



## Zagreb, Croatian Ringing Scheme (HRZ)

### National Report for EURING General Assembly 2011

#### Organization and address:

Has not changed:

Zagreb Ringing Scheme is organized within the Institute of Ornithology, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (CASA).

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#### Staff:

There is no staff employed as ringing or recovery officers but the Ringing scheme is managed by four full-time scientific employees of the Institute:

- Dr Vesna Tutis: Head of the Scheme (+385 1 4825 402)
- Dr Jelena Kralj: Recoveries and colour ringing (+385 1 4825 401)
- Dr Davor Cikovic: Ringers and metal rings (+385 1 4825 404)
- **NEW!** BSc Sanja Barisic: Ringing reports (+385 1 4825 405)

The CASA covers salaries for scientific personnel, while projects and rings are annually financed from other resources.

#### Ringing and recoveries:

The total number of birds ringed in 2009 was 82.543.

Average annual number of recoveries in 2009 and 2010 was 1645 (1450 recoveries of national rings and 195 of foreign rings).

#### Ringers:

In 2010 and 2011 Zagreb Ringing Scheme coordinated 55 active ringers with personal license. There were three new ringers authorized in that period.

Licenses are issued by the Institute of Ornithology, with permission of Croatian Ministry for Culture and Croatian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

Special permissions are needed for ringing of colonial species, species listed in Croatian Red Data Book and for ringing in protected areas.

**NEW!** In 2011 the new system of examination was introduced. It is more standardised and demanding than the previous exams: A candidate must pass the ringing exam in front of the Commission composed of four HRZ staff and a representative of the Ministry of Culture – Directorate for Nature Protection. Access to exam is conditioned with the minimum of 30 days of ringing experience in the minimum of two years period, under the supervision of a licensed ringer. Recommendation of the licensed ringer is needed. A person that keeps in captivity bird species which are on the Croatian bird list may not become a ringer (list of bird breeders is available in the database administrated by the Ministry of Culture). Exam consists of the practical and theoretical section. In practical section a candidate presents his/hers knowledge of birds' trapping and manipulation in the field. In theoretical section a candidate presents knowledge of nature protection laws, bird ringing rules (like special rules for ringing colonial species, endangered species etc.), ringing ethics, ringing reports and recovery reports, organisation of Croatian ringing scheme and ringing in Europe. Each candidate is required to identify 30 bird species from the bird skins collection of the Institute in order to demonstrate the skill of identifying species of the Croatian bird fauna.



### **Rings:**

Rings produced in Sweden and Poland were in use. There were 15 different sizes of rings used. Ringers don't have to pay for the rings.

Ministry of Culture – Directorate for Nature Protection provided funds for metal and some colour rings in 2010 and 2011.

### **Colour-ringing projects:**

There are several colour-ringing projects currently running in Croatia:

- leg rings: Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus michahellis*, Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*, Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*, Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (paused), Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, Great White Egret *Egretta alba*, White-tailed Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*;
- neck-bands: Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

### **Ringing camps and CES:**

Four ringing camps were organized in Croatia:

- Two camps organized by Croatian Ornithological Society: spring camp at Savica ponds (in Zagreb city) lasts approx. one month and late summer/autumn ringing camp at Vransko lake, Dalmatia (Mid Adriatic) which lasts three to four months;
- Autumn ringing camp org. by BIOM society at Nature park Učka (North Adriatic) which lasts approx. one month;
- **NEW!** Autumn camp at Krk island (North Adriatic) organized by the group of ringers.

All other ringing was carried out on individual basis. There is no CES site yet.

### **Data management:**

Ringing data are digitized since 1996. Data compilation is still not well organized due to the lack of specialized PC application for reports.

All recovery data (since 1910) are digitized. Recovery data 1910 – 2009 coded in EURING 2000 code.

### **Other**

In year 2010 Croatian Ringing Scheme celebrated 100 years of bird ringing in Croatia. In December 2010 appropriate exhibition was launched at the Natural History Museum and it will last till the end of 2011. EURING brochure: "Bird Ringing for Science and Conservation" was translated to Croatian language and it is available in PDF format on the internet.

### **Plans:**

EURING brochure: "Bird Ringing for Science and Conservation" in Croatian language will be printed soon, preparation of the Croatian Bird Migration Atlas is at the end, introduction of the RingAccess software and launch of the Zagreb Ringing Scheme website in the near future.