

British Ornithologists Union Conference

The B.O.U. Conference will be held in Exeter University, Devon, from March 29th-31st 1974. The subject will be Waders.

The full programme has not yet been fixed but the following will be speaking.

- Dr. A. Longhurst (Plymouth) Estuarine Ecology - A study of the Bristol Channel.
- P. Smith (Durham University) Feeding ecology of the Bartailed Godwit
- Dr. J.D. Goss-Custard (Nature Conservancy) Factors affecting the feeding of Redshank.
- Dr. W. Wolff (Netherlands) Effects of reclamation on shorebirds in the Delta area.
- Dr. W.G. Hale (Liverpool Polytechnic) Aerial counting of Waders.
- A.J. Prater (B.T.O.) Populations and movements of Knot in Britain.
- Dr. C.D.T. Minton (W.W.R.G.) Moulting patterns in Waders.
- W. Dick (Reading University) Studies of Waders in Mauretania.

There will probably be two other talks on waders, one involving data obtained by ringers.

We hope that all interested will be able to come and give their support to this Conference and to make it a great success.

INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL RESEARCH BUREAU

SYMPOSIUM ON WADERS

A.J. Prater

On the 13th/14th September a Symposium on Waders was held in Warsaw at the kind invitation of the University of Warsaw. 15 short papers were given on many aspects of wader research in Europe. Here I am including the programme and I am including a very brief comment on the scope of the papers. A Symposium proceedings will be published in summer 1974 and this will be available at low cost to anyone interested. When it is available a further announcement will be made in a W.S.G. Bulletin.

The Symposium was chaired by Professor Dr. E. Rutschke (G.D.R.) and Dr. J. Rooth (Netherlands).

Dr. R. Halbe (Warsaw) Ossification of the Skull of Charadriiformes - with phylogerietical remarks.

A report on a study comparing the growth, similarities and differences between the skulls of Tringa totanus and Vanellus vanellus.

Dr. L. Kalbe (Potsdam) Situation of waders breeding inland in the G.D.R.

A report on the populations of less common waders breeding esp. Limosa limosa, Numenius arquata, Philomachus pugnax, Tringa totanus. Also includes comments on assessment of national importance.

A.J. Prater (B.T.O.) Breeding biology of Ringed Plover in Britain and Iceland.

A study of nest record cards to show breeding season, nest success, causes of nest failure and pullus survival.

Dr. J.G. Harrison (UK) Creation of an inland wader habitat.

A report on how a relatively unproductive area can be improved by simple methods and the increase in waders following this.

G. Schwede (GDR) Importance of artificial fishponds for migrating waders.

A study of how these areas are used by migrating and breeding waders in the G.D.R. Comments on amount of food available.

J.J. Seeger (G.D.R.) Important places for migrating waders in the G.D.R.

A report on species and numbers of waders using different areas in G.D.R. and their importance.

O. Merne and C.D. Hutchinson (Ireland) Status of Waders in Ireland.

A report on the Irish "Wetlands Enquiry" and an assessment of the populations and distribution of waders in Ireland.

Dr. J.G. Harrison (U.K.) Racial differences in the plumage of some waders.

A review of the racial differences in wader populations in north Kent - especially for L. limosa, C. alpina, T. totanus, A. interpres, C. canutus.

Dr. J. Witkowski (Poland) Migration of waders in the Barycz Valley.

A 3-year study of the spring and autumn migration of many wader species showing the very different patterns of them.

Dr. C. Edelstam (Sweden) Sequence of age and sex groups in wader migration in the Baltic Sea.

A study using data from 10 years observation of the visible migration patterns of waders at Ottenby and combining it with age data from museum collections.

V. Hajek (Czechoslovakia) Migration of Snipe in C.S.S.R.

An up-to-date summary of the migration of Snipe in Czechoslovakia as studied by ringing.

A. Johnson (Camargue) Wader Research in the Camargue.

A report on the data being collected by La Tour du Valat. It included details of migration as determined by ringing as well as by regular observations, especially of C.alexandrinus, C.ferruginea, T.totanus.

Dr. M. Soikkeli (Finland) Population dynamics of Dunlin in Finland.

A review of the many aspects of the dynamics of a population of C.a.schinzii in Finland to show how mortality, breeding success, dispersion etc. act.

Drs. G. Boere (Netherlands) Wader research in the Dutch Waddensee.

A review of the considerable migration and population research being made in the Waddensee. Particular emphasis on T.totanus, C.alpina, A.interpres.

A.J. Prater (B.T.O.) Migration and Population of Knot in Europe.

A study involving the use of international census data, regular counts in different areas, ringing recoveries and biometrics to show the migration pattern of the Knot.