

Some Results from Ringing Dunlin *Calidris alpina* L. on the

Dee in May

One of the most pleasant times of the year to go wader netting is the month of May, when the weather tends to be a little bit warmer than it is in January. The birds can be interesting too. Take for instance the Dunlin *Calidris alpina* L., that rather unglamorous bread and butter bird of most wader ringing groups. Ringing on the Dee Estuary over the last few years has shown a heavy passage of Sanderling *Calidris alba* towards the end of May and the Merseyside Ringing Group has extended much effort into catching these. Almost seven hundred Dunlin have been ringed at the same time with intriguing results. Surprisingly, none of them carried rings from the usual observatories in Scandinavia, Ottenby, Tevtangen etc. In fact, the nearest recoveries to the Baltic are from the North Sea area,

FG 16.5.64. Point of Air  
X 4.6.64. Esbjerg, Denmark - Found dead.

Juv 21.9.66. Heligoland  
V 12.5.67. Hoylake

and no controls or recoveries have resulted from the Baltic Sea area (compared to approximately one in one hundred) amongst Dunlin ringed in winter time).

At least some of these May Dunlin must breed in Greenland as shown by the following two recoveries, the only Dunlin ever ringed in Britain or anywhere else to be recovered in Greenland.

AD 15 5.69. Point of Air  
K 16.7.69. Danmarkshaven, E. Greenland 76°45'N 18°45'W  
identified as *C.a. arctica*

PJ 22.5.70. Hoylake  
K 7.6.70. Danmarkshaven, E. Greenland 76°45'N 18°45'W  
Shot because ringed

Possibly these Greenland breeders winter to the south of us, as suggested by these two recoveries.

PJ 21.5.66 Point of Air  
K 17.7.66. Gironde, France 44°41'N 1°01'W

PJ 9.5.67. West Kirby  
2.5.68. Essaouira, Morocco 31°30'N 9°48'W

However, at least some of the Dunlin present on the Dee in May have been found on the Dee in the winter-time, see below.

November	1
December	1
January	2
March	2
April	1

But it is not certain whether these wintering birds are non breeding *C.a. alpina* or *C.a. schinzii* or the Greenland *C.a. arctica*. It is interesting that no Dunlin has yet been caught in May one year and controlled in any successive May. Of further interest is the relatively large number of controls between birds ringed in May and recovered in early autumn on the Dee.

July	2
August	5

Perhaps the same Dunlin are present in autumn on return migration? Continued ringing and especially the measuring of wing and bill length should throw light on this. To date only three recoveries have arisen in the British Isles, and two of them suggest an autumn route on the east coast, and a spring route on the west coast.

AD 6.8.64. Clacton, Essex  
V 24.5.71. Point of Air

AD 13.5.67. Point of Air  
 V 1.8.69. Wolferton, Wash  
 AD 15.5.69. Point of Air  
 V 14.3.71. Deganwy, Conway.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to the Merseyside Ringing Group for ringing the birds and for allowing me to use data, to Dr P.H. Smith and Dr C.D.T. Minton for helpful comments.

Wader Ringing on Sewage Farms in Münster, West Germany

M. Harengerd, W. Prünke and M. Speckmann

During the last three years much effort has been put into catching the migrant waders passing through the sewage farms near Münster (52°04'N, 7°41'E) in West Germany. The ringing has been carried out by a field agency of "Vogelwarte Helgoland" by a small number of keen ringers, helped, during early May and mid July to mid August, by ringing courses.

Mist nets are used but two additional techniques have been used to increase the catch. Firstly a halogen lamp has been used to locate birds roosting at night and thus making them fly towards the nets. Secondly a tape recorder and amplifier were used on suitable nights in 1971. Both of these pieces of equipment were successful and they seem to have been the main reason for the great increase in the numbers of Black-tailed Godwit, Wood Sandpipers and Greenshank ringed last year.

The totals ringed so far are set out in Table 1.

Table 1. Ringing Totals 1969-1971

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>Total</u>
Oystercatcher	-	1	1	2
Lapwing	243	278	417	938
Ringed Plover	30	36	3	69
Little Ringed Plover	9	11	24	44
Grey Plover	1	2	1	4
Turnstone	1	-	-	1
Snipe	260	313	212	785
Great Snipe	-	-	1	1
Jack Snipe	9	10	14	33
Curlew	3	1	-	4
Black-tailed Godwit	8	5	50	63
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	2	-	3
Spotted Redshank	4	27	16	47
Redshank	31	39	17	87
Greenshank	34	43	75	152
Green Sandpiper	34	28	63	125
Wood Sandpiper	49	137	94	280
Common Sandpiper	102	91	141	334
Knot	-	1	-	1
Little Stint	11	10	-	21
Temminck's Stint	5	3	2	10
Dunlin	37	72	8	117
Curlew Sandpiper	29	16	4	49
Sanderling	-	3	-	3
Ruff	309	304	597	1210
Red-necked Phalarope	-	1	-	1
Total				<u>4340</u>