

RECOVERIES OF RINGED BIRDS, 1980

EF98215 Manx Shearwater. Ringed as full grown 27.6.78. Found dead at Bude Cornwall 3.7.80 (43 km S).

SS55908 Razorbill. Ringed as pullus 29.6.73. Found dying on Lundy 8.6.80.
XB94564 Song Thrush. Ringed as first year bird 9.10.79. Ring found in pellet of bird or prey on Lundy 11.4.80.

057796 Firecrest. Ringed as first year male 6.10.79. Found freshly dead (hit glass window) at Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands 31.3.80 (625 km E).

XB 94537 Starling. Ringed as full grown female 16.6.78. Found dead at Winchester, Hants 2.3.80 (233 km E).

CONTROL ON LUNDY, 1980

JR64541 Pied Flycatcher. Ringed as pullus (male) at Mansell Lacy, Hereford & Worcester 17.6.79. Controlled on Lundy 16.4.80 (164 km SW).

ADDITIONAL RECORD FOR 1978

GP87742 Guillemot. Ringed as pullus on Great Saltee, Wexford 9.7.78. Found dead (oiled on Lundy end 10.78 (170 km SE).

M32962 Razorbill. Ringed as pullus on Great Saltee, Wexford 1.7.78. Found dead (oiled) on Lundy end 10.78 (170 km SE).

AUTUMN RINGING TRIP 1980

MICHAEL KING

After my visit to Lundy last autumn, I determined to make a repeat trip in 1980, and as a result some other ringers from Bath expressed interest. Accordingly it was arranged that I should go from 25th September to 16th October, with three others John Arnold, Mike Bailey and Cyril Matthews joining me for the week 28th September to 5th October. Later Steve Sutcliffe from Tenby was put in touch with me, as he was arranging a visit for himself, his wife Anna and two friends Ray and Jean Lowman from 5th to 14th October. The coverage therefore was going to be good, as I should only have a few days at each end when I should have to cope on my own. We all arranged to bring poles and nets to supplement those available from LFS. On occasions we had up to 650' of nets in action.

Birds were around in reasonable numbers right from the day I landed, and the arrival of the rest of the Bath party partly co-incided with a good warbler, goldcrest and swallow movement so that trapping continued at an increasing rate all week, culminating with a catch of 130 birds on 5th October. We did not neglect other activities, and put in an hour's drag netting on several nights which yielded over 50 birds, mainly Meadow Pipits. Mist netting was almost all in Millcombe, though we found the area round Rocket Pole most productive in calm conditions for Swallows and pipits.

The good weather deteriorated when the Bath three left and Steve Sutcliffe's party came: by their second day we were experiencing force 9 westerly winds — according to them the normal conditions when they visit any island! By the following week-end some passage of Redwings and Fieldfares started and on 12th & 13th large thrush and finch movements developed, resulting in catches almost as good as the previous week. At Steve's insistence we also tried a little flick netting for Swallows near Benjamin's Chair — with reasonable success: however, I still think he was really trying for Ravens!

The variation in conditions produced marked effects on the condition of the Swallows passing through: the average weights of birds caught on 30th September was 19.3 gm. On 9th October after the gales and two wet, cold days, this was down to 17.8 gm and some retrapped birds (known therefore to have been delayed on the island) from a day or so before were down to 15.5 gm. On 12th, the new passage birds were once more up to 18.9 gm, but retrapped birds were still only

15.5 gm (not the same birds as on 9th). Weights dropped with cold weather on 13th & 14th to 16.1 gm and 17.0 gm, with retrapped birds as low as 14.5 gm: this is a moribund weight, and the net catching Swallows was taken down as the hazard to the birds was too great once this was known; there is little doubt that birds must have been dying that day from lack of food yet during these same periods other insectivorous birds were maintaining their weights: a Spotted Flycatcher had increased from 12.0 gm on 2nd to 15.4 gm on 8th: a Goldcrest maintained its (normal) weight of 5.3 gm from 5th-14th and a Treecreeper similarly from 3rd-6th. Evidently insects were present but not available to specialist in-flight feeders such as the Swallow.

During the period we saw large passages of Redwings and Chaffinches from 12th October onwards: Swallows were moving regularly the whole time and Goldcrests peaked around 5th October; only a very few Firecrests were seen. One of our most thrilling moments came right at the end when Steve on 14th and myself on 15th saw a Red-rumped swallow (subject to acceptance by the Rarities Committee!) which came in with a big influx of Swallows and House Martins on 14th. After this we had a frustrating couple of days as strong NE winds prevented the Polar Bear from landing and we were delayed in conditions which produced no great bird interest and certainly no hope of trapping what was present.

The ringing results were excellent: the total for the three weeks was 927. Outstanding birds were 3 Reed Warblers, 1 Melodious Warbler, 1 Red-breasted Flycatcher, 1 Nightingale, 2 Treecreepers and 2 Scarlet Rosefinches. Useful quantity ringing was maintained with 236 Swallows, 87 Meadow Pipits, 64 Blackcaps and 156 Goldcrests.

It was a most enjoyable and exciting trip, and we are fully intending to come again — as often as possible!

DR. G. S. OXFORD

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**RECORDING COLOUR VARIATION IN
*ENOPLOGNATHA OVATA***

Shown opposite are diagrams of the three main forms, A = yellow, B = red striped, C = red, together with a drawing of a striped female. In late July to mid-August the female can be found in rolled leaves (especially bramble) often guarding a cocoon. Sample by starting at one end of a definite patch of vegetation and work towards the other end, opening all rolled leaves and noting the variety of the spider within. In this way individuals will not be counted twice. Record numbers of each variety on the other side of this card and return to me.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

