

Yearly report of the Swiss ringing scheme

Juli 2012 – June 2013

Jacques Laesser



vogelwarte.ch

Impressum

Yearly report of the Swiss ringing scheme. July 2012 – June 2013.

Author

Jacques Laesser

Collaboration

Michael Schaub, Lukas Jenni

Translation

Outi Vanamo Gasser

Pictures (title page)

Jürg Widmer

Recommended citation

Laesser, J. (2013): Yearly report of the Swiss ringing scheme. Juli 2012 – June 2013. Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach, Sempach.

Contact

Jacques Laesser, Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach, CH-6204 Sempach

Tél.: 041 462 97 00, 041 462 97 23 (direct), Fax: 041 462 97 10, jacques.laesser@vogelwarte.ch

© 2013, Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach

Contents

Résumé	3
Zusammenfassung	3
Abstract	4
1. Mandate	5
2. Staff	5
3. Report of the Ringing scheme	6
3.1 Legal basis	6
3.2 Quantitative results in 2012	6
3.3 Projects	6
3.4 Collaborations	7
3.5 Development of the data banks and the data input software RingExt	7
4. EURING	7
5. Thanks	7
6. Publications	8

Résumé

Le mandat Gestion du baguage d'oiseaux sauvages en Suisse a été renouvelé pour la période du 1^{er} juillet 2012 au 30 juin 2016.

Les révisions des Directives et du Règlement ont été soumis à l'OFEV. La succession de la Directive LPA 4.03 est en discussion.

En 2012, 110'303 oiseaux ont été bagués en Suisse, ce qui constitue la troisième année en terme de quantité. Le nombre de reprises saisies en 2012 s'élève à 2'305. 280 autorisations ont été délivrées par l'OFEV pour 237 projets.

Un partenariat avec le Programme de Conservation des espèces menacées couvre l'organisation et l'administration de deux projets. Dans ce cadre, un développement de RingExt facilitant la saisie et l'analyse des données est en phase de réalisation.

Les échanges électroniques de données avec la Centrale de baguage française donnent des résultats encourageants.

Quatre collaborateurs de la Station ornithologique suisse ont participé à l'analytical meeting d'EURING du 28 avril au 4 mai 2013 à Athens, Etats-Unis.

Zusammenfassung

Der Vertrag über die Koordination und Administration der Beringung der wildlebenden Vögel in der Schweiz wurde für die Zeitspanne 1. Juli 2012 bis 30. Juni 2016 erneuert.

Die Revision der Richtlinien und des Reglements wurden dem BAFU eingereicht. Die Nachfolge der Tierschutzrichtlinie 4.03 ist in Diskussion.

2012 wurden in der Schweiz 110'303 Vögel beringt, was die dritthöchste Anzahl seit Beginn der Beringung in der Schweiz darstellt. Die Anzahl 2012 erfasster Wiederfunde erhöhte sich auf 2'305. 280 Beringerbewilligungen wurden für 237 Projekte durch das BAFU ausgestellt.

In Zusammenhang mit dem Programm Artenförderung Vögel Schweiz wurde die Organisation und Administration zweier Projekte übernommen. In dem Zusammenhang ist eine Weiterentwicklung von RingExt in Umsetzung, welche die Dateneingabe und Datenanalyse vereinfachen wird.

Der elektronische Datenaustausch mit der Französischen Beringungszentrale gibt vielversprechende Resultate.

Vier Mitarbeiter der Vogelwarte haben am Analytical Meeting von EURING vom 28. April bis 4. Mai 2013 in Athens, USA teilgenommen.

Übersetzung: Sarah Althaus

Abstract

The mandate of the Swiss government for the coordination and administration of the marking of wild birds in Switzerland has been extended to the period July 2012 – June 2016.

A revision of the rules and directives for the marking of wild birds have been submitted to the Federal Office of the Environment (FOEN). The succession of the Directive 4.03 of the Animal protection act is under review by the Federal Veterinary Office, certainly leading to important consequences for all bird ringing projects in Switzerland.

In 2012, 110'303 birds were ringed in Switzerland. This was the third highest yearly number since the beginning of ringing activities in the country. The number of re-encounters seized is 2'305. 280 ringers obtained a license from the FOEN for a total of 237 projects.

In cooperation with the Swiss species recovery programme, the organisation and administration of two projects has been reorganised with an active participation of the Swiss ringing scheme. In this context, a software for data input is currently developed. This will simplify the collection and analysis of data of some breeding birds monitoring projects.

The data exchange process using EURING code 2000+, developed in collaboration with the French ringing scheme (CRBPO), is running and gives very encouraging results.

