Author: Contact Address: Phone Contact: Email Contact: Margaret Reilly, Louth Nature Trust 29 Thomas Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth. 086 8625901 sandra@louthnaturetrust.org info@louthnaturetrust.org www.louthnaturetrust.org

Web Site

2010 Report for the Little Tern Conservation Project at Baltray, Co. Louth.



Contents	Page
Summary	3
Little tern summary table	3
Background	4
Conservation	4
Fledged chart	5
Introduction	5
Site description	5
Site map	6
Ecology	6
Project management	
Site access	6
Storage	7
Weather	7
Fencing	7
Signage	8
Losses	9
Threats & potential predators	10
Wardening	13
Monitoring	14
Numbers	15
Nesting	15
Notes & observations	16
Changes in behaviour when hatching	16
Importance of preserving first nests and eggs	16
Chick movements and protection	17
Fencing issues	17
Expenditure	17
Human resources	18
Louth Nature Trust	18
Information & publicity	18
Acknowledgements	20

Summary

- A team from Louth Nature Trust consisting of Sandra McKeever and Margaret Reilly (Joint Co-ordinators), Peter Phillips and Aine Walsh organised the Little Tern Conservation Project at Baltray in 2010.
- There were 43 breeding pairs this year and last year (in contrast to 21 in 2007 and 35 in 2008).
- 96 chicks fledged from Baltray (in contrast to 94 in 2009, 41 in 2007 and 29 in 2008)
- The only loss was one adult to a sparrowhawk and one nest which was well outside the nesting enclosure.
- If the 43 nests, seven were outside the enclosed area.
- The project is operated by Louth Nature Trust with funding from both the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Heritage Council.
- €8,000 capital funding for this project was obtained from NPWS they also provided quite a lot of wardening, throughout the duration of the project.

 €12,000 grant was obtained from the Heritage Council and this was mostly used to pay wardens.
- A mixture of voluntary and paid wardening was used throughout the project.

	Breeding adult pairs	Nests	Eggs	Chicks
Total	43	44	100	96
Abandoned		0	0	
Infertile etc		2	2	
Lost to Tide		0	0	
Predated		1	2	
Hatched				96
Fledged				96

Little tern summary 2010 project

Background

The little tern (sterna albifrons) is Ireland's rarest breeding tern species with a population of around 200 pairs (Hannon et al. 1997). The little tern's nest is little more than a shallow scrape in the shingle in which they lay their eggs.

Having spent the winter off the west coast of Africa, little terns migrate to Europe to breed, arriving in Ireland from late April. A clutch of one to three eggs is laid in late May or June. The incubation period is around 21 days. At about 14 days chicks make their first attempts at flight, but do not fully fledge until about 28 days. Little terns leave their colony in August, departing Ireland in September.



Little Tern adult

Conservation

Threats to little terns include human disturbance, loss of suitable habitat and flooding from extreme tides and storms. Predation by foxes, hooded crows, magpies, rats and raptors is another significant threat to fragile breeding colonies. In some instances predation can reduce the breeding productivity to zero.

The 1984 and 1995 All-Ireland tern surveys showed that the number of breeding little terns had declined from 257 to 174 pairs. Recent estimates put the national breeding population at 250 pairs (Kilcoole little tern report, 2006)

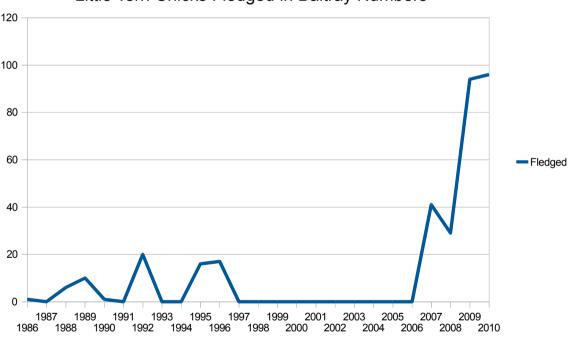
Little terns are an Annex 1 species under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), thus EU member states are required to take special conservation measures to ensure that little terns remain at a favourable conservation status.

