

Charity number 260907

## **NEWSLETTER 75**

**SEPTEMBER 1996**

# **BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL SEABIRD PROJECT**

BirdLife International is launching a major new initiative to set research priorities for key seabird conservation issues, develop policy and advocacy and take practical action. The elements of this initiative include:

- 1) Appointing a BirdLife International seabird conservation officer to facilitate co-operation between the seabird groups operating in different parts of the world, identifying important gaps and focusing on these. A key objective will be to increase communication on policy and research between seabird workers.
- 2) Identification of core issues, with initial focus on long-lining which poses the world's most serious threat to pelagic seabirds, ensnaring and drowning a quarter of a million individuals of albatrosses and their allies every year, and causing widespread population declines. One or more species may face extinction in the next few decades. The IUCN Resolution on long-lining has set the stage for a major push into this conflict area.

These activities will move on BirdLife International's past work on seabirds which, through its Seabird Specialist Group, included compilation of inventories on the status and conservation of the

world's seabirds, and conservation recommendations on a wide range of marine biodiversity issues. BirdLife International increasingly recognises the need to address the survival of seabirds among wider ecosystem effects as an integral part of formulating sound fisheries management and conserving the status of threatened seabird populations. There is a growing awareness that certain problems afflicting seabirds need to be addressed at a global level if effective solutions are to be found and implemented.

In order to progress the initiative, BirdLife International will be holding a Round Table Session at the Seabird Group/ICES/JNCC Symposium in Glasgow. All are invited to this session which will be between 1800 - 2000 on 23 November 1996. The Session has been called to:

- 1) Announce this new initiative and its scope,
- 2) Debate its scope and raise awareness,
- 3) Rally support for its goals and objectives,
- 4) Seek practical ways forward.

BirdLife International believes there is an urgent need to make progress on these issues which unite all our work, and hope that many people will attend the Round Table Discussion to help us make the most of this new opportunity.

Euan Dunn for BirdLife International  
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## CONTENTS

	Page
BirdLife International seabird project	1
1996 Beached Bird Survey`	2
Seabird studies on Foula, 1996	4
Method to deploy longlines underwater	4
Material from cormorants wanted	5
From:	
Sula	6
Colonial Waterbirds	7
Wader Study Group Bulletin	7
GISOM	7
RNBWS	7
CWS Bulletin	8
Penguin Conservation	8
WWF Arctic Bulletin	8
Annual meeting of CSWG	9
Medmaravis	9
Australasian Seabird Group	9
World Birdwatch	10
Begin Ringing Atlas	10
Ringed great blacked-backed gulls	10

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## THE 1996 BEACHED BIRD SURVEY

The annual beached bird survey is carried out at the end of February each year and is co-ordinated by regional staff of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and in Shetland by Martin Heubeck for the Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group. In all, over 800 volunteers walked stretches of the coastline this year, covering a total of

2655 km throughout Britain and Northern Ireland.

Excluding records of wings only, the national average density was 2.37 dead birds/km walked, a figure which lies above those found over the period 1991-1993 and 1995. However, the survey this year coincided with a 'wreck' of guillemots which was reported along north western, northern and eastern coasts of Scotland in the early part of the year and this mortality event accounts for the increase both in densities of auks found and for the high national density.

The prolonged period of easterly winds in the early part of the year probably contributed to the high figures by sweeping inland many of the guillemots which had died at sea during the winter. Autopsies carried out on a very small sample of guillemots from the Moray Firth area revealed high endoparasite levels, although the extent to which these were implicated in the deaths was not clear. Many guillemots were reported as being emaciated. Importantly though, whereas the most recent major wreck in 1994 involved many shags, the overall density of shags in 1996 survey appeared little higher than in previous years (1991, 1992, 1993 and 1995).

In Orkney and Shetland, many more than the usual numbers of auks were observed close inshore in the early part of the year, either having been driven in by storms or attracted by shoals of sprats. Hence it is possible that the mortality observed there was no higher than the norm but was more obvious as a result of the birds being closer inshore. Although the proportion of birds oiled was higher in Shetland than in previous years, Orkney and northern mainland coasts were not similarly affected and oiling was not thought to have contributed significantly to the high mortality.

Overall, 11% of the seabirds, wildfowl, divers and grebes were oiled, a much lower proportion than in 1995 when 26% were oiled. Although the 1996 oiling rate

is one of the lowest of the last 6 years, it must be borne in mind that these proportions will be lowered by 'wrecks' of unoiled birds, such as occurred this year.

