



# Institute for Ornithology Polish Academy of Sciences

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EURING GENERAL MEETING – Fertiújlak, Hungary 2007

## Report of the Gdańsk Ringing Scheme 2005–2006

### Staff of the Institute for Ornithology PAS:

#### Ringing unit:

**Head of the Scheme** – Tomasz Mokwa (1 full time scientific)

**Recoveries Officer** – Anna Zawadzka (1 full time technical)

### Short history

Bird ringing started in Poland in 1931 in the State Zoological Museum in Warsaw. In years 1931-1939 the Polish ringing scheme was subordinated to the director of the State Zoological Museum in Warsaw, in the years 1945-1990 to the director of the Institute of Zoology PAS, and then, in years 1991-2001- to the director of the Institute of Ecology PAS. To the end of the year 2001 Gdansk Ringing Scheme was run by the Ornithological Station, functioning as a department of the Institute of Ecology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS), located near Warsaw. In the beginning of 2002 year the basic change in the status of the Station was done. By the decision of the President of PAS, the Station was removed from the Institute of Ecology and declared as independent Institute for Ornithology PAS located in Gdansk, subordinated only to PAS. The ringing scheme is a separated part of the Institute. In 2007 President of PAS to make of decision to eliminate Institute of Ornithology PAS, and join it again into Institute of Zoology PAS.

## **Ringers and ringing courses**

All ringers are licensed every year by the Ringing Centre on the base of the permission given by the Ministry for Environment.

The candidates for ringers for their first license have to pass an exam, including the field test checking the knowledge of bird species, age and sex criteria as well as the attitude of the candidate to living birds kept in hand. In 2005 nineteen, in 2006 seventeen new-accepted ringers got their ringer licenses. In 2005 there were 280 licensed ringers in Poland, but only 188 of them were ringing actively. In 2006 there were 278 licensed ringers in Poland, 189 were ringing actively.

## **Rings**

Gdańsk rings are made by the Polish producer "Aranea". 22 different sizes made of two kinds of material (steel and aluminium) are used. From June 2001 ringers have to pay for same rings. Only rings used on our scientific programs (CES, Mediterranean Gull Project) are free.

## **Colour-ringing and other marks**

Colour-ringing and marking is coordinated by the ringing scheme, but administration is done by the users. There are regular contacts with international coordinators. The colour-ring website of Dirk Reas is used regularly.

## **Ringing projects**

### **1. International projects**

- CES,
- International Monitoring of Raptors & Owls (White-tailed Eagle, Osprey, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Spotted Eagle, Eagle Owl),
- Monitoring of Waders during autumn migration (3 sites),
- SE European Network (6 sites).

### **2. National projects**

- Monitoring of the White Stork,
- Wintering Jack Snipe in Poland,
- Monitoring of the breeding population of the Mute Swan,
- Monitoring of the breeding population of the Whooper Swan,

- Other species projects (Cormorant, Night Heron, Black Stork, Greylag Goose, Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Mediterranean Gull, Herring Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Syrian Woodpecker, House Martin, Citrine Wagtail, Dipper and others).

## **CES**

Gdansk Ringing Scheme joined the Constant Effort Site Project in 1999. From 2005 to 2006 working 19 CES sites yearly.

## **Computer system development**

### **Ringing data**

All ringing data have been put into computer since 2001. Ringing details from years 1931–2000 were put into computer partially (only number of ring, species, sex, age and data).

### **Recoveries**

Since 1987 all recoveries have been prepared by computer. About 90% of recoveries received earlier have been already put into computer as well.

### **Number of recoveries in 2005**

15869 – total number  
 729 – recoveries of birds ringed abroad  
 15140 – Polish recoveries

### **Number of recoveries in 2006**

12699 – total number  
 1020 – recoveries of birds ringed abroad  
 11679 – Polish recoveries

### **Annual Report**

Published annually.

Compiled by Tomasz Mokwa, 26.08.2007.