

FOREIGN NEWS

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BIRD RINGING IN SWEDEN IN 1991

The 32nd report of the Swedish Ringing Centre indicates that a total of 256 363 birds were ringed in 1991, of which 83% were free-flying birds. In addition, 9 750 small migrants were ringed with Swedish rings in Kenya. This represents a 27% drop against the record-high totals of the preceding year, but can probably be attributed to the extremely poor weather conditions during May and June. The Grand Total of birds ringed from 1960-1991 numbers 5 506 690 birds of 339 species, maintaining an overall recovery rate of 1,3%.

There were 1 646 recoveries and 1 079 controls of Swedish-ringed birds of which 40% were from outside Sweden. Notable instances of long distance migration include a Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* ringed on passage at Ottenby, Sweden on 24 August 1990 and recovered near Lake Albert, eastern Zaire on 13 March 1991, a distance of 6 161 km. An interesting precedent was set by another Willow Warbler, also ringed in Sweden and recovered at almost exactly the same locality on 29 March 1971. [See Medland on site fidelity of migrant Willow Warblers in Malawi, page 47].

A Redbacked Shrike *Lanius collurio* was killed in Angola in April 1991, 34 months after it was ringed as a nestling in Sweden. At a distance of 7 594 km this is one of the southernmost Swedish recoveries of this species.

An interesting example of longevity was a Curlew *Numenius arquata* that was shot after 19 years and 12 days, making it the second oldest ringed in Sweden.

The EURING Acroproject, initiated in 1984, is a European research program into the migratory strategies of *Acrocephalus* warblers particularly the European Sedge Warbler *A. schoenobaenus*. Four of these warbler species breed in Sweden: European Reed Warbler *A. scirpaceus* is the most common (73%), followed by E. Sedge Warbler (23%), E. Marsh Warbler *A. palustris* (2,5%) and Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus* (0,65%).

Among the objectives undertaken by Swedish participants in the project are the autumn migration phenology of adults and juveniles, *i.e.* when, where and to what extent these species build up fat reserves before migratory flight. Recoveries and controls in the southern wintering grounds of these species are hoped to yield further information on dispersal and migration routes as well as changes in body mass during migration.

Swedish participation in the project from 1988-1992 has resulted in a total of 62 735 warblers ringed over these four years. In 1992 the number of participating ringing sites in Sweden rose to 20. Amongst the 596 recoveries of Swedish-ringed warblers that year (yielding a recovery rate of 0,95%) were seven Reed Warblers found in Morocco, one in Mali, four Sedge Warblers found in Liberia and one in Libya.