

NEWSLETTER 68

APRIL 1994

EAST COAST SEABIRD WRECK FEBRUARY 1994

Large numbers of dead seabirds washed ashore on eastward facing coasts of the North Sea during February. The first birds were noted in Shetland, and more came ashore later further south. Most were guillemots, but razorbills, shags and herring gulls all seemed to be present in above usual numbers. Overall totals of birds that died will never be known, partly as the incident was not monitored throughout, partly because there was likely to have been a high and unquantifiable turnover of birds on the beach and partly because many will not have arrived on the beaches. The RSPB-organised national beached bird survey coincided with the end of the wreck, but full details of these counts are not yet available. Estimates of total deaths in the region of 50,000 are probably not far wrong. Overall it seems the largest such incident since 1983. As seems to be normal, there were disproportionate numbers of immature birds beached.

Most birds were emaciated and obviously starved. Samples of birds from most parts of the east coast have been sent to the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monks Wood to check for levels of pesticide and heavy metal pollution (under contract from JNCC). Initial results indicate that levels of all chemicals found were toxicologically insignificant. An analysis was carried out

for by-products of the pesticide "Dinoseb" as a result of a major spillage in French waters affecting parts of the Dutch and German coasts earlier in the winter, no such by-products were found. There was no evidence of disease.

There was speculation that starvation was caused by a lack of food brought about by over-fishing (particularly of sandeel) in the North Sea. This would be extremely difficult to prove. Fishing will not have been the immediate cause; fishing boats are not "removing fish from under the birds' beaks". It is unlikely that industrial fishing will have directly caused the whole problem either; industrial fishing is concentrated in relatively few areas and this was a widespread incident. For instance, there is no industrial fishing at present around Shetland, and recruitment of sandeels there appears to be regulated mostly by oceanic factors. Less is known about factors controlling sandeel recruitment in other areas, or the factors involved in the distribution and abundance of other small fish fed on by seabirds. Marine food webs are not known well enough to predict the overall effect of the major reduction in stocks of the large predatory fish (such as cod) that have been caused by over-fishing.

Mark Tasker

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STATUS OF SEABIRDS IN THE ISLES OF SCILLY

Fourteen species of seabird breed in Scilly, more than elsewhere in England or Wales, though some are poorly represented. In 1992 English Nature replaced five-yearly distribution counts with annual productivity surveys. This improved understanding of local population dynamics, but for some species at the expense of knowledge of over-all population size. All-species monitoring continues on Annet, where we now have a long-running series of data. A seabird management programme commenced in 1991/92.

Fulmars continue to increase and continually prospect new sites. Breeding

was first recorded in 1951. With just 14 occupied sites throughout the islands by 1974, 29 eggs were located on Round Island alone in 1993. A 1993 incubating adult had been ringed as a chick on Little Saltee in 1980.

Cormorant numbers have remained stable - between 49 and 61 survey-year nests since 1945 (mean 54.66). On Annet, numbers of shag nests increased by 73% during the four years 1990/93 (82/142), however no all-island count has been conducted since 1987.

Manx shearwater numbers are now low, but data on distribution and actual numbers are lacking. An estimated 50 pairs are on Round Island. Annet is more difficult to assess, but <300 pairs may be reasonable. A few birds came ashore on at least two other islands. The recently suggested 1,000 pairs of storm petrels is almost certainly an under-estimate; ringing work by the newly formed IOS Seabird Group suggests 10,000 plus could be a more realistic expectation. 2,400 storm petrels were ringed by the IOSSBG in the last two seasons, with a constant re-trap ration of around 7%.

The three large gulls and kittiwake all suffered declines in recent years; gulls up to 40/50%, but kittiwakes down 70% since 1983. Detailed monitoring at one herring gull colony suggests causes of the decline may be unrelated to productivity; the three-year average of 57 nests gave a mean clutch size of 2.7 and a minimum of 0.75 young fledged per total nests, or 0.94 per clutch hatched. A single-season check on kittiwake chick growth rates failed to reveal any food shortage, though times of adult attendance at nests were not examined. Frequent kittiwake intersite movement may be a consequence of rat predation; small numbers of young fledged from 'new' sites form a substantial percentage of total productivity.

The recent four to eight pairs of roseate terns represent some 10% of the current British population. Common tern numbers remain reasonably stable, although terns and kittiwake have been plagued by rat

predation. Many tern clutches have been lost to bad weather at exposed rock sites. Sandwich terns have tried to colonise since the mid 1980's. Auk numbers are small but, again, appear reasonably stable. Puffins nest both in burrows and boulder beaches.

