

slips will not be acknowledged until June/July when details of the provisional programme of speakers and detailed arrangements will be forwarded to you. If you would like to present a talk at the meeting, please indicate so. Talks will probably be 20 minutes plus questions.

An application form is enclosed.

Note added in press: At present we are hoping for talks on migration in Poland, on the WSG projects on Inland Wader Counts and Movements of Wader Populations in Western Europe, and on the recent expeditions to Guinea Bissau in January 1981 and Morocco in February and March 1981. Offers for other talks are welcome (see above).

NOTICES

Australasian Wader Studies

We were very pleased to hear recently that the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union (21 Gladstone St., Moonee Ponds, Victoria 3039, Australia) has agreed to start an Australasian Wader Study Group. John Martindale has been appointed as national organiser.

The main functions of the group are perceived as follows:

1. To coordinate counting programmes and encourage their expansion and the participation by amateurs. This might involve aerial surveys.
2. To encourage further banding work on waders to gain information on, for example, weight and fat utilization, moult, age and movement. The latter would concern both migration to and from breeding areas as well as dispersal of over-wintering birds within Australia. An important aspect here is the standardization of data collection, and the definition of age groups.
3. To assist in and coordinate the publication of results in cooperation with the workers involved throughout Australia. This might involve statistical assistance, the use of computers and help with the "protocol" of publication.
4. To maintain effective communication between state bodies and to liaise with similar groups overseas, in particular, with the International Waterfowl Research Bureau.
5. To assist in the formulation of management policies and make submissions to the appropriate government and private organisations.

We wish the new Australasian group every success and look forward to cooperation in the future as well as news of its progress in WSG Bulletin.

Dye-Marked Redshanks

Redshanks *Tringa totanus* are being dye-marked this summer in Iceland by members of a Tay Ringing Group/Dundee Museum expedition. Please send details of sightings (giving colour of dye, position of feathers which have been dyed, along with date and place) to Dr M. Pienkowski, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham, GB.

Yellow-Dyed Curlew

On 14 February 1981 48 Curlews *Numenius arquata*, out of a total flock of 800-900, were caught and ringed at the inland roost in Mid-Cheshire. Two of the birds caught were retraps; one from each of the two previous catches at the site in December 1978 and September 1979. A yellow-dyed bird seen at Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset on 6 dates from 31 October 1979 up to 31 January 1980; presumably this was its regular wintering area.

An account of the catch in December 1978 and the preliminary results of the study of this inland flock were published in the August 1979 issue of the Wader Study Group Bulletin (No.26) and it is planned to publish an up-to-date account in the August 1981 issue.

All the birds caught on 14 February 1981 were colour-dyed yellow on the rump, belly and under-tail coverts. It is likely that many of the birds present on that date originated from Scandinavia or other parts of the Continent. The yellow dye will remain visible until early September and I shall be very grateful if members visiting areas frequented by Curlew, either during the breeding season or on migration, anywhere in this country, Scandinavia or elsewhere on the Continent will look out for yellow-dyed birds. Please send full details to D.Elphick, 28 Coniston Drive, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, Cheshire, CW4 7LA, GB.

(There are numerous dye-marking and colour-ringing schemes operating at present which, although aimed mainly at studies in the non-breeding season, would welcome sightings on the breeding grounds. See, for example, elsewhere in this issue for articles on the WSG Project on Movement of Wader Population in Western Europe, Identification of colour-ringed Oystercatchers, and the Register of current colour-marking schemes. Any sightings should be sent to the marker, if known, or to M.W.Pienkowski, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, GB, who will pass on the sighting to the relevant scheme where this can be identified. Reporters should be notified of the origins of birds seen. Eds.)

