

## **BREEDING WADERS AT MEDUSA BAY, WESTERN TAIMYR, IN 1996**

**I. Tulp, L.W. Bruinzeel, J. Jukema & O. Stepanova. 1997.** WIWO Report 57. 90 pp. Available from Stichting WIWO, Lindengracht 9, 3633 AS Vreeland, The Netherlands. Price 20 Dutch guilders per copy, plus 15 guilders per order.

WIWO (Foundation Working Group International Waterbird and Wetland Research) is a Dutch organisation facilitating projects and expeditions to study waterbirds and wetlands; by 1995, 50 projects had been conducted in 18 countries.

The expedition under review maintains the WIWO tradition. The study area was at Medusa Bay in the western Taimyr Peninsula, well within the breeding area of several wader species that migrate to southern Africa.

The report describes the results of a five-week long expedition, covering the laying and incubation periods, and only about a week after hatching. Therefore the research focused

mainly on the breeding biology of the incubation period. Particularly useful data were collected on the incubation energetics of Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints. Both species have uniparental breeding systems in which one adult does all the incubation; this sets constraints on the time that the adult can be away from the nest to feed. In the Arctic environment, adverse conditions such as snowstorms, make uniparental incubation particularly risky.

The expedition made observations on energy expenditure (using doubly-labelled water), body mass variation (by trapping and weighing individual birds several times during incubation), and incubation schedules (using a data logger with a temperature sensitive probe).

A total of 329 waders, 140 adults and 189 chicks, were ringed; 274 of these were Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints. Many of these birds must be migrating to southern African, and therefore are available to SAFRING ringers to rettrap.

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