

CHANNEL ISLANDS BIRD-RINGING SCHEME



Report of the Channel Islands Bird-Ringing Scheme 2011

Organisation

The Channel Islands Bird Ringing Scheme was founded in 1936. The scheme was, until 2004, administered by volunteers as part of the Ornithological Section of Société Jersiaise the local history/natural history society. Ringing did not start in the Guernsey Bailiwick until 1946.

The Scheme operates within two separate self-governing areas; the Island of Jersey and the Bailiwick of Guernsey which includes Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm and other off islets.

All ringers must be members of either La Société Jersiaise or La Société Guernesiaise

Staff

The scheme is now administered from Guernsey and is being run by two non-academic volunteers (Margaret & Rich Austin) who only claim out of pocket expenses.

Ringers

The scheme closely follows the requirements set by the British Trust for Ornithology except where local laws differ from the United Kingdom and all ringers must own and have read the Ringers' Manual.

There are three qualified and two trainee ringers in Jersey and six qualified and two trainees in Guernsey.

Rings

Since 2004 rings have been purchased by monies from La Société Guernesiaise and the Environmental Services Department in Jersey. The ringers now purchase rings at just above cost price to try to reduce the dependency on hand outs from other sources.

The rings are purchased from Porzana.

Finance

The Scheme receives no financial assistance from either the States of Jersey or the States of Guernsey. In the past the natural history societies of both islands have assisted with running costs and purchase of rings.

In 2011 the Scheme received a donation of £1,500 from towards the cost of computerisation and has been promised a donation towards the purchase of computer by an international company.

Data Management

At the last EURING Meeting the Council decided to assist with the translation of the computer program specifically written for the Norwegian Ringing Scheme by Vidar Bakken.

The Channel Island Scheme expressed strong interest and was chosen to trial the translated program and in October 2010 Vidar visited Guernsey to set up the new program. Vidar managed to transfer the original ringing data on approximately 150,000 records and since then a further 100,000 records have been added. Work has also started on entering the recoveries/controls with approximately 2,000 completed so far.

There is still some fine tuning required to the program but it is now being used to record all current ringing data. The Scheme would like to take this opportunity to thank Vidar for his help and patience in sorting out the inevitable teething problems.

Rather than risk moving paper records from LaSociété Jersiaise Headquarters at the Jersey Museum we have one of the Jersey ringers scanning historical records to pdf files so this data can be input as and when time allows.

Ringing Projects

For the last few years a colour ringing project has been undertaken to study Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Guernsey. For many years the island has disposed of its household waste in old quarries but this will almost certainly change, probably to a waste to energy plant, in the next five to ten years. The aim is to colour ring as many gulls as possible to follow their fortunes once this easy source of food is no longer available.

Ringling and Recoveries

Year	Ringed	No. of Species	Grand Total Ringed	Recoveries/ Controls	Total Recoveries	Foreign-ringed birds recovered in C.I's
2000	8,328	98	403,309	153	6,675	39
2001	8,616	99	411,925	213	6,888	48
2002	7,731	92	419,656	162	7,050	26
2003	9,584	100	429,240	306	7,356	33
2004	9,639	96	438,879			
2005	13,416	99	452,293	379	7,735	43
2006	13,786	96	466,079	196	7,931	19
2007	7,515	95	473,594	196	8,127	44
2008	8,637	98	482,231	262	8,389	43
2009	9,010	95	491,241	502	8,891	79
2010	8,356	97	499,598	690	9,581	85

The large increase in the number of Recoveries/controls in 2009 and 2010 is a result of sighting of colour ringed Gulls.

Address

The scheme is at present being run from a private residence.

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