VWSG BULLETIN

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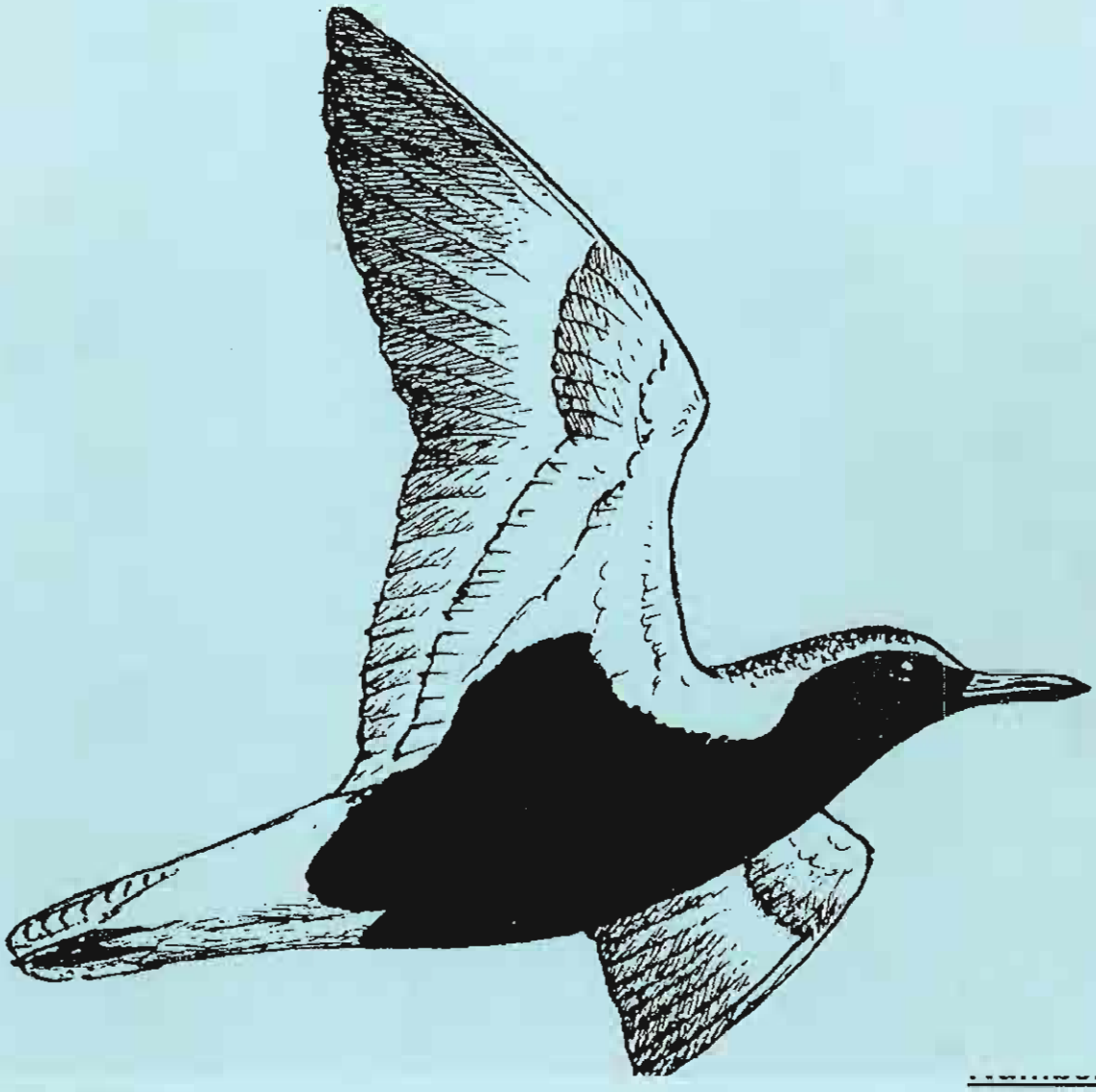

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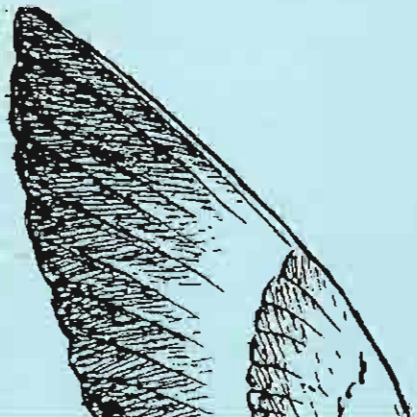

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This bulletin is usually published on the date of the annual general meeting and contains reports and cumulative records of fieldwork of the Victorian Wader Study Group with articles, field notes and other material.
Contributions are welcome. Please consult the editor or assistant editors on questions of format.

VWSG WEB SITE www.vicnet.net.au/~vwsg

Summary of VWSG Activities July 1999 to December 2000

Introduction

This is a bumper issue of the VWSG Bulletin because it covers an 18 month period since the last Bulletin (No.23) was produced in July 1999. It therefore covers the second half of 1999 as well as the whole of calender year 2000.

Detailed, as usual, are the catches of waders and terns in this period and the recoveries and flag sightings which have ensued. A range of other contents include some analyses of results and a comprehensive bibliography of the main articles appearing in previous VWSG Bulletins since Issue 1 in January 1980. The finances for the 1999/2000 period are also included.

Banding

Year 2000 was by far the best in the Group's 23+ year history with 12,944 birds caught – twice the previous annual average. This was the result of more days spent in the field (with only a small three week expedition to NW Australia as a distraction), good weather, good teams, good luck and a record high population of Red-necked Stints following a run of good breeding seasons in the Siberian Arctic.

Although stints (8643) dominated many catches the Group also did well for a wide variety of other species with ten different species having catch totals greater than a hundred. The Sanderling total of 795 was more than double that of any previous year thanks to a superb catch of 462 in early March at Brown Bay, in the very south east corner of South Australia. This was an example of perseverance paying off with the nets being set six times over three days before we finally got everything just right and made the catch.

It was also a record year for Sooty Oystercatcher (147) with both this species and Pied Oystercatcher (172) exceeding our annual targets of 50/150 respectively. Also on the "resident" Australian species front the 47 Red-necked Avocets were the first significant catch of that species for many years and the 151 Banded Stilts (at Werribee Sewage Farm in late December) were the first time we have caught this species in Victoria. It was particularly pleasing to handle the large number of juvenile birds following our major role in assisting them to breed successfully at Lake Eyre by persuading the South Australia Parks and Wildlife Service to control predatory Silver Gulls nesting on the same island as the Banded Stilts. It was also interesting to see the range of plumages in the adult birds – some having no sign of the chestnut and black breast markings of the full breeding plumage. Adults therefore appear to have a genuine non-breeding plumage.

The efforts to catch medium size migrant waders have paid off with good (sometimes record) totals in both 1999 and 2000 for Bar-tailed Godwit (542/362), Grey Plover (0/23), Great Knot (22/59), Red Knot (193/408) and Turnstone (440/329). The subsequent recoveries and the plethora of leg-flag sightings (see later) which have resulted from these successes have greatly added to our previous relatively meagre knowledge of their migration routes, stopover locations and destinations.

Overall the VWSG has now caught 154,731 waders (124,390 new birds and 30,341 retraps) since the first, small scale mist netting was started by David Robertson and

others, in December 1975. Since cannon-netting was introduced at the end of 1978 the Group has had an annual average catch of 6922 waders (ranging from a low of 3333 in 1995 to last years record 12,944).

Processing

Waders caught for banding are subsequently processed ie. data on wing, bill, total head length and weight are collected. The moult of the primaries is recorded where insufficient samples of these exist. The target is to, as far as possible, obtain useable samples (ideally about 50 birds) of each age group, of each species in each month of the year. There is a table in this Bulletin showing results to date.

Notable gaps filled during 2000 include good samples of Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot and our first Great Knot in June, and a major increase in our December sample of Sanderling. Gaps in the data become increasingly difficult to fill – mainly due to the absence of significant numbers of many species in certain months (mainly the austral winter).

Recoveries

One of the most exciting aspects of VWSG activities is receiving news of banded (or leg-flagged) birds from faraway places. This is one of the "dividends" of the huge investment of time, physical effort and cost involved in the initial catching and banding operations. Some of these returns are quick – like the Sanderling banded at Sandy Point and then recaptured at Brown Bay, South Australia, only a month later. Others accrue over the years, the extreme example being a Crested Tern caught breeding at Mud Islands in November which had been banded as a chick in South Australia 26 years ago.

Recovery highlights include: -

(a) The first ever-overseas recovery of an Australian banded Sanderling. It was found on Sakhalin Island, off the east coast of Siberia.

(b) Our first Eastern Curlew on the breeding grounds in Russia.

(c) A Sooty Oystercatcher which turned up on Maatsuyker Island, off the south coast of Tasmania.

(d) An amazing juvenile Ruddy Turnstone which was seen in New Zealand only 20 days after it was banded.

(e) The widespread movement of Pied Oystercatcher in SE Australia.

Full details of all significant recoveries are listed in this Bulletin.

Leg-Flag Sightings

These totalled 556 in the second half of 1999 and throughout 2000, and are now producing information on movements at a rate more than an order of magnitude greater than conventional band recoveries. The sighting of a bird with an orange leg-flag (the code for a bird banded in Victoria) produces specific information on the date and location of that bird at that time. In relation to movements it is relatively less important that the band number of the specific individual and its exact banding date/location are not known. This is especially true in relation to more distant overseas sightings. Thus leg-flag sightings are almost as valuable as recoveries.

Another benefit of the great volume of leg-flag sightings now being received is that quantitative comparisons can be made. The prime example of this was the sighting of 14 orange leg-flagged Bar-tailed Godwits at a pre-migratory gathering point in SW Alaska in early September 1999. This in itself was exciting enough and the first direct proof that the Bar-tailed Godwits which visit Victoria come from the Alaskan breeding grounds (most of our other migratory wader species come from Siberia). Birds leg-flagged in Queensland and New Zealand were also seen at the same time/place in SW Alaska and were seen in numbers which tallied closely with the relative numbers leg-flagged in the three locations. In contrast there were no Bar-tailed Godwits seen with yellow leg-flags from NW Australia, even though many more have been leg-flagged there. This data supports strongly the view that there are two distinct races of Bar-tailed Godwit visiting Australia, with marked segregation of breeding and non-breeding areas. However they all appear to pass through the same areas of the Yellow Sea in northern China and Korea when on northward migration although the timing of their movements are rather different.

Other leg-flag sighting highlights include: -

(a) A Bar-tailed Godwit on its breeding area in western Alaska – again a first for Victoria.

(b) Our first Grey Plover in Korea and a further nice batch of Grey Plover sightings in Japan.

(c) An Eastern Curlew in Korea on the early date of 15th March. Considering that they do not normally start departing from Victoria until around the 7th March one is tempted to wonder if this bird made the journey to Korea in a single flight (nearly 8000 km).

(d) Our first overseas sighting of a Black-tailed Godwit, in Korea. Not bad considering we have only banded and flagged two.

(e) 135 sightings of Red Knot, including 88 in New Zealand. This not only reflects the strong movements of Victorian birds to New Zealand but also the widespread interest in waders, and observational skills of birdwatchers, in that country.

(f) 154 Red-necked Stint reports including 16 in Mongolia (probably relating to seven different birds), seven from Russia and our first from Korea (three).

(g) Our first Sanderling sightings in Korea (two), our second in Russia and a further 22 in Japan.

(h) A wonderful crop of sightings from the newly introduced leg-flag colour code (orange over yellow) for South Australia. These include further Sanderling in Korea (two), Japan (23) and Russia. Also a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, one of only two flagged, was seen in Korea.

(i) A large number of sightings of a wide range of species which had clearly moved their non-breeding area away from Victoria ie. they were seen elsewhere in the period November to February, a time when adult birds are normally stationary and undergoing their primary moult on their chosen non-breeding area. Quantification of such "defections" is important when calculating annual survival rates from the recapture of banded birds at the original banding place.

Overall 45,039 waders have now been orange leg-flagged, with a further 1492 in the last two years with the orange/yellow South Australian code. A total of 1053

overseas sightings have so far resulted from these. Because of the success of the leg-flagging scheme this process is now given a relatively high priority in the processing of birds caught. After banding and correctly ageing the bird, leg-flagging takes precedence over the collection of biometric data unless the catch contains species where such data is still needed at that particular time of the year. Thus even in the record catch year of 2000 some 92% of newly banded birds received leg-flags. In earlier years only 50 – 60% of new birds were leg-flagged.

Old birds

Great pleasure always comes from the recapture of birds banded by the Group many years beforehand. It is not just that some of these birds are older than some of the members of the team and their families it is also the realisation of just how far such individuals have flown during their lives. With most migratory waders visiting Victoria having to make a round trip migration of 25,000 kilometres each year it is easy to add up how far an old bird has flown just on migration alone during its life.

Thus a $16^1/_2$ year old bird will have made $15^1/_2$ round trip migrations, assuming it does not mature and return north until it is two years old. That equates to a distance of 387,000 kilometres flown on migration. This is equivalent to the distance from the Earth to the Moon (386,000 km.). And all that propulsion is achieved from energy derived from fat reserves laid down especially for migration – fat reserves created from the energetic ingestion of literally millions of small invertebrates (shellfish and worms).

Recently recaptured old migratory waders include:

Eastern Curlew	Minimum age $20^1/_2$ years
Red Knot	Minimum age $16^1/_2$
Curlew Sandpiper	Minimum age $16^1/_2$ (3 birds)
Red-necked Stint	Age $15^1/_4$
Great Knot	Age $15^1/_4$
Grey Plover	Minimum age $13^1/_4$

And for our resident species:

Pied Oystercatcher	Minimum Age 21 years (2 birds)
Hooded Plover	Minimum Age 16 years

These were identified by unique colour band combinations.

Breeding success

An important aspect of the VWSG fieldwork programme is to catch samples of as wide a selection of species as possible during the period when adult and juvenile/first year populations are considered to be relatively stable (mainly in the December to February period). This is to obtain a measure of their relative breeding success each year from the proportion of first year birds in the population. It is not practical to systematically measure nesting success on the breeding grounds as there are too few people in Siberia and the young are too difficult to locate. Equally it would not be easy to quantify breeding success by measurements of transient populations during migration through Asia. In Australia, at the terminus of migration, we are in the best position to obtain such data which is a fundamental component to

understanding the population dynamics of a species. Reproductive rates and survival rates govern population levels – if either change then so will the population.

Included in the VWSG Bulletin, for the first time, is a table showing the proportions of first year birds in VWSG catches during the last two summers. Some comparative data from NW Australia is also included. In general the 1999 Arctic summer seems to have been a successful breeding season for most of the waders visiting Victoria, but the 2000 breeding season was only moderate. There are significant differences between species which may reflect the wide spread of their breeding areas and breeding habitats.

This data will become progressively more interesting in the future and in the long term could even also be a valuable tool in assessing the effects of climate change on the breeding success of birds in the Arctic.

Terns

Breeding Crested Tern have enjoyed unprecedented success in the last two summers with record numbers nesting and with good reproductive success. Over 3000 chicks were banded in each year. Caspian Tern also fared much better than in the recent past, the lack of storms in November/December 2000 being particularly beneficial.

Fairy Tern attempts at breeding at Corner Inlet were again unsuccessful. This was particularly disappointing as it has not been possible to induce them yet to return to breed at The Spit, Werribee Sewage Farm, where a special shell area was cleared in September 1999 at the site of a colony which was most successful in the early 1980's. We shall persevere and keep the site free of vegetation growth in the hope that the birds eventually rediscover the area.

Banding of adult Common Terns and Little Terns on the Gippsland Lakes has not been particularly successful in the last two seasons, mainly due to adverse local feeding and weather conditions. It is a pity that numbers banded have fallen back as the number of recoveries and sightings of flagged birds has been excellent, and is enabling a better picture of the migratory movements of both species to be built up. So far Japan seems to be the sole breeding area of migrant Little Terns visiting the Gippsland Lakes.

Coast Action / Coast Care.

This programme has been most generous in it's support of VWSG activities since 1997, particularly in the Corner Inlet/Nooramunga National Park area.

The 1080 fox baiting programme continued until the end of 2000 by which time the fox free status of Dream Island had been ensured (partly by the continued heavy baiting on access points through Margaret Island and the south west end of Ninety Mile Beach). The fox population on Snake Island and to a lesser extent on Little Snake Island has also been greatly reduced. The monitoring of Pied Oystercatcher and Hooded Plover populations on these, and other, islands will continue in the future but it was already gratifying to see that Hooded Plovers successfully reared chicks on the east end of Snake Island in 99/00. A report covering the results of the four year programme is now in preparation and will be distributed widely to those involved in fox control throughout Australia.

A new Coast Action / Coast Care programme was initiated in the 00/01 spring and summer with the aid of a grant of $8920. This was aimed at detailed studies of the breeding success of Pied Oystercatcher and Hooded Plover on Box Bank and Dream Island. It was hoped to find out what other factors (for example storm tides, raven predation) caused nest failures – now that foxes have been eliminated – and whether any alleviating measures can be taken (e.g. exclosure cages over nests, moving nests to higher ground, raven control). Unfortunately the programme could not be carried out as thoroughly as planned because of a shortage of boat transport. Hopefully this will be rectified in 01/02.

Coast Action / Coast Care also assisted in the renovation/replacement/improvement of VWSG cannon netting equipment with a generous grant of $1690 (see Equipment item).

National Heritage Trust Grant Application

The VWSG was unfortunately not successful in its application for a major grant from the National Heritage Trust to continue experimental attachment of satellite transmitters to large migratory waders. Technology has made significant advances since the earlier experiments where we assisted the Queensland Wader Study Group with its work on Eastern Curlew. We planned to use the much lighter, and more compact, "data loggers" attached to the tibia, of Eastern Curlew initially and ultimately to Bar-tailed Godwits.

There is no doubt that use of transmitters will ultimately lead to a quantum leap forward in the understanding of the migration strategies of waders – their exact routes, stopover location and duration, flight speeds and duration and the exact timing of the whole 10 – 13,000 kilometre process. It is an expensive process and external funding is essential.

Equipment

During the last two years a major overhaul of all the VWSG cannon netting equipment has been undertaken.

Paul Buchhorn, the Equipment Officer, has done a marvellous job on the hardware and we now have stronger cannon barrels with a uniform chamber size, stainless steel reusable cartridges which fit and projectiles with the minimum clearance to give a good gas seal in the barrel. Peter Anton has also designed and constructed some new shafts for the projectiles – from reinforcing rod – which does not bend.

Brenda Murlis has now completed the construction of a set of new keeping cages - to the more compact design made from shade cloth (which does not retain moisture or rot) rather than from hessian.

The rechargeable batteries for the five mobile radios (Midland) had also become "tired" after 5 – 8 years service and have mostly had to be renewed.

Finances

The Group again spent considerably more than it earned in the financial year to 30th June 2000. This was partly a result of timing with, for example, $7236 being spent on Coast Action / Coast Care activities where the relevant grant had been received

in the previous financial year. But even without this item expenditure totalled $10,853 against an income of $8077. This was mainly the result of heavy expenditure on equipment and the Group was extremely grateful to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment for a grant of $3263 to cover specific components of the re-equipment programme.

The heavy expenditure on equipment continued into the current year (00/01) and it is expected that the Group will again show a modest loss. However resources are sufficient to cover this.

Data Entry and Publications

Ken Gosbell has managed the entry of all VWSG data onto the computer on an ongoing basis, assisted by a number of dedicated volunteers within the Group. It is essential that this process keeps up with the rate of new data generation so that data analysers have access to the latest information and also that we fulfil our reporting obligations to the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

Large and small publications, of both a scientific and general nature, continue to be produced using VWSG data. These appear in a wide range of publications – The Emu, The Stilt, The Tattler, The Vic Babbler, The Australian Bird Watcher, International Wader Study Group Bulletin and of course the VWSG Bulletin itself. Several other papers have been completed recently and are awaiting publication (on Red Knot, Pied Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit and Sanderling). Others are in various stages of preparation, including advanced drafts of three papers on Curlew Sandpipers.

This edition of the VWSG Bulletin contains a bibliography, kindly prepared by Hugo Phillips, of all significant articles in the previous 23 VWSG Bulletins. Next year we will include an update of the list published in the July 1992 VWSG Bulletin (no. 16) of all papers/articles published in other journals in which VWSG data has been utilised.

Acknowledgments

This would become the longest section of the Bulletin if everyone who has contributed to the VWSG's work and success in the past 18 months is mentioned individually!

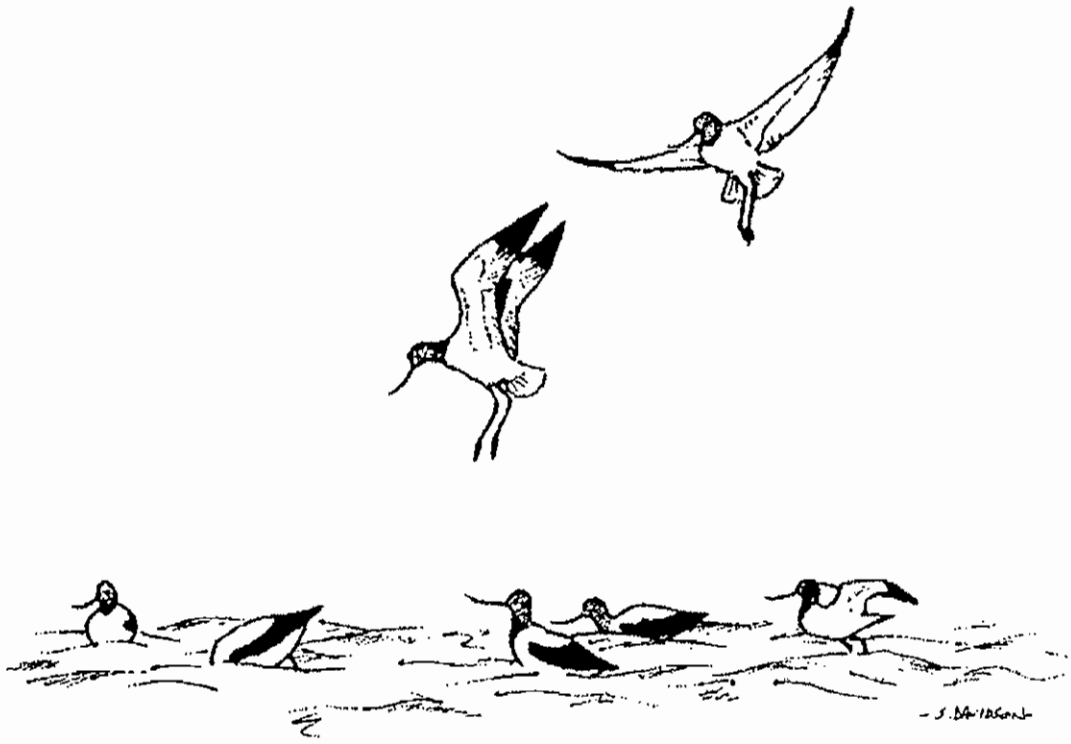
The contributions of some is recognised by their mention in various relevant parts of this Bulletin. To be added to these are Malcolm Brown and Doris Graham who between them have facilitated the ongoing supply of orange leg-flags. This has been especially appreciated in 2000 when our catches far exceeded expectations and led to repeated urgent requests for more flags. Doris Graham also devoted a considerable amount of time to helping run the leg-flag reporting system as well as dealing with incoming recovery reports.

Many other members of the Group contributed greatly both in the field and in numerous other ways. One of the most enjoyable and satisfying aspects of being involved with the VWSG is that people respond so willingly to requests for assistance – whether to make up a fieldwork team or to undertake more mundane jobs behind the scenes.

We continue to be the most active wader banding group in the world and as each year passes the value of our work to science and conservation increases.

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Clive Minton



Numbers of waders processed by The VWSG each month to December 2000. Processing includes measuring wing length, bill length and/or total head length (as appropriate) and weight; also recording full details of primary feather moult (if any). Additional wing moult has been gathered on some birds which were not fully processed. The table below is used to plan fieldwork, with the object of obtaining useable data (preferably on at least 50 birds of each age group) for each month of the year for all the main wader species.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Latham's Snipe	51	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	99	35	57	392
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	274	127	620	14	0	361	69	0	77	185	203	271	2201
Whimbrel	0	0	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	2	0	23
Eastern Curlew	16	92	1	0	22	18	13	75	147	124	180	100	788
Common Greenshank	1	135	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	176	60	492
Terek Sandpiper	13	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	12	34
Grey-tailed Tattler	31	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	40
Ruddy Turnstone	347	347	408	384	1	7	31	1	12	39	465	437	2479
Great Knot	164	21	26	0	0	12	3	0	16	103	40	129	514
Red Knot	479	148	301	34	2	101	378	81	85	674	265	184	2732
Sanderling	247	479	378	209	0	0	0	0	0	193	344	397	2247
Little Stint	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4
Red-necked Stint	2397	1204	5271	1998	507	725	608	523	647	1530	3316	3054	21780
Long-toed Stint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1387	785	173	2	0	0	0	15	519	345	344	1519	5089
Curlew Sandpiper	822	1075	1387	229	222	127	216	471	246	999	888	1149	7831
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Pied Oystercatcher	87	181	243	257	420	487	363	150	102	37	14	31	2372
Sooty Oystercatcher	3	43	68	44	177	176	93	19	0	1	0	0	624
Black-winged Stilt	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	6	18
Banded Stilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151	151
Red-necked Avocet	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	29	46	46	83	310
Pacific Golden Plover	40	27	32	1	0	0	0	0	0	28	62	49	239
Grey Plover	2	14	4	3	0	2	0	0	2	86	17	0	120
Red-capped Plover	39	79	57	114	203	103	65	18	8	11	24	10	731
Double-banded Plover	0	2	173	257	755	941	965	930	1	0	0	1	4025
Lesser Sand Plover	54	5	13	7	3	2	2	0	0	1	15	12	114
Greater Sand Plover	21	3	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	33
Black-fronted Dotterel	0	7	0	0	11	16	6	9	2	0	4	8	63
Hooded Plover	0	0	1	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	10	0	20	0	44	11	16	12	8	22	1	144
Masked Lapwing	4	6	77	0	3	13	0	0	1	5	21	11	141
Cox's Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL													55757

Wader Banding Totals - VWSG 1999

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Latham's Snipe	2	0	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	521	21	542
Eastern Curlew	82	18	100
Ruddy Turnstone	310	130	440
Great Knot	19	3	22
Red Knot	172	21	193
Sanderling	110	63	173
Little Stint	1	0	1
Red-necked Stint	4132	1090	5222
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	215	8	223
Curlew Sandpiper	765	154	919
Pied Oystercatcher	77	69	146
Sooty Oystercatcher	54	8	62
Pacific Golden Plover	13	2	15
Red-capped Plover	10	2	12
Double-banded Plover	23	2	25
Lesser Sand Plover	1	0	1
Greater Sand Plover	4	0	4
Hooded Plover	1	0	1
Masked Lapwing	3	0	3
20 Species	**6515**	**1591**	**8106**

Wader Banding Totals - VWSG January - June 2000

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Bar-tailed Godwit	291	30	321
Eastern Curlew	1	0	1
Terek Sandpiper	1	0	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	0	1
Ruddy Turnstone	94	24	118
Great Knot	49	3	52
Red Knot	309	57	366
Sanderling	362	131	493
Red-necked Stint	2547	699	3246
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	82	7	89
Curlew Sandpiper	907	146	1053
Pied Oystercatcher	62	41	103
Sooty Oystercatcher	105	23	128
Pacific Golden Plover	2	0	2
Grey Plover	1	0	1
Red-capped Plover	1	0	1
Double-banded Plover	11	0	11
17 species	**4826**	**1161**	**5987**

Wader Banding Totals July – December 2000

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Bar-tailed Godwit	29	12	41
Whimbrel	2	0	2
Eastern Curlew	25	1	26
Ruddy Turnstone	185	26	211
Great Knot	4	3	7
Red Knot	22	20	42
Sanderling	176	126	302
Red-necked Stint	4298	1094	5392
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	24	1	25
Curlew Sandpiper	390	115	505
Pied Oystercatcher	49	20	69
Sooty Oystercatcher	11	8	19
Banded Stilt	151	0	151
Red-necked Avocet	45	2	47
Grey Plover	18	4	22
Red-capped Plover	2	0	2
Double-banded Plover	87	0	87
Lesser Sand Plover	0	1	1
Hooded Plover	4	0	4
Masked Lapwing	2	0	2
20 Species	**5524**	**1433**	**6957**

Wader Banding Totals – VWSG 2000

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Bar-tailed Godwit	320	42	362
Whimbrel	2	0	2
Eastern Curlew	26	1	27
Terek Sandpiper	1	0	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	0	1
Ruddy Turnstone	279	50	329
Great Knot	53	6	59
Red Knot	331	77	408
Sanderling	538	257	795
Red-necked Stint	6845	1793	8638
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	106	8	114
Curlew Sandpiper	1297	261	1558
Pied Oystercatcher	111	61	172
Sooty Oystercatcher	116	31	147
Banded Stilt	151	0	151
Red-necked Avocet	45	2	47
Pacific Golden Plover	2	0	2
Grey Plover	19	4	23
Red-capped Plover	3	0	3
Double-banded Plover	98	0	98
Lesser Sand Plover	0	1	1
Hooded Plover	4	0	4
Masked Lapwing	2	0	2
23 Species	**10350**	**2594**	**12944**

