

NORTH AMERICAN SECTION № 10



Editors

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The North American Section of the Wader Study Group is organizing a Steering Committee. Our objective is to improve cooperation, planning and collaboration among shorebird conservation and research efforts within the Western hemisphere, particularly those with international dimensions. The need for such coordination is clear: too many pivotal issues in shorebird biology and conservation are beyond the reach of independent, individual investigators; too many aspects of wader conservation have international scope and repercussions; too few resources and too little time make coordination imperative.

The Steering Committee will take an active role in:

- (i) identifying and publicizing wader conservation issues, especially with respect to new threats to critical sites or threatened populations;
- (ii) focusing attention on areas and issues in wader research requiring further study;
- (iii) sponsoring research programs that require international, multi-site coordination;
- (iv) encouraging independent researchers in the course of their work to collect additional data contributing to coordinated research programs.

The Steering Committee has selected an inaugural research program targeted for fieldwork beginning in Spring 1983. The goal is to determine northward migration routes of key species wintering along different coasts of South America, using banding, color-marking, morphometrics, and electrophoretic techniques to distinguish populations from different nesting areas. We anticipate banding sites in Argentina, Brazil, Surinam or Venezuela, Peru, and Ecuador. Matched with these will be a network of collaborating observers in staging areas within the US and Canada.

Additional details on the program will appear in the next Wader Study Group Bulletin. Anyone interested in participating is urged to contact a member of the committee, listed below. Marshall Howe will coordinate the US observer network.

Steering Committee membership:

Dr. Allen J. Baker, Royal Ontario Museum
Dr. Marshall Howe, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Dr. E. H. Miller, B. C. Provincial Museum
Dr. R. I. G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service
Dr. J. P. Myers, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (chair)
Dr. F. A. Pitelka, Museum of Vertebrate Biology, U. C. Berkeley
Dr. Robert E. Ricklefs, University of Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT OF PAPER GIVEN AT MEETING

ABSTRACT OF PAPER ON SHOREBIRDS PRESENTED AT THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS' ANNUAL MEETING AT THE SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 27-30 DECEMBER 1981.

Predation by surface feeding shorebirds on intertidal mudflats: an experimental test

by M.L. Quammen, Marine Science Institute, Eco. and Evol. Biological Dept., University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106.

Shorebirds are abundant on intertidal mudflats from September to April in southern California. A guild which I call the surface feeding shorebirds feed on small polychaete worms which occur in the top 2 cm of substrate. The birds included in this guild are dowitchers *Limnodromus griseus* and *L. scolopaceus*, Western Sandpipers *Calidris mauri*, Dunlin *C. alpina* and Avocets *Recurvirostra americana*. This is a report of an experiment, using enclosures, of the effects of predation by this group of birds. The experiments were conducted at two study sites in southern California, Upper Newport Bay and Mugu Lagoon. The 3 experimental plots ranged from 8% sand to 80% sand. The experimental design included an enclosure with floating sides, to separate the effects of birds and fish, a control enclosure to test the effects of the enclosure and an open area. Birds had an effect only in the muddiest area.