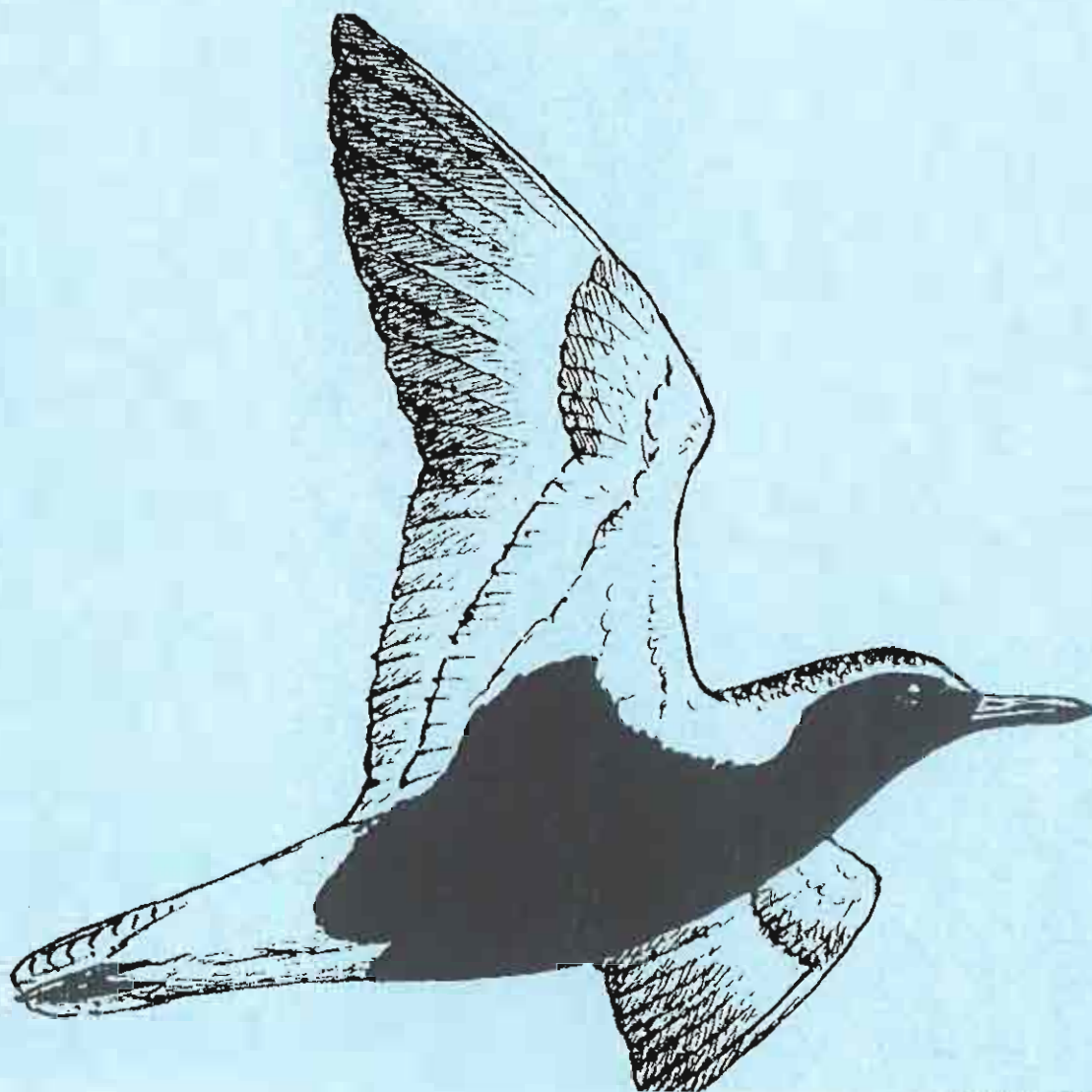


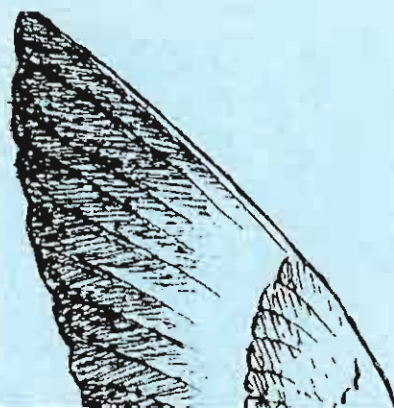
VWSG BULLETIN

JOURNAL OF THE VICTORIAN WADER STUDY GROUP

Number 26
August 2003



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VICTORIAN WADER STUDY GROUP INC.

MISSION STATEMENT

The principal aim of the Victorian Wader Study Group is to gather, through extensive planned fieldwork programs, comprehensive data on waders and terns throughout Victoria on a long-term basis.

This scientifically collected information is intended to form a factual base for conservation considerations, to be a source of information for education of a wider audience, to be a means of generating interest of the general community in environmental and conservation issues, and to be a major contribution to Australian, Flyway and Worldwide knowledge of waders and terns.

FORMATION/BACKGROUND

The wader banding fieldwork, which led to the formation of the Victorian Wader Study Group, commenced in December 1975. The Group was formally named in late 1978 and was subsequently incorporated in 1986.

STOP PRESS. As we go to press we have just received notification that the Australian Natural History Medallion for 2003 has been awarded Clive Minton. We are delighted at this national recognition of what the VWSG (and the AWSG) have achieved in the studies of waders over the last 25 years under his guidance and leadership. The award is to be presented on November 10th 2003.

The Australian Natural History Medallion is awarded each year to the person judged to have made the most meritorious contribution to the understanding of Australian Natural History.

Such a person may have:

- *assisted notably in the protection and understanding of Australian native flora and/or fauna;*
- *discovered and and/or described new Australian species of plants or animals;*
- *devoted considerable time and care to the study of any branch of Australian natural history, including palaeontology and geology, and*
- *engaged in the dissemination of knowledge through the publication of articles or books or by photography or pictorial art or any other means accepted by the Award Committee (Field Naturalists Club of Victoria).*

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Subscriptions for 2003/04 (payable in advance on 30th June 2003)

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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.

Views and opinions expressed in "VWSG Bulletin" are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the VWSG.

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

Summary of VWSG Activities from 2002 to July 2003

Clive Minton

Introduction

2002 was a fantastic year for the VWSG with the second highest total ever of birds caught, with some further interesting recoveries reported, with an absolute bonanza of nearly 1000 leg flag sightings, with the continuing successful collection of "percentage juvenile" data on the summer wader populations and with continuing progress on all other facets of the fieldwork program. The first half of 2003 has been less spectacular but has seen all the main goals continuing to be met.

This bulletin summarises, primarily for the benefit of VWSG members and those who regularly interface with the group (eg. landholders), the principal results and achievements since the last VWSG Bulletin was published in August 2002.