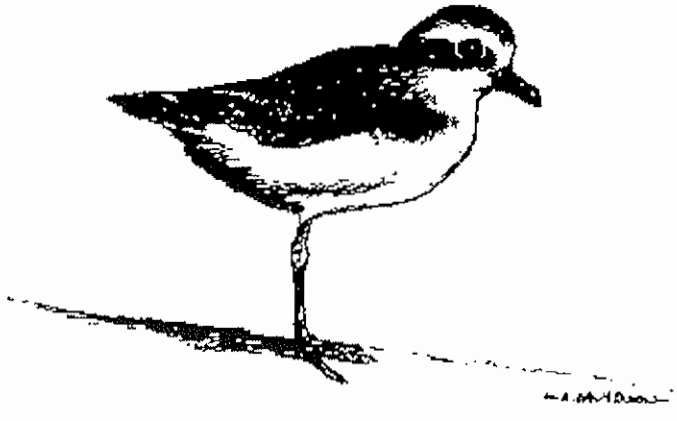
VWSG Wader Catches 1975 to 31 December 2000

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Latham's Snipe	347	14	361
Black-tailed Godwit	2	0	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	2347	137	2484
Short-billed Dowitcher	1	0	1
Whimbrel	23	0	23
Eastern Curlew	722	62	784
Common Greenshank	432	60	492
Terek Sandpiper	32	1	33
Grey-tailed Tattler	37	3	40
Ruddy Turnstone	2001	555	2556
Great Knot	474	47	576
Red Knot	2815	287	3102
Sanderling	1925	663	3351
Little Stint	4	0	4
Red-necked Stint	77797	21911	99708
Long-toed Stint	1	0	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	0	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	5677	197	5874
Curlew Sandpiper	22345	4310	26655
Cox's Sandpiper	1	0	1
Broad-billed Sandpiper	3	0	3
Pied Oystercatcher	1615	768	2383
Sooty Oystercatcher	527	98	625
Black-winged Stilt	18	0	18
Banded Stilt	151	0	151
Red-necked Avocet	306	5	311
Pacific Golden Plover	221	23	244
Grey Plover	119	12	131
Red-capped Plover	600	180	780
Double-banded Plover	3345	975	4320
Lesser Sand Plover	115	11	126
Greater Sand Plover	30	3	33
Black-fronted Dotterel	53	4	57
Hooded Plover	25	1	26
Red-kneed Dotterel	134	11	145
Masked Lapwing	143	3	146
36 Species	**124390**	**30341**	**154731**

Annual Wader Banding Totals by VWSG

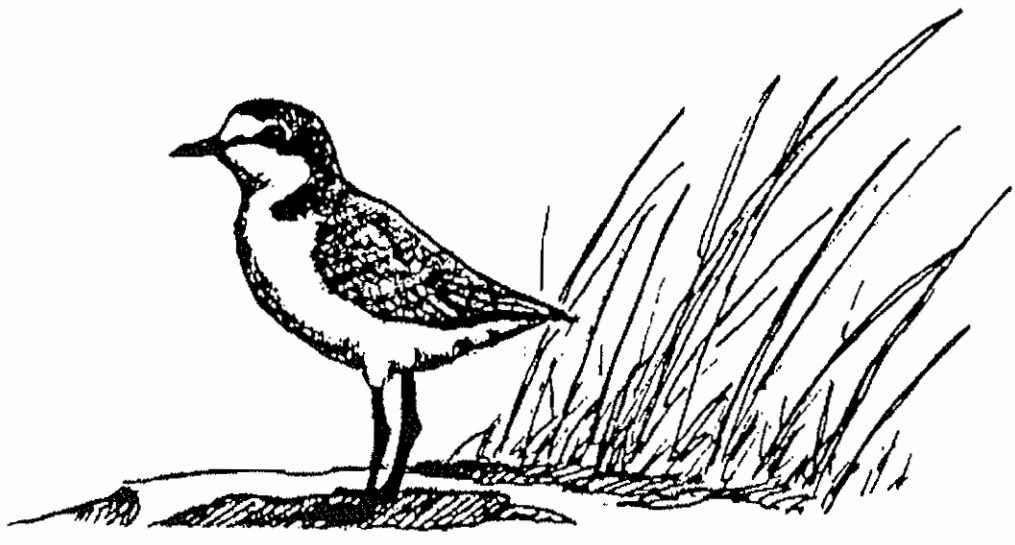
Calendar Year	New	Retrap	Total
1975	9	0	9
1976	616	4	620
1977	482	12	494
1978	1296	42	1338
1979	7436	486	7922
1980	6121	1206	7327
1981	4561	869	5430
1982	3774	796	4570
1983	2875	628	3503
1984	4272	1045	5317
1985	4073	1051	5124
1986	7144	2057	9201
1987	5350	1559	6909
1988	8019	2697	10716
1989	5437	1584	7021
1990	4094	1950	6044
1991	3224	850	4074
1992	4652	861	5513
1993	8831	2588	11419
1994	4839	1753	6592
1995	2708	625	3333
1996	5263	1035	6298
1997	4366	1050	5416
1998	8083	1408	9491
1999	6515	1591	8106
2000	10350	2594	12944
Totals to end 2000	**124390**	**30341**	**154731**

Average annual total for '79-00 = 6922



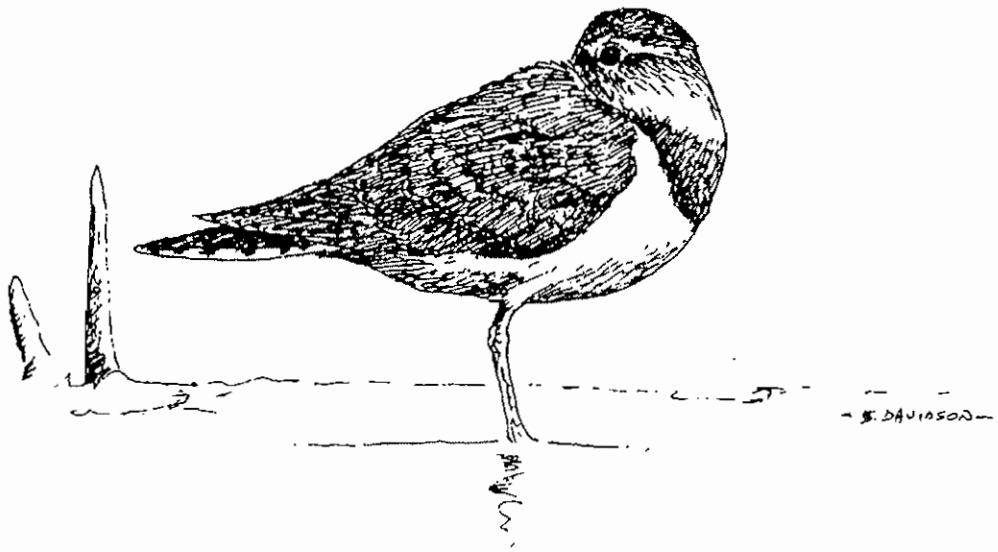
VWSG Catch Record - Waders

Calendar Year	Jan to June	July to Dec.	Total
1975			9
1976			620
1977			494
1978			1338
1979	4289	3633	7922
1980	4127	3200	7327
1981	2113	3317	5430
1982	2394	2176	4570
1983	2882	621	3503
1984	2654	2663	5317
1985	3972	1152	5124
1986	5000	4201	9201
1987	3135	3774	6909
1988	5235	5481	10716
1989	3854	3167	7021
1990	1661	4383	6044
1991	2376	1698	4074
1992	3357	2156	5513
1993	5287	6132	11419
1994	2789	3803	6592
1995	1521	1812	3333
1996	1802	4496	6298
1997	1913	3503	5416
1998	5568	3923	9491
1999	4142	3964	8106
2000	5987	6957	12944



Location of Waders Caught in Victoria and South Australia

	to Dec. 98	1999	2000	Total
Victoria				
Werribee	45911	1256	1129	48296
Western Port	31757	3805	3597	39159
Queenscliff/Swan Bay	22543	363	2586	25492
Anderson Inlet (Inverloch)	14967	692	1664	17323
Corner Inlet	13210	990	1803	16003
Sandy Point/Shallow Inlet	310	92	879	1281
Altona	955	0	0	955
Mud Islands	384	369	0	753
Killarney Beach	426	0	0	426
Geelong (Point Henry / Belmont Common)	257	0	0	257
Bendigo SF	143	0	0	143
Seaford Swamp	98	0	0	98
Braeside/Croyden	79	0	0	79
Gippsland Lakes	20	17	3	40
Toowong	10	0	0	10
South Australia				
Canunda/ Carpenter Rocks/ Brown Bay/ Beachport	2701	522	1283	4506
Totals	**133681**	**8106**	**12944**	**154731**



Waders leg-flagged by The VWSG in Victoria (orange)

Species	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Latham's Snipe	0	0	0	0	40	0	110	56	70	0	2	0	278
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	1	157	6	64	0	43	173	16	84	388	324	1256
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	20
Eastern Curlew	0	0	8	0	73	88	87	4	37	35	91	27	450
Common Greenshank	0	0	21	21	51	0	1	109	131	19	0	0	353
Terek Sandpiper	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4
*Ruddy Turnstone	0	99	188	37	35	1	194	129	194	372	75	54	1378
Great Knot	0	0	2	0	4	0	3	36	31	21	21	53	171
Red Knot	0	0	302	26	88	1	52	59	295	289	175	334	1621
*Sanderling	0	0	163	0	191	1	47	328	148	342	51	118	1389
Little Stint	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Red-necked Stint	0	799	1259	2516	2282	1661	1384	3065	1434	3224	4215	6038	27887
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	4	250	111	71	21	59	145	155	474	212	105	1617
Curlew Sandpiper	146	462	367	1255	808	839	469	753	270	633	770	1162	7934
Cox's Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Broad-billed Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Banded Stilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151	151
Red-necked Avocet	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	27	0	0	46	78
Pacific Golden Plover	0	10	10	1	0	0	0	6	0	10	13	0	50
Grey Plover	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	22	0	0	21	50
Red-capped Plover	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	29	3	10	2	63
Double-banded Plover	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	40	24	98	170
Lesser Sand Plover	0	0	0	14	6	8	9	13	0	4	1	0	55
Greater Sand Plover	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	2	4	0	15
Black-fronted Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Masked Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	2	7
35 Species	**146**	**1375**	**2729**	**3992**	**3739**	**2656**	**2475**	**4881**	**2867**	**5554**	**6089**	**8536**	**45039**

*Includes Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling flagged with orange (only) in the south east of South Australia between 1993 and 1998.

Waders leg-flagged by VWSG in South Australia (orange/yellow)

Species	1999	2000	Total
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	1	1
Ruddy Turnstone	234	226	460
Sanderling	63	420	483
Red-necked Stint	126	383	509
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	2	2
Curlew Sandpiper	24	11	35
Pacific Golden Plover	0	2	2
Totals	**447**	**1045**	**1492**

Tern Banding Totals - VWSG 1999

Species	New Adults	New Chicks	Retraps	Total
Caspian Tern	2	42	0	44
Crested Tern	52	3119	66	3237
Common Tern	73	0	9	82
Little Tern	207	59	19	285
Fairy Tern	10	2	2	14
Whiskered Tern	2	0	0	2
White-winged Black Tern	5	0	0	5
Totals	**351**	**3222**	**96**	**3669**

Tern Banding Totals - VWSG 2000

Species	New Adults	New Chicks	Retraps	Total
Caspian Tern	3	90	3	96
Crested Tern	4	3176	298	3478
Common Tern	38	0	12	50
Little Tern	27	0	8	35
White-winged Black Tern	3	1	0	4
Totals	**75**	**3267**	**321**	**3663**

VWSG FIELDWORK PROGRAM January to December 2000

DATE	PLACE AND OBJECTIVES	HIGH TIDE	
		TIME	HEIGHT m
*Sat 15 to Sun 16 Jan	**Western Port** **Yallock Creek/Stockyard Point** Red-necked Stint & Curlew Sandpiper	0716 1946 0750	2.7 2.5 2.6
*Sat 22 to Sun 23 Jan	**Lakes National Park** Little and Common Tern		
*Thurs 27 to Fri 28 Jan	**Queenscliff and Swan Bay** Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper	0725 1942 0800	1.5 1.4 1.5
Wed 9 Feb	**Sandy Point** Sanderling	1539	1.9
Fri 11 Feb	**Flinders** Ruddy Turnstone	1808	2.6
Wed 16 Feb	**Werribee SF** Pied Oystercatcher	1054	0.8
Fri 25 Feb	**Queenscliff** Pied Oystercatcher	1925	1.4
*Sat 26 to Sun 27 Feb	**Stockyard Point** Pied Oystercatcher	1913 0706	2.7 2.6
Tues 7 to Mon 13 Mar	**South Australia** Sanderling and Turnstone		
*Wed 15 to Sun 19 Mar	**Corner Inlet** Pre-departure fattening waders, especially Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit	0715 (15th) to 1054(19th)	2.5 2.2
Sun 26 Mar	**Barry Beach** Departing Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit, or Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher	1718	2.4
Sun 9 April	**Roussac Point, Corner Inlet** Sooty and Pied Oystercatcher	1606	2.5
Wed 19 April	**Hastings** Pied Oystercatcher	1346	2.7
Sat 6 May	**Rhyll** Pied Oystercatcher	1454	3.0
Sat 17 June to Mon 19 June	**Corner Inlet** Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers	1258 to 1428	2.32 to 2.37
Tues 20 June	**Roussac Point, Corner Inlet** Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers	1505	2.38

*Meet the previous evening to set the nets.

VWSG FIELDWORK PROGRAM January to December 2000 Cont.

Wed 5 July	**Barry Beach** Bar-tailed Godwit & Knot Sooty & Pied Oystercatchers	1508	2.64
Sun 16 July	**Stockyard Point** Pied Oystercatchers	1301	2.68
Mon 17 July	**Fairhaven, French Island** Pied Oystercatchers	1349	2.75
Wed 2 Aug	**Rhyll** Pied Oystercatchers	1456	2.98
Sat 30 Sep	**Yallock Creek** Small waders	1546	2.74
Sat 14 Oct	**Annual General Meeting** at Clive Minton's house	10 am Net mending 4pm AGM 5.30 p.m. BBQ 7pm Slide show and talks	
Fri 20 Oct to Sun 22 Oct	**Swan Island, Queenscliff** Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot etc	0738 to 0915	1.52 to 1.37
Sat 28 Oct	**Sandy Point** Sanderling	1315	2.21
Sun 29 Oct	**West Head, Flinders** Turnstone	1515	2.57
Fri 17 Nov to Sun 19 Nov	**Swan Island, Queenscliff** Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot etc	0643 to 0815	1.61 to 1.49
Sat 2 Dec to Sun 3 Dec	**Inverloch** Red-necked Stints, Curlew Sandpipers	0537 and 0609	2.45 and 2.41
Sat 16 Dec	**Mud Islands** Crested Tern chicks	1616	1.37
Sun 17 Dec	**Yallock Creek** Small waders	1820	2.59
Wed 27 Dec to Fri 29 Dec	**Werribee S.F** Small waders	0534 to 0651	0.89 to 0.88

Recoveries of Waders Banded in Victoria 1999/2000

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Doris Graham and Peter Collins

This list follows the same format as in previous VWSG Bulletins. It includes all birds found dead and also all birds which have shown significant movements away from the banding location or have shown exceptional longevity.

Many reports have emanated from sightings of individually colour marked birds (eg. Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, Hooded Plover) or birds recaptured by other banders (even a Red-necked Stint in Mongolia).

The age codes at banding are
1 = first year or juvenile
2 = second year
2+= second year or older
3+= third year or older

Bar-tailed Godwit

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
072-63236	3+	210399	Mud Islands. Port Phillip Bay	260100#	Warneet. Western Port, Vic	51 E

Dead

Whilst Bar-tailed Godwits produce many leg-flag sightings recoveries are few and far between.

Eastern Curlew

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
091-38675	3+	101098	The Gurdies	050599#	Gorbil River, Amur Region, RUSSIA 50^0 44'N 129^0 10'E	10033 N
091-29254	3+	220299	Yallock Creek	180799	Corner Inlet, Vic	85S E
091-04340	2+	181081	Swan Island	191100	Swan Bay, Vic	Local

#Dead

The overseas recovery (unfortunately shot) was in the principal breeding area of this species in south eastern Siberia. It is our first Eastern Curlew recovery from Russia. There was previously a recovery in Manchuria on the Chinese side of the Amur River. Note the $20^1/_2$ years minimum age of the third bird listed.

Ruddy Turnstone

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
051-59509	1	201191	Killarney Beach, Vic	291100#	Georgetown Reserve, Tas.	488 SE
051-29722	3+	181189	Swan Island, Queenscliff	270100	Swan Island, Queenscliff	Local

Dead

Few waders are ever found dead in Australia, so this recovery is unusual. It was found in Tasmania 9 years after it was banded at Killarney Beach in Western Victoria. When caught it was part of a large group of 150 juvenile Turnstone, some of which (including this bird) had elevated weights and were therefore still on migration.
Note the 12½ years minimum age of the second bird.

Great Knot

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
061-37857	2+	301284	Swan Island, Queenscliff	130989	Khabarovsk, Urochistshe, Chernaya, RUSSIA 48^0 30'N 135^0 04'E	9690 N
061-43052	2+	081186	Swan Island	201000	Swan Island, Queenscliff Vic	Local

This much delayed recovery, on southward migration in the south east corner of Siberia, is the first from Victoria in Russia. It is a little south of the main stopover site in the sea of Okhotsk used by Great Knots before their huge flight direct to the NW Australia non-breeding areas.
Note the age of the second bird – a minimum of $15^1/_4$ years.

Red Knot

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date retrapped	Location found	Km moved
C54669 NZ	2+	291197	Jordan's Farm, Kaipara Harbour, NEW ZEALAND 36^0 34'S 174^0 21'E	091099	Rhyll, Phillip Island, Vic	2558 WSW
051-94038	1	140798	Barry Beach	220500	80 Mile Beach WA	3237 NW
051-18333	3+	191085	Swan Island, Queenscliff	270100	Swan Island, Queenscliff,	Local
051-18252	2	191085	Swan Island, Queenscliff	271000	Swan Island, Queenscliff	Local
051-18256	2	191085	Swan Island, Queenscliff	271000	Swan Island, Queenscliff	Local

It was nice to catch a New Zealand banded bird – normally it is the other way round (ie. banded in Australia, recaptured in New Zealand). The bird was presumably on its way back there through Victoria.

The bird recaptured on 80 Mile Beach on 22/05/00 was particularly interesting. It was part of a large cohort of heavy (144 gram) Red Knot, in advanced breeding plumage, which were still present in NW Australia in mid May but which had largely departed by the end of the month. It is thought their departure may have been delayed by a cyclone in late April.

Another Red Knot, with an orange leg-flag but no metal band, was caught at Broome on 31 May 2000. This had similar plumage but low weight and seemingly "missed the boat". There is only one previous recovery or flag sighting to suggest that NW Australia is on the migration route of birds which visit Victoria – the link appears to be the exception rather than the rule.

051-18333 was a minimum of $17^1/_2$ years old when recaptured at its banding location at Swan Island, Queenscliff.

Sanderling

Birds Retrapped at Brown Bay, SA, 09/03/2000

Band	Age banded	Date banded	Location banded
041-60455	2+	020391	Killarney Beach, Vic
041-60368	2+	020391	Killarney Beach, Vic
041-96693	1	281097	Sandy Point, Vic
041-96684	2+	281097	Sandy Point, Vic
041-96674	2+	281097	Sandy Point, Vic
041-96656	2+	281097	Sandy Point, Vic
041-98325	1	070498	Sandy Point, Vic
041-98287	1	070498	Sandy Point, Vic
041-98261	2+	070498	Sandy Point, Vic
041-98259	2+	070498	Sandy Point, Vic
041-98419	2	221198	Sandy Point, Vic
041-98404	3+	221198	Sandy Point, Vic
041-98396	2	221198	Sandy Point, Vic
041-98384	2	221198	Sandy Point. Vic
041-98375	3+	221198	Sandy Point, Vic
042-15107	2+	311099	Sandy Point, Vic
042-15058	2+	311099	Sandy Point, Vic
042-27305	2+	090200	Sandy Point, Vic

This batch of interstate retraps of Sanderling illustrates just how mobile this species is, being significantly less faithful to a particular non-breeding area than the other migrant waders.

Note that 042-27305 was recaptured in South Australia only four weeks after it had been banded at Sandy Point in Victoria, some 500 km to the east.

Red-necked Stint

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
034-93879	2+	150194	Swan Bay, Queenscliff	280500	Verkhnevilyuyskiy District, Kyrykyy, RUSSIA 63^0 53'N 120^0 43'E	11,545 NNW
035-10394	2+	010498	Barry Beach	020600	Lake Hadjin, Zagaan, Nuur, MONGOLIA 49^0 42'N 115^0 42'E	c.10,000 N
035-40517	2+	080199	Yallock Creek	140500	Szu-Tsao, Tainan City, TAIWAN 23^0 03'N 120^0 07'E	7306 NNW
033-72766	1+	020390	Saline Swamp, Port Augusta, SA	150100	Stockyard Point	956 E
032-75391	3+	200986	Yallock Creek	150100	Yallock Creek	Local
035-07742	2+	201297	Swan Bay, Queenscliff	210100#	Swan Island, Queenscliff	4 SSE

Dead

The recovery in Mongolia is a 'first' for any Australian banded bird. Several leg-flagged Red-necked Stints were also seen in the same area, which is clearly an important stop over region for birds traversing the continent between the Chinese coast and the northern Siberian breeding grounds.

It is interesting that the Russian recovery is a little further north in Siberia on the same route. Both birds were clearly aiming towards the western end of the breeding range.

The bird from South Australia would appear to have changed its non-breeding area (to Victoria). The flag sightings lists contain further similar examples.

The oldest recaptured bird was at least $15^1/_2$ years.

Curlew Sandpiper

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date retrapped	Location found	Km moved
042-15515	3+	291299	Werribee SF	050400	Mai Po Nature Reserve, HONG KONG 22^0 29'N 114^0 19'E	7447 NW
041-09871	1	050584	Yallock Creek	020100	Barrallier Island	10 W
041-11269	2+	260185	Swan Island, Queenscliff	260100	Swan Island, Queenscliff	Local
041-15096	2+	230385	Swan Island, Queenscliff	260100	Swan Island, Queenscliff	Local

This recapture in Hong Kong emphasises the early date (some even in March) at which Victorian Curlew Sandpipers can reach Hong Kong on northward migration. Three recaptured birds aged more than 16 years are listed.

Pied Oystercatcher

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date(s) seen	Location found	Km moved
101-04621	3+	300995	The Gurdies	110999	Tathra, NSW	375 NE
101-03964	3	110994	Stockyard Point	131199	Boydtown Beach, NSW	407 ENE
101-15122	2	200897	Stockyard Point	131299	South Tuross Heads, NSW	482 ENE
101-03611	3+	070593	off Manns Beach	260100	Quarry Beach, Mallacoota, NSW	279 ENE
?	?	Since 1989	Stockyard Point	090200	Cockle Broadwater, Davistown, NSW	755 NE
100-99532	2	310392	off Manns Beach	120200	Bithry Inlet, Mimosa Rocks NP, NSW	361 NNE
101-04817	3+	060796	Barry Beach	271000	Bermagui, NSW	412 NE
101-15122	2	200897	Stockyard Point	291000	Tuross Heads, NSW	482 NE
?	?	060590	Werribee	110399 290399	Arthur Beach, W coast Tas.	334 S
101-04858	1	070697	Stockyard Point	281099 171199	Mortimer Bay, South Arm, Tas.	539 SSE
101-04659	3+	210596	Roussac's Farm Corner Inlet	231299#	Bold Head, King Island, Tas.	230 SW
101-15566	1	160799	Manns Beach	080100	Hobart, Tas	470 S
100-96814	3+	050899	Stockyard Point	151199 120200	65 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA 44 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	615 WNW 600 WNW
101-15537	3+	280699	Stockyard Point	181199	35 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	590 WNW
101-04654	2	180596	Stockyard Point	181199 120200	47 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA 36 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	600 WNW 590 WNW
101-03670	2	171093	The Gurdies Beach	181199 120200	31 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA 34 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	580 WNW 590 WNW
?	?	Since 1989	Stockyard Point	090200	Cockle Broadwater, Davistown, NSW	755 NE
100-99532	2	310392	off Manns Beach	120200	Bithry Inlet, Mimosa Rocks NP, NSW	361 NNE
101-04817	3+	060796	Barry Beach	271000	Bermagui, NSW	412 NE
101-15122	2	200897	Stockyard Point	291000	Tuross Heads, NSW	482 NE
?	?	060590	Werribee	110399 290399	Arthur Beach, W coast Tas.	334 S
101-04858	1	070697	Stockyard Point	281099 171199	Mortimer Bay, South Arm, Tas.	539 SSE
101-04659	3+	210596	Roussac's Farm Corner Inlet	231299#	Bold Head, King Island, Tas.	230 SW

101-04641	3+	180596	Stockyard Point	271199	Canunda Beach SA	460 WNW
				250200 220800	10 k N of Beachport SA Beachport SA	490 W 492 W
101-04615	1	300795	The Gurdies	120200	70 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	620 WNW
101-04616	3+	300995	The Gurdies	120200	63 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	615 WNW
101-15418	1	120798	Stockyard Point	120200	46 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	600 WNW
101-04837	3	030896	The Gurdies	120200	34 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	590 WNW
101-03686	2+	090794	Altona	120200	33 k N of 42 Mile Crossing, The Coorong, SA	520 WNW
100-96789	1	010789	Werribee	170200	Douglass Point CP SA	365 W
100-96873	1	060590	Werribee	170200	Douglass Point CP, SA	365 W
101-04862	1	180697	Werribee	170200	Douglass Point CP, SA	365 W
100-96760	2+	160489	Werribee	230200	Pelican Point, SA	550 N
100-96888	3+	130500	Barry Beach	130500	Pelican Point, SA	510 W
? 2 birds	?	301279	Dream Island, Corner Inlet	241199 nesting	Box Bank, Corner Inlet, Vic	Local
101-03577	3+	270293	The Gurdies	160100	Warrnambool, Vic	265 W
101-03611	3+	070593	Manns Beach	260100	Mallacoota, Vic	295 ENE
100-96845	2+	060590	Werribee	280100	Reef Point, Killarney Beach, Vic	225 W
101-03684	3+	090794	Altona	130200	Port Fairy, Vic	240 WSW
100-99428	2	130791	Rhyll	130200	Port Fairy, Vic	265 W
100-99577	1	030592	Werribee	130200	Port Fairy, Vic	250 WSW
101-15156	2	010398	Queenscliff	130200	Port Fairy, Vic	210 W
101-03688	3+	090794	Altona	130200	Port Fairy, Vic	240 WSW
101-04025	3	110994	Stockyard Point	130200	Port Fairy, Vic	240 WSW
101-04033	1	090794	The Gurdies	130200	Port Fairy, Vic	260 W
101-03956	3	130894	Barry Beach	020300	Wingan Inlet, Vic	315 ENE
101-03608	3+	070593	Manns Beach	020300	Wingan Inlet, Vic	295 ENE
101-15436	3+	100299	Werribee	070300 #	Swan Bay, Queenscliff, Vic	20 SSE
101-15463	1+	110399	Werribee	030900	Seaspray	235 E

Dead

Many of the above birds have additional sighting and retrap histories not detailed here. Only reports received since the last VWSG Bulletin are included.

The value of colour banding this species is again illustrated by the large number and diversity of sightings of live birds in the field. Reports range from Tasmania (up to 539 km SSE) to New South Wales (up to 755 km NE) and across to South Australia (furthest was 620 km WNW). Before this study commenced Pied Oystercatchers used

to be regarded as rather sedentary! Note the age of the two birds found nesting on Box Bank, 241199 these are now at least 21 years old.

Sooty Oystercatcher

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date seen	Location found	km moved
101-04811	3+	050796	Roussac's Farm Corner Inlet	200199	Deal Island, Kent Group, Tas	127 SE
101-03631	3+	080593	off Manns Beach	140399	Maatsuyker Island, SW Tas	554 S
101-15116	3+	240797	Roussac's Farm, Corner Inlet	040400	Lades Beach, Bridport, Tas	265 SSE
101-15140	3+	190398	West Head Flinders	240700	Kilcunda, Vic	38 ENE

Less far ranging than the Pied Oystercatcher. The most common movements are from the Victorian coast to the Bass Strait Islands or to Tasmania. Maatsuyker Island is off to the south west of Tasmania – just about as far as it is possible to go southwards and still be in Australia (excepting Macquarie Island).

Red-necked Avocet

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
082-90324	2+	210893	Stockyard Point	281200	Werribee SF	90 WNW

Flagged birds have previously been reported moving between Western Port and Werribee but this is the first recapture.

Grey Plover

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
061-43111	2	011088	Swan Island, Queenscliff	201000	Swan Island, Queenscliff	Local
061-57113	2+	181189	Swan Island, Queenscliff	201000	Swan Island, Queenscliff	Local

Note the ages of these two retraps – minimum of $13^1/_4$ and $12^1/_4$ years.

