



BIRD RINGING CENTRE OF RUSSIA

REPORT 2005

MOSKWA Ringing Scheme is the only Bird Ringing Centre in Russia.

Besides Russia, MOSKWA rings are still used in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Organization: Bird Ringing Centre is a research laboratory of the Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences (state institution).

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Staff: Now 9 persons participate in ringing and recovery data processing, all of them half-time.

Head of Bird Ringing Centre of Russia
Dr. Konstantin E. Litvin

Ringers: The number of ringers (large-scale institutions mostly) is about 70 but the number of people who actually ring birds is certainly much higher. By tradition, mostly professionals from state institutions ring birds in Russia. The volunteer ringers are usually associated with them.

Rings: In the recent years the rings MOSKWA have been ordered in Aranea, Poland, while an amount of larger size rings produced in Russia earlier are still used for ringing. About 20 different series of rings are now in use, for many aluminium series there are their stainless steel substitutes. The rings are provided for free by tradition and since the means of the ringers are usually scarce.

General figures: Now about 120,000 birds of more than 300 species get MOSKWA rings every year. The Ringing Centre annually gets more than 350 recoveries of MOSKWA rings and more than 400 of foreign ones. The data relate to the whole territory including Asian part of Russia.

Information management: All recoveries are processed by the help of the specially elaborated computer programme, which allows to input, check out and edit, select and convert recoveries into other formats, also into EURING format. About once in half a year our Ringing Centre submits recoveries of MOSKWA rings (from Russia and the countries without national ringing schemes) to the EURING Data Bank. We input all the recoveries sent in since 1980. 83,214 recoveries (including 50,236 of rings MOSKWA) are available in electronic form. Our Ringing Centre regularly provide the interested specialists with free of charge data on certain species, species groups, etc. for treating. Since the previous EURING

conference we satisfied many direct and EURING data bank requests. The data for the last three years, and also the data concerning certain projects, we provide only on agreement with the ringer(s).

Recently some ringing reports (about 75 % of total annual numbers of rings) from the main ringers we get on disks and by e-mail, though most ringers send in their reports on paper. Ringing totals are available in electronic form since 1986 as well as ringing data for over 1,400,000 rings.

Support: Although the Ringing Centre belongs to the state institution and we get our salaries from the Institute budget we have to find an exterior support for running the Centre. Therefore, the financial support for ringing and recovery data processing, equipment, post, etc., and also part of funds for rings (funded partly by Russian Academy of Science) our Ringing Centre gets from sponsors.

Questions: The problem of illegal bird ringing in Russia (PETERSBURG and RusVlad rings usage) is now being solved bit by bit. We strictly follow the principle of concentrating all ringing and recovery data in one national centre. Bird Ringing Centre makes efforts to settle the problem by providing the ringers with sufficient numbers of rings MOSKWA but in some cases it does not work yet. We have decided to treat recoveries of PETERSBURG rings so as if they were MOSKWA ones. On the other hand, we should mention that we cannot take the responsibility for completeness of data on those ring recoveries. The cases of home-made "local" rings are mainly related to funding shortage. We strongly recommend everybody who sponsors bird ringing in Russia to consult with our Centre.

Bird Ringing Centre of Russia still faces the problem of computerising over 100,000 ring recoveries to make them available for treating and answering urgent requests (e.g. avian flu). At present these recoveries are on paper cards and need some work at, before entering them in the database. Our Centre really needs sponsor help for fulfilling this important task.