

REPORT ON BIRD RINGING IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND FOR 1991

The 55th report of the British Trust for Ornithology's Ringing Scheme was published in *Ringing & Migration* 14 (1993). In addition to the results of the 1991 ringing year, this report is one of a 5-yearly series providing revised ringing and recovery totals and summaries of international movements affecting Britain and Ireland over that period.

There were 2 178 registered ringers in 1991. However, the annual ringing total of 787 320 birds ringed in 1991 was the lowest figure achieved in the last decade. This result was attributed to the harsh winter and poor spring of 1990-1991.

The Grand Total of birds ringed in Britain and Ireland since the scheme started in 1909 now stands at 22 423 831.

The total of 14 107 BTO-ringed birds recovered during that year, however, was the third highest recovery total of the decade. The Grand Total of 454 204 recoveries brings the British Ringing Scheme recovery rate to 2,03%. There were an additional 34 308 foreign-ringed recoveries.

Some interesting results involving migrant species to Africa were obtained. Mass-participation ringing in Senegal, in both spring and autumn 1991, resulted in 248 controls of BTO-ringed passerines. These included 208 Sand Martins, four Sedge Warblers, one Reed Warbler and one Willow Warbler. In addition the first two controls of BTO-ringed birds were reported by the newly formed Ghanian Scheme, launched in 1989. A unusual BTO-ringed swallow recovery originated from Uganda.

A number of new longevity records were achieved for BTO-ringed birds. These included: Sandwich Tern (28 yrs), Arctic Tern (28 yrs), Grey Plover (21 yrs), Turnstone (19 years), Ringed Plover (16 yrs), and Reed Warbler (11 yrs).

Amongst other BTO projects, the target species scheme concluded a successful 10 year run with 435 8867 target species being ringed. This initiative entailed ringing of an extensive list of target species for which special funds were provided by the JNNC. The species were selected according to the conservation benefits derived from enhanced ringing effort. The rings for these birds were either supplied free or a rebate was paid to the ringers. Thus in addition to furthering knowledge of these species, this system directed the attention of many ringers, who wanted to know how best their effort could be used, to species of real interest.

The Constant Effort Sites (CES) scheme, which has been running for more than 10 years, covered a record number of sites in 1991. There are now more than 100 sites in operation. The sites are visited every 10 days during the summer with the same nets being set in the same sites each year.

Both CES ringing and survival analysis of ringing and recovery data form an important part of the Integrated Population Monitoring programme. This initiative seeks to integrate data on populations, productivity and survival (through census work, nest records and ringing), and identify natural and expected variations therein. This will allow early identification of potentially damaging changes and the implementation of proper conservation measures.