

48th LANGEBAAN LAGOON COUNT

The 48th waterfowl count at Langebaan Lagoon, South Africa, took place on 13 March. The count is undertaken at high tide, and there are 12 count sections, each of which takes about three hours to cover. Typical totals are around 30,000 birds in the summer (February/March) count and 10,000–20,000 in the winter (July) count, winter totals being dependent on the numbers of over-wintering first year waders, and on numbers of flamingos. Counts at Langebaan Lagoon were started in July 1975 and have continued twice a year ever since. The Western Cape Wader Study Group plans a major bash when the 50th count is completed in February 2000!

Les Underhill

WASH WADER RINGING GROUP

The Wash Wader Ringing Group is celebrating 40 years of wader ringing on the Wash (eastern England) during 1999. This continuing programme, giving what is probably the longest wader data set in the world, has only been possible with the support of many hundreds (thousands ?) of people from the UK and elsewhere who have participated in fieldwork over the years. The Group continues to welcome new participants. No previous experience is required and anyone with an interest in wading birds is invited to join our fieldwork. The two main autumn passage fieldwork periods in 1999 are August 27th – 31st and September 25th – 28th. Further details and a full fieldwork programme can be obtained from Phil Ireland by email at PhilIreland@Bigfoot.com or by post at 27 Hainfield Drive, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2PL, UK.

Phil Ireland

23RD INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN CHINA

The 23rd International Ornithological Congress (IOC) will be held in Beijing,

China from 11–17th August 2002. For more information, please contact: Professor Xu Weishu; Secretary General 23rd IOC; Beijing Natural History Museum; 1–1–302, Beijing Science and Technology Commission Apt; Balizhuang; Haidan District Beijing 100037; China. Tel./fax: +86 10 6846 5605. E.mail: s-g@ioc.org.cn.

SPONSOR A SHOREBIRD

As part of its Globally Threatened Species Programme, BirdLife International will ensure that by next year there is up-to-date information on all bird species threatened on a global scale. This information will be published in a book *Threatened Birds of the World*, which will discuss the status, threats and potential conservation measures for every threatened species. Each species will be illustrated and will be accompanied by a map depicting its range. Once published, *Threatened Birds of the World* will be a powerful tool to encourage governments, policy makers and communities to take the necessary steps to ensure the survival of over 1200 species now facing extinction.

BirdLife International is looking for individuals, not-for-profit organisations and commercial companies to play a special role in the Globally Threatened Species Programme. Each species in the book can be sponsored and the funds raised will be used to ensure that the book is distributed as widely as possible. We can then work with each BirdLife Partner to put the conservation recommendations into action.

Individuals can sponsor one species for US\$165, not-for-profit organisations can be sponsors for US\$430 and commercial companies for US\$850. Species are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. All sponsors will be making an invaluable contribution to a major conservation project and will have their name printed as an acknowledgement alongside the species of their choice. This is a unique chance for birders, ornithologists, bird clubs, expedition teams, researchers, conservationists and companies to choose a bird that matters to them and publicly support international conservation efforts to save it from extinction.

Choose your shorebird soon (see list below) – before someone else does!

For further information and a

sponsorship form please contact: Naomi Hawkins, BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 1223 277318
Fax: + 44 1223 277200
Email: naomi.hawkins@birdlife.org.uk

Threatened shorebirds requiring sponsorship:

