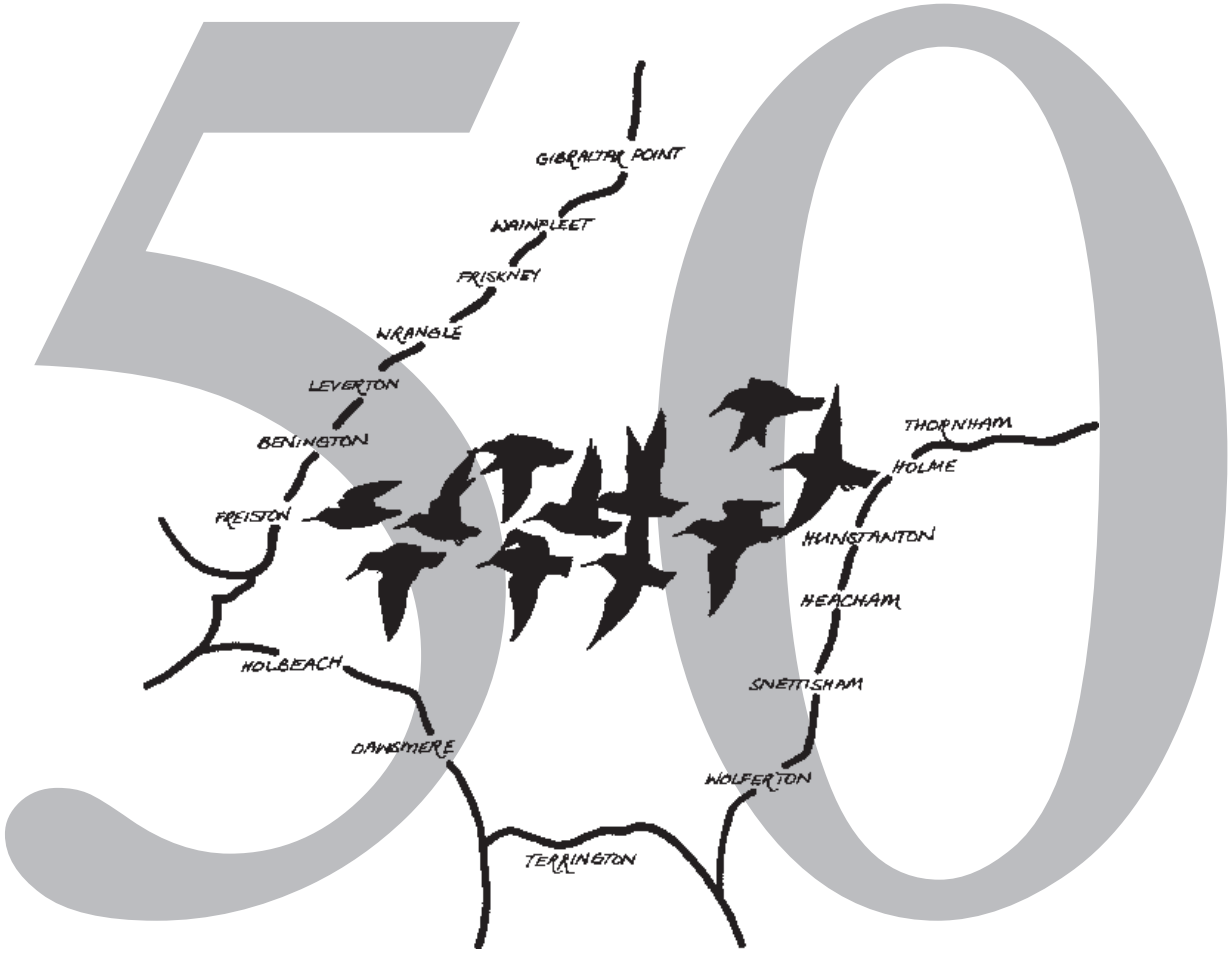
WASH WADER RINGING GROUP



2008-2009 REPORT

AIMS OF THE WASH WADER RINGING GROUP

The group aims to monitor waders using the Wash to provide a better understanding of their biology. This will allow decisions which may affect these waders to be taken in the light of factual information.

Work concentrates on eleven target species (Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank and Turnstone), studying:

- the patterns of migration and origin of each species and any known populations;
- the importance of the Wash as a whole;
- the importance of sub-areas of the Wash;
- the use of biometrics and other techniques to understand how birds use the Wash;
- long-term population dynamics.

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£6 waged £4 unwaged £1 temporary

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ISSN 0963 - 3111

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Clark, J.A., Gill, J.A. & Ireland, P.L. (2010) Wash Wader Ringing Group 2008-2009 Report.
Wash Wader Ringing Group, Terrington St Clement.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are extremely grateful for the help and support that the Group receives from a large number of individuals and organisations, including:

- The many landowners, farmers and their staff around the Wash who allow us access to their land, foreshores and, through their co-operation, enable catches to be made.
- Natural England for financial support and permission to make catches within the Wash National Nature Reserve.
- John Austen and the Ken Hill Estate for continued access to the Snettisham Coastal Park and for permission to make catches both on the adjacent beaches and on the Ken Hill Estate.
- Sqn Ldr Roy Brocklebank and the staff at RAF Wainfleet for their co-operation and access to off-shore Wainfleet and Friskney catching sites.
- The Crown Estate for their support of our catching.
- The RSPB for permission to make catches on their reserve at Wolferton.
- Staff at Port Sutton Bridge for their help and support in allowing access for catching and resighting colour-marked birds.
- Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee for their support with catching operations.
- The Wash WeBS counters for their co-operation and understanding where our operations coincide with counts.
- The King's Lynn Wildfowlers Association, Fenland Wildfowlers Association and the Skegness & Wainfleet Wildfowlers for their kind co-operation.
- The Village Hall Committee at Friskney for allowing the use of their hall as a Lincolnshire base for our operations.
- The Royal Estate for generously allowing us to use their buildings for storage of equipment.
- Members of the public who have come across us in the field and have co-operated to help with our catching operations.

INTRODUCTION

2009 saw the Group celebrate its 50th birthday, although no formal celebrations were held. 2009 was also the centenary of the British Bird Ringing Scheme and it is very satisfactory to think the Group has been contributing to the Scheme for half its existence. During this time the Group has handled over 300,000 waders and has what is believed to be the longest-running wader data set in the world.

2008-09 saw no major new developments for the Group which continues to be based at the Old School House in Terrington. The Friskney Village Hall was again used during the summer months, allowing fieldwork to be undertaken on the Lincolnshire side of the Wash.

The numbers of birds caught in each of the two years covered by this report were typical of what has been the norm in recent years but still below the targets set by the Group's Monitoring Strategy. The Scientific Committee has given some thought to this and is investigating the possibility of using colour rings to alleviate the problem. Further investment has been made in small mesh nets to enable catches to be made on some occasions which would otherwise not have been possible.

Media interest in our activities continues and both BBC TV "Countryfile" and a reporter for BBC Radio 4's "World on the Move" were present on the same catch.

This report necessarily focuses on fieldwork and results but we should also acknowledge the background work that goes in to making the Group run. Significant progress has been made in computerising the Group's biometric data. Whilst many people have been involved in the various stages, Richard du Feu has masterminded the actual transfer process and Jacquie Clark has sorted out the inevitable queries the process generates. John Bonell has, once again, been instrumental in transferring data from our field sheets to computer file almost as soon as we have generated them.

The acknowledgements in the section above formally thank the individuals and organisations who enable the Group to do its work but we must not forget the volunteers who willingly give their time to participate in fieldwork. This report details the results of this dedication; without it we would know so much less about the waders that use the Wash.

FIELDWORK

2008 Fieldwork

The year started in February as far as the Group were concerned, with the first fieldwork being early in that month. BBC Radio 4's Lionel Kellaway joined us for the Saturday morning session which resulted in a catch of 76, which was split, almost equally, into Dunlin, Oystercatcher and Sanderling. Further mist-netting and cannon net catches made it a productive weekend.

Early March proved to be rather less successful although a Saturday evening cannon net catch did net 79 Oystercatchers. April's catching attempt was largely thwarted by strong winds but did manage to catch 36 Oystercatchers.

Apart from the annual visit to the Outer Bund to ring nestling gulls, the next fieldwork was in early August for 'Mini Wash Week'. Once again the BBC were involved, this time the "One Show". Fortunately, the catching attempt when they were present was successful with a small catch of Sanderling. Teams operated on both the Lincolnshire and Norfolk sides of the Wash but had fairly limited success. The only three-figure catches were 156 (Knot and Dunlin) on Wainfleet island and 114 Curlew at Heacham.

'Main Wash Week' was at the end of August. Once again teams operated on both sides of the Wash but both struggled to make large catches. Terrington's best was 194 Dunlin on the saltmarsh and the Lincolnshire team managed two three-figure catches, both on the Wainfleet islands.

The October weekend was highly successful with catches being made on all three tides. Saturday morning provided 144 Oystercatchers and on Sunday morning we caught 62 Dunlin on the Terrington saltmarsh. The mist-netting on Saturday evening was the largest catch of the weekend with 191. Of the 10 species of wader caught most were Dunlin and Redshank, but there was also the Group's first ever Jack Snipe.

The November visit to the Wash started poorly with a failure on Saturday morning, but things improved with a good mist-netting session on Saturday evening. However, the highlight was Sunday morning when 337 Knot were caught at Snettisham.

The final fieldwork for 2008 was in mid-December when catching was only planned for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning tides. In the event, the weather prevented any attempt on the Saturday evening. A catch of 128 Oystercatchers plus a few others was made on the Sunday morning, keeping the team happy!

2009 Fieldwork

One feature of the Group's fieldwork programme in recent years has been the inclusion of dates when a visit for mist-netting only will be made, subject to weather conditions being right. Despite three such dates being in the early part of the 2009 programme it was not until mid-February that the first fieldwork took place. This was a mist-netting session at Terrington with a catch of 31 birds from the eight mist nets set. The end of the month saw the first full weekend session which was highly successful. The Saturday morning produced a catch of 200, almost equally divided between Oystercatchers and Knot and the Saturday evening mist-netting a creditable 171 birds, including the Group's second ever Jack Snipe. On Sunday morning there was a catch of over 300 Sanderling in the Heacham area.

The final fieldwork for the 2008/9 winter was a visit in late March which was also the Group's AGM. Just 27 birds were caught but, being mainly Turnstone, this was very valuable for the Turnstone colour-ringing project.

The annual visit to the Outer Bund to ring Gull nestlings on behalf of Natural England was made in late June, nearly 600 being ringed.

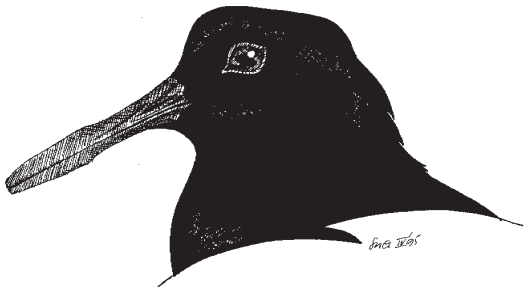
Late July was the timing for the Group's "Mini Wash Week" in 2009. With the same problem as in recent years that the height of saltmarsh is increasing and birds are more reluctant to come over the sea wall to roost on fields, only limited catching opportunities were available. Catching attempts were made on both the Lincolnshire and Norfolk sides of the Wash, the team staying as one and being based for part of the time in the Friskney Village Hall. Catching success was reasonable with 118 Dunlin on the Wainfleet islands being followed the next day with a

catch of nearly 1,000 roosting on a field at Benington. Return to Norfolk gave an evening catch of 200 Sanderling on Snettisham beach. The next day saw the team on an inland grass field at Heacham, hoping for a catch of godwit. Early on 50 Curlew were catchable but, knowing the godwit arrive much later, the firing party kept their nerve and waited 1½ hours before being rewarded with a catch of 330 Bar-tailed Godwit.

