

WADER AGEING GUIDE

The next BTO Field Guide (No. 17) is now at the printers and will be available at the end of December. The Guide to the Identification and Ageing of Holarctic Waders has been written jointly by Tony Prater and John Marchant of the BTO and Juhani Vuorinen from Finland. Its scope is rather more extensive than most BTO Field Guides as it covers the essential plumage identification, ageing and sexing characters of all 118 species of waders found in Eurasia (except India and S.E. Asia), N. America and N. Africa.

The Guide will be somewhat larger than previous ones, about 180 pages, and will include a selection of 32 superb photographs taken by J.B. and S. Bottomley. These show a wide range of species from Dunlin to Upland Sandpiper and will undoubtedly form one of the best collections of wader photographs ever published. The text will include many line illustrations, mainly by Kevin Baker.

This wader guide is aimed primarily at ringers who have the opportunity to examine birds in the hand but it has also been written with the birdwatcher in mind and gives characters which are useful for identifying birds in the field. For many species it is possible to age birds accurately at moderate distances, and in some cases there are indications in the field as to the sex and the race to which the bird belongs.

The Guide will sell for £2.50 or U.S. \$5 (incl. p & p) and can be obtained from the BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts. HP23 5NR.

BRIEF NOTE ON BRITISH BREEDING COMMON SANDPIPERS

In WBS 11 (March 73) S. Brown appeals for measurements during the breeding season. This summer on breeding streams we handled 34 adults, 57 pulli and 9 juvs. The weights of adults against time are as follows:

(x = males; ▲ = females)

