

## Manx Ringing Group Ringing report 2008

There were 697 birds ringed of 42 species during the year. This total is on par with the average of previous year's figures.

The total consists of 356 full grown birds and 341 pulli (birds ringed in the nest) and included some notable species such as Storm Petrel, Cormorant, Common Gull, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Little Tern, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Redwing and Raven.

The majority of full grown birds were captured using Mist nets (315). Thirty six birds were caught by dazzling on the lower shoreline of coastal areas at night, this method accounts for all of the adult shore birds, Gulls and adult Terns shown in the totals.

Storm Petrel ringing was given a concerted effort in the late Summer this year and resulted in an excellent tally of 67 new birds and 12 controls being caught. I am indebted to Ian Scott for assisting in the loan of a portable generator to enable the operation to be carried out.

The Cormorant colony at Maughold was surveyed this year and 48 pulli were ringed. This will hopefully be repeated each year following a recent lapse in Cormorant ringing due to time constraints as efforts were concentrated elsewhere at the peak times.

The Hen Harrier satellite tag project continued to provide some excellent data. The 3 surviving chicks, having hatched in 2007 continued to provide some very interesting information on their movements. Just under 200 confirmed location signals were received in all. The male bird settled into a routine repeated until it apparently died in late Summer 2008. It spent the year roosting at the Stoney Mountain roost and would then hunt to the South East, over Santon and the Port Soderick area, occasionally wandering slightly further afield, being recorded as far South as Ronague and as far West as Dalby. The two female birds didn't have such a strict routine as the male. Both females spent the Winter/Spring roosting at the Curraghs and then wandering throughout the Northern Hills and Northern Plain. From April onwards they roosted at various localities throughout the Island and one bird even spent a while on the Calf. This same bird then moved to the Ayres, relocating to there in just two days. By the end of the year it was apparent that just one bird still survived, underlining the high mortality rate in first year birds for this, and many other species.

Seven Arctic Tern pulli were ringed this year, the first for 7 years and 2 fully grown Little Tern chicks were also caught in late Summer, the first for 3 years.

An adult female Tawny Owl was ringed in April at a location in the North, the first time this species has been ringed on the Island.

Swallow pulli ringing received less effort this year due to a lack of time coinciding with the period covering the second broods. The total of just 30 chicks came from the usual locations of Lower Ballafodda, Ronague and Eary Farm, Little London.

The nest boxes at Close Sartfield MWT and The Curraghs Wildlife Park were surveyed again this year with 159 pulli being ringed. Only 9 Tree Sparrow pulli were ringed in what appeared to be a disastrous breeding season for them.

Twenty six Chough pulli were colour ringed this year and the data was once again supplied to the Manx Chough Project, allowing them to add to their studies.

There is an excellent set of recoveries for 2008 included in this report. There are several species which were recorded by colour ring sightings (Brent Goose, Mediterranean Gull, Greenshank and Waxwing) and I would like to thank Peter Hadfield and Bob Taylor for passing on those particular sightings.

Many recoveries of ringed birds come from people finding a dead bird and taking the time to report it. It is always worth taking a few moments to check if a dead bird is ringed. If it is, the following details should be noted: The ring number, museum name, species (if known), finding circumstances (including cause of death), location (include a Grid Reference if possible) and date. You can either send the details to us or to the address printed on the metal ring. You can also now report a ringed bird via the internet at [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org) and follow the links for reporting ringed birds. If you do send the details direct to the address on the ring or report it via the internet to the BTO then we would be most grateful to hear of the details from you so that the record can be included in future reports.

The ringing group can be contacted via the Manx BirdLife (previously Manx Bird Atlas) offices at 35 New Road, Laxey IM4 7BG, on telephone 861130 or email to [chris@manxbirdlife.im](mailto:chris@manxbirdlife.im) or via me, the ringing group secretary, Kevin Scott at [kev@wm.im](mailto:kev@wm.im)

Finally, we would like to pass on our thanks to the following people for their enthusiasm in letting us ring at their properties: Judith Burn, Liz & Glenn Jensen, Ian Scott & family, Nick Pinder (Curraghs Wildlife Park) and Manx Wildlife Trust (Close Sartfield MWT reserve). As usual, we would also like to thank the many landowners/farmers who assist with allowing entry onto their land to carry out our work.

Last, but certainly not least, we would also like to thank all the people who have taken the time to send us the details of ringed birds they have found, each and every record assists us in adding to the picture of Manx birdlife.

