

Breeding Waders in Europe 2000

The Wader Study Group has decided to initiate a project to provide updated information on breeding waders in Europe. The project, "*Breeding Waders in Europe 2000*", has three objectives;

- to revise population estimates collated previously in Piersma (1986; *Bulletin 48 Suppl.*);
- where possible to establish population trends - both within and across countries;
- and for any species with especially good data, to monitor population densities and trends on different habitats.

To ease updating and analyses in the future it is planned to develop a "Breeding Waders Database", where data from wader surveys and breeding biology studies can be collected and stored in a standardised way.

The first year of the project was mainly used to establish an organisational structure. A network of national co-ordinators has been set up, at present covering most countries of Europe (below).

The different phases of the project will be implemented separately. The first part, to be carried out during the next year, we have named: "Updating; best available population estimates". The breeding populations of the wader species are estimated as precisely as possible, based on the most recent available census data.

The availability of new data since the fieldwork for the European Bird Atlas project and BirdLife International's

"Birds in Europe" will vary from country to country. For some countries the first phase of the project will primarily be a repetition of figures from "Birds in Europe" with only few additions while in others an update will produce major new figures, either because of essential recent surveys since the data collection for the former projects, or because specialists involved in *Breeding Waders in Europe 2000* were not involved in the other projects.

This part of the project only involves population sizes, however, it is hoped to extend the project by collation of data on population trends and to compare population trends and densities on different habitats.

The update should help to identify major gaps in knowledge of population sizes and their distribution in different countries. Also in this respect this part of the project may be seen as a step towards cataloguing any information available on the numbers and distribution of the species within each country. Such basic and accurate information of populations, core habitats and trends is a basic requirement for effective conservation.

This "update" part of population estimates is planned to be completed this autumn. A workshop on this update will be held in connection with the Wader Study Group Annual Conference in V. Vedsted, Denmark on 11 August 1997. At this workshop data will be displayed and it will be decided how to conclude this phase of the project.

People who have unpublished data on recent country-wide or regional surveys of breeding waders are invited to contact the relevant national co-ordinator. National co-ordinators are listed below.

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