

NEWSLETTER 62

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EDITORIAL

If you are attending the Glasgow conference and reading this - welcome!, if not then I am sure that you have missed a good conference and hope that you will be able to come next time. In honour of the conference (and the fact that I now have new computing facilities), I have taken the opportunity of designing a new layout. The new design enables more articles per unit of space, and makes it much easier to incorporate vignettes, figures and graphs. May I repeat my plea for more items for the newsletter; we publish (almost!) anything and everything, so long as it has at least some relevance to seabirds and the general aims of the group. I am extremely keen for review articles of current activities - an example in the current issue is the item produced by Martin Heubeck and Kees Camphuysen on Beaches Bird Surveys in Europe. I would also be very pleased to put in more vignettes, drawings etc - so if you are an artist, please get your pens out.

Mark L Tasker
Editor

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ICBP SEABIRD SPECIALIST GROUP Open letter from Chairman

Dear Seabird Biologist,

The ICBP/IUCN Seabird Specialist Group has now produced two ICBP technical volumes on the status and conservation of the world's seabirds and another volume on the management of seabird islands is almost ready to go to press. Essentially we now have the data to produce an action plan for the seabirds of the world. This plan would specify which species, colonies, islands, or marine areas most need international conservation assistance, what sorts of data should be collected to monitor future problems, and what international programs, treaties or laws are needed to

protect seabirds. The plan would also be used by ICBP to raise the necessary funds for seabird conservation programs and to encourage decision-makers to include seabirds in their considerations.

Seabirds occupy a wide range of latitudes and marine environments that differ greatly in their local conservation problems, so writing the plan will require contributions from scientists and conservationists of many nations. This is an invitation to participate in this process.

You can help in several different ways: first would be to answer the questions listed below; second would be to volunteer to serve on committees that would write and review drafts of different chapters; and third would be to make the investment of time, energy or resources to help implement the plan.

The questions we need help with now are:

1. what areas of seabird conservation should an international action plan address?
2. should we attempt a species approach, or a site approach, or a theme approach (egging, seabird/ fisheries conflict, oil)?
3. what sorts of information do we need to collect to assess or monitor threats? how should this information be stored and made available?
4. how can we ensure that the action plan is carried out?
5. how do we assess the plan's effectiveness and how do we update it?
6. how much of this should or could be done by an international specialist group and how much by local or regional seabird groups?
7. what forms of support are there for seabird conservation research and management and what additional forms of support could be developed?
8. are there institutions that would be willing to commit themselves to managing databases, research programmes, or

management operations developed in this plan?

9. what structure of specialist group would best achieve these ends?

Please feel free to respond to some or all of these, or to ask and answer your own, additional questions.

I personally believe that we are at a juncture where we can either continue to work in small groups on local issues, or we can organise, reach a consensus on our goals, and together raise the resources to undertake global programmes. The action plan is an opportunity to achieve such a consensus.

I would appreciate a response as soon as possible. Thanking you in advance,

David Cameron Duffy
Chairman, ICBP Seabird Specialist Group
Box 1095, Shelter Island Heights, New York 11965-1095, USA

The executive committee of the Seabird Group will be replying collectively to this letter, but individual members may wish to reply directly.

FIRE AT INSTITUTE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY

Mike Harris and Sarah Wanless thank those members who sent reprints in response to the request in the last newsletter.

EUROPEAN BEACHED BIRD SURVEY SCHEMES

Enthusiasm for beached bird surveys (BBS) has had an unfortunate tendency to ebb and flow. When interest is high, whole armies of volunteers can be motivated to walk thousands of kilometres of shoreline each winter, but if volunteers loose

interest, methods and coverage can become very scrappy and once the organisers doubt the worth of their results, the entire scheme can disintegrate or be dropped.