The August fieldwork attracted enough participants for two separate teams to operate. Both struggled to make significant catches and the only catches to make three figures occurred at the end of the week with a mist-netting session at Terrington on the final evening being followed with a saltmarsh catch of 189 the following morning.

A long weekend in September started well with a 200+ catch of grey waders at Snettisham. Further cannon net catches proved elusive, but mist-netting was productive with two sessions providing over 170 birds. It was notable that the majority of these were Redshank whereas the Dunlin numbers were very low.

The October fieldwork was somewhat unusual in that it involved two morning mist-netting sessions. It is many years since the Group mist-netted on morning tides but this proved most productive. Again the most numerous species was Redshank with Dunlin numbers being very low. An attempt to cannon net on the Saturday evening tide proved unsuccessful.



An extra catching attempt was arranged in early November, primarily to put geolocators on Sanderling as a trial to assess their suitability for use on Spoon-billed Sandpipers. Additionally the Group were filmed for BBC TV "Countryfile" and a reporter for BBC Radio 4's "World on the Move" was also present. Fortunately, the catching attempt was successful and, despite the tide cutting, 46 Sanderling were caught together with some other species bringing the total catch to 62. There had always been the intention to have a mist net catch the next evening but in the event this was scuppered by the weather.

The final fieldwork for the year was in early December. Strong winds dominated this session which caused the tide to be unpredictable. Saturday morning's catching attempt was unsuccessful but a return visit on Sunday gave a catch of 70 Oystercatchers and 21 Knot. Any thoughts of mist-netting on Saturday evening had to be abandoned.

Phil Ireland

TOTALS

Totals of birds caught in 2008 and 2009 are given in Table 1, with details by catch in Tables 2 and 3. In Tables 2 and 3 the top line records the catching site using a three character code. The first two characters identify the general area (see next page) and the third character identifes the exact location. The second line gives the day and month of the catch and the third line gives cannon nets fired (sm = small mesh) or mist nets set (shown in brackets).

Site codes used in Tables 2 and 3

AF, AP, TM	Terrington	FM	Friskney
HE	Heacham	LV	Leverton
OSH	Old Schoool House	SN	Snettisham
WM	Wainfleet	WT	Wrangle

Table 1: TOTALS - 2008, 2009 and Grand Total

	2008			2009			Grand Total
	Newly ringed	Retrap	Total	Newly ringed	Retrap	Total	1959-2009 (newly ringed)
Oystercatcher	493	192	685	120	56	176	35,898
Avocet	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Stone Curlew	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Little Ringed Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Ringed Plover	7	0	7	7	0	7	1,150
Golden Plover	36	0	36	0	0	0	379
Grey Plover	25	1	26	67	1	68	6,221
Lapwing	1	0	1	0	0	0	70
Knot	757	17	774	204	12	216	52,768
Sanderling	142	25	167	510	146	656	10,995
Little Stint	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Curlew Sandpiper	3	0	3	3	0	3	305
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Dunlin	721	20	741	1,601	35	1,636	133,468
Broad-billed Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ruff	0	0	0	1	0	1	109
Jack Snipe	1	0	1	1	0	1	2
Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Black-tailed Godwit	25	0	25	17	0	17	1,442
Bar-tailed Godwit	30	13	43	323	39	362	6,938
Whimbrel	1	0	1	0	0	0	184
Curlew	112	18	130	15	0	15	4,745
Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
Redshank	116	9	125	439	2	441	14,206
Greenshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	214
Green Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Turnstone	17	7	24	29	16	45	7,280
TOTAL Waders	2,487	302	2,789	3,337	307	3,644	276,690
Eider	2	0	2	0	0	0	
Shelduck	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Teal	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Common Gull	1	0	1	0	0	0	
Lesser Bb Gull - pulli	374	0	374	343	0	343	
Herring Gull - pulli	227	0	227	202	0	202	
LBBG / HG - pulli	0	0	0	36	0	36	
Ringed Plover - pulli	3	0	3	3	0	3	
Kestrel - pulli	3	0	3	5	0	5	
Stock Dove - pulli	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Snow Bunting	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Rock Pipit	1	0	1	0	0	0	
TOTAL Non Waders	611	0	611	593	0	593	
GRAND TOTALS	3,098	302	3,400	3,930	307	4,237	

Table 2 : Catch totals for 2008

Site Code	SNX	AFS	HEW	SNX	HET	HET	SNX	SNX	WTV	WMV	AFT	AFS	HEJ	LVD	SNX	SNX	WMW	AFS	WMV	AFT	AFT	WTV	FMV	FMK	LVV	SNX
Date	9.2	9.2	10.2	8.3	8.3	5.4	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.8	3.8	4.8	5.8	5.8	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.8	31.8	31.8	1.9	1.9	2.9	4.9	4.9	18.10
Nets fired / (set)	1	(14)	1 sm	1	1	1	1 sm	1 sm	1 sm	1 sm	1 sm	1 sm	4	1	1 sm	1 sm	2	2 sm	1	3 sm	1 sm	1	2	1	(6)	2
Newly ringed																										
Oystercatcher	16	5	8	6	58	22													175							97
Ringed Plover																	3			4						
Golden Plover														10									26			
Grey Plover			1																			5	15	1	2	
Lapwing																										
Knot		34	30	1	3					80	3						245				1		1		5	
Sanderling	13		1				20	53							28	8	18									
Curlew Sandpiper										1										1						
Dunlin	27	17	1							72	45			42	2		48			191	23	3	5		6	
Jack Snipe																										
Black-tailed Godwit												12														
Bar-tailed Godwit		3	1		3							3	1					2								8
Whimbrel																		1								
Curlew		5											97					7							3	
Redshank		2							8		1										1	22			8	
Turnstone			13																						1	
TOTAL	56	66	55	7	64	22	20	53	8	153	49	15	98	52	30	8	314	10	175	196	25	30	47	1	25	105

Site Code	SNX	AFS	HEW	SNX	HET	HET	SNX	SNX	WTV	WMV	AFT	AFS	HEJ	LVD	SNX	SNX	WMW	AFS	WMV	AFT	AFT	WTV	FMV	FMK	LVV	SNX
Date	9.2	9.2	10.2	8.3	8.3	5.4	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.8	3.8	4.8	5.8	5.8	30.8	30.8	30.8	30.8	31.8	31.8	1.9	1.9	2.9	4.9	4.9	18.10
Nets fired / (set)	1	(14)	1 sm	1	1	1	1 sm	1 sm	1 sm	1 sm	1 sm	1 sm	4	1	1 sm	1 sm	2	2 sm	1	3 sm	1 sm	1	2	1	(6)	2
Retraps/controls																										
Oystercatcher	11	4	1	2	21	14													37							47
Ringed Plover																										
Golden Plover																										
Grey Plover																										
Lapwing																										
Knot		2								3							5									
Sanderling	8						5	4							6		1									
Curlew Sandpiper																										
Dunlin	1	2									5			1						3						
Jack Snipe																										
Black-tailed Godwit																										
Bar-tailed Godwit					1							1													1	7
Whimbrel																										
Curlew													17					1								
Redshank									3													6				
Turnstone			7																							
TOTAL	20	8	8	2	22	14	5	4	3	3	5	1	17	1	6	0	6	1	37	3	0	6	0	0	1	54
ALL WADERS	76	74	63	9	86	36	25	57	11	156	54	16	115	53	36	8	320	11	212	199	25	36	47	1	26	159

Table 2 : Catch totals for 2008 (continued)

Site Code	AFS	APS	AFS	AFS	SNX	SNX	TOT
Date	18.10	19.10	31.10	15.11	16.11	14.12	
Nets fired /(set)	(15)	1	(15)	(15)	1	2	
Newly ringed							
Oystercatcher			1		16	89	**493**
Ringed Plover							**7**
Golden Plover							**36**
Grey Plover	1						**25**
Lapwing	1						**1**
Knot	5		3	5	332	9	**757**
Sanderling					1		**142**
Curlew Sandpiper	1						**3**
Dunlin	106	53	27	49	4		**721**
Jack Snipe	1						**1**
Black-tailed Godwit	3		4	6			**25**
Bar-tailed Godwit	3			3	3		**30**
Whimbrel							**1**
Curlew							**112**
Redshank	62		5	7			**116**
Turnstone	1		1			1	**17**
TOTAL	184	53	41	70	356	99	**2,487**

Site Code	AFS	APS	AFS	AFS	SNX	SNX	TOT
Date	18.10	19.10	31.10	15.11	16.11	14.12	
Nets fired /(set)	(15)	1	(15)	(15)	1	2	
Retraps/controls							
Oystercatcher					16	39	**192**
Ringed Plover							**0**
Golden Plover							**0**
Grey Plover	1						**1**
Lapwing							**0**
Knot					6	1	**17**
Sanderling						1	**25**
Curlew Sandpiper							**0**
Dunlin	5	1	2				**20**
Jack Snipe							**0**
Black-tailed Godwit							**0**
Bar-tailed Godwit	1			1	1		**13**
Whimbrel							**0**
Curlew							**18**
Redshank							**9**
Turnstone							**7**
TOTAL	7	1	2	1	23	41	**302**
ALL WADERS	191	54	43	71	379	140	**2,789**

Non waders

	TMZ	OSH	WMV	FMV	AFS	TOT
	22.6	5.7	3.8	2.9	31.10	
	1 sm	2	(15)			
Lesser Black-backed Gull - pulli	374					**374**
Herring Gull - pulli	227					**227**
Common Gull				1		**1**
Ringed Plover - pulli			3			**3**
Eider	2					**2**
Kestrel - pulli		3				**3**
Rock Pipit					1	**1**
NON-WADERS	603	3	3	1	1	**611**

Table 3: Catch totals for 2009

Site Code	AFS	SNX	AFS	HEW	HEW	SNX	WMW	BTB	SNX	SNK	SNX	SNX	SNX	WMW	AFC	SNK	FMK	AFS	WMS	APS	LVU	SNX	AFS	AFS	AFS	AFS
Date	14.2	28.2	28.2	1.3	29.3	23.7	23.7	24.7	25.7	26.7	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8	23.8	24.8	24.8	24.8	24.8	25.8	25.8	19.9	20.9	21.9	17.10	18.10
Nets fired / (set)	(8)	1	(16)	1	1	1	1/2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	(15)	(11)	1	(?)	1	(8)	(8)	(8)	(14)
Newly ringed																										
Oystercatcher		66	3																							
Ringed Plover				1	1									1				4								
Golden Plover																										
Grey Plover																		1		33	3	30				
Lapwing																										
Knot	4	85	1															13	2	16	3	21	16	1	5	6
Sanderling				220		17			182		22	18	16									1				
Curlew Sandpiper																							1	2		
Dunlin	25		142			2	117	931	7					3				34	11	110	20	157	11	12	6	12
Ruff																		1								
Jack Snipe			1																							
Black-tailed Godwit			5							3					2			2		1			1	3		
Bar-tailed Godwit			1							296					1			3			16	1	2	1	1	1
Whimbrel																										
Curlew			1							6						5	1				2					
Redshank	2		12															151	8	26	8		59	58	34	81
Turnstone				8	14																1		2		3	
TOTAL	31	151	166	229	15	19	117	931	189	305	22	18	16	4	3	5	1	209	21	186	53	210	92	77	49	100

