

50 YEARS OF *THE RING* HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE BIRD RINGING

FIFTY years ago... on 1 October 1954, in Croydon (England) – there was published a first number of an ornithological bulletin named *THE RING*. The Father of it, its Editor, its Typist, its Publisher and Distributer was one man only – Dr Władysław Rydzewski (p. 22) – the Polish refugee living in England and being, despite his Ph.D. in biology, a simple worker in a factory (for more about him – see pp. 25-27). The basic idea of the bulletin was simple and, for us now, one can said – trivial: “*It is quite obvious that the exchange of ideas, experiences and information between individual ringing centres is an essential factor in their work...*” (from *Introduction* to the first number of *THE RING*), but it was a novelty fifty years ago. *THE RING* was intended to be a medium for such contacts – and it really was. The first issue of the bulletin is reprinted here on pages 3-18. It is presented here because its contents shows clearly how revolutionary ideas it brought to the bird ringing worldwide. An article by W. Rydzewski “*The publishing of the recovery reports*” (see pp. 6-8) was the first proposal of standardisation of the ringing data publishing in reports of the ringing centres. The system was then widely applied in most of official reports as well as in publication of ringing data in many analytical papers. It was a precursor of future standardisation and bird ringing data coding systems – Perdeck’s “*EURING code*” (1966), “*New-EURING code*” (1979) and “*The EURING exchange-code 2000*”. Similarly, “*The problem of co-ordinates*” (see pp. 8-10) seems funny to us now, but nobody knows better than me – after an analysis of more than 5000 recoveries of European Corvids in my Ph.D. – how terrible work with recoveries was when NO co-ordinates were given in published recovery data. A report by A. Schifferli “*Meeting of the International Bird-Ringing Committee*” (p. 13) stresses how much the first editor of *THE RING* was appreciated within the bird-ringing people. Beside other information from the field of the bird ringing the *Records of longevity* chapter (p. 15) was continued for many years and very frequently cited in papers and *Recent literature* was the basic information on what was going on in the topic.

In 1961 Dr Rydzewski came back to Poland and *THE RING* became the bulletin of the Polish Zoological Society (p. 21). During the next twenty years *THE RING* was continued still as a “one-man journal” following the same image and the same scope of interest – there were continued chapters *How they work*, *Notes and news*, *Longevity records*, *Mystery rings* and *Recent literature*. In *THE RING*’s library there was collected a unique set of ALL ringing reports published elsewhere in the World. But it was not enough for the Editor. He tried new initiatives: *THE RING B* – purely information service (p. 22), which ceased after three issues, and *Index Ornithologorum* – something like Who’s Who in the ornithological community (p. 23).

In 1980 Prof. Dr Władysław Rydzewski passed away – the “*Obituary*” by Dr Ludwik Tomiałoć was published in number 102-103 of the bulletin (see pp. 25-27). The Editor has left us but there were followers who continued the work (p. 28): in years 1980-1987 the Editorial Board consisted of Dr Przemysław Busse, Dr Ludwik Tomiałoć and Dr Andrzej Dyrz and later, in 1988-1989 – Dr Ludwik Tomiałoć, Dr Przemysław Busse and Dr Tadeusz Stawarczyk. Despite the changes of editors we continued the style of our Teacher although the sub-

title *Ringling, Migration, Monitoring. Methods and Information* was added (p. 29, see also contents of the first and the last issues edited like that – pp. 30-31) and we reached issue number 139.

The year 1989 was not only the year of enormous political changes in Poland but the year of a fundamental decision about the shape and contents of *THE RING* – it was decided to transform *THE RING* – the quarterly information bulletin into *THE RING* – the bi-annual scientific journal and to pass editorial responsibility to, once more, one hands – my hands (see pp. 32-33). Some basics of the new concept are listed in the *Editorial* to volume 13 (numbering of issues was changed in 1990 – previously continuously numbered issues were arbitrary grouped into 12 volumes):

“THE RING began with the implicit sub-title “Ringling – methods and information”. It was successful because it catered for the great need to discuss this subject felt at that time. During the first years of THE RING's life heated discussions were frequent. They led ultimately to the creation of EURING. They perfected the working methods of ringling centres and ringling activities all over the World. Later, debates became less frequent and more moderate in tone. When administrative methodology had become a less fertile field for debate, THE RING concentrated on information.

... Now, THE RING intends to be in the service of “Ringling, migration and monitoring” as a journal where original papers, the basic products of scientific activity, can be published quickly and to a high editorial standard.

... Both main types of papers of interest to us - original papers and discussions/review articles - are frequently presented as lectures at international meetings and conferences. These are published in the proceedings edited in different countries as special booklets or as supplementary issues of various magazines, and are frequently inaccessible to many who did not participate in the meeting. A speciality of the new THE RING will therefore be the publication of the proceedings of meetings and conferences dealing with the problems falling within the journal's range of interest. If this idea is accepted all our readers will have easy access to subsequent proceedings from serial conferences – always in the same format and always in the same journal.”

During 15 years of step by step development and implementation of the above listed ideas, despite the publication of eleven proceedings from different events, the last desire was not fully realised – local ambitions of many of organisers of meetings are still stronger than explicitly seen advantages of publishing the proceedings in one journal. But hopefully, in the future... So, note that *THE RING* is still open to your proceedings.

In 2003 *THE RING* became the journal published by The Polish Zoological Society and the University of Gdańsk (see p. 34). It is the journal of preference of the SE European Bird Migration Network (SEEN).

And now, we are after long 50 years of the editorial history of *THE RING* – so, next 50 years ahead! I hope for further interest and support of You – the Readers, by supplying *THE RING* with your papers.

