



May 2019

Dear T.A.G. supporters,

Sorry for the long wait for information on the project. After the disappointing news that T.A.G. was not to go ahead in 2018 we are now well into the planning stages of tagging for 2019.

We hope to get onto Ortac in late June; to once again place tags on 10 birds which for around 6 weeks will live-transmit the bird's movements as they forage for fish. You will be able to follow the birds here:

www.teachingthroughnature.co.uk/t-a-g watching where the birds go and learning more about their behaviours. We also still have 10 geolocators on birds on the Ortac colony, so as was planned last summer, we will try and retrieve them to discover where our 'Alderney gannets' go in the winter season.

While they are one the colony our team will also be on the lookout for birds that have died through entanglement in rope and line. Our monitoring from land has revealed that 13 birds have been killed so far this year by entanglement. We will collect any of the dead birds we can in order to perform necropsies, which the Alderney Animal Welfare Society will carry out. We hope this will show whether the dead birds have also ingested plastics, and if so what kind.

Gannet hovering over the sea to feed, April 2018



A scientific paper recently published showed that there are 8,737 pairs of Gannets on Les Etacs and Ortac. Their numbers are still increasing but appear to be reaching a plateau, possible because there is less free space for new nests on the colonies.



Gannets fighting over plastic, March 2018

Before plastics became so prevalent in the marine environment the gannets on Alderney would make their nests from seaweed, other colonies in the UK will use grass depending on what is around. It is because the birds are not fussy about what they use to nest build that they often end up gathering plastic material from the surface of the sea, instead of seaweed.

Thank you for your support of the T.A.G. project – without you the project, and the accompanying scientific research would not be possible. If you have any questions or comments regarding T.A.G. or sponsoring a gannet please get in touch with Claire peopleandwildlife@alderneywildlife.org or 01481 822 935

We use your donations to help cover the cost of the boat, to go towards the tags and to bring over Dr Phil Atkinson, the principal ecologist at the BTO, who leads on the science of T.A.G.

To donate via PayPal go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yynf78rw>
Or see our sponsorship packages: <https://tinyurl.com/l5zadv4>

