

## Tay Ringing Group

### Ring Ouzel Study 1994 – 2018

The Tay Ringing Group (TRG) have been studying the Ring Ouzel population in the Angus Glens since the 1980's. Most of the work has been done by the late David Arthur and Mike Nicholl with help from various other TRG members, trainees and latterly undergraduate and postgraduate students from the University of Glasgow. The work over the years has generated several papers in peer reviewed journals as well as a University of Cambridge PhD thesis by Ian Burfield and several University of Glasgow Undergraduate and postgraduate theses (Arthur and White, 2001, 2003; Burfield, 2002; Davies *et al.*, 2014) . The research has focused mainly on nest site selection and breeding habitat but has also covered growth rates of pulli and nestling diets.

Inspection of TRG records on DemOn shows 1482 captures in the period 1994 – 2018, with the vast majority of these (1419) being ringed as pulli. Of the 1482 birds ringed over the period 1441 have never been re-trapped. The longest surviving record to date is by bird LA22151 ringed as a pullus on 4 June 2008 with a 3<sup>rd</sup> retrap on 31 May 2013.

The most recent study in summer 2018 surveyed 39 territories around Loch Lee originally identified by David Arthur (Arthur and White, 2001). 25 of these territories were occupied in 2018. Various environmental parameters around occupied and unoccupied nest sites were recorded and analysis showed that nest site occupancy was positively correlated with slope and irradiance level and negatively correlated with parasite abundance (Nuttall, 2018). Observation of foraging pairs demonstrated that foraging distance was correlated with ground cover and elevation. The general pattern was of nests situated higher up in crags and the grass/heather matrix suitable for foraging at lower levels meaning longer foraging trips to lower altitudes was to be expected.

#### Dr Stewart White

#### References

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