



„A madárbarát Magyarorszáért!”

Magyar Madártani és Természetvédelmi Egyesület/BirdLife Hungary

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PRESS RELEASE

Hungarian bird ringing database, containing close to six million pieces of data, becomes available on the internet

From now on, Hungarian bird ringing experts can pursue their scientific work in a more comprehensive and effortless manner due to the new web-based system developed by T-Systems Hungary for the Bird Ringing Center of Birdlife Hungary (MME).

Using the Tringa (i.e. “T-ring application”) software, named after the Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), experts can access the bird ringing database of Hungary, containing close to six million data records, through a web-based user interface.

Bird ringing is one of the oldest and most common methods applied to tag wild birds. When ringed birds, thus identified by a serial number, are observed, recaptured or found, a lot can be learned about their lives, patterns of movement, resting or feeding places and where they spend the winter. By subjecting the data so collected to time series analyses, experts can also explore the causes behind changes in population.

Organized bird tagging initiatives have taken place in Hungary since 1908, and the data collected since the beginning had already been available in a digitized format when the preparation of the Bird Migration Atlas, published on the occasion of the centenary of Hungarian bird ringing, started. The database, which used to be offline, but extended by 200-250 thousand new records annually, has been adapted by the experts of T-Systems Hungary to fit the new system this year, and is now accessible through Tringa.

The system is based on the EURING (European Union for Bird Ringing) protocol, which sets forth the rules of storing bird ringing data. The best features offered by Tringa are based on its web-based approach. The system is accessible by the more than 300 registered Hungarian bird ringers and bird observers, who occasionally or regularly observe ringed birds.

On top of its online accessibility, another attractive feature of the Tringa application is that users can view their recapture data on a map and possibly share it with others through links.

The new system offers great benefits to the experts working for the MME Bird Ringing Center, too, as the burden of data entry is shared by users, administration becomes simpler, and thus, much more time remains for data analysis, report generation and the in-depth scientific work of exploring Hungary’s birdlife in general.

Observing or recapturing ringed birds connects people through Tringa, and we thank T-Systems Hungary for their help in making that possible.

The new system will be presented to the public on the occasion of the 14th Wild Geese Festival of Tata, where the Head of the MME Bird Ringing Center, Zsolt Karcza will demonstrate its functions at 11:00 am on November 29, 2014.

Background materials about bird ringing and the Bird Ringing Center:

http://www.mme.hu/madargyuruzes_es_madarvonulas-kutatas

Further information:

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