

The latest results of ringing the Lesser Spotted Eagles (*Aquila pomarina*) in Slovakia

Najnovšie výsledky krúžkovania orlov kriľavých (*Aquila pomarina*) na Slovensku

Štefan DANKO, Jozef MIHÓK & Milan FUŇÁK

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Abstract: Nine new ringing recoveries of Lesser Spotted Eagles have been collected from abroad and 4 ornithological rings have been successfully read in Slovakia using a monocular up to the end of August 2008. Three of the nine records were from the wintering grounds in Botswana and Zambia (2×), 2 come from a traditional autumn migrating route (Turkey, Israel), 1 ringing recovery represents an autumn spotting in Greece, 1 comes from the spring migration from Turkey and two incomplete records from Hungary. In Slovakia, observation of an adult male shows its fidelity of to the breeding territory even after 6 or 7 years; another male has in his 5th year been nesting 18 km from the site he hatched at. The next observation in Slovakia is represented by a 3 year old non-breeding individual which occurred 50 km from the site he hatched at. The final record was of a year old individual that stayed 40 km from the site he originated from. This data suggests that young birds return to Europe right after their first wintering in South Africa.

Abstrakt: Do konca augusta 2008 sme získali 9 nových spätných hlásení krúžkovaných orlov kriľavých zo zahraničia a 4 ornitologické krúžky sa podarilo odčítať pomocou teleskopov na Slovensku. Zo zahraničných hlásení 3 sú zo zimovísk (Botswana a 2× Zambia), 2 sú z jesenného ťahu z tradičnej ťahovej trasy (Turecko, Izrael), jeden jesenný údaj je z Grécka, jeden z jarneho ťahu z Turecka a dva neúplné údaje z Maďarska. Z domácich výsledkov jeden potvrdzuje vernosť samca k hniezdisku aj po 6 a 7 rokoch, jeden samec hniezdil v 5. roku života 18 km od miesta vyliahnutia, trojročný nehniedzdiaci jedinec sa zdržiaval 50 km od miesta vyliahnutia a ročný jedinec sa zdržiaval 40 km od miesta vyliahnutia. Tento údaj potvrdzuje skutočnosť, že mladé vtáky sa vracajú do Európy hneď po prvom zimovaní v južnej Afrike.

Key words: Lesser Spotted Eagle, *Aquila pomarina*, Slovakia, ring recoveries

Štefan Danko, J. Švermu 1, SK–071 01 Michalovce, Slovensko. E-mail: danko@gecom.sk.

Jozef Mihók, Buzulucká 23, SK–040 00 Košice, Slovensko. E-mail: mihok@centrum.sk.

Milan Fuňák, Sídliisko Okulka T/20, SK–093 01 Vranov nad Topľou, Slovensko. E-mail: milan.funak@gmail.sk.

Introduction

The first results of ringing the Lesser Spotted Eagles in Slovakia were published by Danko et al. (1996), partial results were also published by Danko (2000). The last collected data up to the end of 2004 can be found in Meyburg et al. (2005). Some new data have been obtained up to the end of August 2008. They are supplemented with some older data, which we received late from the Bird Ringing Centre (Tabs 1 and 2).

Synopsis and evaluation of data

Up to now three ringing recoveries from abroad had been collected from Africa. They came from Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The new data (Tab. 1) pro-

vide another two findings from Zambia where a young eagle was shot at the end of October; and had this not happen it is likely the bird would have flown further south. The second eagle aged 12 was found exhausted in the beginning of December. The first record of wintering in Botswana was obtained. The bird was 10 years old. Two more records were obtained from a migration route in Turkey (the second and the third). While the first two records (Samandagi, the southernmost tip of Turkey on the NE coast of the Mediterranean Sea and Edirne, NW tip at the border with Bulgaria and Greece) lie on the species migration route, the third record comes from the site Giresun at the SE coast of the Black Sea in Northern Turkey, which is significantly detour from the traditional

Tab. 1. Synopsis of Lesser Spotted Eagle ring recoveries from abroad**Tab. 1.** Prehľad zahraničných náleзов krúžkovaných orlov krikľavých

