

NOTES & NEWS & NEWS NOTES NOTES & NEWS & NEWS NOTES

compiled by Nick Davidson

Wader proceedings still available

In 1979 the African Seabird Group held a symposium on Birds of the Sea and Shore. The proceedings of this symposium were published in 1981 (J. Cooper (ed.) *Proceedings of the Symposium on Birds of the Sea and Shore, 1979*. African Seabird Group, Cape Town. 474 pp. ISBN 0 620 06354 8).

The proceedings contain 27 papers, of which about one-half are about waders. Amongst these Peter Ferns presents census data for the Severn Estuary, Tony Prater discusses moult and migration patterns and Manfred Waltner documents moult in the Terek Sandpiper.

To clear stocks the African Seabird Group is offering the Proceedings volume as a specially reduced price to WSG members. The special price is £10 or US \$20, inclusive of packaging and surface mailing.

Cheques should be made payable to the African Seabird Group and sent Box 34113, Rhodes Gift 7707, South Africa. Either personal cheques or cash well sealed in an envelope are acceptable.

Time for a Greater Thames

The 'Greater Thames Estuary', formed from the complex of estuaries in Essex and Kent in south-east England, is one of Britain and Europe's most important wintering areas for waders. Overall the Greater Thames area regularly supports almost 300,000 waders and

wildfowl, making it of massive international importance. The area supports particularly significant populations of Dark-bellied Brent Geese, Redshank and Grey Plovers. There are also important assemblages of breeding waders especially Redshanks on the remnants of the coastal grazing marshes adjoining the estuaries.

The area is within easy reach of very large number of people including the population of London, and natural habitats of the Greater Thames and their wildlife are under great pressure from increasing human use. These include a variety of industrial, port and leisure-related developments, increasing demand for water-based recreation, and waste disposal. In addition, rising sea-level seems to be leading to rapid erosion of saltmarshes throughout the area – a recent study has shown a 20% loss of saltmarsh in just the last 15 years.

In the face of these pressures the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has launched a *Time for a Greater Thames* campaign, summarised in a 17-page report with the same title. This calls for the development of integrated management covering the whole area so as to ensure future safeguard of the areas' wildlife.

This forms part of the RSPB's Estuaries Campaign, which was launched with their *Turning the tide* report in 1990.

For further information contact RSPB Conservation Planning Department at RSPB Headquarters, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds., UK; or RSPB South-East England Office, 8 Church Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 5DG.

A welcome to "Wetlands for the Americas"

Wetlands for the Americas (WA), an expansion of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)

has recently been established. WA is prepared to take on a broader challenge of wetlands conservation across the hemisphere as will implement conservation activities that advance the health of wetland ecosystems and the many species that depend upon them. WA's expanded mission statement is now: "to promote the conservation of wetland ecosystems in the Americas".

The operating philosophy behind WA's new mission remains unchanged. WA will continue to implement programmes that enhance local capacity and conservation while maintaining international linkages. Goals will be carried out on projects that have substantial multiplicative effects – policies, laws, regulations, conservation strategies, action plans, education and on-site programmes.

In North America, Wetlands for the Americas will continue to concentrate on wetland management issues by promoting integrated wetlands management to benefit biodiversity. In Latin America, emphasis will be on policy and habitat conservation. Finally, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network will continue to function as a programme that illustrates the need for international co-operation to conserve migratory species.

In line with the new name and structure, *WHSRN News* has now changed its name to *The Newsletter of Wetlands for the Americas*. The newsletter is bilingual (in English and Spanish) and the September 1992 issue (Vol. 5 No. 2) has just reached us. Its eight pages contain information about the new structure of WA, with a message from the Executive Director, Gonzalo Castro, and information on the WA Council and future WHSRN plans. Also in the newsletter is information about the dedication of the Great Salt Lake in Utah as a WHSRN Hemispheric Reserve. The Great Salt Lake is critical as a staging site for the survival of almost 500,000 Wilson's Phalaropes that breed on the North American prairies and winter on Argentine Lakes. The Great Salt Lake



is the 18th shorebird reserve that WHSRN has pledged to support as part of its network.

