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INLAND WADER COUNTS - PROGRESS REPORT

by OAG Münster

Abstract of talk given by Hermann Hotker at WSG Meeting at Münster

Since the start of the Inland Wader Counts in 1979 (for a brief description of the project see WSG Bulletin 29 p.8-9) the number of sites involved increased from 26 in West Germany, Austria and Switzerland to over 80 now (summer 1981) in Britain, France, the Netherlands, Poland and the countries already mentioned. A further increase of the number of counting sites is expected.

At the moment for most sites data are available for not more than one year so that there are not any very confirmed results yet.

The example of Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus shows how counting data may be used for phenological migration studies - summation of the data of several small sites in inland northern Germany yielding nearly the same results as the data from one larger site.

Autumn migration of the Spotted Redshank started earlier at coastal sites and at Lake Neusiedl (Austria) because of the occurrence of many adult birds on these sites in July and August whilst at most inland sites almost all birds were later migrating first-year individuals. In general birds left the more northern resting sites (Netherlands, northern Germany) earlier than the southern ones (Austria, eastern France).

In order to yield more valuable results the sites now involved in the project should be maintained for some years at least. Among the prospects for the project are limnological studies in some of the counting sites and checking of the numbers of inland resting waders outside the counting sites.

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ESTIMATES OF THE DURATION OF THE PRIMARY MOULT OF THE REDSHANK

by R.W. Summers

Abstract of talk at WSG Meeting at Münster

Moult records collected from 1647 Redshanks caught in eastern Scotland were analysed by different methods to show the variations one can obtain for estimates of duration of primary moult. A line by eye through the mean moult scores for dates of capture, and linear regression analysis of moult scores against dates (moult score as the dependent variable) gave exaggerated values for moult duration (106 and 109 days respectively). The linear regression analysis gave earlier dates for the beginning and end of moult because the rate of change of moult score was less towards the end of moult. A line through the median moult scores for each date of capture gave a value of 90 days. This method relies on obtaining unbiased proportions of non-moulting and moulting birds. This is not always possible. Also the total moulting population must be present throughout the moulting season. This is unlikely since the moulting and migration seasons overlap. A line by eye through the mean dates for each moult score, and a linear regression analysis of dates against moult score (date as the dependent variable) gave values of 70 and 74 days respectively. An even amount of data is required throughout the moulting season in order to obtain an unbiased estimate. The data used in this study were not evenly distributed.

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