# WADER STUDY GROUP

Bulletin No. 2 March 1971

Quite a number of keen wader ringers were not able to attend the Ringing and Migration Conference in January and therefore did not officially join the W.S.G. Could those receiving this bulletin make sure that all those interested do know about the structure of the W.S.G. and if they wish to join could they please send their 50p subscription to:

Ron Birch, 12, Rake Way, Saughall, Chester

who has agreed to act as treasurer.

We wish to remind all readers of these bulletins that the material published is of internal use only and that should anyone wish to publish the data elsewhere, the permission of the authors and editors must be obtained first.

Summer Meeting. The W.S.G. would like to hold a meeting of the steering committee sometime in June; could the representatives of each group please let Clive Minton know which dates would be most convenient and we will try to arrange a day. It is thought that discussion should be held on one species of wader (perhaps the Redshank) so could W.S.G. members let Clive know which species they would like to see discussed.

Two species, the Knot and Sanderling, were selected for special study at the first meeting of the W.S.G. Some of the results of the former are included in this bulletin. The latter species is not being ignored. The peak passage of this species through Britain occurs during May. Plans have been laid for visits to the Wash, Dee and Morecambe Bay during this period and if any ringer can collaborate and catch Sanderling in other areas this will be of tremendous value. Any ringer who can catch even a small sample of Sanderling stands a good chance of noting some useful controls and of getting his birds control ed by the two foreign wader expeditions planned for 1971. These two expeditions, to Iceland and Morocco are concentrating much effort into catching Sanderling.

FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN (covering March - May) please send ringing totals, recoveries and articles to Tony Prater by the end of May 1971. For those who do not know the addresses of the joint editors please note:

Tony Prater, B.T.O., Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.
Peter Stanley, M.A.F.F., Pest Infestation Lab., Hookrise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

## Wader Ringing in Winter 1970/71

This winter has seen the extension of cannon netting to several new areas. Successful visits have been made to the Solway Firth at Southerness, to the Swale at Harty and to the Point of Air and Thurstaston on the Dee. As a result of these trips over 3,000 waders have been ringed (and still hard luck stories abound!) and have provided a tremendous amount of information on movements, on the weights and measurements of waders in those areas. Several other

areas have been looked at for future trips and will be tackled next autumn and winter.

Mist netting has been fairly successful with the pride of place going to a moderate catch of Knot at West Kirby on the Dee in which there were no fewer than three Icelandic ringed birds out of 108 caught. The totals ringed are set out below.

FRG - Farlington R.G.; MKRG - Mid-Kent R.G.; LRG - Leigh R.G.; MBWG - Morecambe Bay Wader Group; MRG - Maerseyside R.G.; NSRG - North Solway R.G.; RB - Rob Berry; TRG - Tay R.G.; WWRG - Wash Wader R.G.



| | FRG | MKRG | LRG | MBWG | MRG | NSRG | RB | TRG | WWRG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oystercatcher | - | 149 | - | 371 | 84 | - | 14 | 32 | 594 |
| Lapwing | 20 | - | 1 | - | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| Ringed Plover | - | - | - | 11 | - | - | 7 | - | 2 |
| Grey Plover | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 30 | - | 11 |
| Golden Plover | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | 3 | - |
| Turnstone | 8 | - | - | 64 | - | - | 8 | 4 | 10 |
| Common Snipe | 1 | - | 168 | - | 21 | - | - | 1 | - |
| Jack Snipe | - | - | 12 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Woodcock | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Curlew | - | - | - | 1 | 7 | - | - | 20 | - |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | 26 |
| Redshank | 14 | - | - | 131 | 101 | - | 190 | 24 | 14 |
| Knot | - | - | - | 785 | 973 | 561 | 17 | 2 | 1804 |
| Dunlin | 70 | - | - | 512 | 2300 | 8 | 400 | 52 | 508 |
| Sanderling | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Ruff | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| | 113 | 149 | 181 | 1880 | 3511 | 569 | 669 | 138 | 2570 |

## Recent Recoveries

Oystercatcher Only 23 long-distance recoveries were reported during the winter, 10 of these being late reports of breeding birds.

### Breeding birds

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PJ | Whiteford, Burry Inlet | 19.3.69 | x Shetland | 0.9.70 |
| Ad | Whiteford | 11.11.62 | x Faeroes | 0.8.70 |
| Ad | Point of Air, Dee | 9.3.63 | x Faeroes | 0.9.70 |

Breeding birds cont...

