

Foreign ringed waders reported in British Isles in 1974Oystercatcher

Rk 412365	Juv	29. 8. 72	Skogarnes, Iceland	x Wexford	20. 8. 74
As 52580	Pull	23. 6. 66	Nordland, Norway	v Wash	3.11. 74
St 542797	"	19. 6. 69	Rogaland, "	v "	21. 8. 74
St 546093	"	17. 7. 70	More & Romsdal, Norway	v "	18. 8. 74

Lapwing

Ad F32192	Pull	27. 5. 75	Niederbayern, FRG	x Stansted, Essex	15. 8. 74
Hg 5134127	"	29. 5. 69	Niedersachsen, "	x Wetherby, Yorks	23.12. 74
Ar 1076678	"	28. 5. 72	Friesland, Netherlands	x Belfast	5. 1. 74
Ar 1098753	"	3. 6. 72	Noord Brabant, "	x Ipswich, Suffolk	7.11. 74

Ringed Plover

Hg 80538354	Ad	11. 5. 72	Schleswig Holstein, FRG	v Morecambe Bay	15. 9. 74
Co 8062679	Pull	7. 6. 72	Jutland, Denmark	x Dawlish, Devon	early 9. 74

Turnstone

Rk 722566	Ad	25. 5. 71	Gardskagi, Iceland	v Fife Ness	24. 3. 74
Rk 723832	Ad	21. 5. 72	Midnes, "	v Torpoint, Cornwall	14.2. 74
Hk A363459	Pull	29. 6. 74	Vaasa, Finland	v Humber	21. 8. 74
Po F555048	1Y	20. 8. 71	Gdansk, Poland	v Bradwell, Essex	18. 8. 74

Snipe

Hd 7097785	FG	10. 8. 73	Thuringen, DDR	+ Galway	20.12. 74
Hd 7093556	FG	16. 8. 73	Berlin-Buch, DDR	+ Warrington, Lancs	1974
Hg 7505960	Juv	1. 9. 73	Braunschweig, FRG	+ Antrim	26.12. 74
Sk 5059952	FG	27. 8. 71	Halland, Sweden	+ Bodmin, Cornwall	21. 1. 74
Sk 5072726	FG	24. 8. 74	Orebro, "	x Fermanagh	8.11. 74
Sk 5083031	FG	30. 9. 72	Sodermanland, Sweden	+ Kent	29.12. 73
Sk 5085971	FG	6. 9. 73	Skanor, "	x Blakeney, Norfolk	7. 1. 74
Sk 5087303	FG	16. 8. 73	Halland, "	+ Chorley, Lancs	24. 9. 74
Ar 2036831	FG	13.10. 70	Texel, Netherlands	+ Glamorgan	0. 1. 74

Woodcock

Go C54485	FG	8. 8. 58	Malmohus, Sweden	x Sussex	9. 3. 65
Ka 602763	1Y	31. 3. 73	Jutland, Denmark	+ Dongeal	2.12. 73
Ar 1067849	FG	15.11. 72	Friesland, Netherlands	+ Essex	1. 1. 74
Ar 1110157	FG	18.11. 72	" "	+ Galway	1. 1. 74
Ar 1110202	FG	19.11. 73	" "	+ Cheshire	9.11. 74
Ar 1110227	FG	5.11. 74	" "	+ Yorkshire	7.11. 74

Curlew

HI C152081	Pull	1. 7. 70	Kymi, Finland	v Aylburton, Glos.	16.11. 74
HI C164204	"	5. 6. 65	Oulu, "	+ Orkney	17. 9. 74
HI C182025	"	11. 6. 66	" "	+ Hunstanton, Norfolk	22.11. 74
HI C85662	"	29. 6. 60	Vaasa, "	x Wexford	20. 1. 74
Sk 8021795	"	17. 6. 72	Gavleborg, Sweden	+ Wash	2.11. 74
Ar 5057724	"	17. 6. 72	Noord Brabant, Netherlands	x Cornwall	(13. 4. 74)
Ar 4046027	"	12. 6. 74	Overijssel, "	+ Chichester Hbr.	1. 9. 74
Lx L15756	L	13. 6. 71	Antwerpen, Belgium	+ North Kent Marshes	15.12. 74

Black-tailed Godwit

FT65101	PJ	26.10.73	Vendee, France	+ Pagham Harbour	1.9.74
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Bar-tailed Godwit

St 612990	FG	1.9.65	Revtangen, Norway	v Wash	22.8.74
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Redshank

RK 617530	Pull	8.7.69	Thingeyjar, Iceland	v Isle of May, Fife	7.10.74
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Knot