Przemysław Busse

Przemysław Bursze

THE RING

Edited by Dr. W. RYDZEWSKI
1 Altyre Rd., Croydon, Surrey, England

No.1.
October
1954
Price
3 sh.

INTRODUCTION

It is quite obvious that the exchange of ideas, experiences and information between the individual ringing centres is an essential factor in their work. For the moment, however, there are great difficulties in publishing such articles and notes, because the general ornithological periodicals do not want to offer any place for such specialised items.

The discussion at the meeting of the International Coordinating Committee for Bird Ringing held at the XIth International Ornithological Congress at Basel, as well as many personal talks with ornithologists from many countries have convinced me, that there is a real need for such a special periodical in which various matters referring to bird ringing could be dealt with.

In that way "THE RING" was born. Its main task is to supply the officers of the ringing schemes with the means where their experiences, suggestions, etc., of general interest could be published and discussed. It should become the source of information in all matters relating to bird ringing. "THE RING" would be sent to all the existing ringing schemes as well as to all ornithologists who would like to subscribe to it.

"THE RING" is a private publication. It is an experiment. Its life and success depend on the interest and cooperation of ornithologists throughout the world. Generally speaking all the problems concerning ringing, trapping, colour ringing, publishing, etc., either theoretical or practical ones, will find their place in "THE RING". It will include information about new schemes and stations, the full list of recent publications, information on non-ornithological rings, etc. Any suggestions and proposals are welcome, and as far as space allows, all material received will be published.

As "THE RING" is not depended on or supported by any ornithological institution or organisation it cannot be sent out free. However, no subscription fee has as yet been fixed; the issues will be priced separately and remittances should be sent to the editor by postal order, international money order, or postal coupons. Any voluntary support would be greatly welcome and would be used for the improvement of this publication.

Dr. W. Rydzewski.

At the meeting of the International Coordinating Committee for Bird Ringing held at Basel, I had the honour to present some suggestions for the unification of various systems of publishing the recovery reports. These proposals were thoroughly discussed and I have been asked to sum up the opinions and prepare a project to be sent to all the ringing schemes for further discussion and examination. All the ornithologists interested with this problem are asked to send their opinions and suggestions to be published in the next issue of "THE RING". The closing date for all communications is 15th December 1954.

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1. The ring number should indicate whether the ring has been returned or not. If so, it should be printed in italics.
2. It is necessary to discriminate the native birds from any foreign migrants. For this reason if the bird was ringed in the nest either as nestling, juvenile or adult, the ringing data should be preceded by a circle, and by an asterisk if the bird, adult or juvenile, was trapped and ringed.
3. In each case the age of the bird when ringed should be clearly stated. Use Latin abbreviations : pull = nestling, juv = young = immature, ad = adult, migr.juv. or migr.ad. = migrants.
4. Sex, if known, should be stated. Use ♂ or "M" for male, ♀ or "F" for female (Masculinum) Femininum).
5. The ringing date should be given in figures : 12.5.52.
6. The actual ringing locality should be given first
7. followed by its co-ordinates (Greenwich), and

8. the administrative unit in brackets. It depends on the authority of the scheme which units for individual countries are to be used. It seems practical to accept : counties for Gr.Britain and Ireland, departements for France, provinces for Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, cantons for Switzerland, Kreise for Germany, powiaty for Poland, etc. It is not desirable to use such definitions as "A" near "B", or "A" bei "B". Also do not use such names as Wales, Normandie, Lombardia, Rheinland; etc. The name of the locality and its co-ordinates are the only and best definition of the ringing place.

9. The ringer's name is optional.

10. The manner of recovery is a very important information and should not be omitted; it should be stated by a conventional sign as already applied by some schemes. It is very important to reach an international agreement as to the uniformity of signs used. They should be as simple as possible and easy for the printer. The proposed signs follow :

- + shot or killed by man,
- x found dead, ill or exhausted and eventually dead, then in brackets reason of death : (cat), (fishing net), (telephone wires); etc.
- () caught or trapped alive and not released or released but with ring removed,
- v caught or trapped and released with the ring,
- = found breeding or with juveniles,
- /-/ or /?/ manner of recovery unknown, e.g. "found", etc.

To simplify the matter the explanation of the signs used should be given at the beginning of the report.

11. The recovery date should be stated in figures. If it is known approximately it should be preceded by "ca" = circa. If the date has not been stated by the finder, and only the date of his report is available, this should be given in brackets : (12.10.53), and if only the month but not the day is known, as follows : 0.11.53.

12. The actual place of recovery should be stated first. If the bird was recovered in the ringing place, this should be stated by the Latin abbreviation either "loco" or "ibid".

13. The co-ordinates. These may be omitted only if the recovery place is very near of the ringing place, say up to 10 kms. In such case, however, the distance and direction must be stated, e.g. ; Abbotsbury - 8 kms S.W.

14. Administrative unit or larger locality. If the co-ordinates of the actual recovery place are not available then the co-ordinates of the nearest larger locality should be given, e.g. : Farm 236 (Mafube : 30°12 S; 28°49 E, Matatiela).

15. The name of the country should be stated. It would be desirable to print it in heavy types.

16. The finder's or reporter's name is optional.

17. The distance should be stated, but it must always be given if it is under 100 kms or the coordinates were not given (see para 13).

18. The direction should be stated thus : S, SW, SSW, etc.

19. "Age" should be given in a formula : years - months - days.

In the course of discussion it was suggested to use the conventional abbreviations instead of the signs. This point of view, however, was opposed as it would be difficult to choose the language for international use, and this method, too, would require an introductory explanation of the abbreviations used.

Opinion has been expressed that the use of various signs and abbreviations would make such reports heavy reading, especially for the ringers, and that the new system would increase the volume of the reports. Personally I do not agree with these points of view.

