

The second area concerns hard winters. None of these occurred during the initial BoEE programme, whereas two (1978/79 and 1981/82) have occurred since. Evidence is accumulating that hard weather can lead to severe mortality in some wader species. The responses of waders to these conditions are poorly known, and BoEE will work closely with a second WSG project: The Effects of Severe Weather on Waders (see Davidson and Clark, this Bulletin). This aims to find when, where, and how seriously wader populations are affected by severe weather, through the collection of corpses, population counts, and the weights of live birds. BoEE counters will be specifically requested to increase the frequency of their counts should a period of prolonged severe weather occur. In addition, the information collected through the BoEE will directly contribute to the BTO Winter Atlas.

The main objective this winter is to revitalise counting in regions where cover has declined since 1975, in order to obtain comprehensive counts for the mid-winter months (December, January and February). Counts may be extended in future years to cover the peak passage periods in spring and autumn. Much depends on the support and enthusiasm that can be given to the scheme, and anyone who would like to participate should contact me.

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WADER STUDY GROUP PROJECT ON THE EFFECTS OF SEVERE WEATHER ON WADERS

by N. C. Davidson and N. A. Clark

This project has now started, and will continue this winter until 31 March 1983. Figure 1 shows the distribution of observers who had registered for the project by October 1982. We urgently need need more observers, particularly in those areas for which we have no coverage so far. If you can help the project by making tideline searches, population counts and/or catching and weighing waders, whether on a regular or occasional basis, please fill in the registration form included with this bulletin and return it to us as soon as possible.

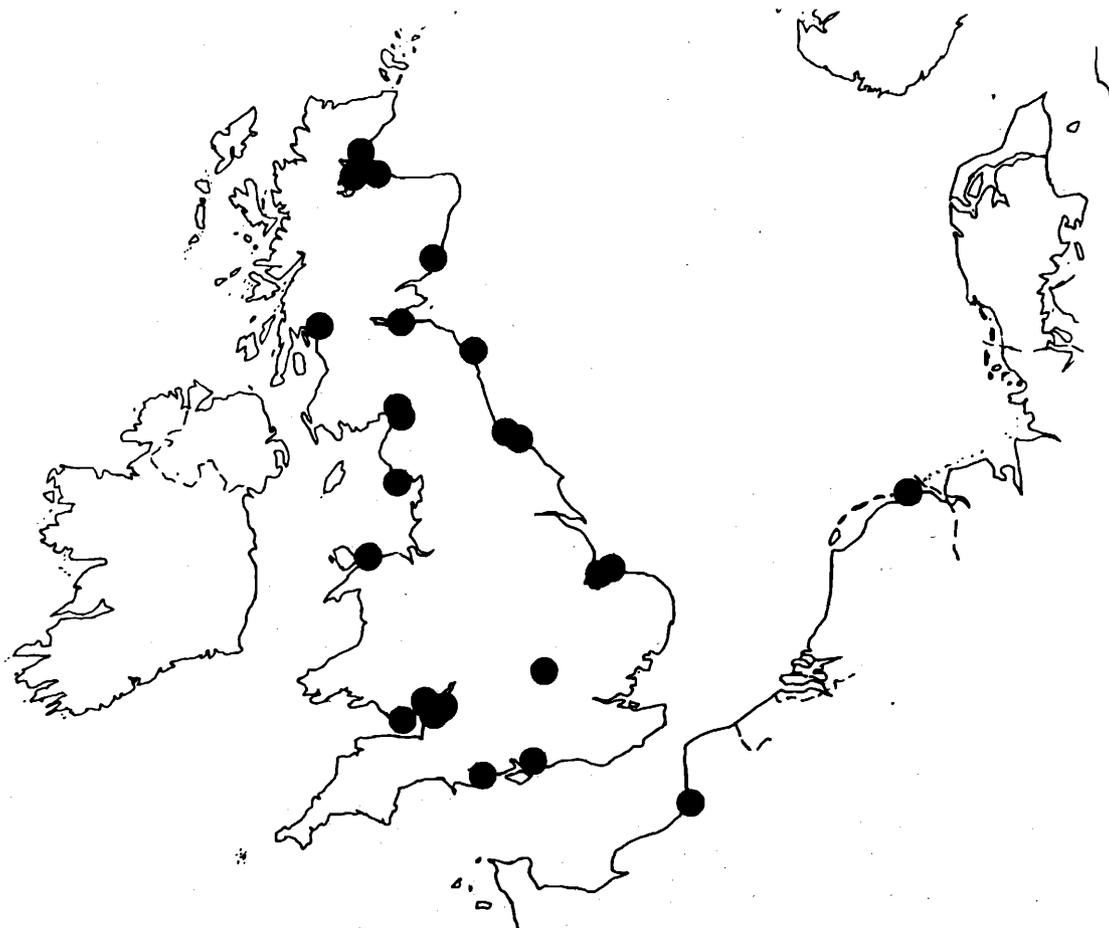


Figure 1. Distribution of observers as of October 1982

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