

RANGER PORTRAIT

Margaux Pierrel Ranger in South West Galway Ireland

Main duties:

- management of natural areas for conservation and the public
- wildlife monitoring, habitat survey and law enforcement
- · environmental education

Why is your work important to you?

I want nature to be my boss. Having a foot in the field is fundamental to reaching out to people, raising awareness about nature and really making a difference: That's what my job means to me.

What is your greatest motivator even when it's hard working out there?

Our jobs are so challenging: little budget, lack of staff. But what keeps me going is spotting a hen harrier over a reed bed, seeing that it's still there. To hear the cuckoo in May when it returns, or discover a pine marten and its youngs in a recovered woodland area.

Your biggest moment of luck during work?

I am always very happy when I get hold of a peregrine falcon or barn owl chick while we are ringing it to collect data and hopefully do more to protect them. I like my work because it gives me the opportunity to reconnect with

nature. And I try to bring this to people as well.

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