

## **Ring Ouzel sightings in 2010 and 2009**

### **NOVEMBER 2010**

#### **12th November (from Michael Pye)**

Grassington Yorkshire Dales

Sighting at Tarmac's Swinden Quarry, near Grassington 12/11/2010. A male bird that hung around the feeders/bird table in the quarry for the afternoon.

### **SEPTEMBER 2010**

#### **29th September (from Irene Fletcher)**

Sittingbourne Kent

I was sitting at the table with my grandson when we noticed an unusual bird in the trees at the bottom of the garden. After watching it for 5 minutes or so we searched through my husband's bird books and found it to be a Ring Ouzel. It came back a few more times and it was most definitely a male Ring Ouzel.

#### **28th September (from Tony Bowman)**

Lorg, Dumfries

Email to Chris Rollie .....

As you are especially interested in Ring Ouzels (I am remembering your talk at the Dumfries branch of SOC), I thought I should let you know of three birds I saw and heard today at a place called Lorg at the end of the Water of Ken valley. Grid ref: NS668008

They were in the few trees that there are around an old dwelling and then moved to the bracken further back. This was at 13:15 today, 28 September. Two were adults and the third a juvenile/1st winter. Wonder if they bred locally?

Chris Rollie comments .....

This is a really interesting record – thanks. I was up at Lorg a week past Sunday and was just telling George the history of the area for ring ouzel – it had up to 6 pairs in the 1970s, and I remember 2-3 pairs from the 1980s.

However, there have been no proven breeding records there for many years now (early 1990s?). The area has always been heavily grazed, which does provide excellent short pasture for feeding, but has greatly reduced the heather cover over rocks and crags for breeding. I wonder if this is a factor in their decline there? There is still a nice patch of juniper high up on one of the burn sides and they have used this in the past – equally there are good sites in the main cleuch. There are no known breeding ouzels within 10-15 miles, though, so the area is now isolated from the main remaining breeding areas in south west.

I suppose there's a very good chance that your birds were migrants on the move from elsewhere. UK breeding birds make up the majority of passage ouzels in September, but are replaced from the first week in October onwards by Fennoscandian birds. My guess is that these birds have moved in from the north, possibly even overseas with all the easterlies of late – but more likely north Scotland.

However, it would be really good to prove breeding again at Lorg, or indeed anywhere in Galloway after an apparent absence of at least ten years.

Best wishes and thanks again for the record.

**14th September (from Richard James)**

Dean Hill, Wiltshire

The following is an inconclusive sighting of a colour ringed bird, passed to David Arthur by the BTO, and originally submitted by Richard in September. Unfortunately there is not enough information to identify the bird, but others in the area may have seen it as well.

Type of bird (if known)	Ring Ouzel
Sex of bird (if known)	F
Was the bird -	alive
County/province	Wiltshire
Location	Dean Hill
Coordinates/grid reference	SU245265
Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	14/09/2010
Please enter any further remarks that you may like to add that will assist in the processing of the ring recovery.	Seemed a well marked female
Leg ring (colour and code)	red left leg

**12th September (from Ian Martin)**

Kilpatrick Hills

Single bird seen at the Lang Craggs on the western edge of the Kilpatrick Hills on 12th Sept (West Dunbarton)

**JULY 2010**

**12th July (from Dave Emery)**

Sprinkling Tarn

One male ring ouzel spotted on the crags above Sprinkling Tarn in the Lake District on 12th July.

**JUNE 2010**

**22nd June (from Graham Rebecca)**

Ring Ouzel behaviour

Innes and I will reply properly to this in early autumn

1) Innes and Sonja's juvenile tracking will have masses of such data. And, we often have the 1st broods (colour ringed) hanging around in the territory during 2nd brood time, and begging/getting fed by male.

2) We have had this a number of times (but switching is commoner, easy to switch if partner not there!!).

3) We have not witnessed this - but have not tried.

**21st June (from Bill Gordon via Tim Melling)**

Ring Ouzel behaviour

Bill Gordon has made some unusual observations of Ring Ouzels at Stanage this year and he is interested to hear if anyone has observed anything similar at other study sites. We are thinking about a note to BB or similar.

1) The parental bond seems to last much longer than we assumed. One pair at Stanage are feeding second brood youngsters about 8 days old but last night at 10pm the male left the nest area and called to the three (poss four) fledged juveniles from their first brood, which joined him to roost in a tree just 30m from the nest. These juveniles "fledged" about 4 weeks ago. Bill has also seen a female feeding a fledged juvenile with a Bilberry while she was also feeding a second brood of youngsters in the nest. Has anyone else witnessed such protracted bonds with fledged youngsters? Might these parties we see on migration be migrating families?

