

WADER STUDY GROUP

The WADER STUDY GROUP (WSG) is an association of amateur and professional workers on the Charadrii (waders or shorebirds) from all parts of the world. By 1982, membership of the WSG was over 500 people, more than half of the members living in countries other than Britain (where the group was formed in 1970), and including people in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australasia as well as Europe. North American members have their own section within the WSG. Interests of the Group have diversified from the original concentration on migration-related studies to embrace all aspects of research on waders, e.g. counts, breeding biology, feeding ecology and behaviour.

The aims of the WSG are to maintain contact between both amateur and professional individuals and groups studying waders; to help organise co-operative studies; and to provide a vehicle for exchange of information. The main means of achieving these aims is by publication of the Wader Study Group Bulletin (see below). WSG maintains contacts with many regional, national and international bodies interested in bird research and conservation, notably the International Waterfowl Research Bureau (IWRB), and often works alongside them in co-operative studies. The Group has also been involved in the organisation of expeditions to remote areas to fill gaps in the knowledge of waders. Projects co-ordinated by WSG have included studies of the spring migration of Siberian-breeding Knot through Europe and Africa, and of other species passing through western Europe. Current projects include a comprehensive assessment of the networks of coastal sites used by shorebirds in Western Europe in the non-breeding season; a large-scale investigation of spring migration through the Americas; a long-term monitoring of the usage of inland sites in Europe; and an investigation into the effects of severe winter weather in Europe. Most of these studies have immediate relevance to conservation as well as increasing basic understanding of wader biology. These comments also apply to the current WSG co-operative projects concerning breeding waders; two surveys of breeding wader distributions and densities in lowlands in England and Wales, and in Scotland; and an intensive study of similar matters in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland where rapid changes are being made, due to agricultural practices. WSG also co-ordinates (on behalf of several national authorities) the use on waders of colour-marks visible in the field, and attempts to forward sightings of these.

MEMBERSHIP of the WSG is open to all individuals or groups interested in waders and application forms can be obtained from the Secretaries, N. & J. Clark, Department of Zoology, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JT, U.K. The subscription is mainly devoted to the cost of production and circulation of the Bulletin. The annual subscription is £10 (or US\$17 or Canadian \$21). Outside Europe, bulletins will be sent by airmail for a total subscription of £13 (or US\$22 or Canadian \$27). All cheques should be payable to "Wader Study Group" and must be in British, US or Canadian currency. Alternatively, payments may be made by bank giro (in English pounds) to Lloyds Bank Ltd., 7 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 23Z, UK (Bank sorting code no. 30-93-98), with reference to WSG account (no. 0095972). Please ensure that your name and initials appear on the transfer form and that an application form is sent directly to WSG. Persons with bank accounts in Britain may use the bankers order form provided with the application form.

The WADER STUDY GROUP BULLETIN provides a forum for news, notices, recent ringing recoveries, recent publications, new methods of catching and study, articles and preliminary or interim publication of results from all parts of the world. The editors try to maintain a balance of material ranging from newsletter, informal descriptions of research activities, meetings and expeditions to formal presentation of results or preliminary analyses.

The Bulletin appears three times per year, in April, August and December, the deadlines for copy being the first of February, June and October respectively, for notices, but articles must be received well before these dates. Articles, notes, papers, notices, obituaries, requests for information, books for review, reprints of papers and other items should be sent to the Editor, Dr. N. C. Davidson, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK. Material relating to America may be sent to the editors of the N.American section (Dr. J. P. Myers, Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and the Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, U.S.A.; and Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7). Matters relating to the circulation of the Bulletin should be sent to the Secretaries (address above).

The Editors are always pleased to discuss possible contributions with potential authors, and to advise on presentation. Manuscripts should be typed or written clearly, well spaced on the page, leaving wide margins, and following the style and format of recent Bulletins. Pay particular attention to the style of headings and reference lists. Scientific names should appear at the first mention of each species or, if all species occur in a table, scientific names may be given there instead. Line illustrations and figures should be produced neatly in black ink on good quality white or tracing paper, with linear dimensions about 1.5 times intended publication size. These can then be used directly in printing. Lettering should be stencilled or by dry transfer (e.g. Letraset), and be at least 1.5mm high after final reduction. If stencil or dry transfer is not available, leave the original illustration unlabelled, and mark the required lettering on a separate copy. Please send original illustrations, and retain a copy in case of loss or damage in transit. It would be helpful if two copies of each manuscript could be submitted.

Publication of interim results in WSG Bulletin is not intended to pre-empt publication of final results as journal papers. Readers are requested to bear in mind that results and analyses published in WSG Bulletin may be of a preliminary nature and to take account of this if making reference to these articles in publications of their own. If editors of other publications wish to reprint items from WSG Bulletin with suitable acknowledgement, this can usually be arranged; the persons concerned should contact one of the WSG Editors.

