



**HGB Bird Ringing Centre**  
**BirdLife Hungary**

## **EURING Scheme Report** **2011–2012**

### **Contact**

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### **Short History**

Bird ringing in Hungary was launched in 1908 by Jakab SCHENK (1876-1945), at the Hungarian Royal Ornithological Centre (later: Institute for Ornithology). Unfortunately, the whole archives were destroyed in 1944. From this period there are only fragments of the ringing and the recovery data which were published in the journal *AQUILA* earlier. Ring production was restarted in 1951.

The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre has been operated by BirdLife Hungary (MME – Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society – [www.mme.hu](http://www.mme.hu)) since 1976.

From 1951 till the present days more than 4.4 million birds have been ringed in Hungary, and their data have been totally computerized. Currently the Hungarian Bird Ringing Databank contains 5.3 million records. The HGB Centre' bird ringing operation software named „ringing office” was prepared in middle of 1990's by Lajos VARGA. This is an offline Paradox database software which is outdated nowadays. Recently **T systems Hungary** is supporting the scheme by developing new appropriate online software, which is expected to become live in 2014.

The Hungarian Bird Migration Atlas (73 authors, 672 pages), printed October 2009, contains all foreign recoveries from 1908 to 2006 related to Hungary. (*Title: **Magyar madárvonulási atlasz**; Publisher: **KOSSUTH KIADÓ, BUDAPEST**; Editors: Csörgő Tibor, Karcza Zsolt, Halmos Gergő, Magyar Gábor, Gyurácz József, Szép Tibor, Bankovics Attila, Schmidt András and Schmidt Egon*)

### **Supervisory Board**

Two members are delegated by Ministry of Rural Development and two members are delegated by BirdLife Hungary. One member is elected by ringers.

Chairman: Ákos NÉMETH (Kiskunság National Park, Lake Kolon Bird Observatory) elected by ringers;  
Gábor CSÖRGITS (Ministry of Rural Development) delegated by Ministry  
András SCHMIDT (Ministry of Rural Development) delegated by Ministry  
dr. Tibor SZÉP (College of Nyíregyháza) delegated by BirdLife Hungary  
dr. Tibor CSÖRGŐ (Eötvös Loránd University, Ócsa Bird Observatory) delegated by BirdLife Hungary

### **Technical Committee**

Delegated by ringers who are members of BirdLife Hungary.

Chairman: Péter SZINAI (Balaton Uplands National Park)  
Nikoletta VERSECZKI (Middle-Danube-Valley Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management) – ringing examinations and licenses  
Béla BENEI (Nagykunság Forestry)  
Béla KALOCSA (BirdLife Hungary)  
dr. Béla TOKODY (BirdLife Hungary)  
Miklós LÓRÁNT (Kiskunság National Park)

### **Staff**

Head of Scheme (full-time position): Zsolt KARCZA (since 01.01.2004.)  
No administrator since 01.11.2007., but occasionally volunteers and students.

### **Ringers**

2011: 367 licensed ringers (231 of them were active)

2012: 372 licensed ringers (232 of them were active)

According to law, the Ministry of Rural Development organises bird ringing examinations twice a year.

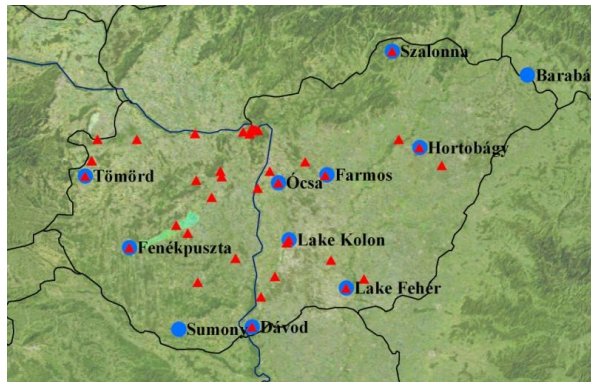
## Finance

The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre is financed under a partnership between BirdLife Hungary and the Ministry of Rural Development, contracted in 2004 and valid until the end of 2013. The yearly amount was 5 million HUF/year (about 17000 EUR) from 2004 to 2008 and 7 million HUF/year (about 24000 EUR) from 2009 to 2010 (*the exchange rate was between 250 and 300 HUF/EUR in this period*). There was no governmental funding in 2011 citing poor economic situation of Hungary. The financial support by Ministry was 900 thousand HUF (about 3000 EUR) in 2012. The future of the Centre's funding is still being negotiated.