Banding

Everything seemed to go right in 2002 in banding fieldwork. Good weather prevailed (for banding, that is, ie. it didn't rain!), and there was a record high population of Red-necked Stint following a succession of good breeding years. Total of birds caught, 12,583, was only marginally lower than the highest ever (12,944 in 2000), and within that 10,421 birds newly banded was the highest yearly total. The plethora of Red-necked Stint – it was almost impossible not to catch some in every catch – resulted in the huge total of 8,502 new Red-necked Stint.

But the quality was also the best ever in the VWSG's 27-year history. The 2002 total included 829 Red Knot, 737 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 547 Sanderling, 378 Bar-tailed Godwit, 265 Ruddy Turnstone, 97 Great Knot and 30 Grey Plover. The Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher targets (150/50 respectively) were also comfortably exceeded with 317 Pied and 67 Sooty.

The first half of 2003 produced a further 2,928 birds, and although this was the lowest first half total since 1997, it still contained excellent samples of some species. 412 Sanderling were the cream, but 41 Greenshank, 128 Bar-tailed Godwit, 36 Eastern Curlew and, on the Oystercatcher Project, 231 Pied and 34 Sooty Oystercatcher (to the end of July) were other particularly valuable totals. Oystercatchers are normally caught in only modest numbers – an average of perhaps only 20 per catch. Thus 42 Pied in one catch in Fairhaven in early May and 46 Pied and 21 Sooties at Roussac Point, near Foster, on 19th June were exceptionally good catches.

Two Marsh Sandpipers mist netted at Werribee Sewage Farm were, surprisingly, the first of this species ever caught by the VWSG. Over the years, 37 species of waders have now been handled in Victoria. One of the many objectives of VWSG fieldwork is to obtain useable samples of each age group of each species in each month of the year. Such data greatly assists the study of moult, weight changes, and the age structure of the population throughout the year. A table showing the number of birds processed for each species in each month of the year is always included in the Bulletin. It's not possible to fill some gaps because some species are completely absent from Victoria in certain months. But particularly useful progress was made in 2002 on filling gaps in data for Ruddy Turnstone

(June/August/September), Great Knot (July), Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit (both in April) and Grey Plover (January).

The VWSG has been visiting South Australia, usually once a year, for a five-day period, since November 1993. During the last three years, after Iain Stewart and Maureen Christie gained cannon net licences, a small team from that area has been increasingly frequently making small (less than 100 birds) cannon net catches on their own. Maureen Christie is to be especially congratulated on her perseverance, and after a number of blank days of fieldwork, is now increasingly regularly having success with, for example, three catches in a space of a few weeks in June/early August 2003. The total of waders caught in South Australia rose by 1,829 (38%) in 2002.

Retraps

Considerable valuable data continues to accrue from recaptures of birds previously banded by the Group. In 2002, there were a further 2,162 retraps. This represents 17% of the birds caught, which is close to the long-term average of 19%.

Ultimately the analysis of these retraps will enable estimates to be made of the annual mortality rate of each species, a key component in the population dynamics of the species. Changes in the survival rate over time may be indicative of changes taking place in the habitat or other aspects of the environment (eg. food availability, hunting pressure) somewhere in the Flyway. Knowledge of survival rates therefore is important in explaining population changes observed in monitoring counts and in pointing to possible causes and, if necessary, remedial actions.

It is especially pleasing when one handles extremely old birds, though these are of course not representative of the population as a whole. 2002 did not produce any retraps of birds over 20 years old, as recorded in the two preceding years, but did nevertheless see some record ages recorded for some species. Pride of place goes to the Double-banded Plover. Considerable banding in New Zealand and in Victoria in the 1980s resulted in much information being gathered about the trans Tasman movement of this species, but the oldest bird recorded was only 12 years old. Mainly by chance, in 2002, we made catches of Double-banded Plover at three of the sites at which we used to regularly band them in the 1980s study. And lo and behold, some of the old Double-banded Plover were still around. First there were two at 13 ½ years old, then one at 14 ¾ years old, one at 15 ½ years and another at 16 ½ years. But all these were capped in August at Yallock Creek when a Double-banded Plover with a minimum age of 19 ¾ years was recaptured.

A 16 ¼ year old Grey Plover at Queenscliff and an 18 ½ year old Curlew Sandpiper at Yallock Creek were other oldies.

Recoveries

All recoveries reported since the last VWSG Bulletin are listed in tables in this report. The highlight was a Bar-tailed Godwit found in Vanuatu in late September – just the time when, it is now thought, these birds are making their direct 10,000km non-stop transoceanic flight from southwest Alaska (where they breed) to the coasts of northern Australia and New Zealand.

Other particularly pleasing and useful recoveries reported were a Red Knot in Russia (though not on the breeding grounds – we've never yet had a Red Knot recovery on the breeding grounds), a Ruddy Turnstone in China and a Sanderling in Eastern Siberia. There was also a large number of Pied Oystercatcher recoveries and another batch of Red Knot recaptured by banders in New Zealand.

It was pleasing also to catch, in winter in Corner Inlet; an immature Red Knot banded the previous year on southward migration through Korea. But most extraordinary of all was the recapture, in January at Stockyard Point, of a Curlew Sandpiper banded as a first year bird 10 years previously near Auckland, in New Zealand. Curlew Sandpipers are not common migrants to New Zealand and only 10 had been banded then. It is amazing that one was still alive 10 years later and even more so that it was then recaptured, having reverted to a more normal non-breeding area in Australia.

Flag sightings

Of the 10,421 new birds banded in 2002, 8,095 were flagged in Victoria and 1,062 in South Australia. This represents 88% of the birds newly caught, reflecting the high priority given these days to putting a flag on each bird, sometimes (due to time pressures) at the expense of more extensive "processing" (collection of biometric and moult data). A recent calculation has shown that, on Curlew Sandpipers, the overseas flag sighting report rate is 20 times that of the overseas banding recovery rate. To maximise the information deriving from banding operations it is therefore highly desirable to flag as high a proportion of the birds handled as possible.

Detailed tables are included in this Bulletin showing all sightings of flagged birds reported during the last 12 months – birds which had moved away from their flagging location. This year's "dividend" on our efforts in flagging birds is by far the greatest we have ever had. Highlights include:

- 22 more Bar-tailed Godwit sighted in Alaska. Alaska is the breeding area of all Bar-tailed Godwit occurring in southeast Australia.
- A further 56 Bar-tailed Godwit seen in New Zealand. There is a large interchange between Bar-tailed Godwit in Victoria and New Zealand.
- An incredible 455 sightings of Red Knot in New Zealand! On one occasion, 25 different orange flagged Red Knot were seen in a single large flock and on several occasions, 15-20 different orange flagged individuals were seen at a particular location on one day. It seems that almost every Red Knot that gets flagged in Victoria ultimately moves on to New Zealand! The huge number of sightings this past year reflects the VWSG's considerable success in knot catching in recent years. However it is also critically due to the excellent dedication and field observation skills of many New Zealand wader enthusiasts and the highly efficient reporting of sightings systems coordinated by Adrian Riegen.