Site Code	AFS	SNX	AFS	HEW	HEW	SNX	WMW	BTB	SNX	SNK	SNX	SNX	SNX	WMW	AFC	SNK	FMK	AFS	WMS	APS	LVU	SNX	AFS	AFS	AFS	AFS
Date	14.2	28.2	28.2	1.3	29.3	23.7	23.7	24.7	25.7	26.7	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8	23.8	24.8	24.8	24.8	24.8	25.8	25.8	19.9	20.9	21.9	17.10	18.10
Nets fired / (set)	(8)	1	(16)	1	1	1	1/2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	(15)	(11)	1	(?)	1	(8)	(8)	(8)	(14)
Retraps/Controls																										
Oystercatcher		37																								
Ringed Plover																										
Golden Plover																										
Grey Plover																						1				
Lapwing																										
Knot		10																								
Sanderling				101		3			24		3	1	2													
Curlew Sandpiper																										
Dunlin			5				1	19										2		2		3		2		1
Ruff																										
Jack Snipe																										
Black-tailed Godwit																										
Bar-tailed Godwit										35										1	3					
Whimbrel																										
Curlew																										
Redshank																								2		
Turnstone				2	12																					
TOTAL	0	47	5	103	12	3	1	19	24	35	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	4	0	4	0	1
ALL WADERS	31	198	171	332	27	22	118	950	213	340	25	19	18	4	3	5	1	211	21	189	56	214	92	81	49	101

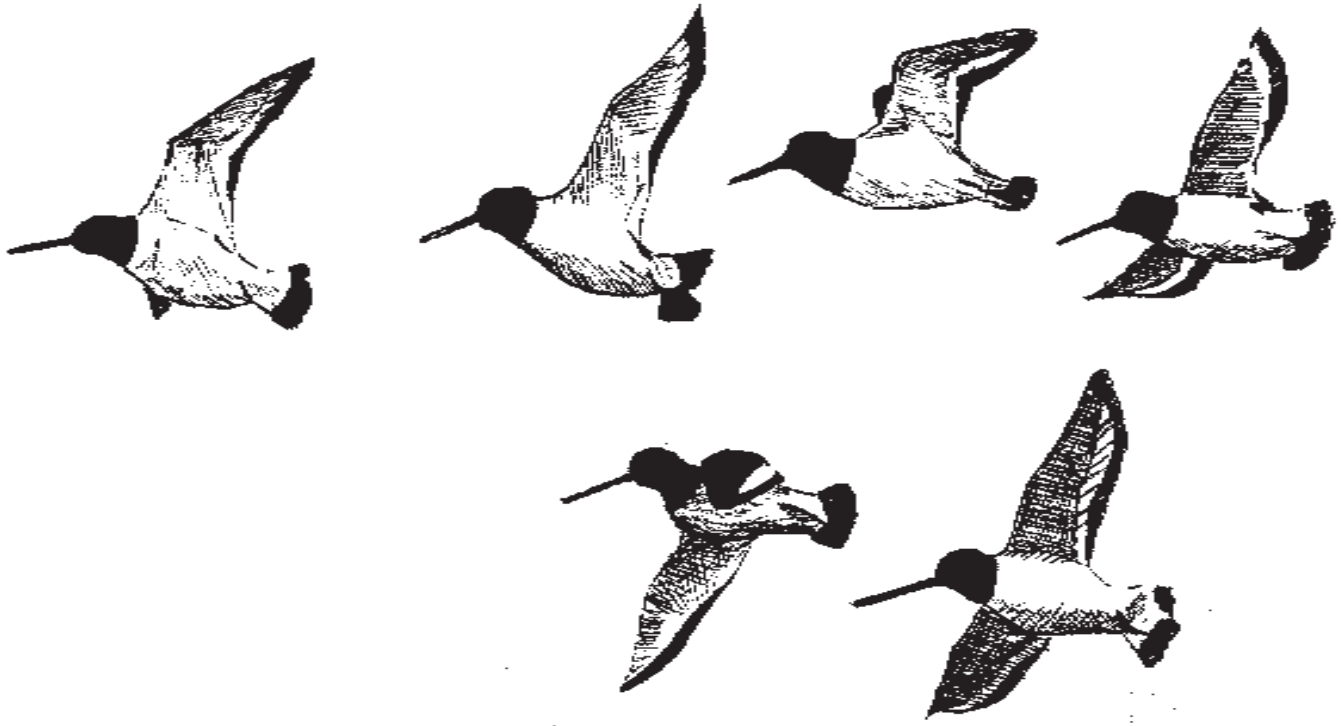
Table 3: Catch totals for 2009 (continued)

Site Code	HEW	SNX	**TOT**
Date	15.11	6.12	
Nets fired / (set)	1	1	
Newly ringed			
Oystercatcher		51	**120**
Ringed Plover			**7**
Golden Plover			**0**
Grey Plover			**67**
Lapwing			**0**
Knot	12	19	**204**
Sanderling	34		**510**
Curlew Sandpiper			**3**
Dunlin	1		**1,601**
Ruff			**1**
Jack Snipe			**1**
Black-tailed Godwit			**17**
Bar-tailed Godwit			**323**
Whimbrel			**0**
Curlew			**15**
Redshank			**439**
Turnstone	1		**29**
TOTAL	48	70	**3,337**

Site Code	HEW	SNX	**TOT**
Date	15.11	6.12	
Nets fired / (set)	1	1	
Retraps/Controls			
Oystercatcher		19	**56**
Ringed Plover			**0**
Golden Plover			**0**
Grey Plover			**1**
Lapwing			**0**
Knot		2	**12**
Sanderling	12		**146**
Curlew Sandpiper			**0**
Dunlin			**35**
Ruff			**0**
Jack Snipe			**0**
Black-tailed Godwit			**0**
Bar-tailed Godwit			**39**
Whimbrel			**0**
Curlew			**0**
Redshank			**2**
Turnstone	2		**16**
TOTAL	14	21	**307**
ALL WADERS	62	91	**3,644**

Non waders

	HEW	TMZ	OSH	WMW	AFS	OSH	**TOT**
	1.3	21.6	27.6	23.7	24.8	26.8	
Lesser Black-backed Gull - pulli		343					**343**
Herring Gull - pulli		202					**202**
LBBG / HG - pulli		36					**36**
Ringed Plover - pulli				3			**3**
Shelduck					1		**1**
Teal					1		**1**
Kestrel - pulli			5				**5**
Stock Dove - pulli						1	**1**
Snow Bunting	1						**1**
NON-WADERS	1	581	5	3	2	1	**593**



THE FIRST 50 YEARS

The Group's constitution states that it is an informally assembled group "for the purpose of purchasing cannon nets and employing them for ringing birds, principally waders". Whilst if the constitution were to be rewritten these days there would be far more emphasis on the study of the waders and results from ringing them, it is an appropriate time to take stock and look at how the Group has performed against its objectives.

In 1959, when the Group was formed and made its first catch (18 August at Terrington), very few waders had been ringed and, of those that had been ringed, most were nestlings of species that breed in the UK. Hence catching any fully grown waders and ringing them was likely to add to our knowledge.

The Group has always been primarily interested in those wader species commonly occurring on the Wash rather than those present less often. To this end the Group has long had a list of ten study species (later increased to eleven as Black-tailed Godwit became more common on the Wash) and has targeted these species.

Table 1 shows the national ringing total for each of these study species in 1959 when the Group was formed and then, cumulatively, the total number ringed both nationally and by the Group by the end of each subsequent decade. During this time WWRG has ringed over quarter of a million of its study species of waders!

The number of birds ringed nationally has also increased dramatically in the past half century for all these species. In many cases it is the techniques learned on the Wash, primarily cannon-netting, which have led to this increase. Indeed many of the birds have been caught in cannon nets supplied by WWRG and by people trained on the Wash. All this ringing activity has greatly increased knowledge of wader movements and, particularly in the early days of the Group, expeditions were organised to other locations in the UK (and beyond) to catch waders so that movements of birds between estuaries could be determined.

For most species the proportion ringed on the Wash has remained remarkably constant over the past 50 years. In many cases this reflects the importance of the Wash for that species, although difficulties in catching the species in different locations need to be taken in to account. Grey Plover heads the list with over 50% being ringed on the Wash. Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit and Sanderling follow closely behind.

One species which deserves special mention is Black-tailed Godwit which was rare on the Wash when the Group was formed 50 years ago but now is present in large numbers and this is reflected in the catch totals.

All this indicates the Group has been successful in its original aim of ringing waders and its unstated objective to find out about the lives of these birds. However, there is more to be learned and Group's monitoring strategy is concerned with ensuring any changes are picked up.

One thing that has changed over the last 50 years has been the number of waders the Group catches annually (Fig 1). The year average catch sizes (Table 2) show that the Group's annual total catch size peaked in the 1970's with over 10,000 ringed annually down to around 4,000 in recent years. To some extent this is deliberate policy since in the 1970's the Group was doing intensive fieldwork in connection with Wash barrages and water storage schemes. However, in other ways it reflects changes in the past 50 years. Bird behaviour has changed due to the cessation of saltmarsh land claims, meaning waders less often roost on fields inland of the seawall and other areas are no longer available to the Group. Numbers present of certain species, most notably Dunlin which used to feature in large numbers in the Group's annual total, have declined. Conversely the Group has developed new techniques to catch on saltmarshes and increases in other species have provided new catching opportunities.

Phil Ireland

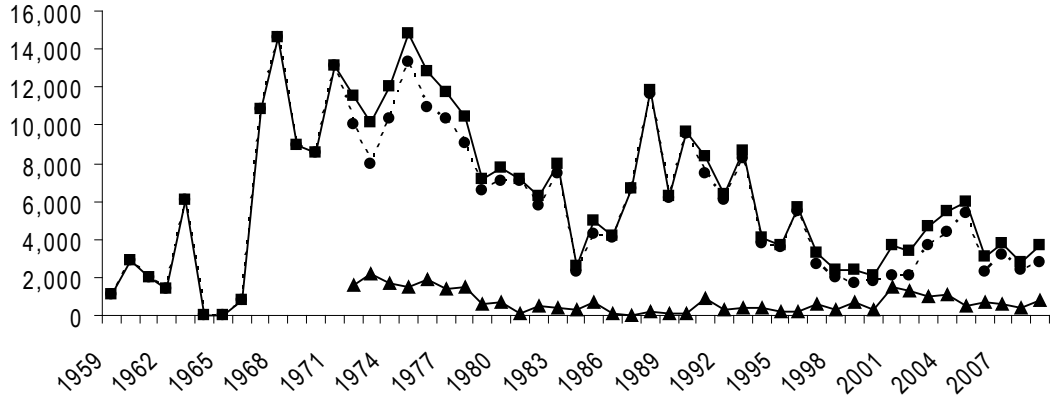


Fig 1: Number of birds ringed annually by WWRG.
Squares = total caught, circles = no cannon-netted, triangles = no mist-netted.

Table 1: The national ringing total for each of the study species in 1959 when the Group was formed and then in each decade thereafter cumulatively.

