

Manx Ringing Group Ringing report 2009

There were 730 birds ringed of 42 species during the year, a slight rise on 2008. The total consists of 249 adults and 481 pulli (nestlings) and included some notable species such as **Storm Petrel**, **Hen Harrier**, **Peregrine**, **Arctic Tern**, **Little Tern**, **Black Guillemot**, **Reed Warbler**, **Rook** and **Yellowhammer**.

The comparatively low number of adult birds ringed this year merely reflects the limited amount of time available to use mist nets, mainly due to poor weather conditions when ringers were free. In contrast the 481 pulli ringed was the best year since 2006 and the second highest total this decade.

The pulli total was boosted by some good work in finding **Hen Harrier** nests resulting in 21 pulli being ringed.

The lone remaining **Hen Harrier** from the satellite tagging project (started in 2007 when 5 Hen Harrier pulli had special tags placed on them) continued to provide data on its movements around the Island, resulting in the identification of its first nesting site.

Thirty five **Cormorant** chicks were ringed at the main colony at Maughold, slightly down on last year due to the bulk of the colony having moved further West to an area that was inaccessible on foot.

There was a good nest box season this year with high fledging success rates shown from the nest box studies at the Wildlife Park and Close Sartfield MWT reserve as well as those at Eary Farm, Little London.

Both **Arctic Tern** and **Little Tern** were ringed on the Ayres again this year with 2 pulli of each species ringed as well as 2 adult Arctic Terns and 4 fledged Little Terns. The recoveries section of this report shows that a third adult Arctic Tern trapped at the nest had originally been ringed as a chick at the same site back in 1996.

A total of 54 **Chough** pulli were ringed this year, all having unique colour ring combinations added. This data was once again supplied to the Manx Chough Project allowing them to add to their studies.

Swallow pulli ringing continued at Eary Farm in Little London, Lower Ballafodda in Ronague and at a new site in Surby resulting in a total of 37 being ringed. This total would have been much higher had a lot of first broods not been predated by Jackdaws at Eary Farm. It is hoped to expand the Swallow ringing next year and anyone with nesting Swallows is encouraged to get in touch with us.

In contrast to last year, **Storm Petrel** ringing was restricted to only 2 attempts due to a lack of calm winds on the nights that employment the following day didn't get in the way! This resulted in the lowly number of 8 new birds being ringed.

The recoveries section of this report has some notable records in it. For the first time in the annual report **Little Egret** has been included. This follows at least 2 birds being sighted and identified by colour rings whilst they spent the latter half of the year in the South of the Island. Several **Storm Petrels** from last years efforts were re-caught by ringers elsewhere in the British Isles during the summer and the first **Cormorants** of the recent ringing at the colony in Maughold were reported.

A **Whooper Swan** seen with a satellite tag on was eventually identified as being one from a study by WWT and the female **Brent Goose** from the Irish Brent Goose Study returned for her 3rd consecutive winter at Derbyhaven.

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.ring.ac 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 extremely 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 offices at 35 New Road, Laxey IM4 7BG, on telephone (01624) 861130 or email to chris@manxbirdlife.im or via the ringing group secretary, Kevin Scott at kev@wm.im

You can keep right up to date with the activities of the ringing group through Kevin's 'blog' at www.manxringer.blogspot.com where information on recent ringing trips and recoveries are regularly posted.

The group were assisted between April and August this year by Richard Cope and Helen Robinson from Manx BirdLife. Their keenness produced some excellent contributions to the annual totals.

Two visiting ringers also contributed to our work this year. As usual, Mark Fitzpatrick spent a couple of weeks in the summer over here and put in some excellent work for us and Sean Gray spent several visits ringing in the Maughold area, our thanks to them all.

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, Nelson Kinley, Nick Pinder (Curraghs Wildlife Park) and the 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 Manx Governments Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and its ringers hold a current permit issued by the British Trust for Ornithology.