Haematopus chathamensis
Chatham Islands Oystercatcher
Pluvianellus socialis
Magellanic Plover
Charadrius obscurus
New Zealand Dotterel
Charadrius thoracicus
Madagascar Plover
Charadrius sanctaehelenae
St Helena Plover
Charadrius melodus Piping Plover
Charadrius montanus
Mountain Plover
Charadrius rubricollis
Hooded Plover
Thinornis novaeseelandiae
Shore Plover
Anarhynchus frontalis Wrybill
Vanellus gregarius
Sociable Lapwing
Scolopax mira Amami Woodcock
Scolopax rochussenii
Moluccan Woodcock
Gallinago nemoricola Wood Snipe
Gallinago imperialis
Imperial Snipe
Coenocorypha pusilla
Chatham Islands Snipe
Numenius borealis Eskimo Curlew
Numenius tahitiensis
Bristle-thighed Curlew
Numenius tenuirostris
Slender-billed Curlew
Tringa guttifer
Nordmann's Greenshank
Prosobonia cancellata
Tuamotu Sandpiper
Eurynorhynchus pygmeus
Spoon-billed Sandpiper
Himantopus novaeseelandiae
Black Stilt
Rhinoptilus bitorquatus
Jerdon's Courser

NEOTROPICAL SHOREBIRD SYMPOSIUM

A Shorebird Symposium is to be conducted on October 9, 1999 at the 6th Neotropical Ornithological Congress (October 4–10, 1999) in Monterrey, Mexico. The special symposium will be organized by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) in co-operation

with the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) and the Consejo Internacional para la Conservación de las Aves. Sección México (CIPA-MEX), organizers of the congress.

WHSRN invites abstracts for oral and poster presentations on shorebird biology, ecology, and conservation relevant to the Western Hemisphere. Special preference will be given to presentations that address the following topics: a) Identification of shorebird population limiting factors, b) Habitat use, quality, and dynamics, c) Life-history research with conservation implications, d) Evaluation of habitat management practices, e) Global climate change and shorebirds, and f) Research on monitoring techniques.

Submissions of presentations at the Symposium are invited before 1st September, the details for which are available from: Jim Corven, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345, U.S.A. E-mail: jmcorven@manomet.org

For further information on the Congress visit the Website at: <http://www-cestec1.mty.itesm.mx/vicon/>

U.S. SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION PLAN CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan is a partnership effort being undertaken throughout the United States to ensure that populations of all shorebird species are protected. The organizations and individuals working on the plan are developing conservation goals for each region of the country, identifying critical habitat conservation needs and key research needs, and proposing education and outreach programs to increase awareness of shorebirds and the threats they face. The shorebird partnership will remain active after the initial development of the plan and will work to improve and implement the plan's recommendations. Plan partners are committed to integrating implementation with other bird conservation initiatives, and already include many North American Waterfowl Management Plan Joint Ventures and representatives from Partners in Flight and the North American Colonial Waterbirds Conservation Plan.

The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

national meeting will be held at the Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory, Bodega Bay, California on Wednesday October 6th through Friday October 8th, 1999. We will leave Saturday October 9th open for optional field trips in the Bodega Bay and/or San Francisco Bay areas. The Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory is situated on a 362 acre reserve on coastal bluffs of Sonoma County, CA and has associated guest accommodations just a walk through the dunes away. The Lab itself is used for research, teaching, and public education. Their facilities include several spacious meeting rooms with ocean views that we have reserved for the national meeting.

The beginning of October is the nicest possible time of the year to spend on the northern California coast. The weather should be warm (in the 70s/80s), calm and sunny. And there should be plenty of shorebirds, waterfowl and landbirds for the viewing! We guarantee a fun, productive, and relaxing meeting with lots of good food (fresh seafood barbecues in the evenings!).

Shorebird plan partners represent a variety of interests and agree that integrated multiple species planning can be the most effective approach for migratory bird conservation. We encourage a diversity of input into our planning process and invite all interested parties to participate in our national meeting. For more information please view our website at <http://www.manomet.org/USSCP.htm>.

Catherine Hickey

NEW RAMSAR/SPA FOR ENGLAND

In March, the U.K. Government announced that Poole Harbour has been designated a Special Protection Area for Birds and a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Poole Harbour, situated in Dorset on the southern England coast, is a 3,805 ha bar-built estuary that comprises extensive tidal mudflats, lagoons and saltmarshes, with associated reedbeds, freshwater marshes and wet grassland. The Ramsar margins include fen meadows, wet pasture with ditches and transitions to peatland mires which are of exceptional conservation importance. The site supports up to 33,000 wintering and migrating waterfowl including internationally important populations of Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* and Black-tailed

Godwits *Limosa limosa*. A further 11 waterfowl species populations are of national importance within Poole Harbour, including Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina* and Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

At the end of December 1998 there were 70 Ramsar sites and 72 SPA sites in England.

