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Summer Meeting of the W.S.G.

With this bulletin you will have received a copy of the Minutes of the WSG meeting which was held on 29th September. Unfortunately it was not possible to invite everyone of the 200 WSG members, so I hope those who were not there will take the opportunity to read these Minutes. Several points are of general interest and may no doubt invoke comment from you. If you have any points arising from these Minutes, or any separate points you wish to raise, don't forget that there is a full meeting of the WSG to be held during the Saturday evening of the Ringing and Migration Conference, which will be during the weekend 10-12th January 1975.

It would obviously be helpful if you could give some notice of the points to be raised and if you write to me at Tring I will ensure that they are included in the Agenda.

Subscriptions

This is just a reminder in case any of you have not yet paid your 50p annual subscription for 1974. If you would send it (made payable to R. Birch, Wader Study Group) to Ron Birch, 8 Thornberry Close, Saughall, Chester, it would save us considerable time and expense. Incidentally, its much easier to pay £1 for two years subscription when you renew it!

Recent RecoveriesOystercatcher

Ad	20.9.66	Conway Bay	x	Bulandshr. Iceland	aut. 71, 72 or 73
LY	8.3.70	Morecambe Bay	x	"	" " " "
Ad	5.9.63	Burry Inlet	x	Skogar, Iceland	25.4.74
Ad	3.11.68	Morecambe Bay	v	Southernness	18.3.73
			x	Blomsturvellir, Iceland	10.7.74
Ad	21.9.66	Conway Bay	v	Faroes	22.7.74
FG	9.12.72	" "	v	"	mid 6.74
Ad	23.11.69	Morecambe Bay	x	"	mid 5.74
Juv	22.10.67	Wash	x	Nordland, Norway	21.7.74
FG	8.3.70	"	x	Rogaland, "	24.4.74
Ad	30.1.71	"	x	Hordaland, "	1.7.74
Ad	30.1.71	"	v	Rogaland, "	8.7.74
LY	22.8.71	"	x	" "	24.4.74
Ad	20.2.72	"	x	Sør.Trøndelag, Norway	24.7.74
LY	13.2.71	Swale	x	Friesland, Netherlands	12.4.74
Juv	21.10.72	Portsmouth Harbour	+	Nord, France	17.8.74
Ad	3.11.68	Morecambe Bay	x	Noss, Shetland	13.8.74
Ad	23.11.69	" "	x	Westray, Orkney	summer 74

Eight Oystercatchers ringed in Morecambe Bay (4) the Burry Inlet (3) and Solway (1) recovered on breeding grounds in Scotland.

Lapwing

Ad	11.6.69	Abberton, Essex	x	Nord Holland, Netherlands	21.7.74
Ad M	18.12.70	Bristol, Somerset	+	Ciudad Real, Spain	16.2.71

Ringed Plover

Ad	22.8.71	Langstone Harbour	+	Scoresbyland, NE Greenland	25.7.74
Ad	20.5.73	North Solway	v	" "	18.7.74
LY	23.12.69	Morecambe Bay v Skanor, Sweden			18.7.74

Little Ringed Plover

Pullus	16.6.73	Leicester	x	Bou Salem, Tunisia	5.8.74
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Turnstone

Ad	14.10.73	Fifeness, Fife	x	Ellesmere Isl. Canada	23.6.74
Ad	31.8.69	Wash	+	Herberto, N.W. Greenland	2.7.74
Ad	27.9.69	"	+	" " "	2.7.74
Ad	4.10.70	Morecambe Bay	+	" " "	2.7.74
Ad	10.12.72	Peterhead, Aberdeen	+	" " "	2.7.74
Ad	10.3.74	Kincardineshire	+	Thule, " "	0.6.74
Ad	25.4.70	Wash	x	Thorshofn, Iceland	8.6.74
Ad	14.8.73	Hayle, Cornwall	x	Finnmark, Norway	25.6.74
Ad	24.9.72	Morecambe Bay	x	N.Atlantic c500 miles NNW of C.Finnisterre	20.5.74
Ad	1.9.73	Dee	x	Duddon	15.6.74

Snipe

FG	28.10.73	Sevenoaks, Kent	+	Oviedo, Spain	early 1.74
PJ	20.2.74	Shaftsbury, Dorset	+	Jylland, Denmark	17.8.74

Woodcock

FG	27.10.71	Fair Isle	+	Stockholm, Sweden	28.7.74
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Curlew

FG	13.1.67 (& 4.11.71)	Poole Harbour	x	Halland, Sweden	5.7.74
FG	18.9.73	Skokholm, Pems	x	Vlieland, Netherlands	28.5.74

