



Madárgyűrűzési Központ - MME Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre - BirdLife Hungary

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2008: The Centenary of the Bird Ringing in Hungary

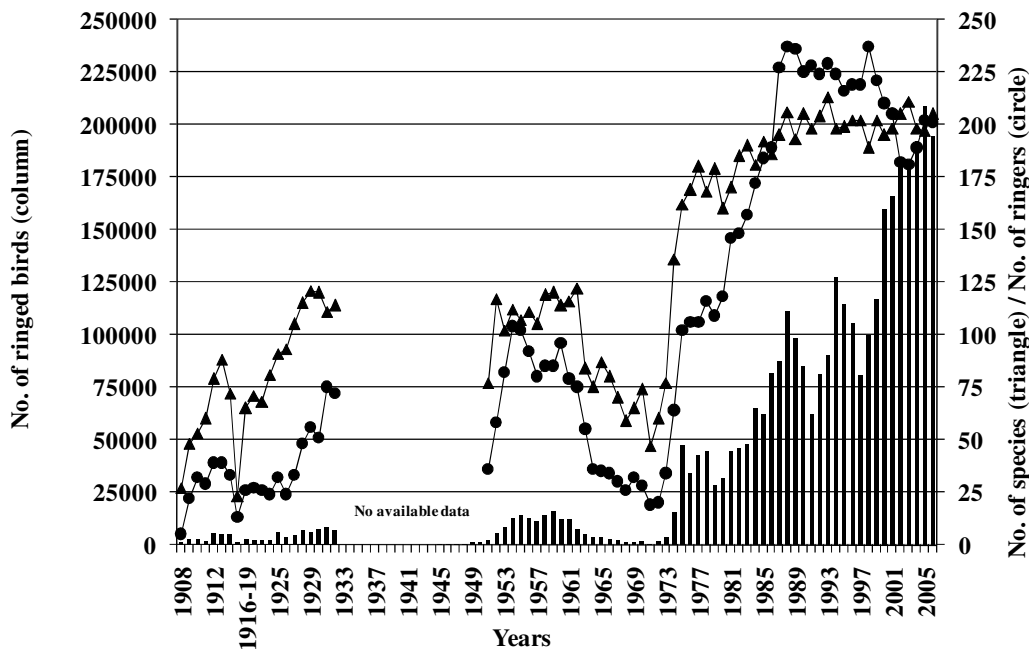


VÖNÖCZKY – SCHENK JAKAB
(1876—1945)

Short history

Bird ringing was launched in Hungary in 1908 by Jakab SCHENK (1876-1945), within the Hungarian Royal Ornithological Centre (later: Institute for Ornithology). Annual reports have been published in *Aquila* from the beginning. Unfortunately, the whole Hungarian databank and the archives were destroyed during the War II. The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre inherited merely fragments of the ringing data from that period, and the recovery data which were published in *Aquila* earlier. Ring production was restarted in 1951. From 1951 till the present day more than 3 million birds have been ringed, and their data have been totally computerized now (the software, *ringing office*, was prepared and is maintained by Lajos VARGA). This database contains 3,9 million records now.

Ringling activities in Hungary between 1908 and 2006



EURING General Meeting 2007 – Fertőújlak, Hungary

2005–2006 Report of Hungarian Ringing Scheme

Organisation

The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre has been operated by **BirdLife Hungary** (MME: Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society) since 1976.

Staff

Head of Scheme (full-time position): Zsolt KARCZA (*from 01.01.2004.*)

Database Coordinator (full-time position): Norbert MAROSI (*01.01.2004. – 31.12.2006.*)

Project Coordinator (full-time position): Nikoletta VERSECZKI (*from 01.11.2006.*)

Board members:

Ákos NÉMETH Chairman (Kiskunság National Park Management, Lake Kolon Bird Observatory)

dr. Gábor MAGYAR (Ministry of Environment and Water)

András SCHMIDT (Ministry of Environment and Water)

dr. Tibor SZÉP (BirdLife Hungary; College of Nyíregyháza)

dr. Tibor CSÖRGŐ (BirdLife Hungary; Eötvös Lóránd University, Ócsa Bird Observatory)

Ringers

2005: 281 ringers were licensed (176 of them were active)

2006: 302 ringers were licensed (201 of them were active)

According to the law, the Ministry of Environment and Water organises bird ringing examinations; twice a year.

Projects

- “*Actio Hungarica*”: standardized monitoring system of the autumnal bird migration, based on mist netting (eight ringing stations, three of them older than 20 years)
- “*Actio Riparia*”: a special long term monitoring project of the Sand Martin in Northeast Hungary
- *CES project*: started in 2004 in Hungary with 15 sites (2005: 19 sites, 2006: 22 sites)
- *Swallow project*: started in 2002 in Hungary with three breeding sites; and started earlier with five sites in the migration period
- *Larger actual colour ringing projects in Hungary*: Mute Swan, Spoonbill, Black Stork, White Stork (with ELSA rings), Imperial Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Kestrel, Saker, Peregrine, Mediterranean Gull, Black-headed Gull

Ringing & Recoveries

Bird ringing summaries:

Year	Number of species	Ringed individual
2005	197	208912 (the highest annual total ever in Hungary)
2006	205	194249

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

Foreign recoveries (received and completed till 31.07.2007):

Ringed birds with BUDAPEST rings and recovered (recaptures, recoveries and metal ring observations) abroad:

Year	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals	Total number of cases	Number of the countries where the birds were recovered
2005	45	244	316	31
2006	39	241	349	27

Ringed birds with BUDAPEST rings and COLOUR rings and observed abroad:

Year	Number of species	Number of observed individuals	Total number of observations	Number of the countries where the birds were observed
2005	7	277	1022	21
2006	7	246	781	21

Ringed birds with FOREIGN rings and recovered (recaptures, recoveries and metal ring observations) in Hungary:

Year	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals	Total number of cases	Number of the schemes which ringed the birds
2005	45	253	419	27
2006	37	211	270	23

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

Year	Number of species	Number of observed individuals	Total number of observations	Number of the schemes which ringed the birds
2005	11	105	283	13
2006	13	111	202	14

Annual Reports

After a long cease (1987 – 1997) the annual reports are issued in *AQUILA* again.

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.

Rings

The national ring production was finished in 2004. Rings are now imported from I. Ö. Mekaniska AB, Sweden. Ringers do not have to pay for the rings, except the colour and other special rings which are purchased on request. There are 13 different sizes of BUDAPEST rings in use.

Other equipment

Import of mist nets and spring balances is organized exclusively by the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. They are imported mainly from Ecotone, Poland.

Finance

The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre is financed under a partnership between BirdLife Hungary and the Ministry of Environment and Water (20 000 EUR/year between 2004 and 2008), from grants and by the BirdLife Hungary itself. The active ringers pay a yearly fee (20 EUR) to the RC since 2006.