

**EURING GENERAL MEETING  
HELSINKI, SEPTEMBER 2013  
MATSALU (ESTONIA) - NATIONAL REPORT**

**1. Organisation**

Ringling in Estonia started in 1910; rings with signature ESTONIA MATSALU are in use since 1970.

Since January 2009 Matsalu Bird Ringing Centre is a part of the Environmental Board (Keskkonnaamet). Centre itself is located in Matsalu National Park in Penijõe.

**2. Staff**

Two persons are employed in ringing centre – Olavi Vainu (ringers and ringing data, licenses, public relations etc; email: [olavi.vainu@keskkonnaamet.ee](mailto:olavi.vainu@keskkonnaamet.ee)) and Kaarel Kaisel (recoveries, database manager, foreign affairs; email: [kaarel.kaisel@keskkonnaamet.ee](mailto:kaarel.kaisel@keskkonnaamet.ee)) both working full-time. **A new common email address in use is [matsalu@envir.ee](mailto:matsalu@envir.ee) but the old [ring@matsalu.ee](mailto:ring@matsalu.ee) works as well.**

**3. Ringers**

There are about 80 active ringers. Currently three ringing stations are operating in Estonia -Häädemeeste and Kabli in the south-west coast and Sõrve station on Saaremaa island. More than half of the ringings are made in ringing stations.

**4. Ringing activity and data management**

About 28 500 birds were ringed in 2011 and ca 52 000 on 2012. In last few years there has been around 1800-2000 recoveries / retraps.

Database on MySQL database engine and EURING exchange code 2000 was implemented in 2004. Ringers may computerize their ringing data by themselves using csv form sheet for this purpose. For today most ringing data and all recoveries of 21 century are computerised. The number of computerized ringings is nearly 600 000 and there are more than 16 000 recoveries. However input of old data still takes considerable time.

**5. Colour-ringing projects**

All breeding Eagle species (5) are ringed with coloured rings, as well as Black Stork. Common Gull has been ringed with colour-rings since 1971. In 2007 Cormorant ringing project started in cooperation with Dutch ringers. It was continued in 2009-2013 by ourselves and is still going on. Common Crane has been ringed with colour-ring combination. Projects of Little Ringed Plover and Baltic Dunlin has also started in small numbers.

**6. Rings**

16 different ring sizes are in use. Most of aluminium and steel rings are made in Poland (Aranea), colour rings are obtained from different sources. Ringers do not pay for the rings.

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