- Reports of Eastern Curlew in Taiwan and Japan. The "Taiwan bird" was seen on 9th March, the earliest date ever for a marked wader from Australia to be reported in Asia on northward migration. Furthermore it is almost certain that this bird had been flagged at Corner Inlet on 27th February (when 36 were caught) – only 11 days beforehand. Five of these days would have been required for this 7,000km journey that was almost certainly made in a single non-stop flight.
- A Terek Sandpiper to Korea. Terek Sandpiper are not a common species in Victoria (rarely more than 5 together, and usually only single birds), so any recovery is a real bonus.
- A Ruddy Turnstone on Lord Howe Island (part of NSW, surprisingly, rather than New Zealand, as someone thought!). Interestingly, this is on a direct route from Alaska, also, though we have no proof that any of our Turnstone go there to breed.
- Two Red-necked Stint sightings on the Siberian breeding grounds. Reports of any flagged waders in these remote areas are rare so it is particularly pleasing to have two of this small wader in one year.
- Other unusual Red-necked Stint flag sightings were in Mongolia and Malaysia.
- A Pectoral Sandpiper near Sydney in NSW. Only a handful of Pectoral Sandpiper have ever been flagged in Victoria. This one may have been on its way back to Werribee Sewage Farm.
- The sighting of a Bar-tailed Godwit originally flagged in Korea and a Terek Sandpiper from Japan.

An increasingly apparent outcome of the flagging program is proof that a northward movement of many immature birds within Australia takes place for the Austral winter. Count data examined and published by Jim Wilson showed that this occurred widely in Eastern Curlew, with a greater number of Eastern Curlew actually being present in the northern half of Australia in the May to July period than in the November to February period. Isolated recaptures of banded birds, mainly at Broome, in the past also gave an indication that some of the small/medium sized waders exhibited this habit. Now we have very good evidence that this northward movement, of up to 3000km, within Australia is widespread in both extent and species. The flag sighting lists in this Bulletin show examples of this northward movement to spend the May/early August period away from their original "summering" area in Victoria for Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Bar-tailed Godwit and Sanderling.

Breeding Success

The VWSG program of obtaining an estimate of annual breeding success by measuring the proportion of first year birds in wader populations caught in the mid November/early March period is now recognised to be one of the most important contributions to the monitoring of breeding success anywhere in the world. The results are published annually in one of the key relevant journals – The Arctic Birds Newsletter – and this is reproduced also in this Bulletin. The VWSG has been invited to participate in a workshop to discuss this subject on a worldwide basis in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2003.

The 2002 Arctic breeding season, as evident in the percentage of juveniles in wader catches in Victoria in the 2002/03 summer was mixed. After a series of excellent breeding seasons Red-necked Stint experienced reduced breeding success (13% young birds) and Curlew Sandpiper, though higher at 15%, was also less than the

previous year. However, Sanderling (43%) had a brilliant breeding season, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (20%) did very well, Ruddy Turnstone (17%) were quite good and Bar-tailed Godwit (16%) were much better than in recent years.

Terns

Crested Terns had a bonanza in the 2002/03 summer with a record 4,550 breeding pairs. It is amazing to think that fewer than 1000 pairs of Crested Terns bred in Victoria (excluding an unmonitored colony on an island off Mallacoota) up until the mid 1980s when the active management of breeding colony habitat by the VWSG commenced! From one small, but quite intense action – the clearing of vegetation to create a nesting habitat safe from storm tides on Mud Island – this phenomenal population growth has derived. It will be interesting to see at what numbers the population gradually levels off.

All the other components of Tern studies continued satisfactorily in 2002/early 2003 and are detailed in the Tern Report section of this Bulletin. It was particularly pleasing that, after a two-year break due to algal growths, we were able to resume catching Common Terns (178) and Little Terns (only 5) at the Gippsland Lakes. A huge number of colour flag/colour band sightings and many more recoveries of Terns have come in during the last year or so and are listed in detail elsewhere in this Bulletin. Particularly pleasing is the large number of sightings of Caspian Terns, particularly on their wintering areas in southeast Queensland.

DNA studies of Red Knot and Grey Plover

In order to provide more information on Red Knot and Grey Plover visiting both NW Australia and Victoria blood samples have been collected to sex birds using DNA techniques. Thanks to Doris Graham, Rosalind Jessop, Pete Collins and Birgita Hansen for collecting the samples. Birgita Hansen will be undertaking the laboratory work for the project.

During the coming year VWSG will be involved with a similar project on Pied Oystercatcher. A request has also been received from the University of Tokyo for VWSG to assist with a project investigating the Biogeography of Little Tern. Hopefully we will be able to collect samples this summer for the project.

Coast Action/ Coastcare

A dedicated team of VWSG members carried out and completed an intensive study in the September 2002/January 2003 period of breeding Pied Oystercatcher on Box Bank and Dream Island in Corner Inlet. They were considerably hampered in boat access by frequent and sometimes continuous windy weather and many nests suffered from being buried by windblown sand or flooded by storm tides. These logistical problems also made detection of the reasons for nest failures, in particular the culprits involved in nest predation, difficult to determine. Nevertheless the perseverance of Peter Anton, Alice Ewing, Lauren Beasley, Birgita Hansen, Julie Deleyev and Pete Collins resulted in considerable valuable information being collected. Certainly Pied Oystercatcher and Hooded Plover nesting on the barrier sand islands of Corner Inlet have a pretty tough time and, at most, very moderate breeding success. It was very clear that of the two islands studied, Box Bank was significantly more suitable for these species, the single fox still present on Dream Island probably being chiefly responsible for the almost complete breeding failure (except for possibly two Pied Oystercatcher nests).

All fieldwork programs, which have covered the last six years, under Coast Action/ Coastcare funding have now been successfully completed. These mainly covered an extended fox baiting program and the subsequent breeding success monitoring. Parks Victoria have now taken over responsibility themselves for the fox baiting work, but the VWSG will continue to monitor breeding populations and, wherever possible, levels of breeding success.

Australian Government Envirofund Grants

The VWSG successfully applied to the "Australian Government Envirofund" for grants to prepare documentation to:

- Add Discovery Bay to the East-Asian Australasian Shorebird Site Network
- Add Shallow Inlet to the East-Asian Australasian Shorebird Site Network

The preparation of the documentation is almost complete. Once government approvals have been obtained a dedication ceremony will be held at each location.

Equipment

The major refurbishing program on cannon netting equipment continued over the last year. Paul Buchhorn led the way with considerable improvements on the hardware. We now have projectiles and cartridges which universally fit all cannons, and cannons which do not expand and burst as a result of the higher cannon charges now employed to project satisfactorily nets camouflaged by burying and covering with sand and shells.

