



Least Sandpiper (left) and foot of Semipalmated Sandpiper showing webbing



Wings of Semipalmated Sandpiper (left) and Least Sandpiper (right)

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). A single bird on October 7th-28th.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). One on June 30th.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*). An adult male June 9th-12th. The first record for Lundy and Britain.

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*). One on May 26th.

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*) and SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*). **LUNDY 8.9.66.**

At 1120 hrs on 8th September 1966, J. A. Ginnever saw two small waders fly from the Lighthouse field pond, coming down again near the church. He thought they were stints and came back to tell me.

We found the birds feeding around a small pond near the church, one was very small, being a rich brown colour, the other a little larger, paler and greyer and I immediately noticed that the smaller brown bird had green legs, but on close examination was obviously not a Temmincks stint (*Calidris Temminckii*), being very finely proportioned with a small angular looking head, and a very fine dark bill, slightly decurved at the tip. Its legs were exceptionally thin and spindly. All this suggested to me that the bird was a Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*).

At this point I had a good look at the other bird, which I had thought was a Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) and noticed that it was very long legged and had a short thick bill, much thicker than the bill of any stint I had ever seen, but because it was coming on to rain and birds seemed very tame, we decided to try and catch them, easily flushing them into a mist net.

On returning to the Observatory and taking the larger of the two birds out of the bag it was found to have very dark green legs, not black as they had appeared in the field, and its toes were partially webbed, and further examination proved the bird to be a Semi-palmated sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*).

The following descriptions were taken from the birds in the hand:—

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*). **LUNDY 8.9.66.**

- Head.** *Forehead.* Buff-white central feathers, edge grey-brown.
Crown. Blackish-brown edged chestnut-buff.
Nape. Grey-brown edged grey-buff.
Ear coverts. Greyish edged buff with fine darker streaks.
Lores. Greyish-brown with faint buff-white superciliary being more conspicuous behind eye.
- Upper-parts.** *Hind-neck.* Grey-brown edged grey-buff.
Mantle and back. Mantle blackish-brown, edged orange-buff and white forming two V's, the outer more faint than the inner one.
Rump. Blackish-brown centre, sides white.
Upper tail coverts. Blackish-brown centre, feathers edged chestnut-buff, sides white.
- Wing.** *Primaries.* Blackish-brown with a faint white edge on outer web of inner primaries.
Secondaries. Blackish-brown, very faintly tipped white but more white on inner ones.
Primary coverts. Blackish-brown tipped white.
Greater coverts. Grey-brown tipped white.
Median coverts. Dark brown with dark shafts tipped buffish-orange and white.
Lesser coverts. Blackish-brown faintly tipped buffish-orange.
Scapulars. Blackish, inner ones tipped chestnut-buff and white.
Tertials. Light brown, tipped and edged light chestnut brown.
Longest ones tipped chestnut-buff and white.
Bastard wing. Greyish-black faintly tipped white.

- Under-wing.** *Primaries.* Silvery grey, white near base of feathers.
Coverts. White, brownish-grey round carpal joint and leading edge of wing.
- Under-parts.** *Chin.* Off-white.
Throat and breast. Buffish-grey, streaked grey-brown more heavily on the sides than in the centre.
Rest of under-parts. Clean white.
- Tail.** Twelve feathers. Buffish-grey tipped white and buff, central pair blackish, tipped buff and white.
- Soft parts.** *Bill.* Black, being very fine and pointed with a slightly decurved tip.
Legs. Yellowish green.
- Eye.** *Iris.* Brown.
- Measurements.** *Wing.* 85.5 mm.
Bill. From feathers 19 mm. Skull 22 mm.
Tarsus. 19.5 mm.
Tail. 39.5 mm.
- Wing formula.** 1st primary Minute
 2nd " }
 3rd " } Equal longest.
 4th " — 3.5 mm.
 5th " — 10.5 mm.
 6th " — 15 mm.
 7th " — 22 mm.
 8th " — 27.5 mm.
 9th " — 31.5 mm.
- Weight.** 15.5 gms.

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SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*). LUNDY, 8.9.66.

- Head.** *Forehead.* Grey-white, faintly mottled buff-grey.
Crown. Blackish-brown edged buffish-grey white.
Nape. Grey-brown edged grey-buff, the centre being grey-brown edged buff.
Ear coverts. Grey-buff.
Lores. Grey-brown with an indistinct white superciliary above, extending behind the eye.
- Upper-parts.** *Hind neck.* Grey edged buff-white.
Back and mantle. Brown and grey feathers, central ones edged buff, outer ones edged white, forming a very indistinct V.
Rump. Centre dark brown, faintly edged buff, sides clean white.
Upper-tail coverts. Blackish-brown edged light brown, sides clean white.
- Wing.** *Primaries.* Blackish-brown, inner webs lighter. Narrow white edge on outer web of inner primaries below primary coverts.
Secondaries. Black-brown faintly white on inner edge and tips.
Primary coverts. Blackish-brown faintly tipped white.
Greater coverts. Light brown clearly tipped white.
Median coverts. Grey-brown edged buff-white, shafts dark brown.
Lesser coverts. Light-grey brown faintly edged buff with some feathers faintly edged white.
Bastard wing. Blackish-brown.
Scapulars. Blackish-brown tipped white with a little buff.
Tertials. Light brown edged and tipped buff and white, outer ones being whiter.

- Under-wing.** *Primaries.* Silvery-grey.
Under-wing coverts. Pure white except for grey-brown feathers edged buff-white round carpal joint and leading edge of wing.
- Tail.** Twelve pointed feathers buffish-grey edged white. Central pair brownish-black.
- Under-parts.** *Chin.* White.
Throat. White faintly edged grey.
Breast. Upper-breast white narrowly streaked light grey-brown.
Rest of under-parts. Clean white.
- Soft parts.** *Bill.* Black, short, thick and tapering, broader at tip with faint groove-like scratches on upper mandible.
Legs. Blackish-olive, greener on front of legs, webs between the forward three toes being more pronounced on outer than inner, e.g.
- Eye.** *Iris* dark brown.
- Measurements.** *Bill.* 21.5 mm (feathers), 25 mm (skull).
Tarsus. 22 mm.
Tail. 39 mm.
Wing. 91 mm.
- Wing Formula.** 1st. Minute.
2nd Longest.
3rd — 1 mm.
4th — 5.5 mm.
5th — 11 mm.
6th — 19.5 mm.
7th — 24 mm.
8th — 31 mm.
9th — 37.5 mm.
Longest inner secondary falling between 6th and 7th primaries.
- Weight.** 21.5 gms.

C. S. WALLER

RINGING REPORT FOR 1965

The total of 637 birds ringed during the 1965 season is due almost entirely to the tremendous enthusiasm shown by the late Jonathan Sparrow, and then by Anthony Prater. Allowing for the fact that the Heligoland Trap on the Terrace was not operational at the start of the season, the total number of birds caught in it shows how valuable it can be if used to the fullest advantage.

SPECIES LIST.

| | <i>Pullus</i> | <i>Mist Net</i> | <i>Heligoland Terrace</i> | <i>Other Means.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Shag | 9 | | | | 9 |
| Lapwing | 1 | | | | 1 |
| G.B.B. Gull | 1 | | | | 1 |
| L.B.B. Gull | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Herring Gull | 167 | | | | 167 |
| Razorbill | 2 | | | 2 | 4 |
| Cuckoo | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Skylark | 4 | | | | 4 |
| Swallow | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Raven | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Wren | | 3 | 2 | | 5 |
| Ring Ouzel | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Blackbird | | 12 | 10 | | 22 |