Nowadays the average yearly budget of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre is about 8 million HUF (about 27000 EUR). The source of this amount is (1) the steadily declining government support, (2) active ringers pay a yearly fee of 5000 HUF (about 17 EUR), (3) BirdLife Hungary contributes the remaining funding from donations. Rings are free for projects and ringers.

## Main Ringing Projects

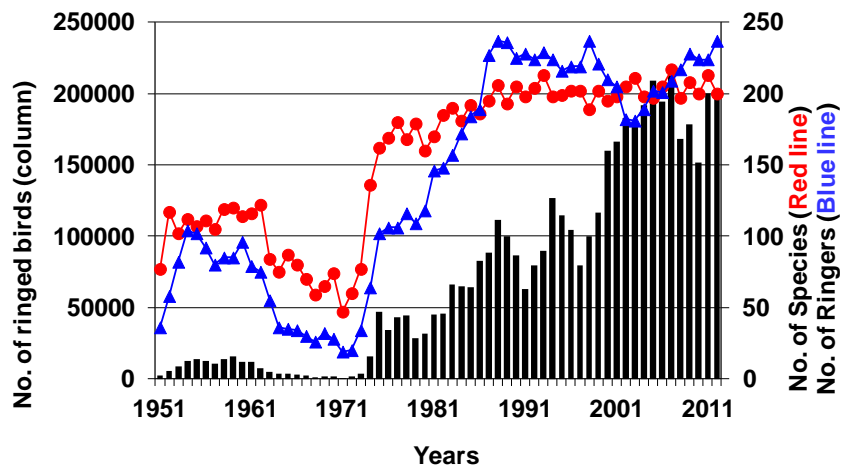
- "Actio Hungarica": standardized monitoring system of the autumnal bird migration, based on mist netting. **Sumony** ([www.baranyamadár.extra.hu](http://www.baranyamadár.extra.hu)) since 1981, **Ócsa** ([www.omve.hu](http://www.omve.hu)) since 1983, **Fenekpuszta** since 1986, **Szalonna** ([www.anp.hu](http://www.anp.hu)) since 1986, **Lake Fehér** ([www.fehér-to.hu](http://www.fehér-to.hu)) since 1996, **Tömörd** ([www.chernelmte.extra.hu](http://www.chernelmte.extra.hu)) since 1998, **Lake Kolon** ([www.kolon-to.com](http://www.kolon-to.com)) since 1998, **Dávod** since 2011.
- **CES project**: started in 2004 in Hungary with 14 sites (2005: 19, 2006: 23, 2007: 27, 2008: 27, 2009: 31, 2010: 32, 2011: 34, 2102: 34 sites)



The ringing stations, larger ringing camps (circle) and the CES sites (triangle) in Hungary.

- "Actio Riparia": a special long term monitoring project of the Sand Martin in Northeast Hungary
- **Colour ringing projects in Hungary**: Mute Swan, Pygmy Cormorant, Grey Heron, White Great Egret, Black Stork, White Stork, Spoonbill, Imperial Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Kestrel, Saker Falcon, Peregrine, Mediterranean Gull, Black-headed Gull, Caspian Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Common Tern, Roller, Great Grey Shrike etc.

## Bird ringing activities in Hungary between 1951 and 2012



**Bird ringing summaries in 2011 and 2012**

Ringing stations, larger ringing camps, species and nature conservation projects give more than 75% of the ringing activities.

Species	2011			2012		
	total	chicks	colour marked	total	chicks	colour marked
<b>2011: 213 ringed species</b>						
<b>2012: 200 ringed species</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>200215</b>	<b>13621</b>	<b>5132</b>	<b>196713</b>	<b>14573</b>	<b>5524</b>
Mute Swan	335	56	287	375	37	300
Whooper Swan				1		1
Greater White-fronted Goose	3		2	2		
Greylag Goose	4	2		7	6	1
Eurasian Wigeon	3					
Eurasian Teal	4			1		
Mallard	19			59		
Northern Pintail	6			2		
Garganey	3			1		
Red-crested Pochard				4		
Common Pochard	8			4		
Tufted Duck				2		
Common Goldeneye				1		
Quail	7			42		
Common Pheasant	6			4		
Black-throated Loon	1					
Little Grebe	14			5		
Great Crested Grebe	7					
Black-necked Grebe	4					
Great Cormorant	108	108		224	218	
Pygmy Cormorant	13	10	13	34	34	32
Eurasian Bittern	6	4		1		
Little Bittern	161			75		
Black-crowned Night Heron	17	7		4	4	
Squacco Heron	3					
Little Egret	3			3	3	
Great Egret	639	635	611	332	331	332
Grey Heron	61	60	30	27	25	9
Purple Heron	7	5		3	3	
Black Stork	13	12	12	84	84	84
White Stork	1172	1091	1068	1045	992	810
Glossy Ibis	4	4	4			
Eurasian Spoonbill	168	168	166	142	141	141
European Honey-buzzard	3			4	3	
Black Kite	5	2		3	3	
Red Kite	3	3		3	2	
White-tailed Eagle	72	70	69	102	99	101
Short-toed Snake Eagle	1			4	4	

