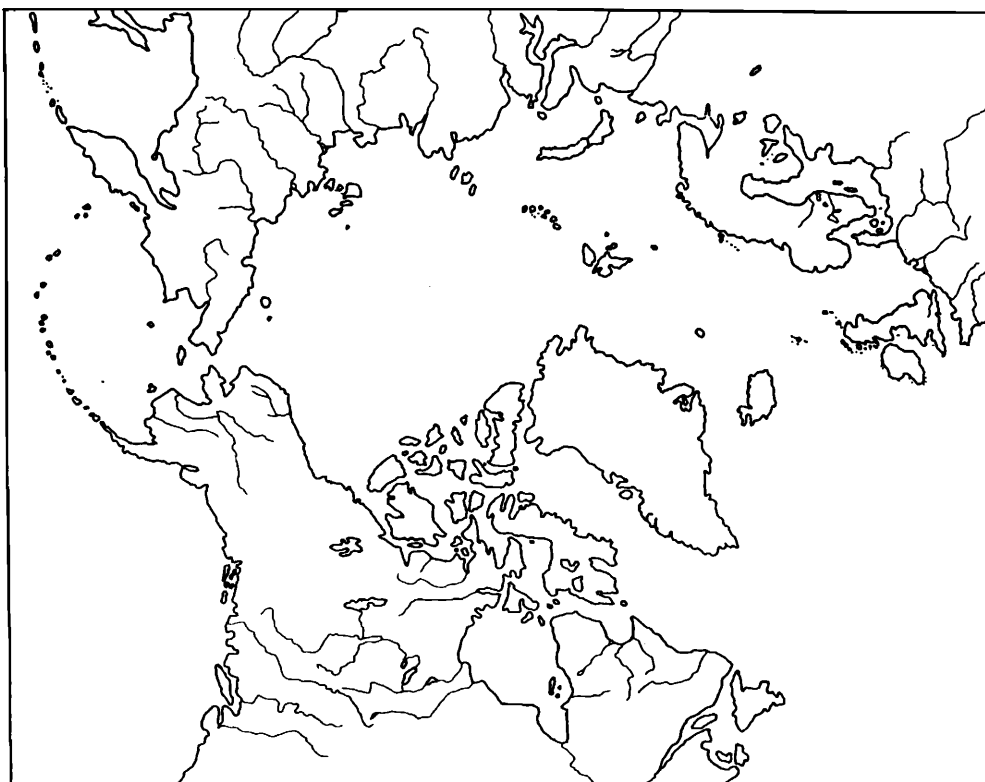


Monitoring breeding conditions for arctic waterfowl



Did you visit this area this summer??

In *Bulletin 76* (April 1995) we announced a joint WSG/IWRB project annually to collate information on environmental conditions on the breeding areas of arctic nesting waterfowl. The two part pilot questionnaire has since been circulated not only with the *WSG Bulletin* but also with the *Bulletins* of the IWRB Goose and Swan Research Groups.

We are collaborating closely also with the Canadian Wildlife Service, who have issued a very similar form to gather data from the Northwest Territories.

Whilst there has been an enthusiastic response to this project, with several forms completed for previous summers, we have received little information yet on summer 1995.

If you visited the arctic last summer, please write for a form or complete those previously circulated. This will enable us to publish a pan-arctic summary in the

April 1996 Bulletin. (Forms should reach the address below by the end of January 1996).

There has been further progress in establishing the project on a more permanent basis. Discussions are currently taking place with potential co-ordinators in each of the arctic countries. These individuals will act as focal points for the annual co-ordination of information gathering in these countries. Networks such as the WSG and IWRB Swan and Goose Research Groups, and the CWS, will also continue to assist in the distribution of forms and publication of relevant summaries.

In many countries, such as the UK, there are a large number of individuals and research or sport expeditions who visit the arctic each year. For these countries (*i.e.* all non-arctic countries) we would welcome offers of help to co-ordinate the distribution of forms.

It now seems probable that the international co-ordination of the scheme will be based at the Moscow Zoological Museum and we are investigating ways of funding that co-ordination.

Further details of national and international co-ordination arrangements will be announced in future *Bulletins*. For the time being, however, our priority is to seek to contact those working in the arctic in 1995. If you know of colleagues or others who may be interested in collaborating with this international project, please inform them (or us!).

For further forms or information please contact either David Stroud or Nick Davidson, *c/o* Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY, UK.

David Stroud & Nick Davidson