

WADER STUDY GROUP

Bulletin No. 14

March 1975

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As you will no doubt notice this bulletin is short - if not very short. This is purely due to the absence of contributions. While it is possible to extract a few from you, it is really up to you to get down and look at the information you have and produce something. When you have - or if you are thinking of doing so - please contact us

Tony Prater, B.T.O., Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.
Mike Pienkowski, 5 Brookmill Cottages, Beal,
Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland.

The copy date for the next bulletin is JUNE 15th.

RINGING TOTALS

Due to popular demand, this sections is being resurrected in the WSG Bulletins. Here the ringing totals for 1974 are summarised, in order to try and bring us up to date. This section depends totally on you to send your records in; in the past when this was a regular feature on several occasions publication of the bulletin was held ~~to~~ while I waited for contributions from several of the major groups. If this is to be continued will you please send in your returns very promptly. The next bulletin will include all birds ringed from 1 JANUARY 1975 to 31 MAY 1975 so please send your results in.

You will see that, with the exceptions of WWRG and the TRG, 1974 was not a good year for catching waders. The late autumn and winter were particularly poor for catching everywhere with wind and rain a regular feature.

The top ten totals are presented below, together with a summary of those members who have ringed 200 or more waders in 1974 (at least of those submitting their annual totals to the BTO by mid-February).

	WPTG	TRG	MEMG	HUMBER	NSRG	H.SITTERS	PRG	P.MACKIE	SCAN RG	P.CATCHPOLE	MRG
Oystercatcher	2,187	330	58	2	510	-	2	-	34	18	343
Lapwing	-	707	4	59	204	-	19	26	26	48	135
Ringed Plover	69	133	221	7	79	6	21	-	13	12	217
Grey Plover	48	2	1	7	-	-	6	-	-	-	1
Golden Plover	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Turnstone	378	100	28	40	22	3	-	-	13	-	13
Common Snipe	-	10	-	10	-	-	3	-	2	17	2
Jack Snipe	-	1	-	5	-	4	2	-	-	3	1
Curlew	25	84	4	6	6	-	4	2	255	1	114
Whimbrel	15	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-tailed Godwit	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Bar-tailed Godwit	542	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	2	-	1
Common Sandpiper	2	53	10	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Redshank	909	625	180	26	14	11	30	119	133	62	10
Spotted Redshank	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Knot	1,162	107	99	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	93
Dunlin	3,945	575	1,612	1,539	14.1	883	752	385	12	245	900
Sanderling	633	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	90
Ruff	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Little Stint	-	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Curlew Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Ringed Plover	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dotterel	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woodcock	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	9,929	2,835	2,229	1,707	980	909	848	534	493	410	1,950

Other totals were :

Severn-Vale R.G.: 405 : including 260 Dunlin, 67 Redshank and 54 Curlew.

S.H. Sporne : 391 : including 255 Dunlin, 76 Redshank and 45 Ringed Plover.

G.H. Green : 383 : including 359 Dunlin.

A.J. Prater : 307 : including 228 Dunlin and 50 Turnstone

D. Steventon : 268 : including 249 Dunlin

A. Bromby : 219 : including 84 Oystercatchers.

Swale, W.G. : 213 : including 158 Dunlin and 25 Grey Plover.

Leigh, R.G. : 209 : including 59 Snipe and 16 Jack Snipe.

RECENT RECOVERIESOystercatcher

Pull	30.5.61	Anglesey	+	Burry Inlet	18.11.74
Pull	27.5.67	Skokholm	+	"	0.10.74
Pull	9.7.67	Cleethorpes, Lincs.	v	Wash	21.8.74
Pull	19.7.69	Shetlands	x	Gower, S.Wales	17.10.74
Pull	20.6.71	Inverness	x	Morecambe Bay	15.11.74
Pull	16.6.74	East Lothian	x	S. Solway	17.10.74
FG	22.7.67	Wash	x	Troms, Norway	26.7.74
FG	24.7.67	"	x	Nordland, "	0.7.74
Juv	22.10.67	"	x	More & Romsdal, Norway	23.7.74
Ad	13.11.67	"	x	Troms, "	2.5.74
Ad	20.2.72	"	x	Nordland, "	20.8.74
2Y	17.5.72	"	x	Rogaland, "	4.8.74
Ad	30.1.72	N.Solway	x	Faeroes	15.7.74
PJ	10.3.74	"	x	"	summer 74
PJ	1.11.71	Morecambe Bay	+	Jutland, Denmark	8.12.74