British Ring Size 'F'

'F's' are rather unsatisfactory rings which are used either butted or overlapped. They are generally overlapped on Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* and can cause problems if the ring is put on tightly because the fleshy leg of this species may swell (perhaps from irritation by debris getting between the leg and ring) so that the ring becomes a ligating band and injures the leg. This type of injury though rare has been reported regularly. It could probably be prevented if butted ring of correct internal diameter was used. When F's are used on Curlews *Numenius arquata* they are butted and the springy ring (supplied in C shape) are difficult to butt satisfactorily. The British Trust for Ornithology is considering supplying a new ring in modified 'V' shape (which would butt easily) with an internal diameter of around 8-9 mms designed mainly for these two wader species. To ensure 'correct' size we urgently require a series of maximum tarsus diameter measurements from both species. If anyone catches the species in the near future please take such a measurement with callipers to the nearest 0.1 mm and send them to G.H.Green, Windy Ridge, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs., WR10 3EW, England.

Workshop on North American Birds, 16 to 23 September 1981

The journal 'British Birds' is offering an eight-day field-identification workshop in North America. Based at Manomet Bird Observatory, just south of Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., the workshop will focus on the fine points of the identification of juvenile and first-winter birds, especially passerines and waders. The workshop is being run entirely by the American firm 'Wings, Inc.'

Designed for serious birdwatchers, the workshop will combine extensive fieldwork, sessions in conjunction with Manomet's passerine- and wader-ringing operations, and evening lecture/discussion sessions using transparencies and study specimens. Workshop instructors will include Peter Grant of 'British Birds', Kenn Kaufmann and Will Russell of 'Wings' and Brian Harrington, Kevin Powers and Trevor Lloyd-Evans of the Manomet Bird Observatory staff.

The cost will be about £170 from Boston, including all meals, lodging, transport, instruction and workshop materials. Registration will be limited to 16 participants, all of whom must be subscribers to *British Birds*. Air reservations from London to Boston have been made with Trans World Airways at a cost of about £260 return, but, as less costly flights are available to people with flexible schedules, travel from London with the group is not a requirement.

For more information, please telephone Peter Grant at Ashford (STD 0233) 24574, or write at once to 'British Birds' North American Workshop, Wings Inc., Box 287, Seal Harbour, Maine 04675, USA, or to 'British Birds' North American Workshop, c/o P.J.Grant, 14 Heathfield Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8QD.

A little late but bigger than ever

This issue of the Bulletin will appear a few weeks later than scheduled. We are sorry for the delay which was due to a number of problems.

The quantity of good material received by the editors continues to increase. This and the inclusion of the full list of members in this issue have caused some problems of space. We have had to hold over to the next issue several articles which we had hoped to publish in this number. These articles include Waders in Egypt by C. Mullie & P.L. Meininger; in the Ebro Delta, Spain by A. Motis, A. Martinez, E. Matheu & F. Llimona and on the shores of the Outer Hebrides, Scotland by N.E. Buxton as well as the list of recent recoveries resulting from ringing in Britain and Ireland. We apologise to the authors concerned. Despite this, this issue remains much larger than usual. We may have to reduce the size of the remaining issues this year but this depends in part on the general economic situation (which our readers probably cannot control) and prompt payment of outstanding subscriptions (which some at least can)!

BREEDING WADERS OF SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL LAND

by H. Galbraith and R. W. Furness

The name of this survey has changed slightly, but this is the "Proposed survey of the breeding waders of Scottish Straths and Glens" announced in the last Bulletin. We now have the blessing of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club to carry out a pilot survey in 1981 in order to determine how a full scale survey should be carried out. In particular we need to know how many visits to a site are required to give satisfactory results, and whether these should be made at particular times of day or season.

About 20 wader enthusiasts have agreed to take part in the 1981 pilot study, and we feel that this will be a reasonable sample to determine methodology. But if you wish to help and have not contacted us or been approached by us, could you please write to Hector Galbraith at the address below, giving us grid references for the limits of your proposed study area (and a name to identify it by) and we will send you a xerox map of the site, recording cards and instructions.

H. Galbraith, 96 Neilston Road, Paisley, Strathclyde PA2 6EL
R. W. Furness, Zoology Department, Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