Annual Ringing Totals 2009

	<u>Full grown</u>	<u>Pulli</u>	<u>Total</u>
Storm Petrel	8	0	8
Cormorant	0	35	35
Hen Harrier	1	21	22
Sparrowhawk	0	3	3
Kestrel	0	1	1
Peregrine	0	7	7
Oystercatcher	2	0	2
Ringed Plover	3	1	4
Dunlin	6	0	6
Turnstone	6	0	6
Herring Gull	10	2	12
Arctic Tern	2	2	4
Little Tern	4	2	6
Black Guillemot	2	0	2
Barn Owl	0	1	1
Swallow	2	37	39
Meadow Pipit	0	4	4
Pied Wagtail	0	2	2
Wren	4	0	4
Dunnock	6	1	7
Robin	7	0	7
Blackbird	5	6	11
Sedge Warbler	7	0	7
Reed Warbler	1	0	1
Blackcap	1	0	1
Chiffchaff	4	0	4
Willow Warbler	7	0	7
Long-tailed Tit	1	0	1
Coal Tit	6	0	6
Blue Tit	48	89	137
Great Tit	26	95	121
Chough	0	54	54
Jackdaw	10	7	17
Rook	1	0	1
Raven	0	7	7
House Sparrow	23	86	109
Tree Sparrow	0	18	18
Chaffinch	5	0	5
Greenfinch	7	0	7
Goldfinch	29	0	29
Linnet	3	0	3
Yellowhammer	2	0	2
Total:	249	481	730

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
//	condition on finding wholly unknown

EURING age codes

Number EURING Definition

0	Age unknown
1	Pullus
1J	Fledged, but flying so weakly that it is 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 juvenile body plumage
4	Hatched before current calendar year - exact year unknown (eg many adults in autumn)
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

Recoveries 2009

Example

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

Storm Petrel

2526310	4	25/07/2006	Burroo Ned (Isle of Man)
	R	01/07/2009	Sanda Island (Argyll and Bute) 145km NNW 2 yrs 341days
2526338	4	25/07/2008	St. Michael's Island (Isle of Man)
	R	04/08/2009	Sanda Island (Argyll and Bute) 148km NNW 1 yr 10days
2526351	4	04/08/2008	St. Michael's Island (Isle of Man)
	R	01/07/2009	Ailsa Craig (South Ayrshire) 136km NNW 331 days
2526391	4	14/08/2008	St. Michael's Island (Isle of Man)
	R	04/07/2009	Ailsa Craig (South Ayrshire) 136km NNW 324 days
2526394	4	14/08/2008	St. Michael's Island (Isle of Man)
	R	07/08/2009	Sanda Island (Argyll and Bute) 148km NNW 358 days
2548837	6	02/07/2004	Collieston (Aberdeenshire)
	R	25/07/2009	St. Michael's Island (Isle of Man) 401km SSW 5 yrs 23days

Some typical Storm Petrel recoveries, although the Aberdeenshire bird is noteworthy.

Cormorant

5239812	1	24/05/2008	Stack Mooar (Isle of Man)
	XF	13/02/2009	Rusland Pool, near Haverthwaite (Cumbria) 85km E 265 days
5239838	1	13/06/2008	Stack Mooar (Isle of Man)
	XF	04/05/2009	near Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 13km N 325 days

5239812 was found dead, stuck in wire netting beside a river. 5239838 was found as a tide line corpse.

Shag

1365032	1	12/06/1999	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XL	14/03/2009	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 49km NE 9 yrs 275days
1406117	1	21/05/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XL	17/10/2009	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 49km NE 2 yrs 149days

As usual for this species, both recoveries were from birds found as tide line corpses.

