

REVIEWS

Karpowicz, Z. (compiler on behalf of ICBP Asian Continental Section) 1985. *Wetlands in East Asia - a Preliminary Review and Inventory*. Study Report No. 6, ICBP, Cambridge, 170 pp. (Available for £4 incl. p. & p. from ICBP, 219c Huntingdon Rd., Cambridge CB3 0DL, U.K.).

This report aims to identify, to list and to summarize available information about wetlands in East Asia, *i.e.* the geographical triangle formed by Pakistan, Japan and Indonesia. The introduction emphasizes the fact that the report is preliminary; that it is aimed to elicit responses in the form of corrections, comments and additional information. For each country, the wetland situation and wetland area legislation and management are summarized, and a list of national organizations involved in wetland administration, research and management is given (including addresses). The site lists give details about location, area, protection, biological and physical characteristics, threats, management and the record of scientific research of the various wetlands. This kind of summary report provides tough reading, but the wetland lists 'wet' the appetite for ornithological travel! Many more maps to show the locations of the listed sites would have been helpful. It struck me that over three-quarters of the cited sources are in the form of unpublished reports or personal communications. The report does a good job in assembling this scattered information. However, the overall scarcity of readily available information points to the prime importance of further investigation and to the investigators' need to publish properly the information collected (*i.e.* to make it available!). This report is an important first step to a Directory of East Asian Wetlands.

Theunis Piersma

Ens, B. (Editor). *Entre le Sahara et la Sibirie. Rapport preliminaire des recherches sur le Banc d'Arguin en Mauritanie, realisees par des scientifiques neerlandais et mauritaniens en mars et avril 1985 sur la migration printaniere des limicoles.*

[*Between the Sahara and Siberia. Preliminary report on research on the Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania, carried out by Dutch and Mauritanian scientists in March and April 1985, on the spring migration of waders.*]

Published in French, no English summary. Pp. 32, numerous photographs, 13 Figures, 4 Tables.

Available from: la Foundation WIWO, Ing. van Stuyvenbergweg 2-4, 6644 AB Ewijk, Netherlands.

Price: 5 Dfl. (post free, payment with order).

This is the preliminary report of the expedition to Mauritania which played a vital role in the 1985 WSG International Spring Passage Project. The team visited the Banc d'Arguin in March and April 1985, and this report summarises their aims, methods and achievements. It is a 'glossy' production containing many photographs of the team at work and is clearly intended as an interim report to those who are sponsoring the on-going studies in this remarkable wader wintering area.

The photographs tell their own story of the difficulties of fieldwork on the Banc d'Arguin. A main aim of the expedition was to catch and mark large samples of waders for WSG members to observe on northward migration. Despite the tantalising flocks, the team encountered strong winds throughout their stay, making both cannon- and mist-netting very difficult. Many of the best catches were made by clap-netting over "bait" - the fish-drying racks of the local Imraguen! A total of 1400 waders (and presumably many dried fish and Imraguen) were caught, resulting in seventeen sightings in Europe and Iceland. Detailed counts and Observations of departures of waders will provide further answers to the spring passage phenomenon, when the final analyses are run.

Although a Dutch initiative, this was truly an international expedition, and it is good to see so many Mauritians in the photographs taking an interest in the studies. At the time of writing this piece (March 1986), a further expedition is already in Mauritania. I look forward to the final results of these invaluable efforts.

Mike Moser

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON WADERS 38

compiled by Theunis Piersma

These lists should be as complete and up to date as possible, and therefore all help is most welcome. Send omissions, notice of mistakes, new titles, abstracts or reprints to Theunis Piersma, Korte Nieuwstraat 4, 9724 LC Groningen, The Netherlands. During the compilation of list 38 help was received gratefully from Ian Bainbridge, Rob G. Bijlsma, Nick Davidson, Stewart Holohan and Cor Smit. Translated titles of papers in languages other than English are bracketed: round brackets if the translation is by the author(s); square brackets if not.

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