



Wash Wader Ringing Group 2012-2013 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

Couples receiving only one copy of the report may make a contribution greater than the single annual subscription at their discretion. Non-members are asked to pay a temporary membership fee for each fieldwork visit.

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ISSN 0963 - 3111

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Wright, L.J., Franks, S.E., Clark, J.A., Robinson, R.A., Smart, J., Wakeham, S. & Ireland, P.L. (2014)
Wash Wader Ringing Group 2012-2013 Report.
Wash Wader Ringing Group, Terrington St Clement.

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Clockwise from top left: Oystercatcher (Luke Eberhart-Phillips), Grey Plover (David Hodkinson),
Curlew (Ruth Walker), extracting a cannon-net catch (Luke Eberhart-Phillips).

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 arranging consent to make catches within the Wash Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- 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.
- Dave Miller and colleagues at Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and Major John Aspinall at MoD, for their permission to access offshore catching sites at Wainfleet.
- The Crown Estate for their support of our catching.

- The RSPB for permission to make catches on their reserves at Wolferton and Snettisham.
- The Wash WeBS counters, particularly Jim Scott and James Cadbury, for their co-operation and understanding where our operations coincide with counts.
- The King's Lynn, Fenland, Gedney Drove End & District, and Skegness & Wainfleet Wildfowling Associations 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.
- All of the group members who help on field trips and behind the scenes.

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the group's activities in the years 2012 and 2013. Fieldwork followed the traditional pattern with weekend visits to the Wash over the winter months and longer periods of fieldwork during the autumn passage period. Greater effort was put into making resightings of colour-marked birds, this project (i.e. the use of a leg flag with a unique two character combination engraved on it) now including Curlew as well as Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit.

The increased effort on resightings has not been detrimental to catching and indeed 2012 produced the largest total caught for many years, helped by a large catch of Knot in February.

A new mist-netting site was developed at Gedney, giving more flexibility to our operations. The small mesh cannon nets introduced a few years ago are increasingly becoming the most frequently used; they allow rapid extraction of birds from the net and enable catches in circumstances where the use of large mesh nets would be impractical.

Support for the group both from existing group members and new participants has continued to be strong. Indeed, for reasons of available accommodation and having an adequate mix

between experienced and inexperienced participants, it has, regrettably, been necessary to turn down some would-be participants. The larger team sizes have, though, allowed us to carry out more training, an important function of the group.

The group continues to be based at the Old School House in Terrington and the assistance of members with the maintenance of the building is appreciated. A new boiler and refurbishment of the kitchen has further improved the accommodation. The group is also grateful for the use of Friskney Village Hall during our autumn fieldwork in Lincolnshire.

Behind the scenes several members have been involved with dealing with the data the group generates. Much of the historic biometric data is now available on computer thanks to the technical expertise of Richard du Feu, with Jacquie Clark resolving errors and Phil Ireland importing the resulting data into IPMR. Special mention also needs to be made of John Bonell who transfers all the data on our field recording sheets to computer every year.

FIELDWORK

2012 Fieldwork

The year started with high hopes for a substantial Knot catch during the mid-January fieldwork since the recce found large numbers using the beach at Snettisham. However, it was not to be with the Saturday evening mist-netting providing the only catch of the weekend. No catching attempt was made on the Sunday since, with several species now being colour-marked, effort is being put into resighting these birds in the field.

There was, however, a substantial Knot catch in February when, on a cold but still day, the group made its largest catch for 40 years. The final total was 2,926, mainly Knot but with over a hundred Bar-tailed Godwit. With such a large catch it was very helpful that several group members living within reasonable driving distance dropped everything and came to help when told of the catch by phone. Plans to mist-net were abandoned, mainly due to the weather forecast, and the rest of the weekend was again taken up with resightings.

A feature of the fieldwork programme in recent years has been the inclusion of 'possible' mist-netting sessions, which only happen if the weather forecast and other circumstances are favourable. One of these was scheduled for late February and the opportunity was taken to try a new site: Gedney. This proved a worthwhile experiment with 31 Dunlin being caught.

A small team spent Easter at the Old School House when, despite several attempts, no birds were caught. This was the last wader fieldwork session before the birds departed northwards for the summer. The group's AGM was held in early July. This was also intended to be the weekend for a visit to ring nestling gulls on the Outer Bund but, due to weather conditions, it did not take place. Attempts to rearrange this for the following weekend were thwarted, so no gull pulli were ringed in 2012.

A lack of high spring tides in autumn meant that, instead of having the traditional Wash Weeks, there were three shorter Autumn Passage sessions. The first was in early August and, whilst the Lincolnshire team struggled, catching just 36 birds, the team based in Norfolk did rather well. The Norfolk contingent started with a superb catch of 1,365 (approx 50:50 Sanderling and Dunlin) on Snettisham Beach and then followed this with two double figure catches.

'Autumn Passage – 2' in mid-August saw just one team operating which started with a good catch on Snettisham Beach, again approximately 50:50 Sanderling:Dunlin but also including 32 Ringed Plover. After this, catch sizes went down but a first for the group was the capture of two Mediterranean

Gulls in with a catch of 56 Curlew. Even better was that one of the Mediterranean Gulls was a control, first ringed in June 2006 in Germany.

The third Autumn Passage session did not have enough participants to operate fully as two teams, but did manage to operate on both sides of the Wash to make the most of the opportunities available. Unusually, the first day was a morning mist-netting session at Wrangle with 17 birds of six species caught. The first cannon-net catch was the following morning at Snettisham, with a total of 814, mainly Sanderling but with 100 Dunlin and 70 Ringed Plover caught. Not content with this, most of the team went round to Wainfleet where a visit to the off-shore islands on the evening tide provided 138 Oystercatchers. Further Oystercatchers were caught on the rising tide at Heacham the following day, before the team once again headed for the Lincolnshire side of the Wash, staying there for two nights. To maximise the chance of a catch, nets were set on two fields close to each other, this paying off with a catch of 122 Bar-tailed Godwit and 35 Curlew on one field. The final catches of the session were both mist-netting. The first at Terrington produced 247 of which 173 were Redshank, but with only 27 Dunlin. The next night saw a smaller team catch 42 at Wrangle, with Bar-tailed Godwit the most common species.

The next visit occurred just two weeks later and although billed as mainly to re-sight birds colour-flagged during the Autumn Passage sessions, catching was attempted on two tides. This was partly due to the presence of a TV crew for the Autumnwatch programme. The first attempt failed on the rising tide site, but a small catch of Oystercatchers the following morning gave the crew what they needed.

A one evening mist-netting session in mid-October proved reasonably successful with Dunlin the most common species – unusual in recent years! The final fieldwork for the year was in mid-November. Weather conditions prevented cannon-netting on Saturday morning when the opportunity was taken to recce and look for colour-marked birds. However, it was possible to mist-net in the evening, and this was followed by a small cannon-net catch on Sunday morning.

This brought to an end a very successful year's fieldwork. The wader total of 6,663 is the highest achieved since 1993, which was also the last time more than one catch of a thousand was made in a year. Indeed the February catch of 2,926 was the largest since a catch of 2,929 in 1972.

2013 Fieldwork

Due to a lack of suitable tides it was not until early March that the first fieldwork session of 2013 took place. The year started unconventionally with the majority of the team heading off to the Nunnery Lakes in the grounds of the BTO's headquarters in Thetford to try to catch Greylag and Canada Geese! These species have been extending their range and the aim was to cannon-net some to obtain data on movements of the birds. Unfortunately the geese did not cooperate and only two Greylag and one Mallard were caught. The rest of the weekend followed more conventional lines with a successful mist-net catch on Saturday evening and a small cannon-net catch the following morning. Continuing the unconventional theme, some people stayed on for a further mist-netting session on Sunday evening, this time at Gedney. 36 Dunlin and four Black-tailed Godwit were a very satisfactory conclusion to the weekend.

The next fieldwork, at the end of March, coincided with Easter. Recces had shown large numbers of grey waders, as well as the usual Oystercatchers on Snettisham Beach, but in the event the team had to content themselves with a catch of 55 Oystercatcher, three Bar-tailed Godwit and, most unusually, four Common Gulls. Mist-netting at both Terrington and Gedney occupied successive evenings with colour-mark resightings on Sunday morning.

By late April when the next fieldwork session took place, numbers of birds found on recces were, as one would expect, much lower. However, a catch of 18 Ringed Plover was made, a species rarely caught in any number by the group these days. More normally, 56 Oystercatchers were caught on Heacham Beach on the Saturday evening tide.

On two occasions in May the timing and height of high tide was such that mist-netting at the new site at Gedney was possible. However, despite setting six nets on each occasion, the result was disappointing, with only one and three birds captured. A catch later in August was again small but proved far more interesting with a Green Sandpiper captured, a species very rarely caught by the group.

With the waders mainly migrated northwards, no further wader fieldwork took place until the latter half of July. The annual visit to the Outer Bund was successful and 254 nestling Herring and 150 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were ringed.

Mini Wash Week, held towards the end of July, found plenty of catching opportunities on the Lincolnshire side of the Wash, but few in Norfolk. Hence, after an initial unsuccessful saltmarsh catching attempt, the Terrington-based team migrated north to help in Lincolnshire. With a large team, it was possible for three fields to be manned

simultaneously to increase the chance of success. This proved a good move with two very good catches being made and the team from the third set abandoning their attempt to assist with the other catches. The highlights of these catches were getting over 500 Dunlin on one field and 600+ Knot with 125 Bar-tailed Godwit on the other field. The day was all the more memorable due to the need to seek assistance from the farmer to retrieve one of our vehicles from a ditch – but that's another story! With the best options being on the Lincolnshire side of the Wash, the whole team stayed based there. Two further catches were made, both mainly of Curlew, but an attempt on the Wainfleet Islands proved unsuccessful as the tide did not make the expected height.

The largest cannon-net catches made during Main Wash Week in the second half of August were 146, mainly Sanderling, on Snettisham Beach and 81 Oystercatchers on the Wainfleet Islands. Mist-netting proved a bit more successful for both teams, with sessions on the final two evenings of the trip. This was followed by another mist-netting session at Terrington just a fortnight later, when, as during Wash Week, Redshank was the principal species caught.

Early October saw the next fieldwork, with a catch on the Saturday morning of over 200 Knot and 300 Sanderling. A third of the Sanderling were already carrying rings, giving some useful life-history data. An attempt to catch Oystercatchers on the evening tide proved unsuccessful, and the rest of the weekend was spent colour-mark resighting.

The final fieldwork of the year proved to be exciting with storm-force winds and a tidal surge predicted. The Thursday evening tide did significant damage to the sea defences and to the RSPB reserve at Snettisham. Recces on Friday morning had to be aborted, with police road closures in place. Although consideration was given briefly to cancelling the weekend, it was decided to go ahead. Saturday morning was spent doing recces and assessing the damage. With winds abating it proved possible to mist net on the Saturday evening with nearly 100 caught and this time Dunlin led the species totals. A cannon-net catch on Sunday morning also proved possible, although flooding and access to the site reduced the number of nets set to two. Nevertheless, a catch of 184 Oystercatchers and five Bar-tailed Godwit was a successful outcome.

Phil Ireland

TOTALS

Totals of birds caught in 2012 and 2013 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 identifies the exact location. The second line gives the day and month of the catch and the third line gives cannon nets fired or mist nets set (shown in brackets).

Table 1. TOTALS – 2012, 2013 and Grand Total

	2012			2013			Grand Total 1959-2013 (newly ringed)
	Newly ringed	Retrap	Total	Newly ringed	Retrap	Total	
Oystercatcher	283	71	354	330	57	387	37,502
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	102	1	103	28	0	28	1,335
Golden Plover	0	0	0	1	0	1	380
Grey Plover	8	0	8	19	0	19	6,338
Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	70
Knot	2,732	78	2,810	838	22	860	57,017
Sanderling	1,385	195	1,580	305	130	435	13,478
Little Stint	0	0	0	1	0	1	51
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Curlew Sandpiper	5	0	5	3	0	3	313
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Dunlin	1,072	22	1,094	913	21	934	137,373
Broad-billed Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ruff	0	0	0	1	0	1	110
Jack Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Black-tailed Godwit	20	1	21	38	0	38	1,717
Bar-tailed Godwit	284	29	313	215	19	234	7,907
Whimbrel	0	0	0	6	0	6	198
Curlew	132	24	156	111	23	134	5,219
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Green Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	81
Greenshank	1	0	1	4	0	4	221
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Redshank	206	2	208	245	5	250	15,286
Turnstone	14	1	15	9	1	10	7,363
TOTAL Waders	6,239	424	6,663	3,065	278	3,343	292,148
Water Rail	1	0	1	0	0	0	
Black-headed Gull	6	0	6	1	0	1	
Mediterranean Gull	1	1	2	0	0	0	
Common Gull	5	0	5	4	0	4	
Lesser Bb Gull – pulli	0	0	0	150	0	150	
Herring Gull	2	0	2	0	0	0	
Herring Gull – pulli	0	0	0	254	0	254	
Kestrel – pulli	0	0	0	3	0	3	
Starling	2	0	2	0	0	0	
TOTAL Non Waders	17	1	18	412	0	412	
GRAND TOTALS	6,256	425	6,681	3,477	278	3,755	

Table 2. Catch totals for 2012. Site codes used: AF = Terrington; FM = Friskney; GE = Gedney; HE = Heacham; LV = Leverton; SN = Snettisham; WM = Wainfleet; WT = Wrangle.

