

# **EURING GENERAL MEETING ANVERSA DEGLI ABRUZZI, SEPTEMBER 2009**

## **MATSALU (ESTONIA) - NATIONAL REPORT**

### **1. Organisation**

Since January 2009 Matsalu Bird Ringing Centre is a part of the Environmental Board. The main body has been reorganised twice during last three years.

Ringing in Estonia started in 1910; rings with signature ESTONIA MATSALU are in use since 1970.

### **2. Staff**

Two persons are employed in ringing centre – Olavi Vainu (Head of Scheme) and Kaarel Kaisel, both working full-time.

### **3. Ringers**

There are about 70 active ringers. Currently four ringing stations are operating in Estonia – on west-coast Häädemeeste and Kabli on mainland and Sõrve on Saaremaa island, plus Vaibla station on Võrtsjärv Lake. Half of the ringings were made in ringing stations. Ringers do not pay for rings.

### **4. Ringing activity**

35 200 birds (of 150 different species) were ringed in 2007 with Matsalu rings. 698 recoveries were recorded in 2007.

According to available data 47 100 (of 149 different species) birds were ringed and 755 were recovered in 2008. Now the Grand Total of ringed birds exceeds 3 210 000, and there are more than 42 000 recoveries.

### **5. Colour-ringing projects**

All breeding Eagle species (5) are ringed with coloured rings, as well as Black Stork. Common Gull has been ringed with colour-rings since 1991. In 2007 Cormorant ringing project started in co-operation with Dutch ringers. It was continued in 2009 by ourselves. Common Crane, Greylag Goose and Mute Swan are also ringed in small numbers with either colour-ring combination (Cranes) or coloured neck-bands.

### **5. Rings**

15 different ring sizes are in use. Most of aluminium and steel rings are made in Poland, colour rings are obtained from different sources.

### **6. Data management**

Electronic database based on MySQL database engine and EURING exchange code 2000 was implemented in 2004. Ringers may computerize their ringing data by themselves using csv form sheet for this purpose. For today most of recoveries of 21 century are computerised. However input of older data still takes considerable time. This year database is modified for better queries and data management.

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