The Manx Ringing Group operate as part of the Manx BirdLife charity and under licence by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and its ringers hold a current permit issued by the British Trust for Ornithology.

## Ringling Totals 2008

	<b>Full</b>	<b>Pulli</b>	<b>Total</b>
Storm Petrel	67	0	67
Cormorant	0	48	48
Mute Swan	2	0	2
Hen Harrier	0	7	7
Sparrowhawk	1	0	1
Peregrine	0	2	2
Oystercatcher	1	2	3
Ringed Plover	2	0	2
Knot	1	0	1
Sanderling	1	0	1
Dunlin	7	0	7
Redshank	1	0	1
Turnstone	16	0	16
Common Gull	2	0	2
Sandwich Tern	3	0	3
Arctic Tern	0	7	7
Little Tern	2	0	2
Barn Owl	0	4	4
Tawny Owl	1	0	1
Swallow	0	30	30
Pied/White Wagtail	0	6	6
Wren	1	0	1
Dunnock	8	0	8
Robin	9	0	9
Blackbird	10	3	13
Song Thrush	2	0	2
Redwing	1	0	1
Chiffchaff	1	0	1
Goldcrest	1	0	1
Long-tailed Tit	8	0	8
Coal Tit	6	0	6
Blue Tit	51	58	109
Great Tit	46	85	131
Chough	0	26	26
Jackdaw	0	3	3
Raven	0	3	3
House Sparrow	3	48	51
Tree Sparrow	0	9	9
Chaffinch	23	0	23
Greenfinch	15	0	15
Goldfinch	63	0	63
Siskin	1	0	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>697</b>

## Codes used in the recovery reports

### Key to reporting codes

X	found dead
XF	found freshly dead or dying
XL	found dead (not recent)
+	shot or intentionally killed by man
+F	shot or intentionally killed by man – fresh
+L	shot or intentionally killed by man - not recent
SR	sick or injured, released with ring
S	sick or injured - not known to have been released
A	alive and probably healthy - fate unknown
AC	alive and probably healthy - now captive
V	alive and prob healthy, caught and released, not by ringer
N	alive and probably healthy, caught and released but not by ringer – nesting
VV	alive and prob healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field, not by ringer
NN	alive and prob healthy, ring or marks read in field, not by ringer – nesting
R	caught and released by ringer
B	caught and released by ringer - nesting
RR	alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field by a ringer
BB	alive and prob healthy, ring or colour marks read in field by ringer – nesting
TT	Satellite tag recorded position
//	condition on finding wholly unknown

### EURING age codes

#### **Number EURING Definition**

0	Age unknown
1	Pullus
1J	Fledged, but obviously incapable of having flown far from the nest
2	Fully grown, year of hatching quite unknown (including current year)
3	Definitely hatched during current calendar year (eg first-years in autumn)
3J	Definitely hatched this calendar year and still partly or completely in juv body plumage
4	Hatched before current calendar year - exact year unknown
5	Definitely hatched during previous calendar year (eg first-years in early spring)
6	Hatched before last calendar year - exact year unknown (eg many adults in Spring)
7	Definitely hatched in calendar year before last
8	Hatched three or more years ago - exact year unknown
9	Definitely hatched three years ago
10	Hatched four or more years ago - exact year unknown

M after the age code = Male

F after the age code = Female

## Controls and Recoveries 2008

### **Example**

<i>Ring No.</i>	<i>Age code</i>	<i>Date ringed</i>	<i>Place ringed</i>
<i>Reporting Code</i>	<i>Date found</i>	<i>Place found (distance, direction, time taken)</i>	