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ad | Piel Island, Morecambe Bay | 3.11.68 | x | Faeroes | 25.9.70 |
| Ad | Walney, Morecambe Bay | 18.9.63 | x | Shetland | 31.8.70 |
| Ad | Piel Island | 3.11.68 | x | Norway | 19.8.70 |
| Ad | Dawsmere, Wash | 29.8.69 | x | Norway | 19.6.70 |
| 1Y | Snettisham, Wash | 25.8.68 | c | Norway | 11.7.70 |
| Ad | Snettisham | 11.8.67 | x | Norway | 2.8.69 |
| Ad | Heacham, Wash | 18.2.68 | x | Norway | 0.6.70 |

Ringed autumn recovered autumn

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ad | Snettisham | 4.9.67 | x | Calais, France 10.9.70 |
| Ad | Heacham | 22.10.67 | x | Friesland, Netherlands17.9 |
| Ad | Wolferton, Wash | 28.7.68 | x | St. Andrews, Fife 6.9.70 |
| FG | Walney | 18.9.63 | x | Kircudbright,Solway 14.10. |

Ringed autumn recovered winter

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ad | Point of Air | 22.10.64 | c | Hest Bank, Morecambe31.12. |
| Ad | Point of Air | 15.8.66 | x | Kirkham, Ribble 26.12.70 |
| Ad | Whiteford | 25.8.68 | x | Aberdeen 27.12.70 |

Ringed winter recovered winter

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ad | Hoylake | 7.2.63 | x | Marton, Ribble 28.12.70 |
| Ad | Hilbre, Dee | 6.11.64 | x | Pendine, Burry Inlet 12.1.7 |
| Ad | Piel Island | 18.1.69 | x | Dalmellington, Ayr15.10.70 |
| Ad | Walney | 19.1.69 | x | Maryport, Solway 4.1.71 |
| 2Y | Point of Air | 1.11.63 | c | Hest Bank 24.2.71 |

Ringed as pulli

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pull | Aberdeen | 23.5.66 | c | Musselburgh, Firth of Fort |
| Pull | Aberdeen | 6.6.66 | c | Hest Bank 29.11.70/29.8.70 |

During the period two Norwegian birds were controlled on Morecambe Bay and one Danish bird controlled on the Wash.

3 Ringed Plover

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1Y | Sutton Bridge, Lincs | 31.8.64 | x | Manche, France 1.9.70 |
| Juv | Minsmere, Suffolk | 19.8.69 | x | Coruna, Spain 18.10.70 |
| Ad | Ulverston, Morecambe Bay | 9.10.69 | x | Dundalk Bay Louth 9.1.71 |

In addition a juvenile ringed in Norway in August was controlled on the Northumberland coast in mid September.

Turnstone

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Snettisham, Wash | 15.9.69 | c | Aldingham, Morecambe 4.10.7 |
| Ad | Bradwell, Essex | 17.8.69 | x | Cadiz, Spain 11.10.70 |

Curlew

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pull | Pateley Bridge, Yorks. | 31.5.59 | x | Lancaster, Morecambe 17.9.7 |
| FG | Knaresborough | 10.3.64 | x | Aldingham, Morecambe10.10.7 |
| PJ | Poole, Dorset | 22.11.68 | x | Teignmouth, Devon 15.9.70 |
| FG | Lydney, Glos | 14.10.69 | x | Lappi, Finland 5.8.70 |

Whimbrel

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PJ | The Wicks, Kent | 28.7.68 | x | Laesø, Denmark | 2.8.70 |

Redshank

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ad | Snettisham, Wash | 3.9.67 | x | Iceland | 0.8.70 |
| Ad | Terrington, Wash | 31.8.69 | x | Knokke, Belgium | 12.5.70 |
| 1Y | The Wicks, Kent | 25.7.69 | x | Pagham Harbour, Sussex | 30.12.70 |
| Ad | Terrington | 10.8.68 | x | Coruna, Spain | 27.12.70 |
| PJ | Hoylake, Dee | 11.10.69 | x | Gretna, Dumfries | 3.1.71 |
| PJ | Caldey, Dee | 4.2.67 | x | Conway, Caerns | 7.1.71 |

Spotted Redshank

Ad **Frampton-on-Severn**, Glos. 22.7.70 x Mauche, France 2.9.70

Greenshank

PJ Farlington, Hants 20.9.67 x Dunkerque, France late 7.70

Dunlin Of the 21 foreign recoveries reported since September the pride of place goes to the second Merseyside R.G. Dunlin to be recovered in East Greenland during the summer. This bird was killed only 16 days after ringing.