Four collaborators of the Swiss Ornithological Institute have taken part in the Analytical Meeting of EURING, 28 April - 4 May 2013 in Athens, USA.

1. Mandate

The mandate of the Swiss government for the coordination and administration of the marking of wild birds in Switzerland has been extended to the period July 2012 – June 2016. This report covers the second half of the year 2012 and the first half of 2013.

2. Staff

The direction of the ringing scheme has been taken on by Jacques Laesser (70%), who is also responsible for the management and development of the data banks, for the administration of the ringing licences and of the projects, and represents the Swiss ringing scheme in EURING.

Until December 2012 Sarah Althaus worked 60%, with a break between the end of July and the beginning of December 2012 (when she was responsible for the ringing station of Col de Bretolet). The registration of recoveries was temporarily taken over by Yves Bötsch. Since January 2013, Sarah Althaus has reduced her working time to 20%. In 2013 she trained her successor, prepared the ringers assembly and organized the ringing station of Col de Bretolet. Between December 2012 and February 2013 Martina Uhl took over the management of recoveries. Since March 2013 Outi Vanamo Gasser was responsible for this administrative work as well as for the management of materials. She works on 50%.

The support and technical development of the data bank was, as usual, taken over by Guido Häfliger. Michael Schaub is a member of the EURING board.

The ringers' committee members are Dr Johann Hegelbach (Zürich), Jacques Jeanmonod (Payerne), Roberto Lardelli (Genestrerio), Paul Mosimann (Ins), Pierre-Alain Ravussin (Baulmes), Michael Schaad (Bern), Lukas Jenni (representative of the Swiss Ornithological Institute) and Jacques Laesser (representative of the ringing centre). The committee met on 16 January 2013.

The triennial assembly of the ringers will take place on 16 November 2013 in Bern, for the first time independently of the assembly of the volunteers of the Swiss Ornithological Institute.

3. Report of the Ringing scheme

3.1 Legal basis

A revision of the rules and directives for the marking of wild birds have been submitted to the Federal Office of the Environment (FOEN). Especially the directives became obsolete and needed to be actualized. The validity of these documents is however put into question due to the uncertain future of the Directive 4.03 of the Animal protection act. The Federal Veterinary Office is currently working on the contents of a new version.

Contacts have been taken with the Federal Veterinary Office to make sure that the new regulations respect the specific needs of bird ringing and in general the research on wild vertebrates.

Changes might have import consequences on many bird ringing projects.

A revision of the statutes of the ringers' committee has been discussed among the committee members. A new version shall be voted at the ringers' assembly on 16 November 2013 in Bern.

3.2 Quantitative results in 2012

In 2012, a total of 110'303 birds has been ringed in Switzerland (average 2002 - 2011: 82'721) of 160 species (168.8) of which 87'998 (64'354) were full-grown and 22'305 (18'367) nestlings (Laesser et al. 2013). In 2012 we obtained the third highest number of ringings after 1974 and 2005. This can be mainly explained by the very high numbers of forest passerines, such as Coal Tit *Parus ater* (2012:15'367; average 2002-2011: 2'612), Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (13'812; 8'824), Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* (8'551; 3'582) and Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (147; 84).

An excellent reproduction of Owls reflected the number of birds ringed: Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (1'398; 766); Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (1'735; 1'145) or Boreal Owl *Aegolius funereus* (265; 175); as well as for the raptors the Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (3'265; 2'026).

On the other hand, European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* (5'764; 6'829), Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (2'585; 4'859), Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* (2'144; 2'888) and Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* (2'298; 3'812) have been caught in rather low numbers.

The number of re-encounters of birds ringed in Switzerland recorded by the Scheme in 2012 was 2'305 (Average 2002-2011: 2'845) consisting of 1'490 different individuals (2'004). On the whole, 3'271 re-encounters of 2'049 birds have been recorded. Moreover, 8'111 recaptures of 5'876 birds have been computed by the ringers.

The number of ringing licences issued by the FOEN in 2012 was 280 (average 2002 - 2011: 229). Thirty new ringers received a licence; among them one received an A-licence and another a C-licence. None of the applications were rejected. In 2013, until the date of the report, sixteen new applications of type B have been submitted and all have been accepted.

3.3 Projects

In 2012, licenses have been delivered for 237 projects. Ten new projects have been submitted. One of them has been rejected. Until the date of the report, six new projects have been accepted in 2013, two with restrictions.

The coordinated project *Monitoring of the Hoopoe and the Wryneck*, proposed by the Swiss species recovery programme, has been submitted (see chapter *Collaborations*). It includes four new local projects.