It is most necessary to realize the actual task of a recovery report. First of all it is designed for students on bird migrations, and it should give them as many information as possible in the clearest way. This could be achieved by using signs known and familiar to all of them. The use of some additional signs would not add to the volume of a report but even if such increase would mean one or two pages in the text, its result would wholly justify the work and cost. As to the question of the use of co-ordinates, this is discussed in a separate article in this issue of "THE RING".

As already stated, the above proposals should be discussed, and therefore all the readers are invited to take part in the argument. To keep the opinions comparable they are requested to follow the order of particular points as stated above. The directors of the schemes are requested to declare whether, and if so, which points and which signs, they are willing to accept and apply in their reports.

Dr. W. RYDZEWSKI, London.

THE PROBLEM OF CO-ORDINATES

The geographical co-ordinates of places specified in the recovery report of a ringed bird are an essential and very important part of it, and should not be neglected. More particularly for foreign students, the usefulness of recovery reports provided with co-ordinates is much greater than those without them. The general use of co-ordinates would save unnecessary correspondence, time of mapping the results, and would be warmly welcomed by all the students of bird migrations. The use of the co-ordinates is quite easy if the work is properly organised; some suggestions how to do it follow.

Each national ringing scheme should establish a Permanent Index-card of Co-ordinates, in which each locality where birds have been ringed should possess its own card. This card is very simple

Croydon Surrey	52°31 N; 0°22 W
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The index-card must constantly be completed and, if a schedule of ringed birds entering the office contains a new ringing locality, an appropriate card should immediately be added to the index-card. In such a way the search of co-ordinates becomes a part of the daily routine of the office's work and saves any amount of work when preparing the annual report.

The same refers to the co-ordinates of recovery places situated within country of the national scheme. If a recovery enters the office, the appropriate co-ordinates should be found at once and noted on the recovery card as well as included to the Permanent Index-card of Co-ordinates.

The co-ordinates of recovery places abroad are a different problem. It is quite obvious that a national scheme possessing detailed maps of its country can easier find out the co-ordinates than a foreign one. For that reason the mutual exchange of co-ordinates between schemes becomes the fundamental duty of each of them. In practice this should be done as follows.

If a recovery of a ringed bird is reported by an official scheme abroad it must give the co-ordinates of the recovery place. The scheme notified must in exchange give the co-ordinates of the ringing place. On the other hand it is impossible to expect that a private finder will supply the office with co-ordinates of the recovery place. In such cases, however, the notified scheme should inform the appropriate national scheme of the country where the bird has been recovered, giving the co-ordinates of the ringing place. In exchange the scheme informed should send the co-ordinates of the recovery place. It is not necessary to communicate each particular recovery at once, it is sufficient to make it collectively from time to time. Such mutual exchange of co-ordinates has another advantage also, namely in such a way mistakes and errors will be avoided as each ringing office will be responsible for the co-ordinates of localities in its own country. For territories where no national scheme exists the responsibility for the exactness of co-ordinates quoted remains with the authors of the report in question.

The way of publishing the co-ordinates is very important. There are opinions that the use of them throughout the reports would increase the cost of printing and the volume of text. Certainly the putting of co-ordinates after each locality mentioned is the best and simplest way. If, however, for various reasons this was not applicable, it could be avoided by giving the full list of co-ordinates at the end of a report. This system used in the pre-war reports of the Latvian Ornithological Centre at Riga (Dr. N. von Transehe) works well and is advisable. It refers, however, to the co-ordinates of ringing places only. The co-ordinates of the recovery places should be included with the text.

It must be emphasised that the co-ordinates of both places, that of ringing and recovery ones, are of equal importance, and both must be stated in the reports.

Dr.W.RYDZEWSKI, London.

NOTES & NEWS

BELGIAN CONGO. In 1954 a new bird ringing scheme, that of the Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale, has been founded at Bukavu, Belgian Congo. It owes its foundation to the initiative of the Commission Scientifique de Biologie Animale of the said Institute under the presidency of Prof.H.Koch from the Louvain University. The two first centres of operations are Kivu (Lwire - 50 kms north of Bukavu) and Katanga near Elisabethville. The scheme is supervised by a well known Belgian ornithologist J.P.Chapin (Kivu) and Dr.A.De Bont, director of the Station de Recherche Piscicole at Elisabethville. The rings bear the following inscription : I.R.S.A.C. CONGO BELGE. All correspondence should be directed to : Directeur de l'I.R.S.A.C., Boite Postale 217, Bukavu, Congo Belge.

E.DE BRUYNE, Bruxelles.

ENGLAND. Miss Elsie P. Leach, Honorary Secretary of the Bird Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology, retired in December, 1953, after completing twenty-three years service. The award of the M.B.E. was conferred on her in the Birthday Honours, 1954, in recognition of her services to ornithology. She has also been awarded the Bernard Tucker Medal.

R.SPENCER, London.

FRANCE. In 1953 the Groupement des Chasseurs de Migrateurs de Vendée (G.C.M.V.), President Prof. Henri Brissard, began to ring Partridges hatched at its centre of Sauvetage d'Aisne and released in Vendée, using rings inscribed "G C M V CHAILLE MARAIS", and for other migratory birds using rings of the Paris Museum. In 1954 the ringing has been continued. The rings used for Partridges bear the inscription "G C M V 54", those applied for Mallards are marked "G C M V LUCON VENDEE". Only the Mallard rings are numbered. All Mallards ringed as above have been hatched locally and distributed over many ponds and lakes of the Vendée. It is hoped, therefore, to create new points of nidification of this species since the birds should remain or return to the places where quietly and in security they spent the first months of their existence. By using its own rings the Groupement hopes to enable hunters to control the results of its experiments and to teach them to respect "their" game birds. All migratory ducks and other birds trapped in the field have been ringed with the Paris Museum rings. The results of the ringing work done by the Groupement are published annually in the "Bulletin Annuel du Groupement des Chasseurs de Migrateurs de Vendée" of which the third one, "Année 1953-1954" has been recently issued. The address where all the communications should be directed is : M.le Président du G.C.M.V., 4 Rue Prosper Deshayes, Luçon, Vendée, France.