Redshank

Juv	21.8.67	Wash	v	Reykjavik, Iceland	23.6.74
Ad	1.1.72	Wash	v	" "	23.6.74
PJ	26.3.70	Morecambe Bay	x	Reykir, "	2.5.74
LY	21.12.73	Carnoustie, Angus	x	Rangarvalla, "	19.6.74
Poll	3.6.74	Aberdeen	v	Vlieland, Netherlands	12.8.74
Juv	24.8.70	Fife Ness, Fife	x	Ullapool, Ross	26.6.74
FG	4.9.68	Butley, Suffolk	x	Settle, Yorks	16.6.74
FG	8.11.73	Portsmouth Harbour	v	Ribble marshes	18.6.74
Ad	19.2.71	Dee	x	Blantyre, Lanark	28.6.74
Ad	3.3.73	Morecambe Bay	x	Lonsdale, Yorks	26.5.74

The last five of these birds are of particular interest, indicating wintering areas of British breeders.

Knot

Juv	6.9.63	Wash	x	Eureka, Ellesmere Island, Canada	23.6.74
Ad	19.2.71	Wash	v	Alert, Ellesmere Island, Canada	7.6.74
Ad	22.12.68	Morecambe Bay	+	Thule, NW. Greenland	9.6.74
Ad	22.12.68	" "	+	" " "	0.7.74
Ad	9.10.69	" "	+	" " "	0.6.74
Ad	8.2.70	" "	+	" " "	0.6.74
Ad	27.4.71	" "	+	" " "	0.6.74
Ad	21.12.72	" "	+	" " "	10.6.74
FG	21.12.72	" "	x	" " "	30.6.74
Ad	28.1.68	Wash	+	" " "	early 6.74
Ad	16.3.68	" "	+	" " "	7.6.74
Ad	23.11.68	" "	+	" " "	0.6.74
Ad	13.9.69	" "	+	" " "	0.6.74
Ad	13.9.69	" "	+	" " "	0.6.74
Ad	13.12.69	" "	+	" " "	0.5.74
ZL	11.8.71	" "	+	" " "	0.6.74
Ad	19.2.72	" "	+	" " "	7.6.74
PJ	11.8.71	" "	+	Herberto " "	2.7.74
PJ	11.8.71	" "	+	" " "	2.7.74
PJ	11.8.71	" "	+	" " "	2.7.74
Ad	8.10.72	" "	+	" " "	2.7.74
Ad	8.10.72	" "	+	" " "	2.7.74
Ad	8.10.72	" "	+	" " "	2.7.74

Ad	22.12.68	Morecambe Bay	+	Herberto, NW Greenland	2.7.74
Ad	8.2.70	" "	+	" " "	2.7.74
Ad	10.4.70	" "	+	" " "	2.7.74
Ad	3.3.73	" "	+	" " "	2.7.74
FG	24.11.65	Dee	+	Godhavn, SW Greenland	6.6.74
PJ	11.8.71	Wash	+	" " "	28.7.74
Ad	19.3.72	"	+	" " "	1.6.74

Purple Sandpiper

LY	18.9.69	Isle of May, Fife	+	Hordaland, Norway	5.6.74
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Dunlin

Ad	28.8.72	Wash	+	Kara Sea, U.S.S.R.	2.6.73
FG	18.8.67	Swale	x	50 miles WSW of Snaefellsness Iceland	9.5.74
Ad	23.12.69	Morecambe Bay	x	200 miles E of Firth of Forth	mid 5. 74
Ad	15.1.69	" "	v	Finnmark, Norway	13.7.74
Ad	6.9.70	Humber	v	" "	24.7.74
LY	27.2.71	Wash	v	" "	23.7.74
PJ	8.9.72	Lundy, Devon	v	" "	23.7.74

Large numbers (58) of Dunlin were controlled in Sweden in Autumn 1974 - a summary of them is below. All were adults unless mentioned

Controlled at Torham

Wash: 12.8.68, 5.12.71, 28.8.72

Kent: 14.10.63, 19.1.74, Humber 30.3.74

Controlled at Jonkoping

Kent 31.8.70 (Juv); Wash 22.8.71

Controlled at Ottenby

Wash: 1.10.66, 21.8.67, 11.8.68, 11.1.70, 11.8.71, 7.10.72, 31.7.73, 4.8.73.

Dee: 12.11.66, 9.11.69, 10.12.69, 29.1.72, 18.8.73.

Morecambe Bay: 17.9.69, 21.12.70, 17.2.73, 11.5.74.

Humber: 13.9.68, 11.9.71, 24.3.74; Kent: 31.10.62 (Juv), 17.10.63

Butley: 10.10.70, 25.2.72 (Juv); Portsmouth Hbr: 5.3.72, 29.12.73 (Juv)

Forth: 5.12.70; Pembs: 22.1.72; Caerns: 3.3.73; Severn: 8.10.67;

Plym: 13.2.74 (Juv)

Controlled around Malmohus

Dee: 10.12.69, 2.1.71, 3.1.71, 29.1.72, 29.1.72, 13.2.71, 23.12.72 (Juv)

Wash: 4.9.64, 9.8.67, 11.1.70 (Juv) 5.11.72 (Juv), 7.12.72.