Movements involving cross Britain directions

Juv	5.8.74	Camel, Cornwall	v	Poole Harbour	19.9.74
Ad	16.3.71	Poole Harbour	v	Wash	21.8.74
1Y	11.8.71	" "	v	"	18.8.74
Ad	19.3.69	Burry Inlet	v	"	21.8.74

In addition to these recoveries there were 11 other movements of Oystercatchers between west coast estuaries and one between east coast estuaries, none of these movements were in the year of ringing.

Lapwing

1Y	23.7.66	Tarbat Ness, Ross	x	R. Bann, Londonderry	28.11.74
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Ringed Plover

Pull.	24.6.68	Spurn, Humber	v	Wash	14.9.74
Ad	14.10.73	Conway, Caerns	v	"	20/7 & 17.8.74
Ad	"	" "	v	"	4.8.74
Ad	"	" "	v	N. Solway	15.9.74
Ad	28.5.71	Ribble	v	Dee	23.5.74

Little Ringed Plover

PJ m	3.5.74	Sevenoaks, Kent	+	Camargue, France	15.8.74
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This is the fourth recovered in France

Turnstone

Ad	11.8.71	Wash	+	Mesolongion, Greece (38 21 N, 21 26E)	8.10.74
Ad	4.8.74	"	+	Bolama, Guinea Bissau (1135 N, 1530 W)	10.9.74
Ad	28.8.72	"	+	Jutland, Denmark	17.8.74
Ad	29.7.72	Morecambe Bay	v	N. Solway	5.5.74

The recoveries in Greece and Guinea Bissau are firsts. No other Turnstone from Britain has entered the Mediterranean, let alone reached the Eastern end. The Turnstone in Guinea Bissau is the fifth from Africa, though two of these have penetrated further south.

Snipe

PJ	3.3.73	Sevenoaks, Kent	+	Schleswig-Holstein FDR	13.11.74
FG	18.8.73	Bishops Stortford Herts	v	Gulper See, DDR	3.8.74
FG	1.11.73	Fair Isle	+	Downpatrick, Down	2.11.74

Woodcock

FG	24.10.70	Gravesend, Kent	+	Lylsham, Norfolk	21.11.74
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Curlew

Pull	6.6.71	Penrith, Cumb.	+	Morecambe Bay	20.10.74
Ad	21.8.70	Wash	+	Jutland, Denmark	16.8.74
Ad	24.7.72	Derby	+	Knutsford, Cheshire	5.10.74

Bar-tailed Godwit

Ad	3.8.73	Wash	v	Vlieland, Netherlands	5.11.74
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This is the first recovery from Netherlands, though it is not unexpected.

Common Sandpiper

LY	30.8.73	Manchester	x	Cadiz, Spain	14.8.74
FG	23.9.73	Sevenoaks, Kent	v	Madrid, "	29.8.74

These are the fifth and sixth recoveries from Spain.

Redshank

Pull	31.5.74	Angus	v	Wash	20.7.74
Pull	27.6.74	"	v	"	3.11.74
LY	21.7.74	Wash	+	Gironde, France	29.8.74
Ad	20.7.74	"	v	Lylburton, Glos.	17.10.74
FG	30.12.68	Fife Ness	v	Wash	20.7.74
FG	26.12.72	Reculver, Kent	v	"	20.7.74
Ad	16.4.73	Orford, Suffolk	v	"	21.7.74
FG	22.9.71	Ythan, Aberdeen	v	Montrose Basin	3.10.74
Ad	19.8.73	Morecambe Bay	x	Lanarkshire	mid-2.74

Greenshank

Juve	20.8.68	Farlington, Hants	+	Sjaelland, Denmark	1.9.74
Ad	18.8.73	"	x	Akerhus, Norway	30.7.74

Both of these are first British recoveries in the countries concerned.