Little Egret

GC11775	1	13/06/2009	Penrhyn Castle, Bangor (Gwynedd)
	RR	22/07/2009	St. Michael's Island (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 39 days
	VV	29/07/2009	Castletown (Isle of Man) 101km NNW 46 days
	RR	29/07/2009	Balladoole (Isle of Man) 104km NNW 46 days
	RR	11/08/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 59 days
	RR	12/08/2009	Castletown (Isle of Man) 101km NNW 60 days
	RR	17/08/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 65 days
	RR	24/08/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 72 days
	RR	25/08/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 73 days
	VV	07/09/2009	Balladoole (Isle of Man) 104km NNW 86 days
	VV	10/09/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 89 days
	VV	12/09/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 91 days
	VV	16/09/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 95 days
	RR	24/09/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 103 days
	RR	28/09/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 107 days
GC11776	1	13/06/2009	Penrhyn Castle, Bangor (Gwynedd)
	RR	21/09/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 100 days
	RR	28/09/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 107 days
	RR	07/10/2009	St. Michael's Island (Isle of Man) 100km NNW 116 days

The two Egrets above were identified by colour rings 'BH' and 'BJ'. Both birds were ringed as nestlings on the same day as part of a group of 14 chicks from 5 nests in the same tree at Penrhyn Castle, Bangor in North Wales. Thanks are due to all the people who reported sightings of these colour ringed birds to us.

Whooper Swan

ZZ6079	6M	19/11/2008	Martin Mere WWT (Lancashire)
	RR	01/04/2009	Martin Mere WWT (Lancashire) 133 days
	RR	02/04/2009	Warton, Ribble Estuary (Lancashire) 11km N 134 days
	RR	06/04/2009	near The Lhen (Isle of Man) 136km NW 138 days
	RR	10/04/2009	White Strand (Isle of Man) 135km WNW 142 days
	RR	12/04/2009	Belfast Loch (Belfast) 227km WNW 144 days
	RR	03/12/2009	Strangford Loch, Comber (Down) 211km WNW 1 yr 14days

This Swan was sighted on the beach near The Lhen and photographed by Calvin Raybon. He noted the satellite tag on its back and forwarded the pictures to Manx BirdLife. On contacting WWT the birds identity was confirmed as colour ring 'U7A', part of the WWT 'Super Whooper' project which uses satellite tag data to try to identify the Swans flyways between UK and Iceland to assist in future wind farm planning. The Swan moved from Lancashire to IOM where it spent several days on the West coast near The Lhen, eventually leaving Manx Shores via Peel to Belfast Loch where it surprisingly stayed for the Summer, relocating to Strangford Loch in early December and joining up with a flock of returning Whooper Swans from the breeding grounds in Iceland. It is hoped that 'U7A' will stay with the other Whoopers and succeed in making it to Iceland next Spring to breed. Watch this space!

Brent Goose

119808	6F	12/05/2007	Jorfi, Alftanes, ICELAND
	RR	17/05/2007	Seltjarnarnes, ICELAND , 35km S 5 days
	RR	24/05/2007	Seltjarnarnes, 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 1 yr 172days
VV	31/12/2008	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 1 yr 233days
RR	03/01/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 1 yr 236days
VV	18/01/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 1 yr 251days
RR	10/02/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 1 yr 274days
RR	27/11/2009	Derbyhaven (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 2 yrs 199days
RR	16/12/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 1517km SE 2 yrs 218days

The above goose was identified by its colour rings 'Yellow J4'. It remains faithful to Derbyhaven and Langness as its Wintering grounds, now known to have spent at least 3 Winters here. Each time the goose is in the company of several juveniles which are presumably it's offspring from that years breeding in Arctic Canada as this species is known to migrate in family.

Hen Harrier

FB04434	1F	01/07/2008	Site Confidential (Isle of Man)
	XF	21/10/2009	near Andreas (Isle of Man) 20km (+/- 10km) 1 yr 112days

This Harrier was found dead having collided with overhead power lines.

Oystercatcher

FB04440	3	24/07/2009	near Rue Point (Isle of Man)
	X	26/08/2009	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 6km E 33 days

It is not known how this bird met its fate, it was found dead on the beach at the Point of Ayre having hatched just down the coast earlier in the Summer.

Arctic Tern

XR51962	1	06/07/1996	Point of Ayre (Isle of Man)
	B	30/06/2009	near Point of Ayre (Isle of Man) 2km N 12 yrs 359days

An excellent record of a locally hatched Tern being retrapped here as a breeding adult 13 yrs later. To think that in the intervening years this individual will have travelled to the Southern Ocean and back 13 times, that's in the region of 200,000 miles!