Angus: 27.2.71 (Juv); 23.2.74 (Juv)

Morecambe Bay: 5.4.70 (Juv), 4.5.74. Conway: 3.3.73, 14.10.73 (Juv)

Pembs: 22.1.72.

Other foreign recoveries were :

Ad	24.10.68	Dee	x	Sjaelland, Denmark	3.8.74
Ad	10.1.70	Wash	x	Jylland "	end 5.74
Ad	29.1.72	Dee	x	" "	16.5.74
Ad	17.2.73	Morecambe Bay	v	Sjaelland "	1.8.74
PJ	28.7.73	" "	v	" "	24.7.74
Ad	7.9.67	Wash	x	Schleswig Holstein, W.Germany	11.8.74
Juv	8.10.72	Poole Harbour	v	Vlieland, Netherlands	23.8.74
LY	2.6.73	Dee	v	" "	9.8.74
Ad	27.10.73	Severn	v	" "	21.8.74
LY	2.9.73	Wash	+	Seine Maritime, France	12 9 "

Long distance British recoveries were:

Ad	20.11.71	Langstone Hbr	v	Bradwall, Essex	18.8.74
Juv	28.7.72	Spey, Moray	v	Swale, Kent	20.7.74
Juv	28.8.72	Wash	x	Tongue, Sutherland	5.7.74
Juv	29.8.72	Belfast, Down	v	Hayle, Cornwall	4.8.74
Ad	2.6.73	Dee	v	Teesmouth	18.8.74
Juv	15.10.73	Poole Harbour	v	Canvey, Essex	16.8.74
Ad	11.5.74	Morecambe Bay	v	Swale, Kent	20.7.74

Sanderling

Ad	12.8.68 (& 17.5.69	Wash	+	Calvados, France	12.8.74
Ad	17.5.69	Wash	+	" "	12.8.74

JOINT BIOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO NE GREENLAND, 1974

G.H. Green

Readers of Mike Pienkowski's account, (in Bulletin No.12) of the early days of this expedition will have learnt that following shipping problems in Iceland and Guy Morrison's appendicitis in Greenland, we were able to settle to serious wader studies. These continued in several different valley systems until we returned to Britain 16 August.

As leader of the Wader Study Group Expedition I took the precaution of getting transported by helicopter as far from the 'civilisation' of Mestersvig as I could and, as it turned out, Mike was left (quite unintentionally) holding the baby! Having led several wader expeditions himself he had come on this one as a 'member' expecting to have a nice holiday peacefully watching Ringed Plover, but instead found himself king-pin radio operator, public relations officer, chief negotiator for helicopters to get us back to Mestersvig when the pack ice refused to break (and the boat leaked anyway) and innumerable other unexpected jobs. I hope his own work on Ringed Plover breeding behaviour and feeding ecology did not suffer too much. We are all very grateful to him.

The results of the expedition's bird catching and ringing are shown in Table I. The numbers do not seem large by cannon netting standards, but each wader has to be individually caught, usually at the nest, and the amount of work and effort required to produce these totals is very great. All the birds were weighed, measured, photographed, dye marked and colour ringed. The results of the latter are most exciting and the number of sightings in Britain of these marked birds are listed in Table 2. The technique is obviously a powerful one in wader studies of this type, but it must be used with care. Anyone considering such a scheme must feel honour-bound to consult with the BTO first to avoid overlapping of schemes and invalidation of each other's work. We are most grateful to the BTO for the publicity given to our scheme and to Tony Prater who has acted as receiver-of-reports. Several other ornithological journals also asked for people to watch for marked waders. There is still time for more records. We hope you will all still keep a look-out for colour rings, even though dyed feathers may now have moulted.

We have also had report of a Ringed Plover ringed as a pullus in Greenland being run over by a car near Bergen in Norway. In Greenland we found two Ringed Plovers carrying British rings. One ringed on the Solway 20th May 1973

and the other at Farlington 22 August 1971. Incidentally Stuart Brown made excellent use of our enforced stay in Iceland by reading by telescope the ring numbers of two Redshank breeding near Reykjavik airport - both had been ringed at Snettisham at the Wash, one on 21 August 67 and the other 1 Jan 1972.

Of the sightings of dye-marked birds the Sanderling are most exciting. They are the first proven records of NE Greenland breeding birds in Britain and confirm predictions made from other data. They should now be migrating further south down the West African coast.

The measurements collected from the breeding birds will be published in due course and be available for comparative studies. I have already made some preliminary comparisons with Dunlin and Ringed Plover caught in May on passage in Wales and they help in confirming our identification of Greenland birds at that time.

