

Lady's Island Lake Tern Report 2011.

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*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

The author and the area ranger, on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Arts, Heritage & and the Gaeltacht), wish to acknowledge the support of the landowners and rights holders of Our Ladys Island Lake with the management of the tern conservation project throughout the year.



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SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LADY'S ISLAND Site codes SAC: 000704 SPA: 004010

Lady's Island Lake is situated in the extreme south-east of Ireland and is comprised of a shallow, brackish coastal lagoon separated from the sea by a 200 meter wide sand and shingle barrier. The lake is 3.7 km in length and 1.3 km at its widest, southerly point.

The lake and its two islands, Inish and Sgarbheen, are designated Special Protection Areas (SPA), holding internationally important numbers of breeding terns.

This site is of high conservation importance, having three habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and one of these (lagoons) with priority status.



Acknowledgements

The Lady's Island Lake Tern Conservation Project is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS of the DoEHLG) and its success depends on the support and co-operation of many people.

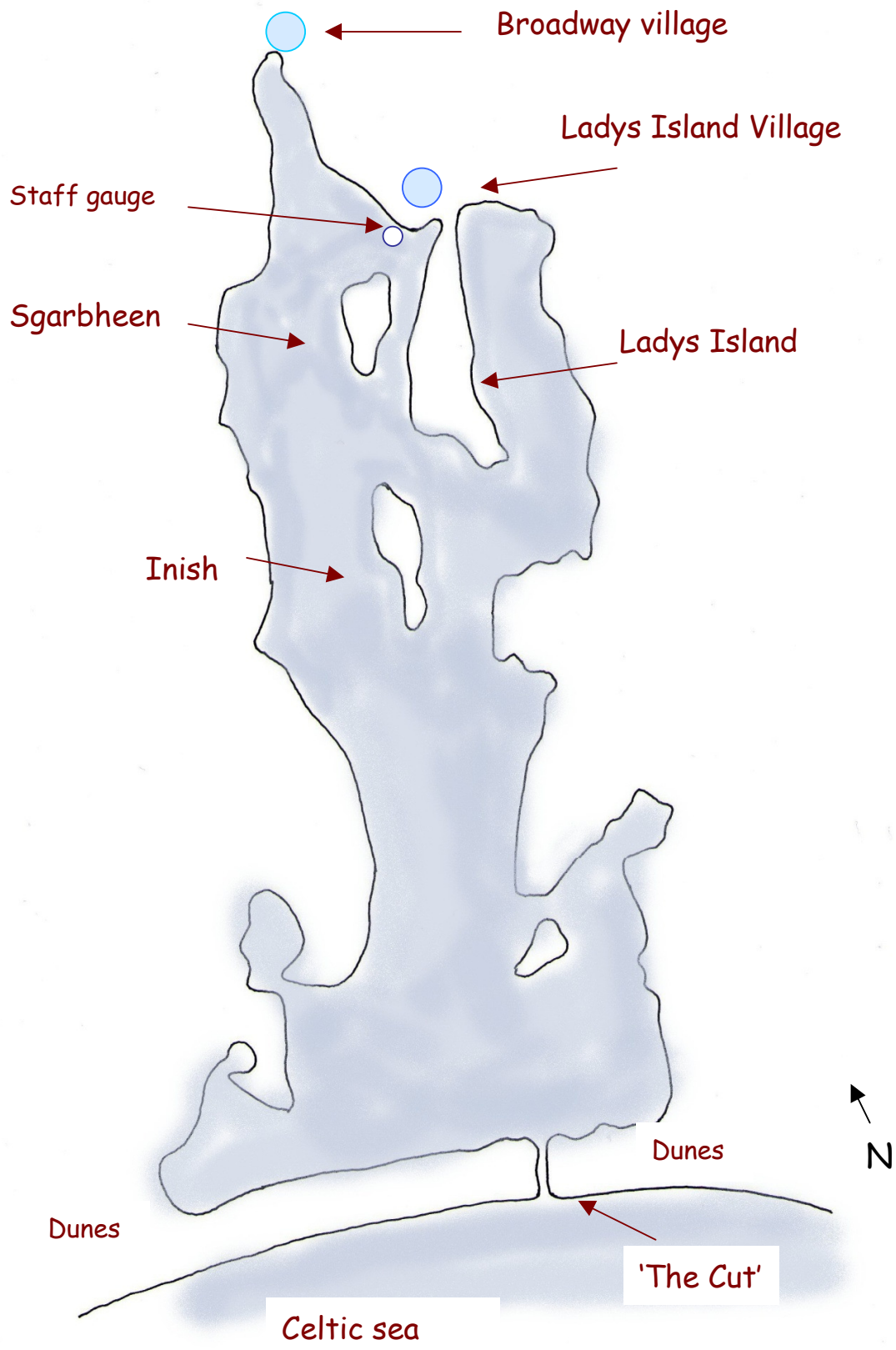
A special thanks to the owner of Inish Island Mr. E. Murphy for facilitating the tern conservation program again this year.

Thanks also to the Lady's Island Lake Pilgrimage Committee.

Thanks to; Lorcan Scott (District Conservation Officer NPWS) Wesley Atkinson (Regional Manager NPWS) Alyn Walsh, Dominic Berridge; Deirdre Toomey; Nicky Walsh; (Wexford Wildfowl Reserve); Turlough Coffey (for assistance with predator control).



Observation hides on southern Inish



Lady's Island Lake Tern Report 2010.

Summary.

Management and monitoring of the Lady's Island Tern Colony began on the 12th of April and ended on the 4th August. The total number of gull and tern nests recorded on Inish was 4825. This was an increase of 13% over that in 2010.

Black-headed Gulls *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* increased by 8 % to 1431, Sandwich Terns *Sterna sandivensis* increased by 5 % to 1931. Common/Arctic Terns *S. hirundo/paradisaea* increased by 17 % to 1297 while Roseate Terns *S. dougallii* increased by 31% to 155 pairs. Ten pairs of Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* nested, the same number as 2010.

One pair of Common Gulls *Larus canus* nested, and 3 chicks hatched successfully.

Mean clutch size of Roseate Terns was 1.7 with hatching success was 76 %.

25 chicks died prior to fledging (12 %) and overall productivity was 1.5 chicks per egg-laying pair.

Weather conditions were un-seasonably cool and windy from late April until mid July.

The water level was 3.56 OD on the 12th April at the start of the project, but was considerably lower on the 7th March, allowing mammalian access to the island of Sgarbheen.



Black-headed Gull nest with eggs.

Methods

Preparatory work

On the 18th April, 303 wooden boxes and 6 car tyres were dropped by boat onto the southern end of Inish and placed in approximately the same location as in 2010. Unlike previous years, a decision was taken not to create any enclosures except for one study area which enclosed eight nest boxes. To facilitate easy access, the boxes were arranged in straight lines running approximately north-south. A narrow path was sprayed with 'round-up' between the box lines, which allowed safe approach to the boxes while retaining ample cover for chicks. This proved very successful.



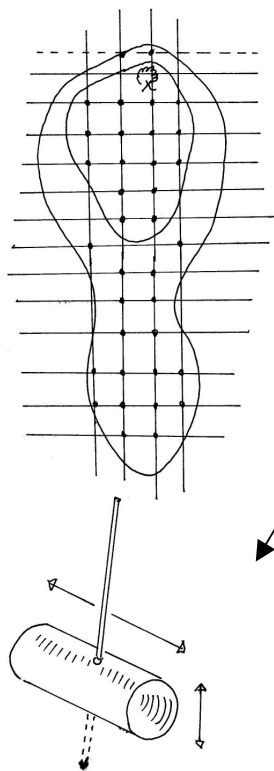
Nest box lines with sprayed paths.



Predator control;

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Evidence of Brown Rats was noted on the northern end of Inish at the beginning of the season. It is necessary to eliminate rats before the breeding season begins by placing poisoned bait, which was placed in clay pipes spaced a few meters apart along the perimeter of the northern and southern ends of the island. Baiting took place on 3 days (21st/28th March and 12th April) with a total of 12kgs of 'Klear' laid. This was topped up as the season progressed or when any pipes were found to be empty.



Grid showing placements of baiting points.

Plastic pipes need to be secured with bamboo, to prevent them blowing away in strong winds.



Rat run on western bank.

Rat depredation Roseate Terns

A rat depredated one roseate tern chick with the chewed remains found near the nest site. Five other chicks disappeared prior to ringing.

Two eggs disappeared from boxes but it is not known if a rat took these.

Hedgehog;

An estimated 150 pairs of sandwich terns, located on the northeastern side of Sgarbheen, was totally annihilated on the 16/17th May. A census was about to be undertaken on the morning of the 17th May, when all eggs were found to be freshly predated. As the eggs were still at each nest-site and their contents removed, a hedgehog was suspected to be the likely predator.

Baited traps were placed in the vicinity but, as the island is so large and the food supply so plentiful, nothing was caught.

There was little or no water separating Sgarbheen island and the mainland during the first few weeks of March following the 'cut', allowing easy access for any mammalian species.



Sandwich egg presumed predated by hedgehog.

Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*)

A Hooded Crow nest and its contents were removed on the site on the 22nd April. The adults were trapped and removed on the 20th and 23rd April respectively, using a baited Larson trap (under license) which was placed under the Monterey Tree on the north of Inish. However two new 'non-breeding' hooded crows, moved in but avoided capture. They continued to predated black-headed gull eggs thereafter.

Birds of Prey

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*)

A first summer female Peregrine Falcon was noted taking tern species throughout the season.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

A pair of Kestrels nested in a ruined building on the SE corner of the lake and were noted taking common/arctic chicks throughout the season, and a juvenile was noted on the 23rd July.



Male Kestrel harassed by a common tern.

Black Kite;

A Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) flew over the site on the 14th June.

Gulls

Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*), Lesser Black-backed gulls (*Larus fuscus*) and Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) were present throughout the season. Again, no evidence of any predation was noted and they have little impact on the colony, other than temporary disturbance.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

A Black-headed Gull was noted taking common tern chick on the 2nd June, but it is likely that predation was a more common occurrence than this single observation.



Black-headed Gull with common tern chick 2nd June 2011.

Roseate Tern (*sterna dougallii*)

On the 7th June an adult roseate tern, at box 7, was noted taking a common tern chick that strayed too close to its nest box. The roseate flew approximately 50 meters out, where dropped the chick into the lake. After preening on the water for a few moments, the roseate returned to its nest box.

Monitoring of disturbance

Lady's Island Lake is designated an SPA (Special Protection Area 324 ha, an IBA (Important Bird Area 466ha, and an SAC (Special Area of Conservation).

Two signs, requesting lake-users to remain on the southern end of the lake, were placed on the southeast and southwest corners of the lake.

Eight 'do not disturb' signs were placed along the shore of Inish.

On the 25th April, two canoeists passed between Sgarbheen and the community centre.

On the 28th April, the unseasonably warm weather saw two men sunbathing on the northern tip of Sgarbheen.

A 'sail-boarder' was also present between Inish and Sgarbheen on the 1st June.

In all cases, the importance of the site was explained and each person willing departed and relocated to the southern end of the lake.

Three 'do not disturb' signs were placed on Sgarbheen thereafter.



