

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

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P. Stanley Nov. 1972.

New Members

- S. Brown, 104 Church Road, Perry Bar, Birmingham B42 2LF
P. Cummins, Cúl na Linne, Milltown Bridge, Dundrum Road, Dublin 14.
Dr P. Ferns, University College, P.O. Box 78, Cardiff CF1 1XL
H. Galbraith, 96 Neilston Road, Paisley, Renfrewshire.
I. Gibson, 41B Mossvale Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire.
A. Graham, 4 Barclay Avenue, Elderslie, Renfrewshire.
M. Greenhalgh, 35 Moss Lea, Tarleton, Preston, Lancs.
M. Macdonald, An Creagan, Drummond Road, Evanton, Ross-shire.
A. Mainwood, 4 Skiach Gardens, Dingwall, Ross-shire.
P. Marsh, 28 Manor Road, Slyne, Lancaster.
H. Pfister, Brankstone, Cogill Road, Wynberg, Cape Province, South Africa.
Dr M. Rusk, 51 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.
M. Waltner, 5 Montague Way, Pinelands, Cape Province, South Africa.
Dr F. Wigzell, 23 Hazledene Road, Aberdeen.
James Wilson, Barn End, Park Avenue, Solihull, Warwicks.

Changes of Address:

- Atkinson, N. 90 Bellevue Gardens, Arbroath, Angus DD11 5BQ
Dare, Dr. P. Tan-yr-allt, Treifriw, Caerns.
Jackson, C. Flat 40, Meadow Park Estate, Badlake Hill, Dawlish, Devon.
Steventon, D. 160 Laburnum Grove, North End, Portsmouth, Hants. PO20ET