

British Ornithologists Union Conference

The B.O.U. Conference will be held in Exeter University, Devon, from March 29th-31st 1974. The subject will be Waders.

The full programme has not yet been fixed but the following will be speaking.

- Dr. A. Longhurst (Plymouth) Estuarine Ecology - A study of the Bristol Channel.
- P. Smith (Durham University) Feeding ecology of the Bartailed Godwit
- Dr. J.D. Goss-Custard (Nature Conservancy) Factors affecting the feeding of Redshank.
- Dr. W. Wolff (Netherlands) Effects of reclamation on shorebirds in the Delta area.
- Dr. W.G. Hale (Liverpool Polytechnic) Aerial counting of Waders.
- A.J. Prater (B.T.O.) Populations and movements of Knot in Britain.
- Dr. C.D.T. Minton (W.W.R.G.) Moulting patterns in Waders.
- W. Dick (Reading University) Studies of Waders in Mauretania.

There will probably be two other talks on waders, one involving data obtained by ringers.

We hope that all interested will be able to come and give their support to this Conference and to make it a great success.

INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL RESEARCH BUREAU

SYMPOSIUM ON WADERS

A.J. Prater

On the 13th/14th September a Symposium on Waders was held in Warsaw at the kind invitation of the University of Warsaw. 15 short papers were given on many aspects of wader research in Europe. Here I am including the programme and I am including a very brief comment on the scope of the papers. A Symposium proceedings will be published in summer 1974 and this will be available at low cost to anyone interested. When it is available a further announcement will be made in a W.S.G. Bulletin.

The Symposium was chaired by Professor Dr. E. Rutschke (G.D.R.) and Dr. J. Rooth (Netherlands).

Dr. R. Halbe (Warsaw) Ossification of the Skull of Charadriiformes - with phylogerietical remarks.

A report on a study comparing the growth, similarities and differences between the skulls of Tringa totanus and Vanellus vanellus.

Dr. L. Kalbe (Potsdam) Situation of waders breeding inland in the G.D.R.

A report on the populations of less common waders breeding esp. Limosa limosa, Numenius arquata, Philomachus pugnax, Tringa totanus. Also includes comments on assessment of national importance.

A.J. Prater (B.T.O.) Breeding biology of Ringed Plover in Britain and Iceland.

A study of nest record cards to show breeding season, nest success, causes of nest failure and pullus survival.

Dr. J.G. Harrison (UK) Creation of an inland wader habitat.

A report on how a relatively unproductive area can be improved by simple methods and the increase in waders following this.

G. Schwede (GDR) Importance of artificial fishponds for migrating waders.

A study of how these areas are used by migrating and breeding waders in the G.D.R. Comments on amount of food available.

J.J. Seeger (G.D.R.) Important places for migrating waders in the G.D.R.

A report on species and numbers of waders using different areas in G.D.R. and their importance.

O. Merne and C.D. Hutchinson (Ireland) Status of Waders in Ireland.

A report on the Irish "Wetlands Enquiry" and an assessment of the populations and distribution of waders in Ireland.

Dr. J.G. Harrison (U.K.) Racial differences in the plumage of some waders.

A review of the racial differences in wader populations in north Kent - especially for L. limosa, C. alpina, T. totanus, A. interpres, C. canutus.

- Dr. J. Witkowski (Poland) Migration of waders in the Barycz Valley.
A 3-year study of the spring and autumn migration of many wader species showing the very different patterns of them.
- Dr. C. Edelstam (Sweden) Sequence of age and sex groups in wader migration in the Baltic Sea.
A study using data from 10 years observation of the visible migration patterns of waders at Ottenby and combining it with age data from museum collections.
- V. Hajek (Czechoslovakia) Migration of Snipe in C.S.S.R.
An up-to-date summary of the migration of Snipe in Czechoslovakia as studied by ringing.
- A. Johnson (Camargue) Wader Research in the Camargue.
A report on the data being collected by La Tour du Valat. It included details of migration as determined by ringing as well as by regular observations, especially of C.alexandrinus, C.ferruginea, T.totanus.
- Dr. M. Soikkeli (Finland) Population dynamics of Dunlin in Finland.
A review of the many aspects of the dynamics of a population of C.a.schinzii in Finland to show how mortality, breeding success, dispersion etc. act.
- Drs. G. Boere (Netherlands) Wader research in the Dutch Waddensee.
A review of the considerable migration and population research being made in the Waddensee. Particular emphasis on T.totanus, C.alpina, A.Interpres.
- A.J. Prater (B.T.O.) Migration and Population of Knot in Europe.
A study involving the use of international census data, regular counts in different areas, ringing recoveries and biometrics to show the migration pattern of the Knot.