They are also classified by BirdLife International as SPEC 3-: a 'Species with global populations not concentrated in Europe, but which have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe' (Tucker & Heath, 1994).

On a national level they are classified as a rare and localised breeder (Coveney et al., 1993) and as vulnerable (Whilde, 1993).

Introduction

Historically little terns at Baltray have undergone a series of extremely poor breeding seasons interspersed with productivity hovering just above zero - see fledged nos. chart below. Principally, breeding productivity of the colony was hampered by a combination of disturbance and predation by a range of nest predators. It is from this point that the project at Baltray began in 2007. This report will discuss the events at the project site and the management strategies employed to maximize the productivity of the little tern colony at Baltray during the 2010 project.

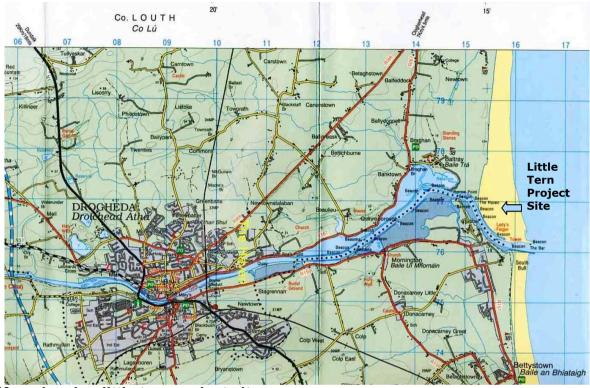


Little Tern Chicks Fledged in Baltray Numbers

Site description

Little terns at Baltray breed in an area known as the Haven. The colony is situated within the boundary of the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Area (SPA). As a consequence of winter storms the beach at the Haven changes dramatically year on year. A combination of vegetation encroachment and wave dynamics act together to shape the topography of the area. The breeding site is approximately 300m long x 50m wide. The area suitable for nesting was larger than last year. The entire site was observed for a week after the little terns began prospecting to see which areas they were favouring. They were using the entire

shingle area, and it was decided to enclose most of it starting from close to the Boyne wall and stretching northward, to reduce the probability of breeding failure caused by mammalian predators and to protect them from human disturbance. The specific nest sites chosen did not have a particular pattern, i.e. little terns nested in high and low areas.



Map showing little tern project site

Ecology of little terns at Baltray

The little tern's nest is little more than a shallow scrape in the shingle in which they lay their eggs. They have very specific requirements for nesting and this area is suitable because of the presence of a ridge of shingle and its proximity to the river Boyne. They require fresh water fish to feed their young during the first few days of their life; they also require fresh water for drinking and bathing. Their chief prey is small fish - particularly sand eels, which they catch from the sea.

Project management

Site access

The local landowner provided us with keys to the gates, through which the breeding area of the shingle beach could be accessed. Since it is quite a distance to this site, the co-operation and support from the landowner was vital from a logistical point of view.

Storage

A storage container was rented for the duration of the project and proved to be invaluable as we could safely leave equipment there which allowed the night time wardens to have access to necessary equipment such as torches and lamps.

Weather and shelter

2010 proved to be a much better summer than the previous three years, with a good spell of sunshine in May and June, though July was quite unsettled. Temperatures were generally in the high teens or low twenties. A portacabin and portaloo were hired at the end of May when wardening began and retained until the end of August. This was essential as we put overnight wardening in place at that time.



Portacabin & storage container

Fencing

The first sighting of little terns in Baltray was on the 22nd April. To alert the public, notices were erected at all approaches to the beach prior to the commencement of the project. Following a period of observation (to ascertain the most likely nesting area), fencing was erected on the 8th May. A string cordon was put on the outside the nesting area. 5' wooden posts were used along with blue baler twine, we used 8' posts on the seaside. We attached coloured streamers at intervals to make it more visible to the public.

The day before the fence was erected, a JCB dug a trench around the shingle area to be enclosed. The area was divided into four zones and each zone was enclosed separately. The weather was quite breezy and we found that the trench had filled

with sand overnight so we had to dig the trenches by hand which added to the workload that day.

