

Wader Study Group Colour-Marking Register. A report for 1999

The following report provides an update on the activities of the WSG Colour-marking Register in 1999.

Registered Schemes

There are details of 535 schemes using permanent marks (rings and flags) held by the WSG register. Of these 470 are fully registered (we hold complete details and addresses) and 146 are currently active, covering 35 species. Full details are given in Table 1. In addition to the permanent schemes there are six temporary schemes also registered. The number of schemes registered for each species in different countries (address of researcher and not necessarily the country of study) is given in Table 2.

Activities of the Register

In 1999 the register received 483 sightings of colour-marked waders. Of these only 17% were untraceable. The number of reports received for each species and the number of untraceable sightings is given in Table 3.

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Table 1 The number of registered and active (in 1999) colour-marking schemes each wader species on the WSG Colour-marking Register.

Species	No. of schemes	No. of active schemes	Species	No. of schemes	No. of active schemes
Avocet	25	9	Lapwing	44	12
Bar-tailed Godwit	12	3	Little Ringed Plover	14	7
Black-tailed Godwit	19	6	Little Stint	17	3
Black-winged Stilt	8	2	Oystercatcher	37	7
Broad-billed Sandpr.	3	2	Purple Sandpiper	22	6
Collared Pratincole	2	0	Redshank	29	7
Common Sandpiper	10	4	Ringed Plover	40	10
Curlew	28	7	Ruff	7	1
Curlew Sandpiper	12	2	Sanderling	13	2
Dotterel	6	1	Snipe	2	1
Dunlin	37	9	Spotted Redshank	4	1
Golden Plover	18	5	Stone Curlew	4	1
Great Snipe	1	1	Temminck's Stint	5	1
Greenshank	10	2	Terek Sandpiper	1	1
Grey Phalarope	1	0	Turnstone	26	6
Grey Plover	18	4	Various	6	4
Kentish Plover	24	11	Whimbrel	8	1
Knot	13	2	Wood Sandpiper	6	4



Table 2 The number of active wader colouring ringing schemes in different countries in 1999.

	B e a r i u s	F l i n d	F i n l a n d	I r e l a n d	I s r a e l	P o l a n d	P o r t u g a l	R u s s i a	S w e d e n	S w i t z e r l a n d	T h e r e l a n d s	T O T A L					
Avocet				1					1		2	4					
Bar-tailed Godwit			1								2	3					
Black-tailed Godwit									1		5	6					
Black-winged Stilt						1						1					
Broad-billed Sandpiper					1					1		2					
Collared Pratincole								1				1					
Common Sandpiper		1									3	4					
Curlew		1	1						1	2	4	9					
Curlew Sandpiper			2									2					
Dotterel				1								1					
Dunlin	1		1		1				4		4	11					
Golden Plover			1								4	5					
Greenshank		1									1	2					
Grey Phalarope			1									1					
Grey Plover			2								3	5					
Kentish Plover	1	2		1		2	5	1				12					
Knot			1							1		2					
Lapwing										1	10	8					
Little Ringed Plover									1		4	5					
Little Stint			1		2							3					
Oystercatcher			1	1	1						3	7					
Purple Sandpiper			1		2	1	1	1			2	8					
Redshank											6	6					
Ringed Plover	1								1		6	8					
Ruff					1						1	2					
Sanderling			1								1	2					
Spotted Redshank					1							1					
Stone Curlew				1							1	2					
Temminck's Stint		1										1					
Terek Sandpiper	1											1					
Turnstone			1		1					1	2	5					
Whimbrel			1	1								2					
Wood Sandpiper		1			1	1						3					
TOTAL	2	1	1	7	0	16	2	5	10	1	4	0	7	11	6	64	136



Table 3 The total number of sightings, untraceable sightings and the percentage of sightings traced, for each wader species reported to the WSG colour-marking register in 1999.