Site Code	AFS	SNX	GEX	SNX	HEK	LVF	HEJ	SNX	AFT	HEJ	WTV	SNX	WMW	HET	FMJ	FMA	WTF	AFS	WTV	SNX	AFS	AFS	SNX	TOT
Date	14.1	11.2	25.2	3.8	4.8	4.8	5.8	19.8	20.8	21.8	15.9	16.9	16.9	17.9	18.9	19.9	19.9	19.9	20.9	30.9	20.10	17.11	18.11	
Nets fired / (set)	(15)	1	(10)	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	(10)	3	1	1	1	2	1	(18)	(10)	1	(8)	(18)	2	
Newly ringed																								
Oystercatcher	6	11			54		1						123	67					19		2			283
Ringed Plover								32				70												102
Grey Plover	1										2							1	4					8
Knot	9	2,680				16		1			1							6	3			4	12	2,732
Sanderling		1		708				116				560												1,385
Dunlin	52	35	31	556				137	1		4	104						26	13		31	82		1,072
Black-tailed Godwit	4																	8			1	7		20
Bar-tailed Godwit	5	104				13	1			2	3				112		4	26	13			1		284
Curlew					10	2	16				2				32	18	1	1	3			2		132
Greenshank									1															1
Redshank	1								5		5							172	4		6	13		206
Turnstone								2				1						5					6	14
TOTAL	78	2,831	31	1,264	64	31	18	288	7	47	17	735	123	67	144	18	5	245	40	19	38	111	18	6,239
Retraps/Controls																								
Oystercatcher	3	3			18								15	26					4		2			71
Ringed Plover												1												1
Knot		77				1																		78
Sanderling				85				31				79												195
Dunlin		2		14				3										1			2			22
Black-tailed Godwit	1																							1
Bar-tailed Godwit		13				2									10		1		2		1			29
Curlew					4	2	3			11					3	1								24
Redshank	1																	1						2
Turnstone																						1		1
TOTAL	5	95	0	99	22	5	3	34	0	11	0	80	15	26	13	1	1	2	2	4	0	5	1	424
ALL WADERS	83	2,926	31	1,363	86	36	21	322	7	58	17	815	138	93	157	19	6	247	42	23	38	116	19	6,663

Table 2. Catch totals for 2012 (continued) – Non waders

	HEJ	AFS	AFS	TOT
	21.8	20.10	17.11	
	3	(8)	(18)	
Newly ringed				
Water Rail		1		1
Black-headed Gull	6			6
Mediterranean Gull	1			1
Common Gull	5			5
Herring Gull	2			2
Starling		1	1	2
Retraps/Controls				
Mediterranean Gull	1			1
NON-WADERS	15	2	1	18



Clockwise from top: Bar-tailed Godwit being processed (Elis Simpson); processing Curlew on Ken Hill (Cathy Ryden); the net going out on Snettisham (Elis Simpson).

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Table 3. Catch totals for 2013. Site codes used: AF, AP, TM = Terrington; FM = Friskney; GE = Gedney; HE = Heacham; LV = Leverton; SN = Snettisham; WM = Wainfleet; WT = Wrangle.

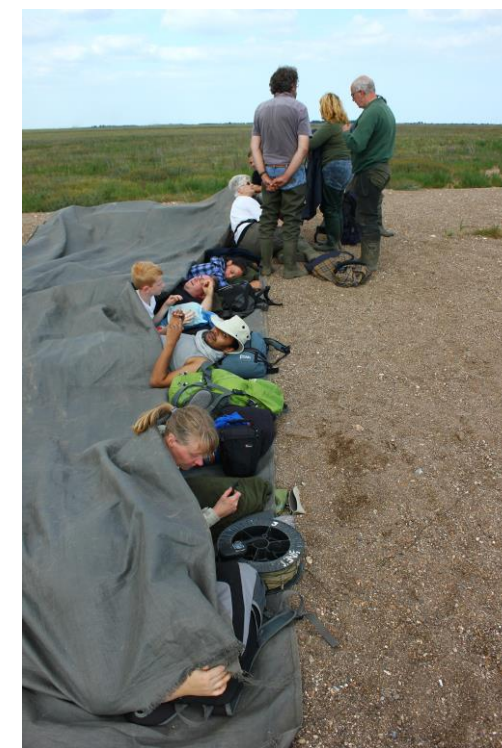
Site Code	AFS	HET	GEX	SNX	AFS	GEX	SNX	HET	GEX	GEX	LVF	WTF	FMD	LVF	GEX	APS	WMU	SNX	WTV	WTD	SNK	AFS	FMU	AFS	WTV
Date	2.3	3.3	3.3	30.3	30.3	31.3	27.4	27.4	3.5	29.5	26.7	26.7	27.7	27.7	11.8	20.8	20.8	21.8	22.8	23.8	23.8	24.8	24.8	25.8	25.8
Nets fired / (set)	(16)	1	(8)	1	(16)	(8)	1	1	(6)	(6)	2	1	1	2	(6)	1	1	1	1	2	4	(15)	(12)	(14)	(11)
Newly ringed																									
Oystercatcher		10		39				50						1			72								
Ringed Plover							18															1		1	
Golden Plover																						1			
Grey Plover																			1	14					2
Knot	1				1						613	4	2					1				2		2	
Sanderling																		99							
Little Stint																									
Dunlin	89		35		27	14			1		93	520	2					12	11			1	17	7	4
Ruff																							1		
Black-tailed Godwit	12		4												1							4		4	
Bar-tailed Godwit				3		2					120		5	2					26	9		1	6		34
Whimbrel														2	1					2				1	
Curlew										1	9		27	23						11	39			1	
Green Sandpiper															1										
Greenshank																4									
Redshank	1				3										5							71	10	83	3
Turnstone							2			2												1		2	2
TOTAL	103	10	39	42	31	16	20	50	1	3	835	524	36	28	8	4	72	113	51	22	39	80	36	101	45
Retraps/Controls																									
Oystercatcher		1		15				6									9								
Knot											11														
Sanderling																		33							
Dunlin			1		1						2	14											1		1
Bar-tailed Godwit											3		1						2	2					10
Curlew				1									2	4							16				
Redshank					1																	2		2	
Turnstone							1																		
TOTAL	0	1	1	16	2	0	1	6	0	0	16	14	3	4	0	0	9	33	2	2	16	2	1	2	11
ALL WADERS	103	11	40	58	33	16	21	56	1	3	851	538	39	32	8	4	81	146	53	24	55	82	37	103	56

Table 3. Catch totals for 2013 (continued)

Site Code	AFS	SNX	AFS	SNX	TOT
Date	8.9	5.10	7.12	8.12	
Nets fired / (set)	(10)	1	(16)	1	
Newly ringed					
Oystercatcher			1	157	330
Ringed Plover	8				28
Golden Plover					1
Grey Plover		2			19
Knot	1	209	2		838
Sanderling		206			305
Little Stint	1				1
Dunlin	10	7	63		913
Ruff					1
Black-tailed Godwit	1		12		38
Bar-tailed Godwit			3	4	215
Whimbrel					6
Curlew					111
Green Sandpiper					1
Greenshank					4
Redshank	53		16		245
Turnstone					9
TOTAL	74	424	97	161	3,065
Site Code	AFS	SNX	AFS	SNX	TOT
Date	8.9	5.10	7.12	8.12	
Nets fired / (set)	(10)	1	(16)	1	
Retraps/Controls					
Oystercatcher				26	57
Knot		11			22
Sanderling		97			130
Dunlin		1			21
Bar-tailed Godwit				1	19
Curlew					23
Redshank					5
Turnstone					1
TOTAL	0	109	0	27	278
ALL WADERS	74	533	97	188	3,343

Non waders

	SNX	OSH	TMZ	AFS	TOT
	30.3	23.6	6.7	24.8	
	1			(15)	
Black-headed Gull				1	1
Common Gull	4				4
Lesser Black-backed Gull – pulli			150		150
Herring Gull – pulli			254		254
Kestrel – pulli		3			3
NON-WADERS	4	3	404	1	412



Left: The team enjoying a rare summer evening off. Right: Going under covering on the Wainfleet Islands (Samantha Franks).



SCIENTIFIC NEWS

The WWRG Scientific Committee reviews and develops our catching priorities regularly, facilitates the use of WWRG data for research and conservation purposes and considers proposals for requests for WWRG involvement in specific projects. Below are details of the recent work of the committee. Prof. Jen Gill has now stepped down as chair of the committee – we are very grateful for all her work over the last few years.

Membership of the committee

The committee is always looking for assistance with the many tasks involved with the scientific aspects of running the group and we are also looking for members with a scientific background to join the committee. To make this easier we have agreed to have two rolling positions on the committee. This means that we would have a new committee member each year who would sit on the committee for two years.

IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP – we would like someone to take responsibility for

colour-marked birds seen on trips that are NOT part of a WWRG scheme. This role would include collating sightings, tracking down the ringer running that scheme, passing on and receiving data on the bird's origins and history and reporting back to the group.

Please talk to any member of the scientific committee if you are interested in this, or other, roles.

Annual catching & monitoring targets

The group has targets for the numbers of each species that we would like to catch annually overall and in different parts of the Wash (see table below). However, for some species, we were consistently failing to catch the numbers we need to recapture sufficient individuals for survival analyses (see Fig. 1). This prompted us to develop new colour-marking schemes for Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover and Curlew, to run alongside established colour-marking of Black-tailed Godwit and Turnstone.

Table 1. Annual and geographical catch targets for each of our study species.

Species	Annual target	West Shore Target	South Shore Target	East Shore Target
Oystercatcher	600	200	-	300
Grey Plover	250	75	75	100
Knot	1,000	-	-	-
Sanderling	150	-	-	150
Dunlin	3,000	1,500	1,500	500
Black-tailed Godwit	100	-	100	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	300	100	100	100
Curlew	150	50	100	100
Redshank	400	100	300	-
Turnstone	75	-	-	75

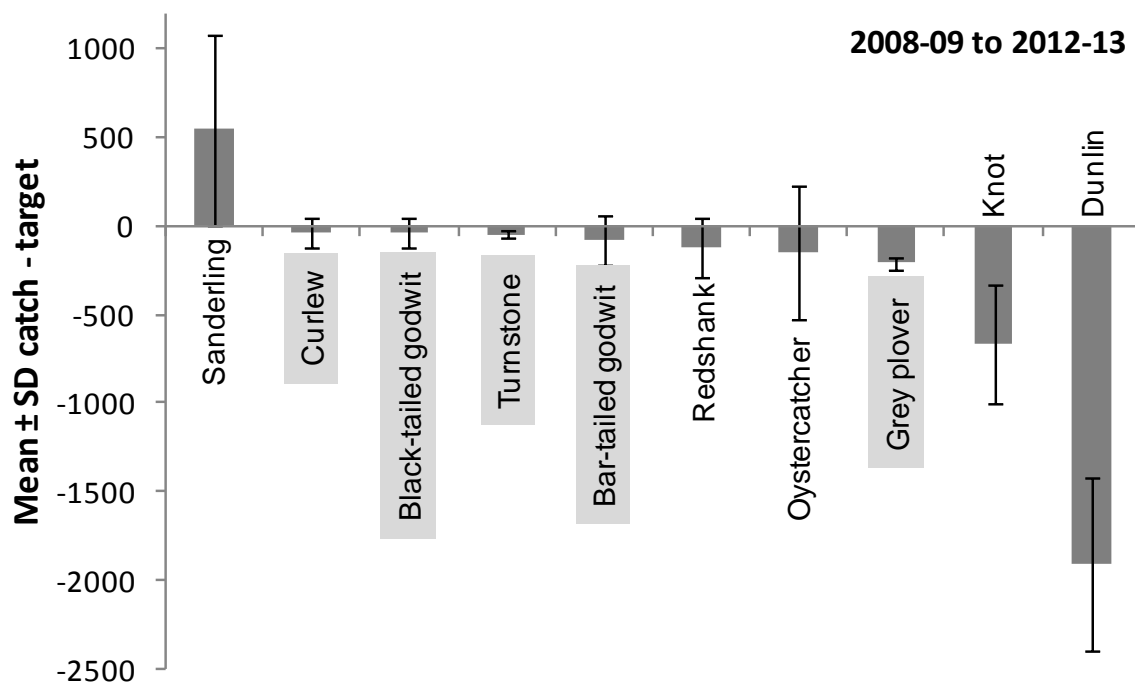


Figure 1. For each of our study species, the five-year average (\pm SD) difference between the target number we ideally want to catch and the actual number caught. Bars above the line show we have caught more than the target and below fewer. Species names shaded grey are those for which we now have active colour-ring schemes.

The increase in colour-marking and resighting as a monitoring tool on the Wash has required us to alter the group's fieldwork activities to ensure that resighting colour-marked birds becomes as important as catching and ringing new birds. These new schemes have all been running for a number of years now and we recently reviewed how well we are doing (Table 2).