Double-banded Plover

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date retrapped	Location found	Km moved
041-44134	1	130688	Yallock Creek	170998	Ohau River, NEW ZEALAND 44^0 18'S 170^0 09'E	2161 ESE
041-47781 NZ C61328 added	1	030689	Swan Island, Queenscliff	031298	Ohau River, NEW ZEALAND 44^0 18'S 170^0 09'E	2222 ESE
041-98223	2+	010498	Barry Beach	280999	Ohau River, NEW ZEALAND 44^0 18'S 170^0 09'E	2066 ESE

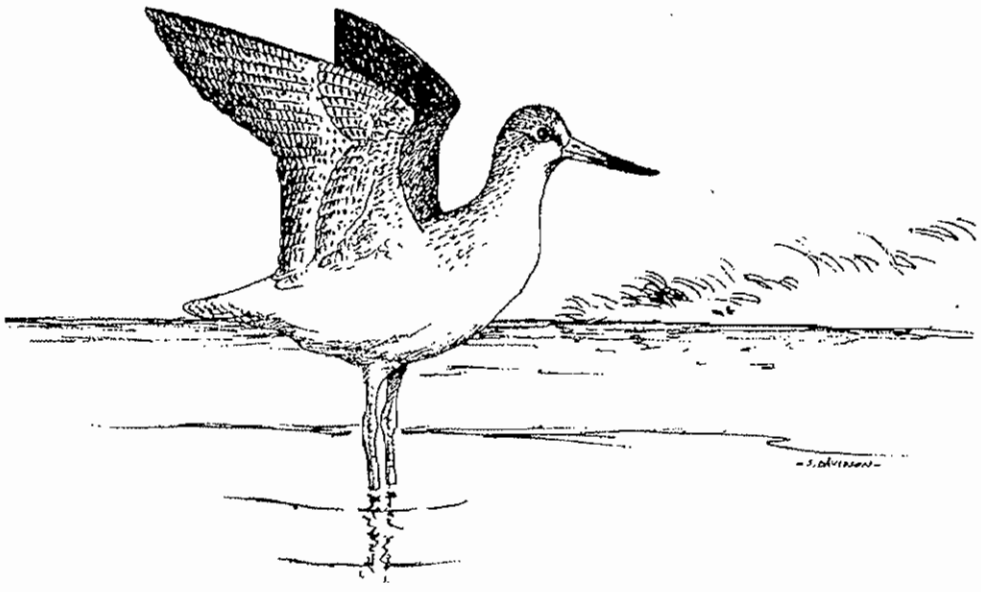
The Ohau River area in the centre of South Island, New Zealand, is in the heart of the region from which the Double-banded Plovers that visit Australia come. Note that two of these birds recaptured on their breeding grounds were quite old – 11 years and 10 years respectively.

Hooded Plover

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date seen	Location found	Km moved
051-18440	2+	220686	Inverloch	regularly to 120400	Inverloch, Vic	Local

This old faithful colour banded bird has remained within 10 km of Inverloch since it was first banded 14 years ago. It must have been hatched in late 1984, or earlier, and therefore was a minimum of 15 $^1/_3$ years old when seen on 12/04/2000

[Stop Press. It has been seen again in February 2001 – over 16 years old now]



Recoveries of Waders Banded in South Australia

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Doris Graham, Peter Collins & Iain Stewart

In previous VWSG Bulletins recoveries and controls emanating from birds banded during the Groups annual (since 1993) visits to the south east of South Australia have been included in the main tables of recoveries. However as the volume of data grows it seems appropriate to list these separately.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recaptured	Location found	Km moved
072-42036	2	260297	Port MacDonnell, SA	091099	Rhyll, Phillip Is. Vic	405 ESE

This bird appears to have changed its non-breeding area.

Ruddy Turnstone

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date found	Location found	Km moved
052-03799	1	111200	Brown Bay, SA	311200	Miranda, Firth of Thames, NEW ZEALAND 37^0 10'S 175^0 19'E	3100 E
051-94455	2+	020400	Beachport, SA	230400	Carpenters Rocks, SA	63SS E

The New Zealand recovery, only 20 days after it had been banded in SA, is amazing. The distinctive O/Y leg-flags were seen first and then the observer was able to read sufficient of the numbers on the metal band for the bird to be identified individually. The bird was still present in February 2001.

Prior to being caught on 11th December the whole flock of 100 Turnstone was seen to fly out to sea for two or more kilometres before it turned back and the birds landed in the catching area and were caught. The catch had a high proportion of juveniles in it and around 25% of these had elevated weights – including the one later found in New Zealand. Clearly these birds had not completed their southward migration. At the time it was presumed they were on their way to Tasmania but we now know at least one was going much further.

This is nice proof also that southward migration can continue well into December in juvenile birds.

Sanderling

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date found	Location found	Km moved
042-27730	2+	090300	Brown Bay, SA	010600	Kleje Strait, Chaivo, NE Sakhalin Island, RUSSIA 52^0 23'N 143^0 14'E	c.10500 N
042-12323	2+	081098	Bush Point, Broome WA	090300	Brown Bay, Port MacDonnell, SA	2800 SE
042-12324	1	081098	Bush Point, Broome WA	090300	Brown Bay, Port MacDonnell, SA	2800 SE
042-12311	?	081098	Bush Point, Broome WA	081200	Canunda Beach, SA	2750 SE
041-96392	2+	250297	Stoney Point, Port MacDonnell, SA	311099	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	477 ESE
042-00763	2+	040499	Canunda NP, SA	311099	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	539 ESE
041-91768	2+	060295	Brown Bay, SA	280100 141200	Sandy Point , Shallow Inlet	460 ESE Local
042-27358	2+	090300	Brown Bay, SA	281000	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	460 ESE
042-27366	2+	090300	Brown Bay, SA	141200	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	460 ESE
042-27501	2+	090300	Brown Bay, SA	141200	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	460 ESE

The recovery on the east coast of Siberia is the first overseas recovery of any Sanderling banded in Australia. It has been a long time coming! It adds further to the large number of flag sightings which indicate that the main Sanderling migration route is along the eastern fringe of the Flyway, through Japan/Korea/eastern Siberia.

The three recaptures of Sanderling which were banded on migration near Broome in NW Australia are in line with previous flag sightings of birds which have crossed the continent, in both directions, between NWA and SE Australia.

The other reports listed are part of the large interchange of birds which occurs between the South Australian and Victorian Sanderling populations, due to the mobility of this species on ocean beaches.

Red-necked Stint

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date found	Location found	Km moved
035-73882	1	120300	Carpenters Rocks, SA	021200	Inverloch, Vic	450 ESE

Sightings of Waders Leg-flagged in Victoria.
Report Number 8

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Peter Collins and Doris Graham

An orange plastic leg-flag has been placed on the right tibia of most migrant and some resident waders banded in Victoria since 1990. This has led to a significant increase in the rate at which data has been generated on migration routes and key stopover regions in the Flyway.

Lists of orange-flagged birds away from the banding areas have been published in past VWSG Bulletins and in the AWSG Journal *The Stilt*.

This new list covers all new sightings of birds seen up to 31 December 2000. It follows list number 7 in VWSG Bulletin No.23, July 1999, and the reprint of that list in *The Stilt*, **35** - October 1999. Sightings have been placed in approximately North to South geographic order, and within each approximate locality in date order.

Key to Tables. Each table shows the date of the sighting, the number of birds seen, country/state in which they were seen, latitude and longitude for sightings outside Australia and the finder.

Black-tailed Godwit

Overseas

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country/State	Lat	Long	Finder
15	8	2000	1	Gulmae-Ri, Asan Bay	KOREA	36 54 N	126 54 E	Jin-Young Park

Australian

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	State	Finder
26	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	G.Swann

Only 2 Black-tailed Godwits have ever been caught (and flagged) in Victoria, and now we have two flag sightings! Interestingly one is in Korea, where two flagged birds from NW Australia have previously been seen. The other is from Broome, NW Australia. It seems quite possible that these two records refer to the same bird.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Overseas

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat	Long	Finder
5-10	9	1999	14	Embayment N. 10k West of Chefornak, Alaska.	USA	60 07 N	164 27 W	R. Gill
8	6	2000	1	Safety Sound, 15 miles east of Nome, Alaska	USA	64 00 N	165 00 W	S.Howell & R.Gill
2	5	1999	3	Tori-no-Umi, Watari, Miyaga	JAPAN	38 02 N	140 55 E	Hiroshi Ikeno

4	5	1999	3	Tori-no-Umi, Watari, Miyaga	JAPAN	38 02 N	140	55 E	Hiroshi Ikeno
9	5	1999	3	Tori-no-Umi, Watari, Miyaga	JAPAN	38 02 N	140	55 E	Hiroshi Ikeno
3	5	1999	1	Mouth of Shirakawa River, Kumamoto	JAPAN	32 47 N	130	37 E	Kvoilhoro Imamura
3	5	2000	1	Arao Beach, Arao, Kumamoto	JAPAN	33 00 N	130	30 E	Takatsune Nagai
15	4	1999	1	Namyang Bay	KOREA	37 05 N	126	45 E	Jin-Young Park
10	5	1999	1	Namyang Bay	KOREA	37 05 N	126	45 E	Jin-Young Park
16	4	2000	1	Gulmae-Ri, Asan Bay	KOREA	36 54 N	126	54 E	Jin-Young Park
16	4	2000	1	Kum Estuary	KOREA	36 01 N	126	45 E	M. Barter & Jin-Han Kim
16	4	2000	2	Imgok-Ri, Masan City	KOREA	35 06 N	128	27 E	N.Moores
19	4	2000	1	Okku, Mankyung Estuary	KOREA	35 52 N	126	43 E	M. Barter & Jin-Han Kim
24	8	1999	1	Happy Island, Hebei	CHINA	39 47 N	119	27 E	J.Kriegs
9	8	1999	1	Mangere SP, Manukau	NEW ZEALAND	36 57 S	174	46 E	R.Clough
27	8	1999	1	Rototai Beach, Golden Bay	NEW ZEALAND	40 50 S	172	49 E	K.Stark
26	9	1999	2	Farewell Spit, Banana Pan	NEW ZEALAND	40 31 S	172	51 E	R.Schuckard
26	9	1999	1	Farewell Spit	NEW ZEALAND	40 34 S	173	02 E	R.Schuckard
12	10	1999	1	Bells Island, Waimea Inlet, nr. Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	41 17 S	173	10 E	W.Cook c/o R.Schuckard
12	10	1999	1	near Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	41 21 S	173	08 E	W.Cook
15	10	1999	1	Farewell Spit	NEW ZEALAND	40 34 S	173	02 E	R.Schuckard
21	11	1999	2	Kidds, Manukau,	NEW ZEALAND	37 05 S	174	50 E	T.Habraken
26	12	1999	2	Tapora South, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36 21 S	174	18 E	C.Grant & G.Pulham
26	12	1999	2	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	NEW ZEALAND	43 33 S	172	44 E	N.Allen
17	1	2000	2	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	NEW ZEALAND	43 33 S	172	44 E	S.Butcher
23	1	2000	2	New Brighton Spit, Christchurch	NEW ZEALAND	43 30 S	172	43 E	P. Schweigman
23	1	2000	2	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	NEW ZEALAND	43 33 S	172	44 E	N.Allen
25	1	2000	1	Colville, Coromandel	NEW ZEALAND	36 37 S	175	28 E	B.& B.Woolley
10	2	2000	1	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	NEW ZEALAND	43 33 S	172	44 E	S.Petch
19	2	2000	1	South Shore Spit, Christchurch	NEW ZEALAND	43 33 S	172	44 E	N.Allen via D Tofield
23	2	2000	1	Gobi (Farewell Spit)	NEW ZEALAND	40 30 S	172	46 E	R.Schuckard
18	3	2000	1	Lagoon (Farewell Spit)	NEW ZEALAND	40 32 S	172	58 E	R.Schuckard
7	5	2000	1	South Shore Spit, Christchurch	NEW ZEALAND	43 33 S	172	44 E	N.Allen via D Tofield
10	6	2000	1	South Shore Spit, Christchurch	NEW ZEALAND	43 33 S	172	44 E	N.Allen via D Tofield

13	6	2000	2	Farewell Spit, Banana Pan	NEW ZEALAND	40	31 S	172 51 E	R.Schuckard
20	8	2000	1	Mangere SP, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	36	57 S	174 46 E	R.Clough
2	9	2000	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05 S	174 50 E	T.Harbraken et al.
9	9	2000	1	Miranda Firth of Thames	NEW ZEALAND	37	10 S	175 19 E	K.Woodley
16	9	2000	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05 S	174 50 E	T.Harbraken
14	10	2000	1	Jordans, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36	21 S	174 18 E	A.Riegan
15	10	2000	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05 S	174 50 E	T.Harbraken and D.Lawrie
28	10	2000	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05 S	174 50 E	T.Harbraken and D.Lawrie
29	10	2000	1	Farewell Spit, Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	40	31 S	172 51 E	D.Melville
25	11	2000	1	Papakanui Spit, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36	21 S	174 18 E	T.Harbraken

Australian

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	State	Finder
16	11	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	J.Matsui
23	11	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	J.Matsui
24	10	2000	1	Broome	WA	D.James
1	11	2000	1	Broome	WA	A.Boyle
23	12	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
18	1	1999	1	Wellington Point, Moreton Bay	Qld	C.Catterall & P.Battley
12	9	1999	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S.Keates
4	4	2000	1	Tin Can Bay	Qld	J.Ibbotson
7	7	2000	1	Poona, Great Sandy Strait	Qld	P. & L.Cross
30	9	2000	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates
15	10	2000	1	Dux Creek	Qld	T.Ford
15	10	2000	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates
17	10	2000	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates
21	10	2000	1	Boonooroo, Great Sandy Strait	Qld	S.Redenbach
21	10	2000	1	Green Island, Cairns	Qld	R.Spencer
21	10	2000	1	Toorbul	Qld	G.Goodyear
11	11	2000	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates
19	11	2000	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates
10	12	2000	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates
25	9	2000	1	Merimbula	NSW	B.Jones
29	9	2000	1	Merimbula	NSW	G.Beal
30	12	2000	1	Mallacoota	Vic	C.Lester

This is an unprecedented list of 94 sightings, partly a reflection of the VWSG's success in catching Bar-tailed Godwits in recent years.

The most revealing were the 15 sightings in Alaska - our first. One was on the breeding grounds on the west coast of Alaska. The others were at a premigratory collecting area in early September in SW Alaska. With them were 10 leg-flagged Bar-tailed Godwits from Queensland and 10 from New Zealand but, significantly, none from NW Australia. These sightings lend strong support to the segregation of the two

different races of Bar-tailed Godwits in Australia, *L.l. menzbieri* breeding in Central North Siberia (especially Yakutia) go to NW Australia whilst the eastern Australia and New Zealand birds, *L.l. baueri,* come from Alaska. The timing of the Alaskan sightings also further supports the view that they may fly direct from there to eastern Australia and New Zealand (10,000 kms).

The sighting in China on southward migration is the first ever in that country (although there have been two on northward migration). The seven sightings in Korea and 11 in Japan were, as previously, during the northward migration. These further support the view that the Asian areas are largely bypassed on southward migration by birds on their way to SE Australia.

The 14 sightings in Queensland further reinforce the view that this is the gateway to Victoria for some birds on southward migration. However several of the records seem to relate to birds which appear to have changed their non-breeding areas to Moreton Bay.

The same is true for our first Victorian flagged Bar-tailed Godwits in NW Australia - all 5 sightings probably refer to the same bird which has changed its non-breeding area away from Victoria.

Eastern Curlew

Overseas

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat	Long	Finder
12	3	2000	1	Sone Shinden, Kokura, Fukuoka	JAPAN	33 49 N	130 58 E	Masafumi Takeshita
19	3	2000	1	Sone Shinden, Kokura, Fukuoka	JAPAN	33 49 N	130 58 E	Masafumi Takeshita
15	3	2000	1	Yooboo Island	KOREA	35 59 N	126 36 E	Han-Soo Lee
22	3	2000	1	Yooboo Island	KOREA	35 59 N	126 36 E	Han-Soo Lee

Australian

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	State	Finder
13	10	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
5	5	1999	1	Dux Creek, Bribie Island	Qld	T.Ford
9	8	2000	1	Boonooroo, Great Sandy Strait	Qld	S.Redenbach
25	8	2000	1	Tweed River Entrance	Qld	E.Kleiber
27	8	2000	1	Tweed River Entrance	Qld	E.Kleiber
30	8	2000	1	Tweed River Entrance	Qld	E.Kleiber
11	12	1999	1	Port Arthur, Yorke Peninsula	SA	R.Clarke

As in previous reports most sightings were in Japan, Korea and Queensland. The 15th March is a very early date for a bird to have reached Korea. The sighting at Broome is the first Victorian flagged Eastern Curlew to be reported in WA. The SA record is the second only for that state.

Grey-tailed Tattler

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	State	Finder
25	9	1999	1	Boonooroo, Great Sandy Straits	Qld	A. & S.Keates

1999 is the third successive year that a Victorian flagged Grey-tailed Tattler has been seen in SE Queensland in September, presumably on southward migration back to Victoria. The 1998 record was also at Boonooroo. As only four Tattlers have ever been flagged in Victoria it is likely that the same individual is involved.

Ruddy Turnstone

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	State	Finder
27	9	2000	1	Darwin Wharf	NT	D.Henderson, K.Cridland
9	3	2000	1	W. of Stoney Point, 8 Mile Creek Point	SA	R.Jessop & P.Collins
23	12	2000	1	Eyre Island, Western Eyre Pen.	SA	C.Rogers
4	1	2000	1	Waterhouse Is., 100km W. of Flinders Is	Tas	P.Johns

A real miscellany. The bird at Darwin was probably on its way south back to Victoria (in 1998 one was seen at Port Hedland, WA, also in September - see VWSG Bulletin 23 page 31). The bird seen on an island off the north coast of Tasmania was probably originally flagged in Victoria when on migration. The two South Australian sightings seem to be birds which had moved their non-breeding areas from Victoria/S.E. corner of SA (the latter area also used orange leg-flags until April 1999.).

Great Knot

Overseas

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	Country	Lat	Long	Finder
17	4	2000	1	Mankyung Estuary	KOREA	35 52 N	126 43 E	M.Barter & Jin-Han Kim
19	4	2000	1	Mankyung Estuary	KOREA	35 52 N	126 43 E	M.Barter & Jin-Han Kim

Australian

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	State	Finder
17	9	1998	1	Sandgate, Moreton Bay	Qld	F.Armbrust
15	9	1999	1	Karumba Point	Qld	J.Bedwell
11	12	1999	1	Price's Saltworks, Gulf St Vincent	SA	R.Clarke
28	11	2000	1	Price's Saltworks, Gulf St Vincent	SA	J.Cox & C.Rogers
30	12	2000	2	Cape Missiessie, W. Eyre Peninsula.	SA	C.Rogers

Korea is extensively used as a stopover location on northward migration by Great Knot. The Queensland sightings were probably of birds en route back to Victoria. In contrast the two SA records look like birds which have changed their non-breeding area away from Victoria.

Red Knot

Overseas

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	Country	Lat			Long			Finder
8	5	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22	29	N	114	19	E	Y-T Li
20	9	1998	1	Yarrs, Lake Ellesmere	NEW ZEALAND	43	42	S	172	30	E	C.Hill
26	9	1998	1	Wolfes Road, Lake Ellesmere	NEW ZEALAND	43	43	S	172	27	E	N.Allen
26	11	1998	1	Lake Ellesmere	NEW ZEALAND	43	43	S	172	29	E	C.Hill
12	12	1998	1	Ashley River Mouth	NEW ZEALAND	43	17	S	172	43	E	N.Allen
30	12	1998	2	Mangawhai Spit, Auckland	NEW ZEALAND	36	06	S	174	36	E	NZ Banding Scheme
22	1	1999	1	Ashley River Mouth	NEW ZEALAND	43	17	S	172	43	E	N.Allen
9	8	1999	1	Mangere Sewage Ponds	NEW ZEALAND	36	57	S	174	46	E	R.Clough
15	8	1999	2	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken
16	9	1999	1	Kidds, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken
7	11	1999	1	near Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	41	21	S	173	08	E	W.Cook
12	11	1999	3	Miranda, Firth of Thames	NEW ZEALAND	37	10	S	172	19	E	W.Perry
14	11	1999	1	Rangipo, Miranda, Firth of Thames	NEW ZEALAND	37	10	S	175	19	E	W.Perry
14	11	1999	2	Waihua River, Firth of Thames	NEW ZEALAND	37		S	175		E	T.Habraken
21	11	1999	2	Kidds, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken
27	11	1999	1	Tapora South, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36	21	S	174	18	E	G.Grant
27	11	1999	2	Papakanui Spit, Kaipara,	NEW ZEALAND	36	26	S	174	12	E	T.Habraken
3	12	1999	1	Foxton Estuary	NEW ZEALAND	40	29	S	175	14	E	C.Scadden
9	12	1999	1	Waihua River, Firth of Thames	NEW ZEALAND	37		S	175		E	K.Woodley & T. Habraken
23	12	1999	1	Papakanui Spit, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36	26	S	174	12	E	G.Pulham
26	12	1999	4	Tapora South, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36	21	S	174	18	E	G.Grant & G.Pulham
30	12	1999	1	Mangawhai, N. Auckland	NEW ZEALAND	36	05	S	174	36	E	T.Habraken
9	1	2000	6	Kidds, Manukau	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken
16	1	2000	1	Takahiwai, Whangarei Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	35	50	S	174	22	E	C.Grant & M.Twyman
22	1	2000	1	Tapora, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36	21	S	174	18	E	C.Grant & M.Twyman
22	1	2000	1	Tapora South, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36	21	S	174	18	E	T.Habraken
20	2	2000	3	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken

23	2	2000	1	Gobi (Farewell Spit), Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	40	30	S	172	46	E	R.Schuckard, P.Tomkovich
24	2	2000	1	Bush End Point (Farewell Spit)	NEW ZEALAND	40	33	S	173	01	E	R.Schuckard, P.Tomkovich
26	2	2000	6	Miranda, Firth of Thames	NEW ZEALAND	37	10	S	175	19	E	T.Habraken
12	3	2000	2	Miranda, Firth of Thames	NEW ZEALAND	37	10	S	175	19	E	I.Wilson
18	3	2000	1	Mudflats near Mullet (Farewell Spit)	NEW ZEALAND	40	32	S	172	56	E	R.Schuckard, P.Tomkovich
19	3	2000	2	Banana Pan (Farewell Spit)	NEW ZEALAND	40	31	S	172	51	E	R.Schuckard, P.Tomkovich
22	4	2000	3	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken
2	9	2000	3	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken
9	9	2000	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames	NEW ZEALAND	37	10	S	175	19	E	K.Woodley
16	9	2000	2	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken
1	10	2000	2	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken
15	10	2000	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken & D.Lawrie
27	10	2000	1	Motueka Sandspit, Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	41	06	S	173	02	E	R.Schuckard
28	10	2000	3	Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken & D.Lawrie
28	10	2000	5	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	37	05	S	174	50	E	T.Habraken & D.Lawrie
29	10	2000	1	Farewell Spit, Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	40	30	S	172	46	E	R.Schuckard
18	11	2000	2	Mangawhai, N. Auckland	NEW ZEALAND	36	05	S	174	36	E	G.Pulham
25	11	2000	3	Papakanui Spit, Kaipara	NEW ZEALAND	36	26	S	174	12	E	T.Harbraken
26	11	2000	1	Farewell Spit, Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	40	30	S	172	46	E	R.Schuckard
13	12	2000	1	Mangawhai Spit, Auckland	NEW ZEALAND	36	05	S	174	36	E	G.Grant & M.Twyman
30	12	2000	1	Motueka Sandspit, Nelson	NEW ZEALAND	41	07	S	173	01	E	D.Tofield
31	12	2000	2	Takahiwai, Whangarei Harbour	NEW ZEALAND	35	50	S	174	72	E	G.Grant & M.Twyman

Australian

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	State	Finder
18	11	2000	1	Sandfly Creek	NT	G. O'Brien
10	6	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
1	9	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	D.Burrell
27	9	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	D.Burrell
9	11	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	J.Matsui
15	11	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	J.Matsui

16	11	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	J.Matsui
15	12	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
6	2	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
7	3	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	Jeong-Yeon Yi
9	3	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	Jin-Young Park
2	4	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
31	5	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	C.Minton
13	10	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
14	9	1998	1	"The Oaks" S. Gulf of Carpentaria	Qld	P.Driscoll
18	9	1998	2	30 kms W of Norman River mouth	Qld	P.Driscoll
3	9	1999	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	T.Tarrant
5	9	1999	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A.& S.Keates
12	9	1999	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A.& S.Keates
7	10	1999	1	Toorbul Point	Qld	L.Cross
3	9	2000	1	Thornside, Brisbane	Qld	F.Armhurst
9	9	2000	1	Manly Esplanade	Qld	P.Walbridge &T.Tarrant
16	9	2000	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A.& S.Keates
19	9	2000	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	D.Edwards & B.Ley
1	10	2000	1	Lytton	Qld	A.& S.Keates
21	10	2000	1	Toorbul	Qld	G.Goodyear
4	12	1999	1	Price Saltfield, Yorke Pen.	SA	R.Clarke
6	12	1999	3	Price Saltfield, Yorke Pen.	SA	M.Carter
10	12	1999	3	Price Saltfield, Yorke Pen.	SA	R.Clarke
11	12	1999	4	Price Saltfield, Yorke Pen.	SA	R.Clarke
6	1	2000	1	Price Saltfield, Yorke Pen.	SA	K.Taylor
24	1	2000	1	Ward Spit, Port Augusta	SA	J.Wilson
4	2	2000	1	Eyre Island	SA	J.Wilson
17	11	2000	1	Price Saltfield, Yorke Pen.	SA	J.Hatch
28	11	2000	3	Price Saltfield, Yorke Pen	SA	J.Cox, C.Rogers
3	12	2000	1	Price Saltfield, Yorke Pen	SA	J.Hatch, D.Close

This huge list of 135 sightings is surprising, not only for its absolute size or its dominance of 88 sightings from New Zealand, but for the presence of only 1 record from Asia (Hong Kong). Why should Bar-tailed Godwits and Great Knot from NW Australia produce a stream of sightings in Korea, Japan and China and yet Red Knot from Victoria produce so few? Presumably their main stopover location, at least on northward migration, is in less well watched areas in China, or even in North Korea.

Quite clearly there is a large interchange of birds with New Zealand. As band recoveries show this is not a simple matter of birds being banded and flagged on their migration through Victoria to New Zealand. Many relocations are involved of birds which have spent the non-breeding season, or an austral winter, in Victoria and have then turned up in a subsequent non-breeding season in New Zealand. The data so far suggests that this is mainly a one way traffic of birds being in Australia when immature, but relocating to New Zealand when adult.

As with the sightings of Bar-tailed Godwits, the Queensland (15) and NW Australia (13) records contain some birds which may be on passage to Victoria, but are boosted by other individuals which have clearly changed their non-breeding area. The SA sightings (19) also probably fall into the latter category.

Sanderling

Overseas

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	Country	Lat	Long	Finder
21	8	2000	1	Chaivo Bay, NE Sakhalin Is.	RUSSIA	52 23 N	143 14 E	A.Blokhin
21	5	1999	1	Masuda River, Masuda, Shima	JAPAN	34 42 N	131 50 E	Kenjii Ishimoto
11	8	1999	4	Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35 23 N	140 24 E	Suzuki Yasuo
12	8	1999	2	Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35 23 N	140 24 E	Suzuki Yasuo
22	8	1999	2	Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35 23 N	140 24 E	Tozo Suzuki
27	8	1999	4	Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35 23 N	140 24 E	Suzuki Yasuo
5	9	1999	1	Shiratsuka Beach, Tsu, Mie	JAPAN	34 46 N	136 33 E	Nishiyama Yasunobu
8	9	1999	1	Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35 23 N	140 24 E	Suzuki Yasuo
10	9	1999	1	Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35 23 N	140 24 E	Ajiro Haruo
6	8	2000	1	Hasaki, Kashima, Ibaraki	JAPAN	35 52 N	140 41 E	I.Tanabe
20	8	2000	1	Hasaki, Kashima, Ibaraki	JAPAN	35 52 N	140 41 E	I.Tanabe
24	8	2000	1	Shimo-Arachi, Kashima, Ibaraki	JAPAN	36 09 N	140 35 E	T.Kawamata
26	8	2000	1	Shimo-Arachi, Kashima, Ibaraki	JAPAN	36 09 N	140 35 E	T.Kawamata
26	8	2000	1	Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35 23 N	140 24 E	T.Kawamata
27	8	2000	1	Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35 23 N	140 24 E	T.Kawamata
30	8	1999	2	Yooboo Island	KOREA	35 59 N	126 36 E	Jeong-Yeon Yi, Han-Sao Lee, Hwa-Jung Kim

Australian

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	State	Finder
19	9	1999	1	Casuarina Beach, Darwin	NT	G.O'Brien
7	2	2000	1	Yokinup Bay, Cape Arid NP	WA	A.Rose
25	8	2000	1	Cape Leveque, Dampier Pen.	WA	Broome Bird Observatory
6	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	Broome Bird Observatory
10	9	2000	1	Coconut Wells, Broome	WA	Broome Bird Observatory
7	9	2000	1	Chili Beach, Iron Range NP	Qld	H.Smit
23	10	2000	1	South Ballina Beach	NSW	B.Totterman
16	11	2000	1	South Ballina Beach	NSW	B.Totterman
29	1	2000	1	Lone Nose, Anxious Bay, Eyre Pen.	SA	J.Wilson & M.Christie
9	2	2000	4	Murray Mouth, Coorong	SA	P.Collins, R.Schuckard
24	8	1999	1	Summerland Beach, Phillip Island	Vic	R.Jessop
28	9	1999	1	Cape Woolamai, Phillip Island	Vic	B.Hayward
16	12	2000	1	Perkins Island	Tas	R. Ashby

This list contains the first ever sightings from Korea (two) and only the second from Russia. Japan (22) again dominates the list. Of special note is that all except one of these overseas sightings relate to birds on southward migration. Where do they stop on northward migration?

