



# ISPRA

Istituto Superiore per la Protezione  
e la Ricerca Ambientale

## EURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HELSINKI, SEPTEMBER 2013

### ITALIAN REPORT

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- 1. General situation:** during the two years the ringing centre has faced most serious effects of shortage in core funds to buy rings. This has led to a temporary block in the distribution of rings in 2012. A similar situation occurred in 2013. However it has eventually been possible to get core funds and rings have been purchased during the last weeks. It has also been possible to get core funds to replace one of the servers supporting the information system of the Ringing Centre. Data derived from ringing activity in Italy have been, for the first time, used to produce general indicators of biodiversity monitoring within the general national statistical yearbook.
- 2. Staff:** the Ringing Centre is still included within the section "Bird migration". The present situation is: 2.5 academic (Fernando Spina, general organisation; Davide Licheri, database management, information system; Stefano Volponi, colour ringing projects), 4 clerical (Ezio Orfelini 50% part-time, licensing; Rosita Mantovani 50% part-time & Pierfrancesco Micheloni recoveries, Dario Piacentini recoveries, projects).
- 3. Ringers:** the organisation of licensing has not changed since the last meeting. Presently we have a total of 442 licensed ringers and 134 trainees. In February 2012 we held the XI National Ringers' Meeting in Gaeta, thanks to full financial support obtained from the local Parco della Riviera di Ulisse and by the Municipality of Gaeta. The meeting has seen the attendance of over 300 ringers and invited keynote speeches by Ian Newton from and Gabriel Gargallo. A detailed questionnaire has been circulated to all ringers late in 2012 to get an updated overview of the situation of ringing in Italy. The results have confirmed still a positive trend in the interest and involvement of ringers and in their commitment. At the same time the RC has decided to have a stronger coordination role and we are presently considering a strategy which will funnel also "backyard ringing" within more structured and co-ordinated initiatives at the national scale.
- 4. Rings:** rings are still freely distributed to the ringers, together with pliers, max chord and feather-length rulers. A total of 20 ring types are used, ranging from 2.0mm to 26.0mm in diameter and made of Aluminium (4 types), Alloy (4 types), Stainless steel (9 types) and Incoloy (3 types). We purchase rings from Mekaniska (Sweden) and Porzana (UK).
- 5. Ringing totals:** for annual totals of ringing data and recoveries from the last two years after the Malta meeting, as well as for the grand totals of data stored in EPE, please see tab. 1 below. The central data base has now exceeded 6 million entries.
- 6. Recoveries:** we still find that several Ringing Centres do not use their password protected dedicated web pages on our EPE system; we recommend Centres to do so and, in case, contact us for any query of problem in using this interface. We recall that all data concerning a given Ringing Centres are not mailed to the Centres but stored in these dedicated pages for the Centres to access to directly. External funds have allowed implementing a web-based interface for on-line reporting of recoveries. The project has been realised by Davide Licheri and Gianni Benciolini as an external software expert. This new interface has been launched recently for ringers as a test phase, and the aim is to open it to the wide public in late autumn. This allows reporting of any encounter, be it through metal ring or colour mark.



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**Tab. 1 - Data presently stored in EPE:**

| year | ringed  | recovered | Ringing total | Recoveries total | Grand totals |
|------|---------|-----------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| 2011 | 312.348 | 23.350    | 5.574.357     | 206.931          | 5.781.288    |
| 2012 | 287.019 | 22.556    | 5.861.376     | 229.487          | 6.090.863    |

## 7. Projects:

- **7.1. Progetto Piccole Isole:** the project has completed its 26 year in 2013. On average ca. 20 different sites are annually run across the Mediterranean. Recent satellite projects in Italy have taken into account aspects of stopover physiology and seasonality of passage and differential migration. Over 50 papers have been published.
- **7.2. Progetto Alpi:** the project started in 1997 and investigates patterns of autumn migration across the barrier represented by the Alps. It is based on a network of stations widely stretched along longitude and on high passes, mountain slopes and valley bottoms. The secretarial work is still ensured by the Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali. The project has completed its 16th year; an overall total of 433,559 birds belonging to 179 species has been ringed. Analyses have been performed about geographical and altitudinal distribution of species and population trends in autumn passage migrants.
- **7.3. Italian CES, PRISCO:** the Italian Constant Effort Site PRISCO (PRogetto di Inanellamento a Sforzo COstante) started in 2002. A weaker effort has featured the last couple of years but plans are being discussed to try and reinforce the project.
- **7.4. Use of first-capture data and recoveries by the Ringing Scheme for the application of environmental laws:** first-capture data, recoveries and morphometrics are still used for consultancy activities referred to the implementation of the UE Wild Birds Directive and CMS in Italy. In particular data derived from ringing are part of the scientific information based on which the "Bird Migration branch" of ISPRA (which includes the Italian RC) is presently working to support the Ministry of the Environment in the reporting of art. 12 of the EU Wild Birds Directive.