



## Zagreb, Croatian Ringing Scheme (HRZ)

### National Report for EURING General Assembly 2009

#### **Organization and address:**

Zagreb Ringing Scheme is organized within the Institute of Ornithology, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (CASA).

Address: Institute of Ornithology; Gunduliceva 24/II; HR-10000 Zagreb; CROATIA  
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#### **Staff:**

There is no staff employed as ringing or recovery officers but the Ringing scheme is managed by three full-time scientific employees of the Institute:

- **NEW!** Dr Vesna Tutis, Head of the Scheme (+385 1 4825 402) [preceding Head of the Scheme, Dragan Radovic, moved to another firm.]
- Dr Jelena Kralj, Recoveries and colour ringing (+385 1 4825 401)
- Dr Davor Cikovic, Ringers and metal rings (+385 1 4825 404)

The CASA covers salaries for scientific personnel and office costs, while projects and rings are financed from other resources.

#### **Ringing and recoveries:**

The average annual total number of birds ringed in 2007 and 2008 was approx. 71.000. Average number of recoveries is 1200 (1000 of them are recoveries of national rings and 200 from foreign rings).

#### **Ringers:**

Zagreb Ringing Scheme coordinated 62 active ringers with personal license. There were no new ringers authorized in 2008. There are no formal assistants so number of people assisting ringers is not known.

To become a ringer candidate must pass the ringing exam in front of the Commission composed of HRZ, Ministry of Culture and bird ringers' representatives. Exam includes knowledge of all bird species registered in Croatian bird fauna (recognized from hand) and of nature protection law. Prior to taking exam a candidate must gain experience in ringing under supervision of licensed ringer.

Licenses are issued by the Institute of Ornithology, with permission of Croatian Ministry for Culture and Croatian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

Special permissions are needed for ringing of colonial species, species listed in Croatian Red Data Book and ringing in protected areas.



### **Rings:**

Rings produced in Sweden and Poland were in use. There were 15 different sizes of rings used. Ringers don't have to pay for the rings.

**NEW!** Ministry of Culture, Directorate for Nature Protection provided funds for rings in 2008 and 2009.

### **Colour-ringing projects:**

There are several colour-ringing projects currently running in Croatia:

- wing-tagging of the Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*;
- colour-ringing of the Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus cachinnans michahelis*, Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*, Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, Great White Egret *Egretta alba*, White-tailed Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* (colour ringing of Peregrines will start in 2010);
- marking of the Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* with neck-bands

### **Ringing camps and CES:**

Three ringing camps were organized in Croatia:

- Two camps organized by Croatian Ornithological Society: spring camp at Savica ponds (in Zagreb city) that lasts approx. one month and late summer/autumn ringing camp at Vransko lake, Dalmatia (Mid Adriatic) which lasts three to four months;
- Autumn ringing camp org. by BIOM society at Nature park Učka (North Adriatic) which lasts approx. one month.

All other ringing was carried out on individual basis. There is no CES site yet.

### **Data management:**

Ringing data are digitized since 1996. Data compilation is still not well organized due to the lack of specialized PC application for reports. Ringers send reports in MS Excel via e-mails or hard data storage devices. Individual reports are then compiled and transferred to MS Access for filtration and simple analyses. Filters regularly expel many received ringing data due to many typewriting mistakes made by ringers: ringing tables for reports with restrictions of data that can be typed in are needed in the future.

All recovery data (since 1910) are digitized.

**NEW!** Thanks to Chris du Feu HRZ has got all recovery data 1910 – 2009 coded in EURING 2000 code. Improvement of database is still needed, including acquisition of software for coding to EURING 2000 codes.

### **Plans:**

In year 2010 Croatian Ringing Scheme will celebrate 100 years of bird ringing in Croatia. For this occasion Zagreb Ringing Scheme website will be launched, brochure "Bird Ringing for Science and Conservation" will be printed in Croatian language and Croatian Bird Migration Atlas prepared and published.