Short-eared Owl

GN53240	1	27/05/2009	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	16/07/2009	near Ballagik, Santon (Isle of Man) 17km ENE 50 days

This was one of 4 nestlings ringed on the Calf in 2009, the first time Short-eared Owls have bred there since the early 1980's.

Swallow

X311524	1	14/07/2009	Eary Farm, Cronk-y-Voddy (Isle of Man)
	R	07/09/2009	Cors Ddyga, Llangefni (Isle of Anglesey) 116km S 55 days
X210876	1	07/07/2009	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XL	10/12/2009	Port Erin (Isle of Man) 5km NE 156 days

X311524 was caught by another ringer in Anglesey after its first short hop from the IOM on its long migration to South Africa. X210876 was found long dead in the harbour masters store at Port Erin.

Waxwing

NW41951	3M	13/11/2008	near Aberdeen Airport, Dyce (Aberdeen)
	VV	02/02/2009	Ramsey (Isle of Man) 349km SSW 81 days

This Waxwing was identified by noting the colour rings from an excellent photograph taken by Gareth Pinkard of the bird in his garden in Ramsey. It was one of many Waxwings ringed by the Grampian Ringing Group in the Aberdeen area during the big influx at that time.

Coal Tit

X210169	3	05/10/2008	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	15/05/2009	Douglas (Isle of Man) 23km ENE 222 days

The victim of a cat.

Blue Tit

V430415	1	30/05/2009	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	XF	13/06/2009	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 14 days
V430483	3	18/09/2009	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	R	05/10/2009	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 7km WSW 17 days

V430415 was one of the nestlings from the garden nest box which unfortunately flew into a window only a week after fledging.

Great Tit

R744272	3F	14/10/2005	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	20/04/2009	St John's (Isle of Man) 20km NE 3 yrs 188days
R747179	3M	18/10/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	16/03/2009	Douglas (Isle of Man) 23km ENE 1 yr 149days
X211185	3F	12/10/2009	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	13/11/2009	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 32 days

V430457	3F	15/09/2009	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	R	19/09/2009	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 4 days
	R	05/10/2009	Calf of Man (Isle of Man) 7km WSW 20 days

R744272 & R747179 were more victims of cats. X211185 & V430457 are yet more movements between the Calf and Colby and vice versa. When you think of the habitat between the two locations you hardly think of it as being a typical area for such a stalwart of gardens and woodland!

Jackdaw

EW81546	1	29/05/2009	Glen Roy (Isle of Man)
	V	28/07/2009	Baldhoon, Laxey (Isle of Man) 2km NNE 60 days

Raven

HT81441	1	04/05/2002	near Stoney Mountain Plantation (Isle of Man)
	BB	08/04/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 9km S 6 yrs 339days
	BB	16/04/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 9km S 6 yrs 347days
	BB	19/04/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 9km S 6 yrs 350days
	BB	21/04/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 9km S 6 yrs 352days
	BB	28/04/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 9km S 6 yrs 359days
	BB	06/05/2009	Langness (Isle of Man) 9km S 7 yrs 2days

This Raven is the male from the breeding pair at Langness.

Chaffinch

P207903	3M	13/11/2004	Colby (Isle of Man)
	XF	21/05/2009	Earystane, Colby (Isle of Man) 2km N 4 yrs 189days
V430082	3	21/07/2007	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man)
	XF	19/10/2009	Colby (Isle of Man) 2km NNE 2 yrs 90days

P207903 was found dying following a window strike. V430082 was the victim of a cat.

Greenfinch

TA68590	6F	11/04/2007	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	XF	26/04/2009	Ramsey (Isle of Man) 40km NE 2 yrs 15days
TA68890	3F	12/09/2008	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	12/10/2009	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 1 yr 30days

TA68590 died due to a window strike.

Goldfinch

X210912	3J	29/07/2009	Calf of Man (Isle of Man)
	R	13/11/2009	Croit-e-Caley, Colby (Isle of Man) 7km ENE 107 days

Another Goldfinch movement between the Calf and Colby.