

THE BARN OWL PROJECT — AN UPDATE

By Tom Henry

Below is a brief summary of our Barn Owl capture and banding results in 2013. The success rate of Barn Owl nests in 2013 (51.3%) was not as high as the success rate we saw in 2012 (76.1%). However, Barn Owl nesting success in 2013 was still quite good. Anytime we achieve a 50% rate of active nests we have a good year for owl production. The 76.1 % rate we identified in 2012 was actually the highest nest success rate we've ever recorded in Ohio since we have been banding Barn Owls.

In 2013 we visited 113 Barn Owl nest boxes across portions of five Northeast Ohio counties. We identified 59 active nests (nests with eggs or chicks) yielding a success rate of 51.3 %. We banded a total of 121 chicks from 29 of these active nests. We also captured 60 nesting adults. We banded 23 of these adult owls; the remaining 37 had been banded in previously years either as chicks in a nest or as breeding adults.

The table below details our results.

TABLE 1

County	Active Next Sites	Nests	Un-hatched Eggs	Banded Young	Un-banded Young	Adults Banded		Adults Recaptured	
						Male	Female	Male	Female
Coshocton	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	1	1
Knox	6	6	0	15 (1)	11 (2)	4	3	0	0
Holmes	26	28	24	53	27+(3)	4	4	8	10
Tuscarawas	4	4	0	9	8	0	0	2	2
Wayne	18	20	2	39	43 (4)	4	4	6	7
Totals	55	59	26	121	89+	12	11	17	20

Notes:

- (1) Two of the 15 died before fledging.
- (2) Eight fledged and three died.
- (3) Twenty-two fledged and at least four died.
- (4) Thirty-nine fledged, three died, and one was missing.