

CURRENT COLOUR MARKING SCHEMES

The WSG register of colour marking schemes has been making steady progress in the past few months and has managed to arrange for the avoidance or the ending of overlap between different projects on some species. Benefits in the providing of a central address for sightings have also been evident.

WSG now provides the colour-ringing register with which British ringers, as a condition of their BTO permits, have to register their schemes before these are started. Additionally WSG, at the request of Euring (the European Committee for Bird Ringing), provides an international service with which all operators of wader colour-marking schemes are strongly advised to register.

Thus, anyone proposing to start a colour-marking scheme for waders should consult MWP and agree a system compatible with other projects before starting. Anyone operating a scheme which has not been registered should contact MWP immediately. For temporary markings, such as dyeing and flagging, registration is assumed to apply for one season only and renotification should be given for any additional seasons. Please make sure WSG has full details of your marking scheme: failure to do so will jeopardise your own results as well as those of others.

Before starting a scheme workers should carefully consider the question they are asking. If permanent marking is not required, permanent colour rings should not be used. If individual recognition (rather than various groupings) is not required, fewer different marks will be needed. Restricting the combinations registered for your scheme will allow more scope for others and reduce potential overlap. Relatively few dye-marking schemes are possible at any one time and should be used only if results of the maximum value can be obtained from the method, especially if the project is in potential conflict with more urgent schemes. Please consult us at an early stage.

Reports of sightings, with as much detail as possible, should be sent to the marker if known, otherwise to M.W.Pienkowski, Wader Study Group, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England, who will make strenuous efforts to forward them to the appropriate ringer! Operators of schemes are requested to make sure that sightings are acknowledged and the observer informed of the history of the bird concerned. Even if your scheme is not particularly interested in sightings away from your own study area, please treat such observers courteously: other workers depend on their good will. If you receive a sighting from WSG either return it as soon as possible if it is not from your scheme or confirm that it is one of yours if it is: have sympathy for the futile efforts of MWP still trying to locate another and non-existent appropriate scheme!

Below we list all schemes of which we know. (For American schemes, see WSG Bulletin 29). If your scheme is not here, please advise us immediately. For some schemes, we do not have full details and the ringers may receive a request for these soon: please reply promptly as delays often cause difficulties for other workers as well as for the register.

COLOUR-RINGS

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Exe Estuary, England (Dr.J.D.Goss-Custard, ITE Furzebrook Research Station, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5AS, England)
Friesian coast, Netherlands (Dr. Leo Zwarts, Achterwei 23, EE (FRL), Netherlands)

These studies use a combination of one or more 'conventional' colour-rings with a tall ring consisting of one colour with engraved bands of a second colour. These bands may each be wide or narrow and occur in one or more of three positions on the ring: high, middle and low.

Drachten, Netherlands (Dr.J.B.Hulscher, Zoologisch Laboratorium, Kerklaan 30, Haren (Gr.), Netherlands)
Lancashire, England (K.B.Briggs, 26 Hazelmount Drive, Warton, Carnforth, Lancs LA5 9HU, England) 4 'conventional' colour rings plus metal ring plus wing-tag.
Aberdeenshire, Scotland (A.Anderson, Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB4 0AA, Scotland) various schemes using 'conventional' colour rings, metal rings and, in some cases, wing-tags.
Rogaland, S.Norway (Geir Olav Toft, Dep. of Animal Ecology, Zoologisk Museum, N-5014, Bergen-Univ., Norway) colour rings, in some cases plus dye marks.
Viksfjord, S.E.Norway (details via Geir Olav Toft) colour rings
Tauta, Trøndelag, Norway (details not yet received) colour rings
Ebro Delta, Tarragona, Spain (A.Martinez, Sardenya 476 ent. 3a, Barcelona-25, Spain) colour rings.

If colour-ringed Oystercatchers are caught, please measure the weight, the bill length from the tip of the longest mandible to the feathers and from the tip to the proximal (hind) rim of the nostril, and the bill thickness at the tip (over the first 3mm length). Note if the bill is blunt, intermediate or pointed, and, if possible, take a photograph of the left side of the head and bill. If observing a bird in the field, please try to make notes on the type and size of food.

