

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 Last year these were superceded by the new green computer-compatible forms.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: