

7TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ECOLOGY OF SHOREBIRDS

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

Held under the auspices of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau and the Wader Study Group

A first notice is given of the above meeting, which will be held on 12-16 May 1986 at Hollviksnas, near the Falsterbo peninsula in SW Scania, South Sweden.

At the last workshop held in Cardiff in September 1983, it was agreed upon that a time lapse of 2-3 years was desirable before the next meeting. Many participants also expressed a wish to see the next workshop arranged in Sweden and during the breeding season.

Preliminary arrangements have now been made and we would like to encourage everyone working with shorebirds to attend the meeting. The workshop will primarily focus on waders, but contributions on other groups of shore birds are also welcome. At this early stage of preparation, decisions have not yet been taken on what special themes should be included in the workshop, but certainly studies conducted during breeding seasons will be given much attention. We hope to invite a few contributions of special interest and contacts have already been made with wader workers in eastern Europe.

During the workshop a whole day excursion to some interesting wetlands in Scania will be arranged. We will visit breeding localities for interesting species like Ruff, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Avocet, Kentish Plover, Golden Plover, Jack Snipe, Wood Sandpiper and Green Sandpiper. For participants staying until the Saturday or Sunday, extra excursions can be arranged and for "morning alerts" nice birding areas lie in the close vicinity of the conference centre in Hollviksnas. Full accommodation in Hollviksnas should cost between £75 and £125 (at today's exchange rates).

A final announcement with a more detailed program should appear in the August 1985 issue of the *WSG Bulletin*, but we would be pleased to receive preliminary bookings now from anybody who wishes to attend the workshop.

For further information and preliminary booking, please write to one of:

S.A. Bengtson, Museum of Zoology, Helgonav. 3, S-223 62 Lund, Sweden.
P. Andell, Dept. of Animal Ecology, Ecology Building, S-223 62 Lund, Sweden.
P.E. Jonsson, Dept. of Animal Ecology, Ecology Building, S-223 62 Lund, Sweden.

WSG PROJECT ON THE EFFECTS OF SEVERE WEATHER ON WADERS: FOURTH PROGRESS REPORT

by Nick Davidson & Nigel Clark

This is a brief report summarising the work of the project during the 1984/85 winter. A more detailed analysis and report will appear in the August 1985 *Bulletin*. Would participants please return any outstanding forms and information so that we can make the fifth progress report as complete as possible. We would like to hear also from anyone else who can contribute any additional comments or information about the impact of the 1984/85 winter on waders.

The 1984/85 winter in Britain was more severe than either of the previous two winters during which the project has been running. There were two periods of severe weather. The first began in early January, and lasted for about 3 weeks. A statutory wildfowling ban was introduced in England and Wales, and shortly afterwards also in Scotland. Weather conditions were most severe in south-eastern England, where there were heavy snowfalls, although winds were generally light. After a mild period of about 2 weeks, a second severe spell began on 8 February and lasted for over 2 weeks. Again the weather was most severe in south-eastern Britain. This time, in addition to very low

temperatures and heavy snowfall, there were very strong easterly winds for several days, so that windchills were very high. Temperatures over much of continental Europe were even lower than in Britain. Freezing weather extended south to the Mediterranean, and there was heavy mortality of Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* and herons and egrets in the Camargue (S. Gregory pers. comm.).

The information collected during the two previous mild winters will allow us to directly compare the numbers and identities of wader corpses at specific sites round Britain, and so understand more precisely the impact of the severe weather. It has been for just such an occasion as the recent severe spell that we have needed to collect this information during mild winters. For those sites which were covered first during the 1984/85 winter, we will need to collect, wherever possible, such comparative information in future mild winters.

Figure 1 summarises a first assessment of the impact of the severe weather on waders. Higher