



Steve Wing Memorial Bursary



This bursary is named after our late friend and colleague **Steve Wing**, who passed away in September 2024.

A lifelong birder, Steve had a passion for bird monitoring and recording. In particular, he loved migration time, diligently updating the 'Daily Log' and ringing birds on Cape Clear during his time as Warden of BirdWatch Ireland's **Cape Clear Bird Observatory**. Steve was also a great advocate of education and was extremely generous with his time, always willing to share his impressive natural history knowledge, in the typically unassuming way which he did so well.

It is therefore a fitting tribute to Steve that this bursary will provide an aspiring young ornithologist/ecologist with an opportunity to obtain training and gain experience 'in the field,' helping to record bird migration at one of Ireland's most famous bird migration locations.

Steve's family commented, "If the bursary can assist a student in any small way along the path towards a career in natural history, what a fine tribute to Steve, to all his hard work and to his love of the natural world this will be."

'This bursary lives on in Steve's name'

How the Steve Wing Memorial Bursary works

Each year, BirdWatch Ireland will advertise that it is seeking applications for the Steve Wing Memorial Bursary, which is open to young and aspiring ecologists/naturalists. The bursary is designed to help with support training, mentorship and direct experience in the fields of ornithology and ecology.



- BirdWatch Ireland has set up a committee, comprised of BirdWatch Ireland staff members, Oileán Chléire islanders and Steve Wing's family, to oversee the bursary.
- The bursary is open to all young adults aged 18-25.
- The value of the bursary each year is €1,000. Two weeks' accommodation in Cape Clear Bird Observatory, worth €600, will be paid for by BirdWatch Ireland. A total of €400 will be paid to the successful recipient to help cover the cost of travel and living costs while on the island.
- Dates for applications for 2026 will be announced in the coming months on the BirdWatch Ireland website and social media channels.
- The application that best fits with the ethos of the Bird Observatory, in the opinion of the members of the bursary oversight committee, will be selected as the winner.

Applicants are invited to submit an email (maximum 500 words) explaining why they should be chosen to receive the bursary. Submissions can be sent to ccbo@birdwatchireland.ie. Applications received in advance of the announcement of opening of the 2026 dates will not be considered.

This bursary has been made possible thanks to the generous donations received in Steve's memory following his death in September 2024. Many thanks to everyone who has donated.

The 2025 inaugural Steve Wing Memorial Bursary has been awarded to **Lauren O'Brien**.

Watch a photographic tribute to Steve Wing on YouTube at www.bit.ly/photos-steve

See also an episode from Steve's vlog, 'Living the Life on Cape Clear,' filmed in 2024, on YouTube at www.bit.ly/steve-cape-clear