### **Storm Petrel**

2382595	4	22/08/1990	Copeland Bird Observatory ( <b>Down</b> )
	R	05/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 91km SE 17yrs 349days
2524488	4	10/09/2005	Sheepand Harbour, Ardglass ( <b>Down</b> )
	R	04/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 67km ESE 2yrs 329days
2526241	4	25/08/2006	Blue Point (Isle of Man)
	R	03/08/2008	Sanda Island ( <b>Argyll and Bute</b> ) 121km NW 1yr 344days
2526364	4	05/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man)
	R	05/09/2008	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 14km W 31 days
2527066	4	12/07/1999	Pendeen Watch ( <b>Cornwall</b> )
	R	26/07/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 441km N 9yrs 14days
2548905	4	08/07/2005	Collieston ( <b>Aberdeenshire</b> )
	R	14/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 401km SSW 3yrs 37days
2563268	4	14/07/2005	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	27/07/2005	Tullagh Point (Donegal), <b>EIRE</b> 221km NW 13 days
	R	11/08/2005	Sanda Island ( <b>Argyll and Bute</b> ) 144km NNW 28 days
	R	26/07/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 14km E 3yrs 12days
2591343	4	02/08/2008	Sanda Island ( <b>Argyll and Bute</b> )
	R	14/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 148km SSE 12 days
2591484	4	05/08/2008	Sanda Island ( <b>Argyll and Bute</b> )
	R	13/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 148km SSE 8 days
2605990	4	06/08/2007	Tullagh Point (Donegal), <b>EIRE</b>
	R	26/07/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 231km SE 355 days
2609614	6	22/07/2006	Lowca, near Whitehaven ( <b>Cumbria</b> )
	R	05/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 86km SW 2yrs 14days
2627763	4	26/08/2007	Sheepand Harbour, Ardglass ( <b>Down</b> )
	R	05/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 67km ESE 345 days
2643549	4	08/08/2008	Sanda Island ( <b>Argyll and Bute</b> )
	R	13/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 148km SSE 5 days
2644011	4	22/07/2008	Sheepand Harbour, Ardglass ( <b>Down</b> )
	R	05/08/2008	St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 67km ESE 14 days

A good number of controls from this year's concerted efforts to capture Storm Petrels. The majority of the controls are from the "usual" locations of Irish Sea coastal sites. The records of birds from Cornwall and Aberdeenshire are unusual for us. Also note the age of 2382595, caught just shy of 18 years after it had originally been caught at Copeland Bird Observatory in County Down, Northern Ireland. Strangely for this species, it had not been caught during the intervening years.

### Cormorant

5108487 1 01/07/1994 Maughold (Isle of Man)  
XF early 2008 near Andreas (Isle of Man) c.11km NW 13+ yrs

This bird was reported as having been found “freshly dead beside a dubh near Andreas in later Winter”.

### Mute Swan

U3465 3 01/09/1993 Ramsey (Isle of Man)  
RR 29/05/1994 Newtownabbey (**Antrim**) 107km WNW 270 days  
RR 13/10/1994 Cliftonville, Belfast (**Belfast**) 108km WNW 1yr 42days  
RR 30/10/1994 Ramsey (Isle of Man) 1yr 59days  
RR 22/07/1995 Ramsey (Isle of Man) 1yr 324days  
RR 06/01/1996 Ramsey (Isle of Man) 2yrs 127days  
R 06/06/2008 Ballaglonney, Ronague (Isle of Man) 30km SW 14yrs 279days

X2285 8F 08/06/2006 Eary, near Foxdale (Isle of Man)  
VV 23/01/2007 Ramsey (Isle of Man) 25km NE 229 days  
VV 17/01/2008 St. Lonan's Church (Isle of Man) 14km ENE 1yr 223days

### Brent Goose

119808 6F 12/05/2007 Jorfi, Alftanes (Borgarfjardarsysla), **ICELAND**  
RR 17/05/2007 Seltjarnarnes (Reykjavik), **ICELAND**, 35km S 5 days  
RR 24/05/2007 Seltjarnarnes (Reykjavik), **ICELAND**, 35km S 12 days  
RR 16/11/2007 Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 188 days  
VV 27/11/2007 Langness (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 199 days  
VV 01/01/2008 Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 234 days  
RR 07/01/2008 Langness (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 240 days  
RR 08/01/2008 Langness (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 241 days  
RR 05/02/2008 Langness (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 269 days  
RR 27/03/2008 Laytown (Meath), **EIRE** 1498km SE 320 days  
RR 31/10/2008 Tramore Bay (Waterford), **EIRE** 1619km SSE 1yr 172 days  
RR 31/12/2008 Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 1yr 233days

AC 4M 17/10/2005 Greyabbey Bay, Strangford Loch (**Down**)  
RR 31/12/2008 Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 81km SE 3 yrs 75days

119808 (colour ring “J4”) from the Irish Brent Goose Study (as seen on the BBC’s “Autumnwatch”) was originally reported in last years ringing report and was seen on a further three dates at the start of 2008 and then returned at the end of the year for its second winter in the Island. When seen on 31/12/08 it was in company with colour ring “White AC”, another bird from the same study.

