

COLOUR MARKING

During the past few years several comments have been made in editorials about colour ringing and colour dyeing schemes. The situation is now almost totally chaotic with international schemes cutting across national ones and local ones - and vica versa. Colour ringing and colour dyeing are both very useful techniques which can and do result in important information being discovered.

It is essential that INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION takes place otherwise many schemes may be rendered useless. Everyone I have spoken to in Britain and elsewhere acknowledges this but what happens when they want to colour mark is different!! In this bulletin Harry Green has described the possible confusion with two schemes. The BTO has learnt of another scheme in the arctic which could affect long term results of studies in Greenland and western Europe.

The WSG is prepared to publish regular bulletins on colour marking schemes in progress (like the one in B.D.R. in this bulletin) and give advance notice of other intended schemes. This can only work if everyone informs us of their scheme (or even of any known to them). No scheme should ever be put into operation without several months thought as to the likely results and checking that no confusion will arise because of it. There is only one way to do this and it is to have all the information together in one place. 'Euring' tried to do, it but failed miserably because few projects were notified until after the initial register was set up. Full and up to date information is vital.

The WSG requests that all existing (and recently completed) colour marking schemes affecting waders be notified to Tony Prater (BTO, Tring). Please include:-

- 1) Species involved and area of ringing
- 2) Colours of rings and/or dyes
- 3) Number of rings, position of dyes
- 4) Length of time that the scheme will operate and number of birds expected/hoped to be ringed
- 5) If you have checked that the scheme is compatible with others in your country.
- 6) Other schemes in other countries which have checked with before writing to AJP.

RINGING TOTALS

We trust that these are not the only waders ringed in Britain for the first half of 1975.

	WWRG	MRG	S.Wales	Spurn B.O.
Oystercatcher	142	46		1
Lapwing	258	66		
Ringed Plover	1	60	41	
Little Ringed Plover		4		
Grey Plover	25			
Golden Plover		59		