

European colour-ring birding: colour-ringed birds from the (cannon)net to the (inter)net

Dirk Raes

Waterloosteenveg 1, B-1640 Sint Genesius Rode, Belgium;
e-mail: cr-birding@skynet.be

With an increased use of the internet, it was decided in 1995 that the website European Colour-ring Birding (www.cr-birding.be) should succeed the overview of colour marking programmes presented by Flamant (1994). A successful first European colour-ring meeting was organised in Belgium. By 2007, information had been gathered on just over 300 bird species which were colour-ringed within almost 1500 colour-ringing projects which were known to exist at that time.

Some 15 years after the start, a new website saw the light of day. With the involvement of the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology (SOVON and, with the help of sponsorship from the European Union for Bird Ringing

(EURING), the new website www.cr-birding.org was created. The site is based on a content management system, people can select criteria to find the solution, for example a project leader for a colour-ringing programme or, in the case of geese, directed to the database at www.geese.org.

Projects relating to the following species are currently included on the Colour-Ring Birding website (number of projects in parenthesis) : Bean Goose *Anser fabilis* (19), Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (8), Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (19), Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (11), Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (36) (Figure 1), Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* (3), Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* (10), Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* (1), Emperor Goose *Chen canagica* (2), Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (16), Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (11), Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* (11), Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* (5), Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (6), and goose hybrids (2).

The colour-ringed bird database contains data on more than just geese. At the time of writing (late August 2012) there are a total of 2759 projects, covering a almost 370 bird species. From waterfowl to buntings, most of the existing European colour-ringing projects can be found here. The list is still growing, with about 5 to 8 new colour-ringing projects being added each week. Some colour-ring information is still available



Figure 1. Greylag Goose *Anser anser* with blue neck-collar BG3. Sør-Herøy, Nordland, Norway, May 2013. Photo: Paul Shimmings.

only on the old website although, step-by-step, projects are being transferred to the new website. Almost half of these projects had been transferred to the new website as of August 2012.

Coordination of all European colour-ring projects is necessary and the European Colour-Ring Birding website is the best platform. Every week new colour-ring projects are introduced into the new website and transfer of the projects from the old to the new site continues. The module 'Trusted Editor' is now active and already ringing organisations such as the British Trust for Ornithology, the Israeli Bird Ringing Center and the Bulgarian Ornithological Centre as well as some species coordinators can enter their own data

direct into the database. Recently, with European colour-ring Birding as a platform, some Google cloud connect files have been tested.

REFERENCES

- Flamant, R. 1994. Aperçu des programmes de marquage d'oiseaux à l'aide de bagues couleur, collier et marques allaires en Europe. *Aves* 31: 65–186.

Received 27 May 2012. Accepted 05 June 2013.

Guest editor: Paul Shimmings