



Institut für Vogelforschung

„Vogelwarte Helgoland“

Wilhelmshaven

Direktor: Prof. Dr. Franz Bairlein



Report of the Helgoland ringing centre (DEW) presented to EURING General Assembly 2009

- Organisation:* The Bird Ringing Centre is a unit of the Institute of Avian Research “Vogelwarte Helgoland” in Wilhelmshaven (Germany). The Institute of Avian Research is a public research facility of the German federal state of Lower Saxony.
The ringing centre started to work in 1909 on the island of Helgoland and is now responsible for scientific bird ringing in the German federal states of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Bremen, Lower Saxony, Northrhine-Westphalia and Hessen.
- Staff:* At this time 1 fulltime and 3 part time employees work in the ringing centre.
- Annual fee:* There is no fee for the ringers.
- Ringers:* 269 ringers or ringing groups ringed birds in 2008.
- Ringling courses:* In 2008 two ringing courses with 35 participants were given.
- Birds ringed:* 114.813 birds (including 44.567 nestlings) of 251 species were ringed in 2008. Since 1909 nearly 9 million birds have been ringed.
- Recoveries:* 31.272 recoveries of birds with HELGOLAND-rings (including own retraps and ring readings) and 530 recoveries of birds marked with rings of other schemes (and recovered in our area) were received in 2008. In total 236.330 recoveries of are in the data base.
- Computer:* A program for entering ringing and recovery data is distributed to the ringers for free. By this software the ringers submit their data to the ringing centre electronically.
In the ringing centre an ORACLE-database is used to store the data and to operate with them. All ringing and recovery data from birds later recovered are in the data base. Since 2000 all ringing data have been in the ORACLE database. Older ringing data are included in part as well.

Rings: 15 different sizes (most in steel or aluminium) and 6 special types of rings are used. The numbering system of the rings were reorganized in 2007. Now the starting number or letter give always one to one the ring size (type). The rings are bought from Mekaniska AB (Sweden) or Porzana (UK). The rings are given for free to the ringers.

CES-project: 16 sites in 2008

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