H.BRISSARD, Luçon.

JAPAN. The American 406th Medical General Laboratory of the Department of Virus and Rickettsia Diseases, has begun in May 1952 its ringing experiments. Its objective was to learn something of the seasonal and, if possible, the geographical range of *Phalacrocorax carbo haredae*, *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*, *Egretta alba*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Egretta intermedia*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, and *Cyanopica cyanus japonica*. Of approximately 1460 individuals ringed, the bulk have been herons and egrets. All of the ringing has been of nestling birds. So far there are recoveries only from local areas. A serological record is kept on each nestling ringed to study its dispersal movements, directions and its relationship, if any, to the dispersal or incidence of Japanese B encephalitis among human beings. The plan of this study has been drawn by M. Elliot McClure who is in charge of it. The rings used are those issued by the Japanese Game Management Bureau, and the Laboratory is cooperating with it so that both organizations will benefit by the programme of study undertaken by Americans. No report has been published as yet. The address for correspondence is : 406th Medical General Laboratory, APO 500, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

H.E. MCCLURE, San Francisco.

SPAIN. There is, at present, only one ringing station in Spain, that of the Aranzadi Group, at San Sebastian. It is of private character depending on a provincial Natural History Society of the same name. Some living in various parts of the province ring birds on a small scale mainly migrant passerine birds. The station itself has begun to ring gulls in some breeding grounds of the nearby coast and pigeons (Wood and Stock Dove). Apparently this ringing will be very successful as there are some valleys in the Western Pyrenees where the migration of pigeons is very intense and where an old custom exists of catching them with large nets.

The new Spanish Ornithological Society is also interested in migration studies. Some of its members, in close collaboration with Aranzadi Group and with its financial support, have begun to ring the herons in the rich heronries at Donana, Huelva. 2000 nestlings were ringed there in 1953, the bulk being *Ardeola ibis* and *Egretta garzetta* with many *Nycticorax nycticorax* and *Ardeola ralloides*. In 1954 another 1500 herons were ringed there. A new campaign is planned for this autumn in Spanish Morocco where *Passer hispaniolensis* will be the main object of ringing. The possibility of extending the mass ringing on other Spanish species, particularly White Stork and wild-fowl, is now under consideration. The recoveries of ringed birds are published in "Munibe", the bulletin of the Aranzadi Group.

The recording of the recoveries of ringed birds found in Spain has been undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Museum of Natural History and by private people, J. Espana Cantos, P. Sala Castellarnau, the late viscount de la Armeria, R. Saez Royuela, and others. For the last 12 years almost all the records have been collected and published in the "Calendario de Caza y Pesca", a monthly magazine of the National Association of Sportsmen under the editorship of J. Espana Cantos.

F. BERNIS, Madrid

SWEDEN. In 1954 the Zoological Department of the Nordiska Museum and Skansen, Stockholm, under Kai Curry-Lindahl, has started the ringing of birds using its own rings inscribed "SKANSEN STOCKHOLM". The purpose of this new Swedish bird ringing scheme is briefly as follows. The department will increase in the near future its research work in the field as well as in its Zoo-

logical Garden, Skansen, and it is intended to ring different species of birds. Most birds reared and kept in captivity in the Zoological Garden will be ringed. There is a wild heronry in the Zoo, which is the northernmost colony in Europe. As many nestlings as possible will be ringed annually. Hundreds of ducks visiting the Zoo ponds in winter as well as various birds nesting in nest boxes in natural reserves in various parts of Sweden, and finally the birds trapped in Swedish Lapland during the Museum's annual expeditions, will also be the subject of ringing. It is hoped to establish a little zoological station in the Baltic archipelago where the trapping and ringing would be executed. The address of the Museum is : Nordiska Museet, Stockholm.
K.CURRY-LINDAHL, Stockholm.

SWEDEN. On 1st August 1954 a new Swedish Bird Observatory, Falsterbo Fagelstation, began its scientific activity. Situated at the southwesternmost point of Scandinavia, Falsterbo has excellent observation conditions. Between 1 to 2 million birds are passing there every year, and the number of migrating birds of prey is certainly the highest of any European migration point. Dr. Gustav Rudebeck began his observations at Falsterbo in 1942, and since then there have been almost continuous observations of the autumnal migration. In 1945 the Sveriges Ornitologiska Förening took over observation at Falsterbo as well as at Ottenby. In 1947 bird ringing was experimented on a small scale, and especially the trapping of birds of prey, and in 1950 the Scanian Committee of the Swedish Ornithological Association responsible since 1945 for the Falsterbo investigations, constituted a committee with the aim of collecting money for a bird observatory at Falsterbo. About 40 000 Swedish crowns were collected, and the observatory built in 1953/54.

Falsterbo Fagelstation is now under management of the Skanes Ornitologiska Förening, a provincial section of the Swedish Ornithological Association, the committee consists of six persons with Prof. Bertil Hanström as Chairman and Torsten Malmberg as its Secretary. The observations and ringing are at present financed by the Swedish State's Science Research Fund and the Zoological Institute, Lund. This autumn one observer and one ringer were engaged as from 1st August to the end of October. The ringing possibilities at Falsterbo are much worse than at Ottenby but there is every hope that even here the trapping, especially that of birds of prey, will yield many interesting recoveries. The big Heligoland trap is situated at Skanör some kilometers from the observatory, the traps for birds of prey are on the Ljungsten heath, etc. The rings used are those of the Swedish Ornithological Association. The results of the observatory work will be published in the "Meddelanden från Falsterbo Fagelstation" appearing this autumn.

