

CONTENTSEXPEDITIONS.RECENT RINGING RECOVERIES

Biometrics of British caught Lapwings
 Recent South African recoveries
 Colour marking : comment
 : requests for information
 B.C.U. Wader Conference
 I.W.R.B. Wader Symposium
 Addresses

We must apologise for the extreme delay in the appearance of this our Summer Bulletin. This has been caused by number of factors but we hope that it will not happen again. It must be emphasised that its production is mainly up to you. We are still having a great difficulty in extracting articles from you. So please, if you have any aspect that you find interesting, write it up and send it in. Considering so many of you are doing so well, we should have a stream of articles coming in!

The next Bulletin will be produced in November, so we need your articles by the end of October.

Mauretania Expedition

The Mauretania expedition led by William Dick is now well established in the Banc d'Arguin. Their first small catch near Nouakchott on the 16th September has, we hope, set the standard for future catches with controls of an adult Sanderling ringed in Morecambe Bay on the 19th May 1973 and a juvenile Ringed Plover ringed in Sweden. This was out of only 50 waders! To round off the catch in the 30 other birds caught was a Helgoland juvenile Common Tern.

Projected N.E. Greenland Expedition

As a follow-up to the 1972 visit by Harry Green and Tony Williams to N.E. Greenland, and to aid the efforts already made by Danish ringers there, the summer of 1974 will see an invasion of wader ringers there. This expedition will be led by Harry Green and will involve 10 ringers working throughout the wader breeding season. The data **that** will be collected on Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Turnstone, Knot and Sanderling will undoubtedly add very much to our knowledge about the migration of this population through Europe and western Africa. In addition breeding biology and census work will be made. We wish this expedition every success in this undertaking. (If anyone has a spare £100 or so Harry would love to hear from you!)

Note: Wader Ageing guides are again available.

Recent Recoveries

Oystercatcher

Ringed as pullus

4.7.71	Mainland, Shetland	x	Cramond, Edinburgh	12.3.73
3.6.72	Sandwick, Shetland	x	Culbin, Nairn	31.3.73
26.6.72	Papa Westray, Orkney	v	Southernness, Solway	18.3.73
6.7.72	Newburgh, Aberdeen	x	Birkenhead, Dee	3.2.73
6.6.72	Duirkirk, Ayr	x	Ingleton, Yorks	20.2.73

Recovered in Norway

Juv 13.8.67	Snettisham, Wash	x	Rogaland	16.5.73
Ad 13.8.67	" "	x	Nordland	11.5.73
Ad 13.8.67	" "	x	Rogaland	14.3.73
Ad 21.8.67	" "	x	Vest-Agder	9.5.73
IS 5.7.69	Heacham, "	x	Sor-Trondelag	13.6.73
Juv 29.8.69	Dawsmere, "	x	Troms	2.4.73
Ad 29.8.69	" "	x	Rogaland	30.4.73
2Y 18.7.70	Snettisham, "	x	Nordland	4.4.73
PJ 18.7.70	" "	x	More og Romsdal	1.5.73
Ad 22.8.71	" "	v	Troms	24.6.73
Ad 7.11.71	Thurstaston, Dee	x	Nord-Trondelag	10.6.73
Ad 20.2.72	Heacham, Wash	+	Sor-Trondelag	15.6.73

Other Foreign recoveries

PJ 28.8.68	Middleton, Morecambe	x	Faeroes	9.4.73
2Y 23.11.69	Fiel, "	x	Faeroes	6.6.73
IS 29.7.68	Torrington, Wash	x	Zuid Holland, Netherlands	15.4.73
IMM 25.8.68	Whitford, Burry	x	Friesland, "	10.4.73
Ad 26.2.71	Brownsea, Poole	v	Ijsselmeerpolders, "	25.6.73
2y 8.8.71	Dawsmere, Wash	+	Charante Maritime, France	20.10.72

Oystercatchers recovered on breeding grounds in Britain

ringed in	recovered in	Shetlands	Orkney	Scotland
Solway		1	-	-
Morecambe Bay		3	-	5
Dee		-	2	4
Conway Bay		-	-	1
Burry Inlet		-	-	2
Wash		1	-	-

Lapwing

Pull 18.5.69	Woodbridge, Suffolk	+	Martil, Morocco	early Feb 1971
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Ringed Plover

Juv 23.8.69	Sutton Bridge, Lincs	v	Hest Bank, Morecambe	29.4.73
Ad 4.8.66	Ballycotton, Cork	v	Bangor, Caerns	5.5.73
Ad 18.11.72	Conway, Caerns	v	Sylt, W. Germany	2.5.73

The last bird was controlled as a breeding adult.

Snipe

1Y 3.12.72	Bolton, Lincs	+	Vendee, France	9.1.73
1Y 31.12.72	Wigun, Lincs	x	Kuopio, Finland	8.5.73
Ad 26.10.72	Abberton, Essex	+	Lozere, France	20.3.73

BIOMETRICS OF SOME BRITISH-CAUGHT LAPWINGS
R. J. Kennedy

With the recent concentrated ringing of waders and the systematic collection of measurement data on Wader Study Group forms, we are now able to discern for certain species passage of different populations through the country at different times. The Lapwing Vanellus vanellus is however a species in which variability of measurements apparently does not follow any clear patterns, and no subspecies are differentiated. This paper analyses the measurements of this species which have been made on birds caught for ringing in recent years.

The data

The present data involves 497 birds caught for ringing, the main counties being Kent (315), Lancashire (80), Hampshire (36), with a very few birds caught in Staffordshire, Lincolnshire and Denbighshire. They result from 125 catches, the sizes as follows:

<u>Catch Size</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
5 or less	102
6 - 10	14
11 - 15	7
20	1
80	1

The catch of 80 refers to a cannon-net catch at Newbiggin, Lancs on 27.12.69. Most birds were caught in autumn and winter as the following monthly totals show:-

<u>Month</u>	<u>Birds caught and measured</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Birds caught and measured</u>
January	3	July	23
February	3	August	80
March	10	September	65
April	1	October	118
May	1	November	66
June	3	December	124

Catches were made between 1962 and 1972.

Most data are incomplete, with relatively few measurements of bill and very few of tarsus, compared to wing length and weight. Wing was measured by the maximum chord method to the nearest mm.; weight to the nearest gram, and the bill length was measured from the feathers at the base. Although measurement methods were standard, the fact that measurements were made by a series of people means that the apparent variability must be somewhat greater than it really was, due to slight inter-person differences in technique. This applies particularly to wing measurements.

Wing Length

Excluding moulting birds, 280 measurements are available (Fig. 1). A bird with a recorded wing length of 260 mm. is omitted as a probably error.

Turnstone

Ad	30.1.72	Conway, Caerns	v	Newbiggin, Morecambe	4.3.73
PJ	26.2.72	Snettisham, Wash	x	Humber, Lincs	15.5.73

Curlew

FG	29.7.61	Harty, Kent	+	Calvados, France	26.2.73
Pull	17.6.72	Colne, Lancs	+	Vendee, France	27.3.73

Whimbrel

PJ	30.4.71	Romney, Kent	+	Jutland, Denmark	1.8.72
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Bar-tailed Godwit

Ad	13.3.71	Point of Air, Dee	x	Cumberland coast	24.1.73
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Redshank

Pull	28.6.70	Ponteland, Northumb.	x	Reeth, Yorks.	6.5.73
1Y	24.2.71	Hoylake, Dee	x	Heversham, Westmorland	13.4.73
1Y	31.8.72	Wolferton, Wash	x	Tjarnir, Iceland	17.6.73
FG	24.2.68	Fife Ness, Fife	x	Vane Farm, L. Leven	6.4.73
FG	8.12.69	Fife Ness, Fife	x	Dunnet, Caithness	21.5.73
PJ	28.1.70	Newbiggin, Morecambe	x	Dumfriesshire	3.5.73

Knot

Ad	5.9.69	Wolferton, Wash	x	Midjanes, Iceland	8.9.72
Ad	15.11.70	Normham, "	x	Schleswig-Holstein, W. Germy.	23.5.73
Ad	19.2.72	Snettisham, "	x	" "	25.5.73
PJ	12.8.72	Point of Air, Dee	x	Zeeland, Netherlands	11.3.73
2Y	27.1.71	West Kirby, "	x	R. Stour, Suffolk	18.3.73
Ad	29.8.72	Wolferton, Wash	v	N. Humber	29.9.72

The controls between major British estuaries were

	from Solway	Morecambe Bay	Dee	Wash
to Solway	-	-	1	-
Morecambe Bay	-	-	3	4
Wash	1	3	1	-