The highest proportions of oiled birds were found in eastern England, southern England and western England. Although the situation in southern England reflects the chronic pollution in the Channel, the proportion of birds which were oiled on eastern and western coasts of England, is unusually high. It is possible that western coastlines were affected by oil from the Sea Empress spill which occurred just prior to the survey. (Please note - the results given here for Wales do not include the Pembrokeshire coastline,

which was severely affected by the Sea Empress oil spill at the time of the survey). The percentage of beach length with oil present was also much higher along eastern and southern coasts of England (14% and 16% respectively) than the national average of 6.6%.

Many thanks to all who give their time for this survey each year and to all the regional co-ordinators. Results continue to contribute to international efforts to monitor oil pollution and promote methods to control chronic discharge. The 1997 survey is again planned for the last weekend in February.

Emma Brindley, RSPB.

Table 1 : Densities and proportion oiled for seabirds found in the national beached bird survey, comparing February 1996 with February 1995.

	February 1996			February 1995		
	Number	Density No/km	% Oiled	Number	Density No/km	% Oiled
Auks	4378	1.65	11.8	1048	0.40	32.5
Gulls	336	0.13	9.5	299	0.11	6.0
Cormorant & shag	149	0.06	12.8	90	0.03	15.0
Gannet	27	0.01	29.6	64	0.02	46.8
Fulmar	53	0.02	20.8	98	0.04	17.3
Kittiwake	17	0.006	17.6	44	0.02	22.7
Seaducks	82	0.03	9.8	27	0.01	0.0
Divers	28	0.01	32.0	6	0.002	66.6
Grebes	21	0.01	4.8	6	0.002	50.0

Wings not included; Oiled includes lightly and heavily oiled; auks include: guillemot, razorbill, puffin, black guillemot, little auk and 'auks'; seaducks include: scaup, scoter sp, eider and long-tailed duck.

Table 2: Numbers, density and proportion oiled of all seabirds found in the national Beached Bird Survey, February, 1996.

Region	Distance Walked (km)	Number of dead birds	Density (No/km)	% Oiled
Shetland	48.6	320	6.6	28.8
Orkney	47.3	365	7.8	4.9
North East	585	2581	4.41	7.2
South East	365	314	0.88	34.7
South	330	204	0.61	37.3
South West (excl. Wales)	199	97	0.49	43.3
Wales	198	74	0.37	9.5
North West	720.5	1205	1.67	3.4
Northern Ireland	162	54	0.33	24.1

### SEABIRD STUDIES ON FOULA, 1996

Seabird studies were carried out on Foula between April and August. 1996 was generally a moderately good season for breeding seabirds. Sandeels were prominent in diets, especially among those species taking larger sandeels. There were few medium-sized sandeels in diet samples, but some species (particularly kittiwakes) were feeding on extremely small sandeels, suggesting late recruitment of 0-group fish. Shags and divers had extremely late breeding seasons. Red-throated divers increased to 13 pairs, and 12 of these were still breeding on 8 July. Six chicks were alive on 27 July. Eider numbers were low; about 90 males, 92 females and 16 chicks were present at the end of July. Arctic skua numbers fell to 125 aots (down 1 from 1995) although adult survival was high. Great skua survival rate was high and breeding success was the best for more than ten years; sandeels and whitefish were prominent in diets and few birds were killed. There were several instances of herring in great skua diet. Numbers of breeders stayed about level or fell a little, but numbers on clubs continued to recover. Kittiwake breeding success varied greatly according to the amount of predation at particular colonies. Food availability appeared to be moderate, consisting of unusually small (6

cm) sandeels. Arctic tern (c 505 pairs) had a poor season with less than 50 chicks fledged, at least partly due to the cold, windy and wet weather. Guillemot productivity was moderate, while adult numbers on ledges appeared high, there were fewer chicks present than normal and their weights were apparently somewhat low. Puffin activity in colonies was less than in 1995. Both puffins and razorbills carried small or very small sandeels to chicks.

