

SELECTED TRENDS IN BIRD MONITORING AND IN COMMUNICATION

Urmas Sellis

Eagle Club

Monitoring of an individual bird via ringing (banding) has been widely known and used by ornithologists and bird watchers around the world for as many as 130 years already. But common rings are difficult to read on alive bird, therefore during the last decades, colour rings with readable individual codes have been used - that gives more possibility to recover the bird for several times through its lifespan.

In Estonia, several species, incl. eagles and black stork, are ringed in that way within international colour ringing schemes. Therefore, we know the population dynamics, dispersion and migration routes quite well.

For more data about an individual bird, it is possible to use transmitters - either radio, satellite or GPS tags. Most effective are the last ones, though it depends on the monitoring topic. Estonian Eagle Club has used different tags for the sixth year at the moment and there are data about 32 different birds, followed by us. Almost all the data covering outside the breeding time are represented on the online migration map available at: <http://birdmap.5dvision.ee/en>

The most complete (in some sense) bird monitoring is possible by using real-time web cameras (looduskalender.ee). We have used web cameras since 2007 to make available all the nest life of certain bird pairs for almost everyone and to save the all the material for future investigations.

Transmitters and webcams about eagles and black storks have had an extremely high media coverage and interest around the world. There is even the so-called society of ‘storkaholics’, watching the nest life during all their free time and communicating about the topic. The same stream from an Estonian remote forest is running in schools, at homes, by dentists and in Brussels offices...

The people who have watched wild life through a webcam for some hours care much more about nature in the future! And the small country on the Eastern Baltic shore (called Estonia) will be much more known in a positive light...

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