Dunlin

Ad	15.11.70	Thornham, Wash	x	Jutland, Denmark	17.5.73
Ad	2.1.72	Conway, Caerns	x	E. Frisian Isl. W. Germany	21.1.73
PJ	20.11.71	H. Hayling Island, Chichester	v	Grosser Knechtsand, "	3.5.73
Ad	23.1.65	E. Millary, Thames	x	Schiermonnikoog, Neths.	4.6.73
Juv	15.8.66	Point of Air, Dee	+	Bussind'Arcachon, France	6.4.73
PJ	28.8.72	Terrington, Wash	+	Casablanca, Morocco	14.4.73

The recoveries within Britain were

	to Portsmouth	Wash	Morecambe	Monmouth	Conway
from Sheppey	1	1	-	1	-
Wash	-	-	2	2	-
Morecambe	-	-	-	-	1
Dee	-	-	1	1	-
Conway	-	2	-	-	-

Sanderling

Ad	31.7.69	Snettisham, Wash	v	Heysham, Morecambe	17.5.73
PJ	22.5.70	Hoylake, Dee	v	Heacham, Wash	5.5.73

Ruff

Juv.f.	29.8.66	Doncaster, Yorks	+	Niger Inundation Zone, Mali	4.3.73
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Table 1. Wing length (mm).

Group	n	\bar{x}	S.D.	S.E.	Range
(1) All birds (non-moulting)	280	225.635	7.521	0.393	208 - 249
(2) Birds caught in Lancs. 27.12.69	80	230.138	5.679	0.635	219 - 242
(3) Kent birds, Nov. - Jan.	59	222.559	6.793	0.884	209 - 240
(4) Kent birds, July -Sept.	80	221.425	6.972	0.779	208 - 240

Fig. 1 shows a normal distribution with a fair spread, showing that at least on present data, British-caught Lapwings cannot be separated into discrete groups on the basis of wing length. The means of Kent-caught autumn and winter birds are similar, suggesting either:

- (1) The autumn and winter populations, although originating from different places, have a similar wing length,
- or
- (2) The winter and autumn birds belong to the same population and there has been no decrease in wing length through wear between July - September and November - January.

The Lancashire December birds differ in wing length from the Kent November - January birds, $p < .001$. The difference between the means, about 7.5 mm. is perhaps due to differing measuring techniques but may well reflect a true difference in wing length between birds found in winter in Lancashire and Kent. This needs further data from other parts of the country for a full exploration.

Bill Length

This was measured on 133 birds. Fig. 2 shows that a normal distribution is followed, with no suggestion of any bimodality.

Bill length (mm).

n	\bar{x}	S.D.	S.E.
133	24.511	1.335	0.116

For 128 non-moulting birds whose bill had been measured, wing was also known, allowing the calculation of the correlation coefficient between these two measurements, whose value came to -0.0839 , indicating a lack of correlation between bill and wing lengths, as is also found for Golden Plover Charadrius apricaria (P. Morgan, pers. comm.).

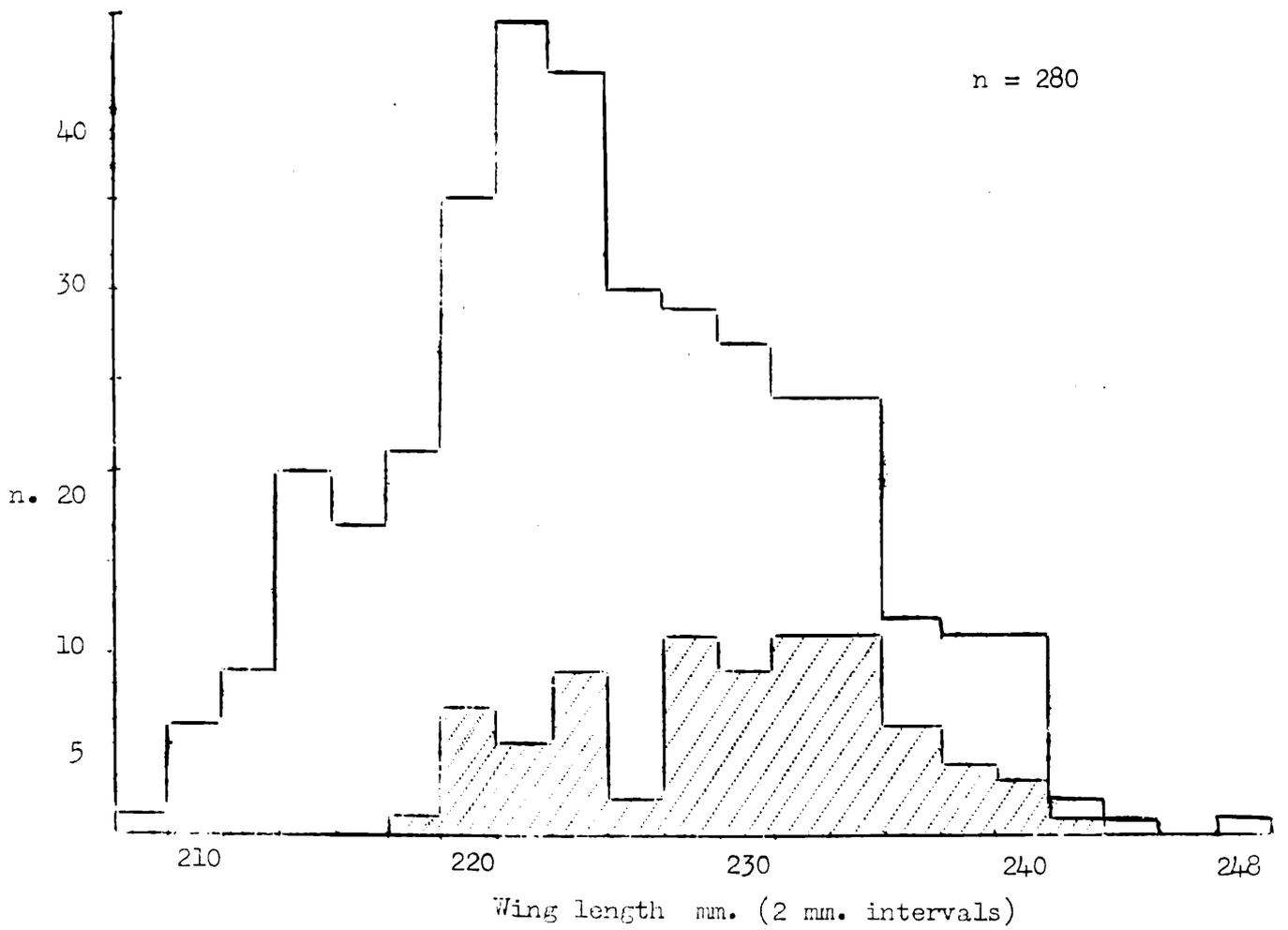


Fig. 1 Wing lengths of British caught Lapwings Hatched = caught at Newbiggin, Lancs. in December 1969.

