

WADER STUDY GROUP

Bulletin No. 1

October 1970

The main purpose of this bulletin is to keep all those interested in waders informed of what is happening elsewhere in the country. To this end it will contain regular summaries of the numbers of waders ringed, the recoveries reported and reports of unusual numbers of any species. In addition this bulletin includes a short account of two netting trips to Iceland and a short article on the analysis of a catch. It is hoped that similar, and perhaps longer, articles will be submitted for future bulletins. One of the purposes of this publication is to bring together and widely circulate small analyses that would not normally be placed in journals but are of interest to all observers or ringers of waders.

Two requests were made at the first meeting of the W.S.G. for

(1) Short accounts about the techniques of mist-netting waders. It is desirable to produce a manual of techniques in the near future so that others can benefit from the experience already gained.

(2) Ringed Plover measurements, weight and moult. I would like to thank those who have already contributed to these requests. However there are still very many who could help with both of them. I am making another plea for more data to be made available as soon as possible.

The W.S.G. can play an important part in the co-ordination of ringing effort. To help this, would those persons or groups wishing to assist elsewhere and those groups needing help please contact Tony Prater, who will put the parties in touch with each other.

May I remind all readers that the next bulletin will be circulated in March 1971, and could I please have ringing totals, articles, etc. by the end of February 1971.

I would like to include here a reminder that the next meeting of the Wader Study Group will be during the Ringers Conference (January 8th-10th). It is hoped that as many groups or individuals as possible will be able to send representatives so that all views can be heard. Please do your best to attend.

A.J. Prater.

Wader Ringing during Autumn 1970

The totals ringed are in the table below. The autumn has been characterised by low catches. On two occasions the wind has freshened as the new moon approached only to drop as the full moon appeared. Thus mist net catches have been unusually low although Farlington R.G. have managed to catch good numbers. Cannon net catches have also been quite low with a series of factors operating against success in many cases. However it is hoped that this will lead to a more determined effort from now on and result in better luck during the winter months.

Ringling totals for June - September

	FRG	LRG	MBWG	MRG	NKRG	TRG	WWRG
Oystercatcher	-	4	500	2		32	563
Lapwing	2	-	-	7		158	-
Ringed Plover	46	-	50	5		6	36
Little Ringed Plover	-	10	-	-		-	-
Grey Plover	-	-	-	-		-	30
Golden Plover	-	-	2	-		2	-
Turnstone	-	-	241	-		-	73
Snipe	4	13	1	1		-	-
Jack Snipe	2	3	-	-		-	-
Woodcock	-	-	-	-		6	-
Curlew	-	-	-	1		45	82
2 Whimbrel	-	-	-	-		-	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	2	1		3	3
Green Sandpiper	-	1	-	1		-	-
Common Sandpiper	21	2	-	2		3	-
Redshank	34	-	156	12		28	2
Greenshank	10	-	-	1		-	-
Knot	-	2	126	29		1	150
Dunlin	369	24	746	174		57	498
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	-		1	-
Little Stint	4	-	-	-		1	1
Sanderling	-	12	13	155		-	474
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	492	71	1837	390		343	1914

Recent Recoveries

The increase in wader ringling in the past few years is now beginning to show in the increase in the number of recoveries notified. The most noticeable impact has been caused by the two cannon-netting trips to Iceland but those apart many interesting movements were reported.

Oystercatcher. 52 recoveries were reported from the breeding grounds with a further 4 passage birds from Holland and France.

	From	Burry	Menai	Dee	Morecambe	Bay	Wash
To Holland	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Germany	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Norway	6	-	-	-	2	-	5
Iceland	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Faeroes	1	4	-	-	2	-	-
Shetland	-	-	-	1	4	-	1
Orkney	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Scotland	6	2	2	6	2	-	1

Only two pulli were recovered.

ringed Angus	21.6.69	x	Fishguard, Pembs.	8.3.70
ringed Fair Isle	29.6.66	x	Whitehaven, Cumb.	28.2.70

Ringed Plover only 4 distant recoveries were noted.

Pullus	Ravenglass, Cumberland.	16.5.67	c	Morecambe Bay.	28.1.70
Pullus	Foulness, Essex	23.5.70	c	Farlington, Hants	9.8.70
Juv.	Minsmere	6.9.66	x	Mauche, France	12. 8.70
P.J.	Swale, Kent	4.9.66	c	Denmark	12.8.70

Grey Plover

P.J.	Dee	3.3.68	x	Jutland, Denmark	14.8.70
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Turnstone

Juv.	Morecambe Bay	9.10.69	x	Ribble	1.2.70
P.J.	Hilbre, Dee	17.2.68	c	Walney	20.8.70

Curlew

Ad.	Humber	30.8.69	x	Denmark	16.4.70
P.J.	Fair Isle	16.3.69	x	Norway	10.5.70

Redshank 5 foreign and 8 long distance British recoveries were reported. Of the foreign recoveries two were on breeding grounds and three in wintering grounds.

