

## **Report to the EURING general meeting, October 2011**

*Netherlands, Arnhem (NLA) ringing scheme*

### **Organisation and personnel**

In 2009 the organization of the Dutch ringing scheme changed once again. The formal collaboration with SOVON that started in 2006 has ended and the scheme is now led jointly by the Dutch Ringers Association and the host institute, the Netherlands Institute for Ecology (NIOO-KNAW). From 1 July 2009, Henk van der Jeugd is head of scheme (0.8 fte), and Gerrit Speek retired 31 December 2009 after a long service with the Dutch ringing scheme and NIOO. Woutéra van Andel continues as database officer (0.6 fte), Berber Zwaagstra joined the scheme at 1 September 2009 as recovery officer (0.4 fte), and Pieter Coehoorn joined 1 February 2011 as project coordinator (0.8 fte). In addition, Vogeltrekstation has a small scientific staff consisting of post-doctoral researchers on temporary contracts and co-supervises a number of PhD students. Currently, Christian Kampichler works on demographic analyses of CES data (0.8 fte, until 31 December 2011), starting 1 January 2012 we will have a post-doc working on brent geese. We currently co-supervise three PhD students (with promoters at Nijmegen and Groningen University) that work with ringing data.

### **Permits**

The number of active ringing permit holders is 477 (October 2011), with c.130 professional researchers and 350 volunteers. Licensing is done by the Vogeltrekstation (after training and evaluation by other ringers); participation in a one day course to update general ringing skills or knowledge of specific subjects is obligatory once every three years. There is no permit fee for volunteers; professional ringers pay €100 per year for their permit. Permits to individual ringers are issued under a license from the Dutch Ministry of ELI. The number of permits is steadily rising since 2006, and we expect to have more than 500 licensed ringers in 2012. We are actively training young people to become ringers. Candidates enrol as 'assistant ringer' and are trained by an experienced ringer until they are ready for examination. The youngest licensed ringer is currently 17 years old, the oldest one is 86.

We issue rings in aluminium (15 sizes) and stainless steel (8 sizes), 15 sizes in total including special rings for Kingfisher, Swift, White Stork and Mute Swan. Rings are manufactured by Mekaniska (Sweden) and Porzana (UK). Ringers pay for the rings (except those used in CES, RAS and *ring-MUS*); prices vary with size and average recovery frequency. The sales revenues of rings and materials finance c. 0.6 staff fte.

## 100 years of bird ringing

In 2011 it is exactly 100 years ago that the first wild bird was ringed in the Netherlands. This was a starling ringed at Nijkerk on 24 May 1911 by M.M. van Esveld. The ringing of the first bird was re-enacted on 24 May 2011. The event attracted a good crowd and had very good media coverage on national and local radio, TV and in all major newspapers. On 9 September a symposium was organized in Leiden, where bird ringing in the Netherlands was coordinated from between 1911 and 1956, after which NIOO became in charge. During the symposium, past, present and future of bird ringing in the Netherlands was treated. See <http://www.vogeltrekstation.nl/vogeltrekstation/100-jaar-vogels-ringen> for more information and photographs. Bird ringing in the Netherlands has certainly benefitted from all the extra attention in 2011 and the number of new ringers has increased markedly.

## IT

Since 8 January 2010 a new Microsoft SQL database is in place and all ringing and recovery data has been migrated to the new database and translated from EURING 79 into EURING 2000 code. During the migration, many errors in the data have been corrected. Together with the new database, an online application was implemented, called GRIEL ([www.griel.nl](http://www.griel.nl)) that enables ringers to enter, view and manage all their ringing- and recovery data online through a personal account, and where the general public can enter information about recovered birds. All ringing schemes have also received an account with which they can enter ringing data of birds that are recovered in the Netherlands upon a request that is automatically sent out to them by GRIEL. Ringing schemes can view and manage all ringing data of birds that have ever been recovered in the Netherlands bearing a ring from their scheme. GRIEL will be presented at the 2011 EURING General meeting on Malta. GRIEL can be extended to encompass more ringing schemes. This would have the great advantage that all exchange of data between schemes will be automated within GRIEL. The Danish ringing scheme has already expressed interest to join.

## Projects

Currently, four special ringing projects are run in the Netherlands: CES, with 45 active sites (78 total), RAS with 136 active projects, *ring*-MUS (CES in urban areas) with 49 active sites, and PULL (ringing of nestlings of a selection of Dutch breeding birds).

## Birds ringed and recovered

	ringed				Recovered			
	pull	1 cal. year	older	total	NL - abroad	Abroad -NL	NL- NL	total
2010	44.345	113.803	75.760	233.908	1.754	1.766	41.561	45.081
2009	47.841	119.113	70.809	237.848	3.418	1.893	68.979	74.291
total	--	--	--	10.479.650	128.759	103.533	1.143.054	1.375.346

Note that not all data from 2010 have been entered yet.