



EURING GENERAL MEETING (2005)

REPORT OF THE PORTUGUESE BIRD RINGING CENTRE



“CEMPA”

Short report for EURING GA August 2005

Short history

Bird ringing was started in Portugal in 1953 by Professor Santos Junior from the Portuguese Ornithological Society - SPO. In that time rings of “Mus. Zool. Univ. PORTO - Portugal” were used. Ringing activity under this scheme ceased during the decade of 70.

In 1976 the Portuguese Bird Ringing Centre – CEMPA was established within the Ministry of Environment restarting a new stage of ringing in Portugal. Since then 377511 birds of 309 species were ringed up to the year 2000.

Organisation

The Portuguese Bird Ringing Centre - CEMPA has been operated by **Instituto da Conservação da Natureza** (Nature Conservation Institute, dependent of Ministry of Environment) since 1976.

All ringing in portuguese territory (mainland and the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira) uses metal rings from CEMPA-Lisboa and all recoveries of metal rings are also handled by the CEMPA-ICN.

Bird ringing (including ring permits) is regulated by Law-Decree 140/99, of 24 April, that also transposes Birds and Habitat Directives in Portugal.

Projects

- *CES project*: started in 2002 in Portugal with 4 sites;today with 12 sites.
- *Swallow project*: started in 1999 in Portugal with breeding sites and the migration period.
- *Actual colour marks and ringing projects in Portugal*: Teal, Mallard, Purple Heron, Purple Gallinule, Spoonbill, Black Stork, White Stork, Lesser Kestrel, Dunlin

Rings. There are 20 different sizes of Portuguese rings in use. Rings are imported from United Kingdom (Porzana) as required. Ringers don't have to pay for the rings.

Ringling permits: individual and mandatory by law

Numbers of ringers, ringling groups and ringling stations

In 2004 there were 130 ringers (with valid permit), 4 ringling groups and 2 ringling stations. In 2005 (august) figures are: 133 ringers, 5 ringling groups and 2 ringling stations. The number of ringers has been increasing for the last 8 years.

Staff at the Lisboa - CEMPA Bird Ringling Centre, Instituto da Conservação da Natureza

Allocation of time by permanent Nature Conservation Institute - ICN staff:

- Vitor Encarnação, Head of the ringling scheme, part-time.
- João Paulo Lopes, Assistant (colour ring projects), part-time.
- Filomena Canto e Castro, Assistant (database), full-time

External Staff:

- Michael Armelin, Assistant on Ringers Training Program, part-time.
- Paulo Quadros Tenreiro, (Swallow project Co-ordinator), part-time.

Computerising

Since 2000, all Ringling and recovery data (incl. retraps, controls, and readings of metal rings) are stored in databases. Our database of the recoveries includes 25810 records.

Ringling projects

In addition to our own research projects, we have in 2005 approved 36 external ringling projects under our license. All these projects are external projects managed by amateur ringers or professional researchers from Portugal as well as abroad.

Use of other marks than conventional metal rings

All types of marks and coding systems have to be accepted by our scheme and the actual coordinator. The administration of data is done by the project holders and finders are replied with full life histories. Projects including the use of other marks than conventional metal rings are all published at the official, EURING supported web site (www.cr-birding.be).

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The Lisbon Bird Ringling Centre