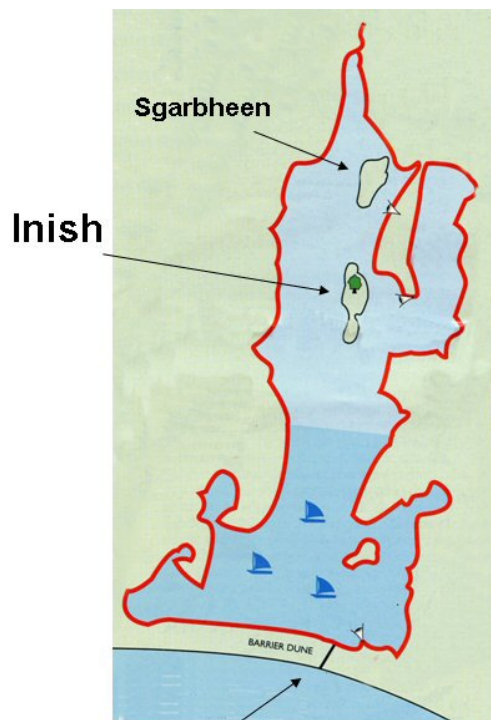
Canoeist on the 25th April

Feral Greylag Geese

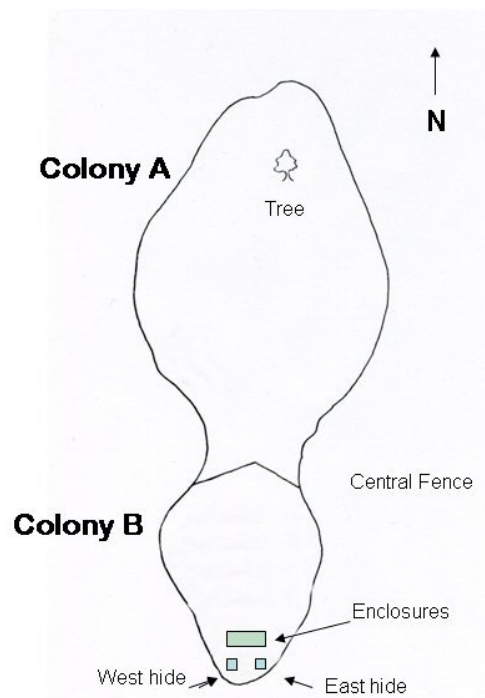
A resident flock of c.100 feral greylag geese are present throughout the year, and feed on adjacent farmland fields and on low-lying areas at Tacumshin Lake to the west.

To prevent the goose population from expanding out of control, some nests and their contents are removed (under license) at the beginning of the season.

Location of islands and colonies on Lady's Island Lake.



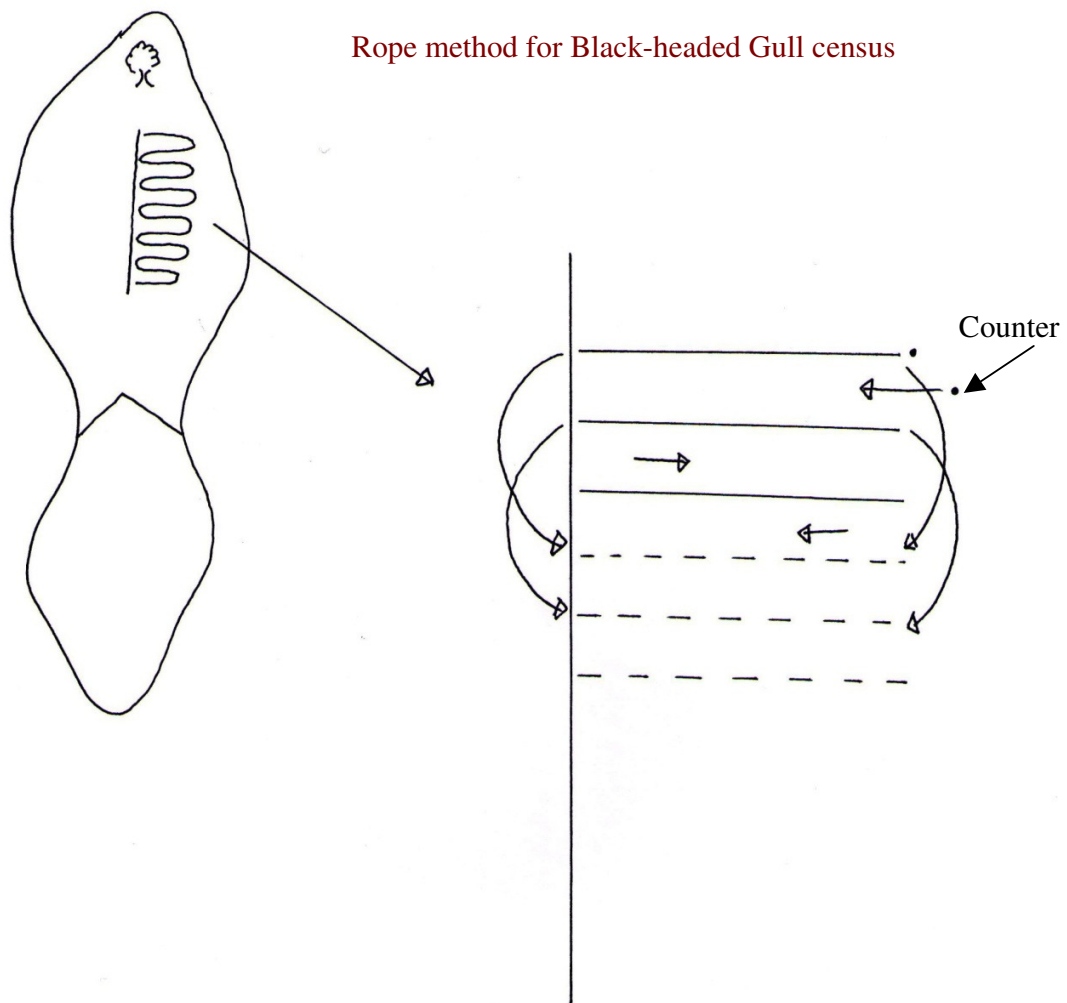
Ladys Island Lake



Inish Island

Censusing Black-headed Gulls

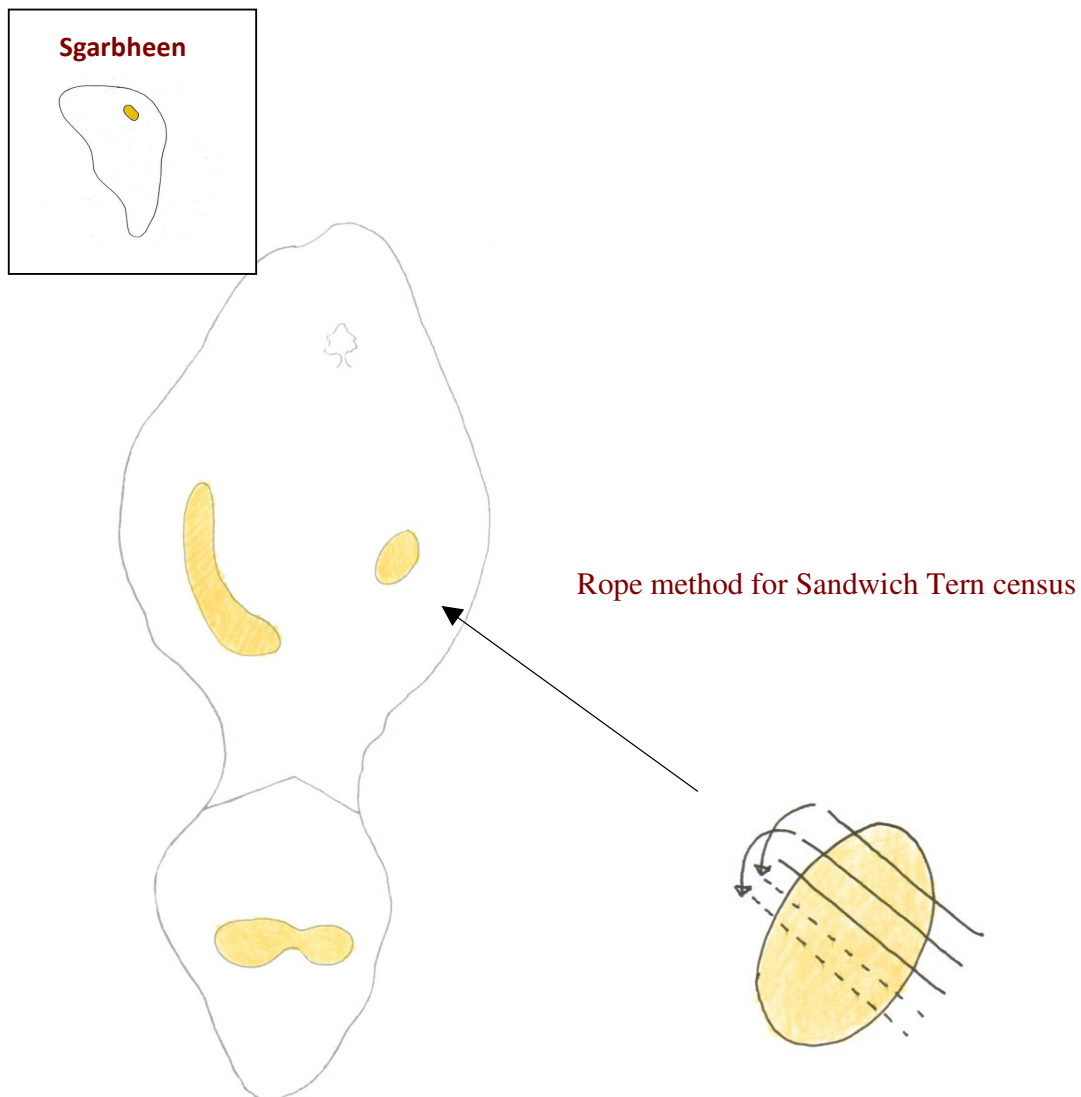
The main Black-headed Gull colony was situated on the northern end of Inish as in previous years. The colony was censused on the 10th May in a walk-through count. Sgarbheen was censused on the 19th May. Three light polypropylene ropes were placed about 2metres apart to make a systematic count using two tally counters to count two and three egg clutches. The second observer remained on the eastern side to move ropes and recorded any one and 5 five egg clutches indicated by the walk-through counter. Any Mediterranean Gull nests found were marked with bamboo canes to facilitate later monitoring.



