

# WSG PROJECT ON MOVEMENTS OF WADER POPULATIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE: THIRD PROGRESS REPORT

by M.W. and Ann Pienkowski

At the time of writing, fieldwork for the 1980-81 season has finished and planning is well advanced for 1981-82. It is an appropriate time, therefore, to express our thanks to the many people who have taken part in the project in a wide variety of ways and we are devoting most of this report to this. Before we do this, however, there is space for a fairly brief note on how things are progressing and what will be happening this autumn.

Details of sightings of birds dyed at the Wattenmeer, Waddenzee and the Wash continued to arrive during the late winter and early spring, fulfilling the promise shown by the early winter results (see the last progress report, WSG Bull 31:16-17). Apart from the areas of sightings illustrated then, Dunlins *Calidris alpina* from the Wattenmeer/Waddenzee reached areas as widespread as the Moray Firth in N Scotland, the west coast of France and NW Spain. A Dunlin from the Wash was seen as far south as NW Morocco, by the Netherlands Expedition. These are but the highlights; equally valuable are the sightings (and checks without sightings) made regularly in less exotic spots, and which will allow a quantitative analysis of the movement patterns. This is now in progress.

We are also developing computer programs to help analyse the large quantity of data flowing in from ringing groups. The transfer of data to computer is also progressing very rapidly. As we write, many students and staff at Durham University are involved in examinations, after which students will be on vacation. This has allowed our 'Opportunist strategy' to take over more than half of the punch-operating staff to work on WSG data forms while other university uses have been at a low level. Data on British ringing recoveries has been extracted from the newly computerized files of the British Trust for Ornithology and we look forward to being able to obtain similar data for other countries in Euring as soon as current rearrangements in their computer storage system make this possible. Detailed analysis of the combined information file of recoveries and retrap data will then be possible.

## Marking plans for autumn 1981

Our testing of a wider range of dyes should allow marking in more areas this year than last. Our main aim will be to mark birds at a representative sample of the main moulting areas to investigate movement (or lack of it) from there to early and mid-winter sites. We also hope to gain information on movement from early to late winter sites; this will be a secondary aim this winter but one which we hope to be able to expand in a later year.

Although negotiations are not yet finalized, catching attempts will certainly be made in Denmark; Schleswig-Holstein, Germany; several parts of the Netherlands Waddenzee; the Delta of the SW Netherlands; the Wash and Teesmouth, E England. We also hope that marking will be possible in W France and the Ribble Estuary on the W coast of England. Dye colours will include yellow/orange, red, green, light greenish blue and dark mauve-blue. If marked birds are seen, please try to note as many of the following points as possible (but do not be afraid of less-than-complete descriptions - the system is designed so that these will still be useful);

colour of dye,	its position on the bird (in front of, or behind, the legs),
colour of any leg-flag,	the position of this (above or below the "knee"; which leg).

Many of last year's participants in the observer network have already said that they will take part again next season and several new ones have joined. More are always welcome: a form for registration is enclosed in this issue of the Bulletin.

## Participants in the project 1980-81

We are very grateful to the following whose help in a variety of ways in the countries listed has made this project possible and already successful:

### Denmark

Luis J. Alberto, John Frikke, Karsten Laursen, Hans Meltofte, Vildbiologisk Station, Zoologisk Museum København

### Finland

Ilkka Lilja.

### France

Mlle J. Backstrom, CRBPO, Ewenn de Kergariou, A. Doumeret, Alain Fleury, Jacques Hamon, Dr.L. Hoffman, Alan Johnson, Dr. Roger Mahéo, Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, François Sueur, Jean-Paul Taxis, C. J. M. Thornton, Patrick Triplet, John Walmsley, J-M. Watier, Pierre Yesou.

### Gambia

Cyril Ayres, C. Wheeler.

### Federal Republic of Germany

Beringergemeinschaft Nordfriesisches Wattenmeer, Michael Bulow, Gunther Busche, Olaf Ekelöf, Hermann Hotker, Manfred Knake, Dr. W. Knief, Helmo Knolle, Thomas and Axel Norgall, Peter Prokosch, Prof. Dr. G. Vauk, Vogelwarte Helgoland.

### Republic of Ireland

Philip Buckley, Oscar J. Merne, Dr. A. Whilde.

### Morocco

Durham University Morocco Expedition 1980, Netherlands Morocco Expedition 1981, Mohammed Ramdani, M. Thévenot.

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Wibe Altenburg, H.J.M. Baptist, Jan Beekman, Rene Beyersbergen, H. Blockx, Joke Bloksma, Dr. G.C. Boere, D. Castrop, Gerlof Th. de Roos, Sjoerd Dirksen, Meinte Engelmoer, Euring Data Bank, Ronald Geskus, R. Hermans, Joop Juliema, Marcel Kersten, Klaas Koopman, Drs. R.H.D. Lambeck, P.L. Meininger, Patrick Meire, Ron Mes, Dr. Ebel Nieboer, M. Otten, Dr.A.C. Perdeck, Theunis Piersma, Ton Pieters, Kees Rappoldt, Rob Schuckard, Harry Smit, Cor Smit, B.J.Speek, Steltloperinggroep FFF, Carla Visser, Vogeltrekstation Arnhem, Piet Zegers.

Norway

Ole Wiggo Rostad.

Poland

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Sweden

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United Kingdom

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## REVIEW

### SCAN Ringing Group. Joint Annual Reports for 1979 and 1980

ed. D.J. Stanyard. 1981. 39pp. Copies available (price £1.00) from P.W. Challinor, Las Alondras, Trussell Close, Acton Trussell, Stafford.

This is an attractively produced and comprehensive report of the activities of the SCAN Ringing Group during the two years 1979 and 1980. All the usual fare of ringing reports is there, including ringing totals, summaries of foreign recoveries and controls, and details of recoveries and controls for 1979 and 1980. In addition, for each catch a breakdown is given of the numbers of newly ringed and controlled birds of each species. This is useful information, often missing from ringing reports, although it would be improved by listing adult and first-year numbers separately. Two short papers are also included. One gives a species by species summary of the status, migration and origins of waders in North Wales and the other concerns turnover in Turnstones. SCAN Ringing Group is to be commended for this production.

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