CONTENTSEXPEDITIONS.RECENT RINGING RECOVERIES

Biometrics of British caught Lapwings
 Recent South African recoveries
 Colour marking : comment
 : requests for information
 B.C.U. Wader Conference
 I.W.R.B. Wader Symposium
 Addresses

We must apologise for the extreme delay in the appearance of this our Summer Bulletin. This has been caused by number of factors but we hope that it will not happen again. It must be emphasised that its production is mainly up to you. We are still having a great difficulty in extracting articles from you. So please, if you have any aspect that you find interesting, write it up and send it in. Considering so many of you are doing so well, we should have a stream of articles coming in!

The next Bulletin will be produced in November, so we need your articles by the end of October.

Mauretanian Expedition

The Mauretanian expedition led by William Dick is now well established in the Banc d'Arguin. Their first small catch near Nouakchott on the 16th September has, we hope, set the standard for future catches with controls of an adult Sanderling ringed in Morecambe Bay on the 19th May 1973 and a juvenile Ringed Plover ringed in Sweden. This was out of only 50 waders! To round off the catch in the 30 other birds caught was a Helgoland juvenile Common Tern.

Projected N.E. Greenland Expedition

As a follow-up to the 1972 visit by Harry Green and Tony Williams to N.E. Greenland, and to aid the efforts already made by Danish ringers there, the summer of 1974 will see an invasion of wader ringers there. This expedition will be led by Harry Green and will involve 10 ringers working throughout the wader breeding season. The data **that** will be collected on Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Turnstone, Knot and Sanderling will undoubtedly add very much to our knowledge about the migration of this population through Europe and western Africa. In addition breeding biology and census work will be made. We wish this expedition every success in this undertaking. (If anyone has a spare £100 or so Harry would love to hear from you!)

Note: Wader Ageing guides are again available.

Recent Recoveries

Oystercatcher

Ringed as pullus

4.7.71	Mainland, Shetland	x	Cramond, Edinburgh	12.3.73
3.6.72	Sandwick, Shetland	x	Culbin, Nairn	31.3.73
26.6.72	Papa Westray, Orkney	v	Southernness, Solway	18.3.73
6.7.72	Newburgh, Aberdeen	x	Birkenhead, Dee	3.2.73
6.6.72	Duirikirk, Ayr	x	Ingleton, Yorks	20.2.73

Recovered in Norway

Juv 13.8.67	Snettisham, Wash	x	Rogaland	16.5.73
Ad 13.8.67	" "	x	Nordland	11.5.73
Ad 13.8.67	" "	x	Rogaland	14.3.73
Ad 21.8.67	" "	x	Vest-Agder	9.5.73
IS 5.7.69	Heacham, "	x	Sor-Trondelag	13.6.73
Juv 29.8.69	Dawsmere, "	x	Troms	2.4.73
Ad 29.8.69	" "	x	Rogaland	30.4.73
2Y 18.7.70	Snettisham, "	x	Nordland	4.4.73
PJ 18.7.70	" "	x	More og Romsdal	1.5.73
Ad 22.8.71	" "	v	Troms	24.6.73
Ad 7.11.71	Thurstaston, Dee	x	Nord-Trondelag	10.6.73
Ad 20.2.72	Heacham, Wash	+	Sor-Trondelag	15.6.73

Other Foreign recoveries

PJ 28.8.68	Middleton, Morecambe	x	Faeroes	9.4.73
2Y 23.11.69	Fiel, "	x	Faeroes	6.6.73
IS 29.7.68	Torrington, Wash	x	Zuid Holland, Netherlands	15.4.73
IMM 25.8.68	Whitford, Burry	x	Friesland, "	10.4.73
Ad 26.2.71	Brownsea, Poole	v	Ijsselmeerpolders, "	25.6.73
2y 8.8.71	Dawsmere, Wash	+	Charante Maritime, France	20.10.72

