

Jan Andries van Franeker:

I am happy to try to contribute a bit to your article on Jens-Kjeld Jensen. I hope the text below has some words that you can use.

My earliest contact with Jens-Kjeld must date back about 40 years, to the early 1980s. I was a biology student in Amsterdam, doing a thesis on colour variation in the plumage of the Northern Fulmar. Already back then, Jens-Kjeld was a well known specialist on seabirds. I don't remember details, but I guess our contacts were by letter, as even fax machines were not yet common by then. Jens-Kjeld kindly answered all my questions!

This contact with Jens-Kjeld was re-established in 2002 when our Dutch monitoring system of plastics in stomachs of fulmars was extended to the whole North Sea in a European funded project. In this North Sea study, fulmars from the Faroes were an excellent reference for supposedly cleaner waters outside the North Sea. Jens-Kjeld helped me to 'set foot' on the Faroe Islands. With his help we were able to create a local network of people (too many to name!) that helped us in collecting fulmar stomachs from the Faroes. We received stomachs from a mix of scientific collections, hunted birds and longline victims. Since then, Jens-Kjeld and his wife Marita offered me hospitality in their home during the many periods that I stayed in Tórshavn with long days dissecting fulmars in the basement of the Náttúrugripasavnið, at Fútalág 40. I deeply respect this couples life-long unstoppable interest in the study of nature and its protection and their unconditional support to 'strangers' like me. Soon I will retire from my formal job in the Netherlands at Wageningen Marine Research. But as a pensioner I hope to continue the contact and revisit Jens-Kjeld and Marita for many more years. We've worked on shared publications in the past, but there are several more to come!



Ricardo Palma:

Dear Sjúrdur,

Many thanks for your message and for giving me the opportunity to write about my dear friend and scientific colleague Jens-Kjeld Jensen.

Our working collaboration and friendship goes back almost 30 years, when a colleague told Jens-Kjeld to collect bird lice and send them to me for their identification. Jens-Kjeld was not only able to do that but, upon my request, he learnt to prepare the lice and slide-mount them with great care and perfect results. Thus, he began to send me batches of beautifully mounted specimens, many of them carefully dissected, which I returned to him identified to species. After several years of parcels coming and going between the Faroe Islands and New Zealand, we had enough material to write a checklist of the species recorded from those islands, which we co-authored and published in 2005.

Then, in 2009, with my partner Elaine, I had the privilege to visit Jens-Kjeld and his lovely wife Marita, staying in their beautiful house for a week, and enjoying their great hospitality and friendship. We were taken to many islands and interesting places, we shared many pleasant moments, we ate fulmars and puffins, and learnt a lot about the culture and history of the islands. It was an unforgettable experience.

We were impressed by Jens-Kjeld's zest to save and preserve the animals and plants of the Faroe Islands, to the extent of keeping many native and endangered plants in his own back garden, protecting them from sheep and other browsers, in the hope that one day an island (his beloved Nólsoy) would be designated as a protected natural reserve, taking away all mammals introduced by humans.

Jens-Kjeld continued collecting, slide-mounting and sending me bird lice until 2015, and in the following year we published another paper augmenting considerably the number of species recorded from the islands.

Jens-Kjeld is a most keen naturalist and conservationist, who has worked tirelessly most of his life to increase the knowledge of the natural history of the Faroe Islands, to promote environmental awareness and to preserve it for future generations, and without any personal material gain. There are few people like him on this planet!