HGB Bird Ringing Scheme Report  
2011-2012

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<b>2011: 213 ringed species</b>						
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Western Marsh Harrier	51	40		21	12	
Northern Harrier				4		
Northern Goshawk	40	7		50	20	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	158	72	1	152	65	79
Common Buzzard	234	63	2	361	173	174
Long-legged Buzzard	10	9	6	4	4	4
Roughleg	11			2		
Lesser Spotted Eagle				2	2	
Eastern Imperial Eagle	112	109	103	104	103	7
Common Kestrel	1346	1283	123	1603	1510	191
Red-footed Falcon	549	536	532	646	641	636
Merlin	1			2		
Eurasian Hobby	4			13	9	
Saker Falcon	282	280	2	296	291	63
Peregrine Falcon	39	37	39	46	45	45
Water Rail	42	2		11		
Spotted Crake	12			2		
Little Crake	33			5		
Corn Crake	5			6		
Moorhen	14			1		
Coot	62	2		17		
Crane	1					
Great Bustard	10			9		9
Black-winged Stilt	8	4		7	7	
Pied Avocet	33	33		2		
Little Ringed Plover	10			32	6	
Common Ringed Plover	5			4		
Northern Lapwing	54	38		10	9	
Little Stint	3					
Temminck's Stint				1		
Pectoral Sandpiper	1					
Curlew Sandpiper	2					
Dunlin	7			2		
Ruff	11		8	2		
Jack Snipe	3			1		
Common Snipe	37			38		
Eurasian Woodcock	37			20		
Black-tailed Godwit	1					
Spotted Redshank	2					
Common Redshank	12	3		9	4	
Marsh Sandpiper	1					
Common Greenshank	2					

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Green Sandpiper	7			5		
Wood Sandpiper	113			22		
Common Sandpiper	9			18		
Ruddy Turnstone	1					
Mediterranean Gull	282	264	231	559	553	498
Black-headed Gull	1087	480	834	1209	420	1020
Mew Gull	42		2	94		75
Herring Gull	1					
Yellow-legged Gull	15		14	9		9
Caspian Gull	38	34	35	44	38	43
Common Tern	248	248	99	359	351	236
Whiskered Tern	146	117				
Black Tern	2					
White-winged Tern	2					
Feral Pigeon	1					
Stock Dove	1			1		
Wood Pigeon	10	7		22	12	
Collared Dove	128	1		143	4	
Turtle Dove	19			24		
Cuckoo	8	2		14		
Barn Owl	691	643		431	406	
Scops Owl	25	22		82	65	
Eagle Owl	1	1		2		
Pygmy Owl				1		
Little Owl	65	44		93	76	
Tawny Owl	93	78		174	148	
Ural Owl				1	1	
Long-eared Owl	89	51		113	49	
Short-eared Owl	1			1		
European Nightjar	49	6		58	5	
Swift	19			17	5	
Kingfisher	385			174		
Bee-eater	296	4		331	2	
Roller	1044	1011	804	1153	1070	546
Hoopoe	19	14		34	27	
Wryneck	119	15		213	55	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	9			18		
European Green Woodpecker	33	1		46		
Black Woodpecker	6			15		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	359			632	7	
Syrian Woodpecker	36	1		46	3	
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	26			81		