It will be apparent that identifying any marked Oystercatcher may be quite difficult! Some hints on what to look out for are given in an article by Bruno Ens in this issue of WSG Bulletin.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

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

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee, DDR 2346 Kloster/Hiddensee, German Democratic Republic)
Camargue, S.France (Miss C. M. Lessells, EGI, Dept. of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS, England)
Vendee, W.France (J.M.Watier, Section Gibier d'Eau, Chauteloup, 85340 Olonne-sur-Mer, France)

Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*

Masirah Island, Oman (Sgt. Brian Etheridge, N.M.S.U., RAF Kinloss, Fores, Moray, Scotland)

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Wiltshire & Suffolk, England (R.A.Morgan, BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts, GB) colour rings

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Lower Saxony, Germany (B.Riedel, 3411 Langenholtensen, Wilhelmstrasse 114, W.Germany)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Northumberland, England (M.W.Pienkowski, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England)
Norfolk, England (G.E.Jackson, 245 Church Road, Astley, Tyldesley, Manchester M29 7ET, England)
East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee - see Avocet)
Greenland (Expeditions in 1972, 73, 74)

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Portugal (Rui Rufino - see Black-winged Stilt)
Camargue, France (Miss C.M.Lessells - see Avocet)

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

NE Scotland (David W.Oliver, 'Dunearn', The Feus, Freuchie, Fife, GB) colour rings
Hardangervidda, Norway (Ingvar Byrkjedal, Zoologisk Museum, N-5014 Bergen/Univ., Norway) colour rings

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

South Cleveland R.G., England (W.Norman, 27 Roxby Avenue, Kemplah Park, Guisborough, Cleveland, England)
Kincardineshire, Scotland (Raymond Parr, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Blackhall, Banchory, Kincardineshire, Scotland)
Cumbria, Scotland (D.E.B.Lloyd, 1 Potton End, Eltisley, Cambridgeshire)
Hardangervidda, Norway (Ingvar Byrkjedal, Zoologisk Museum, N-5014 Bergen/Univ., Norway) colour rings

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Teesmouth, England (Dr.P.R.Evans, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England)

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

South Cleveland R.G. (see Golden Plover). colour rings
North Yorkshire (F.L.Symonds, Weir House, Nidd Bank, Knaresborough, N.Yorks, England) colour rings
Aberdeenshire (R.D.Elliot, Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland) colour rings plus a few cases of wing-tags or dyes.
East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee - see Avocet) permanent colour leg flags
Orkney (Dr. Mildred E. Cuthbert, Vishabreck, Evie, Orkney, Scotland) colour rings
Hampshire, England (M.A.F.F., Worplesdon Laboratory, Tangley Place, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3LQ) darvic wing tags carrying letter and 2 numbers
Peebleshire, Scotland (Dr. C.P.F. Redfern, Dept. of Molecular Biology, University of Edinburgh, King's Buildings, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh, Scotland) colour rings

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Greenland (Expeditions in 1973, 1974 and 1979)

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Teesmouth, England (Dr. P.R.Evans - see Grey Plover)
Greenland (Expeditions in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1979)

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Hardangervidda, Norway (Torgrim Breiehagen, Dept. of Animal Biology, Zoologisk Museum, University of Bergen, N-5014 Bergen U., Norway) colour rings

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

South Africa (Cape Wader Group)

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Hilbre Island, England (Hilbre B.O.; Prof. J.D.Craggs, Dept. of Electrical Engineering, The University, P.O.Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, England)
East coast of Scotland (Tay R.G.; N.K.Atkinson, Tadorna, 18 Cairnwell Crescent, Montrose, Angus DD10 9EY, Scotland)
Hardangervidda, Norway (Cambridge Expedition 1978)
N.Wales (SCAN R.G.; D.J.Stanyard, Groeslon, Caernarvon, Gwynedd, Wales)
Faeren, SW Norway (Rune Roalkvam, Zoologisk Museum, N-5014 Bergen-Univ., Norway) colour rings
Hardangervidda, Norway (Tay/Grampian Expedition 1980, Keith Brockie, Millhill House Lodge, Inchture, Perthshire PH14 9SN, GB) colour rings

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Greenland (Expeditions in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1979)
S.Severn estuary, England (N.A.Clarke, Dept. of Zoology, University, Edinburgh, Scotland) permanent leg flags
Devon, England (Martin Davies, RSPB, 10 Richmond Road, Exeter, Devon, England)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Munster, W.Germany (OAG Munster, Biologische Station Rieselfelder Munster, Wostebach 11, D-4400 Munster, West Germany)
East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee - see Avocet) permanent leg flags
Lancashire, England (S.W.Lancs. R.G., c/o Dr. P.Fearon, 15 Appleby Drive, Ford, Netherton, Liverpool, Merseyside, England)

