moulting. Fifteen birds were in typical suspended primary moult with from 1 to 7 fully grown new primaries and a full complement of old primaries. A further 24 birds had virtually suspended their moult with a full wing of old and new primaries except for one new primary at an advanced stage of feather growth (stage 3 or 4). Of the remaining birds, many had almost full wings with a number of new primaries growing in a block (e.g. 8 old and 3 new at stage 4). The Dunlin at Ottenby during this period were on migration, only stopping to feed for a matter of hours and retraps of birds ringed more than 12 hours previously were very rare. The sample contained two British ringed Dunlin:

BB 93182 ringed as an adult 30.8.69. Terrington, Norfolk
BH 87377 " " " " 29.1.72. Point of Air, Flintshire

The sample can thus be considered to contain birds belonging to the populations that visit Britain. It is considered unlikely that they had stopped elsewhere on their migration long enough to start moulting and thus these Dunlin probably start their moult on the breeding grounds. It is interesting that a catch made on the Wash on 28.8.72 contained 1 Dunlin in suspended moult and Dunlin in suspended moult were also recorded in Morocco, (see M. Pienkowski in this bulletin). It is of course logical that a small bird such as a Dunlin would undertake a migration with a full wing, active wing moult would probably decrease flight efficiency and entail greater energy consumption.

One striking feature of the Dunlin ringing at Ottenby is that the observatory very rarely controls birds ringed in previous years - a very different situation to Dunlin ringing in Britain. A useful number of juvenile Wood Sandpipers were trapped and a further ten species of wader handled.

1972 was a very bad autumn for wader trapping in Sweden, the number trapped at Ottenby being well down on normal years. Our next stop was at the Falsterbo Bird Observatory that is situated on the southern tip of Sweden. This Observatory is, of course, famous for the bird of prey passage but considerable numbers of waders are trapped in July and August. The trapping site is a pool with patchy vegetation a small distance inland from the shore and once again cage traps are employed. The main species caught are Dunlin, Snipe and Sandpipers.

We were very fortunate in having Niels Otto Preuss, the organiser of the Danish ringing scheme to introduce us to Denmark and especially to show us the famous wader tinging site at Amager. It is to be hoped that at least part of this tremendous sit can be maintained as a reserve rather than be lost to urban development.

The rest of our stay on the continent was s ent observing waders in Denmark and Holland. We would like to thank all the people in Denmark and Sweden who made the trip so enjoyable and worthwhile. Considerable interest was shown in the W.S.G. and we now have a number of Danish and Swedish members.

Cambridge Sidi Houssa (Morocco) Expedition 1972

by Derek Stanyard

As a follow up to the Moroccan Expedition of 1971 a team of ringers spent 10 days mi netting waders on an area of salt lagoons about 400 miles down the Atlantic coast of Morocco, during September of this year.

The Moroccan Administration dos Eaux et Forets granted permission for the expedition to operate and the Institut Scientifique Cherifien (Rabat) supplied rings

The comparatively short period spent on the site proved extremely rewarding, in all 1300 birds were caught of which 1150 were waders. Besides a large number of valuable retraps and controls from last year, the group also controlled birds from Sweden (2 Curlew Sandpiper and 1 Ringed Plover), Germany (1 Curlew Sandpiper) and Britain (2 Dunlin), One of the Dunlin having been ringed on the Wash two months previously.

The species totals for waders caught in the 10 days are as follows:-

Ringed Plover	79	Greenshank	20
Kentish Plover	55	Knot	15
Grey Plover	1	Little Stint	100
Turnstone	2	Temmincks Stint	1
Curlew	1	Dunlin	460
Black-tailed Godwit	15	Curlew Sandpiper	267
Bar-tailed Godwit	9	Ruff	6
Common Sandpiper	15	Black-winged Stilt	8
Redshank	90		

It is hoped that a full report of "the Expedition" will be published within the next few months.

As a footnote wader ringers may like to note that owing to a lack of available French rings of the correct size "the Expedition" used 800 British rings in Morocco ..... an incentive perhaps to send in controls promptly.

University of East Anglia Expedition to Tarfaya Province, Morocco 1972

by Mike Pienkowski

In W.S.G. Bulletins 4 and 6 I outlined the results of the 1971 work on waders in Morocco conducted by the UEA Expedition and gave reasons for return visits. This year two such expeditions took place - one led by Derek Stanyard to continue work at the excellent catching site at Sidi Moussa in North Morocco in September (which is described elsewhere in this bulletin) and the present one aimed at extending the work to Puerto Cansado, a coastal lagoon in the extreme south of Morocco (see map) near the border with Spanish Sahara (Rio de Oro).

We left England in mid-July and travelled fairly rapidly through France and Spain to arrive in Morocco on 24 July. After a brief stop at Rabat to collect rings and discuss prospects with Monsieur Thevenot and Monsieur Elkaim of the Institut Scientifique Cherifien - who were as ever most helpful and hospitable - we moved on to Sidi Moussa to arrive on 27 July, the day after the spring tide.

It was our intention to spend a few days here before moving on south to our main area of study. This would give us the opportunity of catching some of the birds already at Sidi Moussa and establish several points on, for example, the moult and weight graphs for comparison with those of the Cambridge Expedition 5 or 6 weeks later. In addition, of course, there was the possibility of retraps giving valuable weight change and moulting rate data on individual birds. For three days cannon-netting attempts were made on the tidal lagoon at the mouth of the marsh system but despite several near misses only one small catch of 1 Avocet, 2 Dunlin, 3 Greenshank and 1 Grey Plover resulted. A further 3 days were spent mist-netting on the salt pans (which were to be the Cambridge Expedition's main working area) with catches of 57, 23 and 15 respectively, the neap tide being reached on the last night and the waders then not being forced off the adjacent salt marsh. Kentish Plover, Redshank Dunlin and Curlew Sandpiper were the main species caught but there were also a few Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper, Greenshank, Little Stint and Black-winged Stilt. An extra bonus was provided after dawn on the last morning by 2 Swallows and a Woodchat Shrike. Our catches included 2 Kentish Plover and 2 Redshank retraps from 1971 and one of the Kentish Plovers was again retrapped by Derek Stanyard's group in September.

On 4 August we headed south in the hope of reaching Puerto Cansado by the spring tide of 10 August. The road is fully made up and presents no obstacle as far as Tan Tan and slightly beyond but Puerto Cansado lies 100 miles beyond this town. The first part of the route beyond the end of the road consisted of rough desert tracks (at times existing more in name than in physical reality) but the last few miles were completely cross-country - around dunes and over sand drifts and boulder desert.