	1959	1968	1978	1988	1998	2008
Oystercatcher						
National Running total	6,137	25,977	60,707	99,258	132,855	157,461
WWRG total	-	4,147	17,096	23,513	30,588	35,778
% WWRG		16.0	28.2	23.7	23.0	22.7
Ringed Plover						
National Running total	4,166	7,848	19,188	36,126	48,488	56,837
WWRG total	-	105	514	629	991	1,143
% WWRG		1.3	2.7	1.7	2.0	2.0
Grey Plover						
National Running total	43	1,094	2,873	6,397	9,396	10,350
WWRG total	-	500	1,561	3,949	5,746	6,154
% WWRG		45.7	54.3	61.7	61.2	59.5
Knot						
National Running total	158	16,281	53,381	74,676	92,703	109,327
WWRG total	-	8,303	30,616	39,303	48,430	52,564
% WWRG		51.0	57.4	52.6	52.2	48.1
Sanderling						
National Running total	128	2,052	13,599	21,595	25,990	30,189
WWRG total	-	1,002	6,389	7,018	7,726	10,485
% WWRG		48.8	47.0	32.5	29.7	34.7
Dunlin						
National Running total	3,712	61,583	201,637	309,199	390,430	433,612
WWRG total	-	19,323	60,481	90,722	117,956	131,867
% WWRG		31.4	30.0	29.3	30.2	30.4
Black-tailed Godwit						
National Running total	8	58	332	803	2,024	3,902
WWRG total	-	7	34	41	673	1,425
% WWRG		12.1	10.2	5.1	33.3	36.5
Bar-tailed Godwit						
National Running total	40	459	2,808	8,352	10,934	14,055
WWRG total	-	156	1,872	3,588	4,863	6,615
% WWRG		34.0	66.7	43.0	44.5	47.1
Curlew						
National Running total	6,542	9,921	17,965	28,053	37,716	33,995
WWRG total	-	296	1,204	1,877	3,190	4,730
% WWRG		3.0	6.7	6.7	8.5	13.9
Redshank						
National Running total	5,410	14,221	38,499	77,385	100,016	122,171
WWRG total	-	2,080	6,484	10,510	11,728	13,767
% WWRG		14.6	16.8	13.6	11.7	11.3
Turnstone						
National Running total	463	2,558	10,929	23,382	29,076	34,076
WWRG total	-	1,107	3,804	5,559	6,235	7,251
% WWRG		43.3	34.8	23.8	21.4	21.3
Total of Study species						
National total	26,807	142,052	421,918	685,226	879,628	1,005,975
WWRG total		37,026	130,055	186,709	238,126	271,779
% WWRG		26	31	27	27	27

Table 2: Total numbers of birds caught annually by WWRG between 1959 and 2009.

Year	Cannon-netted			Mist-netted			All		
	Total	No catches	Av catch	Total	No catches	Av catch	Total	Cum Total	% mn
1959	1,132	1	1,132				1,132	1,132	-
1960	2,893	7	413				2,893	4,025	-
1961	1,940	3	647				1,940	5,965	-
1962	1,426	6	238				1,426	7,391	-
1963	6,017	8	752				6,017	13,408	-
1964	0	0	0				0	13,408	-
1965	0	0	0				0	13,408	-
1966	746	2	373				746	14,154	-
1967	10,859	22	494				10,859	25,013	-
1968	14,654	41	357				14,654	39,667	-
1969	8,938	35	255				8,938	48,605	-
1970	8,524	25	341				8,524	57,129	-
1971	13,151	28	470				13,151	70,280	-
1972	10,000	42	238	1,555	14	111	11,555	81,835	13
1973	7,971	39	204	2,160	22	98	10,131	91,966	21
1974	10,313	49	210	1,695	22	77	12,008	103,974	14
1975	13,321	48	278	1,509	16	94	14,830	118,804	10
1976	10,904	52	210	1,896	31	61	12,800	131,604	15
1977	10,380	52	200	1,379	18	77	11,759	143,363	12
1978	9,008	56	161	1,455	20	73	10,463	153,826	14
1979	6,549	28	234	633	8	79	7,182	161,008	9
1980	7,021	34	207	734	11	67	7,755	168,763	9
1981	7,092	34	209	86	4	22	7,178	175,941	1
1982	5,811	25	232	466	7	67	6,277	182,218	7
1983	7,489	21	357	440	14	31	7,929	190,147	6
1984	2,267	13	174	329	3	110	2,596	192,743	13
1985	4,287	36	119	657	9	73	4,944	197,687	13
1986	4,112	30	137	67	6	11	4,179	201,866	2
1987	6,630	32	207	40	1	40	6,670	208,536	1
1988	11,602	36	322	175	4	44	11,777	220,313	1
1989	6,160	35	176	95	1	95	6,255	226,568	2
1990	9,580	44	218	91	2	46	9,671	236,239	1
1991	7,451	53	141	880	8	110	8,331	244,570	11
1992	6,024	36	167	295	5	59	6,319	250,889	5
1993	8,267	37	223	354	10	35	8,621	259,510	4
1994	3,750	25	150	354	6	59	4,104	263,614	9
1995	3,552	37	96	158	2	79	3,710	267,324	4
1996	5,468	41	133	228	4	57	5,696	273,020	4
1997	2,667	35	76	634	8	79	3,301	276,321	19
1998	2,034	33	62	343	3	114	2,377	278,698	14
1999	1,696	24	71	689	6	115	2,385	281,083	29
2000	1,747	30	58	301	3	100	2,048	283,131	15
2001	2,129	27	79	1,518	12	127	3,647	286,778	42
2002	2,052	18	114	1,278	8	160	3,330	290,108	38
2003	3,644	21	174	1,029	11	94	4,673	294,781	22
2004	4,369	33	132	1,074	10	107	5,443	300,224	20
2005	5,380	30	179	539	9	60	5,919	306,143	9
2006	2,316	26	89	741	13	57	3,057	309,200	24
2007	3,225	40	81	572	11	52	3,797	312,997	15
2008	2,384	27	88	405	5	81	2,789	315,786	15
2009	2,831	19	149	813	9	90	3,644	319,430	22

Note: mist net catches were made in the early years, but birds were ringed with rings belonging to individuals, not the group, so we do not have mist net catch totals for these years.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

The Group's Monitoring Strategy provides the framework for catching priorities, in terms of species, times and locations. The Scientific Committee regularly reviews these priorities and makes recommendations for developments to the strategy. Below are details of the review of the Strategy that took place in 2009.

Review of annual catching & monitoring targets

The catching targets are set to reflect catch totals that are both achievable and likely to provide the numbers necessary for several key analyses. During the 2009 review, none of the overall targets were altered but, in some cases, the targets for each separate section of the Wash were altered to reflect changes in roosting patterns for some species and the capacity of the group to monitor populations in different parts of the Wash. Note that the summed targets for each shore need not equal the overall target. In addition, the potential value of developing colour-ringing for each species was considered. The future development of colour-ringing will require regular resighting effort to be built into the fieldwork programme.

Oystercatcher:
Although the overall annual target of 600 is currently being met in most years, the coverage of different shores is not being achieved consistently. This is primarily because catching of Oystercatchers on the south shore is becoming infrequent as a consequence of irregular use of Holbeach and the Inner Bund no longer being used as a roost site. The highest priority for Oystercatchers remains meeting the east coast target during the winter months; this target has now been raised to 300 to reflect recent catching success. The target for the south coast has been removed although the catching of Oystercatchers at Terrington/ Holbeach remains highly valuable.

Grey Plover:
The overall target of 250 has not been met for several years, primarily because of reduced options for field catches. Despite the low catching success in recent years, the group still catches a large proportion of the British & Irish total, and the target remains in place to reflect our aspirations. The group plans to implement a colour-ringing scheme for Grey Plovers in 2010. Jen Smart has kindly offered to administer this scheme for the group.

Knot:
Knot catching success remains low but this situation could alter with one or two good catches. Further development of Wainfleet Islands could potentially improve Knot catching success.

Sanderling:
In recent years catching success for Sanderling has been high, and Chris Kelly's colour-ring study (see the 2006-07 report for a detailed account of this study) has substantially improved our knowledge of this species. The current target refers to winter Sanderling (September to March), but success at catching autumn passage birds and Chris Kelly's highlighting of large numbers of spring passage birds (last week of May to second week of June), suggests that we have much to learn about the use of the Wash by passage Sanderling. The priority for Sanderling catching remains winter birds, but the seasonal constraint has been removed to reflect the value of catching in autumn and spring.

Dunlin:
Catches of Dunlin continue to be well below the annual targets. The Dunlin that we have caught in recent years have largely comprised passage *schinzii* and few wintering *alpina*. In order to track the likely proportion of the different races in catch totals, the totals for July and August (which will primarily comprise *schinzii*) will be reported separately from the totals for the rest of the year.

Black-tailed Godwit:
Continued colour-ringing of small numbers of this species is needed to maintain the long-term study. In addition, metal-ringing continues to be valuable, and so the target has been altered to 100 ringed and 30 colour-ringed.

Bar-tailed Godwit:
Recent catching of Bar-tailed Godwits has improved, particularly at Ken Hill on the east coast. The target for this species is not currently being met, however, the catching success in the west is encouraging. Colour-ringing of Bar-tailed godwits will also start in 2010, as resightings are likely to be an effective means of monitoring this species, especially on the well-watched east coast of the Wash. Phil Atkinson has kindly offered to administer this scheme for the group.

Curlew:
Curlew catching continues to be successful, with the development of Ken Hill on the east coast providing valuable new options.

Redshank:
Catches of redshank continue to be well below the target, particularly on the south shore where birds no longer roost on the Inner Bund. The options for marsh catching remain limited because of the tendency of Redshank to roost on creek edges.

Turnstone:
Colour-ringing and regular resighting of Turnstone at Sutton Bridge has provided excellent data, but use of the port has diminished in recent years. Colour-marking Turnstone on the east coast is now a priority to maintain numbers of marked (and resightable) birds on the Wash.

Data archives

The many group members who have been involved with inputting and checking of the group's historical archives have now managed to complete the checking of biometric data from 2000 to 2009, and

previous decades will be tackled next. The group are extremely grateful to John Bonell who has undertaken the task of inputting the data, and to Jacquie Clark, Richard du Feu, Phil Ireland, Sarah Dawkins, Lucy Wright, Becky Laidlaw and the many other group members who have helped with the data-checking process.

Waterfowl Study Group

WWRG continues to be involved with the Waterfowl Study Group, which comprises representatives of groups with an interest in the biodiversity of the Wash, including English Nature, RSPB, Eastern Sea Fisheries, local wildfowlers and WeBS counters.

Publications

WWRG data have featured in a number of recent publications, listed below.

Clark, J.A. (2009) Selective mortality of waders during severe weather. *Bird Study* **56**, 96-102.

Verkuil, Y.I., Jukema, J., Gill, J.A., Karlionova, N., Koopman, K., Melter, J., Hooijmeijer, J.C.E.W. & Piersma, T. (2008) Nonbreeding faeders Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* associate according to sex, not morphology. *Bird Study* **55**, 241-246.

Jennifer Gill

Table 1: Annual catching targets for the ten main study species on the Wash and on each of the three shores of the Wash, and catch totals during 2008-09 and 2009-10.

	Overall			West shore			South shore			East shore		
Species	Target	08/09	09/10	Target	08/09	09/10	Target	08/09	09/10	Target	08/09	09/10
Oystercatcher	**600**	**623**	**70**	**200**	**212**			**4**		**300[a]**	**407**	**70**
Grey Plover	**250**	**25**	**71**	**75**	**23**	**3**	**75**	**2**	**34**	**100**		**34**
Knot	**1,000**	**804**	**120**		**339**	**5**		**22**	**58**		**443**	**57**
Sanderling	**150**	**466**	**336**		**19**	**1,102**				**150**	**447**	**336**
Dunlin	**3,000**	**865**	**1,485**	**1,500**	**177**		**1,500**	**682**	**199**	**500**	**6**	**184**
Black-t'd Godwit	**100[b]**	**30**	**15**				**100**	**30**	**12**			**3**
Bar-t'd Godwit	300	36	362	100	1	19	100	15	10	100	20	**333**
Curlew	150	126	15	50	3	3	100	9	1	100	114	**11**
Redshank	400	137	429	100	47	16	300	90	412			**1**
Turnstone	75	40	13		1	1	100	2	7	75	37	**5**

a: September – March
b: 30 colour-ringed

HALF WAY TO £2,000

Members of the Wash Wader Ringing Group are supporting the Grey Plover as part of Bird Atlas 2007-11, a joint BTO, BirdWatch Ireland and SOC project to reassess distributions and pinpoint hot-spots for every species found within these islands. The Grey Plover is now the Group's logo, having replaced Oystercatcher, the symbol that was shared with the Wader Study Group.