Knot

Ad	16.3.68	Wash	+	Upernavik, Greenland	31.5.74
Ad	24.11.68	"	+	" "	5.6.74
Ad	7.3.70	"	+	" "	4.6.74
Ad	27.2.71	"	+	Kangatsiak, "	30.5.74
Ad	11.8.71	"	+	Manermiut, "	10.6.74
2Y	30.7.72	"	+	Umanak, "	6.6.74
Ad	9.2.74	"	+	Egedesminde, "	6.6.74
Ad	22.12.68	Morecambe Bay	+	Kangatsiak, "	5.6.74
Ad	3.3.73	" "	+	" "	6.6.74
Ad	21.12.72	" "	+	" "	7.6.74
Ad	4.12.71	Swale	+	Agto, "	22.7.74
Ad	11.8.71	Wash	+	Sjælland, Denmark	6.8.74
Ad	7.3.70	"	x	Ameland, Netherlands	6.10.74
Ad	4.4.69	"	v	Friesland, "	13.12.74
Ad	27.10.73	"	v	" "	13.12.74
Ad	19.2.72	"	x	Vlieland, "	9.9.74
Ad	19.2.72	"	v	" "	9.9.74
Ad	8.10.72	"	v	" "	9.9.74

Five winter ringed Knot were controlled on the Wash during the autumn, they were from Morecambe Bay (2), Dee (1), N. Solway (1) and Tay (1).

The phenomenal run of Greenland recoveries continues, to date 39 have been reported in 1974 bringing the grand total to 86.

Little Stint

Juv 20.9.73 Minsmere, Suffolk v Camargue, France 18.10.74

This is the fourth to be recovered in France but the first foreign recovery since 1967.

Dunlin

Ad	28.8.72	Wash	+	Kara Sea, USSR	2.6.73
LY	28.1.74	Plymouth	+	Fskov, USSR	18.8.74
LY	3.8.74	Swale	+	Minho, Portugal	27.9.74
LY	18.8.74	Dee	+	Douro Litoral, "	12.9.74
Ad	8.9.74	Argyll	+	Coruna, Spain	1.12.74
LY	2.9.73	Wash	+	Cadiz, Spain	7.11.74
LY	13.10.73	"	+	Bouznika, Morocco	25.11.74
LY	28.10.73	Poole Harbour	x	Antwerpen, Belgium	8.5.74
LY	20.7.74	Portsmouth Harbour	v	Balgzand, Netherlands	15.10.74
LY	24.8.74	Humber	+	Manche, France	25.9.74
2Y	18.8.74	Wash	v	Plymouth	22.11.74
Juv	13.9.74	Orford, Suffolk	x	Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk	31.10.74
Ad	5.10.74	Wash	v	Humber	18.10.74
Juv	14.8.74	Cricklade, Wilts	v	Poole Harbour	30.8.74

These recoveries are those in less usual countries or involve same autumn/winter returns. Those from more usual countries are summarised below in the form of Country of recovery : ringing area (month of ringing). All were recovered in autumn or early winter.

Norway 1 : Montrose Basin (3)
Sweden 2 : Conway (3); Wash (1)

Denmark 20 : Conway (1, 10, 10,); Dee (1, 1, 1, 12); Medway (11);
 Morecambe Bay (3); Orford (1); Solway (10); Spurn (1);
 Tay (2); Thames (1); Wash (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 11)
 Netherlands 10 : Clyde (1); Conway (3, 11); Dee (1, 11); Portsmouth
 (3, 3); Ross-shire (8); Spurn (3); Wash (9).
 France 5 : Dee (5); Langstone Harbour (11); Morecambe Bay (5);
 Thames (11); Wash (8).

In addition there were 30 movements between estuaries in Britain, the vast majority being controlled on the Wash during July and August.

Sanderling

Ad	29.5.71	Wash	+	Jutland, Denmark	1.9.71
Ad	12.8.68 (& 17.5.69)	Wash	+	Calvados, France	12.8.74
Ad	17.5.69	Wash	+	" "	12.8.74
Ad	22.8.70	"	+	Casablanca, Morocco	13.11.74
Ad	15.5.73	Dee	x	Laiun, Spanish Sahara	14.12.74
Ad	10.8.74	Shetland	v	Wash	17.8 & 23.8.74
Ad	23.5.71	Dee	v	"	4.8.74

Surprisingly the Danish recovery in a first, the Spanish Saharan is the 2nd, Moroccan 7th and French 10th and 11th for those countries.

