



**BirdLife Hungary**  
**Bird Ringing Centre**  
**BUDAPEST**

**EURING Scheme Report**  
**HGB**  
**2009–2010**

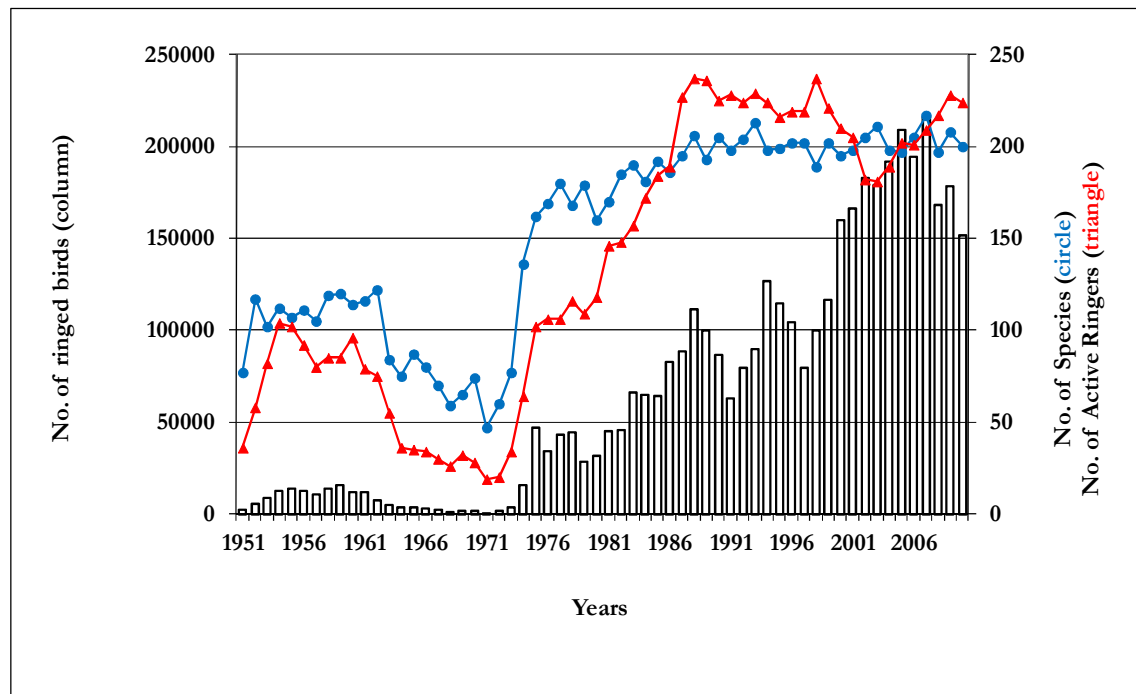
Bird ringing was launched in Hungary in 1908 by Jakab SCHENK (1876-1945), within the Hungarian Royal Ornithological Centre (later: Institute for Ornithology). Unfortunately, the whole archives were destroyed in 1944. From this period there are only fragments of the ringing and the recovery data which were published in the journal *AQUILA* earlier. Ring production was restarted in 1951.

The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre has been operated by BirdLife Hungary (MME – Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society – [www.mme.hu](http://www.mme.hu)) since 1976.

From 1951 till the present days more than 4.2 million birds have been ringed, and their data have been totally computerized by now. Currently the Hungarian Bird Ringing Databank contains 4.9 million records.

The Hungarian Bird Migration Atlas (73 authors, 672 pages), printed October 2009, contains all foreign recoveries from 1908 to 2006 related to Hungary. (Title: *Magyar madárvonulási atlasz*; Publisher: **KOSSUTH KIADÓ, BUDAPEST**; Editors: Csörgő Tibor, Karcza Zsolt, Halmos Gergő, Magyar Gábor, Gyurác József, Szép Tibor, Bankovics Attila, Schmidt András and Schmidt Egon)

Bird ringing activity in Hungary between 1951 and 2010



**Contact**

Head of Scheme: Zsolt KARCZA  
Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre / Madárgyűrűzési Központ  
BirdLife Hungary / MME  
H-1121 Budapest, Költő u. 21., Hungary  
Tel.: +36-1-275-6247  
Fax : +36-1-275-6267  
Mobil: +36-20-352-8639  
E-mails: [ringers@mme.hu](mailto:ringers@mme.hu), [karcza.zsolt@mme.hu](mailto:karcza.zsolt@mme.hu)

## Board

Two members are delegated by Ministry of Rural Development and two members are delegated by BirdLife Hungary. One member is elected by ringers.