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BULLETIN No. 39

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CONTENTS	PAGE
AN APOLOGY	1
WADER STUDY GROUP AGM AND CONFERENCE, HAAMSTEDE, THE NETHERLANDS, 19-20 NOVEMBER 1983	1
SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE FOR 1984	1
ADDRESSES FOR CORRESPONDENCE	1
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SERVICING FEES FOR COLOUR-MARKING WADERS by D.J. Townshend	1-2
RINGING TOTALS	2
CATCHING WADERS AT THE NEST: BRITISH RINGERS PLEASE NOTE	3
RAMSAR CONVENTION CONFERENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS, MAY 1984	3
INTERWADER	4
SHOREBIRD WEIGHTS AND FLIGHT RANGES - A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION	4
HEBRIDES SECTION	
WSG/NCC SURVEY OF WADERS BREEDING ON THE HEBRIDEAN MACHAIR AND ADJACENT LAND, 1983 by G.H. Green	5-8
THE MACHAIR OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES by Rob Fuller and Nigel Buxton	9
MACHAIR HABITAT PLATES	10-13
METHODS USED TO ASSESS POPULATIONS OF BREEDING WADERS ON MACHAIR IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES by T.M. Reed and R.J. Fuller	14-16
THE WADER STUDY GROUP SURVEY OF HEBRIDEAN WADERS: WAS THE TIMING RIGHT? by T.M. Reed, T.D. Williams and A. Webb	17-19
THE BREEDING WADERS OF THE HEBRIDEAN MACHAIR: A VALIDATION CHECK OF THE CENSUS METHOD by D.B. Jackson and S.M. Percival	20-24
THE HEBRIDEAN WADER SURVEY: DID THE OBSERVERS RECORD IN THE SAME WAY? by A. Webb, T.M. Reed and T.D. Williams	24-26
FIELD OBSERVATIONS ON METHODS USED TO COUNT WADERS BREEDING AT HIGH DENSITY IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES, SCOTLAND by R.J. Fuller, G.H. Green and M.W. Pienkowski	27-29
THE WSG SURVEY OF THE BREEDING WADERS OF SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL LAND by Hector Galbraith and Bob Furness	30
AN ANALYSIS OF NESTING SUCCESS AND HATCHING SUCCESS IN A LAPWING POPULATION by Christopher P.F. Redfern	31-32
AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR BREEDING WADERS IN ICELAND by R.W. Summers and M. Nicoll	32-33
A POOR BREEDING SEASON IN 1983 FOR SOME WADERS ON THE TAYMYR PENINSULA	34
1984 WEST COAST SPRING PASSAGE PROJECT by P.N. Ferns and M. Moser	35-36
PATTERNS OF POPULATION TURNOVER IN RINGED PLOVERS AND TURNSTONES DURING THEIR SPRING PASSAGE THROUGH THE SOLWAY FIRTH IN 1983 by Mike Moser and Mike Carrier	37-41
ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS GIVEN AT THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ECOLOGY OF SHOREBIRDS, CARDIFF, 12-16 SEPTEMBER 1983	41-51
NEW WORLD SECTION	
MIGRATION OF NEARCTIC SHOREBIRDS (CHARADRIIDAE AND SCOLOPACIDAE) IN BRASIL - FLYWAYS AND THEIR DIFFERENT SEASONAL USE by Paulo de Tarso Zuquin Antas	52-56
ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS ON SHOREBIRDS GIVEN AT THE AOU MEETING, NEW YORK, 26-30 SEPTEMBER 1983	57-61
GIVING DETAILS OF AGE FOR OYSTERCATCHERS ON BTO RINGING SCHEDULES by Chris Mead	61
BREEDING WADERS IN EAST GERMANY	61
COUNTS OF WADERS AT SOME LOCALITIES IN TANZANIA by Gerlof Th. de Roos	62-63
RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON WADERS compiled by Theunis Piersma	64-72
HUMBER OIL SPILL	72
RECENT RECOVERIES OF WADERS RINGED IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND compiled by Nigel and Jacquie Clark	73-76
LIST OF MEMBERS - CHANGES SINCE BULLETIN 38	76
SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM	Insert
WEST COAST SPRING PASSAGE PROJECT/CAR STICKERS/EFFECTS OF SEVERE WEATHER FORMS	Insert
RINGING TOTALS FOR 1983	Insert

Vignette on page 5 by Steve Carter

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All items should be received before 15 February 1984. Articles must be received well before 15 February to stand a reasonable chance of inclusion in the April issue.

A SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE. PLEASE PAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO AVOID COSTLY REMINDERS.