

Tasker, M.L. and Milson, T.P. (1979). Birds of the Humber Estuary. Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) report

This is a report to the NCC on just over a year's fieldwork, in 1978/79, on the north shore of the outer Humber, and the upper Humber. On the outer Humber, data were collected on quarter-monthly population levels of all species of waders and wildfowl present, their respective feeding and roosting sites and movements between them. Ringing and migration data were also collated where relevant. The upper Humber (west of the Humber Bridge) was covered less intensively by fieldwork, but much pre-study period data were available and these have been analysed to put this part of the study in a more historical context.

The outer Humber was identified as being internationally important for four wintering wader species and nationally important for a further four. Knot Calidris canutus and Dunlin C.alpina peak occurrences are around 3% and 2% of the NW European populations respectively. The area was also shown to be an important feeding and resting area for some migratory species. The upper Humber was found to be much more important for wildfowl than waders, with six nationally and two internationally (Teal Anas crecca and Wigeon A.penelope) important populations being present.

The work did not cover the south shore of the outer Humber and some areas of the middle Humber, so that in spite of much evidence of intra-estuarine movements by the birds, a complete picture of the estuary could not be presented; the authors hope this will be rectified by future work.

The report is presented in the form of around 150 pages of written analysis, population histograms and graphs, accompanied by a similar number of maps showing key sites and movements within and outwith the estuary.

Copies of the report are deposited for consultation at the libraries of the British Trust for Ornithology (Tring), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Sandy), the Edward Grey Institute (Oxford), and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (Edinburgh). A small number of further copies are available and may be obtained from Dr.D.R.Langslow, Nature Conservancy Council, Godwin House, George Street, Huntingdon, England.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON WADERS

Compiled by N. C. Davidson

Although considerable effort is spent trying to make these lists as complete as possible, coverage is inevitably somewhat dependent on the range of journals, etc. which are available to the compilers. Therefore, details of omissions and, if possible, reprints of papers are always welcome. These should be sent to N.C.Davidson, Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England. Thanks for help to M.W.Pienkowski and for a listing of recent Dutch papers to G.C.Boere.

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papers directly concerned with waders include:
- BROCKIE, K. Possible sexing of Great Snipe by the tail feathers p 74-75
AVERY, M. Lekking behaviour of Great Snipe p 67-73
CANE, C. Observations on the behaviour of the Purple Sandpiper during incubation and hatching. p 59-66
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