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White-backed Woodpecker				2		
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	69			99		
Crested Lark	7	6		1		
Skylark	10	5		13		
Sand Martin	9106			9604	166	
Barn Swallow	20096	271		12828	263	
House Martin	118	10		230	11	
Tawny Pipit	5	5				
Tree Pipit	465	5		511		
Meadow Pipit	34			9		
Red-throated Pipit	5					
Water Pipit				17		
Yellow Wagtail	439	5		245	3	
Grey Wagtail	64	5		54		
White Wagtail	212	26		88	7	
Bohemian Waxwing				5		
White-throated Dipper	1					
Winter Wren	1414			453		
Dunnock	1512			1221		
Robin	12757			9316	4	
Thrush Nightingale	84			200		
Nightingale	757			873		
Bluethroat	211			308		
Black Redstart	746	165		742	139	
Common Redstart	115	1		208		
Whinchat	174			111	2	
Stonechat	348			397	4	
Northern Wheatear	6			10		
Ring Ouzel	1			1		
Blackbird	3691	58		3408	57	
Fieldfare	52			48		
Song Thrush	1661	9		1631	23	
Redwing	76			44		
Mistle Thrush	6			10		
Cetti's Warbler	5					
Grasshopper Warbler	143			113		
River Warbler	70	3		113		
Savi's Warbler	2337			2496		
Moustached Warbler	2444			1499		
Sedge Warbler	13996			13192		
Reed Warbler	15015	1		14949		
Marsh Warbler	1461			1856		

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Great Reed Warbler	3019	23	12	2727	2	8
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	3			3		
Icterine Warbler	241			380		
Blackcap	18714	5		14513		
Garden Warbler	1464	4		1781		
Barred Warbler	124			141	4	
Lesser Whitethroat	991	2		1070	2	
Common Whitethroat	919			1217		
Yellow-browed Warbler	1			2		
Dusky Warbler				1		
Wood Warbler	830			1326		
Common Chiffchaff	3783	4		3355	9	
Willow Warbler	763	4		1292		
Goldcrest	464	10		744	10	
Firecrest	130			65		
Spotted Flycatcher	429			606	15	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	27			30		
Collared Flycatcher	1298	1123		891	676	
Pied Flycatcher	438			722		
Bearded Reedling	2759			3622		
Long-tailed Bushtit	1964			2084	8	
Marsh Tit	830	21		1091	33	
Willow Tit	21			38		
Crested Tit	4			34	12	
Coal Tit	196	13		1000	18	
Blue Tit	9357	409		13496	442	
Great Tit	19306	2969		22765	3646	2
Nuthatch	403	77		776	91	
Treecreeper	109			208		
Short-toed Treecreeper	71	11		95	11	
Penduline Tit	2084	4		1730		
Golden Oriole	44			59		
Red-backed Shrike	926	24		1202	26	
Lesser Grey Shrike	2			5		
Great Grey Shrike	47		22	64		42
Eurasian Jay	182			197	4	
Eurasian Magpie	16	5		21	8	
Spotted Nutcracker				1		
Jackdaw	59	51		33	29	
Rook	49	1		57	8	1
Hooded Crow	44	34	1	42	39	25
Raven	5	5		9	8	

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Starling	1006	184		919	149	
House Sparrow	1097	86		1350	142	
Tree Sparrow	5286	154		6549	307	
Chaffinch	1734	4		1666	1	
Brambling	882			233		
Serin	274	1		342		
Greenfinch	7034	5		8117	1	
Goldfinch	2353	4		2977		
Siskin	2200			905		
Linnet	285	6		340		
Redpoll	1					
Red Crossbill	3			51		
Common Rosefinch				1		
Eurasian Bullfinch	126			408		
Hawfinch	817			1494	3	
Pine Bunting	1					
Yellowhammer	678	4		773	3	
Rock Bunting	7			5		
Little Bunting	1					
Reed Bunting	2925			1854		
Corn Bunting	22			5		
Chestnut Bunting	1					

**Recoveries in 2011 and 2012** (received and completed till 24.08.2013):

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and recaptured (8:20) in Hungary:

Years	Number of species	Number of recaptured individuals	Total number of cases
2011	121	21650	33156 (mainly local: 32501)
2012	114	22140	33313 (mainly local: 32637)

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and recovered (included metal ring reading: 28) in Hungary:

Year	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals	Total number of recoveries
2011	54	269	320
2012	56	384	445

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and **COLOUR** marks and observed in Hungary:

Year	Number of species	Number of observed individuals	Total number of observations
2011	21	998	2602
2012	23	1231	3091



**Recoveries in 2011 and 2012** (received and completed till 24.08.2013):

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and recaptured (8:20) abroad:

Years	Number of species	Number of recaptured individuals	Total number of cases	Number of the countries where the birds were recaptured
2011	23	144	157	19
2012	29	154	162	16

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and recovered (included metal ring reading: 28) abroad:

Years	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals	Total number of recoveries	Number of the countries where the birds were recovered
2011	35	124	139	26
2012	32	126	152	27