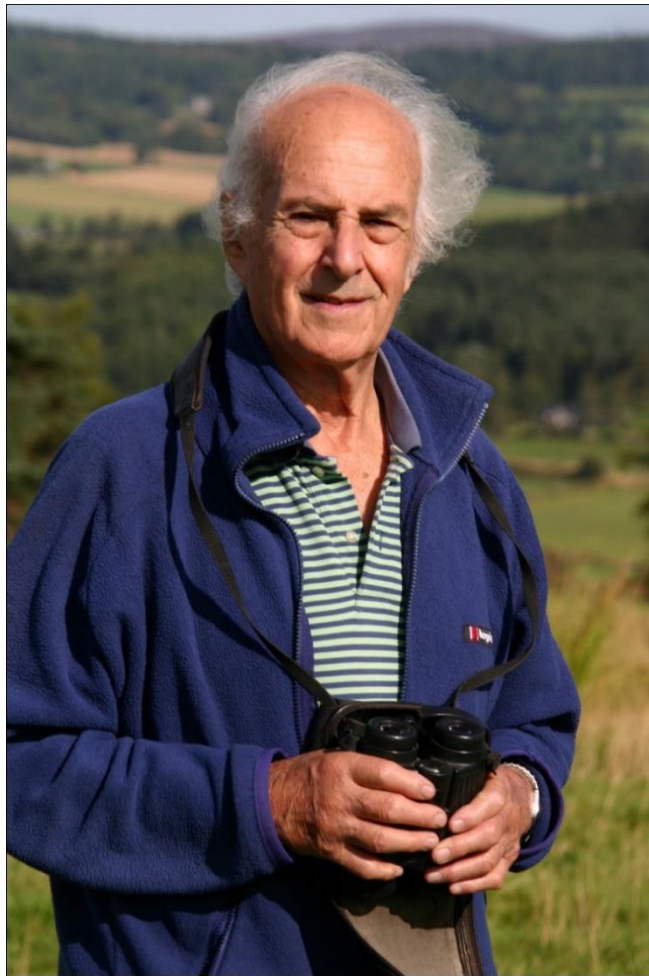
I feel honoured to be Jens-Kjeld's colleague and friend..!

Ricardo L. Palma

Honorary Research Associate

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

Wellington, New Zealand



Prof. Mike P. Harris

Dear Sjurdur,

I have the highest regard for Jens-Kjeld as I hope that you can tell from the short piece on him that Tycho Anker-Nilssen and I wrote two years ago. I attach a copy and will also send you a some remeniscences in a few days.

Best wishes

Mike

Professor M P Harris

Emeritus Fellow at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

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Puffins for the pot

Mike Harris, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, and Tycho Anker-Nilssen, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research

The development of miniaturized tracking devices in recent years is allowing us to gradually piece together an understanding of where birds go and what they do when they are not at the colonies. However, we are still woefully ignorant of many fundamental aspects of their winter ecology. There is a legal autumn and winter hunt for auks around the Faroe Islands and over many years Jens-Kjeld Jensen, a local taxidermist and naturalist with a wide interest ranging from seabirds to lice³, has been helping to plug some of these gaps by examining the bodies of birds shot there during the hunt.

His collection of stomachs has allowed the first detailed description of the winter diet of Atlantic Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) which showed that around the Faroes nereid worms (41% of total biomass), large sandeels (23%) and other large fish (17%) made up the bulk of the diet with the latter two prey types being most important in energetic terms (46% combined despite accounting for only 9% of items⁴). In 2010 he sent me a present of the skull of an Isle of May adult that had been shot in the Faroes, not only that but its stomach arrived in a separate package.

His examination of wings has helped to partly sort out the troubling problem of when Puffins undertake their main moult during which they are flightless. The answer here seems to be that the timing within the population is extremely variable with adults being flightless any time between October and March⁵. Recently, he sent us a picture of an Atlantic Puffin shot near Nólsoy on 5 October 2018 that had been ringed EY52587 as an adult on Sule Skerry, Orkney on 14th July 2015 by the Sule Skerry Ringing Group. As Jens-Kjeld points out one can see that it had already developed the dark head winter plumage, but had still not shed its primaries and was actively growing the body feathers. The feet and legs have also changed colour from summer orange to winter yellow.



Jens-Kjeld Jensen at Bøsdalafossur, Leitisvatn, Vágar, Faroe Islands
© Marita Gulkklett



Left: Atlantic Puffin ET70833 ringed as a breeding adult on the Isle of May, Firth of Forth in July 1998 and shot off Streymoy, Faroe Islands in October 2010 © Sarah Wanless
Right: EY52587 ready for the pot © Samson Samson

Because many seabirds, including Atlantic Puffins, winter far offshore, data on weights of healthy birds outside the breeding season are very scarce. In a recent paper, Anker-Nilssen, Jensen & Harris⁶ compare the masses and wing lengths of adult Atlantic Puffins shot around the Faroes with breeding adults on the Isle of May, southeast Scotland and Røst, northern Norway. On average, Atlantic Puffins breeding in Scotland and Norway increase their body mass by 20–30% between the chick-rearing period and winter. These gains in body mass are at least double the decline occurring between incubation and chick-rearing. Three birds had been weighed both at the colony and after being shot – the gains in mass ranged 11–32%. Over a third of the mass of one bird came from fat stored under the skin or around the internal organs. Traditional harvests of wildlife are often controversial; however in this case, thanks to Jens-Kjeld's extraordinary commitment, such killing of birds away from the colonies offers us a chance of extending our knowledge of basic Puffin biology.