Curlew have been colour-marked on the east shore at Ken Hill since 2012 and 59 of the 137 have been observed at least once (43%) generating 90 sightings. Two Curlew have been observed on their breeding grounds in 2014: LH was observed at Vimpeli, Finland on 15 April and ET at Bohuslän, Sweden on 22 April. Grey Plover have been colour-marked on the south and east shores since 2010. In total, 21 of the 52 birds marked on the east and five of the 36 marked on the south have been observed at least once (east = 40% and south = 13%) generating 39 sightings. Although the number of observations is relatively low, especially for birds marked in the south, the number of observations still far exceeds the number we would get from ring recoveries.

Out of a total of 99 Bar-tailed Godwit, approximately a third (32) have been seen in the field again. The majority of sightings have been in and around the Wash but we have received a

number of interesting sightings away from the area. The first was of a moulting bird caught at Terrington in September 2010 and then resighted on the Wirral the following November. We know a few of the birds moulting on the Wash will move to winter on other estuaries and this is a nice example. The second resighting away from the Wash was altogether more impressive. This was of a juvenile caught, again at Terrington, in September 2011; 50 days later it was seen at Iwik in Mauritania. This was most likely from the more central Siberian breeding areas which winter in West Africa; our moulting and wintering birds breed in Scandinavia and western Siberia. The remaining three records are of migrating birds on their journeys to and from the Wash. There are two resightings of birds on the way back to the Wash, one from Estonia in late August and one from Schiermonnikoog in late July. The last bird refers to one seen on spring passage in the German part of the Wadden Sea in the first half of May. Virtually all of the north-west European wintering population of Bar-tailed Godwits stage in the Wadden Sea in spring and once they have fattened and left for their western Siberian breeding grounds, the birds from West Africa arrive and fatten before leaving for their central Siberian destination.

Table 2. The number of birds colour-marked in each year and the number of those individuals resighted, with the number of sightings in brackets.

(i) Curlew

EAST		Individuals seen (no. sightings)	
Year	Colour-marked	2012-2013	2013-2014
2012	85	10 (13)	29 (40)
2013	53	-	25 (37)

(ii) Grey Plover

EAST		Individuals seen (no. sightings)			
Year	Colour-marked	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
2010	42	7 (7)	6 (8)	5 (7)	5 (6)
2011	5	-	-	2 (2)	2 (2)
2012	0	-	-	-	-
2013	5	-	-	-	2 (2)

SOUTH		Individuals seen (no. sightings)			
Year	Colour-marked	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
2010	33	2 (2)*	-	3 (3)*	-
2011	3	-	-	-	-
2012	0	-	-	-	-
2013	0	-	-	-	-

*Ringed in the south but observed in the east

(iii) Bar-tailed Godwit

EAST		Individuals seen (no. sightings)			
Year	Colour-marked	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
2010	8	6 (11)	5 (16)	4 (5)	2 (5)
2011	18	-	10 (11)	8 (11)	3 (5)
2012	64	-	-	3 (7)	3 (6)
2013	9	-	-	-	2 (2)

Thank you to everyone for embracing the resighting work and for the 100s of records each year. Thanks also to those people who administer the schemes and provide feedback. The volume of sightings now means the task of providing feedback after every trip has become a little onerous. This should improve as we move our resighting data into IPMR but while we do this, we have taken the decision to only feedback individual bird histories at the end of the winter. However, if members want to look these up we will ensure that copies of the data are available on field trips.

Data requests

We have received two requests for using Wash data:

Bar-tailed Godwit biometric data to examine "Seasonality in prey burial depth explains spatial distribution in a polychaete-eating shorebird".

Curlew moult data to examine "Adaptation of moult strategy by Curlew in response to hunting pressure".

Jen Smart

Chair (2014), WWRG Scientific Committee



Left to right: The team processing a catch (Cathy Ryden); Bar-tailed Godwit (Elis Simpson).



Setting mist nets on Terrington Marsh (Luke Eberhart-Phillips).

Setting cannon nets on Ken Hill. Digging cannon holes in this tough turf is hard work! (Cathy Ryden)



Processing Oystercatchers at Heacham (Luke Eberhart-Phillips).

GULL RINGING ON THE OUTER BUND

In July 2013, the Wash Wader Ringing Group carried out the annual visit to the Outer Bund Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gull colony on the Wash to continue an established population monitoring project. No gull ringing was done in 2012.

On the border of the Wash between Norfolk and Lincolnshire is the artificially created island known as the Outer Bund. Sitting a mile offshore, it is possible to walk out at low tide on the drying mudflats. It, and its diminutive companion island the Inner Bund, were part of an experimental civil engineering feasibility project from the 1970s. There was a proposal to convert a substantial proportion of the Wash into a freshwater reservoir designed to supply southeast England. Ironically, the early wader research carried out by the group contributed to the abandonment of the concept of transforming the Wash into a reservoir, and the artificial islands created have now been taken over by wildlife. Initially, the Outer Bund was colonised by Common Terns, and measures were taken to control gull numbers by egg-pricking. However, by the early 2000s it became clear that not only were the attempts increasingly futile, the scales of conservation effort had tipped firmly towards the Herring Gull as it became a 'red-listed' UK breeding bird. The Outer Bund is now considered to be the largest coastal breeding colony of both species on the eastern side of England. Hence it is of conservation interest to ring the pulli (young) of both species to estimate dispersal and survival into adulthood.

The large artificial mound appears deceptively close from the shore, and as the vegetation cedes in turn from rough grassland to mature

saltmarsh to emergent saltmarsh, one finally begins to appreciate the extent of the exposed tidal mudflats. Following a receding tide, our party became increasingly scattered as we pushed on over increasingly soft mud. Old hands would follow the firmer footing offered by the tidal creeks, but the obligation to traverse high bars of mud became increasingly necessary to all. On we progressed under a cloudless sky and a ripening gravid sun. What appeared to be a sign in front of the island in the distance became a seventy foot-high observation platform at the island's edge, slowly rusting away into obsolescence.

Exposed beds of cockles and mussels gave an indication of the bounty of natural resources around the estuary. Only later, when viewed from the top of the island, did the effect of nearby shellfish harvesting become apparent on the dense aggregations of mussels and cockles. Swathes of harvesting denuded the exposed floor and our mussel beds were the leavings of a much more extensive and abundant harvest, rather like the effect of an unrepentant alcoholic trying to mow a lawn on a lazy Sunday afternoon in an advanced state of refreshment.

We paused 100 m or so from the edge of the island to renew our assault; progressing *en bloc* we were greeted by a sky packed with two thousand large gulls mobilising in unison with a barrage of alarm calls heralding the perceived oncoming threat. A large gull colony produces a wall of sound that is rather like a premier league football stadium: thick, impermeable and unrelenting. It is nothing short of remarkable that each parent and chick locate each other by sound amidst this cacophony.



The team approaching the Outer Bund gull colony (Samantha Franks).

Stowage of personal equipment was followed by the main business in hand, which was to capture and ring five hundred large gull pulli. The essence of our work was to form a loose daisy chain of people and envelop a clump of juvenile gulls. The ensuing circle would then gradually and purposefully shoo birds into the centre forming a nucleus of twenty to thirty birds. The human noose would then tighten to form an impenetrable barrier of thighs and torsos from which the corralled young could not escape easily.



The colony mobilising as the team reaches the island (David Hodkinson).

The entire party was almost within touching distance and it was a simple task to pick a suitable bird from the group to ring. Or, that was what was supposed to happen in theory. The organisation of an eclectic group of individuals such as bird ringers is no easy task ('herding cats' being one of the more polite terms used!), and co-operation during our first few attempts was distinctly lacking. As a consequence few birds were obtained for processing in these early attempts. However, as the group gradually became more effective and worked together as a cohesive whole, it felt as though the distant primal behaviour of hunting man came to the surface in our co-operative effort; fortunately for the birds the only discomfort was a gentle push towards the centre of the circle. Subtle differences in plumage on the primary feathers betray the identity of the two closely-related species on the island, and dictated the method used to place the rings on the birds: the thinner-legged Lesser Black-backed Gulls required a slight overlap on their rings which was technically more challenging. The technical challenge was augmented by the feisty and truculent nature of the Lesser Black-backs when compared to the more placid Herring Gulls.

The corralled group of young gulls were ringed and released back towards their contemporaries.

The young would then sulk off to look on in indignant huddles all sporting a small metal ring, rather like a wristwatch. We would repeat the process in a clockwise direction around the crater forming the edge of the manmade island. As the sun rose progressively higher towards noon, the heat posed an increasing challenge and we happily called it a day after ringing 250 Herring Gulls and 150 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Taking on fluid prior to departure, we were treated to a Peregrine Falcon with an attendant juvenile causing disruption amongst the colony: these powerful, muscular falcons would hone in on the colony with almost casual menace at low level, as the younger bird was taught how to ply their trade as the UK's most formidable bird of prey.

Walking back to land over the drying mudflats was by no means easier the second time round, and the slow line of weary individuals assumed the look of a broken troop fleeing across a desert in an early David Lean matinee. Once the safety of our line of three vehicles was reached, caches of fluid were broken into and the group descended into the standard tired sprawl where the events of the day were recounted, pictures and stories exchanged, and feedback sought and given. The Gull Island will be undisturbed for another year, young will fledge, some will die in anonymity, some will give valuable data on the breeding success of the colony, some will return in several years' time as adults to repeat the process over again.

Rob Pell



The centre of the Outer Bund (David Hodkinson).



Turnstone, Knot and Sanderling (Ruth Walker).

COLOUR-MARKING ON THE WASH

WWRG currently undertakes colour-marking projects on four species; Grey Plover, Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Turnstone. Colour rings and flags allow individual birds to be tracked throughout their lifetime without needing to catch them more than once, allowing information about survival and movements to be collected more easily.

As the number of “recoveries” we can get from colour-marking is generally greater than that from recaptures, we increasingly put effort into colour-mark resighting as well as catching on trips. Whilst most members are well-versed in the techniques of collecting colour-ring data, new members and members who haven’t been involved in resighting recently might appreciate a recap of WWRG colour-mark projects and how to record colour rings and flags accurately.

Current colour-marking projects

Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Curlew – are fitted with a white flag, bearing a two character code (capital letters, and for Curlew only, also numbers 0-9) above the ‘knee’ on the left leg. The right leg sports a white ring above the ‘knee’ and a metal ring below the ‘knee’ (see Bar-tailed godwit photo opposite).

Turnstone – the scheme marker is a black ring located above the ‘knee’ on the left leg. Birds are also (usually) fitted with four coloured rings, two below each knee. However, one bird has been released with only three rings (the ringers who did that know who they are!!), see Turnstone images above and below).

Sanderling – used to be fitted with colour rings. A few birds were also fitted with geolocators and these have an orange ring fitted above the metal ring as their scheme marker.

Other schemes – we also contribute to other colour-marking projects (e.g. Black-tailed Godwit, Greenshank), and birds of several species (e.g. Knot, Sanderling) colour-marked elsewhere can often be seen on the Wash during resighting trips.

General instructions for recording sightings

When noting colour ring/flag sightings, the following data should be collected in addition to the ring/flag details:

- Site name
- Date
- What time you arrived and left the site
- Species
- Your name
- Approximate flock size (per species)
- Weather (e.g. wind, rain)
- Visibility (e.g. fog, heat haze)
- Optics used (brand and magnification)
- Start & finish time of the recording periods (in half-hour blocks, see below)

Each resighting session is divided into recording blocks of 30 minutes. Within each recording block all birds are treated as if they were new and recorded again even if they had been recorded in a previous recording block. If resighting with others, it is better to record independently. If a recorder sees a bird multiple times within a recording block, it should be written down each time, or the first record should be ticked for each subsequent sighting to indicate how many times the bird has been observed. These measures maximise the number of times each bird is resighted and recorded which helps to increase the confidence in the accuracy of the resighting as well as help to resolve unlikely sightings. For example, we would be wary of accepting a sighting of a Turnstone on the East beaches that had not been seen for a more than a couple of years and was only observed once by one person.



Flagged Bar-tailed Godwit (Ruth Walker).

Recording colour rings

Every colour-marked bird seen should be recorded, not just those that have been ringed by WWRG (other birds are ringed by other ringing groups both in the UK and abroad). Record what you see, not what you think should be there – for instance, occasionally a bird will only have three colour rings instead of four.

Write sightings down systematically, starting with the *bird's* left leg (not the left leg as observed), then the right leg and record rings from top to bottom. For example, the left-hand Turnstone in the photo below can either be written as N/RL M/YN, with the "I" indicating the knee (see below for colour codes) or written visually as:

N	M
R	Y
L	N

The Turnstone in the right-hand photo below would be recorded as: ?/RL ?/RN (the upper legs are not visible in the photo).

Recording flags

Other ringing groups also use flags so record all flags and associated colour rings seen and make sure you look very carefully at all flags. Flags can be blank or can have between one and three letters or numbers. Flags should be written down with the colour of the flag first e.g. FW (flag white), followed

by the alpha numeric code in brackets e.g. FW (P) or FW (PU) or FW (PU1). The example of the Bar-tailed Godwit on the previous page would be FW(UH)? W/?, the ? indicating that the lower legs cannot be seen.

FW(UH)	W
?	?

Colour codes

B – Blue
G – Green
L – Lime
N – Niger/black
O – Orange
P – Pale blue
R – Red
U – Brown/umber
W – White
Y – Yellow

Reporting sightings

When recording as part of a WWRG trip, records should be passed on to the person collating the data during the trip. If sightings are made outside of an organised trip weekend, records should be submitted to sightings@wwrg.org.uk.