2) The bond between adults might be stronger than we suspected. Last year a pair nested on Burbage Edge, and both male and female were ringed, and were recognisable by distinctive plumage (white speckles etc). This year, it appears that the same pair have returned to the same nest site (both ringed, both with distinctive markings). I thought that other studies showed that males sometimes switched partners between broods. Has anyone else any evidence of pairs persisting between seasons?

3) Bill is now almost certain that he has seen and heard females singing, both complex and simple songs. He has observed this from the female when she has chicks in the nest. Always more subdued than the male's song, but basically similar. This isn't unprecedented among passerines as it is well known that both Dipper and Robin females sing, but close studies of Dunnock have also revealed that females sing. Interested to hear if anyone else has reported females singing.

**20th June (from Sue Worth)**

Easdale Tarn

Saw a ring ouzel on Tarn Crag above Easdale Tarn near Grasmere, this past Sunday 20th June. I was thrilled!

**19th June (from Mike Coleman)**

Bletchley, Bucks

Sighting of male Ring Ouzel at Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire,

Coordinates 51.9854N 0.7369W Saturday 19th June 11.45

Single short sighting perched in bush.

**12th June (from Rowena Clayton)**

Hathersage

Peak District on moors near Hathersage. Sighted just below escarpment on other side of ridge from the Parson's House Outdoor Pursuit Centre. Male, female and, I think, some grown up fledglings.

**1st June (from Innes Simm)**

Glen Effock and Glen Clunie

We have 12 pairs in the core study area in Glen Clunie this year, down from 13 in 2009. So, a small decrease and no sign of the increases reported elsewhere. However, nesting success has been high with 12 of 13 nests raising young, continuing the correlation between low breeding numbers and high breeding success in recent years.

I had a day in Glen Effock with Mike on Sat, which brought back memories of how Clunie used to be (ouzels everywhere!). Looks like Effock is quite a bit wetter and grassier than Clunie, and the heather is older and taller than in Clunie. Other than that, no obvious differences between the 2 glens.

Anyway, the differing trends within Britain don't suggest that the problem lies

solely on migration/in the wintering areas. This gives us reason to believe that at least part of the problem lies on the breeding grounds. A comparative demographic study between Clunie and Effock would be a good starting point, and this is what we'll be proposing for a new study starting in 2011.

## **MAY 2010:**

### **30th May (from Kelvin Jones)**

Snowdonia

Male Ring Ouzel seen in Cwm Trwsgl, (top of Cwm Pennant) Snowdonia 30/5/10. No sign of female. Watched it above old quarry buildings for a couple of minutes then lost sight of it when it flew across valley to boulder-field / scree slope.

### **28th May (from Ken Hutchinson)**

Rosedale

Thought members would be interested in the early results for Rosedale. We have 7 confirmed nests and 2 probable. A total of 9 so far this year. This is the same as 2009 so we have not seen the increase reported from other areas. The positive being we are not down on last year which was our fear at the start of this season. Interesting we had a large group of passage birds 10+ lingering in the dale for a week or so in late April early May and mixing in with the local ouzels. Probably Fennoscandias and we tried hard to persuade them to stay, nice habitat and plenty of good food, but to no avail. Good ouzeling to all.

### **27th May (from Graham Rebecca)**

Glen Effock

Metal over Yellow Right, Yellow over Red Left. Female, NO514892, Burn of Allen Stank, NE of Glen Effock (Tayside) 15km. Ringed 17/05/2009 Glen Effock NO4477 Shank of Cocklie. Ringed as a pullus.

### **26th May (from Mike Nicholl)**

Glen Effock

Red above Orange Left, Metal above Red Right was ringed as a chick at Shank of Cochlie, Glen Effock on 15/05/2007. It was sighted near the Aberdeenshire boundary 8.5 KM NNE. The observer didn't mention its sex. So far in Effock, this season looks like being the highest population yet! Its getting almost impossible to get proper coverage of the ground. The study area part may well have as many as 35 to 40 pairs. Confirmed 28 pairs, located 21 nests, another 13 territories with males but havn't had time to check properly for nests.