Tycho-Anker Nielsen

Dear both,

That piece was altogether Mike's doing, but I was happy to have a small say. Jens-Kjeld deserves all the honor he can get and I was very pleased to learn about the award. Perhaps you can extract some phrases from my appearance on Faroese TV in connection with that (<http://kvf.fo/netvarp/sv/2020/10/29/20201029otroyttiliginaatturuverjin>)

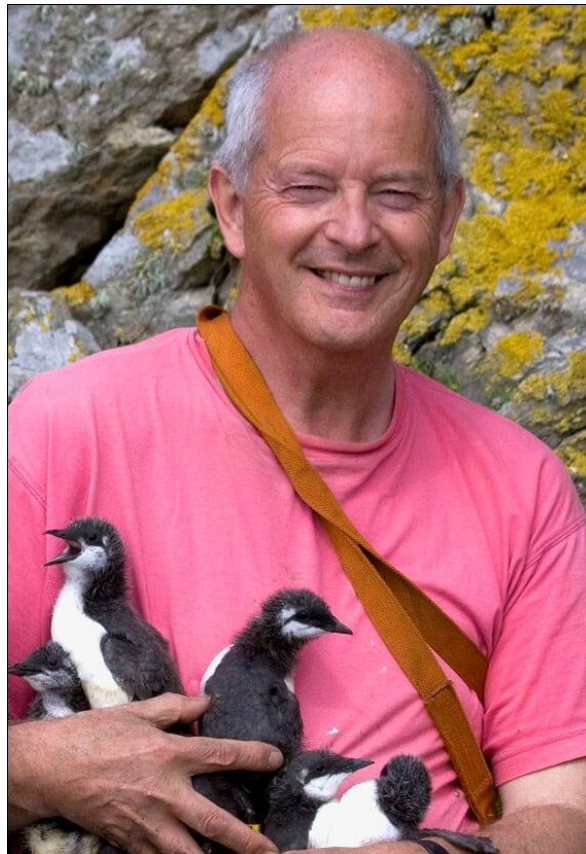
To give you some input, Sjurdur:

I am certainly amazed by his life-long dedication in keeping such a close eye on the breeding performance and well-being of seabirds in the Faroes and continuously disseminating his observations and knowledgeable opinions on possible drivers of change to the common public as well as to a science. For many of the more detailed studies focusing on Faroese seabirds, he has served both us and the scientific community in general a wide variety of extremely valuable data and accompanying information that undoubtedly will stand the test of time long after we are all gone. Of special importance to us, are his highly accurate and detailed examinations of seabirds originating from Norway, UK and elsewhere that visit waters around the Faroes outside the breeding season. Such input is unique and has enabled important analyses that would otherwise have been impossible. After decades of cooperation with Jens-Kjeld, it was therefore an extra pleasure to finally accompany him on a night-time excursion in late September 2007 to ring storm petrels on his beloved Nólsoy, where he generously guided the participant of a workshop aiming at developing a Nordic plan of action for seabird management. Although the puffins had already left the colony, it was great to see him in action there, to visit his house in that picturesque community, and to learn from his ocean of experience. It is a great privilege to know and cooperate with Jens-Kjeld, and I was thrilled to learn about the well-deserved award and honor he was recently acknowledged for his exceptional

achievements. I can only cross fingers he wasn't too offended by me not managed to see him when I last visited Tórshavn for a science meeting in early January. I can only blame the extreme stormy conditions and prudent SAS pilot that stole two days of my trip and cross finger for better times soon to come.

