

Report of the Channel Islands Bird-Ringing Scheme 2009

Organisation

The Channel Islands Bird Ringing Scheme was founded in 1936. The scheme was, until 2004, administered by volunteers as part of the Ornithological Section of Société Jersiaise the local history/ natural history society. Ringing did not start in the Guernsey Bailiwick until 1946.

The scheme supplied subsidised rings for use within the Channel Islands which are made up of two separate self-governing units; the island of Jersey and the Bailiwick of Guernsey which includes Guernsey, Alderney, Sark Herm and other off islets. Guernsey has a similar history/history society, La Société Guernesiaise.

All ringers must be members of one or other of the local societies.

Staff

The scheme has always been run by non-academic volunteers who only claim out of pocket expenses.

In 2004 Roger and Margaret Long retired from running the scheme after doing so for 45 years. We extend our grateful thanks to Roger and Margaret for all the work they have put into the running the scheme over all that time.

In 2004 Rich and Margaret Austin took over the scheme and it is now run from Guernsey.

Ringers

The scheme uses the British Trust for Ornithology requirements for qualification to become a ringer and all ringers must own and have read the Ringers' Manual.

There are three qualified ringers in Jersey and six qualified and one trainee in Guernsey.

Rings

Since 2004 rings have been purchased by monies from La Société Guernesiaise and the Environmental Services Department in Jersey. The ringers now purchase rings at just above cost price to try to reduce the dependency on hand outs from other sources.

The rings are purchased from Porzana.

Data

At present virtually all of the data gathered is still in paper format and is held in the Société Jersiaise Headquarters at the Jersey Museum.

Because the Jersey and Guernsey societies produce separate annual reports most of the Guernsey bailiwick ringing data, annual totals and recoveries/controls have been computerised since 1987.

Ringling Projects

For the last few years a colour ringling project has been undertaken to study Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Guernsey. For many years the island has disposed of its household waste in old quarries but this will almost certainly change to an energy to waste plant in the next five to ten years. The aim is to colour ring as many gulls as possible to follow their fortunes in the future.

Ringling and Recoveries

Year	Ringling	No. of Species	Grand Total Ringling	Recoveries	Grand Total Recoveries	Foreign-ringed birds recovered in C.I's
1998	9,669	94	385,101	177	6,350	20
1999	9,880	96	394,981	172	6,522	16
2000	8,328	98	403,309	153	6,675	39
2001	8,616	99	411,925	213	6,888	48
2002	7,731	92	419,656	162	7,050	26
2003	9,584	100	429,240			
2004	9,639	96	438,879	306	7,356	33
2005	13,416	99	452,293	379	7,635	43
2006	13,786	96	466,079	196	7,831	19
2007	7,515	95	473,594	196	8,027	44
2008	8,637	98	482,231	262	8,289	43

Data Management

Proposals are to be put to the ringling in both islands that a purpose written data base be acquired and a concerted effort be made to ensure that all historic data is computerised and lodged in the European Data Bank.

Address

The scheme is at present being run from a private residence.

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