

EURING GENERAL MEETING STRASBOURG, AUGUST 2005

MATSALU (ESTONIA) - NATIONAL REPORT

1. Organisation

Matsalu Bird Ringing Centre is a part of the Matsalu National Park. Ringing in Estonia started in 1910; rings with signature ESTONIA MATSALU are in use since 1970.

2. Staff

Two persons are employed in ringing centre – Kaarel Kaisel (Head of Scheme) and Eva Kastepõld, both working full-time.

3. Ringers

About 100 active ringers. Currently five ringing stations are operating in Estonia – on west-coast – Lao, Häädemeeste and Kabli on mainland and Sõrve on Saaremaa island, plus Vaibla station on Võrtsjärv Lake. Ringers do not pay for rings. Lao Station was destroyed in January 9 storm and will probably not re-established due to land-owning problems.

4. Ringing activity

57 122 birds (of 163 different species) were ringed in 2003 with Matsalu rings. 672 recoveries were recorded in 2003.

By preliminary data 53 549 (of 157 different species) birds were ringed and 759 were recovered in 2004. Now the Grand Total of ringed birds exceeds 3 000 000, and there are more than 41 000 recoveries.

5. Rings

15 different ring sizes are in use. Most of aluminium rings are made in Estonia, in last years we have started to shift (beginning with smaller rings) to Aranea.

6. Data management

Electronic database based on MySQL database engine and EURING exchange code 2000 was implemented in 2004. Ringers may computerize their data by themselves. However, as it still in the beginning, not many do it. Until 2000 ringing reports were published. It is also planned to publish next ringing reports via the internet.

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