Ruth Walker & Jen Smart



Clockwise from top: Bar-tailed Godwit flags (Luke Eberhart-Phillips); Turnstone at Heacham (Ruth Walker); Turnstone at Titchwell (Richard Chandler).

SUMMARY OF RECOVERIES RECEIVED

The following tables summarise the total number of recoveries generated by the group. The tables include all recoveries from 1909 to 2013 that had been reported to the BTO by the end of April 2014. In each case the number before the '/' is birds that were ringed on the Wash and found in the county or country and the number after the '/' is birds ringed elsewhere and found on the Wash.

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

County	O'catcher	Ringed Plover	Grey Plover	Knot	Sanderling	Dunlin	Black-t Godwit	Bar-t Godwit	Curlew	Redshank	Turnstone
Antrim	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	3/4	2/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Avon	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	22/10	-/-	-/-	1/-	1/-	-/1
Bedfordshire	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	-/-
Borders	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Buckinghamshire	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Cambridgeshire	5/3	3/-	-/1	1/7	-/-	3/-	17/-	-/-	1/1	9/3	-/-
Central	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Cheshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/11	1/6	9/20	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Cleveland	8/2	4/-	2/1	56/27	23/2	27/47	-/-	-/2	-/-	4/6	1/-
Clwyd	-/5	2/-	-/-	5/8	9/3	10/37	2/-	-/-	-/-	1/2	-/1
Cornwall	-/1	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	5/6	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Cumbria	1/2	5/-	-/-	5/40	3/3	21/67	-/-	-/1	-/-	1/-	1/-
Derbyshire	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/6	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Devon	3/7	5/-	-/-	-/2	-/-	10/10	3/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-
Dorset	2/8	2/1	-/-	-/2	-/4	8/14	-/-	-/2	-/-	2/-	-/-
Down	-/-	3/-	-/-	2/-	-/-	4/7	2/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Dumfries	3/1	-/-	-/-	4/11	7/1	11/23	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/1	-/-
Durham	4/-	1/-	-/-	1/-	2/1	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	-/-
Dyfed	1/8	-/-	2/-	-/-	-/-	7/7	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-
E Ulster	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Essex	8/4	5/-	2/-	2/5	3/-	5/8	17/-	-/-	-/-	7/-	1/-
Fair Isle	3/6	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	1/-	-/5	-/-	-/1	-/-	1/-
Fife	4/-	4/-	-/-	20/17	-/-	4/9	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/4	-/-
Glamorgan	5/7	2/-	-/-	3/2	-/-	16/6	-/-	-/-	-/-	3/5	-/-
Gloucestershire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/7	-/-	-/-	-/1	1/1	-/-
Gtr London	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-
Gtr Manchester	4/-	6/-	-/-	23/-	7/-	9/2	-/-	-/-	1/-	3/-	-/-
Grampian	14/3	-/-	-/-	3/7	-/-	2/22	-/-	-/-	-/-	6/9	-/-
Gwent	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	16/23	-/-	-/-	1/-	1/-	-/-
Gwynedd	10/8	5/2	-/-	5/3	-/-	120/67	-/3	-/-	2/1	7/6	-/-
Hampshire	3/1	1/-	2/1	3/1	1/2	18/21	6/-	-/-	-/-	8/2	-/-
Hereford & Worcs	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Hertfordshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-
Highland	6/1	2/1	-/-	23/44	-/-	11/17	-/2	-/4	-/-	7/11	-/-
Humber-side	20/7	8/3	1/1	8/5	-/-	6/56	25/-	1/2	-/1	5/3	-/1
Isle of Man	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Kent	9/1	-/-	1/-	1/2	15/2	5/43	8/-	-/1	1/1	3/2	1/-
Lancashire	4/3	9/-	-/-	57/39	5/2	37/13	7/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	1/-
Leicestershire	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/2	2/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Lincolnshire	511/20	27/1	88/-	138/5	10/-	171/5	8/-	73/-	83/2	188/1	31/-
Londonderry	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-
Lothian	2/1	1/-	-/-	5/2	-/-	4/2	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/1	-/-
Merseyside	3/-	1/-	-/-	19/10	9/-	36/11	3/-	1/-	-/-	2/1	-/1
N Yorkshire	7/-	3/-	1/-	5/1	2/-	15/1	1/1	1/-	-/4	5/4	-/-
Norfolk	733/12	119/1	184/-	307/-	104/-	360/4	31/-	42/-	116/-	442/1	179/-
Northampton	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Northumberland	8/-	6/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/5	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/1	-/-
Nottingham	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/2	-/-
Orkney	7/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	5/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-
Powys	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
S Yorkshire	-/-	4/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Shetland	29/9	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/2	-/3	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Shropshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/2	-/-	-/-
Somerset	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	42/7	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Staffordshire	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Strathclyde	1/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	3/4	1/3	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-
Suffolk	29/11	5/-	1/-	7/1	-/-	19/38	19/-	3/-	1/-	12/6	1/-
Surrey	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Sussex	3/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	-/-	1/2	3/1	-/-	2/-	-/-	-/-
Tayside	3/3	-/-	1/-	2/5	1/-	-/2	-/-	-/-	-/-	8/7	-/-
Tyne & Wear	1/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	1/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Western Isles	1/-	1/-	-/-	1/1	1/-	2/12	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/3	-/1
W Yorkshire	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Warwickshire	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	2/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
West Midlands	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-
Grand Total	1460/136	237/12	285/4	712/261	205/29	1059/648	159/-	121/14	209/15	744/86	219/5

Oystercatchers
(Elis Simpson)



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	Common S'piper	Green S'piper	Green- shank	Wood S'piper
Antrim	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Avon	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Bedfordshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Borders	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Buckinghamshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Cambridgeshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	2/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Central	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Cheshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Cleveland	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Clwyd	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Cornwall	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	1/-	-/-	-1	-/-	-/-
Cumbria	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Derbyshire	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Devon	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Dorset	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Down	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Dumfries	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Durham	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Dyfed	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
E Ulster	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Essex	-/-	-/-	-/-	-1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-1	-/-	-/-	-/-
Fair Isle	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Fife	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Glamorgan	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Gloucestershire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Gtr London	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Gtr Manchester	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Grampian	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Gwent	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Gwynedd	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Hampshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-1	-/-
Hereford & Worcs	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Hertfordshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Highland	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Humberside	-1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Isle of Man	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Kent	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Lancashire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Leicestershire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Lincolnshire	1/-	1/-	6/1	4/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	4/-	1/-	2/-	-1
Londonderry	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Lothian	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Merseyside	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
N Yorkshire	-/-	-/-	-1	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Norfolk	1/1	-/-	7/1	1/-	1/-	2/-	6/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Northampton	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Northumberland	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Nottingham	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Orkney	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Powys	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
S Yorkshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Shetland	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-2	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Shropshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Somerset	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Staffordshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Strathclyde	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Suffolk	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Surrey	-1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Sussex	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Tayside	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Tyne & Wear	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Western Isles	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
W Yorkshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Warwickshire	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
West Midlands	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Grand Total	4/3	1/-	13/3	5/1	1/-	6/-	13/-	1/2	5/1	1/1	3/1	-/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/-
Benin	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Canada	-/-	-/-	-/-	9/2	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/3
Channel Islands	2/-	2/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	4/8	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Denmark	24/1	1/-	12/-	30/-	1/1	52/60	1/-	4/-	8/1	2/-	2/-
English Channel	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/10	1/-	1/2	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Faroe Islands	33/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
Finland	2/-	-/1	1/-	-/-	1/-	86/116	-/-	1/-	39/41	1/-	5/8
France	160/-	38/-	17/2	47/8	17/-	106/39	25/4	4/1	8/-	43/-	7/1
Gabon	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Gambia	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-
Germany	20/3	1/3	3/2	66/42	2/-	64/93	1/-	15/9	3/4	-/2	2/2
Ghana	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/-
Greece	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-
Greenland	1/-	-/1	-/-	73/-	-/1	-/2	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	4/-
Guinea	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	1/-
Guinea Bissau	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	2/-
Hungary	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Iceland	9/-	-/-	-/-	106/41	4/2	-/-	34/4	-/-	-/-	32/10	7/1
Italy	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/1	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Lithuania	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Liberia	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-
Mali	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Mauritania	-/-	-/-	-/-	3/-	1/3	11/15	-/-	3/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Morocco	2/-	1/-	3/-	1/-	12/-	22/15	1/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	3/-
Netherlands	193/22	8/2	1/1	77/26	2/2	31/18	13/-	11/5	5/5	4/4	4/1
North Atlantic	-/-	-/-	1/-	1/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
North Sea	12/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	-/-	3/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	2/-	-/-
Norway	789/123	3/3	-/-	41/102	1/11	9/323	-/-	1/7	2/2	-/-	2/12
Poland	-/-	-/-	1/1	3/7	1/-	54/72	-/-	-/2	-/-	-/-	-/1
Portugal	-/-	-/1	1/-	1/1	4/-	59/19	2/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	1/-
Rep. of Ireland	2/-	23/-	-/-	2/-	-/-	20/20	6/-	-/-	2/-	1/-	-/-
Senegal	-/-	1/-	-/-	4/-	3/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-
South Africa	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/1	2/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Spain	1/-	3/-	1/-	2/-	5/-	42/15	2/-	1/1	-/-	3/-	1/-
Sweden	9/1	-/1	-/-	1/6	-/-	251/359	-/-	-/-	11/12	-/-	-/2
Switzerland	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Tunisia	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Western Sahara	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Former USSR	8/-	1/-	3/-	1/-	2/-	9/38	-/-	14/1	6/-	-/-	1/-
Grand Total	1272/152	84/12	44/6	478/247	65/25	841/1227	85/8	56/26	85/71	96/16	51/35



The team processing a catch on Snettisham Beach (David Hodgkinson).

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

County	Little R Plover	Golden Plover	Lapwing	Curlew S'piper	Purple S'piper	L Stint	Ruff	Snipe	Whimbrel	Common S'piper	Green S'piper	Spotted R'shank	Green- shank	Wood S'piper
Algeria	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Arctic Ocean	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Austria	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Belgium	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Benin	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Canada	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Channel Islands	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Denmark	-/-	1/-	1/10	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-
English	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Faroe Islands	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Finland	-/-	-/-	-/2	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
France	-/-	1/-	9/-	4/-	-/-	-/-	3/-	9/-	3/-	4/-	2/-	-/-	2/-	3/-
Gabon	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Gambia	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Germany	-/-	-/-	-/3	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Ghana	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Greece	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Greenland	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Guinea	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Guinea Bissau	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Hungary	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Iceland	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Italy	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	5/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-
Lithuania	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Liberia	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Mali	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Mauritania	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Morocco	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	1/-	-/-
Netherlands	-/-	2/3	1/7	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/3	-/2	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/2	2/1	-/-
North Atlantic	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
North Sea	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Norway	-/-	1/-	-/1	1/1	-/-	-/5	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Poland	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Portugal	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	4/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Rep. of Ireland	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	3/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Senegal	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
South Africa	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Spain	1/-	-/-	3/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	2/-	5/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Sweden	-/-	-/-	-/2	-/1	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Switzerland	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Tunisia	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Western Sahara	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Former USSR	-/-	-/-	3/1	-/-	-/-	-/-	1/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-	-/-
Grand Total	1/1	5/4	18/28	7/2	-/1	-/5	19/3	24/4	3/-	7/-	2/-	3/2	6/1	3/-

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, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage), The National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland) and the ringers themselves.

Jacque Clark & Rob Robinson



The team processing a mist-netting catch at the White Barn by Terrington Marsh (Luke Eberhart-Phillips).

NOTABLE RECOVERIES

Below is a selection of the more notable recoveries (reports of ringed birds) received in 2012 and 2013. Details of each recovery are given, with a brief explanation of its importance. Also included are recovery maps showing recoveries outside Britain & Ireland during 1909-2013 for selected species. The maps shown here can be compared to those for birds ringed throughout Britain and Ireland available on the BTO website (www.bto.org/ringing-report and go to the **Recovery Summaries by Species** section). The following codes are used for recoveries.

