

Solway Firth (catches)

Waterfoot Annan - North Solway Ringing Group and Wash Wader Ringing Group.

Isle of Rhum (counts)

Kilmory Burn - I.G. Black and Miss F. Guinness.

Outer Hebrides (counts)

Melrose Sands (Stornoway, Isle of Lewis) - N.E. Buxton and W.A.J. Cunningham.

References

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FOOD OF A JACK SNIPE

by Bernard Zonfrillo

On 18 Jan 1981 I found a dead Jack Snipe Lymnocyptes minimus killed by a car on a road to the north-east of Glasgow, Strathclyde. The bird was found after a heavy overnight snowfall had blanketed much of central Scotland. I dissected the bird which was a male weighing 72g, an average weight for this species at that time of year (I.P.Gibson pers. comm.). The stomach contents were removed and examined by Dr R.M.Dobson of Glasgow University Zoology Dept., who identified the undigested remains. These were mostly snail shells, badly smashed - Hydrobia jenkinsi: larva of Chironomid midge - possibly Prodiamesa olivacea; legs of Amphipod - possibly Gammarus sp.; spiracular plate of dipterous larvae - possibly tipulid; plus various odd insect mandibles.

The only other source of Jack Snipe food I can locate is in the Witherby "Handbook" which lists Annelids (earthworms), Molluscs (Succinea, Helix and Pisidium), Coleoptera (Laccobius), Diptera (Psychodidae larvae and Prionocera turcica), plants in the form of seeds of grasses, Juncaceae, Polygonum, Rubus and fragments of algae.

Chance finds such as this are worth examining in view of the comparative lack of data on feeding of the less common waders. The preserved skin of this individual is in my possession.

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