Oystercatchers recovered on breeding grounds in Britain

ringed in	recovered in	Shetlands	Orkney	Scotland
Solway		1	-	-
Morecambe Bay		3	-	5
Dee		-	2	4
Conway Bay		-	-	1
Burry Inlet		-	-	2
Wash		1	-	-

Lapwing

Pull 18.5.69	Woodbridge, Suffolk	+	Martil, Morocco	early Feb 1971
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Ringed Plover

Juv 23.8.69	Sutton Bridge, Lincs	v	Hest Bank, Morecambe	29.4.73
Ad 4.8.66	Ballycotton, Cork	v	Bangor, Caerns	5.5.73
Ad 18.11.72	Conway, Caerns	v	Sylt, W. Germany	2.5.73

The last bird was controlled as a breeding adult.

Snipe

1Y 3.12.72	Bolton, Lincs	+	Vendee, France	9.1.73
1Y 31.12.72	Wigun, Lincs	x	Kuopio, Finland	8.5.73
Ad 26.10.72	Abberton, Essex	+	Lozere, France	20.3.73

BIOMETRICS OF SOME BRITISH-CAUGHT LAPWINGS
R. J. Kennedy

With the recent concentrated ringing of waders and the systematic collection of measurement data on Wader Study Group forms, we are now able to discern for certain species passage of different populations through the country at different times. The Lapwing Vanellus vanellus is however a species in which variability of measurements apparently does not follow any clear patterns, and no subspecies are differentiated. This paper analyses the measurements of this species which have been made on birds caught for ringing in recent years.

The data

The present data involves 497 birds caught for ringing, the main counties being Kent (315), Lancashire (80), Hampshire (36), with a very few birds caught in Staffordshire, Lincolnshire and Denbighshire. They result from 125 catches, the sizes as follows:

<u>Catch Size</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
5 or less	102
6 - 10	14
11 - 15	7
20	1
80	1

The catch of 80 refers to a cannon-net catch at Newbiggin, Lancs on 27.12.69. Most birds were caught in autumn and winter as the following monthly totals show:-

<u>Month</u>	<u>Birds caught and measured</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Birds caught and measured</u>
January	3	July	23
February	3	August	80
March	10	September	65
April	1	October	118
May	1	November	66
June	3	December	124

Catches were made between 1962 and 1972.

Most data are incomplete, with relatively few measurements of bill and very few of tarsus, compared to wing length and weight. Wing was measured by the maximum chord method to the nearest mm.; weight to the nearest gram, and the bill length was measured from the feathers at the base. Although measurement methods were standard, the fact that measurements were made by a series of people means that the apparent variability must be somewhat greater than it really was, due to slight inter-person differences in technique. This applies particularly to wing measurements.

Wing Length

Excluding moulting birds, 280 measurements are available (Fig. 1). A bird with a recorded wing length of 260 mm. is omitted as a probably error.

Turnstone

Ad	30.1.72	Conway, Caerns	v	Newbiggin, Morecambe	4.3.73
PJ	26.2.72	Snettisham, Wash	x	Humber, Lincs	15.5.73

Curlew

FG	29.7.61	Harty, Kent	+	Calvados, France	26.2.73
Pull	17.6.72	Colne, Lancs	+	Vendee, France	27.3.73

Whimbrel

PJ	30.4.71	Romney, Kent	+	Jutland, Denmark	1.8.72
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Bar-tailed Godwit

Ad	13.3.71	Point of Air, Dee	x	Cumberland coast	24.1.73
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Redshank

Pull	28.6.70	Ponteland, Northumb.	x	Reeth, Yorks.	6.5.73
1Y	24.2.71	Hoylake, Dee	x	Heversham, Westmorland	13.4.73
1Y	31.8.72	Wolferton, Wash	x	Tjarnir, Iceland	17.6.73
FG	24.2.68	Fife Ness, Fife	x	Vane Farm, L. Leven	6.4.73
FG	8.12.69	Fife Ness, Fife	x	Dunnet, Caithness	21.5.73
PJ	28.1.70	Newbiggin, Morecambe	x	Dumfriesshire	3.5.73