Censusing methods Sandwich Terns

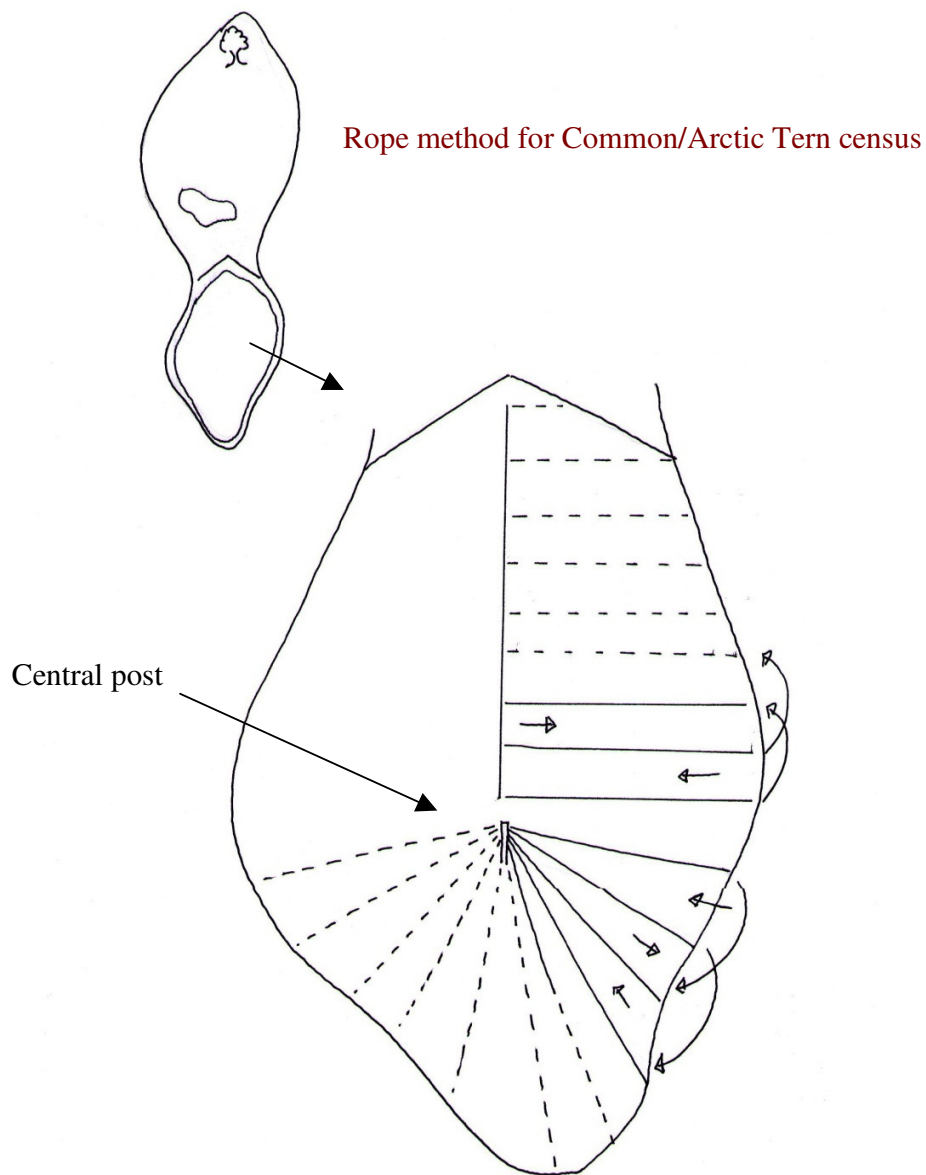
There were four separate colonies; one amongst the main Black-headed Gull colony on the north of the island, one on the western side of colony A, and another situated just north of the roseate tern colony on the southern end of the island in colony B. A colony of c.150 pairs was situated on the northern end of Sgarbheen, but was predated just prior to censusing on the 17th May. Censusing took place on the 17th and 27th May.

Three light polypropylene ropes were placed about one meter apart to make a systematic count using two tally counters to count one and two-egg clutches.



Censusing methods Common/Arctic Terns

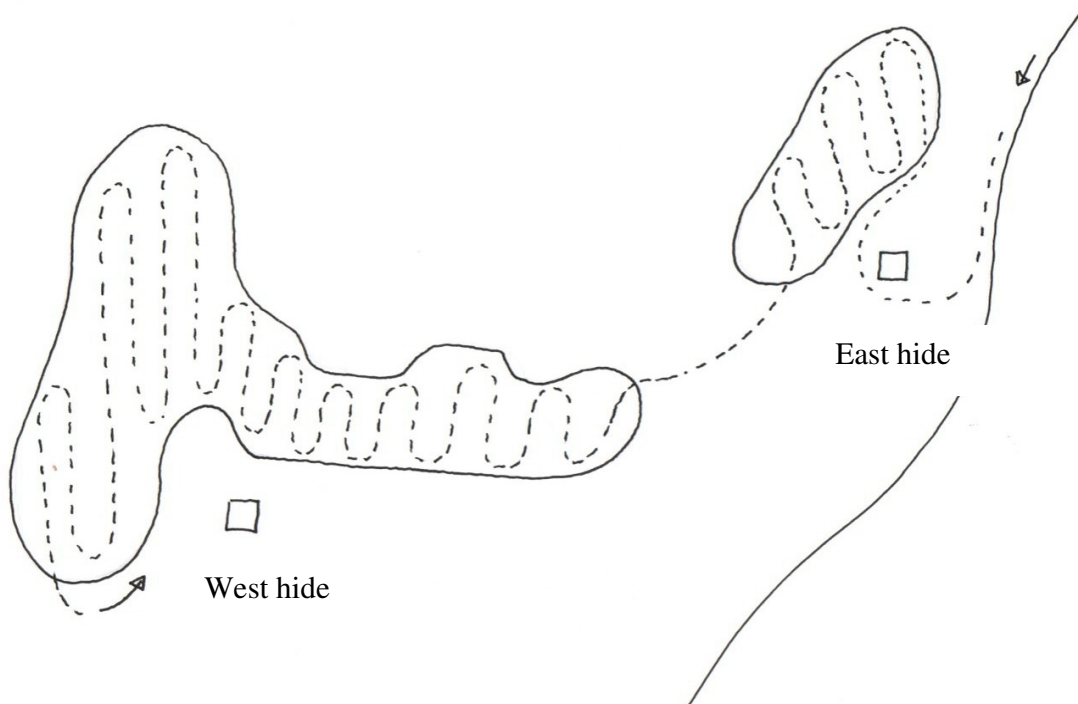
The main Common and Arctic Tern colony is situated on the southern end of Inish. Arctic Terns prefer the lower areas closer to the shore, while Common Terns are dispersed throughout the central part on the higher more densely vegetated areas. Censusing took place on the 1st and 2nd June (and 2nd June on Sgarbheen). A central post was driven on the centre of the southern colony, and three polypropylene ropes were tied and moved alternately while a single observer conducted a walk-through systematic count. Two tally-counters were used to count two and three clutch nests, while one and four clutches were indicated to the second observer.



Censusing methods Roseate Terns

Roseate Tern nests were checked on a daily basis following the discovery of the first egg on the 9th May and continued until the 23rd July.

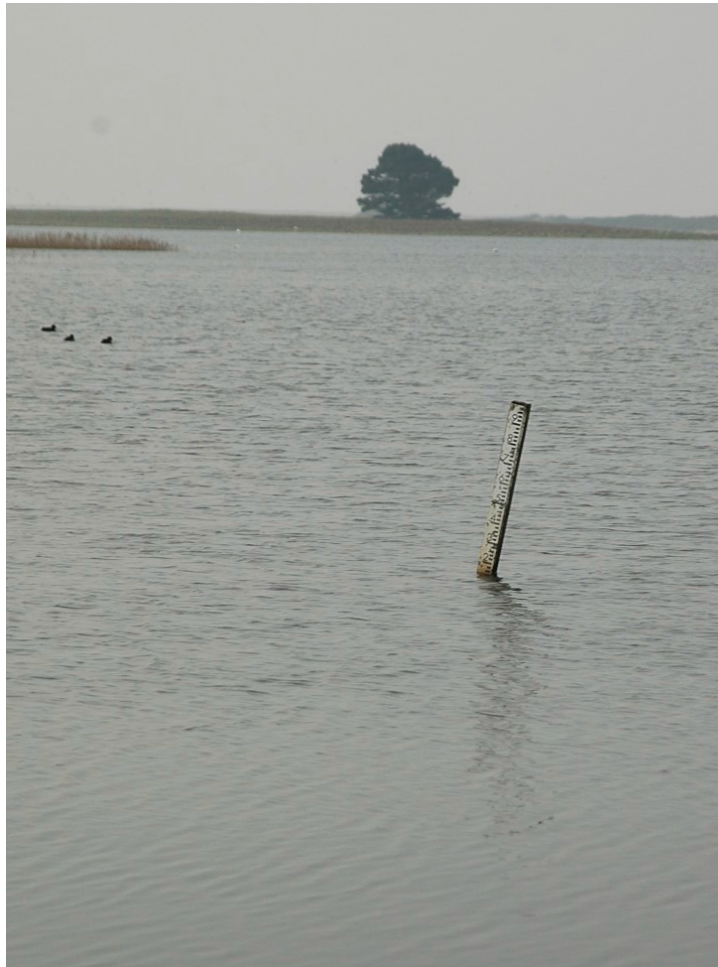
Censusing method showing daily routine



Water Levels

A reading of the staff gauge on the northern shore of the lake showed a water level of 5.14 on the 4th March 2011.

A decision to lower the lake level was agreed at a Lake Committee meeting in the Island Bar on the 1st March, pending funding. The barrier on the southern end of the lake, separating the lake from the sea, was breached ('cut') by mechanical digger (operated by Denis Carroll) on the 4th March. The levels dropped below the gauge base by the 7th and the lake began to tide from the seaward side until the cut finally sealed at a level of 3.48 following a southwesterly gale on the 30th / 31st March. The tern conservation project commenced on the 12th April and the water had reached a level of 3.56 on that date.



Staff gauge showing a level of 5.16 OD on the 4th April 2011.

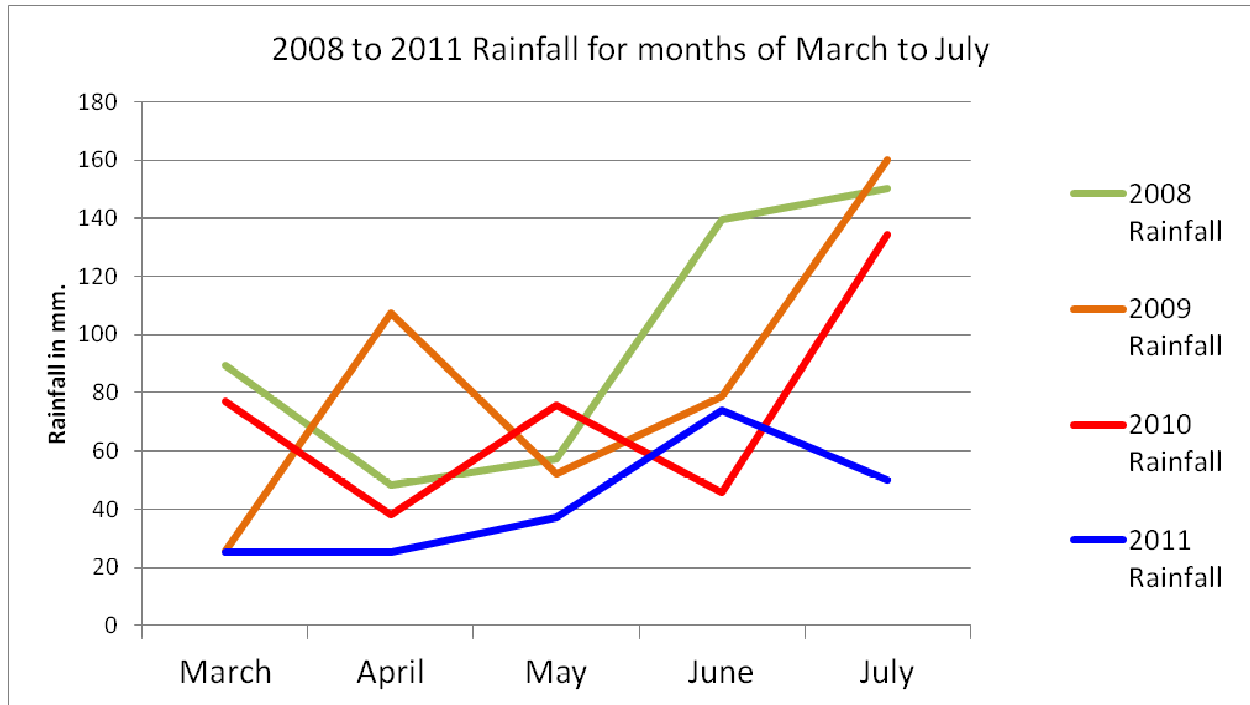


Breaching the barrier on 4th March 2011.