Bob Furness  
(r.furness@bio.gla.ac.uk)

### A METHOD TO DEPLOY LONGLINES UNDERWATER?

A new product has become available from Norway that may reduce casualties from some longline fishing operations. Essentially, the "set tube", sold at present by Mustad of Norway deploys hooks underwater, beyond the reach of surface-seizing seabirds. Bait snatching by birds is a problem for Norwegian longliners, with some estimates at 50%-70% of baits taken by birds, and inevitably some birds become entangled. Off Norway, the birds tend to get caught and baits are lost as the line is shot, rather than when it is hauled. Its price seems high, at about £20,000, but this comparatively little in relation to the cost of a new boat. Uptake

of the new device has not been great yet, but there has not been much marketing. The device at present is designed to work best with those longlines with relatively short line to hook leader lines, but in principle it should be possible to adapt the device to fit fisheries with longer leader lines.

Mark Tasker from material supplied by Christian Steel

**WANTED: MATERIAL FROM CORMORANTS *Phalacrocorax carbo***

We are currently engaged in an investigation of the dispersal and colony formation of UK cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* using molecular markers. This is a joint project between ITE and Aberdeen University, funded by Aberdeen University Research Committee and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The aim of the project is to compare within- and between-colony relatedness and provide estimates of colony integrity and the minimum size of founding group. Markers will also be used to examine levels of population structuring, to assess indirectly the extent of gene flow, and investigate the degree of mixing in foraging areas in Scottish freshwaters using a large sample of birds shot there as a "crop protection" measure.

As elsewhere in Europe, cormorant numbers have increased dramatically in some parts of the UK. Here birds have also shown an increased tendency to forage inland, particularly during the winter. There has also been an increase in the number of cormorants breeding at inland colonies in the UK. Formerly almost all cormorants bred on the coast. The current project is an investigation into the formation of cormorant colonies in southern Britain, where such expansion appears to have been greatest, particularly at Abberton Reservoir, Essex.

As we are interested in obtaining DNA samples from a wide variety of European

locations to examine background levels of allele sharing, we would like to request your help in this project. If, in the process of your work, you have access to cormorant tissue, would you be able to collect and forward some to us please (postage refunded where requested)? The collection and preservation techniques are straightforward and are detailed below. We realise that it may not be possible to provide us with a particularly large number or comprehensive samples, but anything you can provide would be welcome. The most important aspect of sampling at this stage is that we cover a wide geographical area. Naturally, if samples are provided, full acknowledgement will be given.

If you have any enquiries relating to this work, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address below or e-mail at D.Carss@ite.ac.uk. Finally, if you have any colleagues who you think would be able to provide us with material, please let us know.

Samples for DNA analysis

Important warning: Many of these techniques will almost certainly require a licence from the appropriate authorities and under no circumstances should samples be taken without a licence.

- 1) Dead birds. Cut off a small piece of muscle tissue and fix in a 10x excess of 95% ethanol. 1g of tissue in 10ml of alcohol is fine. Pre-frozen tissue should be thawed and then treated in the same way as fresh.
- 2) Live birds. If you are in possession of a licence to blood-sample cormorants for other reasons, you may consider the possibility of providing us also with a sample. Blood samples can be added to tubes of anti-coagulant or a lysis buffer, but failing this, drying blood spots onto filter paper is good enough.
- 3) Eggs. Unhatched eggs or their contents, should be frozen or preserved in 95% ethanol.

- 4) Feathers. Growing feathers, with blood in the quill, can be taken from live birds and fixed in 95% ethanol. Moulted feathers are unlikely to provide enough DNA.

Sample size: Samples from defined colonies should include 5-10 birds per colony, depending on the labour involved. If these are from chicks or eggs, they should be from different nests. Samples from dead birds should be of the same order, 5-10 from each specific site.

Please remember to provide full details (date, location etc.) with each sample.

We would also like to set up a more limited collection of intact carcasses to record biometrics, plumage, etc. If you are able to supply us with material for this collection, please let us know.

Many thanks in advance if you can contribute.

David Carss, Banchory Research Station, Hill of Brathens, Glassel, BANCHORY, Kincardineshire. AB31 4BY, Scotland (Tel: 01330 823434, Fax 01330 823303).  
A. Goostrey, S. Piertney and J. Kirby.