Last year, BBS organisers met first in Rijswijk, Netherlands and then in Copenhagen in an attempt to devise a Europe-wide BBS that is more standardised, better co-ordinated and from which results can be reported more promptly. Efforts so far have concentrated on the single International Beached Bird Survey (IBBS), conducted on the last weekend of February in most western European countries, and the changes introduced so far should greatly improve the quality of the data. A further workshop in Glasgow on 30 March 1992 will examine ways in which co-ordinated international surveys can be extended to cover more winter months, perhaps along only a proportion of the distance walked for the IBBS but gathering information in greater detail. This is the basis for the European Beached Bird Survey (EBBS). Coverage from Portugal and Spain northwards to Norway is planned, including the western Mediterranean, the Atlantic seaboard, the North Sea and, possibly, the Baltic.

The following summarises the current status of systematic BBS in each country, a contact name and address for anybody wishing to find out more and, where appropriate, reference to a recent publication.

PORTUGAL. Portuguese BBS began in the early 1980s, motivated more through concern over the numbers of auks drowning in fishing nets than mortality from oil pollution. Three sectors totalling 41 km of beach are covered monthly, from November to March. Drowning in fish nets is not adequately monitored through this method however, and fishermen are now being encouraged to report mortality and

hand in rings. Attempts are being made to extend coverage to Madeira and the Azores.

Contact: Jose Pedro Granadeiro, Rua Filipe Folque 46, 31000 Lisboa, Portugal.
Recent publication: Granadeiro, JP & Silva, MA, 1992. Beached bird surveys in Portugal, 1990/91. Sula 6:

SPAIN For the past two years BBS have been co-ordinated by the Grupo Iberico de Aves Marinas. IBBS coverage has been achieved in 11 coastal provinces in 1990 or 1991 (totalling about 470 km) and most local organisers show interest in the EBBS proposal to extend surveys to other winter months, and to carry out dissections and oil sampling.

Contact: Fransico Arcos Fernandez, Grupo Iberico de Aves Marinas, Apdo. 317, 36200 Vigo, Pontevedra, Spain.

FRANCE Until now, separate schemes have been operated by local organisations in Normandy, Brittany and elsewhere with little co-ordination between them. Pascal Raeval has offered to be national co-ordinator for France. It is planned to divide the four sea coastlines (North Sea, Channel, Atlantic and Mediterranean) into 8 sub-regions within which a representative amount of coast will be surveyed for the EBBS.

Contact: Pascal Raeval, EcoNum, Laboratoire d'Ecologie Numerique, Bat. SN3, F-59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex, France.

Recent publication: Raeval, P. 1990. Bilan de 20 annees de recensement des oiseaux morts sur le littoral du Nord-Pas-de-Calais a la fin de l'hiver: exemple de l'interet d'une enquete a protocole determine. Le Heron 23: 159-167.

BELGIUM All 67 km of coastline was planned to be surveyed for the February 1992 IBBS and interest was expressed in extending surveys to other winter months,

but it is unclear whether this has been achieved.

Contact: Patrick Meire, Institute of Nature Conservation, Kiewitdreef 3, B-3500 Hasselt, Belgium.

Recent publication: Verboven, J. 1985. Stookolieslachtoffers aan de Belgische kust gedurende winter 1983-84. *Wielewaal* 51: 2-9.

NETHERLANDS Mainly November to April but a few all year around. Ninety volunteers walk about 300 km per winter survey, out of a total of 670 km of accessible coast. The same stretches are not necessarily covered in each survey, instead good samples of coastline are covered in each of six sub-regions. Results are published regularly in *Sula*.

Contact: Kees Camphuysen, Perim 127, 1503 GB Zaandam, The Netherlands.

Recent publication: Camphuysen, CJ, 1989. Beached bird surveys in the Netherlands, 1915-1988. *Techn. Rapport Vogelbescherming 1. Werkgroep Noordzee*, Amsterdam.

GERMANY Helgoland Bird Observatory used to organise surveys on that island with results published regularly in *Seevogel*, but surveys have now been suspended. Winter surveys were made every two weeks along 25 km of North Sea coast by Norddeutsche Naturschutzakademie during 1983-88. It was planned to survey these 25 km for the 1992 IBBS but a complex organisation structure and the need to co-operate with different bodies in each federal state is hampering progress. Longer term funding is needed to ensure any surveys continue.

