

Curlew Sandpiper A single recovery has resulted from the autumn 1969 invasion.

PJ Lydd, Kent 30.8.69 x Casablanca, Morocco 7.3.70

Sanderling Surprisingly no movements within Britain were recorded although 5 foreign recoveries were reported.

Ad	Dee	26.7.68	x	Dakar, Senegal	20.1.70
FG	Hilbre, Dee	3.5.69	x	Casablanca, Morocco	7.5.70
Ad	Wash	31.7.69	x	Casablanca, Morocco	3.3.70
PJ	Wash	13.7.68	x	Safi, Morocco	5.5.70
J	Wash	20.8.67	x	Somme, France	21.7.70
Ad	Wash	13.4.68	x	nr. Murmansk	19.6.70

In addition a French ringed Sanderling was controlled on the Dee in August.

#### Wader Catching in Iceland, Summer 1970

M. Pienkowski and P. Stanley

In May and July/August this year two expeditions to Iceland were organised in order to catch waders, particularly Knot on migration to and from the Greenland breeding grounds. During the last few years considerable data have been collected on this species in Britain. The expedition's aim was to complement this work by helping to determine the status of the Greenland breeding population amongst the birds on the west European coasts in autumn and winter. In view of the difficulties involved in catching Knot widely dispersed on the Greenland breeding grounds, Iceland presents an excellent location for catching as, while the waders are still concentrated in flocks, it seems safe to assume that they form part of the Greenland breeding population. Secondary aims of the expedition particularly the second phase, were the catching of samples of other wader species and the taking of blood smears for a parasite study by Dr. A.E. Williams (University of Birmingham).

In view of the lack of darkness in Iceland during the summer, mist-netting was ruled out for most of the time and cannon-netting was adopted as the principle catching technique, two net sets being loaned by the Wash Wader Ringing Group. The Cambridge/London Iceland Expedition 1970 was officially recognised by Cambridge University and University College, London, personnel coming from these and from King's and Chelsea Colleges, London and the University of East Anglia. The Icelandic Ministry of Education gave permission for the expedition to work and the Museum of Natural History, Reykjavik supplied rings.

- 4 The first party was in Iceland during the peak of the Knot migration in the last two weeks of May, when flocks of several thousand were continually passing through the fjords in the west coast bays of Breidafjordur and Faxafloi. 878 Knot were caught including 37 controls (15 Wash; 13 Morecambe Bay; 7 Mersey-side R.G.; 1 Leigh R.G. 1 Vendee, France). A large sample was weighed and measured.

The second party visited Iceland for four weeks at the end of July and beginning of August. The autumn Knot migration is spread over two months with smaller numbers than in May present on the west coast fjords at any one time. Flocks of 150 to 400 were seen and 204 caught and processed, including 15 controls (3 Wash; 5 Morecambe Bay; 1 Merseyside; 1 Heligoland; 5 Iceland, ringed by the first party). Other species caught by the second phase included 46 Oystercatchers (including one control from Morecambe Bay), 1 Ringed Plover, 4 Golden Plover, 15 Redshank, 1 Purple Sandpiper, 67 Dunlin and 2 Red-necked Phalaropes.

A full report of the expedition is in preparation and it is hoped to publish this within the next few months. As a result of the two expeditions to Iceland more than 1000 Knot are currently carrying Icelandic rings and all wader ringers in this country (and Western Europe) are urged to try to catch this species this autumn and winter. The value of any wader caught - not only controls - will, of course, be greatly increased if wing and bill length and weight are measured. A similar expedition to Morocco in autumn 1971 under the auspices of the University of East Anglia and the WWRG is being organised to continue this work on several wader species.

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#### How Many Dunlin must be Processed to Obtain Useful Results?

by A. J. Prater

This question is frequently asked when considering the balance between the need to gather information and the necessity of releasing the birds as soon as possible after catching them. In recent years large catches of Dunlin have been made with both mist nets and cannon-nets and it is now a question of some importance.

On the 2nd February 1970 an opportunity arose which enabled some answers to be obtained. On this date a catch of 556 adult Dunlin was made on East Plain Marsh, Morecambe Bay. As the day was fine and sufficient personnel (13) were present the whole catch was processed. At this time of the year only the northern race of the Dunlin, Calidris alpina alpina is present and hence we were dealing with a single population. The sex ratio of Dunlin is approximately unity (Prater in prep.) and hence the averages obtained should not be biased unduly by an uneven sex ratio.

The measurements were obtained by the methods outlined by the first meeting of the Wader Study Group, i.e. maximum wing, bill to feathers, and weight to the nearest gram. Two persons only measured, it was already known that both were consistent in measuring. The whole catch was processed within two hours and little change in weight could have occurred in that time, especially as the weights were taken to the nearest gram.