GODWITS FOLLOWED TO ICELAND

Farlington Ringing Group (FRG) has been undertaking a study of Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* wintering in and around the Solent, southern England, since 1992. So far, this has involved individually colour-ringing 147 birds, with the majority marked in November 1998. The main aims of the project have been to determine the site fidelity and local movements of birds within the Solent through the autumn and winter months, both within and between years. In addition, knowledge is also being gained as to the birds migration strategy, adult survival and recruitment into the population. Incredibly there is a >95% re-sighting rate which has so far generated 2,000 confirmed field observations.

FRG have colour-ringed the Black-tailed Godwits using the following WSG approved scheme:
Left leg: a single (short) colour-ring on the tibia and a tall red ring on the tarsus
Right leg: two (short) colour-rings on the tibia and a metal ring on the tarsus
Most of these birds have been ringed at Farlington Marshes Local Nature Reserve at Langstone Harbour, Portsmouth in Hampshire, but a few have also been marked elsewhere in the Solent. All observations are welcome even from the ringing site and should be sent to the address below. Already the project has generated a lot of unique and new information of use to conservation bodies and local planning authorities.

In late April/early May, members of FRG joined Tomas Gunnarsson in Iceland for a two-week expedition in his country in search of colour-ringed godwits from the Solent. In over 20,000 godwit observations, 45 colour-ringed Black-tailed godwits were recorded, of which 10 birds were marked on the Solent and the remainder by the Wash Wader Ringing Group on the Wash, eastern England. During the expedition much data was also gathered on

behaviour, flock size and habitat preferences of Black-tailed Godwits. A paper detailing these observations is currently in preparation.

Any observations of FRG's colour-ringed Black-tailed Godwits should be sent to the Farlington Ringing Group c/o Peter Potts, at Solent Court Cottage, Chilling Lane, Warsash, Southampton, Hampshire, SO31 9HF, UK or e-mail: ppotts@compuserve.com

7TH SEABIRD GROUP CONFERENCE 2000

The Seabird Group will start the new millennium by holding its 7th conference in Wilhelmshaven, north-west Germany, between 17–19 March 2000. This will coincide with the EXPO by the Sea, the maritime section of the EXPO 2000 in Hannover. The conference will be our first outside U.K., and will be hosted by Institut fuer Vogelforschung "Vogelwarte Helgoland". We hope that the location will enable more continental seabird biologists to be able to join us, to make this a truly international meeting, and a suitable way to welcome the new millennium.

The main topic for the meeting will be seabird reproduction, but as in previous years, offers of papers on other aspects of the biology of marine birds will be most welcome.

Further information can be obtained from:

Peter H. Becker, Institut für Vogelforschung "Vogelwarte Helgoland", An der Vogelwarte 21, D-26386 Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Fax: (+49 4421 968955). e-mail: ifv@ifv-terramare.fh-wilhelmshaven.de (subject Seabird Group Conference),

Details of registration and organisation will be available in September 1999, or on the conference homepage.

WETLAND CREATION, RESTORATION AND IMPORTANCE

Wetlands International released the sixth edition of the Directory of Wetlands of International Importance in May. With site accounts for 957 Ramsar sites being featured in a newly revised format, publication in paper was rejected in favour of production in electronic Compact Disc "CD" format. In addition,

the contents of the CD will also be available on the World Wide Web for browsing, offering the opportunity for more updating as time allows. Through the same address, you can now view another Wetlands International publication on the World Wide Web, A bibliography of wetland creation and restoration literature. The latter publication was compiled by Kevin Erwin, joint co-ordinator of the Wetland Restoration Study Group, and includes over 1,000 citations published up to 1996 on the creation and restoration of shallow waters.

