

*Breeding waders in Europe. A review of population size estimates and a bibliography of information sources.* Wader Study Group Bull. 48, Supp. 1986. Available from Wader Study Group, c/o Dr S.R. Baillie, 8 Little London, Whitchurch, nr. Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4LE, England. Price: 5 pounds.

The Wader Study Group has combined information from published papers and local sources to provide estimates of the breeding populations of 37 species of wader in Europe. The area covered includes northern Greenland, Ellesmere Island and Svalbard but omits most of Spain and all of Italy, Yugoslavia and Greece. Maps are given for each species, showing the numerical distribution of breeding pairs, with each map accompanied by short notes. There are tables of the estimated total breeding population for each species and of the population in each country covered by the survey. Total estimated numbers range from 30 pairs of Terek Sandpiper to 869 000 pairs of Lapwing.

The book includes a brief discussion of the loss of breeding habitat for waders in Europe and of the correlation between estimated numbers of breeding pairs and counts of total wintering populations for particular species. The book's greatest value probably lies in the extensive bibliography, which covers 84 of the 116 pages. All published sources that were used for population estimates are given, with the 2161 references arranged by country. There are also publications from 1950 onwards that cover general breeding biology of waders (326 references) and information on each species (887 references). The bibliography includes references from outside Europe. This book is recommended primarily as an information source, but it is also of interest as general reading for wader enthusiasts.

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