USA 76230120	PJ	7.6.74	Alert, Ellesmere, Canada	v Wash	18.8.74
Rk 721031	Ad	15.5.70	Eyri, Iceland	v "	"
Rk 721876	Ad	"	" "	v "	"
Rk 724497	Ad	25.5.72	Stokkseyri, Iceland	(v) Dennington, Wash	10.2.74
Rk 724843	Ad	21.7.72	Skogarnes, "	v Wash	5.10.74
Rk 725333	Ad	28.7.72	" "	v "	18.8.74
Rk 725729	Ad	9.8.72	" "	v "	"
Rk 725188	Ad	28.7.72	Akrar, "	x Aberlady, Forth	9.2.74
St 7120133	FG	30.8.71	Revtangen, Norway	v Wash (1Y)	30.7.72
				v Ellesmere, Canada	8.6.74
St 7115904	FG	13.9.69	" "	x Wash	27.1.74
Ar K472456	PJ	2.9.73	Vlieland, Netherlands	v Wash	24.2.74
Ar K476976	PJ	2.9.73	" "	v "	27.1.74
Ar K484090	PJ	7.10.73	Schiermonnikoog, "	v "	24.2.74

Little Stint

St 9288306	Juv	20.8.74	More & Romsdal, Norway	v Tentsmuir, Fife	11.9.74
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Dunlin Too many Dunlin were controlled in Britain and Ireland to detail fully. The countries with few recoveries are detailed, the rest are summarised in the table below.

Mo S152432	Ad	24.7.70	Gt. Ainov Isl. USSR	v	
				v Skanor, Sweden	27.7.74
Do G310849	PJ	1.8.73	Mikoszewo, Poland	v Humber	24.3.74
Do G333391	PJ	6.8.72	" "	v Plym	24.1.74
Do JA03079	Ad	29.7.74	" "	v "	22.11.74
Hd 80231979	FG	11.9.73	Rostock, DDR	v Humber	24.3.74
Hd 80232084	FG	14.9.73	" "	v Clyde	13.1.74
Hd 80291502	FG	16.9.73	" "	v Monmouth	25.5.74
Rk 920190	Ad	25.5.72	Stokkseyri, Iceland	v Glamorgan	5.5.74
Jg X2987	Ad	14.12.69	Jersey	v Wash	18.8.74
Pa SA257249	FG	18.9.71	Finistere, France	v "	23.8.74
Pa SA505378	1Y	1.9.73	Sidi Moussa, Morocco	v Morecambe Bay	19.5.74
Pa SA526225	Ad	22.10.73	Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania	v Glamorgan	5.5.74
Pa SA542853	PJ	12.11.73	" "	v Morecambe Bay	19.5.74
Pa SA542966	Ad	17.11.73	" "	v Wash	21.7.74

Recovered in British Isles

<u>Ringed</u>	<u>July-October</u>	<u>Nov-March</u>	<u>April-June</u>	<u>Total</u>
Finland	2	4	-	6
Sweden	5	27	3	35
Norway	22	17	5	44
Denmark	3	2	-	5
FRG	1	3	-	4
Netherlands	-	3	1	4
Belgium	-	-	2	2
	<u>33</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>100</u>

Buff

Ar 1092318 Pull 25. 5. 71 Polder Arkemheen, Neth. (v) Wigston, Leics. 13. 5. 74

Avocet

Ar 3047555 Pull 6. 5. 63 Vlieland, Netherlands v Havergate, Suffolk 9. 6. 71

THE ROAD FROM THE TAINYR

Michael Smart

The first indication I had of the 1975 Curlew Sandpiper invasion was on 24 July when I saw 400 adults at the Monastir salt-pans in Tunisia; on 26 July I saw 600 more, all adults, on the Lake of Tunis at a spot where there had been four on 9 July, nil on 19 July and 120 on 21 July.

At this point I should explain that I lived in Tunisia between 1962 and 1971, and got quite used to seeing flocks of several hundred Curlew Sandpiper (up to 1,100 in fact) in full breeding plumage during the month of May when they were on their way north-east; numbers on autumn passage on the other hand were invariably much lower - the first few would appear in late July, there would be up to a hundred in August (though I saw 400 plus on 4 August 1971) and by late September most would have moved on. Except, that is, in autumn 1969, when Tunisia, like most of western Europe was deluged with Curlew Sandpiper and so, naturally enough, having seen flocks of 400 and 600 at two sites a hundred miles or so apart, I began to wonder if we were in for an invasion on the lines of 1969. Stanley and Minton (1972, "The unprecedented westward migration of Curlew Sandpipers in autumn 1969" *British Birds*, 65 : 365-380), however showed that the 1969 invasion happened in September and was concerned almost exclusively with birds of the year.