Stone Curlew

Pull	10.7.73	Salisbury, Wilts	x	Pyrenees, Atlantiques France	21.9.74
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This is the 8th French recovery and the first foreign one for ten years.

WADER STUDY GROUP GRANTS

It was suggested and accepted at the Wader Study Group meeting at Swanwick in January 1975 that the WSG should use some of its money to encourage and support research work on waders.

There will, therefore, be grants made available for amateur work in 1975. A total of £50, with a maximum of £25 for any single applicant, has been set aside for this purpose.

The work should be

- (a) on population studies within the British Isles; in particular projects on productivity, biometrics, migration of British breeding populations will be given high priority
- (b) on new aspects of work and not a continuation of existing studies.

Applications stating details of aims, methods, etc. should be sent to Tony Prater at the B.T.O. by 1st APRIL 1975, though later applications may be considered if any grants remain.

The applications will be considered by a committee of R. Birch, J. McMeeking, Dr C.D.T. Minton, M.W. Pienkowski and A.J. Prater. The Committee may suggest standardisation on particular methods or techniques to be used in the studies and the grants will be conditional on the acceptance of this.

WADER STUDY GROUP SUMMER MEETING

To give all interested in attending this meeting adequate notice, it is suggested that the meeting will be held

at Shenstone (Clive's house) on Sunday 28th September

The detailed agenda will be circulated with the summer bulletin, due out in July.

WADER CONFERENCE

The Conference discussed at the summer meeting of the Wader Study Group is going to be held during late August 1975 at Liverpool Polytechnic. The provisional programme is :

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Thursday 21st August | : | assemble in the evening, when films will be shown. |
| Friday 22nd | " | lectures and discussions on wader feeding studies. |
| Saturday 23rd | " | Geographical variation of waders. |
| Sunday 24th | " | possibly continuing this theme and on either or both Saturday and Sunday visits to Dee and Ribble will be arranged. |

The feeding study section will be a follow-up to the symposium held at Durham University by Dr Peter Evans and will probably mainly review the considerable advancement of techniques evolved on the Wash, Teesmouth and Lindisfarne.

The section on geographical variation is the one most likely to appeal to wader ringers as it will undoubtedly cover and examine some of the criteria used to indicate racial/geographical populations in the field.

The Conference will be open to all interested. As guide lines the total cost (including bed, meals, coffee etc.) will be £11.25 but the Conference can be attended for shorter periods, with a corresponding reduction of costs. Those interested should contact Dr W.G. Hale, Department of Biology, Liverpool Polytechnic, Byrom Street, Liverpool, L3 3AF. A detailed breakdown of prices and a more detail programme will be available shortly.

NEW AGEING GUIDE

It was announced at the summer meeting that work had commenced on a new ageing guide for waders. This will probably be published by the B.T.O. This note is to review its scope, progress and likely completion date.

Tony Prater and John Marchant have been given facilities at the British Museum to examine the wader collection in order to produce the ageing guide.

The scope is wide; it will cover in some detail ageing, sexing, biometrics and moult of all reasonably frequent western Palearctic species.

In addition brief notes will be given on all Palearctic and northern Nearctic species to enable them to be aged and sexed. The idea is that it will be wide enough to allow almost any species to be aged, even in the tropics.

So far about 40 of the 110 species, including all the Plovers, have been looked at for characters and measured. It is expected that the basic analysis will have been completed by the autumn and the final text ready by the end of the year. It is hoped to bring examples of text to the summer meeting in September. Incidentally only two species have so far caused problems (Long-billed Ringed Plover and Killdeer) and if you have problems with any species please let us know and we will try and help.

MAURITANIAN WADER RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

By William Dick

Of the 4627 waders caught at the Banc d'Arguin by the Oxford and Cambridge Mauritanian Expedition 1973, 20 were controls from 11 different countries. In addition, details of 7 controls or recoveries of Mauritanian-ringed waders are now to hand, and are given below. The low recovery and control rate is not surprising considering the rapid passage through Europe of populations wintering in West Africa, but taken with biometric and other evidence it has been possible to define the breeding areas of most species caught. These results are being published elsewhere.

