

LAKE DISTRICT OSPREY PROJECT 2006

SUMMARY 2006

RETURN OF THE BIRDS

- Female SX returned on 3rd April
- Male , no rings, returned on the 4th April

MATING & EGGS

- Mating commenced 4th April at 0920.
- 94 mating attempts have been recorded. (97 in 2005 & 107 in 2004). Mating ceased on the 23rd April.
- 3 eggs were laid:
- 1st egg was laid 2330 17th April
- 2nd egg was laid 1845 20th April
- 3rd egg was laid either very late Sat 22nd April or early morning Sun 23rd April

HATCHING

- We believe that the first chick hatched about 2230/2300 on the 26th May. It was first seen at 0435 on the 27th May and took its first food at 0911
- The 2nd chick hatched at 0750 on the 27th May & took its first food at 1455
- The 3rd chick hatched at 1800 hrs on Monday 29th May

FISH

- 157 fish have been taken into the nest up to the first chick hatching
- Average number per day = 3
- Since hatching average per day = 7.5 (grand total to date April 3rd to June 10th = 270)
- The most numerous fish to date have been perch (40%). Other fish recorded have been pike, trout, roach, dace, rudd, salmon and possibly 1 bream. – although unfortunately 23% have gone unidentified as they usually arrive headless and over one third eaten. Since hatching most fish arrive whole on the nest.
- The most productive hours for the male catching fish are between 1700 to 1900 (approximately 20% of all fish caught)
- 34% of fish have been caught between 0400 & 1200
- 66% of fish have been caught between 1200 & 2200
- The average time it has taken for the male to return with a fish once he leaves the nest has been 66mins up to hatching. His shortest time has been 7 minutes!
- Since hatching the average time has dropped to 57mins with a shortest time recorded of 5 mins.

INCUBATION

- In past years the male has undertaken between 28 and 32% (6.25 to 8hrs per day) of the incubation & we suspected that this year would be no different.
- However this year he has done less – 25% with a daily average of 6 hours and 2 mins
- His shortest daily time was on the 18th April at 2hrs 43 mins and his longest was on the 11th May at 9hrs 47 mins
- His longest spell to date this year incubating the eggs is 180 mins. (In 2005 it was 176 mins & in 2004 it was 256mins!)

STICKS & MOSS

- To date 172 sticks have been added to the nest – 140 by the male & 32 by the female
- To date 142 pieces of moss have been brought to the nest – 86 by the male & 56 by the female

WEATHER

APRIL

- It has rained on 12 out of the 28 days the birds have been back
- The average daily temperature has ranged from 3.6 to 11.7 C
- 19 out of the 28 days the av. daily temperature has been below 10C

MAY

- The warmest day recorded so far has been the 10th - av. Temp 17.7C
- The highest temperature recorded so far was on the 11th – 20.3C
- The highest wind speed recorded so far was on the 8th at 1345 – 15knots
- The night of the 4th provided a spectacular show of thunder & lightning
- It has rained on 16 out of the 26 days recorded so far
- 12 out of the 26 days the av. Daily temperature has been 10C or below

JUNE

- It has rained on only 1 day up to the 10th
- Highest temp recorded has been on the 9th June 24.4 C at 1430 with no days 10C or below

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INTRUDERS (BIRDS) at the NEST SITE

- The most common intruders are Buzzards and crows. However other species have been recorded:
 - Peregrine on 1 day
 - Goshawk on 3 days
 - Other ospreys on at least 18 days visiting the nest site and at least 23 days when other ospreys have been viewed from Dodd wood viewpoint
- On the 20th May a visiting osprey actually landed on the nest!- no rings were seen

RINGING

- The 3 chicks were ringed on the morning of 5th July

Colour Ring	BTO Ring	Sex	Weight	Wing	Tarsus	Notes	Date
Green 5Z	1378107	M?	1360	320	69	PD colour ring on Left leg (Z5)	5 July
Green XV	1378108	F	1585		77	PD	5 July
Green 5Y	1378109	M?	1360	305	64	PD	5 July

FLEDGING

- The first chick (5Z) flew on Thursday 20th July at 1435
- The second chick took flight on Saturday 22nd July and the last one took to the air on Sunday 23rd

Pete Davies 2006