

EURING GENERAL MEETING CHEMNITZ 2003

REPORT OF THE BRUSSELS RINGING CENTRE

1. Ringing in Belgium is organised by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, a scientific institution depending from the federal state.
Since more than 10 years, the budget for the rings was unchanged (10.000 €). An annual fee of first 25 €, then 50 € was asked from the ringers, but as this was largely insufficient to cover the costs of the rings, this fee is since this year 125 €. We hope that this will be sufficient to guarantee a future for our ringing centre.

2. Staff
1 academic, 3 half time and 1 full time (temporary) non-academic.

3. Ringers
There are 404 licensed ringers., all organised in ringing groups. New ringers got a training in one of the groups and then (after 2 years and when the tutor thinks they must be capable) pass an examination after which they get a license to ring some species as pulli. After a new training, they can pass a new examination and get eventually a license to use mistnets.

4. Ringing
In 2001, 528.019 birds were ringed (88.368 pulli, 439.651 full grown), in 2002 the total was 598.843 (85.700 pulli, 513.143 full grown).
Some figures for 2002:
2.554 pulli *Falco tinnunculus*, 22.980 *Alauda arvensis*, 21.127 *Anthus pratensis*, 22.068 *Erithacus rubecula*, 15.218 *Turdus iliacus*, 13.098 *Acrocephalus palustris*, 72.086 *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and 88.296 *Sylvia atricapilla*. Most of these birds are ringed during autumn migration.
Except *Phasianus colchicus* and *Perdix perdix*, any species can be ringed, but *Passer domesticus* ringing was only authorised from 2002 on.

5. All the recoveries are computerised.
Since last year, a highly performing program to encode and analyse ringing and recovery data has been distributed to every ringer, enabling them to send in their files by mail or in diskette. This resulted in the building up of a ringing data file of already more than 2 million data. Approximately 50% of all the ringing data for 2002 are in the file and we hope to reach a level of at least 60% this year.
The same program is used now to treat our recoveries. After some problems in the beginning, we are now working very hard and the first recoveries of 2003 will be distributed very soon.

Walter Roggeman
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