

Lack, D. 1943. The Life of the Robin. Penguin Books,
London.

Wood, G.L. 1972. Guinness Book of Animal Facts and
Feats. Guinness Superlatives Ltd., London.

H.T. Laycock, 39 Armstrong Drive, PIETERMARITZBURG, Natal, 3201

* * * *

UNUSUAL WADERS AT LANGEBAAN

M. Waltner

After mist-netting waders in a particular area for close on to ten years, one would not expect to catch anything new. Therefore, David Whitelaw could hardly believe his luck when he did just that and, at the same time, added two new species to those ringed so far by members of the Western Cape Wader Study Group (WCWSG). Whilst mist-netting at Geelbeek, Langebaan, David trapped one Mongolian Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus*, and one Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, both rarities in the southwestern Cape which any twitcher would be only too delighted to see. Several months later Les Underhill caught a second Mongolian Sandplover, which seems to substantiate the comment in Roberts that this species is probably overlooked and not as rare as records reflect. However, Langebaan Lagoon is a favourite area for watching waders and I do not believe that this species would have eluded the keen eyes of twitchers like J.C. Sinclair and R. Summers, who both spend considerable time in the lagoon area. Despite these two records, Mongolian Sandpipers should still be considered as

scarce in the southwestern Cape.

Measurements and primary moult for the above mentioned birds are given below. For comparison, details of four Greater Sandplovers *Charadrius leschenaulti*, trapped by the WCWSG are listed.

	WING	CULMEN	TARSUS	WEIGHT	PRIM. MOULT	AGE
RED-NECKED						
PHALAROPE						
Ringed: 01.03.81	moult	21	21	32,5g*	5 ⁸ ,4 ¹ , 3 ¹	Ad
MONGOLIAN						
SANDPLOVER						
Ringed: 11.10.81	128	18	-	54 g	5 ⁷ ,3 ¹ , 8 ²	2Y?
Ringed: 28.03.81	122	18	33	58,5g	3 ² ,2 ¹ , 1 ¹ ,0 ⁶	1Y
					Outer prim.	
					very worn	
GREATER						
SANDPLOVER						
Ringed: 19.03.72	154	22,5	39	130 g	5 ¹⁰	Ad
	157	21	38	122 g	5 ¹⁰	Ad
10.07.76	-	24	-	81 g	5 ⁸ ,1 ¹ , 0 ¹	2Y
05.12.76	151	22	-	73 g	8 ¹⁰	1Y

*Notes: (i) Red-necked Phalarope was 5 hrs in a keep box before being weighed.

(ii) Ad Greater Sandplovers trapped at pre-migration time.

(iii) Symbol 8 - feathers in good condition but definitely not moulted recently.

M. Waltner, 5 Montague Way, PINELANDS, Cape, 7405

* * * *

AN INTERESTING RETRAP

H.T. Laycock

A first year female Thick-billed Weaver was trapped and ringed in my garden on 21 September 1976. At that time all its major feathers were brown as is normal in females of this species. The bird was retrapped at the same place in November 1977, November 1978, November 1979 and on 17 July 1981 (five years all but 66 days from ringing). Every time it was retrapped the sixth primary in the right wing was exactly like that of a male bird, a vivid black and white, very conspicuous against the otherwise brown plumage. On the last occasion the feather appeared undamaged and had obviously been replaced not long before at the bird's annual post-nuptial moult. One wonders why one feather follicle should behave in this way throughout the bird's life.

H.T. Laycock, 39 Armstrong Drive, PIETERMARITZBURG, Natal, 3201