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Tucker, G.M., Davies, S.M. & Fuller, R.J. (eds.) 1994. The ecology and conservation of lapwings *Vanellus vanellus*. UK *Nature Conservation* 9. JNCC, Peterborough.

This publication is an interesting combination of a substantial review of Lapwing ecology, and abstracts of papers presented at a BTO workshop in January 1990. The main paper gives a comprehensive review of Lapwing population changes and possible influences on them. It has been substantially updated to include a number of more recent references that have been published since the meeting and serves as a very useful introduction to the factors that may be affecting Lapwing populations.

The 'Future research requirements' section however highlights the key problem with the whole publication: the meeting took place over five years ago and several of the suggestions have already been the subject of much further work.

The workshop abstracts are rather less useful, simply because of the time elapsed since the meeting. Many have now been published as journal papers in their own right. Publishing conference abstracts is an excellent way of communicating current work in progress, but surely only if this is done within a reasonable time from the meeting?

Overall this is a well-presented publication with an interesting initial review, but the rest is sadly well past its sell-by date. Why did it take so long to produce it?

Steve Percival

Western Shorebird Group

At the North American Ornithological Conference (joint meeting of AOU, COS and WOS) held in Missoula, Montana in June 1994, twenty-nine shorebird biologists met to discuss the need for enhanced communication, especially among those color banding the same species.

The group agreed to establish an e-mail network for the exchange of information about research activities involving shorebirds, especially studies taking place in Western North America. The group also produces a directory of the names, email and regular addresses, phone numbers and research interests of its members.

The aim was to increase communication, especially the rate and timeliness with which information was exchanged. One important goal was to reduce the incidence of color band overlap among researchers working on a few intensively studied species, such as Western Sandpipers *Calidris mauri*.

Since that time the Western Shorebird Group has grown to include 69 shorebird researchers working in universities, state and federal agencies, and environmental groups. Most are from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, although the group includes members from Argentina, Great Britain and the Netherlands. Participants have found the Western Shorebird Group Network particularly useful for rapidly communicating about sightings of banded birds -- in all but one case, those sighting banded birds have been "matched" (received a reply from) with the bander within 48 hours. Members are also using the Western Shorebird Group Net for passing news about meetings, symposia, publications and legislation of importance to shorebird researchers, as well as increasing their rate of everyday one-to-one

communication by using each other's email addresses.

Anyone interested in joining the Western Shorebird Group should EMAIL their name, address (email and regular), phone and fax numbers, and a short (three sentences or less) statement about their work/interest in shorebirds to Dr. Margaret Rubega, rubega@pogonip.scs.unr.edu. If you are interested but do not have access to email, contact Dr. Rubega at: Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, University of Nevada, Reno, 1000 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512, USA. Tel. + (702) 784-6933, FAX + (702) 784-4583.

Margaret Rubega