Inland Migration of Waders and Terns 1947-1950

Title
Inland Migration of Waders and Terns 1947-1950

Description and Summary of Results
By the 1940s it was well-known that reservoirs and sewage farms (the latter are now almost extinct!) provided particularly favourable conditions especially for waders and terns. Many were watched regularly and especially during the spring migration period of late April and May. However there had never been any coordination or attempt at trying to determine the numbers of birds using them although there had been some comparison of individual sites. Hence an enquiry was set up for the springs of 1947 and 1948 (and which carried on in 1949 and 1950).
In 1947 at least daily records from 23 April-31 May were made at five sites and, for some of the period, at 16 others. In 1948 five sites were covered daily 18 April-31 May, and 17 others for some of it. In both 1949 and 1950 almost daily observations were made at six sites with regular at 14 more. The majority of these places were inland, but some records were obtained at coastal sites.
In general the records from the different inland sites showed much greater agreement with each other than they did with those from coastal sites. Records showed that individuals of each species travel across the country either singly or in comparatively small parties, which move independently of each other. In some species small parties were recorded at random throughout the whole of the migration season, but for the majority of species the greater part of the passage was concentrated into one or more periods of only a few days and it seemed that some species passed through in "waves" noted at several sites. Timing could at least partly be explained by the location of their eventual breeding grounds.
There were considerable differences in detail between the passages in each year, and there was a general, but not a precise, relation between the arrival of waves of migrants and periods of warm weather in the Bay of Biscay area, suggesting that after the migrants have left their winter quarters, the speed of their passage is influenced by the conditions they meet on their way north. They also seemed to be affected by the wind with northeasterly winds often leading to more birds being recorded perhaps because they were forced lower (and were therefore recorded), or forced inland in such conditions.

Methods of Data Capture
The survey was conducted by analysing responses from observers who had been asked to count birds at their sites on a regular basis. There was no questionnaire as such.

Purpose of Data Capture
To determine the scale of migration of waders and terns through inland sites during the spring migration and to relate this to prevailing conditions if possible.

Geographic Coverage
All of England and Wales and with one site covered in Ireland.

Temporal Coverage
The spring passage period of 1947-1950. Records were requested for mid April to the end of May with a request for daily counts if possible.

Other Interested parties
The survey was organised and run by Robert Hinde and Jeffrey Harrison as a Trust-aided enquiry.

Organiser(s)
Robert A Hinde and Jeffrey G Harrison.

Current Staff Contact
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Publications
The two main reports of the survey are:
Hinde, R.A. and Harrison, J.G. 1949. Inland migration of waders and terns. *British Birds* 42: 308-319;
Hinde, R.A. 1951. Further report on the inland migration of waders and terns. *British Birds* 44: 329-346.
The survey was also noticed in the *BTO Annual Report* numbers 15, 16 and 17; and in the *BTO Bulletin* numbers 30, 32, 33, 35, 37 and 38.

Available from NBN?
No.

Computer data -- location
None.

Computer data -- outline contents
N/A.

Computer data -- description of contents
N/A.

Information held in BTO Archives
1 folder contains the full data analysis, and not just those data used in the published report. These papers have been scanned.

Notes on Access and Use

Other information

Notes on Survey Design

Specific Issues for Analysis