

Report of the Swiss Ringing Scheme to the EURING General Assembly 2003

1. Ringing

In 2001, 86704 birds from 166 species were ringed and 962 recoveries were recorded (for details see Wiprächtiger *et al.* 2002). In 2002, 82654 birds from 175 species were ringed and 1083 recoveries were recorded (for details see Wiprächtiger *et al.* 2003).

In June 2003, all Swiss ringing recovery data were transferred to the EURING data base.

In 2002, the Sempach scheme introduced a special type of rings for raptors and owls released from captivity after recovery from injury or illness. In 2003, a new ring size (diameter 2,0 mm) was introduced for ringing wren, warblers, goldcrest, firecrest, long-tailed tit, treecreepers, and serin, as well as a new plastic ring for white stork (ELSA®-ring).

Switzerland continued to participate in the EURING Swallow Project. Since 2000, 12 areas have been investigated during the breeding season. In all, breeding populations declined between 2000 and 2002 by 40%, due mainly to a higher mortality of young Swallows in these years which has probably been caused by bad weather conditions during migration. Ringing activities in roosts continued as well and resulted in 6885 birds ringed and 104 recaptured in 2001 (15 roosts) and 5449 resp. 107 in 2002 (14 roosts). 2003 will mark the end of the field activities within the Swiss Swallow Project.

The nation-wide Integrated Population Monitoring Programme for the Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and the Barn Owl *Tyto alba* continued. It aims at studying (1) how population changes are reflected by population parameters and (2) how they disperse. A study on local population dynamics in barn owls was published (Altwegg *et al.* 2003).

2. Administration

The Swiss Ringing Scheme is based at the Swiss Ornithological Institute, Sempach. The Ringing Scheme is being financed by the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape SAEFL. The contract for this invaluable support has been extended until 2005.

4 candidates successfully passed the ringer's examination in 2001, and 14 in 2002.

3. Staff

The following staff worked within the Ringing Scheme:

Matthias Kestenholz (head)

Elisabeth Wiprächtiger (recoveries, requests, office)

Guido Häfliger (computer facilities, database)

An advisory board of six highly experienced ringers is assisting the Sempach scheme.

Lukas Jenni kept serving as General Secretary of EURING.

4. Publications

4.1 Publications of the ringing scheme

Altwegg, R., A. Roulin, M. Kestenholz & L. Jenni (2003): Variation and covariation in survival, dispersal, and population size in barn owls *Tyto alba*. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 72: 391-399.

Jenni, L. (ed.) (2001): Bird Ringing 100 Years. Proceedings of the international conference on Helgoland, 29 September – 3 October. *Ardea 89 special issue*: 1 – 252.

Kestenholz, M. (2001): Ringfund einer über 21-jährigen Misteldrossel *Turdus viscivorus*. *Ornithol. Beob.* 98: 349-350.

Kestenholz, M. & E. Wiprächtiger (2001): Ringfundrosinen Nr. 13. Schweizerische Vogelwarte, Sempach.

Kestenholz, M. & E. Wiprächtiger (2002): Ringfundrosinen Nr. 14. Schweizerische Vogelwarte, Sempach.

Wiprächtiger, E., G. Häfliger & M. Kestenholz (2002): *Numbers of birds ringed and recovered by the Sempach Ringing Centre in 2001*. Typoskript, Schweizerische Vogelwarte, Sempach. 8 pp.

Wiprächtiger, E., G. Häfliger & M. Kestenholz (2003): *Numbers of birds ringed and recovered by the Sempach Ringing Centre in 2002*. Typoskript, Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach. 8 pp.

4.2 Publications in collaboration with the ringing scheme

Bachmann, S. & G. Pasinelli (2002): Raumnutzung syntop vorkommender Buntspechte *Dendrocopos major* und Mittelspechte *D. medius* und Bemerkungen zur Konkurrenzsituation. *Ornithol. Beob.* 99: 33-48.

Biber, O., M. Moritzi & R. Spaar (2003): Der Weissstorch **Ciconia ciconia** in der Schweiz – Bestandsentwicklung, Altersaufbau und Bruterfolg im 20. Jahrhundert. *Ornithol. Beob.*

Bize, P., A. Roulin & H. Richner (2002): Covariation between egg size and rearing condition determines offspring quality: an experiment with the alpine swift. *Oecologia* 132: 231-234.