NORTHWARD MIGRATION THROUGH CHINA, 1999

The Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) has been involved for the fourth year running in training, surveying and wader counting activities at important wader sites in China during northward migration. This year AWSG first returned to Shuangtaizihekou National Nature Reserve and then visited the proposed Linghekou Provincial Nature Reserve and the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve for the first time. These three reserves are located on the northern Yellow Sea coast which is the final staging area before the breeding grounds for many wader species. Additionally, a count was carried out at the Huang He National Nature Reserve by a Chinese team made up from staff from Wetlands International – China Programme and the Reserve. Team members had been trained on our previous visits in 1997 and 1998. All this year's activities were conducted on behalf of Wetlands International – Oceania with funding from Environment Australia. Brief count results and observations follow:

HUANG HE (37° 56' N; 118° 51' E) – 4 to 9 April 1999 Coastline length surveyed was approximately 110 km. This is the earliest count that has been carried out at the site, the previous two being at the end of April and the beginning of May. The count totalled 64,614 birds of 21 species. Species present in internationally important numbers were Kentish Plover (24,313), Dunlin (13,450), Eurasian Curlew (9,766), Grey Plover (4,133), Black-tailed Godwit (2,894) and Eastern Curlew (1,125). Useful information on the timing of migration for the different species was obtained. Dunlin, the two curlew species, Black-tailed Godwit and Grey Plover were present in lower numbers than in

late April, whilst those of Kentish Plover were higher. Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Great and Red Knots, and Lesser Sand Plovers had yet to arrive in significant numbers.

SHUANGTAIZIHEKOU (41° 07' N; 122° 03' E) – 20–25 April 1999 Coastline length surveyed was about 47 km. The count of 27,501 birds of 29 species compared with 63,641 of 36 species in mid-May 1998. Species present in internationally important numbers were Dunlin (7,699), Grey Plover (4,428), Bar-tailed Godwit (3,738), Kentish Plover (1,367), Eurasian Curlew (966), Eastern Curlew (526), Spotted Redshank (115) and Black-winged Stilt (109). Kentish Plover, Spotted Redshank and Black-winged Stilt are additions to the list of internationally important species at the site, the others being Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew, Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Dunlin and Grey Plover.

The two curlew species and Kentish Plover were present in much higher numbers than in mid-May 1998, Bar-tailed Godwit and Grey Plover in very similar numbers, whilst Great Knot (24,915 in 1998; 719 in 1999), Whimbrel, Wood Sandpiper, Red Knot, Dunlin and Lesser Sand Plover had yet to arrive in significant numbers.

LINGHEKOU (40° 55' N; 121° 16' E) – 26–29 April 1999 This proposed reserve lies directly to the west of Shuangtaizihekou and has a mudflat length of about 36 km. The count totalled 34,445 birds of 24 species. Species present in internationally important numbers were Great Knot (17,540), Dunlin (7,128), Grey Plover (2,739), Kentish Plover (635), Sanderling (105) and Eurasian Curlew (154).

The presence of large numbers of Great Knot (versus few at Shuangtaizihekou a couple of days earlier) indicates that this species moves up from South Korea in large numbers over a short period in late April.

We have now covered about 65% of the mudflats of northern Liaodong Wan at different times during the last two years and the count data indicate that in excess of 250,000 waders could be staging through the region on northward migration.

YALU JIANG (39° 49' N; 123° 57' E) – 2 to 9 May 1999. The Reserve has a mudflat length of about 50 km and is located on the China – North Korea border. A total of 151,708 birds of 25 species were counted. Species numbers of international significance were Great Knot (54,718), Bar-tailed Godwit (51,918), Dunlin (25,181), Grey Plover (3,995), Eastern Curlew (2,529), Broad-billed Sandpiper (729), Lesser Sand Plover (306) and Spotted Redshank (162).

These are by far the largest numbers of Bar-tailed Godwit seen during the last four years of surveys indicating that they prefer a more westerly migration route than Great Knot, which occur commonly across the whole Liaoning Province coastline. Wader numbers would be expected to increase considerably by 20 May as more birds and species arrive. We got the distinct impression that Red Knot numbers were increasing; we also recorded all the Broad-billed Sandpipers on our final day.

Recent count data clearly demonstrate the great importance of the Yellow Sea mudflats for waders on northward migration. The Liaoning Province coastline, plus North Korea, is of particular importance because this region contains the closest available mudflats to the breeding grounds (at this time of the year) for many species.

To place the region in perspective, the Yellow Sea mudflats have an area which is over twice that of the Waddensea, whilst those in the northern part (Liaodong Wan and Korea Bay) are similar in area to the Waddensea.

A total of 13 leg-flagged shorebirds of 4 species were seen originating from Australia and New Zealand. Initial indications are that north-west Australian Bar-tailed Godwit (*L.l.menzbieri*) mostly migrate through Liaodong Wan, whilst eastern Australian and New Zealand godwit (*L.l.baueri*) pass through Korea Bay. Godwit flag sighting dates provide evidence for non-stop flights from Australia to the northern Yellow Sea. A Sanderling sighting on 27 April indicates a fast passage from the non-breeding grounds.

Mark Barter, Chair, Asia-Pacific Shorebird Working Group, 21 Chivalry Avenue, Glen Waverley, VIC 3150, AUSTRALIA. Voicelfax: +61-3-9803 3330, e-mail: barter@world.net

WOODCOCK AND SNIPE

The latest newsletter of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group (WSSG), No.24, December 1998, can now be viewed on the World Wide Web via http://www.wetlands.agro.nl/wetl_news.html. A research unit of Wetlands International and likewise the World Conservation Organisation (IUCN), WSSG subjects are the species of the genus *Scolopax*, *Gallinago* and *Lymnocyptes*. After the editorial that summarises the organisation and its recent activities, four papers are presented in the latest Newsletter. In the first, Philipp Meran provides some observations on woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* migration in Austria and Western Hungary in 1997. Ib Clausager follows this with a report on the latest findings from the wings of waterfowl, snipes and woodcock bagged by Danish hunters as sampled by the National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Kal. The third paper, in French with an English summary, summarises the activities of the woodcock network in France 1997/98. Finally, from the New World comes Daniel McAuley and colleagues reporting on the second of their three year study into the effects of hunting on survival and habitat use by American Woodcock on breeding and migration areas

Until recent political changes, literature on Woodcock and Snipe in the former USSR has been difficult to access. The WSSG Newsletter has addressed this by running a series of such publications translated and summarised by J. Shergalin, of which eleven are presented in this edition. A further nine research publications from elsewhere in the world are finally summarised by the editor, Dr. Herby Kalchreuter, in the bibliography.

IOC PROCEEDINGS ON CD-ROM

The complete Proceedings of the 22nd Ornithological Congress, held in Durban in August 1998, will be available on CD-ROM from July 1999. This CD-ROM represents a state of the art review of modern ornithology at the end of the millennium.

These Proceedings contain 3,200 pages of ten full-length plenary papers, 215 full length symposia papers, and the complete abstracts of the round table discussions, orals and posters presented at the congress. The content represents avian academic research from over 50 countries, often reflecting international

co-operation. This product of the worldwide academic community is an important library resource for researchers, students and teachers alike. The wealth of information will also interest the amateur ornithologist.

The editors have planned for easy access to this valuable resource. Purchasers of this CD-ROM will find: a web-browser programme for on-screen viewing of the linked text; a search engine to instantly locate key word(s) or author(s); 'zip' files for easy e-mail or disk distribution of the papers; papers prepared in a format for easy printing. The distributors have agreed to a reduced price of £47 until the end of August 1999, when the price increases to £97.

