
Wader Study Group Projects 1979-1990 - an overview of status, results and publications

compiled by Hermann Hoetker

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Regular readers of the WSG Bulletin may be aware that there have been many Wader Study Group projects since 1979. These projects have been a very important part of the work of the Group. In fact it was the projects that were and still are responsible for the difference between the Wader Study Group and other comparable organizations. The Wader Study Group provides with its projects the possibility not only to talk about and to write about scientific work but to do this work on a co-operative basis. At least in Europe, nearly all members of the Group could, if they wished, in theory have been involved in WSG projects. During some years, especially the larger projects considerably influenced the life of the group, as may be seen from the publications in the Bulletin and from the programmes of the conferences. The basis of WSG's project involvement is further described in Appendix 1.

Regardless of the stimulating effect that the WSG projects has had for the coherence of the group, the main purpose of organizing the projects (or lending WSG's name to projects) has been to gain scientific information about waders. Many projects have been especially aimed at collecting such data which could not have been acquired without a co-operative approach. This co-operation has often taken place on an international level. The success of the projects should be judged by their scientific results.

12 years of WSG projects have produced many results. Meanwhile, however, the number of WSG projects has increased so fast that it has become increasingly difficult to follow the development of all of them.

Some of the projects are finished and their results have been published, others are still in operation, and some have a little known fate. The rate of reporting of the projects in the Bulletin has become unsatisfactory during recent years and we shall be seeking to remedy this in the future. WSG policy remains that set out in 1985 that there should be a progress report for each of the running projects submitted for publication in the WSG Bulletin at least once a year.

The purpose of this compilation is to give an overview of 12 years of WSG projects. The list which is given below summarizes the status of the projects as well as a listing of publications originating from the projects. There are four projects in which fieldwork continues. These

are 'inland wader counts', 'the effects of severe weather on waders', 'ruffnet' and a new project on Kentish Plover which has been added recently (see WSG Bulletin 60: 1). 13 projects have been completed since 1979.

Up to 1990, at least 135 publications have appeared which were substantially based on WSG projects. Although I cannot admit to possessing a precise definition of 'substantially based' this surprisingly high number must be a minimum estimate because publications in local journals may well have been incompletely reviewed. The number of publications alone does of course not say very much about the scientific value of the results. Judging this value is beyond the scope of this article. Nevertheless it is very clear that the WSG projects have contributed significantly to the progress in wader research during the last decade. From the scientific point of view I therefore see no reason to change the strategy. Co-operative projects, based on the co-operation of many volunteers will have their place in wader research in the future.

There have been, however, some concerns expressed by participants (as well as potential participants) about some technical (and psychological) details of WSG projects. Some concerns have been already mentioned above (for example the low frequency of reporting in the Bulletin), and others refer to the way the data are used. For many of the participants of a project as well as for other WSG members it is important to see a project report at the end of the project. A bundle of publications using parts of the project's data cannot substitute such a report, because it does not allow enough identification with the project and participants cannot be fully usually acknowledged. It is important therefore that a project report must be made available for all participants of the project. Such a report should not be the endpoint of data use, and it is of course desirable that the project report is followed by publications in journals and books. When data from WSG projects are used in publications, authors must remember that this has to be mentioned clearly. If possible at least the main (better, all) contributors to the project should be acknowledged in publications.

I would like to ask the project leaders to follow these suggestions, because the success of the projects depends on the contributions of volunteers. For the future the co-ordinator of



the group will ensure that progress reports of all active projects will be published at least annually.

Last not least I would like to encourage WSG members to propose new projects. Anyone interested should read the procedure in Appendix 1, and then contact the co-ordinator (me, at present) in the first instance.

Acknowledgements

Most of the project leaders kindly helped me to complete this compilation. I am especially grateful to William Dick, Philippe Dubois, Peter Ferns, Johannes Melter, Mike Moser, Mike Pienkowski and Ron Summers. I would like to thank Nick Davidson, for his comments on the manuscript, and Gregor Koelsch and Brigitte Klinner for typing the manuscript. The Forschungs- und Technologiezentrum im Buesum provided financial aid.

APPENDIX 1

WADER STUDY GROUP PROJECTS - A POLICY STATEMENT

reprinted, with minor changes, from WSG Bull. 54: 2 (1985)

Most members will be aware that the Wader Study Group name frequently appears attached to a variety of projects publicised in the Bulletin. However not all members may be aware of how and why WSG is involved in such projects. This note is to explain the purposes of WSG involvement, the role WSG plays in such projects, the obligations involved in using WSG name, and the procedures that should be followed by anyone wishing to involve WSG in a project of their devising.

