

MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS, THE BULLETIN AND CIRCULATION

This issue of the Bulletin is, we hope, notable for several reasons. Among these are the new appearance and the first full list of members since Bulletin no. 3 in June 1971. (We ask all members to check their entry and notify us of any errors.) These two features are not unrelated as the costs of production and circulation of such a large number of issues of increased size is high. Coinciding with the reorganisation of officers described elsewhere in this issue, we have taken the opportunity to check through membership records and found that many members appear to have forgotten to pay their subscriptions for the current or past years. Those concerned will receive a note with this Bulletin. If you receive one, please complete and return the form, together with cheque if appropriate, as soon as possible. Because of the greatly increased costs of production and circulation together with numerous arrears of subscriptions we can no longer afford to circulate extra copies. Indeed, at the time of writing, there are considerable doubts as to how we can pay for production and circulation of the present issue ! ACCORDINGLY, IF YOU RECEIVE A NOTE OF APPARENTLY UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS WITH THIS BULLETIN, YOU WILL RECEIVE THE DECEMBER AND FUTURE ISSUES ONLY IF THE FORM IS RETURNED.

Our checking of the records has also revealed three members whose addresses we do not have; if this is our fault we apologise. If anyone knows the addresses of any of the following we would be grateful to hear from them: C. Little, M.W. Pickering, O.W. Rostad.

Finally, especially those who have read to the end of this traumatic little note, we hope you like the present issue which completes most of the transformation to the new-style Bulletin. We know many bulletins are read more widely than just by the members receiving them. We are therefore enclosing loosely with this bulletin an application form for membership should any of these people wish to join the group.

Payments to WSG

Please note that, due to a change in our banking arrangements, any cheques, etc. to the group should now be made payable to "Wader Study Group".

OTHER NOTICES

Autumn meeting

For many years Clive and Pat Minton have provided a venue at their home for an Autumn meeting of the Wader Study Group. This of course will not be possible this year and no alternative venue is immediately apparent. We propose to cancel this year's meeting but to try and arrange one for 1979. Meanwhile we hope that as many members as possible will attend the BTO Ringing and Migration Conference at Swanwick in January 1979 when the Group's Annual General Meeting will be convened. Meanwhile if anyone has ideas for a location for an autumn meeting next year, preferably somewhere in central Britain, please contact Harry Green. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Minton for dealing so excellently with an immigration of wader people into her house every year for the last eight years or so for our meetings.

Requests for information.

Current requests are:-

- 1) Colour ringed or dyed waders. Please report all sightings to Tony Prater (address on cover) who will pass them on. Please note that many schemes can make use of incomplete details if not all colours of a combination can be identified. If you are operating a scheme, please ensure that Tony and the editors have been given details. (see also pp. 15-16)
- 2) Weights of retrapped Ringed Plover chicks: Bull 17 (April 1976)
- 3) Ornithologists visiting Tunisia : Bull 18 (August 1976)
- 4) Corpses of freshly dead waders : Bull 19 (November 1976)
- 5) Request for feeding observations and detailed bill measurements of colour-ringed Oystercatchers seen or caught : Bull 21 (November 1977)

"Cannon-netting code of practice" - a new publication

Cannon-netting is an important technique for studying waders and is being used increasingly by new wader-ringing groups and for catching other species. During its development, great emphasis has been placed on achieving the highest possible standards of safety for birds, ringers and the general public. Various wader groups produced lists of safety points in the past, and these have now been combined, extended and up-dated in a single document edited by Kate Lessells, John McMeeking and Clive Minton. This new "Cannon-netting Code of Practice" has been very fully discussed and improved in its drafting stages by the Wader Study Group: inevitably, it is mainly based on experience with waders, but there are also sections dealing with gulls and ducks.

The Ringing and Migration Committee and the Council of the British Trust for Ornithology are determined that cannon-netting should be conducted as safely as possible in the U.K., and hope that cannon-netters throughout the world will adopt the safety practices recommended by the Code. The B.T.O. is, therefore, publishing the Code for the Wader Study Group, and selling it at less than cost. (The Code is 16 pages long, A5 size (the same as the Ringers Bulletin) with a card cover, available from the B.T.O. at 60p. (including postage)).

The Code is a "must" for all U.K. cannon-netting licensees, and for all regular participants: we hope that cannon-netting groups will obtain bulk supplies, insist that all members purchase a copy, and have communal copies for less regular visitors to study. The B.T.O. will also be happy to send copies to any cannon-netters overseas, price 60p. post paid. GET YOURS NOW!

Curlew measurements

Ian P. Bainbridge (Dept. of Biology, Liverpool Polytechnic, Byron Street, Liverpool, England) is analysing geographical variation in wing- and bill-lengths and weights of Curlew in Europe and would welcome further data from anywhere in Europe. Sources of data would, of course, be acknowledged.

Colour-ringed Purple Sandpipers

Purple Sandpipers have been colour-ringed in Britain for over ten years. Initially by Hilbre Bird Observatory and subsequently mainly by the Tay Ringing Group. To aid the interpretation of distribution of different breeding populations an expedition, led by John Innes of the Tay RG, is going to Norway during summer 1978. They will be colour ringing Purple Sandpipers and Dotterel. They request that all colour-ring observations of these species be sent to Tony Prater (BIO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.) with details of where seen, date(s), size and colour of the colour rings and which leg(s) the rings are on.

RINGING TOTALS

Key for both periods reported in this Bulletin

- A = A.D.K. Ramsay : Orkney
- B = Aberdeen Univ : Ythan Estuary
- C = Edinburgh R.G. & Durham Univ : East Lothian
- D = Durham University : Teesmouth & Lindisfarne
- E = Spurn Bird Obs.
- F = Wash Wader R.G.
- G = P.Catchpole, M.Cockram & I.Peters : Suffolk
- H = N.M.Shennan : Bucks
- I = C.Sharr : Kent
- J = Farlington R.G. : Hampshire
- K = A.T.Bromby : Poole Harbour
- L = Devon & Cornwall Wader R.G.
- M = N.A.Clarke : N.Somerset & Avon coast
- N = Hardman, Jukes & Cooper / Arden R.G. : Warwickshire
- O = C.M.Reynolds : Oxon
- P = Celtic Wader Research Group : S.Wales
- Q = SCAN R.G. : N.Wales & adjacent parts of England
- R = R.Yates : Lancs.
- S = S W Lancs R.G.
- T = Morecambe Bay Wader Group
- U = N.Down R.G. : Belfast
- V = P.J.Smidly : Ballymacoda, Cork

Nil returns for March - June have been received from C.M.Reynolds and North Down R.G., and for both periods from Arbeitskreis Natur- und Umweltschutz Harlingerland, W.Germany.

Late return for July - Oct 77 : Aberdeen Univ : Ythan:
55Redshanks & 23 Dunlins

A form for totals for July-October 1978 will be found loosely inserted in this Bulletin. This should be returned in the first week of November.