Grey Plovers may not be the most obvious Wash wader but they have provided some special moments for many Group members. Perhaps you were lucky enough to be present on one of the three-figure catches, saw May birds in stunning summer plumage or ringed one of the small number of juvenile birds in early autumn. The mean winter peak count of Grey Plover on the Wash is far higher than on any other estuary and the Group has been responsible for over 60% of all the rings that have been added to the species within Britain & Ireland. WWRG can also claim the current BTO longevity record for the species – a bird ringed at Terrington on 13 July, 1979 was caught again on 31 August, 2004, by which time it was over 25 years old.

Bird Atlas 2007-11 is the largest project that the BTO has ever taken on, costing £1.4 million and involving at least 40,000 birdwatchers across the UK. In just four years, every ten-kilometre square of Britain and Ireland will be surveyed in both winter and summer, giving the first winter stock-take for 25 years and revising the breeding-season distribution maps for the first time since 1988-91.

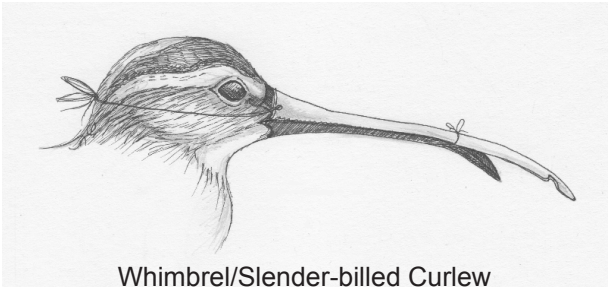
I am delighted that the Group has agreed to find the minimum sponsorship of £2,000 to secure the species. Thus far, we have received just over £1,100 from Group members and I am sure that the WWRG Treasurer would be keen for more individual donations to be sent to me at The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU. Cheques should be made payable to British Trust for Ornithology and it would be helpful if an accompanying note could mention Grey Plover and WWRG and indicate if Gift Aid tax relief may be claimed by BTO.

Graham Appleton, Head of Fundraising, BTO

WADERS ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION: WWRG INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVATION OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S RAREST BIRDS.

Wading birds are truly international, undertaking migratory journeys that involve crossing national boundaries and often moving between continents. A happy consequence of this is that the study of waders is generally best achieved by undertaking similar international movements. The migratory forays of WWRG members began in the 1970's with trips to Iceland, Greenland and Scandinavia in order to try and find where our birds go when they leave the Wash. However, international migrations can occur in many directions, and it has also been our great pleasure to host wader researchers from many different countries around the world on our fieldwork trips, to exchange information on wader migration and the techniques needed to track these fantastic journeys. Return migrations of many group members to our visitors' countries has provided us with great opportunities for collaborative studies of wader ecology and conservation all around the world.

Migratory birds are generally abundant and widespread in distribution, and are therefore often considered to be less threatened than many rarer, non-migratory species. However, in recent decades there have been sharp and highly worrying declines in many migratory wader populations throughout the northern hemisphere. Some migratory wader species are already extremely close to extinction, and urgent action is needed to identify the causes of these declines and design appropriate conservation strategies. In the last couple of years, the group has become directly involved in the work to try and save some of the rarest of these species.



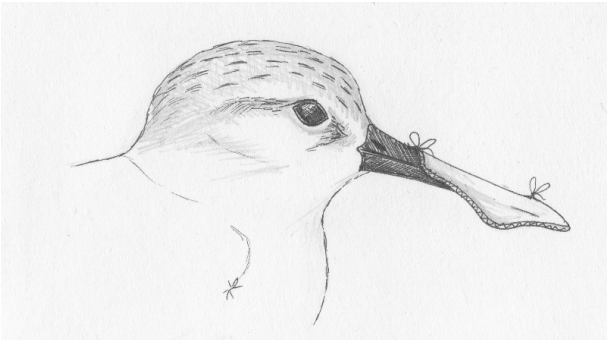
Whimbrel/Slender-billed Curlew
by Liz Mackley

Locating the breeding area of the Slender-billed Curlew, *Numenius tenuirostris*

The Slender-billed Curlew is one of the rarest birds in the world, and is classified as Critically Endangered. Despite the rarity of the Slender-billed Curlew, its distribution has always been poorly understood. Indeed there has only ever been a single nest found, in the Russian taiga, and in winter we do not know much more. The species is thought to have migrated from the Siberian breeding grounds through the eastern Mediterranean to winter around north Africa. However, winter sightings have grown increasingly scarce in recent decades, and the last confirmed sightings were in 1999, in Oman and Greece. The lack of knowledge about the distribution throughout the migratory range is a serious barrier to implementation of the international conservation action plan for this species, and so the development of lightweight satellite tags suitable for birds of this size provided a potential opportunity to solve this long-standing mystery. The problem, of course, was whether any Slender-billed Curlews could still be found in the wild. In 2004, a small, slightly unusual looking Curlew was found at Minsmere in Suffolk, raising hopes that it might be a Slender-bill. WWRG members were asked if they would attempt to catch the bird if one of the new 11 g satellite transmitters could be obtained. In the event the bird moved on before the transmitter arrived, and subsequent analyses showed that the bird was in fact not a Slender-billed Curlew. However, this event acted as a catalyst for the Slender-billed Curlew Working Group to develop, among other things, a protocol for action should another Slender-billed Curlew be located.

In 2009, WWRG members were asked to be involved in a team of ~20 expert wader catchers who would be prepared to travel anywhere at very short notice to attempt to catch and satellite tag any Slender-billed Curlew that was located in the future. Slender-billed Curlews have previously been reported from countries throughout the Middle East, north Africa and Europe (including the UK), and thus planning the necessary logistical requirements, including permits, equipment and so on, is extremely difficult. WWRG Scientific Committee have agreed that the group will make any of our equipment available for such an event, regardless of any impact on our routine catching activities, because of the importance of this issue.

In early 2010, two possible sightings of Slender-billed Curlews in Morocco enabled us to put the plans into action. Very rapidly, a potential team of wader catchers was identified and the process of collating the necessary equipment and permissions was initiated. Alas, the records turned out to be false alarms, and so we now wait and hope that some individuals are still present in remote areas, and that we get an opportunity to try and help prevent what would be the first recorded extinction of a migratory bird species in Europe.



Sanderling/Spoon-billed Sandpiper
by Liz Mackley

Identifying the migration routes of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is not yet in such desperate straits as the Slender-billed Curlew. However, with an estimated population of only 120-150 pairs which is declining at a rate of ~25% per year, there is a very real danger that this species will be extinct in little more than a decade if urgent action is not undertaken immediately.

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper breeds at the mouths of rivers in Chukotka and Kamchatka in northeast Russia, and winters mainly in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand. Although Spoon-billed Sandpipers must stop to refuel on these migratory journeys, at present we do not know where. There are so few individuals remaining that we are unlikely to be able to locate refuelling sites through observations, but the recent development of very small geolocator tags provides us with a potential opportunity to identify such sites. Geolocators are very small devices that record changes in light levels; as the timing of dawn and dusk vary with latitude and longitude, this information can be used to calculate where a tagged bird has been on any given day. Geolocator tags have now been used very successfully on many seabirds and are increasingly being used on smaller species such as waders, with the most recent tags weighing as little as 0.7 grams. Such lightweight tags can potentially be used on small sandpipers such as the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. However, before deploying the tags on such a rare species, we need to identify the best means of attaching the tags to small waders - either on a leg ring, or a lightweight harness.

To assess the best means of attaching geolocator tags to small waders, in November 2009 we caught 70 Sanderling on the Wash and attached geolocators to seven individuals using a specially designed harness. We selected birds that were known to have previously wintered on the Wash, so that they are likely to return in autumn and winter 2010. Our hope is that we will be able to resight and recapture at least some of these individuals, which will allow us to assess the feasibility of using the technology with Spoon-billed Sandpipers. If the tagging of Sanderlings is successful, geolocators could potentially be deployed on Spoon-billed Sandpipers on the breeding grounds, as they are known to return to the same area each year to breed, which provides the opportunity to recapture tagged birds and to download the information on the tags.

The involvement of WWRG in the conservation of these two species is complementary to our normal catching and monitoring activities on the Wash. We are obviously very pleased that the skills and knowledge of group members that have been developed on the Wash can contribute to wader conservation around the world in this way, and we will continue to support these activities wherever possible.

Nigel Clark and Jenny Gill

SEVERE WEATHER

Unusually severe weather can lead to increased movement or mortality in birds if they are unable to find sufficient food. Such mortality can be selective. For example a higher proportion of male (and therefore larger) House Sparrows died in a severe one-day storm than would be expected (Bumpus 1899). More recently the average size of individuals in a population of Hooded Crows in Italy was found to be larger after a series of severe winters (Acquarone *et al* 2004).

A short period of extremely severe weather in February 1991 lead to a mortality event in eastern England with almost 3,000 dead waders being found on the Wash (Clark 2009). As the Wash Wader Ringing Group (WWRG) makes regular catches of waders on the Wash, this was an ideal opportunity to compare the size of those that died with the general population and to look for changes in the population after the severe weather.

A total of 2,448 dead waders, collected during and immediately after the severe weather of February 1991, were aged, sexed and measured (Table 1). However, some corpses were so damaged or decayed that certain measurements were impossible. The following measurements were recorded: wing length, bill length, total head length and tarsus and toe. The measurements of both dead and live birds were taken by experienced wader ringers.

These measurements were compared with measurements of live birds caught on the Wash in February before the severe weather (1980-1990) “pre-event” and after the severe weather (1992-1999) “post-event”. Only adults were used in comparisons, as biometrics of birds in their first year tend to be shorter than in later years (eg Durrell *et al* 2001). As measurements of birds may vary through the winter, due either to changes in the composition of the population being sampled or, in the case of wing length (and bill length of Oystercatchers), due to wear, only data from February (when the severe weather kill took place) were analysed. Comparisons were restricted to cases where both groups contained at least 10 individuals with the exception of the comparison between pre-event and dead Redshank measurements of total head length and tarsus and toe, in which seven pre-event individuals were measured. Amongst Redshank, a comparison of the sizes and sex ratios within the races was made.

The sex ratio amongst dead birds was tested for a departure from equal numbers of each sex and

the percentage of juveniles amongst the dead birds was compared to that normally found on the Wash in February.

There was little difference in size between the birds caught pre- and post-event. However, for four of the five species studied the dead birds were significantly smaller in at least one measurement than those in the other groups. There was no significant difference between the age ratio amongst live and dead birds, apart from Dunlin, where there were fewer juveniles amongst the live birds. The sex ratio of live and dead birds could not be compared as live waders can only be sexed when in breeding plumage. Amongst the dead birds there were significantly more males of both Grey Plover and Redshank. There was also a difference in sex ratio between the two races of Redshank.

Size appears to have been an important factor in this severe weather mortality event. This may be because smaller birds:

- have a higher surface area-to-volume ratio (and thus need to generate proportionally more heat) or;
- have a higher metabolic rate per unit mass or;
- were simply unable to access food as a result of having a short bill or;
- were 'poor' individuals which had not grown well.

This study showed a short-term effect on the size of birds in the population, with smaller birds dying disproportionately. Such short-term, catastrophic events may lead to a change in the population, but in this case the size of birds in the population was not affected in the long term.

Thanks to all the WWRG members who have collected data over the years, and particularly to those who collected and processed the corpses.

Jacquie Clark

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Table 1: Numbers of corpses of each species that were measured having been collected on the Wash during and immediately after the severe weather in February 1991

Species	Number measured
Oystercatcher	84
Ringed Plover	5
Grey Plover	341
Knot	121
Sanderling	3
Purple Sandpiper	1
Dunlin	502
Snipe	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	8
Curlew	42
Redshank	1,316
Turnstone	23
Total	2,448

SUMMARY OF RECOVERIES RECEIVED

The following tables summarise the total numbers of recoveries generated by the group. The tables include all recoveries from 1909 to 2007 that had been reported to the BTO by the end of April 2010. In each case the number before the / is the birds that were ringed on the Wash and found in the county or country and the number after the / is the birds ringed elsewhere and found on the Wash.

