



IRD Duhallow RaptorLIFE Newsletter – Autumn 2017



Autumn has definitely arrived with hedgerows bursting with blackberries, rose hips, crab apples, hazel nuts and seeds. As usual it is a busy time of year for the RaptorLIFE team. The following provides a short update on what we have been up to.

Corridor between SPA and SAC

Work has recommenced on creating a feeding corridor for Hen harrier and a riparian buffer zone at the source of the River Blackwater. This corridor connects two Natura 2000 sites - the Munster Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Mullaghereik/Stacks Special Protected Area (SPA). The conifers have been extracted, brush removed, and a 10m wide buffer planted with native black alder and rowan trees.

project farms and these surveys will provide baseline information for these habitats.



Small mammal trapping

The second round of live capture small mammal trapping is complete on our project farms. A big thank you to our farmers for letting us work on their land. Small mammals like voles and mice are prey for hen harriers and other raptors. We are implementing a range of actions to increase the amount of prey on our

Controlled burning workshop

Cork Wildfire Co-operative Group, of which RaptorLIFE is a partner, organised a vegetation management and controlled burning demonstration at Millstreet Country Park. The demonstration was conducted to show landowners how to burn safely for the sustainable management of our uplands. RaptorLIFE were proud to participate in this

initiative and plan on putting into practice some of the techniques we learnt on our project farms. The demonstration was well attended with a good turnout of farmers, along with the staff from the Forest Service, Teagasc, Garda, Fire Service, IFA, Cork Co Co, DAHG, Coillte, CE and FBD.



Meeting of Ireland's six LIFE projects

Ireland's 6 LIFE+ projects came together at the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun, Dublin, home of the host WISER LIFE project. It was inspiring to see the work carried out there by the WISER LIFE project and then to hear first-hand of Ireland's other LIFE+ projects, with their achievements and issues for a transfer of knowledge. Well done WISER LIFE for an eye opening day!



Fencing of river banks

One of the actions to protect our freshwater habitats and species has been fencing of river banks. By excluding livestock from the river, it reduces the amount of pollutants and silt entering into the water. We fence back 2 metres with the cattle able to graze under the fence line, but which still leaves enough of a buffer zone to allow vegetation to grow. This autumn, our flood friendly fencing successfully withstood the colossal flooding on the River Araglin during Storm Brian.



Further information

Make sure to keep an eye out for future events hosted at IRD Duhallow in Newmarket. You can find out what's on by checking our Facebook and website pages (addresses listed below).

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IRD Duhallow's LIFE projects would like to acknowledge and thank all of the landowners, supporters and volunteers for their assistance with the projects to date.

