



Vogelwarte Radolfzell · Schlossallee 2 · 78315 Radolfzell

Report of the Bird Ringing Centre „Radolfzell“ (DER) 2009

Vogelwarte Radolfzell

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Organisation

The Bird Ringing Centre is a core facility of the Department of Animal Migration and Immuno-Ecology (common name is “Vogelwarte Radolfzell”, Director: Prof. Martin Wikelski) of the Max Planck Institute of Ornithology. This department is the successor of “Vogelwarte Rossitten” on the Courish Spit (now in Russia) where bird ringing was started in 1903 by Johannes Thienemann.

The scheme “Radolfzell” is one of three coexisting and closely cooperating schemes in Germany. It is responsible for scientific bird ringing in the German federal states of Berlin, Saarland, Rhineland-Palatine, Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. Also, rings and recovery administration of Radolfzell are used in Austria until a stand-alone solution has been found there.

Staff

There is one half time position (for recovery processing) and two part time (20%) positions fully dedicated to the ringing scheme. Two more staff members (head of scheme 70% and technician for material and ring supply 30%) are partly working for the ringing scheme but are also involved in other institute projects.

Annual fee, costs for rings

There is no fee for the ringers. Metal and ELSA rings are given for free to the ringers.

Ringers, courses etc.

336 ringers were holding a ringing permit in 2008 (Austria: 55). Over the last years the number of ringers starting was always higher than the number of those who ended their ringing activities. Since 2009 the ringing course system has been harmonized with other European schemes and now consist of a practical part (at a ringing station or with a senior ringer) and a two day theoretical part (including examination on bird determination and knowledge of legal and administrative background). In addition, a field course for methods in breeding biology is held annually and attended by 25-30 persons.



Birds ringed and recovered

Recent annual numbers are around 25,000 nestlings and 33,000 fledged birds ringed and 7000 processed recoveries. By end of 2008 the database held 5.05 Mio ringings and 117,000 recoveries of 457 species. All ringing totals since 1962 have been submitted to the collection of ringing totals at the Euring Data Bank. Data from 1947 until 1961 has not been divided into nestling and fledgling numbers and can be derived from the grand totals of the table submitted. For the period between 1903 and 1945 only estimations are available, the original data has been destroyed.

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 and handle the data. In respect to software and database structure both elements of the database are kept synchronous with the Helgoland bird ringing scheme.