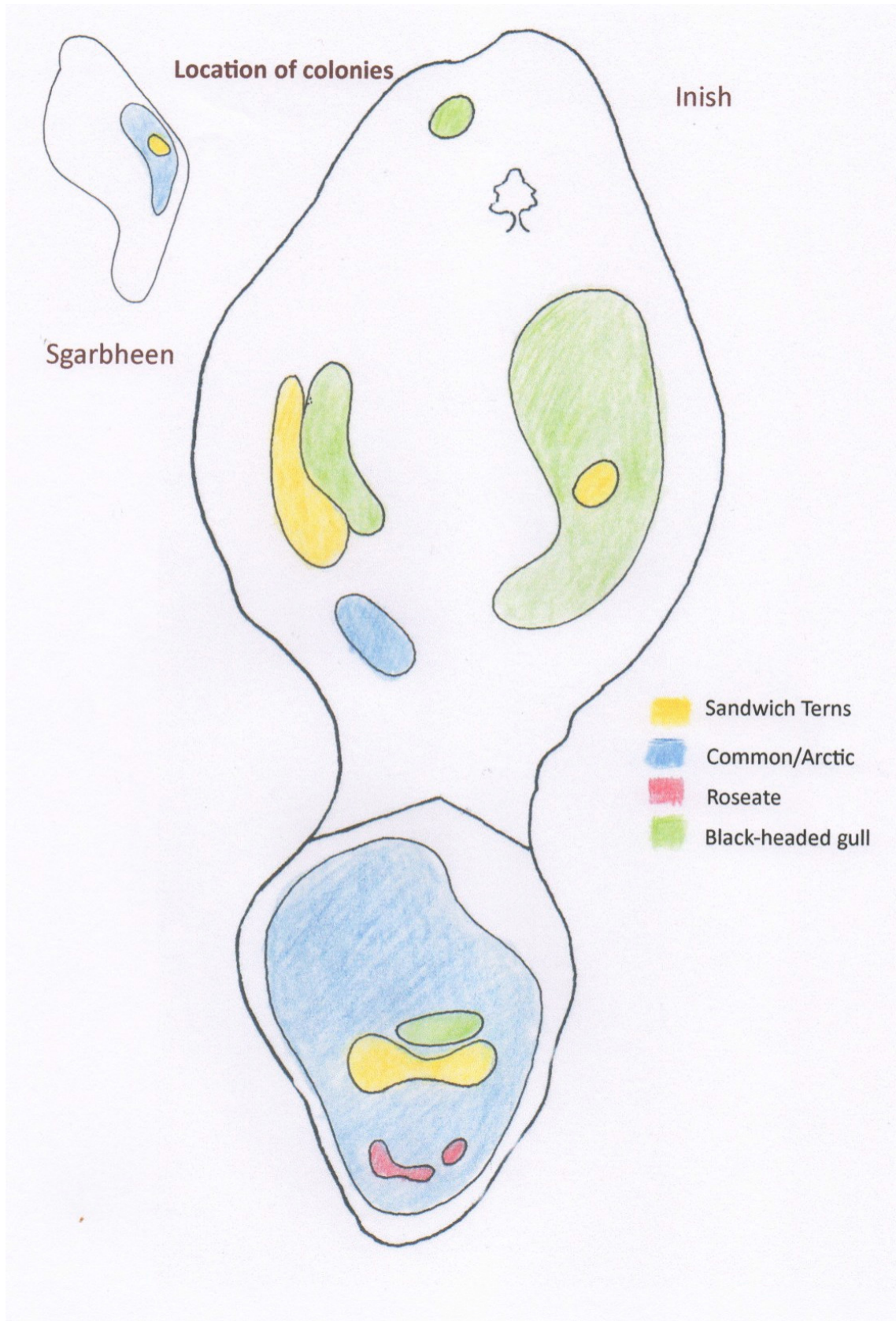
6th March 2011 showing run of water from lake.

Weather



	2008	2009	2010	2011	Monthly
	Rainfall	Rainfall	Rainfall	Rainfall	Average
March	89.5	25.8	76.9	25.3	63
April	48.3	107.6	38.1	25.2	54
May	57.3	52.1	75.7	37.1	59
June	139.4	78.6	45.6	73.8	49
July	150.3	160.2	134.5	50.2	59
Total	886.8mm	420.0mm	370.8mm	211.4mm	526mm

Records taken from the weather station at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.
The rainfall at Lady's Island Lake is likely to be even lower than that recorded above.



Productivity and feeding biology of Roseate and Sandwich Terns and BH Gulls.

The second year of a productivity and feeding biology of Roseate and Sandwich Terns was undertaken by T. Murray as part of an two year Applied Ecology MSc through UCC under the direction of Professor John O'Halloran and Dr. Tom Kelly.

Two study plots were again identified and a number of Roseate and Sandwich Tern nests were selected.

Courtship feeding was recorded (with species of prey offered and size).

As soon as eggs were laid the nests were photographed (pigmentation of eggs recorded) and the eggs biometrics recorded.

A second study of Black-headed Gull diet was undertaken by Steven O'Connell as part of his BSc under the direction of Dr. Tom Kelly UCC.

Black-headed gull pellets were collected over three days, the 19th April, and the 12th / 27th May. When analyzed, these showed a high proportion of beetles and frogs.



Steven O' Connell collecting pellets in the black-headed gull colony

Species Accounts

Black-headed Gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)



Adult Black-headed Gull

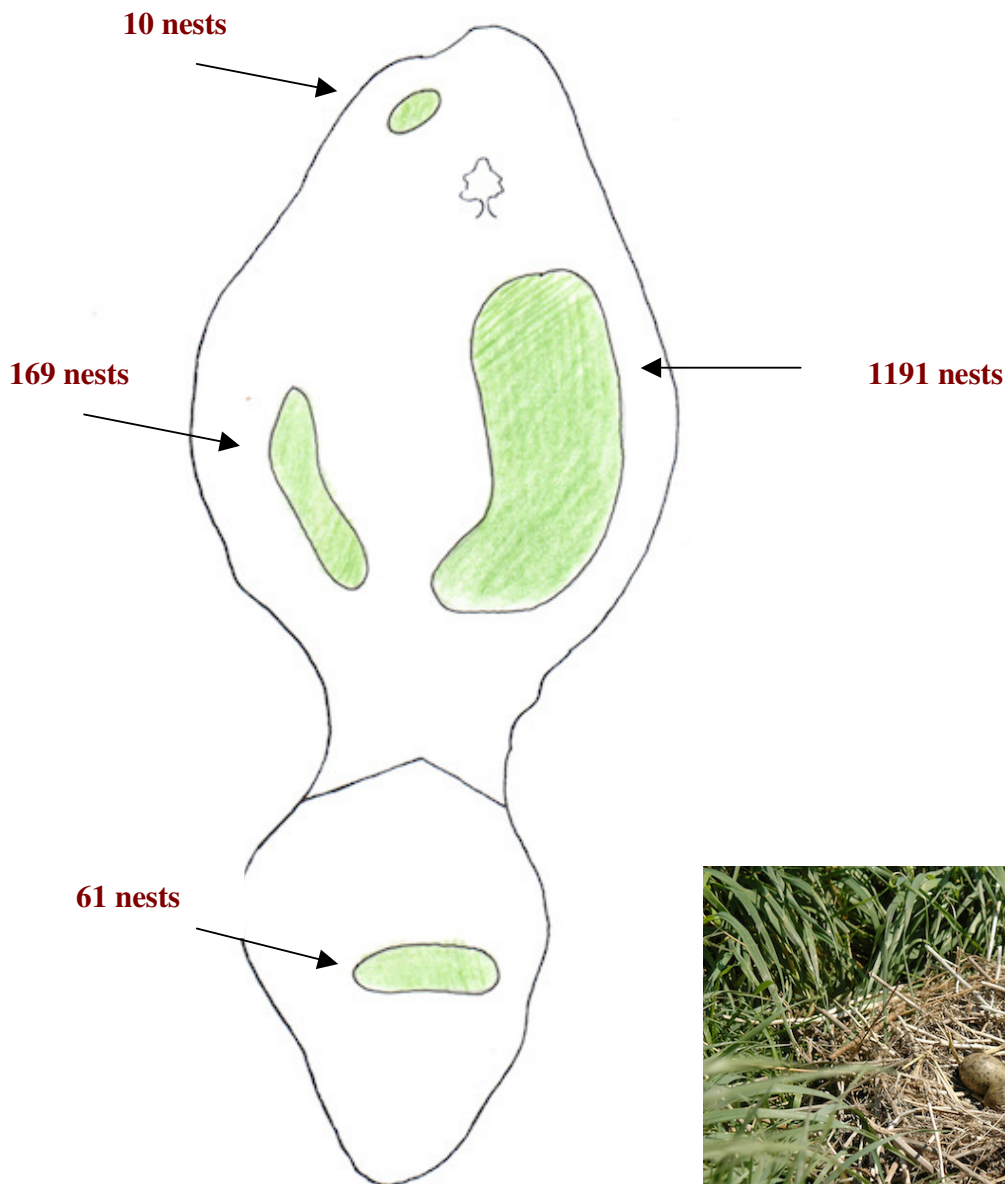
A total of 1431 Black-headed Gull pairs nested on Inish, with 25 pairs on Sgarbheen, giving a grand total of 1456. This was an increase of 131 pairs (13%) on that recorded in 2010. The main colony was situated on the eastern side of the north end of the island (Colony A), with other nests randomly spread on the western and northerly side. 61 nests were recorded on the southern end of Inish (Colony B).

The first egg was laid on the 12th April and the first chick hatched on the 9th May. 476 juveniles were counted on the 27th June on the north shore of Inish.

Census of Black-headed Gulls on Inish 2011

The main census on the 10th May recorded 1191 nests in Colony A. A further 240 nests were counted on the 19th May, giving a total of 1431 nests recorded on Inish. 25 pairs were counted on Sgarbheen on the 19th May, giving a grand total grand total 1456 nests.

Distribution of Black-headed gulls on Inish



Results of census 2010;

Main Colony A			West, South, North & Scaraveen Colony		
	Nests	Total Eggs		Nest	Total eggs
x 1 egg	74	74		14	14
x 2 egg	236	472		85	170
x 3 egg	877	2631		163	489
x 4 egg	4	16		3	12
Total	1191	3193		265	685
Total nests	Total eggs	Mean clutch			
1456	3878	2.66			

Ringing

Ringing was carried out over 2 days with a total of 126 chicks ringed.

Black-headed Gull	Chicks	Ring Numbers	Sub-total	Total
14.06.11	34	EW66217 - EW66250	34	
	46	EW66351 - EW66396	46	
	27	EW66174 - EW66200	27	107
22.06.11	15	EW66401 - EW66415	15	
	4	EW66397 - EW66400	4	19
		GRAND TOTAL		126

Mediterranean Gulls (*Larus melanocephalus*)



Mediterranean Gull Nest

Ten Mediterranean Gull nests were located amongst the Black-headed Gull colony on the eastern side of colony A. Each nest was marked with a bamboo stick and nests and chicks monitored throughout the season. Another single Mediterranean gull may have bred with a black-headed gull on the western side of colony A, as one was observed there throughout the season. A hybrid juvenile Med x BH Gull was photographed at Tacumshin lake, about one kilometer to the west of Lady's Island Lake on the 16th July.

A total of 27 eggs were laid with a mean of 2.7 per egg laying pair.

13 chicks were ringed, but no special darvic rings were fitted due to poor weather conditions and chicks having moved from the nest sites.

17 chicks were found dead.

The first flying juvenile was recorded on the 4th July, while four first summer birds were noted on Inish on the 14th July.

Ringling:

13 chicks were fitted with BTO rings.

Date	BTO Ring
24th May	EW66158
24th May	EW66159
24th May	EW66160
24th May	EW66161
24th May	EW66162
9th June	EW66163
3rd June	EW66164
3rd June	EW66165
3rd June	EW66166
3rd June	EW66167
3rd June	EW66168
3rd June	EW66169
9th June	EW66170



Ringling a Mediterranean chick.