Table 1: Movements of the Wash study species between the Wash and elsewhere in Britain & Ireland

	O'catcher	Ringed Plover	Grey Plover	Knot	Sanderling	Dunlin	Black-t Godwit	Bar-t Godwit	Curlew	Redshank	Turnstone
Antrim	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / 2	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Avon	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	21 / 9	- / -	- / -	1 / -	1 / -	- / 1
Bedfordshire	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -
Berkshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Borders	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cambridgeshire	5 / -	3 / -	- / 1	1 / 7	- / -	3 / -	16 / -	- / -	1 / 1	9 / 3	- / -
Central	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cheshire	- / -	1 / -	- / -	7 / 11	4 / 6	27 / 20	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cleveland	5 / 2	4 / -	2 / 1	56 / 27	18 / 2	20 / 40	- / -	- / 2	- / -	4 / 5	1 / 1
Clwyd	- / 5	2 / -	- / -	5 / 8	10 / 3	11 / 29	2 / -	- / -	- / -	1 / 2	- / 1
Cornwall	- / 1	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	5 / 6	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cumbria	1 / 1	5 / -	- / -	5 / 10	3 / 3	21 / 31	- / -	- / 1	- / -	1 / -	1 / -
Derbyshire	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Devon	3 / 7	5 / -	- / -	- / 2	- / -	10 / 10	2 / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -
Dorset	2 / 7	2 / 1	- / -	- / 2	- / 3	8 / 14	- / -	- / 1	- / 1	2 / -	- / -
Down	- / -	3 / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	2 / 6	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Dumfries & Gall	3 / 1	- / -	- / -	4 / 11	7 / 1	11 / 22	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / 1	- / -
Durham	4 / -	1 / -	- / -	1 / -	6 / 1	4 / 2	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -
Dyfed	- / 2	- / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	7 / 7	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -
E Ulster	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	5 / 3	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -
England	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Essex	9 / 3	4 / -	2 / -	3 / 1	3 / -	5 / 9	17 / -	- / -	- / -	7 / -	1 / -
Fair Isle	3 / 6	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	1 / -
Fife	3 / -	2 / -	- / -	20 / 17	- / -	4 / 9	- / 5	- / -	- / -	1 / 3	- / -
Glamorgan	5 / 10	1 / -	- / -	3 / 2	- / -	16 / 4	- / -	- / -	- / -	3 / 5	- / -
Gloucestershire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / 7	- / -	- / -	- / 1	1 / 1	- / -
Gtr London	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Gtr Manchester	4 / 3	6 / -	- / -	23 / 26	7 / 2	9 / 9	- / -	- / -	1 / -	3 / -	- / -
Grampian	12 / 3	- / -	- / -	3 / 6	- / -	2 / 22	- / -	- / -	- / -	6 / 9	- / -
Gwent	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	16 / 25	- / -	- / -	1 / -	1 / -	- / -
Gwynedd	9 / 7	4 / 2	- / -	5 / 2	- / -	118 / 74	- / -	- / -	2 / 1	5 / 4	- / -
Hampshire	3 / 1	1 / -	2 / 1	3 / 1	- / -	17 / 19	6 / 3	- / -	- / -	8 / 2	- / -
Herefordshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -
Hertfordshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -
Highland	6 / 1	1 / 1	- / -	23 / 35	- / -	11 / 16	- / -	- / 2	- / -	7 / 11	- / -
Humberside	19 / 7	8 / 1	1 / 1	8 / 2	- / -	6 / 23	25 / -	1 / 1	- / 1	5 / 2	- / -
Isle of Man	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Kent	9 / 1	- / -	1 / -	1 / 2	13 / 2	5 / 43	8 / -	- / 1	1 / -	3 / 2	1 / -
Lancashire	2 / 1	8 / -	- / -	57 / 47	5 / -	37 / 41	7 / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	1 / -
Leicestershire	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 2	2 / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -
Lincolnshire	502 / 22	27 / 1	85 / -	132 / 2	10 / -	168 / 3	6 / -	69 / -	79 / 2	187 / 1	31 / -
Londonderry	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -
Lothian	2 / 1	1 / -	- / -	5 / 2	- / -	4 / 2	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / 1	- / -
Merseyside	3 / -	- / -	- / -	12 / 10	6 / -	18 / 10	3 / -	1 / -	- / -	2 / 1	- / 1
North Yorkshire	6 / -	3 / 1	1 / -	5 / 4	3 / -	19 / 37	1 / -	1 / -	- / 3	5 / 5	- / 1
Norfolk	699 / 14	111 / 1	185 / -	304 / -	98 / -	359 / 4	30 / -	37 / -	113 / -	439 / 1	154 / -
Northamptonshire	- / 3	- / -	- / -	1 / 3	- / -	- / 2	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -
Northumberland	8 / -	6 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 5	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / 1	- / -
Nottinghamshire	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / 2	- / -
Orkney	6 / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	5 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Powys	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
South Yorkshire	- / -	4 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Shetland	26 / 8	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / 2	- / 3	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Shropshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 2	- / -	- / -
Somerset	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	41 / 8	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -
Staffordshire	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Strathclyde	1 / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	3 / 4	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -
Suffolk	25 / 11	5 / -	1 / -	6 / 1	- / -	18 /34	18 / 2	1 / -	1 / -	12 / 5	1 / -
Surrey	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -
Sussex	3 / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	1 / 2	3 / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -
Tayside	3 / 3	- / -	1 / -	2 / 5	1 / -	- / 2	- / -	- / -	- / -	8 / 6	- / -
Tyne & Wear	1 / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -
Western Isles	1 / -	1 / -	- / -	1 / 1	- / -	1 / 9	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / 3	- / 1
West Yorkshire	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Warwickshire	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
West Midlands	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -
Grand Total	1,398 / 132	222 / 11	283 / 4	703 / 250	196 / 26	1,047 / 633	153 / 10	110 / 10	201 / 14	738 / 81	194 / 6

Table 2: Movements of other species between the Wash and elsewhere in Britain & Ireland

County	Little R Plover	Golden Plover	Lapwing	Curlew S'piper	Purple S'piper	Ruff	Snipe	Whimbrel	Green-shank	Green S'piper	Wood S'piper	Common S'piper
Antrim	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Avon	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Bedfordshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Berkshire	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Borders	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cambridgeshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Central	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cheshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cleveland	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Clwyd	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cornwall	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Cumbria	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Derbyshire	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Devon	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Dorset	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Down	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Dumfries & Gall	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Durham	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Dyfed	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
E Ulster	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
England	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Essex	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1
Fair Isle	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Fife	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Glamorgan	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Gloucestershire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Gtr London	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Gtr Manchester	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Grampian	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Gwent	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Gwynedd	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Hampshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -
Herefordshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Hertfordshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Highland	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Humberside	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Isle of Man	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Kent	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Lancashire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Leicestershire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Lincolnshire	1 / 1	- / -	5 / 1	4 / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	1 / -	- / 1	4 / -
Londonderry	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Lothian	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Merseyside	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
North Yorkshire	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Norfolk	1 / 1	1 / -	7 / 1	1 / -	1 / -	2 / -	6 / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Northamptonshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Northumberland	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Nottinghamshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Orkney	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Powys	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
South Yorkshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Shetland	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 2	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Shropshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Somerset	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Staffordshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Strathclyde	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Suffolk	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Surrey	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Sussex	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Tayside	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Tyne & Wear	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Western Isles	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
West Yorkshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Warwickshire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
West Midlands	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Grand Total	4 / 3	1 / -	12 / 3	5 / 1	1 / -	6 / -	13 / -	- / 2	3 / 1	1 / -	- / 1	5 / 1

Table 3: Movements of the Wash study species between the Wash and other countries

Country	O'catcher	Ringed Plover	Grey Plover	Knot	Sanderling	Dunlin	Black-t Godwit	Bar-t Godwit	Curlew	Redshank	Turnstone
Algeria	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Arctic Ocean	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Austria	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Belgium	5 / 2	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	2 / 6	- / -	- / -	- / 6	2 / -	1 / -
English Channel	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Canada	- / -	- / -	- / -	9 / 2	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / 1
Channel Islands	2 / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	4 / 8	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -
Former Czech'vakia	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Dahomey	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Denmark	23 / 1	1 / -	12 / -	30 / -	1 / 1	54 / 58	1 / -	3 / -	8 / 1	2 / -	2 / -
Eire	1 / -	19 / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	20 / 20	6 / -	- / -	2 / -	1 / -	- / -
Faroes	30 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -
Finland	2 / -	- / 1	1 / -	- / -	1 / -	85 / 115	- / -	1 / -	34 / 39	1 / -	5 / 7
France	154 / -	38 / -	17 / 1	47 / 8	15 / -	104 / 36	15 / 3	4 / 1	8 / -	42 / -	7 / 1
Gabon	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Gambia	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Germany	19 / 3	1 / 3	3 / 2	65 / 38	2 / -	64 / 84	1 / -	14 / 8	3 / 4	- / 2	2 / 2
Ghana	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -
Greece	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Greenland	1 / -	- / 1	- / -	73 / -	- / 1	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	4 / -
Guinea	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Guinea Bissau	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / 1	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -
Hungary	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Iceland	9 / -	- / -	- / -	101 / 40	3 / 2	6 / 5	32 / 4	- / -	- / -	31 / 9	6 / 1
Italy	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / 1	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Latvia	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Lithuania	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Liberia	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Mali	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Mauritania	- / -	- / -	- / -	3 / -	- / 1	9 / 15	- / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Morocco	2 / -	1 / -	3 / -	1 / -	12 / -	22 / 14	1 / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	3 / -
Netherlands	181 / 22	8 / 2	1 / 1	75 / 22	2 / -	31 / 18	11 / -	11 / 5	4 / 5	4 / 3	4 / 1
North Atlantic	- / -	- / -	1 / -	1 / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
North Sea	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	1 / -	- / -
Norway	752 / 114	3 / -	- / -	39 / 81	1 / 11	9 / 317	- / -	1 / 5	- / 2	- / -	2 / 12
Poland	- / -	- / -	1 / 1	3 / 6	1 / -	53 / 71	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / 1
Portugal	- / -	- / 1	- / -	1 / -	2 / -	54 / 17	2 / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	1 / -
Senegal	- / -	1 / -	- / -	4 / -	3 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
South Africa	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / 1	2 / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Spanish W Africa	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Spain	1 / -	3 / -	1 / -	2 / -	4 / -	39 / 13	2 / -	1 / 1	- / -	3 / -	1 / -
Sweden	9 / 1	- / 1	- / -	1 / 6	- / -	248 / 354	- / -	- / -	7 / 12	- / -	- / 2
Tunisia	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
USA	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / 1
Former USSR	8 / -	1 / -	3 / -	1 / -	2 / -	9 / 38	- / -	11 / 1	6 / -	- / -	1 / -
Grand Total	1,199 / 143	80 / 9	43 / 5	466 / 205	57 / 19	822 / 1,192	71 / 7	50 / 22	73 / 69	93 / 14	50 / 32

Table 4: Movements of other species between the Wash and other countries

Country	Little R Plover	Golden Plover	Lapwing	Curlew S'piper	Purple S'piper	Ruff	Snipe	Whimbrel	Spotted redshank	Green-shank	Green S'piper	Common S'piper
Algeria	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Arctic Ocean	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Austria	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Belgium	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
English Channel	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Canada	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Channel Islands	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Former Czech'vakia	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Dahomey	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Denmark	- / -	1 / -	1 / 10	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -
Eire	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	3 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Faroes	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Finland	- / -	- / -	- / 2	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
France	- / -	1 / -	9 / -	4 / -	- / -	3 / -	9 / -	3 / -	- / -	2 / -	2 / -	4 / -
Gabon	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Gambia	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Germany	- / -	- / -	- / 3	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Ghana	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Greece	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Greenland	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Guinea	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Guinea Bissau	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Hungary	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Iceland	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Italy	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	5 / -	1 / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Latvia	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Lithuania	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Liberia	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Mali	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Mauritania	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Morocco	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	1 / -	- / -	2 / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -
Netherlands	- / -	2 / 2	1 / 7	- / -	- / -	1 / 3	- / 2	- / -	- / -	2 / -	- / -	- / -
North Atlantic	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
North Sea	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Norway	- / -	1 / -	- / 1	1 / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Poland	- / -	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Portugal	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	1 / -	4 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Senegal	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
South Africa	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Spanish W Africa	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Spain	1 / -	- / -	3 / -	1 / -	- / -	2 / -	5 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	1 / -
Sweden	- / -	- / -	- / 2	- / 1	- / 1	- / -	- / 1	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Tunisia	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
USA	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Former USSR	- / -	- / -	3 / 1	- / -	- / -	1 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Grand Total	1 / 1	5 / 3	18 / 28	7 / 2	- / 1	19 / 3	24 / 4	3 / -	3 / -	6 / -	2 / -	7 / -

The summaries of movements are produced from data supplied by the BTO Ringing Scheme. The Scheme is funded by a partnership of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (on behalf of: Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage), The National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland) and the ringers themselves.

