



RECENT ADVANCES IN UNDERSTANDING KNOT MIGRATIONS - FIRST WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement of a one-day workshop to be held as part of the joint 8th International Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Workshop and Wader Study Group Annual Meeting, Denmark, 18-24 September 1989.

The migration systems of Knots *Calidris canutus*, particularly the two subspecies *canutus* and *islandica* that occur in western Europe, received much attention during the 1970s. Knots were confirmed as very long-distance migrants with relatively simple migration systems, in which large numbers of birds occur at only a few wintering and staging areas. In part because of their well-documented migration systems, Knots in the 1980s have again been the subject of a great deal of research throughout the world. Many of the recent discoveries have been made by multi-national co-operative studies, and through the overall co-ordination of the Wader Study Group. Inevitably the recent studies are showing that Knot migrations are not quite so simple as was previously believed, and several startling discoveries such as major new migration staging areas have been made. Work is currently continuing worldwide, with research in the Australasia, East Asia, and The New World, as well as the many studies along the East Atlantic Flyway.

The Knot is rapidly becoming one of the world's best researched and understood migrant birds. With such a massive increase in our knowledge of Knots and their migrations it is time to bring together all Knot-workers to review and compare recent advances and current knowledge, to exchange experiences and to identify the gaps remaining in our understanding of Knot biology.

The agreement to organise jointly the next International Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Workshop and the Wader Study Group Annual Meeting will provide a major focus of attention in autumn 1989 that will bring together many wader workers, including many of the key Knot researchers, from around the world. This gives a perfect opportunity and place in which to hold the Knot workshop. We have agreed with the organisers that one day of this joint meeting will be the Knot workshop. The provisional date for the workshop is Friday 22 September 1989. This will be after the International Waterfowl workshop (18 to 21 September) and before the WSG meeting (23 to 24 September).

We plan that the workshop will be structured to have short (15 minute) reviews of the current state of knowledge (or lack of it) about the various aspects of Knot migrations, supported by case studies of research around the world, and with ample discussion time. The aim is to compare and contrast the ways in which Knots achieve migrations along the different flyways between their breeding and wintering grounds. We hope to draw out common threads, and reasons for the differences, in the various migration systems, and to develop directions for future co-ordinated research on Knot migration.

Our aim is to publish the reviews and a digest of the discussions of the workshop in a future *Wader Study Group Bulletin*.

We intend that the workshop should be open to all those with an interest in Knots and wader migration. This preliminary announcement has been circulated already to as many of the Knot workers as possible. If you had not previously received it and would like to participate, or would like more details, please contact us. If you have received the circular, but have not yet replied, please do let us know as soon as possible if you can join in.

We are preparing a more detailed outline programme and will circulate this shortly to all those who have expressed an interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Nick Davidson, Nature Conservancy Council,
Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK.
Brian Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory,
Manomet, Massachusetts 02345, USA.
Theunis Piersma, Gasthuisstraat 32, 1791 GL Den
Burg, Texel, The Netherlands.*