The building of the observatory consists of five, two-person, sleeping cabins and a big room with fire-place, pantry and lavatory. In file with this there is a long loggia behind which there is a little laboratory, exhibition room, magazines, etc. On the first floor it will be possible on certain occasion, to accommodate about twenty guests for the night. A 25 meters high observation tower is erected nearby.
T.MALMBERG, Lund.

REPORTS

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIRD-RINGING COMMITTEE 1st June 1954

A meeting was held in the Restaurant of the Zoological Gardens, Basel, and was attended by about two dozen members of the Congress representing different national ringing centres. The following proposals and recommendations were considered and discussed :

1. All ringing stations had not exchanged their rings and schedules as had been recommended in Uppsala. Where necessary this should be done.
2. Dr. Rydzewski will place his address-list of ringing stations, which he has brought up to date, at the disposal of the stations so that they may communicate with each other.
3. Dr. Rydzewski proposed standardised symbols to be used for various data in publications on ringing recoveries, as well as a standard form of presentation. It was proposed that this list of symbols should be circulated to the various ringing stations in order that any further proposals could be made. Later the use of the agreed list should be commended to the ringing stations.
4. It was agreed that in future Dr. Rydzewski should be invited to the meetings of the Bird Ringing Committee.
5. Dr. Zink suggested that the punch card system should be used for recovery cards by ringing stations. He referred to the communication he had made to the Congress on this subject.
6. Dr. Gudmundsson proposed that the responsibility of management should be undertaken by one ringing station only in each country in order to simplify the work.
7. In communicating reports of recoveries by one ringing station to another the original letter with the returned ring should always be forwarded to the ringing centre which issued the ring.

After the meeting a visit was made under the guidance of Dr. Rydzewski, to the exhibition of ringing organised by him in the Zoological Gardens; a most attractive and informative exhibition. Dr. A. SCHIFFERLI, Sempach.

BIRD RINGING EXHIBITION

At the XIth International Ornithological Congress in Basel a "History of Bird Ringing Exhibition" at the Zoo was organised by Dr. W. Rydzewski. It was the very first time that a special exhibition devoted specially to the bird ringing and the bird ring itself had ever been organised. The exhibition was divided into two sections - the first illustrating the history of ringing and the ringing method, and second showing the rings of the individual schemes of the world.

The chronological tables enumerated no less than 178 ringing and marking schemes commencing with Lord William Percy, 1891, and Christian Mortensen, 1899. A special map illustrated the present distribution of the world's ringing schemes. In the "Typology of the Ring" various types and varieties of rings were shown as well as various colour rings. Another map illustrated some selected records of distance made by ringed birds, a table showed si-

similar records of the "age" of ringed birds. Panels illustrating various methods of bird marking, the work at a ringing station, posters, periodicals, instructions, and books, completed the first division of the exhibition.

In the second division the rings of no less than 131 schemes were exhibited and in practically all the cases photographs of founders of the schemes and their head-quarters were shown together with the rings. Private and mystery rings and wing-marks were included to this division as well.

Beautiful photographs of ringed birds made by the best bird photographers who kindly lend them or offered to the organiser provided most spectacular decoration of the exhibition. It is worthwhile mentioning at this point that with the exception of some photographs practically all the exhibits came from the private collection of Dr. W. Rydzewski. This collection is recognised as a reference one, and opinions have been expressed that every effort should be made to fill the few existing gaps.

OBITUARY

Professor Dr. Janusz Domaniewski, founder of the Polish ringing scheme and well known Polish ornithologist, died in Zakopane, Poland, on 20th March 1954.

Born on 30th April 1891 he was educated at the Jagellonian University in Cracow. From the very early years of his life ornithology was the object of his main interest, and he specialised in the subspecific systematics, working together with Jan Sztolcman and others. Before the 11nd World War he was professor of zoology at the High School of Agriculture in Warsaw and from 1945 at M. Curie University at Lublin.

Domaniewski was not only a keen ornithologist but also an excellent organiser in various fields. As a great lover of hunting he devoted much of his efforts to the organisation of Polish hunting and was one of the creators of Polish hunting law. He was also one of the pioneers of the movement of the protection of nature in Poland. Owing to his efforts the game in Tatra was saved and preserved after the 1st World War. Later he became one of the creators of the Tatra National Park. In 1931, as Curator, and later as Director of the Zoological Museum in Warsaw, he founded the Polish Station for Investigation of Bird Migrations thus starting the bird ringing in Poland.

He was a honorary, corresponding, or ordinary member of many Polish and foreign scientific societies. The list of his books, papers, and other publications is very long; too long to be quoted here.

Dr. W. RYDZEWSKI, London.

RECOVERIES

Recoveries of ringed birds of utmost interest only will be included in this column. The readers are requested to send information which could be published under this heading. The signs used have already been explained in the article "The Publishing of the Recovery Reports".

Puffinus gravis - Greater Shearwater

TDC ZOOLOG. MUSEUM OSLO NORWAY 1288.

o ad 10.2.38. Nightingale Island : 37°24S; 12°27W, Tristan da Cunha.
 /-/ 4.8.38. Lille Hellefiskebank : 65°00N; 53°40 W, Greenland.

0-5-25

Macronectes giganteus - Giant Petrel

F.I.D.S. COLONIAL OFFICE LONDON 63526.

o pull 0.5.51. Signy Island : 60°48S; 45°45W, South Orneys.
 x 14.9.51. Dargaville : 35°56S; 173°52E (Auckland), New Zealand.

0-3-?