### **FROM SULA Vol. 10, special issue (1)**

This issue is devoted entirely to a 40 page paper by Chris Winter, Steve Geelhoed, Leo Stegeman and Kees Woutersen on seabird movement along the coast of the Netherlands in 1994. This issue continues from the biannual A4 reports published previously. An appendix contains the results of all counts, while the main text selects highlights of the year. A large passage of petrels and skuas occurred off the coast after a gale in mid September 1994. Movements of divers, common scoters and hawks are described. The passage of rare species (the motivation of many seawatchers) are listed. Kees Camphuysen summarises the occurrence of porpoises (there were many less than

usual in mid winter, but more than usual in March and April).

### **FROM SULA Vol. 10, special issue (2)**

A 47 page paper on the patterns underlying the spatial distribution of seabirds in the North Sea, by Kees Camphuysen, fills this issue. The mid 1990s has seen the publication of eight atlases of bird distribution in this area, most based on the co-operative European Seabirds at Sea database. There is a glaring lack of information on the causes of many of the published patterns of occurrence however. The food and feeding strategies of seabirds during the non-breeding season remains poorly known. Kees advocates the further integration of seabird studies (i.e. colonial studies, seawatching results, beached bird survey results and counts at sea); further studies of diets at sea, and integrated ship-based marine biological surveys including assessment of all levels of the offshore ecosystem. Co-operative international studies will be needed for some of these studies.

### **FROM SULA Vol. 10, No. 3**

This is the first "regular" issue of 1996. Much of this issue is composed of short notes. Most are in Dutch. The notes include a debate over whether or not great black-backed gulls ever nested in large numbers in the Netherlands; notes on a large scale movement of sooty shearwaters off Chile; some little auk sightings from the Celtic Sea; common terns wetting fish before feeding young and an influx of porpoises and red-throated divers to the waters off the Dutch Wadden Sea. The notes section includes an important correction to the information in issue 9(1) on ageing of razorbills and a summary of the results of the Netherlands Beached Bird survey results for 1996.

### **FROM COLONIAL WATERBIRDS Vol. 19, No. 1**

Papers relevant to seabirds in this issue include studies of the diet of ring-billed gull chicks, manipulation of red-tailed tropic bird chick diets, the importance of Saudi Arabian pelican populations, studies of seabirds in the Azores. Short notes include an item on changes in foraging ranges of Audouin's gulls in relation to a trawling moratorium in the Mediterranean. Katharine Parsons comments on the advantages of having a long-term monitoring dataset in place prior to the arrival of an oil spill; this time in the case of a spill in New York Harbour.

### **FROM COLONIAL WATERBIRDS Vol. 19, Special issue 1**

This volume entitled "Ecology, conservation, and management of colonial waterbirds in the Mediterranean region" derives from the Mediterranean symposium which occurred during the Colonial Waterbird Society meeting in Arles in 1993. Edited by Alain Crivelli, Mauro Fasola, Michael Erwin and Donald McCrimmon, the issue has 25 papers and an index contained in its 227 pages. Two review papers front the issue, with many of the remaining papers being primarily either status papers from parts of the region or descriptions of food and feeding ecology of long-legged wading birds. These include a considerable amount of previously unpublished information on numbers and distribution in areas such as the Black Sea. This is an important volume for anyone interested in birds of the region.

### **FROM WADER STUDY GROUP BULLETIN Vol. 79**

Alert readers will note that this bulletin does not often feature in SGN. However, A long paper by Pavel Tomkovich and Elena Lebedeva, translated from the Russian originally published in Information Materials of the Working Group on Waders, on breeding conditions for waders in Russian tundras in 1994 includes a considerable amount of information on the numbers and breeding

success of long-tailed, arctic and Pomarine skuas in the Russian far north. The paper is essentially a summary of observations from 55 sites across arctic Russia from the Norwegian border to Wrangel Island. I suspect that this is the geographically-widest summary of breeding performance of any species group yet published, and the authors are to be congratulated on pulling this together so rapidly.

Mark Tasker

### **NEWS FROM GROUPEMENT D'INTERET SCIENTIFIQUE OISEAUX MARINS**

A general assembly of GISOM will occur in Paris on 19 October 1996, this will be the first since 1993. GISOM has been relatively inactive recently, so hopefully this meeting will signal an upswing in activity. Items to be discussed include publication of the last survey of breeding seabirds of France, and plans for the next census. Anyone wishing to join GISOM should send 100 francs to GISOM, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 55 rue Buffon, 75005-Paris, France.

