

MADRID-ICONA Bird Ringing Scheme

Report for EURING General Meeting- Kollum 01

1. Situation

The Ringing Office is part of the Ministry of Environment. Since 1990 it runs under contract between the Ministry (formerly of Agriculture) and SEO/BirdLife (Spanish partner of BirdLife International) in a two or four years term. At the end of this year expires the present contract. The lack of continuity is one of more serious problems we have to face.

2. Staff

None permanent position. Right after Helgoland meeting in 1999, Dr. F. Cantos left the Ringing Office after spends eight years working in it. At present, two academic employees working full time (Dr. Fran Hernández, Co-ordinator and Angel Gómez-Manzaneque, technician). Besides, the administrative Head is Dr. Borja Heredia.

3. Ringers

During 2001, there are 694 licensed ringers. Most of them are included in groups. The control and training of the ringers is delegated to four organisations (SEO/BirdLife, Grup Català d'Anellament, Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa and Estación Biológica de Doñana). These organisations offer courses and the new ringers have to prove field experience and pass an examination.

4. Rings

Ringers do not have to pay the rings. Currently there are 21 different models although 6 of them, out of date and of low quality, are used only in avian hospital centres. Mekaniska manufactures the rings.

5. Ringing projects

None co-ordinate from the scheme up to now but this could change soon since the Ministry has requested us to write a "Scientific Strategy of the Scheme" during the next year. This November we will held a general meeting and a round-table with scientifics and ringers to discuss ideas. This strategy could be a major change to the Scheme since now it just a data bank

6. Ringing & recoveries

Year	Ringed	Found	Grand Totals	
			Ringed	Found
1999	264.425	2.407	2.900.231	22.332
2000	278.227	4.165	3.182.118	26.688

7. Computerising

All the recoveries are fully computerised (74.000). The ringing data are stored and handled manually though we are preparing a free computer programme for ringers to start computerising the ringing data since next year.

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