

COLOUR FLAGS AND COLOUR DYES: TEMPORARY MARKS

The following species will be the subject of one or more studies involving such marking in 1981-82:

Oystercatcher	<u>Haematopus ostralegus</u>	Sanderling	<u>Calidris alba</u>
Ringed Plover	<u>Charadrius hiaticula</u>	Dunlin	<u>C.alpina</u>
Kentish Plover	<u>C.alexandrinus</u>	Bar-tailed Godwit	<u>Limosa lapponica</u>
Grey Plover	<u>Pluvialis squatarola</u>	Curlew	<u>Numenius arquata</u>
Lapwing	<u>Vanellus vanellus</u>	Redshank	<u>Tringa totanus</u>
Knot	<u>Calidris canutus</u>	Common Sandpiper	<u>Actitis hypoleucos</u>
		Turnstone	<u>Arenaria interpres</u>

The following ringers/organizations have registered their projects with WSG:  
 WSG project on Movements of Wader Populations in Western Europe  
 Dr.R. W. Furness, Glasgow University  
 F. L. Symonds, Nature Conservancy Council & Edinburgh Ringing Group  
 Miss C. M. Lessells, Edward Grey Institute & Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat  
 R. D. Elliott, Aberdeen University  
 Dr. E. Nieboer, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam  
 B. J. Broadley, Clyde Ringing Group  
 Geir Olav Toft, University of Bergen  
 Dr. R. W. Summers

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

Observers seeing 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, GB, who will forward it to the appropriate scheme. Points to note, if possible, are:-  
 colour of dye, position of dye on body colour of leg-flag  
 position of flag (above or below 'knee' joint; which leg) date  
 location  
 but incomplete details are welcome.

## PASSAGE OF DOTTEREL *CHARADRIUS MORINELLUS* THROUGH THE UPLAND OF BELCHITE (ZARAGOZA)

by A. Araques

It is a general belief among Spanish ornithologists that the passage of Dotterels through the Iberian Peninsula is small. Most workers including Bernis (*Aves Migradoras Ibericas*), consider this species very rare. My observations disagree with this assertion. At least in the uplands of Belchite, I have found that the Dotterel is not rare during autumn passage.

Traditionally and until 1960-65 Dotterels were trapped and killed in the site "el Saso". Because this was a favourite site for this species it was known among hunters as "el campo de los chorlitos" ("the plovers' field"). In Belchite the term "chorlitos" (plovers) refers to Dotterels and Golden Plovers *Pluvialis apricaria*. Prior to 1965 it was not infrequent to record 400-600 Dotterels. Since 1965 there has been much ploughing of the area for cereal cultivation which has led to the gradual reduction in the presence of this species.

In the same place in recent years we have seen between 20 and 100 individuals per annum. They are seen from the third week of August until the end of October.

The vegetation of the area consists of scattered clumps of *Thymus*, *Stipa*, *Salsola*, *Artemisia*, *Ligum*, etc. Birds are seen on cereal fields where they are found sheltering behind mounds of earth when it is very hot or on windy days. The tendency to hide and to move little are some of the reasons why this species escapes observation. According to my observations birds are more frequent on days following cloudy nights with light rain and NW winds.

For autumn 1980 my observations are tabulated below.

Date	Site	Groups	No. of Individuals	Total
24 August 80	Belchite	2	71-30	101
25 August 80	"	2	68-14	82
28 August 80	"	2	44-16	60
31 August 80	"	1	13	13
6 September 80	"	0	0	0
9 September 80	Codo	1	61	61
10 September 80	Belchite	1	23	23
14 September 80	"	4	10-15-15-4	44
18 September 80	"	0	0	0
23 September 80	"	1	14	14

The area was not visited on the intervening dates or after 23 September 1980. We trapped 5 individuals for ringing on 28 August. Data are needed from the spring passage.

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