WSG projects arise in one of two ways. Some are initiated by WSG, when it becomes apparent that there is a need for accurate information on waders. Examples are the Surveys of Breeding Waders in the Outer Hebrides (started when it became apparent that agricultural change could have a major impact on important breeding wader populations) and the project on the Effects of Severe Weather on Waders (started after WSG identified a lack of quantitative information on the impact of severe weather, especially in relation to the imposition of statutory wildfowling bans in Britain). A third example is the International Spring Migration Studies along the East Atlantic Flyway. In this case WSG, through its extensive contacts with wader workers throughout the world, realised that experienced wader study teams would be working simultaneously in several seldom-visited areas of great importance to waders. WSG therefore co-ordinated some of the work of these groups, in an unrivalled opportunity to identify details of the migration routes of many waders. This has led to the continued co-ordination of such studies in

subsequent years.

The second way in which WSG projects arise is from the approach of a wader worker(s) who feels that the involvement of WSG would help a project in which they have an interest. Examples include the Movements of Waders in Western Europe, the Project on the Migration of Program, and the International Kentish Plover Project. Some projects are run jointly with other organisations such as the British Trust for Ornithology, an example being the Winter Shorebird Count.

A common important element in all these projects in which WSG is involved is the participation of many people, often over a wide geographical area. Such widespread observer networks are vital in projects that, for example, involve sightings of colour-marked birds or the collection of comparable data throughout the range of a species. Such data collection is outside the scope of most single workers. WSG is in a unique position to provide organisers of such studies with the means of contacting many wader workers, and asking for their assistance. This is achieved mostly through announcements and reports in the Bulletin. It is largely in providing such contact and co-ordination that WSG is involved in most projects to which its name is attached. WSG does not normally attach its name to a project that is the specific localised research study of an individual wader worker, although of course WSG help in a co-operative part of such a study can be sought.

The attachment of the WSG name, signifying WSG approval with the aims of a project, may in some cases help in gaining finance from elsewhere to fund projects. WSG is, however, unable to provide grant-aid for projects, although some limited logistical support may be possible in some cases. Nor should anyone approaching WSG with a project necessarily expect the Group to organise the project for him/her, although WSG, through its members, aims to provide as much help and advice as it can in administering a project.

Anyone wishing to have WSG support in a project should contact the WSG Co-ordinator (Hermann Hoetker, Inst. f. Haustierkunde, c/o WWF Wattenmeerstelle, Norderstr. 3, 2250 Husum, Fed. Rep. of Germany) in the first instance. He/she should explain the background to the proposed project, the methods of data collection, the ways in which WSG can help, and the WSG involvement sought. The Co-ordinator may reply at that stage with advice and assistance, or may send the proposal to the Executive Committee for their comments and approval. It is important that the Executive Committee examine all proposals, to ensure that they do not conflict with WSG policy, or other projects. The approval of the Executive Committee is needed for the use of WSG name. Such approval at an early stage in the planning of a project means that further development can proceed safely using WSG name.



An announcement of the project can then be published in WSG Bulletin, giving background, methods, and assistance sought from WSG members.

Organisers of WSG projects should recognise that the use of WSG name incurs an obligation to keep Executive Committee and members regularly informed of progress. Progress reports should be published in the Bulletin at least every year, and more frequently where appropriate. This is important both so that the Executive Committee can ensure that the project continues to operate within the aims and policies of WSG, and to keep participants (and other WSG members) informed about progress and results. Such feedback is vital in ensuring continued help from participants. At the end of the project, a project report should be sent to all participants, and the WSG Co-ordinator. The Executive Committee can withdraw approval of the use of WSG name on a project, should the project be found to contravene WSG aims and

policies. Any publications outside WSG Bulletin should give appropriate acknowledgement of WSG involvement, and a reprint should be sent to the Co-ordinator for inclusion in the WSG publications listing appended to the Annual Officers' Reports in the Bulletin.

These guidelines are certainly not intended to deter anyone from seeking WSG help in co-operative wader studies, and we are always keen to hear from anyone who has identified a gap in our knowledge of waders that they think might be filled with WSG help. WSG exists to generate just such formal and informal links between people interested in waders as are developed with co-operative projects. We hope that the provision of these explanations and guidelines will encourage members to contact us with proposals for future projects.

Nick Davidson, on behalf of the Executive Committee

Appendix 2. PROJECT LISTING

Projects are listed chronologically, in order of start date.