### **25th May (from Dave Shackleton)**

Haweswater

I managed to take advantage of the good weather in my study area at

Haweswater in the north eastern Lake District this spring and have now finished my survey of singing males. Occupancy levels are almost back to the levels of 2006 before a dip in the last 3 years, so pretty encouraging here this year.

### **22nd May (from Bill Gordon)**

Stanage Edge

It's very difficult to put any real figures on whether RZs numbers are up or down in the area that I monitor. On the surface it might suggest that there is an increase in numbers, but that would be too easy and the position is far more complicated than first appearances. Because the area has a heavily disturbed RZs population and that disturbance is human and that disturbance is also dependant on the weather.

An indication of potential nests on the part of Stanage that I have direct responsibility- is that by mid April there were five pairs of RZs looking for nest sites- but by the beginning of May only two nest were built and both have signs and restrictions placed on them. Three pairs have moved on. One of those pairs moved to part of the estate that hadn't had RZs breeding for some years (see below) The habitat is absolutely right and there is a strong determination to nest.

We now have three years of experience of Highland cattle grazing on Moorland and Moorland edges, and eight years of putting horse manure on roadside bunds, it works –short, nutrient rich sward the RZs are now feeding on these areas. Our Third nest is close to such an area. But we have to catch them nest building to put up a restriction but it can very easily go wrong and we have to activity intervene to prevent failer.

Example- 9.30pm 22nd May-Public School From Sheffield, 80 kids had an impromptu wide game on a Moorland close to our safest nest-I had to go and stop it.

Example-had to stop group of people lowering 20 foot banner over the edge close to a nest site with "Katie Forster I love you"

So lots of stress as second broods are coming up.

### **13th May (from Prof David Healey)**

Glen Esk

Upper Glen Esk 13th May at 15:30 Two Ring Ouzel, 1 x M and 1 X F feeding on grass area between boulders at foot of scree at NO 429 802 on north side of Loch Lee. Both occasionally flew onto scree and entered a cavity between boulders. Possible breeding?

### **8th May (from Allistair Moore)**

Scale Force near Buttermere

A pair of ring ouzels at Scale Force near Buttermere, Lake District on Saturday, 8th May 2010 about 09.30. They were in the trees above the

waterfall and we had good views for a few minutes before they flew off to the NE.

**7th May (from Prof David Heeley)**

Glen Lethnot, Angus

09:30am. Three Ring Ouzel seen in Glen Lethnot, Angus, beyond the car park at the end of the metalled road to NE of track at:- NO 462 721 One M one F together. Third bird was retreating rear view, gender uncertain. Reports of several ROs in same location on 2nd.

**3rd May (from Phil Curtis)**

Stanhope, Co Durham - Fledged Ousel

While out birding today at Stanhope, Co Durham I heard the familiar call of an alarm calling Ring Ousel. An Ousel then landed on a wall only 5 yards from where I was sitting. The bird sat on the wall for about 15 seconds before dropping down onto the opposite side of the wall. The bird seen was a fledged chick. I repositioned myself so that I could watch the area where the bird had gone expecting to see an adult bird appear to feed it. However after only a couple of minutes I located the fledged chick foraging for itself. I watched the bird for another 7 mins before it moved around a bend in the stream valley and out of view. Given the incubation and nestling periods of Ousels and the obvious independence of this bird it must have originated from a nest started in mid March.

**APRIL 2010:**

**24th April (from Lee Murphy)**

Liverpool

Single Ring Ouzel sited in Liverpool, not far from Croxteth park. Never seen one before, but the white band was very distinctive so I looked it up.

**19th April (from Dean Kyle)**

Cracken Edge, Derbyshire

Towards the Hayfield side of Cracken Edge, situated close to Chinley in the Peak District National Park, 15 *Turdus torquatus* were observed feeding in a grazed field that contained gorse and a number of *Saxicola rubetra* and *saxicola torquata*. I was actually in the area to photograph a pair of *Athene noctua* at their nest site but the Ring ousels were a nice surprise!

**15th April (from Bill & Flo Gordon)**

Stanage Edge, Derbyshire

Today we found our first female nest building - diving into a bilberry bush with nesting material at the top of a popular climbing route about 25 metres off the ground.

We have put up a climbing restriction taking out 27 climbing routes

**14th April (from David Bathers)**

Tal Y Cafn Conwy

Just to report that I saw 6 Ring Ouzels on the eastern flanks of Tal Y Cafn Conwy at 1,360 feet on the 14th April at 2pm . I waited about and several males appeared on the crest. I am told this is a popular spot for these birds.