Members:

Chairman: Ákos NÉMETH (Kiskunság National Park, Lake Kolon Bird Observatory) elected by ringers;

Gábor CSÖRGITS (Ministry of Rural Development) delegated by the Ministry

András SCHMIDT (Ministry of Rural Development) delegated by Ministry

dr. Tibor SZÉP (College of Nyíregyháza) delegated by BirdLife Hungary

dr. Tibor CSÖRGŐ (Eötvös Loránd University, Ócsa Bird Observatory) delegated by BirdLife Hungary

## Staff

Head of Scheme (full-time position): Zsolt KARCZA (since 01.01.2004.)

No any administrator since 01.06.2009., only volunteers and students.

## Ringers

2009: 349 licensed ringers (228 of them were active)

2010: 356 licensed ringers (232 of them were active)

According to law, the Ministry of Rural Development organises bird ringing examinations twice a year.

## Finance

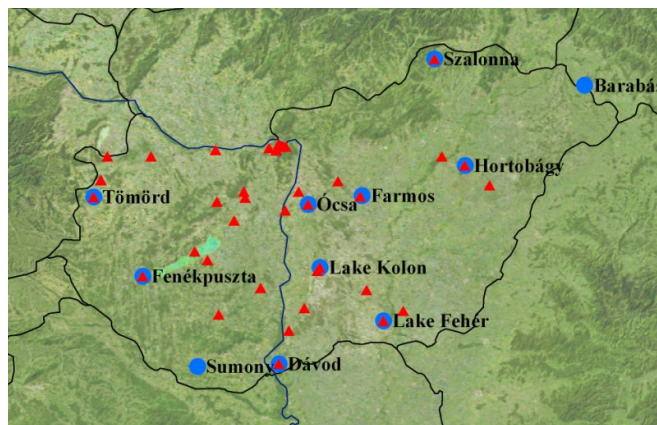
The Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre is financed under a partnership between BirdLife Hungary and the Ministry of Rural Development, contracted in 2004. The amounts were 5 million HUF/year (about 18500 EUR) from 2004 to 2008 and 7 million Ft/year (about 25000 EUR) from 2009 to 2010 (the exchange rate was between 250 and 300 HUF/EUR in this period). The year 2011 and the years ahead are still being negotiated.

The active ringers pay a yearly fee (5000 HUF/year; about 18 EUR) to the Ringing Centre since 2006. The rings are free for projects and ringers.

The average yearly budget of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre is 8 million HUF (about 29000 EUR) nowadays which besides government support and ringer fees financed from From BirdLife Hungary's other income from private donations.

## Main Ringing Projects

- “*Actio Hungarica*”: standardized monitoring system of the autumnal bird migration, based on mist netting. *Sumony* ([www.baranyamadár.hu](http://www.baranyamadár.hu)) since 1981, *Ócsa* ([www.omve.hu](http://www.omve.hu)) since 1983, *Fenekpuszta* since 1986, *Szalonna* ([www.anp.nemzetipark.gov.hu](http://www.anp.nemzetipark.gov.hu)) since 1986, *Lake Fehér* ([www.feher-to.hu](http://www.feher-to.hu)) since 1996, *Tömörd* ([www.chernelmte.extra.hu](http://www.chernelmte.extra.hu)) since 1998, *Lake Kolon* ([www.kolon-to.com](http://www.kolon-to.com)) since 1998.
- *CES project*: started in 2004 in Hungary with 14 sites (2005: 19, 2006: 23, 2007: 27, 2008: 27, 2009: 31, 2010: 32 sites)



The ringing stations, larger ringing camps (circle) and the CES sites (triangle) in Hungary.