Chicken wire was used on the all but the east side of the enclosure. 5' posts were erected in the trench and 4' x 1" chicken wire was stapled to the posts. The wire was buried approximately 6" in the trench and curved outwards to deter burrowing predatory animals. All new wire was used. Zone four which was most northerly, was not fully enclosed. The string cordon surrounded it and netting wire went partway on the inside. Little Terns did not nest there so it was left partly enclosed. It was very useful as it acted as a buffer zone so that people and dogs were well away from the nesting terns when they approached from the north side of the beach and this saved us having to go up there many times daily to ask people to keep a distance from the nesting birds.

Each of the other three enclosed zones was fenced with electric fencing, using 4 rows of six strand wire on the north, south and west sides and using six rows on the east side as the electric fencing was the sole protection on this side. Plastic electric fence posts were used and these were easily inserted into the sand immediately outside the chicken wire. The plastic posts were attached to wooden posts at intervals to strengthen them. Each of the three zones had a separate electric fencer and this was securely placed in a waterproof bag and buried beneath the sand. Over-ground switches were discretely wired from the fencer to wooden posts and these were used for turning them on and off. As we could not get an earth on the beach, we set up every second row of wire as an earth and every other row as live, we also used the chicken wire as an earth. This meant that an electric shock would be administered when earth and live were touched at the same time. The electric fence was on at all times and checked at least once every day.

A leg was put on the most northerly point of the fence pointing towards the sea when hatching began. This consisted of wooden posts and string, with signs asking walkers to keep as far as possible out from the enclosure as chicks had moved out on the seaside of it.

To prevent avian predators using the wooden posts as perches, we attached inverted cut plastic bottles on top of each post. Consequently if a bird attempted to land, the bottles would not support their weight - this worked very well as a deterrent.

Seven nests were outside the enclosure. One of these was well north and was not successful, we assume that it was predated. The other six nests were on the east side of the enclosure but were close to the fence and survived.

Signage

Signs were prepared, and to cater for non-English speaking people, some were designed using symbols and pictures. These were erected at all entrances to the area, on the northern end of the beach and all around the nesting enclosure. As the signs made by ourselves did not wear well, we had signs professionally printed and these should have a much longer life.

Two large $1m \ge 1m$ full colour interpretative signs were erected, one at the end of Baltray village at the approach to the Haven and the second further on at the main parking area beside the locked gate.

Signs were put at the locked gate and at the entrance to the Haven giving a little tern update on nest, egg and chick numbers.



Typical sign

Losses

Losses this year were thankfully very small.

- One nest with two two eggs was predated, it was well north of the nesting enclosure.
- One egg didn't hatch and one egg partly hatched and the chick was dead inside.
- A sparrowhawk took one adult little tern. It must not have been part of a breeding pair as there was no effect on the eggs or chicks.

The low level of losses can be attributed in large part to the 24 hour wardening. As the first clutch of eggs was intact, hatching happened early and many nests that

most likely would have been washed away by the spring tide in July were already hatched and the chicks had moved away from the nest.

The relatively good summer was a good help as the temperatures were higher than the last three years and the eggs and chicks would not have needed as much incubation or brooding. This may account for the high number of eggs that hatched.



Little tern adult chasing away gull (photo by Andrew Kelly)

Threats and potential predators

Predator control: - Predator control continued this year with the help of experienced hunters. This started in early May and made a big difference to the number of hooded crows in the area. Despite the presence of larsen traps crows continued to patrol the area. When a volunteer was present on site hooded crows kept away. Combining both management strategies ensured that there was no predation by hooded crows during the 2010 project.

Spring tides: - The spring tides are always a threat to the little tern colony. Electric fencing was the only fencing on the eastern side of the enclosure. The spring tides in May and June did not damage the fence and by the time there was a damaging spring tide in July, the project was coming towards an end and most of the electric fence was not repaired. Only three nests remained at that time and the tide did not reach them.