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and **COLOUR** marks and observed abroad:

Years	Number of species	Number of observed individuals	Total number of observations	Number of the countries where the birds were observed
2011	15	637	1627	26
2012	15	781	1817	28

Ringed birds with **FOREIGN** rings and recaptured (8:20) in Hungary:

Years	Number of species	Number of recaptured individuals	Total number of cases	Number of the schemes which ringed the birds
2011	26	152	163	19
2012	28	125	140	18

Ringed birds with **FOREIGN** rings and recovered (included metal ring reading: 28) in Hungary:

Years	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals	Total number of recoveries	Number of the schemes which ringed the birds
2011	22	99	149	21
2012	22	109	147	19

Ringed birds with **FOREIGN** rings and **COLOUR** marks and observed in Hungary:

Years	Number of species	Number of observed individuals	Total number of observations	Number of the schemes which ringed the birds
2011	22	464	917	23
2012	24	618	1163	22

**Rings**

National ring production (started in 1908) was finished in 2004. Rings were imported from I.Ö. Mekaniska (Sweden) between 2002 and 2011. Currently all type of rings are imported from Aranea (Poland). Ringers do not have to pay for the rings, except for most of the colour rings and other special rings which are purchased on request.

There are 29 different types of BUDAPEST rings in use. 11 of them signed with [www.ring.ac](http://www.ring.ac).

Hungarian type code (notes)	inner diameter (mm)	height (mm)	Number of characters	Current series
Fü	2.0	4.0	7	W
KP	2.5	5.0	7	A, K (from 2010)
NP	2.8	5.5	7	AE, N (from 2009)
Jé	3.5	3.5	6	J
Me	3.5	5.5	7	XA
Ri	4.2	7.0	7	TT
Li	5.0	7.0	7	LM
Sz (only for Roller)	6.0	5.0	6	C (from 2011)
Si	6.0	9.0	6,7	3, HA (from 2009)
Va	8.0	9.0	7	VR
Ré (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	10.0	10.0	6,7	4, RE (from 2009)
Gé (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	12.0	10.0	6	5
Só (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	14.0	10.0	7	LY
KS (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	16.0	10.0	7	KS
Ko (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	18.0	10.0	7	PH
Sa (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	23.0	15.0	7	AAA
Ha (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	26.0	20.0	5	HU, HN, HW
SNP (steel)	2.8	5.0	7	SN
SMe (steel)	3.5	4.5	7	SX
SRi (steel)	4.2	7.0	7	ST
SLi (steel)	5.0	7.0	7	SL
SSi (steel)	6.0	7.0	6,7	3, SH (from 2012)
SRé (steel)	10.0	9.0	7	SR
SRéO (steel, locking, oval, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	9.0 x 6.0	6.0	7	SA
SSzo (steel, locking, oval, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	13.5 x 8.0	6.0	7	SF
SKoO (steel, locking, oval, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	22.0 x 12.0	6.0	7	SP
SHa (steel, locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	26.0	20.0	5	HW, HT
EI (ELSA)	21.0 x 16.0	34.0	5	HX, HY, xH
RS WT Eagle (black/green, locking, pop rivet)	24.0	30.0	4	E

#### Other equipment

Sale of mist nets, pliers spring balances etc. is organized by the BirdLife Hungary (MME) Shop. Mist nets are imported mainly from Ecotone, Poland. Ringing pliers (3 types) are made in Hungary.

#### Annual Reports

1908–1986: *AQUILA*

1987–1994: *Ringing News* (not published serial for ringers)

1995–1997: *Túzok* magazine issued by BirdLife Hungary

1998–2005: *AQUILA*:

1998–1999: Simon, L. (2002): 1998–1999 report of Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre: the 39th ringing report. *Aquila* 107–108, p. 71–102.

2000–2001: Halmos, G., Karcza, Zs., Simon, L. & Varga L. (2003): 2000–2001 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. *Aquila* 109–110, p. 129–156.

2002: Halmos, G. & Karcza, Zs. (2004): 2002 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. *Aquila* 111, p. 167–194.

2003: Karcza, Zs. & Halmos, G. (2005): 2005 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. *Aquila* 112, p. 95–127.

2004–2005: Karcza, Zs. & Marosi, N. (2006.): 2004–2005 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. *Aquila* 113, p. 123–162.

2006–2012: Not published, but yearly reports are available on the website in Hungarian <http://www.mme.hu/termeszetvedelem/madargyrzesi-koezpont.html>