Nets have also been improved, in particular with an extra panel on the back of one of the small mesh nets to increase its catching area, and the making of a new large cannon net to replace a rather worn/holey one, now transported to and kept at Broome Bird Observatory in northwest Australia.

Radios have also been improved with new batteries and also the purchase of the first of a new make of radio for use in the field (two of the existing radios having been accidentally dropped in the sea during the last three years!).

Further upgrading of other equipment – especially cables and cable winders – will be continued in the current year.

Finances

The formal VWSG accounts for the 2002/03 financial year are published elsewhere in this Bulletin. The major feature of the past year was the spending of \$7,890 on new capital equipment and on other ongoing consumables (eg. electric fuses). This compares with \$878 income from sales of equipment to other cannon netting organisations and \$3,380 in grants from Coast Action/ Coastcare and the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

This considerable overspending on equipment has been possible by the use of reserves accumulated by the Group in previous years, but is clearly not sustainable. A modest increase in the annual subscription to members, from \$15 to \$20 has been made to partially compensate.

Publications

Active analysis and publication of VWSG data continues on a number of fronts, often involving co-analysis of similar data emanating from AWSG studies in

northwest Australia. Publications of both scientific papers and more general articles have occurred in a wide variety of journals.

The VWSG also contributes significantly at wader conferences, both in Australia and overseas. Presentations on Crested Terns, Red Knot movements, site faithfulness and annual breeding success monitoring are scheduled for the AWSG Conference in Canberra in December 2003.

Data entry

Thanks to Ken Gosbell for organising data entry into the VWSG banding database and for his work along with Katherine Crowder on developing a new database. A big thankyou to all those who helped input the data.

Acknowledgments

The Acknowledgments sections in the last Bulletin occupied a page and a half, but I am told by the person who is typing this dictated report that I've already covered more than six pages! So this year we will have a brief "Acknowledgments" section – refer to last year's Bulletin instead, as almost all those "thank yous" are relevant to the current year!

Let me just say therefore a very large thank you to just three groups:

- All those members, and others, who have supported the huge amount of fieldwork undertaken over the last year.
- The various landowners and others who have granted permission for the VWSG to carry out fieldwork on their land, etc.
- Those who have provided critical boat transport, necessary for some of our most important fieldwork – especially Parks Victoria at Foster, Wonthaggi, and French Island and Queenscliff (Mud Islands) and Phillip Island Nature Park (Rhyll).

We hope to make further significant progress in the remainder of 2003 and during the first half of 2004, and to report good results again in the 2004 edition of the VWSG Bulletin!

Clive Minton.

Numbers of waders processed by the VWSG each month to December 2002. 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	61	396
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	472	210	685	99	0	438	75	0	77	189	204	271	2720
Whimbrel	0	0	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	0	24
Eastern Curlew	16	110	19	0	22	18	13	75	147	124	180	100	824
Common Greenshank	1	135	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	176	60	493
Marsh Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Terek Sandpiper	13	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	12	35
Grey-tailed Tattler	31	0	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	41
Ruddy Turnstone	359	377	509	475	1	18	31	27	33	131	470	437	2868
Great Knot	192	54	26	0	0	29	21	0	16	104	51	129	622
Red Knot	758	157	302	200	2	349	453	81	85	715	272	260	3634
Sanderling	247	546	846	211	0	0	1	0	0	265	344	397	2857
Little Stint	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5
Red-necked Stint	2469	1363	6147	2254	507	740	636	662	784	1748	3317	3191	23818
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	786	221	2	0	0	0	15	519	376	344	1662	5312
Curlew Sandpiper	823	1227	1498	229	222	128	258	471	246	1081	888	1192	8263
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Pied Oystercatcher	93	186	297	436	563	548	415	185	102	37	14	31	2907
Sooty Oystercatcher	3	70	81	54	194	224	120	19	0	1	0	0	766
Black-winged Stilt	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	8	23
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	89	316
Pacific Golden Plover	40	27	32	1	0	0	0	0	0	28	62	64	254
Grey Plover	14	14	4	6	0	2	0	0	2	87	32	1	162
Red-capped Plover	39	81	58	114	203	104	71	18	12	18	24	11	753
Double-banded Plover	0	2	186	257	755	941	1003	932	1	0	0	0	4077
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	1	0	11	16	6	9	2	0	4	8	64
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	81	6	4	13	0	0	1	5	21	12	153
Cox's Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL													61859

Wader Banding Totals – VWSG 2002

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Bar-tailed Godwit	283	95	378
Whimbrel	1	0	1
Eastern Curlew	18	0	18
Marsh Sandpiper	2	0	2
Common Greenshank	1	0	1
Terek Sandpiper	1	0	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	1	0	1
Ruddy Turnstone	215	50	265
Great Knot	78	19	97
Red Knot	681	148	829
Sanderling	352	195	547
Red-necked Stint	7156	1346	8502
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	697	40	737
Curlew Sandpiper	571	73	644
Pied Oystercatcher	165	152	317
Sooty Oystercatcher	43	24	67
Black-winged Stilt	2	0	2
Red-necked Avocet	6	0	6
Grey Plover	24	6	30
Red-capped Plover	19	0	19
Double-banded Plover	95	14	109
Black-fronted Dotterel (pullus)	3	0	3
Masked Lapwing	7	0	7
23 Species	10421	2162	12583

Table prepared by Clive Minton & Digger Jackson

1. What is the smallest shorebird and what does it weigh?

VWSG Wader Catches 1975 to 31 December 2002

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Latham's Snipe	347	14	361
Black-tailed Godwit	2	0	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	2826	261	3087
Short-billed Dowitcher	1	0	1
Whimbrel	24	0	24
Eastern Curlew	758	62	820
Marsh Sandpiper	2	0	2
Common Greenshank	433	60	493
Terek Sandpiper	33	1	34
Grey-tailed Tattler	38	3	41
Ruddy Turnstone	2323	662	2985
Great Knot	590	72	662
Red Knot	3874	471	4345
Sanderling	2315	885	3200
Little Stint	5	0	5
Red-necked Stint	88341	24219	112560
Long-toed Stint	1	0	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	0	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	6392	237	6629
Curlew Sandpiper	23338	4484	27822
Cox's Sandpiper	1	0	1
Broad-billed Sandpiper	5	0	5
Pied Oystercatcher	1937	1006	2943
Sooty Oystercatcher	613	137	750
Black-winged Stilt	23	0	23
Banded Stilt	151	0	151
Red-necked Avocet	312	5	317
Pacific Golden Plover	235	24	259
Grey Plover	143	18	161
Red-capped Plover	622	180	802
Double-banded Plover	3447	989	4436
Lesser Sand Plover	115	11	126
Greater Sand Plover	31	3	34
Black-fronted Plover	56	4	60
Hooded Plover	25	1	26
Red-kneed Dotterel	134	11	145
Masked Lapwing	155	3	158
37 Species	139650	33823	173473

