

Curlew

Ad 28.8.61 Dawsmere, Wash x Vasterbotten, Sweden autumn 71.

Greenshank

Ad 9.8.62 Abberton, Essex + Ravenna, Italy 24.3.72

Knot

Ad 26.10.68 Heacham, Wash + Sukkertoppen, Greenland 3.6.72
 Ad 18.8.69 Middleton, Morecambe x More a Romsdale, Norway (1.5.72)

Those British controls which involved a change of estuary were

Ad 27.8.68 N. Wootton, Wash c Hest Bank, Morecambe 14.2.72
 PJ 23.11.68 Hilbre, Dee c Southport, Ribble 13.4.72
 Ad 22.12.69 Piel, Morecambe x Bootle, Lancs 14.3.72
 Ad 8.2.70 Middleton, Morecambe c Snettisham, Wash 19.2.72
 Ad 20.9.70 W. Kirby, Dee c Hest Bank, Morecambe 14.2.72
 1Y 4.10.70 Aldingham, Morecambe c Snettisham 19.3.72
 Ad 15.11.70 Thornham, Wash x Cleethorpes, Humber 21.1.72
 Ad 27.2.71 Snettisham, Wash x Foulness, Essex 26.3.72

Dunlin

1Y 13.9.70 Bardsea, Morecambe x N. Uist, Outer Hebrides 28.5.72

This was recovered inland and was almost certainly on its breeding ground.

FG 26.2.65 E. Tilbury, Thames x Cuxhaven, Germany 29.3.72
 Juv 30.10.66 Wisbech, Cambs. + Somme, France 31.3.71
 Ad 8.9.67 Dawsmere, Wash + Beira Litoral, Portugal 22.1.70
 Juv 15.9.69 Snettisham, x Essaouria, Morocco 14.5.72
 Ad 3.8.70 Foulney, Morecambe + Ille et Vilaine, France 30.7.71
 1Y 27.2.71 Snettisham x Schleswig/Holstein, Germany 16.4.72
 Ad 5.8.71 Teesmouth, Durham x Safi, Morocco 22.5.72
 2Y 9.8.71 Terrington, Wash + Sevilla, Spain 25.12.71

Those involving a change of estuary within Britain were

Ad 7.9.63 Dawsmere, Wash x Spurn, Humber 16.4.72
 Ad 16.8.67 Fair Isle c Point of Air, Dee 29.1.72
 Ad 11.8.68 Terrington, Wash c " " " 29.1.72
 Ad 9.8.71 " " c " " " 29.1.72
 Ad 9.8.71 " " c Farlington, Langstone Hbr. 12.5.72
 Ad 2.1.72 Conway, Caerns c Point of Air 29.1.72
 Ad 14.3.72 " " c " " 29.1.72
 Ad 14.3.72 " " c " " 29.1.72

In addition to these recoveries three notable Knot ones have recently been reported

One ringed in Belgium (when?) was controlled in South Africa this winter and two Knot ringed on the Solway (14.2.71) and Snettisham (19.3.72) have been killed by Eskimoes in the Canadian Northwest territories on 11.6.72 and 9.6.72 respectively. Unfortunately the precise recovery site has not yet been ascertained but they are probably from the south east corner of Baffin Island, though there is a slight chance that they were taken in Victoria Island - well into the range of C.c. rufa the American subspecies.

Preliminary results from the Cambridge Iceland 1972 Expedition

The aims of this expedition were to extend the trapping of waders which the three previous Iceland expeditions (spring 1970, autumn 1970 and spring 1971) had undertaken. With a much greater period of trapping (April-September) it was hoped that a better insight would be gained of the breeding populations of Iceland and passage populations moving to Greenland and northeast Canada. The main method of trapping was by cannon net but single shelf nets were used on occasions. During summer cage traps have been used to catch birds on nest on so try and obtain accurate biometrical data on breeding birds.

The first members went up at the beginning of April (Guy Morrison, James Wilson, Duncan Rothwell) and soon started to catch Purple Sandpipers. Then during May they were supplemented by Angela Morrison, Rob Wilson, David Pearson and Grenville Clarke. May was an extremely successful month and large catches of Knot and Turnstone were made from the 2nd to the end of the month. After this there was a mass exodus of waders from the coast. The total numbers of waders caught are presented below.

Waders trapped in Iceland during April/May 1972.

	new birds	controls: non Icelandic	controls from previous Iceland expeditions	retraps	total
Oystercatcher	28	-	-	-	28
Ringed Plover	30	-	-	2	32
Turnstone	628	2	23	55	708
Redshank	8	-	-	-	8
Knot	970	68	58	12	1108
Purple Sandpiper	235	1	2	3	241
Dunlin	89	1	3	-	93
Sanderling	44	-	-	-	44
	2032	72	86	72	2262

This catching effort more than paid off. No fewer than 6.1% of all Knot handled were British ringed and a further 5.2% were ringed on the previous Iceland expeditions. Included among these 126 ringed Knot were about 12 which have now been handled three times, so considerably increasing their value. All the major British estuaries which have large Knot flocks were represented by controls with 26 from Morecambe Bay, 24 from the Wash, 13 from the Dee, 3 from the Solway and one each from the Humber and Ribble.

Of the other species valuable catches of Turnstone and Purple Sandpiper were made. The first two controls of British Turnstone in Iceland were also made, these birds being ringed on Hilbre, Dee 30.8.64 and Heysham, Morecambe Bay 19.9.71. We also caught a British ringed Dunlin, from Harty, Kent (5.8.67). The only non-British control was a Dutch ringed Purple Sandpiper which was caught by Gerard Boere and Tony Prater on the North Sea coast of Vlieland in December 1971 and retrapped at the same place in March 1972, a valuable recovery which gives proof of its wintering area.

During mid June a talk on the activities of this expedition was given to the B.O.U. conference, this was well received. Apart from that all the effort has gone into studies on the breeding birds, with ringing of adults and pulli. Already in the first part of June over 60 have been ringed and some 150 Nest Record Cards have been completed.

A more detailed account of the expedition will be appearing in the WSG bulletins later in the autumn or winter.

The results of the University of East Anglia Expedition to Morocco

1971

by Mike Pienkowski

In WSG Bulletin No. 4 the activities and highlights of the UEA Expedition were outlined but since then the results of the work have been fully analysed and published in report form. As this runs to 70 large pages of fairly small print, it is obviously not possible here to discuss the work in detail but I would like to summarise some of the main conclusions and indicate the lines that we hope to follow up on the two expeditions which are shortly to leave again for Morocco. For those who would like to look more deeply at the results, copies of the Expedition's Report are available (60p incl. postage) from M.W. Pienkowski, School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich.