

REQUEST FOR WHOLE BODIES OF FRESHLY DEAD WADERS

Many WSG members know of the difficulties in interpreting the weight data gathered during ringing activities, and may have seen a recent paper which provided information on changes in body composition, thereby helping in such interpretations (P.R. Evans and P.C. Smith, 1975. Studies of shorebirds at Lindisfarne, Northumberland. 2. Fat and pectoral muscle as indicators of body composition in the Bar-tailed Godwit. Wildfowl 26: 64-76). It would be valuable if such studies could be extended, particularly to other species, and maximum use should be made of any casualties of catching operations.

Peter Evans requests that whole bodies of any casualties or birds found recently dead be wrapped in a polythene bag and sent to:

Dr P.R. Evans, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE.

Mark the package: "Pathological specimen(s) - URGENT". Please include a note of details of how obtained and of weight at the time of capture/death. Postage can be refunded if desired; please indicate on the note.

RINGING TOTALS

Once again a disappointing response, the four totals sent in were:

S.W. Lancs R.G. (606), including 161 Sanderling, 160 pull. Lapwing, 144 Dunlin and 65 Oystercatcher.

K. O'Brien (Cork) (454), including 244 Curlew, 113 Dunlin, 34 Oystercatcher and 28 Redshanks.

B. Etheridge (Banff) (242), including 78 Common Sandpipers, 72 pull. Lapwing, 24 pull. Oystercatcher, 16 pull. Ringer Plover and 10 pull. Woodcock.

S. Sporne (Hants) (205), including 94 Dunlin, 50 Ringed Plover, 20 Redshank, 10 Bar-tailed Godwit and 2 Kentish Plovers.

ACTIVITIES OF WADER STUDY GROUPS

As outlined in the editorial, we are hoping to increase the degree of information exchange and cooperative studies and aid planning of programmes by a series of articles on various local wader study groups. Peter Challinor has kindly written the first of these which appears below. We hope to receive many more from both Britain and overseas. The content of each will obviously depend to some extent on the activities of the relevant groups but some possible subjects to consider covering include: areas of work: activities of the group: methods used, especially when these may have more general application: species or aspects of special interest: any conservation importance; seasonal activities: suggestions or requests for cooperative studies with other groups: note of any reports published: outline of results etc. The Editors would be pleased to receive articles or discuss possibilities.

SCAN Ringing Group

by Peter Challinor

The SCAN ringing group has been in existence for almost three and a half years and was formed primarily to catch birds by cannon netting. The name SCAN always produces the question of what such a name stands for. Sounding more like a slick name for a trendy TV documentary, it is, in fact, simply the initials, or nearly so, of the places in which the group operates; this is to say, Salop, Conway Bay and part of Anglesey.