

Italy, the Netherlands and possibly also in some Baltic countries and Slovenia. We hope that we are able to carry out a full-scale census in Europe in spring 1998. This means that not only staging areas in western Europe are included, but also important sites in central and eastern Europe. So Ruff-interested people around the Mediterranean Basin, eastern Europe and Scandinavia, please react!

The spring migration through Europe covers the months March, April and May. In 1997 the counts start by the end of March. In 1998, with more time available to arrange and co-ordinate the counts, the first count period is planned for the beginning of March. The count dates are given in the Table below. All count periods are planned for weekends. In principle the simultaneous count dates are each Friday, but the each period covers four days, thus giving some flexibility.

The goal is to perform counts simultaneously on the following weekends in spring 1997:

Count periods in 1997	Count periods in 1998
-	27 February - 2 March
-	13-16 March
28-30 March	27-30 March
11-13 April	10-13 April
25-27 April	24-27 April
9-11 May	8-11 May
-	22-26 May

It goes without saying that the count periods in March are especially important for the countries in southern Europe (for example Italy and France), whereas the count periods in May will be important for the Scandinavian and Baltic countries. In most countries the strongest migration will probably occur in April.

It is likely that important roosting sites in Europe will be missed because of insufficient information and knowledge

by the organisers. Therefore through this announcement I call for assistance and information. Anyone who knows roosting sites (which are not already counted) I would like to ask to carry out roost counts in the above mentioned periods (one count per period), even when only one period can be done:

I assume that the early periods are of special importance for staging sites in France and Italy, whilst periods in April and May are (also) important in the northern countries. Counts should be carried out on roosting sites, where Ruff concentrations spend the night. Evening counts are most suitable but early morning counts are also possible.

It would be very interesting to estimate the percentage of male Ruff in your region in the four different periods. Information on sex-ratios can help in the analysis of Ruff spring migration patterns. Furthermore I would welcome any further information on migrating Ruffs (also in following years), important staging sites and sex-ratios of Ruffs during spring migration. Please note the date, location/ region and contributor when information is submitted.

All information should be sent to the address below. It goes without saying that each contributor will receive the combined results, and a summary overview will also be submitted to the *WSG Bulletin*.

Thank you for your help in advance!

REFERENCES

- Beintema, A.J., Moedt, O. & Ellinger, D. 1995. *Ecologische Atlas van de Nederlandse weidevogels*. Schuyt & Co, Haarlem.
- Wymenga, E. 1995. De Kemphaan op doortrek in Friesland in 1995. *Twirre* 6: 6-11.

Eddy Wymenga c/o P.O. Box 32, 9269 ZR Veenwouden, The Netherlands. Phone (31) - (0) 511-474764 (office), (31) - (0) 511-475753 (home). Fax (31) - (0) 511-472740. e-mail altwym@worldaccess.nl