PJ Hoylake, Dee 22.5.70 x E.Greenland 7.6.70

The other recoveries are summarised below:

| Recovered in / Ringing Site | Finland | Denmark | Germany | Holland | France | Morocco |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Humber | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wash | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| other E.coast | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Kent | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| S,Coast | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dee | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |

Of the British controls only one was in the same winter.

Juv Spurn, Humber 3.12.70 c Snettisham, Wash 27.2.71

The other movements between estuaries are:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1Y | Sittingbourne, Kent | 20.10.68 | c | Snettisham | 17.9.70 |
| | 1Y | Cherry Cob, Humber | 13.9.68 | c | Carnfoth, Morecambe | 21.12.70 |
| | Ad | Harty, Kent | 23.8.68 | c | Dawsmere, Wash | 27.11.70 |
| | aD | Snettisham | 12.8.68 | x | Belfast, N.Ireland | 29.12.70 |
| | aD | N. Wooton, Wash | 27.8.68 | c | Thurstaston, Dee | 3.1.71 |
| | Ad | Terrington, Wash | 30.8.69 | c | Thurstaston, Dee | 3.1.71 |
| | Ad | Snettisham | 16.3.68 | c | Point of Air, Dee | 2.1.71 |
| | FG | Fifeness, Fife | 21.12.68 | c | Snettisham | 27.2.71 |

At least 26 foreign ringed Dunlin have been controlled or recovered in Britain during the winter.

| | Denmark | Belgium | Germany | Norway | Sweden | Finland | Russia | Poland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FRG | - | - | 2 | - | 2* | - | - | - |
| MRG | - | - | - | 3 | 6 | 3 | - | 1 |
| DRG | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| WWRG | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| MBWG | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - |

* This total includes a ring taken from a Short-eared Owl pellet.

Knot The details of the Mozambique recovery have now come in and are included here.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ad | Bardsea, Morecambe | 21.2.70 | + Upernavik, Greenland | 13.6.70 |
| 1Y | Lydd, Kent | 30.8.69 | + Lourenco Marques, Mozambique | 10.10.70 |
| Ad | Heacham, Wash | 7.3.70 | x Jylland, Denmark | 20.8.70 |
| Ad | Heacham, Wash | 7.3.70 | x Gironde, France | 19.9.70 |
| 1Y | Poole Harbour, Dorset | 19.12.68 | x Schleswig Holstein, Germany | 4.10.70 |
| Ad | Piel Island, Morecambe | 22.12.68 | x Charente Maritime, France | 25.7.70 |
| Ad | N. Wooton, Wash | 27.8.68 | x Charente Maritime, France | 14.8.70 |
| Ad | Thornham, Wash | 15.11.70 | x Ille et Vilaine, France | 25.12.70 |
| Juv | Aldingham, Morecambe | 4.10.70 | x Coruna, Spain | 3.12.70 |

At Southerness, Kircudbrightshire (North Solway) on 14.2.71 the following Knot were controlled, all were adults unless mentioned.

Ad North Wooton, Wash 27.8.68; and eight birds ringed in Morecambe Bay as follows.
Piel Island 22.12.68; Hest Bank 16.4.69, 6.5.69, and 10.4.70; Middleton 14.8.69, 8.2.70 (one adult and one 1Y); and Aldingham 4.10.70(1Y). Plus one Swedish bird.

Other British controls are:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juv | Bardsea Island, Caerns | 29.8.60 | c Aldingham, Morecambe | 11.1.71 |
| FG | Hoylake, Dee | 22.11.65 | c Aldingham, Morecambe | 11.1.71 |
| Juv | Hoylake, Dee | 6.8.67 | c Aldingham, Morecambe | 11.1.71 |
| Ad | Crossens, Ribble | 7.4.70 | c Hest Bank, Morecambe | 24.2.71 |
| Ad | West Kirby, Dee | 28.12.70 | c Hest Bank, Morecambe | 24.2.71 |
| Ad | Holbeach, Wash | 3.9.63 | c Point of Air, Dee | 2.1.71 |
| PJ | Hest Bank, Morecambe | 31.3.68 | c Thurstaston, Dee | 3.1.71 |
| PJ | Hoylake | 5.2.70 | c Snettisham, Wash | 27.2.71 |
| PJ | Hoylake | 5.2.70 | c Snettisham, Wash | 27.2.71 |
| Ad | Piel Island | 22.12.68 | c Snettisham, Wash | 27.2.71 |

Apart from the Icelandic controls the only foreign Knot Controlled were a French bird on the Dee and a Swedish bird on the Solway (this latter bird is only the second British recovery of a Swedish ringed Knot).