Spring passage of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones through Britain

Project leader: Peter N. Ferns, Zool. Dept., Univ. College, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 1XL, United Kingdom

Description: Co-ordinated catching and counting of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones in Britain in spring 1979 to determine migration phenology.

Start: 1979

Present status: project finished, results published

Publications:

Ferns, P.N. 1978. Spring passage of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones through Britain. WSG Bull. 24: 7-9.

Ferns, P.N. 1979. Spring passage of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones. WSG Bull. 25: 27.

Ferns, P.N. 1979. Spring passage of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones through Britain - Progress report. WSG Bull. 26: 6.

Ferns, P.N. 1979. Spring passage of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones through Britain - A further progress report. WSG Bull. 27: 7.

Ferns, P.N. 1980. The spring migration of Ringed Plovers through Britain in 1979. WSG Bull. 29: 10-13.

Ferns, P.N. 1980. The spring migration of Sanderling *Calidris alba* through Britain in 1979. WSG Bull. 30: 22-25.

Ferns, P.N. 1981. The spring migration of Turnstone through Britain in 1979. WSG Bull. 31: 36-40.

Ferns, P.N. 1981. The spring migration of Dunlins through Britain in 1979. WSG Bull. 32: 14-19.

Ferns, P.N. 1981. Final comments on the spring migration of waders through Britain in 1979. WSG Bull. 33: 6-10.

Clark, N.A., Turner, B.S. & Young, J.F. 1982: Spring passage of Sanderlings *Calidris alba* on the Solway Firth. WSG Bull. 36: 10-11.

Spring passage of Siberian Knots

Project leader: William J.A. Dick, 51 Winsham Grove, London SW 11 6NB, United Kingdom

Description: Co-ordinated catching and marking of Siberian Knots during their spring migration along the East Atlantic Flyway.

Start: 1979

Present status: field work finished, results published
Publications:

Dick, W.J.A. 1978. Spring Passage of Siberian Knots. WSG Bull. 24: 5-7.

Dick, W.J.A. 1979. Spring Passage of Siberian Knots. WSG Bull. 25: 27.



Dick, W.J.A. 1979. Spring Passage of Siberian Knots. Interim report WSG Bull. 26:7.

Dick, W.J.A. 1979. Results of the WSG project on the spring migration of Siberian Knot *Calidris canutus* 1979. WSG Bull. 27: 8-13.

Dick, W.J.A. 1981. The 1978/79 spring passage of Siberian Knot *Calidris canutus* (Abstract). Proceedings of the Symposium on Birds of the Sea and Shore: 232. Cape Town.

Dick, W.J.A., Fournier, O. & Prokosch, P. 1980. WSG-Project Spring passage of Siberian Knots: Plans for 1980. WSG Bull. 28: 15.

Dick, W.J.A., Piersma, T. & Prokosch, P. 1987. Spring migration of the Siberian Knots *Calidris canutus*: Results of a co-operative Wader Study Group project. *Ornis Scand.* 18: 5-16.

Inland wader counts

Project leader: OAG Münster, Coermuehle 181, 4400 Münster, Germany

Description: Co-ordinated counting of waders resting at inland sites in Europe

Start: 1979

Present status: Fieldwork continuing, some results published

Publications:

Biologische Station Rieselfelder Münster 1980). Inland Wader Counts - A Wader Study Group project. WSG Bull. 29: 8-9

OAG Münster 1981. Inland Wader Counts - First Progress Report. WSG Bull. 32: 20-23.

OAG Münster 1981. Inland Wader Counts. WSG Bull. 31: 10.

OAG Münster 1982. Inland Wader Counts in 1981. WSG Bull. 34: 3

OAG Münster 1982. Inland Wader Counts - Second Progress Report. WSG Bull. 35: 11-13.

OAG Münster 1984. Inland Wader Counts - Third Progress Report. WSG Bull. 40: 15-17

OAG Münster 1987. The timing of autumn migration of some wader species in inland Europe: provisional results. WSG Bull. 50: 7-16.

OAG Münster 1988. Zielsetzung und erste Ergebnisse der Internationalen Limikolenzählungen: Wegzug von Limikolen durch das Binnenland. *Vogelwelt* 109: 3-25

Movements of wader populations in Western Europe

Project leader: Michael W. Pienkowski, JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY, United Kingdom

Description: Co-ordinated marking of waders in Western Europe in autumn and winter, evaluation of ringing data

Start: 1980

Present status: Fieldwork ended, material partly published

Publications:

Pienkowski, M.W. 1980. WSG co-operative project on movements of waders in Western Europe. WSG Bull. 29: 7.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Pienkowski, A. 1980. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: first progress report. WSG Bull. 30: 7-9.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Pienkowski, A. 1981. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: second progress report. WSG Bull. 31: 16-17.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Pienkowski, A. 1981. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: third progress report. WSG Bull. 32: 11-12.