### Hen Harrier

EL76696 1M 28/06/2008 Site Confidential (Isle of Man)  
XF 26/09/2008 Andreas Airfield (Isle of Man) 15km (+/- 10km) 90 days

This bird was “sniffed out” by one of the Isle of Man Constabulary’s Dog unit during a training exercise!

### **Peregrine**

GC34502 1 25/05/2007 Site confidential (Isle of Man)  
XL 03/02/2008 Banks, Southport (**Merseyside**) 120km (+/- 10km) 254 days

This is our first recovery of a Peregrine from England, we have previously had two recoveries from Ireland.

### **Oystercatcher**

FC98860 4 25/07/1998 Langness (Isle of Man)  
X 09/12/2007 Castletown Bay (Isle of Man) 2km W 9yrs 137days

### **Greenshank**

DB51358 3 10/08/2007 Montrose Basin (**Angus**)  
RR 29/08/2007 Ria de Foz (Lugo), **SPAIN**, 1499km SSW 19 days  
RR 19/09/2007 Ria de Foz (Lugo), **SPAIN**, 1499km SSW 40 days  
RR 09/11/2007 Ria de Ortigueira (Coruna), **SPAIN**, 1495km SSW 91 days  
RR 17/04/2008 St. Michael's Isle (Isle of Man) 322km SSW 251 days

This bird had been colour ringed when originally caught as part of an ongoing programme studying the movements of Greenshank passing through Scotland and Southern England.

### **Turnstone**

CK22348 3 05/09/2006 Rue Point, Point of Ayre (Isle of Man)  
RR 08/08/2008 Keyhaven, (**Hampshire**) 452km SSE 1yr 338days

This sighting came from another ringer reading the ring number on the bird in the field.

### **Mediterranean Gull**

FS70651 1 17/06/2008 Oye Plage, Les Huttes d'Oye (Pas-de-Calais), **FRANCE**  
FRP VV 05/09/2008 Strandhall (Isle of Man) 571km NW 80 days

Another exciting colour ring sighting, this one showing how rapidly some first year birds can disperse. Bear in mind that when the bird was originally ringed as a chick it would have still been 2-3 weeks off fledging.

### **Common Gull**

EG55435 1 22/06/2005 Copeland Bird Observatory (**Down**)  
R 30/07/2008 near Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 78km ESE 3yrs 38days

This bird was captured together with another adult bird and a very recently fledged juvenile (both unringed at time of capture). It is presumed that they were one of the pairs which bred on the nearby Gravel Pits.

### **Herring Gull**

GA39065 1 20/06/2002 Calf of Man (Isle of Man)  
XL 12/04/2008 Gob ny Strona, Maughold (Isle of Man) 43km NE 5yrs 297days

GJ09450 1 13/08/1982 Port Erin (Isle of Man)  
R 11/05/2008 Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 3km NE **25yrs 272days**

GN53204 1 14/07/2007 Calf of Man (Isle of Man)  
XL 20/11/2008 Arrasey Plantation (Isle of Man) 16km NE 1yr 129days

GJ09450 was caught coming to bread at the regular ringing site in a garden in Croit-e-Caley. It had been originally ringed as a chick by Dr. D. J. Slinn at Port Erin almost 26 years previously.

### **Sandwich Tern**

DD80370 1 16/06/2008 Lady's Island (Wexford), **EIRE**  
R 30/07/2008 Rue Point, Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 277km NNE 44 days

One of the many juvenile Sandwich Terns which spend the late Summer on the Ayres. It had travelled a fair distance from its natal area and when captured here its wing feathers were still only  $\frac{3}{4}$  grown!

### **Sand Martin**

R042794 4M 11/07/2005 near Point of Ayre (Isle of Man)  
R 15/08/2008 Marais d'Arry (Somme), **FRANCE**, 617km SE 3yrs 35days

R042794 was originally ringed as a breeding male at the colony at the Sand/Gravel quarry at the Point of Ayre. Unfortunately there was no information passed in relation to the finding details by the French ringer so it is unknown if it was caught at another colony or was merely passing through the area.