Purple Sandpiper

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ad | Isle of May, Fife | 18.9.69 | + (B) Finse, Norway | 17.7.70 |

Sanderling

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PJ | Middleton, Morecambe | 15.5.69 | x Somme, France | 20.8.70 |
| Juv | Heacham, Wash | 28.9.69 | x Cadiz, Spain | 27.11.70 |
| PJ | Snettisham, Wash | 13.7.68 | x Santander, Spain | 3.12.70 |

Ruff

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FGmale | Morpeth, Northumberland | 29.8.64 | x Ferrara, Italy | 30.3.70 |
| PJ " | Newhaven, Sussex | 11.1.69 | x Gers, France | 30.12.70 |

Avocet This is the first foreign recovery of this species

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pull | Minsmere, Suffolk | 28.7.70 + | Santander, Spain 22.10.70 |

## 5 Studies on the Knot

by Mike Pienkowski

During the last few months the information gathered on the Knot by ringers and groups throughout the country, has been investigated by Tony Prater, Peter Stanley and myself, and these studies are continuing. The Merseyside, Morecambe Bay, North Solway and Wash Wader Ringing Groups together with several individuals have been generous enough to supply data and we hope that others may be able to co-operate. The objects of this note are to indicate what information is of most use and how it is being used.

A preliminary look at the traditional wader parameters - wing and bill length, and weight - has shown that wing length may be very useful in separating populations of Knot. Fairly large samples from the Wash in November and the Dee in January show good agreement with regard to four component populations; mean wing lengths approx. 165-166, 171, 174.5,and 177.5mms. respectively. As may be appreciated, the reasonably reliable separation of such close components requires a fairly large sample. The Wash sample was 939 birds from 3 cannon-net catches and the Dee 571 from two catches.

As Knot populations on all British estuaries at any time of the yea are likely to be made up of several components and not just one, it is highly desirable that as many birds as possible are processed; 500 processed in any month is a useful target to aim at. Obviously, as this sort of total is unlikely to be reached in one year, it is important that a standard measuring technique is adhered to. However, I hope that no-one will assume that because he has no chance of measuring 500 birds there is no point in measuring any, as much smaller samples can be particularly useful in filling gaps, both geographical and chronological, once the big samples have given some indication of which populations are likely to be present.

The situation with wing lengths may be complicated further by feather wear and shrinkage between moults. Wash retraps indicate that Knot wing lengths may decrease up to 7mm. from November to August! This goes to emphasise the importance of measuring all controls and retraps to provide a check on the general data.

It appeared at one time that bill length might be useful when used in conjunction with wing length in separating Knot populations. This now, however, seems unlikely and, although one cannot yet say definitely that there is no point in measuring bill lengths wing lengths are definitely much more use. On the other hand weights seem to be extremely valuable, not only in the investigation of the amount of fat a bird is carrying but also, in this species, for the separation of populations and of sexes.

In order to determine which birds are going where, the numerical analysis of retraps from the same estuary and controls from other estuaries is particularly rewarding, and when used in conjunction with the processing data, even more so. In order to use this type of information to its best advantage it is necessary to have details of both retraps and catch totals for the sites. The most useful form of the latter is as totals by months and years or, alternatively, as full details of each catch. It is then possible to remove the bias due to different intensities of ringing during the year and between years.

In summary, some of the most important details for wader studies are:-
1) catch totals, as described above, preferably split between new birds and retraps and, where possible, by age.
2) details of retraps within the same or nearby estuaries.
3) processing details of all controls and as many new birds as can be measured.
The most useful processing details for the Knot are wing length and weight, but bill length may prove of some use.

If any ringer or group is willing to allow use of any part of their results, I would be very pleased to receive it at the address below.

M.W.Pienkowski, School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich NOR 88C.