Pienkowski, A. & Pienkowski, M.W. 1981. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: fourth progress report. WSG Bull. 33: 17.

Pienkowski, A., Pienkowski, M.W. & Cooper, R. 1982. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: fifth progress report. WSG Bull. 34: 14-15.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Pienkowski, A. 1982. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: sixth progress report. WSG Bull. 35: 8.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Pienkowski, A. 1982. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: seventh progress report. WSG Bull. 36: 6-7.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Pienkowski, A. 1983. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: eighth progress report. WSG Bull. 38: 13-22.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Prokosch, P. 1982. Wandlungsmuster von Watvögeln zwischen den Küstenländern West-Europas - Bericht über ein laufendes Projekt. *Seevogel* 3: 123-128.



Pienkowski, M.W. & Pienkowski, A. .1984. WSG project on movements of waders in Western Europe: ninth progress report. WSG Bull. 40: 11-14.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Evans, R.P. 1984. Migratory behaviour of Shorebirds in the Western Palaearctic. In: Burger, J. & Olla, B.L. (eds.): Shorebirds - Migration and Foraging Behaviour. Plenum Press, New York, pp. 74-124.

The breeding waders of Scottish agricultural land.

Co-operation: Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Project leader: Hector Galbraith, c/o Weinberg, PO Box 264, Lincoln Centre, MA 01773, USA

Description: Counting of breeding waders in Scotland

Start: 1981

Present status: Fieldwork ended, results published

Publications:

Galbraith, H. & Furness, R.W. 1981. Censusing breeding waders on agricultural land in Scotland. WSG Bull. 33: 12-13.

Galbraith, H. 1981. Breeding waders of Scottish agricultural land. WSG Bull. 33: 1.

Galbraith, H. & Furness, R.W. 1981. Breeding waders of Scottish agricultural land. WSG Bull. 31: 4.

Galbraith, H. & Furness, R.W. 1980. Proposed survey of the breeding waders of Scottish Straths and Glens. WSG Bull. 30: 5.

Galbraith, H. & Furness, R.W. 1982. The survey of the breeding waders of Scottish agricultural land. WSG Bull. 36: 2.

Galbraith, H. & Furness, R.W. 1983. The WSG survey of the breeding waders of Scottish agricultural land. WSG Bull. 39: 30.

Galbraith, H. & Furness, R.W. 1983. Breeding waders on agricultural land. Scott. Birds 12: 148-153.

Galbraith, H., Furness, R.W. & Fuller, R.J. 1984. Habitats and distribution of waders breeding on Scottish agricultural land. Scott. Birds 13: 98-106.

Reed, T. 1985. Estimates of British breeding wader populations. WSG Bull. 45: 11-12.

Piersma, T. 1986. Breeding waders in Europe. WSG Bull. 49,

Suppl.: 1-116.

Galbraith, H. 1987. Threats to breeding waders: the impact of changing agricultural land-use in the breeding ecology of Lapwings. In: WSG Bull. 49, Suppl. IWRB Special Publ. 7: 102-104.

The effects of severe weather on waders.

Project leaders: Nicholas C. Davidson, JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY, United Kingdom; Nigel A. Clark, BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts. HP23 5NR, United Kingdom

Description: Co-operative study of the effect of severe weather on wintering waders by counting, ringing, and collecting of dead waders, chiefly in UK

Start: Winter 1981/82

Present status: Main fieldwork complete, but further data collection planned in a severe winter; results partly published.

Publications:

N.C. Davidson & Clark, N.A. 1982. The effects of severe weather on waders: Guidelines for the collection of data and announcement of Waders Study Group project. WSG Bull. 35: 9-11.

Davidson, N.C. & Clark, N.A. 1982. Wader Study Group project on the effects of severe weather on waders. WSG Bull. 36: 8.

Davidson, N.C. & Clark, N.A. 1983. Wader Study Group project on the effects of severe weather on waders: first progress report. WSG Bull. 37: 4-5.

Davidson, N.C. & Clark, N.A. 1983. Wader Study Group project on the effects of severe weather on waders: second progress report. WSG Bull. 38: 8-9.

