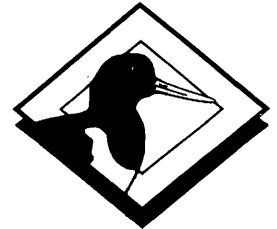

WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 60 December 1990

EDITORIAL

Bulletin 59 explained the various editorial and production changes that have recently occurred. These are now being put progressively into operation. Thus whilst *Bulletin 59* was much delayed, this *Bulletin* (which is being produced quickly in its wake) is delayed to a lesser extent. We hope that as from *Bulletin 61*, due in April, the publication will return to its original schedule:

appearing three times a year (in April, August and December). A consequence of the new fixed production schedule is that there may be occasions when regular 'features' or Sections are delayed and thus do not appear or are held over to a future issue. In such circumstances we consider it desirable to keep to our timetabled production.

David Stroud, Editor-in-Chief

able habitat along most of the continental west coast, from southern Scandinavia and southern England to southern Iberia. It was even more common along the Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts, and there were large inland breeding populations in parts of Spain and in the steppe-like areas in SE Europe (Glutz *et al.* 1975; Cramp & Simmons 1983). However, since the beginning of this century, and especially since the Second World War, there has been a continuous and accelerating decline of the Kentish Plover populations in Europe. This is well illustrated by the disappearance of the species from many areas in NW Europe (see e.g. Dybbro 1970; Haftorn 1971; Vaughan 1980; Bauer & Thielcke 1982; Jönsson 1983; Bekhuis *et al.* 1987) and by dwindling numbers in parts of Central and S Europe (Martinez-Vilalta 1985; Dubois & Maho 1986; Spitzenberger 1988).

Today, the Kentish Plover seems to be one of the most rapidly disappearing waders in Europe and there is therefore an increasing concern about its future as a breeding species in many countries.

This situation has led to an urgent need for more detailed knowledge on the status of the Kentish Plover in all parts of Europe and in adjacent areas

THE WSG KENTISH PLOVER PROJECT

*by Paul E. Jönsson, Peter L. Meininger,
Rainer Schulz and Tamas Székely.*

BACKGROUND

The Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* is one of the most widespread waders in the world. It is represented by 5-7 different subspecies in five continents, with the nominate form *alexandrinus* occurring in the temperate and warm temperate zones of Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia eastwards to Inner Mongolia (Glutz *et al.* 1975; Johnsgard 1981; Cramp & Simmons 1983; Hayman *et al.* 1986).

The breeding habitat generally consists of sandy or sparsely vegetated beaches, either at the sea coast or along brackish or saline inland wetlands, while in winter most birds occur mainly in rich coastal areas (e.g. estuaries, river deltas, tidal flats, Cramp & Simmons 1983).

In Europe, the Kentish Plover was formerly commonly distributed in suit-