Copies of this CD ROM may be ordered from the Natural History Book Service. Contact: NHBS Mailorder Bookstore, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5XN, UK Tel: +44 (0) 1803 865913; Fax: +44 (0) 1803 865280, e-mail: nhbs@nhbs.co.uk; Web: <http://www.nhbs.com>

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John Cooper [copied from Seabird e-mail listserver]

INTERNATIONAL SHOREBIRD EXPEDITIONS 1999

Since 1995 international teams under the general direction of Allan Baker from Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, have carried out a concerted programme of research on Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* populations along the Atlantic coast of the Americas. This year, we visited Lagoa do Peixe National Park in southern Brazil from April 21 to May 5. There we have been working with Ines do Nascimento and Scherizino Scherer of CEMAVE, who have been banding shorebirds for many years in the National Park. Our visit was timed to coincide with later stages of the northwards migration, but even so we found many fewer Red Knots than expected from earlier work. The birds were using 'snail meadows' surrounding lagoons or Atlantic seashore habitats. We were able to catch and band 91 Red Knots, of which 19 of were fitted with radio-transmitters.

Simultaneously, at Delaware Bay, USA, teams started to catch, band and radio-track arriving Red Knots. By early June, when most of the birds had departed for the breeding grounds in the Canadian arctic, about 7,200 birds had been banded, 2,600 of which were Red Knots marked with year and locality-specific combinations of colour bands. Analysis of weight data revealed that rates of fattening in Delaware Bay are high for Red Knots, and points to the importance of horseshoe crab eggs in providing the vital reserves of fat necessary for successful breeding in the Arctic. This year the migration was delayed by persistent head winds, and many birds arrived late or did not make it to Delaware Bay. Only two of 19 Red Knots radio-tagged in Brazil were detected at Delaware Bay about one month after their capture in Lagoa do Peixe.

An additional 65 radio-transmitters were fitted to Red Knots in New Jersey by the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife staff lead by Larry Niles and Kathy Clark. Larry then obtained funding for an aerial search in the arctic in late June, and ably assisted by Mark Peck from the Royal Ontario Museum they lead the assault on the final frontier. The team struck 'gold' in flights around Southampton Island at the head of Hudson Bay, and detected eight transmitter birds one of which was trapped on the nest.

These are colour band combinations we used in 1999:

Lagoa do Peixe: none on left leg; metal on right tibia, blue flag over yellow on right tarsus.

Delaware: green flag on left tibia, red on left tarsus, metal on right tibia, green on right tarsus.

New Jersey: green flag on left tibia, yellow on left tarsus, metal on right tibia, orange on right tarsus.

The following Institutions participated in the international programme in 1999: Royal Ontario Museum, Canada; Fundación Inalafquen, Argentina; CEMAVE, Brazil; US Fish & Wildlife Service, USA; Wash Wader Ringing Group, UK; British Trust for Ornithology, UK; Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Durham, UK; Netherland Institute for Sea Research, Netherlands; Victoria Wader Study Group, Australia; NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, Endangered Non-Game Species Program, USA;

Delaware Coastal Program, USA; Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, USA; National Ocean Service National Estuarine Research Reserve Program, USA.

If you see a banded Red Knot with any of these colour band combinations, please report to Patricia M. González, E-mail: patriciag@canaldig.com.ar

Additional information on the results or our work and recent news can be obtained at the Western Atlantic Shorebird Association (WASA) website <http://www.vex.net/~hopscotch/shorebirds/>

PROFILES OF SHOREBIRD MIGRATION IN MIDCONTINENTAL NORTH AMERICA: A NEW WEB SITE

Transcontinental shorebird migrants are dependent upon dynamic freshwater wetlands throughout the interior of North America for stopover resources to replenish lipid reserves necessary to complete migration. Management of dispersed and dynamic wetland habitats for the conservation of migrating shorebirds is a challenge that requires a broadly integrated approach across many geographic regions. The Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Prairie Potholes Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan undertook an intensive data synthesis and computer mapping project with the goals of (1) providing information to land managers on distribution, chronology, and habitat requirements of enroute migrants, and (2) stimulating the formation of ideas regarding migration strategies of shorebird species. The complete results of this project can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.mesc.usgs.gov/shorebirds> and will also be published as a Biological Report of USGS.