Ringing Scheme

Only given if not BTO

BLB	Belgium, Bruxelles
DKC	Denmark, Copenhagen
FRP	France, Paris
HES	Switzerland, Sempach
ISR	Iceland, Reykjavik
NOS	Norway, Stavanger
PLG	Poland, Gdansk
POL	Portugal, Lisbon
SFH	Finland, Helsinki

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

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

OYSTERCATCHER

FV04446	5	12.08.75	Friskney				
= FA69466	R	14.12.96	Butterwick				
	XF	08.08.12	NORWAY Oygarden, Hordaland	60 40'N	04 50'E	890 KM	NNE

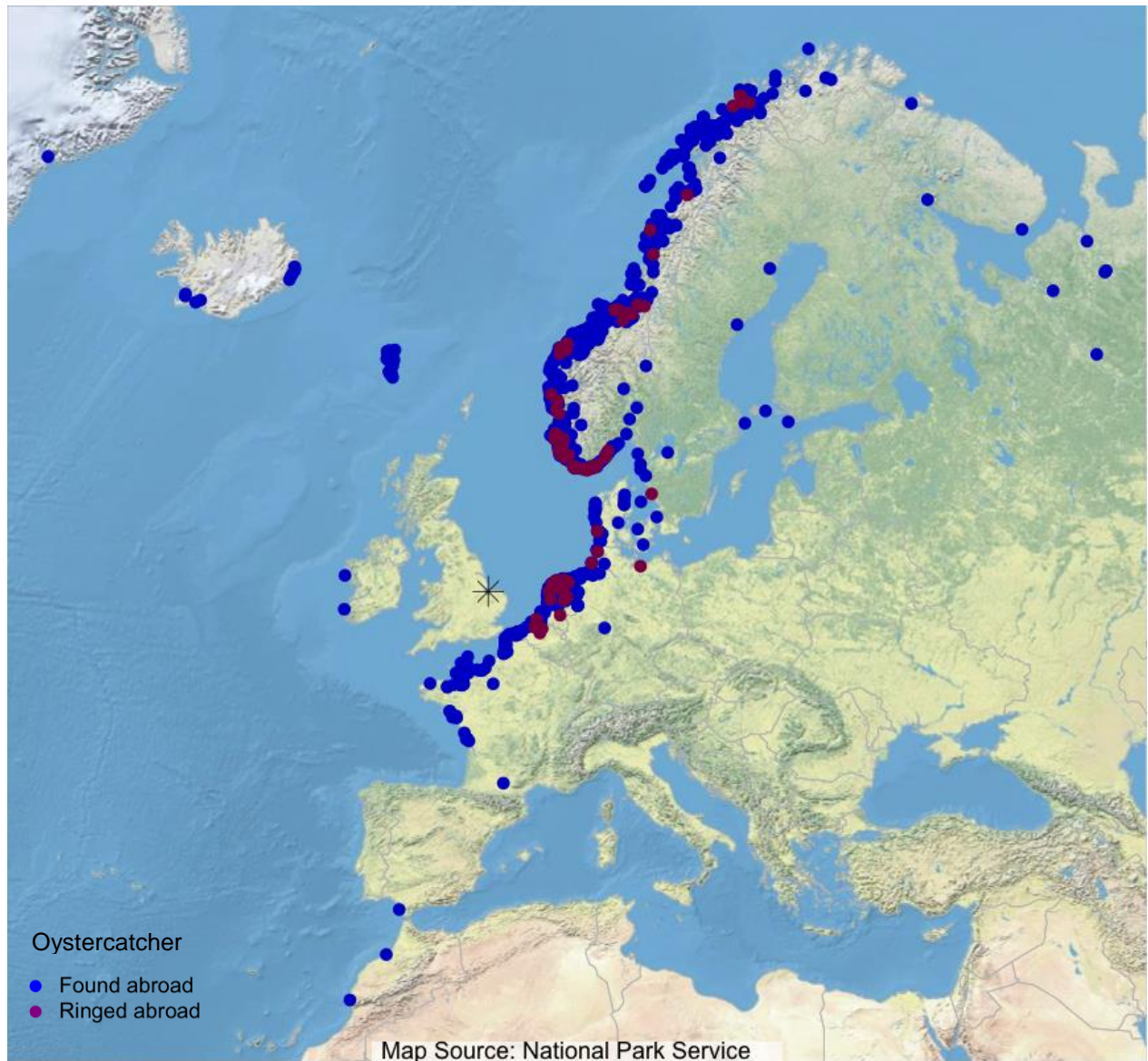
Many of the Oystercatchers wintering on the Wash come from the Norwegian breeding population – this being from a typical recovery location in southern Norway. At just short of 37 years since being ringed, this is the oldest bird to be recovered in the past couple of years. The national longevity record (also a Wash-ringed bird) remains at 40 years 1 month.

FP99019	8	18.10.08	Snettisham				
	XF	25.06.13	NORWAY Indre A, Anstad, Troms	68 50' N	17' 10 E	1,980 KM	NNE

Whilst most come from southern Norway, some venture much further north to breed – this is the northernmost example in 2012-13.

However, not all Wash Oystercatchers breed in Norway; some, like these, are from the Faeroes.

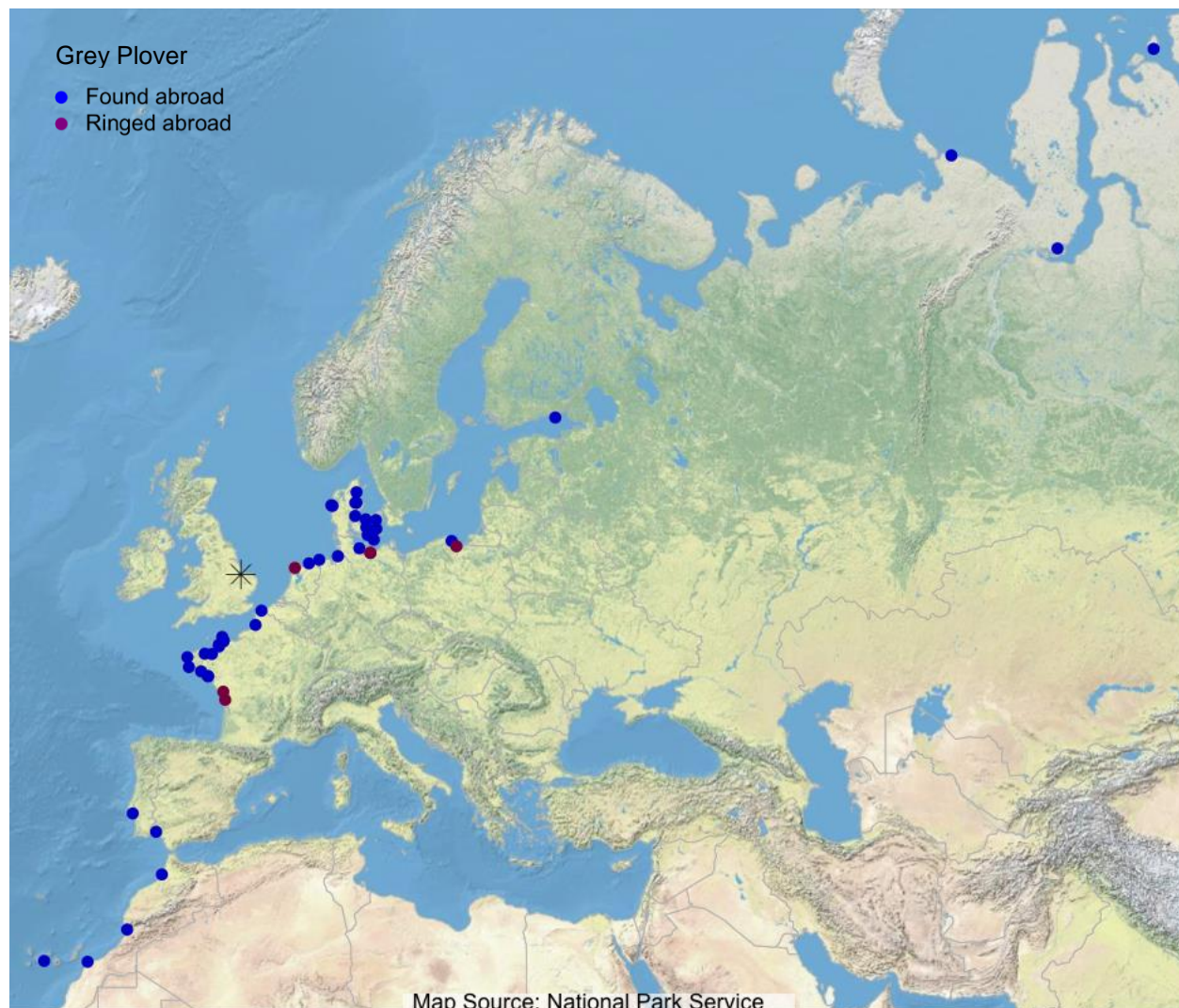
FP32339	8	04.09.04	Wainfleet					
	XF	01.07.12	FAROE ISLANDS Svinair, Eysturoy	62 14' N	07 02'W	1,105 KM	NNW	
FA04368	8	09.09.86	Friskney					
	??	01.01.13	FAROE ISLANDS Famjin, Suduroy	61 31'N	06 52'W	1,032 KM	NNW	



GREY PLOVER

DD15110 5 28.08.07 Leverton
 + 28.12.12 **PORTUGAL** Setubal 38 39'N 09 01'W 1,741 KM SSW

Grey Plover occurring on the Wash come from the Russian breeding population. Some continue their migration south reaching as far as SW Europe and West Africa, however, this is the first report of a British-ringed Grey Plover in Portugal.



KNOT

ISR 6 24.05.11 **ICELAND** Nordur-Thingeyjar 66 28'N 15 55'W 1,759 KM SSE
 779046 R 11.02.12 Snettisham

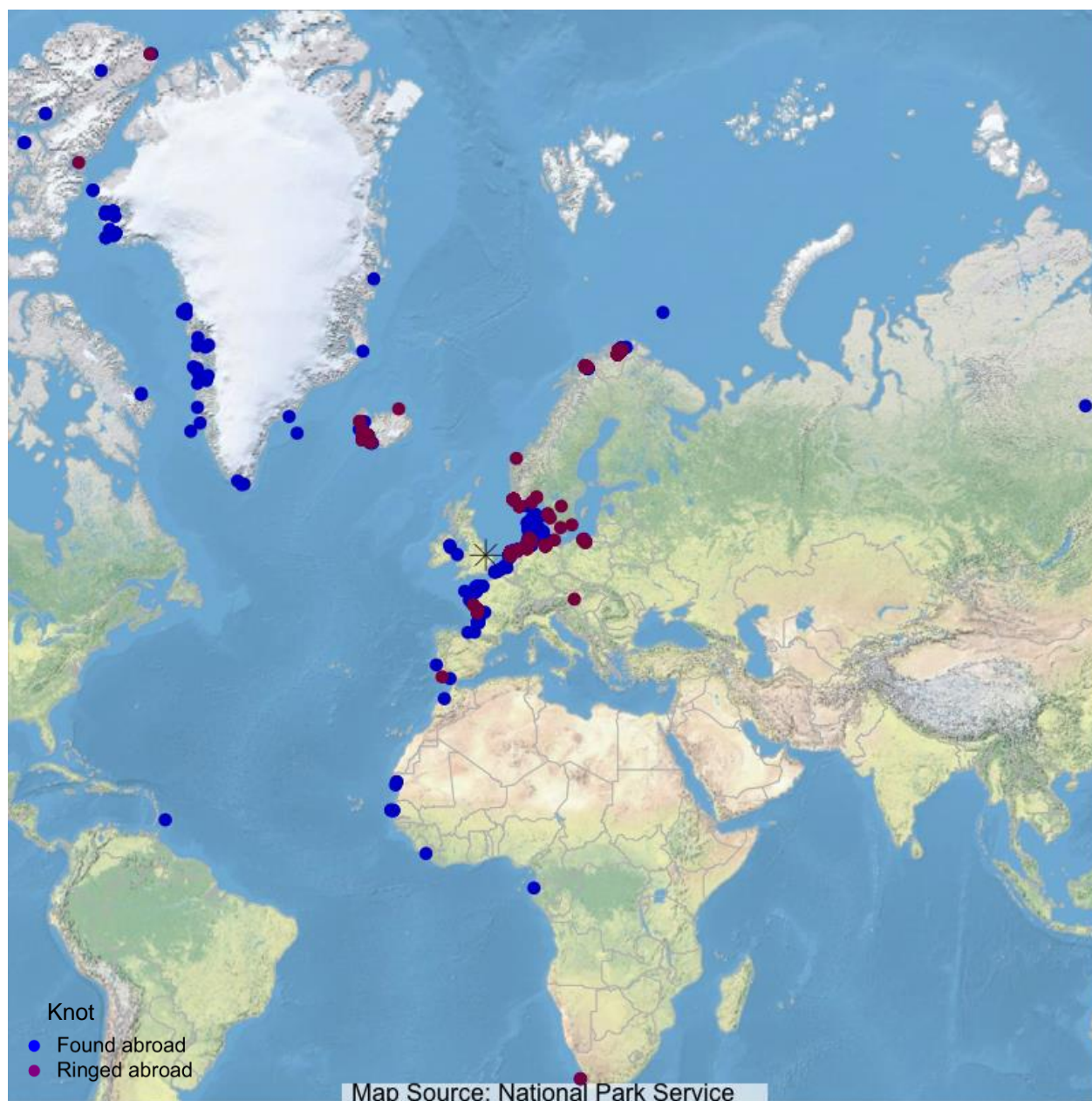
The *islandica* race of Knot occurring in Britain breed in the high Arctic of northern Greenland and NE Canada. They stage their migration, as might be expected given their race name, in Iceland...

NOS	6	19.05.08	NORWAY Porsanger, Finnmark	70 13'N 24 56'E	2,300 KM	SW
7502238	R	11.02.12	Snettisham			
NOS	6	18.05.07	NORWAY Porsanger, Finnmark	70 13'N 24 56'E	2,296 KM	SW
7469884	R	26.07.13	Leverton			
NOS	6	26.05.07	NORWAY Porsanger, Finnmark	70 29'N 25 03'E	2,320 KM	SW
7506236	R	26.07.13	Leverton			

...or, via northern Norway – which is, in fact, the shortest route for this migration. Note that these birds were still on passage towards the end of May, and yet they complete their breeding and return to the Wash within two months.

