

What to do if it's raining when you wake up.

We often get asked “what do I do if it's raining”? This is always hard to answer.

We all know weather can be different from one place to another and it can change very quickly plus the forecast is not always accurate.

I've been down at The Point when you can see the rain falling out on the lake to the south and at Milford to the north, but the net lanes have been spared. I've also woken up at home to torrential rain and gone to The Point to find a lovely day without a drop of rain.

We often get asked if we can leave a message on the telephone answering machine. This would mean our banders having to get up a good hour or more before they have to check the radar sites and upload a message or that they are being woken up by your phone call to the Obs to listen to the recording. We think this is a little too much to ask of them as they are getting up every day before sunrise all season long. Also, the weather could change while you are driving down to The Point.

So, what do you do?

If you look on the PEPTBO website under the “**Volunteers**” drop down tab and then “**Helpful links for volunteers**” you will find lots of weather related websites. The two links listed under “**Radar and Weather Sites for PEPTBO Volunteers**” will enable you to see what's happening with any rain that's coming and if it is likely to “hit” the point within the next few hours. i.e. if there is a large green or blue patch just about to hit the Obs area then its a good chance that banding will be curtailed, (at least for a while). Also, by looking at these links you should be able to make a fairly accurate guess of how long it will take for the rain to get there and how long it will take to pass, if it is only a small blue or green patch then banding will start as soon as its gone past and its highly likely you will still be needed down there.

The link “[The Weather Network - Maps: Satellite & Radar](#)” gives you an animated past and a forecast of cloud or rain. The past forecast is good because you can get an idea of how fast the storm/weather is travelling. The future forecast gives you an idea of what they think is going to happen, not that it is always correct. After you have looked at these websites you will have better information to help you make the choice whether to travel to The Point or to stay at home. If you do stay at home and the weather turns good at the Point, nobody will be upset with you. However, if it turns out to be a busy day you may still receive a phone call asking that you come down to help out as David will decide whether to call you later in the morning (or not) after he has checked these same radar sites himself.

Looking at the radar is also a good way to see if the night was good for migration, but you'll need look at the link labelled “Watertown Radar” for that. Even then, just because the migration may be good, it is also possible that the birds may not come down to the ground at sunrise resulting in a quieter day than expected.