

EURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MALTA, OCTOBER 2011

ITALIAN REPORT

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- 1. General situation:** since the last meeting in 2009 the situation at ISPRA is still faced with serious problems in terms of lack of resources as well as lack of a structured organisation. These problems have however still allowed, during the last two years, to have core funds to buy rings, but not for working on full development of the EPE information system project.
- 2. Staff:** the Ringing Centre is now included within the section "Bird migration", while waiting for the formal structure of the whole institute. The RC staff is still made of 5.5 positions, some of which covered on a part-time basis. The present situation is: 2 academic (Fernando Spina, general organisation; Davide Licheri, database management, information system), 4 clerical (Ezio Orfelini 50% part-time, licensing, Stefano Macchio 50% part-time, projects; Rosita Mantovani 50% part-time & Pierfrancesco Micheloni recoveries, Dario Piacentini recoveries, projects). The Bird migration section has recently got 4 more academic (Alessandro Andreotti, Fabrizio Conte and Lorenzo Serra, who moved from another section), while Stefano Volponi recently got a full time scientist position since mid-July 2011, together with Riccardo Nardelli, who has a clerical full-time position. External funds through projects allow us to have Andrea Ferri till 2012, working on the Ventotene project, and Gianni Benciolini and Fabrizio Borghesi till June 2012, to work on visual marks database.
- 3. Ringers:** the organisation of licensing has not changed since the last meeting. Presently we have a total of 430 licensed ringers and 204 trainees. The percentage of A level ringers has positively and further grown during the last years, confirming a good technical level of ringers. Specific courses on Woodcock ringing will be held later this year. National ringing courses will be reactivated next year thanks to the full renovation of the Val Campotto ornithological station, where the courses have been traditionally held. In February 2012 the XI National Ringers' Meeting in Gaeta, thanks to full financial support obtained again from a local Government (Parco della Riviera di Ulisse).
- 4. Rings:** rings are still freely distributed to the ringers, together with pliers, max chord and feather-length rulers. A total of 20 ring types are used, ranging from 2.0mm to 26.0mm in diameter and made of Aluminium (4 types), Alloy (4 types), Stainless steel (9 types) and Incoloy (3 types). We purchase rings from Mekaniska (Sweden) and Porzana (UK).
- 5. Ringing totals:** there has been a lower annual total in 2010 with respect to the previous two years, while we still miss data from 2010. The overall number of ringing data and recoveries within the EPE system is 5.445.590 and 183.581, respectively (see tab. 1).
- 6. Recoveries:** the EPE system has dedicated web pages for each ringer and Ringing Centre. We regularly produce "life-histories" of birds marked also with metal rings and retrapped; these data routinely include morphometrics collected on each encounter. The system also manages colour marks readings, starting with birds marked in 2006.
- 7. Information system at the Ringing Centre:** during the last two years it has been impossible to get funds to progress with the implementation of the EPE (EURING Protocol Engine) system.



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Tab. 1 - Data presently stored in EPE:

	ringed	recovered		Ringings total	Recoveries total		Grand totals	
2002				3.159.175	7.181		3.166.356	
2003	243.294	18.394		3.402.469	25.575		3.420.863	
2004	248.937	18.610		3.651.406	44.185		3.670.016	
2005	244.596	19.252		3.896.002	63.437		3.915.254	
2006	218.468	18.392		4.114.470	81.829		4.132.862	
2007	334.584	29.222		4.449.054	111.051		4.560.105	
2008	319.398	28.574		4.768.452	139.625		4.908.077	
2009	262.241	23.646		5.030.693	163.271		5.193.964	
2010	231.316	20.310		5.262.009	183.581		5.445.590	

8. Projects:

- **8.1. Progetto Piccole Isole:** the project has completed its 24 year in 2011. On average ca. 20 different sites are active, in Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Greece. Over 50 papers have been published. More recent ones have been on different aspects of nectar feeding by staging migrants and stopover duration. We are seeking funds to organise an international workshop in 2012 on the island of Ventotene to celebrate the (first) 25 years of the project.
- **8.2. Progetto Alpi:** the project started in 1997 and investigates patterns of autumn migration across the barrier represented by the Alps. It is based on a network of stations widely stretched along longitude and on high passes, mountain slopes and valley bottoms. The secretarial work is still ensured by the Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali. The project is still active and is now based on a lower number of sites which have a continuous seasonal coverage, including mist-netting at night on high passes. The centralised data base is presently hosting 367.430 data. Analyses are presently targeted to estimates of trends for the most commonly ringed species.
- **8.3. Italian Migration Atlas:** the atlas is freely accessible on the ISPRA web site at the following link http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/site/en-GB/Publications/Luxury_Publications/Documents/atlanze_migrazione_uccelli.html#Sommaro. A summary, introduction and instructions on how to access the contents of the 2 volumes are available in English. We would like this atlas to be used as widely as possible and kindly ask you to circulate this link through your ringers and all those you think might be interested to use the Italian migration atlas.
- **8.4. Italian CES, PRISCO:** the Italian Constant Effort Site PRISCO (PROgetto di Inanellamento a Sforzo COnstante) started in 2002. Some 25 sites are active, with a distribution which is still biased towards N Italy and the Po river plain, with only few sites operated in central and southern Italy.
- **8.5. Use of first-capture data and recoveries by the Ringing Scheme for the application of environmental laws:** first-capture data, recoveries and results included in the Migration Atlas have been - and presently are - extensively used for problems related to the enforcement of the UE Wild Birds Directive and CMS in Italy, as applied through the national legislation. This has been especially related to aspects of seasonality of movements and flyway description for the definition of hunting seasons.