POL	4	31.08.12	PORTUGAL Quinta de Marim, Faro	37 02'N 07 50'W	1,880 KM	NNE
G20845	R	26.07.13	Leverton			

Some of the Knot occurring on the Wash in the autumn are from the nominate *canutus* race which breed in northern Russia. These birds continue south to winter in West Africa staging via other southwest European estuaries. This is the first Portuguese-ringed Knot to be reported in Britain, although two BTO-ringed birds have been reported there. Note that this individual had reached southern Portugal, on its southward migration, by the end of August.



SANDERLING

BLB	3	17.11.04	SENEGAL Akoule (Palmarin)	14 00'N 16 45'W 2,448 KM NNE
99V5099	R	01.08.11	Heacham	

Sanderling breeding in NE Greenland pass through the Wash, migrating southwards as far as South Africa. This is the first Sanderling ringed in Senegal to be reported in Britain, however, more intensive ringing efforts have been made in neighbouring Mauritania...

FRP	2	16.03.10	MAURITANIA Iwik, Banc d'Arguin	19 53'N 16 17'W 3,944 KM NNE
SE13200	R	03.08.12	Snettisham	

BT03096	4	03.08.07	Snettisham	19 53'N 16 17'W 3,944 KM NNE
	R	10.12.12	MAURITANIA Iwik, Banc d'Arguin	

... and the first bird above is the 13th Mauritanian-ringed individual to be reported in Britain, whilst the second is the 6th BTO-ringed bird to be reported there.

NT36300	5	03.02.02	Heacham	66 18'N 16 27'W 1,757 KM NNW
	X	28.05.12	ICELAND Nordur-Thingeyjar	

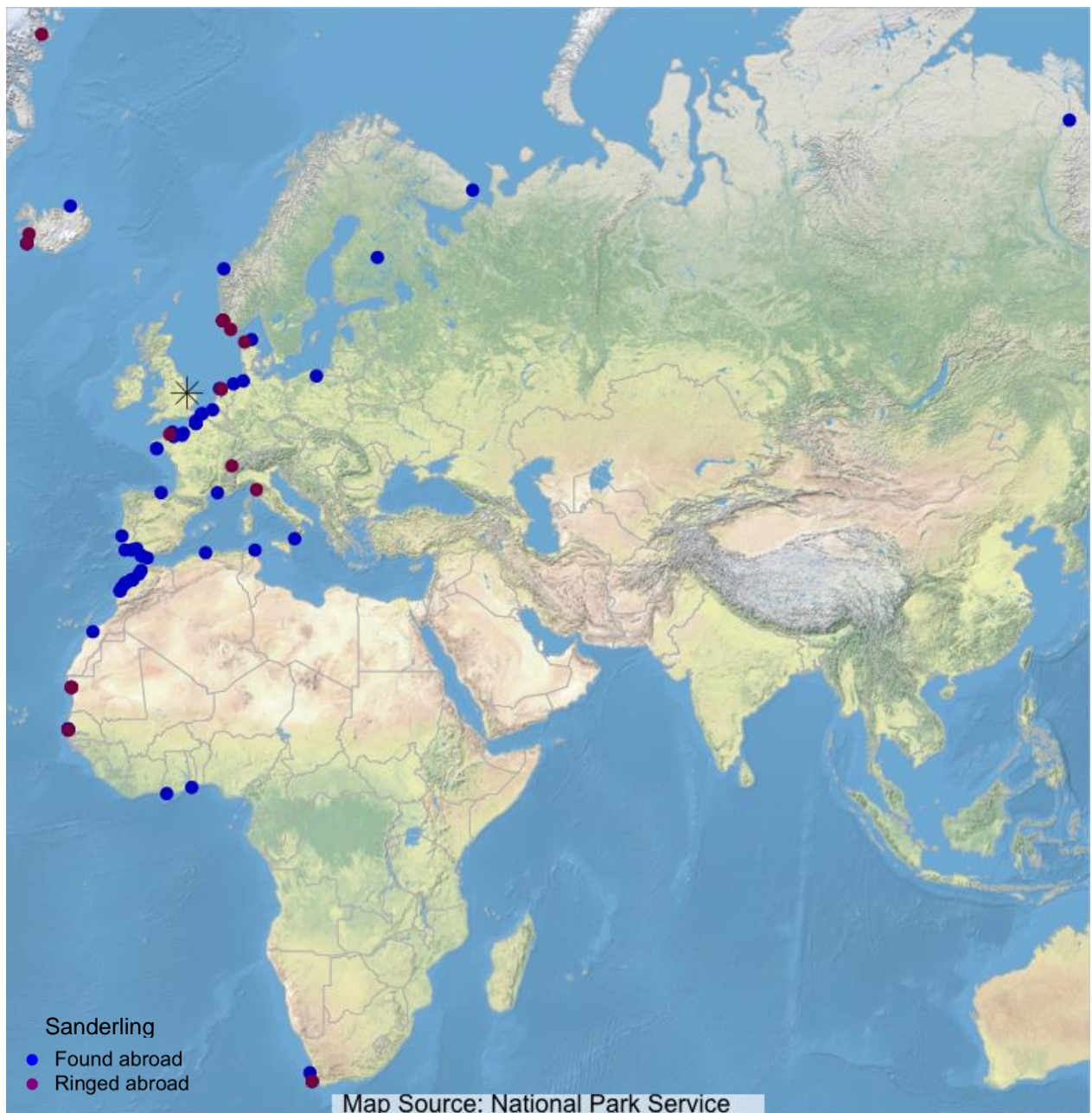
Only the fourth Wash-ringed Sanderling to be reported in Iceland. This bird will have been *en route* to breeding grounds in Greenland.

HES	3	14.09.11	SWITZERLAND Col de Bretolet	46 08'N 06 47'E 878 KM NNW
N470271	R	03.08.12	Snettisham	

Inland passage of Sanderling during their long-distance migration has been documented previously, but this particular control is unprecedented, having been ringed at Col de Bretolet Ringing Station high in the Swiss Alps! During foggy conditions a group of 40 birds were seen migrating over the Alps, with two of them coming low enough for the mist nets set for migrating passerines. These birds represent the highest altitudinal record for this species in Switzerland, and probably the highest Sanderling ever ringed, at 1,925m above sea level. Needless to say, this individual is the first Swiss-ringed Sanderling to be reported in Britain!



Icelandic colour-marked Knot (Samantha Franks).



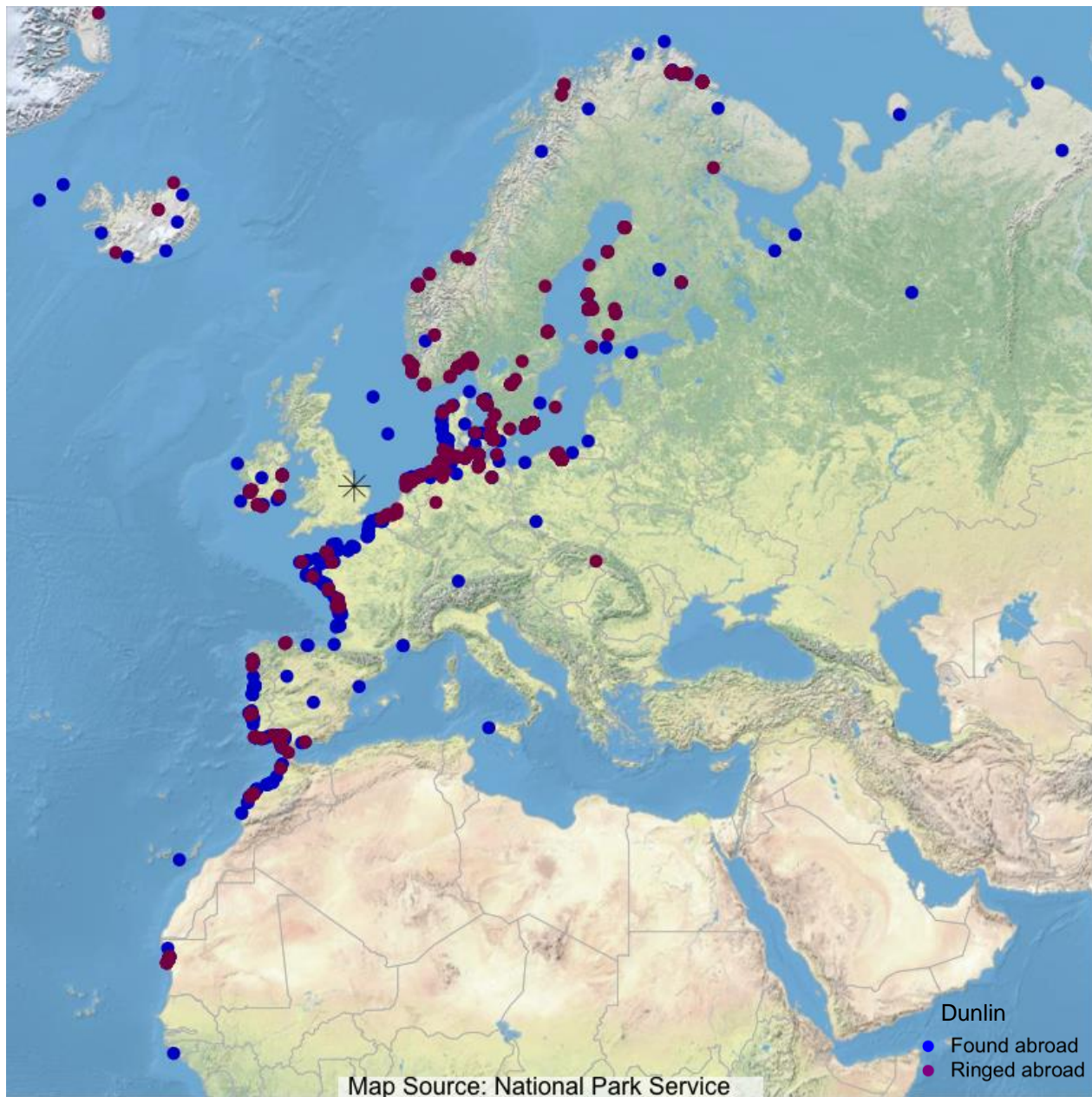
DUNLIN

BT40894	6	30.03.13	Terrington	57 18'N 11 54'E	890 KM	ENE
	R	19.05.13	SWEDEN Nidingen, Halland			

A fairly typical Dunlin recovery to Sweden during spring passage, caught there just seven weeks after being ringed on The Wash.

NT53183	4	02.08.04	Terrington Bund	38 43'N 09 02'W	1,723 KM	SSW
	R	18.08.12	PORTUGAL Setubal			
BT03974	4	03.08.07	Snettisham	38 43'N 09 02'W	1,735 KM	SSW
	R	18.08.12	PORTUGAL Setubal			
BT26541	6	03.08.12	Snettisham	38 43'N 09 02'W	1,735 KM	SSW
	R	18.08.12	PORTUGAL Setubal			
BT26071	6	03.08.12	Snettisham	38 43'N 09 02'W	1,735 KM	SSW
	R	19.08.12	PORTUGAL Setubal			
NT87448	5	15.07.06	Terrington	38 43'N 09 02'W	1,723 KM	SSW
	R	15.09.12	PORTUGAL Setubal			
NT88726	4	10.09.10	Heacham	38 43'N 09 02'W	1,739 KM	SSW
	R	08.11.12	PORTUGAL Setubal			

The importance to our wader populations of other estuaries in southwest Europe cannot be overstated, with no fewer than six Wash-ringed birds being caught at this reserve, situated in the mouth of the River Tagus, during the autumn and early winter of 2012. Note the rapid movement of BT26541 and BT26071, arriving in Portugal within 15 and 16 days respectively of being ringed at Snettisham.