For further information on Wetlands for the Americas in USA, Canada, Mexico and Peru contact: Wetlands for the Americas, PO Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345, USA (tel. (508) 224-6521).

For further information on Wetlands for the Americas in the Neotropics contact: Humedales para las Américas, Monroe 2142, 1428 Capital Federal, Argentina (tel. (54-1) 781-9171).

Shorebird Management Manual

Wetlands for the Americas (formerly the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network) have recently published a 58-page *Shorebird Management Manual*, written by Douglas Helmers. This is designed to provide wildlife managers with concise advice on how to manage habitats to benefit shorebirds. There is rather little published information on shorebird management and much of the advice outlined in the manual has not previously been published. WHSRN explain that the manual should be viewed as a working document which will be amended and improved as more expertise develops – and encourage readers to send suggestions. The manual provides generalised advice covering a substantial part of North America, divided into four regions – Pacific, Interior, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, although arctic and northern boreal regions are not covered. Many of the recommendations are, however, relevant to the management of waders in many other parts of the world.

We plan to include a fuller review of the manual in a subsequent *Bulletin*. In the mean time, copies of the manual cost US \$10 including postage and packing, and can be obtained from: **Wetlands for the Americas, WHSRN, PO Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345, USA (tel. 508-224-6521; fax 508-224-9220).**

Colour-marked Black-winged Stilts

Rui Rufino of CEMPA in Portugal tells us during 1991 and 1992 they have ringed over 260 Black-winged Stilts *Himantopus himantopus* in Portugal. They believe that these birds may move to north-west and central Africa during winter. These birds have been colour-ringed: in 1991 with a small plain black ring on the left leg, and in 1992 with a large black ring with engraved white letters on the left leg. The metal ring is on the right leg.

Would anyone travelling during the winter in north-west or central Africa keep a particular look-out for these marked Black-winged Stilts. Anyone reporting a sighting will be rapidly informed about where or when the bird was ringed.

Rui Rufino, CEMPA, R. Filipe Folque 46, 50 1000 Lisboa, Portugal.

Colonial Waterbirds symposium

The Tour du Valat Research Station in the Camargue are organising a major symposium on Colonial Waterbirds from 6-10 October 1993. For further information contact: *Frank Cezilly, Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, 13200 Arles, France.*

IWRB News

The 20 pages of the latest issue of *IWRB News* are packed with news and information about waders, other waterfowl and wetlands. As well as the regular features such as news from research groups and the International Waterfowl Census there is a wealth of articles on waterfowl and wetland habitat conservation world-wide. Features include the programme and objectives for IWRB's 35th Board Meeting (*Waterfowl and wetland conservation in the 1990s – a global perspective*) which takes place in Florida in November 1992; integrated management of wet-

land in Central and Eastern Europe; Fishpond habitats in Czechoslovakia; Canada's new federal policy on wetland conservation; tidal power potential in Europe; the St. Lucia wetland system in South Africa; the Zambesi Delta – an opportunity for sustainable utilisation of wildlife; Danish nature conservation; the need for international co-operation on Greenland White-fronted Goose; and an intriguing article entitled "the Nile Delta moves upstream".

This last article reports on the increasing importance to waterfowl of Lake Nasser-Nubia, formed when the Aswan High Dam was built. Much of the huge suspended silt load of the River Nile is now deposited in the southern part of the lake, rather than where the Nile flows into the Mediterranean. Whilst almost all other Egyptian wetlands and their wildlife are under severe threat, the lake seems to be rapidly developing a succession of wetland habitats and attracting increasing numbers of waterfowl.

At its annual meeting in Hungary in September 1992, WSG agreed to formalise its links with IWRB. An article outlining the way in which this will help to increase the exchange of information between the two organisations will soon appear in the Bulletin.

Mediterranean wetland news

IWRB's 1991 Grado symposium was a substantial landmark in the efforts to conserve the diminishing wetland resource in the Mediterranean. The Grado Goal for Mediterranean Wetlands (Stopping and Reversing the Loss and Degradation of Mediterranean Wetlands) is included in a two-page *Grado Declaration*. The Declaration is available in French, Spanish, Italian, Albanian, Slovene, Croatian, Greek, Rumanian, Russian, Turkish, English and Dutch.