The IOSSBG began removing rats from Samson (95 hectares and the largest uninhabited island) winter 1992/3 and from uninhabited St Helen's 1993/4. Results so far are extremely encouraging. Tern nest boxes were provided at several sites in 1993, being used at one by two out of three nesting pairs of roseates (rearing two young). Although early-season application of sand to off-shore

rocks dramatically reduced egg losses in 1993, the resulting number of young terns on exposed islets produced heavy gull predation; work in 1994 aims at minimising these losses.

A total of 3,325 seabirds were ringed by the IOSSBG in 1991/3. Among the storm petrels were eight birds ringed at Brittany colonies, whilst a common tern ringed in July 91 was controlled in Ghana in December. Seabird ringing is currently directed mainly at establishing numbers and location of breeding storm petrels and Manx shearwaters.

Peter Robinson

PAIRS OF BREEDING SEABIRDS - SCILLY

Year	1974	1977	1983	1987	1992	1993
Fulmar	14	25	75	91		
Manx shearwater	900	500				
Storm petrel	1800	1500				4250
Cormorant	61	50	49	51	61	60
Shag	850	1470	1225	1200		
Lesser bb gull	2973	3070	4050	3778		
Great bb gull	1583	2235	1478	992		704
Herring gull	2249	1450	1995	1273		800
Kittiwake	498	575	861	584	300	262
Sandwich tern	0	0	0	20	0	3
Roseate tern		9	9	4/8	4/8	4/6
Common tern	108	140	210	175	124	115
Guillemot	36	80	140	109		111
Razorbill	134	280	225	177		200
Puffin	89	115	115	87		

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND SEABIRD BREEDING SUCCESS IN 1993

Annual monitoring of breeding success of a range of species continued at British and Irish colonies in 1993, and a brief summary of results is presented here. Full details, along with assessments of population change, will appear in the annual JNCC / RSPB / SOTEAG report on "Seabird numbers and breeding success in Britain and Ireland," due out in May.

Table 1 summarises 1993 results for species which have a large number or wide spread of colonies monitored, and gives an indication of changes in breeding output compared to 1992. For kittiwake, Figure 1 summarises breeding success during 1986-93. Of these species, overall decreases (by at least 10%) were seen in average breeding output of kittiwakes, Sandwich terns and little terns, while little or no change overall was seen for fulmars, shags, common terns and guillemots. Compared to "normal" breeding output

(judged from recent years' results), the figures for little tern were particularly low.

Looking at results on a regional basis, one of the most striking patterns in 1993 was a decrease in breeding output of virtually all of these species along the east coast of Scotland. For kittiwake, this was seen at colonies from Shetland and Orkney south to NE England. Breeding success of

several species was particularly poor on the Isle of May in SE Scotland, and a Shags had a very delayed breeding season there. Bad weather appeared to have reduced success at many tern colonies in NE Britain. but, as with other species, a reduction in food availability also seemed likely.

Figure 1. Breeding productivity (chicks fledged / nest) at kittiwake colonies during 1986-93, showing regional and annual variation. Dot symbols represent 1993 figures; histograms show annual averages for sample colonies in each region.

Table 1 Breeding output (chicks fledged per pair) of selected seabird species in 1993. N = no. of colonies sampled. + or - indicates at least 10% change in average success compared to 1992 (++ or -- at least 50% change); = indicates little change. x indicates no data.

