

CURRENT COLOUR MARKING SCHEMES

We list below all the colour marking schemes for waders which have been notified to WSG Bulletin and which we believe to be currently active. "Currently active" continues to include colour-ringing schemes for some years after ringing stops. Colour-dyeing obviously lasts a fairly definite limited time. We ask ringers to notify the Editors of any other schemes and to advise us when these end. For colour-ringing schemes, the Editors would be grateful for advice well in advance for all seasons that the scheme will operate. Ringers should also consult their national ringing authority.

The present summary includes only schemes in the Old World. American projects are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Reports of sightings, with as much detail as possible, should be sent to the appropriate person listed below; he will pass it on if necessary. In case of doubt, the record should be sent to A.J.Prater, British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire, England. Please note that many schemes can make use of incomplete data if not all rings are clearly seen. Operators of schemes are requested to make sure that sightings are acknowledged and the observer informed of the history of the bird concerned.

COLOUR-RINGING

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Exe Estuary, England. (Dr.J.D.Goss-Custard, ITE Furzebrook Research Station, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5AS, England)

Drachten, Netherlands (Drs.J.B.Hulscher, Zoölogisch Laboratorium, Kerklaan 30, Haren (Gr.), Netherlands) If colour-ringed Oystercatchers are caught, please measure the bill-length from tip of longest mandible to the feathers and from the tip to the proximal (hind) rim of the nostril, and the bill thickness at the tip (over the first 3mm length). Note if the bill is blunt, intermediate or pointed and, if possible, take a photograph of the left side of the head and bill. If observing a bird in the field, please try to make notes on the type of food.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Lower Saxony, Germany (B.Riedel, 3411 Langenholtensen, Wilhelmstrasse 114, W Germany)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Northumberland, England (M.W.Pienkowski, Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, England). Records relevant to other studies in Norfolk, England and Greenland will be passed on.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Hardangervidda, Norway (Cambridge Expedition 1978). Records to A.J.Prater, BTO.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Teesmouth, England (Dr.P.R.Evans, Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, England).

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Greenland (Expeditions in 1973 and 1974) Records to A.J.Prater, BTO. See also 'Colour-flags'

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Teesmouth, England (Durham University, see Grey Plover for address)
Greenland (Expeditions in 1972, 1973 and 1974) Records to A.J.Prater, BTO., or directly to G.H.Green, Windy Ridge, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 3EW, England

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

South Africa (Cape Wader Group) Records to A.J.Prater, BTO.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Walney Island and Hilbre Island, England (Hilbre B.O.), east coast of Scotland (Tay R.G.)
Hardangervidda, Norway (Cambridge Expedition 1978). Records to A.J.Prater, BTO.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Greenland (Expeditions in 1972, 1973 and 1974) Records to A.J.Prater, BTO. See also 'colour-flags'.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Munster, W.Germany (M.Speckmann, Kuckuckweg 6, D-4530 Ibbenbüren, W.Germany)

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Munster, W. Germany (see Ruff)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Teesmouth, England (see Grey Plover)

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Teesmouth, England (see Grey Plover)

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Munster, W. Germany (see Ruff)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Ribble Estuary, England (Dr. W.G. Hale, Liverpool Polytechnic, Department of Biology, Byrom Street, Liverpool, England). Note that if any Redshanks with wing tags which wrap around the wing are caught, these tags should be removed.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Munster, W. Germany (see Ruff)

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Lower Saxony, Germany (See Little Ringed Plover)

South Pennines, England (South Pennine R.G., J.E. Robson, 1 Lawnfold, Hadfield, Hyde, Cheshire, England)

North Pennines, England (Miss S. Jones, Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Teesmouth, England (Durham University, see Grey Plover)

East coast of Scotland (Tay R.G.)

Greenland (Expeditions in 1973 and 1974)

Various species

Waddenzee, Netherlands (Dr. G.C. Boere, Voorstraat 7, Beesd, Netherlands)

COLOUR FLAGS

Colour 'flags' - pieces of plastic adhesive tape attached to metal rings - are described elsewhere in this issue. Essentially they provide a temporary colour ring which is suitable for some projects and which reduces the long-term overlap and confusion between projects. The method will, however, also become wasted if it used indiscriminately, and ringers are requested to consult the Editors and their national ringing authorities before embarking on such a scheme.

