

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

National report at EURING general meeting 2005

- Organisation:* The Bird Ringing Centre is a small unit organised within the Department of Vertebrate Zoology at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm.
- Staff:* Today 4 persons are employed on a permanent basis (two of them on part time). Retirements in the past have not fully been replaced and the ringing centre is therefore at the moment short-staffed. One researcher is now employed for 17 months working with the atlas project.
- Annual fee:* All ringers with personal licenses pay a fixed annual fee. The bird observatories pay three different fees, depending on how large ringing activity they have.
- Ringers (2004):* 246 ringers with personal licenses and 202 licensed assistants.
21 bird observatories with 274 licensed ringers.
- Birds ringed:* The 2004 total was 3 146 533 birds of 244 species.
About 44% of the birds in 2004 were ringed at bird observatories.
The number of nestlings ringed was 63 080 birds of 151 species.
More than 10.5 million birds have now been ringed in Sweden (including 2004).
- Computer routines:* A software (built in Microsoft Access) is distributed free to the ringers.
By using this software the ringers can analyse and sum up their activities as well as regularly submit ringing and recovery data (own as well as foreign) to the ringing centre electronically. About 73% of the birds ringed were submitted computerised in 2004.
More than 1.8 million ringed birds are now housed in a database at the museum.

A central system built in Microsoft SQL Server for handling all data concerning ringing and recovery data as well as other administration details (e.g. ring deliveries) is under development. The system will, among other things, include automatically generated email answers to finders.
- CES-project:* Started in 1997 and more than 30 sites are included in 2005.
- Recoveries:* All recoveries of birds ringed in Sweden are computerised and the total number of recoveries was 145 557 in the end of July 2005 (the ringers own recoveries not included).

A total of 3374 recoveries were received in 2004 and about half of them from abroad. The number of recoveries of birds ringed abroad and found in Sweden passed on to other ringing centres was 653.

Several spectacular recoveries have been received during the last two years. An Arctic Skua in Brasil, a Rustic Bunting in NE China and an Arctic Tern found dead on Stewart Island, New Zealand. The distance between the ringing and finding place of the tern is 17 510 km, probably one of the longest distances recorded for a ringed bird in the world. A Redpoll ringed in NE China was controlled in Sweden last winter by a ringer. A Guillemot at an age of 38 years, controlled in a colony in 2004, is now the oldest bird ringed in Sweden.
- Annual reports and atlas work:* The annual report for 2002 was published in the end of the last year.
The second volume of the Swedish Bird Ringing Atlas, out of three, has been delayed and will be published in the beginning of 2006.
- Internet:* The address to our homepage is <http://www.nrm.se/rc>. The possibility to report recoveries directly on internet has been widely used and many recovery reports are now received this way.