**13th April (from Darren Oakley-Martin)**

Field opposite The Lodge RSPB entrance, Sandy

One on hemp stubble with small flock of Fieldfares at 08:55 per Dave Buckingham.

**11th April (from Dave Titmuss)**

Sightings of Ring Ouzel today in Ampthill Park were in fact in my fields adjacent to Ampthill Park. I saw several bird watchers staring into the fields during the day, on approaching, one of them kindly let me look through his telescope and I had a good clear sighting.

**2nd April (from Graham Pyatt)**

Peeblesshire has had over a foot of snow this week, so access up Valley has been limited. However, after some sunshine in last 2 days some green patches are showing through on south-facing slopes. On a tiny patch of green at 300m elevation was a male ouzel, quite scaly beneath, long wings held low, having a good feed on earthworms. No photo I'm afraid, my camera batteries had run out earlier. Wheatears also around in good numbers.

**2nd April (from Graham Rebecca)**

A colleague of mine had 2 ouzels and a merlin in Glen Lochsie, Spital of Glenshee, Tayside (NO 0772) on 2nd April. This is only ~10km from the southern boundary of our Glen Clunie study area, so might get some later this week in Clunie (although snow cover still apparently ~50%). A few osprey, sand martin and chiffchaff in NE Scotland last week so we are getting there!

**MARCH 2010:**

**31st March (from Jens Mikkel Lausten - Denmark)**

Hello David

At 31-03-2010 Lars Falck photographed a Ringouzel with color rings.

Left below GREEN RED, Right below Metal ring YELLOW or LBG,R; RBM,Y.  
Could this be one of your birds?

The bird was seen at Juvre Enge, placed at the northern parts of Rømø, Jylland, Denmark 55.11N-08.32E.

Regards Mikkel Lausten

Copenhagen Ringing Scheme.

Hi Jens

Excellent sighting, we have recently had incomplete sightings which are very

frustrating. The colour photographs confirm it is a Glen Effock bird again and is one of Mike's. This is a female ringed in Glen Effock which is a Glen off Glen Esk, Invermark, Angus, Scotland. I have checked it out on Mike's files and he confirmed it today Ring no LB49256 ringed on 31/05/2009 at Grid Ref No 4478 from a brood of 4 - please see co- ordinates below which will be submitted to BTO. Right Leg Metal / Yellow Left Leg Light Green / Red. This could be a second year bird ringed in Scotland overshooting and heading into Scandinavia, I had one a few years ago on the Norwegian coast ,brilliant !!!! Thanks for that, we have had some partial colour code sightings recently and its good to get a confirmed one.

Best Regards  
Dave Arthur

### **30th March (from Pengjun CHENG [China])**

Ring Ouzel identified in China !

A [report](#) has been received from Pengjun CHENG (Beijing Forestry University) who is editor of a new ornithological journal Chinese Birds, published by the China Ornithological Society. The [report](#) identifies the sighting of a Ring Ouzel in China. For more information about the journal visit [www.chinesebirds.net](http://www.chinesebirds.net)

15 April 2010

Dear Pengjun Cheng

I too am a member of the Ring Ouzel group and have also served on the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) for a full term of ten years. The BOURC is the committee that judges records for admission or deletion from the official British List of birds. I have much experience of assessing bird records and I also have much experience of both Ring Ouzel and Dark-throated Thrush (*Turdus atrogularis*).

I am certain that the bird in your photograph is a Dark-throated Thrush, probably a first year male. It is not a hybrid and is definitely not a Ring Ouzel. The problem has arisen because young male Dark-throated Thrushes, when freshly moulted, have extensive white edges to the dark breast and throat feathers. These wear off as winter progresses, leaving a very black throat. However, when the white edges are still present, they sometimes coalesce in the angle between the throat and the breast forming a white crescent, superficially similar to Ring Ouzel. But this crescent, when present is smaller, and higher up on the breast compared with Ring Ouzel. It also only appears when the bird is in exactly the right position. In 1990 I went to check a record of a wintering Ring Ouzel in a garden in Yorkshire. The lady clearly described a crescent on a black breast. When I arrived the bird was a Dark-throated Thrush, but it did have a conspicuous white crescent when the bird was perched at certain angles. Photographs of this bird were published in the journal British Birds Vol 84 page 486, plates 248 and 249, although the crescent does not look quite so conspicuous in these photographs. This is not the only reason for my identification though. You can see that the

upperparts of the thrush are grey (not black or very dark brown as in Ring Ouzel). Further, you can see the distinctive dark wedge on the lores (in front of the eye) which is diagnostic of Dark-throated Thrush. I also think you can see paler underparts through the leaves.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Best Regards

Dr Tim Melling

16 April 2010

To: Melling, Tim

Subject: Re: help to identify Ring Ouzel

Dear Dr Tim Melling:

Thanks very much for your detailed explanation for this ring ouzel issue. Your knowledge and experience in ornithological taxonomy have convinced me that the bird in the photo is not a ring ouzel, and I will discuss with the author about this bird species.

