

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 controlled 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 Southernness, 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.

2	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	-	-	-	-
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	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, Bury 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