

Look what the cat dragged in!

The importance of reporting bird rings

So I've found a ringed bird.
What can it tell you?

The BTO Ringing Scheme relies on people reporting ringed birds. The information from these reports is used in many studies of survival, productivity and migration.

So, it is important to look at what the cat dragged in, what hit the window, or what washed up on the beach.



Mike Toms

This unfortunate Cuckoo was found after hitting a window, a fate that also befalls many birds

Owls and roads

From reports sent by members of the public, we know that nearly a quarter of young Barn Owls are killed on the roads in their first year of life - potentially a serious problem for this declining species.

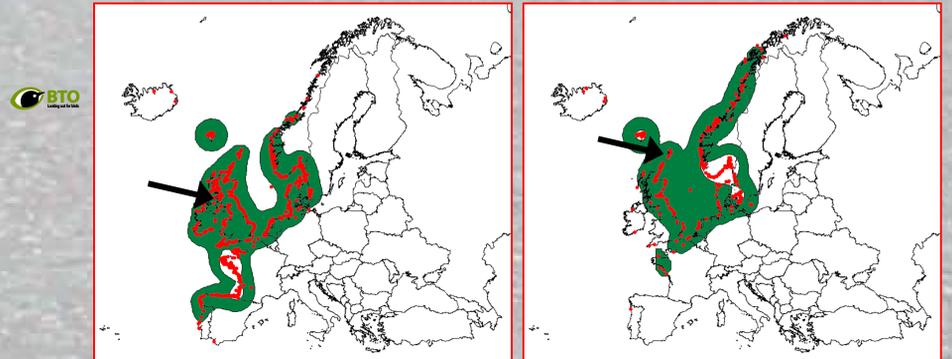


BTO Collection

It's not always bad news for Barn Owls though. 'Barney' was hit by a car (left), but after some TLC was released back into the wild (right).

Seabirds and oil spills

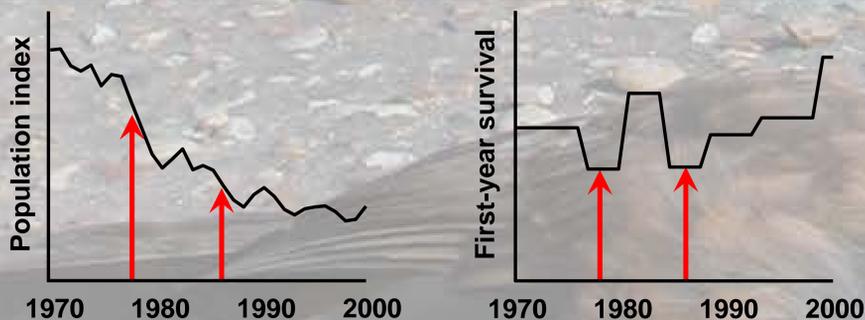
When large oil spills happen, we can gauge which populations of seabirds will be affected by looking at where the ringed birds have come from. This helps us to understand which populations might be at risk in the future.



These maps show the different wintering areas of Guillemots from two populations in Scotland (Canna on the left and Shetland on the right, shown by arrows). We know this from all of the recoveries of birds ringed on these islands (shown as red dots).

Monitoring populations

Reports of dead ringed birds can tell us a lot about changes in survival rates of birds over time. This can help us to explain declines in bird numbers as part of *Integrated Population Monitoring*.



Research into the dramatic decline in the Song Thrush population using ringing data has shown that it is a decrease in survival of first-year birds that has caused the decline. Periods of greatest decline coincide with lowest survival, shown by the red arrows above.



Trevor Codlin

This colour ringed Greenshank (ringed in 1991) was seen for many years in Hampshire before being shot in Russia in 2004

Birds with coloured rings

It's not only dead birds that we're interested in! Some ringers also use coloured rings to identify their birds while they are still alive! If you see such a bird, note down the position (which leg the rings are on and whether above or below the 'knee') and colour of the rings and get in touch!

So, keep an eye out for any birds that might be ringed. You never know where they've come from! If you do find a ringed bird, let us know the ring number, and when, where and how you found it. Also include your name and postal address so we can tell you where and when 'your' bird was ringed.

HOW TO CONTACT US?

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