

ISLAND AND MAINLAND SEABIRD RINGING ON WEST COAST OF IRELAND IN 2006.

As I received, from the Seabird Group, a grant of £200 towards the cost of our ringing activities on the West Coast of Ireland in 2006 here is a summary of how the money was spent.

On 30 th June 2006 11 people went onto Inishmurray Island in Sligo Bay to ring mainly seabirds. We had to bring tents, etc.etc.etc to survive for 3 days on an uninhabited island. We had so much gear with us that the boat had to make 2 trips to get us and the equipment out and land us onto the rocks in a fairly strong swell. Inishmurray was inhabited until 1937 when the last of the Islanders came to live on the mainland for an easier life.

As the boat approaches the island, the empty shells of what Islanders used to call "Home" stand out in a ghostly fashion against the natural background of the island.

Birds ringed for the weekend on Inishmurray were

FULMAR	43 (Including 1 control. Fulmar ringed on Inishmurray in 1980.)
STORM PETREL	304 (Including 13 controls.)
SHAG	14
EIDER	1
RINGED PLOVER	2
LESS. B/BACK GULL	2
HERRING GULL	43
GT.B/BACK GULL	34
SWALLOW	10
ROCK PIPIT	18

MAINLAND RINGING AT ANNAGH HEAD. CO. MAYO

During 2 weekends in July and August, Declan and Patrick Manley. Hugh Bradley and myself went to Armagh Head, Co. Mayo to ring Storm Petrels. For the 2 weekends we ringed 1,142 Storm Petrels and 10 Leachs Petrels. The only known Leachs Petrel colony in Ireland is on the Stags of Broadhaven, Co. Mayo where there is an estimated colony of 300 pairs. We plan to visit and ring at Armagh Head again in 2007.

I also did some ringing of Storm Petrels at Sheepland Harbour, Ardglass, Co. Down. Northern Ireland which is just South of the entrance into Strangford Lough. In total we ringed 75 Storm Petrels and on the night of 8 th July 2006 we controlled a Storm Petrel ringed in Portugal (Ring No. N03279.) This bird was ringed as it was passing by cliffs in the Algarve, Portugal as it was returning North to its breeding grounds by Rob Thomas from Cardiff University. Rob and friends ringed N03279 at 00.52 on the night of 14/15 Th June 2006.