

SOUTH-EASTERN AUTUMN MIGRATION OF DUNLINS *CALIDRIS ALPINA* FROM THE BALTIC AREA

by Jadwiga Gromadzka

During the last Wader Study Group meeting in Munster, I spoke about Polish recoveries of Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. This material will be published next year in *Acta Ornithologica*. Among the problems mentioned in this paper one seems to be particularly interesting. It concerns the autumn migration of Dunlins south-eastwards from Baltic area.

Among Polish recoveries we have two of Dunlins ringed on the Polish coast and recovered in the same autumn in the Crimean area, 10 and 34 days after being ringed (Gromadzka in press a). Apart from these, there are also other reports of Dunlins ringed during autumn passage in Denmark, Sweden and Finland and reported during the same autumn (and in three cases in winter plus one in spring) in the Black Sea region and at the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. All these recoveries concern adult birds except of one of a juvenile (the most southern recovery on Fig.1.).

The geographical origin of the birds choosing this route of migration and their exact destination are unknown. Some of these birds winter on the Black Sea coast and the Mediterranean coast of Turkey (Fig.1); here some wintering flocks of Dunlins have been reported by Glutz et al. (1975). Perhaps the other Dunlins migrate further to the south-east to the Red Sea, Mesopotamia or the Arabian Gulf, where considerable numbers of Dunlins winter (Glutz et al. 1975). One Dunlin ringed in Ottenby in Sweden was shot in autumn two years later on an island in the Arabian Gulf (Osterlöf 1975).

Big flocks of waders gather during autumn at some places on the Black Sea coast, for example, up to 3,000 Dunlins and 15,000 Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* were observed near Burgas in Bulgaria (Nankinov unpublished data). These flocks surely come from breeding grounds in the Siberian tundra, but probably among them are also Dunlins from, e.g., northern Scandinavia. Hale (1973) suggested that Redshanks *Tringa totanus* from northern Scandinavia winter around the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Gulf. Of course, the origin of Dunlins wintering there could be quite different.