3.4 Collaborations

A partnership has been set up between the Swiss species recovery program and the Ringing scheme, in order to propose two coordinated programs which put the local projects together. A common method is required, allowing the compilation of data and their analysis at the national level. Since 2012 the project *Monitoring of Barn Owl and Common Kestrel* follows this structure. The coordinated project *Monitoring Hoopoe and Wryneck* has been approved in 2013, following a similar method, allowing the adoption of the established organisation and tools. An active participation of the Ringing scheme in the organisation and collection of the data is being developed for the *Monitoring of Barn Owl and Common Kestrel*.

3.5 Development of the data banks and the data input software RingExt

Within the partnership of the Swiss species recovery program, an adaptation of RingExt is in progress to improve the coordination of the project *Monitoring Barn Owl and Common Kestrel*, for the field season 2013. It includes a module for the management of the nest boxes of each project. This tool will simplify the collection and analysis of the data. In the future it will allow the creation of a module of RingExt which will allow entering breeding data together with the ringing data. An application in other projects is under consideration (e.g. *Monitoring Hoopoe and Eurasian Wryneck*).

For reasons beyond our control, it has not been possible to follow the plan to realise this new version of RingExt up to now. The ringers in the project *Monitoring Barn Owl / Common Kestrel* have been informed to wait for this new version before entering their data.

The exchange of electronic ringing and re-encounter data with the French ringing scheme continues. After the first fruitful trials, fine-tuning has been necessary. In the current state the procedure requires attentive monitoring but represents already a promising progress, in terms of quality of data as well as in terms of time spared.

4. EURING

The analytical meeting of EURING took place from 28 April to 4 May 2013 in Athens (Georgia, USA). More than a hundred persons attended this scientific meeting. From the Swiss ornithological institute Fränzi Korner-Nievergelt, Michael Schaub and Jérôme Guélat each made a presentation. Marc Kéry led a workshop.

The EURING board meeting took place from 13 to 15 March 2013 in Wilhelmshaven, at the invitation of Franz Bairlein. Michael Schaub took part.

5. Thanks

We thank Dr Reinhard Schnidrig and Dr Bruno Stadler of the Federal Office of the Environment for their extended support and excellent collaboration.

6. Publications

Scientific publications

- Almasi, B., A. Roulin, F. Korner-Nievergelt, S. Jenni-Eiermann & L. Jenni (2012): Coloration signals the ability to cope with elevated stress hormones: effects of corticosterone on growth of barn owls are associated with melanism. *J. Evol. Biol.* 25: 1189–1199.
- Amrhein, V., B. Scaar, M. Baumann, N. Minéry, J.-P. Binnert & F. Korner-Nievergelt (2012): Estimating adult sex ratios from bird mist netting data. *Methods Ecol. Evol.* 3: 713–720.
- Antoniazza, M., F. Korner-Nievergelt & V. Keller (2012): Les mouvements des Grands Cormorans *Phalacrocorax carbo* bagués dans la colonie du Fanel, lac de Neuchâtel. *Nos Oiseaux* 59: 11–22.
- Arlettaz, R., M. L. Maurer, P. Mosimann-Kampe, S. Nusslé, F. Abadi, V. Braunisch & M. Schaub (2012): New vineyard cultivation practices create patchy ground vegetation, favouring Woodlarks. *J. Ornithol.* 153: 229–238.
- Berthier, K., F. Leippert, L. Fumagalli & R. Arlettaz (2012): Massive nest-box supplementation boosts fecundity, survival and even immigration without altering mating and reproductive behaviour in a rapidly recovered bird population. *PlosOne* 7 (4): e36028.
- Bötsch, Y., R. Arlettaz & M. Schaub (2012): Breeding dispersal of Eurasian hoopoes (*Upupa epops*) within and between years in relation to reproductive success, sex, and age. *Auk* 129: 283–295.
- Fletcher, D., J.-D. Lebreton, L. Marescot, M. Schaub, O. Gimenez, S. Dawson & E. Slooten (2012): Bias in estimation of adult survival and asymptotic population growth rate caused by undetected capture heterogeneity. *Methods Ecol. Evol.* 3: 206–216.
- Keller, V., M. Antoniazza, P. Mosimann-Kampe & P. Rapin (2012): Dix ans de reproduction du Grand Cormoran *Phalacrocorax carbo* en Suisse (2001–2010). *Nos Oiseaux* 59: 3–10.
- Korner-Nievergelt, F., L. Jenni, A. P. Tøttrup & G. Pasinelli (2012): Departure directions, migratory timing and nonbreeding distribution of the Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*: do ring re-encounters and light-based geolocator data tell the same story? *Ringling & Migr.* 27: 83–93.
- Korner-Nievergelt, F., F. Liechti & S. Hahn (2012): Migratory connectivity derived from sparse ring reencounter data with unknown numbers of ringed birds. *J. Ornithol.* 153: 771–782.
- Lambrechts, M. M., K. L. Wiebe, P. Sunde, T. Solonen, F. Sergio, A. Roulin, A. P. Møller, B. C. Lopez, J. A. Fargallo, K.-M. Exo, G. Dell’Omo, D. Costantini, M. Charter, M. W. Butler, G. R. Bortolotti, R. Arlettaz & E. Korpimäki (2012): Nest box design for the study of diurnal raptors and owls is still an overlooked point in ecological, evolutionary and conservation studies: a review. *J. Ornithol.* 153: 23–34.
- Lisovski, S. & S. Hahn (2012): GeoLight – processing and analysing light-based geolocator data in R. *Methods Ecol. Evol.* 3: 1055–1059.
- Lisovski, S., C. M. Hewson, R. H. G. Klaassen, F. Korner-Nievergelt, M. W. Kristensen & S. Hahn (2012): Geolocation by light: accuracy and precision affected by environmental factors. *Methods Ecol. Evol.* 3: 603–612.
- Morales Fernaz, J., L. Schifferli & M. Gruebler (2012): Ageing nestling Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica*: an illustrated guide and cautionary comments. *Ringling & Migr.* 27: 65–75.
- Pasinelli, G. & K. Schiegg (2012): Die Bedeutung kleiner Feuchtgebiete für den Artenschutz: Synthese einer Populationsstudie an der Rohrammer *Emberiza schoeniclus*. *Ornithol. Beob.* 109 (3): 201–220.