(Note: Mauritanian ringing sites:

Nouakchott	18°06' N	15°58' W
Cap Timiris	19°22' N	16°31' W
Sevenni	19°40' N	16°21' W
Ile Zira	19°53' N	16°17' W

Ringed Plover (75 ringed)

Juv	25.8.73	Ottenby, Sweden	v	16.9.73	Nouakchott
Ad	21.10.73	Cap Timiris	+	7.4.74	Casablanca, Morocco

Turnstone (203 ringed)

Pull	28.6.73	Jussinkari Forvoo, Finland	v	22.11.73	Cap Timiris
Pull	4.7.70	Raippaluoto, Vaasan Laani, Finland	v	8.10.73	Cap Timiris
Ad	28.5.72	Gardskagi, Iceland	v	18.11.73	Cap Timiris

Redshank (229 ringed)

Ad	3.4.71	Zwin, Belgium	v	6.10.73	Cap Timiris
Ad	8.10.73	Cap Timiris	v	15.2.74	Delta du Senegal, Senegal

Knot (998 ringed)

PJ	5.9.73	Warnemunde, Bez. Rostock, DDR.	v	21.11.73	Cap Timiris
Juv	10.9.72	Ujscie Wisly, Mikoszewo, Gdansk, Poland	v	22.10.73	Cap Timiris
Juv	21.9.73	North Slobs, Wexford Ireland	x	24.11.73	Ile Zira

Dunlin (1965 ringed)

Ad	8.7.72	Foulney Island, Lancs.	v	19.11.73	Cap Timiris
Ad	28.7.73	Foulney Island, Lancs	v	11.11.73	Sevenni
Juv	19.5.73	Collister Pill, Newport, Wales	v	19.11.73	Cap Timiris
Juv	11.9.71	Crosby, Liverpool	v	11.11.73	Sevenni
Juv	4.8.73	North Wooton, Norfolk	v	24.10.73	Cap Timiris
FG	29.8.72	Revtangen, Norway	v	4.10.73	Cap Timiris
Ad	22.10.73	Cap Timiris	v	5.5.74	Peterstone Wentloog, Cardiff
Ad	12.11.73	Sevenni	v	19.5.74	Conishead, Ulverston, Lancs.
Ad	17.11.73	Sevenni	v	21.7.74	Terrington Marsh, Norfolk.

Curlew Sandpiper (721 ringed)

Juv	8.10.73	Rades, Tunisia	v	23.10.73	Cap Timiris
Juv	5.9.73	Sidi Moussa, Morocco	v	7.11.73	Sevenni
Ad	10.9.72	Sidi Moussa, Morocco	v		
	13.8.73	Sidi Moussa, "	v	19.11.73	Sevenni
Juv	31.8.67	Ottenby, Sweden	v	21.11.73	Cap Timiris
Ad	19.11.73	Cap Timiris	v	7.8.74	Salin-de-Giraud, Bouches-du-Rhone, France
Ad	20.11.73	Cap Timiris	v	1.5.74	Les Salins de Syracuse, Sicily, Italy.

Sanderling (158 ringed)

Ad	29.7.72	Point of Air	v	2.11.73	Cap Timiris
PJ	5.5.70	Middleton, Morecambe	v	2.11.73	Cap Timiris
Ad	19.5.73	Heysham, Morecambe	v	16.9.73	Nouakchott

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON WADERS

See also abstracts in Ibis, Auk and Bird-Banding and lists in IWRB Bulletin. Comments on this series and details of omissions, please, to Mike Pienkowski.