The Grado Strategy to *Stop and Reverse Wetland Loss and Degradation in the Mediterranean Basin* has



now been edited after receiving comments from many participants at the symposium. The strategy is structured to provide guidance for evaluating future priorities and to encourage awareness of wetland functions and values. Italian, French, German and English versions will soon be published in a colour format. Contact IWRB if you would like to receive a copy and also send the names and addresses of agencies who would benefit from receiving a copy. IWRB would also like the strategy translated into other languages – can you help?

Mediterranean Wetland News is a news-sheet collated by IWRB as a follow-up to the Grado Symposium and as a contribution to the continuing effort to promote conservation of wetlands in the Mediterranean. For further information contact Crawford Prentice, IWRB, Slimbridge, Glos. GL2 7BX, UK.

Migratory Birds Scientific Meeting

The Zoological Society of London has an extensive programme of evening Scientific Meetings, and also organises two-day symposia. A forthcoming scientific meeting of interest to WSG members is on 9 March 1993 on *Survival Strategies of Migrating Birds*, with speakers Peter Evans (Durham), Bill Sutherland (East Anglia) and Myrfyn Owen (WWT Slimbridge). The meeting starts at 1700 at London Zoo, Regent's Park, London, UK.



AWSG News

Recent news from the Australian Wader Studies Group includes an update on the AWSG leg-flagging programme and a profile of the Queensland Wader Study Group.

Flying Flags

The idea behind the AWSG wader leg-flagging programme was always to find out something about the migration routes and strategies used by different wader species or populations, rather than relying only on the fragments of individual life-histories shown up by retraps of birds with numbered rings. There are many more birdwatchers spread through the East Asian/West Pacific Flyway than there are study groups and researchers and it was this underused resource that Mark Barter (AWSG Chairman and a keen bird-watcher) hoped to utilise.

When the programme began two years ago in Victoria, Australia with the attachment of small orange leg-flags on migratory waders there were, however, some who doubted the value of the programme. The felt that such flags would be seldom noticed by bird-watchers, and any sighting would reveal little new about the birds.

At first there were a few local sightings of recently flagged birds that showed movements along the Victorian coast. This was soon followed by the first international report, of a Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* at Lake Ellesmere in the South Island of New Zealand. This gave an immediate boost to the leg-flag proponents since it not only confirmed a previously suspected migration link but also importantly demonstrated the value of leg-flagging as a study technique. Birds are seen in places where they are never likely to be trapped and flag sightings complement data from ringing recoveries.

There was initially some experimentation to establish the best way of making

and attaching flags, and the improved techniques have been recently described in detail by Mark Barter and Megan Rush in *The Stilt* 20: 23–26. So far flag retention has been close to 100% and retention period is being monitored through recaptures of banded birds. There are no signs that the flags harm the birds in any way.

Over 5,000 migratory waders of thirteen species of migratory waders on the East Asian/West Pacific Flyway have now been fitted with leg-flags. Most have been marked with orange flags in Victoria but increasing numbers are now being flagged in other areas. Each area used a different leg-flag colour: white for New Zealand; dark green for south-east Queensland; yellow for north-west Australia. Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia and the Philippines have also shown interest in participating in the programme in future.

There have now been many international recoveries of flagged birds. For example Red-necked Stints with orange flags have been seen in New Zealand, south-eastern Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong and China. Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* from Victoria have been seen in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Sightings of Red Knots *C. canutus* in New Zealand have established that many of these birds pass through Australia, at least on southwards migration.

An important feature of the flagging programme lies in the potential to distinguish visually between different populations of the same species without the necessity of retrapping. This underlies the reason for using different flag colours on birds caught in different regions and allows many questions to be addressed. Do, for example, Bar-tailed Godwits *Limosa lapponica* from Australia's north-west mix with those from New Zealand on a Korean estuary? Do large numbers of Red-necked Stints cross arid central Australia? Will Curlew Sandpipers from the East Asian/West Pacific Flyway appear on the coasts of India or southern



Africa? This last question is not an entirely fanciful one: birds seem to be drifting between flyways more than had been assumed.

