



Institut für Vogelforschung

„Vogelwarte Helgoland“

Wilhelmshaven

Direktor: Prof. Dr. Franz Bairlein



Report of the **Helgoland ringing centre (DEW)** presented to EURING General Assembly 2011

- Organisation:* The Bird Ringing Centre is a unit of the Institute of Avian Research “Vogelwarte Helgoland” in Wilhelmshaven (Germany). The Institute of Avian Research is a public research facility of the German federal state of Lower Saxony.
The ringing centre started work in 1909 on the island of Heligoland and is now responsible for scientific bird ringing in the German federal states of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Bremen, Lower Saxony, Northrhine-Westphalia and Hessen.
- Staff:* At this time 3 fulltime and 1 part time employees work in the ringing centre.
- Annual fee:* There is no fee for the ringers.
- Ringers:* 199 ringers or ringing groups ringed birds in 2010.
- Ringing courses:* In 2010 a ringing courses with 19 participants were given.
In 2011 a ringing courses with 16 participants were given on the island of Heligoland (6 days).
- Birds ringed:* 115.061 birds (including 43.188 nestlings) of 251 species were ringed in 2010. Since 1909 more than 9,2 million birds have been ringed.
- Recoveries:* 36.531 recoveries of birds with HELGOLAND-rings (including own retraps and ring readings) and 994 recoveries of birds marked with rings of other schemes (and recovered in our area) were received in 2010. In total 290.036 recoveries are in the digital data base.

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 the data and to operate them. All ringing and recovery data from birds later recovered are in the data base. Since 2000 all ringing data have been in the ORACLE database. Older ringing data are included in part as well.

Rings: 15 different sizes (most in steel or aluminium) and 7 special types of rings are used. The numbering system of the rings was reorganized in 2007. Now the starting number or letter determines always the ring size (type). The rings are bought from Mekaniska AB (Sweden), Porzana (UK) or Aranea (Poland). Rings are given to the ringers for free.

CES-project: 14 sites in 2010

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