

Four Sanderlings with foreign rings were caught or seen (Great Britain 3, Germany 1) and 21 ringed at the Vistula mouth were recovered abroad (Great Britain 8, the Netherlands 5, Germany 4, France 1, Ghana 1, Ivory Coast 1, Ice-

land 1). Winter records were from Great Britain and the Netherlands, but autumn and spring recoveries from Ghana and Ivory Coast indicate that Sanderlings migrating through the Vistula river mouth also winter in Africa.

Workshop on the project "Tringa glareola 2000" – Abstracts of talks

Overview of the project "Tringa glareola 2000"

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The project "Tringa glareola 2000", conducted since 1997 by the KULING group at the University of Gdańsk under the auspices of the WSG, aims to coordinate international studies of Wood Sandpiper migration. The project has generated so much interest that, up to 2002, 40 Wood Sandpiper sites in 26 countries have been covered (17 in Europe, 7 in Africa and one in Asia). At 30 sites, migration has been studied throughout 1997–2002 and for 10 more data from preceding years has been provided.

The two main study methods are ringing and regular counts. Wood Sandpipers have been caught at 21 project study sites and this has been supplemented with archive ringing data from nine more locations. Colour marking has been carried out at 11 sites. Thanks to the vigilance of bird-watchers, the re-sighting rate is 1% (twice as high as the recovery rate from ringing). Biometric data have been collected from about 3,000 birds caught during spring migration, 8,000 autumn migrants and 1,500 in winter quarters. Regular counts have been conducted in spring at 13 sites and at 21 in autumn. These data are supported by observations of Wood Sandpipers at other migration sites in Europe and Africa.

During three project workshops, participants have discussed methods and the planned final output. During the next two years, the material collected up to the autumn of 2002 will be analysed by specialist groups, focussed on such topics as: flyways, migration dynamics, biometrics, energetics and migration strategy (including moult), and key sites.

Aspects of spring and late-summer passage of Wood Sandpipers in Belarus during 2001–2002

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Regular surveys of Wood Sandpipers were carried out during spring 2001 at 14 sites in both the south and north regions of Belarus. Peak passage occurred at the beginning of May.

Late-summer passage was studied at a site on the Pripyat River floodplain from July to the beginning of August in 2001 and 2002. Peak passage, relating mainly to adults,

occurred in the last ten days of July. At the end of July, the predominant age-class switched to juveniles.

Ninety-six birds were caught during late-summer passage. Statistically significant differences between juveniles and adults were revealed in wing-length ($p < 0.001$), tail-length ($p < 0.005$), tarsus-length ($p < 0.05$) and weight ($p < 0.005$). The length of wing, tail and tarsus in juveniles was higher than in adults. For wing and tail, the difference almost certainly arises because of feather-wear in adults; whereas for tarsus, the difference can probably be explained in terms of bone calcification in juveniles. Temporal changes in body mass and fat reserves were recorded in both adults and juveniles and would have been associated with migration strategies.

Twenty five years of Wood Sandpiper ringing from southern Africa

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All SAFRINGS Wood Sandpiper ringing data from 1975 to the present, (July 2002) has been computerized by Nosi-thenbele Bali, as well as all earlier data that could be traced. This comprises 1,865 records altogether, plus 14 recoveries and 16 recaptures. Here we present the ringing and recapture data (the recovery data having been published elsewhere).

3,781 Wood Sandpipers were ringed in southern Africa, between 1948/49 and 2002. Most were caught in mist-nets or walk-in traps. Numbers caught from year to year have been irregular, but the most effort occurred in the 1970s when 150–300 were ringed annually (Fig. 1). Most (1,243) were caught by one person, Tony Tree.

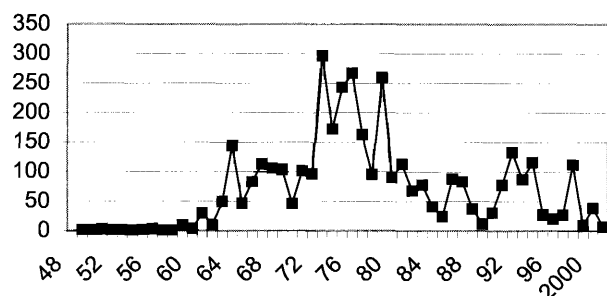


Fig. 1. Numbers of Wood Sandpipers ringed in southern Africa during 1948–2002.