Region	Fulmar	Shag	Kittiwake	Sandwich tern	Common tern	Little tern	Guillemot
West Scotland	0.54 ³ =	(1.14) ¹ +	0.60 ⁴ =		0.53 ¹³ =	0.04 ¹²	(0.74) ¹ =
Shetland	0.54 ⁶ =	1.52 ⁶ =	0.67 ⁹ -		x	x	0.71 ² =
Orkney	0.40 ⁶ =	x	0.87 ⁶ -				0.67 ³ -
East Scotland	0.40 ⁵ -	0.97 ² -	0.55 ⁹ -	0.30 ³ -	0.48 ¹³ -	0.24 ⁹ --	0.73 ² -
NE England	0.59 ² -	(0.77) ¹ -	0.98 ⁵ -	(0.00) ¹	2.45 ³ ++	0.54 ⁸ +	(0.80) ¹ =
E/SE England			(1.17) ¹ =	0.94 ⁷ =	0.73 ¹⁰ =	0.37 ²⁶ --	
SW Eng./Chan. Isds	0.22 ² x	(1.22) ¹	0.35 ⁴ +	0.76 ² =	(0.80) ¹ =	(0.54) ¹ ++	0.76 ² =
Wales/NW England/ Isle of Man	0.39 ⁶ +		0.34 ⁷ +	0.42 ³ ++	1.03 ⁹ =	0.56 ⁷ --	(0.74) ¹ =
NE/NW Ireland				0.72 ³ ++			
SE/SW/W Ireland			0.64 ⁸ +	(0.40) ¹ --	(2.34) ¹ ++	0.05 ⁴ +	
Total	0.44³⁰ =	1.30¹⁰ =	0.64⁵³ -	0.75²⁰ --	0.77⁵⁰ =	0.37⁶⁶ -	0.72¹² =

Units: Regularly-occupied sites (fulmar, guillemot); nests with eggs (shag); well-built nests (kittiwake); breeding pairs (terns).

Anecdotal evidence from fishermen in NE Scotland suggested that few sandeels were close inshore during June-July, near some colonies where kittiwakes and shags were having a poor or late season.

Nevertheless, in Shetland the breeding output of cliff-nesting species, along with puffins and skuas, was high or moderately high for the third year running (especially compared to the period 1988-90, when sandeel availability was low). Arctic tern productivity did fall to rather low levels, but, again, was well above pre-1991 levels. After the *Braer* oil-spill early in 1993, some effect on Shetland sandeel stocks (and thus on seabird success) had been considered a possibility. In the event there was little evidence of this. As in 1992, there did seem to be some reduction in sandeel availability to kittiwakes in July, and some losses were seen among unattended small chicks.

Elsewhere in Britain and Ireland, few broad patterns were evident for terns, with much variation between species in whether productivity increased or decreased in a given region. For example, Sandwich tern success fell markedly in SE Ireland, while common terns at the same colony showed a big increase in success. Predation by a range of bird and mammal species was a factor at many colonies, adding to other factors such of disturbance and effects of weather or tides. Large-scale predation by mink continued to reduced success at many arctic and common tern colonies in western Scotland. On the positive side, roseate terns had another bumper year on Rockabill, and also did well on Anglesey and at other monitored colonies; wardening, and the provision of nest-boxes, evidently contributed to these successes.

Kittiwakes in the broad region of SE Britain / SE Ireland once again reared rather few chicks at most colonies (Figure 1). A slight improvement was seen, but these populations remain, overall, the least successful in Britain or Ireland. Success was also only moderate in western Scotland. Data for other species at "southwestern" colonies are less complete, and few obvious patterns are apparent. There was further evidence that

fulmar success is lower than in Scotland, perhaps reflecting higher proportions of inexperienced breeders or prospecting birds in more southern colonies.

Full details and acknowledgements will appear in the 1993 report, but thanks to everyone who helped last year. Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved this season - offers of help will always be appreciated (contact Emma Brindley for terns; Paul Walsh for other species).

Paul Walsh, Seabird Monitoring Programme, Joint Nature Conservation Committee,, 17 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen AB1 1XE (tel. 0224 642863)

Emma Brindley, Research Department, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

INTERNATIONAL MARINE ORNITHOLOGISTS' NETWORK

An e-mail list server has been established for marine ornithologists. Membership is not restricted in any way. The network has been initiated to help marine ornithologists exchange information and keep in contact on a worldwide basis. Examples of its use are requests for and offers of information, ideas, data, and collected material (such as skeletal and soft-tissue samples), advertising, employment, bursary, fellowship and volunteer opportunities, notices of meetings, availability of written materials (e.g. expedition reports, books, proceedings, reprints), etc. All e-mail messages sent out on the network will automatically be sent to all other members.

To join the network you will need access to an e-mail system. Send a message to SEABIRD@ZOO.UCT.AC.ZA the following in the subject field of an e-mail letter SUBSCRIBE SEABIRD and in the body of the letter, your full name and postal, telephonic and fax addresses as you would like them listed in the network's address list (see below). Leaving these out will mean that you will only appear in

the address list under your e-mail address. If you so desire you may also list your research interests as well for inclusion in the address list.

To receive help, write HELP in the subject field of an e-mail letter sent to SEABIRD@ZOO.UCT.AC.ZA; this will automatically send you information on the system.

The archival file contains all the e-mail messages sent on the network to date. This may be obtained by writing ARCHIVE in the subject field of an e-mail letter to the above address.

SEABIRD ADDRESSES in the subject field will send you an address list which contains all current members of the network.

Future developments on the system may include storage and access of files and abstracted information on each members and their research interests.

John Cooper, Room 2.06, John Day Zoology Building, Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa.

CORMORANT RESEARCH GROUP ESTABLISHED

The newly established Cormorant Research Group became official in October 1993 when it was awarded IWRB research group status. To date, the Group has mainly comprised individuals interested in research, conservation and management aspects of the European cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. However, the Group decided to expand its scope and activities at its third European meeting at Gdansk (Poland) in April 1993, there having been previous meetings at Falsterbo (Sweden) in 1985 and Lelystad (The Netherlands) in 1989. As the number of European cormorant *P.c. sinensis* increases dramatically there is great concern amongst governmental and non-governmental organisations due to the belief, in some quarters, that

cormorants cause substantial losses to human fisheries. The need for an integrated approach with respect to research, conservation and management for cormorants is therefore considered to be both timely and necessary. The Group will provide a forum for discussion about different topics like research, conservation and management, will disseminate information and will respond to requests for advice, where possible.

Aims and scope

As is the case with other IWRB research groups, the Cormorant Research Group is open to individuals or institutes who are actively involved or interested in any aspect of cormorant biology or ecology, including the impact of these birds on fisheries. Professional and amateur workers, including ornithologists, conservationists and fishery scientists, are welcome. The Group has already produced a comprehensive leaflet with its background and aims, available from the address below. Although initially focused on *P. carbo*, the Group has expressed the feeling that cormorants worldwide are to be covered by its activities. The population expansion observed for *P.c. sinensis* in Europe is paralleled by a similarly spectacular population growth of the double-crested cormorant *P. auritus* in the new world. Combining knowledge and experiences of the biology of these species, and their perceived impact on fisheries, from both sides of the Atlantic would appear to be useful to all concerned. By contrast, several species of cormorants are rare and endangered. The establishment of a Cormorant Research Group may be of help in stimulating research on these and other cormorant species around the world.

Organisation

The Group will be co-ordinated by Mennobart R. van Eerden from the Directoraat Generaal Rijkswaterstaat in The Netherlands, who has studied *P.c. sinensis* in Europe for over ten years now. Jeff Kirby, Head of Research at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust will function as Assistant Coordinator. Other officers may be nominated in due course but it is the aim of the Group not to become too big too soon, but to reassess the need for more helpers periodically. The structure of the Group will therefore evolve and will become clearer over the coming months. Much will depend on the reactions of the people interested!

Bulletin

The Cormorant Research Group aims to produce a comprehensive Bulletin each year (in November), including short papers, summaries of current research projects, news of activities and conservation issues, a cormorant bibliography etc. Any contributions should be sent to the address below; deadline for the 1994 Bulletin is 15 September 1994. Please send your contributions as paper copy, but also, and if at all possible, on floppy disc in Word Perfect or Ascii format. Drawings and figures should be clear and in black and white only. We will try to use all material received but we reserved the right to exercise editorial control!

Further information

If you would like to receive the Bulletin, would like information about the next conference (probably in Italy in 1995) or wish to receive further information about any aspect of the Group, please contact us at the following address:

Cormorant Research Group, Attn: Jeff Kirby, c/o WWT, Slimbridge, GLOUCESTER, GL2 7BT, U.K.

Jeff Kirby, Assistant Coordinator
ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY PRIZE

Congratulations to Dr John Coulson who was awarded this prize by the Colonial Waterbird Society. This award started this year, and is awarded for exceptional contributions to colonial waterbird biology. John Coulson gained his prize for his studies of the kittiwake.

AQUATIC PREDATORS AND THEIR PREY

A conference on this topic, organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in association with The Scottish Office Fisheries Research Services and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee will take place at Aberdeen University on 30 August to 1 September 1994. The programme will be split into three themes: behavioural strategies of predators and prey, the role of predators in ecosystem structure, and predators, prey and man. Potential contributors and those interested in attending the conference should write to Simon Greenstreet, Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101, Victoria Road, Torry, Aberdeen, AB9 8DB, Scotland.

