

# IRD Duhallow RaptorLIFE Newsletter – Autumn 2018

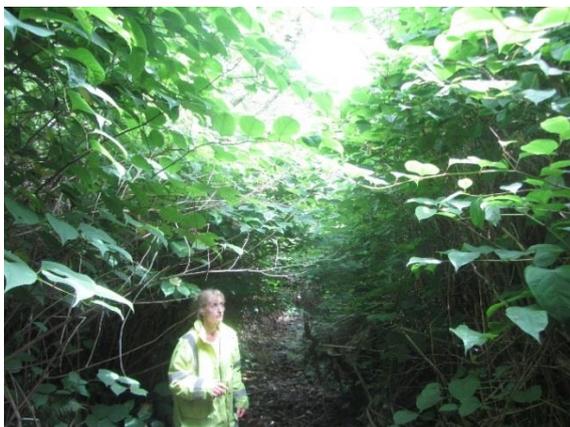


*Autumn has been an extremely busy time of the year for the RaptorLIFE team. The following provides a short update on what we have been up to.*

**Treatment of the Japanese Knotweed** continued well into October with the mild weather, treating newly reported stands etc. The number of stands having been treated reached over 950. This year showing dividends of the success of the treatment, with some stands having died completely or only < 30% cover of the original stand. All stands will require ongoing monitoring, as the plant can lie dormant. New stands are still being reported. Roads within the project area of Duhallow, east Kerry and west Limerick were treated, as well as the Owentaraglin River and Blackwater River up to the confluence of the Araglin. Also infested tributaries in these areas were also targeted.

The plant was treated with a minimal amount of glyphosate. Roundup Gold, is the only permitted chemical allowed near watercourses, to protect vulnerable freshwater ecosystems. It may take up to 3-5 years of repeated treatments to

**Himalayan balsam removal** finished for this year, with good success in the lower reaches of the Blackwater of the project area, while the more difficult vegetated areas remained arduous to clear the balsam from. Some balsam has been discovered and removed from the River Owentaraglin.



**Heather regeneration** is taking place now with the crews reaping heather seeds for regenerating heather in a clear-felled area on the Blackwater corridor. This area was clear-felled a year ago of Sika Spruce, with native trees remaining: Rowan, Alder and Willow.



**Controlled Burn and Vegetation Management Workshop** at Millstreet Country Park, was organised by Cork Wildfire Co-operative Group, of which RaptorLIFE is a partner. The demonstration was to show landowners how to burn safely for the sustainable management of our uplands. Dept. Over 70 farmers attended and while the day itself was clear, the rain that fell on the preceding days prevented a burn taking place. The LIFE project gave a presentation and a flailing demo on the day. It was decided that it was too hit and miss to burn on a set date, that going forward there will be a controlled burn within a few days' notice once the weather/ground conditions are favourable. This burn would then be videoed and film used at any other workshops.



**Fencing of river banks** and excluding livestock from the river, reduces the amount of nutrients and silt entering into the water, therefore protecting the water and its species. Fencing back 2 metres allows a buffer zone of vegetation to grow, which in turn stabilises the banks. Our flood friendly fencing successful withstood the flooding on the River Araglin during Storm Diane.



#### Further information

Find out what's on by checking our Facebook and website pages (addresses listed below).

- **Phone:** +353 (0) 2960633;
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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.