Within Australia Sanderlings are particularly mobile as evidenced by a large number of retraps/controls/flag sightings between Victoria and the eastern parts of the South

Australian coast (see previous VWSG bulletins and the "recoveries" sections). The report from Cape Arid on the south coast of WA in January, the bird seen on the Eyre Peninsula SA, also in January, and the four birds at the mouth of the Coorong (SA) in early February have clearly changed their non-breeding locations. However the sighting near Darwin (NT), the 1 on Cape Yorke Peninsula (Qld) and the two reports from the mid NSW coast were all probably returning to Victoria. Two birds, which were on the Victorian coast at least 50 kms from the nearest Sanderling flagging location, are also listed.

Red-necked Stint

Overseas

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	Country	Lat	Long	Finder
21	7	1999	3	Chaivo Bay, NE Sakhalin	RUSSIA	52 23 N	143 14 E	A.Blokhin, A.Kokorin
23	7	1999	1	Chaivo Bay, NE Sakhalin	RUSSIA	52 23 N	143 14 E	A.Blokhin, A.Kokorin
27	5	2000	2	Kleje Strait, Chaivo Bay, NE Sakhalin Island	RUSSIA	52 21 N	143 12 E	A.Blokhin
22	5	2000	1	Ussuri Bay Coast, Vladivostok	RUSSIA	43 N	132 E	V.Nechaev
29	7	2000	1	Kosa Is, off Sarma Delta, Lake Baikal	RUSSIA	53 N	107 E	H-H. Bergman
31	5	2000	3	Lake Hadjin Zagaan Nuur,	MONGOLIA	49 42 N	115 42 E	C.Ketzenberg
1	6	2000	2,	Lake Hadjin Zagaan Nuur,	MONGOLIA	49 42 N	115 42 E	C.Ketzenberg
2	6	2000	3	Lake Hadjin Zagaan Nuur,	MONGOLIA	49 42 N	115 42 E	C.Ketzenberg
3	6	2000	2	Lake Hadjin Zagaan Nuur,	MONGOLIA	49 42 N	115 42 E	C.Ketzenberg
4	6	2000	2	Lake Hadjin Zagaan Nuur,	MONGOLIA	49 42 N	115 42 E	C.Ketzenberg
6	6	2000	1	Galuth Nuur	MONGOLIA	49 43 N	115 18 E	C.Ketzenberg & J.Leyrer
8	6	2000	1	Lake Hadjin, Zagaan Nuur	MONGOLIA	49 42 N	115 42 E	C.Kertzenberg & J.Leyrer
9	6	2000	1	Lake Hadjin, Zagaan Nuur	MONGOLIA	49 42 N	115 42 E	C.Kertzenberg
19	7	2000	1	Western Coast of Dalaihu	MONGOLIA	48 48 N	116 58 E	Wang Tainhou
5	8	1999	1	Masaki, Iyo, Ehime	JAPAN	33 48 N	132 45 E	Yoshizumi Ueda
16	8	1999	1	Shigenobu River, Iyo, Ehime	JAPAN	33 49 N	132 42 E	Yoshizumi Ueda
24	8	1999	1	Mouth Shigenobu River, Iyo, Ehime	JAPAN	33 49 N	132 42 E	Iwamoto Takashi
3	8	2000	1	Hime River Estuary, Itoigawa, Niigata	JAPAN	37 02 N	137 50 E	K.Nawa
11	8	2000	1	Nanko Bird Sanct., Suminoe, Osaka	JAPAN	34 38 N	135 24 E	Takada et al

12	8	2000	1	Nanko Bird Sanct., Suminoe, Osaka	JAPAN	34 38 N	135	24 E	Takada et al
14	8	2000	2	Nanko Bird Sanct., Suminoe, Osaka	JAPAN	34 38 N	135	24 E	Takada et al
17	8	2000	1	Nanko Bird Sanct., Suminoe, Osaka	JAPAN	34 38 N	135	24 E	Takada et al
24	8	2000	1	Hama Koshien, Nishinomiya, Hyogo	JAPAN	33 57 N	133	05 E	K.Miki
3	8	1999	1	Chiong Cho Lake, Sokcho City	KOREA	38 27 N	128	26 E	N.Moores
17	8	2000	1	Okku, Mankyung Estuary	KOREA	35 52 N	126	43 E	Jin-Han Kim
29	8	2000	1	Okku, Mankyung Estuary	KOREA	35 52 N	126	43 E	Jin-Young Park
17	8	1999	1	Tseng-Wen Estuary, Tainan	TAIWAN	23 08 N	120	07 E	Y-T Fu
22	8	1999	1	Mai-Liao, Yun-Lin County	TAIWAN	23 45 N	120	15 E	H-Y Chen
23	8	1999	1	Hsin-Wen, Chiayi	TAIWAN	23 20 N	120	10 E	H-Y Chen
28	8	1999	1	Tung-Shih, Chiayi	TAIWAN	23 28 N	120	08 E	H-Y Chen
30	4	2000	1	Kang-Nan, Hsinchu City	TAIWAN	24 48 N	120	55 E	Shih-Min Mao, Wen-Hsiung
10	5	2000	1	Kang-Nan, Hsinchu City	TAIWAN	24 48 N	120	55 E	Shih-Min Mao, Wen-Hsiung
13	5	2000	1	Pu-Tai, Chiayi	TAIWAN	23 25 N	120	12 E	Li-Lan Wu
14	5	2000	1	Tseng-Wen Estuary, Tainan	TAIWAN	23 08 N	120	07 E	Yuan-Tsan Fu
14	5	2000	1	Kang-Nan, Hsinchu City	TAIWAN	24 48 N	120	55 E	Shih-Min Mao
14	5	2000	1	Szu-Tsao, Tainan City	TAIWAN	23 01 N	120	08 E	Kuo-Chang Huang
17	5	2000	1	Szu-Tsao, Tainan City	TAIWAN	23 01 N	120	08 E	Yuan-Tsan Fu
4	8	2000	2	Fu-Pao wetland, Changhwa County	TAIWAN	24 02 N	120	21 E	Chih-Yuan Tsai
19	8	2000	1	Tseng-Wen Estuary, Tainan	TAIWAN	23 06 N	120	03 E	Yuan-Tsan Fu
30	8	2000	1	Yuang-An wetland, Koahsiung County	TAIWAN	22 47 N	120	12 E	T-H Wu
16	9	2000	1	Tatu Estuary, Changwha County	TAIWAN	24 11 N	120	28 E	Chung-Huang Tsai
1	5	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114	19 E	Y-T Yu
3	5	2000	4	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114	19 E	R.Lewthwaite
5	5	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114	19 E	Y-T Yu
8	5	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114	19 E	G.Carey
14	5	2000	2	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114	19 E	Y-T Yu
17	5	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114	19 E	Y-T Yu
21	5	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114	19 E	Y-T Yu
31	7	2000	1	Sibuga, 8 km N of Sandakan, Sabah	MALAYSIA	06 00 N	118	00 E	C.Hassell & L.Taylor
30	8	2000	1	Palu, Sulawesi	INDONESIA	01 00 S	114	50 E	D.Taylor

15	1	1999	1	Kaituna, Lake Ellesmere	NEW ZEALAND	43	47 S	172 39 E	C.Hill
22	2	1999	1	Kaituna, Lake Ellesmere	NEW ZEALAND	43	47 S	172 39 E	C.Hill
11	4	1999	1	Kaituna, Lake Ellesmere	NEW ZEALAND	43	47 S	172 39 E	C.Hill
19	4	1999	1	Kaituna, Lake Ellesmere	NEW ZEALAND	43	47 S	172 39 E	C.Hill

Australian

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	State	Finder
8	5	1999	1	Alice Springs SP	NT	S.Holliday
23-8	9	1999	1	Darwin	NT	N.McCrie
16	8	1998	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
27	8	1999	2	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
1	9	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
11	9	1999	3	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
18	9	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
21	9	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	D.Rogers
23	9	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
11	11	1999	1	Salt Lake, Rottnest Island	WA	D. & P.Agnew
29	1	2000	1	Lake Vincent, Rottnest Island	WA	C.Napier
30	1	2000	1	Lake Negri, Rottnest Island	WA	B.Newbourne & team
30	1	2000	2	Government House Lake Rottnest Is.	WA	M.Vaughan & team
21	5	2000	2	80 Mile Beach	WA	C.Minton
28	8	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A. Boyle
30	8	2000	2	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
6	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay. Broome	WA	Broome BBO
14	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	C.Hassell
18	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	C.Hassell
26	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A. Boyle
29	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
27	9	2000	1	Serpentine R. Estuary, Peel Inlet.	WA	M.Singor
3	10	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
11	10	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
16	10	2000	1	Ashmore Reef	WA	R.Clarke
14	11	2000	1	Swan River, Perth	WA	C. Merriam
8	10	1998	1	Cairns Esplanade	Qld	I.Burrows
3	7	2000	1	Bowling Green Bay, Townsville	Qld	J. and P.Payet
7	10	2000	1	Luggage Point	Qld	G.Nye
20	11	2000	1	Fisherman Island, Moreton Bay	Qld	G.Goodyear
28	3	1999	1	Wollongong, Lake Illawarra.	NSW	B.Murphy
11	9	1999	1	Long Reef	NSW	J.Seale
10	3	2000	2	Lake Wollumboola, near Culburra	NSW	R.Boughton
18	3	2000	1	Lake Wollumboola, near Culburra	NSW	R.Boughton
17	8	2000	1	Wallaga Lake	NSW	P.Dowton
10	12	2000	1	Boat Harbour, Kurnell,	NSW	D.Hair
22	10	1995	1	Bird Lake, Port Augusta	SA	P.Langdon
		1999	1	Younghusband Pen.	SA	M.Ziembicki
22	4	1999	1	Tolderol Game Reserve	SA	P.Waanders c/o J.Wilson

19	6	1999	1	Tolderol Game Reserve	SA	Via J.Wilson
5	8	1999	1	Head of Gulf St. Vincent	SA	P.Taylor
13	10	1999	1	Tolderol Game Reserve	SA	D.Hansen
19	1	2000	1	Penrice Saltfields	SA	J.Wilson & K.Gosbell
25	1	2000	1	Redcliffe Point	SA	P.Collins
27	1	2000	1	Franklin Harbour	SA	P.Collins
8	3	2000	1	Brown Bay	SA	R.Jessop & P.Collins
10	3	2000	1	Beachport	SA	R.Jessop & P.Collins
2	5	2000	1	Tolderol Game Reserve	SA	Via J.Wilson
21	5	2000	1	Tolderol Game Reserve	SA	K.and C.Gosbell
29	10	2000	1	Penrice Saltfields	SA	J.Hatch
23	12	2000	1	Little Eyre Island, Western Eyre Pen.	SA	C.Rogers
9	5	1995	1	Pyramid Hill Saltworks	Vic	S. Star
29	3	1999	2	Pyramid Hill Saltworks	Vic	S. Star
-	10	1999	15	Lake Reeve, Lochsport	Vic	J.Matthew
24	8	1999	1	North of Bridport, Lades Beach	Tas	P.Duckworth
3	10	1999	1	Cape Portland	Tas	R.Cooper
9	1	2000	1	Pipe Clay Lagoon	Tas	T.Reid
16	9	2000	1	Shipwreck Point, Perkins Island	Tas	T.Reid
26	9	2000	1	Shipwreck Point, Perkins Island	Tas	T.Reid
21	10	2000	1	Cape Naturaliste	Tas	T.Reid
17	12	2000	2	Cemetery Point, Orielton Lagoon	Tas	T.Reid

The 154 Red-necked Stint sightings come from a wide selection of different countries and from throughout the continent of Australia indicating the ubiquitous nature of this species and its relatively broad front migration.

Of the seven recoveries in Russia six were on the east coast - three on northward migration and three on southward migration. However one was far inland on the shores of Lake Baikal - a western route used on southward migration by some Red-necked Stints (and more Curlew Sandpipers).

The special wader expedition to Mongolia by a small German team produced an excellent crop of 16 orange flag sightings (plus one recapture of a Victorian banded bird and one sighting of a Red-necked Stint from NW Australia). The sightings seem to relate to at least seven individual birds. Clearly there is a significant overland migration towards the more westerly breeding grounds by birds which have earlier arrived on the southern half of the Chinese coast, including Hong Kong from which a further 11 sightings emanated.

Taiwan is also a significant stopover area with 16 sightings - a big increase thanks to the coordination of reporting efforts by Woei-Horng Fang, Vice President of the Taiwan Wild Bird Federation. Unusually more were seen on southern (nine) than on northern migration (seven).

Flagged Red-necked Stints were also seen in South Korea for the first time - three, all on southward migration. Flagged Red-necked Stints are now regularly seen in Japan - again all 13 were on southward migration. From these latitudes birds seem to fly mostly non-stop to the northern shores of Australia. Records in Sabah in late July and Sulawesi in late August are both unusual.

The 67 sightings in Australia outside Victoria relate to:

(a) Birds on migration through the northern parts of Australia, particularly NW Australia, on their way to/from Victoria.
(b) Birds which have changed their non-breeding area from Victoria (some even to western and northern WA).
(c) Birds seen in Tasmania which were probably on migration through Victoria when flagged.
(d) Immature birds moving within Australia during their first austral winter (when the adults are away in Siberia).

The reports from New Zealand (four) probably refer to the same bird which has returned there for the seventh consecutive year.

15 sightings from within Victoria, at Lake Reeve, are included because this ephemeral wetland is more than 50 kms from the nearest flagging site (at Corner Inlet).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Overseas

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	Country	Lat	Long	Finder
1	5	1999	2	Asan Bay	KOREA	36 54 N	126 54 E	Hie-Lim Kim
30	4	2000	1	Hanja-Ri, Haenam	KOREA	34 33 N	126 27 E	Jeong-Sik Lee
16	5	1995	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey

Australian

D	M	YY	No	Location seen	State	Finder
16	10	1994	1	Hays Landing, Wivenhoe Dam	Qld	J.Chamberlain & B.Darrant

It is nice to have three more overseas sightings to add to the previous very short list from Korea (one), Hong Kong (one) and Indonesia (one). All were on northward migration through Asia.

Curlew Sandpiper

Overseas

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat	Long	Finder
13	5	2000	2	Tianjin coast	CHINA	39 13 N	118 01 E	M.Barter
21	4	2000	1	Kang-Nan, Hsinchu City	TAIWAN	24 48 N	120 55 E	Shih-Min Mao
22	4	2000	1	Peikang River Mouth, Chiayi County	TAIWAN	23 32 N	120 07 E	Heng-Chia Chang
23	4	2000	1	Lin-Pien, Pingtung County	TAIWAN	22 24 N	120 31 E	Lien-Chu Hsieh
27	7	2000	1	Szu-Tsao, Tainan City	TAIWAN	23 03 N	120 06 E	Yung-Tsang Fu
31	7	2000	1	Fubou, Chang Hwa County	TAIWAN	24 02 N	120 23 E	Wei-Ting Liu

4	9	2000	1	Tseng-wen Estuary, Tainan County	TAIWAN	23 06 N	120 03 E	Yuan-Tsau Fu
25	3	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
4	4	2000	2	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
5	4	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
6	4	2000	3	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
7	4	2000	9	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
8	4	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
9	4	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
10	4	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
12	4	2000	2	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
16	4	2000	3	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
19	4	2000	2	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
23	4	2000	4	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
24	4	2000	2	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
25	4	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
27	4	2000	7	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
1	5	2000	1	Mai-Po Nature Park	HONG KONG	22 29 N	114 19 E	G.Carey, P Leader
end	4	2000	1	In the south of the country?	VIETNAM			N.Moores

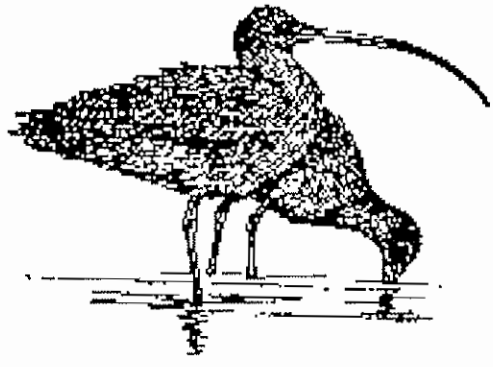
Australian

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	State	Finder
16	8	1998	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
28	8	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
18	9	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
27	9	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
2	10	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	C.Hassell
15	12	1999	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
10	2	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
12	3	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	Jin-Young Park
3	6	2000	4	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle, P.Collins
30	8	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
2	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
6	9	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	Broome BBO
8	9	2000	1	100 km N of Carnarvon	WA	S. Houghton
22	9	2000	1	Gascoyne River Estuary, Carnarvon	WA	C.Davis, T.Kirkby, M.Singor
25	9	2000	2	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A. Boyle
31	10	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	D.Rogers
1	11	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
23	12	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle

25	12	2000	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	A.Boyle
3	9	2000	1	Thornside	Qld	F.Armbrust
18	9	2000	1	Karumba	Qld	I. Clayton, B. Hawthorn
25	11	1995	1	Penrhyn Road Estuary, Botany Bay	NSW	J.Pegler
22	9	1999	1	Penrhyn Road Estuary, Botany Bay	NSW	K.Brandwood
17	8	2000	1	Wallagoot Lake, Bournda NP	NSW	P. Dowton
11	11	2000	1	Penrhyn Inlet, Botany Bay	NSW	G.Ross
27	12	2000	1	Lake Wollumboola, Nowra	NSW	E.Vella
16	10	1999	1	Birdlake, Port Augusta	SA	P.Langdon
27	1	2000	2	Franklin Harbour	SA	P.Collins
6	2	2000	1	Light River Mouth, Gulf St. Vincent	SA	M.Barter
9	2	2000	1	Coorong	SA	P.Collins
10	2	2000	1	Coorong	SA	R.Schuckard
8	3	2000	1	Brown Bay	SA	R.Jessop & P.Collins
21	5	2000	2	Tolderol Game Reserve	SA	K.Gosbell
3	11	2000	1	Tolderol Game Reserve	SA	J.Hatch
17	3	2000	1	George Town Reserve, Tamar Estuary	Tas	R.Cooper
26	9	2000	1	Cape Portland Lagoons	Tas	R. & B. Cooper

Hong Kong (41) yet again dominates the Curlew Sandpiper sightings (91 in total). Compared with most other species the absence of birds in Korea and Japan is notable. Curlew Sandpipers certainly have a more westerly migration route than many other species (except Greater Sand Plover), and even on the northern half of the Chinese coast they are not common, although there are two flag sightings there in May 2000. Taiwan is also on the migration route (seven sightings) and the report from Vietnam was the only bird from Victoria reported there in the last year and a half.

NW Australia (23 sightings) is clearly a main gateway to/from Victoria for many Curlew Sandpipers, especially during southward migration. Other reports from around Australia (SA ten, NSW five, Qld two, and Tas two) quite often refer to birds which appear to have changed their non-breeding areas. This seems to occur more frequently, in a range of species, than was previously thought. Such records are important in trying to quantify the extent of non-return to the banding areas - defections need to be allowed for in any analysis of retraps in connection with survival rate estimates.



Grey Plover

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat	Long	Finder
22	4	1999	1	Yatsu Tidal Flats, Chiba	JAPAN	35 40 N	140 00 E	Yasuo Suzuki
30	4	1999	1	Yatsu Tidal Flats, Chiba	JAPAN	35 40 N	140 00 E	Yasuo Suzuki
20	5	1999	1	Yatsu Tidal Flats, Chiba	JAPAN	35 40 N	140 00 E	Yasuo Suzuki
20	8	1999	1	Tokyo Bay Bird Sanctuary, Tokyo	JAPAN	35 31 N	139 51 E	Eiko Hayashi
26	8	1999	1	Mouth Tama R., Kawasaki, Kanagawa	JAPAN	35 32 N	139 45 E	Kazuyo Ishii & Akira Kanno
8	9	1999	1	Mouth Tama R., Kawasaki, Kanagawa	JAPAN	35 32 N	139 45 E	Akira Kanno
9	5	2000	1	Yatsu Tidal Flats, Chiba	JAPAN	35 40 N	140 00 E	Nanae Kato
10	9	1999	1	Mouth Tama R., Kawasaki, Kanagawa	KOREA	35 52 N	126 43 E	N.Moores

Another batch of sightings in Japan, again on both northward and southward migration, and also the first Grey Plover reported from South Korea. These records and the 12 sightings in Japan listed in the last VWSG Bulletin are the only information which exists at present on the movements of Grey Plovers between Australia and the Siberian breeding grounds. There are still no recoveries where a bird has been caught and its individual band number reported.

Red-capped Plover

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	State	Finder
25	11	2000	1	Reef Island, Western Port	Vic	P.Dann

The nearest place at which this bird could have been banded is Stockyard Point, some 15 kms to the north. It is thought that some of the Red-capped Plovers occurring in small flocks (up to 100) on the coast have come from breeding grounds much further away inland, but there is no proof of this yet from banding and flagging.

Double-banded Plover

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country/State	Lat	Long	Finder
20	12	1999	1	Upper Tekapo River	NEW ZEALAND	44 05 S	170 25 E	S.Butcher

This sighting is in the heart of the breeding area of birds that migrate to Victoria for the austral winter. A flagged bird (possibly the same individual) was seen at the same location in the previous breeding season (see VWSG Bull 23, page 30).

Lesser Sand Plover

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country/State	Finder
29	11	1998	1	Wynnum	Qld	A.Eacott

Moreton Bay seems to generate one to three sightings of Victorian flagged Lesser Sand Plovers each year. As speculated in previous VWSG Bulletins it is possible that

at least some of these records refer to the same bird and that it has changed its non-breeding to there.

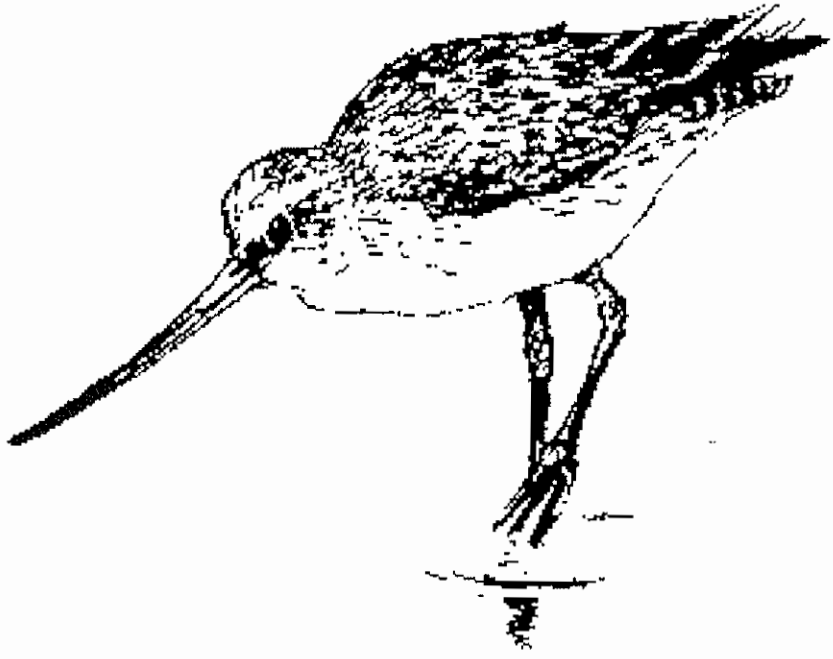
Greater Sand Plover

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	State	Finder
18	9	1999	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates D.Edwards
16	10	1999	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates
24	10	1999	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Qld	A. & S. Keates

The same comments apply as for Lesser Sand Plover. Even fewer Greater Sand Plovers have been flagged in Victoria (15 versus 56 to the end of 2000).

Acknowledgments

Thanks are due to all those people throughout the Flyway who took the trouble to search for, record and submit leg-flag sightings. Special thanks are given to those who sought and coordinated the flag sightings from particular countries - Geoff Carey (Hong Kong), Adrian Riegen, Dawn Tofield and Rob Schuckard (New Zealand), Jin-Young Park (Korea), Minoru Kashiwagi (Japan), Woei-Horng Fang (Taiwan) and Pavel Tomkovich (Russia). The staff of Broome Bird Observatory, especially Adrian Boyle, are also thanked for collecting many flag sightings from NW Australia and the Queensland Wader Study Group (especially Peter Driscoll, Linda Cross and Arthur Keates) for records from there. Thanks are also due to the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme for sightings reported through them. Thanks also to Jim Wilson for typing and preparing the list in this format.



Sightings of Waders Leg-flagged in South Australia
Report Number 1

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Doris Graham and Peter Collins

The VWSG started banding waders in the south eastern corner of South Australia in November 1993 after being invited to visit there by Ren de Garis and Iain Stewart, after they had observed several orange leg-flagged Sanderling (from Victoria). Annual visits have been made since then with about 600 birds on average being caught on each visit (generally 5 days duration).

Initially leg-flags were only put onto Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone, the main target species and specialities of that area of coast. Orange leg-flags were used, but were put on the right tarsus to distinguish them from Victorian birds which were orange flagged on the right tibia. Because most reported sightings, especially from overseas, did not distinguish the exact position of the orange flag on the right leg it was not possible to determine exactly where the birds had been caught. Hence all sightings were lumped together in the published lists of reports of VWSG flagged birds in previous VWSG Bulletins and the Stilt.

Since April 1999 a new flagging code has been employed in South Australia - orange on the right tibia, yellow on the right tarsus and the metal on the left tarsus. This code is used on all species of waders, including Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone. Flagging totals are listed separately in this Bulletin.

Since it is now possible to distinguish birds from South Australia a separate leg-flagging report for such birds can now be prepared. This is the first such listing.

Ruddy Turnstone

Overseas

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat			Long			Finder
27	08	00	1	Yatsu Tidal Flat, Chiba	JAPAN	35	40	N	140	00	E	T.Ishikawa

Australian

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	State	Finder
20	09	00	1	Darwin Wharf	NT	D.Henderson
11	12	99	1	Price Saltfield, Upper Yorke Peninsula	SA	R.H.Clarke
05	02	00	1	Price Saltfield, Upper Yorke Peninsula	SA	M.Barter

A nice variety to start with – one on southward migration through Japan, one en-route back to SA via the Northern Territory and one which appears to have changed its non-breeding area.

Overseas reports of Ruddy Turnstone are not common but there have been three previous sighting in Japan of birds from south-east Australia (ie. from Victoria or the SE of South Australia).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat			Long			Finder
14	05	00	1	Tseng-Wen Estuary, Tainan,	TAIWAN	23	08	N	120	07	E	Yuan-Tsuan Fu

Considering only two have been flagged with the orange/yellow SA flag code it is nice to get an overseas sighting already! The bird would have been flagged on the 11th or 12th of March 2000.

Red-necked Stint

Overseas

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat			Long			Finder
28	07	99	1	Chaive Bay, NE Sakhalin	RUSSIA	52	23	N	143	14	E	A.Blokhin A.Kokorin c/o P.Tomkovich
14	08	00	1	Nanko Bird Sanctuary, Suminoe, Osaka	JAPAN	34	38	N.	135	24	E	Takada et al.
31	08	00	1	Nanko Bird Sanctuary, Suminoe, Osaka	JAPAN	34	38	N	135	24	E	Takada et al.
09	09	99	1	Tongjin Estuary, Saemankeum	KOREA	32	49	N	126	42	E	N.Moores

Australian

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	State	Finder
13	12	99	1	Forrestdale Lakes, Forrestdale	WA	D.James
30	01	00	2	Government House Lake, Rottnest Island WA	WA	R. & L.Chyne
12	03	00	1	Port Patterson, south of Port Augusta	SA	P.Langdon

Only 509 Red-necked Stints flagged and already four overseas sightings – all birds on southward migration. Sightings of flagged Red-necked Stints in Korea are not common.

Curlew Sandpiper

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat			Long			Finder
05	08	00	1	Fubou, Chang-Hwa County	TAIWAN	24	03	N	120	23	E	Wei-Ting Liu

35 Curlew Sandpipers flagged and a sighting in Taiwan already!
It seems that the O/Y flag combination must show up fantastically well in the field, drawing birdwatchers to notice the flags and stimulating them to report them.