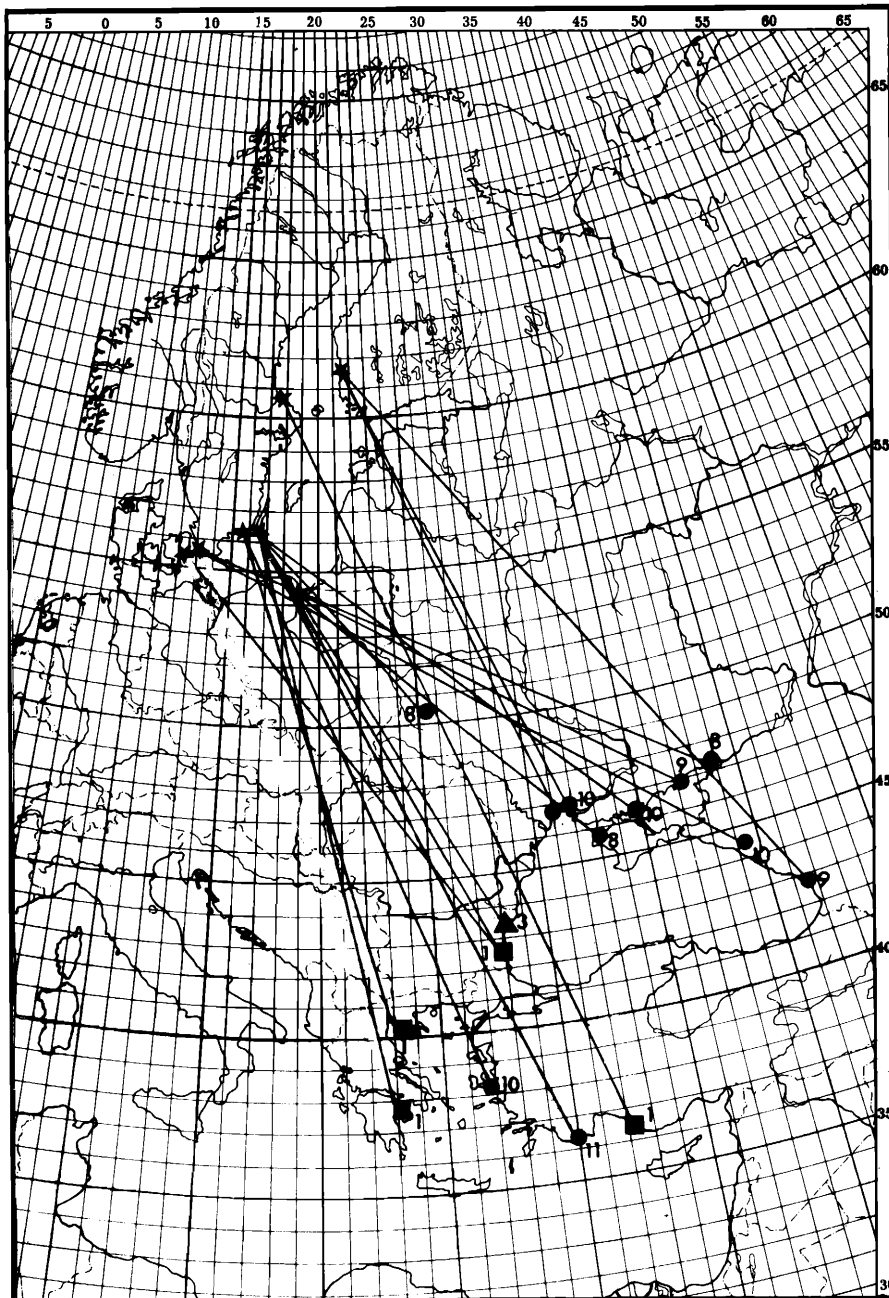


Figure 1. Recoveries in the same season of Dunlins *Calidris alpina* ringed in the Baltic area (July-September) and recovered in a south-easterly direction from the ringing area; stars indicate ringing places, dots - autumn recoveries, squares - winter recoveries, triangle - spring recovery; the month of recovery is denoted alongside each recovery point. Sources: Paspaleva 1965, Osterlöf 1965, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1981, Dontschev 1976, Saurola 1981, Gromadzka in press a,b, Nankinov unpublished data)

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INLAND WADER COUNTS - PROGRESS REPORT

by OAG Münster

Abstract of talk given by Hermann Hotker at WSG Meeting at Münster

Since the start of the Inland Wader Counts in 1979 (for a brief description of the project see WSG Bulletin 29 p.8-9) the number of sites involved increased from 26 in West Germany, Austria and Switzerland to over 80 now (summer 1981) in Britain, France, the Netherlands, Poland and the countries already mentioned. A further increase of the number of counting sites is expected.

At the moment for most sites data are available for not more than one year so that there are not any very confirmed results yet.

The example of Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* shows how counting data may be used for phenological migration studies - summation of the data of several small sites in inland northern Germany yielding nearly the same results as the data from one larger site.

Autumn migration of the Spotted Redshank started earlier at coastal sites and at Lake Neusiedl (Austria) because of the occurrence of many adult birds on these sites in July and August whilst at most inland sites almost all birds were later migrating first-year individuals. In general birds left the more northern resting sites (Netherlands, northern Germany) earlier than the southern ones (Austria, eastern France).

In order to yield more valuable results the sites now involved in the project should be maintained for some years at least. Among the prospects for the project are limnological studies in some of the counting sites and checking of the numbers of inland resting waders outside the counting sites.

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ESTIMATES OF THE DURATION OF THE PRIMARY MOULT OF THE REDSHANK

by R.W. Summers

Abstract of talk at WSG Meeting at Münster

Moult records collected from 1647 Redshanks caught in eastern Scotland were analysed by different methods to show the variations one can obtain for estimates of duration of primary moult. A line by eye through the mean moult scores for dates of capture, and linear regression analysis of moult scores against dates (moult score as the dependent variable) gave exaggerated values for moult duration (106 and 109 days respectively). The linear regression analysis gave earlier dates for the beginning and end of moult because the rate of change of moult score was less towards the end of moult. A line through the median moult scores for each date of capture gave a value of 90 days. This method relies on obtaining unbiased proportions of non-moulting and moulting birds. This is not always possible. Also the total moulting population must be present throughout the moulting season. This is unlikely since the moulting and migration seasons overlap. A line by eye through the mean dates for each moult score, and a linear regression analysis of dates against moult score (date as the dependent variable) gave values of 70 and 74 days respectively. An even amount of data is required throughout the moulting season in order to obtain an unbiased estimate. The data used in this study were not evenly distributed.

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