In addition to the ringing and associated activities we collected much other data about waders based on 'territory'. When breeding birds were located special printed cards were filled in. These recorded indications of breeding activity (song flight, display &c), details of habitat (topography, vegetation), nest records, egg weights and measurements and details of any adults and pulli caught. We used about 350 of these cards and they contain a large amount of information which on analysis will give details of habitat preferences of each species, dates of breeding, growth rates of pulli and so on.

All sightings and territories were plotted on maps or aerial photographs and we built up a complete record of the waders in all the places visited. These maps give us a unique picture of the density and distribution of waders over a large area.

One interesting discovery we made was that early in the season the snow cover varied greatly from valley to valley and hence the date of the start of breeding varied also. We found at least 10 days difference in timing of breeding in valleys only 25 km apart. These differences could mean all the difference between successful and unsuccessful breeding in any given year and general remarks about 'non-breeding' or 'poor breeding' over the whole coast of NE Greenland should be viewed with caution. The mountainous nature of the country may well mean that at least some of the birds breed successfully every year.

We are extremely grateful to all our well-wishers, sponsors, and innumerable people who have helped the expedition in one way or another. The Wader Study Group half of the expedition meshed very well with the Dundee University half and we hope that the combined study of Ringed Plover ecology will be fruitful. I very much appreciate the understanding shown by joint leader Jeremy Greenwood of the eccentric and extremely expensive demands made on the whole expedition by the Wader Study Group.

NE Greenland is a magnificent part of the world and as Salomonsen writes on the last page of the 'Arctic Year' "Those who have been to the Arctic always long to go back"

TABLE I - TOTALS OF BIRDS RINGED

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pull</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Total</u>
Barnacle Goose	1	0	0	11
Long-tailed Duck	0	0	1	1
Glaucous Gull	0	0	3	3
Long-tailed Skua	0	0	5	5
Arctic Tern	30	0	58	88
Turnstone	33	6	13	52
Ringed Plover	53	1	43	97
Knot	10	2	2	14
Dunlin	59	12	25	96
Sanderling	69	34	18	121
Wheatear	0	1	2	3
Snow Bunting	49	33	20	102
	<u>302</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>583</u>

One Ringed Plover carried a British ring.

In addition 3 pullu Knot were marked with colour rings only as no metal rings were available!

TABLE 2 - SIGHTINGS OF DYE-MARKED AND COLOUR-RINGED WADERS

1. Sanderling	The Wash, Norfolk	20-24 August
2. Sanderling	Pembrey, Carmarthen	16 August
3. Sanderling	Scilly Islands	27 August until 3 September
4. Sanderling	Budle Bay, Northumberland	7 September
5. Sanderling	Sand Bay, Somerset	1 September
6. Sanderling	Padstow, Cornwall	details not yet in
7. Ringed Plover	Ythan Estuary, Aberdeen	26 August
8. Ringed Plover	Montrose Basin, Dundee	20 August
9. Ringed Plover	Havergate Is. Suffolk	4 September
10. Ringed Plover	Bridgewater Bay, Somerset	18 August until 15 September
11. Ringed Plover	Severn Beach, Glos.	8 September
12. Ringed Plover	Collieston, Ythan Est	3 September Probably different bird to No.6
13. Ringed Plover	Minsmere, Suffolk	12 September
14. Turnstone	Burry Port, Carmarthen	28 August until 1 September
15. Dunlin	Swansea Bay, Glamorgan	15 September

WADER EXPEDITION TO NORWAY, 1974

Kate Lossells

The expedition spent July and August on the north shore of the Varangerfjord in NE Norway. The fjord opens to the east facing Russia about 80 km away and is at 70° N, 30° E - nearly as far north as the Greenland expedition, but with a much milder climate - the snow had nearly completely melted when we arrived in early July. The fjord is about 100 km long, with reasonably gently sloping sides (it is not a typical fjord) and rocky beaches with occasional sandy bays. There are small tress and birch scrub at the western end, but where we were catching there were only occasional small bushes.

Most of July was spent searching for wader pulli, particularly on headlands between the road and the sea. This area has low dry vegetation (less than 20 cm. high and about 80% cover) plus occasional bushes, together with large pools about 100 m. in diameter, and marshy areas of varying extent. Ringed Plover and Turnstone were breeding in the dry areas and Dunlin, Redshank and Red-necked Phalarope in the wetter areas. In entirely man-made habitat, a scrape about 5m high and 2m deep produced alongside the road during road construction, was particularly important for breeding Ringed Plover. The vegetation had not yet regenerated in these scrapes and there were shallow pools in the bottom of them. There was also one larger area of similar habitat and a gravel pit with breeding Ringed Plovers. Inland there is a plateau with low dry vegetation, occasional small damp areas, and large pools. Turnstone, Dunlin and Golden Plover nest in the dry areas. In addition to the species of which we caught pulli the following species are probable breeders (confirmed breeding underlined): Oystercatcher, Little Stint, Purple Sandpiper, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew. Wader pulli were all caught by hand, usually by locating a breeding pair and then hiding and waiting for the chicks to emerge - the car proved invaluable as a hide!