	1999 sightings	1999 untraceable	% traced
Ruff	2	0	100
Little Ringed Plover	3	0	100
Green Sandpiper	1	0	100
Golden Plover	11	0	100
Curlew Sandpiper	1	0	100
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	0	100
Black-winged Stilt	1	0	100
Black-tailed Godwit	84	3	96
Turnstone	31	2	94
Bar-tailed Godwit	11	1	91
Avocet	51	7	86
Dunlin	18	3	83
Redshank	23	4	83
Sanderling	22	4	82
Lapwing	11	2	82
Ringed Plover	43	11	74
Grey Plover	3	1	67
Greenshank	6	2	67
Common Sandpiper	9	3	67
Curlew	26	13	50
Knot	11	6	45
Oystercatcher	16	9	44
Purple Sandpiper	6	4	33
Kentish Plover	7	6	14
Whimbrel	2	2	0
TOTAL	400	83	83

Wader Study Group Colour-marking Register Untraceable sightings

The following list contains all the sightings of colour-marked waders which have been received by the WSG Colour-marking Register and which cannot be traced to a registered scheme.

The // indicates the birds tarsal joint (or “knee”). The colours are listed from top to bottom. So a bird seen with Red above the left knee, Yellow above White below the left knee, Metal above the right knee and Blue below the right knee is listed as **R//Y,W M//B**. When the colour of a ring is uncertain, such as “Red/Orange” it is indicated as (R,O). When nothing is written either side of the // it means no ring was recorded either above or below the knee. If the knee (//) is not indicated the precise location of the rings is not known. ?? indicates that the observer did not see that particular part of the leg. The following abbreviations are used for the colours R=Red, O=Orange, Y=Yellow, G=Green, L=Light Green, B=Blue, P=Pale Blue, N=Black (Niger), W=White, K=Pink and M=Metal.

CODE	LEFTLEG	RIGHTLEG	PLACE SEEN
Avocet, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			
99/AV4	R,B//	B//	UK
99/AV5	N//	R//	UK
99/AV6	Y//	R//	UK
99/AV7	Y(W strip), Y	G	Italy
00/AV1	//	Y//	UK



Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>			
99/CU9	??/??	//B,R	UK
99/CU10	R,W//	R,Y//	Norway
99/CU11	R,B//R	B,W//	UK
99/CU12	W,P//	G,B//M	UK
99/CU13	O,B//	W,B//	UK
00/CU1	//	//W,O,M,W,O	UK
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>			
99/DN2	Y	//	UK
99/DN3	O(Flag)//	//M	Denmark
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			
99/GV1	//O,R	//O,Y	
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>			
99/KP6	R/R	//	France
Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>			
99/KN2	G,O	//O	UK
99/KN3		//P,M	UK
99/KN4	//R	??//R	UK
99/KN5	Y,B//	R,B//	UK
99/KN6	//O,B	//O,Y	UK
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			
99/LP2	//W	R//	N. Ireland
00/LP1	White ring on either leg (road kill)	Lincolnshire	
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>			
00/LR1	Pink on breast		UK
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			
99/OC7	//Y,R,Y(1 ring?)	//M	UK
99/OC8	//M,N(?)	Y//R,O	UK
99/OC9	R,M		UK
00/OC1	//	P//B	UK
Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i>			
99/PS3	//R,M	//P	UK
99/PS4	//L,R	//	UK
00/PS1	//B,R	//R,M	Germany
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>			
99/RK3	//Y,M	//	UK
99/RK4	White flag "F6"		UK
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			
99/RP6	//R,M	//W,Y	UK
99/RP7	//W,W	R//R,Y	France
99/RP8	//R,M	//B,G	France
99/RP9	//R,M	//G	UK
99/RP10	//	//N,O,N	UK
99/RP11	B/W	G//W	UK



Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (continued)

00/RP1	??	//R,W	UK
00/RP2	//	Y//	UK

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

00/TT1	WW	YM	UK
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Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

99/WB2	Y/Y	R/Y,M	Spain
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Gerard Boere decorated and National Delegate Formulier

On Wednesday 27 September 2000, in the Hague, The Netherlands, Dr Gerard C Boere was knighted and becomes an Officier in de Orde van Oranje Nassau, a title awarded to him on behalf of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Durin

the ceremony the catalytic role Gerard Boere has played in the development of international nature conservation, especially with regard to wetlands and migratory waterbirds was stressed. As customary in the Netherlands the award is given to persons who play an active role in society (outside of their professional capacity). Gerard has been involved in the development of many key nature conservation organisations including SOVON, WIWO and the Wader Study Group. He has also played an important role in strengthening relations between Russian and Dutch biologists in exchange programmes.



Congratulations, Gerard, on this very well deserved honour.

