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Since the formation of APAA, links have been established with public organisations to offer an insight into ringing, including participation in the Ciência Viva programme, which gives members of the public an opportunity to witness ringing first hand at a number of sites around the country.

As APAA continues to grow, we look to consolidate links with colleagues in other countries and foster a progressive and innovative attitude towards ringing, in the scientific and wider community.



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## THE PORTUGUESE BIRD RINGING SCHEME

The Portuguese Bird Ringing Scheme (Central Nacional de Anilhagem) is controlled and administered by ICNB - Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Institute (Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade), a governmental department responsible for protected areas and nature conservation. The scheme has existed in its current format since the late 1970's and ICNB is responsible for all aspects of bird ringing, including licensing and the issuing of rings. All ringing in Portugal is related to scientific projects that have to be approved by the Ringing Office, such as CES, Migration Monitoring or species specific projects.

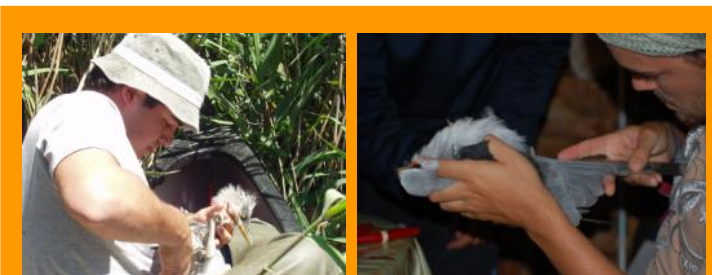


## THE PORTUGUESE BIRD RINGERS ASSOCIATION

With up to 30,000 birds ringed in Portugal each year, a group of ringers realised the need for an association that could provide training, collaboration and cooperative links with other groups. On the 27th November 2007, The Portuguese Bird Ringers Association, (Associação Portuguesa de Anilhadores de Aves - APAA) was legally recognised.

APAA was formed with the following objectives.

- To promote and support the study of wild birds through ringing and other marking schemes.
- To develop and support the scientific and technical training in ornithology and nature conservation.
- To contribute to the validation and promotion of ringing in its diverse forms.
- To develop networks between ringers, encourage collaboration between members and support them in their efforts.
- To promote the exchange of information and cooperation between national and international organisations with similar goals and values.



As part of APAA's objectives, a number of training courses are run at sites around the country throughout the year, available for members and non-members. These are used as opportunities to train inexperienced ringers and to share best practices amongst the ringing community. APAA also runs technical courses for ringers including:

- Blood sampling techniques.
- Excrement collection techniques.
- Aspects of the physiology of birds and implications on sampling.
- Recording moult.

Since APAA creation, a number of publications and training manuals have been produced, including the Biomuda manual as part of Projecto Muda (Moult Project). APAA has also recently agreed a protocol with ICNB to coordinate the "Estações de Esforço Constante" (Constant Effort Scheme) in Portugal of which there are currently 14 sites.