Re-sightings of darvic ringed adults:

330	L Green	17 th March		
2E13	L Yellow	6 th April	19 th April	21 st May
32A4	L White	6 th April		
3L77	L White	6 th April		
7S1	L White	6 th April		
2E16	L Yellow	Ringed 02 06 10	Sighted Old Head Kinsale 09 09 10	



Adult Mediterranean Gull over nest site 28th May 2011

Common Gulls (*Larus canus*)

A Common Gull nest was found in the same area where they nested in 2008/09/10.
On the 17th May, the nest contained 3 eggs and 3 chicks hatched successfully on the 9th June.
They were ringed on the 11th June:
Ring numbers; EW66171; EW66172 EW66173.

However, only one surviving chick was noted in late July.



Common gull pair at nest site on the 24 June 2011

Sandwich Terns

(*Sterna sandvicensis*)



1931 pairs of Sandwich Terns were recorded nesting on Inish. This was an increase of 93 pairs (5%) on 2010 when 1838 were recorded. The mean clutch size was 1.63.

The first eggs were recorded on the 24th April, with the first chicks on the 17th May.

An estimated 150 pairs nested on the northern end of Sgarbheen, but were predated (*see account below*).

Censusing, within the black-headed gull colony, took place on the 17th May, with the two main colonies censused on 27th May.

Censusing methods used were the same as in previous years, with parallel ropes laid out one meter apart and a walk-through count taken.

Ringling took place on the 14th and 22nd June with 693 chicks ringed.

Predation on Sgarbheen:

On the morning of the 17th June, as a census was about to be undertaken on Sgarbheen, all sandwich tern eggs were noted to have been recently predated and their contents removed. The eggs were still on teach nest site, which may suggest predation by a hedgehog. Baited traps were placed in the vicinity, but due to the size of the island and the amount of food available, nothing was trapped.

There was little or no water separating the island from the mainland following the cut in early March, allowing for easy mammalian access.

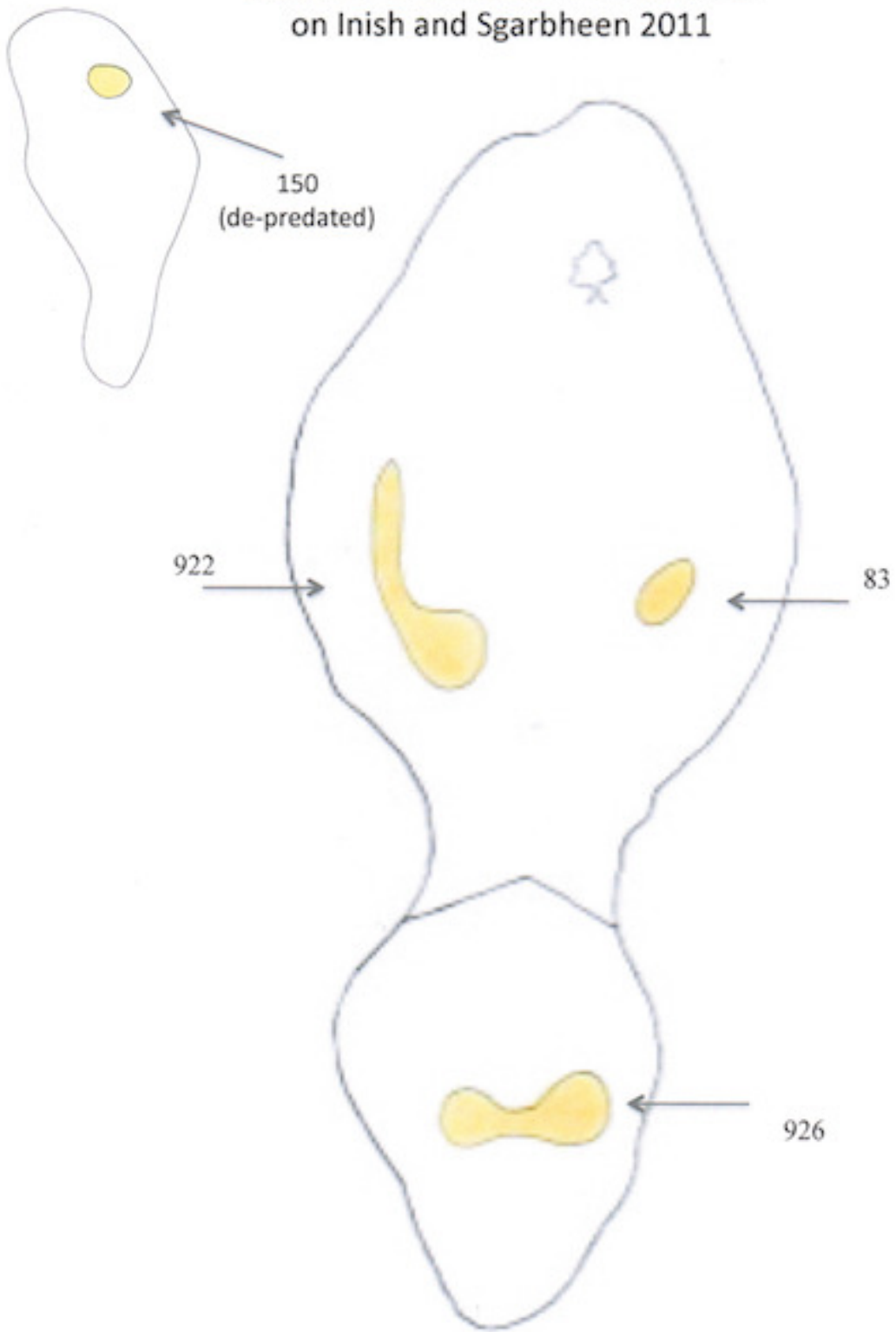


Part of the sandwich colony showing broken eggs.



Sgarbheen on the 11th March, showing no water and with human and dog tracks leading to the island.

Location of Sandwich Tern colonies
on Inish and Sgarbheen 2011



Productivity;

Colony A Inish			Colony B Inish	
	Nests	Total Eggs	Nests	Total Eggs
x 1 egg	272	272	449	449
x 2 egg	728	1456	475	950
x 3 egg	5	15	2	6
TOTAL	1005	1743	926	1405
TOTAL NESTS	TOTAL EGGS	MEAN CLUTCH		
1931	3148	1.63		



Sandwich chick at nest

Ringling:

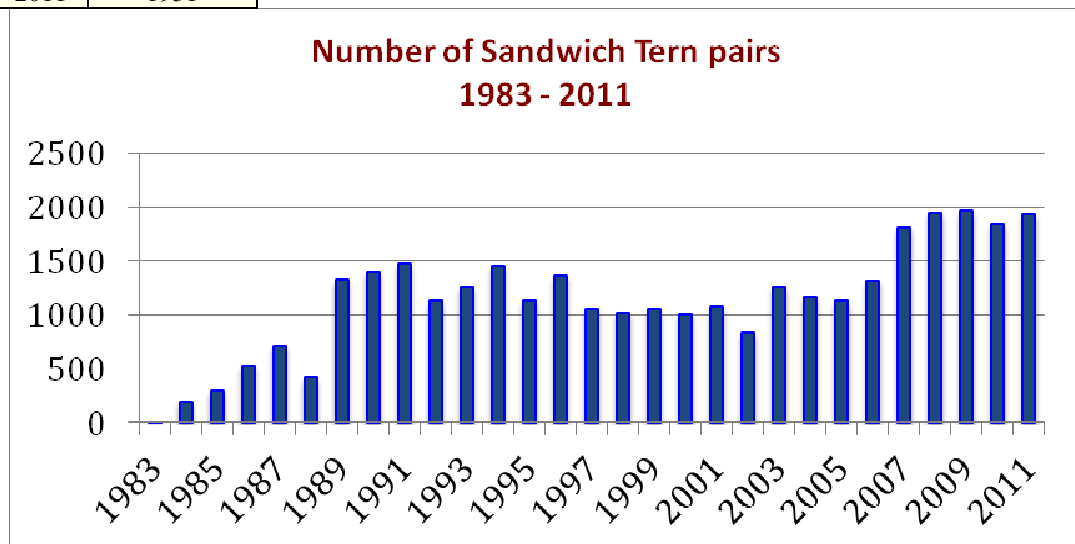
A total of 719 Sandwich Terns chicks were ringed:

Sandwich Tern	Chicks	Ring Numbers	Sub-total	Total
25th May	3	DD57017 - 19	3	3
27th May	3	DD57020 - 22	3	3
29th May	9	DD57023 - 31	9	9
30th May	6	DD57032 - 37	6	6
31st May	2	DD57038 - 39	2	2
1st June	1	DD57040	1	1
2nd June	2	DD57041 - 42	2	2
14th June	58	DD57043 - 100	58	
	400	DD57100 - 500	400	
	100	DE08801 - 900	100	558
22nd June	100	DE02901 - 3000	100	
	135	DE03251 - 85	35	135
		GRAND TOTAL		719



Ringing a sandwich tern chick

Sandwich Tern Pairs	
Year	No. Pairs
1983	4
1984	191
1985	291
1986	524
1987	708
1988	412
1989	1317
1990	1395
1991	1469
1992	1129
1993	1254
1994	1447
1995	1130
1996	1358
1997	1050
1998	1015
1999	1048
2000	1005
2001	1068
2002	825
2003	1252
2004	1161
2005	1122
2006	1309
2007	1800
2008	1945
2009	1958
2010	1838
2011	1931



Common and Arctic Terns

(Sterna hirundo/S.paradisaea)



Adult Common Tern

A total of 1297 pairs of Common and Arctic Terns nested on Inish this year, with an estimated 60 pairs on Sgarbheen giving a total of 1357 breeding pairs. This was an increase of 245 pairs (17%) compared with 2010, with a mean clutch size of 2.32.

The first Arctic Terns on site were recorded on the 5th April with the first common noted on the 12th April.

The first common and arctic chicks were recorded on the 30th May.

