

any longer, and no further orders can, therefore, be accepted. We hope that the reprinting will now take place early in the New Year and that the back issues will be despatched shortly afterwards.

WSG DATA BANK

Members are reminded that the Group maintains a file of completed WSG data forms on waders caught and ringed. Many ringers and ringing groups send copies of their data to these files; others do not; and some have lapsed in doing so. Apart from collecting together data on less frequently caught species, these files do ensure that data on all species is not lost if ringers cease activities, groups disperse, or even if houses burn down!

We hope that ringers will continue - or start - to send records. These should now be sent to Graham Appleton, the Administrative Secretary (address on inside front cover) from whom blank forms may also be obtained.

Data supplied to the file will not be used in a publication without the permission of those supplying them.

WADER STUDY GROUP SPRING PROJECTS

The WSG is co-ordinating two major projects for the spring of 1979. Neither can succeed without both national and international co-operation between WSG members and other groups and individuals interested in wader ringing and counting.

The first project aims to elucidate the spring passage route of Siberian Knots. This is being co-ordinated by William Dick and we hope that many European and African members will participate in counting, catching and looking for dye marked Knots.

The second project is a study of the spring passage of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones in United Kingdom and Ireland. To succeed this needs the participation of many wader ringing groups and individuals and also wader counters throughout the two countries, particularly on the west and north-eastern coasts of England, Wales and Scotland. This project is being organised by the Celtic Wader Research Group mainly in the person of Peter Ferns.

Details of the aims and organisation of both projects are given below. We shall contact likely participants but we should be grateful if anyone interested in either project could contact the organiser as soon as possible - a small form for this is included with this Bulletin.

We plan to publish the preliminary results of both surveys in the Bulletin following their conclusion in early June so we request that all the data is returned to the organisers as quickly as possible after the completion of field work. All sources will be acknowledged. These projects are our first attempts at co-operative study; we hope members will approve and join in.

1. SPRING PASSAGE OF SIBERIAN KNOT

by William J.A. Dick

Background

The Knots *Calidris canutus* wintering in Western Europe and Africa are drawn from breeding areas in Greenland/north-eastern Canada and Siberia respectively. The migration patterns of the Greenlandic and Canadian population is relatively well studied, due to intensive ringing effort on the wintering grounds, and at migration sites in Iceland and Norway. Counts throughout the winter have revealed the shift of the centre of the population from the Waddensee in the autumn to the west coast of Britain in the spring, prior to their return to the breeding grounds mainly by way of Iceland (Prater 1974).

In contrast, the current state of knowledge of the breeding distribution, wintering distribution and migration of the Siberian population is very incomplete. The work of the Cape Wader Group in South Africa, the Oxford & Cambridge Mauritanian Expedition and University of East Anglia Expeditions to Morocco showed that the bill lengths in Africa were longer than those in Europe; coupled with observations of the timing of migration and ringing recoveries, it was possible to show that the African population was of Siberian origin (Dick et al 1976). However the whole of the evidence from ringing recoveries related to the autumn migration, and almost entirely to juvenile birds. Huge questions