



## Zagreb, Croatian Ringing Scheme (HRZ)

### National Report for EURING General Assembly 2013 (Finland)

#### Organization and address:

Zagreb Ringing Scheme is organized within the Institute of Ornithology, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (CASA).

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#### Staff:

There is no staff employed as ringing or recovery officers but the Ringing scheme is managed by four full-time scientific employees of the Institute:

- Dr Vesna Tutis: Head of the Scheme (+385 1 4825 402)
- Dr Jelena Kralj: Recoveries and colour ringing (+385 1 4825 401)
- Dr Davor Cikovic: Ringers and metal rings (+385 1 4825 404)
- BSc Sanja Barisic: Ringing reports (+385 1 4825 405)

The CASA covers salaries for scientific personnel, while projects and rings are financed annually from other resources.

#### Ringing and recoveries:

The total number of birds ringed in 2010 was 66.706, in 2011 it was 62.472.

The total number of recoveries in 2011 exceeded 1600 (>1400 recoveries of national rings and ~150 foreign rings) and in 2012 it was more than 2200 (>2000 recoveries of national rings and >200 foreign rings).

#### Ringers:

In 2012 Zagreb Ringing Scheme coordinated 58 active ringers with personal license.

Licenses are issued by the Institute of Ornithology, with permission of Croatian Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection and Ministry of Agriculture.

Special permissions are needed for ringing of colonial species, species listed in Croatian Red Data Book and for ringing in protected areas.

In 2011 the new system of examination was introduced. A candidate has to pass the ringing exam in front of the 5 member board composed of HRZ staff and a representative of the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection. Access to exam is conditioned with the minimum of 30 days of ringing experience in the minimum of two years period, under the supervision of a licensed ringer. Recommendation of the licensed ringer is needed. A person that keeps in captivity bird species which are on the Croatian bird list may not become a ringer (list of bird breeders is available in the database administrated by the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection). Exam consists of the practical and theoretical section. In practical section a candidate demonstrates his/hers knowledge of birds' trapping and manipulation in the field. In theoretical section a candidate demonstrates knowledge of nature protection laws, bird ringing rules (like special rules for ringing colonial species, endangered species etc.), ringing ethics, ringing reports and recovery reports, organisation of Croatian ringing scheme and ringing in Europe. Each candidate is required to identify 30 bird species from the bird skins collection of the Institute in order to demonstrate the skill of identifying species of the Croatian bird fauna.



### **Rings:**

Rings produced in Sweden and Poland were in use. There were 15 different sizes of rings used. Ringers don't have to pay for the rings.

Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection provided funds for metal and some colour rings in 2011 and 2012.

### **Colour-ringing projects:**

There are several colour-ringing projects currently running in Croatia:

- leg rings: Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus michahellis*, Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*, Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (paused), Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, Great White Egret *Egretta alba*, White-tailed Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*;
- neck-bands: Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

### **Ringing camps and CES:**

Four ringing camps were organized in Croatia:

- Two camps organized by Croatian Ornithological Society: spring camp at Savica ponds (in Zagreb city) lasts approx. one month; and late summer/autumn ringing camp at Vransko lake, Dalmatia (Mid Adriatic) which lasts three to four months;
- Autumn ringing camp org. by BIOM society at Nature park Učka (North Adriatic) which lasts approx. one month;
- Autumn camp at Krk island (North Adriatic) organized by a group of ringers.

All other ringing was carried out on individual basis. There is no CES site yet.

### **Data management:**

Ringing data are digitized since 1996. Data compilation is still not well organized due to the lack of specialized PC application for reports.

All recovery data (since 1910) are digitized. Recovery data 1910 – 2012 coded in EURING 2000 code.

### **Other**

The Croatian Bird Migration Atlas will be printed by the end of the 2013. Introduction of the RingAccess software and launch of the Zagreb Ringing Scheme website in the near future.

### **Plans:**

CES ringing principles and goals are introduced to ringers and they are encouraged to organize CES sites so we expect the start of the first CES site(s).