Jacquie Clark & Rob Robinson

NOTABLE RECOVERIES

Below is a selection of the more notable recoveries (reports of ringed birds) received in 2008 and 2009. Details of each recovery are given, with a brief explanation of its importance. The following codes are used.

Ringing Scheme
Only given if not BTO
DEW Germany, Helgoland
ISR Iceland, Reykjavik
NLA The Netherlands, Arnhem
NOS Norway, Stavanger
SFH Finland, Helsinki
SVS Sweden, Stockholm

Age at ringing
1 pullus (nestling or chick)
2 fully grown, year of hatching unknown
3 hatched during calendar year of ringing
4 hatched before calendar year of ringing, exact year unknown
5 hatched during previous calendar year
6 hatched before previous calendar year, exact year unknown
7 definitely hatched two calendar years before ringing
8 hatched more than two calendar years before year of ringing

Condition at recovery
X found dead
XF found freshly dead or dying
XL found dead (not recent)
\+ shot or intentionally killed by man
+F shot or intentionally killed by man - fresh
S sick or injured - not known to have been released
V alive and probably healthy, caught and released but not by a ringer
VV alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field but not by a ringer
R caught and released by a ringer
RR alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field by a ringer
// condition on finding completely unknown

OYSTERCATCHER

FV70590	8	20.08.82	Wrangle			
	XL	06.04.09	Holkham Bay, NORFOLK		43 KM	E
FA03864	5	20.08.82	Wrangle			
	R	04.01.03	Snettisham			
	XL	09.04.09	Blakeney Point, NORFOLK		55 KM	E

Ringed together at Wrangle nearly 27 years earlier, the corpses of these two individuals were both found on the north Norfolk coast within days of each other.

SS77234	4	30.08.68	Snettisham			
=FA04125	R	04.01.87	Heacham			
	+	30.09.00	Caestre, Nord, **FRANCE**	50 45'N 02 36'E	279 KM	SE
FV24379	5	18.04.76	Wolferton			
	//	01.12.08	Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais, **FRANCE**	50 42'N 01 34'E	250 KM	SSE

Two 30+ year old birds, both reported from France. The first was shot, having reached the age of 32 years and 1 month, whilst the fate of the second, found in 32 years and 7 months after ringing, is unknown.

FS29781	5	28.05.72	Heacham	
	R	26.09.80	Holme	
=FP62253	R	23.07.05	Heacham	
	R	08.03.08	Heacham	
	X	18.09.08	Snettisham	LOCAL

Found dead 36 years and 2 months after ringing, and just short of the British & Irish record of 36 years 8 months. Note, however, that longevity records pertain to the time elapsed between ringing and recovery – the current record holder was approximately 4 months old when ringed, whereas this individual was around 12 months old, so from hatching was actually marginally longer-lived.

FP39528	8	02.03.02	Outer Bund, Terrington			
	X	29.04.07	Hansnes, Troms, **NORWAY**	69 58'N 19 38'E	2,151 KM	NNE
FA97242	8	21.08.01	Wainfleet			
	V	24.05.08	Havnnes, Troms, **NORWAY**	69 47'N 20 33'E	2,130 KM	NNE

The northernmost and longest distance recoveries of Oystercatchers notified during the period; the second example having been found tangled in a fishing net and safely released.

FP62406	8	20.08.05	Wainfleet			
	X	14.07.08	Hethel, near Norwich, NORFOLK		85 KM	SE

One of the more unusual causes of death; this hapless individual, probably a local inland breeder, was found dead by the test track at Lotus cars. It would be interesting to hear the fate of the Lotus!

FP98745	7	08.03.08	Heacham			
	X	12.08.08	Vidareidi, Vidoy, **FAEROES**	62 21'N 06 32'W	1,130 KM	NNW

A small percentage of Oystercatchers occurring on the Wash are from the Faeroes breeding population, this individual being the first to be reported from there since 2003.

FP29287	1	25.07.01	Pewit Island, Hamford Water, ESSEX			
	R	03.08.07	Friskney		146 KM	NNW
NLA	1	24.06.06	Wouterswoude, Friesland, **NETHERLANDS**			
5402376	R	03.08.07	Friskney		390 KM	W
FA29336	1	08.06.05	Dewar Burn, BORDERS			
	R	31.08.08	Wainfleet		364 KM	SE
FP73350	1	01.07.05	Easington, HUMBERSIDE			
	R	18.10.08	Snettisham		87 KM	SSE
FP63058	1	10.06.04	Dyce Industrial Estate, Aberdeen, GRAMPIAN			
	R	14.12.08	Snettisham		509 KM	SSE
NOS	1	24.06.04	Ulvilla, Verdal, Nord-Trondelag, **NORWAY**	63 48'N 11 48'E		
5138085	R	08.03.08	Heacham		1,379 KM	SSW

Nine out of the ten Oystercatcher controls reported to us during 2008/09 were birds ringed as nestlings, from a wide selection of habitats, both coastal and inland – a selection of which are included above.

ED00741	6	13.08.67	Heacham			
=FV30582	R	25.03.78	Snettisham			
	X	01.04.79	Orland, Sor-Trondelag, **NORWAY**	63 42'N 09 39'E	1,314 KM	NNE

A fairly typical Norwegian recovery, but it must be some kind of record in that it was over 30 years before it was reported!

KNOT

NOS	4	19.05.06	Igaldas, Porsanger, Finnmark, **NORWAY**	70 13'N 24 56'E		
7469580	R	03.08.08	Wainfleet		2,284 KM	SW
NOS	4	19.05.06	Igaldas, Porsanger, Finnmark, **NORWAY**	70 13'N 24 56'E		
7432233	R	16.11.08	Snettisham		2,300 KM	SW
NOS	4	19.05.06	Igaldas, Porsanger, Finnmark, **NORWAY**	70 13'N 24 56'E		
7469597	R	28.02.09	Snettisham		2,300 KM	SW

These three birds were caught together in mid-May in the far north of Norway, and are likely to be of the *islandica* race *en route* to their breeding grounds in northern Greenland or arctic Canada; staging via northern Norway is the shortest route for this migration. Note that the first of these individuals had already arrived back on The Wash in early August; illustrating just how short the breeding season is in the high Arctic.

SR46075	3	10.10.06	Terrington			
	R	10.12.07	Banc d'Arguin, **MAURITANIA**	19 54'N 16 18'W	3,930 KM	SSW

Whilst the majority of Knot occurring on The Wash are from the *islandica* race, a small number of Knot of the nominate *canutus* sometimes occur in eastern England during the autumn *en route* from northern Russia to their wintering grounds in West Africa. This, only the third BTO-ringed Knot to be found in Mauritania, is likely to be one such example.

CE54762	6	28.02.87	Snettisham			
	R	30.08.08	Schiermonnikoog, **NETHERLANDS**	53 29'N 06 14'E	393 KM	E

A more typical *islandica* recovery; this individual still going strong 21 years 6 months after being ringed.

SANDERLING

BT03317	4	03.08.07	Snettisham			
	V	13.06.08	Ain Sebaa, Casablanca, **MOROCCO**	33 35'N	07 37'W	2,239 KM SSW
NLA	3	04.12.04	Banc d'Arguin, Baie d'Aouatif, **MAURITANIA**	19 52'N	16 18'W	
H285980	R	02.08.07	Heacham			3,930 KM NNE
DKC	4M	05.07.07	Zackenburg, **GREENLAND**	74 28'N	20 34'W	
8223222	R	30.08.08	Wainfleet			2,565 KM SSE
BT03005	4	03.08.07	Snettisham			
	R	12.05.08	Parque Natural Bahia de Cadiz, **SPAIN**	36 29'N	06 15'W	1,896 KM SSW

In 2008-2009 we received several rather more unusual, and long-distance, Sanderling controls & recoveries. Sanderling from both the Siberian and north-eastern Greenland populations migrate through northwest Europe, with many continuing south to wintering grounds in southern Europe and West Africa. The first recovery here is the more typical from Africa, being the 12th Wash-ringed Sanderling to be reported from Morocco – although this individual was reported as being found alive 'in a natural hole' and released. However, the second example represents the first exchange between The Wash and Mauritania (and only the second from there to be found in Britain & Ireland), whilst the third individual is the first Sanderling ringed in Greenland ever to be found in anywhere in Britain & Ireland. Also featured is the third Wash-ringed (and only 10th BTO-ringed) Sanderling to be reported in Spain.

DUNLIN

ISR	3	04.08.00	Fellsholl, Gardur, Myvatn, Sudur-Thingeyjar, **ICELAND**	65 33'N	16 59'W	
871666	R	03.08.07	Snettisham			1,714 KM SE

Only the seventh Icelandic-ringed Dunlin to be found on The Wash. This individual, probably of the *schinzii* race which breed in Iceland & SE Greenland, will have been on passage to West Africa when caught on The Wash. Note that, when ringed as a juvenile, it was still in Iceland in early August, whilst as an adult it was already on The Wash when controlled at the same time of the year; adults depart their breeding grounds earlier than their offspring.

NT74593	4	30.10.04	Terrington			
	R	12.07.08	Sappi, Luvia, Turku-Pori, **FINLAND**	61 29'N	21 21'E	1,588 KM NE
NT87186	6	15.07.06	Terrington			
	R	09.11.08	Parque Natural Bahia de Cadiz, **SPAIN**	36 29'N	06 15'W	1,885 KM SSW

The most distant Dunlin recoveries of 2008/2009: the first individual will have been of the *alpina* race, which breed from northern Fennoscandia eastwards into Siberia, and spend the winter in northwest Europe. Given the timing of its capture whilst on passage through The Wash, the second bird is most likely to be from the *schinzii* population, and may have been wintering where it was recaptured in Spain.

NR32469	4	21.08.90	Benington	
	R	24.07.09	Butterwick	LOCAL

Already an adult when caught in 1990, this Dunlin was recaptured 19 years and 11 months later, setting a new British & Irish longevity record for the species.

NOS	3	24.07.08	Jomfruland, Kragero, Telemark, **NORWAY**	58 52'N	09 36'E	
8L11154	R	31.08.08	Terrington			888 KM SW
SVS	3	09.08.08	Utklippan, Blekinge, **SWEDEN**	55 57'N	15 42'E	
3334339	R	31.08.08	Terrington			1,054 KMWSW
NOS	3	11.09.08	Makkevika, More og Romsdal, **NORWAY**	62 30'N	06 01'E	
8L04269	R	18.10.08	Terrington			1,129 KM SSW

Three relatively quick movements involving juvenile birds, illustrating the migration dates through different Scandinavian staging sites.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

ES28246	6	12.08.98	Terrington			
	R	19.02.07	Setubal, Estremadura, **PORTUGAL**	38 39'N	09 01'W	1,729 KM SSW

Colour-ringing of Black-tailed Godwits has demonstrated that those occurring on The Wash are of the *islandica* race. After moulting on the Wash some winter in the Wash or the UK but some move further south as far as Spain and Portugal, joining birds from the nominate *limosa* race, which breed in western Europe (from The Netherlands eastwards) and generally winter from Iberia southwards.

