

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Current requests were listed in Bulletin 25, as were current marking schemes. Details of further marking schemes are given in this issue. Other new requests for information are given below.

Winter weights of Redshanks Tringa totanus

I am examining the pattern of winter weights of Redshanks throughout the country to determine how extensively Redshanks lose condition (see article in this issue). If anyone has weights of Redshanks during the winter, particularly during the period November to February, that have not already been submitted to the Wader Study Group, I would be grateful if I could use them (full acknowledgement will of course be given in any publication). Most useful data on each bird is age, wing length and weight, as well as location, date and condition of capture, but incomplete information is also welcome.

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Weights of waders in cold weather in Britain

The moult of waders - an appeal for data

So far there has been little response to these two requests for information which appeared on pages 3 and 4 of Bulletin 25. If you have any information we should be pleased to hear from you.

International November count of Golden Plovers in western Europe: request for assistance

Like many other species of Palaearctic waders, Golden Plovers *Pluvialis apricaria* winter in western Europe, but unlike many others, it is not confined to a marine coastal habitat in this period. At this time the birds are scattered over a large area including Ireland, Great Britain, Morocco, Iberia, France and, in mild winters, the other countries bordering the North Sea. Very little is known of their total numbers but information on this subject would provide insight into proposed relationships between population size and total area of wintering grounds of waders, and the effects of weather on distribution.

Two country-wide surveys of Golden Plovers were carried out successfully in the Netherlands in November 1976 and April 1977. An article by Mennobart van Eerden and Peter Keij on these and other counts in Germany and Denmark will appear in the December issue of WSG Bulletin. An international count is being planned for 24-25 November 1979 when it is hoped to achieve as complete coverage as possible in Denmark, Western Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Additional information from southern Norway and Sweden as well as France and further south would also be welcome. Would anyone able to organise counting in their area please contact the general organisers before 15 October. Please write to: Mr Cor Smit, Research Institute for Nature Management, Post Box 59, 1790 AB De Burg, Texel, The Netherlands.

CURRENT COLOUR MARKING SCHEMES

Details of colour marking schemes in the Old World received since the compiling of the list published in Bulletin 25 are given below. We ask ringers to notify the Editors of any other schemes and to advise us when these end. For colour-dyeing and temporary 'flag' schemes, the Editors would be grateful for advice well in advance for all seasons that the scheme will operate. Ringers should also consult their national ringing authority.

Reports of sightings, with as much detail as possible, should be sent to the appropriate person listed below; he will pass it on if necessary. In case of doubt, the record should be sent to one of the Editors. Please note that many schemes can make use of incomplete data if not all rings are clearly seen. Operators of schemes are requested to make sure that sightings are acknowledged and the observer informed of the history of the bird concerned.

COLOUR-RINGING

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Portugal (Rui Rufino, Centro de Estudos de Migrações e Protecção de Aves, Rua da Lapa 73, 1200 Lisboa, Portugal)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*
Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Netherlands (Leo Zwarts, Achterwei 23, EE(FRL), Holland). This and some other studies of these species use a combination of one or more 'conventional' colour rings with a tall ring. These tall rings consist of one colour with engraved bands of a second colour. The bands may be wide or narrow and occur in one or more of three positions on the ring: high, middle and low.

We understand that another marking scheme for Oystercatchers may be operating in Gotland, Sweden but we do not have details.

Knot *Calidris canutus*
Sanderling *C. alba*
Dunlin *C. alpina*

NE Greenland 1979 (Jens Muff Hansen & Niels Odder Jensen, Skejbyvej 31, 8240 Risskov, Denmark). (We were very pleased to receive prior warning of this scheme. Certain colour codes were altered to avoid clash with another scheme - Eds).