

RINGED BIRDS ON BUTE

By Ian Hopkins

The British Trust for Ornithology has organised the Bird Ringing Scheme in Britain since 1937. At present, approximately half-a-million birds are ringed each year, resulting in 10-15,000 recoveries each year.

I have been ringing birds on Bute since 1970, but have not had any recoveries of note, as most of them are birds which are sedentary. However, I did ring an adult willow warbler one summer, and caught the same bird at the exact same spot for the next two summers. This demonstrates the amazing powers of navigation birds have, as willow warblers spend their winters in Africa. I have also just received word of a male hen harrier I ringed as a nestling on Bute in July 1979, which was found dead in France in April 1980.

Over the years I have found a few ringed birds on Bute, both dead and alive, and have also had rings given to me by friends, and so I thought it would be interesting to have them published. The list that follows contains all recoveries I have received to date.

Species	Age and Sex	Ringing Date	Ringing Place	Finding Date	Finding Place	Details		Comment
						Distance	Direction	
Gannet	Nestling	13/7/63	Ailsa Craig	11/10/70	Dunagoil	33 mls.	North	Found dead
Shag	Nestling	26/6/77	Isle of Man	Oct. 77	Scalpsie Bay	190 kms.	North	Found dead
Shag	Nestling	21/6/77	Glinimore Island Kintyre	15/7/79	Inchmarnock	63 kms.	25°	Found dead
Shag	Nestling	2/6/78	Glinimore Island Kintyre	20/5/79	Inchmarnock	63 kms.	25°	Found dead
Shag	Nestling	1/6/78	Sanda Island Kintyre	30/1/79	Scalpsie Bay	60 kms.	N.N.E.	Found dead
Shag	Nestling	17/6/79	Aberdarron Wales	7/12/79	Rothsay Bay	340 kms.	356°	Found dead
Herring Gull	Nestling	20/6/59	Wee Cumbræ	16/7/70	Near Largs			Caught on Fishing boat, released
Herring Gull	3 years	27/1/79	Cathkin E. Kilbride	28/8/79	Ardsacadale Bute	59 kms.	272°	Found dead
Herring Gull	3 years	2/3/79	Kilbirnie Strathclyde	15/5/79	Inchmarnock	29 kms.	277°	Caught on nest, released
Herring Gull	?	7/11/78	Bishopbriggs Glasgow	26/9/79	Port Bannatyne			Still alive, colour-ringed
Dunlin	?	29/9/76	Norway	14/4/79	Ascog	960 kms.	W.S.W.	Ringling Co-ordinates 58° 58'N, 9° 49'W
Mute Swan	Adult (male)	13/4/68	Loch Striven Argyll	7/3/76	Ardyne Point Argyll			Caught and then released
Mute Swan	Adult (Female)	20/3/63	Port Bannatyne	23/11/69	Loch Fad	4 mls.	South	Found dead
Redpoll	Adult (male)	5/9/71	Rothsay	6/10/72	Wemyss Bay	12 kms.	N.E.	Killed by cat
Hen Harrier	Nestling	17/7/79	North Bute	21/4/80	Isle-et-Vilaine France	921 kms.	164°	Findling Co-ordinates 47° 57'N, 1° 22'W