

In 1994 a full report of this expedition will be published by WIWO, and announced in this *Bulletin*.

Piersma, T. 1986. Breeding waders in Europe. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 48, Supplement.

Skarphedinsson, K. H. & G. A. Gudmundsson. 1990. The birdlife of Skogar and vicinity, N-Iceland. *Bliki* 9: 49-66.

REFERENCES

Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L. 1983. *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa*. Volume III. Oxford.

Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* hatch Collared Pratincoles' *Glareola pratincola* clutches

B.A. Garmash

Garmash, B.A. 1994. Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* hatch Collared Pratincoles' *Glareola pratincola* clutches. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 73: 28.

Garmash, B.A., Azov-Black Sea Ornithological Station, 332339 Melitopol, 20 Lenin Street, Ukraine.

In May-June 1993 near Botievo village (the Zaporozhe region, northern Ukrainian coast of Azov Sea), observations were made of a mixed colony of waders (*Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*) and terns (Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*). The Collared Pratincole was the main object of study. Individual marking with picric acid was used to recognize the study pairs. Birds were watched from a small tent 30 metres from the nests. The colony was located on a small island among shallow water left after rising sea level in spring.

The incubation of two Collared Pratincole nests by Little Tern was recorded. In the first case it was observed infrequently and was of short duration (from 2-15 minutes).

Another nest with three eggs was regularly incubated during the last four days of the incubation period. The pair of Little Terns both incubated their own nest and the Pratincole's each relieving the other on the nests. The distance between nests in this case was 9 m. The Little Terns were very aggressive towards Collared Pratincoles as well as to Avocets from a neighbouring nest. Several attempts by the Pratincoles to defend their nest were unsuccessful. After the first chick in the Pratincole's nest had hatched the terns tried to feed it with small fish. The next day the chick was found dead with its neck pecked

out. Soon after that both the Pratincoles and Little Terns left the nest showing no more interest in it.

Fully developed embryos in the two remaining Pratincole eggs perished from cooling. In two following days all three Little Tern chicks hatched successfully. The pair of Collared Pratincoles left the study area and was never seen again.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is much indebted to S.V. Khomenko for translating the manuscript into English.