



GREENSHANK – YB-BR at Walmsley Sanctuary, *Adrian Langdon*

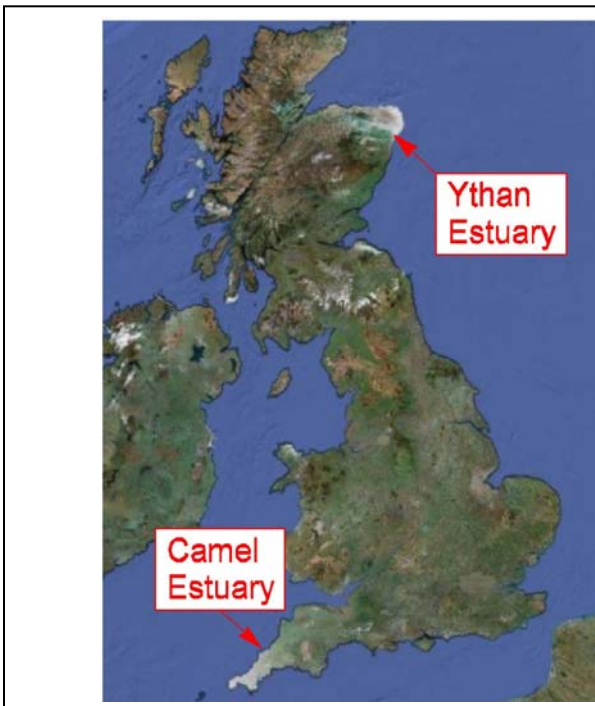
COLOUR-RINGED GREENSHANK
Right leg: Yellow over blue; Left leg: Blue over red
A WALMSLEY SANCTUARY/CAMEL ESTUARY REGULAR

Greenshank YB-BR was ringed on the Ythan Estuary, 12km north of Aberdeen in NE Scotland as part of a study into numbers/origins/turnover/site fidelity and onward movements of greenshank using the estuary during autumn passage.

Thanks to all observers down at Walmsley Sanctuary and elsewhere on the Camel Estuary this has become one of the star birds of the project so far. We are indebted to you all for taking the time and trouble to report this bird, and for the added bonus of some photographs from a few of you. Many thanks indeed.

YB-BR's RINGING INFORMATION:

YB-BR was ringed as a first year bird on passage on the Ythan Estuary on 13th August, 2006. This was the only greenshank we ringed that evening, along with a single common sandpiper. Not the busiest of evenings.



The Tarty Burn in the foreground, running into the Ythan Estuary behind. The burn is where we ring the greenshank as they feed and roost with the tide.

YB-BR's FIRST AUTUMN/WINTER:

The table below shows YB-BR's first autumn/winter history. It remained on the Ythan for over 3 weeks after ringing then made a quick flight down to the Camel Estuary in Cornwall where it was seen by Colin Selway, 9 days after last sighting on the Ythan, then several times by Derek Julian before Xmas

13-Aug-06	Tarty, Ythan Estuary, NE Scotland	NJ9927	Ringed today. DD59507. Juvenile.	
20-Aug-06	Snub N. car park, Ythan		Skitts	7 days later
26-Aug-06	Back channel opposite Snub, Ythan Estuary		RD	13 days later
1-Sep-06	Ythan		David Dunstan	19 days later
4-Sep-06	Snub N. car park, Ythan		Chris Jones	22 days later. PHOTOGRAPH
13-Sep-06	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Colin Selway	9 days after last Ythan sighting
21-Sep-06	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Per Derek Julian	
12-Oct-06	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Derek I Julian	
16-Oct-06	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL		Derek I Julian	
19-Dec-06	Old Town Cove, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW943737	Derek I Julian	

Colour-ringing has shown that many juveniles arriving on the Ythan in autumn remain on the estuary for several weeks before departing. When they depart it is for a quick, long journey west/south west to Ireland, SW England, Spain or even ultimately some as far as West Africa. They do not hop from estuary to estuary (down the east coast for example) as might have been expected. We have ringed nearly 100 birds each at the Ythan Estuary and Montrose Basin (60km to south of the Ythan) and none have been recorded on both estuaries.

