

REVIEW

Disturbance to waterfowl on estuaries – Edited by Nick Davidson & Phil Rothwell. Wader Study Group Bulletin No. 68, Special Issue, August 1993. Obtainable from The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, U.K.) ISSN 0260-3799. Price £15 inc. p&p.

A concern of many conservationists and environmentalists, both professional and amateur, is the disturbance that species face due to human pressures. Of particular concern in New Zealand is the disturbance to shorebirds in coastal regions. As the human population continues to increase, these concerns will also increase.

This volume looks at the disturbance of waterfowl in a series of 16 papers by various authors, each one covering a different aspect of disturbance. Most of the papers are written from research carried out in the U.K., Holland and Denmark. A sample of titles indicate the subjects: 'Disturbance of foraging Knots by aircraft in the Dutch Wadden Sea'; 'The U.K. shooting disturbance project'; 'Some effects of disturbance to waterfowl from baitdigging and wildfowling at Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve, N.E. England'; 'Kentish Plovers and tourists – competitors on sandy coasts?'; 'Disturbance and feeding shorebirds on the Exe Estuary'.

Several of the papers will be of interest to people in New Zealand, particularly those mentioned above. The papers are generally very thorough but determining the full effects of disturbance on the birds appears to be no easy matter.

This volume is an interesting collection of papers but is not intended as light reading. It is worthwhile reading for those interested in disturbance issues; for any student contemplating a study in this area, the papers would be most helpful for their methodological aspects.

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