- BOERE, G.C. & ZEEBERS, P.M. 1974. (Bird counts in the Dutch Waddensea area in July 1972) Limosa 47: 23-28 (Dutch with Eng. summ.)
- EYRKJEDAL, I. 1974. (The Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria as a breeding bird in Rogaland, S.W. Norway) Sterna 13: 1-14 (Norw.W.Eng. summ.)
- DARE, P.J. & MERCER, A.J. 1974. The white collar of the Oystercatcher Bird Study 21: 180-184.
- DUHANTOIS, L., CHARMOY, M.C. & F., REYJAL, D. & TROTIGNON, J. 1974. Second prospection post-estivale au Banc d'Arguin (Mauritania) Alauda 62: 313-332.
- GLUE, D. & BODENHAM, D. 1974. Bird-life at a modern sewage farm. Bird Study 21: 229-237.
- HARVEY, H.J. 1974. Wader observations 1969-1974. Wicken Fen Group Report No. 6: 26-32.
- HOGG, P. 1974. Trans-Saharan migration through Sarir, 1969-70 Ibis 116: 466-476.
- INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL RESEARCH BUREAU. Bulletin No. 37 (July 1974) contains summaries of counts including waders in winter 1973-74: Roumania (A. Dijkzen & E. Smith), Turkey (F.J. Koning & Dijkzen), Pakistan (Koning & Dijkzen), Morocco (A.R. Johnson & O. Biber), Tunisia (M. Smart), Portugal (L. Hoffmann), Spain (J.G. Walmsley), Greece (H. Hafner & Hoffmann) and the Waddensee & Rhine Delta areas (G. Boere, G. Grosskopf, H. Meltofte, K. Hansen & A.J. Prater).
- KNIGHT, P.J. & DICK, W.J.A. 1974. Wader counts in Mauritania IWRB Bull. No. 37: 37-38.
- LANSDOWNE, P.G. & WILLIAMS, K. 1974. Baird's Sandpiper or Dunlin Birds 5 (3): 30.
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- MILNE, B.S. 1974. Ecological succession and bird-life at a newly excavated gravel-pit. Bird Study 21: 263-278.
- MORGAN, R. & SHORTEN, M. 1974. Breeding of the Woodcock in Britain. Bird Study 21: 193-199.
- NIELSEN, B.P. 1971. Migration and relationships of four Asiatic plovers Charadriinae. Ornis Scand. 2: 137-142.

- OVELLET, H., MCNEILL, R. & BURTON, J. 1973 The Western Sandpiper in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, Canada. Can. Field-Nat. 87: 291-300.
- PAGE, G., FEARIS, B. & JUREK, M. 1972. Age and sex composition of western Sandpipers on Bolinas Lagoon. Calif. Birds 3: 79-86.
- PRATER, A.J. 1974 Birds of Estuaries Enquiry 1972-73. BTO/RSPB/WT Tring 40pp.
- SLADE, B.E. 1973 Whimbrel roost on Steart Island, Somerset. Bristol Ornithology 6: 38-39.
- WALKER, G. 1974. A bibliography of ringing and migration 26pp. cyclo-styled B.T.O. Tring. (30 pence). A fairly arbitrary selection of post-war papers from some English and a few foreign journals, but probably of some use as a basis for further literature searches.
- ZWARTS, L. 1974. Vogels van het brakke getijgebied (ecological studies on the birds of a Dutch brackish tidal area) Amsterdam 221 pp. (Dutch with Eng. summ.)

ADDRESSES -- NEW MEMBERS

- Dr J. Burton Centre de Recherches ecologiques de Montreal,
4161 est Rue Sherbrooke, Montreal 406, Quebec, Canada.
- M. Cowell 13 Bell Davies Road, Hillhead, Fareham, Hants.
- G. Jackson Highfield School, St. Johns Road, Mosley Common, Worsley, Manchester.
- D. Moss Department of Forestry and Nat. Resources, Mayfield Road,
Edinburgh EH9 3JU
- J.G. Robertson 21 Lauderdale Street, Edinburgh EH9 1BF
- M. Robinson 5 Mallard Croft, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 6SF
- B. Zonfrillo 28 Brodie Road, Glasgow G21 3SB

CHANGES

- F. Argyle Department of Environment, Parks and Wildlife Division,
P.O. Box 1430, Tehran, Iran.
- A. Grieve, Hillcrest, Whitgift, Nr. Goole, N. Humberside.
- A. Mainwood 18 Kintail Place, Dingwall, Ross-shire IV15 9RL
- M. Morley 65 Little Meadow, Exmouth, Devon.
- T. Tilford Kaswick Hall, Norwich NOR4 6TL, Norfolk.
- F. Wigzell Coorreen, 5 Mile, Kings Wells, Aberdeenshire AB1 8RD