

Recent reports

Beached Bird Surveys, March - May 1990 (NSO)

The end of 1989/90's season did not produce any large scale strandings on our coasts other than described in last issues Recent reports. Counts were conducted nationwide in March, but considerably less data are available for April and May.

Early March was the end of the mass stranding of auks on our coast and most of the auks found in March were old corpses, often oiled. There were still Puffins washing up in March. A bird found on 23 Feb (Ijmuiden) originated from Isle of May, ringed (and colour-ringed) as nestling in July 1989. Razorbills and Guillemots still predominated on the beach, but not as extreme as in February. Fulmars (22 individuals) and Gannets (22 individuals) were reported quite frequently, while also several Red-throated Divers and Great Crested Grebes were found. Eiders were numerous (unoiled) in the Wadden Sea area. Unusual findings were an adult male Long-tailed Duck near Harlingen and a Bullfinch near Eemshaven. April counts were received from Friesland and from the mainland coast. Eiders predominated in Friesland, while old rotten corpses of seabirds were mainly littering the mainland coast. Daily counts on the Hondsbossche Zeewering showed that there were occasionally still fresh Guillemots washing up. The odd Fulmar and Gannet was found and the corpse of a very early Cuckoo was picked up on 16 April near Ijmuiden. So far there were no counts received for May.

The oil-sampling project made good progress in all three participating countries. At the Deutsches Hydrographisches Institut some 500 samples were received already. All Dutch samples were found to be in good condition and, also, the documentation was sufficient. Only preliminary results of chemical analysis are made available, indicating that most oil samples were discharged fuel oil from residues in sludge tanks of ships. It is hoped that more data will become available this summer, and next seasons sampling will commence in November in our country.