As an acknowledgement, We would like to post you and your colleagues some hard copies of our new journal Chinese Birds on a complimentary basis if you can give me your postal address.

Best regards.

Pengjun Cheng

#### **27th March (from Dave Arthur)**

I received a sighting of a Ring Ouzel Right Leg Orange /Metal Left Leg Red/Light green or Light Green/Red Male unfortunately the warden could not confirm the left leg so another incomplete sighting. It was observed by Sarah Harris a warden on the Calf of Man Bird Observatory, Isle of Man shortly after dawn until 0800hrs on 27th March 2010. The colour combinations appear to be both from Mike Nicoll and he has confirmed that they were both ringed as Chicks in Glen Effock NO4578 on the 23/05/2008 one of 4 and 01/06/2008 1 of 3 It is still a decent observation for Mike and his work in Effock.

#### **24th Mar (from Ken Hutchinson)**

Ring Ouzel male seen today in Rosedale. Earliest recorded and a day earlier than last year.

#### **21st Mar (sent in by Graham Pyatt, Manor, Peebles)**

One male Ring Ouzel reported in Manor by a reliable observer on 21st March, but not seen by me same day or later. Must have been on passage. It was 5 days earlier than I have ever seen one here.

#### **FEBRUARY 2010:**

##### ***Request for samples from ring ouzels from Michael Bacht in Germany***

*I am a member of the department of biology and the work group: Animal ecology of Prof. Brandl at the University of Marburg in Germany. Our group has been engaged for several years in topics of population genetics. I am currently working on my Masters thesis and I want*

*to analyse the genetic divergences in Ring Ouzels in the central European low mountain ranges. Do you have any genetic material or even sequenced DNA of the ring ouzel you can share? E.g. Feathers.*

*Best regards from Germany,  
Michael Bacht (MSc student)*

Email: [Bachtm@students.uni-marburg.de](mailto:Bachtm@students.uni-marburg.de)

Philipps Universität Marburg  
Fachbereich Biologie  
AG "Allgemeine Ökologie und Tierökologie"  
Prof. Dr. Roland Brandl  
Karl-von-Frisch Str. 8  
35043 Marburg  
- GERMANY -  
Tel: ++49 6421 28 26665  
Fax: ++49 6421 28 23387  
[www.tieroeke.de](http://www.tieroeke.de)

**JANUARY 2010:  
17th Jan (from Carol)**

I am writing to you because yesterday I spotted a black bird sitting on the tree opposite my home and thought it had a piece of white bread in its mouth. When I looked through my binoculars, to my surprise, it was a white breast! Could this be male Ring Ouzel? It seems most unlikely this early and with the snow we have suffered, but I could not find any other to fit the picture. I live in NE Derbyshire. Retired and time on our hands to spot all sorts of wildlife.

Julian Hughes comments:

Another one from Northeast Derbyshire. I confirmed with Carol that the white was a crescent and that it was not a leucistic blackbird. Her postcode is DE55.

**13th Jan (from Christine)**

13th January 2010 the ground is covered in snow here on the Surrey/Kent border, and I'm sure I have a Ring Ouzel feeding in my garden. I've been putting out various edible items for the blackbirds etc. but one regular looks like a blackbird but has a white bib as I look down on it from my upstairs window. I presume it must be an Ouzel that has not migrated and been caught out by the bad weather. Can you please confirm that my assumption is possibly correct?

Chris Rollie comments:

Yes you may well be correct in thinking it is indeed a ring ouzel. Most ring ouzels over winter in the Atlas mountains of Morocco (especially) and Algeria (to a lesser extent), with a few perhaps remaining in the Sierra Nevada

mountains of southern Spain. In these wintering areas they feed almost exclusively on juniper berries.

