

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

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 circumpolar breeding species. It is important that all the available processing data should 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.

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- 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, 70-71
- BUB, H. (1967) Über den Säbelschnabler (Recurvirostra avosetta) und den Grossen Brachvogel (Numenius arquata) in Jadenbusen bei Hochwasser. *Vogelwarte* 24, 135-142
- CAMPBELL, R.W. (1969) Occurrence and resting of Wilsons Phalarope at Vancouver, British Columbia. *Condor* 71, 434
- CHILD, G.I. & MARSHALL, S.G. (1970) A method of estimating carcass fat and fat free weights in migrant birds from water content of specimens. *Condor*, 72, 116 - 119
- DOWSETT, R.J. (1969) Greater Sandpipers at Lake Chad. *Bull. B.O.C.* 89, 73 - 74