Knot

Ad	5.5.69	Wolferton, Wash	x	Midjanes, Iceland	8.9.72
Ad	15.11.70	Normham, "	x	Schleswig-Holstein, W. Germy.	23.5.73
Ad	19.2.72	Snettisham, "	x	" "	25.5.73
PJ	12.8.72	Point of Air, Dee	x	Zeeland, Netherlands	11.3.73
2Y	27.1.71	West Kirby, "	x	R. Stour, Suffolk	18.3.73
Ad	29.8.72	Wolferton, Wash	v	N. Humber	29.9.72

The controls between major British estuaries were

	from Solway	Morecambe Bay	Dee	Wash
to Solway	-	-	1	-
Morecambe Bay	-	-	3	4
Wash	1	3	1	-

Dunlin

Ad	15.11.70	Thornham, Wash	x	Jutland, Denmark	17.5.73
Ad	2.1.72	Conway, Caerns	x	E. Frisian Isl. W. Germany	21.1.73
PJ	20.11.71	H. Hayling Island, Chichester	v	Grosser Knechtsand, "	3.5.73
Ad	23.1.65	E. Millary, Thames	x	Schiermonnikoog, Neths.	4.6.73
Juv	15.8.66	Point of Air, Dee	+	Bussind'Arcachon, France	6.4.73
PJ	28.8.72	Terrington, Wash	+	Casablanca, Morocco	14.4.73

The recoveries within Britain were

	to Portsmouth	Wash	Morecambe	Monmouth	Conway
from Sheppey	1	1	-	1	-
Wash	-	-	2	2	-
Morecambe	-	-	-	-	1
Dee	-	-	1	1	-
Conway	-	2	-	-	-

Sanderling

Ad	31.7.69	Snettisham, Wash	v	Heysham, Morecambe	17.5.73
PJ	22.5.70	Hoylake, Dee	v	Heacham, Wash	5.5.73

Ruff

Juv.f.	29.8.66	Doncaster, Yorks	+	Niger Inundation Zone, Mali	4.3.73
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Table 1. Wing length (mm).

Group	n	\bar{x}	S.D.	S.E.	Range
(1) All birds (non-moulting)	280	225.635	7.521	0.393	208 - 249
(2) Birds caught in Lancs. 27.12.69	80	230.138	5.679	0.635	219 - 242
(3) Kent birds, Nov. - Jan.	59	222.559	6.793	0.884	209 - 240
(4) Kent birds, July -Sept.	80	221.425	6.972	0.779	208 - 240

Fig. 1 shows a normal distribution with a fair spread, showing that at least on present data, British-caught Lapwings cannot be separated into discrete groups on the basis of wing length. The means of Kent-caught autumn and winter birds are similar, suggesting either:

- (1) The autumn and winter populations, although originating from different places, have a similar wing length,
- or
- (2) The winter and autumn birds belong to the same population and there has been no decrease in wing length through wear between July - September and November - January.

The Lancashire December birds differ in wing length from the Kent November - January birds, $p < .001$. The difference between the means, about 7.5 mm. is perhaps due to differing measuring techniques but may well reflect a true difference in wing length between birds found in winter in Lancashire and Kent. This needs further data from other parts of the country for a full exploration.

Bill Length

This was measured on 133 birds. Fig. 2 shows that a normal distribution is followed, with no suggestion of any bimodality.

Bill length (mm).

n	\bar{x}	S.D.	S.E.
133	24.511	1.335	0.116

For 128 non-moulting birds whose bill had been measured, wing was also known, allowing the calculation of the correlation coefficient between these two measurements, whose value came to -0.0839 , indicating a lack of correlation between bill and wing lengths, as is also found for Golden Plover Charadrius apricaria (P. Morgan, pers. comm.).

