



Ozzano dell'Emilia, 16.2.2006

Subject: IOC standing committee on bird marking – meeting on August 13, 2006

To the National Ringing/Banding Centres

Dear Colleagues,

the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) has recently established a standing committee on bird ringing/banding (which we propose being called Standing Committee on Bird Marking), following considerable interest in such a committee expressed at the Round Table Discussion on Bird Ringing at the 2002 IOC in Beijing, China.

The major roles of the IOC bird marking committee will be to provide a forum to:

- enhance coordination and cooperation among bird-marking schemes;
- facilitate communication of ideas and approaches among schemes;
- promote use of new technologies and approaches for project design, field data collection, data management and analysis;
- promote international standards for bird ringing.

In conjunction with the upcoming IOC in Hamburg, Germany, we are organizing a 1-day workshop for participants from bird-ringing schemes throughout the world. The major objectives of the workshop are to:

- provide a forum for bird-ringing schemes to highlight major issues, including both successes and challenges;
- identify and discuss major issues affecting bird-ringing schemes around the world such as data management, adoption of new technologies, training standards, design of research projects, etc.
- enhance the use of data derived from bird marking for conservation and management policies;
- formalize establishment of the IOC standing committee and determine the best ways in which the committee can help to advance these issues.

A proposed draft agenda is attached.

We would like to invite you, or a representative of your ringing/banding scheme, to participate in this workshop. Optionally, we would also like to invite you to give a short presentation on some aspect of your ringing scheme that you feel might be of particular interest to other schemes internationally. This could be an overview of the scheme, or simply highlighting one or a few major recent accomplishments. Note that we only anticipate 5-10 minutes per presentation, depending upon the number of schemes who would like to give a presentation. Please let us know, as soon as possible, and no later



than **1 April 2006**, whether or not you plan to send a representative to the workshop and whether you would like to give a presentation.

We would also like to ask every scheme to take a few minutes to complete the attached questionnaire. We plan to compile the results of this questionnaire in advance of the workshop, so that we can distribute a summary report at the meeting, and also to ensure that our discussions focus on the most important issues for bird marking schemes worldwide.

We must receive your responses to these questionnaires no later than **1 April 2006** as well, in order to ensure that we can compile the results and report back before the meeting in August.

We would also like to invite your comments on the proposed draft agenda for the workshop.

Please send your replies to: Dr. Fernando Spina, Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica, Via Ca' Fornacetta9, I-40064 Ozzano Emilia (BO), Italy, E-mail <fernando.spina@infs.it>, Fax +39 051 79 66 28

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Fernando Spina
Dr. Charles M. Francis
Co-chairs, IOC 2006 Workshop on Bird Marking
Hamburg, August 13, 2006