Contact: Christiane Averbeck, Norddeutsche Naturschutzakademie, Hof Mohr, 3043 Schneverdingen, Germany.

Recent publication: Averbeck, C. 1991. *Ergebnisse des "Beached Bird Survey" der Bundesrepublik Deutschland im Februar 1990. Mitt. NNA* 2: 50-52.

DENMARK 100-200 volunteers cover 700-900 km of coast on the last weekends of February and March, with five 10 km stretches of beach surveyed monthly. Co-ordinated by Ornis Consult. Some results have been published in *Dansk orn. Foren. Tidsskr.* and *Fauna och Flora*. There is a wish to extend the surveys to more months and to gather more detailed information.

Contact: Henrik Skov, Ornis Consult, Vesterbrogade 140, DK-1620 Copenhagen V, Denmark.

Recent publication: Danielsen, F., Skov, H. & Christensen, K. 1990. Seks ars overvagning af dode havfugle. *Dansk orn. Foren. Tidsskr.* 84: 8-9.

POLAND No contacts at present, but a series of papers from 1970s and early 1980s indicate that work has gone on. It is not known if this continues. Abstracts can be read in: Hooper, TD, Vermeer, K, & Szabo I, 1987. Oil pollution of birds: an annotated bibliography. *Can. Wildl. Serv., Pacific and Yukon region. Techn. Rep. Ser.* 34: 1-180.

ESTONIA There is interest in starting BBS, although the twin problems of financial difficulties and coastlines being ice-bound until March or April will have to be overcome.

Contact: Vilju Lilleleht, Institute of Zoology and Botany, Vanemuise 21, Tartu, Estonia.

LATVIA Contact only, no other information.

Contact: Alexey Kurochkin, Latvian Ornithological Society, Dzirnavu 119-32, 226001 Riga, Latvia.

LITHUANIA Contact only, no other information.

Contact: Gediminas Viatkus, Institute of Ecology, Akadeijos 2, 232600 Vilnius, Lithuania.

FINLAND A few papers from the 1970s and older, but no information on any recent survey and no contact known.

Recent publication: Vasite, J. 1983. Effect of the Antonio Gramsci oil spill on the avifauna of the Finnish south-western archipelago. *Orn Fennica Suppl.* 3: 112-113.

SWEDEN No information on any present surveys.

Contact: Sven Blomqvist, Institute of Geology, University of Stockholm, S-106 91, Sweden.

Recent publication: Pehrsson, O. 1980. Oil and seabirds on the Swedish west coast. *Rep. Zool. Inst. Goteborg Sec. Int. Meet. Wildl. Oil Poll. North Sea*, Oslo 20-26 March 1980. 7pp.

NORWAY Stavanger Museum coordinates winter BBS every two weeks from week 44 to week 10 on about 130 km of beach in SW Norway. Results are published regularly in *Falco* and *Var Fuglefauna*.

Contact: Kolbjorn Skipnes, Stavanger Museum, Zoologisk avd., 4005 Stavanger, Norway.

Recent publication: Jacobsen, E., Latun, O. & Skipnes, K. 1990. Undersokelser av ilanddrevne sjofugler i Rogaland vinteren 1989/90. *Var Fuglefauna* 13: 69-75.

UNITED KINGDOM The February IBBS resumed in 1991 (about 1300 km) although there was little coverage in SE England, East Midlands, eastern Scotland and the Solway Firth. More intensive schemes continued throughout the 1980s in NE England (about 150 km), Moray Firth (about 90 km), western Scotland (about 175 km) (all November to February) and Orkney (throughout year) organised by regional Royal Society for the Protection of Birds offices, and in Shetland (48 km) organised by the Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group.

Contact: Jane Sears, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, England; and for Shetland: Martin Heubeck, Mansefield, Dunrossness, Shetland, ZE2 9JH, Scotland.

Recent publications: Heubeck, M., Meek, E. & Suddaby, D. 1992. The occurrence of dead auks (*Alcidae*) on beaches in Orkney and Shetland, 1976-1991. *Sula* 6: 1-18. Mudge, GP, Crooke, CH, & Aspinall, SJ, 1992. Non-oiling guillemot mortality incidents in the Moray Firth, 1983-86. *Seabird* 14: 48-54.