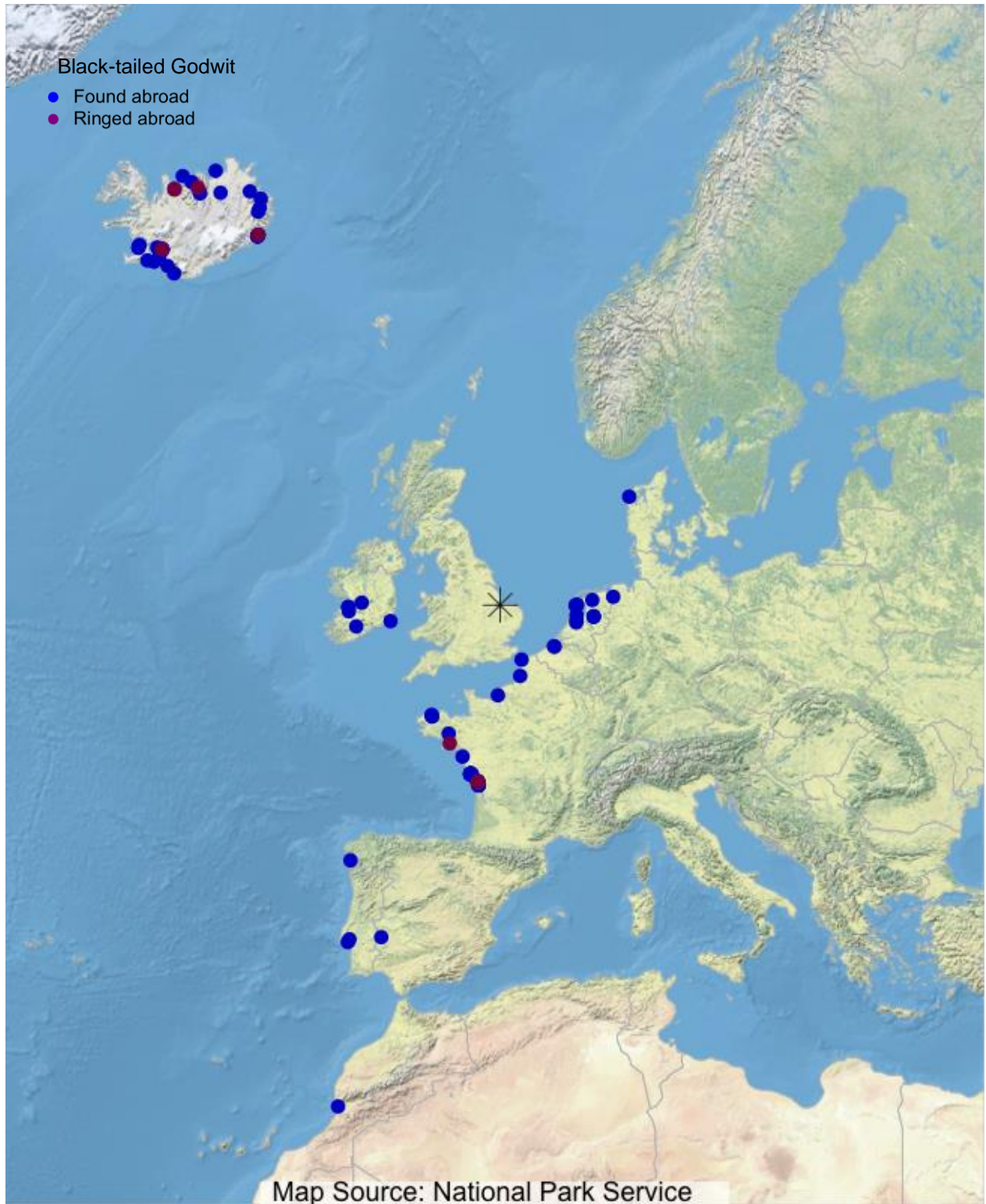


BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

EL09423 5 14.01.12 Terrington
 X 21.05.13 **ICELAND** Skagafjarðarsýsla

65 45'N 19 39'W 1,822 KM NW

Colour-ringing has shown that the Black-tailed Godwit using the Wash originate from the Icelandic breeding grounds; this, the only Icelandic recovery noted during 2012-13, is a typical example.



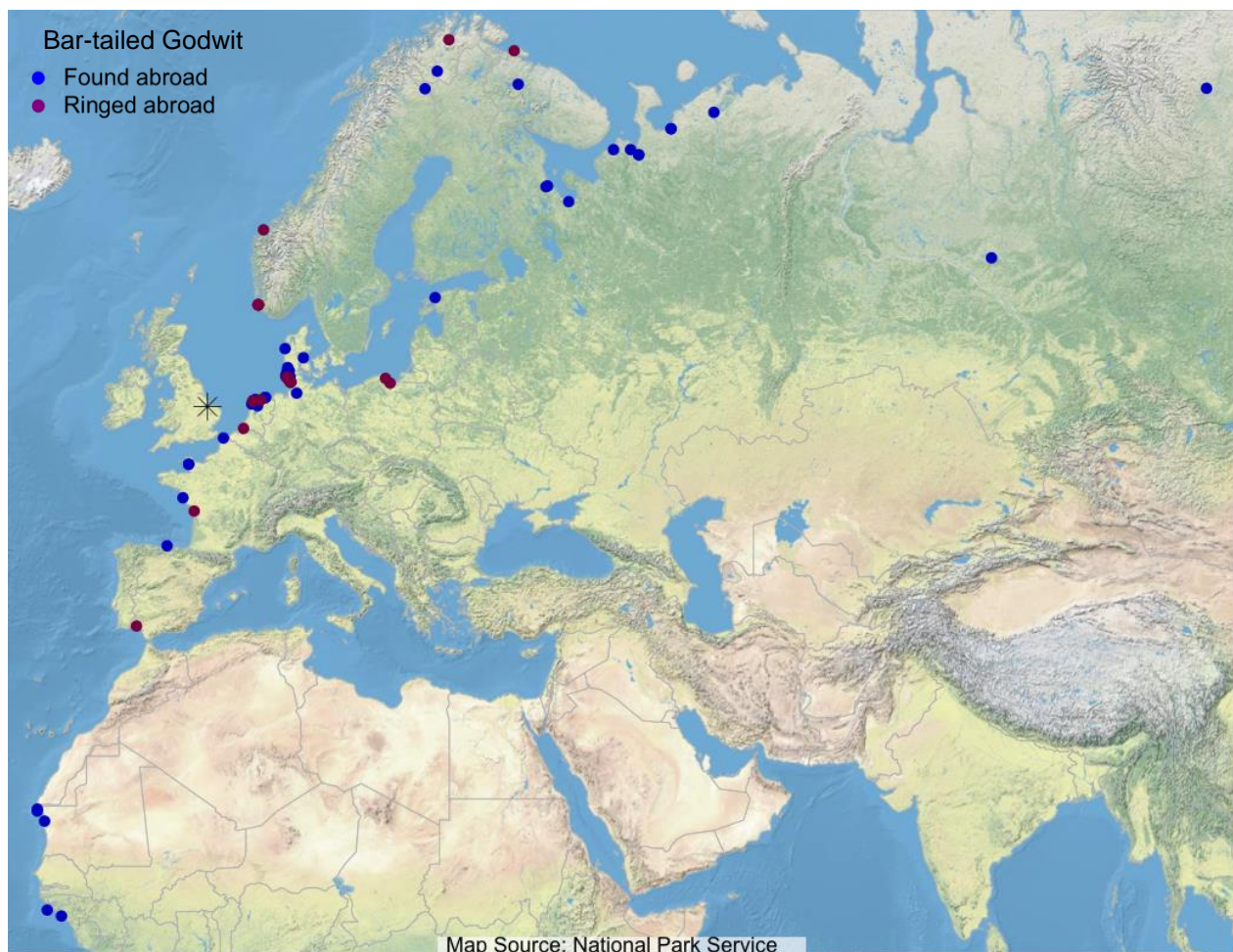
BAR-TAILED GODWIT

DD98029	6	23.08.09	Terrington	59 08'N 23 32'E	1,603 KM	ENE
	VV	21.08.12	ESTONIA Haversi, Laanemaa			
PLG	3	10.09.12	POLAND Swibino, Pomorskie,	54 21'N 18 57'E	1,247 KM	W
GN26852	R	26.07.13	Leverton			

Bar-tailed Godwit occurring on the Wash are mostly of the nominate *lapponica* race which breed from northern Scandinavia eastwards across western Siberia to the Taimyr Peninsula. Although migration takes place across the Baltic, there are few controls and recoveries to document this: DD98029 is only the second BTO-ringed Bar-tailed Godwit to be reported in Estonia, whilst GN26852 is only the second Polish-ringed Barwit to be reported in Britain.

DD73003	6	25.08.09	Leverton	67 33'N 51 57'E	3,232 KM	ENE
	+	19.05.13	RUSSIA Khongurey, Nenets A.O.			

Whilst recoveries of Bar-tailed Godwit to Russia are not particularly unusual – this being the 13th Wash-ringed example – most involve birds reaching Murmansk or the shores of the White Sea. This individual travelled further east and is our eastern-most recovery since 1994.

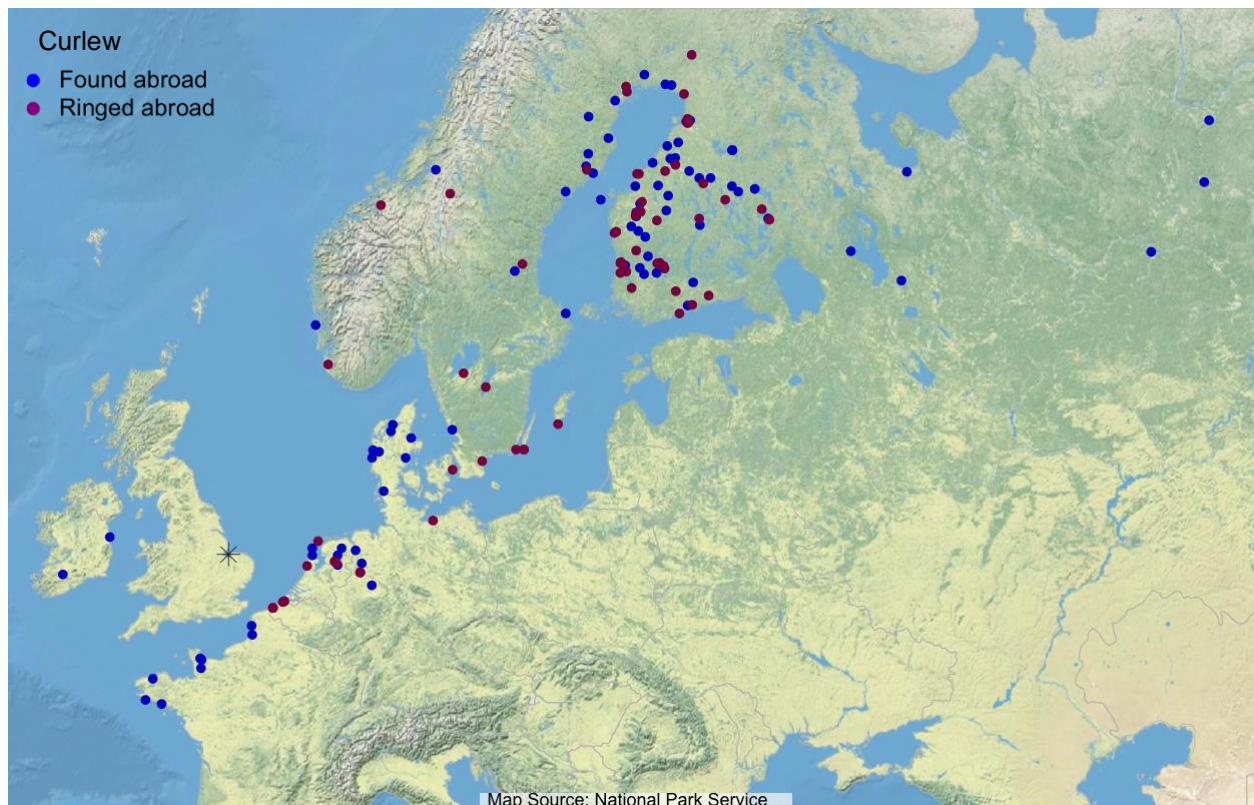


CURLEW

SFH 1 23.06.91 **FINLAND** Nivala, Oulu
 CT078056 R 04.08.12 Leverton

63 58'N 24 45'E 1,868 KM SW

The majority of overseas controls involving Curlew are records from the main breeding grounds in Finland; this bird, ringed as a nestling, is a typical example – and still going strong 21 years after being ringed.