Wood Sandpipers arrive in southern Africa during August and September and some have reached the eastern Cape by the first week of August.

Departure takes place in March and April. Ringing records indicate a gradual departure during April. That some birds over-winter (probably all immatures) is confirmed by ringing records for Zimbabwe of three caught in May and two immatures in June.

Studies of Wood Sandpiper migration in southern Belarus

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Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* migration was studied in the floodplain meadows of the Pripyat river in the vicinity of village of Turov, Belarus (52°05'N, 27°45'E).

Regular counts along standard routes were carried out in 1998–1999 from the end of June to mid-October and in 2000–2002 from early April to late September. Counts were made twice every five days.

Regular wader catching, using 4–12 walk-in traps, started in August 1999. A total of 342 Wood Sandpipers were caught, 145 during spring passage and 197 during autumn passage. All were banded with metal rings and 157 were marked with colour rings; 69 in spring and 88 in autumn.

Spring migration lasted from the second half of April to the end of May with a peak in the first half of May. Autumn passage lasted from the end of June to early October. The peak migration of adults was in mid-July and juveniles followed from August onwards.

There were no significant differences in measurements and body mass in the Wood Sandpipers caught in Southern Belarus in comparison with birds caught in neighbouring countries. There was one foreign recovery from Lithuania.

Spring and autumn Wood Sandpiper migration in NE Austria

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This study was conducted at Hohenau in the extreme north-east corner of Austria, in the lowlands close to the River March and the borders with Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

As in other parts of Europe, the numbers of Wood Sandpipers in spring (maximum count 104) are lower than in

autumn (234). Migration of adults in autumn appears to be divided into two groups: one peaking in pentade 37 and a second in pentade 41. The bill-to-skull measurements of these two groups are significantly different, which supports the idea that they are distinct (Mann-Whitney: $n = 20$; $z = -3.782$; $p < 0.000$). The peak of juvenile migration in autumn is around the end of July and beginning of August. As the season progresses, we tended to catch heavier birds with higher fat scores. The importance of small migration stopover sites is the currently being investigated.

Wood sandpiper ringing at Jeziorsko dam reservoir, Poland

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The Students' Ornithological Section from University of Lodz has used the Jeziorsko reservoir as a ringing site since 1989. Each summer, the water level drops and this creates good feeding conditions for migrant waders, which have been caught in large numbers using walk-in traps and mist nets. The numbers of traps and nets have changed from year to year: 32 traps and four mist nets were used in 2002. Mostly, three species of waders are caught: Wood Sandpiper, Common Snipe and Common Sandpiper.

During two months in 2002 (20 July to 10 September), 678 Wood Sandpipers were caught. This brings the total number ringed over the past 14 years to 4,051. Nearly half the birds were also colour-ringed for the project *Tringa glareola* 2000. All birds were aged and weighed and the following measurements were also taken: wing-length (maximum chord), total head length, bill-length, bill-length from the tip to the nostrils and tarsus-length. Additionally fat-score was recorded in order to assess the body reserves of migrant Wood Sandpipers and Common Snipes.

A comparison of weights of juvenile Wood Sandpipers from the two first weeks of August indicates that fat reserves differ significantly between years. Data from retraps show that juveniles quickly build their fat reserves at Jeziorsko, gaining up to 30 g in two weeks. This is different to Common Snipe, which gain weight at a slower rate and stopover for a longer period. This probably arises because of the different migration patterns of the two species. Wood Sandpipers have to fly much further to their wintering grounds that are situated further south than those of Common Snipes.

Despite the large number of Wood Sandpipers that have been ringed, only seven have been found in other parts of Europe. Similarly, it is surprising that there have not yet been any re-sightings of colour-ringed birds from Jeziorsko.

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