



## Breeding Raptor Report 2008

This report summarises information gathered during the 2008 breeding season by a combination local members of the Scottish Raptor Study Group and staff from the Langholm Moor Demonstration Project.

### Hen harriers

Male birds were recorded from mid March onwards, and three males had established territories by early April with a further male present by late April. All four males were located in the traditional core breeding area used by harriers in previous years. One of the four males was wingtagged and was identified as having fledged from Langholm Moor in 1998. Extensive checks were made of all previously used nesting habitats but displaying males were restricted to the area surrounding Tarras Valley. Female harriers were initially observed on the moor in late March but possibly due to a period of cold weather did not remain. Two female harriers were subsequently observed and nested with two of the established males, neither female had been rung. The first pair laid 6 eggs (Lay date 10<sup>th</sup> May) all of which hatched, 4 chicks fledged (3 males, 1 female), the two youngest chicks died during a period of poor weather probably as a result of a combination of hyperthermia and starvation. The second pair laid 5 eggs (Lay date 27<sup>th</sup> May) all of which hatched and fledged. All 4 fledged birds from the first nest and 3 of the chicks from the second nest were rung with conventional metal leg rings. Wing tagging was not possible due to being prohibited by the current legislation.

### Peregrine

All traditional sites both within the LMDP boundary and in the immediate surrounding area were checked for occupancy. A single site on the project area was occupied 4 eggs were laid and 2 young fledged. A second site on moorland less than 500m from the project boundary was also occupied, 3 eggs were laid and 2 young fledged. Chicks at both nests were rung with conventional metal rings and with rings incorporating passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags.

### Raven

All traditional nest sites within the project area were checked. A total of four pairs of ravens nested on the project area, and a pair <500m from the project boundary. All nests were successful with between 1 and 5 chicks fledging. No raven chicks were rung in 2008.



## **Merlin**

A single merlin nest was located within the project area. The nest was located in a tree in an old crow nest adjacent to Little Tarras Water. 5 eggs were laid, all of which hatched and fledged. The 5 juveniles were all rung.

## **Buzzard**

Ten active buzzard nests were located across the project area all of which appeared to successfully fledge young. Nests were mainly located relatively late in the season therefore nests which failed early were unlikely to have been recorded. Between 1 and 3 young fledged from each identified nest.

## **Goshawk**

No Goshawk nested within the project area. A single nest is known from within 5km of the project boundary. This pair bred successfully and fledged 3 young.

## **Short-eared owl**

Frequent repeated sightings were made of short-eared owls in two areas, suggesting a minimum of two breeding pairs on the project area.