Sanderling

Overseas

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Country	Lat			Long			Finder
01	06	00	1	Kleje Strait, Chaivo Bay, Sakhalin Island	RUSSIA	52	21	N	143	11	E	A.Blokhin
11	08	99	4	Estuary of Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35	23	N	140	24	E	Suzuki Yasuo
12	08	99	2	Estuary of Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35	23	N	140	24	E	Suzuki Yasuo
22	08	99	1	Estuary of Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35	23	N	140	24	E	Suzuki Tozo
27	08	99	4	Estuary of Ichinomiya River, Chiba,	JAPAN	35	23	N	140	24	E	Suzuki Yasuo
05	09	99	1	Shiratsuka Beach, Tsu Mie,	JAPAN	34	46	N	136	33	E	Nishiyama Yasunobu
08	09	99	1	Estuary of Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35	23	N	140	24	E	Suzuki Tozo
10	09	99	1	Estuary of Ichinomiya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35	23	N	140	24	E	Ajiro Haruo
03	08	00 un til 20	08	00	1	Hasaki, Kashima, Ibaraki,	JAPAN	35	52	N	140	41	E	I.Tanabe
12	08	00	2	Ichinomya River Estuary, Chiba	JAPAN	35	23	N	140	24	E	T.Tanaka
12	08	00	1	Anou River Estuary, Tsu, Mie	JAPAN	34	44	N	136	32	E	N.Abe
12	08	00	1	Hasaki, Kashimi, Ibaraki	JAPAN	35	46	N	140	19	E	N.Tatsura
20	08	00	1	Hasaki, Kashimi, Ibaraki,	JAPAN	35	52	N	140	41	E	I.Tanabe
24	08	00	1	Shimo-Arachi, Kashima, Ibaraki	JAPAN	36	09	N	140	35	E	T.Kawamata
26	08	00	1	Shimozawa Beach, Kashima, Ibaraki	JAPAN	36	05	N	140	30	E	T.Kawamata
26 & 27	08	00	1	Ichinomya River, Chiba	JAPAN	35	23	N	140	24	E	K.Tomiya
30	08	99	1	Yooboo Island	KOREA	35	59	N	126	36	E	Jeong-Yeon Yi
19	08	00	1	Yooboo Island	KOREA	35	59	N	126	36	E	Jin-Young Park Ok-Sik Jeong
05	08	00	1	Fubou, Chang Hwa County,	TAIWAN	24	03	N	120	23	E	Wai-Ting Liu

Australian

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	State	Finder
24	09	99	1	Quondong Point, 20 km N of Broome	WA	A.Boyle
30	01	00	1	Government House Lake, Rottnest Island,	WA	R. & L.Chyne
06	09	00	1	Roebuck Bay, Broome	WA	Broome Bird Observatory
23	01	00	1	South Ballina Beach	NSW	B.Totterman
28	01	00	1	Gunyah Beach, Anxious Bay, Eyre Peninsula,	SA	P.Collins

29 01	00	1	Lone Nose, Anxious Bay, Eyre Peninsula,	SA	J.Wilson, M.Christie
09 02	00	6	Murray Mouth, Coorong	SA	P.Collins, J.Wilson R.Schuckard
17 07	00	1	Gunyah Beach, Anxious Bay, Eyre Peninsula	SA	J.Cooper
20 03	00	1	Killarney Beach, Port Fairy	Vic	C.Doughty

Although only 63 Sanderling were flagged with the new combination in early April 1999 a record massive catch of 462 resulted in a further 340 birds (that is all the new birds, as opposed to retraps) being flagged on 9th March 2000.

This is a phenomenal list of sightings with 23 in Japan and others in Korea (two), Taiwan (one) and Russia (one). As with previous lists from SE Australia most overseas reports refer to birds on southward migration. Clearly Japan is well and truly on the southward route, but which way do Sanderling travel when going north? Most of the South Australian records (eight), one of those from Western Australia and the one from Victoria appear to refer to birds which have changed their non-breeding area. The other WA bird, and the one from New South Wales, could well have been still on their way back to the south-east of South Australia.

Waders Flagged Elsewhere but Subsequently Sighted in Victoria or the south-east of South Australia 1999/2000

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Doris Graham and Peter Collins

The sighting below further illustrate the strong link between NW Australia and SE Australia for the smaller waders. Many of these use NWA as a stopover location on migration, particularly on southward migration.

It is nice to see a Japanese bird – they report many of our flagged birds.

Red-necked Stint

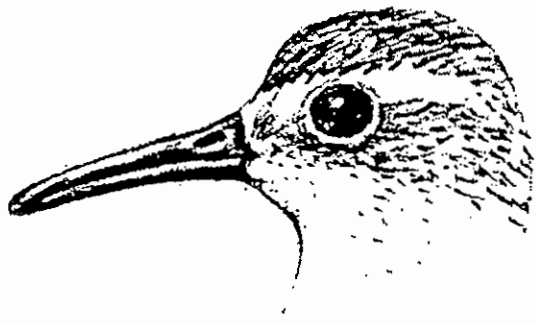
D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Location flagged	Country/State	Finder
28	10	99	1	Stockyard Point, Western Port, Vic	Furen Lake, Nemuro City, Hokkaido,	JAPAN	P.Collins
25	11	99	1	Werribee SF, Vic	NW Australia	WA	M.Hulzebosch
06	01	00	1	Werribee SF, Vic	NW Australia	WA	R.Clarke

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Location flagged	State	Finder
10	10	98	2	Werribee SF	NW Australia	WA	M.Barter

Sanderling

D	M	YY	No.	Location seen	Location flagged	State	Finder
09	02	00	2	Murray Mouth, SA	NW Australia	WA	P.Collins, J.Wilson R.Schukard



Tern Breeding and Banding 1999/2000 and 2000/2001

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Peter Collins and Doris Graham

Tern studies are an integral component of the VWSG Fieldwork Programme. There are three principal elements;

1) Data is collected annually on the breeding populations and breeding success of terns in Corner Inlet, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port. Most chicks are banded.
2) Adult Crested Terns, which are already banded, are retrapped at the nest in order to determine the age structure of the breeding population. Searches at colonies are also made for colour banded breeding adults to help ascertain their age of first breeding.
3) At the Gippsland Lakes cannon netting and colour marking on non-breeding Common Terns and Little Terns – mainly emanating from the Northern Hemisphere – is also undertaken each summer.

Below is a brief summary, species by species, of the outcomes of fieldwork in the past two summers (99/00 and 00/01).

Crested Tern

Breeding populations and the number of chicks banded (which generally equates, in this species, to the estimated number of chicks fledged) are given in the table below for the three colonies studied.

Location	1999/2000		2000/2001	
	Breeding Pairs	Chicks Banded	Breeding Pairs	Chicks Banded
Mud Islands	2600	1742	1300	1034
The Nobbies (w. end of Phillip Island)	1300	1166	2050	1794
Corner Inlet (Clonmel Island)	420	285	650	438
Totals	**4320**	**3193**	**4000**	**3266**

Breeding populations (4320 and 4000 pairs) were at record levels in both years, far eclipsing the previous maximum of 3060 pairs in the 1996/97 summer. Recovery from the disastrous food shortages in 95/96 and 97/98 seems now to be complete.

The numbers at Mud Islands however seem recently to be fluctuating quite markedly from year to year – 1520, 1700, 1860, 800, 1500, 2600, 1300 pairs respectively over the last seven summers – after being relatively stable in the 1500 to 1800 pairs range for several years. It is not clear why the 2600 pairs in 99/00 dropped to half that level in00/01, but the large increase shown at The Nobbies colony may have been in part caused by birds changing their breeding location.

The Nobbies colony only started in 1994/95 and has grown dramatically though somewhat erratically (again because of severe local food shortages in some years) to a record 2050 pairs in 00/01. Since inception the number of pairs breeding annually has been 900,75, 800, 120, 700, 1300, 2050. Part of the growth in colony size and the increase in breeding success in the last two years is probably due to the increased

protection from human disturbance resulting from the Phillip Island Nature Park excluding the public from entering the tern area during the breeding season. The Corner Inlet colony, on Clonmel Island, was also at the upper end of its normal range with 650 breeding pairs in 00/01. Its size in recent years has been 480, 410, 400, 550, 250, 420, 650 pairs.

Each year a small number of eggs (usually less than a hundred) are still present when the last visit is made to a colony to band chicks. Some of these will ultimately have hatched and chicks successfully fledged unbanded. However there will probably also some small offsetting loss of banded chicks before they have fledged. Thus in general the number of chicks banded is a fair indication of the annual breeding success if any major numbers not banded for any reason are taken into account.

Taking into account an estimated 550 chicks that were not banded at Mud Islands in 99/00 the overall breeding success that year was around 86%. In 00/01 it was 82%. This is a high rate of conversion of eggs to fledged chicks for any bird species and especially for terns and other colonial seabirds. No wonder the numbers of pairs of Crested Terns breeding in Victoria has quadrupled in the past fifteen years!

This is a fantastically successful outcome of actions taken by The VWSG in the mid 1980's to provide safe and adequate nesting areas on Mud Islands for Crested Terns. It also reflects protection measures taken by PINP at The Nobbies, Phillip Island once offspring from the Mud Islands colony created a new breeding colony there.

The number of chicks banded in both years covered by this Bulletin far exceeded the previous record of 2816 in 96/97.

The catching of banded breeding adults was continued at colonies, particularly in the 00/01 summer.

Location	**Banded Adults retrapped at nest**	
	1999/2000	2000/2001
Mud Islands	9	185
The Nobbies	31	109
Corner Inlet	6	1
Totals	**46**	**295**

In addition over 1000 birds in each year were scanned for colour bands. The detailed results will be presented in a future report. Overall the age of initial breeding for Crested Terns seems to be spread over a wide period – the occasional bird at age 3, some at age 4, even more by age 5 and some probably not until age 6. It is clear that the colour banding programme was very necessary to determine this, as younger (3, 4 and 5 year old birds) are rarely tame/confident enough to allow hand net capture at nest.

Caspian Tern

Data for the last two summers is;

Location	1999/2000		2000/2001	
	Breeding Pairs	Chicks Banded	Breeding Pairs	Chicks Banded
Mud Islands	20	11	30	20
Corner Inlet	90	24	90	63
Totals	**110**	**35**	**120**	**83**

The 120 breeding pairs in 00/01 is the highest, so far for these two sites. Also the number of chicks banded at each was a record (20 versus 19 at Mud Islands in 1991/92; 63 versus 62 at Corner Inlet in 89/90).
For the first time chicks were colour leg-flagged – at Corner Inlet in both summers and at Mud Islands in 00/01. The excellent sightings in SE Queensland resulting from this new programme are detailed elsewhere in the Bulletin. An analysis of recoveries and flag sightings, and other ancillary data, is also included as a separate article in this Bulletin.

The apparent breeding success rate is much lower than for Crested Tern. On the assumption that each pair lays on average two eggs (by far the commonest clutch size, although clutches of one and three eggs are also found) then the conversion rate of eggs to chicks was about 16% in 99/00 and 35% in 00/01. In fact rates are even lower than this because many pairs lay replacement clutches after the loss of the first clutch.

The reasons for this lower rate are;
(a) Caspian Terns guard their eggs and chicks much less closely than Crested terns. They are thus more susceptible to predation by Silver Gulls, which nest adjacent to both Caspian tern colonies.
(b) The Caspian Tern colony on Clonmel Island, Corner Inlet, is extremely susceptible to inundation by storm tides or burial by wind blown sand. The relatively better performance in 00/01 was because of a prolonged period – the whole of November and the first three and a half weeks of December – of settled weather without severe winds, rain or storm tides.

Fairy Tern

No Fairy Tern colony was located anywhere in the Corner Inlet complex of islands during either the 99/00 or the 00/01 summers. This is the first time breeding has not been recorded there during the last 20 years. It may be that an attempt was missed, a colony having been formed but having failed between visits. Alternatively the birds may have moved elsewhere to breed, having been unsuccessful so frequently in the past.

At Rams Island, Western port, Murray Portbury located five nests with eggs on the 11th January 2000 and there were signs of additional nests having recently been destroyed by very high tides. Some of these failed birds may have been involved in a short nesting attempt at Rhyll, on Phillip Island, where Jon Fallaw and Pete Collins found five nests with eggs on the 13th January and many new nest scrapes (about 20 pairs total). However the colony was deserted a few days later.

40 Fairy Tern nests were apparently present on Rams Island on 26th November 2000 (Betty Mitchell per Murray Portbury). There was no follow up visit to ascertain

breeding success but as there were no storm tides until after Christmas it is to be hoped that some chicks were successfully fledged.

No Fairy Terns nested at The Spit, Werribee Sewage Farm, in spite of the provision of a suitable bare area on one of the shell islands (see article elsewhere in this Bulletin).

Overall Fairy Terns are now much less regular breeders on the southern Victorian coast that they were 15 – 20 years ago and their breeding success is abysmal.

Little Tern

A pair of Little Terns was again present on Sand Island, Queenscliff, and was behaving territorially in October/November 2000. It is not known if they laid eggs, but there was certainly no successful outcome. No Little Terns were seen there in the 00/01 summer but in late February 2001 Mike Carter found a pair feeding a recently fledged young bird on Mud Islands. It is probable therefore that they had bred there in the 00/01 summer.

17 breeding adult Little Terns were banded with VWSG bands at the Rigby Island, Lakes Entrance, colony in late November/early December 1999 by the Little Tern Task Force under the guidance of a ranger from the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service. Catching of adults at the nest, and the banding of chicks, is carried out extensively at the Little Tern colonies in NSW.

Cannon netting at the Gippsland Lakes

This component of the tern banding programme has been relatively unsuccessful in the last two summers.

On the weekend of 22 – 23 January 2000 a total of only 100 terns were caught, as detailed below;

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Common Tern	38	12	50
Little Tern	27	8	35
Crested Tern	5	1	6
Caspian Tern	3	2	5
White-winged Black Tern	4	0	4
Totals	**77**	**23**	**100**

These were all caught at Lochsport, it being too windy to boat over to the usual site on Albifrons Island.

In 00/01 summer it was decided to make the visit in mid February instead of the usual late January period – on the basis that there are usually more Australian breeding Little Terns in the flocks at that time (see successful catch in early March 1999 detailed in the VWSG Bulletin Number 23). However the planned mid February 2001 visit had to be cancelled at the last minute because birds suddenly disappeared from the Lakes after a major fish die off in the Lochsport area in early February. Frustrating, as there had been over 1000 Common and Little Terns roosting in the Ocean Grange area, and at the Point Wilson Spit on Spermwhale Head at the end of January!

Tern Recovery Report

Clive Minton, Doris Graham, Rosalind Jessop and Peter Collins

These lists include all significant movements of terns overseas, interstate or within Victoria, as well as more local movements of birds reported dead. Many of the reports emanate from sightings of colour marked birds (leg-flagged Caspian, Common and Little Terns and colour banded Crested Terns).

Caspian Tern

Recoveries

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
091-38664	1	130698	Rhyll, Phillip Island	171199	Warneet, Western Port, Vic	26 N
091-06126	Chick	141285	Box Bank, Corner Inlet	230100	Lochsport, Lakes NP, Vic	100 NE
091-38775	Chick	221299	Clonmel Island, Corner Inlet	230100	Lochsport, Lakes NP, Vic	100 NE

091-06126 was a parent of 091-38775. The latter was still begging for food from its accompanying parents. Note also that the recapture of the chick was a month after it had been banded. It had therefore probably only been flying for two weeks but had already moved over 100 km. 091-06126, at 14 years old, is the oldest VWSG banded Caspian Tern so far recorded.

Flag Sightings

Caspian Tern chicks have been orange leg-flagged since the summer of 1999/2000. On Mud Islands the flag is placed on the LEFT leg and on Clonmel Island, Corner Inlet, on the RIGHT leg.

The sightings below emanated from just 28 chicks flagged at Clonmel Island.

Date of sighting	Location seen	Observer	Km moved
300500 (a)	Terra Nora, Broadwater, Qld	E.Kleiber	1300 NNE
06, 21 and 280600	Wave Break Island, Gold Coast, Qld	E.Kleiber	1320 NNE
221000	Buckleys Hole, Bribie Island, Qld	T.Ford	1450 NNE
210500 (b)	Tweed Entrance, NSW	E.Kleiber	1300 NNE
231000	Tweed River Entrance, NSW	E.Kleiber	1300 NNE
271000	Tweed River Entrance, NSW	E.Kleiber	1300 NNE
291000	Tweed River Entrance, NSW	E.Kleiber	1300 NNE
021100	Tweed River Entrance, NSW	E.Kleiber	1300 NNE
091100	Tweed River Entrance, NSW	M.Angus	1300 NNE

Chicks (a) and (b) were accompanied by adult birds from which they were still persistently begging for food. On the assumption that these were their parents (and they did not beg from other Caspian Terns present) then the family groups had remained together throughout their migration from the Victorian breeding grounds to their wintering area in south east Queensland (1300 km). It is well known that young terns continue to be dependent on the adults after they have fledged but this is the

first proof that such dependency can continue for many months and throughout the migration. If the birds had not been colour flagged it might have been assumed that they were bred locally.

The Bribie Island sighting probably relates to a different (4th) individual. The other October/November records probably refer to a single bird which is not likely to move southwards again until it is more mature.

Common Tern

Flag sightings

Date of sighting	Location seen	Observer	km moved
091299 (3 birds)	Caloundra Beach, Qld	J.Denning & B.Dickson	1459 NE
091100 (2 birds)	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	J.Denning	1459 NE
131100 (2 birds)	Caloundra Bar, Qld	J.Denning	1459 NE
020499	Evan's Head Beach, adj. Broadwater NP, NSW	R.Moffatt	1258 NE
050499	Patch's Beach, South Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1284 NE
031099	Boat Harbour, Kurnell NSW	J.M.Pegler	713 NE
071099(2 birds)	Salty Lake, Broadwater NP, NSW	B.Moffatt	1262 NE
161099	Patch's Beach, South Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1275 NE
231099 (2 birds)	Salty Lagoon, Evans Head, NSW	B.Totterman	1259 NE
231099 (2 birds)	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater NSW	B.Totterman	1270 NE
311099 (5 birds)	Patch's Beach, South Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1275 NE
201199 (2 birds)	South Ballina Beach, Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1287 NE
120200	South Ballina Beach, Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1143 NNE
130200	Patch's Beach, South Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1134 NNE
040300 (2 birds)	Flat Rock Beach, North of Ballina, NSW	E.Kleiber	1151 NNE
110300	Flat Rock Beach, North of Ballina, NSW	N.& J Harris	1151 NE
110300 (6 birds)	Flat Rock Beach, North of Ballina, NSW	E.Kleiber	1151 NNE
140300 (2 birds)	Ten Mile Beach, Bundjalung NP, NSW	B.Moffatt	1233 NE
250300	Flat Rock Beach, North of Ballina, NSW	E.Kleiber	1151 NNE
010400 (7 birds)	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater NSW	B.Totterman	1129 NNE
010400 (5 birds)	South Ballina Beach, Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1143 NNE
010400 (3 birds)	Patch's Beach, South Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1134 NNE
010400	Safety Lagoon, nr. Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1125 NNE
110400 (2 birds)	South Ballina Beach, Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1143 NNE
110400	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	B.Totterman	1129 NNE
210400	Patch's Beach, South Ballina, NSW	B.Totterman	1134 NNE
191000 (3 birds)	South Ballina Beach, NSW	B.Totterman	1287 NE
231000 (2 birds)	South Ballina Beach, NSW	B.Totterman	1287 NE
021100 (2 birds)	South Ballina Beach, NSW	B.Totterman	1287 NE
021100 (4 birds)	Broadwater Beach, NSW	B.Totterman	1170 NE
021100	Hastings Point, NSW	E.Kleiber & M.Angus	1200 NE
041100	Broadwater Beach, NSW	B.Totterman	1170 NE
111100 (6 birds)	Safety Lagoon, Evans Head, NSW	B.Totterman	1100 NE
121100	Flat Rock, N. of Ballina, NSW	E.Kleiber & M.Angus	1151 NE
231100	Flat Rock, N. of Ballina, NSW	E.Kleiber & M.Angus	1151 NE

This fantastic collection of Common Tern sightings (77) eclipses the previous best total (15 last year) by a wide margin. It results from the dedicated observations of Bo Totterman and others on the east coast of NSW and SE Queensland. The southward passage of birds returning to Victoria is obviously mainly in October and November, with the return northward migration in March and April. The early December sightings in SE Queensland and those in northern New South Wales in mid February may possibly refer to birds which have changed their non-breeding area.

Crested Tern

Recoveries of chicks banded at Mud Islands, Port Phillip Bay

Band	Date banded	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location found	km moved
072-23615	191292	Dead	120599	Pottsville Beach, NSW	1369 NE
?*	211296	Seen	150899	Hastings Point, NSW	1372 NE
072-36782	181293	Dying	300899	Serenity Beach, S of Emerald Beach, NSW	1186 NE
?	031298 and 201298	Seen*	130100 and 150100	Woody Head, Clarence River Estuary, NSW	1269 NE
?	211297	Seen*	290900	Merimbula, NSW	480 ENE
072-97190	111299	Dead	271000	N side Woombyn Beach, NSW	458 ENE
? (2 birds)	201298	Seen*	180799	Pelican Pt, Mt Gambier, SA	381 W
?*	211296	Seen	171197	Gippsland Lakes, Vic	250 E
?*	171295	Seen	010198	Gippsland Lakes, Vic	250 E
?*	211296	Seen	140198	Gippsland Lakes, Vic	250 E
?*	211296	Seen	111098	Gippsland Lakes, Vic	250 E
?*	211296	Seen	261098	Gippsland Lakes, Vic	250 E
?*	171295	Seen	041198	Gippsland Lakes, Vic	250 E
?*	171295	Seen	261198	Gippsland Lakes, Vic	250 E
072-04333	161289	Dead	260499	Cape Woolamai, Vic	61 ESE
?*	031298 or 201298	Seen	110599	Gippsland Lakes, Vic	250 E
?*	171295	Seen	090899	Lorne, Vic	75 WSW
072-04428	161289	Dead	041299	Blairgowrie, Vic	11 S
072-23851	191292	Caught at nest	221299	Manns Beach, Vic	187 ESE
?*	171295	Seen	221299	Manns Beach, Vic	187 ESE
072-85367	031298	Dead	301299	South Pt, Churchill Is., Vic	58 ESE
072-97301	111299	Dying	301299	The Nobbies, Phillip Is., Vic	43 SE
?*	171199	Seen	311299	Sandy Point, Vic	138 ESE
072-85703	201298	Dead	010100	Bushrangers Bay, Cape Schanck, Vic	25 SSE
071-76147	131287	Dead	010100	Werribee South Bch, Vic	35N
071-97514	161289	Dead	010100	Point Leo, Ocean Bch, Vic	33 SE
072-36472	181293	Dead	020100	Torquay Beach, Vic	39 W
072-72961	211296	Dead	040100	Frankston, Vic	36 ENE
072-97226	111299	Dead	040100	London Bridge, Mornington Peninsula, Vic	8 SW
072-92719	061299	Dead	050100	London Bridge, Mornington Peninsula, Vic	8 SW

072-97302	111299	Dead	050100	London Bridge, Mornington Peninsula, Vic	8 SW
072-36309	181299	Dead	090100	Mooroolbark, Vic	73 NE
?* (14 birds)	171199 or 061299	Seen	280400	Warnambool, Vic	200 W
?*	211296	Seen	280400	Warnambool, Vic	200 W
?*	171295	Seen	280400	Warnambool, Vic	200 W
071-51379	211286	Mercy killed	300500	San Remo Beach, Vic	61 E
072-72614	211196	Dead	020600	Station Pier, Port Melbourne, Vic	50NNE
072-15700	141291	Dead	180600	Anglesea Beach, Vic	52 WSW
? band lost in post	03 and 201298	Dead*	110700	Hampton Beach, Vic	43 NNE
072-97192	111299	Dead	030900	The Nobbies, Phillip Is., Vic	42 SE
072-24059	191292	Dead	141000	Hampton Beach, Vic	41 NNE
072-97654	111299	Dead	141000	Hampton Beach, Vic	41 NNE
072-97567	111299	Dead	141000	Hampton Beach, Vic	41 NNE
072-15987	141291	Dead	161000	Reef Is., Western Port, Vic	61 ESE
072-36518	181293	Dead	121100	Collendina Beach, Vic	19 W
?*	Either 171199 or 061299	Seen	211200	Stanley Tas.	280S
?* (2 birds)	Either 171199 or 061299	Seen	311200	Fortescue Bay, Tas.	625 S

*Coloured metal band enabled cohort banding date to be determined.

Recoveries of Crested Terns banded as chicks at Mud Islands and recaptured (by hand net) breeding at The Nobbies, Phillip Island.

Date banded as chick	Date recaptured	Age	Number of birds
131287	131299	12	1
171288	131299	11	1
161289	131299	10	1
151290	031299	9	2
151290	301299	9	1
141291	031299	8	1
141291	301299	8	2
141291	131299	8	4
191292	301299	7	1
181293	031299	6	1
181293	131299	6	2
181294	131299	5	2
181294	301299	5	1
171295	301299	4	1
211296	131299	3	1
Total			**22**

Recoveries of Terns banded as chicks at The Nobbies, Phillip Island

Band	Date banded	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location found	km moved
072-91783	031299	Dead	130400	Moreton Bay, Qld	1443 NE
072-86740	151298	Tangled in fishing gear	020100	Harrington, NSW	1010 NE
072-98354	100100	Dead	120500	Eden, NSW	450 ENE
072-47586	221294	Cannon-netted	170599	Roussac's Farm Corner Inlet, Vic	98 ESE
072-73660	220197	Dead	150100	Tamboon Inlet, Vic	361 ENE
072-91277	031299	Cannon-netted	220100	Lochsport, Lakes NP, Vic	224 ENE
072-91388	031299	Dead	250100	Point Leo, Vic	12 NNW
072-91572	031299	Dead	310300	The Nobbies, Phillip Island, Vic	Local
072-91708	031299	Dead	170700	Reeve Channel, Rigby Island, Vic	253 NE
072-91793	031299	Dead	080500	Yamerby Reserve, Streaky Bay, SA	1169 WNW

Recoveries of Terns banded as chicks at Manns Beach, Corner Inlet

Band	Date banded	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
071-83421	100188	Cannon-netted	170599	Roussac's Farm Corner Inlet	55 W
072-27548	121293	Cannon-netted	170599	Roussac's Farm Corner Inlet	55 W
071-50917	311279	Hand caught at nest	211299	off Manns Beach Corner Inlet	Local
072-91211	060199	Dead	141000	Hampton Beach, Vic	179 WNW

In addition 4 chicks banded on 221299 were found dead locally on 030100 after a severe storm flooded the nesting colony.

Other Crested Tern recoveries

Band	Date banded	Location of banding	Method of recovery	Date retrapped	Location found	Km moved
072-29483	260196	Albifrons Is., Lakes NP, Vic	Dead	240100	The Skerries, Wingan R. Vic	154 E
071-31512	221274 (chick)	Penguin Is., Beachport, SA	Caught at nest	221100	Mud Islands	420 ESE
072-71221	141296	Troubridge Is., Edithburgh, SA	Caught at nest	281100	The Nobbies, Phillip Is.	770 ESE

The lists of recoveries further illustrate the following;

(f) Movements of birds in autumn and winter are mainly eastwards along the Victorian coast and then northwards as far as the Queensland border (but only occasionally into south-east Queensland).

(b) Westward movements are generally in autumn and only over much shorter distances (up to 200 km.). The movement of 072-91793 to Streaky Bay, SA, is exceptional (1169 km WNW).

(c) Mortality of Crested Terns in their first year is high.

(d) Two birds banded as chicks in South Australia were found breeding at Victorian colonies – one age 4 and one at age 26.

(g) Many of the Crested Terns breeding at The Nobbies colony on Phillip Island had been banded as chicks at Mud Islands in Port Phillip Bay.

Little Tern

Little Terns known, or thought, to be from the Victorian (or NSW) breeding population are marked with individual colour flag combinations. Those considered to be from the Japanese population (identifiable by plumage/moult) are only given a single orange flag – linking them to a Gippsland Lakes marking area but not enabling individual identification. Hence there are two lists below.

Recoveries

Band	Age	Date Banded	Location banded	Date found	Location seen	km moved
041-59275	2+	130190	Point Wilson, Lakes NP	090391 050799	Point Wilson, Lakes NP Albifrons Island, Lakes NP Jinno Shinden, Aichi, JAPAN 34^0 45'S 137^0 18'E	Local 8252 N
041-96364	2+	250197	Spermwhale Head, Lakes NP	291198 130100 100600	Little Island, Lakes NP Albifrons Island, Lakes NP Jinno Shinden, Aichi, JAPAN 34^0 45'S 137^0 18'E	 8252 N
041-92167	1		Albifrons Island, Lakes NP, Lakes NP	000600 (BP)	Tenryn River, Honshu, JAPAN	
042-00952	Chick	120299	Rigby Island, Lakes NP	251099	Kidds, Karaka, NEW ZEALAND	2365 E
042-00967	2+		Albifrons Island, Lakes NP, Lakes NP	041100	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	1460 NE
041-27638 (breeding)	2+	011295	Towra Point, Botany Bay, NSW	251196 101196 071198 180200	Towra Point (breeding) NSW Towra Point (breeding) NSW Penrhyn Inlet, Botany Bay, NSW off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	Local Local Local 647 SW
041-59297	2+	130190	Spermwhale Head, Lakes NP	110298	Manning River Estuary, Harrington NSW	814 NE
041-59304	2+	130190	Spermwhale Head, Lakes NP	021199	The Entrance NSW	616 NE

041-98924	Chick	101298	Rigby Island, Lakes NP	250199 031299 061100 (BP)	The Cut Gippsland Lakes NP South Beach, Ballina, NSW Broadwater Beach, Ballina, NSW	18 WNW 1128NNE 1140 NNE
041-99056*	Chick	291297	Towra Point, Botany Bay	130399 210100	Albifrons Island, Gippsland Lakes Towra Point, Botany Bay, NSW	810 SW 810 NE
042-00573	2+	130399	Albifrons Island, Lakes NP	021299	Tuross Heads NSW	296 NE
042-00413	1	240199	The Cut, Lakes NP	120100	Flat Rock Beach, North Ballina, NSW	1151 NNE
042-00544	2+	130399	Albifrons Island, Lakes NP	130100 (retrapped)	Lake Wollumboola, Nowra, NSW	426 NE
041-97712	Chick	260198	Spermwhale Head, Lakes NP	150100	Manning River Mouth, NSW	806 NNE
041-97710	1	260198	Trouser Point, Lochsport, Lakes NP	120200	Lake Wollumboolan Culburra NSW	433 NE
041-92100	2+	261096	Albifrons Island, Lakes NP	180200	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	115 SW
041-61519	2+	250192	Spermwhale Head, Lakes NP	090400	South Ballina, NSW	1143 NNE
042-00609	2+	130399	Albifrons Island, Lakes NP	231000 (BP)	South Ballina, NSW	1143 NNE
041-91583	2+	260196	Albifrons Island, Lakes NP	021100 (BP)	South Ballina, NSW	1143 NNE
042-00655	2+	130399	Albifrons Island, Lakes NP	111100 (BP)	Patch's Beach, Ballina, NSW	1150 NNE

BP = Breeding Plumage
Band numbers determined by individual colour flag combinations.