1994 SURVEY OF ROOF NESTING GULLS

Roof-nesting gulls were first recorded in Britain early this century and since the 1940s their numbers have been steadily increasing. The last comprehensive survey, carried out in 1976, recorded about 3000 pairs of herring gulls and 300 pairs of lesser black-backed gulls nesting on roofs in Britain and Ireland. In the intervening years, numbers of these species nesting on roofs have appeared to continue increasing, with many new colonies being formed both on the coast and, increasingly, inland, common gulls have begun nesting on buildings in Scotland and roof-nesting great black-backed gulls have been recorded in several areas of Britain.

As mentioned in the last newsletter we are organising a survey of the roof-nesting

gulls in Britain and Ireland this summer. The survey has been endorsed by the BTO and The Seabird Group and ought to reveal some fascinating information about the spread of roof-nesting and its present status. BTO Regional Representatives, County Recorders and others are working hard helping us to arrange for colonies to be counted, however we are still lacking volunteers in some areas, particularly Cornwall, Fife and Sussex. If you could give us any help by counting any colonies in these areas, it would be much appreciated. Please contact: Susan Raven or John Coulson, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Durham, South Rd, Durham, DH1 3LE. Tel: 091 374 3343 or 3349.

CORRECTION

In the August 1993 Seabird Group Newsletter, we published an unchecked figure for the number of Audouin's gulls nesting in the Ebro delta colony. We are pleased to say that the final figure for numbers in the park came in at 9,360 pairs. This species is clearly doing well. Thanks to Andy Patterson for pointing out this mistake.

FROM RECENT ISSUES OF *SULA*

Volume 7 (3) starts with a long article by Kees Camphuysen on experimental studies of the use that seabirds made of discarded fish around a beam trawler in the southern North Sea in late June and early July. About 5-10 kg of fish were discarded for every 1 kg landed. Kittiwakes and herring gulls were the most successful consumers of offal, while great and lesser black-backed gulls and fulmars were most successful at taking roundfish discards. Fulmars did not swallow the fish, but pecked at flesh and intestines. There were very large numbers of adult-plumaged lesser black-backed gulls in the trawl fleet, considerably more than could be accounted for by the local breeding population. Short notes in this issue include a description of a "pelagic" trip to

the Frisian front (!) in August 1993. The results indicated that perhaps Dutch birders might do a little better by heading out into the Atlantic. Ko de Korte reports on what is probably the largest colony of ivory gulls in the world, around 700 pairs on Domashny in Severnaya Zemlya. Summaries of recent publications and work complete the issue.

Vol 7 (4) has an article on 121 hours of seawatching off Cape Finisterre by Kees Woutersen between 1983 and 1992. Cory's shearwaters were common, 55,000 Balearic shearwaters were seen (very high in relation to their overall global abundance). Many birds were feeding in the area. The author has not referenced the series of articles by Garth Pettitt from the early days of the Seabird Group. Quinten van Katwijk and Kees Camphuysen report on results of observing guillemot dispersal into the North Sea in late summer 1993. They found that waves of guillemots with chicks appeared to be moving across the North Sea at this time. The wavelength of these waves was about 65 km; if these waves represented the fledging production of successive nights, this would indicate a movement speed of around 3 km/hour. A short note by Henk Offringa on the occurrence of common scoter offshore in the North Sea indicates that this species has a regular interchange between the two sides of the North Sea. Other short notes cover the first results from colour ringing Mediterranean gulls in France, and the occurrence of great shearwaters off southern Brittany in November 1993.

Mark L Tasker

FROM RECENT ISSUES OF *SEEVÖGEL*

Volume 15(1) has the annual report (for 1992) on breeding seabirds on the North German coast: black-headed gulls (57,000 pairs) and herring gulls (43,000 pairs) are the commonest species, followed by common tern at 10,000 pairs. Peter Gloe also describes feeding by Audouin's gulls in an area off NE Majorca. Volume 14(4)

has little on seabirds, but does have a long item on grey seals around Helgoland, one of which was very 'tame' and is presumed to have been released from a seal nursery (or possibly hospital).

Mark L Tasker

FROM RECENT ISSUES OF CORELLA

Corella is published by the Australian Bird Study Association (PO Box A313, Sydney South, NSW 2000, Australia), and given the lack of other outlets, is one of the routes by which the Australian seabird Group publishes its work. Intermittent issues cover seabirds. Volume 17 (3) has one long paper by the late Brian King on the status of Queensland seabirds. Twenty-four species of seabird breed principally on some 75 islands of the more than 1,000 in this vast area. Volume 17 (5) continues two long term series: these are the "seas around us" series which describes the oceanography of the seas around Australia, in this case the Coral Sea currents. Much of the rest of this issue comprises numbers 218 to 222 of the Seabird Islands series. These pocket descriptions of islands will eventually form a superb series on the major breeding locations around Australia.

