

BIRD RINGING IN ESTONIA 1998-2000

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1998

In 1998 47 614 birds of 162 species and 40 bats of 4 species were ringed in Estonia by 95 ringers. In addition to them 212 birds were ringed in Byelorussia. Most numerous among the marked birds was the Great Tit, *Parus major*, (8444 individuals), followed by the Goldcrest, *Regulus regulus* (8238), the Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula hypoleuca* (4009), the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus* (2676), the Sedge Warbler, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (2383), the Long-tailed Tit, *Aegithalos caudatus*, (2177), the Blue Tit, *Parus caeruleus*, (1959), the Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (1302), the Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus* (1173) and the Robin, *Erithacus rubecula* (1063). The number of ringed birds of other species did not exceed 1000. 17 423 birds were ringed as nestlings, 30 191 were fullgrown birds.

During 1998 916 recoveries of 59 bird species were reported: 460 from Estonia, 136 from the Netherlands, 93 from Germany, 38 from Lithuania, 31 from Finland, 21 from Russia, 18 from Latvia, Great Britain and Denmark, 15 from Poland, 13 from France, 10 from Switzerland, 9 from Italy, 7 from Sweden, 6 from Belgium, 3 from Austria, Spain and Slovenia, 2 from Czech, Ukraine and Hungary, 1 from Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Republic of South Africa, Malawi, Malta, Namibia and Tunisia. The most numerous bird among recoveries was Black-headed Gull with 233 individuals, followed by Common Gull (141) and Barn Swallow (95).

Most remote recovery was from Republic of South-Africa, where Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) ringed in 1995 was found. In Namibia Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) ringed in 1984 on Saaremaa island was caught and released. A White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) was observed in Malawi Republic.

1999

A total of 69 440 individuals of 176 species was banded with rings in 1999. Of them 48 371 were fullgrown birds and 21 069 were ringed at pullus age. Most numerous ringed bird species was the Great Tit with 16 982 individuals. The Goldcrest was following with 6352 individuals and the Blue Tit with 4357 individuals respectively. Of birds of prey 164 Buzzards (*Buteo buteo*) as nestlings and 4 fullgrown individuals were ringed. Also the number of ringed Sparrowhawks, *Accipiter nisus*, was high 147 fg birds + 8 nestlings. Eagle and Black Stork working group (Kotkas) ringed 34 White-tailed Eagles, 42 Ospreys and 37 Black Storks. Additionally 161 birds were ringed in Byelorussia, mostly in Vitebsk province. During last years number of ringed bats has been almost constantly around 40 individuals. So was the year 1999 - 41 bats of 4 species were ringed in Estonia.

All in all there was about 1000 recoveries in 1999. Interesting and remotest recoveries were 3 Common Terns and 1 Marsh Warbler in South-Africa, 1 Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) in Ghana. Exact numbers will be published in next ringing report (under edition).

2000

In year 2000 number of ringed birds raised over 100 000 – 103 872. The number is biggest since 1992. The reason for this was influx of Long-tailed Tit – more than 1/3 of all ringed birds (36939) were of this species. Number of ringed Great Tits was 12414 and Goldcrests 7303.

About 150 Long-tailed tits were recaptured during the autumn in Rybachy Station, Kaliningrad, Russia. Total number of recoveries was about 2000.

Rarities ringed in Estonian Ringing Stations in 2000

Lao

<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	Radde's Warbler
<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Subalpine Warbler
<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	Arctic Warbler

Nigula

<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Red-throated Pipit
<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Yellow-browed Warbler

Sörve

<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	Arctic Redpoll
<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	Hume's Inornate Warbler (Yellow-browed Warbler)
<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	Pallas's Leaf Warbler
<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Ring Ouzel

Today database of ringed birds consists of 2 792 578 birds, number of recoveries exceeds 40 000. Number of birds ringed abroad and recovered in Estonia fluctuates yearly around 100.

Number of ring sizes is 14 (2mm-27,5 mm), number of active ringers is less than 100.

Currently four ringing stations are operating in Estonian west-coast – Lao, Häädemeeste and Kabli on mainland and Sörve on Saaremaa island. The last one started in 1999 and is running thanks to Finnish ringers. In this year (2001) also Vaibla station on Võrtsjärv Lake restarted to operate – ringing mainly reed warblers.

Today we are still collecting data on paper-files. An application has been made to create and develop computer-based database. Hopefully we can start computerise data within next year (2002).

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