

EURING GENERAL MEETING MALTA, OCTOBER 2011

MATSALU (ESTONIA) - NATIONAL REPORT

1. Organisation

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

Since January 2009 Matsalu Bird Ringing Centre is a part of the Environmental Board (Keskkonnaamet). Centre itself is located in Matsalu National Park in Penijõe.

2. Staff

Two persons are employed in ringing centre – Olavi Vainu (ringers and ringing data, licenses, public relations etc; email: olavi.vainu@keskkonnaamet.ee) and Kaarel Kaisel (recoveries, database manager, foreign affairs; email: ring@matsalu.ee) both working full-time.

3. Ringers

There are about 70 active ringers. Currently two ringing stations are operating in Estonia - Häädemeeste and Kabli. There are occasional ringing activities also in Sõrve station on Saaremaa island. Half of the ringings are made in ringing stations.

4. Ringing activity and data management

About 43 000 birds were ringed in 2009 and 28 000 on 2010. There are around 1000 recoveries annually.

Database 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 ringing data and all recoveries of 21 century are computerised. The number of computerized ringings exceeds 500 000 and there are nearly 9000 recoveries. However input of older data still takes considerable time and there is still a lot to develop queries etc.

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 1971. In 2007 Cormorant ringing project started in co-operation with Dutch ringers. It was continued in 2009-2011 by ourselves and is still going on. Common Crane, Greylag Goose are also ringed in small numbers with either colour-ring combination (Cranes) or coloured neck-bands.

6. Rings

16 different ring sizes are in use. Most of aluminium and steel rings are made in Poland (Aranea), colour rings are obtained from different sources. Ringers do not pay for the rings.

Olavi Vainu & Kaarel Kaisel
90305, Matsalu Bird Ringing Centre,
Läänemaa, ESTONIA
Ph: 372-4724221
Email: ring@matsalu.ee