EIRE No coverage during 1991 and 1992 IBBS and no known contacts.

FAEROES No current survey, but there is a wish to restart one.

Contact: Bergur Olsen, Fiskirann-soknarstovan, 100 Torshavn, Faeroes.

Martin Heubeck and Kees Camphuysen

AUK STUDIES IN ICELAND

Members may be interested to see the following on studies of auks in Iceland.

- Population study on black guillemots. My work on Flatey has been continued. Last summer was the 18th year in which I measured population parameters.

- Seabird ringing. Within the Icelandic Bird Ringing Scheme, I have tried to concentrate on seabird ringing. As far as auks are concerned, black guillemots, puffins and razorbills have been ringed in large numbers, while I am making preparations to start ringing Brunnich's and common guillemots. These two species, which are among the commonest of Icelandic breeding birds, are also among the least ringed. The IBRS is run by the Museum with the help of amateur ringers.

- Pesticides in birds. The museum has started a cooperative project with the University's Toxicology Department on pesticides in Icelandic birds. We have

selected three species to begin with: gyrfalcon, black guillemot and eider.

- Seabird colony register. We are slowly trying to build up a seabird colony register. We do not have the resources or people to work actively on this, be that systematic coverage or estimating colony size. Present information comes as a side product of other work or incidental information from bird watchers. The location of seabird cliffs (Brunnich's guillemot, common guillemot, razorbill) is mostly known, but the information on puffin and black guillemot colonies is less accurate.

Aevar Petersen, Icelandic Museum of Natural History, PO Box 5320, IS-125 Reykjavik, Iceland

MONITORING SEABIRD BREEDING SUCCESS AND DIET: HELP STILL NEEDED

JNCC's Seabird Monitoring Programme will again be collating information on breeding success of species such as kittiwake, fulmar, shag and the auks this season. (See SG Newsletter 61 for a summary of 1991 results - a full report is in preparation by JNCC, RSPB and SOTEAG, and should be available in April/May.) We hope that all existing study-sites will continue to be monitored, but any help with additional sites, anywhere in Britain or Ireland, would be welcome. The methods used are straightforward and, for most species, useful results can be achieved through three or four visits to a colony annually.

Up-to-date information is also needed on the diet of the species listed above at as many colonies as possible. Identification of a few dozen food samples annually for a given species and colony (e.g. during ringing visits) would help in assessing possible regional or annual variations in food availability.

In both cases, a contribution towards fieldwork costs may be available through JNCC's contract with the Seabird Group. For further details, please contact:

Paul Walsh, Coordinator, JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme, Seabirds Team, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 17 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen AB1 1XE (tel. 0224 642 863).

THE SEABIRD COLONY REGISTER:

AN UPDATE (AND REQUEST)

As all members will be aware, results of a comprehensive survey of British and Irish coastal colonies during 1985-87 have now been published (The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland, by Lloyd, Tasker & Partridge, in the Poyser series). This doesn't, of course, mean that the Seabird Colony Register is completed, as updating and "backdating" of the computer database is an ongoing process. Details for over 15,000 colony-years have been entered to date (9000+ for Scotland, 4000+ England / Wales / Isle of Man / Channel Islands and 2000+ Ireland), and these totals are growing rapidly. Many individuals and organisations continue to provide updates for particular colonies each year, and local bird reports are, as ever, a valuable source of counts. Counts of inland-breeding gulls and terns during 1988-91 fieldwork for the BTO/IWC/SOC New Atlas of Breeding Seabirds have also been entered in the SCR. What all this means is that estimates of national, or local, breeding populations continue to be refined, and that the national or international significance of particular colonies can be assessed more accurately.

Additional counts of any colony are always welcome for the SCR, whether for recent years or extracted from dusty notebooks.

In the case of inland colonies, and 'difficult' species like Manx shearwaters and petrels, even basic information on the presence or absence of breeding birds is valuable. SCR data sheets, and details of standard count methods, are available on request. Contact: Paul Walsh, JNCC Seabirds Team (see above).

