



The Wader Study Group (WSG) is an international voluntary association of amateur and professional researchers on all aspects of the biology of waders (or shorebirds). The Group has rapid access to experienced people throughout the international field of wader research. The Group was founded in Britain but it now has a worldwide membership.



The U.K. Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) was established by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 'for the purposes of nature conservation, and fostering the understanding thereof' in Great Britain as a whole and outside Great Britain. It is a committee of the three country councils (English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales), together with independent members and representatives from Northern Ireland and the Countryside Commission, and is supported by specialist staff. JNCC and the three country councils carry forward duties previously undertaken by the Nature Conservancy Council. JNCC also has the U.K. responsibility for European and international matters affecting nature conservation.



The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) under the Danish Ministry of the Environment gives the scientific basis for political decisions affecting the environment and the management of natural resources. NERI is divided in seven research divisions: emissions and air pollution, environmental chemistry, marine ecology and microbiology, freshwater ecology, terrestrial ecology, wildlife ecology, and policy analysis.



The Directie Natuur, Bos, Landschap en Fauna (NBLF) of the Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij of The Netherlands is responsible for the conservation of nature and landscape, wild plant and animal species, and the management of wildlife in The Netherlands.



The World Wide Fund for Nature - Germany is the German chapter of WWF-International, a non-governmental organization working globally for the protection of nature and wildlife.



The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is the national governmental agency devoted to the research, monitoring and management of Canada's wildlife resources.



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Knots are amongst the world's most spectacular long-distance migrants. In winter they gather in vast flocks in just a few estuaries and muddy coasts, and then in spring fly thousands of kilometers in just a few jumps to breed on the most northerly arctic tundras. Their elusiveness has fascinated ornithologists for centuries and more recently they have been the subject of much research into their ecology and behaviour in many parts of the world. Much of wider importance for ecology and conservation comes from this research and Knots now rank amongst the best-understood migrant birds. Even so there have recently been many new discoveries about Knots and their migrations, and many new gaps in knowledge have emerged.

The 28 papers in this volume bring together much of this new research to provide a comprehensive assessment of our understanding of the distribution and migrations of Knots. Contributions include reviews of the migration systems of each subspecies, descriptions of the origins, genetics and distribution of these subspecies, and reports of recent research findings. The volume finishes with the first worldwide comparison of the migration strategies of Knot populations, and an assessment of the ways in which this information contributes to national and international efforts to conserve migratory waterfowl such as Knots.

The volume will be of interest not just to all those who share a fascination about Knots, but also to everyone involved in the study of migrants and the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

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