

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

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, Netherlands	17.9
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, Morecambe	31.12.
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, Bury Inlet	12.1.7
Ad	Piel Island	18.1.69	x	Dalmellington, Ayr	15.10.70
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, Morecambe	10.10.7
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	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	Hoylelake, Dee	22.11.65	c	Aldingham, Morecambe	11.1.71
Juv	Hoylelake, 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	Hoylelake	5.2.70	c	Snettisham, Wash	27.2.71
PJ	Hoylelake	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
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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 year 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.