It appeared at one time that bill length might be useful when used in conjunction with wing length in separating Knot populations. This now, however, seems unlikely and, although one cannot yet say definitely that there is no point in measuring bill lengths wing lengths are definitely much more use. On the other hand weights seem to be extremely valuable, not only in the investigation of the amount of fat a bird is carrying but also, in this species, for the separation of populations and of sexes.

In order to determine which birds are going where, the numerical analysis of retraps from the same estuary and controls from other estuaries is particularly rewarding, and when used in conjunction with the processing data, even more so. In order to use this type of information to its best advantage it is necessary to have details of both retraps and catch totals for the sites. The most useful form of the latter is as totals by months and years or, alternatively, as full details of each catch. It is then possible to remove the bias due to different intensities of ringing during the year and between years.

In summary, some of the most important details for wader studies are:-
1) catch totals, as described above, preferably split between new birds and retraps and, where possible, by age.
2) details of retraps within the same or nearby estuaries.
3) processing details of all controls and as many new birds as can be measured.
The most useful processing details for the Knot are wing length and weight, but bill length may prove of some use.

If any ringer or group is willing to allow use of any part of their results, I would be very pleased to receive it at the address below.

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THE MOVEMENT OF ICELANDIC RINGED KNOT IN BRITAIN DURING THE WINTER 1970/71

by Peter Stanley

The Wader Study Group was set up to co-ordinate British wader research so that the efforts of individual members could be channelled towards rewarding collaborative research. This policy is already leading to success in the case of the Knot, a species chosen for particular attention in 1971.

It became evident some time ago that during the winter there are substantial movements of Knot between estuaries and even across the country. Recoveries of Knot, ringed in early autumn on the Wash, later the same winter on the Conway estaury, the Dee, the Ribble, Morecambe Bay and in Northern Ireland, suggested that a proportion of the early autumn Wash Knot population moved north and west during the late autumn. Wader counts have suggested that a strong NW. passage of Knot occurs just prior to the spring migration and results in very large transient flocks on Morecambe Bay in early May. Data, summarised in Table 1, collected by the Cambridge/London Iceland expeditions during 1970 suggests that the Icelandic passage

6 Knot are more evident on the Wash in early autumn than later in the winter, with the control percentage falling from 0.39 to 0.11.

Table 1. Comparison of number of controls in Iceland of birds ringed on the Wash and Morecambe Bay related to the estimated numbers of surviving ringed birds from these localities.

Ringed	Total ringed to May 1970		Estd. no.surviving at May 1970		No. controls in Iceland		Controls as % of estd. alive	
	W	MB	W	MB	W	MB	W	MB
August Oct.	4606	295	3368	202	13	2	0.39	0.99
Nov. May	6026	6434	5305	4501	6	16	0.11	0.36

These data are highly significant due to the large number of Knot handled on the Wash but the early autumn data for Morecambe Bay does not allow conclusions to be drawn. The winter control percentage on Morecambe Bay is similar to the early autumn one for the Wash.

This picture has been clarified by the activities of members of the WSG in Britain during this winter. This effort has resulted in 10 Icelandic ringed Knot being controlled, these are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Controls of Icelandic ringed Knot in Britain in 1970/71

Locality	Date	Knot caught	Icelandic controls	Control rati
Wash	22.8.70	30	1	0.033
Wash	17.9.70	138	0	-
Wash	19.9.70	1	0	-
Wash	15.11.70	415	1	0.0024
Wash	31.1.71	177	0	-
Wash	27.2.71	1708	1	0.0006
Wash	28.2.71	272	0	-
Wash	27.3.71	451	0	-
Dee	-.11.70	17	0	-
Dee	-.12.70	8	0	-
Dee	-.1.71	834	3	0.0036
Dee	-.2.71	114	3	0.0265
Morecambe Bay winter 70/71		950	1*	0.0011
Solway	14.2.71	571	0	-

* not ringed in 1970

This table indicates that the proportion of Icelandic passage birds in the Wash population falls from a relatively high value in early autumn as the winter proceeds. The data from the west coast reveals that the proportion of Icelandic birds in the Dee population is high and may still be rising. The data for Morecambe Bay and the Solway is not so convincing but is in line with the passage period of late March to early May for Knot in the north Irish Sea. It is hoped that good samples of Knot can be obtained in the spring in this area, when there may well be a high proportion of Icelandic controls in the catches.

N.B. The report of the Cambridge/London Iceland Expeditions 1970 is available from Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Strangeways Laboratory, Cambridge, price 50p.

This report contains 27 figures and tables and as an appendix presents the weights and measurements of all waders handled by the expeditions.

WADER RINGING AT VADSØYA, NORTHERN NORWAY

by Ray Eades

Ringers of waders in Britain now control many waders ringed in Scandinavia. These are usually from well known stations like Ottenby, on the Swedish Baltic coast, or Revtangen, Norway. Less well known, but potentially very exciting is a ringing station at Vadsøya, on Varanger Fjord, Norway. This station, situated at
7 70 04'N and 29.45'E, is manned by an amateur ringer, Jostein Grastveit, and a growing band of enthusiasts. They have kindly sent details of their totals and recoveries for this bulletin.

The birds are caught at a small freshwater pool on an island in Varanger Fjord, close to the busy fishing town of Vadsø. This shallow pool is a gathering place for flocks of waders after they have finished breeding on the nearby tundra and arctic swamps. Normal numbers at the pool from mid-July to mid-September are 200 Red-necked Phalaropes, 100 Dunlin, 50 Ruff, 50 Little and Temmincks Stint, and about 50 others of various species.

Single-shelf mist nets are used to trap the birds. They are placed on permanent poles either in the water or across the banks of the pool. Despite 24 hours daylight and the persistent cold Arctic winds, several hundred waders are ringed every year. The best month is August, as the evenings are relatively dark by then, and the large flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes are easier to catch. The ringing totals are given below.