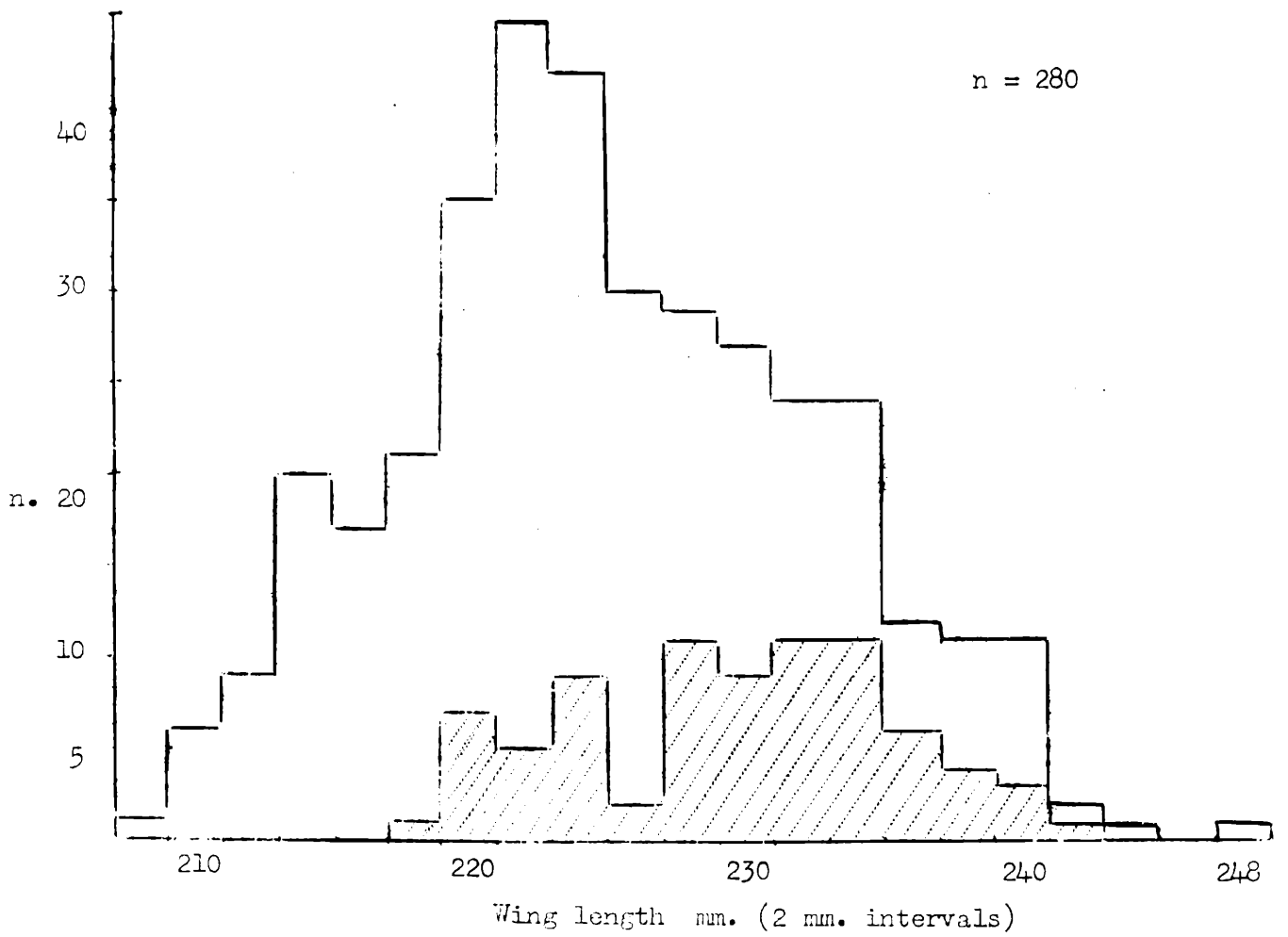


Fig. 1 Wing lengths of British caught Lapwings Hatched = caught at Newbiggin, Lancs. in December 1969.