Table prepared by Clive Minton & Digger Jackson

Annual Wader Banding Totals by VWSG

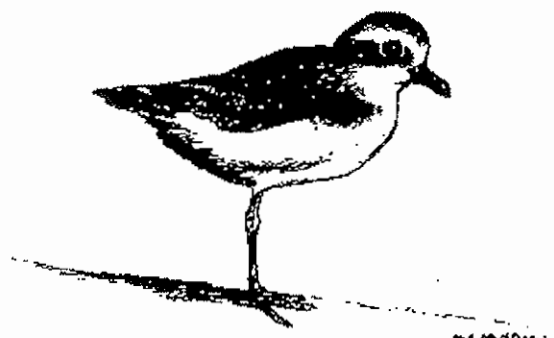
Calendar Year	New	Retrap	Total
1975	9	0	9
1976	616	4	620
1977	482	12	494
1978	1296	42	1338
1979	7436	486	7922
1980	6121	1206	7327
1981	4561	869	5430
1982	3774	796	4570
1983	2875	628	3503
1984	4272	1045	5317
1985	4073	1051	5124
1986	7144	2057	9201
1987	5350	1559	6909
1988	8019	2697	10716
1989	5437	1584	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
2001	4839	1320	6159
2002	10421	2162	12583
Totals to end 2002	139650	33823	173473

Average annual total for '79-02 = 6195

Table prepared by Clive Minton & Digger Jackson

VWSG Catch Record - Waders

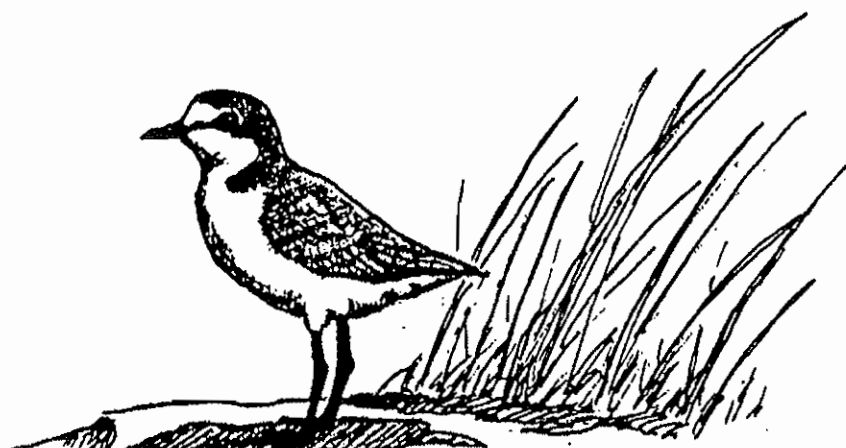
Calendar Year	Jan to June	July to Dec.	Total
1975			9
1976			620
1977			494
1978			1338
1979	4289	3633	7922
1980	4127	3200	7327
1981	2113	3317	5430
1982	2394	2176	4570
1983	2882	621	3503
1984	2654	2663	5317
1985	3972	1152	5124
1986	5000	4201	9201
1987	3135	3774	6909
1988	5235	5481	10716
1989	3854	3167	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
2001	3851	2308	6159
2002	8174	4409	12583
Table prepared by Clive Minton & Digger Jackson			



Location of Waders Caught in Victoria and South Australia

	to Dec. 2001	2002	Total
<i>Victoria</i>			
Werribee	49051	4033	53084
Western Port/Flinders Island	42045	1229	43274
Queenscliff/Swan Bay	26268	1477	27745
Anderson Inlet (Inverloch)	17940	1512	19452
Corner Inlet	16940	2440	19380
Sandy Point/Shallow Inlet	1348	63	1411
Altona	955	0	955
Mud Islands	753	0	753
Killarney Beach	426	0	426
Geelong (Point Henry / Belmont Common)	257	0	257
Bendigo SF	143	0	143
Seaford Swamp	98	0	98
Braeside/Croyden	79	0	79
Gippsland Lakes	40	0	40
Toowong	10	0	10
<i>South Australia</i>			
Canunda/ Carpenter Rocks/ Brown Bay/ Beachport	4627	1829	6456
Total	160890	12583	173473

Table prepared by Clive Minton & Digger Jackson



Waders leg-flagged in Victoria (orange)

Species	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Latham's Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	110	56	70	0	0	0	0	278
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	1	157	6	64	0	43	173	16	84	388	324	146	80	1545
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	21
Eastern Curlew	0	0	8	0	73	88	87	4	37	35	91	27	18	18	486
Marsh Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Common Greenshank	0	0	21	21	51	0	1	109	131	19	0	0	0	1	354
Terek Sandpiper	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	10
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
*Ruddy Turnstone	0	99	188	37	35	1	194	129	194	372	75	54	34	22	1434
Great Knot	0	0	2	0	4	0	3	36	31	21	21	53	38	78	287
Red Knot	0	0	302	26	88	1	52	59	295	289	175	334	377	681	2679
*Sanderling	0	0	163	0	191	1	47	328	148	342	51	118	36	37	1462
Little Stint	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Red-necked Stint	0	799	1259	2516	2282	1661	1384	3065	1434	3224	4215	6038	2570	5792	36239
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	4	250	111	71	21	69	145	155	474	212	105	18	670	2305
Curlew Sandpiper	146	462	367	1255	808	839	469	753	270	633	770	1162	417	373	8724
Cox's Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Broad-billed Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Black-winged Stilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	5
Banded Stilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	151	0	0	151
Red-necked Avocet	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	27	0	0	46	0	6	84
Pacific Golden Plover	0	10	10	1	0	0	0	6	0	10	13	0	14	0	64
Grey Plover	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	22	0	0	21	0	24	74
Red-capped Plover	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	29	3	10	2	2	12	77
Double-banded Plover	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	40	24	98	3	90	263
Lesser Sand Plover	0	0	0	14	6	8	9	13	0	4	1	0	0	0	55
Greater Sand Plover	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	16
Black-fronted Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Masked Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	2	5	4	16
32 Species	146	1375	2729	3992	3739	2656	2475	4881	2867	5554	6053	8538	3735	8095	56648

*Includes Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling flagged with orange (only) in the south east of South Australia between 1993 and 1998. (Table prepared by Clive Minton & Lauren Beasley)

Sooty Oystercatcher with colour bands (YYm/RLGW)