The very success of the leg-flagging programme has thrown up a few problems, with increasing numbers of researchers and countries thinking of starting their own programmes. Already a Red Knot with a red band of unknown origin has appeared in New Zealand (*Editor's note: several Red Knots carrying a red colour-ring of unknown origin have recently been seen in Western Europe - see WSG Bulletin 63: 15 - could these birds all be from the same marking area!?*). Furthermore a Curlew Sandpiper with an orange leg-flag and a Russian ring has been caught in Peninsula Malaysia. This bird may have been banded and flagged in the Taymyr Peninsula in Siberia - if so it indicates an overlap of breeding populations of the two flyways.

Hence without a central authority to co-ordinate allocation of colour-codes to different regions there is increasing potential for confusion about the provenance of a sighted, colour-flagged bird with the consequent wastage of effort and harm to existing research. The responsibility for such co-ordination has been assumed by the Asian Wetland Bureau which is planning to establish a register of colour-marking schemes for the Asia-Australasia-Pacific region. To avoid confusion it is essential that any one planning a scheme in this region should submit it to **AWB (University of Malaya, Lembah Pantai 59100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Fax (603) 757 1225)**. In the light of possible overlap of breeding populations such planning may eventually need to be on a more global scale (as has already been tackled between the Pan-American Shorebird Programme (PASP) and WSG Colour-mark Register covering the Western Palearctic).

Meanwhile we ask everyone who watches waders or who surveys wetlands to look for flagged migratory

shorebirds, especially during the migration periods of April-May and July-September and during the breeding season. Sightings should be reported with species name, exact place (preferably with latitude and longitude), date, and the numbers and species of other waders present, to **Australian Bird Banding Scheme, GPO Box 8, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia. Tel: (61) (06) 250 0321; Fax: (61) (06) 250 0399.**

Queensland Wader Study Group - a profile

The Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) is a very young organisation. Although it held its inaugural meeting on 21 January 1992 its first formal general meeting will be on 24 September 1992. This also coincides with its establishment as a 'Special Interest Group' affiliated with the Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated (QOSI).

The origins of the QWSG lie in the interests of three people, Peter Driscoll, David Stewart and Jeremy Thompson. Their activities were focused on the feeding behaviour, movements and local distribution of migratory waders generally, and the population structure of Bar-tailed Godwits, especially in Moreton Bay. They also recruited local volunteers to make comprehensive low-tide counts. Mist-nets, and a small cannon-net were tried although it took six months before the first birds (mainly Godwits) were caught with the cannon-net.

In late 1991 Kees Hulsman of Griffith University renewed an interest in waders with a view to studying their role in nutrient cycling between Moreton Bay's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. An Earthwatch programme was also planned to monitor waders by counting and catching during the 1992 southwards migration.

All these events, coupled with a recommendation from the 1992 QOSI

Conference that a wader monitoring programme should be initiated, prompted the formal establishment of the QWSG.

Styled on AWSG methodology a regular wader count programme will occur at twelve Moreton Bay sites every fortnight during spring and autumn migration seasons and every six weeks during the rest of the year, concentrating three readily identified species - Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Great Knot. As resources permit counts will be extended to cover other areas such as Shoalwater Bay and the Mackay district.

There are two aims of the current banding programme. One is to monitor the status and movements of the Bay's Pied Oystercatcher population, through marking birds with site-specific colour-rings. The other is to catch as many Palearctic wader migrants for colour-flagging (see above). Already Bar-tailed Godwits from Moreton Bay have already been seen in New Zealand and Japan. A flagged Red Knot was caught in New Zealand by the Miranda Banders.

One of the many advantages of having separate wader study groups operating on different stretches of the Australian coast is to obtain a better coverage of different wader species. For example QWSG have already managed to catch good samples of Grey-tailed Tattlers and Whimbrels, species which cannot be regularly caught at sites further south.

