

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	-	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 Dr. Robert W. Furness 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.

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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 xl.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.