Davidson, N.C. & Clark, N.A. 1984. Wader Study Group project on the effects of severe weather on waders: third progress report. WSG Bull. 41: 10-12.

Davidson, N.C. & Clark, N.A. 1985. Wader Study Group project on the effects of severe weather on waders: fourth progress report. WSG Bull. 43: 4-5.

Davidson, N.C. & Clark, N.A. 1985. The effects of severe weather in January and February 1985 on waders in Britain. WSG Bull. 44: 10-15.

Clark, N.A. & Davidson, N.C. 1986. Wader Study Group project on the effects of severe weather on waders: sixth progress report. WSG Bull. 43: 4-5.



Clark, N.A. & Davidson, N.C. 1986. Wader Study Group project on the effects of severe weather on waders: Plans for 1986/87. WSG Bull. 47:4.

BTO/RSPB/WSG survey of breeding waders of wet meadows

Co-operation: British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Project leader: Ken W. Smith, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, United Kingdom

Description: Co-operative and comprehensive survey of Lapwing, Snipe, Curlew, Redshank and Oystercatcher breeding on wet lowlands in England and Wales

Start: 1982

Present status: Project finished, results published

Publications:

Smith, K.W. 1983. BTO/RSPB/WSG survey of breeding waders of wet meadows. WSG Bull. 37: 3.

Smith, K.W. 1983. The status and distribution of waders breeding on wet lowland grasslands in England and Wales. Bird Study 5: 177-192.

Reed, T. 1985. Estimates of British breeding wader populations. WSG Bull. 45: 11-12.

Piersma, T. 1986. Breeding waders in Europe. WSG Bull. 49, Suppl.: 1-116

Breeding Waders of the Outer Hebrides

Co-operation: Nature Conservancy Council

Project leader: G.H.Green, Windy Ridge, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3EW, United Kingdom

Description: Census of wader breeding populations on the Outer Hebrides in the light of threat to important breeding habitats due to changes in agricultural practice.

Start: 1982

Present status: Project finished, results published

Publications:

Green, G.H. 1982. Breeding waders of the Outer Hebrides. WSG Bull. 35:5.

Cadbury, C.J. & Housden, S. 1982. Outer Hebrides - threat to breeding waders. WSG Bull. 35: 5

Etheridge, B. & Taylor, W.G. 1982. Breeding Dunlins on a south Uist machair meadow in 1982. WSG Bull. 36:4-5.

Green, G.H. 1983. Survey and monitoring of waders breeding in the Outer Hebrides. WSG Bull. 37: 2.

Green, G.H. 1983. WSG survey to determine the number and distribution of waders breeding on the western seaboard of the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. WSG Bull. 38 :6-7.

Green, G.H. 1983. WSG/NCC survey of waders breeding on the Hebridian Machair and adjacent land. WSG Bull. 39: 5-8.

Fuller, R.J. & Buxton, N. 1983. The Machair of the Outer Hebrides. WSG Bull. 39: 9-13.

Reed, T.M. & Fuller, R.J. 1983. Methods used to assess populations of breeding waders on machair in the Outer Hebrides. WSG Bull. 39: 14-16.

Reed, T.M., Williams, T.D. & Webb, A. 1983. The Wader Study Group survey of Hebridian waders: Was the timing right? WSG Bull. 39: 17-19.

Jackson, D.B. & Percival, S.M. 1983. The breeding waders of the Hebridian Machair: a validation check of the census method. WSG Bull. 39: 20-24.

Webb, A., Reed, T.M. & Williams, T.D. 1983. The Hebridian wader survey: Did the observers record in the same way? WSG Bull. 39: 24-26.

Fuller, R.J., Green, G.H. & Pienkowski, M.W. 1983. Field observations on methods used to count waders breeding at high density in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. WSG Bull. 39: 27-29.

Fuller, R.J. 1984. Some differences in the ways that observers estimate numbers of waders breeding at high density. WSG Bull. 40: 8-11.

Fuller, R.J., Green, G.H. & Pienkowski, M.W. 1984. Surveys of breeding waders in the southern isles of Outer Hebrides - A progress report. WSG Bull. 43: 14-15.

Green G.H. (ed.) 1984. A survey of waders breeding on the west coast of the Uists and Benbecula (Outer Hebrides) . WSG/NCC.

Chandler, D.F. & Walker, A.J. 1985. Habitat use by breeding Redshanks on South Uist. WSG Bull. 45: 25-28.



Walker, A.J. & Chandler, D.F. 1985. Family group movements by breeding Redshanks of South Uist. WSG Bull. 45: 29-31.

