

Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre, Denmark

Short annual report for EURING GM September 2009

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All ringing of wild birds with metal rings in Denmark is done with rings from the Zoological Museum at the University of Copenhagen, and all recoveries of metal rings are handled by the museum (incl. those few regarding old Kalø rings).

The Zoological Museum and the Ministry of Environment and Energy jointly finance the Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre according to an agreement that runs in periods of three years (since 1998). At the moment we are running on a contract lasting until 31 August 2010 which also includes a new strategy for the Centre with more emphasis on research on threatened species, monitoring of changes in population sizes and migratory behaviour and research on bird migration. Part of the new strategy also includes a thorough revision of our instructions to ringers.

The Centre has received generous support to prepare a Faroese Bird Migration Atlas similar to the Danish one. Despite continued efforts we have not been able to secure a reprint of The Danish Migration Atlas from 2007. We are investigating the possibility to publish the atlas on the web.

Activities at the centre are running smoothly. In November 2008, Jens Mikkel Lausten, started working as new staff member. He is an active and very experienced ringer. We continue to produce news-letters to the ringers (4 issues in 2007; 1 issue in 2009 so far).

New strategy

On basis of the results from the Danish Bird Migration Atlas a new strategy for the activities associated with the centre has been formulated. The focus is on (a) conservation, management, monitoring of changes and bird-borne diseases; (b) modernising the data handling procedures both in the centre and for individual ringers and allowing better access for the public to data; (c) revising guidelines for ringers and (d) gathering the ornithological research associated with the centre.

Furthermore, the ringing centre will continually revised the guidelines for ringers, including a detailed species-by-species list detailing the ringing status of each species, which specific projects allows the ringing of the species and the future ringing goal(s).

Projects at the Ringing Centre

Important research projects at the Centre include:

- a. The "Background Ringing Project". The aim of this project is to collect basic information on biology, phenology and natural history through general ringing on target species (c. 170 spp.) of which we still do not have sufficient ringing material. Additionally, ringing of a certain number of individuals annually allow for monitoring of changes in migratory behaviour.
- b. The "Rare breeding bird project". This overall project includes several smaller conservation projects including satellite and wing tagging of Montagu's harrier, radio tracking of little owls, 5 years ringing of sandwich terns, projects on white-tailed and golden eagles and the first ringing of Danish peregrines (in 2009).
- c. Development of tracking system for smaller birds using satellites in collaboration with the Danish Technical University (DTU).
- d. Environmental Impact Assessment of the Fehmarn Belt Link, including satellite tracking of seaducks.
- e. Six CES are in operation in 2009.
- f. Monitoring of Avian Influenza.
- g. Ringing of cured diseased and injured birds that are released back into nature.
- h. A Phd-project, analyses of trends in timing of migration of birds ringed at the Danish Island of Christiansø in the Baltic Sea, 1976-1997, finished in 2008.

Numbers of birds ringed and numbers of recoveries (Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre)

2007	Denmark	Faeroe Islands	Greenland
Birds ringed	96,481	415	725
Bird species ringed	175	34	18
Most numerous ringed	Robin 8,140 Great Tit 7,677 Goldcrest 7,241 Barn Swallow 6,230 Siskin 5,647	Storm-petrel 133 House Sparrow 53 Fulmar 52	Little Auk 176 Sanderling 119 Snow Sparrow 94
New ringing species	Three-toed Woodpecker		
Received and handled recoveries of DKC metal rings * The figure for Mute Swan is not yet	c. 1,900	93	4
Most numerous recovered species	Cormorant 554 Mute Swan 165 Herring Gull 138 Eider 98	Storm-petrel 33 Fulmar 13 House Sparrow 12	

2008	Denmark	Faeroe Islands	Greenland
Birds ringed	112,300	617	760
Bird species ringed	185	29	21
Most numerous ringed	Blue Tit 10,258 Robin 9,260 Great Tit 9,037 Coal Tit 6,564 Goldcrest 6,296	Fulmar 174 Starling 104 Puffin 70 Arctic Tern 53	Snow Goose 283 Canada Goose 124 Little Auk 75
New ringing species	Water Pipit		
Received and handled recoveries of DKC metal rings	c. 1,600	28	23
Most numerous recovered species	Mute Swan c. 250 Cormorant 180 Eider 152 Barn Owl 123 Herring Gull 102	Puffin 9 Fulmar 5 Lesser Black-backed Gull 5	Ivory Gull 11 Sanderling 7

Remarks: The vast number of readings of rings in connection with very large colour-marking projects on Cormorant, Pink-footed Goose, Mute Swan and gulls are handled separately by project holders. Excluded are also all local controls.

Numbers of ringers, ringing groups, and ringing stations

In 2008, the Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre issued 193 individual licenses. Seven ringing groups and 8 ringing stations were licensed to operate under our license. In 2009 (September), we have 195 ringers, 7 ringing groups, and 8 ringing stations. The number of ringers has been relatively stable for the last 10 years.

Staff at the Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre, Zoological Museum (Sept 2009)

Allocation of time by permanent Zoological Museum staff:

- Kasper Thorup, Dr., Head of the ringing scheme, part-time.
- Jan Bolding Kristensen, Assistant Curator, part-time.
- Jens Mikkel Lausten, Assistant Curator, full-time.

Staff on external funding:

- Jesper Johannes Madsen, M.Sc., Research and Project Co-ordinator, full-time.
- Kjeld T. Pedersen, Assistant Curator (database), full-time.
- Gert Christensen, Assistant Curator, part-time.

Student worker:

- Rune Tjørnløv, part-time

Post-docs:

- Anders Tøttrup

Computerising

From 2006 the ringers can use a computer interface (based on Access) supplied by the Ringing Centre to report their ringing data. All recovery data (incl. retraps, controls and readings of metal rings) are stored in databases, except older short-term retraps at the ringing site and recoveries of dead pullus. A beta-version of an electronic administration system is used to handle cormorant data and this system is expected to be fully operational before 2010.

External ringing projects

In addition to our own research projects, we have approved 46 external ringing projects under our license in 2009. These include 12 colour ringing projects, 1 experimental project and 15 projects involving nationally red-listed species. All these projects are external projects managed by amateur ringers or professional researchers from Denmark as well as abroad. Each project is approved annually based on a status report.