So on returning to home territory on the Upper Severn, I was disappointed to learn that local observers had spent several days by the river (including the whole morning of 4 August, before, during and after high tide) without seeing a single Curlew Sandpiper, or much else either. The night of 4 August was dark and thundery, the first break in the heat-wave for some weeks ("a thundery trough of low pressure moved northwards over western districts"). I should therefore have been prepared, on taking a quick look at the river on 5 August, to have found some new arrivals, even though the tide was way out. But I had not really expected to find 138 plus Curlew Sandpipers, every one in adult plumage, together with 28 Whimbrel, all settled but calling anxiously and obviously in a hurry to be off; and a Gloucestershire rarity, a Wood Sandpiper. On closer examination at high tide early on 6 August there were those Curlew Sandpipers, plus 40 Turnstone, 40 Sanderling, 20 adult Knot (good totals for Gloucestershire, none of which had been observed on 4 August, a Little Ringed Plover and as a bonus a Pectoral Sandpiper (apparently the first recorded in the county). The obvious conclusion was that the trough of low pressure had grounded all these waders of Siberian origin as they passed over the area; the Pectoral Sandpiper could hardly have come across the Atlantic in prevailing weather conditions - it seems much more plausible to regard it as a bird from Siberia which had got mixed up with the Curlew Sandpipers and others when they moved off south-westwards.

And, as if to confirm this hypothesis, they all disappeared as quick as they had come - the Whimbrel, Turnstone, Sanderling and Knot were not seen again, while the numbers of Curlew Sandpiper dwindled to 83 on 7 August, 13 on 8 August, with only a single left by 12 and 13 August. The Pectoral Sandpiper hung about until 14 August. A visit to the next high tide roost down on the west bank was made on 7 August - there was however absolutely no sign of unusual numbers of Siberian waders: Ringed Plovers, Turnstone and Dunlin, all in about average quantities, one Knot, one Whimbrel - but Curlew Sandpipers? Sanderling? unusual numbers of anything? Nary a one!

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Nevertheless, having seen unusual numbers of adult Curlew Sandpipers as far apart as Tunis and Upper Severn in late July and early August, I modestly assumed that somebody somewhere must have been something similar; so far, however, I've drawn a complete blank; juvenile Curlew Sandpipers yes - thirties and forties in eastern England in late August; 60 plus on the Forth; several thousand in Vendee, France, with their arrival date clearly noted as the evening of 8 September; we've even seen (for the Upper Severn!) good numbers of juveniles in September - two on the east bank on 9 and 11 September, and on the west bank 8 on 6 September (seven of which departed with rings on their legs in the early hours of 7 September). But adults - no; the only remotely promising lead was a Marsh Sandpiper (which after all also comes from the eastern end of the wader spectrum) at Borough Fen on 5 August.

So, did anybody see unusual numbers of Siberian waders, especially adult Curlew Sandpipers, anywhere in the western Palearctic in late July or early August? And if so can they explain why such numbers were around - is this purely a case of weather conditions affecting the adults as they carried out their usual migration, or could there have been an unusually large and early exodus from the breeding grounds, and if so, why?.

Or is the 1975 Curlew Sandpiper invasion a figment of my imagination?

MIST-NETS

Chris Mead

It is now almost twenty years since mist-nets were introduced to the British ringing scene. During that time a wide variety of manufacturers, materials, meshes and net sizes and heights have been used and it seems appropriate, as we emerge from a very difficult period when supplies have been almost unobtainable, to run through the types for the benefit of wader netters. These are listed in a roughly chronological order, and if they are (or may be) available comments on prices and availability are added.

HIGH NETS

- A) Japanese 1.5", 3-shelf, nylon nets. The first type. Flimsy, untethered - (it had not been invented) but used by the first wader netters.
- B) Gundry 1.5", 3-shelf, terylene nets. Stronger than the Japanese material, tethered (at least since ca. 1965). The material is 125d/2-ply and such nets are still being made by Bridport-Gundry. Some 70 are outstanding to ringers and when (if) further nets become available ringers with SAE's at the ringing office will get to hear of them and their prices (likely to be rather more than those on order).
- C) Gundry 1.25", 4-shelf, terylene nets. Made from the same material as B these proved ideal for small passerines but did not take waders at all well. Knox 1.25" nets are direct equivalent.
- D) Gundry 1.25", 4-shelf, terylene SUPERFINE nets. These are made from 75d/2-ply material and their current equivalent is the Japanese nets now being imported. Some ringers have used these nets in daylight and caught waders.

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