Flag Sightings

Date seen	Location seen	Observer
000600 (breeding)	Tenryn River, Honshu, JAPAN	K.Kitagawa
080800	Pei-Men, Tainan County, TAIWAN 23^0 20' N 120^0 10'E	Chia-Hao Chang
260200	South Ballina Beach, NSW	B.Totterman
250300	Flat Rock Beach, Ballina, NSW	E.Kleiber
010400	Safety Lagoon, nr. Ballina NSW	B.Totterman
020400	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	B.Totterman
090400 (2 birds)	South Ballina Beach, NSW	B.Totterman
110400 (2 birds)	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	B.Totterman
110400	South Ballina Beach, NSW	B.Totterman
210400	Evan's Head, nr. Ballina NSW	B.Totterman
041100	Broadwater Beach, NSW	B Totterman
111100	Safety Lagoon, Evans Head, NSW	B Totterman

This is the best ever selection of recoveries and sightings. Four reports of birds breeding in Japan, and the first sighting of a bird on migration through Taiwan, are the highlights.

The movement of a Victorian bred bird to New Zealand is also remarkable. Little Terns are uncommon in New Zealand. The band number of this bird was read with a telescope. What was probably the same bird was seen in the same area subsequently on a number of occasions.

Migratory movements of Little Terns along the east coast of Australia are also apparent. An increasing proportion of the sightings, however, relate to Victorian birds which appear to have moved to breed at various locations along the NSW coast. There are also indications that Victorian birds move up the NSW coastline in the non-breeding season.

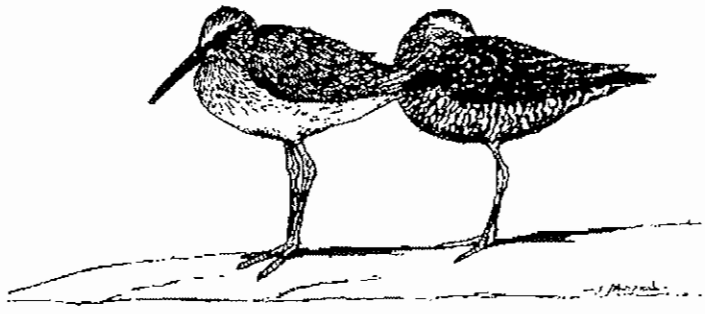
Fairy Tern

Band	Age	Date banded	Location of banding	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location found	Km moved
041-96323	chick	230197	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	Dead	140900	Woodside Beach, Vic	19 NE

Pacific Gull

Band	Age	Date Banded	Location banded	Date seen	Location seen	km moved
T112/ 111-05862	2	050797	Manns Beach, Corner Inlet, Vic	end Nov. 1997	Seaspray, Vic	48 NE

Large numbered bands are placed on the occasional Pacific Gull which we band at the request of Bruce Robertson, who is pursuing a long term study of this species in Victoria.



Indications of year 2000 Arctic breeding success based on the percentage of first year birds in Australia in the 2000/01 austral summer.

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Peter Collins and Chris Hassell

One of the main aims of the Victorian Wader Study Group and the Australasian Wader Studies Group banding programmes is to estimate survival rate, recruitment rate and age of first breeding of migratory waders visiting Australia. This data is a necessary adjunct to help understand the results of the counting programme. The proportion of juvenile/first year birds in the waders caught by cannon netting in SE Australia and NW Australia can be used as an index of breeding success of these species in the previous Arctic summer (Minton et al. 2000).

It has long been recognised that wader populations are non-homogenous in both age and sex distribution spatially and temporally, when roosting, feeding, on migration and in the non-breeding areas. Thus any method of attempting to assess recruitment rate via the age structure of a population is potentially subject to bias. Recognising this we have tried to standardise as far as possible the conditions under which we attempt to collect data for our long term (now 20+ years) monitoring programme. These conditions include:

1. Confining catches at a particular site to between December-February in Victoria and December – mid-March in NW Australia when populations are considered to be most stable. When practicable catches at a particular site are made in the same month each year.
2. Making catches at the same locations each year.
3. By using cannon netting rather than mist netting, as mist netting is thought to bias samples towards juveniles.

All birds were caught by cannon netting at daytime high tide roosts. They were aged by the standard methods developed by the AWSG/VWSG over the years – principally the presence of retained juvenile feathers, wear and moult of primaries.

Breeding success can be grouped into four broad categories. These categories are based on the mean percentage of juveniles present in cannon net catches for the period December to March. These categories are:

Poor	0-10%
Moderate	10-20%
Good	20-30%
Exceptional	>30%

The attached tables (Tables 1 & 2) show the results for the Arctic breeding year 2000 as measured during the 2000/01 austral summer. The figures for the previous year are also shown for comparison. Note that the number of catches which make up each species' total are also included, giving some indication of the spread of the sampling.

Overall the proportion of first year birds in wader populations in both SEA and NWA was lower in the 2000/01 austral summer than in the 1999/2000 summer. Specifically,

for species where comparisons between the two years can be made six out of eight species in SEA appeared to fare worse and five out of six species in NWA.

Based on the broad criteria given above Sanderling, Bar-tailed Godwit (Alaskan breeding population.), Great Knot (but note small sample size), Curlew Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone which visit SEA had a poor (0-10% juveniles) breeding season in 2000. Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper appear to have had rather better, but still only moderate, breeding success with only Red Knot performing well (52% first year birds, ie. exceptionally well). Although the Red Knot figure was based on just a single catch it was at a principal site for this species, was made without "twinkling" (which can cause the wiser adults to leave the area) and was with significant numbers of other medium/large size waders which all had low proportions of first year birds.

In NW Australia catches, the percentage of first year birds was generally a little higher than in SE Australia. Bar-tailed Godwit (North Siberian breeding population) still fall in the 'poor" category, as did Terek Sandpiper, Red Knot and Oriental Pratincole. The Red Knots in NW Australia are thought to be from the New Siberian Islands whereas those occurring in SE Australia come from further east (? in the Chukotsk Peninsula) so it is not impossible that the two populations could have had markedly different breeding outcomes in 2000. Most other species were in the moderate (11-20%) range – Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint (at 15%, very close to the 14% in SEA), Grey-tailed Tattler and Great Knot. It was particularly good to see that Great Knot, in their prime non-breeding area, seem to have a reasonable proportion (18%) of young given that they have had several bad breeding years recently (only 4.4% the previous year). As in 1999, Greater Sand Plover – breeding much further south of course – appear to have had good breeding success.

The reader is referred to the earlier note on this subject (in Arctic Birds Newsletter No. 2) for potential biases and inaccuracies in this data and precautions taken to minimise these. But overall the figures are considered to be a reasonable indication of breeding success – especially when a number of different independent catches have contributed to the total – and certainly year on year comparisons are a fair measure of annual variations.

The Red-necked Stint situation is now at a particularly interesting stage. Instead of the "traditional" good, bad, moderate three year cycle they have had good, good, moderate breeding success over the last three years. The net result is that populations in the non-breeding season in Australia in the last two years have been at very high levels – record levels at some locations. This has, inter alia, caused a significant number of birds to occupy habitats (such as ocean shores) where they are normally absent or only present in very small numbers. In the Nooramunga National Park section of Corner Inlet, southeast Victoria, 24,000 Red-necked Stints were counted in February 2000 and 21,000 in February 2001. Over the previous 20 years the average summer count was 11,000 birds with a maximum ever of 14,000 birds. One would expect a correction in numbers in due course – what are the odds on a poor-breeding season in 2001? It will be fascinating to see what happens to this species in the next two or three years (when of course large numbers of first time breeders will also be returning to the Arctic to contribute).

Minton, C. Jessop, R. and Hassell, C. 2000. 1999 Arctic breeding success from Australian perspective. *Arctic Birds: An international breeding conditions survey Newsletter* 2: 19.

Table 1. Proportion of first year birds in wader catches in SE Australia in 2000/2001 compared with 1999/2000

Species	**2000/2001 Dec. to 10th March**			**1999/2000 mid Nov. to mid March**
	Total birds caught (catches)	Number of first year birds	% first year	% first year
Red-necked Stint	5815(25)	790	14	25
Curlew Sandpiper	381(13)	26	6.8	23
Sanderling	243(2)	7	2.9	13
Ruddy Turnstone	181(6)	19	10	21
Red Knot	119(1)	62	52	38
Bar-tailed Godwit	83(1)	3	3.6	19
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	32(7)	5	16	10
Great Knot	27(1)	1	3.7	7.5

- The Ruddy Turnstone figures exclude a catch of 42 juveniles in a total of 98 birds caught on 11th December because the sample contained many juveniles still on migration (fat), (one subsequently recovered in New Zealand later the same month. The figures would be 279(7) 61 22% if this catch was included).

Table 2. Proportion of first year birds in wader catches in NW Australia in 2000/2001 compared with 1999/2000

Species	**2000/2001 (Nov. to 10th March)**			**1999/2000 Nov. to March**
	Total birds caught (catches)	Number of first year birds	% first year	% first year
Great Knot	645 (14)	116	18	4.4
Bar-tailed Godwit	330 (11)	16	4.8	7.7
Grey-tailed Tattler	276(9)	46	17	
Greater Sand Plover	212 (11)	47	22	33
Terek Sandpiper	176 (9)	15	8.5	
Red-necked Stint	113 (6)	17	15	46
Curlew Sandpiper	112 (14)	12	11	24
Red Knot	73 (10)	7	9.6	15
Oriental Pratincole	47 (3)	3	6.4	

Analysis of Recoveries of VWSG banded Caspian Terns

Clive Minton and Julie Deleyev

Introduction

The Caspian Tern is classed as a threatened species in Victoria. It appears to have highly variable, but on average only moderate, breeding success. However the breeding population on the Victorian coast seems to be relatively stable – in fact it may even have increased slightly in recent years (VWSG data).

The VWSG has been banding the chicks of terns breeding in Victoria since December 1979. An analysis of the recoveries of Crested Terns, which have been banded in by far the largest numbers, was published in VWSG Bulletin No. 16 in 1992. This note summarises recoveries and flag sightings of Caspian Terns.

Methods

There are only three significant regular breeding colonies of Caspian Terns in Victoria – at Corner Inlet, Mud Islands (Port Phillip Bay) and Mallacoota.

The Caspian Tern colony in the Nooramunga National Park, Corner Inlet, has typically contained around 50 pairs in most years although numbers have reached 90 pairs twice in the last 5 years (in the 96-97 and 00-01 seasons). The colony was originally in the middle of Box Bank, off Mann's Beach, but since the early 1990s it has been on the west end of Clonmel Island, off Port Albert. Chicks have been banded there periodically since 1979 and regularly over the last 15 years. The number banded each year (total 452, Table 1) has varied markedly because of high variations in breeding success. Many nests are flooded out or covered in wind-blown sand in the late October to mid-January nesting period. Fortunately Caspian Terns will relay one or even more times after an initial nest loss.

At Mud Islands the Caspian Tern colony has always been much smaller, usually around 20 pairs but occasionally as low as only 12 pairs. Nesting success there has also been relatively poor but in this case it is mainly due to egg predation by the vast numbers of Silver Gulls which also nest on Mud Islands. The total number banded is 100 (Table 1).

Up until the 1999/2000 breeding season chicks were just marked with a normal metal band. Since December 1999 however an orange plastic leg flag has also been placed on chicks, on the opposite leg to the metal band. The plastic flag was placed on the right tarsus on chicks at Corner Inlet and on the left tarsus for chicks at Mud Islands (Table 1). This code will be used each year and therefore in the future it will not be possible to ascertain the actual year of flagging unless the bird observed is in a diagnostic plumage (eg. juvenile plumage). However, all sightings of leg flagged birds included in this analysis can be related back specifically to the 24 Caspian Tern chicks banded at the Corner Inlet colony in late December 1999 or early January 2000.

Results

Recoveries

There have been seven long distance recoveries of banded Caspian Terns. Five of these were on the coast of southern Queensland and two on the coast of northern New South Wales (Fig. 1). The furthest north reached by any of these birds was the north end of Fraser Island, some 1700 km NNE of the banding location at Corner Inlet. The most southerly recovery in NSW was just north of Coff's Harbour, around 1150 km from the banding location.

Interestingly five of these were recovered within 12 months of being banded ie. when they were still in their first year. The months of recovery were March, April, June, August and October. Another bird was recovered in January when it was just 13 months old. The seventh bird was a full adult when recovered in August nearly 7 years after it had been banded.

Flag Sightings

There have been 12 sightings of Caspian Terns flagged at the Corner Inlet colony (see Map). These appear to relate to at least 6 different individuals. Sightings were in May (2), June, October/November (1 bird), and the following April when the bird would have been approximately 16 months old. All these sightings were in the same general area in southeast Queensland as the banding recoveries.

Speed of Migration

Juvenile birds seem to move quite rapidly to their "wintering" grounds after fledging, which mostly occurs in January. The bird near Coff's Harbour had already reached there by the 3rd of March, probably only about 6 weeks after it had fledged. And the most northerly recovery of all, on Fraser Island, was reported on the 11th of April, probably only 10 weeks since it had fledged (it was banded on the 3rd of January). A shorter distance recovery, but again illustrating speed of movement, relates to a chick banded at Corner Inlet on the 22nd of December and recaptured 100 km away at Lochsport on the Gippsland Lakes on the 23rd of January, probably less than 2 weeks after it had fledged. Interestingly, this bird was still accompanied by both its parents from whom it was begging for food, occasionally successfully.

Even more surprising was the report that two of the flagged Caspian Terns observed in Queensland in May/June were also still accompanied by one of their parents from whom they were also begging. It is well known that many terns continue to feed their young for a while after they have fledged. However it is surprising that this dependence/family bond should have lasted throughout the migration to the Queensland wintering grounds.

Age

As mentioned earlier almost all recoveries and flag sightings relate to birds in their first year or so of life. Thereafter few recoveries have been reported. However there

are two older birds. One from Mud Islands in Port Phillip Bay was found dead seven years later in Westernport. Pride of place however goes to a chick banded in Corner Inlet in December 1985 which was recaptured at Lochsport in January 2000 when it was 14 years and 1 month old.

Discussion and conclusions

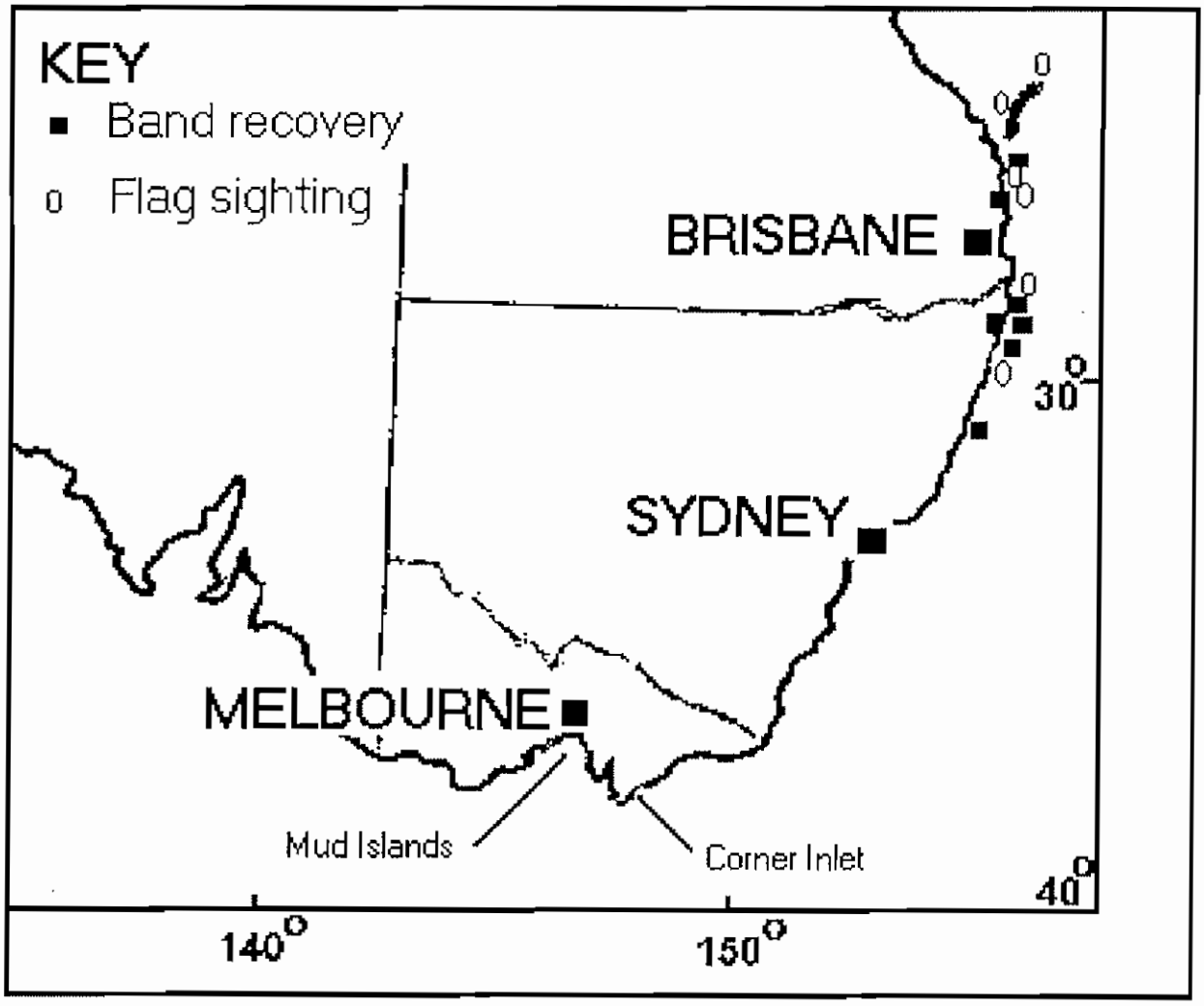
It is clear that the majority of young Victorian Caspian Terns migrate during their first autumn to winter on the coasts of southeast Queensland as far north as Fraser Island. A few birds may only go as far as the northern NSW coast. It is probable that all young birds remain in these "winter quarters" for their first two years. There are too few recoveries of adults to indicate whether they also always migrate to winter in the same area, but one recovery certainly suggests that this may be so.

The centre of gravity of the wintering area of Caspian Terns is significantly further north than that of Victorian Crested Terns, most of which only go as far as the northern NSW coast with hardly any individuals reaching Queensland (see VWSG Bulletin Number 16).

As with Crested Terns, Caspian Terns seem to be particularly vulnerable in their first year of life. This may in part be due to their difficulty in learning to feed themselves adequately. However it may also be due to naivety which leads to them becoming entangled in fishing line for example. Fortunately it seems likely that once they have survived the initial year or two then they may well live for a considerable period. Much more banding will need to take place before there are enough recoveries for a mortality/survival rate analysis.

The recently initiated flagging program seems to have been a great success with almost as many individuals sighted on the wintering grounds in the first year after flagging as recoveries have accrued over more than 20 years from the metal banding. Flagging may also in future help determine whether chicks ultimately return to their natal colony when they are mature enough to breed. A more sophisticated colour-marking program will be necessary to determine another key parameter – the age of first breeding.

Figure 1. Map showing Caspian Tern recoveries and sightings from birds banded and flagged in Victoria.



The future

The VWSG banding and flagging of Caspian Terns will continue into the future in parallel with the overall monitoring of the number of breeding pairs each year and their breeding success.

Acknowledgments

Considerable thanks are due to Parks Victoria (Foster and Queenscliff) and Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Yarram and Geelong) who assisted in various ways with boat transport over a 20-year period. Without their help this long term ongoing study would not have been possible.

Table 1: Numbers of Caspian Tern chicks banded by VWSG

Year	Mud Islands	Corner Inlet
81-82		20
83-84		11
85-86		17
86-87		23
87-88	3	40
88-89	13	54
89-90	5	62
90-91	6	2
91-92	19	29
92-93	2	6
93-94	1	16
94-95		6
95-96		7
96-97	9	39
97-98	1	22
98-99	10	11
99-00	11	24*
00-01	20*	63*
TOTAL	**100**	**452**

*Also orange leg-flagged (Mud Islands, left tarsus; Corner Inlet, right tarsus)

Fairy Terns at The Spit, Werribee Sewage Farm

Clive Minton

Fairy Terns used to breed regularly each summer in the area of North Spit/South Spit at Werribee Sewage Farm. In the early 1980s the colony was the largest, and by far the most successful, Fairy Tern breeding colony in Victoria. This was because an area, about 20 meters diameter, was artificially (by hand) cleared of vegetation in the middle of two small shell grit islands in the lagoon at the then junction of the North and South Spits. Unlike the shingle banks of The Spits themselves the cleared areas on the islands were safe from inundation by storm tides and were difficult to access for land predators (eg. foxes). These were the reasons nesting success was so high.

Unfortunately in 1986 the VWSG was instructed to discontinue maintenance of the cleared areas on which the Fairy Terns nested. This instruction stemmed from the rather simplistic idea that the "natural" situation was "better" than a "man-managed" habitat. Also that the vegetation clearance could enhance "erosion".

No Fairy Terns successfully nested there in the 1986/1987 summer. Subsequently a few pairs of Fairy Terns tried to nest on South Spit and on North Spit but, as had happened with a few nests there in previous years, all were eventually flooded out by storm tides.

For two or three years the Fairy Terns tried to nest instead at Sand Island, Queenscliff. However breeding success was minimal, mainly due to fox and rat predation, and the birds eventually left Port Phillip Bay completely. One or two banding recoveries suggested that they had mainly moved to the East Gippsland sites artificially created and maintained for breeding Little Terns. In recent years a small colony has tried to nest almost annually on Rams Island off the south coast of French Island, but there have been no Fairy Terns nesting anywhere in Port Phillip Bay as far as we are aware since 1990.

The Management Plan drawn up for the Werribee Sewage Farm area in 1999 by Melbourne Water (with the assistance of the Wildlife Consultative Committee) recommended that a clear patch should be recreated on the island originally used by the Fairy Terns in an attempt to restore a nesting colony. Parks Victoria and 10 VWSG volunteers cleared the necessary vegetation in August 1999 and the area has subsequently been continually kept clear of vegetation. Unfortunately so far the Fairy Terns do not seem to have rediscovered this "ideal" nesting area and only Pied Oystercatchers have bred on the cleared patch in the 1999/2000 summer and 2000/2001 summer.

It is hoped that the Fairy Terns will eventually start to nest there again. In the meantime it was considered useful to briefly record the previous history of the colony. The extracts below were taken from previous VWSG Bulletins. Let us hope there is a happy sequel in the next few years.

1981 – 82 First Vegetation clearance - two islands - in July. Island was last used in 1978/79. Fifty pairs on one island on 19th January. 32 chicks were banded and 22 nests had eggs.
(VWSG Bulletin No. 5 Jan 1982)

1982 – 83 No specific figures were recorded on colony size, but it was apparently similar to 1981/82.

1983 – 84 31st December – 54 nests with eggs or newly hatched young. Further visits in January resulted in 48 chicks being banded out of an estimated 60, which fledged.
(VWSG Bulletin No. 8 May 1984)

1984 – 85 November – early breeding season with most chicks hatched in this month. There were 54 nests on the 12th November (same as previous year). By the 26th November 56 chicks had been banded and three nests still had eggs.
(VWSG Bulletin No. 9 May 1985)

1985 – 86 A late poor breeding season. On the 28th December, nesting had only just commenced. 30 pairs were nesting but had only one egg. In mid-January, chicks were just hatching. On the 10th February, nine chicks were banded and other fledged young were seen. Estimated only 20-30 fledged. November and December 1985 were exceptionally wet.
(VWSG Bulletin No. 10 June 1986)

1986 – 87 No vegetation clearance was carried out. In December, some scrapes were made but no eggs were laid. In January, no Fairy Terns were nesting. The habitat still appeared to be suitable.
(VWSG Bulletin No. 11 July 1987)

1987 –88 Again no vegetation clearance was undertaken. No nesting occurred on the usual Island for the second consecutive year. Three nests and eight scrapes on the shingle beach on the South Spit in November were inundated by high tides. The birds deserted and left the area.
(VWSG Bulletin No. 12 July 1988)

1988 - 89 Limited vegetation clearance resumed. Fairy Terns made a few scrapes but no eggs were laid. No other nesting colonies were known to be present in Port Phillip Bay and birds were considered to have decamped to newly created Little Tern habitat at Lakes Entrance.
(VWSG Bulletin No. 13 July 1989)

1988 – 99 Subsequently no further vegetation clearance has been undertaken and no Fairy Terns have attempted to breed at the Werribee Spit (or for that matter anywhere else in Port Phillip Bay).

1999 The old Fairy Tern breeding area was again cleared of vegetation by a team of ten VWSG volunteers on 25th August. Shells were carried (in bags) from the main spit and scattered over part of the cleared area, which is oval shaped (19m x 13 m).
This is the commencement of a three year trial to see if Fairy Terns can be induced to return and breed.

THANKS TO DATA ENTERERS!

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Do you wonder what happens to all those data sheets that you have helped complete in the field? Yes, Clive carefully packs them away and gives us a summary of catches at the next outing. But what happens to all that meticulously gathered data contained on those sheets – is it put to good use? Well, in the last year or so a number of our group have found the answers to some of these questions.

Our first responsibility is to the Banding Office and copies of field sheets are sent off to them in Canberra by Clive. However, for them or anyone else to make use of all that data they need to be entered in to an electronic database. To undertake this task we have utilised the time and expertise of a number of members who have volunteered, been cajoled or otherwise been coerced to help with this enormous exercise. I would like to thank all who have participated in this, whatever the contribution. Some idea of the task can be obtained from the number of birds caught in 1998 and 1999. In Victoria we had 9491 waders (including retraps) in 1999 and 8106 in 1998. In addition the team enters data gathered from North-West Australia and of course in 1998 there was the successful NWA Expedition where over 15,000 waders (37 species) were processed. When you consider the time to enter all the data on each of these sheets (via a user unfriendly program) it amounts to a lot of personal effort.

The following people helped in this task at some time over the last year and a half and I am sure we are all grateful for their efforts:
Susan Taylor, Pete Collins, Vivien Holyoake, Mick and Brenda Murlis, Jenny Skewes, Tim Gale, Barbara Allen (ACT), Gloria van Dyne, Margaret Rowe, Andrew Silcocks, Roger Richards, Angie Gutowski, Paul Rose, Faye Hill, Ken Kraaijeveld.

Mark Barter also deserves special thanks for verifying the data we give him on disk and transmitting it to Canberra. Of course he and Terry did the whole of the data entry task prior to the current arrangements – we certainly appreciate the enormity of that contribution.

It is only by having this data in this form that anyone can undertake the analysis necessary to find out more about our wonderful birds. Thanks to all concerned and an invitation for anyone else who has basic computer skills (we even offer training) to let either myself or Clive know as we are about to make a start on entering the large amount of data gathered in 2000.

Selected papers from the *VWSG Bulletin*
Nos.1-23 (1980-1999)

Compiled by Hugo Phillipps

The first number of the *Victorian Wader Study Group Bulletin* was issued in January 1980 with No.23 appearing in July 1999. During this near 20-year period the Bulletin published a wide variety of material relating principally to the activities of the Group but also including articles from other sources. Much of the content is ephemeral, but there are papers and reports of more than historical interest where the information may still be useful today. The following is a selected list of such material, categorised by subject. The category headings should be self-explanatory and some papers appear in more than one category when appropriate. Papers are listed chronologically within categories or subcategories.