- “*Actio Riparia*”: a special long term monitoring project of the Sand Martin in Northeast Hungary
- *Colour ringing projects in Hungary*: Mute Swan, Pygmy Cormorant, Grey Heron, White Great Egret, Black Stork, White Stork (with ELSA rings), Spoonbill, Imperial Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Kestrel, Saker Falcon, Peregrine, Mediterranean Gull, Black-headed Gull, Caspian Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Common Tern, Roller, Great Grey Shrike etc.

### Bird ringing summaries in 2009 and 2010

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

2009: 178355 individuals of 208 bird species were ringed (13199 of them were ringed as chicks)

2010: 151785 individuals of 200 bird species were ringed (11131 of them were ringed as chicks)

The summaries of the first 25 species (81 and 82% of the yearly total):

Species	Ringed individuals total (Chicks)	Species	Ringed individuals total (Chicks)
<b>2009.</b>		<b>2010.</b>	
Blackcap	14915 (5)	Great Tit	15987 (2226)
Great Tit	14712 (2297)	Blue Tit	15636 (815)
Sedge Warbler	13569	Reed Warbler	13470
Reed Warbler	13439	Blackcap	9311 (8)
Sand Martin	13148	Robin	8421
Blue Tit	10290 (732)	Sedge Warbler	8291
Greenfinch	9098 (12)	Greenfinch	6501 (7)
Robin	9020 (5)	Barn Swallow	5487 (492)
Barn Swallow	8053 (586)	Sand Martin	5272 (22)
Tree Sparrow	4291 (102)	Chiffchaff	3945
Chiffchaff	3741 (3)	Goldfinch	3424
Goldfinch	3118 (11)	Tree Sparrow	3022 (138)
Blackbird	2986 (96)	Blackbird	2853 (83)
Savi's Warbler	2824 (1)	Penduline Tit	2799
Bearded Reedling	2776	Brambling	2624
Great Reed Warbler	2554 (30)	Great Reed Warbler	2535 (2)
Reed Bunting	2517	Bearded Reedling	2304
Chaffinch	1778	Reed Bunting	2083 (5)
Collared Flycatcher	1689 (1364)	Moustached Warbler	1899
Penduline Tit	1655	Long-tailed Bushtit	1644 (7)
House Sparrow	1648 (332)	Chaffinch	1601
Song Thrush	1625 (19)	Collared Flycatcher	1552 (1290)
Long-tailed Bushtit	1616	Savi's Warbler	1451
Marsh Warbler	1539	Marsh Warbler	1295
Garden Warbler	1422	Song Thrush	1238 (17)

Recoveries in 2009 and 2010 (received and completed till 30.09.2011):

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and recovered (recaptures, recoveries and metal ring observations) in Hungary:

Year	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals	Total number of cases
2009	126	22102	34677 (mainly local: 33653)
2010	127	19809	30232 (mainly local: 29401)

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and **COLOUR** rings and observed in Hungary:

Year	Number of species	Number of observed individuals	Total number of observations
2009	13	397	903
2010	15	553	1788

**Recoveries in 2009 and 2010** (received and completed till 30.09.2011):

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and recovered (recaptures, recoveries and metal ring observations) abroad:

Year	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals	Total number of cases	Number of the countries where the birds were recovered
2009	50	296	358	33
2010	46	238	288	29

Ringed birds with **HGB** rings and **COLOUR** rings and observed abroad:

Year	Number of species	Number of observed individuals	Total number of observations	Number of the countries where the birds were observed
2009	8	466	1366	27
2010	16	470	1269	25

Ringed birds with **FOREIGN** rings and recovered (recaptures, recoveries and metal ring observations) in Hungary:

Year	Number of species	Number of recovered individuals	Total number of cases	Number of the schemes which ringed the birds
2009	45	287	317	22
2010	38	287	369	25

Ringed birds with **FOREIGN** rings and **COLOUR** rings and observed in Hungary:

Year	Number of species	Number of observed individuals	Total number of observations	Number of the schemes which ringed the birds
2009	19	238	587	20
2010	20	322	790	19

## Annual Reports

**1908–1986:** *AQUILA*

**1987–1994:** *Ringing News* (not published serial for ringers)

**1995–1997:** *Túzok* magazine issued by BirdLife Hungary

**1998–2005:** *AQUILA*:

**1998–1999:** Simon, L. (2002): 1998–1999 report of Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre: the 39th ringing report. *Aquila* 107–108, p. 71–102.

