

Curlew *Numenius tahitensis*, a species that winters exclusively on remote Pacific islands and is believed to migrate non-stop at least 4,000 km across the Pacific Ocean from its Alaskan breeding and staging areas.

Jeffrey Marks and his colleagues have confirmed that the Bristle-thighed Curlew becomes flightless during its autumn moult - a trait unique amongst waders. Although the birds did not drop more than three primary feathers at a time, they shed secondary feathers almost simultaneously in blocks of 4-10 feathers during the primary moult. The authors believe the flightless period probably lasted at least two weeks, and suggest that it has evolved because the curlews are moulting in a traditionally predator-free environment.

Unfortunately, the introduction of exotic mammals, able to prey on curlews, on many islands in the wintering range seems to have reduced populations and restricted wintering range.

Such depredation may affect the other feature of Bristle-thighed Curlew biology - longevity. Marks et al. (1990) report an individual at least 22 years and two months old, and another only one month younger, making these the third and fourth longest-lived waders on record. (The oldest is a Eurasian Curlew over 31 years old.). It is not clear whether there is a link between the flightlessness and longevity of this species, but both traits may be a consequence of managing to overwinter in a predator-free environment.

RED KNOTS??

We have recently received several reports of Knots in western Europe carrying a red colour-ring on the lower leg. Although we are aware of colour-rings of several colours (orange, green, white) being used for marking schemes on Knots that migrate to or overwinter in western Europe, we have no record of red rings being used.

If anyone knows of a marking scheme using red colour-rings we would be most grateful if they could contact *Jane Marchant (WSG Colour-marking Register, PO Box 247, Tring, Herts HP23 5SN, U.K.)* so that we can trace the origin of these sightings.

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compiled by Henk Koffijberg

So that we can make these publications listings as complete as possible, we welcome the help of all WSG members. Please send new titles, abstracts, reprints, copies, reports and omissions or corrections to: Henk Koffijberg, Huigenbos 807, 1102 KA Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

BREEDING

COLWELL, M.A. & L.W. ORING 1990 Nest-site characteristics of prairie shorebirds. *Can. J. Zool.* 68: 297-302. (Dept. Biol., Univ. of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202, USA)

ESTAFIEV, A.A. 1989 [Biology of Rudy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres* L.) in the European North-East of the USSR]. In: *Ecology of rare, less familiar and economic valuable animals of the USSR European North-East (Proceedings of the Komi Sci. Centre of the Ural Branch to the USSR Academy of Sciences, No. 100)*. Syktyvkar, p. 29-38. In Russian.

FLODIN, L.-A., L.-G NOREN & H. HIRSIMAKI 1990 [Nest site selection and hatching success of Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, at Getteron]. *Vår Fågelvärld* 49: 221-229. In Swedish with English summary. (Tofta 4224, 432 95 Varberg, Sweden)

GRANT, M.C. 1989 The breeding ecology of Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) in Shetland; with particular reference to the effects of agricultural improvement of heathland nesting habitats. *Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. Durham (UK)*, 240 p. From Diss. Abstr. Int. B Sci. Eng. 50(12):5405. 1990. Order no. BRD-88165.

Remember to include, if possible, the address of the first author, and a translation of the title if it is originally in a language other than English.

For help with the compilation of this issue, I am very grateful to Theunis Piersma, Dr V.V. Morozov, Gudmundur G. Gudmundsson, and to all the people who sent their articles and reprints to Gudmundur before he handed on the task of compilation to me.

Would contributors please note that not all the references so far received are

included in this list, so if you have sent me a reference that is not listed do not despair - it will appear in the next listing.

In the listings below, translated titles from languages other than English are in brackets; round brackets if the translation was made by the author(s) and square brackets if not.

HANLEY, A.W.D. 1990 Report on the 1989/1990 breeding season of the Humewood Kiewietjies. *Bee-eater* 41: 36-37. *Vanellus armatus* and *Vanellus coronatus* in South Africa.

HANOWSKI, J.M., R.A. BOLEY & G. J. NIEMI 1990 Probable Wilson's Phalarope breeding in Southern Wright County. *Loon* 62: 156. (Nat. Resour. Res. Inst., Univ. Minnesota., 5013 Miller Trunk Hwy., Duluth 55811, USA)

HILL, D. & N. CARTER 1991 An empirical simulation model of an Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* population. *Ornis Scand.* 22: 65-72. (BTO, National Centre for Ornithology, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU, U.K.)

ISRAPHILOV, S.A. 1989 [Nesting of Common Pratincole at Ag-Gel' Lake]. In: *Ornithological resources of North Caucasus. Abstracts Scientific-practical Conference 21-23 April 1989*. Stavropol, p. 34-36. In Russian.

JONES, M. 1990 Oystercatchers incubating on closely adjacent nests. *Brit. Birds* 83: 331-332. (31 Laverton Road, St Annes, Lancashire FY8 1EW, U.K.)



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(Population dynamics and breeding success of the Lapwing Vanellus vanellus in an agricultural area near Osnabrück, Lower Saxony. Vogelwelt 111: 202-216. In German with English summary. (Universität Osnabrück, Fachbereich Biologie/Chemie, Barbarastrasse 11, 4500 Osnabrück, Germany)
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[Nesting of the Common Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) in the Brussels area]. Aves 27: 68-69. (Ave. Marechal Joffre 141, B-1190 Brussels, Belgium)
- ROOS, G.Th. de 1990
Waders in their breeding habitats in Alaska. Stilt 17: 45-52. (Agricultural University, Nature Conservation Department, c/o Dorpstraat 198, 8899 AP Vlieland, Netherlands) Distribution and abundance of waders in the Eastern Bering Sea region, St. Lawrence Island, and Prudhoe Bay area.
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REVIEWS

Tubbs, C.R. 1991. ***The Solent. A changing wildlife heritage.*** Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. [£4.95].

This booklet draws on Colin Tubbs' considerable experience and knowledge of the Solent estuarine ecosystem. At first glance, its small size suggests that its contents might be limited, but on delving in, a wealth of information and detail is given on the coastal ecology and habitats which comprise the Solent.

The booklet is organised into chapters which, amongst other topics, address the origin, tides, sediments and future for the Solent. A full historical account is given, dating from its development interlinked with sea-level changes since the last Ice Age, to the history of man's

settlement from Iron Age times. The complex tidal pattern is described, as are the physical nature of the sediments which create favourable conditions for an abundant benthic fauna. Details of the high densities and international importance of the overwintering waterfowl are illustrated by use of data from counts organised by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology. Fish resources are, as Tubbs points out, less adequately assessed with little information on population sizes and trends. Vegetation changes are concisely documented with accounts of alien species such as the Japanese seaweed Sargassum, thought to have been introduced by shipping or as packing for imported oysters. These could potentially have far-reaching consequences for the marine environment.

The real beauty of this publication is that, while enthusing the reader about the natural wealth and nature conservation importance of the Solent, it does not ignore the problems that the site faces - both currently and in the future. Tubbs points out that, although some of the area is protected by statutory designation, including the Ramsar and EC Special Protection Area status of Langstone and Chichester

Harbours, urban development threats loom along the shoreline. This does not deter the author, and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, from maintaining a positive and realistic approach to the safeguard of the Solent.

The booklet is superbly illustrated with high quality photographs. At £4.95 it is excellent value for anyone with an interest in the south coast of Britain or the huge problems facing the conservation of our internationally important estuaries.

Joanne Ferns