## THE MOVEMENT OF ICELANDIC RINGED KNOT IN BRITAIN DURING THE WINTER 1970/71

by Peter Stanley

The Wader Study Group was set up to co-ordinate British wader research so that the efforts of individual members could be channelled towards rewarding collaborative research. This policy is already leading to success in the case of the Knot, a species chosen for particular attention in 1971.

It became evident some time ago that during the winter there are substantial movements of Knot between estuaries and even across the country. Recoveries of Knot, ringed in early autumn on the Wash, later the same winter on the Conway estaury, the Dee, the Ribble, Morecambe Bay and in Northern Ireland, suggested that a proportion of the early autumn Wash Knot population moved north and west during the late autumn. Wader counts have suggested that a strong NW. passage of Knot occurs just prior to the spring migration and results in very large transient flocks on Morecambe Bay in early May. Data, summarised in Table 1, collected by the Cambridge/London Iceland expeditions during 1970 suggests that the Icelandic passage

6 Knot are more evident on the Wash in early autumn than later in the winter, with the control percentage falling from 0.39 to 0.11.

Table 1. Comparison of number of controls in Iceland of birds ringed on the Wash and Morecambe Bay related to the estimated numbers of surviving ringed birds from these localities.

| Ringed | Total ringed to May 1970 | | Estd. no.surviving at May 1970 | | No. controls in Iceland | | Controls as % of estd. alive | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | MB | W | MB | W | MB | W | MB |
| August Oct. | 4606 | 295 | 3368 | 202 | 13 | 2 | 0.39 | 0.99 |
| Nov. May | 6026 | 6434 | 5305 | 4501 | 6 | 16 | 0.11 | 0.36 |

These data are highly significant due to the large number of Knot handled on the Wash but the early autumn data for Morecambe Bay does not allow conclusions to be drawn. The winter control percentage on Morecambe Bay is similar to the early autumn one for the Wash.

This picture has been clarified by the activities of members of the WSG in Britain during this winter. This effort has resulted in 10 Icelandic ringed Knot being controlled, these are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Controls of Icelandic ringed Knot in Britain in 1970/71

| Locality | Date | Knot caught | Icelandic controls | Control rati |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wash | 22.8.70 | 30 | 1 | 0.033 |
| Wash | 17.9.70 | 138 | 0 | - |
| Wash | 19.9.70 | 1 | 0 | - |
| Wash | 15.11.70 | 415 | 1 | 0.0024 |
| Wash | 31.1.71 | 177 | 0 | - |
| Wash | 27.2.71 | 1708 | 1 | 0.0006 |
| Wash | 28.2.71 | 272 | 0 | - |
| Wash | 27.3.71 | 451 | 0 | - |
| Dee | -.11.70 | 17 | 0 | - |
| Dee | -.12.70 | 8 | 0 | - |
| Dee | -.1.71 | 834 | 3 | 0.0036 |
| Dee | -.2.71 | 114 | 3 | 0.0265 |
| Morecambe Bay winter 70/71 | | 950 | 1* | 0.0011 |
| Solway | 14.2.71 | 571 | 0 | - |

* not ringed in 1970

This table indicates that the proportion of Icelandic passage birds in the Wash population falls from a relatively high value in early autumn as the winter proceeds. The data from the west coast reveals that the proportion of Icelandic birds in the Dee population is high and may still be rising. The data for Morecambe Bay and the Solway is not so convincing but is in line with the passage period of late March to early May for Knot in the north Irish Sea. It is hoped that good samples of Knot can be obtained in the spring in this area, when there may well be a high proportion of Icelandic controls in the catches.

N.B. The report of the Cambridge/London Iceland Expeditions 1970 is available from Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Strangeways Laboratory, Cambridge, price 50p.

This report contains 27 figures and tables and as an appendix presents the weights and measurements of all waders handled by the expeditions.

## WADER RINGING AT VADSØYA, NORTHERN NORWAY

by Ray Eades

Ringers of waders in Britain now control many waders ringed in Scandinavia. These are usually from well known stations like Ottenby, on the Swedish Baltic coast, or Revtangen, Norway. Less well known, but potentially very exciting is a ringing station at Vadsøya, on Varanger Fjord, Norway. This station, situated at
7 70 04'N and 29.45'E, is manned by an amateur ringer, Jostein Grastveit, and a growing band of enthusiasts. They have kindly sent details of their totals and recoveries for this bulletin.

