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New Scandinavian Rings

We have received from John Hartley (Humber) a note on the ring of a Swedish Dunlin that was caught this spring. Instead of the normal soft rings that are usually found on these birds, this one was made of a very hard metal and was about three times the thickness of the British rings. In view of this it was considered that it would be dangerous for the bird if prolonged attempts were made to remove it (as is usually requested by the Swedes). It is therefore recommended that such rings be left on the bird rather than be removed, should any others be found in future years.

Colour Marked Waders

There are four main schemes at present running which involve colour marked waders.

- (i) In Germany ; a short article on the activities of some wader ringers in Germany is included in this bulletin, they are colour ringing Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Greenshank and Spotted Redshank. Address: M. Speckmann, D-44 Munster, Mykstrasse 10, West Germany.
- (ii) In Greenland The Greenland expedition, involving Harry Green and Tony William is off very soon to NE Greenland and is aiming to dye waders to try and obtain the maximum information from them. They will probably be using a yellow dye and will mainly be colour marking Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Sanderling and juvenile Knot. So keep an eye open for yellow waders. Address: G.H. Green, Windy Ridge, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs.
- (iii) Purple Sandpipers. Colour ringing of these using colour codes for sites and years is continuing. Sightings to Tony Prater please.
- (iv) Green Sandpipers. A small study will be made this autumn in east Anglia and will involve dyeing the rumps of Green Sandpipers. Again sightings and colours to Tony Prater.
- (v) Waddensee see last page

Moult

At the W.S.G. summer meeting moult was discussed and it was very strongly recommended that during this autumn a big effort should be made on this aspect of wader biology. Would all members please try to obtain as much information as possible from moulting birds, namely record the stage of growth of each of the primary feathers so that we can obtain moult scores rather than just the number

of old primaries. By using a simple notation (e.g. N⁵410³) it takes very little longer to deal with the birds and gives a moult score (in this case = 30). If everyone does this for sample of 15-20 per catch per species then we will obtain enough information to make a very good analysis of moult. The data can be recorded either on the W.S.G. data forms or on moult cards.

Expeditions

This year several expeditions are planned. The progress report of the Iceland expedition is included here. A brief mention of the Greenland expedition is also made in the section on colour marking. Two groups are going to Morocco, under Derek Stanyard and Mike Liebhörsing, to continue with the work started there (see the article in this bulletin) and last but not least two groups hope to visit the Baltic and Atlantic coasts of Europe to observe, catch etc.

Data Forms

All group members are reminded that it is essential that their ringing data be placed on these forms, which Tony Prater can supply. The winter 1972 meeting agreed (1) that all past records for species of which there are less than 100 individuals processed should be put on them; (2) that all records, if at all possible, should also be included and (3) that all birds ringed and processed from January 1st 1972 should be entered on them.

So far we have received 266 forms back from several groups and we would like to thank those who have already sent them in, especially Keith Anderson, Harry Green, B. Murray and David Steventon for transcribing large numbers. However there are still many outstanding forms with the major groups and we would hope that this information will be transcribed as soon as possible so that current ringing data can be included for 1972 and onwards.

Ringings in Spring 1972

Not all the groups returned the details of their catches but the ringing totals of those who did are set out below.

	FRG	GHG	NBWG	MRG	WVRG
Oystercatcher	181	15	8	-	35
Lapwing	5	-	-	-	-
Ringed Plover	8	18	334	136	1
Grey Plover	-	2	-	-	33
Turnstone	-	21	7	-	19
Curlew	-	-	4	-	2
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	-	3
Redshank	16	1	15	-	4
Greenshank	1	-	-	-	-
Knot	-	-	83	-	1178
Dunlin	182	90	948	360	80
Sanderling	-	-	3	256	58
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	44	-	-
Total	<u>393</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>1446</u>	<u>752</u>	<u>1414</u>

Unfortunately due to very poor mist netting weather in April and May, the catches are well below normal. In fact almost all birds were caught with cannon nets.