



EURING

The European Union for Bird Ringing

EURING, F. Bairlein, An der Vogelwarte 21, D- 26386 Wilhelmshaven, Germany

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President

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Date 2008-04-28

Dear Mrs. Núria Buenaventura Puig,

the Societat Catalana d'Anelleament (SCA) informed EURING, the European Union for Bird Ringing, that SCA is issuing rings for bird ringing in Catalonia.

Please allow me to rise considerable concern about this new development in Catalonia which does not match with EURING rules, and which breaks the long-lasting standards of the organization of bird ring in Europe in general, and the well established successful operation of bird ringing in Spain and Catalonia, respectively, in particular.

Experience shows that a multitude of ringing schemes in a country - except for those countries where existing schemes historically cooperate closely - causes serious problems in reliability of data exchange with other schemes, of recovery management, of safety in data holding and of ensuring an agreed level of standards in data quality. Consequently, EURING only recognises a single national scheme in a country except where two or more had been operating historically since long time.

With the definition of a sovereign country EURING follows the practice of the UN and the European Union.

All European ringing schemes agreed about a common web address (www.ring.ac) that shall be used on all those European rings which hold such an address. It has been agreed that this is the only way to minimize the serious risk of data losses and of confusion on the recovery reporter's side. The

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The European Union for Bird Ringing

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spread of any other web reporting address can damage the work of existing ringing schemes in and outside Spain. Furthermore, there is an agreed inscription standard (alphanumeric code + clear indication of issuing country and city + possibly other details like e-mail address, website) which to the EURING board's knowledge is not met by the rings that are to be issued by SCA for the use in Catalonia.

These basic rules of EURING which are designed to ensure the scientific reputation of bird ringing in Europe are considerably violated by the recent activities of SCA.

Therefore, we currently do not see any possibility to cooperate nor to exchange any recovery information with SCA unless there is a common agreement about cooperation with the two existing ringing centres in Spain. We even strongly recommend to stop these activities by SCA in order to maintain the acquired high standards of scientific bird ringing in Europe, and in Spain and Catalonia respectively. There is no need nor justification to introduce new rings and a new ringing centre in Catalonia because the existing organization of scientific bird ringing in Catalonia works very well thanks to the Institut Català d'Ornitologia and its close link to the existing ringing centres in Spain.

We are also deeply concerned that SCA is issuing and using rings in Catalonia although, according to our knowledge, your institution does not allow to use rings issued by SCA for bird ringing in Catalonia.

Summing up, we are deeply worried of what is going on by SCA and we strongly recommend to act against these activities by SCA.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Franz Bairlein
EURING President

Cc (e-post):

- Mr. Albert Martínez Vilalta, President, Institut Català d'Ornitologia, Museu de Zoologia, Passeig Picasso s/n, 08003 Barcelona, Spain
- Gabriel Gargallo, ICO
- Madrid Ringing Scheme at Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
- Dr. Stephen Baillie, EURING Chair of Board
- Dr. Wolfgang Fiedler, EURING General Secretary