Buxton, N.E., Green, G.H. & Langslow, D.R. 1986. The breeding wader populations on the machairs and blackland of the Southern Isles, Outer Hebrides. Hebridian Naturalist 8: 5-9.

Fuller, R.J., Green, G.H. & Pienkowski, M.W. 1985. Surveys of breeding waders (Charadrii) in the Outer Hebrides 1983 and 1984. Bull. Brit. Ecol. Soc. 16: 163-166.

Reed, T. 1985. Estimates of British breeding wader populations. WSG Bull. 45: 11-12.

Fuller R.J. 1986. WSG surveys of breeding waders in the Outer Hebrides in 1985 - a progress report. WSG Bull. 46: 6-7.

Piersma, T. 1986. Breeding waders in Europe. WSG Bull. 49, Suppl.: 1-116

Fuller R.J. 1986. WSG surveys of breeding waders in the Outer Hebrides, 1986. WSG Bull. 48: 8.

Fuller, R.J., Reed, T.M., Buxton, N.E., Webb, A., Williams, T.D. & Pienkowski, M.W. 1986. Populations of breeding waders Charadrii and their habitats on the crofting lands of the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. Biol. Cons. 37: 333-361.

1984 West coast spring passage project

Co-operation: Birds of Estuaries Enquiry (British Trust for Ornithology)

Co-ordinators: Mike E. Moser, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, United Kingdom; Steven Baillie, BTO, The Nunnery, Nunnery Place, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PV, United Kingdom; Peter N. Ferns, Zool. Dept. University College, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 1XL, United Kingdom

Description: Co-operative study to measure the turn-over rates and exchange rates of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones on spring migration through the Irish Sea.

Start: spring 1984

Present status: field work finished, results partly published

Publications:

Ferns, P.N. & M. Moser 1983. 1984 west coast spring passage project. WSG Bull. 39: 35-36

Moser, M., Ferns, P.N. & Baillie, S. 1984. BTO/WSG west coast spring passage project. A progress report. WSG Bull.

43: 9-13.

Prys-Jones, R., Moser, M. & Ferns, P.N. in prep. West coast spring passage of Turnstones through Britain.

Breeding waders of lowland grasslands

Co-operation: British Trust for Ornithology

Project leader: Ken W. Smith, RSPB, The Lodge, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, United Kingdom

Description: The objectives of the project are to collect information on year to year fluctuations in breeding wader numbers, with particular emphasis on Lapwing, Redshank and Snipe; to monitor any long term trend in breeding numbers; and on sites where major habitat changes occur in the course of the project, to monitor the effects of these changes.

Start: 1984

Present status: project finished, results published

Publications:

Smith, K.W. 1984. Breeding waders of lowland grasslands - a new WSG/BTO project. WSG Bull. 40: 7.

Smith, K.W. 1984. Lowland wader surveys. BTO News 31: 9.

Reed, T. 1985. Estimates of British breeding wader populations WSG Bull. 45: 11-12.

Smith, K.W. 1985. Breeding wader monitoring. BTO News 136: 3.

Smith, K.W. 1986. BTO/WSG breeding wader monitoring scheme. WSG Bull. 46: 12.

Piersma, T. 1986. Breeding waders in Europe. WSG Bull. 48, Suppl: 1-116.

Smith, K.W. 1986. BTO/WSG breeding wader monitoring scheme - the story so far. WSG Bull. 53: 3.

Green, R.E. & Cadbury, C.J. (1987): Breeding waders of lowland wet grasslands. RSPB Conserv. Rev. 1: 10-13.

Winter shorebird count

Co-operation: British Trust for Ornithology

Project leaders: Mike E. Moser, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, United Kingdom; Ron W. Summers, Lismore, Mill Crescent, North Kessock, Inverness, United Kingdom

Description: A survey of the whole British non-estuarine coast to count wintering waders.



Start: Winter 1984/85

Present status: Field work finished, results published

Publications:

Moser, M.E. & Summers, R.W. 1984. Winter shorebird count. BTO News 134.

Moser, M.E. 1984. BTO/WSG winter shorebird count 1984-1985. WSG Bull. 41: 7.

Summers, R. & Moser, M.E. 1985. The winter shorebird count: A progress report. WSG Bull. 44: 16.

Moser, M.E. & Davis, T. 1985. Winter shorebird count. (Progress report). BTO News 137: 6-7.

Moser, M.E. & Summers, R.W. 1987. Wader populations on the non estuarine coasts of Britain and Northern Ireland: Results of the 1984-85 winter shorebird count. Bird Study 34: 71-81.