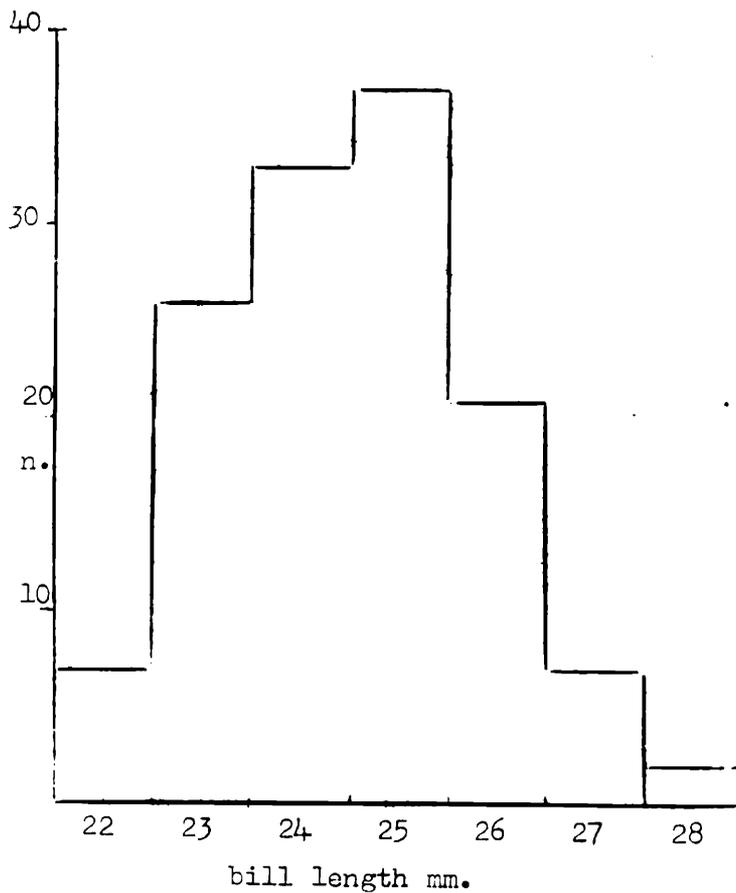


Fig. 2. Bill lengths of British caught Lapwings

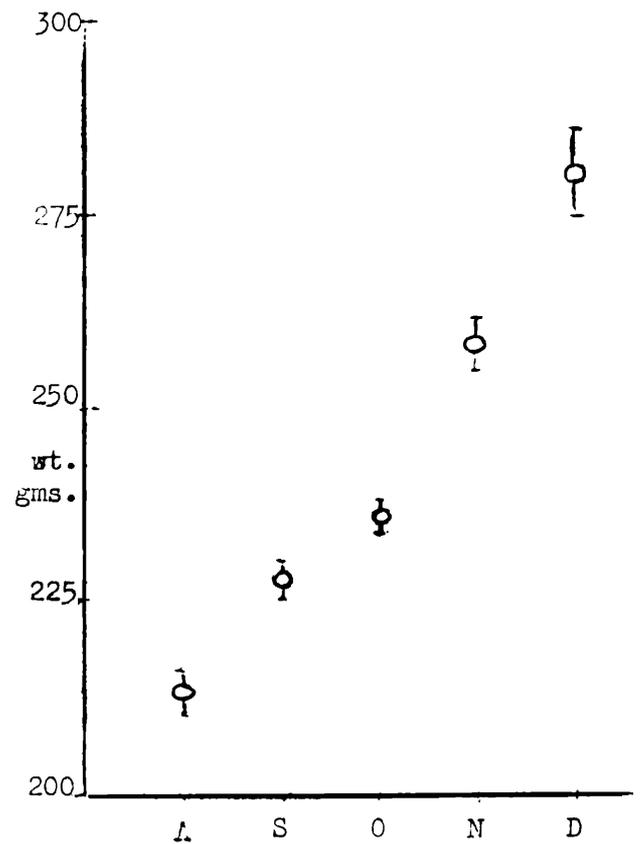


Fig. 3 Weights of British caught Lapwings means & standard errors.

Body Weight - See Fig 3.

Birds were split into several groups with the following results:-

Group	n	\bar{x}	S.D.	S.E.	Range
(1) July birds (non moulting)	7	223.7(14)	21.00	7.9(36)	195 - 252
(2) August birds (non moulting)	46	214.4(70)	22.1(33)	3.3(63)	173 - 266
(3) September birds (non moulting)	40	228.8(50)	17.9(41)	2.8(37)	200 - 292
(4) October birds (non moulting)	76	236.4(39)	15.4(63)	1.9(91)	200 - 274
(5) November birds (non moulting)	39	260.9(23)	21.5(39)	3.4(49)	198 - 305*
(6) December birds (non moulting)	26	282.5(62)	34.4(86)	6.7(44)	211 - 380*
(7) Birds in primary moult July - Sept.	23	222.3(04)	15.7(32)	3.3(80)	178 - 243

* Birds whose weights were recorded as "300g +" had to be omitted as follows:- November (1), December (7).

There is here good evidence of a gradual autumn increase in weight; the difference between the August and December mean weights is highly significant ($p < .001$), with a 25% winter increase on the August weight. The present data on moulting weights does not suggest any differences from birds which have not started or have completed the moult, although more data are clearly required to test this.

Remarks

The wing length of the Lapwing is clearly very variable and more data are required for parts of the country other than Kent and Lancashire to discover:

- (a) if there are differences between local British populations,
- (b) if immigrants differ from British breeding birds in wing length.

The weight changes are fairly clear cut but more data is required for the months January - July to fit the autumn increase into the annual weight cycle. It is likely that some of the heavy winter birds are immigrants.

The tarsus was measured on only 5 birds, a situation which needs rectifying.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank all the individuals who have contributed the data used, especially the Mid Kent Ringing Group, Forecambe Bay W.R.G., Farlington R.G., and Wash W.R.G.