

# Kite Monitoring in 2016

TABLE 1: Red Kite Nest Monitoring in 2016	Nests monitored	Successful nests	Chicks Fledged	Productivity per Nest	Productivity per Successful Pair
Brecon/Carms	119	72 (61%)	89	0.7	1.2
East Powys	25	14 (56%)	18	0.7	1.3
Pembrokeshire	8	4 (50%)	6	0.8	1.5
Shropshire	23	18 (78%)	31	1.3	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>108 (62%)</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>

The monitoring results are currently available for 175 kite nests, a total which includes 23 nests from sites in Shropshire, an area into which the indigenous Welsh kite population has expanded since 2005. In all, 108 of the 175 nests (62%) were successful and 144 young birds fledged giving an average productivity figure of 0.8 chicks per breeding attempt. Most of the individual areas within Wales show a very similar figure for productivity (0.7 to 0.8), but it is noticeably higher in Shropshire (1.3). This is a typical pattern that

is seen in many years and the differences are most likely explained by the slightly drier climate reducing weather-related nest failures. Productivity per successful nest, at 1.7, is also higher than in any of the Welsh areas. This may be indicative that there is a greater food resource available per pair due to a lower density of pairs near the edge of the range. In which case further colonisation can be expected. It will be interesting to see if productivity per successful pair decreases over time as the density of pairs in-

creases.

It is worth pointing out that the lower productivity of Welsh pairs is not an issue of concern. Even 0.8 chicks per nesting attempt is sufficient to double the population every six years! As the density of kites increases, productivity will inevitably fall due to greater competition for food resources. Eventually, once the kite population has fully recovered, it should stabilise at around 0.4 to 0.5 fledged chicks per nesting attempt.



The result of successful conservation: The number of kites in this photo is more than twice the entire UK population the 1980s. Photo: Tony Cross