

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	Tay	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 [±] 2.7	15.7 [±] 0.6	70.0 [±] 5.1
18th August sample	12	132.8 [±] 2.8	14.2 [±] 0.6	52.5 [±] 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.

References

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AUTUMN WADERS IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES

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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