However, in most years there are one or two reports of winter ouzels in the UK, and indeed elsewhere in Europe - last year I think we had at least five in UK, with one in Holland. This year, unsurprisingly perhaps given the exceptional cold and snow, we have had only one record - from Wetherby (West Yorks) on 14 December. So your record is a very good one.

Leucystic blackbirds occur, with varying amounts of white in various areas of their plumage, but rarely if ever occurring as a bib, in my experience. An orange bill would definitely indicate a blackbird, but there is considerable overlap and potential for confusion between the two species otherwise. A photograph would help to confirm the matter, but it does sound to me like a ring ouzel. I have circulated your record to other members of the ring ouzel group to see if anyone else has comments, or indeed further wintering records. Many thanks again for letting us know.

## **DECEMBER 2009**

### **14th Dec (from David Mcintee)**

I'm dropping you a line as my wife and I saw a Ring Ouzel today in a field here in Wetherby. I don't know if this is significant, but as the website says they only rarely winter in Britain, and it's outside the distribution for them that the RSPB website shows on a map.

It was healthy-looking, a large male, not shy, and hopped up onto a tree as we got close.

I hope that's of interest to your study group.

Comment from Julian Hughes:

Thank you for your e-mail. Ring ouzels are unusual in Britain in the winter, so any record is notable. At this time of year, they would normally be in the mountains of southern Spain or, more likely, in the Atlas mountains of North Africa. Have you seen ring ouzels before? Would you say that the back was all dark, or was greyer and scaly? It might indicate whether it was a British or a continental bird that you saw.

Reply from David:

I'd never seen one before, and didn't recognize it to start with as they're not usually in this area. It was all dark, black as far as I could tell, apart from the distinctive "collar" and beak.

Reply from Julian:

That's very helpful, thanks. It sounds like it would be a torquatus type bird, which breed in Britain and Scandinavia. A great record, many thanks!

**OCTOBER 2009**  
**12th Oct (from Stuart Benn)**

I was out at my eagles again yesterday in the hills just south of Inverness and had a group of 8 ouzels moving through with a couple of song thrushes in a steep rocky glen. I also had a report from another eagle worker of ten feeding in small native woodland exclosures at Loch Garry on Saturday (the one just south of Drumochter Pass).

I'm assuming these are likely to be Scandinavian birds which have come in as part of the same movement that's just brought in redwings and fieldfares with us. Any thoughts?

Comment from Chris Rollie:

Yep, almost certainly Fennoscanders - Durman's cut off date was about beginning of Oct from memory - probably do get a few early ones, and a few later Scottish ones than 1 October, but as a general rule, I'd say Oct birds are foreigners. They will continue right through this month and next - often lots in Nov, and even one or two in Dec.

**SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**7th Sept (from Stuart Benn)**

I was in at my eagles in the Monadhliaths yesterday (almost adult pair parallel soaring and talon grappling in a territory I've just had immatures for years - things are looking up in that blackest of black holes!) and had a couple of parties of ouzels feeding on the rowans. Also had a juvenile at another site - tempted to put it down as a proven breeding in the Atlas (it looked a really good spot for them) but I would guess it could have moved a fair way from where it was reared so probably best not to.

**9th Sept (from Graham Pyatt)**

I had been thinking about reporting seeing ouzels in Rowans this autumn and Stuart's note has encouraged me to do so. There is a very good crop of berries this year, here in Peeblesshire at least. I have found groups of 16, 6, 4 and 1 in four traditional places in the Manor Valley. There are also small flocks (up to 30 birds) of Mistle Thrushes and one flock of Mistles included one ouzel. At this stage of the year I like to think these birds are locally bred. I had great difficulty finding ouzels in the spring, so it is very gratifying to see good

numbers at last. Many of the birds have weakly contrasting gorgets, and I assume are juveniles. The [photo](#) is of 2 birds that were in a Rowan bush but came nearer and were picking insects off the dyke. Photographed at about 40m distance, with 18x lens and some digital cropping.

**MARCH 2009:**

**16th March (from Mick Green)**

This from one of my colleagues: Nant y Moch is NE of Aberystwyth. An area we've mainly lost breeding birds from - no confirmed pairs in recent years. On the way back from surveying by nant y moch I had really good view of male Ring Ouzel. It was on the crags at around SN7172 8984 up the Ceulan.

**18th March (from Tim Melling)**

Just heard from Bill and Flo and the first Ring Ouzel of the year was back at Stanage. Definitely a male but they think they might have seen a female too.