

Only when the ringer is about 10 m from the trap does the bird panic and start to flap about, so the last few metres should be covered quickly and the bird subdued.

20-25 minutes was the usual trapping time though 4 minutes a record. If the bird is not showing signs of entry after 20-25 minutes (i.e. not concentrating its activities at the trap entrance), the trap must be removed, and 30 minutes must be regarded as a maximum for the bird to be kept off its eggs. Sometimes the drive to incubate will be low (e.g. before a clutch is complete or in hot weather) and one must accept failure."

In my experience, there are tremendous variations in the responses of individual birds to traps at the nest, some keeping several metres away, while others walked in immediately. Some birds showed different extremes of behaviour on different days. In some cases it was clear that a bird would enter the trap only by walking directly towards the nest which, therefore, had to be in line with the entrance. As Harry Green and Peter Ferns pointed out earlier, this problem may be overcome by approaching the trap from the same site as the entrance from as close a position as concealment will allow. Probably the answer is to recognise the differences in individuals and be prepared to try several trap positions as well as different trapping methods (see earlier articles), after a long interval to allow incubation to be re-established.

Finally, in reply to yet another query, it should be stressed that, whatever method is used, the nest and trap must be kept under continual observation during the trapping attempt.

Mike Pienkowski

#### WADER NETS

The first Knox wader nets made from material half as thick (and strong) again as normal mist nets arrived at Beech Grove in May. One was immediately erected on the lawn and proved to be very well finished with an immense amount of slack and good strong, inelastic shelf-strings. The main problem with these 3-shelf nets may be the height to which they will set - with taut side strings the netting is about ten feet high and the pockets have a really good amount of bag. Anyone with short poles (or tall water) should beware.

Comments from ringers have been favourable. Even those apparently wedded to les filets Francais have probably been convinced on the grounds of quality, price and availability to buy British. Rather few 12 m nets were sold but most of the 18 m nets from the first production run of netting have now gone. If you want to reserve one (or more) write quickly. Knox have been asked to make more material but, at the moment, they cannot give a definite delivery date - they will be encouraged to produce it quickly.

Since the nets are made from single shelf lengths joined by the shelf-string the nets may readily be lowered into 2-shelf (or single shelf) format. When the next lot of netting is available we will certainly be offering un-made-up single shelf netting. Please let me know if you feel strongly about what you would want:

- a) neatly packaged loose lengths with exactly the right number of meshes to make a shelf of each length of made up net (12m and 18m)
- b) accurately cut lengths of any other size

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- c) continuous skeins that the R.O. cuts to approximate length.

I would personally opt for a) - easier for the sales staff here at Beech Grove and should make certain that the bits bought will fit into made-up nets if anyone is cutting down (or up) or repairing.

Chris Mead

#### PHHT NETS

The Ringing and Migration Committee have decided that an initial batch of 20 sets of Phhting gear and the associated nets should be offered for sale to selected ringers who:

- a) can pay for the apparatus - probably £40 or so per net.
- b) have experience in using cannon-nets or large clap-nets.
- c) will use the equipment and report back on their experiences.

Then full regulations as to how this new technique will be regulated will be discussed and published by the Committee.

An article appears in the July issue of the Ringer's Bulletin and I would expect that many of the ringers who will be selected to have the phhts will be members of the wader study group. I personally expect them to be a great success and fully expect them to create almost as much of a boost to the capture of selected waders as cannon nets were a decade ago. They are so easy to use and only need a rather small team of experienced people to handle and process the birds caught.

Chris Mead

#### REQUEST FOR JACK SNIPE DATA

A study is being undertaken on Jack Snipe. Data on biometrics, moult, ringing recoveries, migration and diurnal/nocturnal activity patterns etc are all required, especially from Scandinavia but also from other areas. Any information will be welcomed by Frank-Ulrich Schmidt, Wolfshof 8, 3410 Northeim, West Germany.

#### GREENLAND COLOUR DYEING

Hans Meltofte has been spending the summer of 1976 in NE Greenland and he has been colour dyeing the following species - Ringed Plover, Turnstone, Knot, Dunlin and Sanderling. If any of these birds are seen will you please send details including - date, place, species, colour, which parts of the body coloured, rings etc. to either Hans Meltofte, Nyllegade 23, 3tv., DK 2200, Copenhagen N, Denmark or Tony Prater, BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN COLOUR DYEING

This scheme announced previously has resulted in at least one long distance sighting of a Curlew Sandpiper in Ethiopia. We hope for more sightings.

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### WADER NUMBERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

During December 1975 and January 1976 the Western Cape Wader Study Group organised extensive counts of coastal waders from Olifants River (31° 30' S, 18° 10' E) to Knysna Lagoon (34° 00' S, 23° 30' E). They have produced a detailed 162 page report on these counts. The report has three major sections, the first summarises numbers and distribution of waders in this part of south Africa, the second considers the conservation importance of the areas and the third part of 112 pages includes the detailed data on each locality. Among the birds observed there were almost 55,000 Curlew Sandpipers, 15,000 Sanderling, 9,100 Turnstone and 6,000 Little Stint and the principal areas were Langebaan Lagoon with 36,800 and Berg estuary with 19,000 waders. Copies of this report are obtainable from M Waltner, 5 Montagu Way, Pinelands, 7405, Cape Province, South Africa, price R2.00 (please check current exchange rates!)

### REPORTS OF WADER STUDIES IN MOROCCO 1971-72

Due to continued demand, copies of the "University of East Anglia Expedition to Morocco 1971 Report" are no longer available for sale. A few copies have been retained and are available on loan (from M W Pienkowski), provided that the borrower pays postage in both directions. There are, of course, no objections to the making of photocopies of the Report.

It is regretted that it has been necessary to increase the price of the joint report of UEA Expedition to Tarfaya Province, Morocco 1972 and the Cambridge Sidi Moussa Expedition 1972: "Studies on coastal birds and wetlands in Morocco 1972" (see WSG Bull. 16) from £1.00 to £2.00 per copy. This now includes postage. The increase from the price advertised prior to publication is due to inflated production costs and continually rising postal charges. All orders received at the earlier price have been met. Copies are available from M W Pienkowski (address on page 1).

### TUNISIAN RINGING SCHEME

We are pleased to inform you that the ornithological activities in Tunisia continue to run under the auspices of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Research. Also, in the interest of action that is taking place, potential visitors are encouraged to contact the local ornithologist at the following address: Michel Alexandre Czajkowski  
c/o M. Hadj Taieb el Baouab,  
4 Rue Ali Belahouane,  
La Marsa, Tunisia.

### RINGING OYSTERCATCHERS

Oystercatcher rings are large enough for the number to be read in the field. We have learned that there is a study in progress in Norway on this species and an attempt has been made to read all rings in the study area. Unfortunately at least two rings have been put on upside down making them very difficult to read. We hope that all ringers ringing birds of Redshank size and above will try to put rings on the correct way up to aid anyone reading ring numbers in the future.