Much of Moreton Bay is about to be declared a Marine Park. It will also become a Ramsar site, with boundaries based partly on QWSG recommendations. Moreover the Group has persuaded the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service (QNPWS) to declare one section of Moreton Island off-limits to vehicles after observing the effect of 4-wheel drive vehicle 'cowboys' on high tide roosts of migratory sandpipers and breeding oystercatcher populations. Not only were



flocks and breeding pairs harassed, but also flightless chicks were deliberately chased and flattened.

QWSG is a small but growing organisation with restricted resources and an enormous potential for expansion with increased financial and human support. Moreton Bay is a very important area for migratory waders with an estimated 50,000 birds present at any one time and with many more using it during migration. The Bay also has a higher wader diversity than many other places in Australia.

The group now has a full-sized cannon-net but the lack of a boat has hampered operations in Moreton Bay where most wader roosts are on islands. The QNPWS has, however, recently allocated funds for radio and equipment trailer purchase and barge transport costs, and a further donation has come from the Moreton Island Protection Committee. New members are welcome. **Contact: Peter Driscoll, Fahey Road, Mount Glorious, Queensland 4520, Australia (tel. (07) 289 0237).**

Hugo Phillipps (AWSG)

In The Stilt

The 76-page April 1992 issue of *The Stilt* (No. 20) is crammed with information and results of the huge burgeoning of wader activity in Australasia and East Asia. As well as news of the various wader research groups such as the QWSG profiled above there are interesting papers on several species including Sooty Oystercatcher, Pied Oystercatcher, Hooded Plover, Double-banded Plover and Red-kneed Dotterel. The issue also contains a complete listing of all international wader recoveries received by the Australian Bird Banding Scheme up to January 1992, including an impressive 58 Double-banded Plovers, 18 Bar-tailed Godwits, 14 Grey-tailed Tattlers, 42 Curlew Sandpipers, 38 Red-necked Stints, and 27 Red Knots. Impressively there are most recoveries (61) for the Great Knot.



The Asian Section includes news of the Asian Wetland Bureau and reports of ringing and counting in several Asian countries notable a report by Brett Lane of the first surveys in July and September 1991 of the of the Yellow River delta in north-east China. The surveys by Wang Tian Hou and a team from the East China Waterbird Ecology Study Group at the East China Normal University in Shanghai were only able to survey about 2% of the vast area of suitable wader habitat in the delta and estimated that at the time of their surveys at least 20,000 waders were using the delta. The team estimate that as many as one million waders could be using the delta during southwards migration, making the area of a global importance comparable to the Wadden Sea, Delaware and San Francisco Bays and north-west Australia and perhaps the west coast of the Black Sea. The most abundant species were Kentish Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Marsh Sandpiper and Terek Sandpiper. Of particular interest was the count of over 2,000 Eastern Curlews, one of the largest migratory concentrations in Asia. In addition the team found small numbers of Nordmann's Greenshanks and a flock of three Chinese Crested Terns *Thalasseus zimmermanni*, the first sightings for some time of this highly endangered species.

Of particular interest in *The Stilt* 20 are some methodological papers on prob-

lems in assessing breeding success of Palearctic waders from the percentage of juveniles in cannon-net samples, and making and using leg-flags on waders (see also above). There is also an intriguing analysis by Michael Bamford who uses ringing recoveries of Great Knots to assess the impact on this population of depredation by humans, chiefly catching birds for food. Bamford results suggest that over half the annual mortality of Great Knots may occur through hunting on migration staging areas.

AWSG's 1992 overseas membership fee is Aus \$20. For further information about WSG and AWSG's reciprocal membership payment arrangements contact Rodney West, WSG Membership Secretary.

Czechoslovakia Wader Study Group

Pavel Zdárek, leader of the Czechoslovakia Wader Study Group, has sent us a brief summary of the group's 35th report. This includes items on an evaluation of the achievements of the group, especially in relation to breeding and migration in waders, catching and ringing in 1991 and 1991 ringing recoveries, recent literature, an invitation for co-operation in wader trapping in southern Moravia and a membership list, as well as items covering international WSG activities including the International Wader Counts Project.