Mark L Tasker

FROM MARINE ORNITHOLOGY - VOL 19 (2)

All papers in this issue (of 1991, but only received recently) concern seabirds of southern Africa and the Antarctic. Weather conditions and their effect on seabird distribution close to the South African coast are described by M.R. Jury, while Graham Robertson catalogues field techniques for ecological research on emperor penguins, including a series of diagrams of a penguin invertebrate for checking stomach contents. The

influence of turbid water on the foraging distribution of terns off Zululand is discussed by D.P. Cyrus. Diving blue-eyed cormorants at South Georgia on average reached 63m and were underwater for 3 - 5 minutes with much of this time spent on the deepest part of the time (paper by a Japanese-UK team).

Mark L Tasker

FROM THE ADJUTANT - VOL 22

It might seem odd to find seabirds featured in the journal of the Army Ornithological Society, however, a group from the Society has been working on Ascension Island. Cats have severely damaged this important seabird colony, and remain the major threat. The society has been counting seabird numbers and examining options for removing cats from the island, or at least keeping them away from major colonies. An interesting suggestion is a solar-powered cat proof fence isolating a part of the island, from which cats could be removed. Total removal of cats from the island would be ideal, but is not acceptable to residents on the island. Anyone interested in this island, or discussion on predator exclusion is recommended to see this article. The Society should be encouraged in its work on Ascension.

Mark L. Tasker

FROM MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN - VOL 27

An issue that covers the coastal and marine environmental consequences of the 1991 Gulf War. Hardest hit among the seabirds by the oil slick that spread in the Gulf during the war were great crested grebes, black-necked grebes, great cormorants and Socotra cormorants. Mortality equalling 22% to 50% of the wintering population of the Arabian side of the Gulf is thought to have occurred for these species. This issue is

recommended for those wishing to learn about the consequences of the Gulf war.

Mark L Tasker

FROM ANUARI ORNITOLÒGIC DE LES BALEARS - 1991

This annual publication contains three extremely useful papers for those interested in Mediterranean seabirds. Santi Catchot contributes a paper on the Procellariiformes of Minorca. He confirms breeding for the first time of storm petrel and Balearic shearwater, and estimates 1,600 pairs of Cory's shearwater present on the island. Félix de Pablo and Santi Catchot censused shags on Minorca and found 194 and 253 pairs in 1990 and 1991 respectively. Juan Salvador Aguilar summarises the results of a seabird breeding atlas study of the Balearics, carried out in 1991. The paper includes some interesting methods of counting shearwaters. Anyone wishing to assess numbers of Cory's shearwater, Balearic shearwater, storm petrel, shag, Audouin's gull and yellow-legged herring gull in the Mediterranean will need to include this paper.

Mark L Tasker

FROM BUTLLETÍ DEL GRUP CATALÀ D'ANELLAMENT - VOL 9

This issue has one seabird paper: on the distribution of herring gull in Catalonia during autumn 1992. The Ebro delta turns out to be the main concentration during the moult period, (16,000 of the 25,000 birds counted in total) but considerable numbers remain on the Medes Islands also. The paper has a good set of references to gull numbers in Iberia.

Mark L Tasker

RETURN OF THE BOOK OFFER

JNCC intends to reduce its stocks of certain titles in order to decrease the warehouse space required. The books are by no means obsolete and we will continue to sell them through our mail order catalogue. However, a proportion are being made available to libraries and conservation organisations on condition that they are not resold. Three titles are being made available to Seabird Group members at a discount price that includes postage and packing. The three books are:

Vulnerable concentrations of marine birds west of Britain. Tasker *et al.* 1990. 45 pages, A4 softback, 210 grams

Birds of North Rona and Sula Sgeir. Benn *et al.* 1989. 47 pages, A4 softback, 185 grams

Coastal birds of east Dorset. Aspinall & Tasker 1990. 48 pages, A4 softback, 195 grams

Costs in UK are: below 1 kg: £3.50
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Please send a letter stating which books you would like, that you are a member of the Seabird Group, an assurance that the

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