

## First Portugese-Spanish wader workshop

A joint Spanish-Portugese wader workshop was organised in Palo de la Frontera. Huelva, Spain during 2-4 April 1993. The principle objective was to bring together wader workers. Forty ornithologists from Spain and Portugal came to Huelva to present information relating to wader ecology, conservation, population studies, migration, and capture and ringing methods.

A sunny excursion was also organised to the Odiel salt marshes Natural Park. The participants developed, through friendly round-table discussions, conclusions regarding the present situation regarding shorebird studies in our countries. These stressed:

- the need for effective measures related to habitat conservation, especially salinas);
- the need to increase personal and national contacts and co-ordination with the Wader Study Group, communicating all colour-ringing projects especially.
- the need for regular joint workshops.

Communications presented at the Huelva meeting will be published in a special volume of the Portugese journal *Airo*. The next workshop will be held in Portugal.

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## NOTES & NEWS & NEWS & NOTES NOTES & NEWS

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### SOUTH AFRICAN WETLANDS

South Africa, which recently rejoined the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), is seeing success in their Co-ordinated Waterbird Counts project (CWAC) first initiated in 1991 (see also paper by Bozena Kalejta later this *Bulletin*). The project's primary objective is to establish a network of volunteers to carry out regular summer and winter counts of waterbirds at all of South Africa's most important wetlands including pans, vleis, marshes, lakes, impoundments, rivers, estuaries and lagoons.

The co-ordinating base is the Avian Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town, where the data are to be computerised and techniques for analysis developed. It is envisaged that the data base will enable monitoring of waterbird populations across South Africa's wetlands and assist in identifying the conservation importance of these sites to waterbirds.

Of further importance is the integration of CWAC into the African Waterfowl Census which forms part of IWRB's International Waterfowl Census. These events and other activities relating to the Ramsar Convention in South Africa are reported in South Africa's Dept. of Environment Affairs Newsletter *South African Wetlands No. 4*.

### WADER RESEARCH IN ISRAEL

The activities of the Israel Wader Research Group (IWRG) from

December 1992 to October 1993 are summarised in the Group's recent Newsletter no 2-3. Amongst the projects reported is the first comprehensive survey of wintering waders in Israel. A total of 20,568 shorebirds were counted inland which, combined with 455 at coastal localities, far exceeds the previous highest wintering population estimate of a few thousand. The dominant species inland were Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Little Stint *Calidris minuta* and Dunlin *C. alpina* whilst on the coast Sanderling *C. alba* and Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* predominated. Other IWRG activities summarised are the Israel Breeding Wader Project, studies on the wintering and breeding waders of Atlit salt ponds and ringing activities during autumn 1993. Finally two papers detail the status of Sanderling in Israel from 1960 to the present day.

IWRG have also recently produced a revised checklist of waders of Israel, IWRG special report No. 3. The checklist indicates the status of each species within Israel based on count and capture data. This is then followed by a list of publications on waders between the years 1957-92. Further information relating to IWRG publications and membership can be obtained from: IWRG, Carmel Coast Field Study Center, Ma'agan Mikha'el, Doar Na Menashe, 37805, Israel.

### WADDEN SEA RECOMMENDATIONS

The 8th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium focusing upon "Birds and their ecology in the Wadden Sea", was held at the end of September 1993 at Esbjerg, Denmark. During the Symposium consideration was also given to the protection of the Wadden Sea in the framework of international co-operation; the status and trends in the Wadden Sea ecosystem; the implementation of the Trilateral Monitoring Program; and the development of ecological targets.