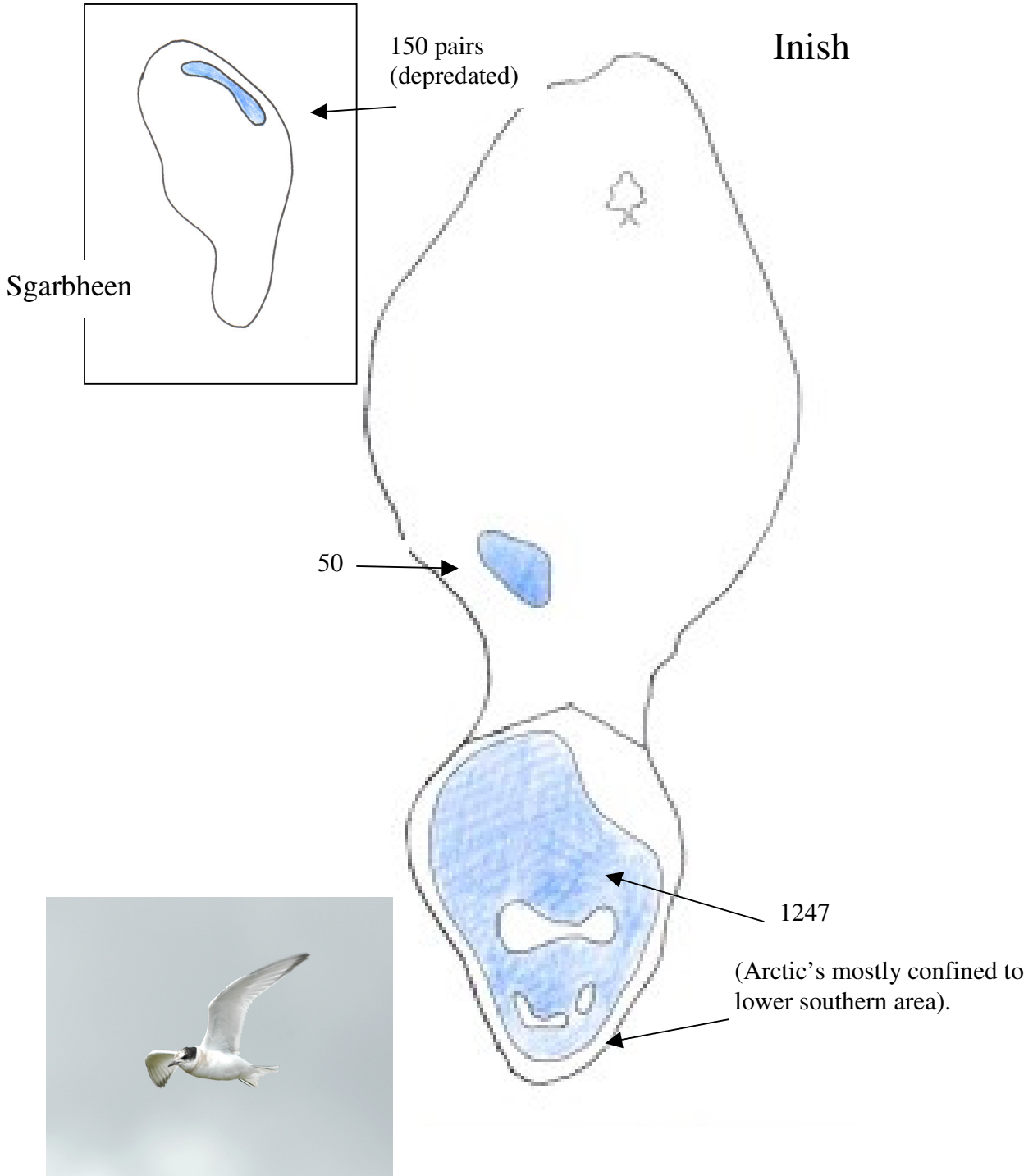
A census was carried out on the 1st and 2nd June on Inish and on the 2nd June on Sgarbheen.

The census methods followed the same technique as in 2009, using ropes and a 'walk-through' counts taken.

105 common and 10 arctic tern chicks were ringed on the 22nd and 24th June.

It is likely that many of the arctic tern nests on Sgarbheen were also predated by a hedgehog, as numbers showed a decline, with only about 15/20 pairs remaining and very few juveniles noted in mid July. However there was a noticeable increase in late breeders on Inish, with new nests noted in mid to late July.

Location of Common/Arctic Tern colonies on Inish and Sgarbheen 2011.



Juvenile arctic tern on Inish and Sgarbheen

Colony A Inish (1 st June)			Colony A Inish (2 nd June)			Scarbheen Island	
	Nests	Total Eggs		Nests	Total Eggs	Nests	Total eggs
x 1 egg	108	108		56	56	4	4
x 2 egg	375	750		192	384	24	48
x 3 egg	256	768		308	924	32	96
x 4 egg	2	8		0	0	0	0
TOTAL	741	1634		556	1634	60	148
Total nests	Total eggs	Mean clutch					
1357	3146	2.32					



Fledged arctic tern 29th June

Ringling:

Common Tern	Chicks	Ring Numbers	Sub-total	Total
22nd June	22	SV48428 - 49	22	
	2	SR55901 - 02	13	
	13	SR55904 - 16	13	
	32	SR55236 - 67	32	
	7	SR55270 - 76	7	
	6	SR55279 - 84	6	
	9	SR55286 - 94	9	102
	5	SR55296 - 300	5	
24th June	3	SR55823 - 25	3	3
			GRAND TOTAL	105
Arctic Tern	Chicks	Ring Numbers	Sub-total	Total
22nd June	1	SR55903	1	
	1	SR55917	1	
	2	SR55924 - 25	2	
	2	SR55268 - 69	2	
	2	SR55277 - 78	2	
	1	SR55285	1	
	1	SR55295	1	10
			GRAND TOTAL	10

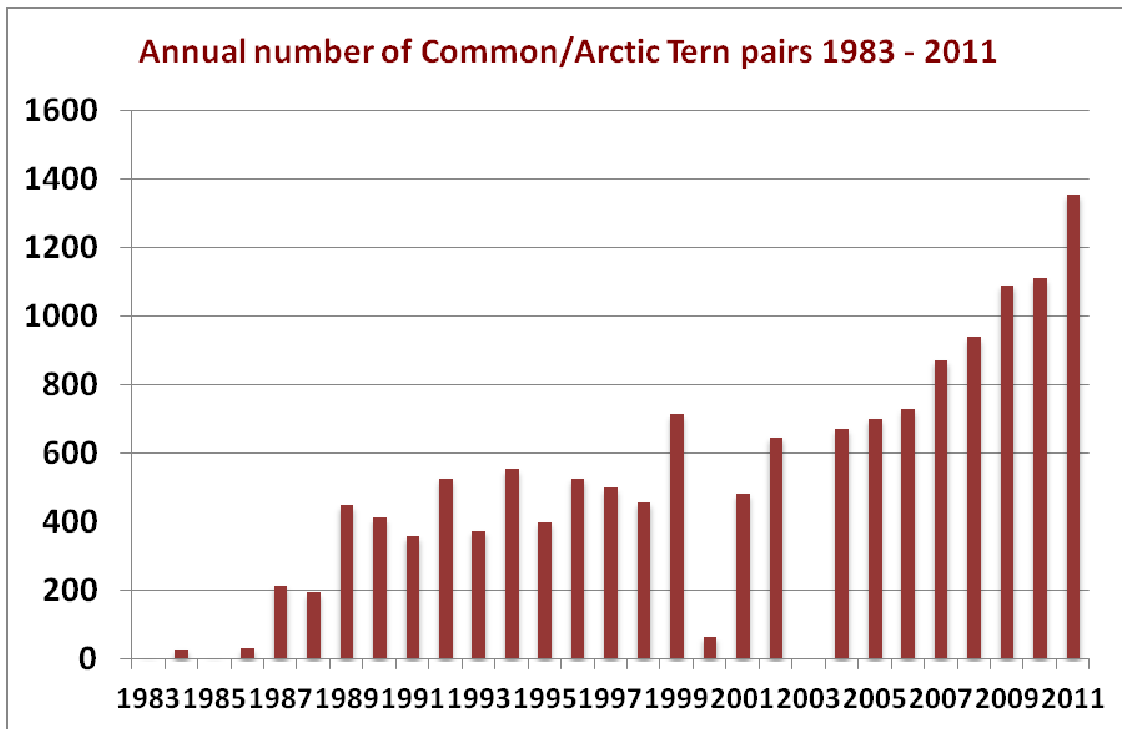
Note:

A common tern chick fostered by an adult roseate pair was ringed on the 24th June.
Ring number: **SR55823**

Ringing recoveries;

No ringing recoveries were received.

Numbers of Common/Arctic Tern pairs 1983-2011.



Little Terns

(Sterna albifrons)



Little tern chick 29th June

On the 29th June, a partial census of Little Terns was carried out on an island in Wexford Harbour, just north of Rosslare point.

27 were recorded with a mean clutch size of 1.95. However, 70 to 90 pairs were estimated to have bred.



Roseate Tern

(Sterna dougallii)



Adult Roseate Terns

Background

The Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii*, is the rarest breeding seabird in northern Europe (Cabot 1996) and is listed in Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive and in Appendix 2 of the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) and in Appendix 2 of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

Lady's Island Lake (Inish Island) holds the second largest Roseate Tern breeding colony in Ireland, (and Europe, excluding the Azores) Rockabill off the north Dublin coast being the largest.

Summary

A total of 155 breeding pairs of Roseate Terns were recorded on the southern end of Inish in 2011, an increase of 37 pairs (31%). The first eggs were recorded on the 9th May (4 days earlier than 2010 and the first chick hatched on the 3rd June.

Mean clutch size was 1.7 and hatching success was 86.5%.

25 chicks died prior to fledging and overall productivity was 1.3 chicks per egg-laying pair.

Nest sites used by Roseate Terns in colony B

Roseate Tern pairs occupied a total of 155 nest sites; 141 in boxes and 14 in open vegetation. Although 6 car tyres were provided, none were used.

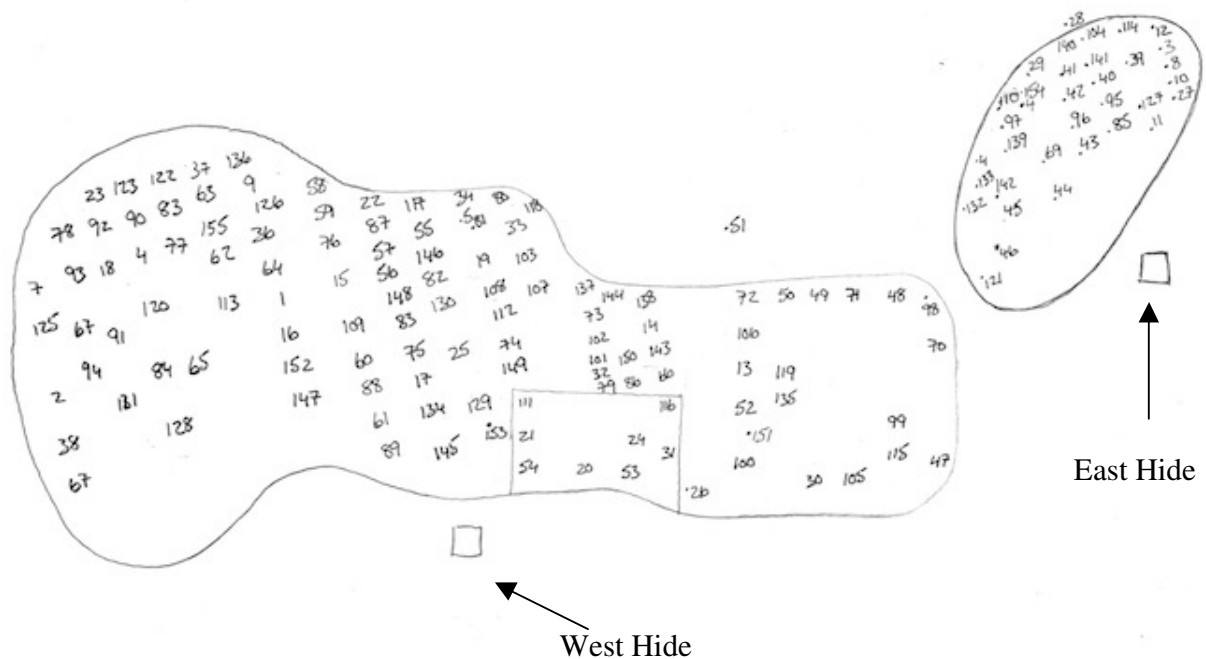
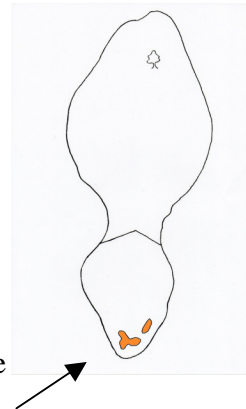
Two enclosures were constructed using ½ inch mesh chicken wire x 2 ft high, supported by bamboo canes. *(In 2010, seven enclosures were constructed, but these were de-constructed towards the end of the nesting season as they were deemed a hazard to some chicks moving through the colony).*

Site	No. of nests
Nest Box	141
Tyre	0
Open vegetation	14

Roseate Tern site map 2011 showing nests 1-155

Location of colony on the south of Inish

Inish



Productivity

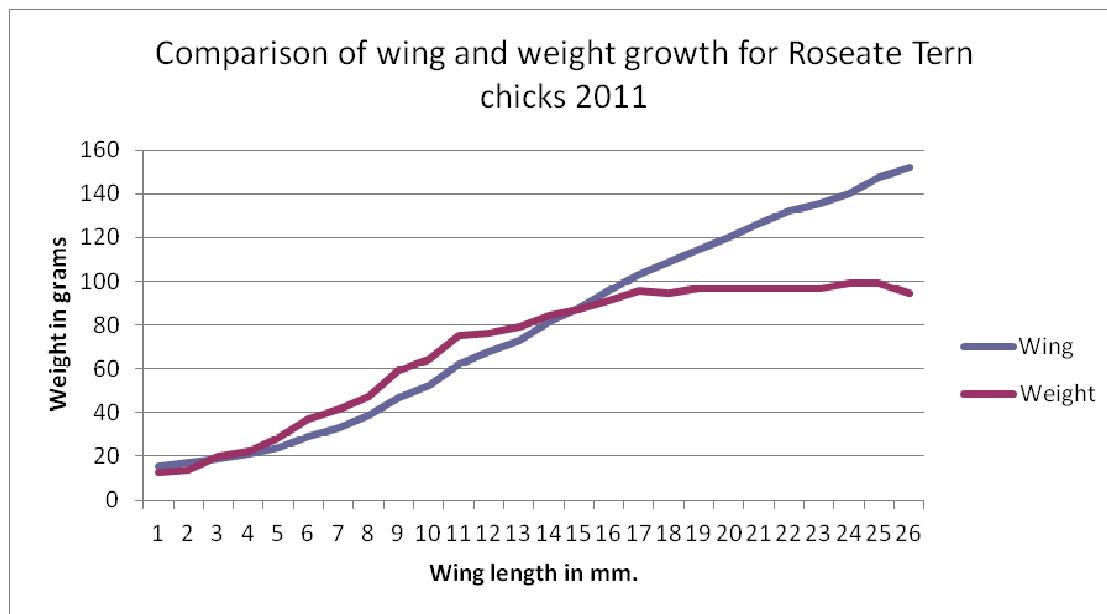
A total of 263 eggs were laid in 155 nests, giving a mean clutch size of 1.7. Of these 141 were laid in boxes, 14 in open vegetation. There were 30 cold eggs and 2 missing. 25 chicks were

found dead with a further 6 (un-ringed) missing without trace. Of the 231 eggs to hatch, 142 were 'A' chicks (first to hatch) and 89 were 'B' chicks (second to hatch). Fledging success rate was 1.29 per egg laying pair.

	Nests	Eggs	Cold/missing eggs	Chicks	Dead/Chicks	Clutch Size.	Success Rate.
2011	155	263	32	231	25	1.7	76%
2010	118	195	10	182	11	1.65	92%
2009	125	210	57	91	62	1.68	72%
2008	109	146	27	119	23	1.34	81.5%
2007	89	153	13	140	33	1.72	76.42%
2006	93	142	13	129	3	1.52	88.7%
2005	74	131	6	125	19	1.77	80.9%
2004	66	118	17	101	19	1.79	69.5%

Biometrics

Wing length and weights were recorded on all chicks over a 33day period from the first hatched chick on the 5th June to the 8th July when all surviving chicks had fledged. The weights of newly hatched chicks were measured on a Tanita 'digital' scales.



Mortality;

A total of 25 chicks died and 6 were recorded missing during the season. Of the known dead chicks, 7 were ringed 'A' chick's, three were ringed 'B' chicks and 15 were un-ringed. Only one (81BY) chick, 81BY was known to be depredated, with chewed remains found near the nest site.



Wing remains of depredated roseate chick

Ringling:

A total of 210 roseate tern chicks were ringed (with 'special ring' left leg, and a BTO ring 'right leg) between the 2nd June and the 20th July:

Roseate Tern Ringing		
BTO Ring Nos.	Roseate Special Ring Nos.	Total Rings
SR55611 to SR55700	AD11 to AD00	90
SR94101 to SR94200	01BY to 00BY	100
SR94200 to SR94220	10BZ to 20BZ	20



Roseate chick AD52

Ring Reading

Ring reading was carried out using Leica 20-60x telescopes.

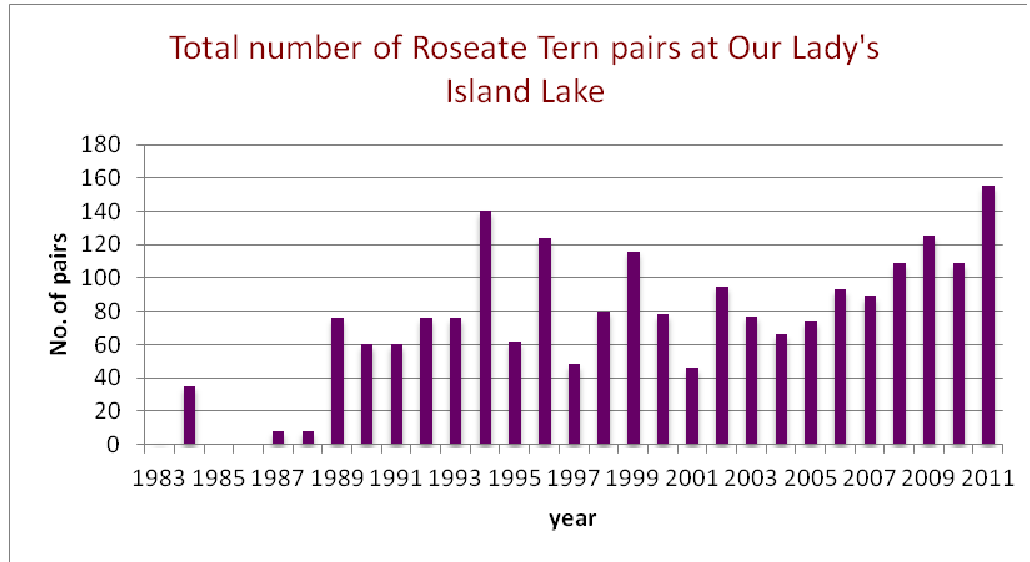
A total of 270 rings were read on adult birds and a further 73 ‘un-ringed’ adults were also matched to ringed adults or known nests. (An increase in ‘right leg’ ringed birds is likely due to birds displaced from Coquet Island on the northeast coast England).

00T0	13S9	24V4	30R9	3F09	4A33	65R0	83P7	95V4
00W0	14F1	24W0	30V3	3F21	4A33	67F1	83S4	95W5
01F1	14F9	24Y2	31F1	3F31	4A62	68P7	84F0	96F0
01W9	15F0	25F0	31V3	3F52	50F1	68R9	84P6	96V3
01X9	15F8	25T0	32F0	3F53	50V4	68W7	84R6	97F0
02R2	15P0	25W6	32F9	3F63	50X2	69F1	84V3	97W6
02S9	15P8	26F0	32S0	3F68	51F9	70V3	84X7	98F0
02T0	15R9	26F9	32V4	3F79	52R2	70V3	84Y0	98W9
02T1	15S8	26T0	33F9	40F0	53F9	70V4	85F0	99P5
03S9	15S9	26W0	33S0	41F0	53S9	71T4	85F1	99V8
03V3	16F0	27F0	33V9	41F1	54F0	72T1	85S9	99W3
05T0	16R9	27F1	33X6	41T0	54V3	72V3	85V3	D115
05T3	16V7	27T9	34T0	41V3	54V4	73F9	85W7	L570
06V3	17W8	27V3	35F9	41V4	54W8	74T4	86F0	NLF
07V3	17W9	27V4	35R4	42T0	55P9	75F0	86R8	SX00568
08F2	18F0	27V8	35S9	42V9	55S9	75V3	87F1	SX75 __3
08T1	18T0	27Y4	35V8	43F4	56F1	76F0	87S9	V260
09F1	18V4	28F0	36F1	43Y0	57F1	76V0	87S9	Y264
09S9	19P8	29F9	36W4	44F0	57W6	76V3	87V3	Y289
09T0	1D85	29T1	38R6	44F9	58F0	76V4	87Y0	Y329
09Y0	1E11	29V3	38V9	44T0	58V3	77V3	88F3	Y331
0A10	1H94	29V4	39F0	45F0	59F0	77V4	88W2	Y337
0A32	20F3	29V5	39F9	45P5	59F9	77Y7	89F0	Y346
0H31	20F9	29W5	39V3	45W8	59R4	78Y9	89F1	Y394
0H39	20V3	29Y0	39W2	45Y0	59R8	79F0	89F9	Y401
10F6	20W8	2A39	3A49	46W1	59V3	79T0	89R6	Y442
10S9	21F0	2A69	3A56	47W5	5A14	80F1	90F0	Y713
10V3	21F7	2A71	3A69	48F0	5A62	80R8	90F1	Y876
10W7	23F9	2D35	3A79	48V3	61F0	81F0	90W2	
10Y0	23S0	2D55	3A98	49F9	62F1	82F9	91S9	
12S9	23T0	2F10	3E09	49V3	62P7	82W6	91W2	
12V3	24T1	2F99	3F04	4A07	63F0	83F4	94Y0	

Note: grey highlight denotes 91 special rings on ‘right’ leg.

Year	Roseate Tern pairs
1983	1
1984	35
1985	0
1986	0
1987	8
1988	8
1989	76
1990	60
1991	60
1992	76
1993	76
1994	140
1995	62
1996	124
1997	48
1998	80
1999	116
2000	>78
2001	46
2002	95
2003	77
2004	66
2005	74
2006	93
2007	89
2008	109
2009	125
2010	118
2011	155

Numbers of Roseate Terns nesting on Inish from 1983 to 2011.



Roseate pair courtship

Case study.

Adult roseate tern pair fostering common tern chick;

On the 23rd June, common tern chick was noticed standing in close proximity to the entrance of a roseate nest box, while the adult roseate sat inside. Roseates will generally not tolerate any species close to their nest box. The pair (24WO and 95V4) at box 128 had one egg, which they incubated, but later abandoned. On a few occasions, the roseate adult exited the box and seemed act in a nurturing fashion towards the chick. Then, during a dread, the common chick was noted entering the box and remained inside when the roseate returned. However, the chick generally remained close to, but not in the box and tended to run into the vegetation surrounding it when threatened or during a dread.

The following day, the chick was fed the roseate and this continued until it fledged. It was observed on the southern tip of the island on the 14th July where it continued to be attended to by the roseate pair.



Roseate tern with fostered common tern chick.

Other species recorded during the project

A total of 15 pairs of Oystercatchers nested on Inish and a further three on Sgarbheen. Two pairs of Ringed Plovers nested on Inish with another two pairs on Sgarbheen. Only one ringed plover chick was observed on Sgarbheen, which is un-usual and may be perhaps due to predation by a hedgehog.

Only one redshank and two oystercatcher chicks were noted in late July.

At least six pairs of Shelduck, 18 pairs of Mallard and 20 Gadwall pairs nested.

One pair of Shovelers nested on the southwestern side and another pair on the middle-eastern side of Inish. A pair of Mute Swans nested on Inish and another pair in the reed-bed on the NW corner of the lake near Broadway.

The low water level caused problems for fringe nesters such as coot and moorhens. Most of the lakeshore had extensive dry, exposed reed-beds. 20 adult moorhens were recorded on the 27th July in northeastern corner, with only two juveniles noted. Six pairs of Great crested Grebes were recorded throughout the season, but no nests or chicks were observed.



Northeastern shore showing exposed dry reed fringes.

Waders:

69 Redshank were counted on the northeast side of lake on the 4th March

A flock of 447 non-breeding Black-tailed Godwits was counted on Inish on the 8th May.