One nest was moved as it would have been in danger of being washed away and this was successful.

Hooded crows: - These corvids are extremely adept predators and following on from the 2007 project when they predated 24 eggs in a single day, wardens were asked to be particularly vigilant in watching out for them. They were not particularly troublesome and seemed to keep away, perhaps knowing that they would not be tolerated in the area.

Dogs: - Almost all dogs were with their owners and we approached the owners in a friendly manner. We explained about the project and asked that the dogs be kept on leads when in the general area and to avoid the enclosed area of the beach altogether.

There was a huge amount of co-operation on this and most dog owners used a different route for the entire project. The volunteer presence was vital as we needed to approach dog owners on a daily basis as they either emerged on to the beach at the project entrance, or walked up the beach from the Termonfeckin area.

We noticed that when the volunteer warden was seen monitoring all movements in the area, most walkers with and without dogs then tended to veer away from the nesting area.

There were a small number of people who came out with their dogs not on leads and not properly under control. Two people who regularly walked their six dogs around 5:30 am normally walked an alternative route but again, were seen quite close to the enclosure, but fortunately the dogs did not enter.

Foxes: - We were very watchful for any traces of this predator, conscious that an entire colony of chicks could be wiped out in one night. The separate zones were set up so that if a fox or other predator gained access to the enclosure, it would be restricted to a small area only.

A fox and fox prints were seen at night or early morning but the night wardens who were mostly gun club members, brought their trained dogs and patrolled with them at night and that may have been helpful in keeping them away.

Stoats: - There was a family of stoats on the golf course at Baltray and stoats were seen around the enclosure during the day. One mid morning a stoat entered the nesting enclosure close to the river and the warden had to go in to chase it out. Unfortunately the stoats can run through the 1" chicken wire, so we need a wire with a smaller mesh. We obtained a licence from the NPWS to trap but none were caught.

Raptors: - Kestrels were seen in the area but the human presence most likely kept them at bay. While they flew over the enclosure, they seemed to hunt in the dunes. A sparrowhawk frequented the area and took one adult little tern.

Rooks:- Flocks of rooks were troublesome. They would land in and around the nesting enclosure and could be difficult to see due to vegetation. The wardens were kept busy chasing them off. These visits eased off after a couple of weeks.

Other predators: - A couple of hedgehogs were found and re-located.

Quads:- Up to five quads were seen on the beach at one time, they would decimate any nests there. Unusually ringed plovers seemed late nesting and this may be due to the quads as any nests that were there before the project began were likely to have been destroyed. The marks of the quads were evident on the beach when it was being enclosed and they continued to drive right up to the boyne wall until a volunteer approached them and asked them to keep away from the project site. Ringed plovers nested successfully within the nesting enclosure but nests outside the enclosure were much less likely to succeed due is large part to the continued use of the beach by quads. This is an illegal activity and the NPWS are aware of this though it is diffcult to catch the culprits.

Walkers: - We also had a huge amount of co-operation from walkers, many of whom changed their normal routes to completely avoid the area. Again the volunteer presence was essential and much time was spent in directing walkers away from the area. In spite of all the signage, some people approached the enclosure. It would be fair to say that over 95% of people co-operated when approached by the volunteers. Quite a few walkers walked up along the string cordon on the beach side, probably to avoid the soft sand and this disturbed the nesting birds. We used 8' posts on the east side this year which meant that we could put it further out from the enclosure. Walkers tend to walk right along the cordon so it should be put further out so that the nesting birds are not disturbed. Half way through the project, 'legs' were added to the string cordon going out towards the sea and signage asking people to walk far out due to chicks coming out on to the beach. A jogger who ran daily on the beach would go inside the cordon regularly and then run off when the warden approached.



Newly born chick



Older chick with adult

Wardening

The first eggs were seen on the 25th of May and wardening was in operation from the 27th May on a 24 hour basis. Part time paid wardens covered from 6pm to 9am and volunteer wardens covered from 9am to 6pm as we did not have sufficient funds to pay for full time wardening.