Survey and observational data were acquired from many governmental and private sources, including the International Shorebird Survey, for ca. 3,000 sites in 18 states and three Canadian provinces. Maximum counts at each site were used to generate distribution maps (using Arc-Info), chronology histograms, and appendices of site locations of 37 species and 12 species groups. During northward migration, most long distance migrants occur along a narrow band between 90°W and 100°W longitude, short

distance migrants that breed and/or winter in the U.S. are widely distributed, and some migrants (Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, and Dunlin) appear to "jump". Chronology histograms reveal both quick passage and graduated arrivals. Appendices provide maximum counts and locations for each species. The broad scale perspective and detailed information in this product are proving useful in national and regional shorebird conservation planning efforts.

Susan K. Skagen, Midcontinental Ecological Science Center, Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA. E-mail: susan_skagen@usgs.gov

FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Lincoln Park Zoo Scott Neotropic and Africa/Asia Funds support field research in conservation biology around the world. The Scott Neotropic fund focuses on projects undertaken in Latin America and the Caribbean. The fund emphasises the support of graduate students and other young researchers, particularly those from Latin America. Since 1986, the fund has awarded over 126 grants in 19 countries. The Africa/Asia fund, launched in 1997, focuses on projects throughout Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. Each fund supports projects of young conservation biologists and between five and 15 projects for each fund are supported each year. The fund awards are seldom greater than US\$7500, and most awards fall in the range of \$3000–\$6000. Initial support is for up to 12 months from the date of award, and the maximum duration of support is two years. The current deadline for receipt of Scott Neotropic proposals is 1 September, and Africa/Asia proposals have no deadline for 1999. For additional information and application procedures go to www.lpzoo.com, email steveed@ix.netcom.com, or write to: LINCOLN PARK ZOO SNF/AA FUNDS, c/o Director of Conservation and Science, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL 60614.

Baz Hughes

INFORMATION NEEDED ON BLACK-WINGED STILTS

I am studying Black-winged Stilts *Himantopus himantopus* feeding behaviour and ecology in Portugal. I already have some information but

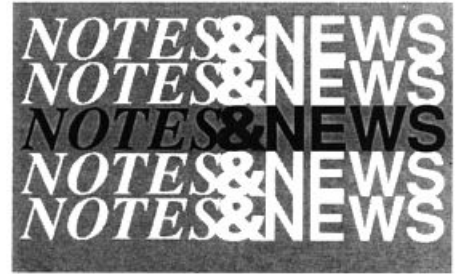
would welcome any recent material (i.e. from 1990 onwards). Please reply to: Ciélia, email: majordom@groa.uct.ac.za.

TWO NEW MONGOLIAN RAMSAR SITES

Mongolia joined the Ramsar Convention in December 1997 and named Mongol Daguur (210,000 ha) as its first Wetland of International Importance. On 6 July 1998, a further three were designated: Ogi Nuur, Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur and Valley of Lakes, to bring the total area designated to 264,220 ha. In April 1999, two more sites were added to the list,

bringing the total area of wetland designated as Ramsar sites to 71,029,948 ha. The first, Har Us Nuur National Park, encompasses three large but shallow lakes, Har Us Nuur, Har Nuur and Dorgon Nuur. Vast reed beds and extensive aquatic plant communities provide suitable breeding habitat for a large number of breeding and migratory waterbirds, including *Aythya nyroca*, *Oxyura leucocephala* and *Larus relictus*. The second site, Ayrag Nuur, is a shallow freshwater lake in the Mongolian Great Lakes Basin. It is an exceptionally important place for breeding and resting

waterbirds and the only remaining regular breeding site in Mongolia for the Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*.



Tringa glareola 2000.