



EURING

The European Union for Bird Ringing

EURING, W. Fiedler, Schlossallee 2, D-78315 Radolfzell

Albert Roca
Catalan Ringing Society

General Secretary
Dr. Wolfgang Fiedler
Vogelwarte Radolfzell
Schlossallee 2
D-78315 Radolfzell
Tel.: 07732 – 150160
Fax: 07732 – 150169
fiedler@orn.mpg.de

Date 2008-02-13

Dear Mr. Roca,

the EURING board heard about the activities of the foundation of a "Catalan Ringing Centre" recently and is deeply concerned about this development for various reasons:

First, EURING only recognises a single national scheme in a country except where two or more had been operating historically. Experience shows that a multitude of ringing schemes in a country - except for those cases 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. With the definition of a sovereign country EURING follows the practice of the UN and the European Union.

Second, 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 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 board's knowledge is not met by the rings that are to be issued by the new organisation in Catalonia.

Since several rules of the European Union for Bird Ringing which are designed to ensure the scientific reputation of bird ringing in Europe are violated we currently do not see any possibility to cooperate (nor to exchange any recovery information) with your scheme unless there is a common agreement about cooperation with the two existing ringing centres in Spain.

Sincerely

EURING General Secretary

Cc: President and Board Members of EURING; Ringing Centres Madrid and San Sebastian; Gabriel Gargallo, Catalan Ornithological Institute;