

6TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ECOLOGY OF SHOREBIRDS, CARDIFF, U.K., 12 - 16 SEPTEMBER 1983

This is the sixth in the series of workshops held under the auspices of the Wader Study Group and the International Waterfowl Research Bureau Feeding Ecology Research Group. Previous meetings have been held at Durham (1972, 1977), Liverpool (1975, 1979) and Texel (1981). As indicated in the preliminary notice in Bulletin 35, the main emphasis of this workshop will be on studies conducted during the breeding season, and the following speakers from outside the U.K. have provisionally agreed to attend:

- A. Beintema (Research Institute for Nature Management, Holland).
- I. Byrkjedal (University of Bergen, Norway). "Coexistence of Golden Plover and Dotterel on the Breeding grounds: competition or symbiosis?"
- P.W. Hicklin (Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville, New Brunswick).
- P.A.R. Hockey (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute, South Africa).
- E.H. Miller (British Columbia Provincial Museum, Canada). "Ecology and evolution of acoustic communication in breeding shorebirds".
- J.P. Myers (Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, U.S.A.).
- U.N. Safriel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) & M.P. Harris. "Breeding efforts and survivorship of breeding Oystercatchers on Skokholm".
- G.O. Toft (University of Bergen, Norway). "Food-stealing in territorial and non-territorial Oystercatchers during the breeding season".

British studies on breeding waders should also be well represented, including Bill Hale's long-term study of Redshanks, the Nature Conservancy Council's (NCC) census of upland breeding waders (T.M. Reed), the breeding habitat of Greenshanks (D. Thompson), and hopefully something on the WSG/NCC survey of the threatened Hebridean machair.

The Workshop will not, however, be exclusively concerned with the breeding season. Other items will be:

- 1) Population dynamics (including mortality and natality rates, long-term census data).
- 2) Dispersion and behaviour in winter (including food availability, foraging strategies, flocking and roosting behaviour).
- 3) Impact of habitat loss on populations.
- 4) Migration (including fat reserves and body condition).

It is hoped to publish at least part of the proceedings, but this should not discourage anyone from presenting preliminary findings as yet unsuitable for publication. Offers of papers are now invited, and a form for this purpose is enclosed. Talks will be of approximately 30 minutes duration.

A booking form for the workshop is also enclosed with this Bulletin. Registration will take place on the evening of Monday 12th September 1983 and the Workshop will end after lunch on Friday 16th September. Dinner on Monday 12th will be available from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and delegates will have exclusive use of a licenced bar during the evenings.

The talks will be given all day Tuesday and Thursday, and on Wednesday and Friday mornings. There will be an opportunity to visit the Exe estuary on Monday 12th September, and there will be a choice of field trips on the afternoon of Wednesday 14th - one will be to the Wildfowl Trust headquarters at Slimbridge on the River Severn, and the other to the Severn Estuary to look at shorebird sites and the line of the proposed Severn Barrage. The cost of these trips will depend on the numbers wishing to go, so please express your preferences on the booking form.

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BTO/RSPB/WSG SURVEY OF BREEDING WADERS OF WET MEADOWS

1982 was the main field season for the survey of Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows, and so far data for over 1300 sites in England and Wales have been received. The total area surveyed in 1982 was about 1270 km² - a remarkable achievement, and far more than we dared hope. Although not all breeding wader habitats were included in the survey, for instance saltmarshes and the upland fringes were specifically excluded, wader numbers were extremely low. Only 2096 drumming Snipe and 2414 pairs of Redshanks were found. Of the Snipe, 36% were on the Ouse and Nene washes in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk!

Fieldwork will be continuing in 1983 with two objectives:

- 1) to fill gaps in the coverage. A few areas were not surveyed at all in 1982, one such county being Durham. I hope these can be covered this year.
- 2) to carry out repeat counts of a few sites to gauge the effects of last year's dry spring.

If anyone is able to help with fieldwork this year please contact Ken Smith very soon at the BTO, Beech Grove, Tring.