Best wishes,

Tycho



Prof. Tim Birkhead

I first knew of JKJ as a name only of someone on a distant island. My colleague Nicola Hemmings and I were conducting a study of the number of sperm on the yolk of seabird eggs and wished to examine the eggs of the Storm Petrel as part of our study. We had been told that during ringing on the Faroes Storm Petrels sometimes laid their egg in the ringing bag. This seemed an ideal way to obtain eggs that would otherwise be discarded. Jens-Kjeld obtained no fewer than six eggs, their yolks prepared in exactly the way we had asked. I met him in 2019 and have to say, I had never met anyone quite like him: charming, knowledgeable, keen to collaborate, with the skill of serious scientist and the enthusiasm of a schoolboy. He is an extraordinary man, occupying an almost unique niche on the Faroes and a remarkable repository of ornithological knowledge. I hope he has one or more successors waiting in the wings!

Tim Birkhead is a Fellow of the Royal Society and emeritus professor of behaviour and evolution at the University of Sheffield. His research on promiscuity and sperm competition in birds helped to re-shape our understanding of bird mating systems. More recently, he and his colleagues also resolved the longstanding mystery of the guillemot's pear-shaped egg: see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-189LIYa0Y&t=7s>

*Tim has been president of the International Society for Behavioural Ecology and the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour. He has studied guillemots — mainly on Skomer — since 1972 and has funded the annual monitoring of guillemot breeding success and survival on Skomer through crowd funding since 2014. As well as a passion for research, Tim enjoyed undergraduate teaching for which he won several national awards. He is also committed to the public understanding of science and has written several popular science books, including the award-winning *Wisdom of Birds* (2008), *Bird Sense* (2012) and *The Most Perfect Thing: the Inside (and Outside) of a Bird's Egg* (2016), the last two of which were short-listed for the Royal Society's Insight Investment Book Award.*

Tim is one of the founding members of New Networks for Nature a broad alliance of artists, writers, scientists, musicians and poets inspired by the natural world. He served as New Networks' chairman for several years and is currently a Trustee. He is married and has three children and a dog, and in his spare time enjoys walking, birdwatching, playing the guitar, woodcarving and painting.



I spent a day with Jens-Kjeld in March 2017, and walked to the fulmar cliffs and storm-petrel colony on Nolsoy. We talked about birds, about the island, and more. His wealth of knowledge was immense, as was his care for the island and its birdlife. The Nordic Environmental Prize is a fitting celebration of his dedication and passion for birds in the Faroes.

Dr Alex Bond

Senior Curator in Charge of Birds

The Natural History Museum, London



Dariusz Jakubas

I am very glad that Jens-Kjeld Jensen has been honoured with the Nordic Environmental Prize 2020

He is a very nice man and professional naturalist, real ambassador of nature protection.

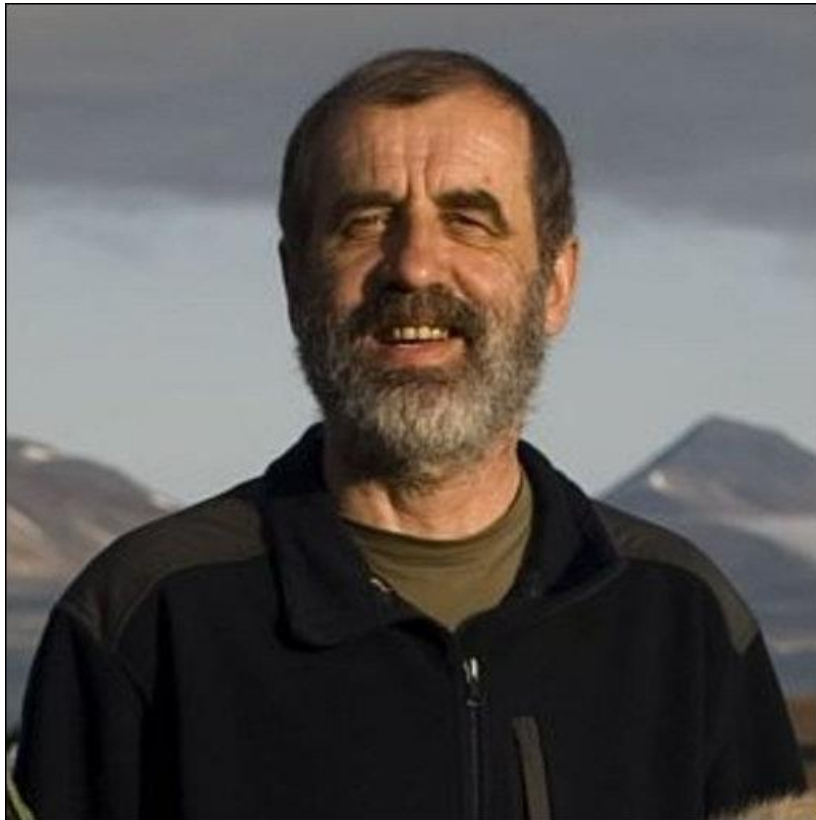
He helped us very much with organizing expeditions, helping in research, and showing everything around.

