

Winter 1997/98 European Non-Estuarine Coastal Waterfowl Survey (NEWS)

Since the last update on NEWS (Bulletin 80), Croatia, Iceland and hopefully Ireland have been welcomed into the project along with several additional assistant organisers for some of the other participating countries. The countries currently participating are listed below along with details of the organiser(s).

In the UK we are making good progress allocating coastline to specific counters, but we still have gaps to fill, especially in Scotland (all potential counters please note!). It might be possible to encourage potential counters to combine a winter break with some NEWS counting! This was used to good effect during the 1984/85 Winter Shorebird Count, and allowed us to gather data from several remote areas (particularly in Scotland) where visits otherwise would have been unlikely. National Organisers experiencing similar problems in recruiting enough

counters to allow even minimum coverage might like to use the WSG Bulletin as a "noticeboard" to ask for assistance. Who knows, there might be an some frustrated counters keen to visit other parts of Europe!

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NATIONAL ORGANISERS

Belgium: Ms Anny Anselin, Institute of Nature Conservation, Kliniekstraat 25, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 32 + 255 81 826 Fax: 32 + 255 81 805

Croatia: Dragon Radovic, Institute of Ornithology, Ilirski trg, 9/2, 1000 Zagreb, Croatia. Tel: 385 + 1 274-809

Denmark: Henning Ettrup, Udgrden 6, Lading, DK-8471 Sabro, Denmark. Tel: 45 + 8694 9606. Fax: 45 + 8619 7589.

France: Dr Roger Maheo, Universit de Rennes 1, Station de Biologie Marine de l'ile Bailleron, 56860 Sene, France. Tel 33 + 9726 4104. Fax: 33 + 9726 4049.

Gibraltar: Mr Albert Yome, The Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society, PO Box 608, Gibraltar. Tel: Gibraltar 350 + 78333.

Germany: Christoph Sudfeldt, National co-ordinator of waterbird census, Biologische Station Rieselfelder, Munster, Coermuhle 181, D-48157 Munster, Germany. Tel: Germany 0251 161760 Fax: Germany 0251 161763.

Greece: ?/To be confirmed

Iceland: Arnor P. Sigfusson, Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Po Box 5320, 1S-125 Reykjavik, Iceland. Tel: 354 + 562 9822 Fax: 354 + 562 0815

Ireland: Simon Delaney, Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Rutledge House, 8 Longford Place, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (01) 280 4322 Fax: (01) 284 40. (Coverage confirmed in principle - working out the logistics).

Italy: Dr Nicola Baccetti, Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica, Via Ca'Fornacetta 9, 1-40064-Ozzano Emilia BO, Italy. Tel: 39 + 51 6512 219. Fax: 39 + 51 796 628

Mauritania: (Rodney West + others hoping to do some counts in Feb/March 1997)

Morocco: ?

Netherlands: Mr Marc van Roomen, SOVON, Rijksweg 178, 6573 DG Beek - Ubbergen, The Netherlands. Tel: 31 + 8895 48111. Fax: 31 + 8895 48188.

Norway: Dr Karl-Birger Strann, NINA-NIKU, Storgt. 25, N-9008 Troms, Norway. Tel: 47 + 7760 6890. Fax: 47 + 7760 6882. E-mail: nintkbs@tromso.npolar.no.

Portugal: ?

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Turkey: Mr Kerem Ali Boyla, Lefko e Mah. 245/2, 100. Yil Sitesi, Ankara 06530. Tel: 90 + 312 286 1001.

UK: Steve Holloway/Mark Rehfisch, British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP27 2PU. Tel: 44 + 1842 750050. Fax: 44 + 1842 750030

Help required

Croatia is going to participate in the Winter 1997/98 European Non-estuarine Coastal Waterfowl Survey (NEWS). Counting will be performed during December 1997 and January 1998. As Croatia has a relatively long coastline (5790 km) and a small number of educated and equipped counters, we would like to include collaborators from countries that have a lot of

such counters. We kindly ask all interested educated (good knowledge of waterfowl, waders and other waterbirds and seabirds) and equipped (good field telescope and binoculars) counters to contact the following address for information: *Dragan Radovic, Institute of Ornithology, Ilirski trg 9/2, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia.*

Reviews

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Zwarts, Leo. 1997. *Waders and their estuarine food supply*. PhD thesis, Groningen. 386 pp.

After some years of our encountering Leo Zwarts' and co-workers' papers, and being both impressed and confused by the jungle of fact and theory in them,

finally the mudflat story as Leo sees it has been assembled. The product is a very readable book-like PhD thesis that holds 16 papers by Zwarts and ten of his co-authors, for which Zwarts received the accolade 'cum laude'.

Even as a teenager, Leo was a fanatic bird watcher. Faced with the choice of what to study, he deliberately ignored his love of biology so as not to make a profession out of his hobby. But obviously, he could not stand the temptation for very long, for he graduated as a psychologist with the strangest curriculum ever. It had the smell of field biology all over it. After several years of field work on the Wadden Sea island Schiermonnikoog as an undergraduate student, he was offered his current position; an estuarine biologist after all. The research he has guided since that time is summarised in his thesis.

All of the articles appeared in scientific journals and none of the

texts have been altered. The figures and tables were redone, so that they are all of exactly the same layout now. Most of them are very clear. Zwarts' brother, Jos, made the attractive wader drawings, and Jan van de Kam the very professional photographs of birds and benthos.

Every paper deals with several aspects of the many dynamic interactions between prey and predator species occurring in the estuarine soft-sediment Wadden Sea. A clever introduction explains how all of these highly detailed studies together form a logical story that enhances our understanding of predator prey interactions. The idea of facilitation ('fish helps bird') and predation windows are highlighted in a set of separate boxes within the introduction. The last part of the thesis is in Dutch. It is called 'summary', and it consists of something that is almost a literal translation of the introduction and the two boxes. The style of the