

WADER CONFERENCE : LIVERPOOL POLYTECHNIC 21-24 August 1975

This conference for those people actively working on waders is to be held between 21st and 24th August. It is open to all and it is hoped that as many amateurs as possible will be able to attend. An outline of the sessions is set out below to give some idea of the content.

21st August assemble during the evening

22nd August A.M. Winter Feeding Ecology, including talks from specialists from The Netherlands.

P.M. Breeding biology and feeding during the breeding season. Including several basic talks on British populations (Curlew, Ringed Plover, Redshank) the details of which have not been presented before. Also breeding of Stints in Finland.

23rd August A.M. Carry capacity and numbers. Summaries of local and national studies which tie in with migration/population studies.

P.M. Geographical variation, including talks on Dunlin, Ringed Plover and Tringa sp. which should have relevance for ringers.

24th August will be spent on the Ribble looking at the research areas and even birds.

If you would like to attend the conference please contact Dr.W.G.Hale (Liverpool Polytechnic, Department of Biology, Byron Street, Liverpool L3 3AF) for further details of the programme and prices (which are very reasonable).

Notes on the Weights and Biometrics of Purple Sandpiper in Eastern Scotland.

Norman Atkinson, Ron Summers and Mike Nicoll.

The Purple Sandpiper Calidris maritima is one of the poorer ringed of the wader species. Only 735 had been ringed in Britain up until 1973 (Spencer, 1975). Difficulty in capture and their sparse distribution are presumably the causes of this situation. As a result, little is known about the migrations of this species.

In 1967 we found that small samples could be caught by torch light on the Isle of May Bird Observatory despite various encounters with Grey Seals, but attempts to repeat these successes on the mainland shores usually ended in failure. As a result we have continued to visit the Isle of May on a regular basis and 234 have now been ringed. In late 1972 the Bay R.G. acquired a cannon net and it was found that about 10% of the 3000-4000 Purple Sandpipers present on the east coast were in cannon-nettable sites at some part of the year. In the succeeding 2 years 152 were ringed. This gives a combined total of 386 to the end of 1974.

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