

GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND AGEING OF HOLARCTIC WADERS.

Since Clive Minton's interim wader ageing guide of 1971 it has been an aim of the Wader Study Group to encourage, help and generally pester various people until a more definite version appears to meet the demand stimulated by the preliminary version. At last, Tony Prater, John Marchant and Juhani Vuorinen have produced the above-named book which has been published as BTO Field Guide No. 17. The word "book" is chosen advisedly as the present work is of a different nature than the early Ageing Guide and is indeed rather more ambitious than previous BTO Guides. The book is strongly bound in a water-resistant thin card cover and includes 168 pages, 32 black-and-white photographs by J. B. & S. Bottomley and 2 colour photographs by Dr. V. Flint, many line drawings and a comprehensive bibliography.

The geographical coverage is wide with coverage of plumage identification, ageing and sexing characters of all 118 species found in Ewasia (except India and S.E.Asia), N. America and N. Africa. Although aimed mainly at ringers with birds in the hand, bird-watchers are not forgotten as many species can be aged in the field, particularly in autumn. It is to be hoped that many will make use of this guide as much valuable information on, for example, annual breeding productivity may thereby result.

The authors point out that much is still being learned about ageing and identification and would welcome further information for incorporation in future editions. It is to be hoped that the authors will take the opportunity of any future editions to incorporate measurement information from live birds, as well as museum skins, for use particularly in racial and sexual identification.

The guide is available from the BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts, HP23 5NR. Price £2.50 or U.S. \$6, including postage and packing.

WADING BIRDS OF THE SEVERN ESTUARY.

Following the recent article by G. H. Green on the work of the Celtic Wader Research Group (WSG Bull.2†), readers may like to note the above-named publication by P. N. Ferns concerning the same general area. This report was commissioned by the Nature Conservancy Council as an initial study following recent proposals concerning tidal-power barrages and other possible developments on the Severn Estuary. In 114 pages with numerous maps, figures and tables, the area is described in relation to its physical nature, invertebrate distributions and wader roosting sites. Each wader species is considered in terms of monthly totals, distribution about the estuary, breeding status (if appropriate) and conservation recommendations. The possible effects of various reclamation proposals and future research priorities are considered briefly. Copies of the report are available from Dr. P. N. Ferns, Zoology Department, University College, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 1XL. Cheques for 50p to cover postage and packing should be made payable to "Zoology Department, University College, Cardiff".

WASH WADER RINGING GROUP REPORT 1975-76

The Wash Wader Ringing Group biennial report for 1975/76 has recently been published. It includes the regular ringing totals and reports together with a full list of recoveries and controls of birds caught on the Wash in these two years. There are also maps of all these movements to and from the Wash with two separate maps of impressive circumpolar and African recoveries. This issue celebrates the end of the first ten years of cannon-netting on the Wash and includes weight graphs summarizing the data collected from ten species during this period. A list of publications of the group and associated overseas expeditions is also included.

The report, which is 1 cm. thick is available to non-members at a cost of £1.50 plus 30p for postage in Britain (60p for posting to Europe, £1.00 elsewhere) from the address below.

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RINGING TOTALS—STOP PRESS

The following ringing totals for July to October 1977 were received too late for inclusion in the table on opposite page.

Zentrale für Wasservogelforschung der DDR beim Ministerium für Land-, Forst- und Nahrungsgüterwirtschaft: E. Germany.

Oystercatcher 37, Lapwing 20, Ringed Plover 103, Little Ringed Plover 17, Grey Plover 20, Golden Plover -, Turnstone 24, Snipe 317, Woodcock -, Curlew 2, Whimbrel 8, Black-tailed Godwit -, Bar-tailed Godwit 2, Green Sandpiper 26, Common Sandpiper 289, Redshank 521, Spotted Redshank 9, Greenshank 3, Knot 36, Purple Sandpiper 1, Little Stint 32, Dunlin 1125, Curlew Sandpiper 49, Sanderling 3, Ruff 105, Avocet -, Jack Snipe 23, Wood Sandpiper 96, Temmincks Stint 4, Broad-billed Sandpiper 1.

Merseyside R.G. Oystercatcher 1, Lapwing 1 pullus, Turnstone 18, Curlew 2, Whimbrel 4, Redshank 182, Knot 18, Dunlin 871, Curlew Sandpiper 1, Sanderling 216.

SCAN R.G. Ringed Plover 1, Turnstone 49, Dunlin 34.

Wash Wader R.G. Oystercatcher 1636, Ringed Plover 124, Grey Plover 215, Turnstone 256, Curlew 20, Whimbrel 4, Bar-tailed Godwit 26, Green Sandpiper 1, Common Sandpiper 2, Redshank 201, Greenshank 6, Knot 1108, Dunlin 5864, Curlew Sandpiper 4, Sanderling 625, Ruff 2.