

vanellus, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Limosa limosa*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa totanus*.

Wylegala, P. 2003. (Fluctuations in abundance of chosen bird species occurring in the lower Noteć River valley within the Ujście-Wielen section in 1980–2003). *Notatki Ornitol.* 44(3): 187–194. In Polish with English summary. (Polsky Towarzystwo Ochrony Przyrody 'Salamandra', Szamarzewskiego 11/6, PL-60-514 Poznań, Poland) Trends for *Charadrius dubius*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Limosa limosa*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa totanus*.

MISCELLANEOUS

Erit, M. 2004. (How many counts are needed to for efficient bird census on flood plain meadows?). *Hirundo* 17(2):

85–96. In Estonian with English summary. (Silma looduskaitseala, Saare k., Pürksi 91201, Läänemaa, EPMU Zool. Botaanika Inst., Riia 181a, Tartu, marju@silma.ee)

Harding, S. 2004. Identifying and managing threats to waders on the central Queensland coast through cooperation between the community and local and state governments. *Stilt* 46: 78–85. (336 Prout Rd., Burbank, Qld. 4156 Australia, pitta@gil.com.au)

Laurits, M., Erit, M., Kuresoo, A & Luigujo, L. 2004. (Is it necessary to describe vegetation composition and structure while mapping birds on floodplain meadows?). *Hirundo* 17(2): 97–107. In Estonian with English summary. (EPMU Zool. Botaanika Inst., Riia 181, EE-51014 Tartu, monca@zbi.ee)

New publication

Wiesenvogelschutz in Niedersachsen (Meadow bird protection in Lower Saxony) edited by Thorsten Krüger and Peter Südbeck, 2004. *Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege in Niedersachsen* 41: 1–125.

For many years, meadow bird populations have been declining in Germany and most other European countries. Within Germany, the largest populations of Lapwings, Snipes, Curlews, Black-tailed Godwits and Redshanks are found in Lower Saxony. In order to halt the declines several reserves have been created and many other efforts to protect wet grasslands have been undertaken. *Wiesenvogelschutz in Niedersachsen* reviews the state of the art of meadow bird protection in Lower Saxony.

Johannes Melter starts the volume with a comprehensive review of meadow bird population changes. His findings are rather disappointing: Dunlin is extinct, Ruff faces extinction and all other species are still declining. Four case studies from a selection of meadow bird reserves follow. The papers give examples of habitat management regimes and report extensively on local population developments and breeding success.

Werner Eickhorst and Jochen Bellebaum compare predation rates of meadow bird nests at sites in eastern and western Germany. Their conclusion is clear: There is no difference between east and west (still an exceptional finding in Germany), corvids can be exonerated from causing population declines by stealing meadow bird eggs, the most important predators of meadow bird eggs and broods are mammals (not only foxes, however), and creating a natural water regime

(including floodings) seems to be the best measure to get rid of the predation problem.

Karsten Schröder and Tasso Schikore analyse habitat requirements, historical population data and the potential availability of natural habitats in Lower Saxony. They propose alternative protection regimes and end with a rather optimistic view: the battle for the meadow birds in Lower Saxony does not seem to be completely lost, provided the right actions are taken!

Thorsten Krüger and Peter Südbeck pick up the results of the other papers of the volume and relate them to agricultural politics and other general developments. Their conclusion is that there is no single, all-inclusive recipe for rescuing the meadow birds of Lower Saxony. Site specific measures are required.

All papers in this volume contain either very valuable data or ideas or both. The booklet is a must for all those interested in meadow bird protection – provided they are able to understand German. Unfortunately there are no English summaries or figure captions.

The publication can be ordered from: Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Ökologie, Postfach 101062, D-31110 Hildesheim, heinrich. klaholt@nloe.niedersachsen.de

The price is €10 + p&p €2.50.

Hermann Hötter