IOC WORKING GROUPS IN APPLIED ORNITHOLOGY

The International Ornithological Congress set up the Standing Committee on Applied Ornithology at the Ottawa Congress in 1986. The Committee was allowed to settle its own terms of reference, and it concentrated at first on making recommendations for symposia topics concerned with applied ornithology for the IOC in Christchurch. "Applied Ornithology" is understood as meaning a practical study of areas where birds cause problems to human interests; bird conservation, which is also applied ornithology, is being left to other bodies. The Committee was re-appointed in 1990 and has decided to concentrate on two tasks: to advise the IOC on topics, and to improve communication between applied scientists and pure scientists in areas of applied ornithology.

The Committee now has four Working Groups, with the following chairmen:

1. Bird hazards to aircraft: Mr Luit Buurma, Luchtmachtstaf ALBV, Postbus 20 703, 2500 ES S'gravenhage. The Netherlands.
2. Bird damage to agriculture: Dr Richard Dolbeer, USDA/APHIS/ADC, Denver Wildlife Research Center, 6100 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870, USA.
3. Birds as indicators of environmental change: Dr Bob Furness, Applied Ornithology Unit, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, Scotland.
4. Diseases transmitted by birds to people and livestock: Dr John Cooper, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Sokoine University of

Agriculture, PO Box 1387, Morogoro, Tanzania.

The above Chairmen would each welcome, in the fields for which they are respectively responsible, information on current and recent work, especially written but unpublished research papers and current research proposals. They will include information of these kinds in reports which will be written on each of the four topic areas. These reports will be presented at the 1994 IOC and published in the IOC proceedings. Meanwhile, each chairman will provide an interim report, summarising all information received. These reports will be distributed to everyone contributing information used, and to other members of the Standing Committee. The chairmen stress that they are not only interested in your own personal research, but in all research you can tell them about, in any of the above work areas. Their aim is to make more widely available to people working in these fields, much of the useful unpublished information which does not appear in conventional ornithological journals.

Bob Furness

FROM RECENTLY RECEIVED PUBLICATIONS.....

COLONIAL WATERBIRD SOCIETY BULLETIN 15 (2)

This issue contains several items of interest to Seabird Group members. The 1992 annual meeting will be held at the University of Mississippi on 15-18 October. There will be a symposium on double-crested cormorants: their biology, conservation and management. Six subject areas will be considered: population history, population dynamics, feeding ecology, fisheries and aquaculture, cormorants and human interactions, and policy, management and future research. Anyone wishing to contribute to this symposium, or to contribute otherwise to the meeting should contact Dr DN Nettleship, CWS, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, PO Box 1006, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 4A2, Canada, as soon as possible. The 1993 meeting is likely to be held at Tour du Valat in France. Much of the rest of the bulletin is taken up with abstracts from the 1991 Annual meeting, and with minutes of the 1991 Executive Committee meeting. Both contain much information on activities in the CWS. Those interested in membership should contact: Lisa Hanners, Devil's Pen Preserve, Box 1162, Weston, CT 06883, USA.

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP BULLETIN 18 (2)

This contains news of the activities of PSG members as well as the minutes of the 18th Annual meeting of the Executive Committee held in Monterey, California. Membership Secretary of the PSG is currently Ellen Chu, 7334 Champagne Point Road, Kirkland, WA 98034, USA.
BOLETIN DEL GRUPO IBERICO DE AVES MARINAS 12 and 13.

GIAM 12 contains articles on autumn seabird passage off Estaca de Bares, NW Spain in 1990. Features include large numbers of sooty shearwaters, "Mediterranean" shearwaters, gannets, common scoters and terns. In the next article, migration at the same time off Cabo Higer in N Spain is reviewed. Gannets, kittiwakes, lesser black-backed gulls and auks predominated at this site. A winter census of gulls in Madrid in January 1991 found 43,300 black-headed gulls, 300 lesser black-backed gulls feeding, and a count later at roosts found 65,600 and 400 respectively. J. Ignatio and B. Dies report an influx of Mediterranean, lesser black-backed and Audouin's gull to the Levante coast following gales in winter 1990/91. 40,000 yellow-legged herring gulls are reported to winter in the Asturias area.

