

AD 13.5.67. Point of Air  
 V 1.8.69. Wolferton, Wash  
 AD 15.5.69. Point of Air  
 V 14.3.71. Deganwy, Conway.

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Wader Ringing on Sewage Farms in Münster, West Germany

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During the last three years much effort has been put into catching the migrant waders passing through the sewage farms near Münster (52°04'N, 7°41'E) in West Germany. The ringing has been carried out by a field agency of "Vogelwarte Helgoland" by a small number of keen ringers, helped, during early May and mid July to mid August, by ringing courses.

Mist nets are used but two additional techniques have been used to increase the catch. Firstly a halogen lamp has been used to locate birds roosting at night and thus making them fly towards the nets. Secondly a tape recorder and amplifier were used on suitable nights in 1971. Both of these pieces of equipment were successful and they seem to have been the main reason for the great increase in the numbers of Black-tailed Godwit, Wood Sandpipers and Greenshank ringed last year.

The totals ringed so far are set out in Table 1.

Table 1. Ringing Totals 1969-1971

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>Total</u>
Oystercatcher	-	1	1	2
Lapwing	243	278	417	938
Ringed Plover	30	36	3	69
Little Ringed Plover	9	11	24	44
Grey Plover	1	2	1	4
Turnstone	1	-	-	1
Snipe	260	313	212	785
Great Snipe	-	-	1	1
Jack Snipe	9	10	14	33
Curlew	3	1	-	4
Black-tailed Godwit	8	5	50	63
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	2	-	3
Spotted Redshank	4	27	16	47
Redshank	31	39	17	87
Greenshank	34	43	75	152
Green Sandpiper	34	28	63	125
Wood Sandpiper	49	137	94	280
Common Sandpiper	102	91	141	334
Knot	-	1	-	1
Little Stint	11	10	-	21
Temminck's Stint	5	3	2	10
Dunlin	37	72	8	117
Curlew Sandpiper	29	16	4	49
Sanderling	-	3	-	3
Ruff	309	304	597	1210
Red-necked Phalarope	-	1	-	1
Total				<u>4340</u>

## Table 2. Recoveries Abroad and Controls

Lapwing: France 10, Spain 3, Portugal 1.  
Ringed Plover: Italy 1.  
Snipe: U.S.S.R. 1, Netherlands 1, Belgium 1, Great Britain 2, France 24,  
Spain 3, Italy 2, Morocco 3.  
Black-tailed Godwit: Morocco 1.  
Spotted Redshank: France 1.  
Wood Sandpiper: Finland 1, Sweden 2, Morocco 1.  
Common Sandpiper: Sweden 1, Belgium 1.  
Dunlin: Poland 1, France 3, Spain 1, Portugal 1.  
Ruff: U.S.S.R. 1, (more easterly than the most easterly of the Wash Wader Study  
Group and the Danish one on 143°), Finland 1, Norway 1, Netherlands 1,  
Belgium 1, Switzerland 1, France 4, Spain 1, Italy 9, Morocco 1, Tunisia  
1, Senegal 2.

(The controls are underlined).

One of the aspects which receives much of our research effort is how long each species rests on the sewage farms during migration. To help with this six species are being studied intensively by colour ringing. The points that these studies have reached are summarised below.

### Greenshank and Spotted Redshank

For both of these species many details on length of stay, the migration patterns of adult and juvenile birds and the moult of the body plumage have been discovered from the 138 (1971) subsequent observations of colour ringed Greenshank and 35 (1971) observations of Spotted Redshank. Greenshank in some cases use the same stopping place in different migrations but in only one case has this been shown for Spotted Redshank, one bird was seen in both spring and autumn 1971. More effort will be put in with these two species to obtain larger samples.

### Green Sandpiper

Although a relatively small number of this species has been caught and the colour combinations are difficult to read, the 110 observations in 1971 have provided valuable information on all aspects of moult and length of stay. One bird ringed in early spring 1969 turned up in all following periods except autumn 1970 indicating a high degree of faithfulness to its migration route.

### Wood Sandpiper

Colour ringing only started in 1971 but already there have been 90 subsequent observations. The most interesting result is that this area is regularly used as a moulting ground by this species, 15 moulting birds were caught in 1971, and it is the most northerly moulting area yet reported.

### Black-tailed Godwit

The number colour ringed should provide much information in later years but already some interesting facts have been discovered about length of stay and moult. Four colour ringed birds were seen on nearby breeding grounds during 1971.

### Ruff

The large samples obtained already have given a detailed picture of the moult and of the length of stay in adults and in juvenile males. Also a considerable amount of information has been gathered on the faithfulness to the area in different years; this was shown by 70 birds between autumn 1970 and autumn 1971 and 25 birds between autumn 1969 and autumn 1971. This very high number of subsequent observations offers conclusive proof that they use this moulting area each autumn. We are hoping that the colour ringing will help to check the ageing criteria of bill and leg colour. 1972 will be the last year that colour ringing will be made on Ruff.