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee - see Avocet) permanent leg flags

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee - see Avocet) permanent leg flags

West Germany (OAG Munster - see Ruff)

Netherlands (Albert Brientema, Rijksinstituut voor Natuurbeheer, Broekhuizerlaan 2, postbus 46, 3956 ZR Leersum, Netherlands) PVC rings with large letters

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Teessmouth, England (Durham University - see Grey Plover)

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Teessmouth, England (Durham University - see Grey Plover)

Freisian coast, Netherlands (P.Zegers, L.Zwarts - see Oystercatcher) 'banded' colour rings

East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee - see Avocet) permanent leg flags

Nordrhein-westfalen & Niedersachsen, West Germany (Manfred Kipp, Ruhdamm 95, 4540 Lengerich, W.Germany) colour rings

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

West Germany (OAG Munster - see Ruff)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Ribble Estuary, England (Dr. W.G.Hale, Liverpool Polytechnic, Dept. of Biology, Byrom Street, Liverpool, England)

Note that if any Redshanks with wingtags which wrap around the wing are caught, these tags should be removed.

East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee - see Avocet) permanent leg flags

West Germany (OAG Munster - see Ruff)

Aberdeenshire, Scotland (Culterty Field Station - see Oystercatcher) colour rings, with wingtags in some cases.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

West Germany (OAG Munster - see Ruff)

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

East Germany (Vogelwarte Hiddensee - see Avocet)

West Germany (OAG Munster - see Ruff)

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

West Germany (OAG Munster - see Ruff)

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

North Pennines, England (Miss S. Jones, Dept. of Biology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England)

South Pennines, England (South Pennine R.G., J.E.Robson, 1 Lawnfold, Hadfield, Hyde, Cheshire, England)

Lower Saxony, Germany (see Little Ringed Plover)

Angus, Scotland (Tay R.G.; B.Lynch, 15 Falkland Crescent, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 1NX, Scotland)

Midlothian, Scotland (Dr.I.R.Poxton, 54 Eskhill, Pencuik, Midlothian, Scotland)

Northumberland, England (T.Cadwallender, 27 Sycamore Avenue, Guide Post, Choppington, Northumberland NE62 5NU, England) colour rings

Strathclyde, Scotland (Brian J. Broadley, 92 Hyndland Road, Glasgow G12 9PZ, Scotland) colour rings and dye

Møre og Romsdal, Norway (Lars Lofaldli, Dept. of Animal Ecology, Zoological Museum, University of Bergen, N-5014 Bergen-Univ., Norway) colour rings

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Teessmouth (Durham University - see Grey Plover)

East coast of Scotland (Tay R.G. - see Purple Sandpiper)

Greenland (Expeditions in 1973 and 1974)

SW Norway (Aanen Munkejord, Dept. of Animal Ecology, Zoologisk Museum, N-5014 Bergen-Univ., Norway) colour rings

COLOUR FLAGS AND COLOUR DYES: TEMPORARY MARKS

Colour 'flags' - pieces of plastic adhesive tape attached to metal rings - were described in Bulletin 25. Essentially they provide a temporary colour ring which is suitable for some projects and which reduces the long-term overlap and confusion between projects. The method will, however, also become wasted if it is used indiscriminately, and ringers should consult WSG before embarking on such a scheme. Similarly colour-dyeing should not be used without prior consultation. A few ringers are using more permanent leg-flags but we strongly discourage this, except in a few exceptional cases, because of conflict with the wider use possible with temporary flags.

The following species will be the subject of one or more studies involving such marking in 1981:

Oystercatcher	Kentish Plover	Knot	Bar-tailed Godwit	Common Sandpiper
Avocet	Grey Plover	Sanderling	Curlew	Turnstone
Ringed Plover	Lapwing	Dunlin	Redshank	

The following ringers/organisations are discussing their schemes with WSG:

WSG Project on movements of wader populations in western Europe, marking at Waddenzee/Wattenmeer, Wash, Teessmouth. (co-ordinated by MWP, Durham University)

Clyde estuary, Scotland (R.W.Furness, Glasgow University)

Firth of Forth, Scotland (F.L.Symonds, NCC & Edinburgh R.G.)

Curlews in Cheshire, England (D.Elphick, S.Manchester R.G.)