### **Waxwing**

NW39096 3M 09/11/2008 Bridge of Don (**Aberdeen**)  
RR 26/11/2008 Alnwick (**Northumberland**) 200km S 17 days  
VV 06/12/2008 Ramsey (Isle of Man) 349km SSW 27 days  
VV 16/12/2008 Gamston (**Nottinghamshire**) 441km S 37 days  
VV 17/12/2008 Gamston (**Nottinghamshire**) 441km S 38 days

Yet another colour ring sighting. This Waxwing was one of the many seen around the Ramsey Bakery site. Note how quickly the bird moved from site to site, interestingly re-orientating from the generally SW direction from Aberdeen to the Island then changing to a SE direction to Nottinghamshire. It just goes to show that although there was a only a maximum flock size in the 20's at the Ramsey site, the number of birds actually involved in the irruption was probably considerably more with many just moving on after a few days.

### **Willow Warbler**

4U4951 4 02/06/2006 The Dog Mills (Isle of Man)  
R 04/06/2006 The Dog Mills (Isle of Man) 2 days  
R 08/04/2008 Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 44km SW 1yr 311days

Originally trapped in 2006 as a breeding adult at The Dog Mills, this bird was on the final leg of it's migration from Africa when caught on the Calf in 2008. Given it was first caught as an adult then this bird would have flown to/from Africa at least 6 times by then – all done by a bird weighing no more than an A4 envelope!

### **Blue Tit**

V078544 1 26/05/2007 near Ballaugh (Isle of Man)  
R 10/02/2008 Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 29km SSW 260 days  
R 13/02/2008 Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 29km SSW 263 days  
V430012 1 31/05/2007 Ballachrink, Colby (Isle of Man)  
XL 04/06/2008 Ballachrink, Colby (Isle of Man) 1yr 4days

V430362	3	23/09/2008	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	R	24/09/2008	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 7km WSW 1 day
	R	25/09/2008	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 7km WSW 2 days

V078544 had been ringed as part of the ongoing nest box study at Close Sartfield MWT reserve and is our longest travelled "Manx" Blue Tit to date. Note the speed of the relocation of V430362 from Croit-e-Caley to the Calf. V430012 was found as merely skeletal remains with no clue as to how it met its fate.

### Great Tit

R746831	3F	22/09/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	27/11/2007	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 66 days
	R	15/04/2008	Colby (Isle of Man) 9km NE 206 days
R746928	3F	28/09/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	28/11/2008	Douglas (Isle of Man) 23km ENE 1yr 61days
R747121	4M	10/10/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	06/02/2008	Colby (Isle of Man) 9km NE 119 days
	R	17/02/2008	Colby (Isle of Man) 9km NE 130 days
TH86436	1	06/06/2008	Eary Farm, Little London (Isle of Man)
	V	06/07/2008	Little London (Isle of Man) 1km SW 30 days
V430358	3F	22/09/2008	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	R	12/10/2008	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 7km WSW 20 days

Three more records of birds roaming between the ringing sites in Colby and the Calf of Man. The Autumn influx of Tit species to the Calf in relatively large numbers is a fairly recent phenomenon and appears to be increasing year on year. R746928 was a victim of a cat. TH86436 hit a window but fortunately recovered after a short while and went on its way.

### Chaffinch

R744106	3F	05/10/2005	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	21/12/2008	Ramsey (Isle of Man) 42km NE 3 yrs 77days

A victim of a cat.

### Greenfinch

TA68723	3M	06/10/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	11/08/2008	Ballamodha (Isle of Man) 13km NE 310 days
TA68731	3F	06/10/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	20/07/2008	Tromode (Isle of Man) 25km ENE 288 days
TH86410	3M	26/11/2007	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	XF	21/08/2008	Colby (Isle of Man) 2km NNE 269 days
TH86417	5M	17/02/2008	Colby (Isle of Man)
	XF	19/06/2008	Colby (Isle of Man) 123 days
TA68910	3M	27/09/2008	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	27/12/2008	Port St Mary (Isle of Man) 6km ENE 91 days

The causes of death of the above Greenfinch were a typical mix of cats, window strikes and the parasitic disease that Greenfinches are particularly susceptible to during the summer months.

**Goldfinch**

R747926	3J	21/09/2008	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	05/11/2008	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 45 days
V430306	3J	13/09/2008	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	XF	11/10/2008	Colby (Isle of Man) 2km NNE 28 days

R747926 was the only interchange between the Calf and Croit-e-Caley for this species this year. Recent recoveries over the last few years have shown that Goldfinch regularly travel to/from the ringing sites in Colby and the Calf during the Autumn. V430306 met its fate striking a window.