A cabin, storage container and portaloo were rented which were essential with the long hours of wardening.

The volunteer wardens were essential for the 9 am to 6 pm shifts and some were happy to do some later shifts which helped to eke out our funds over a longer period of time. The passion, dedication and commitment of these volunteers cannot be overstated. These people gave up their time, day in day out, week in week out, without complaint, their presence and co-operation was vital to the success of this project. The NPWS through their rangers gave much needed wardening time to the project. While our database of volunteers expands year on year, many are not available for one reason or another and the number of available volunteers has reduced making it difficult to get cover for every day. The availability of NPWS rangers for wardening, made a huge difference to the running of the project and was very much appreciated.

The volunteer presence on the beach was essential. The hooded crows are very opportunistic and would fly in if the beach was unmanned. Some walkers would go inside the cordon if they thought that there was no-one around. It was clear to us that a presence was needed on the beach in close proximity to the enclosure so that immediate action could be taken at any moment, i.e. that the volunteers were within

striking distance of any predator that appeared. Because of the length of the enclosure, it was difficult for one volunteer to adequately warden the area.

Volunteers liaised with the public, gave updates on the project, kept walkers and their dogs away and watched out for and chased off predators such as hooded crows and rooks. Volunteers were not involved in monitoring the nesting, they stayed outside the cordon, only entering to chase predators and did not enter the enclosure.

The part time paid wardens were: Maurice Conaghy, Mick Conaghy, Tony Glass, Gary McMahon and Jimmy Wilton.

Monitoring

Monitoring is a very time consuming but important part of the project and was carried out by Sandra and Margaret. It was important to ascertain the losses as well as the successes. Knowing how many eggs were laid, how many were hatched, how many were lost and the reasons for those losses, was essential.

It began when the little terns started prospecting and courtship. Hours were spent observing them and noting possible nests. Nests were marked and co-ordinates taken so that they could be easily located by ourselves. The markers used were stones and debris already on the beach so that the nests would not be too easily seen by others and to prevent crows locating them. The nests were checked daily during the time that eggs were being laid.

When hatching started, the nests were again checked daily until hatching was complete but disturbance was kept to a minimum. We observed nests daily to ensure that all nests were still being tended. Monitoring the numbers of chicks was much more difficult as they moved around on the beach and were hidden much of the time, and were therefore very difficult to locate. Binoculars and telescopes were invaluable for observing from a distance. As hatching continued it became impossible to do full counts on the chicks especially as they used seaweed washed in close to the enclosure to hide in. We therefore watched out for any incidents where predators might take chicks and checked the perimeter of the fence after spring tides to check for chicks that might have drowned.



Adult with sand-eel

Numbers

Numbers of little terns present at Baltray built up to approximately 100. In July many other terns congregate on the beach and these are a mixture of sandwich, common, arctic and roseate terns.

Nesting

The first nests were discovered on 25th May. There were 27 nests with 60 eggs at the end of May, 39 nests with 92 eggs by the11th June and the last egg was laid on the 7th July.

15 nests had three eggs, 26 nests had two eggs and three nests had one egg. There were two nests with two eggs that only hatched one egg, one of the eggs was likely to have been infertile and the second egg partly hatched but the chick was dead.

The first chick hatched on the 13th June, there were 38 by the 16th and 89 at the end of the month with four eggs to hatch. The last two eggs hatched on the 24th July.

The chicks were impossible to count, particularly as there were mounds of seaweed washed in very close to the enclosure and they spent most of their time in it.

Luckily the little terns are very noisy when threatened so wardens would be aware of a problem and check any potential predator around to see if it had taken a chick. We therefore assume that no chicks were lost to predators. After spring tides, we checked the seaside perimeter in case any chicks had drowned but again, none were found.

Notes & observations

A large area was enclosed at the beginning of the project this year and this worked well. The most northerly section was not completed due in part to lack of time and the fact that there was no nesting in that area. During the nesting period, this section acted as a valuable buffer zone so that even though beach users may have been close to that section, they were still a good distance from the nesting birds. This reduced the amount of time spent by the wardens asking people to keep a distance from the nests.

Ringed plovers benefit greatly from the project as they also nest on the beach. Skylarks also benefit as they nest in the vegetation and our presence affords them protection from many predators.

Change in little tern behaviour when hatching commenced

The little terns became much more aggressive when their chicks had hatched and were less tolerant. It became necessary to keep a greater distance from the enclosure. The little tern adults were more aggressive than seen before and they bombed the wardens on a number of occasions even though they were well outside the enclosure, they also swooped down on people even though they might be a considerable distance away. It became necessary to warn wardens to wear head protection and hats were worn when going in to check nests.

Importance of preserving the first nests and eggs

It has been a priority to bring the first clutch of eggs to a successful fledging. 2007 and 2008 saw large predations of eggs while in 2009 and 2010, by and large, the first clutch of eggs was successfully hatched. This is important for a number of reasons:

- The egg numbers tend to be higher in the first clutch i.e. two to three eggs, whereas there are generally less eggs laid in subsequent attempts i.e. one to two.
- If chicks fledge from the first laid clutch, they have longer to develop thereby giving them a much stronger chance of successful migration.
- Early hatching means that less eggs tend to be lost to spring tides.
- All our resources go into protecting the first clutch so full time wardening is in place when nesting begins. We do not have sufficient funding to continue the paid wardening until August, so if the first clutch is not successful, there will be a second laying which means that the project will run for a longer period of time but night time wardening could not be continued.

Chick movements & protection

The little tern chicks usually leave the nest after the second day and tend to move towards the eastern side of the enclosure and after about a week are likely to be found outside the it on the eastern and northern side, often moving inside the enclosure at night time or during full tides. While this seems to leave them vulnerable, there have been no losses from this behaviour and as it is clearly a strong instinct in both chicks and parents to move towards the sea, no preventative action will be taken to stop them. This year it was noticeable that chicks often left the nest within 24 hours of hatching, perhaps because of the warm weather.

Fencing issues

At the end of the 2008 project all netting wire went to the landfill as we found that it is not suitable for re-using. All new wire was used in 2009 and had become very rusted by the end of the project. We need to source a different type of wire that will do the same job but that may be reused. Mostly new electric fencing wire was used as it is important that we minimise problems with it so that we avoid unnecessary disturbance to the birds.

The decision to use only electric fencing on the eastern side worked out well. We found that:

- Damage by spring tides was much less and was more easily and quickly repaired, thereby causing much less disturbance to the nesting birds.
- The taking down of the fence was much less work as there was no chicken wire to dig out of the sand.
- We had no losses to ground predators.
- A leveret was seen in the enclosure and their prints were seen inside the southern end of the enclosure. They gained entry on the eastern side where they could easily run under the wire. While this did not cause us any problems, we are conscious that the eastern side may be vulnerable to small mammals.
- The little terns walk under the electric fencing, which does them no harm as they would need to touch two strands in order to get a shock, we need to consider this when trying to make the fencing as secure as possible. People tend to walk close to the string cordon and we will need to extend 'legs' on each end going out towards the sea along with signage so that walkers are encouraged to keep further away from the nesting enclosure. A lot of time was spent asking people, often with dogs to move away from the area.

Expenditure

The NPWS made €8,000 available for the 2010 project which was greatly appreciated. This covered fencing, signage costs, hire of a portaloo, storage container and cabin, and a megaphone that also gives out bird distress calls. The Heritage Council gave a grant of €12,000 which was used mostly for wardening wages, this was an invaluable boost to the project.

As with other years, having accounts set up in the name of the NPWS proved slow and difficult.

Human resources

The volunteers were exceptionally generous with giving their time to the project, but the drain on their time was huge. Quite a few volunteers were not available for the 2010 project and we found that we could not cover all the necessary hours with the volunteers available. Dr. Maurice Eakin of the NPWS made himself and the local rangers available and the hours that they gave to the project were invaluable.

