

NORTH AMERICAN SECTION No. 1

EDITOR

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EDITORIAL

There has been an excellent response to the suggestion of forming a North American Shorebird Study Group, and the present issue of the W.S.G. Bulletin contains the first 'North American' section, with articles dealing with shorebird work in the New World.

The basic objective of the group will be to promote communication between persons interested in shorebirds in the New World. The term 'North American' is, in fact, perhaps something of a misnomer, as we are hoping to be able to publish accounts of work from all over North, Central and South America. The first issue contains articles describing work in James Bay, Massachusetts and Patagonia: it is being produced at a time when many North American members are in the middle of their field season and we intend to publish somewhat larger, more extensive future editions. Whether we can do so will depend largely on the willingness of members to submit material to the Bulletin.

The Bulletin is intended to provide an outlet for articles intermediate in scope between those appearing in a scientific journal and those in a 'newsletter'. We hope to attract accounts of fieldwork and/or expeditions, preliminary accounts of research findings, notes on techniques such as ageing and sexing shorebirds for banding or other studies, and articles on any aspect of shorebird biology of interest to members. We hope to provide an interesting forum for the exchange of information and ideas, and publication of material in the

Bulletin is definitely not intended to preclude later publication of work in a more formal fashion in a journal.

Over 100 new members have joined the North American section of the Wader Study Group. Initially, it is envisaged that the group will be relatively informal and that the Bulletin will provide the main means of communication between members. In Britain, the W.S.G. holds an annual meeting at the British Trust for Ornithology Ringing and Migration Conference, but geographical and funding considerations indicate that an annual meeting of members in North America could be problematical! However, we plan to investigate the possibility of organising a shorebird conference at some stage in the future and would welcome the views of members as to how active they feel the group could be in various areas such as conservation, coordination of banding or colour-marking projects etc. We shall address these topics in future issues of the Bulletin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colour-marking Studies

In recent years, colour-marking studies have contributed much to our knowledge of shorebird migration and biology. Members are reminded of the following points:

- (1) Anyone contemplating colour-marking studies must receive prior authorisation from the Banding Office for his or her scheme.
- (2) Anyone observing a colour-marked bird is encouraged to communicate directly with the person marking the bird, where there is no doubt as to the bird's origin, e.g. with the dyed birds in the announcements below. The Banding Office would appreciate a copy of the report. In cases where the origin of the bird is not known or is uncertain, the report should go to the Banding Office.

The address of the Banding Office is: Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland 20811, U.S.A.

Shorebird Colour-marking: James Bay R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service

In 1978, the Canadian Wildlife Service will be continuing an extensive program of banding and colour-marking shorebirds in James Bay, with the objective of defining migration routes used by shorebirds on their journeys between arctic breeding grounds and wintering areas. During the past three years, over 30,000 shorebirds have been captured in southern James Bay, and have resulted in more than 1,200 'bird days' of sightings of dyed birds, in areas ranging from eastern Canada