August was spent catching adult passage birds on rotting beds of kelp and also on some partially tidal pools. We used single shelf mist nets (50% of the catch) wire mesh walk in traps (40%) and clap nets (10%). Initially we mist netted in daylight, but by mid-August it got dark at night.

Ringings totals were as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Ringed:</u>	<u>Full-grown</u>	<u>pull.</u>	<u>retrap</u>	<u>control</u>	<u>total</u>
Dunlin		1850	4	674	18	2546
Little Stint		152		32		184
Temmincks sting		10	5	1	1	17
Ringed Plover		39	37	16	5	97
Ruff		131		4		135
Turnstone		4	28	5		37
Purple Sandpiper		15				15
Bar-tailed Godwit		4				4
Grey Plover		1				1
Golden Plover			1			1
Red-necked Phalarope		26	1	1	1	29
Curlew Sandpiper		1				1
Redshank			4			4
Snipe		1	3			4
Wader total:		2317	83	733	25	3075

We also ringed a further 365 non-waders including 3 Rough-legged Buzzard pulli and an adult Hawk Owl.

Most of the controls were ringed by Norwegian ringers locally earlier in the summer.

The majority of the waders ringed were juveniles—of the 1850 Dunlin ringed only 17 were adults. The main adult passage was very concentrated - 1000 to 2000 adults were on the beach for only 24 hours on the 22-23 July. Compared with this the juvenile passage was leisurely and extended throughout August. A preliminary analysis of the Dunlin biometrics is presented below.

Mean wing length : adults 118.1 mm
 juvs 120.6 mm (range 112-130 mm)
 mean bill lengths: adults 32.7 mm
 juvs 32.1 mm (range 22-40 mm)

(the significance of these has not been tested)

Some of the juvenile birds had probably not completed growth.

Of the 17 adults, 6 were not moulting, 9 were in active moult, and 2 were in arrested moult (one of which had also arrested moult of the inner and outer secondaries).

Passage juveniles were retrapped up to 28 days after ringing, and 7 controls with Russian rings indicated the probable origin of the birds. There were weight gains of up to 2 gm/day and one juvenile weighed 70 gms.

Ringed Plover biometrics:

mean wing length : adults 132.0 mm (range 127-135 mm) sample size 11
 juvs 129.0 mm (range 115-133 mm) sample size 33

The juvenile with wing length 115 mm still had down on the neck

The only species of which we caught a greater number of adults than juveniles was Purple Sandpiper. All 15 birds were adults, and 11 of them were in moult. Comparing Dunlin and Purple sandpiper moult, Purple Sandpiper had an average of 4 growing feathers among the birds in active moult (maximum 6), and Dunlin an average of 1.1 growing feathers among the birds in active moult (maximum 2). Purple Sandpiper is the only species which winters in the Varangerfjord area which probably explains the presence of adults (but not the absence of juveniles) and also the more normal rate of moult compared with the slow moult of the Dunlin.

AGEING THE JACK SNIPE, LYMNOCRYPTES MINIMUS

Alv Ottar Folkestad

84 individuals of the Jack Snipe caught at Ornithological Station Vigra, Møre & Romsdal Co., Western Norway, during autumn migration 1969-73 have been examined. Parallel to studying plumage characters, also other ageing characters have been noticed.

Remaining natal down on the oil gland feather-tuft is characteristic for juvenile waders of many species, especially during the first migration period. Of course, this character is lost rather soon and is therefore not useful for ageing throughout late autumn and winter. It has been used as a basis for controlling plumage characters. Likewise primary moult has been used as an ageing criterion for controlling plumage pattern in adults.

	Juvenile	Adult
Crown-band	Black, more or less spotted brown.	Hardly with any brown
Pattern of back	Rich on contrast. Glossy green on inner web of scapulars patterned rufous brown. Outer web bright yellow.	Not so rich in contrasts. Hardly with any brown on inner web being paler than in juvenile.
Tertiaries	Inner web greyish brown, outer web having four less distinct cross-bars and two irregular longitudinal stripes.	Three distinct, longitudinal stripes along outer web, more or less continuing across inner web.
Rump feathers	Glossy purple black with a narrow, white edge <u>across</u> the tip.	Edged narrow white <u>around</u> the tip.
Middle pair of Rectrices	Pointed, exceptionally more rounded at the very tip. Black area along the feather shaft sharply pointed towards the tip, contrasting to rufous brown edges. 2-3 uncomplete cross-bars on outer web towards the middle of the feather.	Having broader and more rounded tips, though somewhat longated. The pattern being more irregular, the edges being broader and yellowish brown.
Remaining rectrices	Mainly diffuse patterned greyish brown. The outermost pair being lightest and most uniform in colour.	More rounded, darker and with more distinct pattern than in juveniles.
Primaries	Having diffuse, more or less whitish grey tips on inner six.	Sharply tipped white on the inner eight, broadest on the innermost.
Primary coverts	Narrow white edge on inner web, a square white spot on outer web of no. 7-9.	Tipped white, hardly with any differences from inner to outer web of no. 7-9.
Flanks	Less markedly streaked	More markedly streaked.
Legs	Yellowish grey, with or without dark spots around the intertarsal joint.	Yellowish grey.

