

## NORTH AMERICAN SECTION No. 12



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## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS LIVING IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

A new system of subscription payment is now introduced with immediate effect. After extended discussions between the North American Steering Committee and WSG officers, it has been decided (with our Banker's agreement) that North American members send their subscription in dollars directly to the UK. WSG will open suitable dollar accounts (for both US and Canadian dollars) so that money can be transferred easily and cheaply to fs sterling as required. This method will save transfer fees and ensure that central listing of members is more easily kept up to date. We expect the system to increase efficiency ... it is also simple!

Subscriptions are now due (at new rates - see page 1 of this Bulletin), and should be sent with the enclosed form to the Group's Secretaries, N. & J. Clark, as soon as possible. In future, any changes of address should be sent to the Secretaries. Up-dated lists of North American members will be sent at regular intervals to the North American Steering Committee. Further information can be obtained from Ted Miller or Pete Myers - addresses inside front cover.

## NOTICE

### Colonial Waterbirds

The Executive Council of The Colonial Waterbird Group has established a policy that will allow unsolicited manuscripts to be considered for publication in the new journal, Colonial Waterbirds. Formerly, only papers presented at the annual meeting were eligible. Preference will be given to those authors able to pay page charges but these will not be mandatory. This policy change takes effect immediately, with the next volume (no.6) expected to be published in the summer or early fall 1983. For details concerning manuscript preparation, consult volume 5 of Colonial Waterbirds or the Editor, Dr. Herbert Kale II, Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751, USA.

## ABSTRACT OF SHOREBIRD PAPER AT THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION, CHICAGO, OCTOBER 1982

### Migration of Knots *Calidris canutus rufa*

by Brian A. Harrington, Linda E. Leddy and R.I.G. Morrison, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345 (BAH & LEL) and Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario (RIGM).

Data from the International Shorebird Surveys, literature, banding and color-marking, and feeding studies at key migration stopover areas are used to show the strategies which Red Knots use in migrating between wintering grounds in Tierra del Fuego and western Florida, and breeding areas in arctic Canada. Knots typically migrate in a series of long, non-stop flights, a strategy which strongly depends upon their being able to use key staging areas for refueling along the way. Staging areas are used traditionally, and where studied, cropping of food resources at stopovers is extensive. Knots are unusually vulnerable to loss of habitat at key migration stopover areas.

## ARE WADER FLOCKS RANDOM GROUPINGS? - A KNOTTY PROBLEM

by Brian A. Harrington and Linda E. Leddy

In a recent WSG Bulletin article, Furness and Galbraith (1980, WSG Bull. 29: 22-23) described a non-random distribution of color-marked waders and speculated on the possible causes of their observations. We found an analogous situation during three brief surveys of Red Knots *Calidris canutus* on the Florida west coast in 1981 and 1982, and speculate on the significance of our observations with respect to population estimates based upon sightings of color-marked waders, and with respect to non-random association of Knots within and between flocks.

We captured and color-marked 238 Red Knots (all adults) from a flock of 450 resting at Sands Point, Longboat Key near Sarasota, Florida on 6 January 1981 by using a rocket net (60 x 40 feet, 1 inch square, knotless nylon net) propelled by four rockets. All birds were processed at the capture site immediately following capture, marked with a saturated solution of picric acid and 95% ETOH, and were released within six hours of the capture time. The birds were marked also with colored leg-flags. Subsequently we censused flocks of Knots in the Sarasota region from 7-9 January 1981, 9-16 October 1981, and 18-21 January 1982, concentrating our work in places where we knew knots were gathering to rest at high tides or to feed along beach fronts on falling tides.