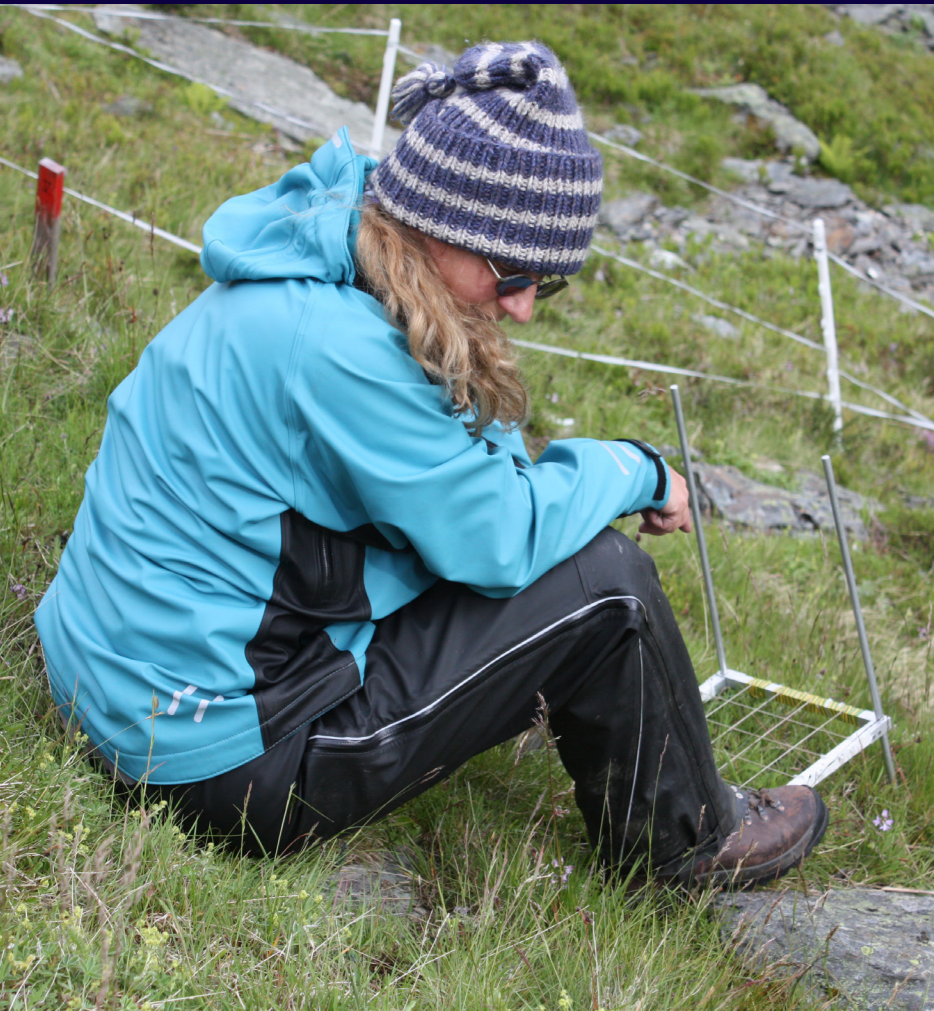




## Pascale Michel

MSc & Research Assistant • 2002



### What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I came to the Lighthouse in the summer of 2002 to work on the breeding ecology of seabirds as part of my MSc studies. I spent the field season on Eynhallow, in the Orkney Islands, monitoring Northern fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*), measuring egg size, and recording breeding success. In addition, I analysed 40 years of breeding data against the North Atlantic Oscillation Index to explore the impacts of climate change on this seabird population. Following my studies, I stayed at the Lighthouse as a research assistant, working on setting up a photo identification catalogue for the monitoring of bottlenose dolphins.

### What are you doing now ?

Upon leaving the Lighthouse, I researched the habitat preferences of reintroduced bird populations on predator-free offshore islands in New Zealand. This started a career in conservation biology, and since I have worked both in botany and zoology. Today, my research focusses on species distribution and response to environmental changes, working primarily on bryophyte communities. I also lead threatened species recovery programs and habitat restoration in forest, alpine and wetland ecosystems. I currently work as a Technical Advisor for the New Zealand government, leading the New Zealand Threat Classification System. I am also a guest researcher at the University of Bergen, Norway.

### What was the most valuable thing you learnt at the Lighthouse ?

During my stay at the Lighthouse, I acquired numerous skills which I have used throughout my career and still use today. I was mentored by post-doctoral research fellows on complex statistical analysis tools and by my supervisor on writing and publishing in scientific journals. My MSc thesis resulted in my two first peer-reviewed publications. In addition, I was able to assist with numerous monitoring projects such as the census of marine mammals, whereby expanding my knowledge and expertise of monitoring techniques. These skills led to my obtaining a full scholarship to study toward a PhD in Zoology at the University of Otago, New Zealand.