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An Occasional Stint

(Bulletin of the Tasmanian Shorebird Study Group)

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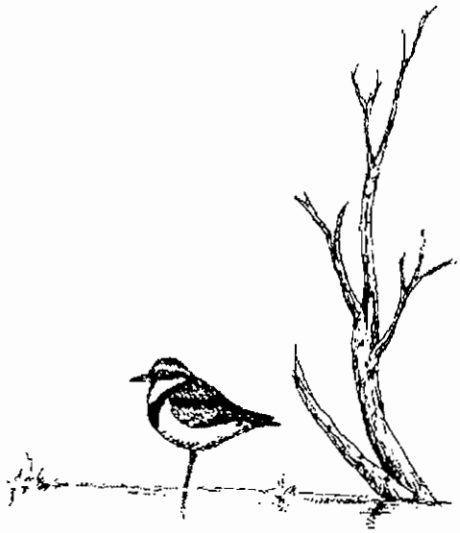


Monitoring Oystercatchers and Hooded Plovers
The Corner Inlet Breeding Project

Pete Collins and Julie Deleyev

A Coast Action / Coast Care grant was obtained to study the breeding success and failures of Pied Oystercatchers and Hooded Plovers on Box Bank (fox free for a long time) and Dream Island (fox free recently). We spent several days on the islands searching for nests and watching Oystercatchers running backwards and forwards to and from their nests

The objectives of this project were broken down into three separate areas. Firstly and perhaps easiest was to determine the breeding success and the causes of any failures to hatch. Secondly is there any way to improve breeding success and finally if the opportunity arose start a long term breeding study by catching and colour banding birds at the nest.

The first task was to find and mark as many, if not all, the nests on the two islands. In some respects this was easy as most of the nests had a trail of tell tale footprints leading to and from them. However some birds nested on the low cliff that edge the island in some areas and these birds hopped/flew to them and it was only by flushing these birds that the nest was found. We think that only a few nests went undetected, one of these was in dense bush. On one occasion a search was terminated upon the discovery of a metre long Tiger Snake. This nest was never found but the adults were seen later with a large chick. All nests that were found were described as to height above a chosen tide mark, distance from the same mark and site. They were also assigned a code designed to show if it was thought that the site was in danger of failing. This could be due to poor site selection by the adults, that is below high tide levels, in danger of being covered by blowing sand or too exposed and easily seen by potential predators.

A card enclosed in a snap lock bag marked each nest and the details of each visit was entered on it as well as being logged in a separate notebook. The cards were of three colours to reflect the code mentioned above red likely to be lost, white unknown possibility and green as safe as it could be. These were pinned to a stake which, was then put in a place away from the nest but near enough to mark it.

On subsequent visits each nest was checked and the contents recorded. The results have yet to be analysed but some interesting things have emerged.

(1) 43 Pied Oystercatcher and three Hooded Plover nests were found on Box Bank the majority of which were on the landward side. 19 Oystercatcher nests were found on Dream Island with four pairs of Hooded Plover found and 1 nest. This is apparently very good for Dream now that the fox problem is under control.

(2) One morning a pair of Oystercatchers was seen to walk through the camp taking a large chick down to the water on the inland side from the ocean side. Is this normal?

(3) A nest was found with 5 eggs in it. Another nest was within 20 metres of another and the adults took no notice of each other as they went about their daily business. Indeed often appeared to join together on the mud flats to feed.

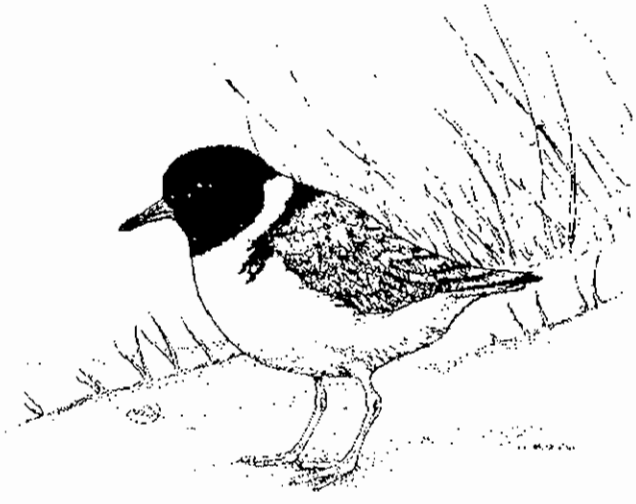
(4) The relationships in some areas were extremely difficult to follow especially as a low proportion of birds were colour banded and most of these were on the west end of the Box Bank. Does this mean that the other birds do not move off their prime territories but the west enders have to go to Barry Beach for the winter?

(5) Some nests were lost during a storm that not only took the nests but the majority of our markers as well. However at least 18 chicks were seen before this, which is not a bad proportion.

Apart from the loss of nests from storm surges nests were probably lost due to sand blowing and covering the contents. One nest was uncovered on the east end of Box Bank but had already been abandoned. Evidence of predation of nests was difficult to assess. Certainly on Dream Island there was a large flock of Ravens seen several times and only once on Box Bank. No Raven footprints were found beside empty nests but this may be due to other factors. In 3 nests broken eggshells were found and in two cases the footprints of the possible culprit were everywhere. This was the Water Rat, which has a well-known weakness for eggs.

We also gathered heaps of photos of Oyk nests.

The whole exercise was extremely well worth while with a lot of data gathered and in the process of being analysed. Hopefully there will be opportunities for follow up work next year. Without the aid of the boat people, Susan Taylor, Bruce Atkin and Swampy none of this would have been possible. Also thanks must go to Paul Brown and Nicole Grenfell who did sterling work voluntarily.



Adopt a flock revitalised and expanded

Pete Collins

A few years ago a scheme was proposed to adopt an Oystercatcher flock. This was met with some enthusiasm, which has, unfortunately now died down. The first part of the Oystercatcher banding has now reached a peak and it has come time to maximise our efforts to discover some of the basic biological facts about the two species we have been banding so intensively.

The first part of the analysis is well under way with the movements being monitored and a preliminary analysis being presented at the AWSG conference on Phillip Island in 1999. Now comes the hard part and it is the bit that we need your help with. Firstly we need more information on the wintering flocks. Some of these flocks are easy to monitor but recently have not been looked at on a regular basis. Secondly we need to find breeding birds and collect information on an annual basis for instance who is doing what and to whom and do they do it to the same individual annually or are they not that faithful. This is by far the hardest part as it entails looking in some pretty obscure places that are not easy to get to. There is a plan (see below) to cover as much of Corner Inlet as we can but there are many more areas, some of which we are aware of but most of which we are not, that need to be covered.

If you are willing to monitor a wintering flock on a monthly basis either Pied or Sooty or have the time and the energy to search for pairs on say French Island then let Ros or myself know and we can sort out details.

A Little Stint at Inverloch and a Hudsonian Godwit at Werribee

Graham Beal

On the 2nd December 1999, at Inverloch in Gippsland, Victoria, the VWSG were fortunate enough to catch a Little Stint *Calidris minuta* with 34 Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis* and two Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea.*

It was spotted by eagle-eyed Danny Rogers, while it was being processed. The first inkling came when the bird, a juvenile, was in moult. This is only the fourth Little Stint caught and banded by the group since 1975.

As is apparent they are very similar in juvenile and non-breeding plumage to the Red-necked Stint. Pizzey lists the differences as

1. Slightly thinner and more tapering black bill.
2. Black legs often longer,
3. Crown rounder and higher.
4. Neck fractionally slimmer and longer.
5. Upper parts browner, with more dark speckling on head and more obvious buff-grey zone on sides of upperbreast leaving white throat.
6. Broader dark feather - centre; wings, including tertials, often retain orange chestnut fringes.
7. Wings and tail shorter than red-necked, held higher when standing and feeding.
8. In flight white wingbar does not diffuse into primaries.

In Broome a banded Little Stint was seen by Adrian Boyle, who identified it by its white throat. He read the band number using a telescope only to discover that it had been banded as a Red-necked Stint!!

Another interesting wader that turned up at Werribee, from mid November to at least 22nd January, was a Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*.

This was also in non-breeding plumage, very similar in appearance to the small group of Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* with which it associated. The many 'twitchers' who went to see it had to wait for it to stretch its wings or fly, to reveal black 'armpits" for a positive identification. This was a new species for Victoria, they have been previously recorded in NSW, SA and Tasmania.

As the name suggests it breeds in Alaska to Hudson Bay, Canada, wintering in the south of South America, it is recorded annually in New Zealand.

Editors note. The Little Stint is a species that opens a whole can of worms and can be used as an excellent example of why people should put records in for ratification to the Rarities Appraisal Committee at Birds Australia. Little Stints must occur more frequently than they are recorded, but most records are not acceptable because of the lack of details submitted. For Little Stint in the hand I like the 11 th primary method a notch or not notch. Haymans Shorebirds describes it better that I can on Plate 76. Not notch is rare, notch is not.

Partial Albino Curlew Sandpiper

Doris Graham

The 18th of March 2000 was fine but extremely windy so plans to catch on one of the islands off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet were changed to Barry Beach, where both the base camp area and the shell bank spit where the birds roost are more protected than are the wonderfully remote and windswept islands which protect Corner Inlet from the ocean.

As we hoped some 5000 medium and small waders flew in to roost and very little twinkling was required to move them into the catching area.

It was a dry catch well before high tide. While covering material was being spread over the birds Pete and Roz noticed that there was a white bird among the 500 or so which we had caught. In the busy time of extraction which followed this stage of the catch, they thought it was probably a tern, but when Roz extracted the bird she knew at once that it was a Curlew Sandpiper with mostly white plumage.

Close inspection during processing showed it that although it was mostly white there were some brownish feathers on the head, back and wings. It had an orange - clay coloured bill, dark eyes and black legs and feet. These features indicated it was a partial albino as defined by Sage (1962), that is "normal colouration is present in varying degree and soft parts may or may not be affected, but the irides are always pigmented ".

The colour of many of the non-white feathers of our bird was similar to that of normal breeding plumage, it's 10 primaries were recently moulted and it weighed 80 grams. These latter findings indicated that it was an adult bird accumulating fat in preparation for imminent departure on northern migration.

The other Curlew Sandpipers caught were moulting their non-breeding season grey buff plumage into their beautiful rich chestnut-reds and black breeding plumage. All had black bills, legs and feet and dark eyes, had completed their moult of primaries and also weighed about 80 grams.

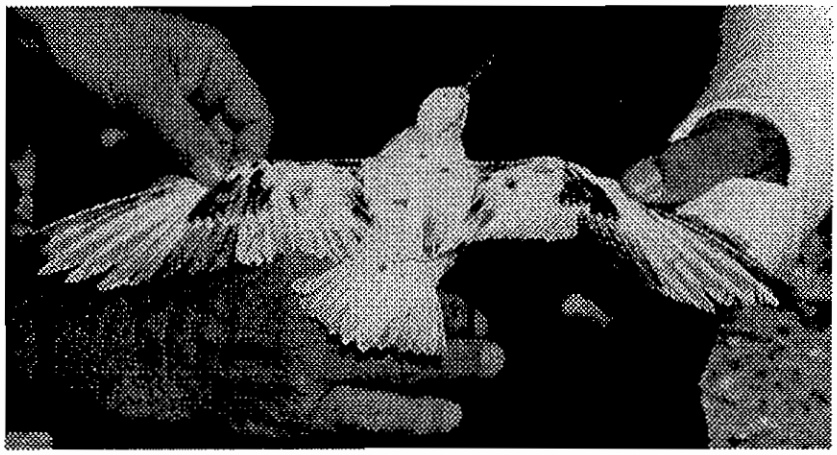
This is the first "albino" Curlew Sandpiper which the VWSG has caught among the approximately 25,000 since 1975, and to date I can only find one other reported in the Australian literature (Lepschi 1990). Unfortunately we cannot locate the precise origin of this report since the reference is not given in Lepschi's paper. It is interesting that a Curlew Sandpiper and one Japanese Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) are the only long distance migrant species of which Lepschi reports albinism in Australia. However an albino Bar-tailed Godwit was seen at Roebuck Bay, Broome, WA over a period of years (Clive Minton pers. comm)

The most commonly reported albinistic birds in Australia are Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Laughing Kookaburra, Crimson Rosella and Blackbird (Lepschi 1990). These differences reflect the proximity to humans making the more urban species the more frequently reported.

From the literature on other species of albino birds it seems likely that "our" partial albino Curlew Sandpiper is fertile, and we will be watching all flocks of these birds

very carefully and critically this next season to determine whether any further such unusual and spectacularly different but beautiful in their own right, appear on our beaches.

Photograph of the Curlew Sandpiper (Doris Graham).



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Lake Eyre and the Banded Stilt
1st to 5th April 2000

Peter Collins

After a lot of organisation by Clive, a trip to Lake Eyre North was arranged. This was to study the Banded Stilt breeding colony which had developed on a small island in the middle of the inland lake, that is probably world famous as the inland sea, or the place where Donald Campbell broke the land speed record many moons ago.

To put the trip into context Banded Stilt rarely get the chance to breed as they rely on heavy rains many miles away and for the salt lakes in South Australia to fill up. This triggers the hatching of brine shrimps which the Banded Stilt need to raise their young and to feed on themselves. This has happened only three times this decade so the event is rare and when it happens people have to be prepared to drop everything they are doing and go.

The area is classified as remote. The nearest civilised place to the colony is William Creek Hotel 75 km away. Access to the pub is by good roads but it is not so easy to get to the island.

Day 1. Clive, Ros and Pete left Melbourne at 5 o'clock in the morning and the tedious part of the journey commenced through the dark streets towards Adelaide and beyond. After a few brief stops, mostly for refreshment, Adelaide was left behind and Port Augusta was reached just after 4 in the afternoon. A brief stop at the DEHAR office to pick up a short wave radio and it was back on the road towards Hawker where Keith Bellchambers and Niki du Prue were kindly putting us up for the night. A pub meal at the Hawker Hotel and a relatively early night closed the first day.

Day 2. A leisurely start to the day as we left Hawker at 9 o'clock. The only major stop was at Leigh Creek for perishables for the island as well as lollies which became increasingly scarce as the day wore on. Once off the bitumen outback Australia covered us as usual in dust. It was surprisingly barren after what we had thought was extensive rain but as we approached William Creek it became greener but no wild flowers. The highlight of the journey was breeding Inland Dotterel which were photographed. About mid-afternoon we finally booked into the William Creek Hotel.

Other notable bird sightings included Budgies at Nhill, Orange and Crimson Chats all over the desert country and a pair of Brolgas at the aptly named Brolga Well.
To finish the day a quick birdwatch around the hotel produced breeding Little Button Quail and Chirruping Wedgebill as well as commoner species.

Day 3. It was decided that a fixed wing aircraft recce was needed to establish landing places and positions of the various colonies of breeding birds so Clive and Ros were selected by Pete to do this. Only two could go as the door was going to be opened so photographs of the island could be taken without the annoying reflections caused by glass or perspex. While the flight was in the air Pete went walkabout and added a few more species to the Atlas list.

After a very successful recce across the island we paid a visit to a flooded area which a few weeks previously had forced Clive to back track and detour around while riding

in the beer truck from William Creek to Coober Peedy. Although the Red-necked Avocets had gone as the water evaporated there was still an extensive area of water which had caught a tourist bus the day before we had arrived. I don't think the bus driver was interested in the teeming life in the water or the baby Pink-eared Duck and Black-tailed Native Hen that were running around everywhere. There was a lot of bird life in the now dry creek beds and the still wet shallow lakes. This was a fabulous place. On the way back a Cinnamon Quail Thrush was stunning. A brief stop gave Clive more photos this time of Banded Lapwing chicks. An interesting piece of behaviour was that when the adults of this nest gave an alarm call, 10 other adults came from all points of the compass, as they responded.

Day 4. The morning was spent organising the equipment to go to the island and waiting for the helicopter to arrive from Ayres Rock. A drum of aviation spirit was rolled into place and this was extremely useful to sit on. Clive spent most of the time talking to a BBC sound man who had been taken at dawn to the place where we had visited yesterday for 'atmos' (Beeb speak) or in English background noise, aka atmosphere. As the time ebbed and flowed away Clive was getting a little edgy but the helicopter arrived and Mr. BBC and Clive were whisked away. In about an hour the helicopter arrived back and the remaining luggage and Ros and Pete were also whisked away to the island. Personally I have never been on a flimsy looking contraption like this before but I have to admit it was fantastic.

After landing and waving goodbye to the chopper as us veterans call them, at least I think we were referring to the helicopter, and the BBC man, we set up camp. This took very little time as we had to by necessity carry very little.

The first job was to survey as much of the gull colony as we could before dark. This was achieved relatively painlessly and it was decided that it would be advantageous to survey the north end Pelican colony on the way back. This also was achieved. The gulls had a few chicks but mostly they were still on eggs and the Pelicans, at this particular colony, were all eggs. A small splinter colony of gulls and the Caspian Tern colony were left until later in the trip.

All things being equal it was now time for something to eat and Clive whipped up Bangers and mush which was excellent.

Day 5. The first observations took place at the Banded Stilt colony. Measurements of the predation level and the amount of gulls and stilts entering and leaving the colony were taken. Two observations stand out above the massacre that was going on. The first was the sight of a gull chasing a female Banded Stilt with an egg protruding from her cloaca and the gull breaking it in situ. The second was the slick nature of mate changes at the nest. You could watch a bird wander almost aimlessly through the colony but because of the density of birds it was impossible to see it reach its nest. However where the colony was thinnest a mate change was seen. This is rarely recorded.

In the afternoon the Pelican survey was completed at the southern end of the island. The rest of the afternoon and early evening was again spent at the Stilt colony. Dinner again courtesy of Clive was Steak and other bits including Lake Eyre sauce.

Day 6. The noise of stilts and gulls coming and going went on all night. The result of this activity manifested itself at dawn when the observations at the colony continued.

Overnight a large number of nests, presumably predated, had gone from the left hand end of the colony. This meant that there were now more nests exposed to the ravages of gulls.

This was our very hot day and it was decided that the census work needed to be finished and that it should be an early morning job as more observations needed to be collected at the stilts. The remaining gull overspill colony was counted along with the Caspian Tern colony, which was next door.

Following on from observations started yesterday more notes were taken on adults and chicks leaving the colony. In parallel to this more observations were made from what was now a familiar vantage point overlooking the stilt colony. It was while these observations were being made that a yellow leg-flag was noticed. Predation levels at midday were the lowest that had been seen because it was so hot the gulls had taken refuge in the shade and on a small patch of water.
Clive cooked Corned Beef a la Hughes don't ask for the recipe as I have an idea he made it up.

Day 7. More predation observations were done in the morning. The right hand side of the stilt colony had been targeted and thinned out a great deal while the left hand side, which had been thick with nesting birds, no longer had any nesting birds.

Australia is a land of contrasts yesterday we boiled today we had not got enough clothes to keep us warm. A cool change had come roaring through and the tents were collapsed to stop them ripping. Most of the day was spent at the colony mapping out the trail of destruction. Time out was taken to take photos of the now burgeoning numbers of baby pelicans on the south end of the island. Blood samples were collected from baby stilts that were dropped by squabbling gulls. The only thing that was not achieved was any banding but it had been decided very early on that there should be no help given to the gulls which would take any advantage from any disturbance they could.

Not wishing to be ousted from his job Clive magicked Tuna Mornay from his tucker bag of delights. As with yesterdays offering there was enough for breakfast as well.

Day 8. The morning was spent taking photographs of the stilt colony even though it looked at one stage as if the light was not going to be very good. When this activity was not happening packing everything up ready for the afternoon flight to William Creek was the order of the day.

At 1 o'clock the helicopter arrived and much to the amusement of Ros and Pete they were filmed as they descended from the machine by the waiting ABC crew. I think they expected someone else. Eventually the someone else arrived and was duly interviewed. A fixed wing flight was also arranged because one mystery remained. Where were the baby stilts that had managed to get away? The rest of the day was spent unashamedly getting the top two layers of Hughes Island off us and washing the dust from the back of our throats at the hotel. I have nothing against Clive's wonderful cooking but the T-bone steak at the hotel that night was one of the best I have eaten, ever.

Day 9. Up at dawn again. This time for a flight across the lake. The mystery of the stilts whereabouts remains a mystery. In the early mornings, while we were on

Hughes Island, before the haze became too bad, 10,000 stilts could be seen out on the horizon. Apparently the strong winds we had experienced had moved them and in an hour and a half flying we only found 200.

About 9 o'clock all was packed up and farewells said to the inhabitants, well the 6 we met, of William Creek. After a small detour to Roxby Downs we returned the radio and had a yarn with the people in Port Augusta. We stayed overnight with a local bander, Wally Klau, and his wife and for the second night running Clive did not cook.

Day 10. One member of the party was up at dawn with Wally banding passerines the other two decided it was time for a lie in. Then came the boring bit of the journey in reverse and we arrived back in Melbourne in time for cocoa and bed.

Numbers.

Banded Stilt	9,000 active nests decreasing rapidly due to gulls
Pelican	4,714 nests
Silver Gull	2,222 nests
Caspian Tern	150 nests
Red-capped Plover	14 nests

Others, 1 Gull-billed Tern, small flocks of Budgies and Zebra Finches overhead, Ros flushed a Little Button Quail. 200 very fat Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were feeding around the island on most days. 100 Red-necked Stints briefly landed and 1 Curlew Sandpiper was seen.

Wading through Chile. Waders and terns of a long thin country.

Pete Collins, Ros Jessop and Doris Graham

In September the three of us were lucky enough to go to Chile to attend the fourth International Penguin Conference in La Serena about 500 kilometres north of Santiago. However never one to miss an opportunity we decided to hire a car for the three weeks we were there and go birding. When we go to somewhere that was unfamiliar we always have a target species that we go for. In this case it was one wader and one not-wader. The not-wader was the Andean Condor which we got and the wader was the Diademed Plover/Sandpiper (affectionately known as The Ploiper as it appears to be a hybrid between a Sandpiper and a Plover, the Plover and sandpiper tags are apparently interchangeable), which we did not get. I don't think it matters any way what is in a name?.

There is a site for the Diademed Plover near Santiago but by the time we had got organised there was fresh snow and the area was apparently closed. However there were other waders to be seen and this was not the only area that this species could be found.

After leaving Santiago our first stop was naturally the seaside at Vina del Mar. A few years ago we had been to Argentina and Brazil so a lot of these species we had seen before and were to see ad infinitum all through the trip. These included Blackish and American Oystercatcher, a lot like our Pied after all how many combinations of black and white can you come up with, Whimbrel, admittedly with a dark rump, and the ubiquitous Southern Lapwing. This is the equivalent to our Masked Lapwing and

behaves in a very similar way, especially when it is breeding. Pride of place here went to a tern with the most bizarre set of whiskers, namely the Inca Tern. It looks at first glance to be just a dark tern similar to a Sooty Tern then you notice the curly whiskers which are modified feathers. Not short normal feathers that make a curly pattern but long and curly feathers like a handlebar moustache. A stray South American Tern hardly got a glance.

After sojourning in the Southern Beech Forests watching Moustached Turco and a hummingbird the size of a Starling we headed for higher ground at the base of Aconcagua, near a ski resort called Portillo hoping for the Ploiper. After the warmth of the lowlands we were greeted with the warmth of the highlands although there was still snow about we had prepared for cold weather and it had not, as yet materialised. This it had in common with the Ploiper. The bird that was interesting was the Torrent Duck though it is not a wader or tern. There appeared to be a lot of habitat that would have suited a Ploiper. Here we had a lot of trouble just finding a safe parking space as this is the only reasonable land route over the Andes, and every lorry coming into Chile from Argentina, or the other way round uses it. As it is rather steep it can be a slow business getting from one place to another. Doris has asked that I put in a bit about the snow and the skiing. That's it.

We left disappointed in the Ploiper and headed for the seaside again.

La Serena is a cross between Queenscliff, Australia and Blackpool, England. Luckily we hit the week when it was more Queenscliff. The first Sanderling appeared here presumably from the north as their numbers increased daily and the Whimbrel numbers did likewise. Otherwise it was pretty quiet a tern was tentatively identified as a Snowy Crowned variety. The visit to the Humboldt Penguin colony at Los Charos was interesting for a variety of reasons , mostly because of the interesting organisation of transport to the islands. Apparently the Chilean Navy had been inveigled to carry heaps of Penguin boffins to the island unfortunately they arrived a week early. The friendly fisherfolk, who have simple, but expensive, needs were persuaded to help and launched their picturesque craft for a trip around the island. Some people were charged extra because they saw dolphins. I have to confess I took one look at these boats and decided not to go, along with Ros and several people from the Antarctic division. I digress. We witnessed two flocks of Whimbrel arriving, the first going along the coast but the second heading inland and apparently landing. On the way in we had seen a group of 13 Whimbrel roosting about 2 kilometres from the coast in semi-desert. It was an odd sight with Whimbrel walking and sleeping amongst cacti. A pair of Snowy Plovers were also in this area and the way they were behaving obviously had eggs. A pool behind the dunes on the way out was also entertaining as it produced the first South American Stilt and a pair of Rufous-chested Dotterels and a flock of 20 or so Bairds Sandpiper. Our penultimate day in La Serena produced a single Peruvian Tern.

At Huasco, a small partially derelict fishing village we came upon a small flock of Black Skimmer. Where this lot fished was quite baffling as we had seen no calm water anywhere in the country. On the way to have a squiz at the Atacama desert we stopped off at the quaintly named English Beach. The usual Whimbrel were fossicking about on the only mud we had encountered and a lone Hudsonian Godwit looked almost suicidal standing around. What there was however was a good sized group of about 70 Surfbird and 40 Turnstone. Although this was the second time we

had seen these species, the first was at Vina del Mar, this was the first time that we managed a good look at them.

That was really the end of the wader and tern species but two other birds, both gulls, deserve mention. The first is the Grey Gull. This gull nests and roosts in the high Andes and comes to the coast to feed they travel up to 50 kilometres a day. A personal opinion and purely subjective is that this is the third best looking gull I have seen (Little Gull and Heermans Gull being the others). The other gull just lives in the high Andes and this is the, surprisingly named Andean Gull. The field guide blithely states that in winter it descends to 2000 metres, it must be one tough bird.

If anyone is interested in birding Chile or what we saw and where just ask.

Significant Tern counts in South Australia February - March 2000 Preliminary Report

Peter Collins

During the recent AWSG/SAOU joint expedition to count waders at various points along the South Australian coast between Ceduna and the Coorong the opportunity to assess tern numbers was also taken. Although not by any means a comprehensive count several valuable sites were discovered and some well known sites were counted.

Ward Spit, near Port Germain. 24/01/2000

This is a small offshore sand island that is well known, being the site of a Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) catch many years ago.

30 Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) with chicks and eggs plus a further 30 with fledged young. A nearly fledged young bird was seen that had symptoms similar to leg cramp in captured birds where the bird was walking on it's 'heels'. It was remarked that this looked almost like a genetic deformity but why this would be the case is not understood and the conclusion was arrived at that it was more likely to be a nutritional or physical injury rather than a genetic problem.

1630 Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*) with young and eggs plus a further 500 with fledged young. Owing to the complete range from egg to fully fledged young it may be possible that there had been a second clutch laid. Four birds carried metal bands, which we were unable to read given the time restraints of the visit. In total it may be that this colony is in excess of 2000 pairs.

A count of 280 birds between 50 and 75% breeding plumage was made and of these at least 250 appeared not to be actively engaged in incubation or feeding young. This ability to breed in non-breeding plumage has been noted before and may be a symptom of prolific food supply.

120 pairs Fairy Tern (*Sterna nereis*) 100 with eggs or small young and 20 fledged young. This colony of Fairy Tern had been much larger as twice as many scrapes were noted making a colony size of 300 nests if all scrapes had been utilised.

Bosenquet Bay, Ceduna. 02/02/2000

One Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) of the northern Hemisphere race.

St. Peters Island. 03/02/2000

At least 3000 pairs of Crested Tern were nesting in and around a small islet. This is probably an underestimate as the colony was not approachable from our drop off point. Birds were sitting on eggs and probably had a wide range of young, judging from the variable size of fish that the adults were observed bringing into the colony.

40 Caspian Tern were in the area with 10 fledged young. It is unclear where these birds nested.

12 Fairy Tern with 2 fledged young were also in the area as with the Caspian Tern it is unclear where these nested as there are many suitable areas.

Eyre Island. 03/02/00

Only two members of the expedition visited this island and owing to time constraints an accurate count of the terns were not made. However a colony of over a thousand Crested Tern was noted.

Tolderol. 07/02/2000

A flock of 1000 Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonius hybridus*) were feeding over a marshy area by flying into a strong headwind making it appear that they were hovering. Many of these birds were in non-breeding plumage.
12 White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonius leucopterus*) were also engaged in a similar behaviour.

The Coorong. 08/02/2000 - 12/02/2000

The Coorong has a large colony of Crested Tern breeding regularly on small offshore islands.

The minimum number of birds seen within the space of a single day was 1100 Whiskered Tern, 4500 Crested Tern, 500 Caspian Tern, 100 Fairy Tern and 50 White winged Black Tern associated with Whiskered Tern in feeding flocks.

The Caspian, Crested and Fairy Tern were all accompanied by fledged juvenile birds, indicating that they had been bred in the area.

At the Needles a mixed flock of feeding terns consisted of 300 Whiskered Tern, 80 Fairy and 20 Little Tern. The Little Tern are of interest owing to their scarcity in the area and the fact that they possibly belonged to the northern hemisphere race (R. Schukard, M. Barter pers. comm.).

