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DYED WADERS FROM AFRICA

The studies of the migration of waders in Africa are still in their infancy when compared with those in North Western Europe. This is partly due to the fact that wader enthusiasts are few and far between, the majority being found in Kenya and South Africa. Also waders are smallish birds and therefore do not lend themselves to high recovery rates, and it is significant that the majority of recoveries are made by other ringers. As a result, the recovery rates of African ringed waders is very low. We therefore know little about the migration routes through Africa and between the African and Palaearctic regions.

In an attempt to improve our understanding of the migration patterns of waders, large numbers of Knots, Sanderlings, and Curlew Sandpipers will be dye-marked in the Cape Province by the Western Cape Wader Study Group in early 1976 before the birds depart for their northward migration.

We appeal to all bird watchers to look out for these marked birds during the spring and autumn passage of 1976. If you do see a marked bird, which should be especially obvious in flight, please contact either: A.J. Prater, British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, England, or: Dr R.W. Summers, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, South Africa, giving as many details as possible, including the colour of the dye and its position on the bird.

The scanty ringing evidence suggests that the migration routes of these 3 species may cross anywhere between western Europe and central Asia, so if you know a site where any of these species occur on spring (April-May) or autumn (August-October) passage, please keep a special lookout.

WSG winter meeting, January 1976

This was held during the Ringing and Migration Conference at Swanwick, Derbyshire. About 80 members attended and Dr. Minton chaired the discussion.

The business session was short with three principal reports.