Haematopus ostralegus (cont.)

Haematopus palliatus American Pied Oystercatcher

5 9 24 25 28 39 43 46 47 62 65 66 71 178 193 198 207 223 224 225 235 236 255 260 272 277 288 295 299 312 313 337 338 340 347 348 363 374 384

Haematopus palliatus pitanay Peruvian Oystercatcher = H. palliatus

43 178 226 255 277 295 384 389

<u>Haematopus palliatus prattii = H. palliatus</u>

178 255 277 295 313

<u>Haematopus quoyi = H. ater</u>

254 255

<u>Haematopus unicolor reischeki = H. unicolor</u>

13 24 53 123 255 319 384

Haematopus unicolor Variable Oystercatcher

P.A.R.Hockey, Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa.

WADER RINGING IN IRELAND

Ireland is undoubtedly a very important place for many waders, but detailed studies on many aspects are difficult because of the low numbers of ringers and the restrictions on the use of some catching equipment. The latter was brought home forcibly to several WSG members a few years ago when they responded to an invitation from colleagues in the Republic to bring their cannon-nets to help catch waders for ringing. Despite lengthy preparations and negotiations, the party got no further than the English coast at Liverpool before the relevant minister in the Republic changed his mind about authorising the use of the equipment.

We were very pleased to see, then, in the latest issue of the "Irish Ringers' Bulletin" (a newsletter for and by ringers in both the Republic and Northern Ireland), two articles showing progress on two fronts. These are reproduced below by kind permission of the editor, Hugh Brazier. Hugh is also now Secretary of the newly formed Dublin Wader Study group, to which one of the articles refers.

Wader Ringing in Co. Dublin

At the end of November 1982 a small group of us began to mist-net a wader roost at Rogerstown estuary, a few miles to the north of Dublin. Prompted by a relative lack of wader ringing in Ireland as a whole and especially around Dublin, we have achieved some success. Included in the total of 234 birds ringed to date are:

Dunlin	130	Curlew	29
Knot	2	Black-tailed Godwit	
Redshank	42	Lapwing	2
Spotted Redshank	1	Wigeon	1
Ruff	1	Teal	6
Snipe	1	Black-headed Gull	11

In addition we have handled three Dunlin controls, two BTO ringed and one Russian ringed bird.

In the long term, we hope to make a more co-ordinated effort and widen the scope of wader ringing in the area, and to include neighbouring estuaries such as the North Bull, which, despite its large concentrations of birds, has proved disappointing in the numbers ringed.

Ron Macdonald and Ray O'Haire

Cannon-netting at Castleaverry, Newtownards, Co. Down

Cannon-netting, to catch waders, was carried out in Northern Ireland for the first time ever on Saturday 15 January 1983, at a high tide roost on the northern shore of Strangford Lough. A cannon-net catch was again made, at the same site, on Sunday 16 January.

Catches were:	15.01.83	16.01.83
Oystercatcher	60	13
Knot.	` 1	_
Redshank	<u>-</u>	3

All the birds caught were ringed with BTO rings. One Oystercatcher caught on 15 January was retrapped on 16 January. (The most cannon-netted bird in Ireland - Ed.)

Thanks are due to the following people and organisations for making this exercise possible, through giving their co-operation and permission in the various areas under their jurisdiction:

Mr Gilliland, farmer, who owns the site;

The National Trust, who organise and administer the Strangford Lough Wildlife Scheme;

Conservation Branch, Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), who administer the Wild Bird Act (Northern Ireland);

The Royal Ulster Constabulary, who control the (legal) use of explosives and detonators;

The North Down Ringing Group, for providing rings and helpers, and for the many hours spent assessing the site during the winter of 1981/82;

but most of all to <u>Dr. Robert W.Furness</u> and his team from the Zoology Department of Glasgow University, for bringing the equipment and the expertise which turned the project into actuality.

Detailed counts of waders on Strangford Lough have been made for a number of years. However, there is little information from ringing recoveries on the origins and migratory movements of these birds. Part of the current programme of the North Down Ringing Group is to catch and ring waders on Strangford Lough, and thus help to provide more information on the movement and composition of wintering flocks, on which conservation measures can be based.

Ian Forsyth, Department of Extra-mural Studies, Queen's University, Belfast.

NORTH AMERICAN SECTION No. 14



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CAR STICKERS

We apologise to North American members for not previously having made specific arrangements for them to obtain the new WSG Car Sticker (see Bulletin 37:4 for details and a x1.25 life-sized photograph of the Car Sticker). Copies of the Car Sticker can be obtained from the Administrative Secretaries, N.A. & J.A. Clark, Department of Zoology, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JT, at a cost of \$1 (Canadian or US) each. This price is inclusive of surface postage.