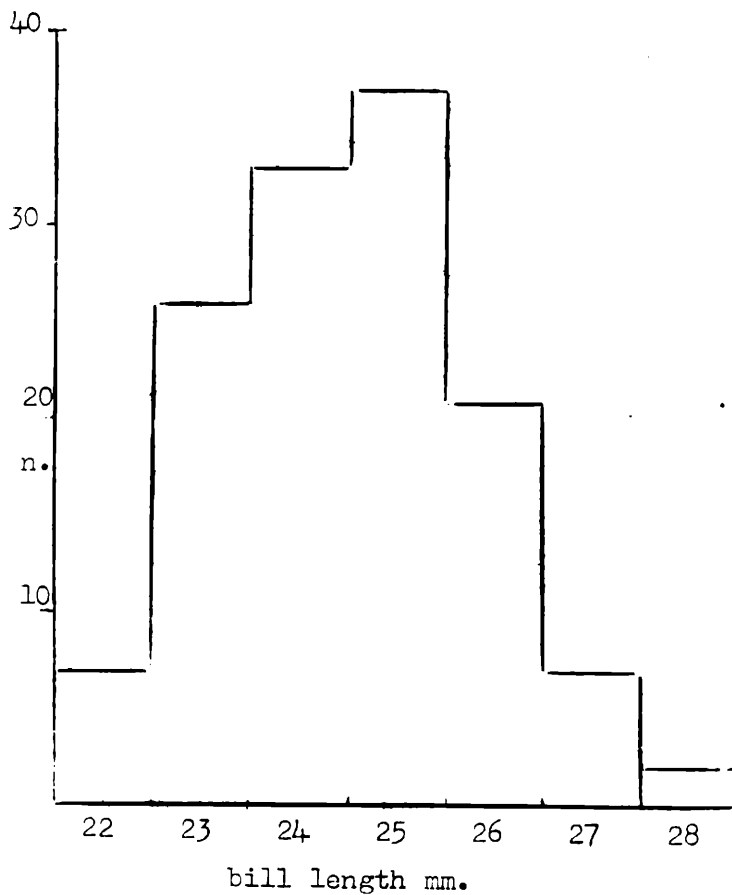


Fig. 2. Bill lengths of British caught Lapwings

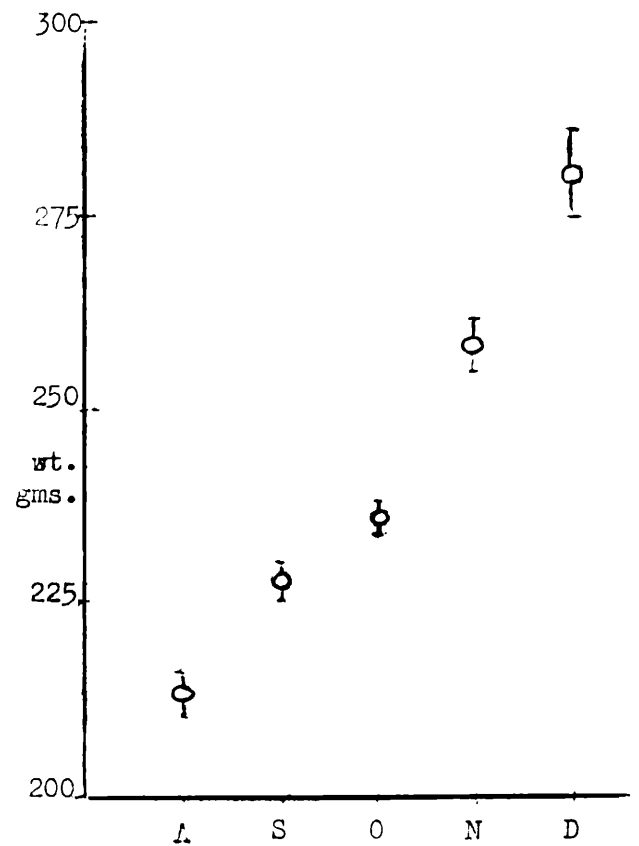


Fig. 3 Weights of British caught Lapwings means & standard errors.

Body Weight - See Fig 3.

Birds were split into several groups with the following results:-

Group	n	\bar{x}	S.D.	S.E.	Range
(1) July birds (non moulting)	7	223.7(14)	21.00	7.9(36)	195 - 252
(2) August birds (non moulting)	46	214.4(70)	22.1(33)	3.3(63)	173 - 266
(3) September birds (non moulting)	40	228.8(50)	17.9(41)	2.8(37)	200 - 292
(4) October birds (non moulting)	76	236.4(39)	15.4(63)	1.9(91)	200 - 274
(5) November birds (non moulting)	39	260.9(23)	21.5(39)	3.4(49)	198 - 305*
(6) December birds (non moulting)	26	282.5(62)	34.4(86)	6.7(44)	211 - 380*
(7) Birds in primary moult July - Sept.	23	222.3(04)	15.7(32)	3.3(80)	178 - 243

* Birds whose weights were recorded as "300g +" had to be omitted as follows:- November (1), December (7).

