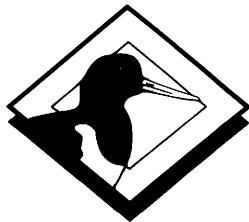
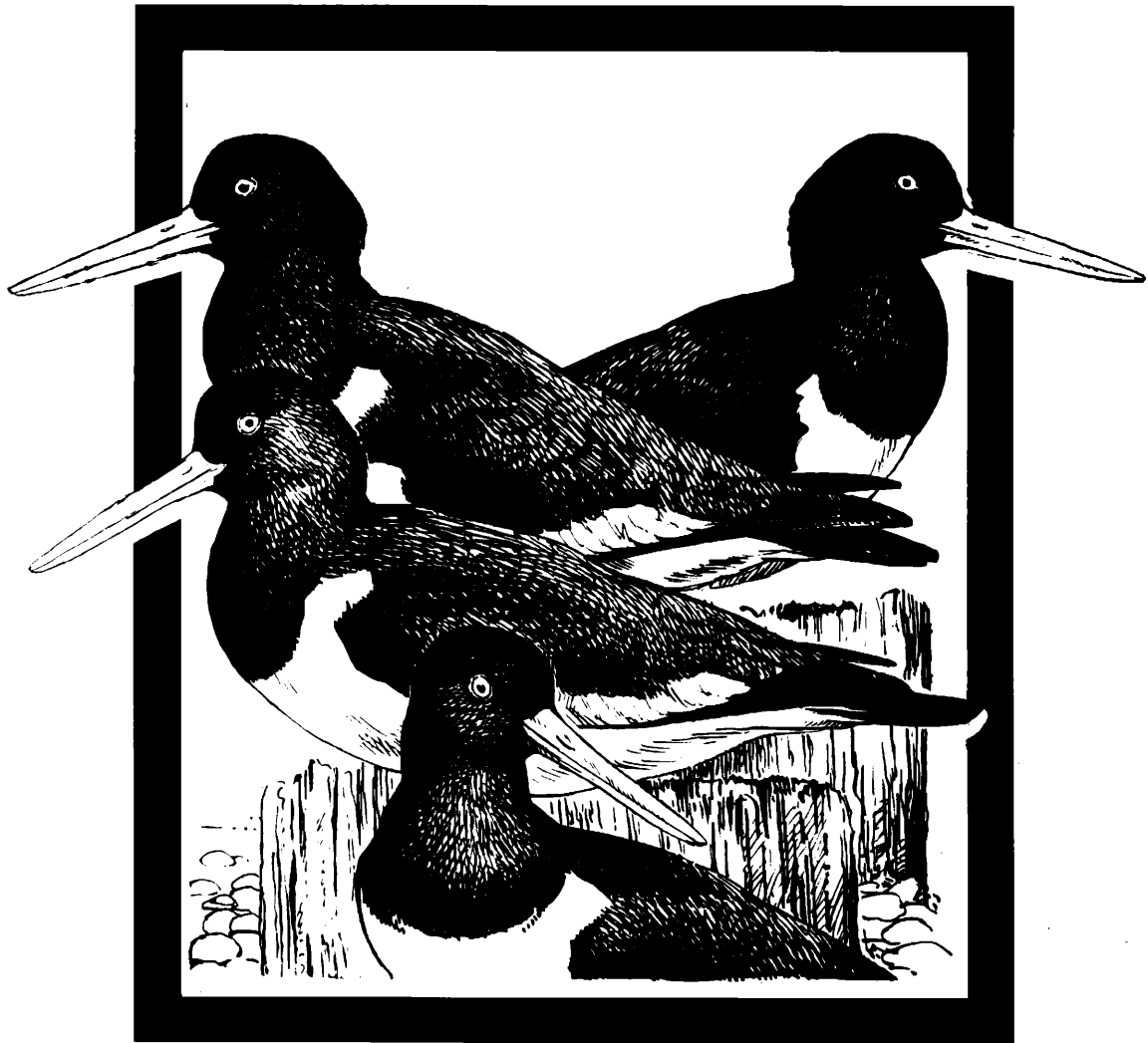


WADER STUDY GROUP
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Membership

All applications for membership, initial subscriptions and renewals, changes of address, matters relating to the circulation of the *Bulletin* etc. should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Projects

Matters and proposals concerning co-operative research projects and objectives should be sent to the Co-ordinator.

Colour-marking Register

Matters and proposals concerning colour-marking schemes should be sent to the Colour-marking Register at the official address given above.

Bulletin

Correspondence concerning the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* should be sent to the Editor: D A Stroud, *Wader Study Group Bulletin*, c/o UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY, U.K.

Deadlines for notices and short term items

1 January for the April issue
1 May for the August issue
1 September for the December issue

If correspondence between editor and author(s) is likely to be needed, material must be received well before these dates if material is to be included in the next issue.

News from Wetlands International

Redeveloping the Wetlands International wader database

(continued from page 24)

The workshop has two aims:

1. to compile new international estimates for western Palearctic wader populations (morning session); and
2. to further develop the network of national count co-ordinators for waders in the Africa, Europe, Middle East region (afternoon session).

WADER DATABASE FUTURE PRIORITIES

Our assessment of current database function and management has revealed limitations in database structure and in the data within the database, and has identified the need to improve exchange of information with a network of national contacts. We have agreed with Wetlands International and the Wader Study Group (in its rôle as Wetlands International Wader Specialist Group) that the first priority is further development this national co-ordinators network to provide a sound base from which to improve data collation and handling.

To help us in this network development, we are hoping to bring together as many national/regional wader count co-ordinators as possible at the November workshop.

INTERNATIONAL WADER POPULATION ESTIMATES AND THE NOVEMBER 1996 WORKSHOP

Through its specialist groups, Wetlands International provides the Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties with population estimates of waterbirds. These are then used to determine 1% population thresholds for use in identifying wetlands of international importance. Population estimates are now updated every three years (the interval of meetings of the Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties), and full revisions of the 1% thresholds are produced every nine years (see recent *Bulletins* for details of this procedure. On the present timetable we next need to provide population updates to Wetlands International by mid-1998 at the latest.

In future, we plan that analysis of population sizes and trends will be made as outputs from the site-based electronic wader database. However, this database will be undergoing substantial redevelopment during this period. We have agreed, therefore, that wader population updates for 1998 will instead be based on compilation of recent national totals, in a similar method to that used for the previous population estimates

exercise (Smit & Piersma 1989. *IWRB Special Publ.* 9: 24-63).

Part of the November 1996 workshop aims to compile these national totals and estimates to help produce up-to-date estimation of international population sizes. We will therefore be asking co-ordinators to come to the workshop to summarise their recent (ideally over the last five years) national information on total numbers per species per country, focusing on midwinter (especially January) counts.

To help us with interpreting international populations we will also be developing a parallel network of wader species specialists, who we hope will also be able to attend the workshop.

The main contact point for all matters concerning the wader database and workshop is Bart Ebbinghe or Barbara Ganter at IBN-DLO, Section of Sea and Coastal Birds, Department of Aquatic Ecology, P.O. Box 23, NL - 6700 AA WAGENINGEN, Netherlands.

Bart Ebbinghe & Barbara Ganter (wader database co-ordinators, IBN-DLO), Nick Davidson (Wader Study Group) & Paul Rose (Wetlands International - Africa, Europe, Middle East)