### **NEWS FROM THE ROYAL NAVAL BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY**

The RNBWS is 50 years old this year - a special issue of Sea Swallow can be expected in the next few months. The Society will be holding their 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the Royal Geographical Society on Friday 6 December, possibly in association with the British Ornithologist's Union. The meeting is likely to revisit highlights of the first 50 years as well as looking forward. Hopefully further details of this meeting will be received in time for the next issue of SGN.

### **FROM COLONIAL WATERBIRD SOCIETY BULLETIN Vol. 20, No. 1**

The Colonial Waterbird Society is reviewing itself and its work after 20 years in operation. Consideration of whether to switch the Bulletin from its current format, to possibly publishing it by email, or including a section in the Ornithological Societies of North America newsletter (CWS recently joined OSNA). CWS's 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will be in Charleston, South Carolina from 16-20 October 1996; the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be in Lafayette, Louisiana from 26 October to 1 November 1987. The issue contains reports from members on their activities, and a copy of the (US) Ornithological Council Newsletter. This latter organisation brings together US Ornithological Societies to represent the interests of birds in the upper echelons of the US administration. The Council is currently working hard against five bills introduced by Republican senators that will have major detrimental effects on the US Endangered Species Act.

### **FROM PENGUIN CONSERVATION Vol. 9 No. 1**

This issue reveals the results of the 1995 Galapagos penguin census. The majority of its range, which is restricted mostly to Isabela and Fernandina Islands was surveyed. A total of 844 penguins was counted on all islands: 402 adults, 145 juveniles and 297 of indeterminate age. The population is recovering slowly from the low of 398 individuals counted after the 1982-1983 El Niño, when a 77% reduction in the penguin population was recorded. The birds continue to be threatened by the presence of feral goats (which can dramatically alter nesting habitat, and the potential accidental introduction of predatory animals by sea cucumber fishermen camped illegally on the islands.

Another paper describes a method of using ultrasound to examine the sex and reproductive status of penguins; this technique might be useful for other monomorphic species, but limitations include the need to anaesthetise each

bird, and an approximate examination time of five minutes per bird. However, the technique is faster than cloacoscopy and some forms of cloacal examination. It might also be possible to carry out the ultrasound scan on a restrained rather than an anaesthetised bird. Further papers detail genetic and radioimmunoassay techniques to determine sex. These, of course, need laboratory facilities.

### **FROM WWF ARCTIC BULLETIN No. 2.96**

The issue reports a certain amount of stagnation in moving forward agreements to protect the Arctic. There have been three Ministerial meetings so far that have done little more than assess the health of the Arctic (all of which have noted a downward trend in environmental health). WWF is urging the countries involved in the arctic area to move on to develop and implement sustainable use programmes. Chief among topics needing to be addressed are the effects of fisheries on the environment. The circumpolar murre conservation strategy drawn up by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna working group was accepted at the third Ministerial meeting. Implementation should now occur, although the move of the CAFF Secretariat from Canada to Iceland may cause some hiatus. A recent report, commissioned from the Norwegian Polar Institute by the European Environmental Agency on the state of the European Arctic indicates that major threats to the area come from oil exploration and from fisheries, with the latter having the greatest impact on the Arctic marine ecosystem today. The state of the Norwegian spring-spawning herring stock is held up as an example of the damage inflicted by fishermen. Good news in the issue though, is the extension of the Great Arctic Reserve in Russia to Severnaya Zemlya. The extension is home to the world's largest colony (1100 pairs) of ivory gulls, colonies of little auks and black guillemots living in the most extreme conditions in the northern

hemisphere and large colonies of kittiwakes.

### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CIRCUMPOLAR SEABIRD WORKING GROUP**

The annual meeting was held in Nuuk, Greenland from 21-23 April 1996. The international murre conservation strategy (which includes all of the murre range except western Europe and western North America) had been approved by ministers, and there was now a need to put the plan into action. Each country will be implementing the plan through differing routes. The circumpolar seabird colony project will start on a small scale by including murre data only to start with. The technical details of the catalogue database were agreed. The polar countries are reviewing available information on incidental take of birds in fishing gear. Guidelines to limit human disturbance at colonies will be drafted and published by the end of 1997. A murre monitoring plan will be drawn up, as will an eider conservation strategy.