Ad.	Wash	1.8.69	x	Iceland	20.6.70
Ad.	Swale	16.8.69	x	Flensburg, Germany	13.5.70
FG.	Tay	14.7.69	x	Scheveningen, Holland	2.1.70
IY	Lydd, Kent	25.7.69	x	Somme, France	30.3.70
Ad.	Alnwick, Northumberland.	4.9.69	x	Essaouira, Morocco	25.4.70

3 Knot All recoveries of birds which were on or near breeding grounds referred to the Greenland race, a total of 47 were controlled in Iceland and a further 2 were shot in Greenland. All recoveries apart from the total of 19 movements between the Dee, Morecambe Bay and the Wash and the Icelandic controls are listed below.

Juv.	Wash	3.9.63	x	Vendee, France	14.1.70
Ad.	Wash	3.9.67	x	Thorney Is., Hants	18.1.70
FG	Dee	22.11.65	x	Frisian Is., Germany	4.6.70
Ad	Wash	5.5.69	x	Jutland, Denmark	2.8.70
Ad	Morecambe Bay	15.10.69	x	West Greenland	30.5.70
Ad	Morecambe Bay	8.2.70	x	West Greenland	7.7.70
IY	Dungeness	30.8.69	x	Mozambique	10.10.70

Dunlin 21 long distance British and 28 foreign recoveries have been reported. The foreign recoveries are summarised below.

		to Eire	Sweden	Denmark	Germany	France	Portugal	Morocco
From								
Dee				1				
Morecambe Bay			1	2				
Medway			3	1				
Wash	1		9	2	1	3	2	1

In addition there was one interesting British pullus recovery ringed Fetlar, Shetland 14.6.68 x Walney 23.5.70

Curlew Sandpiper A single recovery has resulted from the autumn 1969 invasion.

PJ Lydd, Kent 30.8.69 x Casablanca, Morocco 7.3.70

Sanderling Surprisingly no movements within Britain were recorded although 5 foreign recoveries were reported.

Ad	Dee	26.7.68	x	Dakar, Senegal	20.1.70
FG	Hilbre, Dee	3.5.69	x	Casablanca, Morocco	7.5.70
Ad	Wash	31.7.69	x	Casablanca, Morocco	3.3.70
PJ	Wash	13.7.68	x	Safi, Morocco	5.5.70
J	Wash	20.8.67	x	Somme, France	21.7.70
Ad	Wash	13.4.68	x	nr. Murmansk	19.6.70

In addition a French ringed Sanderling was controlled on the Dee in August.

Wader Catching in Iceland, Summer 1970

M. Pienkowski and P. Stanley

In May and July/August this year two expeditions to Iceland were organised in order to catch waders, particularly Knot on migration to and from the Greenland breeding grounds. During the last few years considerable data have been collected on this species in Britain. The expedition's aim was to complement this work by helping to determine the status of the Greenland breeding population amongst the birds on the west European coasts in autumn and winter. In view of the difficulties involved in catching Knot widely dispersed on the Greenland breeding grounds, Iceland presents an excellent location for catching as, while the waders are still concentrated in flocks, it seems safe to assume that they form part of the Greenland breeding population. Secondary aims of the expedition particularly the second phase, were the catching of samples of other wader species and the taking of blood smears for a parasite study by Dr. A.E. Williams (University of Birmingham).

In view of the lack of darkness in Iceland during the summer, mist-netting was ruled out for most of the time and cannon-netting was adopted as the principle catching technique, two net sets being loaned by the Wash Wader Ringing Group. The Cambridge/London Iceland Expedition 1970 was officially recognised by Cambridge University and University College, London, personnel coming from these and from King's and Chelsea Colleges, London and the University of East Anglia. The Icelandic Ministry of Education gave permission for the expedition to work and the Museum of Natural History, Reykjavik supplied rings.

- 4 The first party was in Iceland during the peak of the Knot migration in the last two weeks of May, when flocks of several thousand were continually passing through the fjords in the west coast bays of Breidafjordur and Faxafloi. 878 Knot were caught including 37 controls (15 Wash; 13 Morecambe Bay; 7 Mersey-side R.G.; 1 Leigh R.G. 1 Vendee, France). A large sample was weighed and measured.