Bize, P., A. Roulin, L.-F. Bersier, D. Pfluger & H. Richner (2003): Parasitism and developmental plasticity in Alpine swift nestlings. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 72: 633-639.

Bize, P., A. Roulin & H. Richner (2003): Adoption as an offspring strategy to reduce ectoparasite exposure. *Proc. R. Soc. London B (Suppl.)*

Bollmann, K. & H.-U. Reyer (2001): Reproductive success of water pipits in an alpine environment. *Condor* 103: 510-520.

Cordero, P.J., P. Heeb, J.H. Wetton & D.T. Parkin (2002): Extra-pair fertilizations in tree Sparrows *Passer montanus*. *Ibis* 144: E67-E72

Gregoire, A., B. Faivre, P. Heeb & F. Cezilly (2002): A comparison of infestation patterns by Ixodes ticks in urban and rural populations of the Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*. *Ibis* 144: 640-645.

Heeb, P. (2001). Pair copulation frequency correlates with female reproductive performance in tree Sparrows *Passer montanus*. *J. Avian Biol.* 32: 120-126.

Moritz, M., R. Spaar & O. Biber (2001): Todesursachen in der Schweiz beringter Weissstörche (*Ciconia ciconia*) von 1947-1997. *Vogelwarte* 41: 44-52.

Moritz, M., L. Maumary, D. Schmid, I. Steiner, L. Vallotton, R. Spaar & O. Biber (2001): Time budget, habitat use and breeding success of White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* under variable foraging conditions during the breeding season in Switzerland. *Ardea* 89: 457-470.

Naef-Daenzer, B., F. Widmer & M. Nuber (2001a): A test fo effects of radio-tagging on survival and movements of small birds. *Avian Science* 1: 15-23.

Naef-Daenzer, B., F. Widmer & M. Nuber (2001b): Differential post-fledging survival of great and coal tits in relation to their condition and fledging date. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 70: 730-738.

Pasinelli, G. (2001): Breeding performance of the Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius* in relation to weather and territory quality. *Ardea* 89: 353-361.

Pasinelli, G., J. Hegelbach, H.-U. Reyer (2001): Spacing behavior of the middle spotted woodpecker in Central Europe. *J. Wildlife Manage.* 65: 432-441.

Rauter, C., H.-U. Reyer & K. Bollmann (2002): Selection through predation, snowfall, and microclimate on nest site preference in the Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*). *Ibis* 144: 433-444.

Roulin, A., C. Dijkstra, C. Riols, A.-L. Ducrest (2001): Female- and male-specific signals of quality in the barn owl. *J. Evol. Biol.* 14: 255-266.

Roulin, A. (2002): Short- and long-term fitness correlates of rearing conditions in barn owls *Tyto alba*. *Ardea* 90: 259-267.

Schaad, M. (2002): Influence of weather conditions on chick provisioning activity in the Hoopoe (*Upupa e. epops*). Diploma thesis, University of Berne.

Schaub, M. & F. Amann (2001): Saisonale Variation der Überlebensraten von Sumpfmeisen *Parus palustris*.

Tschirren, B., Fitze, P.S. & Richner, H. (2003): Proximate mechanisms of variation in the carotenoid-based plumage coloration of nestling great tits (*Parus major L.*). *J. Evol. Biol.* 16: 91-100.

Weggler, M. (2001): Age-related reproductive success in dichromatic male Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: Why are yearlings handicapped? *Ibis* 142: 264-272.

Wegglar, M. & B. Leu (2001): Eine Überschuss produzierende Population des Hausrotschwanzes (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) in Ortschaften mit hoher Hauskatzendichte (*Felis catus*). *J. Ornithol.* 142: 273-283.

5. Address

Swiss Ringing Scheme ring@vogelwarte.ch
Schweizerische Vogelwarte
CH-6204 Sempach
Switzerland

Tel. ++41 41 462 97 00

Fax ++41 41 462 97 10

Matthias Kestenholz matthias.kestenholz@vogelwarte.ch
Elisabeth Wiprächtiger elisabeth.wipraechtiger@vogelwarte.ch

www.vogelwarte.ch

24 July 2003, Matthias Kestenholz