

## **Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre, Denmark**

### **Short annual report for EURING GM, Finland September 2013**

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All ringing of wild birds with metal rings in Denmark is done with rings from the Natural History Museum of Denmark (former Zoological Museum) at the University of Copenhagen, and all recoveries of metal rings are handled by the museum (incl. those few regarding old Kalø rings).

The Natural History Museum of Denmark and the Ministry of the Environment jointly finance the Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre according to an agreement that runs in periods of three years (since 1998). A new contract has just been signed and is running until 31 July 2016.

In 2013, the Ringing centre expanded its activities of mapping the migration and wintering area of Africa-migrating passerines (ex to new phd-students). This involves the use of geo locators, satellite transmitters and radio transmitters.

#### **Main projects at the Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre**

Important research projects at the Centre include:

- a. The “Background Ringing Project”. The aim of this project is to collect basic information on biology, phenology and natural history through general ringing on target species (c. 170 spp.) of which we still do not have sufficient ringing material. Additionally, ringing of a certain number of individuals annually allow for monitoring of changes in migratory behaviour.
- b. The “Rare breeding bird project”. This overall project includes several smaller conservation projects including satellite tagging of Montagu’s harrier, ringing of sandwich terns, projects on white-tailed and golden eagles, spoon bills, peregrines, Mediterranean gull, boreal owl and wrynecks etc.
- c. Development of tracking system for smaller birds using satellites in collaboration with the Danish Technical University.
- d. CES – five sites are in operation in 2013.
- e. Monitoring of Avian Influenza and West Nile Virus.
- f. Ringing of cured diseased and injured birds that are released back into nature.
- g. Two Phd-projects, mainly focus on individual migration patterns of small night-migrating birds wintering south of the Sahara, but also investigate patterns of dispersal and migration distances in relation to climate in large sets of ringing data, finished in 2016.
- h. The Faroe Bird Migration Atlas.
- i. Monitoring colonial nesting shorebirds, in co-operation with Department of Bioscience (former DMU/Kalø).

#### **Staff at the Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre (August 2013)**

*Allocation of time by permanent Zoological Museum staff:*

- Kasper Thorup, Dr., Head of the ringing scheme, part-time
- Jens Mikkel Lausten, Assistant Curator, full-time

*Staff on external funding:*

- Jesper Johannes Madsen, M.Sc., Research and Project Co-ordinator, full-time
- Kjeld T. Pedersen, Assistant Curator (database), full-time

*Post-docs:*

- Mikkel Willemoes Kristensen 2013

*Students:*

- Shola Iwajomo, PhD student, 2010-2013
- Mathilde Lerche-Jørgensen, PhD student, 2013-2016.

*Volunteer*

- Kaj Kamp (adm. of bird ringing in Greenland)

### Numbers of ringers, ringing groups, and ringing stations

In 2012, the Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre issued 201 individual bird ringing licenses – the highest number ever in Denmark & the Faeroes (104 A- license, 33 B-license, 17 C-license & 47 X-license). 10 ringing groups and 8 ringing stations were licensed to operate under our license. In 2013 (August) we have 180 ringers, 11 ringing groups and 7 ringing stations in operation. The number of ringers has been relatively stable for the last 15 years.

### Numbers of birds ringed and recovered in 2011 & 2012 (Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre)

2011	Denmark	Faeroe Islands	Greenland
Birds ringed	81,370	2,704	976
Bird species ringed	187	37	26
Most numerous ringed	Great tit 6,849 Willow warbler 5,858 Robin 5,196 Cormorant 3,947	European storm petrel 2,319 Starling 66 Leach's storm petrel 59	Sanderling 200 Kittiwake 113 Brünnich's guillemot 64
New ringing species	Pygmy owl Bee-eater		
Received and handled recoveries of DKC metal rings*	1,852 (and ca. 5,300 local controls)	30	32
Most numerous recovered species*	Cormorant 383 Herring gull 323 Black-headed gull 181	Common guillemot 11 Lesser black-backed gull 6	Canada goose 10 Brünnich's guillemot 8

2012	Denmark	Faeroe Islands	Greenland
Birds ringed	107,783	2,864	768
Bird species ringed	185	23	24
Most numerous ringed	Blue tit 9,654 Great tit 8,823 Willow warbler 5,923 Goldcrest 5,318 Robin 5,223	European storm petrel 2,495 Great Skua 117 Goldcrest 53	Sanderling 225 Little auk 128 Brünnich's guillemot 98
New ringing species	Rufous-tailed robin Swainson's thrush		
Received and handled recoveries of DKC metal rings*	1,461 (+ at least 5,000 local controls)	30	21
Most numerous recovered species*	Cormorant 260 Herring gull 210 Grey-legged goose 90 Sandwich tern 81	European storm petrel 13 Great Skua 4 Lesser black-backed gull 4	Canada Goose 5

\* *Remarks:* The vast number of readings of rings in connection with very large colour-marking projects on Cormorant, Pink-footed Goose, Mute Swan and gulls are handled separately by project holders. Excluded are also all local controls.