With the grant from the Heritage Council, part time wardens were employed to cover the overnight shifts and this was put in place as soon as nesting began. In 2007 and 2008, we found that the most vulnerable time was when the eggs were being incubated and that was when the large predations occurred. The paid wardens covered the hours between 6pm and 9am and volunteer wardens continued to cover the remainder of the day. While this meant that we would not have sufficient funds to continue the paid wardening for the full duration of the project, we felt that the 24 hour wardening was the best strategy. A decision was made to double up on some of the overnight hours for security purposes, so a second warden was employed from 11pm to 3am.

As the NPWS paid for the hire of a cabin, storage container and portaloo, this made the wardening more comfortable for both the volunteers and paid wardens.

Louth Nature Trust.

Louth Nature Trust was incorporated in February 2008. It is a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital. It has Charity Status with the Revenue Commissioners. The Little Tern Conservation Project is run through Louth Nature Trust and was the main reason for its foundation.

Information and publicity.

In addition to the signage around the area of the project:

- With the setting up of Louth Nature Trust, a web site (www.louthnaturetrust.org) was designed and a Blog set up to inform people of the progress of the Little Tern Conservation Project. This is popular with web site visits peaking at over 6,400 in May and continuing at over 5,000 each month since, showing a strong interest in the project by the public. This proved an effective means of communication with the wider public.
- The local newspapers (Drogheda Independent and Drogheda Leader) gave coverage to the project on a number of different occasions throughout the summer.
- Peter Phillips of Louth Nature Trust gave a talk and ran a little tern art competition in three local national schools. This was sponsored by Coca-Cola and generated much interest in the project. The posters were displayed on our web site.
- ☑ The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. John Gormley T.D. visited the site on the 17th July 2009 to see firsthand the progress that has been made in bringing the numbers of little tern chicks from

a zero situation in the 10 years preceding the project to a total of 260 chicks in the last four years.

The project featured in a tv documentary to be aired later this year and in a radio documentary to be aired on LMFM and East Coast FM later this year.



Film crew making documentary



Minister Gormley viewing the little terns with Sandra & Margaret in 2009

Acknowledgements.

Funding from the NPWS was greatly appreciated. Thanks are due to Padraig Comerford, Maurice Eakin and the NPWS rangers.

Funding from the Heritage Council was greatly appreciated and allowed us to have some paid wardens. This played a large part in the success of the project this year.

Thanks to the Hartigan family for giving us access to the beach through their land -Anne Hartigan who owns the land and her son Dominic who liased with us. We were facilitated in every way possible and they couldn't have been more helpful.

A huge thanks is due to all the volunteers who gave their time over the three months and to those who helped erect and dismantle the fencing :

To Gerard Murphy for the use of his trailer;

Maurice Conaghy, Tommy Reilly, Kieran Campbell, Andrew Kelly, Larry Lenehan, Willie Connell, Paddy Burke, Tony Brockwood, Nicola Carroll, Vicky Campbell, Eric O'Neill, Brendan Shiels, Eamonn Hanratty, Laura & Sylvan, Niall Harmey, Maurice Eakin, John Brophy, Annette Lynch, Billy Clarke, Susan McKeever, Patricia Fuentes, Cathal Johnson, Len & Patricia Johnson, Ray McIlhenny, Matt Byrne, Mark Dearey, Irene Bagnall, Dermot Louthe, Joe Curtis, Ricky Gerrard, Anto Kerins, Barry O'Malley, Breffni Martin, Mark Johnson and TJ, also Malta Services plus the Organising Team who are listed on page one.



BBQ following fence dismantling Aug 2010

A special mention for:

Maurice Conaghy who looked after the predator control and whose help and expertise were vital to the success of the project.

Tommy Reilly who managed all fencing issues and carried out repairs to the fences. Malta Services, Drogheda, a day service for adults with intellectual disabilities. They provided a team of supervised volunteers twice a week.



Tony, Maurice, Eamonn, Larry and Patricia dismantling fence Aug 2010

Louth Nature Trust September 2010



This project was funded by the Heritage Council under the Heritage Management Grant Scheme 2010.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This project was funded by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.