Present schemes are:

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Various colours in various positions on the legs. Teesmouth, England (Dr. P.R. Evans, Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England)

COLOUR-DYEING

The organisers of the schemes outlined below have taken considerable trouble to ensure that their schemes will not conflict with each other. We appeal to all ringers to avoid jeopardizing these projects; please contact the Editors and the relevant national ringing schemes before embarking on any other projects.

Winter Plumage 1978-79 (and 1979-80)

The under parts of the body plumage of several species of waders are being dyed as part of detailed studies on the Severn Estuary, Wales/England (Dr. P.N. Ferns, Zoology Department, University College, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 1XL, Wales) and the Firth of Forth, Scotland (Nature Conservancy Council and Universities of Durham, Glasgow and Stirling and others; records to M.W. Pienkowski, 1 West Fenton Cottages, North Berwick, East Lothian EH39 5AL, Scotland)

The under parts of the body plumage of Knots are being dyed green at Teesmouth,

England to study onward movement from this estuary (P.J.Dugan, Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England). Also Grey Plovers dyed yellow.

Curlews are being dyed yellow on the rump in Cheshire, England by the South Manchester R.G. (D.Elphick, 28 Coniston Drive, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, Cheshire CW4 7AL, Engl)

Breeding plumage and wings 1979

Knot in South Africa and France as part of WSG co-operative project (Co-ordinator W.J.A.Dick; see elsewhere in the Bulletin)

Ringed Plover and Dunlin on the Severn Estuary, Wales/England as part of WSG co-operative project (Co-ordinator Dr. P.N.Ferns; see elsewhere in this Bulletin)

? Continuing

Common Sandpipers, Wood Sandpipers, Green Sandpipers, Greenshanks and Little Ringed Plovers in Lower Saxony, W.Germany (see colour-ringed Little Ringed Plover for address)

CONTINUING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR MATERIAL

We repeat below requests which have previously appeared in WSG Bulletin but which continue to be active.

Sightings of colour-marked birds (see above)

Weights of retrapped Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula chicks

Information is requested on the growth rates of Ringed Plover chicks from any area in any year. Any data on individual chicks weighed at least twice would be welcome. Please include dates of weighing (and hatching, if known), locality and any other relevant information. Records from single birds would be appreciated as well as more abundant data.

M.W.Pienkowski, 1 West Fenton Cottages, North Berwick, East Lothian, EH39 5AL, Scotland.

Whole bodies of freshly dead waders

Many WSG members know of the difficulties in interpreting the weight data gathered during ringing activities, and may have seen the paper by P.R.Evans and P.C.Smith (1975. Studies of shorebirds at Lindisfarne, Northumberland. 2. Fat and pectoral muscle as indicators of body composition in the Bar-tailed Godwit. Wildfowl 26: 64-76) which provided information on changes in body composition, thereby helping in such interpretations. It would be valuable if such studies could be extended, particularly to other species, and maximum use should be made of any casualties of catching operations.

Peter Evans requests that whole bodies of any casualties or birds found recently dead be wrapped in a polythene bag and sent to:

Dr.P.R.Evans, Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, Mark the package: "Pathological specimens - URGENT". Please include a note of details of how obtained and of weight at the time of capture/death. Postage can be refunded if desired; please indicate on the note.

Curlew measurements

Ian P. Bainbridge (Department of Biology, Liverpool Polytechnic, Byrom Street, Liverpool, England) is analysing geographical variation in wing- and bill-lengths and weights of Curlew in Europe and would welcome further data from anywhere in Europe. Sources of data would, of course, be acknowledged.

Weights of worn rings

A.J.Prater (British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts, HP23 5NR, England) is analysing the wear of rings on waders. He requests that any rings taken off waders be sent to him (with a note of the date of removal) for weighing. Alternatively a note of the ring weight may be sent, together with ring number and date of removal, but please note that an accurate weight (in milligrams) using a laboratory balance is required.

Wader Ageing Guide - comments to be incorporated for reprinting

The "Guide to the Identification and Ageing of Holarctic Waders" by A.J.Prater, J.H.Marchant and J.Vuorinen (see WSG Bulls. 21,22) is to be reprinted shortly. If anyone has any additions or correction, please sent them to Tony Prater (address in previous item) as soon as possible.