GIAM 13 has a long article on migration seen off Europa Point, Gibraltar in 1990. Twenty-nine species were seen. Up to 330 cormorants occur on gravel pits near Madrid in winter. Numbers of Mediterranean gull in Gipuzkoa in N. Spain are increasing in winter. Both issues contain also short notes, news, recent sightings and a GIAM contact list within Iberia. Contact GIAM, Sociedad Espanola de Ornitologia, Fac. Biologia, p.9., 28040 Madrid, Spain, for further information.

COLOUR RINGING OF MEDITERRANEAN GULLS IN THE NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE

Since spring 1989, Mediterranean gulls (both adults and chicks) have been marked in breeding colonies in SW Netherlands. Non-breeding birds have been marked in

the winter in northern France since autumn 1991. The Netherlands birds are marked with a single white PVC ring engraved with a combination of three black characters, up to now these have been two digits followed by one letter. The French birds are marked with a single green PVC ring engraved with a combination of three characters, up to now one letter followed by two digits. Details of sightings (however partial) will be welcome at the following addresses:

Netherlands: Peter L Meininger, RWS-DGW, Afd. Biologie, Postbus 8039, 4330 AK Middelburg, The Netherlands.
Fax: + 31 1180 16500.

France: Pascal Raeval, Residence du fief, Route d'Hazebrouck, 59270 Bailleul, France. Fax: +33 2043 6732.

COLOUR RINGING BY VOORNE BIRD OBSERVATORY, THE NETHERLANDS

Both adult and chick lesser black-backed and common gulls have been marked with colour rings during the breeding season since 1990 at Voorne Bird Observatory in SW Netherlands. Both species have been marked with engraved rings with a combination of three characters. Lesser black-backed gulls have either a single white or green PVC ring, or a combination of two rings (one on each tarsus). Common gulls have been marked with a single black or green ring. Details of sightings can be sent to: Norman D. van Swelm, Ornithologisch Station Voorne, Schepenenweg 26, 3233 CL Oostvoorne, The Netherlands.

COLOUR RINGING OF LESSER AND GREAT BLACK BACKED GULLS IN ICELAND

The Wildlife Unit (PO Box 5032, 125-Reykjavik, Iceland) requests details of colour ringed lesser and great black-

backed gulls. The gulls are ringed with Darvic colour-rings on both legs and the combinations are a single colour-ring and a metal ring on the left leg and three colour-rings on the right leg. Upon release, the gulls are dyed with picric acid, which lasts until the next moult. The dye-marks vary according to where in Iceland the bird is ringed.

Arnor P Sigfusson

AILSAS CRAIG RAT ERADICATION

The Ailsa Craig working group was formed in 1989 to research and oversee the feasibility of eradicating rats from Ailsa Craig. Rats had been accidentally introduced over 100 years ago and were implicated in the decline and extinction of all burrow nesting bird species. Some of these, such as the puffin, previously bred on the island in enormous numbers. The main aim of the rat eradication programme is to make the island once more conducive to burrow nesting birds. A major poisoning programme was undertaken from early March to late April, co-ordinated by Bernie Zonfrillo, and involving (suitably) a Sea King helicopter from HMS Gannet, and a large army of volunteer bait distributors. The operation was funded by several

organisations and further supported by the island's owner the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ailsa.

As a monitor to progress in eradicating rats, chew sticks (lollipop sticks dipped in margarine) were placed around the island. Prior to baiting, all 120 sticks put out were gnawed by rats. Baiting was carried out by placing small piles of grain coated in Warfarin in all areas with evidence of rat infestation. Chew sticks put out in baited areas in mid April remained untouched. Some carcasses of dead gannets (a favourite source of rat food) were also untouched. One side effect was the severe reduction in the rabbit population, but there were no adverse side effects on the avian population of the island. On the benefit side, the first ever black guillemot nest was found among boulders at the west cliffs (the chick fledged successfully), the first ever shelduck to breed on the island was successful, and a puffin was observed prospecting a suitable nest site. Manx shearwaters were heard calling over the island on two nights.