Summers, R.W., Ellis, P.M. & Johnson, J.P. 1988. Waders on the coast of Shetland in winter: numbers and habitat preferences. Scottish Birds 15: 71-79.

Kirby, J. S. 1989. Numbers, distribution and habitat preferences of waders wintering on the Isles of Scilly. WSG Bull. 51: 47-52.

Kirby, J.S., Summers, R.W. & Moser, M.E. in prep. Distribution, abundance and habitat preferences of waders wintering on the non-estuarine shores of the United Kingdom. Bird Study.

Spring migration of Ruffs

Project leader: OAG Münster, Coermühle 181, 4400 Münster, Germany

Description: Studies of spring migration of Ruffs by means of birds colour dyed in Senegal.

Start: 1985

Present status: field work ended in 1987, results published

Publications:

OAG Münster 1984. Spring migration of Ruffs. WSG Bull. 42: 3-4.

OAG Münster 1989. Beobachtungen zur Heimzugstrategie des Kampfläufers *Philomachus pugnax*. Journal f. Ornithologie 130: 175-182.

International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway

Project leaders: Theunis Piersma, Gasthuisstraat 32, 1791 GL Den Burg, Texel, The Netherlands; Nicholas C. Davidson, JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Petersborough, PE1 1JY, United Kingdom

Description: Linking existing research groups in co-ordinated catching and marking of coastal waders during spring migration at various sites along the East Atlantic Flyway

Start: 1985

Present status: Field work finished 1988; results partly published.

Publications:

Piersma, T. 1984. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway during spring 1985. WSG Bull. 42: 5-9.

Piersma, T. 1984. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway during spring 1985. WSG Bull. 41: 4-6.

Piersma, T. & Davidson, N.C. 1984. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway during spring 1985. First progress report. WSG Bull. 43: 6-8.

Moser, M. 1984. Wader studies on the East Atlantic Flyway. BTO News 135: 8-9.

Piersma, T. 1985. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway during spring 1985. Second progress report. WSG Bull. 44: 17-18.

Davidson, N.C. & Piersma, T. 1985. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: Plans for spring 1986. WSG Bull. 45: 4-6.

Davidson, N.C., Strann, K.-B., Crockford, N.J., Evans, P.R., Richardson, J.R., Standen, L.S., Townshend, D.J., Uttley, J.D., Wilson, J.R. & Wood, A.G. 1986. The origins of Knots in spring in arctic Norway. Ornis Scand. 17: 175-179.

Ens, B. (ed.) 1985. Entre le Sahara et la Sibirie. WIWO Report No. 85-9.F. pp. 32. WIWO, Ewijk, The Netherlands.

Pienkowski, M.W. & Evans, P.R. 1985. The role of migration in the population dynamics of birds. in: Smith, R.H. & Sibly, R.M. (eds.) Behavioural ecology: the ecological consequences of adaptive behaviour. Brit. Ecol. Soc. Symp. 24, Blackwell, Oxford.

Piersma, T. & Smit, C. 1985. Migration of waders along the east side of the Atlantic Ocean. (in Dutch). Skor 4 (2): 32-34.



Davidson, N.C. & Piersma, T. 1986. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: A progress report for spring 1986. WSG Bull. 46: 9.

Davidson, N.C. & Piersma, T. 1986. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: Preliminary results from spring 1986. WSG Bull. 47: 2-3.

Davidson, N.C., Piersma, T. & Thomas, C. 1986. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: Plans for spring 1987. WSG Bull. 48: 3-5.

Piersma, T., Bredin, D. & Prokosch, P. 1987. Continuing mysteries of the spring migration of Siberian Knots: a progress note. WSG Bull. 49: 9-10.

Piersma, T., Beintema, A., Davidson, N.C., OAG Münster & Pienkowski, M.W. 1987. Wader migration systems in the East Atlantic. in Davidson, N.C. & M.W. Pienkowski: The conservation of international flyway populations of waders. WSG Bull. 49, Suppl., IWRB Spec. Publ. 7: 35-56.

Uttley, J.D., Thomas, C.J., Davidson, N.C., Strann, K.-B. & Evans, P.R. 1987. The spring migration system of Nearctic Knots *Calidris canutus islandica*: a re-appraisal. in Davidson, N.C. & M.W. Pienkowski: The conservation of international flyway populations of waders. WSG Bull. 49, Suppl., IWRB Spec. Publ. 7: 80-84

Whitfield, J.P. & Magnusson, J. 1987. The migration of waders through north-east Iceland. In: Davidson, N.C. & Pienkowski, M.W.: The conservation of international flyway populations of waders. WSG Bull. 49, Suppl., IWRB Spec. Publ. 7: 85-89

Davidson, N.C. & Piersma, T. 1987. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: News from spring 1987. WSG Bull. 50: 5-6.