30 ornithologists replied to an invitation to present 1991 research results, and ideas for future work and running of the group include: opening membership to non-ringers; increased emphasis on breeding waders, including continuous monitoring of breeding sites; collection of biometric and moult data during ringing; to publish methodological information for moult, age and sex assessment; to organise workshops such as during the annual meeting of co-workers of the Ringing Centre (in Lednice na Morave); to provide more information about domestic and international recent literature; to establish co-operation with similar groups abroad; and to improve co-operation with the Ringing Centre in the National Museum, Prague.

We look forward to hearing more about the activities of the group in Czechoslovakia. For further information and offers of collaboration, contact: *Pavel Zdárek, Labská Kotlina 971, 500 02 Hradec Králové, Czechoslovakia.*

Help wanted:

Age of first breeding and first return to the breeding range

Raymond McNeil would appreciate references or unpublished information relating to the age of first breeding and the age of first return to the breeding range in Nearctic and Palearctic waders of any species. Appropriate credit will of course be given to anybody providing unpublished data to which reference might be made in a paper under preparation. Please send photocopies or reprints of published reports if available.

Raymond McNeil, Département de sciences biologiques, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Succ. "A", Montréal, Québec, Canada H3C 3J7.

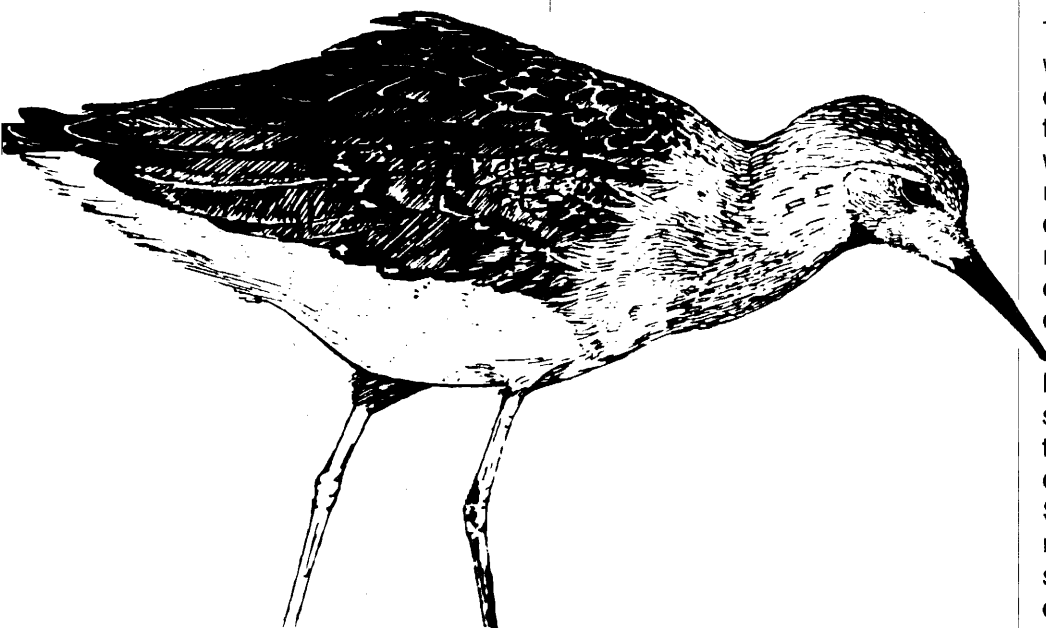
Wader ringing in southern Italy

The bird observatory 'Roccolo Ganda' and the Wader Ringing Group (Gruppo Inanellamento Limicoli) GIL : are organising a ringing camp in spring 1993 in south Italy. The catching activity will be essentially geared towards waders.

