

EURING General Meeting - Strasbourg, August 2004

Report of Hungarian Ringing Scheme

Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre

MME / Birdlife Hungary

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Organisation

The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre has been operated by **BirdLife Hungary** (MME: Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society) since 1976.

Short history and plans

Bird ringing was started in Hungary in 1908 by Jakab SCHENK (1876-1945), in the Hungarian Royal Ornithological Centre (later: Institute of Ornithology). Annual reports were published in *Aquila* from the beginnings. Unfortunately the whole Hungarian databank and the archives were destroyed during the War II. The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre inherited only fragmented ringing data from that period, and the recoveries which were reported in *Aquila* earlier. Ring production was restarted in 1951. From 1951 till the present day more than 3 million birds have been ringed, and their data have been totally computerized now (the software, *ringing office*, was made and is maintained by Lajos VARGA).

The centenary of the bird ringing in Hungary is approaching, and we are planning to celebrate it by publishing the Hungarian Bird Migration Atlas. Currently, we recheck all data held in our databank before making maps and summary tables. We would like to send all our recoveries to the accordant active ringing schemes to make comparison during 2006. *We would be delighted if they were so kind as to help us in this huge work.* The EURING databank will be refreshed with the checked data by the end of 2006. In case of data requests from the EDB affecting Hungarian records during this period, we check and refresh necessary data immediately.

Staff

2003

Head of Scheme (full-time position): Gergo HALMOS

Civil army service: András BALÁZS (collaboration in ring production), Róbert KÜNSZTLER (data encoder).

Coordination of the supervising and the bird ringing examination (till 2003): László SIMON and Zsolt KARCZA (Institute of the Environmental Management)

2004

Head of Scheme (full-time position): Zsolt KARCZA

Civil army service: János HOS (collaboration in ring production), Norbert MAROSI (data encoder). This service ended in 2004 because of the changed frame of the Hungarian army.

There is a new Board and Supervisor Committee established at the end of 2004 with five members (two members are deputed by the Ministry of Environment and Water, two by BirdLife Hungary, and one member is deputed by the licensed ringers).

Board members:

Ákos NÉMETH Chairman (deputed by the ringers, Kiskunság National Park Management, Lake Kolon Bird Observatory)

dr. Gábor MAGYAR (Ministry of Environment and Water)

András SCHMIDT (Ministry of Environment and Water)

dr. Tibor SZÉP (BirdLife Hungary; College of Nyíregyháza)

dr. Tibor CSÖRGO (BirdLife Hungary; Eötvös Lóránd University, Ócsa Bird Observatory)

Ringers

2003: 254 ringers were licensed (179 of them were active)

2004: 268 ringers were licensed (190 of them were active)

According to the law, the Ministry of Environment and Water organises bird ringing examinations; twice a year. The coordinator is András SCHMIDT (Ministry of Environment and Water)

Projects

- *“Actio Hungarica”*: standardized monitoring system of the autumnal bird migration, based on mist netting (eight ringing stations, three of them older than 20 years)
- *“Actio Riparia”*: a special long term monitoring project of the Sand Martin in Northeast Hungary
- *CES project*: started in 2004 in Hungary with 15 sites
- *Swallow project*: started in 2002 in Hungary with three breeding sites; and started earlier with five sites in the migration period
- *Larger actual colour ringing projects in Hungary*: Mute Swan, Spoonbill, Black Stork, White Stork (with ELSA rings), Imperial Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Mediterranean Gull, Black-headed Gull

Ringling & Recoveries

Bird ringing summaries:

Year	Number of species	Ringed individual
2003	211	178965
2004	198	192250

(the highest annual total ever in Hungary)

Ringing stations, larger ringing camps, species and nature conservation projects give more than 75% of the ringing activities.

Foreign recoveries completed during the two reported years:

Year	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals (included the colour ring observations)	All number of the recoveries and observations	Number of the recoveries (without colour ring observations)
2003	55	808	1643	242
2004	59	990	2320	349

The grand totals will be reported after the whole checking of the Hungarian bird ringing databank (by the end of 2006) which forms part of the preparations for the planned Hungarian Bird Migration Atlas.

Annual Reports

After a long cease (1987 – 1997) the annual reports are issued in *Aquila* again.

2003: Halmos, G., Karcza, Zs., Simon, L. & Varga L. (2003): 2000–2001 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre *Aquila* 109–110, p. 129–156.

2004: Halmos, G. & Karcza, Zs. (2004): 2002 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre *Aquila* 1111, p. 167–194.

The annual report of 2003 already is in press.

Rings

The national ring production was finished in 2004 by the end of the civil army service in Hungary and by the death of the last fabricant, Ferenc VÁRADI (1924-2002). Now rings are imported from I. Ö. Mekaniska AB, Sweden. Ringers do not have to pay for the rings except the colour and any other special rings which are purchased on request. There are 13 different sizes of BUDAPEST rings in use.

Other equipment

Import of mist nets and spring balances is organized exclusively by the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. They are imported mainly from Ecotone, Poland.

Finance

The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre is financed from a partnership between BirdLife Hungary and the Ministry of Environment and Water, from grants and by the BirdLife Hungary itself.