

abraded and still with signs of summer body plumage) had possibly newly arrived at its moulting area, this is additionally indicated by its relatively low body weight (20 grams).

The three birds which had completed their primary moult were possibly failed breeders which had returned to the Southern Hemisphere ahead of the main migration and completed their moult earlier. They were also heavier than the rest of the sample, possibly due to being past the period of energy demanding primary moult. Two of these three individuals having completed their moult had wing lengths greater than the remainder of the sample (both being 100 mm).

A single bird caught in the same area on 17.2.72 had completed its primary feather moult and had a weight of 29.5 grams.

References:

- Middlemiss, E. 196. Biological aspects of Calidris Minuta while wintering in south-west Cape. Ostrich 32: 107-121
- Pienkowski, M.W. (Ed.) 1974. Wader research in Morocco 1972 (In press)
- D.J. Stanyard, P.O. Box 498, Francistown, Botswana, Southern Africa.

Mauritanian Dunlin

Ringling recoveries and biometric analyses both suggest that Dunlin wintering in Mauritania are almost entirely of the race schinzii, and probably principally from Icelandic rather than Scandinavian breeding areas. A fair proportion of the 2,000 Dunlin ringed there from September until November, 1973 should be migrating through Britain, and particularly down the West coast, this autumn. A special Dunlin ringling effort during the schinzii passage period this autumn would be particularly valuable to establish if juvenile Dunlin move north during their first summer. One Mauritanian Dunlin ringed as an adult was controlled by Harry Green on 5th May this year near Cardiff. All Mauritanian ringed Waders carry "Museum Paris" rings.

1973 SIDI MOUSSA EXPEDITION

Francis Argyle

Ten days were spent netting at Sidi Moussa between the 10th and 19th August 1973, this period coinciding with the spring tides. A further 2 weeks were spent here between August 26th and September 7th, again with the spring tides though towards the end netting was continued on neaps. About 450 feet of net were used and catching took place from 1700 hours, through until dawn, most catching however took place at dusk and again at high tide. Biometric data and moult were recorded, the former on Wader Study Group forms, and the latter on moult cards. The birds were ringed with rings kindly supplied by M. Thevenot. The expedition was highly successful and the average catch for each of the twenty nights was 40 birds - a total of 817 were caught. The breakdown of these is set out below:-