DOMINION MUSEUM NEW ZEALAND 16693.

o pull 6.3.51. Heard Island : 53°01S; 72°31E.
 /-/ 0.1.52. south of Valparaiso : 33°02S; 71°40W, Chile.

0-9-?

Sterna hirundo - Common Tern

WITHERBY HIGH HOLBORN LONDON J 2925.

o pull 29.6.29. Walney Island : 54°05N; 3°15W (Lancashire), England.
 x (decapitated in nest) 13.6.54. Ravenglass : 54°21N; 3°21 W (Cumberland),
 England. 32 kms NNW. 24-11-15

RECORDS OF LONGEVITY

The list below is certainly not complete. It will be continued, and readers are requested to send information on cases which could be thus included. Birds of over 10 years of age only will be taken into consideration.

Larus argentatus	pull	17.6.21	26.12.48	27 - 6 - 9	Leiden 21132
Haematopus ostralegus	pull	12.6.26	Summ. 53	27 - 1 -	Helgoland
Sterna macrura	juv	13.7.20	14. 7.47	27 - 0 - 1	Helgoland 19413
Sterna hirundo	pull	29.6.29	13. 6.54	24 -11 -15	London J 2925
Buteo buteo	juv	1.6.27	21. 3.51	23 - 9 -20	Helgoland 30760
Hydroprogne caspia	pull	8.7.27	19. 9.49	22 - 2 -11	Washington 565631
Sterna sandvicensis	juv	17.6.12	8. 6.33	20 -11 -22	Leiden 4743
Pandion haliaetus	pull	19.6.14	19. 6.14	20 -11 -12	A.B.B.A. 26584
Larus glaucescens	juv	2.8.29	7. 4.50	20 - 8 - 5	Washington 299669
Larus ridibundus	pull	13.6.10	5.30	19 -11 -	London 30870
Cygnus olor	juv	Spr. 26	2.10.45	19 - 5 -	Sempach 99960
Ciconia ciconia	pull	2.7.14	14. 4.33	18 - 9 -12	Budapest 6436
Ardea cinerea	juv	6.5.34	26.10.52	18 - 5 -20	London 112027
Sturnus vulgaris	ad	27.3.31	7.49	18 - 3 -	Leiden 92565
Phalacrocorax carbo	juv	14.6.19	28. 8.37	18 - 2 -14	London 101819
Milvus milvus	juv	17.6.33	6.10.50	17 - 3 -20	Helgoland 307075
Circus gallicus	juv	6.35	19.10.52	17 - 3 -	Rossitten B55842
Chlidonias niger	ad	13.6.14	18. 8.31	17 - 2 - 5	Budapest 7204
Sula bassana		31.7.22	14. 4.39	16 - 8 -14	Washington 20725
Circus aeruginosus	pull	4.7.34	2.51	16 - 6 -	Leiden 71570

<i>Hydranassa tricolor</i>	pull	13.8.20	1.37	16 - 5 -	A.B.B.A.37537
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	pull	16.6.33	30. 9.49	16 - 3 -14	Leiden 119618
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	juv	11.6.27	25. 9.43	16 - 3 -14	Leiden 47420
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	ad	9.5.13	11. 3.29	15 -10 - 2	Budapest 2528
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	juv	8.26	18. 6.42	15 -10 -	Copenhagen A012
<i>Larus marinus</i>	juv	21.6.29	20. 3.45	15 - 8 -27	Göteborg E 1669
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	juv	6.08	2.11.23	15 - 4	Rossitten 1286

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vol.25, No.2. - R.A.Paynter, Jr. : Interrelations between clutch-size, brood-size, prefledgling survival, and weight in Kent Island Tree Swallows (35-58). E.A.Bergstrom : More leg sizes (58-59). C.H.Blake : Death of a Bluebird (59). J.T.Nichols : On White-throated Sparrow plumage (60). R.W.Dexter : The 1953 returns of Chimney Swifts at Kent, Ohio (60-61) H.Brackbill : Red-eye Vireo throws banded young out of the nest (61). Recent Literature. Notes and News.

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
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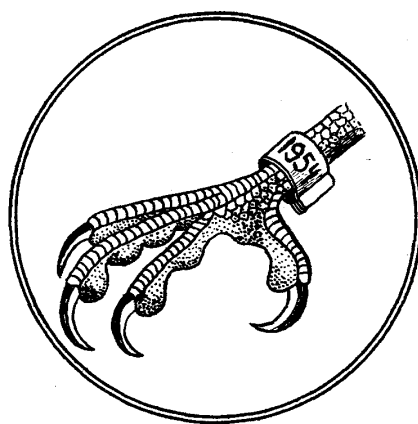
1. Found in December 1950 at Sankt Valentin, Niederösterreich on *Phasianus colchicus*. Complete, aluminium ring, inscriptions in relief, diameter - 15 mm, width - 9 mm. Communicated by Dr. G. Rokitsky, Wien.


V 1149

2. Found on 3.10.1952 at Sandringham near Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, on "web-footed bird" (Gannet or Cormorant ?). Complete, oval, aluminium ring with a hole. Long diameter 19 mm, short diameter 16 mm, width 8 mm. Communicated by W.B. Hitchcock, Melbourne.


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The Ring

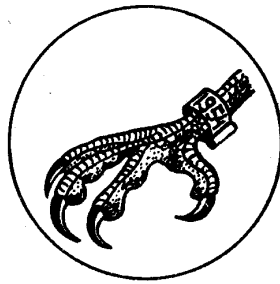


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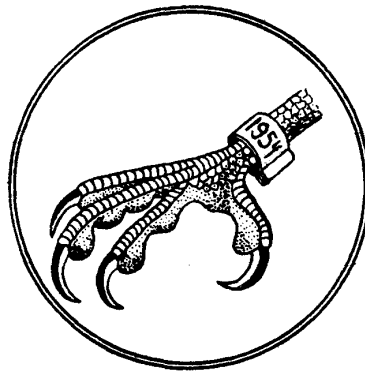
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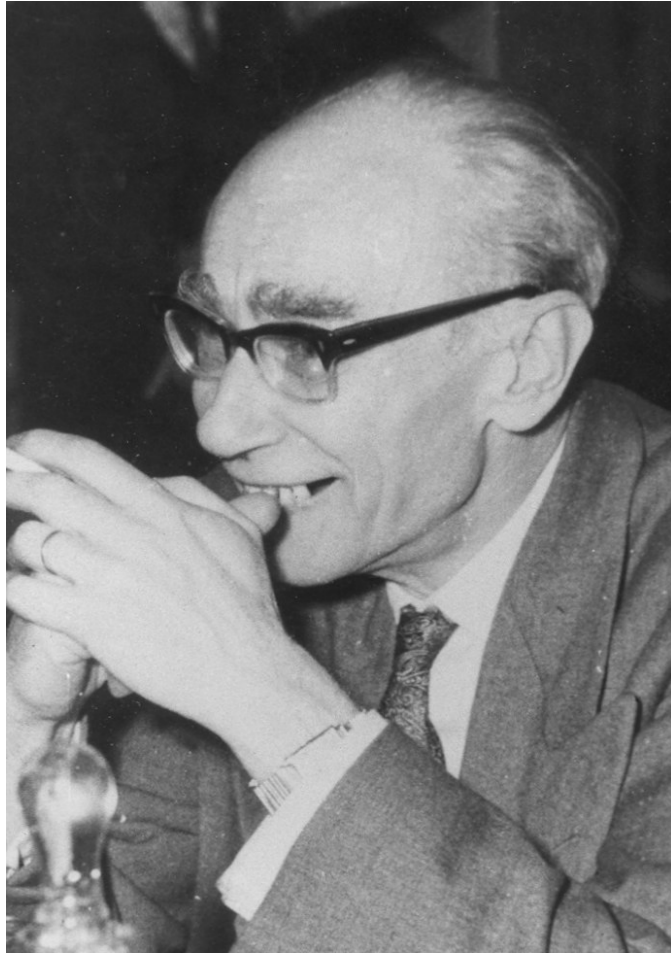
SERIES B

The Ring



INDEX ORNITHOLOGORUM

edited by
W. Rydzewski



W. Rydewski

THE RING

vol. IX

No. 102-103

1980

O B I T U A R Y

PROF. DR. WŁADYSŁAW RYDZEWSKI (1911-1980)

The founder and editor of "The Ring", Prof. Dr. Władysław Rydzewski, died on 28th August 1980 in Wrocław, after several months of illness. Polish science lost an outstandingly active zoologist, museologist, editor, administrator, and a person very actively engaged in nature protection work.

The readers of this bulletin are well aware what an energetic and enthusiastic man he was. His contribution to the organisation of international cooperation in the field of bird migration studies and bird ringing is unforgettable. However, I am not the most competent person to make such evaluations. I hope that they will appear on the pages of "The Ring" written by some of the more competent foreign friends or colleagues of the late Dr. Rydzewski. My intention is to present to the readers a profile of our Professor, as he was seen by his pupils and co-workers. To us, he was not only editor of "The Ring", "Acta Ornithologica", or very recently, of "Natural History Museums Newsletter". He was, first of all, a very dynamic chief of the Laboratory of Ornithology and later the director of Zoological Museum of Wrocław University, which was then transformed into the Museum of Natural History of Wrocław University, the largest one in Poland.

Władysław Rydzewski was born in Cracow on 9th July 1911, the son of a geology professor. He attended schools in Warsaw and it was there that he finished his studies in the Faculty of Natural Sciences in 1933. From 1936 till the outbreak of the World War II he was head of the first Polish Station for Bird Migration Studies. The period of the Second World War in W. Rydzewski's life exemplifies the fate of many Poles. In September 1939, as an officer of the Polish Army, he actively resisted the German invasion of Poland, and was severely injured by a bomb. After recovering, assuming a false name, he returned to Warsaw, occupied by Nazis, and joined the underground resistance movement. As a lieutenant of the underground Home Army, using pseudonyms "Bogdan" or "Niemen", in August 1944 he took part in the Warsaw Insurrection against the Nazi occupation. While defending bravely a barricade against an attacking tank he was seriously wounded for the second time. Later, for this heroic deed, he was given the highest Polish military distinction - the medal of *Virtuti Militari*. After the collapse of the Insurrection he was taken prisoner into the camp of Lamsdorf, later to the Murnau in South Germany. After release he emigrated to Italy, Egypt and Lebanon, although he was very weak and ill. Later he resettled with his newly established family in Great Britain and stayed there for 15 years. In England W. Rydzewski

worked in several factories, at the same time continuing his ornithological studies. Thanks to the grant (years 1951-52) obtained from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, he was able to prepare the dissertation on nomadic movements of Grey Herons. In 1954 he obtained his Ph.D. Degree from London University and was made a member of the College of Science and Technology. Five years later he presented his habilitation dissertation to the Polish University Abroad in London.

The year 1960 opened a new period in his life when he decided to return to Poland. Dr. Rydzewski was appointed the professor of zoology at Wrocław University. Very quickly he organised the Laboratory of Ornithology, and since 1963 became also the manager of Zoological Museum of the University. The Laboratory of Ornithology ceased to exist formally in 1969, though our group of ornithologists found convenient conditions for further work in the Museum. Only recently (1975) was the independent Department of Avian Biology created, with Dr. Andrzej Dyrce, Assistant Professor, as its head.