There is here good evidence of a gradual autumn increase in weight; the difference between the August and December mean weights is highly significant ($p < .001$), with a 25% winter increase on the August weight. The present data on moulting weights does not suggest any differences from birds which have not started or have completed the moult, although more data are clearly required to test this.

Remarks

The wing length of the Lapwing is clearly very variable and more data are required for parts of the country other than Kent and Lancashire to discover:

- (a) if there are differences between local British populations,
- (b) if immigrants differ from British breeding birds in wing length.

The weight changes are fairly clear cut but more data is required for the months January - July to fit the autumn increase into the annual weight cycle. It is likely that some of the heavy winter birds are immigrants.

The tarsus was measured on only 5 birds, a situation which needs rectifying.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank all the individuals who have contributed the data used, especially the Mid Kent Ringing Group, Forecambe Bay W.R.G., Farlington R.G., and Wash W.R.G.

Colour ringing and colour dyeing of waders

Over the last few years many persons studying waders have been colour ringing and colour dyeing waders. We have published a number of requests for information in this Bulletin but we have not been informed of many other schemes. This is, I think, now a subject which is of major importance to rationalise - at least to know which species are being colour marked and for what purpose. It would be a great advantage if we could publish in the W.S.G. Bulletin such a list - preferably with the colours used. MAY I ASK THAT ALL WADER RINGERS USING COLOUR RINGS OR DYES LET ME (TONY PRATER) KNOW SO THAT A LIST CAN BE MADE.

Below are three requests for sightings and one request for ringing details of colour ringed birds.

Who Ringed?

2 Ringed Plovers with

		<u>left leg</u>	<u>right leg</u>
Bird 1.	above	blue	aluminium
	below	yellow	white
Bird 2.	above	black	aluminium
	below	yellow	white

These were seen by Michael Speckman on the sewage farm in Munster, West Germany in summer 1972.

Colour Ringing Schemes

1. Greenland, N.E.

In summer 1973 some Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Knot and Turnstone, were ringed in Pearyland (82° 10'N 30° 30'W). The birds were colour ringed with

a YELLOW ring on LEFT leg
and they were colour dyed.
YELLOW on the breast and underwing

Observations to: Niels Otto Preuss,
Bird Ringing Office,
Zoologisk Museum,
Universitetsparken 15,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø,
Denmark.

2. England : Northumberland

As part of a study of feeding ecology and breeding of Ringed Plovers, a programme of colour ringing will shortly be started on the Northumberland coast. Although the main aim of this is concerned with behavioural studies, it is hoped that sightings of these birds away from the ringing area will be made. A note should be made of the colour and their relative positions on each leg. If it is not possible to see all rings clearly, incomplete observations are also welcome. Observers will, of course, be informed of ringing details.

Observations to: M.W. Pienkowski,
Department of Zoology,
University of Durham,
South Road, Durham.

3. England : Lancashire

Dr. W.G. Hale will be colour ringing Redshank on the Ribble. Any sightings to him at :

Liverpool Polytechnic,
Department of Biology,
Byrom Street,
Liverpool;

I look forward to receiving colour ringing details as soon as possible.

Some South African Ringing Recoveries

As mentioned in an earlier Bulletin wader ringing in South Africa has increased considerably over the last three years. Now sufficient have been caught by the W. Cape Wader Group to start having good recoveries reported. We already know about the Sanderling ringed in March 1971 and controlled on the Wash but more are now available - they are reported in Volume 2 No. 1 of Salfring.

To Iran recovered in autumn 1972 on the Caspian Sea

Curlew Sandpiper	Ringed	11.3.72	in Cape Peninsula
Bar-tailed Godwit	"	23.3.71	in E.Cape.

To U.S.S.R.

Curlew Sandpiper	ringed	27.12.70	at Cape Town
" "	recovered	6.6.72	Kyusyuv 70 37N 12748E
Sanderling	ringed	22.4.72	Langebaan, Cape.
	recovered	13.6.72	Kikson Isl. 7325N 8038E

From E. Germany

Knot	ringed 1Y in 1966	Wismar-Bucht (5402N 1130E)
	controlled late 1972	Langebaan, Cape.