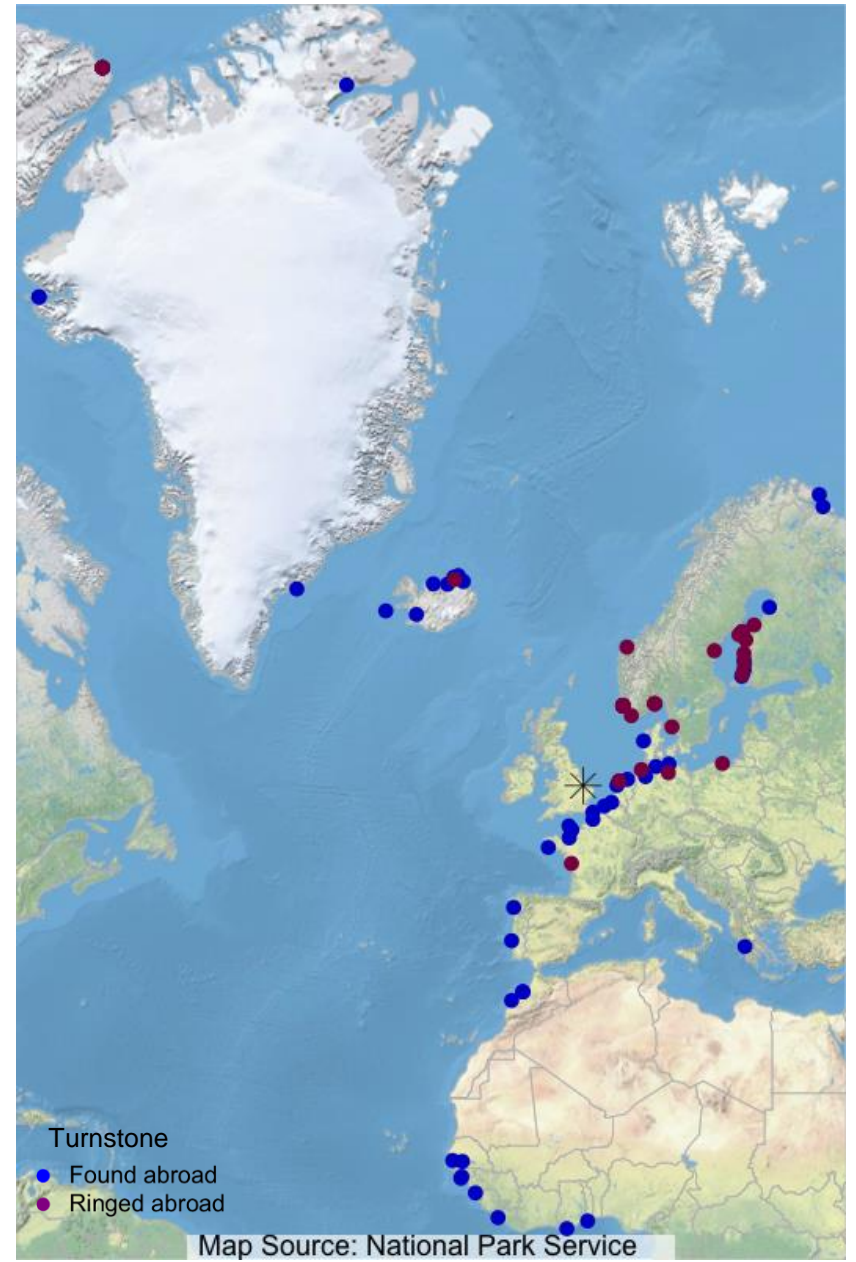
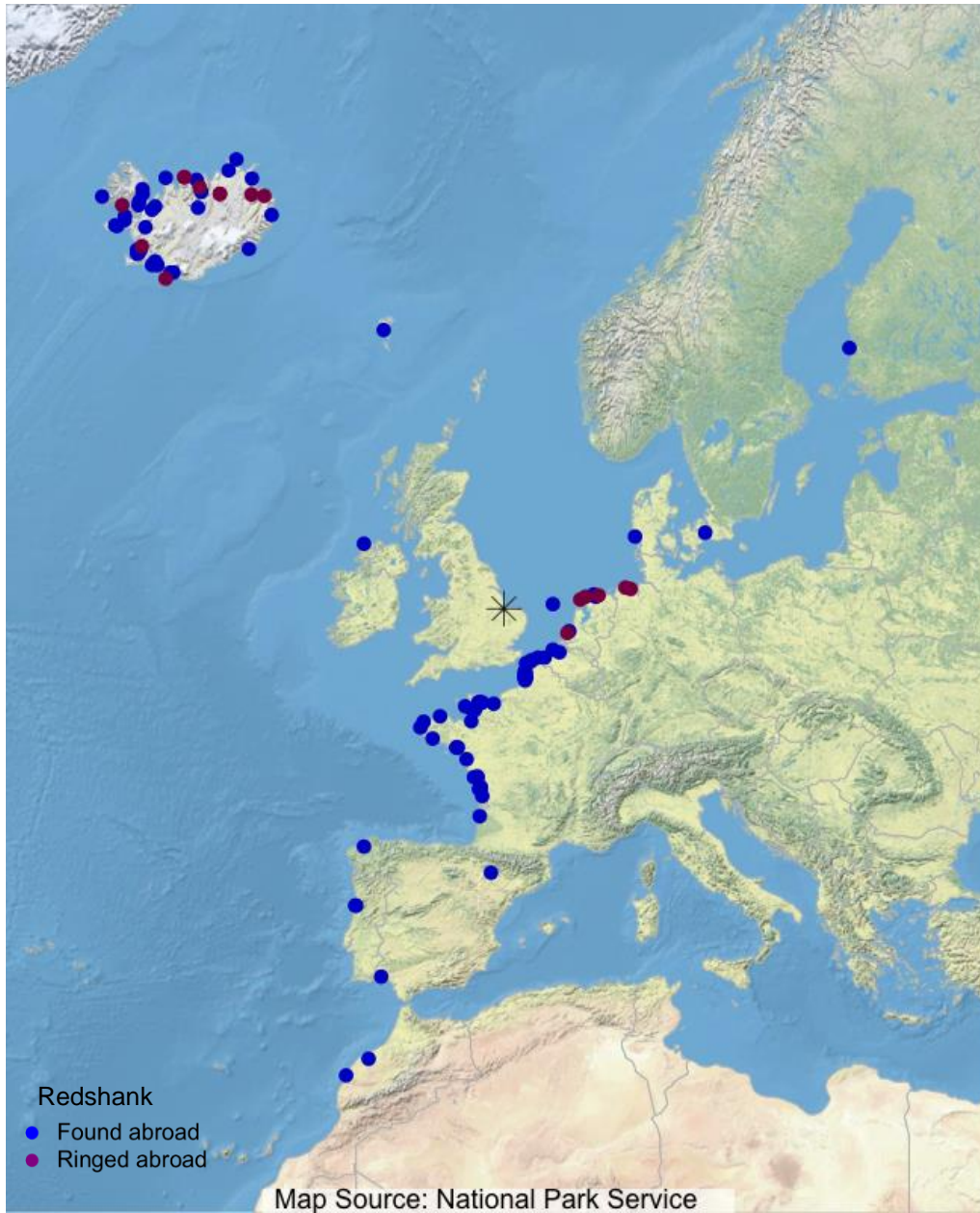


REDSHANK

DD98271 3 20.09.09 Terrington
 ? ???.?.12 **ICELAND** Hrisey, Eyjafjordur

66 00'N 18 23'W 1799 KM NW

It has long been established that Icelandic Redshank winter in Britain, and this is the 32nd Wash-ringed individual to be reported in Iceland (finding date and circumstances unknown) – although it is the first such report we've had since 2009.



LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

GN72443	1	29.06.03	Outer Bund	37 11'N 07 27'W	1,839 KM	SSW
	RR	14.10.12	PORTUGAL Monte Gordo, Faro			
GR72388	1	06.07.13	Outer Bund	37 04'N 08 06'W	1,869 KM	SSW
	VV	03.11.13	PORTUGAL Quarteira, Faro			
	VV	05.11.13	PORTUGAL Quarteira, Faro			
GN89732	1	27.06.04	Outer Bund	37 04'N 08 06'W	1,869 KM	SSW
	VV	17.12.13	PORTUGAL Quarteira, Faro			

As with similar examples from previous years, these birds demonstrate typical southward movements for Lesser Black-backed Gulls in winter.

HERRING GULL

GC99523	1	03.07.11	Outer Bund			
	R+colour rings	29.10.11	Blackborough End, King's Lynn, Norfolk		22 KM	SE
	VV	19.11.11	Wangford Landfill Site, Suffolk		109 KM	ESE
	VV	24.11.11	Blythburgh, Suffolk		109 KM	ESE
	VV	29.12.11	FRANCE Blaringhem, Nord	50 41'N 02 24'E	149 KM	SSE
	VV	12.01.12	FRANCE Blaringhem, Nord	50 41'N 02 24'E	149 KM	SSE
	VV	16.01.13	Middlemarsh Landfill Site, near Skegness, Lincolnshire		34 KM	N

Having had colour rings added when controlled near King's Lynn during its first autumn, the wanderings of this bird down into France through into the winter were nicely documented; during its second winter it had returned back closer to 'home'.



Grey waders, gulls and Oystercatchers on Snettisham (Elis Simpson).

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* (also in the online ringing reports). 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		
<i>Oystercatcher</i>	<i>SS58540</i>	<i>40yr</i>	<i>1m</i>	<i>SS58540</i>	<i>40yr</i>	<i>1m</i>
<i>Ringed Plover</i>	<i>BV85945</i>	<i>19yr</i>	<i>8m</i>	<i>BV85945</i>	<i>19yr</i>	<i>8m</i>
Golden Plover	2072773	12yr	0m	DN77939	6yr	5m
<i>Grey Plover</i>	<i>DR33258</i>	<i>25yr</i>	<i>1m</i>	<i>DR33258</i>	<i>25yr</i>	<i>1m</i>
Lapwing	DS30355	21yr	1m			
Knot	CE25745	27yr	3m	CK68568	24yr	0m
<i>Sanderling</i>	<i>BB52147</i>	<i>17yr</i>	<i>7m</i>	<i>BB52147</i>	<i>17yr</i>	<i>7m</i>
Little Stint	KR8--	3yr	11m			
Curlew Sandpiper	BV70618	14yr	10m			
Purple Sandpiper	CV58657	13yr	11m	BV89291	11yr	11m
Dunlin	NS64038	19yr	3m	NR32469	18yr	11m
Ruff	CC91720	9yr	0m	CE33211	6yr	7m
Snipe	XC34292	16yr	0m			
Black-tailed Godwit	EF90838 (previously controlled by WWRG)	23yr	5m			
<i>Bar-tailed Godwit</i>	<i>DS66917</i>	<i>33yr</i>	<i>11m</i>	<i>DS66917</i>	<i>33yr</i>	<i>11m</i>
Whimbrel	EK92102	24yr	1m			
Curlew	FS40887	31yr	5m	FV43050	27yr	9m
Common Sandpiper	NV54164	14yr	0m			
<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	<i>DR28508</i>	<i>7yr</i>	<i>5m</i>	<i>DR28508</i>	<i>7yr</i>	<i>5m</i>
Greenshank	DR70162	16yr	0m	DR96000	5yr	11m
Redshank	DR74213	20yr	1m	P10010 DN20546	17yr 17yr	0m 0m
Turnstone	XS24645	22yr	3m	CC88754	19yr	2m

Controlled = recaptured 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

Species	Ring no	Ringing information			Finding information		
		Age	Place	Date	Circs	Place	Date
<i>Oystercatcher</i>	SS58540	<i>Nestling</i>	<i>Friskney</i>	14/06/70	<i>Controlled</i>	<i>Wrangle</i>	16/07/10
<i>Ringed Plover</i>	BV85945	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Heacham</i>	31/08/80	<i>Controlled</i>	<i>Snettisham</i>	20/05/00
Golden Plover	DN77939	Adult	Terrington	24/07/97	Shot	Sutton Bridge	14/12/03
<i>Grey Plover</i>	DR33258	<i>2nd Summer</i>	<i>Terrington</i>	13/07/79	<i>Controlled</i>	<i>Terrington</i>	31/08/04
Knot	CK68568	Adult	N. Wootton	27/08/68	Controlled	Friskney	01/09/92
<i>Sanderling</i>	BB52147	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Snettisham</i>	18/07/70	<i>Controlled</i>	<i>Heacham</i>	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	1 st Winter	Wolferton	22/08/78	Controlled	Senegal	20/02/85
<i>Bar-tailed Godwit</i>	DB66917	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Wolferton</i>	22/08/78	<i>Controlled</i>	<i>Terrington</i>	04/08/08
Curlew	FV43050	Adult	Terrington	01/08/77	Dead	Finland	17/05/05
<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	DR28508	<i>2nd Summer</i>	<i>Terrington</i>	27/07/75	<i>Dead</i>	<i>Morocco</i>	12/01/83
Greenshank	DR96000	Adult	Wolferton	22/08/82	Controlled	Denmark	10/08/88
Redshank	P10010	Adult	Terrington	18/08/59	Controlled	Terrington	27/08/76
	DN20546	Adult	Terrington	11/08/87	Controlled	Terrington	29/08/04
Turnstone	CC88754	Adult	Terrington	28/08/72	Controlled	Heacham	22/11/91

Steve Wakeham

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Darrell Abernethy	Ruth Croger	Dave King	Kevin Sayer
Rebecca Ackroyd	Daria Dadam	Ray Knock	John Scoggins
John Allcock	Jeff Davey	Becky Laidlaw	Emily Scragg
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Guy Anderson	Carole Davis	Don Langford	Chris Sharp
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Martin Anstee	Geert de Smet	Langston	Humphrey Sitters
Graham Appleton	Mia Derhe	Jo Lashwood	Adrian Slater
Mike Archer	Ian Dillon	Ian Lees	Jen & Mark Smart
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Sean Ashton	Stuart Downhill	Roderick Leslie	Keith Stedman
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Sharon Atkinson	Richard du Feu	Julian Limentani	Alexander Stewart
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Christopher Bridge	George Gregory	Stephen Palmer	Justin Walker
David & Wendy Brooks	Carol Greig	Alex Parker	Ruth Walker
Dave Brothers	Neil Hagley	Andrew Parkes	Jenny Wallace
David Brown	Steve Hales	Robert Pell	Robin Ward
Matthew Bruce	Clive Harding	Tim Perkins	Helen Ward
Birgitta Buche	Joe Hardman	Danielle Peruffo	Hannah Ward
Simon Buckell	John Hawes	Scott Petrek	Rachel Warren
Dave Buckingham	Daniel Hayhow	Kelvin Philpott	Barbara Watkins
Roger & Rebecca	Michael Hodges	Mike & Ann Pienkowski	Mike & Daphne Watson
Buisson	Ron Hodgson	Rob Pineda	Nicholas Watts
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Martin Cooper	Tony & Leigh Kelly	Lucy Ryan	Tony Yeats
Anne Cotton	Ros Kennerley	Cathy Ryden	
Graham Couchman	James Kennerley	Steve Samworth	
Jodie Crane	Martin Ketcher	Aron Sapsford	



From top: Under cover on Terrington Marsh (Cathy Ryden); decorating hides with natural camouflage (Cathy Ryden); setting mist nets on Terrington Marsh (David Hodkinson).

