



THE RING – 70 years

THE RING has been established in a half of the 20th century in England as a private journal by Władysław Rydzewski, a late head of the Polish Bird Ringing centre (Bird Migration Research Station at the Zoological Museum in Warsaw. At this time, Władysław Rydzewski lived in Great Britain as a refugee and worked as a simple worker in Croydon, near London. Despite this formal status, he wrote and defended his PhD thesis on the basis of a pioneering evaluation of all European bird ringing recoveries of the Grey Heron. Continuing actively his interest in the development of bird ringing in Europe, he decided to establish a bulletin devoted to bird migration studies.

The first issue of THE RING occurred in October 1954, and starting from number six, it was published quarterly. Subsequent editions were numbered sequentially, while informally they were grouped into volumes with independently running contents lists. The English history of THE RING finished in 1960 when dr Rydzewski came back to Poland and reached the post of professor at the University of Wrocław. The last “British” edition of the journal was numbered 25 (from November 1960). Since that time, THE RING was published by the Polish Zoological Society, and Prof. Rydzewski continued as the chief editor located at the Department of Ornithology of Wrocław University. In 1963, Prof. Rydzewski, with the help of young assistant Przemysław Busse, started a new project called IOIS (International Ornithological Information Service), which was planned to be an actual service about all world bird ringing activity. Although Prof. Rydzewski had a unique collection of reports from the worldwide bird ringing activity, reaching the expected goal was impossible in practice, and the third number of IOIS – “THE RING Series B” was the last.

THE RING, in its traditional format – as a mainly information bulletin, but publishing some methodological and organizational articles, was edited by Prof. Rydzewski till his death on 28 August 1980. The last issue of His was number 101 (1979-4). In the 25th Anniversary number (100), he wrote: “*I firmly believe that THE RING will enjoy support*

and cooperation from many people. It is very important to keep the bulletin going, and I hope my editorial basket will never be empty. And this depends entirely on you, friends."

An obituary devoted to Professor was published in the next 102-103 issue, when the editorial task was continued by a team of collaborators of the Professor: Ludwik Tomiało, Przemysław Busse, and Tadeusz Stawarczyk. This team continued editing the journal in the traditional form till the end of 1989. In 1990, the formal format was changed – there was abandoned continuous numbering of issues and the next issue was continued according earlier used volume numbers, as volume 13/1990. *THE RING* started with the volume containing papers presented at the "EURING Technical Conference and Meeting of the Mathematical Ecology Group of the Biometric Society (British Region) and British Ecological Society – Sempach, Switzerland, on 12-14 April, 1989".

Dramatic political changes after 1989 caused a break in the publication of *THE RING* in 1991. "Restart" of *THE RING* occurred in 1992 and was connected with the change of the Editor, since that volume, as the editor served Prof. Przemysław Busse and there was change general profile of the journal – from the scientific bulletin *THE RING* was established as the scientific journal with an aim to publish mainly original papers from a wider area of interest: "*Ring-ing-Migration-Monitoring*".

In the next years, *THE RING* continued as the journal owned and financed by the Polish Zoological Society, but later published under the *VERSITA* publishing house. For many years, the main problems with publication were irregular and late transfers of adequate finances. This caused being late in the publication of subsequent issues, so from volume 2012 the journal published one issue yearly. As a result, it was indexed in only one indexing system – *Zoological Record*.

Further publishing of *THE RING* became possible after collaboration with the University of Gdańsk, and the editorial board was located in the Bird Migration Research Station, while technical work was conducted by the Typography Department of the University. At the beginning of 2012, this collaboration was broken by the University, and as the Polish Zoological Society had finished their activity, *THE RING* started to be owned by a small NGO supporting the bird migration studies. In practice, the editorial board remained in the old location of the Bird Migration Research Station in Przebendowo.

Now, *THE RING* is run by the Bird Migration Research Foundation, and it is based on collected irregular donations, which are critical for further activity. In this place, it should be pointed out that since the beginning, the journal was edited exclusively as a voluntary activity of researchers, a part of the Editors in Chief already mentioned, by Managing Editors – M. Remisiewicz and A. Ożarowska, supported by members of the Editorial Board – L. Fornasari, W. Gatter, W. Kania, V. Payevsky, P. Saurola, R. Yosef, and referees.

Since 2008, *THE RING* has been published by the *VERSITA* publishing house, which was in 2013 incorporated into *De Gruyter Open* and is known under the group name *SCIENDO Open Source*. Since that time, articles have had their individual DOI numbers. During the years 1992-2024 there were published volumes 14-46 were published, which contain 288 articles printed on 4266 pages. In 2012, *THE RING* was indexed in 4 international databases, while now it is indexed by as many as 32 bases, among others, Crossref, Thomson Reuters Master List, Google Scholar, Index Copernicus, and Citefactor. *THE RING* is not included in some well-known bases and has no set impact factor because of formal reasons, but the number of citations of published articles is at a quite good level.

As to financial reasons, volume 2015 (37) was the last printed volume, and the basic version became the electronic version of the journal (symbol *e-ISSN*: 2083-3520). Volumes till 2015 of *THE RING* is available in more than 200 libraries all over the world and now, in electronic form at: <https://sciendo.com/journal/RING> (from volume 2002) and www.wbwp-fund.eu (1990-1999 – contents, and since 2000 – abstracts and full texts).

Przemysław Busse