The birds are caught at a small freshwater pool on an island in Varanger Fjord, close to the busy fishing town of Vadsø. This shallow pool is a gathering place for flocks of waders after they have finished breeding on the nearby tundra and arctic swamps. Normal numbers at the pool from mid-July to mid-September are 200 Red-necked Phalaropes, 100 Dunlin, 50 Ruff, 50 Little and Temmincks Stint, and about 50 others of various species.

Single-shelf mist nets are used to trap the birds. They are placed on permanent poles either in the water or across the banks of the pool. Despite 24 hours daylight and the persistent cold Arctic winds, several hundred waders are ringed every year. The best month is August, as the evenings are relatively dark by then, and the large flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes are easier to catch. The ringing totals are given below.

| | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oystercatcher | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Ringed Plover | 4 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 18 |
| Grey Plover | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Golden Plover | 5 | 1 | - | - | 6 |
| Turnstone | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Jack Snipe | 2 | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Redshank | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 12 |
| Spotted Redshank | - | 3 | - | 1 | 4 |
| Knot | 1 | - | - | 10 | 11 |
| Purple Sandpiper | 2 | 3 | - | 2 | 7 |
| Little Stint | 45 | 7 | 2 | 21 | 75 |
| Temmincks Stint | 35 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 54 |
| Dunlin | 232 | 350 | 56 | 119 | 757 |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 1 | - | 4 | - | 5 |
| Sanderling | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Ruff | 82 | 211 | 77 | 27 | 397 |
| Grey Phalarope | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Red-necked Phalarope | 122 | 203 | 157 | 311 | 793 |
| | 540 | 804 | 307 | 511 | 2262 |

## Recoveries

The last four years ringing has yielded many valuable recoveries which are mentioned below by courtesy of Jostein Grastveit.

Red-necked Phalarope. Eight recoveries in the Soviet Union indicate an overland SSE migration from Varanger, through the Pripyat area, possibly along the Volga to the Black and Caspian Seas. Presumably these birds are on route to the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

Dunlin One bird, ringed on the 24.8.68, has been controlled on the Lac de Tunis (Tunisia). Others have been recovered in Kent, Denmark and France.

Ruff There have been recoveries in Finland, southern Russia and Italy.

Redshank Of the three Redshank ringed in 1967, two were subsequently recovered!

ringed 22.8.67 + Vendee, France 17.9.67
ringed 9.9.67 + Glubukoye, Minsk, USSR 10.10.67

Jostein intends to continue ringing at Vadsøya so we can look forward to hearing more of his extremely valuable effort in the future.

(this study shows clearly that even in areas without vast flocks of waders, good catches can be made. Here single panel nets are used with great success and this emphasises the point that this type of net should perhaps be considered as a more valuable trapping method than many British ringers believe. Eds.)

## 8 AGEING OF SNIPE

by Tony Prater

As far as I know no ageing criteria are generally accepted for this species. In recent discussions I have had with Dr. Brian Stronach of the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, I learnt of a very simple method that he has used with consistent success. As with almost all other waders the inner coverts show the character most clearly. The diagram shows this difference

The dark line at the tip is present in both ages but the adult has a dark area extending up the shaft of the feather. The tip mark is abraided during the winter but the central dark area of the adult provides for a ready distinction at least until spring.

I would be very interested to hear if this method of ageing gives good results when used by different ringers throughout the country.

## SINGLE SHELF NETTING

The supply of loose superfine single shelf netting came to an abrupt stop a few months ago, however the BTO may be receiving a small number of 100 yard lengths in the near future. This would be available at £5-25 per length. If anyone would like to buy this last bargain offer they should send in an order immediately, but please only order by the 100 yard length.

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

### 1. SPOTTED REDSHANK

This species breeds in N. Scandinavia, Finland and N. Russia, and winters mainly in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Areas, with records from many parts of the African complex. However it does occur in this country, often in considerable numbers, on passage, feeding in freshwater localities. It appears from the limited data available

that this species can moult in Britain and then continue moving south and east. This species is fairly easy to mist net but few are ringed each year. If any ringer has any data as regards moult, measurements, or recoveries/controls I would appreciate a copy. It may be possible in the near future to make a concerted effort to catch this species but this will depend on whether an analysis of the data in hand suggests a rewarding line of research. Could you please send the data to Peter Stanley, MAFF, Pest Infestation Laboratory, Hookrise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

2. PURPLE SANDPIPER

Information is being collected on the distribution and numbers of this species in Britain. It is hoped that the information obtained will be of help in trying to separate the passage periods of different geographical populations of this cirumpolar breeding species. It is important that all the available processing data shou be analysed to help with this separation. If any ringer has any information would they please send it to;
Professor J. D. Craggs, Department of Electrical Engineering, Brownlow Hill, P.O.Box 147, Liverpool.

