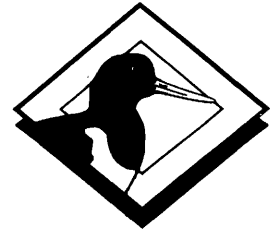

WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 60 December 1990

EDITORIAL

Bulletin 59 explained the various editorial and production changes that have recently occurred. These are now being put progressively into operation. Thus whilst *Bulletin 59* was much delayed, this *Bulletin* (which is being produced quickly in its wake) is delayed to a lesser extent. We hope that as from *Bulletin 61*, due in April, the publication will return to its original schedule:

appearing three times a year (in April, August and December). A consequence of the new fixed production schedule is that there may be occasions when regular 'features' or Sections are delayed and thus do not appear or are held over to a future issue. In such circumstances we consider it desirable to keep to our timetabled production.

David Stroud, Editor-in-Chief

able habitat along most of the continental west coast, from southern Scandinavia and southern England to southern Iberia. It was even more common along the Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts, and there were large inland breeding populations in parts of Spain and in the steppe-like areas in SE Europe (Glutz *et al.* 1975; Cramp & Simmons 1983). However, since the beginning of this century, and especially since the Second World War, there has been a continuous and accelerating decline of the Kentish Plover populations in Europe. This is well illustrated by the disappearance of the species from many areas in NW Europe (see e.g. Dybbro 1970; Haftorn 1971; Vaughan 1980; Bauer & Thielcke 1982; Jönsson 1983; Bekhuis *et al.* 1987) and by dwindling numbers in parts of Central and S Europe (Martinez-Vilalta 1985; Dubois & Maho 1986; Spitzenberger 1988).

THE WSG KENTISH PLOVER PROJECT

*by Paul E. Jönsson, Peter L. Meininger,
Rainer Schulz and Tamas Székely.*

BACKGROUND

The Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* is one of the most widespread waders in the world. It is represented by 5-7 different subspecies in five continents, with the nominate form *alexandrinus* occurring in the temperate and warm temperate zones of Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia eastwards to Inner Mongolia (Glutz *et al.* 1975; Johnsgard 1981; Cramp & Simmons 1983; Hayman *et al.* 1986).

The breeding habitat generally consists of sandy or sparsely vegetated beaches, either at the sea coast or along brackish or saline inland wetlands, while in winter most birds occur mainly in rich coastal areas (e.g. estuaries, river deltas, tidal flats, Cramp & Simmons 1983).

In Europe, the Kentish Plover was formerly commonly distributed in suit-

Today, the Kentish Plover seems to be one of the most rapidly disappearing waders in Europe and there is therefore an increasing concern about its future as a breeding species in many countries.

This situation has led to an urgent need for more detailed knowledge on the status of the Kentish Plover in all parts of Europe and in adjacent areas



of North Africa and the Middle East. This includes data on distribution, population sizes and changes, breeding success, mortality factors, habitat use, migration, wintering, possible threats, conservation measures, etc. Some data is of course already available from a number of recent or on-going studies in countries such as Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary and the Ukraine, but there is still a lack of much basic information from many parts of Europe. Following earlier discussions and informal workshops on Kentish Plover at the WSG meetings in Ribe (1989) and Comacchio (1990), we feel that there is a need for an international frame-work to co-ordinate on-going studies and to initiate further research on the species. We have therefore outlined some goals and directives for a new WSG-project, called "The WSG Kentish Plover Project".

THE PROJECT

The aims of the WSG Kentish Plover Project are:

1. to provide detailed information on the status of breeding populations of Kentish Plovers in different parts of Europe (including former and present distribution and numbers, habitat use, breeding success, threats and conservation measures).

2. to provide detailed information on migration routes, stop-over and wintering areas, and non-breeding ecology of European Kentish Plovers.

3. to formulate recommendations for, and initiate effective conservation measures in identified areas of importance for Kentish Plovers in different parts of its distribution area; and

4. to initiate and stimulate all-level

research on Kentish Plovers by being a forum for contact and co-ordination between people and projects studying the species.

The emphasis of the project is on the European populations of the Kentish Plover, but this does not exclude the involvement of studies from other parts of its geographical distribution-area.

In order to fulfill the aims of the Project, we propose the following working programme, with the approximate time scales indicated within brackets:

1. Compilation of available data on present and former breeding distribution and numbers of Kentish Plovers in Europe (1991).

2. Compilation and analysis of ringing recoveries of Kentish Plovers from all parts of Europe (1991-1992).

3. General census of breeding populations of Kentish Plovers in Europe (1991-1992).

4. Regular monitoring of selected breeding populations in various parts of Europe (1991-?). Data to be collected on: population size, sex ratio, timing of breeding, breeding success, predation, disturbance, habitat use, biometrics, dispersal, etc.

Methods will include colour-ringing.

5. Regular monitoring at selected stop-over sites and wintering areas for Kentish Plovers in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East (1991-?). Data will be collected on: numbers, phenology, habitat use, disturbance, biometrics, moult, etc. Methods include colour-ringing.

6. Analysis of genetic variation within the European Kentish Plover population (1991-?). The comparison of mitochondrial DNA in birds from different

parts of Europe (and elsewhere!). This requires the collection of blood samples in connection with catching and ringing (see 4. and 5.).

7. Conservation measures (1991-?). Assessment of the threats to the European Kentish Plover populations, leading to detailed and specific recommendations for protection and management.

ORGANIZATION

The WSG Kentish Plover Project is run, under the supervision of the Wader Study Group, by a team of international co-ordinators who are closely linked to the WSG, and alongside a group of regional co-ordinators. The international co-ordinators are responsible for the over-all running of the Project and for the subsequent reporting of the results in the *WSG Bulletin*, and elsewhere. The regional co-ordinators are responsible for co-ordinating the activities within each region and for reporting to the international co-ordinators.

COMMUNICATION

Annual progress reports will be published in the *Bulletin*, while intermediate communication within the Project is run through a "Kentish Plover Newsletter". Workshops or sessions on Kentish Plover will also be held in connection with forthcoming WSG meetings.

We would welcome all offers of contribution to the Project and especially we would like to hear from those persons already involved in studies of Kentish Plovers and who might be interested in participating. Please contact any of the international co-ordinators.



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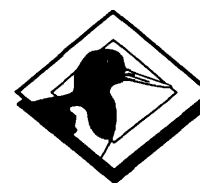
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RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON WADERS 51

compiled by Gudmundur A. Gudmundsson

In trying to make the list as complete and up to date as possible, all help is most welcome. If you are aware of that some journals that you have access to are badly covered or not at all, or that your name is not listed as often as it should!, then please send me a line. Remember to include, if available, the

address of the first author - that increases the usefulness. Also, include translations of titles if they are in other languages than English. Please send new titles, abstracts, reprints, omissions or corrections to:

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For help with this issue I am grateful to Ian Bainbridge, Jaga Gromadzka, Vadim V. Gavrilov and Theunis Piersma.

Translated titles from languages other than English are bracketed; round brackets if the translation is by the author (s), square brackets if not.

BREEDING

ADAMSONS, V. 1989 [The Curlew *N. arquata* as a nesting bird in the anthropogenic landscape.] *Putni Daba* 2:188. In Latvian.

BRAGER, S. & MEISSNER, J. 1990 (Does the Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* prefer intensively or extensively managed meadows for reproduction?) *Corax* 13:387-393. In German with

