

Marbled Godwit ate grapsid crabs, with the Marbled Godwit also consuming bivalves and polychaetes. Western Sandpipers ate a larger diversity of prey, including insects, polychaetes, amphipods, ostracods and oligochaetes. A preliminary comparison of prey items in stomach-pumped samples and stomachs from sacrificed birds indicated concurrence in prey species, but not in relative abundance.

Red Phalarope responses to thin oil films in foraging experiments

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In experiments using shallow pans of water containing brine shrimp, juvenile Phalaropes Phalaropus fulicarius were presented with a choice of foraging on pans with a thin surface film of oil or on pans with a clear surface. Results indicate that naive birds were equally likely to enter oiled or clear pans on the first choice. However, subsequent choices favored pans without oil, and the duration of feeding bouts differed: birds remained longer on clear pans than on oiled pans ($p < .01$, Mann-Whitney test). These results suggest that phalaropes can quickly learn to distinguish and to avoid oiled surfaces, but even brief contact with oil at sea may decrease survival.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON WADERS

Compiled by N.C.Davidson & M.W.Pienkowski

Although considerable effort is spent on trying to make these lists as complete as possible, coverage is inevitably somewhat dependent on the range of journals, etc. which are available to the compilers. Therefore, details of omissions and, if possible, reprints of papers are always welcome. These should be sent to either of the compilers at: Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, England.

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A GLOSSARY OF CANNON NETTING TERMS

by C.D.T. Minton

(The following glossary reminds the editors of their youth (especially GHG) and the heady, early days of wader catching near The Wash, England. In those days (late 1950s) Clive Minton first cajoled the Wildfowl Trust into using their goose-catching rocket nets to catch waders and many of the terms listed below were born. Later development of cannon nets in the 1960s (now MWP is feeling aged too), again by Clive Minton and the Wash Wader Ringing Group, hatched many of the others and they are now receiving an Australian twist! Fascinatingly Clive has now exported himself (temporarily), the methods, terms and his enthusiasm for waders to Australia and he is obviously emeshing (or mesmerising!) Australian wader ringers (banders) in much the same way as he fixed us years ago! Beware, our southern friends, beware - God knows where it will lead you! The uninitiated may find what follows boring but please bear with those of us who appreciate the irony. Ringing totals show that we do catch waders now and then - who counts the failures, the lost sleep, the biting cold, the discomfort and the slave-driving leader so expert in applying psychological pressures to attain his own ends? Cannon-netting has taught us much about waders and is responsible for the world-wide coterie now using apparatus similar to that designed at the Wash years ago - not surprising as the Wash Wader Ringing Group now sell the stuff to the unwary! - Eds.)

1. Air shot or near miss - net fired but zero catch. Not counted in statistics in order not to spoil average.
2. Buttercup - a bird dyed yellow with picric acid (gradually turning orange brown with age). May flower in all seasons. The majority are sedentary and seen regularly; those which migrate do so to areas uninhabited by man or populated only by colour blind birdwatchers.
3. Cannon - steel tube from which projectile is propelled forward when electrically ignited cartridge is fired. In soft ground the reverse may happen.
4. Catching area - the 30m x 15m area in front of a net avoided by birds at all times. An area occupied only by decoys. Birds often prefer to roost in similar area immediately behind the net.
5. Chocolate blocks - the electrical connectors used for joining dropper cable to electric fuses in cartridges. Inedible. Original version brown, but now usually grey or white.
6. Circuit tester - the sensitive instrument which tells you when someone has tripped over a wire and broken the electrical circuit. Hasn't been developed yet to the stage where it can detect short circuits. Has been known to discharge cannon accidentally when enthusiast turns up the "zero adjustment" knob too far.
7. Covering material - an assortment of old rags gleaned from jumble. Used to cover birds in net after firing, so that they lie quietly until extracted and transported to join the rowdy mob in the keeping cages. Subsequently used to make team members comfortable/warm during banding/processing/sleeping.
8. Dropper - the electric wire connecting the cannons together (except when tripped over by unwary team members) and leading, via the main cable, back to the firing position. Sometimes left in position when all other equipment has been put away.
9. Firing box - the magical instrument which can sometimes be used to fire the nets. Has also been known to discharge through firer instead. Scorned by every electrical expert who thinks he can design an even better (more complicated of course) circuit, which however usually turns out to contain even more inbuilt faults.
10. Grot - material (usually decomposing tide wrack) used for covering net. Cannonflaging operation is "grotting". Grot is usually unavailable where required, and plentiful when not required.
11. Hide - an erection of flexible dimensions constructed to accommodate the whole team in maximum discomfort at the firing position. No team member, except the leader, should be able to see anything of the catching area.
12. Jiggler - cord, with attachments, laid out about ½ metre in front of the net. This can be pulled from observation hide/firing position in order to cause birds in 2 metre "danger zone" to move away. Regarded as interesting/erotic toy by Oystercatchers. Always breaks at critical moment. Alternatively, scares all birds out of catching area.
13. Jump ropes - two metre ropes (and elastic) used to secure rear of net to ground. Allows even back of net to move forward, thus increasing range (sometimes greatly so - when they break and the net leaps over the birds). Not suitable for skipping.
14. Keeping cages - instantly erected hessian compartments providing comfortable temporary accommodation for captured waders whilst awaiting banding/processing. Opportunities for escape under sides and through slit in roof ensure that the most ingenious members of the wader population escape unbanded.
15. Leader - slave driver. The person responsible for all successes, but not for failures. Qualifications - organisational ability (especially the delegation of manual work), endless enthusiasm and optimism (especially in the face of adversity and usually unwarranted), and a sense of responsibility and sound judgement (even when short of sleep). Never gets agitated or speaks a cross word.
16. Meal breaks - something the team is not allowed except before 0500 hrs or after midnight. Like sleep, not normally part of the fieldwork programme.
17. Oojahcapiyying - as for twinkling but from further afield and with even less chance of success.