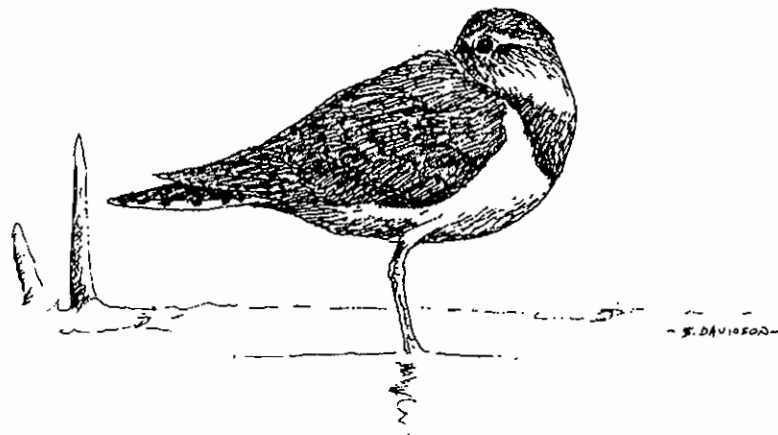
Crested Tern with chick (Nobbies, A. Chiaradia)



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

Species	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Latham's Snipe	0	0	4	0	4
Grey-tailed Tattler	0	1	0	0	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	3	3
Ruddy Turnstone	234	226	73	193	726
Sanderling	63	420	2	315	800
Red-necked Stint	126	383	22	319	850
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0	2	0	27	29
Curlew Sandpiper	24	11	0	190	225
Pacific Golden Plover	0	2	0	0	2
Red-capped Plover	0	0	1	7	8
Double-banded Plover	0	0	4	5	9
Black-fronted Dotterel (pullus)	0	0	0	3	3
Total	447	1045	106	1062	2660

Table prepared by Clive Minton & Lauren Beasley



2. What is the largest of Australia's shorebirds?

VWSG FIELDWORK PROGRAM
January to December 2003

DATE	PLACE AND OBJECTIVES	HIGH TIDE	
Sun 5 Jan	Yallock Creek Red-necked Stint & Curlew Sandpiper	1520	2.40
Sat 11 Jan	Stockyard Point Red-necked Stint & Curlew Sandpiper	0730	2.60
Sun 12 Jan	Barrallier Island, Western Port Red-necked Stint & Curlew Sandpiper	0800	2.51
*Fri 24-Sun 26 Jan	Queenscliff / Swan Island Large and small waders	0506 0619	1.49 1.40
*Fri 31 Jan-Sun 2 Feb	Gippsland Lakes Little & Common Terns		N/A
Sat 22 Feb	Flinders Ruddy Turnstone	1711	1.47
*Mon 24-Fri 28 Feb	Corner Inlet Large waders	0619 to 0903	2.56 to 2.34
Sat 8 Mar	Sandy Point Sanderling	1649	1.39
Wed 12 Mar	Werribee SF Pied Oystercatcher	0909	0.81
Sun 23 Mar	Barry Beach Bar-tailed Godwit	1732	2.55
Sat 5 April	Queenscliff Pied Oystercatcher	1454	1.46
Sat 19 Par	Stockyard Point Pied Oystercatcher	1515	3.07
Thurs 3 April	Werribee Pied Oystercatcher	1640	0.80
Sat 5 April	Queenscliff Pied Oystercatcher	1454	1.46
Sat 19 April	Stockyard Point Pied Oystercatcher	1422	2.48
Fri 2 May	Fairhaven, French Island Pied Oystercatcher	1413	2.67
Sat 3 May	Long Island Pied Oystercatcher	1453	2.81
Sat 31 May	Rhyll Pied Oystercatcher	1335	2.72
*Sun 15 June to Wed 18 June	Corner Inlet Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher and overwintering Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit	1247 to 1540	2.54 to 2.63
Thurs 19 June	Roussac Point Pied Oystercatcher	1625	2.60
Sat 5 July	Barry Beach Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher	1623	2.45
Sun 3 Aug	Lyons Downs Sooty and Pied Oystercatcher	1553	2.42
Sat 30 Aug	AGM at Clive Minton's House 10 am net mending 4 pm AGM 6 pm BBQ 7 pm slide evening		
Sat 13 Sept	Stockyard Point Pied Oystercatcher	1503	2.69
Sun 5 Oct	Yallock Creek Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper	0752	2.63
Fri 31 Oct to Sun 2 Nov	Queenscliff Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit and Grey Plover	0503 to 0642	1.62 to 1.43
Sat 15 Nov	Flinders Turnstone	1632	1.22
Tues 25 Nov	Sandy Point Sanderling	1205	1.27
Sat 29 Nov To Sun 30 Nov	Inverloch Red-necked Stint	0451 to 0538	1.60 to 1.53
Wed 3 Dec To Thurs 9 Dec	South Australia Sanderling and Turnstone	1000 to 2211	0.61 to 0.55
Sat 20 Dec	Clonmel Island Crested & Caspian Tern Chicks	NA	
Sat 27 Dec To Mon 29 Dec	Werribee Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	0709 to 0824	0.89 to 0824

Recoveries of waders banded in Victoria 2002/03

Clive Minton, Lauren Beasley, Rosalind Jessop and Peter Collins

A "recovery" is when a banded bird is recaptured at another location or when a banded bird is found dead, locally or at another location.

In the above circumstances, the metal band number is generally reported to the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme in Canberra or to the bander, but in some instances (particularly Oystercatchers in the case of the VWSG) the band number is inferred because of the unique colour combination placed on the bird.

It is particularly noticeable that in recent years the recovery rate, particularly of waders reported overseas, has fallen significantly. At least part of this is probably due to the reduced level of hunting in some countries in the Flyway. But it may also be in part due to a lower tendency to report dead birds – it is no longer the exciting novelty it once was. A reduced recovery rate has been noted in many other parts of the world on a variety of species. As a consequence it now takes longer to build up information on migratory routes and stopover sites from recoveries. Fortunately, the introduction of leg flagging, with the much higher reporting rate of marked birds, has more than offset this decline.

The list below shows all such recoveries of waders relating to Victoria reported since the last VWSG Bulletin. The list also includes one or two "retraps" (ie. where the VWSG has recaptured its own banded bird), where these have shown considerable longevity.

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	Date found Dead	Location	Km moved
07280819	2+	5/01/02	Queenscliff	27/09/2002	Is. of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu	3350 NE

This is a most valuable and timely recovery given that it is only recently that evidence has accumulated to indicate that Bar-tailed Godwit breeding in Alaska make their 10,000km flight to Australia and New Zealand directly across the Pacific Ocean on southward migration. It is known that these birds do not leave southwest Alaska until early/mid September and the timing of this recovery in Vanuatu at the end of September therefore fits in well. Vanuatu is on the direct line from Alaska to the northeast coast of Australia.

There has also been a VWSG flagged Bar-tailed Godwit seen in the Solomon Islands and one (or two?) recoveries in the same area of New Zealand banded Bar-tailed Godwit.