## 9 WADER REFERENCES FROM BRITISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE

It is intended to present in the WSG bulletins references that are relevant to the interests of the group. Thus a list of recent references will be featured and in some bulletins a comprehensive bibliography of a single species will be presented (commencing with Knot and Dunlin). Some members may be interested in certain references but may have difficulty in obtaining copies of the papers If this is the case either of the editors can be contacted and will be pleased to supply copies of the requested literature.

ANDREW,I.G.(1968) Occurence of the Great Knot (C. tenuirostris) in New Zealand. Notornis 15, 207-210

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BENGTSON,S.A. & SVENSSON,B. (1968) Feeding habits of Calidris alpina and C. minuta in relation to the distribution of marine shore invertebrates Oikos 19, 152 - 157

BEZZEL,E. (1968) Records of shorebirds seldom seen in interior of Germany. Vogelwarte 24, 212 - 213

BISSON,A.J. (1969)Golden Plover with wing bars. Brit. Birds 62,70-7

BUB,H. (1967) Uber den Säbelschnabler (Recurvirostra avosetta) und den Grossen Brachvogel (Numenius arquarta) in Jadenbusen bei Hochwasser. Vogelwarte 24, 135-14

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CHILD,G.I. & MARSHALL,S.G. (1970) A method of estimating carcass fat and fat free weights in migrant birds from wa content of specimens. Condor, 72, 116 - 119

DOWSETT,R.J. (1969)Greater Sandplovers at Lake Chad. Bull.B.O.C. 89, 73 - 74

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EDGAR,A.T. (1969) Common Sandpiper in Northland, N.Z. Notornis 16, 202 - 203

GOSS-CUSTARD,J.D. (1969) The winter feeding ecology of the Redshank (Tringa totanus). Ibis 111, 338 - 356

GREENHALGH,M.E. (1968) The sex ratio of migrant Ruffs. Bird Study 15, 210 - 212

----------(1969)The populations of Redshank and Dunlin in salt marshes in N.W.England. Bird Study 16, 63 - 64

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HARRISON,J.G. (1969) Schiolers Dunlin in Eire (Calidris alpina arctica) Bull. B.O.C. 89, 104 - 105

HAVERSCHMIDT,F. (1969) The migration of the American Golden Plover through Surinam. Wilson Bull. 81, 210 - 211

HOLM,E.O. (1969) The Phalarope. Sci. Amer. 220, (6) 104 - 111

10 LARSSON,T. (1969) Land use and bird fauna on shores in S.Sweden. Oikos. 20, 136 - 155
(Ed. populations of Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Dunlin, and Yellow Wagtail are adversely affected by regeneration of formerly grazed areas).

McKENZIE,H.R. (1968)Census records of Turnstone for Firth of Tharus and Marukau Harbour (N.Z.). Notornis 15,238-241

MULLER,D. (1969) Wind and waders / Southland N.Z. Notornis 16, 126 - 138

NORTON-GRIFFITHS,M. (1967) Some ecological effects of the feeding behaviour of the Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) on the edible mussel (Mytilus edulis). Ibis 109, 412 - 424

----------(1969) The organisation, control and development of parental feeding in the Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus). Behaviour. 34 (1-2) 55 - 115

PORTENKO,L.A. (1968)Studies on einiger selteren Limicoles aus der nordlichen und ostlichen Sibirien 111. J. Orn. 109, 96 - 115
(Ed. the pectoral sandpiper has spread to Siberia from N.America as both populations winter in S. America).

SICK,H. (1968) Vogelwanderungen in Kontinentalen Sudamerika. Vogelwarte, 24, 217 - 243
(Ed. good source of information on migration in South America).

SMITH,N.G. (1969) Polymorphism in Ringed Plovers. Ibis 111, 177-188

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VEPSALAINEN,K. (1968) Wing lengths of Lapwing (V.vanellus) before and after skinning with remarks on measuring methods. Ornis Fennica 45, 129 - 136. (Ed. wing measurements of museum specimens may be considerab shorter than live measurements).