

Summer Meeting

The meeting of the representatives of ringing groups will again be held at Clive Minton's house in Shenstone on June 17th 1972. There will be the usual business meeting in the morning but in the afternoon it is suggested that Dunlin should be the main topic with discussion concentrating on wing and bill measurements but will probably also involve moult and weight. If possible could all participants bring with them histograms of the bill and wing length in each month.

Foreign Expeditions

This year there are to be at least three expeditions to ring waders. One is already operating in Iceland (organised by Guy Morrison and Jim Wilson) and will remain there until the end of the autumn. Another under the University of Aberdeen will be visiting northeast Greenland and will involve Harry Green and Tony Williams. The third is a repeat of the Morocco trip and is again organised by Mike Pienkowski. It is vital that as many birds as possible are trapped and processed in Britain so that the maximum information can be achieved.

Purple Sandpiper Enquiry

This B.T.C./Hilbre Bird Observatory enquiry has now started and is gathering information on the distribution and numbers of Purple Sandpipers in Britain and Ireland. Information not already sent in on these aspects would be very much welcomed. One of the other aspects of this enquiry is to colour ring populations in different parts of the country to see if any movements can be detected. Already this year over 40 have been colour ringed on Walney Island and the usual colour ringing has continued on Hilbre Island. The Iceland expedition will also colour ring this species as will the Tay R.G. on the Scottish east coast. As this species is very easy to approach closely it is requested that every opportunity be taken to carefully examine them for colour rings and would you please report any sightings to Professor J.D. Craggs at Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Brownlow Hill, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

Ringling in Winter 1971/72

This winter has seen the most encouraging signs of increased attempts to obtain really valuable results by catching at new sites. In Wales Harry Green has started trapping in Pembrokeshire (catching a total of 325) and is surveying the Monmouth coast area as well. In North Wales Peter Challinor and Mike Potts have been successful on the Conway River (with over a 1000 ringed). The Solway was again visited by a team from M.B.W.G. led by Ted Ponting and the North Solway R.G., and it resulted in an excellent catch of Oystercatchers. Teams from the W.W.R.G. visited two southern estuaries, Peter Stanley led one team which followed up the work carried out last year on the Swale and made a catch of over 1000 Knot and Dunlin in December. Clive Minton led the other team, strongly supported by Farlington R.G., which made successful catches in November on Chichester Harbour and in March on Portsmouth Harbour. The well established Groups continued to catch well with their highlights being a January catch of 2265 Dunlin and Knot on the Dee, catches of 2939 Knot and 1191 Dunlin on the Wash and 43 Purple Sandpipers and 450 Dunlin on Morecambe Bay. There continues to be very many Dunlin controls reported, in the major catches alone there were 29 Swedish, 13 Norwegian, 11 Finnish, 6 Heligoland, 5 Polish, 4 Danish and 1 Russian ringed birds!