

NOTICES

Turnstones dyed in Southern Africa

Between the end of March and early April 1980 a number of Turnstones were marked in Namibia with dye on their underwings. It is easily visible in flight. If any one sees (or has seen) these birds during the spring and early autumn migrations or on the breeding grounds, please report any observations to Charles Clinning, P.O.Box 22615, Windhoek, Namibia.

Payments to WSG from the Republic of Ireland

Members in the Republic of Ireland should note that, as the Irish and British currencies are no longer tied together without exchange regulations, payments to WSG should be made by drafts in sterling drawn on a British bank.

7th Woodcock Symposium

The 7th Woodcock Symposium, sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be held on 28-30 October 1980 at State College, Pennsylvania. Technical sessions will be devoted to aspects of Woodcock research and management. A field trip and informal discussions will be scheduled. People interested should contact: Symposium Planning Committee, c/o John Tautin, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, MD 20811, USA (telephone 301-776-4880).

Data transcribers wanted!

Elsewhere in this issue is a request for wader ringers to rewrite their existing data on the newstyle WSG data forms, as part of a new WSG project. Even if you do not have any such data, you can still take part by helping those who have too much to face the daunting task alone! If you think you may be able to help by transcribing some data, please contact Mike Pienkowski (address and phone no. on inside front cover).

Colour-ringed Purple Sandpipers

Readers of the review of the Cambridge Expedition to Hardangervidda elsewhere in this issue will be particularly interested to know that another party associated with Tay Ringing Group and Aberdeen are hoping to colour-ring more Purple Sandpipers *Calidris maritima* in Norway this summer. Anyone looking at Purple Sandpipers is asked to look out for colour rings and report any seen (via WSG).

Is your name and address correct?

We hope to be publishing an up-to-date list of WSG members in the near future, possibly in the next issue. If there are errors in your name or address as it appears on the envelope in which this Bulletin was delivered, please inform Graham Appleton (or, in America, Ted Miller) as soon as possible. Please write the correct name and address clearly!

Joint Services Expedition to Princess Marie Bay, Ellesmere Island, Canada, 20 May to 20 August 1980

Brian Witts wrote to me (GHG) in March about this expedition and its wader project for which he was responsible. Sadly his letter got lost in a pile of correspondence so I forgot it and failed to contact him before the expedition left for the North in May - an omission for which I profusely apologise.

The wader project embraces all aspects of wader biology and he hopes to trap birds for ringing and measuring, to find nests and record details of breeding biology, and to study habitat, distribution and migration. Hopefully the expedition will have reached the area before the waders and will thus be able to observe arrival and territory establishment. An intensive study of a relatively small area is planned.

I do not think this part of Ellesmere Island has been studied for waders previously (although several other parts have) so it will be of considerable interest to hear whether they find any waders previously ringed in the 'Old World' or Africa. It is now well known that Knot *Calidris canutus* and Turnstones *Arenaria interpres* found in Europe breed in Ellesmere Island but what of Sanderlings *Calidris alba* and Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula*?

Despite my lack of courtesy to Brian in failing to contact him before he left I hope we shall be able to include a report from the expedition in a future Bulletin.

WADER STUDY GROUP AUTUMN MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held at Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire on Saturday 1 November. The main proceedings will commence at 10 a.m. and continue until the evening. Overnight accommodation will be available on the basis of 'small dormitories and some individual accommodation' the final mix depending (apparently) on the numbers who come and the numbers of females! The basic conference charge is £8 per person. A second night's accommodation can be arranged for £1.50. Attenders may arrive on Friday evening after 7 p.m. and stay overnight and although informal meetings are possible no meal or programme will be arranged for that time (the nearest pub is 1 mile away and many others within 3 mile radius!). Breakfast will be served for those who stay overnight. These terms are extremely generous and are offered us on a 'no-profit' basis. A booking form is included with this bulletin. The full programme will be sent later to those who book. We should be glad of offers of short items and at the time of writing we hope for the following contributions (following the AGM):

Report from Netherlands Ornithological Mauritanian Expedition last winter
Report from Joint Services Expedition to Ellesmere Island this summer
Nigel Clark on Dunlins of the Severn Estuary
Chris Reynolds on Dunlin biometrics at Poole Harbour
Bill Sutherland on numbers of Oystercatchers and cockles on the Ribble
Pat Dugan on inter-estuarine movements of waders
Mike Pienkowski on the new WSG project on movements of wader populations in Western Europe
Fraser Symonds on a survey of breeding waders and waterfowl of the Caithness uplands

Several other items are not yet confirmed. There will also be opportunities for discussions and other topics. Supporting meals, tea-breaks etc. Booking must be made by end September, preferably sooner.