Red Knot

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recaptured	Location	Km moved
05140768	1	21/01/96	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	00/00/00*	Tuguro-Chumikanskiy District near Chumikan Village, Russia	10322 N
05118256	2	19/10/85	Queenscliff	5/01/02	Swan Is., Queenscliff, Vic	Local
05222584	1	25/06/01	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	14/07/02	Taramaire, Firth of Thames, New Zealand	2495 E
05203937	1	24/06/01	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	14/07/02	Taramaire, Firth of Thames, New Zealand	2495 E
05222581	1	25/06/01	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	14/07/02	Taramaire, Firth of Thames, New Zealand	2495 E
05203943	1	24/06/01	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	1/02/03	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, New Zealand	2452 E
05202982	2+	27/01/00	Queenscliff	1/02/03	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, New Zealand	2645 E
05222908	1	20/01/02	Barrallier Is., Western Port	22/02/03	Miranda, Firth of Thames, New Zealand	2632 E

* Found dead

Red Knot recoveries, other than in New Zealand, are extremely rare. It was particularly pleasing therefore to receive one from Russia. The recovery location, on the southern shores of the Sea of Okhotsk in eastern Siberia is an area where many Red Knot (and Great Knot) are known to use as their first main stopover location after they leave the breeding grounds on their southward migration. Although no date was reported for this recovery, it was probably in the latter part of July and in early August.

Most of the above records correspond exactly with the very extensive movements of leg flagged birds between the east coast of Australia and New Zealand. Unlike leg flagged birds these recoveries relate to birds of known age and banding date. Five of the seven movements from Australia to New Zealand fit in with the now well established pattern of birds spending their first year in Australia and their second and later years in New Zealand. However, one marked as an adult in late January at Queenscliff clearly changed its normal non-breeding location to New Zealand at a later stage in its life.

051-18256 is the oldest Red Knot so far recorded in Australia. It was recaptured 16¼ years after it had been originally banded and was 17½ years old.

Sanderling

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recaptured	Location	Km moved
04198395	2+	22/11/98	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	16/03/02	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell, SA	472 W
04230252	2+	28/10/00	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	16/03/02	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell, SA	472 W
04230256	2+	28/10/00	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	16/03/02	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell, SA	472 W
04230022	1	14/12/00	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	16/03/02	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell, SA	472 W
04230076	2+	14/12/00	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	16/03/02	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell, SA	472 W
04196693	1	28/10/97	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	20/03/02	Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell, SA	471 W
04227310	1	9/02/00	Sandy Point, Shallow Inlet	20/03/02	Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell, SA	471 W

The above list of recaptures results from the intensive Sanderling banding carried out by the VWSG at Sandy Point in Victoria and in the south east corner of South Australia. They further illustrate that quite long distance movements along the south coast of Australia take place in Sanderling, which seem to be more mobile/less site faithful than most other migratory waders in their non-breeding areas.

Red-necked Stint

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recovered	Location	Km moved
03536646	2+	29/11/98	Inverloch	4/10/01	80 Mile Beach, WA	3187 NW
03570468	2	12/09/99	Yallock Creek	8/09/02*	Yallock Creek, near Kooweerup, Vic	Local
03580231	2+	11/02/01	Queenscliff	3/01/03*	Mud Islands, Vic	9 E
03509598	2+	24/02/98	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	8/03/03*	Lake Victoria, 10km west of Loch Sport, Vic	92 NE

* Found dead

It is amazing that with so many Red-necked Stint being banded by the VWSG each year (typically 4-7,000) that no overseas recoveries were reported during the last year. Being a small wader with a small and relatively inconspicuous band means that a relatively low recovery rate would be expected, but not a "nil return"!

First record is probably of a bird returning to Inverloch on its southward migration, making a stopover in Northwest Australia. The other three records relate to birds found dead at, or not far away from, their banding location.

Curlew Sandpiper

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recaptured	Location	Km moved
04215534	2+	29/12/99	Werribee SF	21/10/02	Stoney Point, Port MacDonnell, SA	328 W
04230501	2+	18/02/01	Werribee SF	21/10/02	Stoney Point, Port MacDonnell, SA	328 W

Only a very small proportion of Curlew Sandpiper change their non-breeding location, which is what these two birds appear to have done. As in Red-necked Stint, it is surprising that there is not a single overseas recovery.

Pied Oystercatcher

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date(s) seen/recovered	Location found	Km moved
10104665	3+	21/05/96	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	16/01/02	Little Musselroe Bay Tas	266 S
10103686	2+	09/07/94	Altona Foreshore	04/02/02	The Coorong SA	562W
10115565	3+	16/07/99	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	04/02/02	Pt Albert Vic	8 W
10115551	1	16/07/99	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	04/02/02	The Coorong SA	752 W
10107500	3	04/08/01	Rhyll, Phillip Is.	04/02/02	The Coorong SA	627 NW
10096814	3+	05/08/89	Stockyard Pt	04/02/02	The Coorong SA	639 NW
10104654	2	18/05/96	Stockyard Pt	04/02/02	The Coorong SA	639 NW
10115418	1	12/07/98	Stockyard Pt	04/02/02	The Coorong SA	639 NW
10104616	3+	30/09/95	The Gurdies	04/02/02	The Coorong SA	644 NW
10099328	2+	27/04/91	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	12/02/02	Little Musselroe Bay Tas	260 S
10104633	3+	18/05/96	Stockyard Pt	22/02/02 03/09/02	Pt Henry Vic	98 NW
10115992	3+	02/08/00	Rhyll, Phillip Is.	22/02/02	Pt Fairy Vic	264 WSW
10099402	2	23/06/91	Stockyard Pt	22/02/02	Pt Fairy Vic	283 WSW
10103993	2	11/09/94	Stockyard Pt	22/02/02	Pt Fairy Vic	"
10104025	3	11/09/94	Stockyard Pt	22/02/02	Pt Fairy Vic	283 WSW
10104849	1	07/06/97	Stockyard Pt	22/02/02	Pt Fairy Vic	"
10104632	3+	18/05/96	Stockyard Pt	22/02/02 21/03/02	Pt Fairy Vic, Killarney Bch Vic	"
10104034	2+	30/07/95	The Gurdies	22/02/02	Pt Fairy Vic	288 WSW
10099308	2+	14/04/91	Werribee SF	22/02/02	Pt Fairy Vic	199 WSW
10096871	2+	06/05/99	Werribee SF	24/02/02	Killarney Bch Vic	194 WSW
10104813	3+	06/07/96	Barry Beach	03/03/02	Discovery Bay Vic	338 WSW
10103621	3+	07/05/93	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	03/03/02	Discovery Bay Vic	476 WSW
10104684	3+	21/05/96	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	03/03/02	Discovery Bay Vic	433 WSW