Davidson, N.C., Piersma, T. & Thomas, C. 1987. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: plans for spring 1987. WSG Bull. 48: 3-5.

Prokosch, P. 1988. Das Schleswig-Holsteinische Wattenmeer als Fruehjahrsaufenthaltsgebiet arktischer Watvogel-Populationen am Beispiel von Kiebitzregenpfeifer (*Pluvialis squatarola* L. 1758), Knutt (*Calidris canutus* L.1758) und Pfuhschnepfe (*Limosa lapponica* L.1758). *Corax* 12: 273-442

Davidson, N.C. & Piersma, T. 1987. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: Plans for spring 1988. WSG Bull. 51: 5-7.

Langston, R. 1987. Spring passage of Knots through northern Norway. in Branson, N.J.B.A. (ed.) *Wash Wader*

Ringing Group Report 1985/86: 32.

Piersma, T. 1987. Puzzelen aan Kanoeten-trek problemen. *Limosa* 60: 101-102.

Piersma, T. 1988. Hop, skip or jump? Constraints on migration of arctic waders by feeding, fattening and flight speed. WSG Bull. 53: 6-8.

Piersma, T. 1989. Knot gains weight during flight from West Africa to Europe. WSG Bull. 54: 16.

Ens, B.J., Piersma, T., Wolff, W.J. & Zwarts, L. (eds.) (1990): *Homeward bound*. *Ardea* 78: 1-364.

Davidson, N.C. et al. 1991. Nature conservation and estuaries in Great Britain. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

International project on Black-winged Stilts

Project leader: Philippe J. Dubois, Philippe Belaporte, LPO, La Corderie Royale, BP 263, 17305 Rochefort, Cedex, France

Description: Co-ordinated study of the biology of Black-winged Stilts in Europe

Start: 1985

Present status: fieldwork finished (except for colour ringing on the French Atlantic coast)

Publications:

Dubois, P.J. 1984. WSG international project on Black-winged Stilts. WSG Bull. 42: 10-11.

Dubois, P.J. 1986. WSG international project on Black-winged Stilts: First progress report. WSG Bull. 46: 10-11.

Dubois, P.J. 1987. WSG international project on Black-winged Stilts: Second progress report. WSG Bull. 49: 27-28.

Tinarelli, R. 1987. Wintering biology of the Black-winged Stilt in the Mahgreb region. WSG Bull. 50: 30-34.

Dubois, P.J. 1990. Déterminisme de l'installation, du succès de reproduction et du mouvements saisonniers de l'Echasse blanche *Himantopus himantopus* - Exemple de deux populations françaises. LPO/Ministère de l'Environnement (SRETIE).

Ruffnet

Project leader: David B. Lank, Dept. of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6



Description: Study the consequences of polymorphism in male Ruff by recording morph differences in the field and by an attempt to study mortality of different colour morphs by co-operative ringing.

Start: 1989

Present status: Fieldwork active

Publications:

Lank, D.B. & Piersma, T. 1988. Ruffnet: a ringing study of plumage and behavioural polymorphisms in Ruff. WSG Bull. 53: 4-5.

Lank, D.B. & Piersma, T. 1989. Ruffnet: the 1989 progress report. WSG Bull. 57: 34-35.

The Eastern Mediterranean wader project 1990

Co-operation: Foundation Working Group International Wader and Waterfowl Research (WIWO)

Project leader: Vincent van den Berk, WIWO, Noordereind 3a, 4012 BT, Kerk Avezath, The Netherlands

Description: The object of the project is to gain insight into the migration routes and strategies of waders during spring migration through the eastern Mediterranean region. Data are gained by ringing teams operating simultaneously in Tunisia, Egypt, Greece, Turkey and the Ukraine and by many observers in other places.

Start: 1990

Present status: Field work finished, preliminary results published.

Publications:

Have, T.v. & Berk, V.v.d. 1989. The Eastern Mediterranean wader project 1990. WSG Bull. 57: 35-36.

Foundation Working Group International Wader and Waterfowl Research (WIWO) 1990. The Eastern Mediterranean wader project 1990. Preliminary report, Zeist, Sept. 1990.

