn awyddus iawn i dderbyn lluniau pin ac inc neu ffotograffau o farcudiaid i'w cynnwys yn ein cylchlythrau a defnydd hysbysebu eraill. Y dyddiad olaf i'w derbyn am y rhifyn nesaf yw 31 Mawrth 2006.**

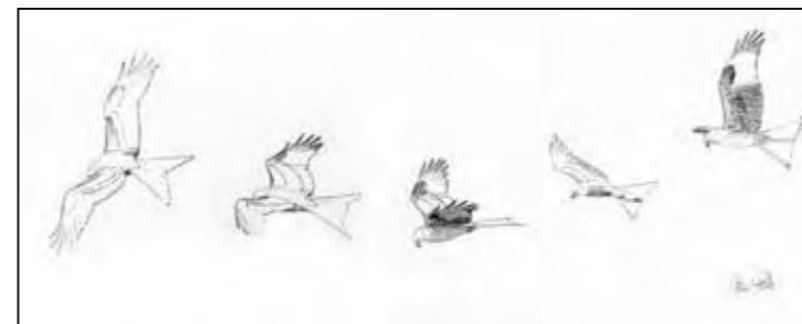
**Our sincere thanks to Mr Dafydd Hughes for his Welsh translation of this newsletter.**

**Hoffem ddiolch yn fawr i Mr Dafydd Hughes am gyfieithu'r cylchlythyr hwn.**

## NEW BLANK CARD DESIGNS - CARDIAU PLAEN NEWYDD

*Card sales are a vital source of income to the Trust and we hope you will consider supporting us further by buying some.*

We are continuing to sell our range of blank cards/notelets at a very reasonable price. The two John Schmitt designs featuring Red Kite images (shown overleaf) produced for the book **A Fieldguide to the Raptors of Europe, The Middle East and North Africa published by Oxford University Press**, are being sold at £4.00/10 cards (5 of each design) plus £1.00/pack p&p. Also available are three black and white designs by Terence Lambert, Ben Stammers and Colin Woolf, printed on textured paper. These cards are being sold at £5.00/12 cards (12 of 1 design or 4 each of all three designs) plus £1.00/pack p&p. All these designs are shown at reduced size below or are also viewable on our website [www.welshkitetrust.org](http://www.welshkitetrust.org). An order form is printed below for your convenience or can be downloaded from our website.



The DL envelope sized notelet 210mm x 100mm design, featuring a pencil sketch by Colin Woolf of the flight of the Red Kite



The C6 (6 x 4 inches - 150 x 100mm) notelet design, of a pencil sketch by Terence Lambert



The C6 (6 x 4 inches - 150 x 100mm)notelet design, of a sketch by Ben Stammers

### WELSH KITE TRUST CARD ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Design	Order No.	No./Pack	No. Packs required	Unit Price	Total Price
<b>Terence Lambert's CHRISTMAS CARDS</b>					
Kite over Conifers by Terence Lambert (100mm x 205mm)	04/01	12		£5.00	
Kite over Conifers by Terence Lambert (143mm x 198mm)	04/02	12		£5.00	
<b>Colin Woolf's CHRISTMAS CARDS</b>					
"Kites at Cwmystwyth" by Colin Woolf (198mm x 143mm)	03/01	12		£5.00	
"Kites at Cwmystwyth" by Colin Woolf (150mm x 100mm)	03/02	12		£4.00	
12 "Kites in Cwmystwyth" ChristmasCards (6 large, 6 small)	03/MX	12		£4.50	
<b>Nick Derry &amp; Mike Attwood CARDS</b>					
"Wings of Winter" by Nick Derry (198mm x 143mm)	02/01	12		£5.00	
"Wings of Winter" by Nick Derry (150mm x 100mm)	02/02	12		£4.00	
"Kite over Wye Valley" by Mike Attwood (198mm x 143mm)	02/03	12		£5.00	
"Kite over Wye Valley" by Mike Attwood (150mm x 100mm)	02/04	12		£4.00	
4 of each size of the two 2002 designs	02/MX/C	16		£5.00	
<b>JOHN SCHMITT BLANK CARDS</b>					
	JS/MX	10		£4.00	
<b>BLACK &amp; WHITE BLANK CARDS</b>					
Ben Stammers watercolour	BW/BS	12		£5.00	
Terence Lambert pencil sketch	BW/TL	12		£5.00	
Colin Woolf pencil sketch	BW/CW	12		£5.00	
<b>BLANK CARDS</b>					
"Kites at Cwmystwyth" by Colin Woolf (198mm x 143mm)	03/01B	12		£5.00	
"Kites at Cwmystwyth" by Colin Woolf (150mm x 100mm)	03/02B	12		£4.00	
12 "Kites in Cwmystwyth" BlankCards (6 large, 6 small)	03/MXB	12		£4.50	
<b>WKT Gummed Lables (approx C6 size, 110x150mm)</b>					
		200		£5.00	
				<b>TOTAL COST</b>	
Cheques payable to: THE WELSH KITE TRUST Please note; we cannot process card payments.				<b>ADD Postage &amp; Packing @ £1.00 PER PACK</b>	
				<b>AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>	

Please cut out (or photocopy) and return your completed order form to:-

**The Welsh Kite Trust  
Samaria  
Nantmel  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys. LD1 6EN**

Cards are usually dispatched, 2nd class, within 24 hours of our receipt of the order