



Figure 3. Habitat chosen by the different species during the winter (September-March): A Paddyfields; L Lagoons; S Salt-pans; C Marine salt-marshes; B Bays; G Albufera (brackish lagoon regularly flooded by the sea and the river); P Beaches.

## HABITAT SELECTION

In the Delta waders feed in places where the soil is very wet or in shallow waters. They prefer paddyfields which are waterlogged, with perhaps a few small puddles, and tidal mudflats (Figure 3). They are found in places where the water is up to 12 cm deep, though most prefer areas where the water level is below 8 cm. The most common species, Dunlin, is normally found feeding where the level is less than 2.5 cm (see Figure 2). As can be seen in the Figure 2, plovers (Charadriidae) tend to feed in shallower waters than those of sandpipers (Scolopacidae), irrespective to their size.

The roosting sites are in the least disturbed zones. Roosting areas are quite large and are usually close to good feeding nearby. The birds collect in scattered groups at sites which may vary from time to time. In the Ebro Delta, coastal waders normally roost in the bays, although very occasionally they move to the paddyfields and lagoons.

## REFERENCES

- Martinez-Vilalta, A. 1984. La invernada de limícolas en el Delta del Ebro. Tesina de Licenciatura, Barcelona University.  
 Motis, A., Martinez, A., Matheu, E. and Llimona, F. 1981. Results of the census of Ebro Delta wader population, March 1979 - February 1980. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 32: 40-43.

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## OTHER NOTICES

### ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB

A new organisation, the Oriental Bird Club, has been formed recently. The club covers the entire Oriental region from Pakistan east to China and south to Indonesia. The chief aims of the club are to encourage an interest in Oriental birds and their conservation; to act as a forum for birdwatchers interested in Oriental birds; and to operate an information exchange system, with assistance in ornithological surveys.

The club will publish two bulletins, and a journal, *The Forktail*, annually. The journal will publish material on all aspects of Oriental birds.

Ordinary membership is £6 p.a. Membership application forms can be obtained from *The Membership Secretary, Oriental Bird Club, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, U.K.*

### FUNCTIONAL MORPHOLOGY OF VERTEBRATES

The Morphology Department of Leiden University is holding a summer course on the Functional Morphology of Vertebrates, from 26 - 30 August 1985. The course will consider the selection and use of the procedures and interpretation of results in the field of functional morphology, as exemplified by practical research on the craniofacial region in a range of vertebrates.

The enrollment fee is Dfl. 50, and some hotel bed and breakfast accommodation is available at a cost of Dfl. 35 - 80 a day. Further details and registration forms can be obtained from *Prof. P. Dulleweijer, Zoologisch Laboratorium, Kaiserstraat 63, 2311 GP Leiden, The Netherlands.*