FOREIGN RINGED WADERS REPORTED IN BRITAIN IN 1973Oystercatcher

Pull	2.8.70	Raufarhofn, Iceland	+	Burry Inlet	17.9.73
Pull	9.6.73	Rangarvalla, "	v	North Solway	25.11.73
Ad	8.4.72	Eyrarbakki, "	v	" "	25.11.73
Pull	18.6.66	Rogaland, Norway	v	Wash	17.3.73
Pull	26.6.66	More & Romsdal, Norway	v	North Solway	18.3.73
Pull	13.6.73	Friesland, Netherlands	x	Warsash, Hants	19.9.73

Lapwing

Juv	4.7.66	Skonor, Sweden	+	Ballingarry, Limerick	31.12.73
Pull	14.5.71	Hordaland, Norway	+	Gilford, Co.Down	0.2.73
PJ	26.8.65	Sjaelland, Denmark	x	Felixstowe, Suffolk	15.4.73
Pull	3.6.63	Hamburg, W. Germany	x	Lincoln	1.4.73
Pull	6.6.71	Ameland, Netherlands	x	Leiston, Suffolk	14.1.73
Pull	19.5.72	Texel, "	x	Mildenhall, "	7.8.73
Pull	31.5.72	Friesland, "	x	Hockwold, Norfolk	18.12.73
PJ f	14.3.72	W. Flanders, Belgium	x	Hitchin, Herts	23.3.73

Golden Plover

Pull	24.8.73	Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland	+	Co. Westmeath	early 11.73
FG	11.3.61	Friesland, Netherlands	x	Herne Bay, Kent	17.12.73

Ringed Plover

Ad	9.8.72	Skogarnes, Iceland	v	Morecambe Bay	29.4.73
1Y	7.8.72	More & Romsdal, Norway	v	Hayle, Cornwall	14.8.73
1Y	7.8.72	" " "	v	North Solway	14.10.73
1Y	5.10.73	" " "	v	" "	14.10.73
Pull	12.8.69	Rostock, D.D.R.	v	Conway	14.10.73
Pull	13.6.73	Hiddensee "	v	Hayle	14.8.73
Pull	17.5.72	Niedersachsen, B.D.R.	v	Conway	4.3.73
Pull	22.6.72	Ijzolders, Netherlands	v	Bacton, Norfolk	2.8.73
Pull	7.6.73	Ijsselmeerpolders, "	v	Morecambe Bay	9.9.73

Turnstone

Ad	25.5.71	Gardskagi, Iceland	v	Fife Ness, Fife	14.10.73
					and 24.3.74

Snipe

FG	12.8.70	Mikoszewo, Poland	+	Langford, Ireland	8.1.73
IY	28.8.69	Hama, Finland	+	Louth, Lincs.	16.1.73
FG	14.8.70	Uusimaa, "	+	Leicester	1.10.73
FG	11.8.71	" "	x	Kells, Kilkenny	14.3.73
FG	22.8.71	Halland, Sweden	+	Castlerea, Roscommon	14.1.73
FG	15.7.72	Skonor, "	+	Barrow, Leics.	31.1.73
FG	20.8.72	Halland, "	+	Earl Soham, Suffolk	20.1.73
FG	15.8.73	Skonor, "	+	Grindleford, Derby	19.10.73
FG	23.8.73	Halland, "	v	Sevenoaks, Kent	21.10.73
Pull	13.6.72	Hordaland, Norway	+	Cork	7.1.73

Pull	13.5.68	Schlesing-Holstein, BDR	+	Guildford, Surrey	18.1.73
FG	17.8.71	Hamburg, BDR	v	Manchester	10.3.73
FG	31.7.73	Nordrhein Westfalen, "	+	E.Ireland	10.11.73
PJ	14.8.73	Munster, "	v	Knarborough, Yorks.	7.10.73
Ad	18.8.73	"	+	Pevonsey, Sussex	15.12.73
FG	8.9.68	Utrecht, Netherlands	v	Derby	23.2.73
FG	3.10.68	Texel, "	+	Wicklow	20.10.73
FG	30.7.71	Noord Holland, "	+	Banagher, Offaly	9.12.73