I would write some sentences about our collaboration. However, I guess that it would be better to write something anecdotal what may be more interesting for a wider audience of pop science magazine "Frøði". I haven't got such a story in mind.

But I think that prof. Lech Stempniewicz from our department who also collaborated with Jens-Kjeld Jensen, moreover, contacted us with him, can be better person to write an interesting and intriguing story about collaboration with Jens-Kjeld. Try to contact him. E-mail: lech.stempniewicz@ug.edu.pl

All the best,

Darek



Lech Stempniewicz

Dear Sjurður Hammer,

I am afraid that I cannot say anything new or original about Jens-Kjeld, more than what all those who know him longer and better than me will probably say. He is the wildlife conscience for the Faroe Islands. He knows the plants and animals of the islands like no other, and has always cared about everything that happened to them and what threatened them. Without his many years of commitment and work, the wilderness of the Faroe Islands would certainly be poorer. My contacts with Jens-Kjeld are old, we were still young people at the time. He agreed without hesitation to my proposal to come and conduct ecological research on puffins on Nolsoy. Not only that,

he helped us a lot in everything, from renting a flat to field work. The puffin colony on Nolsoy was still doing well at the time. Jens-Kjeld told us about the traditional rules still in force for the exploitation of puffins in the Faroe Islands. I had the opportunity to see their catches with my own eyes. On the occasion of the official reception, I also had the opportunity to taste them, but I do not recall it with satisfaction, although they probably aroused less resistance to their consumption than the sheep's eyes served at the same time. He and Marita also hosted us at home. From their yard I remembered the original naked-neck hens and cocks of the Hungarian breed. Our research was successful and the results are included in a joint publication in *Ornis Svecica*. I remember that stay on Nolsoy with nostalgia.

Best wishes,

Lech



Prof. Philippe Grandjean

In late spring of 1976, I again visited the Faroes to enjoy my birding interests. Nils av Botn had already introduced me to his likely successor from Køge, Jens-Kjeld, who had rapidly become a prime member of the Faroese natural science community. When I visited him on Nolsoy, Jens-Kjeld had just received a gull that had died on board a fishing boat on the Faroe Bank. We soon agreed that it was a Franklin's Gull, a bird that I knew from my previous stay in America, but an extremely rare straggler to northern Europe. The bird breeds on the North American prairie and migrates in the fall to the southwest and winters on the Pacific coast of South America. So how had it suddenly turned up in the Faroes? Jens-Kjeld and I discussed back and forth trying to figure out the bird's navigation. In the end, we agreed that the bird must have gone too far to the south and ended up on the Atlantic side of South America. Eventually it started its normal spring migration toward the northeast, and that brought it to the Faroes and to Jens-Kjeld's workshop. Surprisingly, 26 years later, another Franklin's

Gull came visiting, and it navigated right to the Nolsoy harbor and met with Jens-Kjeld. I understand that he liked the live encounter a lot more, although it took a few years for the rare visit to happen. Two exceptional individuals met at Nolsoy.



Prof. Tony Martin

Hello Sjúrður

I am absolutely delighted to learn of Jens-Kjeld's well deserved award. He is a naturalist with an unforgettable, infectious enthusiasm, and a passion for learning and understanding that few are blessed with. It is many years since I was last on Nolsoy, but it seems like yesterday that Marita and Jens-Kjeld warmly welcomed me into their home, before taking me to see the legendary and magical storm petrel colony on the island. Jens-Kjeld is one of those rare scientists who seems to know everything about everything; who else could wax lyrical as much about hoverflies as puffins? I salute you, Jens-Kjeld.

Tony Martin

Professor of Animal conservation, University of Dundee



Jørgen Lissner:

Hi Sjurður

Here is my contribution, feel free to perform minor linguistic corrections. I hope this is useful for you.