During his last years Prof. Rydzewski was more and more involved in museology. Till his death he was the director of our Museum and in 1978 even started to edit the international information bulletin "The Natural History Museums Newsletter".

From his early years Dr. Rydzewski was deeply devoted to ornithology, and to bird migration studies in particular. He was not so much the self-oriented scientist of old days, but rather the organiser, the manager and the editor. Dr. Rydzewski was one of those who shaped the international co-operation in bird ringing. The beginning of this activity can be traced back to the early 1950's. Here we should mention his paper "A Historical Review of Bird Marking" published in *Dansk Ornit. Forenings Tidsskrift* (1951), as well as the never published comprehensive manuscript "50 Years of Bird Ringing - History and Progress" prepared in 1953. Following the line of discussions at the ornithological congress in Basel (1954) Dr. Rydzewski decided to create "The Ring" as a bulletin devoted to bird ringing problems.

I met Prof. Rydzewski for the first time in Wrocław in 1960, in my student years. He impressed me greatly with his energy, enthusiasm, and his tendency to look at problems from a wide perspective. He always considered science to be a world-wide human activity embracing all political divisions. His other very conspicuous trait was the inclination to co-ordinative type of work; he had an inborn ability to organise, co-operate or stimulate the work of other people. His energetic behaviour influenced greatly the surrounding personnel. His ability to see very complicated or extensive affairs or matters with a special kind of penetrating clarity was always astonishing. He was very sensitive to any lack of clarity in statements and always pressed the interlocutor to use more communicative language. One of his weaknesses emerged from this very source; he underestimated ecological studies, being disgusted by the dull and over-sophisticated jargon frequently met in eco-

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logical papers. Thus, he tended to "throw-out the ecological baby with the bath-water". His traits in writing were always: shortness, clarity and straightforwardness, which differed so much from the Polish tendency to somewhat decorative language.

Apart from many other kinds of activity, Dr. Rydzewski was very active in the field of nature and bird protection. For a long time he was the head of Polish Section of International Council for Bird Preservation, a member of the State Council for Nature Protection, the chairman of the Provincial Nature Protection Committee in Wrocław, as well as a member of the Council of the Kar-konosze National Park. He prepared several useful expert reports evaluating the state of affairs in the whole country. These were, for example, the critical evaluation of the projected new Hunting Law in Poland (prepared in 1971), the organisation of nature protection and environmental protection activities (in 1971), and the report on modernisation of the net of nature reserves for the preservation of the animal life in Poland (1972). Similarly, he was the author of a report dealing with the state of natural history museums in our country (1975).

The true hobby of Dr. Rydzewski, totally occupying his mind in his leisure hours, was his bent for collecting things. He was a collector of stamps, bird rings, bird postcards, and most of all - books. His bibliophile taste was excellently developed and demanded much of his effort to satisfy it. As a result of his "bookish" hobby he managed to create in Wrocław the best ornithological library in Poland, which has already served two generations of our ornithologists and bird-watchers. For most of us this library alone has opened the doors to the world and contributed much to the development of one of the most outstanding Polish ornithological centres.

At the end of my impressions I should stress that Prof. Rydzewski's personality was a many-sided one. Any limiting of my outline only to his scientific, organisational and editorial capacities would over-simplify the true picture. He was not only a very hard-working man devoted to scientific and related activities, but he was also a great Polish patriot. Several times, during the war-time and later, he risked his life or position while fighting for justice and freedom. During twenty years at Wrocław University he gained preeminence as an independent, courageous, strong-willed man. He had both friends and enemies; nobody could live beside of him without developing one of these contrasting types of attitude to him. Even his former enemies admit, however, that their disagreements emerged mainly from differences in the temperament, and appreciate him highly for his uprightness.

His whole life teaches us, his followers, how to be faithful to ourselves and to the eternal symbols of humanism. We will always remember him as a man with powerful sense of personal freedom, and as one wholly devoted to his work.

Ludwik Tomiałoje



Przemysław Busse



Ludwik Tomiałojć



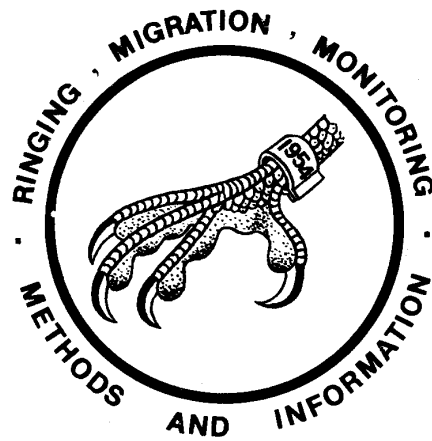
Andrzej Dyrz



Tadeusz Stawarczyk

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International Ornithological Journal THE RING

"*THE RING* is an international journal dealing with problems of bird ringing, migration and monitoring bird numbers. The main fields of interest are original papers, review articles and methodical discussions. Information, progress reports, personal comments and short notes or news are also accepted to the informative columns of the journal. **Although papers are refereed, conclusions, opinions and discussion are published on the authors' responsibility.** INNOVATIVE AND EVEN CONTROVERSIAL IDEAS ARE APPRECIATED."

PL ISSN 0035-5429

1954



The Ring

RINGING · MIGRATION · MONITORING**CONTENTS**

Proceedings of the EURING Technical Conference and
Meeting of the Mathematical Ecology Group of the
Biometric Society (British Region) and
British Ecological Society

held in Sempach, Switzerland,
on 12-14 April, 1989

Vol.13**No 1-2****1990**

International Ornithological Journal founded in 1954 by Dr. W. Rydzewski



A semiannual published by the Polish Zoological Society
and the University of Gdańsk

The Journal of preference of the SE European Bird Migration Network (SEEN)

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