

What lies ahead for Willapa Bay and Leadbetter Point? The philosophy of local residents towards the area is encouraging. From public meetings held in 1977 there seemed agreement to: maintain the rural lifestyle of Pacific County, promote only light, non-polluting "cottage-type" industry, preserve existing open spaces including agricultural land, bogs, dunes, and beaches, restrict filling of the estuary, restrict recreational use of the bay, and leave Leadbetter Point in its natural state (Pacific County Regional Planning Council 1978).

The oyster and commercial fishing industries have favoured an estuary management plan which would preserve Willapa Bay as an aquatic resource for the production of oysters, clams, crabs, salmon and sturgeon. They strongly advocate the protection of its tidal wetlands, maintaining the estuary at its present size, restricting recreational boating, protecting tributaries and streamside vegetation, and prohibiting toxic chemicals or radioactive material from entering the bay (Fenske 1978).

In contrast, proposals by development interests and government agencies for the "modification" of the estuary have been prolific over the years, including a nuclear power plant using part of the bay for a cooling pond, a pulp plant on the Willapa River, dams across every major freshwater tributary, and the wildest of all - a proposal for a canal or "inland waterway" from the Columbia River to Puget Sound via Willapa Bay, with dredged channels, dams and locks (Shotwell 1977). Somehow, none of these schemes came to fruition; the shorebirds are still drawn to that lonely sandspit as it hooks eastward to Grassy Island - just as they must have been when Meares first viewed it through the breakers so many years ago.

#### Acknowledgements

A full list of acknowledgements appears in the original report (Ed.)

#### References

- Fenske, C. 1978. Willapa Estuary Management Plan. Unpublished.
- Jewett, S.G., Taylor, W.P., Shaw, W.T. and Aldrich, J.W. 1973. Birds of Washington. Seattle: U. of Washington Press.
- Pacific County Regional Planning Council. 1978. Peninsula comprehensive plan control document. South Bend, Washington.
- Shotwell, J.A. 1977. Willapa Bay Estuary - background studies for the preparation of a management plan. Dept. of Public Works, Pacific County, Washington.
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 1975. Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. Portland, Oregon.
- Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission. 1974. Leadbetter Point Environmental Assessment. Olympia, Washington.
- Ralph S. Widrig, Box 43, Ocean Park, Washington 98640, U.S.A.

#### ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS ON WADER TOPICS FROM THE JOINT MEETINGS OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY HELD AT CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, 19-23 MARCH 1980

##### Possible unrecognized spring migration routes of Wilson's Phalarope

R.L. Patterson, Jr., Dept. Biology VPI & SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA

In the past 25 years there has been an increase in the spring sightings of Steganopus tricolor in eastern North America. It has been suggested that extralimital sightings may be individuals pioneering new migration routes and breeding areas. Recently, Wilson's Phalarope has been considered a local breeder in eastern Ontario. With new breeding grounds established, it is now important to consider the migration routes. Based on observations primarily from American Birds, the initial migration route was along the eastern Atlantic coast from about 1950 until 1972. After this date the species appeared inland through the Appalachian Mountains as well as along the coast. This suggests a recent broadening of the eastern route or the establishment of a second, inland route. A plot of sightings versus years suggests that both areas are not used with equal frequency and therefore supports the two route hypothesis. This paper is based on the assumption that the increased sightings reflect natural population changes. However, a demanding banding program is needed to support these conclusions.

##### Habitat selectivity in arctic shorebirds

J.P. Myers and F.A. Pitelka, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Univ. Calif., Berkeley CA 94720, USA.

Using data on inter-year variation in habitat selectivity by different shorebird species at two arctic coastal plain sites in Alaska, we tested a prediction of the Fretwell-Lucas model of habitat selection. This model predicts that in years of high abundance relative to average, a species should show relatively low habitat selectivity. Data were gathered at Barrow and Atkasook, Alaska, during 1976-1979. Selection was examined separately for each of 3 periods during the summer: display/nesting, brooding, and post-fledging. Abundance was measured by sampling a total of 240 ha of transects every 5 days. Selectivity was calculated using Ivlev's index based on observed habitat distribution of each species with an expected value determined from habitat availability. Territorial shorebirds fit the model during the display/nesting period but did not once defense ceased. Non-territorial species showed no relationship between abundance and selectivity. These results suggest that the inverse habitat selectivity-abundance relationship evident in territorial species is a side-effect of their spacing behavior and not supportive of the Fretwell-Lucas model.

##### Autumn molt and migration of Black-bellied Plovers in eastern North America

Brian A. Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345; and Sarah Groves, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Evidence from banding, museum specimens, and surveys of the western Atlantic seaboard indicates that at least 2 different molt/migration strategies exist in Black-bellied Plovers Pluvialis squatarola that use different types of migration routes. One type apparently flies non-stop to Caribbean islands or to South America via a long, overwater flight; these birds tend to have long wings, and few are found in North America with active molt among flight feathers. The second type has a coastwise migration to their wintering grounds, probably in North America; they tend to differ from the first in having shorter wings and in commonly having active molt of flight feathers at migration stopover places in New England.