

Safety of catching adult waders at the nest - a request for data for the wader field methods manual

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Following the round table discussions about the scope of the planned field methods manual at the 1993 WSG Conference in Ipswich, it was proposed to include there information on the vulnerability of waders to capture at the nest. In response to a previous EURING initiative, I have collected and published observations and opinions of European ringers on this topic (Kania 1992). A total of 250 persons representing 10 ringing schemes delivered data on 57,000 captures. However not much information about waders was sent (Table 1). Altogether 45 ringers delivered data on 4,637 waders captures, 25% of which concerns *Charadrius dubius*.

Thus additional data are needed. Anyone wishing to share their experience in aid the training of beginners, is asked to copy and complete the questionnaire (Appendix).

Data collected this spring or extracted from previous field notes would be best. However, estimations are also welcomed as well as any published information not cited in my paper. If any respondent has found desertion rates significantly different from that shown in Table 1, their suggestions on the possible causes would be very valuable. The causes could be, for instance, the prolongation of catching, catching device, weather, time of day, ringer's behaviour, advancement of the season, or predator pressure. Results of repeated capture on the same nest (both successful and unsuccessful, concerning one adult as well as both parents) should be reported separately, with information on the time elapsed between trials. I hope that the editor of the manual will agree to include the acknowledgement to each person delivering data.

I plan to present the inquiry results during the WSG Conference this autumn. Therefore I would be very grateful for the return of completed questionnaires and other comments not later than in July.

REFERENCE

Kania, W. 1992. Safety of catching adult European birds at the nest. Ringers' opinions. *Ring* 14: 5-50.

RINGER'S EXPERIENCE OF THE SAFETY OF CATCHING ADULT WADERS AT THE NEST

Ringers name and address:.....

Country of captures:.....

SPECIES (Latin or English)	SEX	ACCU RACY	STAGE IN INCUBATION CYCLE											
			LAYING		INCUBATION FIRST HALF		INCUBATION SECOND HALF		HATCHING		EARLY CHICKS			
			DES.	NOT DES.	DES.	NOT DES.	DES.	NOT DES.	DES.	NOT DES.	DES.	NOT DES.		

Instruction on how to fill in the above form.

1. The name of the country should be entered if the birds were caught abroad.

2. Sex should be given if recognised.
3. Accuracy of information: insert EXA if exact (i.e. data taken from the field notes) or EST if estimated.
4. Absolute numbers of nests deserted or not deserted

- after catching should be put in columns "DES" and "NOT DES". When one individual was caught many times during one season or in different years, only one (preferably the first) catching should be included here.
- Hatching period begins with breaking of the first egg's shell and continues as long as the last nestling is wet.
 - Early chicks - chicks during first 1/3 part of the flightless period.

- Information should be given about catching method if any special method has been used which proves to be particularly safe or particularly harmful.
- Only catching in the nest checked later can constitute the basis for giving an opinion. Note, that to distinguish a nest deserted probably due to catching, from a nest deserted probably due to predation, one has to check the nest quite soon after catching.

Table 1. Nest desertions after catching adults at the nest (simplified part of Table 3 of Kania 1992). Data given only for breeding stages with >15 captures. Explanation of headings:

Des. rate desertion rate (%);

Conf. int. 0.95 confidence interval (1.96 x SE), given only if number of catchings >19;

n upper value: number of catchings; lower value: number of ringers who supplied data.

Column "Total incubation" is filled only if substantial number of captures was reported without separation for the first and second halves of the hatching period.

SPECIES	Laying			First half incubation			Second half incubation			Total incubation			Hatching		
	Des. rate	conf. int.	n	Des. rate	conf. int.	n	Des. rate	conf. int.	n	Des. rate	conf. int.	n	Des. rate	conf. int.	n
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				1.8	2.8	331	1.3	2.4	388						
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>				4.2	17.6	24	1.5	8.4	65	0.2	1.0	1,109	0.0	12.8	34
Ringed Plover <i>C. hiaticula</i>				1.3	4.6	153	0.0	2.6	301				0.0	18.1	21
Kentish Plover <i>C. alexandrinus</i>						6	0.0	7.9	67						4
Lapwing V. <i>vanellus</i>							4.2	5.5	142						
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>				0.0	12.6	35	0.0	15.1	27	0.0	5.8	102			
Temminck's Stint <i>C. temminckii</i>	10.0	21.1	20	0.0		18	0.0	16.0	25	0.0	4.5	143			
Dunlin <i>C. alpina</i>			1	1.1	6.8	87	0.0	6.3	90				0.0	18.8	20
Ruff <i>Philo-machus pugnax</i>						2	5.7	10.7	53				2.0	10.1	51
Snipe G. <i>gallinago</i>							10.7	17.2	28						1
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>				5.6	13.8	36	3.6	15.7	28						
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>				2.3	5.4	131	8.8	4.0	294				5.8	3.4	328
in Latvia						4	18.9	8.0	122				6.3	3.7	302
in other countries							0.6	4.0	168				0.0	16.0	25
Terek Sand-piper <i>Xenus cinereus</i>				6.7	15.7	30	0.0	17.5	22						
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>				1.9	10.0	52	0.0	4.4	149						
Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>						4	0.0	17.5	22	0.0	6.8	82			
									3			4			