At the Murray Mouth 500 Crested Tern with 40 fledged young and 23 Fairy Tern with eight fledged young were present. The Caspian Tern were scattered mainly in small numbers but 450 were in one roost near the Murray Mouth

At Hacks Point 600 Whiskered Tern were seen feeding in association with 40 Australian Pelican, 1,800 Banded (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*) and Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), 180 Red-necked Avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*) and 300 Silver Gull (*Larus novaehollandiae*). The feeding activity was caused by the Pelicans disturbing prey items as they fished the area. This area was clearly discernible by the trail of disturbed sediment that they left behind.

General

In many places along the coast between Ceduna and Tea Tree crossing on the Coorong there were many small to medium size flocks of terns especially Crested Tern with fledged young ie. at Port Wakefield out of 50 Crested Tern 14 were fledged young, and along the ocean shore of the Coorong there were 18 flocks of between 20 and 100 birds consisting of adults, non-breeding plumage birds possibly sub-adults and fledged juvenile birds. Fairy Tern were also common along many of the sandy beaches, many also had fledged young with them.

Conclusion

It would appear from the short time that this survey was conducted that the coast of South Australia is a very important area for breeding Crested, Fairy and Caspian Terns.
It would also appear that species such as White-winged Black Tern were under counted, as the areas where this species favours were not targeted for wader counts. The large numbers of breeding Crested Tern on the Coorong and Ward Spit have been recorded before but the colony on St. Peters Island and Eyre Island have apparently not been recorded before.

Banding in South Australia

Iain Stewart, Sandy Stewart, Sally Stewart, Anna Stewart, James Stewart and Maureen Christie

Sunday March 15th 2001 saw the unofficial 'SESAWSG', under the leadership of Iain Stewart, embark on their first cannon netting expedition. A group of 15 met at Eight Mile Creek with a plan to catch at Danger Point. Our start was delayed by the release of a juvenile Northern Giant Petrel (Figure 1) which had been rescued by Maureen Christie and nursed back to health by the Von Duve Family.

The leaders went down to the beach to check out the mixed flock of waders gathered on Danger Point and figure out where to set the net. Much umming and ahhing went on with discussion about tides, wind, roosts etc.... It was finally decided that the net would be set behind the roost and it could be a wet catch.
Where was that booming voice " Everyone should be doing something!' ?
With a few experienced hands and some very willing novices the net was set. Now for the wait!

The birds had sat around and watched us set the net and as soon as we had finished they nicked off.

Dilemma! People were getting hungry. Should they take a chance and leave the firing position to collect lunch which of course was back at the carpark or could they wait that bit longer?

Chris Wilson, an exchange Ranger from Ireland, and Maureen went off twinkling (thanks to the National Parks for the loan of radios). As fate would have it the birds had found refuge across the bay. Maureen headed off in her vehicle to Stoney Point and found a large flock of Sanderling. The birds lifted and headed west instead of east. A small group broke off, came back to us and landed out of the catching area where they proceeded to feed. We needed King Neptune to appear and push the birds up the beach. The tide had dropped and the birds weren't interested in coming up the beach. The Double-banded Plovers were on the beach all day and took a great interest in the jiggler which didn't bother them in the least.

While we were waiting and Iain was switching in the firing box yet again we were entertained by the Petrel going for a few short flights to test its wings.

Finally the decision was made to catch what we could because it was getting late and the Plovers had finally left the jiggler alone.

The call to fire was given and the button pushed. The net went out beautifully. What a relief everything had gone to plan!

The catch - 15 Red-necked Stints
- 4 Double-banded Plovers
- 1 Red-capped Plover
- 1 Sanderling

As we processed we were serenaded by a chorus of 300 Sanderling only 50 metres away.
There is only one thing for it - we will have to try again soon!

The day was quite successful with a lot of confidence gained and banders willing to make a return visit.
On returning home we were contacted by Maureen with the news that the day had a happy ending. The juvenile Northern Giant Petrel was joined by an adult bird and hopefully they flew off into the sunset.

The attached pictures are proof of our trip. Isn't technology great! Thanks to Chris Wilson and his digital camera.

Figure 1. Northern Giant Petrel

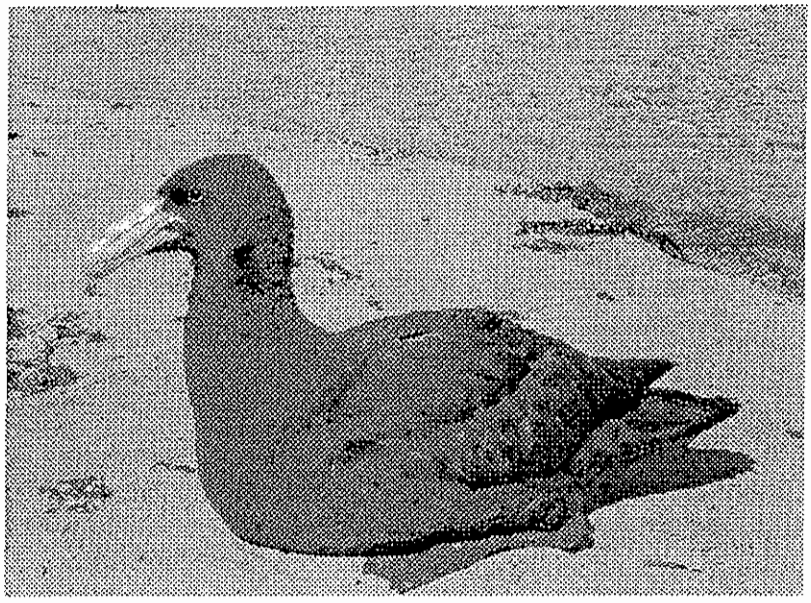
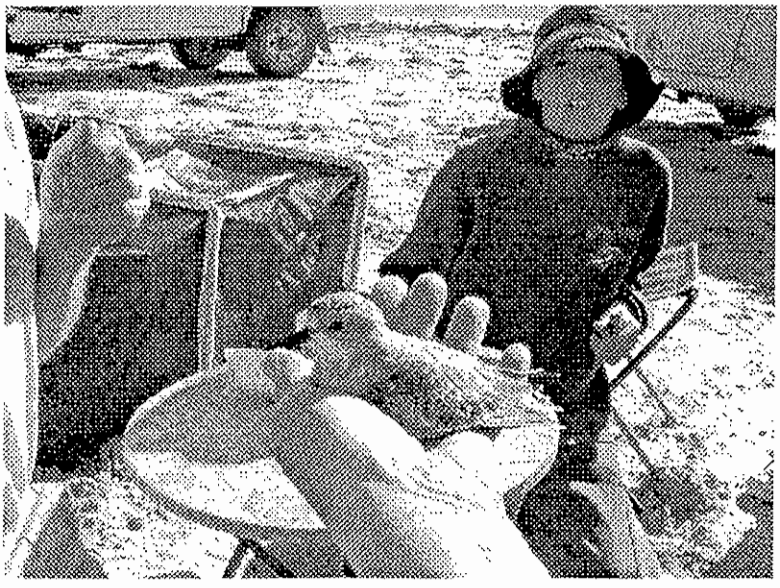


Figure 2. Red-necked Stint



A journey to The Spit

John Hopper

Two long, narrow tongues of sand, topped with shrubby and beaded glasswort and other saltmarsh species, reach out and lap the salty ocean. Small islands some robust and vegetated, others ephemeral sandbanks and mudflats beholden to the whims of tides and weather survive in the sheltered lagoon landward of the sand spits.

The main hope of our afternoon ramble is the discovery of any Orange-bellied Parrots that have arrived here for the winter. These small grass parrots breed in the south west of Tasmania over summer, then head for the mainland, travelling along Tasmania's west coast and via King Island. Less than two hundred of them remain in the wild.

It is late March, cold and windy; this seems of little concern to the lankily limbed Black-winged Stilts meandering about the shallows in their best Tati-esque fashion. At the first of the tidal channels breaching the spit, we both don waterproof waders. The tide is coming in and the sea is waist-high as we ford a wide berth around the entrance mouth, avoiding the deep central channel scoured out by the swiftly flowing water. Continuing our unobtrusive tramp across the saltmarsh covered spit, we spy over fifteen hundred Chestnut Teal. They have congregated in this coastal sanctuary, refugees from drought and duck hunters.

A Double-banded Plover, a small annual winter migrant from New Zealand, is foraging on the mudflats twenty metres away. Its black and chestnut breast bands are prominent during the summer breeding season in New Zealand. Later, we see three others skittering about on a section of the shoreline where the spit's tongue dips underwater in deference to the tide.

In the distance, further out on the mudflats, several Pied Oystercatchers are moving across the wet sand with an ungainly elegance, hard at work opening molluscs with their orange-red bills.

At a point where the spit broadens out into a series of well vegetated sand and shell-grit ridges that run parallel to the coast, we diverge and walk separately through the vegetation. Our hope is to flush any Orange-bellied Parrots that may be dining on *Sueda asutralis* seeds. A few Blue-winged Parrots and numerous tiny White-fronted Chats flutter skyward ahead of us. We didn't encounter any Orange-bellied Parrots; nor do we hear their high pitched metallic buzzes of alarm. As this area is one of their favourite mainland haunts, they apparently have not arrived from Tasmania yet.

Q. What do you wear on your feet when you have got a flooded cannon net?

A. Pumps.

Thank you Nicholas Minton aged 9 for that piece of information.

The following reports have appeared sent to people on e-mail. It is by no means a comprehensive. If you are on e-mail and wish to receive the short notes than e-mail to Ros (rjessop@penguins.org.au) and ask to be put on the list.

Werribee and Cannon-netting at Christmas (27th to 29th December 1999) the traditional Victorian way to spend the festive season

Pete Collins

After a few hardy souls had set two nets at Austin Road Lagoons on the Boxing Day, the small but relaxed, party adjourned to the Werribee Hilton. Here the concierge took our outdoor coats and top hats and checked (chucked) them into the outdoor coat and top hat cupboard where they would recline until needed. The party then adjourned to the cocktail lounge for aperitifs before the Christmas banquet. Actually the shed was very dirty so Doris and Co. spent the evening cleaning the various types of avian, Starling, and Mammal, mostly sheep with essence of bat, pooh from the tables and tent pitching places. Ros and Pete stayed at a house in Altona.

Day Two.
The net set the previous day looked really good though the birds did not appear to concur as they mostly ignored it. However a useful appetite wetter was had with 50 Red-necked Stints, 25 Curlew Sandpipers and 7 Sharpies.
One large net and two half nets were set at Austin Road Lagoons for tomorrow the traditional Media Day of the VWSG.
The crew then adjourned to the shed for lunch as the famous Werribee Spit was beckoning. Two nets were set one for stints the other for Sharpies as a large roost was discovered. By the time Ros and Pete had joined the rest of the crew the weather was pretty miserable with strong winds and infrequent showers. As the tide was in, the water in the breaches in the Spit were getting deeper and was already up to knee deep with a long way to go before high tide. The shore-line net was fired and the wind was so strong that the net was blown back onto the shore so that this was an inadvertent dry catch. 263 Red-necked Stints were processed 51 of which were juvenile.

Day Three.
The large net was left set on the Spit.
Media Day dawned, at least everybody said it was dawn, as it was grey, overcast and pretty miserable and they had floods in Melbourne. Summer down under is sometimes just like the land of the blue Pom.
It is probably typical that the birds did not co-operate for the cameras and various radio and newspaper people that invariably turn up at this time of year. OK so Yeltsin was about to resign, hostages had been taken and England were in danger of winning a test match but it is the VWSG that grabs the headlines. Mostly for causing severe hypothermia in very well dressed and unsuspecting people.
After chasing Stints around the ponds for a few hours it was decided that perhaps we ought to catch the birds in front of the small net and let the poor outsiders go to a warmer place. 178 Red-necked Stints were eventually caught 22 of which were juveniles.

After packing everything away and lunch it was back to the Spit where there was a strange glow in the sky. It could have come from any number of sources but one of the wilder speculations was that it was the sun.
The Sharpies behaved perfectly they flew in with very little twinkling and were caught. 119 Sharpies, 121 Red-necked Stints and 9 Curlew Sandpipers. The only species that was missing from the shopping list was a decent catch of Curlew Sands and this was left for tomorrow.

Day 4
Austin Road Lagoons where the net had been set the previous day turned up trumps for Curlew Sandpipers as we always new it would. No twinkling was necessary the net was fired on a medium size group.
To complete a very successful trip 245 Curlew Sandpipers 106 Stints and 29 Sharpies and 2 Whiskered Terns in full breeding plumage were processed.
No foreign recoveries this time but there is always next year and perhaps we will get a perfect trip with 20 degrees no wind and heaps of birds.

Gull

Inquisitively he leaves his pool
stretches glorious white wings, black barred,
and curves his way to land beside a sunworshipper.
Red legs knobby and red beak agleam,
he is a very perfect gentleman, seemingly.
Quietly striding around,
he keeps a watchful eye, however.
His impeccable white head and chest
give way to soft dove grey on the back.
standing on one leg, clown-wise,
he belies his nature.
Virgin snowiness masks a scavenger,
the pecker out of dead men's eyes.
Yet, hunched and huddled as he is against the sea's blast,
who can deny his pristine beauty?
or his service to mankind?
After all, he is the keeper of the beaches,
the king of the clean-up.
Gleaming white and flying free,
the regal gull, he
sanitizes beach and sea
where people sully

Glorious shore, golden sand
with ugly litter.
Keep Australia pure, our land,
pure, clean, not bitter.

Terri Allen

Lakes National Park – 15th to 17th January 2000

Doris Graham

Weather: Warm, sunny with clear skies for 10 minutes, cool, cold, overcast with scudding grey and white cloud, wind - strong to very strong to gale force – intermittent showers to rain with a couple of dramatic thunderstorms thrown at us for good measure.

TEAM:
From Melbourne, Clive Minton, leader, Rosemary Davidson, Peter and Melanie Gibbs, Helen Vaughan and Rod McFarlane, Vivien Holyoake, Andrew Silcocks, and Doris Graham.
From South Gippsland: Mike, Eleanor and Elsa Dawkins, Laura Beasley, Erico from Japan, Peter Mitchell and Barbara Moss, April Reside and Susan Taylor.

From New Zealand: Tony Habraken, Darryl Jeffries, David Laurie and Gwenda Pulham.

Apart from the weather, several conditions at the Lakes were different from previous years. Firstly the boats previously used to transport a large team were not available as Mike Dawkins had finally managed to sell his boat and the large Rotamah Island Bird Observatory boat was out of commission, so the team size had to be reduced to 15. Secondly a full house of guests at the RIBO meant that the wardens were unable to join us, and finally there were many fewer terns on the Lakes than in previous years. The reason for the reduction in tern numbers is unclear, however it may be due to a decrease in fish supply. In addition to these factors the water level was higher than either Clive or Peter Mitchell had ever seen it.

The extremely strong winds whipped up white crests all over the lakes and we were unable to take to the boats. The only available catch site was at the Loch Sport Boat Ramp – a stand by catch site that was also used last year when strong prevented us from venturing onto the lake on the last day. The site is on a sand - spit which was much reduced in size compared to last year as a large amount of the sand had been transferred to the mainland. The beach thus created on the mainland was not even looked at by birds seeking a roost site after feeding over the lake.

We made a catch on both days and found some very interesting information from each.

On Saturday we caught just before a tremendous storm when lightning, rain, hail and gale force winds hit us --- the catch consisted 35 Little, 23 Common, four Crested, two Caspian, four White-winged Black Tern and one Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

On Sunday in similar but colder weather we caught 27 Common, three Caspian and two Crested Tern plus one Red-necked Stint and one Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. A total of 102 birds for the weekend.

Of special interest were the following:

1. The three Caspian Terns caught on Sunday were a family - which is quite a rare occurrence. Clive had watched the two adults and an immature, for some time and the bonding was obvious. One adult was banded as a chick at Corner Inlet on 14/12/1985 and was just over 14 years old - probably the oldest caught in Australia. The immature was banded and leg-flagged with an orange flag as a chick at Corner Inlet on 22/12/99, just 32 days previously. Since this birds was a chick when banded it had probably been able to fly for only about ten days and was already 70 km away from its natal site.

2. One of the immature Crested Terns was banded as a chick 52 days previously on 03/12/99 at the Nobbies, Phillip Island Nature Park, and would have been able to fly for only about a month and was already 200 km from its birth place.

3. The oldest retrapped Common Tern was banded as an adult at Lakes National Park in January 1990, and was therefore a minimum of 11 $^{1}/_{2}$ years of age – these terns breed in Siberia.

4. Among the 35 Little Terns caught were 31 from Japan where they breed and four local breeders. The oldest was a Japanese bird banded at the Lakes in January 1992 and therefore a minimum of 8 years old.

We returned home satisfied that given the appalling weather and all the other unusual aspects of the situation at the Lakes National Park this year we had made two very valuable catches and that as well as the birds we also must be "survivors".
One very pleasing aspect of the weekend was to meet the four New Zealanders. All were from Auckland, Tony is an active member of Adrian Riegan's group, The New Zealand Wader Study Group (NZWSG) which cannon and mist net waders on Manukau Harbour and also report many leg-flag sightings on Bar-tailed Godwit and Red Knot from Australia. David and Gwenda have also reported seeing our orange leg-flags in the Auckland area and are active workers with terns, as is Darryl who is studying terns for his PHD. They were particularly sorry not to have seen Fairy Terns but went to stay with Peter and Barbara in Bairnsdale and were to be given the Royal Tern Tour on Monday – so hopefully they saw one then. We thank them tor their enthusiasm and for being so helpful and look forward to increasing our associations with the NZWSG as a consequence. It will be great to see them when next they visit.

Sandy Point – 9th February and Flinders 10th February 2000

Lauren Beasley

Sandy Point – Tuesday 9th February
We met at Sandy Point at 10.30, and enjoyed a compulsory cup of coffee before we began, which gave Clive and Doris a chance to show off their waitressing skills. We drove along the beach in three 4WDs. It soon became apparent that the waders were not going to co-operate. First, they did a disappearing act. We formed several search parties, and even requested the assistance of some rangers from Wilson's Prom. We left the trailer halfway along the beach, and carried out an extensive search, by car and by foot around the Inlet and all along the beach. About half an hour later, a group of Sanderling and stints were spotted just in front of our trailer. Another larger group of Sanderling and stints were also found on the wrong side of the Life-Saving Club. Somebody had obviously forgotten to tell them that they weren't supposed to be there. We set up the net in a record time, but we had a bit of difficulty getting the waders into it. While we set up the net, they decided to take off down the beach. Clive must have been impressed with our speed in net-setting, as he made us pack up the net, and set it another 3 times that day. After a couple hours of net setting and twinkling, which involved running up the beach, having the birds fly back over our heads, getting in the car, driving back down the beach, and running after them again !, we ended up catching and banding 83 stints- 40% were juveniles, and not one retrap, and 7 Sanderling. We set the net for the fourth time, and caught 20 Sanderling (some retraps from earlier that day) and another 10 stints.

Flinders -Thursday 10th February, 2000

We met at Flinders at 12.30. Most of us had barely started our lunch when Clive showed up, ready for action. The aim for the day was to catch turnstone, and maybe a few oystercatchers, but as always, we ended up with more stints than anything else! We carried all the equipment along the beach, spotting a group of turnstone along the way. We decided the best way to catch them was to make a wall of seaweed for them to shelter in front of, and set the net at the back of it. The plan was to construct a wall of seaweed the length of half a net, and about 2 metres wide. That sounded simple enough, until we discovered the seaweed

was swarming with maggots!!!! And to make matters worse, while we were carrying armfuls of maggoty seaweed, gunfire from the Navy's shooting range started sounding out on the cliffs above us. We finished setting the net, and a short while later made a catch of 19 Sooty Oystercatchers and 49 stints. From the moment the cannons were fired, there was a frantic effort to extract the oystercatchers and rescue the stints from drowning. The runners were quite amused to hear Clive yelling at us to "Each carry six oystercatchers at once!!" We banded and flagged each of the stints, and fully processed the oystercatchers. There were a few juvenile oystercatchers, and only one retrap. It was a really hot day, and getting late by the time we'd finished banding the oystercatchers, so we decided to pack everything up and catch the turnstone another day.

Catching Curlew

Six o'clock, sitting in the little "Stubble Hide"
It's cold, a draught up our dacks and half asleep
The field in front empty, except rigid decoys
Time slides slowly by to seven o'clock
Warming up, chatting, watching for birds
Radio messages, tide is nearly in
Gulls are flying over the sea wall
A flock of curlew overhead
Calling, circling, landing
In the catching area
Eight, twelve, twenty
Forty, sixty five
Arm the box
Seventy
Eighty
BANG

KSD
31/08/00
White Barn

VWSG Membership List April 2001

Rick Aitchison
Richard & Margaret Alcorn
Charles Allen
Terri Allen
Mark Anderson
Peter Anton
Gabrielle Archard
Allen Archbold
Bruce Atkin
Steve & Robyn Atkinson
Lisa Barter
Mark & Terry Barter
Graham & Jenny Beal
Lauren Beasley
Rob & Gail Berry
Mark Bezuijen
Pat Bingham
Sarah Bradshaw
Adrian Boyle
Malcolm & Judy Brown
Prue Brown
Paul & Anna Buchhorn
Margaret Cameron
Jeff & Sarah Campbell
Peter Carr
Jo Chadwick & Anthony Mitchell
June Cherrey
Smathie Chong
Maureen Christie
Allen Clarke & Marj Reni
Rohan Clarke
Mike Connor
Dave Cropley
Steve Darby
Rosemary Davidson
Stephen Davidson
Michael Dawkins
John Dawson
Ren & Norma de Garis
Julie Deleyev
Mary Dharmarajah & Family
Lee Duclos
Andrew Dunn
Michael Earnest
Dianne Emslie
Alice Ewing
Jon Fallaw & Becky Haywood
Richard Forster
Tim Gale
Dave Gerard
Gail, Colin & Heather Gibbs
Peter & Melanie Gibbs
David Gillison
Ken & Carlene Gosbell
Andrew & Kath Gosden
Doris Graham
Bob Green
Nicole Grenfell
Tim Gunn & Petina Pert
Angie Gutowski
Tony Habraken
Sue Harris
Neville & Robin Hatten
Peter & Heather Haughton
Brian & Toni Hayward
Peter Hermans
Faye Hill
Margaret Hollands
Vivien Holyoake
Peter Houston & Marguerite Cordell
Tania Ireton
Angela Jessop
Ros Jessop & Peter Collins
Penny & Murray Johns
Irma & Vivien Kluger

Ken & Femmie Kraaijeveld
Leona Knight
Brett Lane
Rowena Langston
Janet Limb
Laurie Living
Moira Longden
Sue & Andy Longmore
Richard & Debbie Loyn
Donald & Meg MacMillan
Ellen McCulloch
Pat McWhirter
Krystii Melaine
David Melville
Clive & Pat Minton
Barbara Moss & Peter Mitchell
John Munro
Brenda Murlis
Rory O'Brien
Priscilla Park
Phillip Peel
Simon Pender
Hugo Phillipps
Gareth Phillips & Family
Heather & David Phillipson
Murray Portbury
Phillip Pratt
Thomas Putt
Susan Quirk
Jim, Jenny, April & Shane Reside
Roger & Annabel Richards
Ken, Annie & Danny Rogers
Thierry & Joanne Rolland
Paul & Natalia Rose
Oliver Rosznay
Neville & Nancy Roussac
Graeme, Margaret, Chris
& Michael Rowe
Stuart & Liz Sarrailhe
Debra Saxon-Campbell
Ira Savage
Clinton Schipper
Neil Shaw
Andrew Silcocks
Charles Silveira
Howard Simco
Jenny Skewes
Terri & Vicki South
Will & Angela Steele
Iain, Sandy, Sally, Anna
& James Stewart
Bob Swindley
Sally Symonds
Susan Taylor
Pavel Tomkovich
Dale Tonkinson
Lyn Turner
Gloria Van Dyne
Paul Van Loon
Helen Vaughan &
Rodney McFarlane
Inka Veltheim
Mark Walker
Pam Walker
Diane & Nick Walton
Keith Ward
Mike Weston
Ross Williamson
Jim Wilson
Gwen Young

Bulletins also sent to

Arthur Rylah Institute
Australian Bird & Bat Banding Scheme
Australasian Wader Study Group
Barren Grounds Bird Observatory

Birds Australia

Bird Observers Club of Australia

Broome Bird Observatory

CSIRO Library, ACT

Dept.of Defence, Swan Is. Qeenscliff

Eyre Bird Observatory

French Island Head Ranger F Is Nat Pk

Hong Kong -Geoff Carey

Japan -Kiyo Ozaki Bird Mig. Res. Cent.

Korea -Jim-Young Park.

Melb. Water (Werribee Sew. Farm)

NRE Geelong

NSW Wader Study Group

NZWSG -Adrian Riegan

Queensland Wader Study Group

Rhyll Gen Man Phillip Is Nature Park

Rotamah Bird Observatory

Parks Victoria Foster

Parks Victoria Queenscliff

Parks Victoria Wonthaggi

Senckenbergische Bibliiothek

Taiwan Dr W H Fang

Victorian Ornithological Research Group

Wash Wader Ringing Group

and landowners on whose properties the group operates in Victoria

Financial statement from 1st July 1999 to 30th June 2000 - Victorian Wader Study Group Inc.

INCOME	***$***	***EXPENDITURE***	***$***
Subscriptions	1767.00	Printing Bulletin	960.00
Bank Interest	845.94	Postage, stationary & photocopying	897.41
Sale of T Shirts	3569.35	Incorporation charge	33.00
Donations	101.40	Bank charges & government charges	44.63
Excess from AGM food	147.00	Purchase & postage of T Shirts	3016.80
Refund for net repair	200.00	Reimbursement of AGM food	40.00
Sale of net to NZWS Group	485.00	**Sub-total**	**4991.84**
Sale callipers, firing box and fuses to AWSG	961.00	***Equipment***	
Sub-total	**8076.69**	Net repair	425.00
		Callipers	453.00
		Cartridges	240.00
		Fuses	1098.00
Grant from NRE for electrical and cannon netting repairs	3263.17	Powder coating of bands	100.00
		Colour bands	177.00
		Firing boxes	1500.00
		Cannon repairs	646.27
		Batteries	117.50
		Trailer registration & repairs	67.00
		Shadecloth	209.68
		Electrical items & repairs	238.15
		Bag & stool repairs	62.00
		Fuel	107.83
		Needles, string, rubber stamps	149.49
		Shackles	73.25
		Screw drivers	77.76
		Glue	60.00
		Grease	35.00
		Slide viewer	24.13
		Sub-total	**5861.06**
		***Coast Action* expenses**	
		Fox Baiting Project - labour	7079.00
		Phone calls etc.	157.16
		Sub-total	**7236.16**
TOTAL INCOME	**11339.86**	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**18089.06**
Cash Balance 01/07/99		**Cash Balance 30/06/2000**	
Petty cash	34.55	Petty cash	22.91
Bank Melb. Account	50.35	Bank Melb. Account	1078.30
Macquarie Account	25489.72	Macquarie Account	17724.21
Total	**25574.62**	Total	**18825.42**
TOTAL CASH	**25574.62**	**TOTAL CASH**	**18825.42**
+income	**11339.86**	**+expenditure**	**18089.06**
	36914.48		*36914.48*

Finances

The detailed financial report for the year to 30th June 2000 shows that the group remains in a sound financial position. Unexpended funds total $18825, of which only approximately $2000 is committed (to complete the current Coast Action / Coast Care project).

However due to the heavy expenditure on re-equipment, general expenditure ($10853) exceeded "normal" income ($8077) by $2776. However this was covered by a generous grant from NRE ($3263) towards such equipment costs. Further upgrading of the cannon netting equipment will continue in the 2000-2001 financial year.

Rosemary Davidson – Treasurer
Clive Minton – Chairman

Norman Edgar Murlis

Norman Edgar Murlis (04/03/1922-18/12/2000) was known to his family and friends as Mick. Mick was born in the Great Western Railway town of Swindon, UK, which led to his lifelong interest in railway engines, and later in life to railway modelling. At school his agile mind and excellent memory developed a love of all things scientific and geographical especially when taken on school outings to the Ancient British earthworks on the Wiltshire downs. This led to his later interest in natural history, which he pursued with the Ringwood naturalists, the Victorian Wader Study Group and the Australasian Wader Studies Group.

After graduating with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry from Bristol University, he worked on plastic explosives and fertilisers for Imperial Chemical Industries in the UK and overseas. In 1953, he accepted an offer from ICI in Australia to design and oversee chemical plants as Project Chemist. He worked as Project Distribution Manager (and troubleshooter) until his retirement in 1982.

Mick was also an accomplished pianist and organist, had a deep and intricate knowledge and interest in a wide range of subjects and a delightful sense of humour.

Mick was an active member of the VWSG, attending many field outings and with Brenda hosting leg-flag making parties. He also participated in AWSG activities such as wader counts and NW Australia expeditions. He was a member of the AWSG Committee from 1987 to 1996 and was responsible for indexing *The Stilt*. He spent many long hours with Brenda collating and distributing *The Stilt*.

Mick was always willing to lend an ear to new ideas and help out where he could. For example last year he designed a remote control mechanism for firing a whoosh net (for catching waders) made from railway parts and rat traps.

Saluté Mick – we all miss you. Brenda and family our deepest sympathies.

The Group also extend their deepest sympathy to the families of Angela Allen and Ida Minton who also passed away in the last 18 months.

Journal of the Victorian Wader Study Group

Bulletin Number 24 2001

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