

Wader Ringing in South Africa

During the last couple of years wader ringing in South Africa has progressed enormously. There is a small but keen group of ringers based on Cape Province, who have recently formed the Western Cape Wader Study Group. The ringing carried out in South Africa has already produced spectacular recoveries, in eastern Siberia, Britain and Belgium for example and as the number of birds ringed increases there will surely be more. However although recoveries are an important part of the information gained from handling birds, other aspects help to explain much about migration; therefore all birds are measured, weighed, examined for primary moult and the percentage of summer plumage recorded. In addition for as many birds as possible of the common species and for all of the rarer species, a full moult card is filled in.

Some of the recoveries to date are set out below:

- Knot ringed 29.8.69, Zeebrugge, Belgium
 v 2.1.72, Langebaan Lagoon (80 miles N. of Cape Town).
 Curlew Sandpiper ringed 7.5.70, Klawervlei (nr Cape Town)
 x 3.9.71, nr Bulawayo, Rhodesia
 Curlew Sandpiper ringed 24.9.69, Walvis Bay, Southwest Africa
 v 30.9.71, Paarden Eiland, Cape Town
 Sanderling ringed 14.3.71, Commetjie, Cape Town
 v 15.5.71, Wash, England

The totals ringed are:

	1970/71	1972/72
Ringed Plover	9	5
Grey Plover	2	8
Greater Sandplover	-	2
Turnstone	3	2
Whimbrel	2	3
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	2
Wood Sandpiper	-	7
Common Sandpiper	7	2
Greenshank 6	10	18
Marsh Sandpiper	1	15
Terek Sandpiper	8	17
Knot	16	173
Little Stint	168	193
Curlew Sandpiper	1425	1907
Sanderling	56	122
Ruff	5	70
Total	1712	2546

Selected Wader References Abstracted During 1971

Unless otherwise stated, the journals appeared during 1971

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