



July 2018

Dear T.A.G. supporters,

Unfortunately this newsletter is not one I especially wanted to be writing. Due to circumstances beyond the Trust's control, no tagging work will take place this year. This also means we sadly will not be able to retrieve the geolocators from the birds we fitted them to last year. However, the geolocators do have a two year lifespan so we will have the chance to recapture the birds next summer (2019) to review any migration data we get back.

Due to this year's failure and the live tags working poorly last summer the Trust will be left with many big questions regarding the T.A.G. project. After three years of consecutive annual data from tagging there will be a year gap in our information. It is now up to the Trust, with the Ramsar steering group (consisting of independent representatives including the RSPB and States of Jersey) must decide whether it is best to only place the tags every three years or 'reset the clock' and continue annually.

The previous data will have reduced usefulness given the gap of a year (for statistical analysis and modelling we need consecutive years of data or systematically collected a set number of years).

We would also like to look into potential opportunities for new university studies using the data. T.A.G. has contributed to four scientific papers now, but if we are to continue collecting data from the colonies we need a strong reason to do so

Seabird bycatch is the accidental killing of seabirds, predominantly by longline fishing. However Gannets have been shown to be especially vulnerable to death in trawl net entanglement. You can help by choosing responsibly sourced fish.



The project was originally in response to changing usage in the Channel, but it time to assess these threats again.

Please be assured the Trust intends to carry out all the work we have committed to next year, but these are ongoing questions the Trust must answer.

The geolocation data will be new and separate so again it would be great to get a university student to analyse anything we get back.

We will discuss how we will move forward with the rest of the team that contribute to the T.A.G. project – including the University of Liverpool and British Trust for Ornithology and Alderney's Ramsar steering group.

Thank you so much for your support of the T.A.G. project – without you the project, and the accompanying scientific research would not be possible. We look forward to updating you on the project early next year. If you have any questions or comments please get in touch with Claire peopleandwildlife@alderneywildlife.org

And if you are in Alderney make sure you go and see the Gannets before they leave in October!

