

OTHER NOTICES

Is your name and address correct?

The full list of members will probably appear in the next issue. Therefore, now is the last chance to correct any errors you may have noticed in our records of your name and address (e.g. as on the envelope delivering this Bulletin). Please notify any errors to Nigel Clark (or, in America, Ted Miller: addresses on inside front cover) as soon as possible. Please write the correct name and address clearly!

Oystercatchers colour-ringed in Spain

Details of an additional scheme have reached us since the preparation of the colour-marking register item elsewhere in this issue. As it concerns an area with relatively little colour-ringing of waders, we are including this note to ask bird-watchers to look out for these birds. A total of 30 pulli were marked in 1979 and 1980 by A.Martinez (Sardenya 476 ent. 3a, Barcelona-25, Spain) at the Ebro Delta (Tarragona).

CONTINUING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR MATERIAL

We repeat below requests that have previously appeared in WSG Bulletin but which continue to be active.

Sightings of colour-marked birds

A list of currently registered schemes was given in Bull.29 and is updated elsewhere in this issue.

Whole bodies of freshly dead waders

Readers of WSG Bulletin will know of the recent progress made on the analysis of body condition in waders and the development of ways of assessing this in the field. Such developments require analysis of dead birds, both those accidentally killed and those dying apparently because of adverse weather conditions.

Freshly dead whole bodies should be well wrapped in polythene bags inside strong external wrapping (to prevent leakage in the post, which contravenes Post Office regulations) and sent by first class mail to: N.C. Davidson, Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE. Mark the package: "Pathological specimens - URGENT" and please include a note of details of how obtained and where, weight at time of death/capture, etc.

Wader Study Group data forms

Various studies noted previously in the Bulletin depend on the co-operative collection of data by ringers and groups in different areas and, in many cases, it is unlikely that individual workers can alone collect adequate data. This is one reason for the Group's existence. Some relevant recent requests are analysis of cold weather weights of waders generally (Bull 25:5) and Redshank *Tringa totanus* in particular (Bull 26:4) and moult of waders (Bull 26:3). The matter is also discussed in Bull 29 and elsewhere in this issue and there are good prospects at present for the analysis of these co-operatively gathered data. All wader ringers are urged to send data routinely to the WSG files and to make attempts to supply earlier data where this has not already been done. Forms are available from and should be returned to:- Wader Study Group, M.W. Pienkowski, Dept. of Zoology, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, GB. If at all possible, ringers are urged to adopt the new style forms for both new data and any earlier material.

Data transcribers wanted!

The previous item requests wader ringers to rewrite their existing data on the new style WSG data forms, as part of a new WSG project (see also elsewhere in this issue). Even if you do not have any such data, you can still take part by helping those who have too much to face the daunting task alone! If you think you may be able to help by transcribing some data, please contact Mike Pienkowski (address and phone no. on inside front cover).

Curlew measurements

Ian P. Bainbridge (137 Denton Road, Denton Burn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England) is analysing geographical variation in wing- and bill-lengths and weights of Curlew *Numenius arquata* in Europe and would welcome further data from anywhere in Europe. Sources of data will, of course, be acknowledged.

Redshank chicks

As part of a study of the breeding biology of the Redshank *Tringa totanus* I am looking at growth and development of chicks. I would be grateful if the following could be taken on any caught. Data on retraps is especially important: a) weight; b) tarsus length; c) bill length (tip to posterior margin of nares); d) date and place; and, on old chicks with some feather growth, e) wing length. To complete the growth curves it is necessary to obtain similar data for any juveniles caught during July, August and September. To increase the chance of ringing chicks at the nest, I can provide predictive data on hatching date, based on egg volume and weight, or egg floatation. Barry J. Yates, Department of Biology, Liverpool Polytechnic, Byrom Street, Liverpool L3 3AF, England.

Woodcock Wings

The Woodcock and Snipe Research Group are collecting data from Woodcock wings to aid sex and age determination. Anyone interested in this project should write to Dr. H. Kalchreuter, D-7823 Bonndorf-Glashütte, Federal Republic of Germany. Information on these characters has been published by Clausager, I. (1973) 'Age and sex determination of the Woodcock' Danish Rev. Game Biology 8:1-18 copies of which may be available from Vildtbiologisk Station, Kalø, 8410 Rønne, Denmark.

Total head length - a request for data

In recent years bill length has been used as a criterion for identification of sex and race in some wader species. However, the measurement presents problems in some species (e.g. Oystercatchers and Redshanks), especially as the bill/feather dividing point may change position through the year especially in relation to moult. I have therefore been measuring total head length (head plus bill) as well as bill length during a study of Dunlin on the Severn Estuary, England. Unfortunately, I have only been able to catch birds between November and March, as they do not moult on my study site.