Woodcock

FG	14.10.71	Hordaland, Norway	+	Forfar, Angus	3.12.73
FG	7.11.69	Jylland, Denmark	+	Kendal, Westmorland	6.1.73
FG	5.4.70	" "	+	Norwich	13.1.73
LY	27.10.71	" "	+	Ipswich	6.1.73
Juv	5.11.72	" "	+	Toddington, Beds	0.12.72
Juv	8.11.72	" "	x	Arva, Cavan	11.3.73
PJ	25.10.73	" "	+	Liphook, Hants	16.11.73
FG	23.3.72	Heligoland, BDR	+	Kirriemuir, Angus	17.11.73
FG	11.11.73	Sark, C.I.	x	Niton, I.O.W.	26.12.73

Curlew

Pull	7.7.73	Oulu, Finland	+	Letterkenny, Donegal	6.11.73
Pull	29.6.73	Norrbottn, Sweden	+	Holbeach, Wash	6.10.73
Pull	10.7.73	" "	+	Kirton, Wash	1.9.73
Pull	8.5.60	Noord Holland, Netherlands	v	Camel, Cornwall	15.8.73
Pull	4.6.73	Drenthe, "	x	Newquay, "	5.8.73
LY	13.8.66	Zeeland, "	+	Fareham, Hants	5.1.73

Whimbrel

FG	22.7.69	Zeebrugge, Belgium	+	Maldon, Essex	0.10.72
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Redshank

Pull	20.7.72	Stalkhamar, Iceland	x	North Bull, Dublin	12.9.72
Pull	24.6.73	Bardastrandar, "	x	Edinburgh	17.11.73
Pull	23.7.73	" "	x	Belfast	27.12.73
Juv	25.7.72	Hafnarfjordur, "	v	Morecambe Bay	25.10.73
PJ	28.10.73	Vlieland, Netherlands	+	Sandwich, Kent	1.12.73

Knot

The following table summarises the Icelandic ringed Knot controlled in Britain by months.

Ringed	Controlled Wash		Morecambe Bay	
	Spring Autumn	Oct. Nov. Oct.	Jan, Feb, March (2)	Feb. March

Purple Sandpiper

FG	22.8.68	Revtangen, Norway	v	Isle of May, Fife	22.12.73
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Dunlin

Too many Dunlin were controlled and recovered in Britain to detail fully. Details are given for birds from countries with few recoveries, the rest are summarised in a table.

Ad	3.8.72	Gt. Ainov Isl. USSR	+ Mersey	8.4.73
PJ	9.8.71	Mikoszewo, Poland	v Tny	3.3.73
LY	26.8.73	" "	v Wicklow	mid 11.73
LY	3.9.73	" "	v Butley Suffolk	25.9.73
Juv	7.9.69	Mecklenburg, D.D.R.	v Radhpole, Dorset	16.2.73
FG	11.9.73	" "	v Poole Harbour	14.11.73
FG	15.9.73	Rostock, "	+ Colne Point, Essex	0.12.73
Ad	26.7.64	Midnes, Iceland	v Dee	29.7.73
Ad	29.5.72	Stokkseyri, "	v Morecambe Bay	29.4.73

Recovered Britain

<u>Ringed</u>	<u>July-Oct.</u>	<u>Nov-March</u>	<u>April-June</u>	<u>Total</u>
Finland	3	11	1	15
Sweden	12	20	4	36
Norway	14	6	3	23
Denmark	2	4	-	6
B.D.R.	1	1	1	3
Netherlands	1	4	-	5
	<u>33</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>88</u>

Sanderling

Ad	16.7.72	Akrar, Iceland	v Wash	29.7.73
Juv	29.9.72	Ottenby, Sweden	v Dundee	3.1.73

ARCTIC RINGED PLOVER IN EASTERN SCOTLAND

The presence of any other sub-species other than the nominate race *Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula* L. has not been recorded from the Scottish mainland (Baxter and Rintoul, 1953). The following note gives evidence which shows that there is an autumn passage of arctic breeding birds in eastern Scotland.

On the 18th August 1973 a sample of Ringed Plover (9 adults and 3 juveniles) was netted at Fife Ness and these birds were found to be smaller than those which had been trapped at the nest on the coasts of Fife and Angus by J. Dunbar and myself (Table 1). The mean wing lengths of the samples were compared using the 'student's' t-test and were found to be significantly different ($p < 0.001$).

	Sample size	Mean wing length (mm.)	Mean bill length (mm.)	Mean weight (gm.)
Scottish breeding birds	21	138.1 \pm 2.7	15.7 \pm 0.6	70.0 \pm 5.1
18th August sample	12	132.8 \pm 2.8	14.2 \pm 0.6	52.5 \pm 7.5

Table 1. Weights and measurements of Ringed Plover caught at the nest in Scotland and on passage in August. The wing lengths refer to maximum chord. Standard deviations are also given.

