

purdyfarmsBecky, WA emailed Robert Kewarth, the man who filmed, 'Against the Odds'. Here is their email correspondence:

From: ROBERT KEWARTH
Sent: Sat, May 15, 2010 5:11:08 PM
Subject: "Against The Odds"

Hello Becky and thank you for your interest in my film 'Against the Odds'. I will fill you in with a bit of background information and how the film came about.

It was the wettest summer on record and we found we had visitors on our family farm in a disused barn where we had placed a barn owl box some years ago. I have visited Antarctica and have developed my own personal way of recording special experiences I encounter and filming the owls was another opportunity to indulge in my hobby and creative side.

At first we were thrilled to have owls nesting, barn owls was a bigger bonus. Soon we discovered 8 eggs during an investigation by the local Nottinghamshire bird ringing group (Nottinghamshire as in Robin Hood Country). The likely hood of all 8 hatching and fledging in such unseasonal weather was remote but I intended to capture what I could on film. Many early mornings and long evenings followed, most of them with rain dripping down my neck, but never losing hope that I would capture something wonderful. As the weeks passed excitement grew as all 8 hatched. The vole population must have been at its highest and was the main food source; I filmed and witnessed the parent's relentlessly hunting prey for their young. Fluff changed into stubby feathers and then the magnificent plumage emerged which fuelled my excitement of them ALL having a chance to fully fledge.

Soon the local news and national press heard of this remarkable family and the record books came out. We discovered that it was only the third time since records began any where that 8 chicks had been raised successfully and all made it to the world beyond the nest.

The box is still there but no owls yet since our spectacular brood. A few have visited and when the sun is setting its hard not to dream that its one of the original brood which has returned. I wish to send my regards to all M & Ms dedicated following of these truly magnificent birds.

I have recently uploaded on YOU TUBE my latest video called 'Dogs Day'. It shows all our rescued, rehabilitated and often unwanted dogs at play together on our farm. I made the film to celebrate the athleticism of our two border collies competing for the ball. I think you will enjoy this if you love animals.

Thanks again
Regards
Robert Kewarth

From: Becky DeSalvo
To: Robert Kewarth
Date: Wednesday, 19 May, 2010, 22:58

Hi Robert, I would like your permission to post your e-mail response to me on 5/15 on the Molly Box site some have set up. www.mollyowl.pbworks.com It is a site for all of us followers to get info on the owls. Your video Against All Odds is posted and I would like to post your response to me with it. A lot of people have asked about the video. Of course, I will only post the body of the letter, and not your e-mail address. Thank you for all you do for animals, and your wonderful videos!!
Take Care,
Becky = ^..^ =

From: ROBERT KEWARTH
To: Becky DeSalvo
Sent: Thu, May 20, 2010 12:50:01 PM
Subject: Re: Would like your permission

Hello Becky ,
I would be delighted if you included the response I sent you on the M&M site. I get a lot pleasure from making my films and the fact that others find them entertaining is a huge bonus. As a way of expressing my gratitude for your site introducing my films to a wider audience may I send you a small gift by post . If this would be ok then send me a postal address and I will forward it to you .
Regards

Robert Kewarth .

From: Becky DeSalvo
Subject:
To: Robert Kewarth
Date: Thursday, 20 May, 2010, 23:41

Robert...first I would like to apologize for calling your video Against All Odds. I am sorry! I just watched Dogs Day again, and I love it!! Your property looks so nice, and plenty of room for all! I have 4 rescues. One dog and 3 cats. They are my life! One more question about the owls. Were they banded? I saw the men holding the owlets! Boy, I bet that was a thrill for them!! Again, sorry for the wrong name of your video! You are in England, right! I don't know the time difference between us. It is 3:40 PM here where I am in Washington State.
Thanks again Robert!
Becky =^..^=

From: ROBERT KEWARTH
To: Becky DeSalvo
Sent: Fri, May 21, 2010 1:53:54 PM
Subject: Re:
Hello Becky

The men you see in the film were there to ring and record the owlets. There were 4 of each sex. I believe we are 7 hours in front. Do you have a postal address where I can send a couple of tee shirts we had printed to commemorate the event over to you to say thanks for promoting the owls in the U.S.

Regards

Robert