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

**2002:** Halmos, G. & Karcza, Zs. (2004): 2002 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. *Aquila* 111, p. 167–194.

**2003:** Karcza, Zs. & Halmos, G. (2005): 2005 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. *Aquila* 112, p. 95–127.

**2004–2005:** Karcza, Zs. & Marosi, N. (2006.): 2004–2005 report of the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre. *Aquila* 113, p. 123–162.

**2006–2010:** Not published yet.

## Rings

The national ring production (started in 1908) was finished in 2004. Currently all type of rings are imported from I. Ö. Mekaniska AB (Sweden) and Aranea (Poland). Rings do not have to pay for the rings, except some type of colour rings and other special rings which are purchased on request.

There are 28 different types of BUDAPEST rings in use. 11 of them signed with [www.ring.ac](http://www.ring.ac).

Hungarian type code (notes)	inner diameter (mm)	height (mm)	Number of characters	Current series
<b>Fü</b>	2.0	4.0	7	<b>W</b>
<b>KP</b>	2.5	5.0	7	<b>A, K (from 2010)</b>
<b>NP</b>	2.8	5.5	7	<b>AE, N (from 2009)</b>
<b>Jé</b>	3.5	3.5	6	<b>J</b>
<b>Me</b>	3.5	5.5	7	<b>XA</b>
<b>Ri</b>	4.2	7.0	7	<b>TT</b>
<b>Li</b>	5.0	7.0	7	<b>LM</b>
<b>Si</b>	6.0	9.0	6,7	<b>3, HA (from 2009)</b>
<b>Va</b>	8.0	9.0	7	<b>VR</b>
<b>Ré</b> (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	10.0	10.0	6,7	<b>4, RE (from 2009)</b>
<b>Gé</b> (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	12.0	10.0	6	<b>5</b>
<b>Só</b> (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	14.0	10.0	7	<b>LY</b>
<b>KS</b> (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	16.0	10.0	7	<b>KS</b>
<b>Ko</b> (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	18.0	10.0	7	<b>PH</b>
<b>Sa</b> (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	23.0	15.0	7	<b>AAA</b>
<b>Ha</b> (locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	26.0	20.0	5	<b>HU, HN, HW</b>
<b>SNP</b> (steel)	2.8	5.0	7	<b>SN</b>
<b>SMe</b> (steel)	3.5	4.5	7	<b>SX</b>
<b>SRi</b> (steel)	4.2	7.0	7	<b>ST</b>
<b>SLi</b> (steel)	5.0	7.0	7	<b>SL</b>
<b>SSi</b> (steel)	6.0	7.0	6,7	<b>3, SH (from 2012)</b>
<b>SRé</b> (steel)	10.0	9.0	7	<b>SR</b>
<b>SRéO</b> (steel, locking, oval, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	9.0 x 6.0	6.0	7	<b>SA</b>
<b>SSzO</b> (steel, locking, oval, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	13.5 x 8.0	6.0	7	<b>SF</b>
<b>SKoO</b> (steel, locking, oval, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	22.0 x 12.0	6.0	7	<b>SP</b>
<b>SHa</b> (steel, locking, <a href="http://www.ring.ac">www.ring.ac</a> )	26.0	20.0	5	<b>HW</b>
<b>EI</b> (ELSA)	21.0 x 16.0	34.0	5	<b>HX, HY, xH</b>
<b>RS</b> WT Eagle (black/green, locking, pop rivet)	24.0	30.0	4	<b>E</b>

## Other equipment

Sale of mist nets, pliers spring balances etc. is organized by the BirdLife Hungary (MME) Shop. Mist nets are imported mainly from Ecotone, Poland. Ringing pliers (3 types) are made in Hungary.