There was no sign of further rat activity by early August, but Bernie and his team will be carrying out further baiting during this winter, especially in those areas they considered inadequately baited in early 1991. Bernie also made a number of interesting observations on the relationship between seabirds (particularly gulls) and rats on Ailsa Craig.

If, as looks likely, this operation has been successful, then Bernie and his helpers must be congratulated for restoring the ecology of Ailsa Craig to a little closer to its natural state. It seems likely that this is the largest island anywhere in the world where such an operation has been attempted.

Mark L Tasker (from notes supplied by Bernie Zonfrillo)

RECORDS OF RARE SEABIRDS FROM IBERIA

Andy Patterson has continued to supply lists of rare seabirds seen in and off Iberia. Some species are evidently "commoner" than previously thought. Amongst the records are six little shearwaters, with records both from land and at sea, 8 records of long-tailed skua from Valencia in 1989, a further 5 records (bringing the Iberian total to 12) of laughing gull, 2 records of Franklin's gull, and a large number of records of ringed-billed gulls (some apparently returning to favoured wintering areas. A royal tern carrying a US ring was caught in Mediterranean Spain.

Mark L Tasker

RECOVERIES OF SANDA

GUILLEMOTS AND RAZORBILLS

Since 1984, increasing numbers of guillemots and razorbills have been ringed on the island of Sanda, Kintyre. The colonies are situated on boulder beaches allowing easy access to a good proportion of adults and chicks. This short report summarise recoveries to date.

Table 1. Totals of birds ringed (1984-1988)

	ads	pulli	total	recovd
Guillemot	418	763	1181	26
Razorbill	160	264	424	8

Table 2. Method of recovery

net oil dead releasd

Guillemot	7	4	14	1
Razorbill	1	3	4	0

Figure 1
First winter guillemot recoveries

This is the only age group in which we have sufficient numbers of recoveries to start to comment. Most birds appear to remain within the Clyde waters until October. Recoveries obtained thereafter indicate a movement south and west to the Celtic Sea, English Channel and the Bay of Biscay. So far all recoveries from southern Ireland have been from birds caught in fishing nets. A proportion of the birds continue eastwards into the North Sea. The single recovery from Norway was of a bird netted in January.

First winter razorbill movements show a similar pattern to those of guillemots although a higher proportion are recovered on the south side of the English Channel. Our most northerly record for a razorbill recovery so far is of a second year bird found dead in January.

We thank the Seabird Group and other organisations for some financial assistance. Ringing more birds of both species will give more information on the extent of winter movements into the North Sea and will allow comparison with other populations.

I Livingstone and R Morton

BOOK REVIEW

HILL, M.G. 1991. THE DISTRIBUTION OF BREEDING SEABIRDS IN THE BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY 1986-1990. pp71. ú4.90 + 60p post and packing from La Societe Guernesaise, Candie Gardens, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

The aim of this book is to summarise all the information collected on the distribution of breeding seabirds in the Bailiwick of Guernsey between 1986 and 1990 and, where possible, to compare these recent counts with those made during the Seabird Group's Operation Seafarer in 1969-70. Mike Hill's publication therefore compliments the broad brush approach used in The status of seabirds in Britain and Ireland by Lloyd, Tasker and Partridge (reviewed in Seabird 14), and provides an in-depth assessment of the current status of seabird species in part of the Channel Islands.

The Bailiwick of Guernsey is made up of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm plus numerous other smaller islands and rocky stacks. After a short introduction and description of the methods used, there is an island by island review of the status and distribution of each species accompanied by some clear maps and summary tables. There is a useful concluding section in which the author summarises the apparent population trends of the various species and highlights the changes that have

occurred in the last 20 years, most notable of which would seem to be the continuing decline of the British storm petrel and puffin. On a brighter note, fulmars have now colonised all the main islands and two colonies of Manx shearwaters have been found.

The publication is an excellent example of what can be done at a local scale with counts made for the Seabird Colony Register. Mike Hill and La Societe Guernesiaise are to be warmly congratulated on its production.

Sarah Wanless