150 Dunlin were counted on the 2nd June.

97 non-breeding Knot 23rd June and these remained through-out the season

Lesser yellowlegs on the 20th June.

Pectoral sandpiper on 22nd July.

Spotted sandpiper on 17th July

Green sandpipers on the 15th April, 22nd 23rd and 24th July.

One Curlew sandpiper was recorded on the 22nd April, two 26th April and one on the

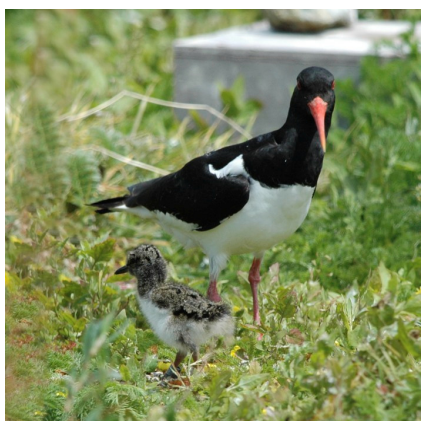
An Arctic Skua flew south along the west shore of Inish on the 10th May.

Up to five Little Gulls were present on several occasions throughout the season and observed roosting on Inish in the evenings.



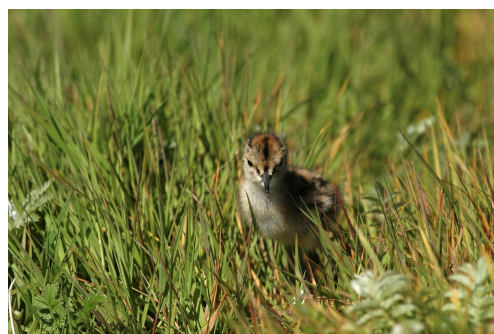
Mute Swan nest

Oystercatcher with chick



Ringed Plover chick

Redshank chick



Eight oystercatcher chicks, one redshank chick and one ringed plover chick were ringed between the 5th June and the 27th June.

Ringed Waders 2011

Oystercatcher Chicks Ring Numbers

5th June - 3 - FC19565/67

6th June - 1 - FC19568

16th June - 2 - FC19569/70

19th June - 2 - FC19571/72

Redshank Chicks Ring Numbers

18th May - 1 - DD57016

Ringed Plover Chicks Ring Numbers Sub-total Total

27th June - 1 - NW38201

Ringling Recoveries Received During 2011

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DD41385**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: 1 P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 14-Jun-2006

Site name: Lady's Island Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: Nat. Parks & Wildlife Service, 9099

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: 3 Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Finding date: 19-Oct-2006

Reg code: --- Place code: SX8957 Site name: Broadsands, Paignton, Devon, England

County code: GBDV Grid ref: SX8957 Co-ords: 50deg 24min N 3deg 34min W

Hab1: -- Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 79:28 Movement: --

Sight record by non-ringer Field Record

Remarks:

Duration: 127 days Distance: 280 km Direction: 136deg (SE)

Finder: Mr S Geary, 90 Coombe Vale Road, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 9EW

Reference 07012007SYA

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DB63556**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: - P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 06-Jun-2003

Site name: Lady's Island Lake Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: O J Merne, 906

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: - Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Finding date: 21-Jun-2007

Reg code: --- Place code: --- Site name: Seaton Point, Alnmouth, Northumberland, England

County code: GBNL Grid ref: NU2612 Co-ords: 55deg 24min N 1deg 35min W

Hab1: -- Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 2:01 Movement: WA

Freshly dead Bird Found

Remarks: On shore

Duration: 1476 days Distance: 475 km Direction: 42deg (NE)

Finder: Mr Nick Buxton, Helford, Tanners Lane, Shrewton, Wilts, SP3 4JT

Reference 21092007LJB

BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Tel 01842 750050 e: recoveries@bto.org w: www.bto.org/ringing
Registered Charity No 216652 (England & Wales, SC039193 (Scotland) Registered in England and Wales No 357284

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DB30109**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: - P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 15-Jun-1997

Site name: Lady's Island Lake Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: O J Merne, 906

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: 6 Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: C Act2: -

Finding date: 07-May-2007

Reg code: --- Place code: BROWNS Site name: Brownsea Island, Dorset, England

County code: GBDO Grid ref: SZ0188 Co-ords: 50deg 41min N 1deg 59min W

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 89:28 Movement: --

Sight record by a ringer Field Record

Remarks:

Duration: 3613 days Distance: 349 km Direction: 119deg (ESE)

Finder: Mr A M Taylor

Reference 09062007DISC

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DB30120**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: - P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 15-Jun-1997

Site name: Lady's Island Lake Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: O J Merne, 906

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: 4 Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: C Act2: -

Finding date: 08-Aug-2006

Reg code: COQ Place code: COQ Site name: Coquet Island, Amble, Northumberland, England

County code: GBNL Grid ref: NU2904 Co-ords: 55deg 20min N 1deg 33min W

Hab1: H1 Hab2: H2

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 3:01 Movement: --

Dead: Not fresh Bird Found

Remarks:

Duration: 3341 days Distance: 471 km Direction: 43deg (NE)

Finder: Nat. Hist. Soc. of Northumbria

Reference 30092006DISC

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DD41493**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: 1 P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 14-Jun-2006

Site name: Lady's Island Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: Nat. Parks & Wildlife Service, 9099

Finding details

Ring verified Age: - Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Finding date: 21-Jan-2007 (Report)

Reg code: --- Place code: --- Site name: Agbosome, Ghana

County code: GH00 Grid ref: ----- Co-ords: 6deg 5min N 1deg 2min E

Hab1: -- Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 0:01 Movement: --

Unknown Bird Found

Remarks:

Duration: 221 days Distance: 5170 km Direction: 173deg (S)

Finder: Sampson Sallah, Agerforme Community School, PO Box AZ 58, Agbosome PMR, Ghana

Reference 15072007KR

BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Tel 01842 750050 e: recoveries@bto.org w: www.bto.org/ringing
Registered Charity No 216652 (England & Wales, SC039193 (Scotland) Registered in England and Wales No 357284

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DB63689**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: - P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 06-Jun-2003

Site name: Lady's Island Lake Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: O J Merne, 906

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: 6 Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: C Act2: -

Finding date: 07-May-2007

Reg code: --- Place code: BROWNS Site name: Brownsea Island, Dorset, England

County code: GBDO Grid ref: SZ0188 Co-ords: 50deg 41min N 1deg 59min W

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 89:28 Movement: --

Sight record by a ringer Field Record

Remarks:

Duration: 1431 days Distance: 349 km Direction: 119deg (ESE)

Finder: Mr A M Taylor

Reference 26052007DISC

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern *Sterna caugek* Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DD40934**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: 1 P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 07-Jun-2005

Site name: Lady's Island Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: Nat. Parks & Wildlife Service, 9099

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: - Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Finding date: 06-Feb-2006

Reg code: --- Place code: --- Site name: Douke, Tabou, CÃ´te d'Ivoire

County code: PY00 Grid ref: ----- Co-ords: 4deg 25min N 7deg 21min W Accuracy 8

Hab1: -- Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 2:19 Movement: --

Freshly dead Hunted

Remarks:

Duration: 244 days Distance: 5310 km Direction: 181deg (S)

Finder: Mr Toto Kana, S/C de Mr Paul Hawerlander, B P 165, Tabou, Ivory Coast

Reference 26042007DP

BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Tel 01842 750050 e: recoveries@bto.org w: www.bto.org/ringing
Registered Charity No 216652 (England & Wales, SC039193 (Scotland) Registered in England and Wales No 357284

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DB03828**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: 0 P.alive: 0 Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 05-Jun-2000

Site name: Lady's Island Lake Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: A4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: O J Merne, 906

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: - Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Finding date: 05-Dec-2006 (Report)

Reg code: --- Place code: --- Site name: Lungj, Sierra Leone

County code: PH00 Grid ref: ----- Co-ords: 8deg 40min N 13deg 17min W

Hab1: -- Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 9:20 Movement: --

Alive, healthy: fate unknown Intentionally Taken

Remarks:

Duration: 2374 days Distance: 4878 km Direction: 188deg (S)

Finder: Mr D Woode, DFID Sierra Leone, 5 Off Spur Road, Wilberforce, Freetown, Sierra Leone,

Reference 15122006VK

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Sandwich Tern Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DN87544**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: 0 P.alive: 0 Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 03-Aug-1986

Site name: Inch Island Lake, Speenoge Region name: Donegal, Eire

County code: ERDO Co-ords: 55deg 3min N N/S 7deg 27min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: -- Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: K W Perry, 3364

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: - Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Finding date: 16-Dec-2006

Reg code: --- Place code: --- Site name: Hondarribia, Guipúzcoa, Spain

County code: ES02 Grid ref: ----- Co-ords: 43deg 23min N 1deg 50min W

Hab1: -- Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 2:01 Movement: WA

Freshly dead Bird Found

Remarks: On tideline

Duration: 7440 days Distance: 1358 km Direction: 163deg (SSE)

Finder: Mr W Haworth, 26 Old Greasby Road, Upton, Wirral, CH49 6LT

Reference 22032007DP

BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Tel 01842 750050 e: recoveries@bto.org w: www.bto.org/ringing
Registered Charity No 216652 (England & Wales, SC039193 (Scotland) Registered in England and Wales No 357284

Here are the details of a recovery of one of your birds.

Species: Sandwich Tern Scheme: GBT Ring no: **DD57507**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: 1 P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 14-Jun-2006

Reg code: LAD Place code: LAD Site name: Lady's Island, Wexford

County code: ERWEX Grid ref: IT1007 Co-ords: 52deg 12min N 6deg 23min W

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks:

Ringer: Nat. Parks & Wildlife Service, 9099

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: 6 Sex: - Sex meth: -

Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Finding date: 24-Aug-2011

Reg code: SES Place code: SES Site name: Seal Sands, Teesmouth, Stockton-on-Tees

County code: GBSOT Grid ref: NZ5225 Co-ords: 54deg 37min N 1deg 12min W

Hab1: H3 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: 310 mm. Weight: 237 g. Time: 2320hrs

Finding condition: 8:20 Movement: --

Controlled Intentionally Taken

Remarks:

Duration: 1897 days Distance: 436 km Direction: 52deg (NE)

Finder: Tees Ringing Group, 9143

Reference 05092011DISC

BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Tel 01842 750050 e: recoveries@bto.org w: www.bto.org/ringing
Registered Charity No 216652 (England & Wales, SC039193 (Scotland) Registered in England and Wales No 357284

Here are the details of a BTO-ringed bird that has been reported in your country.

Species: Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* Scheme: GBT Ring no: **XS76783**

Ringling details

Age: 1 Sex: Unknown Sex meth: - P.ringed: - P.alive: - Condition: -
Colour marks added: I Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Ringling date: 01-Jul-1996

Site name: Lady's Island Lake Region name: Wexford, Eire

County code: ERWX Co-ords: 52deg 12min N N/S 6deg 23min W E/W Accuracy

Hab1: H4 Hab2: --

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Remarks: Roseate special Y283

Ringer: O J Merne, 906

Finding details

Ring not verified Age: - Sex: - Sex meth: -
Colour marks added: - Metal marks added: - Act1: - Act2: -

Finding date: 15-Jul-2001

Reg code: --- Place code: --- Site name: Bird Island, Massachusetts, United States of America

County code: NA-- Grid ref: Co-ords: 41deg 40min N 70deg 43min W

Hab1: -- Hab2:

Biometrics: Wing: -- mm. Weight: -- g. Time: --hrs

Finding condition: 79:28 Movement: --

Sight record by non-ringer Field Record

Remarks:

Duration: 1840 days Distance: 4997 km Direction: 257deg (WSW)

Finder: Ian Nisbet, Address unknown, e: icnisbet@verizon.net

Reference 30092011DXP