Kentish Plovers in Camargue, France (C.M.Lessells, EGI)

Lapwings in Aberdeenshire (R.D.Elliott, Aberdeen University) & N.Pennines (S.Jones, Durham University)

Bar-tailed Godwits at Schiermennikoog, Netherlands (Dr.E.Nieboer, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam)

Common Sandpipers in Strathclyde (Brian J. Broadley, Clyde Ringing Group)

Oystercatchers in Norway (Geir Olav Toft, University of Bergen)

IT IS VITAL THAT NO OTHER SCHEMES ARE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH WSG.

Observers seeing any birds marked with dye and/or flags (or other marks) should send the record with as much detail as possible to M.W.Pienkowski, Wader Study Group, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England, who will forward it to the appropriate scheme.

USE OF DATA IN WSG ARCHIVES

Since shortly after its formation in 1970 the Wader Study Group has provided a store of data gathered by wader ringers. By collecting the data centrally it becomes more easily available for co-operative studies, pools small fragments of scattered information and (perhaps most importantly) helps to prevent loss of data (for whatever reasons), especially if a collector ceases to study the subject.

Initially no standard format for recording data was specified but very soon the first WSG data forms were printed. Last year these were superseded by the new green computer-compatible forms. The latter forms and the resources to transfer the data to computer storage were provided by the WSG/Durham University project on Movements of Wader Populations in Western Europe, and funded by the Nature Conservancy Council and the European Economic Community Environmental Programme. As explained in earlier Bulletins, one could consider this as an arrangement by which data necessary to this project (and not analysable without the projects' resources) are made available by ringers and, in return, their data is transferred to a form which allows much easier use in any future analysis. We have been delighted with the response to this project, and some of the importance to conservation of the work allowed by this is described in an article by Derek Langslow elsewhere in this issue.

What about use of data in WSG archives (both in computer storage and, for the moment, older records not transferred) for other studies? The policy followed by WSG has been as follows. Data is normally made available by WSG to anyone with a reasonable request on condition that the approval of all ringers and groups who have provided a significant proportion of that particular data set is obtained before the data are used in a publication. Although one could require such approval at the inspection stage, this would involve analysts, ringers and WSG in a lot of extra correspondence as, in some cases, the data prove to be unsuitable for the proposed analyses.

With the reorganization of the WSG archives, we have taken the opportunity to formalize these arrangements as a set of rules which are reproduced below. In future any analyst applying for access to WSG archives will be required to sign a copy of these rules before access can be allowed.

Wader Study Group Ringing Data Archives

1. Ringers and groups are encouraged to deposit copies of their data on ringing and measuring of waders with the Wader Study Group. By collecting the data centrally it becomes more easily available for co-operative studies, pools small fragments of scattered information and (perhaps more importantly) helps to prevent loss of data (for whatever reasons) especially if a collector ceases to study the subject.
2. Data prior to 1980 are mainly on 'old-style' WSG forms. From 1980 onwards, new and as much earlier data as possible are being stored on computer-readable magnetic tape.
3. Data deposited with the Wader Study Group remains the property of the ringer or group who collected them.
4. The Wader Study Group may make available data on particular species to applicants who wish to investigate that species.
5. Data is loaned from the Wader Study Group on condition that the data or analyses based upon it are not used in any publication without the permission of those contributing the data. The onus is on the analyst concerned to obtain the permissions required, although the Wader Study Group will assist where possible. In the event of it being impracticable to contact a contributor, the Wader Study Group will decide as to whether permission will be given. The Wader Study Group may also waive the necessity for obtaining permission from ringers or groups if these have contributed only very small proportions of the relevant data set.
6. Any publication resulting from use of data in WSG archives must acknowledge Wader Study Group and any ringers or groups whose data were consulted.
7. The Wader Study Group and any ringer or group whose data were consulted should receive at least one copy of any resulting publication, and they may wish to request more.
8. Data supplied from the Wader Study Group may not be handed over to any other person, other than assistants to the applicant. They may not be used for purposes other than the original application unless further application is made to WSG and approved in writing.
9. Originals of documents supplied to WSG will not be loaned. Applicants will normally have to pay the cost of making and supplying copies.
10. Applications and correspondence concerning the Wader Study Group archives should be addressed to:
Dr. M. W. Pienkowski, Wader Study Group, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK.
Applications should state the purpose for which data are requested.
11. Applicants must sign a copy of these rules to signify their agreement to abide by them.

I have read and understood the regulations above concerning Wader Study Group data and agree to abide by them.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Signed:

Date: