

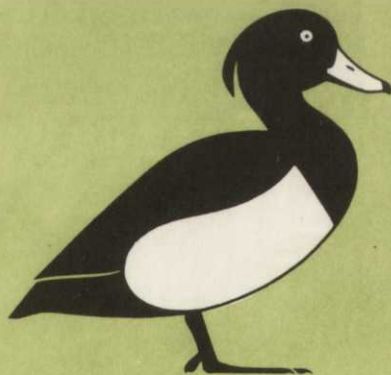
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RINGING RECOVERY ANALYTICAL METHODS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EURING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
AND MEETING OF THE MATHEMATICAL ECOLOGY GROUP
OF THE BIOMETRIC SOCIETY (BRITISH REGION)
AND BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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AND BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**held in Wageningen, The Netherlands,
on 4-7 March, 1986**

Editor: Philip M. NORTH

k.02.

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INTRODUCTION

The EURING technical conference on ringing recovery analytical methods was suggested by the Board of EURING the European Union for Bird Ringing, a federation of European ringing schemes. The conference also formed part of the programme of meetings of the Mathematical Ecology Group of the Biometric Society (British Region) and British Ecological Society. The latter also provided generous financial support, as did the British Trust for Ornithology.

The aim of the conference was to bring together a group of ornithologists and statisticians who are personally concerned with the analysis and interpretation of ringing recovery data. In the preparation for the meeting emphasis was laid on methods for the estimation of survival (or, equivalently, mortality), though attention was also given to the interpretation of spatial and temporal distributions of ring recoveries in migration and dispersal studies. This emphasis is reflected by the numbers of papers amongst those that follow in these Proceedings relating to the broad subject areas. That is, there are a larger number of papers concerning survival studies, which is probably a reflection of the balance of the methodological advances generally in recent years in the two areas of application. Although it is becoming increasingly difficult to separate capture-recapture approaches from the simple use of ring recovery data, especially in view of recent developments combining the two approaches, there was a definite attempt in the organization of the meeting to keep the emphasis on capture-recapture studies low. This explains the fact that the number of papers in the Proceedings which cover this topic is smaller than it would otherwise have been. But, a longer conference would certainly have been required otherwise.

The conference aimed to produce a statement of the current state of the art with regard to analytical methods for interpreting ring recovery data, and to go on to discuss recent and ongoing research in the area. It was hoped to achieve a dialogue between the statisticians and the ornithologists so that practitioners should be made aware of what methods were available to them and in what form, and should be advised on what forms of data they should be collecting in future studies. The dialogue was achieved to an encouragingly large extent at the meeting, with the result that the conference was widely considered to be very useful to ornithologists and statisticians alike. The success of the meeting was due, in part at least, to the excellent facilities provided by the International Agricultural Centre in Wageningen, and much of the good spirit engendered at the meeting to the warm and generous hospitality of our Dutch hosts.

One reason why there was such good dialogue was the ample allowance for, and emphasis on, discussion in the meeting. This discussion was believed to

constitute a very important feature of the conference and, because of this, the account of the discussion forms a substantial part of the Proceedings. It is hoped that the discussion sections, read in conjunction with the papers, will help to provide a most useful summary of the collective views emanating from the conference. It has been one of my tasks in editing these Proceedings to produce a full written account of all the formal discussion at the meeting. Whilst I have, of course, attempted to reproduce all the discussion faithfully, any misinterpretation of what was said, or misrepresentation of it here, must be solely my own responsibility. Items of discussion in the Proceedings are credited to the contributors by use of their initials: use of the list of participants which follows then allows contributors to be uniquely identified. Further comments which I have subsequently added myself are prefaced by "(Ed.)".

It was the desire of the organizers of the conference that all the material given in the formal presentations should be published in some form or another, in order to reach as much of the target audience as possible. Some authors had already published their material elsewhere, or plan to do so in the near future. What appears in these Proceedings, then, ranges from short abstracts, through extended abstracts to full papers. I have refereed all the material myself* and the timing of the conference and copy deadlines for *Acta Ornithologica* have effectively allowed time for one revision of the submitted material. Thus, virtually all the full papers and extended abstracts have gone through one revision.

I feel that the success of the conference is reflected by a collection of papers and connecting discussion which should constitute a very useful account of the current state of ring recovery analytical methodology. It should also provide a reference point from which to work in the future for all practitioners and others interested in the interpretation of bird ring recovery data. Further development of the subject should, and will undoubtedly, follow quickly. Because of this there was a strong feeling at the Wageningen meeting that a further, similar meeting should be held within two or three years at which stock of the situation could be taken once again. It was further suggested that if the next meeting were given, at least in part, a workshop format, it may be possible to achieve further, collaborative development of the subject directly, at the meeting itself. I am sure it would be the hope of all those who attended the Wageningen conference that such a future meeting materializes.

In the preparation of these Proceedings I would like to acknowledge the patient and efficient help of Gill WARR for her typing of the Discussion and other sections; to Barbara ŁACHWICZ for the retyping of many sections and for technical help, to Elżbieta BUSZKIEWICZ and Michał SKAKUJ for the redrawing of

* Except the papers by RINNE, LOKKI and SAUROLA and by LOKKI and SAUROLA, which, as a result of a long-lasting strike of Finnish State Workers, Spring-Summer 1986, were submitted too late for this to be done.

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September, 1986

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Wageningen – The Netherlands, March 4–7, 1986

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