EP70255	4	22.08.05	Holbeach		
	XF	09.03.09	Marshside, Southport, MERSEYSIDE		224 KMWNW

This individual, our third to Merseyside, was reported to have been killed by a Peregrine.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

DK57886	3	21.09.01	Terrington		
	+	30.11.06	Bijagos Archipelago, **GUINEA BISSAU**	11 09'N 16 01'W	4,846 KM SSW

The second Wash-ringed Bar-tailed Godwit to be found in Guinea Bissau (and only the fifth from Britain & Ireland); this is from the south of the known wintering area for this species.

DEW	6	01.04.87	Bupheverkoog Pellworm, **GERMANY**	54 32'N 00 28'E	
6326798	R	14.08.06	Ken Hill, Heacham		571 KMWSW

The ninth German-ringed Bar-tailed Godwit to be found on The Wash.

DB66917	6M	22.08.74	Wolferton	
	R	04.08.08	Terrington	LOCAL

Still going strong nearly 34 years after being ringed, when it was already an adult: This bird sets a new British and European longevity record for the species.

CURLEW

FA62410	4	28.09.96	Holbeach			
	XF	09.05.08	Tuomipera, Ylivieska, Oulu, **FINLAND**	64 08'N 24 44'E	1,890 KM	NE
SFH	1	09.06.00	Tampere, Hame, **FINLAND**	61 45'N 23 54'E		
CT037744	R	01.09.07	Holbeach		1,729 KM	SW
SFH	1	03.07.88	Joensuu, Kuopio, **FINLAND**	62 37'N 29 53'E		
CT011202	R	05.08.08	Ken Hill, Heacham		2,042 KMWSW	

The majority of overseas Curlew controls and recoveries involving birds using The Wash come from Finland – these being typical. The dead bird was reported as being taken by a Goshawk, whilst the two controls are particularly interesting as they were ringed while nestlings.

FA97074	4	31.08.00	Terrington			
	X	14.06.08	Alvkarhed, Viksjofors, Gavleborg, **SWEDEN**	61 18'N 15 58'E	1,333 KM	NE
FP08953	4	12.08.02	Terrington			
	X	14.06.09	Vannus, Vasterbotten, **SWEDEN**	63 56'N 19 52'E	1,676 KM	NE

Only the sixth and seventh Wash-ringed Curlew to be recovered in Sweden, although twelve have been recorded making the reverse journey.

GREENSHANK

DD15102	3	04.08.07	Leverton			
	R	03.05.09	Castricum Duinen, **NETHERLANDS**	52 33'N 04 37'E	305 KM	E

The only movement involving the species reported during 2008-2009 was this individual; only the second British-ringed Greenshank to be reported in The Netherlands.

REDSHANK

DD15792	3	12.09.06	Terrington			
	R	13.07.08	Sappi, Luvia, Turku-Pori, **FINLAND**	61 29'N 21 21'E	1,588 KM	NE

This is only the second BTO-ringed Redshank to be found in Finland, and the first recorded interchange between The Wash and anywhere around the Baltic. Redshank breeding in this area are thought to mostly winter in southern Europe or Africa, so this individual is likely to have been on passage when caught at Terrington.

DB61492	4	31.08.04	Terrington			
	VV	10.07.09	Hofn i Hornafiroi, **ICELAND**	64 14'N 15 12'W	1,551 KM	NW

It has long been established that Icelandic Redshank winter in Britain, and this is the 31st Wash-ringed individual to be reported from Iceland – although it is the first such report we've had since 2004.

NON WADERS

KESTREL

EL09604	1	05.07.08	Terrington			
	R	20.02.09	Wiles Farm, Dawsmere		17 KM	WNW

Whilst from only a relatively short distance away, this is featured because it is the first Kestrel from the Group's nest box to be recovered elsewhere.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

GN72221	1	21.06.03	Outer Bund			
	X	20.09.06	Plage Blanche, Guelmim, **MOROCCO**	29 23'N 10 09'W	2,742 KM	SSW
GC16818	1	25.06.06	Outer Bund			
	X	31.08.07	Arenal de Penagos, Santander, **SPAIN**	43 21'N 03 48'W	1,095 KM	SSW
GC16764	1	25.06.06	Outer Bund			
	VV	06.08.08	Praia de Mira, Beira Litoral, **PORTUGAL**	40 27'N 08 48'W	1,537 KM	SSW
GC79144	1	22.06.08	Outer Bund			
	VV	07.01.09	Portimao, Faro, Algarve, **PORTUGAL**	37 10'N 08 31'W	1,870 KM	SSW

Further illustration of the now established behaviour for British-bred Lesser Black-backed Gulls to generally migrate southwards, with most wintering in Iberia, whilst others move on into northwest Africa. The Moroccan recovery is the first such example from the Outer Bund breeding colony.

GC16863	1	25.06.06	Outer Bund			
	VV	20.05.09	Tarastenjarvi, Tampere, Hame, **FINLAND**	61 33'N 23 59'E	1,721 KM	NE

Only the fourth BTO-ringed Lesser black-backed Gull, and the first from the Outer Bund colony to be reported in Finland. Given the date that this bird was seen, it seems quite likely that it has relocated to Finnish breeding grounds.

HERRING GULL

GC52682	1	01.07.07	Outer Bund			
	RR	11.12.08	Westkapelle, Zeeland, **NETHERLANDS**	51 33'N 03 27'E	262 KM	SE

The third overseas recovery of a Herring Gull from the Outer Bund breeding colony, and the second to be reported in The Netherlands.

Steve Wakeham

WADER LONGEVITY RECORDS

Listed below are all known longevity records for all species where the group has ringed 25 or more individuals since 1959. The BTO-ringed records have been extracted from annual ringing reports in *Ringing & Migration*. Some of the species ringed by WWRG have had few recoveries and so no significant longevity has been noted. Where a bird ringed on the Wash holds the BTO record, the details appear in *italics*.

Table 1: Longevity records for BTO-ringed birds and those ringed by WWRG

SPECIES	BTO-RINGED		RINGED BY WWRG	
Oystercatcher	*SS88071*	*36yr 8m*	*SS88071*	*36yr 8m*
Ringed Plover	*BV85945*	*19yr 8m*	*BV85945*	*19yr 8m*
Golden Plover	2072773	12yr 0m	DN77939	6yr 5m
Grey Plover	*DR33258*	*25yr 1m*	*DR33258*	*25yr 1m*
Lapwing	DS30355	21yr 1m		
Knot	CE25745	27yr 3m	CK68568	24yr 0m
Sanderling	*BB52147*	*17yr 7m*	*BB52147*	*17yr 7m*
Little Stint	KR8--	3yr 11m		
Curlew Sandpiper	NB15296	12yr 11m		
Purple Sandpiper	CV58657	13yr 11m	BV89291	11yr 11m
Dunlin	*NR32469*	*18yr 11m*	*NR32469*	*18yr 11m*
Ruff	CC91720	9yr 0m	CE33211	6yr 7m
Snipe	XC34292	16yr 0m		
Black-tailed Godwit	EF90838 (previously controlled by WWRG)	23yr 5m		
Bar-tailed Godwit	*DS66917*	*33yr 11m*	*DS66917*	*33yr 11m*
Whimbrel	EH49697	16yr 1m		
Curlew	FS40887	31yr 5m	FV43050	27yr 9m
Spotted Redshank	*DR28508*	*7yr 5m*	*DR28508*	*7yr 5m*
Redshank	DR74213	20yr 1m	P10010 DN20546	17yr 0m 17yr 0m
Greenshank	DR70162	16yr 0m	DR96000	5yr 11m
Common Sandpiper	NV54164	14yr 0m		
Turnstone	XS24927	19yr 3m	CC88754	19yr 2m

Controlled = recaught by a ringer away from the original catching site.

Table 2: Details of WWRG longevity records

Species in italics are holders of the national record

		Ringing information			Finding information		
Species	**Ring no**	**Age**	**Place**	**Date**	**Circs**	**Place**	**Date**
Oystercatcher	*SS88071*	*1st Winter*	*Dawsmere*	*29/08/69*	*Dead*	*Norway*	*15/05/06*
Ringed Plover	*BV85945*	*Adult*	*Heacham*	*31/08/80*	*Controlled*	*Snettisham*	*20/05/00*
Golden Plover	DN77939	Adult	Terrington	24/07/97	Shot	Sutton Bridge	14/12/03
Grey Plover	*DR33258*	*2nd Summer*	*Terrington*	*13/07/79*	*Controlled*	*Terrington*	*31/08/04*
Knot	CK68568	Adult	N.Wootton	27/08/68	Controlled	Friskney	01/09/92
Sanderling	*BB52147*	*Adult*	*Snettisham*	*18/07/70*	*Controlled*	*Heacham*	*21/02/88*
Purple Sandpiper	*BV89291*	*Adult*	*Heacham*	*16/04/88*	*Controlled*	*Hunstanton*	*08/04/00*
Dunlin	NR32469	Adult	Benington	21/08/90	Controlled	Butterwick	24/07/09
Ruff	*CE33211*	*1st Winter*	*Wolferton*	*22/08/78*	*Controlled*	*Senegal*	*20/02/85*
Bar-Tailed Godwit	DB66917	Adult	Wolferton	03/08/73	Controlled	Terrington	04/08/08
Curlew	*FV43050*	*Adult*	*Terrington*	*01/08/77*	*Dead*	*Finland*	*17/05/05*
Spotted Redshank	DR28508	2nd Summer	Terrington	27/07/75	Dead	Morocco	12/01/83
Redshank	*P10010*	*Adult*	*Terrington*	*18/08/59*	*Controlled*	*Terrington*	*27/08/76*
	DN20546	*Adult*	*Terrington*	*11/08/87*	*Controlled*	*Terrington*	*29/08/04*
Greenshank	*DR96000*	*Adult*	*Wolferton*	*22/08/82*	*Controlled*	*Denmark*	*10/08/88*
Turnstone	CC88754	Adult	Terrington	28/08/72	Controlled	Heacham	22/11/91

It is noteworthy that, for some of the species that we catch regularly, the longevity records are still being beaten fairly frequently - pointing to the fact that, for these species, expected maximum life spans have not yet been established. This was particularly true of Oystercatchers since, it seems, a good number of birds still survive since increased numbers were ringed following the advent of rocket/canon-netting in 1967; birds between 25 and 30 years old continue to be caught or recovered fairly regularly, and it is likely the 36 years record will be extended.

On the other hand it is particularly noticeable that the longevity record for a Wash-ringed Redshank has remained at 17yr 0m since 1976. The first to achieve this was P10010; a bird originally caught in the group's first-ever catch on 18/08/59, and only the 10th bird ringed by WWRG! The second to make it to 17 years was just 9 days older than the first when it was controlled in 2004. P10010 held the national longevity record from 1976 until it was beaten elsewhere by an 18yr 5m old recovery in 1993 with the record then being extended to 19yr 10m in 1995. Such long-standing records would point to the assumption we have established the normal maximum life expectancy for Redshank; any living over 17 years being exceptional. This also looks to be the case for Knot (24yr 00m), Sanderling (17yr 7m), Dunlin (18yr 11m) and Turnstone (19yr 2m), all of which have longevity records that have seldom changed, if at all, in fifteen years or more, despite significant numbers being caught from the 1960s through to the 1980s.

Steve Wakeham