The migratory movements of waders are little known in southern Italy and ringing of species in this family has always been of an occasional manner. The GIL, created with the aim of studying waders in south Italy, started in 1991 with a ringing campaign, in particular in the periods April-May and July-August. During the post-breeding migration in 1991, 805 birds of 15 species were ringed, in spring 1992 593 birds (18 species) and in summer 1992 521 birds of 18 species (see the Table). In total 1919 birds were ringed and there have been 8 ring recoveries: from Hungary (3), Czechoslovakia (2), Poland (1), Germany (1) and Finland (1). Also ringed were some uncommon species like Broad-billed Sandpiper, Knot, Marsh Sandpiper and Spotted Redshank.

The disappearance of nearly all the wetlands along the sub-Tyrrhenian coastline has forced birds on migration to concentrate only in small places where they find suitable conditions for resting. Therefore, it is possible to observe large flocks close to the mouths of some rivers or in small artificial basins used for irrigation or as decoys for hunting ducks.

Last May there were at least a thousand waders in some of these basins in the plane of Volturno (Caserta), predominantly Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint: on the night of the 15th 180 were ringed and on the 19th 158. The simultaneous capture of many birds has created some problems in their extraction from the nets, limiting the catch (!). Therefore, for next spring it is our intention to organise a ringing camp with the



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participation of other ornithologists, both Italian and from elsewhere, in order to ring the largest possible number of waders. Catching will be mainly in the flooded area of the plain of Volturno about 50 km from Naples, during the night.

Provisionally the camp will last from 20 April to 20 May: if there are large numbers of participants (and if there are birds!) it will be possible to lengthen the period. Interested people are invited to book in advance, specifying the period in which they are intending to be at the camp and probably take part in wader ringing, with some flexibility to enable the organisation of turns. Within the possible limits we will try to keep to the periods indicated but priority will be given to those holding a ringing permit.

For the stay we expect to be based in a house in the area of the camp: lodging and food will be free. Thigh waders, windproofs and lamps will be necessary: for sleeping it will be best to bring a sleeping bag. Those who wish to should bring their own ringing equipment (pliers, balances, rulers).

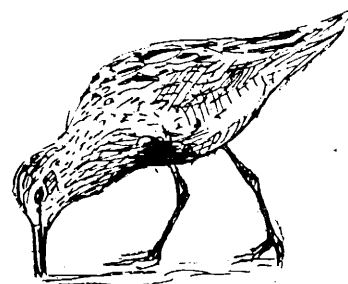
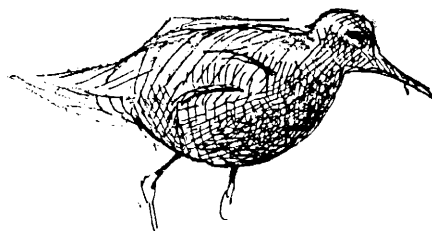
The members of GIL will be welcoming the guests to accompany them to the camp; to simplify the organisation those interested are asked to concentrate their arrivals on determined days. For more information and to book please write to the camp leader: **Dr Sergio Scebba, via Posillipo 276/2, 80123 Napoli, Italy.**

(Translated by Ian M. Spence)

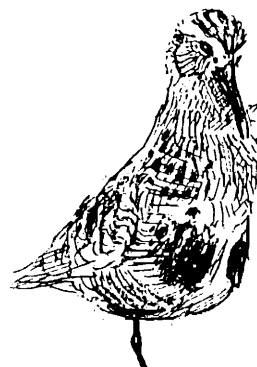


Waders ringed by GIL in southern Italy

	1991		1992	
	Spring	Summer	Spring	Summer
Black-winged Stilt	-	-	-	1
Little Ringed Plover	2	28	5	25
Ringed Plover	-	1	1	2
Kentish Plover	-	-	1	16
Knot	-	1	-	-
Little Stint	41	351	181	55
Temminck's Stint	-	6	2	13
Curlew Sandpiper	-	76	210	4
Dunlin	-	4	2	-
Broad-billed Sandpiper	-	-	1	-
Ruff	18	14	50	2
Jack Snipe	1	-	-	-
Snipe	-	4	2	12
Whimbrel	-	-	1	-
Curlew	-	-	1	-
Spotted Redshank	-	1	-	1
Redshank	-	21	2	19
Marsh Sandpiper	-	-	4	3
Greenshank	-	-	-	4
Green Sandpiper	-	14	3	9
Wood Sandpiper	-	71	98	96
Common Sandpiper	-	122	27	144
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	4
Black Tern	-	29	2	11
TOTALS	62	743	593	521



