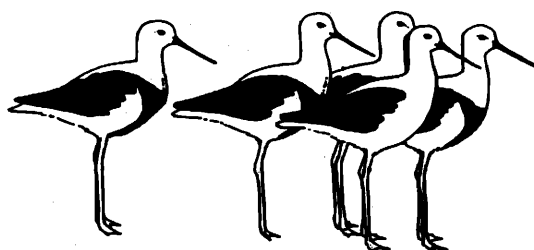


## AWSG - WSG GET TOGETHER



The Australasian Wader Studies Group (ASWG) is a thriving group of wader enthusiasts operating under the umbrella of the Royal Australasian Ornithological Union (RAOU). The Group, formed in 1981, initially directed much time towards the RAOU's five-year "Wader Studies Programme" (summarised in *Shorebirds in Australia* by Brett Lane) and is now pursuing a number of key objectives: to promote research, conservation and management of waders; to co-ordinate and encourage amateur and professional involvement in wader studies; to encourage and assist with publications of such studies and to strengthen and maintain communication between wader enthusiasts, both within Australasia and worldwide. Current projects include large-scale population monitoring, detailed migration studies (including major expeditions) and scheduling of key wader sites.

In order to enhance communications between ASWG

and WSG, and thus facilitate exchange of ideas and news, WSG members can now join the AWSG by completing the enclosed form and making payment to the WSG Membership Secretary, PO Box 247, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5SN, from whom further membership forms are available. Members receive *The Stilt* twice yearly, a journal packed with news of current fieldwork projects, ringing statistics, expedition reports, research papers etc. Membership is certainly well worth while and is currently very economical due to present exchange rates! We would be delighted to welcome you to the AWSG and keep you informed, via *The Stilt* of our endeavours to study waders in such a vast, exciting, yet sparsely populated country!

Peter Haward, Membership Officer, AWSG, c/o 34 Centre Road, Vermont 3133, Victoria, Australia.

## INTERESTING RECOVERIES OF DUTCH-RINGED KENTISH PLOVERS *CHARADRIUS ALEXANDRINUS*

by Peter L. Meininger

In 1986 we commenced a ringing study of the breeding population of Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus* in the Delta area, SW Netherlands. The major aim of this study is to obtain an insight into population dynamics, settlement patterns and movements of the population breeding in SW Netherlands. The local population of Kentish Plovers was estimated at 440-490 breeding pairs between 1981-1985 (Meininger 1986). In 1986 and 1987 a total of 63 adult breeding birds and 160 chicks were ringed. Despite the short duration, the project has already resulted in two remarkable recoveries.

On 3 June 1986 an adult female (Arnhem H 193.622) was captured on the nest along the Oosterschelde near Wissenkerke (Zeeland) and subsequently controlled on 22 December 1986 at Ilha de Formosa, Guinea Bissau (at a total distance of 4 800 km), by members of the Dutch WIWO expedition. This recovery appears to be the first NW European Kentish Plover reported south of NW Morocco (Cramp and Simmons 1983).

On 30 June 1987 we controlled a breeding female (Arnhem H 109.521) on the Grevelingendam, Bruinisse (Zeeland), which had been ringed as a chick on 12 June 1972 in Flevoland near Harderwijk (a total distance of 132 km) by D. Westra. This bird was just over 15 years old and seems to be the oldest known Kentish Plover hitherto reported. Fortunately, the bird was ringed above the tarsus; it would have almost certainly lost the poor quality aluminium ring if it had been ringed on the tarsus. Glutz von

Blotzheim et al. (1975) mentioned five German and Dutch birds of at least 13 years old. Jonsson (1983) reported a Swedish bird of at least 12 years old. Bezzel (1985) mentioned three birds of nearly 15 years old and one of nearly 14 but it is not clear from which areas these birds came.

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