

RINGING TOTALS : JULY - SEPTEMBER 1975

	WVRG	FRG	SVRG	Spurn B.C.
Cystercatcher	2217			
Lapwing	1	22	2	
Ringed Plover	23	66	17	15
Grey Plover	164			3
Golden Plover	4			
Turnstone	329			
Common Snipe			1	
Curlew	278		22	
Whimbrel	4		2	
Bar-tailed Godwit	45		7	
Common Sandpiper	9			
Redshank	1051	9	34	
Spotted Redshank	62			
Greenshank	2			
Knot	1303			4
Dunlin	5945	55	106	114
Sanderling	308			5
Ruff	2			
Little Stint				3
Curlew Sandpiper	10	1	7	

CURLEW, CRAMP, AND KEEPING CAGES by Ian Bainbridge

The increased success in recent years of catching such waders as Curlew and Godwits, both in mist nets, and in larger numbers in cannon nets, has focused attention on the problem of leg cramp which can occur in these birds.

The reason for cramp is unknown, although it seems likely to be caused by the confinement of the birds in a space too small or too low to allow them to stand upright - such as a large bird bag, sack, or even a standard sized cannon net keeping cage. Obviously if the birds are caught by mist netting on saltings, a sack has to be used to transport the birds back to the base, but the use of high keeping cages can solve the problems of keeping them for longer periods, as is necessary with larger catches.

This newly designed keeping cage, which has been in operation on the Wash this autumn, appears to eliminate or at least greatly lessen the problems of cramp in long-legged waders. It is made from a standard hopsack (72" x 36"), slit lengthways to give a piece of material 144" x 36". The ends are sewn together to form a circle of material 36" high. This forms the rectangle of the keeping cage - sides 48", ends 24". A 12" cut is made down to the mid point of each end of the cage and the top 12" of each side is then folded over, as shown in Fig.1. This forms the roof, which is stitched down at the sides, and in the middle if necessary, to give either one or two slit entrances of the standard keeping cage type (Fig.2). The cage is held up by four 30" poles, one at each corner, which may need to be guyed.