

WADER STUDY GROUP GRANTS

It was suggested and accepted at the Wader Study Group meeting at Swanwick in January 1975 that the WSG should use some of its money to encourage and support research work on waders.

There will, therefore, be grants made available for amateur work in 1975. A total of £50, with a maximum of £25 for any single applicant, has been set aside for this purpose.

The work should be

- (a) on population studies within the British Isles; in particular projects on productivity, biometrics, migration of British breeding populations will be given high priority
- (b) on new aspects of work and not a continuation of existing studies.

Applications stating details of aims, methods, etc. should be sent to Tony Prater at the B.T.O. by 1st APRIL 1975, though later applications may be considered if any grants remain.

The applications will be considered by a committee of R. Birch, J. McMeeking, Dr C.D.T. Minton, M.W. Pienkowski and A.J. Prater. The Committee may suggest standardisation on particular methods or techniques to be used in the studies and the grants will be conditional on the acceptance of this.

WADER STUDY GROUP SUMMER MEETING

To give all interested in attending this meeting adequate notice, it is suggested that the meeting will be held

at Shenstone (Clive's house) on Sunday 28th September

The detailed agenda will be circulated with the summer bulletin, due out in July.

WADER CONFERENCE

The Conference discussed at the summer meeting of the Wader Study Group is going to be held during late August 1975 at Liverpool Polytechnic. The provisional programme is :

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|----------------------|---|---|
| Thursday 21st August | : | assemble in the evening, when films will be shown.  |
| Friday 22nd          | " | lectures and discussions on wader feeding studies.  |
| Saturday 23rd        | " | Geographical variation of waders.   |
| Sunday 24th          | " | possibly continuing this theme and on either or both Saturday and Sunday visits to Dee and Ribble will be arranged. |

The feeding study section will be a follow-up to the symposium held at Durham University by Dr Peter Evans and will probably mainly review the considerable advancement of techniques evolved on the Wash, Teesmouth and Lindisfarne.

The section on geographical variation is the one most likely to appeal to wader ringers as it will undoubtedly cover and examine some of the criteria used to indicate racial/geographical populations in the field.

The Conference will be open to all interested. As guide lines the total cost (including bed, meals, coffee etc.) will be £11.25 but the Conference can be attended for shorter periods, with a corresponding reduction of costs. Those interested should contact Dr W.G. Hale, Department of Biology, Liverpool Polytechnic, Byrom Street, Liverpool, L3 3AF. A detailed breakdown of prices and a more detail programme will be available shortly.

### NEW AGEING GUIDE

It was announced at the summer meeting that work had commenced on a new ageing guide for waders. This will probably be published by the B.T.O. This note is to review its scope, progress and likely completion date.

Tony Prater and John Marchant have been given facilities at the British Museum to examine the wader collection in order to produce the ageing guide.

The scope is wide; it will cover in some detail ageing, sexing, biometrics and moult of all reasonably frequent western Palearctic species.

In addition brief notes will be given on all Palearctic and northern Nearctic species to enable them to be aged and sexed. The idea is that it will be wide enough to allow almost any species to be aged, even in the tropics.

So far about 40 of the 110 species, including all the Plovers, have been looked at for characters and measured. It is expected that the basic analysis will have been completed by the autumn and the final text ready by the end of the year. It is hoped to bring examples of text to the summer meeting in September. Incidentally only two species have so far caused problems (Long-billed Ringed Plover and Killdeer) and if you have problems with any species please let us know and we will try and help.

### MAURITANIAN WADER RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

By William Dick

Of the 4627 waders caught at the Banc d'Arguin by the Oxford and Cambridge Mauritanian Expedition 1973, 20 were controls from 11 different countries. In addition, details of 7 controls or recoveries of Mauritanian-ringed waders are now to hand, and are given below. The low recovery and control rate is not surprising considering the rapid passage through Europe of populations wintering in West Africa, but taken with biometric and other evidence it has been possible to define the breeding areas of most species caught. These results are being published elsewhere.

(Note: Mauritanian ringing sites:

Nouakchott	18°06' N	15°58' W
Cap Timiris	19°22' N	16°31' W
Sevenni	19°40' N	16°21' W
Ile Zira	19°53' N	16°17' W