It is unlikely that the observed difference in wing length is due to wing shortening as described by Pienkowski and Minton (1973) because, between May/July when the Scottish birds were measured and August, any wing shortening would amount to less than 1% (Adult Knots decrease by 4% over the year) (Pienkowski and Minton, 1973). It is therefore assumed that the August sample belongs to a different population.

Short-winged Ringed Plovers breed in northern regions. *C.h. tundrae* breeds in Spitsbergen, N. Scandinavia, and N. Russia east to Tchutchki peninsula, and have wing lengths ranging from 122-135 mm. (17 birds) (Witherby *et al.* 1943). However, these may not be maximum chord measurements and probably refer to museum skins which will have shrunk. *C.h. septentrionalis* (= *psammidroma*) (not recognised by Witherby *et al.*) breeds in Greenland, Iceland, and Faeroes, and Green and Williams (1973) give a mean length of 131.3±3.0 (maximum chord) for 12 fresh birds obtained in Greenland. At present it is unknown which of these two populations is represented in the August sample.

It is not implied that the August sample is a pure one containing only arctic birds, though it may indeed be so. However, it must contain a high proportion of them in order to give the significant difference in wing length.

It may also be mentioned that none of the adults was in wing moult, at a time when Scottish adults undergo moult.

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R.W. SUMMERS.

AUTUMN WADERS IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES

Ron Summers & Nigel Buxton

The Outer Hebrides are a chain of islands 130 miles long lying 30 miles off the north-west coast of the Scottish mainland. Drowned valleys give a strongly indented east coast, whereas the Atlantic pounded west coast is characterised by miles of gleaming beaches strewn with torn seaweed and backed by marram dunes and machair. The islands contain large intertidal sand flats (strands) rich in invertebrate life. Thousands of lugworm casts that dot the surface and scatterings of cockle shells are evidence of this.

The position of the Outer Hebrides is also of interest, situated as they are off the N.W. coast of Britain they would be the first possible landfall for waders on direct line from Iceland or Greenland. Past ornithological records (Baxter and Rintoul 1953) state that large autumn flocks of Sandorling and immense flocks of

Ringed Plover occur there. It was therefore of interest to know more precisely what the numbers were and if possible to determine their origins.

We travelled to the Uists (part of the Outer Hebrides) on the 26th August 1973 for 1 week, in order to count, locate roosts and if possible to catch for biometric data. There are 5 major strands in the Uists/Benbecula group and associated with 3 of these we found substantial roosts (300-500 birds). We also censused 28 km. of exposed beach and rocky coasts. The totals are given in Table 1. The seaweed strawn beaches were found to support high densities of waders. A clear feeding zonation was found amongst the waders on these beaches; Bartails in the water, Sanderling at its edge following the waves up and down, Ringed Plover on the well-drained sand, Dunlin in wet patches and Turnstone among the piles of seaweed.

TABLE I - The numbers of waders recorded on the Uists & Benbecula from 27 August-3 September 1973

Oystercatcher	987
Ringed Plover	1566
Turnstone	1057
Bar-tailed Godwit	648
Curlew	338
Redshank	734
Knot	45
Dunlin	385
Sanderling	399

The appalling weather prevented much catching. However, a small sample was obtained, with interesting results. The Ringed Plover appeared to belong to the British race *Charadrius hiaticula* as they had long wings (mean = 137.3, n = 11) and were in moult. Published figures for the mean lengths of the Greenland subspecies and British race are respectively 131.3 and 136.9 mm (Green & Williams 1973).

The Sanderling were also of interest as they too were in moult, but in earlier stages. On the Wash (WWRG 1970 Report) it is believed that it is the Siberian population which moults and winters in this country and that the Greenland population is only a passage one.

The only indication of a new arrival was a juvenile Knot which weighed 80 gm. The mean winter weight for these birds on the Tay is 136 gm. Only 45 Knot were seen but in mid September a flock of 100 was recorded (L.H. Campbell, pers. comm.)

Conclusions: It appears from this short survey that fair populations of waders (especially ringed Plover) do occur in the N.W. Isles, and a greater knowledge of these is required before the relative importance of other areas can be assessed. Initial progress has been made as to the origins of the waders of the Hebrides, but it is hoped that next years "expedition" makes greater inroads in this field.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON WADERS

The last list appeared in Bulletin 11. It is now a year since the recent publications list was reintroduced as a more regular feature of the Bulletin, and I would like to thank those people who have commented on the contents and pointed out items omitted. Equally, any further opinions on the contents and details of omissions are always welcome. In particular, papers in local reports are easily missed.

Readers may like to note that, for each year, lists of most publications concerning waders and other waterfowl are published in IWRB Bulletin and that abstracts of many papers appear in Ibis, Auk and Bird-Banding.

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