YB-BR's SUBSEQUENT HISTORY:

8-Sep-07	River Camel/Amble confluence, N. CORNWALL	SW982742	Stephen Jackson	10 in group
11-Oct-07	Dinham Flats, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW9975	Andy + Shirley Park	PHOTOGRAPH
12-Nov-07	Old Town Cove, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW943737	Derek I Julian	
14-Dec-07	Old Town Cove, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW943737	Derek I Julian	
6-Apr-08	Old Town Cove, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW943737	Derek I Julian	With 3 others.
2-Sep-08	Dinham Flats, Camel Estuary, Wadebridge, CORNWALL	SW9775	Derek G. Dennis	c25 birds
15-Sep-08	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	D. & M. Roberts	With 10 others
26-Sep-08	Dinham Flats, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL		Andy + Shirley Park	PHOTOGRAPH
27-Oct-08	Dinham Flats, Camel Estuary, Wadebridge, CORNWALL	SW9775	Colin Selway	With 1 other bird
28-Nov-08	Camel Estuary, Wadebridge, CORNWALL		Harvey Kendall	
14-Mar-09	Old Town Cove, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW943737	Derek I Julian	With 3 others.
10-Jul-09	Camel Estuary (Burniere Hide), CORNWALL	SW982740	Terry Hasdell	With 5 others.
24-Jul-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Colin Selway	With 7 others.
25-Jul-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Peter Roseveare	With 8 others.
6-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Adrian Langdon	With 9 others.
7-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Colin Selway	With 11 others.
10-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Colin Selway	With 10 others.
11-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Colin Selway	With 8 others.
13-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Harvey Kendall	
18-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL		Derek G. Dennis	With 11 other unringed birds
20-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Colin Selway	With 18 others.
21-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Colin Selway	With 19 others.
21-Aug-09	Dinham Flats, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW9975	Colin Selway	With 14 others.
22-Aug-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW993747	Derek I Julian	With 6 others.
10-Sep-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW982740	Terry Hasdell	With 30 others, including BB-RL

YB-BR's SUBSEQUENT HISTORY (cont.):

The previous table shows YB-BR returning to the Camel Estuary in subsequent autumns since 2006. This winter 2009/2010 will be its fourth on the estuary. Interestingly, although there are spring records from April 2008 and March 2009, there is a notable gap in records after December, suggesting that the bird might possibly move elsewhere for a period in mid-winter.

FUTURE SIGHTINGS?:

It would be very interesting to determine if YB-BR's absence in mid-winter is genuine or is it down to reduced birding in what is the usually the darkest part of winter.

BB-RL

Hot off the press from Walmsley Sanctuary, and very exciting news indeed. Terry Hasdell saw YB-BR on 10th September with 30 other greenshank, including BB-RL, one of this autumn's colour-ringed juveniles from Montrose Basin, NE Scotland.

BB-RL	9-Aug-09	Montrose Basin, NE Scotland	NO6757	Ringed today. DB73790. Juvenile.	
	16-Aug-09	Drum Burn, Montrose Basin		RD/JD	13 birds/3 cringed
	10-Sep-09	Walmsley Sanctuary, Wadebridge, Camel Estuary, CORNWALL	SW982740	Terry Hasdell	With 30 others, including YB-BR

MANY THANKS:

On behalf of Grampian and Tay Ringing Groups I would just like to thank all contributors once again for taking the time and trouble to record and report your colour-ring sightings. It has been very exciting to hear about the ventures of YB-BR, and now BB-RL. They all contribute to further our knowledge of greenshank movements and highlight the importance of our network of estuaries in the UK and Ireland to this and so many other species of waders.



YB-BR photographed at Dinham Flats, Camel Estuary on 11/10/7 and 26/9/8 *Andy + Shirley Park*. Greenshank can be seen up to their bellies in water at times as they hunt for shrimps and small crabs and flat fish.