

British Ring Size 'F'

'F's' are rather unsatisfactory rings which are used either butted or overlapped. They are generally overlapped on Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* and can cause problems if the ring is put on tightly because the fleshy leg of this species may swell (perhaps from irritation by debris getting between the leg and ring) so that the ring becomes a ligating band and injures the leg. This type of injury though rare has been reported regularly. It could probably be prevented if butted ring of correct internal diameter was used. When F's are used on Curlews *Numenius arquata* they are butted and the springy ring (supplied in C shape) are difficult to butt satisfactorily. The British Trust for Ornithology is considering supplying a new ring in modified 'V' shape (which would butt easily) with an internal diameter of around 8-9 mms designed mainly for these two wader species. To ensure 'correct' size we urgently require a series of maximum tarsus diameter measurements from both species. If anyone catches the species in the near future please take such a measurement with callipers to the nearest 0.1 mm and send them to G.H.Green, Windy Ridge, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs., WR10 3EW, England.

Workshop on North American Birds, 16 to 23 September 1981

The journal 'British Birds' is offering an eight-day field-identification workshop in North America. Based at Manomet Bird Observatory, just south of Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., the workshop will focus on the fine points of the identification of juvenile and first-winter birds, especially passerines and waders. The workshop is being run entirely by the American firm 'Wings, Inc.'

Designed for serious birdwatchers, the workshop will combine extensive fieldwork, sessions in conjunction with Manomet's passerine- and wader-ringing operations, and evening lecture/discussion sessions using transparencies and study specimens. Workshop instructors will include Peter Grant of 'British Birds', Kenn Kaufmann and Will Russell of 'Wings' and Brian Harrington, Kevin Powers and Trevor Lloyd-Evans of the Manomet Bird Observatory staff.

The cost will be about £170 from Boston, including all meals, lodging, transport, instruction and workshop materials. Registration will be limited to 16 participants, all of whom must be subscribers to *British Birds*. Air reservations from London to Boston have been made with Trans World Airways at a cost of about £260 return, but, as less costly flights are available to people with flexible schedules, travel from London with the group is not a requirement.

For more information, please telephone Peter Grant at Ashford (STD 0233) 24574, or write at once to 'British Birds' North American Workshop, Wings Inc., Box 287, Seal Harbour, Maine 04675, USA, or to 'British Birds' North American Workshop, c/o P.J.Grant, 14 Heathfield Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8QD.

A little late but bigger than ever

This issue of the Bulletin will appear a few weeks later than scheduled. We are sorry for the delay which was due to a number of problems.

The quantity of good material received by the editors continues to increase. This and the inclusion of the full list of members in this issue have caused some problems of space. We have had to hold over to the next issue several articles which we had hoped to publish in this number. These articles include Waders in Egypt by C. Mullie & P.L. Meininger; in the Ebro Delta, Spain by A. Motis, A. Martinez, E. Matheu & F. Llimona and on the shores of the Outer Hebrides, Scotland by N.E. Buxton as well as the list of recent recoveries resulting from ringing in Britain and Ireland. We apologise to the authors concerned. Despite this, this issue remains much larger than usual. We may have to reduce the size of the remaining issues this year but this depends in part on the general economic situation (which our readers probably cannot control) and prompt payment of outstanding subscriptions (which some at least can)!

BREEDING WADERS OF SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL LAND

by H. Galbraith and R. W. Furness

The name of this survey has changed slightly, but this is the "Proposed survey of the breeding waders of Scottish Straths and Glens" announced in the last Bulletin. We now have the blessing of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club to carry out a pilot survey in 1981 in order to determine how a full scale survey should be carried out. In particular we need to know how many visits to a site are required to give satisfactory results, and whether these should be made at particular times of day or season.

About 20 wader enthusiasts have agreed to take part in the 1981 pilot study, and we feel that this will be a reasonable sample to determine methodology. But if you wish to help and have not contacted us or been approached by us, could you please write to Hector Galbraith at the address below, giving us grid references for the limits of your proposed study area (and a name to identify it by) and we will send you a xerox map of the site, recording cards and instructions.

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