The preamble to the 1971 Ramsar Convention on wetlands states *'that waterfowl in their seasonal migrations may transcend frontiers and so should be regarded as an international resource.'* Indeed, the migratory nature of many waterbirds, including waders, is not only a subject of biological fascination, providing a fruitful field for eco-physiological research, but also provides a major challenge for conservation. The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement further notes that *'migratory waterbirds are particularly vulnerable because they migrate over long distances and are dependant on networks of wetlands that are decreasing in extent and becoming degraded through non-sustainable human activities'* yet they *'constitute an important part of the global biological diversity which, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, and Agenda 21 should be conserved for the benefit of present and future generations.'* To achieve these ends, the Ramsar Convention suggests that *'the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna can be ensured by combining far-sighted national policies with co-ordinated international action'.*

This initial section provides a range of examples of how waders and other waterbirds are being conserved in Europe and northern Asia together with some of the data and information demands that this requires.

Waders as indicators of biological diversity

V.E. Flint

ABSTRACT ONLY

Flint, V.E. 1998. Waders as indicators of biological diversity. *International Wader Studies* 10: 23. (Abstract only)

Biological Diversity (BD) issues are among conservation priorities. Inventories of habitats and BD types, as well as effective monitoring, are necessary to solve the issues at a national (local) level. To achieve this objective, groups of animals as indicators of current BD status are identified. An indicator group should cover species which are closely connected with certain types of habitats and those which are clearly linked to environmental changes. In addition, these species should be reasonably abundant, and should be easily and accurately counted. Waders meet these criteria as indicators in many ways. In addition, waders as indicators can be used not only within a breeding area but also where they concentrate on stopovers during migration and on winter grounds. In the breeding season waders can be used as BD indicators in different types of the tundra and forest-tundra (genera: *Pluvialis, Tringa, Phalaropus, Philomachus, Calidris, Gallinago, Limnodromus*), steppe and desert habitats (genera: *Vanellus, Chettusia, Himantopus, Recurvirostra, Limosa, Glareola*) and in forest zone wetlands, agricultural lands and raised bogs (genera: *Vanellus, Gallinago, Numenius*). The paper presents mapping data and quantitative population indices.

Vladimir E. Flint, All-Union Research Institute of Nature Conservation and Reserves, 113628, Moscow, Sadki-Znamenskoye, Russia.

Флинт, В. Е. 1998. Кулики как индикаторы биологического разнообразия. *International Wader Studies* 10: 23 (только абстракт)

Вопросы, связанные с биологическим разнообразием (БР), имеют природоохранный приоритет. Для того, чтобы разрешать вопросы на национальном (местном) уровне, необходима инвентаризация биотопов и типов БР. Для достижения этой цели выделены группы животных, как индикаторы современного БР-статуса. Группа-индикатор должна включать виды, тесно связанные с определенными типами биотопов и явно связанные с преобразованиями окружающей среды. Более того, эти виды должны быть сравнительно многочисленны и относиться к легко и точно считаемым. Кулики во многом удовлетворяют этим критериям видов-индикаторов. Более того, куликов как индикаторы можно употреблять не только в пределах области гнездования, но и во время концентраций на местах остановок во время сезонных перемещений и на зимовках. В период размножения куликов можно использовать в качестве индикаторов БР в разных типах тундры и лесотундры (роды : *Pluvialis, Tringa, Phalaropus, Philomachus, Calidris, Gallinago, Limnodromus*), в степных и пустынных биотопах (роды : *Vanellus, Chettusia, Himantopus, Recurvirostra, Limosa, Glareola*) и в водно-болотных угодьях лесной зоны, на сельскохозяйственных угодьях и верховых болотах (роды : *Vanellus, Gallinago, Numenius*). В настоящей статье представлены данные картирования и количественные показатели популяций.