Ring No. / age, sex ¹	Date of ringing / recovery ²	Site of ringing / recovery ³	Distance flown ⁴ [km]	Coordinates ⁵	Bird ringer / note ⁶
Praha B 18588, pull.	1. 8. 1991 10. 2. 2000	Hanušovce nad Topľou Mabesekwe, Botswana	7842	49.02 / 21.30 -21.24 / 26.47	P. Kaňuch found dead ^A
Praha B 26287 pull.	8. 7. 1992 —	Nováčany Hortobágy	—	48.41 / 21.20 —	M. Dravecký shot ^B
Praha A 12163 pull.	17. 7. 1992 10. 12. 2007	Trstená Sipatunvana, Zambia	7454	49.24 / 19.38 -17.18 / 26.36	D. Karaska found exhausted ^C
Praha BX 3861, pull., M	21. 7. 1996 12. 10. 1996	Hromoš Edirne, Turkey	953	49.16 / 20.48 41.41 / 26.33	T. Bělka injured ^D
Praha L 2228 pull.	14. 7. 2000 14. 5. 2005	Podolíneec Szabolcs-Szatmár county	—	49.15 / 20.31 —	T. Bělka hit by car ^E
Bratislava C 118, pull.	20. 7. 2001 27. 10. 2001	Podbiel Kalonga, Zambia	4562	49.17 / 19.21 -09.25 / 31.31	D. Karaska freshly dead, shot ^F
Bratislava BL 036, pull.	18. 7. 2002 24. 9. 2002	Kananka Be'ér, Israel	2381	48.48 / 18.33 31.17 / 34.48	K. Šotnár found in bad shape, taken into captivity ^G
Bratislava BL 211, pull.	16. 7. 2004 24. 9. 2004	Liptovský Mikuláš Peloponnese, Greece	1268	48.01 / 19.33 36.44 / 21.52	P. Vrlík, J. Kisko found dead ^A
Bratislava BL 463, pull., F	10. 7. 2006 29. 4. 2007	Budimír Giresun Ili, Turkey	1628	48.47 / 21.17 40.56 / 38.46	J. Mihók wing fracture, destroyed ^H

¹ číslo krúžku / vek, pohlavie; ² dátum krúžkovania / nálezu; ³ lokalita krúžkovania / nálezu; ⁴ vzdialenosť preletu; ⁵ súradnice; ⁶ krúžkovateľ / poznámka

^A nájdený uhynutý; ^B zastrelený; ^C nájdený vysilený; ^D zranený; ^E zrazený autom; ^F čerstvo uhynutý, zastrelený; ^G nájdený v zlom stave, prevzatý do zajatia; ^H zlomenina krídla, zničený

Tab. 2. Synopsis of Lesser Spotted Eagle ring recoveries from Slovakia**Tab. 2.** Prehľad domácich náleзов krúžkovaných orlov krikľavých

Ring No. / age, sex ¹	Date of ringing / recovery ²	Site of ringing / recovery ³	Distance flown ⁴ [km]	Coordinates ⁵	Bird ringer / note ⁶
Praha B 24167, pull.	27. 7. 1992 12. 7. 1998 6. 5. 1999	Lacková	—	49.19 / 20.36	T. Bělka ring read ^A ring read ^A
Bratislava BL 235, pull.	24. 7. 2003 27. 6. 2008	Svinica Juskova Voľa	18	48.43 / 21.29 48.53 / 21.35	J. Mihók, J. Žigraj photo M. Fuňák
Bratislava BL 445, pull.	2. 7. 2005 21. 5. 2008	Šarišské Michalany Grajciar	50	49.03 / 21.10 48.36 / 21.16	P. Kaňuch, J. Mihók ring read ^A (J. Mihók)
Bratislava BL 698, pull., the smaller of the two	6. 7. 2007 4. 7. 2008	Čaklov Grajciar	40	48.54 / 21.37 48.35 / 21.15	P. Kaňuch ring read ^A (J. Mihók)

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^A odčítaný krúžok

migration route. Based on the date of the finding, the eagle was returning from its wintering grounds for the first time and it flew northwards across Turkey rather than in a traditional NW direction. The first record from Central Israel has been obtained, where a young eagle was observed at the end of September. The third reported ringing recovery from the Greek islands is also interesting. While the first two records came from Zakynthos and Crete (Danko et al. 1996), the third one comes from the SW part of the Peloponnese peninsula (see also Slobodník 2008). Young eagles, whilst flying south, occasionally take an incorrect route towards the North Mediterranean coast and die attempting to cross the sea. Two records are from Hungary, however, due to the incomplete data it is difficult to fully evaluate them.

In Slovakia (Tab. 2), observation of an adult male shows its fidelity to the nesting territory even after 6 or 7 years since it was ringed. Another male has in his 5th year been nesting in the “Slanské vrchy” Mts, 18 km from the site he hatched. A three-year-old non-breeding eagle stayed in “Košická kotlina” basin 50 km off the site it hatched at. A very valuable ringing recovery also represents an individual in his second calendar year, which was spotted in the wider surroundings of the site it hatched at. This finding shows that young bird return to Europe to surroundings of its hatching site after its first wintering.

More data are available in the separate article on colour ringing of the Lesser Spotted Eagles in Slovakia (Dravecký et al. 2008).

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