My collaboration with Jens-Kjeld began more than 10 years ago via a mutual friend, Kaj Nissen, who asked me if I was interested in identifying some Faroese spiders. This put me in contact with Jens-Kjeld who over the years have sent me numerous parcels with spiders collected by himself or received from his large network of Faroese citizens. Particularly Rodmund á Kelduni and Dánial Jespersen stand out as hardworking collectors. Additional spider material collected by the Faroese Museum of Natural History by Leivur Janus Hansen and William Simonsen was also studied. I myself visited the Faroe islands in 2010, 2012 and 2014 to collect further specimens. Here I enjoyed the hospitality of Jens-Kjeld and Marita. However, on field trips it was hard not to fall behind when trying to keep up with his tortuous hiking pace. The combined collection efforts resulted in a publication updating the Faroese checklist of spiders. This study added 15 species not hitherto known from the islands, now totaling 90 breeding species, listing another 24 species considered chance imports. All this would not have been possible without the facilitating role of Jens-Kjeld, driven by his keen interest in nature conservation. Receiving the Nordic Council's environmental award 2020 is so well earned.



Ævar Petersen

I have known of Jens-Kjeld for over 30 years. Throughout that period we have corresponded on and off, sharing various information hopefully to our mutual benefit. But it wasn't until 2004 that we actually met face to face, when the Arctic Seabird Expert Group (CBird) held its meeting for the first time in the Faroe Islands. And again three years later, at a Vestnorden seabird meeting in Tórshavn. During that meeting I had the good fortune to visit Jens-Kjeld on his island, Nólsoy, where he and his wife Marita received the group with great warmth. We had a memorable guided tour to look at and ring Storm Petrels during darkness when the birds are active in their colony. Then I visited him on Nólsoy in 2017, again during an Arctic seabird meeting, when Jens-Kjeld even lent me his flat in Tórshavn. In 2014 it was a real pleasure to co-author with him and three others an overview on bats in Faroe Islands, Iceland, Orkney, Shetland and North Sea oil rigs, published in the Polish journal *Acta Chiropterologica*. And in 2009 we had a joint talk in Prague on seaducks with two others. This gives just a limited insight into the wide range of interests Jens-Kjeld has in nature. His website, which is primarily maintained by Marita, gives an overview of their varied interests and expertise. Jens-Kjeld is indeed a distinguished naturalist, who willingly shares his experiences with others. His strength is, in my opinion, the focus on studying the regular fauna and flora of the Faroe Islands, on which new knowledge is steadily needed, such as for conservation purposes, although irregular guests also catch his attention. The observations provided by Jens-Kjeld have become really useful for a wider audience, not just within the Faroe Islands, but also internationally through generous cooperation with numerous colleagues and for many publications that span at least 35 years. The Faroe Islands are extremely lucky to have such a prolific worker, who not only enhances the knowledge of the nature of the Faroe Islands but is also willing to share this for the benefit of so many others. Jens-Kjeld, congratulations on the Nordic Council Environment Prize. Well deserved.

Ævar Petersen, Iceland.



Ringmærker Jens-Kjeld

Jens-Kjeld har som ringmærket fugle for SNM siden 1984. Igennem flere årtier har Jens-Kjeld udført et kæmpe stort frivillig ringmærkningsarbejde for museet og for fuglene på Færøerne.

Jens-Kjeld har ringmærket titusindvis af fugle på Færøerne langt overvejende små stormsvale på Nólsoy. Jens-Kjeld store ringmærkningsindsats har været et væsentlig bidrag til forståelse af stormsvalerne ynglebiologi og beskyttelse af dem.

Jens-Kjeld er formentligt også den person som har bidraget mest til forståelse af spurvefuglenes forekomst på Færøerne. Med hans store Helgolands ruse i baghaven på Nólsoy, har Jens-Kjeld igennem årtier ringmærket mange forskellige spurvefugle flere første-gangs iagttagelser for Færøerne.

Jens-Kjeld har igennem mange år fungeret som en vellidt formand for den færøske ringmærkergrupper. Jens-Kjeld havde et stort netværk af naturinteresserede på Færøerne og var meget aktiv i de lokale medier for at oplyse om ringmærkede fugle og de spændende resultater der kommer ud af det.

Jens-Kjelds store ringmærkningsarbejde er museet Jens-Kjeld meget taknemlig for.

Jesper Johannes Madsen

MSc, Research Officer & Project Coordinator