

Only one Dunlin controlled was ringed elsewhere in Britain, at East Tilbury, Essex on 19.12.65. as an adult. The single Knot controlled was ringed at Cherry Cob on the Humber on 22.10.67. as a PJ. 17 Dunlin were reringed and ten had new rings added, five had badly worn rings which were removed and taken to Beech Grove. They have since been successfully deciphered.

Of the 395 Knot ringed only four (1%) were aged as juveniles and others, although probably not adults, provoked some discussion on the possibility of being second year birds. Of the 554 Dunlin 13 (2.3%) were aged as juveniles. A preliminary plot of wing measurements against bill for Dunlin showed that there was a high proportion of the Northern Race (Calidris a. alpina) as has previously been shown with birds caught in this area. A further trip has now been arranged for the end of February, when it is hoped to catch Turnstone, Oystercatcher and Bar-tailed Godwit.

P.S. The February trip came and went without a net being fired. The tide beat the Turnstones to the net on the beach and the Oystercatchers roosted all round but not in the trapping area on the saltings. Attempts were made to walk them into the area but it was unsuccessful. Cold winds and heavy drizzle did nothing to alleviate the frustration!

Report on Cannon Netting of Waders on Hayling Island 20/21 November 1971. by

David Steventon

LOCATION: Mill Rithe, East Hayling Island, Hants.

PERSONS PRESENT: Eight visitors from Wash Wader Ringing Group, having cannon netting licence and supplying equipment, and seven members of the Farlington Ringing Group.

20 NOVEMBER 1971: Three nets were set on Rushy Point, an area of saltings above M.H.W.M., primarily to obtain a moderate catch of small waders. One net was fired shortly before high tide: the composition of the catch is set out below.

21 NOVEMBER 1971: Three nets were set on saltings about 500m. south of Rushy Point. None were fired as no birds came into the catching area due to the prevailing weather conditions.

| 20 November: | Species | Totals |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| | Dunlin | 552 |
| | Redshank | 19 |
| | Grey Plover | 16 |
| | Knot | 3 |
| | Curlew | 1 |
| | | <u>591</u> |

Dunlin Controls:

| Ring Number | Age | Date | Place of Ringing |
|-------------------|---------|----------|------------------------------|
| Bt. Mus BB43097 | Juv | 8.9.68. | Snettisham, Norfolk. |
| Stockholm 3171787 | Juv | 22.8.67. | Skanor, Malmohus, Sweden. |
| " 3205269 | Juv | 23.9.69. | Ottenby, Oland, Sweden. |
| " 3183978 | Juv | 11.9.70. | " " " |
| " 3108605 | Adult | 11.7.64. | " " " |
| Helsinki P241404 | Postjuv | 8.7.68. | Niemi, Lahti, Hame, Finland. |

Dunlin 19 (3.4%) of the 552 Dunlin were juveniles. The high percentage of adults may perhaps indicate that segregation is taking place, perhaps to the best feeding areas.

| | <u>Mean</u> | <u>Standard Deviation</u> | <u>Sample Size</u> | <u>Range</u> |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Wing length | 118.9mm | 3.2mm | 234 | 110-127 |
| Bill length | 32.7mm | 2.6mm | 234 | 27-39 |
| Weight | 51.1gms | 3.7gms | 234 | 41-59 |

c.f. comparative data from the Wash

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|-------|-----|
| Wing length | 119.1mm | 3.2mm | 228 |
| Bill length | 33.1mm | 2.4mm | 226 |

This shows the population, Northern Dunlin, to be almost identical with that on the Wash in winter: the scatter diagram of wing against bill length shows there are a few, if any, of the Southern race present however. (Proportion of Northern to Southern given approximately by number having wings and bills greater than 118, 32mm to number having wings and bills less than 114, 29mm.)

And c.f. comparative data from wintering birds in Kent

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| Wing length | Mean 120.7mm | Sample size 96 |
| Bill length | Mean 33.5mm | Sample size 99 |

There is a more noticeable difference between the Chichester and Kent populations, the bigger size of the Kent birds may perhaps indicate a further N.E. origin - most of U.S.S.R. recoveries are from Kent.

REDSHANK:

| | <u>Mean</u> | <u>Range</u> | <u>Sample size</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Wing length | 163.5mm | 154-168mm | 19 |
| Bill length | 42.4mm | 39-44mm | 19 |
| Weight | 149gms. | 130-174gms | 19 |

Wing and bill size indicate few if any Icelandic birds present in this population. (Proportion of Icelandic to British given roughly by number having wings greater than 169mm to number having wings less than 161mm: half the Icelandic population has wing lengths of 170mm and greater.) This compares with 76% Icelandic birds on the Wash December-February.

The lowest normal weight is usually 120-130gms, so this series of birds is quite heavy. Mean winter weight on the Wash is 165gms, due largely to the many more Icelandic birds which have a larger body size.

GREY PLOVER:

All adults perhaps indicating segregation to better feeding areas again.

| | <u>Mean</u> | <u>Range</u> | <u>Sample Size</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Wing length | 200.5mm | 196-204mm | 13 |
| Bill length | 29.9mm | 27.36mm | 16 |
| Weight | 257gms | 220-299gms | 16 |

Wing and bill length in the same range as elsewhere in the U.K. Four birds were completing or in arrested moult: this is the last species to complete autumn wing moult. The lowest normal weight is usually 200-220gms, so this series of birds is again quite heavy: peak winter weight is reached December-January and then falls off for an as yet unexplained reason.

Note: All birds measured by W.R.G. members so comparison with Wash and Kent data is valid.