

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

7 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 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.

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>Total</u>
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
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	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 abraded 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