

KAUNAS (LITHUANIA) BIRD RINGING SCHEME (LIK)
National Report for the EURING General Assembly
(Malta, October 13-17, 2011)



Organisation

Officially, the Kaunas (Lithuania) Bird Ringing Centre is a department of the Zoological Museum in Kaunas. The Museum is a governmental authority (it is within a system of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania). The Ringing Centre is financed by the state budget. In Lithuania the systematic bird ringing was started and goes on since 1929.

Staff

1 full-time scientific,
1 full-time technical
1 part time (50%) computer specialist.

Annual fee

There is no fee for the ringers.

Ringers

Number of active amateurs: 2009: 40; 2010: 42.
Number of active teams of ringers (stations): 2009: 4; 2010: 4.
Ringing permits are issued by the Bird Ringing Centre.

Rings

There are a total of 20 sizes/types of rings in use (10 sizes/types of aluminum rings and 10 sizes/types of steel rings). Since 1995 the rings are imported from “Aranea” (Poland) and (less) from “Mekaniska AB” (Sweden). The rings are supplied free of cost to ringers.

Ringing and recoveries

Year	Birds ringed	Recoveries, retraps, resightings	
		Kaunas rings*	Foreign rings
2009	75,000	2100	1100
2010	93,100	2200	1300
1929-2010	3.3 million	?	?

* Except short term recapture or resighting at the ringing site.

Computerization

All recoveries, retraps, resightings (of birds ringed in Lithuania as well as of foreign ringed birds recovered, retrapped or resighted in Lithuania) are computerized since 1979 and part of data from period 1929-1978.

The ringing Scheme has developed and introduced completely new software for registration of bird ringing data. The software has been installed in 2008 and since then periodically improved. Up to October, 2011 ringing data of 1,060,000 ringed birds are computerized (all ringed since 2007 and some series of rings used earlier).

Colour ringing projects

- Great Cormorant. Two rings on the same tarsus. Each ring with one letter code. Colours of rings are white (black code), green (white code) and red (white code).
- Black Stork. White rings with black code [Vxxx] (x = digits 0 or 9).
- Mute Swan. Blue neck rings with white code [TMxx], [TPxx], [TTxx] (x = digits 0 to 9) and blue leg rings [TCxx], [TYxx], [TUxx] (x = digits 0 to 9).
- Whooper Swan. Blue neck rings with white code [7Cxx], [2Hxx], [3Hxx], [4Hxx] (x = digits 0 to 9).
- Greylag Goose. White neck rings with black code [Axx] (x = digits 0 to 9).
- White-tailed Eagle. Coloured metal rings on each tarsus. Right tarsus: blue over red. Left tarsus: numbered and different in colour in every year (according the North Europe White-tailed Eagle project).
- Lesser Spotted Eagle. Green ring with white code [ax] or [aa] (a = letters, x = digits 0 to 9).
- Black-headed Gull & Common Gull. Black ring with white code [Pxxx] (x = digits 0 to 9).
- Herring Gull group. Yellow ring with black code [xLya], [xLaa] (x = digits 0 or 2 to 9; y = digits 0 to 9; a = letters).
- European Roller. Yellow ring with black code [Da] (a = letters).

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