ARTWORK WANTED
 Regular readers of the Bulletin will be familiar with the line drawings used to enliven the layout. We are always grateful for further artwork to add to our 'art library'. If you know any aspiring wildlife artists, why not encourage them to send black and white line drawings of waders or their habitats to the Bulletin? All contributions most gratefully received.

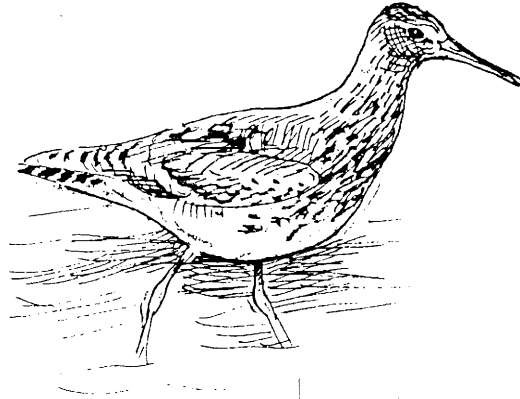


Red Red Knots – the plot thickens

In the Notes & News section of *Bulletin* 63 we included a plea for help in identifying the ringing source of several Knots seen in western Europe carrying a single red colour-ring. One promising lead from our request was confirmation from Pavel Tomkovich that he does indeed use red colour-rings on birds caught in Siberia. The locations of colour and metal rings on the birds observed in Europe, however, make it very unlikely that these birds were ringed by Pavel in northern Siberia.

Recently news of another red-ringed Knot has reached us. Even more surprisingly this bird was seen in New Zealand (see *AWSG News* above). Could both continents be receiving Knots from the same ringing location? Perhaps an itinerant wader-ringer is touring the world with a pocket-full of red colour-rings, but maybe it is the Knots themselves that are being spectacularly itinerant? **We are offering a prize of a free copy of the recent *WSG Bulletin Supplement The migration of Knots* to the first person to supply us with a solution to this enigma.**

Nick Davidson



CMS Bulletin

CMS Bulletin is the Bulletin of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the 'Bonn Convention'). Issue No. 3 (September 1992) contains information on the various activities being undertaken under the Convention. It is through this Convention that the Western Palearctic Waterfowl Agreement has been drafted under the guidance of WSG Chairman Gerard Boere.

A new initiative under the Bonn Convention has been the establishment of an Asian/Australasian Waterfowl Agreement Working Group. This group was scheduled to meet for the second time during the Asian Wetland Symposium in Otsu, Japan in October 1992. With the concurrence of the Chairmen of the Convention's Scientific Council and Standing Committee the Secretariat has arranged for IWRB to carry out additional work on the draft agreement. This work deals with the geographic and taxonomic coverage of the proposed agreement, the conservation

status of the species concerned and the measures to be included in regional action plans. In response to comments received from Australia IWRB has been asked to assess the implications and practicability of extending the draft agreement to cover all migratory birds in Asia and Australasia.

Bulletin No. 3 contains also a supplement reporting the results of a questionnaire on enhancing the participation of developing countries in the Convention. This reports replies from 10 countries on a wide variety of issues. Some suggestions are for further action on wader conservation. These include the suggestion that a future meeting of the Conference of Parties should cover migration of waterfowl in South America, and the suggestion that Curlews *Numenius* should be added to Appendix I of the Convention (endangered migratory species).

**For further information contact
UNEP/CMS Secretariat, Mallwitz-
trasse 1-3, D-5300 Bonn 2,
Germany.**

SPECIAL ALERT

Special alert for observations of Siberian dye-marked waders. This summer breeding waders will be dye marked on the Taimyr Peninsula, USSR, so keep a special look-out for these birds which will also be colour ringed/flagged, and report them to the Wader Study