- Patthey, P., N. Signorell, L. Rotelli & R. Arlettaz (2012): Vegetation structural and compositional heterogeneity as a key feature in Alpine black grouse microhabitat selection: conservation management implications. *Eur. J. Wildl. Res.* 58: 59–70.
- Ruppli, C. A., B. Almasi, A. N. Dreiss, M. Battesti, L. Jenni & A. Roulin (2012): Corticosterone promotes scramble competition over sibling negotiation in barn owl nestlings (*Tyto alba*). *J. of Evol. Biol.* 39: 348–358.
- Sauter, A., P. Korner, W. Fiedler & L. Jenni (2012): Individual behavioural variability of an ecological generalist: activity patterns and local movements of Mallards *Anas platyrhynchos* in winter. *J. Ornithol.* 153: 713–726.
- Schaub, M. (2012): Populationsbiologie als zentrales Element der Naturschutzforschung. *Ornithol. Beob.* 109 (3): 185–200.
- Schaub, M. & M. Kéry (2012): Combining information in hierarchical models improves inferences in population ecology and demographic population analyses. *Animal Conservation* 15: 125–126.
- Schaub, M., T. S. Reichlin, F. Abadi, M. Kéry, L. Jenni & R. Arlettaz (2012): The demographic drivers of local population dynamics in two rare migratory birds. *Oecologia* 168: 97–108.
- Tagmann-loset, A., M. Schaub, T. S. Reichlin, N. Weisshaupt & R. Arlettaz (2012): Bare ground as a crucial habitat feature for a rare terrestrially foraging farmland bird of Central Europe. *Acta Oecologica* 39: 25–32.

Published reports

- Horch, P., D. Ramseier & R. Spaar (2012): Artenförderung Kiebitz im Wauwilermoos LU. Jahresbericht 2012. Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach, Sempach.
- Keller V. & C. Müller (2012): Breeding colonies of Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* in Switzerland in 2012. Schweizerische Vogelwarte Sempach. 10. S.
- Lanz, M., S. Michler & J. Duplain (2012): Projet de conservation de la Perdrix grise *Perdix perdix* dans le canton de Genève. Station ornithologique suisse, Sempach.
- Sierro, A. (2012): Conservation du Petit-duc scops *Otus scops* en Valais: mesures concrètes et évolution des effectifs 2011. Schweizerische Vogelwarte, Sempach.

Thesis

- Bosco, L. (2012): Satellite picture based NDVI can predict woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) occurrence in vineyards. Bachelor thesis, Conservation Biology Department, University of Bern.

Report of the Swiss ringing scheme

- Laesser, J., G. Häfliger & S. Althaus (2013): Numbers of birds ringed and recovered by the Sempach Ringing Centre in 2012. Schweizerische Vogelwarte, Sempach.