### **FROM MEDMARAVIS NEWS No. 18**

The second forum of the Alghero convention on coastal and marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean will take place in Alghero from 27-30 March 1997. The 5<sup>th</sup> pan-Mediterranean seabird symposium will be held in Malta during September 1998. A new national park on the island of Dragonera, SW of Majorca was declared in February 1996. The island hosts important colonies of shag, Audouin's and yellow-legged gull Cory's shearwater and probably Balearic shearwater and storm petrels. The Racó de l'Olla section of the Albufera natural park in Spain is a restored saltmarsh; it is proving very successful with large colonies of common and little terns tripling in size and Sandwich, whiskered and

lesser crested terns and slender-billed gulls colonising. Cory's shearwater, storm petrel, Audouin's gull, shag, pygmy cormorant, white pelican, Dalmatian pelican, Mediterranean shearwater, little and Sandwich terns have all been added to the threatened biota list considered under the Barcelona Convention. The issue is completed by reviews of current publications on Mediterranean seabirds. Medmaravis' web site is <http://www.mm-soft.fr/monoweb/medmaraxm>.

### **FROM AUSTRALASIAN SEABIRD GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 30**

The majority of this issue is a compilation of recent inshore observations of seabirds around the south-east of Australia and from New Zealand. The Australian observations were published originally on a web site, and trips went out of Wollongong, Brisbane, Portland, Sydney and Bateman's Bay. Slightly further afield, trips are reported on from Robe in South Australia and Port Headland, Western Australia. Chris Jowett summarises observations made six longer trips made into New Zealand waters on board fishing vessels and cargo ships. Reports on the state of the New Zealand populations of grey-headed and black-browed albatrosses indicate that they are decreasing by about 3% and 1% per annum respectively. Low juvenile survival (possibly associated with interactions with fisheries) and low breeding success appear to be causes of the decline.

### **FROM: WORLD BIRDWATCH Vol. 18, No. 2**

This issue includes comment on the Sea Empress oil spill, and news that a census of the Red River Delta in northern Vietnam recorded 147 Saunder's gull - 5% of the world population. The largest articles in the issue relate to Mediterranean wetlands - here estuaries and deltas are at particular risk from development. Birds such as pelicans and terns are particularly threatened. Iméd

Essetti describes the actions of Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux", the local BirdLife International partner; these include preparation of action plans for Audouin's gull at the regional level. An expedition to Aktas Lake on the Turkey-Georgia border found good numbers of Dalmatian and white pelicans, and probably the largest breeding site for velvet scoter in Turkey. The area is under military control, and disturbance is minimal.

## **BELGIAN RINGING ATLAS**

With some debate starting in the UK over the need for atlases of ringing recoveries, it is interesting to note that several continental countries have started to publish theirs. One of the first in the Belgian one. Although not noted for its breeding seabird numbers, the first volume includes some seaduck, cormorants and grebes. Roggeman et al. 1995. Belgian ringing scheme databank, Part 1: Gaviidae to Anatidae. Studiedocumenten van het KBIN 79, 222pp is available at 490BEF (+ postage) from Walter Roggeman, Instiutut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, rue Vautier 29,b-1040 Bruxelles, Belgium.

## **GREAT BLACK-BACKED COLOUR RINGS**

We have recently commenced a five-year great black-backed gull colour ringing programme in the Channel Islands. Anyone seeing a great black-backed gull with an inscribed Darvic ring on one leg and a combination of two coloured rings and a metal ring on the other leg is kindly requested to report it to the address below, together with date, location, activity and whether in the presence of other gulls. All sightings will be acknowledged by return.

Ian Buxton  
Société Jersiaise, 7 Pier Road, St Helier,  
Jersey JE2 4XW, Channel Islands, UK

## **THE THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SEABIRD GROUP**

The thirty-first Annual General Meeting of the Seabird Group will be held at 2030 hours on Friday 22 November 1996 during the Seabird Group/ICES/JNCC Symposium at Graham Kerr Building, Glasgow University, Glasgow, Scotland.

### **PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Minutes of 30th Annual General Meeting held at Swanwick on January 1996.
2. Matters arising.
3. Motion to adopt 31st Annual Report (1995-1996).
4. Election of new officers

The following wish to retire from the Executive Committee at this AGM:

Sarah Wanless  
Bob Furness

Nominations are being sought by the Chairwoman for these two posts, any proposals should be notified to her (Dr S Wanless, ITE, Hill of Brathens, BANCHORY, Kincardineshire, Scotland).

5. Any other business, please notify the Chairwoman of any before the meeting.

John Uttley  
Honorary Secretary