



Icelandic Ringing Scheme 2012. A short report of the Icelandic Ringing Scheme presented to EURING General Assembly in Helsinki 2013

2012 was the 92nd year of bird ringing in Iceland and the 81st year of the Icelandic Ringing Scheme. Forty five ringers ringed a total of 10,109 birds of 70 species. A total of 617 recoveries of Icelandic rings were reported (547 in Iceland and 70 abroad). Further 88 rings of foreign origin were recovered in Iceland.

Organisation

The Icelandic Ringing Scheme is run by the Icelandic Institute of Natural History under the Ministry for the Environment.

Ringing Unit staff

Ringing committee: Gudmundur A. Gudmundsson (chair), Kristinn H. Skarphéðinsson, Ólafur K. Nielsen, Svenja N.V. Auhage, Helga Valdemarsson, Anna Sveinsdóttir, Kjartan Birgisson and Borgthor Magnusson.

Daily management: Gudmundur A. Gudmundsson (25% position), Svenja N.V. Auhage (40%) and Helga Valdimarsson (10%). Furthermore, four temporary employees worked in summer 2012 for 2 months each (total 65% position) checking and validating database entries. Total man power in 2012 was approx. 1.5 full-time positions.

Ringing scheme operations

The number of ringed birds in 2012 was 10,109 (total 1921-2012, 635,907) of 70 species (150). The number of recovered (and controlled) birds 2012 was 705 (total 1921-2012, ca. 51,200) of which 12% were foreign rings. The number of active ringers in 2012 was 45 (same in 2011).

Three most ringed species in 2012 were 1487 Arctic Tern, 1130 Snow Bunting and 964 Redwing.

Three most recovered species in 2012 were 89 Common Guillemot, 77 Eider and 49 Whooper.

The three ringers that ringed most birds in 2012 were 1698 by SE-Iceland Bird Observatory, 1547 by Ólafur Torfason and 1239 by Sverrir Thorstensen.

The ten most ringed species 1921-2012 are 75,948 Snow Bunting, 75,842 Atlantic Puffin, 58,344 Redwing, 49,162 Arctic Tern, 33,690 Black-legged Kittiwake, 30,632 Fulmar, 21,038 Great Skua, 19,730 Black Guillemot, 15,720 Meadow Pipit and 15,371 Common Guillemot.

Data storage

Ringing- and recovery data are presently stored in a SQL database managed through a home-made software and accessible through Microsoft Access queries. About 85% of new ringing data 2012 were delivered in Excel spreadsheets ready for import in the database. By end of 2012 about 91% of all ringing data had been entered into the database (all checked) and 81% of all recovery data (all checked). When all back-logs of data have been entered we plan to re-code the entire dataset using EURING 2000-codes and start managing the data by using RingAccess.

	Estimated total 1921-2012	Entries 31 st Dec. 2012	In DB by end of 2012
Ringing records	635,900	581,000*	91%
Recoveries**	51,200	41,266***	81%

* 615,000 entries (97%) 1st September 2013, ** includes numerous ringers' own recoveries,

*** 49,256 entries (96%) 1st September 2013

Annual report

Annual reports were published 1932-1953. After that only brief reports 1993-1996 have come out. Since 2010 annual reports have been published on IINH home-page and sent to all ringers. The 2012 report was sent to ringers in early July 2013.

Internet

A portal for ringers is under construction. First priority is having each ringer's data available for them as well as the possibility for ringers to enter their ringing data electronically and map own recoveries. Annual reporting is planned on a web-page as well as having published papers, recovery maps and other analysed data accessible for general users.

Long-term ringing projects

Several large research projects are based on colour-ringing. Some are in co-operation with foreign researches, especially from the UK. The largest CR-projects are Whooper Swan, Brent Goose, Greylag, Pink-footed Goose, Black-tailed Godwit, Ringed Plover and Lesser Black-backed Gull. These projects maintain their own databases (containing tenths and even hundreds of thousands of records) with or aiming at annual reporting and backup to ISRS.

Research

Several studies based on ringing data were finished in 2012, either by graduation or by publication. Hálfván H. Helgason finished a M.Sc. degree on Atlantic Puffin in January 2012 based on analysis of recoveries of Puffin ringed in the Westman Islands (Hálfván H. Helgason 2012). Ellen Magnúsdóttir graduated with a M.Sc. degree on wintering range of Great Skua based on geolocator data in May 2012 (Ellen Magnúsdóttir 2012, Magnusdottir et al. 2012). Böðvar Þórisson finished a M.Sc. degree on breeding biology and migration of Ringed Plovers in January 2013 (Thorisson et al. 2012). Gunnar Th. Hallgrímsson and co-workers published an overview of wintering range of Nearctic Purple Sandpipers on the East Atlantic flyway (Hallgrímsson et al. 2012) and Lopes et al. (2013) discussed possible overlap of different subspecies of Black-tailed Godwits in Iberia.

Co-operation

Reciprocal exchange of all recovery data linking Iceland and Germany between ISRS and DRS occurred in 2012 and of all recovery data linking Iceland and North America between ISRS and Washington. These comparisons of data sets were very rewarding for all partners.

Finances

The ISRS is financed through the annual budget of the IINH. There is no ringers' fee, but large projects by research institutes or individuals with project grants have occasionally been charged for cost of rings.

References

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