10104689	3	21/05/96	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	03/03/02	Discovery Bay Vic	433 WSW
10082003	2+	02/05/81	Werribee SF	03/03/02	Discovery Bay Vic	283WS W
10115468	1	11/03/99	Werribee SF	03/03/02	Discovery Bay Vic	283WS W
10115120	3+	20/08/97	Stockyard Pt	05/03/02 12/03/02	Pt Henry Vic	98 NW
10096787	2+	20/05/89	Stockyard Pt	15/03/02	Mueller River, Mallacoota Vic	382 NE
10116008	1	19/03/00	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	21/03/02	St. Helens Tas.	322 S
10099304	2+	14/04/91	Werribee SF	21/03/02	Killarney Bch Vic	194 WSW
10115972	2	17/07/00	Fairhaven French Is.	09/04/02	Marlo Vic	395 NE
10096789	1	01/07/89	Werribee SF	23/04/02	Nene Valley SA	349 W
10096873	1	06/05/90	Werribee SF	23/04/02	Nene Valley SA	349 W
10115139	3+	150198	Danger Pt SA	05/05/02 16/06/02 18,19/06 25,26,27/0 6 09,11/07 2/07/02	Blackfellows Cave Livingstones Bay Bucks Bay Cape Banks Light Cape Banks Light Pelican Pt SA	31.7 39 41.2 LOCAL
10160003	1	26/02/00	Stockyard Pt	05/05/02 16,19/06/0 2 11/07/02 18/10/02 21/10/02	Blackfellows Cave Livingstones Bay Danger Pt Pelican Pt Danger Pt SA	443 W 447 W 515 W
10115597	3	26/02/00	Stockyard Pt	21/05/02	Pt Henry Vic	98 NW
10096821	1	05/08/89	Stockyard Pt	29/05/02 29/08/02	Peterborough Vic	231 WSW
10104859	1	07/06/97	Stockyard Pt	04/06/02	Pt Henry Vic	98 NW
10115590	3+	16/02/00	Werribee SF	04/06/02	Pt Henry Vic	8 W
10096819	2	05/08/89	Stockyard Pt	11/06/02 06/10/02	Pt Henry Vic	98 NW
10096888	3+	10/06/90	Barry Beach	18/06/02 16/06/02 19/06/02 25,26,27/0 6,02/07 09,11/07/02	Bucks Bay SA Livingstones Bay Cape Banks Light Pelican Pt Bucks Bay SA	425 – 427W
10115540	1	28/06/99	Stockyard Pt	19/06/02	Livingstones Bay SA	447 W
10115498	3	22/07/01	Barry Beach	22/06/02	Lake Tyers Vic	263 NE
10103649	3+	08/05/93	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	22/06/02	Lake Tyers Vic	144 NE
10115902	2	19/06/00	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	22/06/02	Lake Tyers Vic	144 NE
10096760	2+	16/04/89	Werribee SF	27/07/02	Canunda NP SA	370 W
10121167	3+	14/04/02	Stockyard Pt	27/07/02	Canunda NP SA	
10104840	2	30/08/96	The Gurdies	30/07/02	Peterborough Vic	235 W
10104621	3+	30/09/95	The Gurdies	07/08/02 08,13,18,	Merimbula NSW Wonby Lake nr	417 NE

				19/08/02 30/08/02, 11/09/02 13/12/02	Merimbula NSW	
10107486	3	22/07/01	Barry Beach	07/08/02 08,10,13, 16,18/08 11,20/09/0 2	Merimbula NSW	369 NE
10103546	1	6/06/92	Barry Beach	7/08/02	Merimbula, NSW	369 NE
10115410	1	24/06/98	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	08/08/02 10,13,16/0 8, 08,10,11/0 9 20/09/02, 25/10/02 20/12/02	Merimbula NSW Tura Bch nr Merimbula NSW	385 NE 390 NE
10099371	2+	28/04/91	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	10/08/02 16,19,30/0 8,11/09, 07/10, 20/12/02	Merimbula NSW	336 NE
10115189	2	13/06/98	Rhyll, Phillip Is.	11/08/02	Bridgewater Bay Vic	335 W
10103577	3+	27/02/93	The Gurdies	15/08/02	Warrnambool Vic	268 W
10115960	3+	16/07/00	Stockyard Pt	19/08/02 30/08, 08,10,11/0 9, 07/10, 20/12/02	Merimbula NSW	418 NE
10121216	3	13/05/02	Fairhaven French Is.	19/08/02 08,10, 11,12/09/0 2	Merimbula NSW	440 NE
10121212	3	13/05/02	Fairhaven French Is.	19/08/02 30/08, 10/09, 11/09, 07/10/02	Merimbula NSW	440 NE
10115910	2	19/06/00	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	19/08/02 08,10,11,2 0, 24/09/02	Merimbula NSW	336 NE
10103656	1	21/05/93	Altona Foreshore	20/08/02*	Cheetham Saltworks, near Moolap, Vic	41 SW
10085189	2	2/07/88	Barry Beach	00/09/02**	Swan Is., Queenscliff	158 NW
10121162	3+	14/04/02	Stockyard Pt	03/09/02 08/09/02, 06/10/02	Pt Henry Vic	98 NW
10115913	3+	20/06/00	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	07/09/02	Merimbula NSW	385 NE
10104620	2	30/09/95	The Gurdies	11/09/02	Merimbula NSW	417 NE
10115915	1	20/06/00	Roussac Pt	19/08/02	Merimbula NSW	385 NE

			Corner Inlet	07/09/02 11/09/02		
10104695	1	21/05/96	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	12/09/02	Merimbula NSW	385 NE
10104852	2	7/06/97	Stockyard Pt	Sep/Oct 02***	Nene Valley, SA	440 W
10103584	2	27/03/94	Werribee SF	06/10/02	Pt Henry Vic	8 W
10121247	3	28/05/02	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	17/10/02*	Breamlea, Vic	164 W
10107399	1	26/05/01	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	18/10/02	Merimbula Lake, NSW	384 NE
10096846	2+	06/05/90	Werribee SF	20/10/02	Pt Fairy Vic	199 WSW
10099577	1	03/05/92	Werribee SF	20/10/02	Pt Fairy Vic	199 WSW
10115410	1	24/06/98	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	25/10/02 30/10/02	Bournda Beach NSW	391 NE
10121951	3+	13/06/02	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	26/10/02*	Bunga Arm, Gippsland Lakes, Vic	171 NE
10103538	1	6/06/92	Barry Beach	31/10/02	Bithry Inlet, Mimosa Rocks NP, NSW	394 NE
10104852	2	7/06/97	Stockyard Pt	00/11/02	Southeast of South Australia	485 W
10103956	3	13/08/94	Barry Beach	05/11/02	Wingan Inlet Vic	
10103614	2	07/05/93	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	07/11/02	Snowy River Entrance Vic	179 NE
10104700	3	21/05/96	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	13/11/02	Lake Tyers Vic	191 NE
10107438	3+	9/07/01	Lyon Downs, Yanakie	00/12/02*	King Is., Tas	232 SW
10107309	2	07/03/01	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	13/12/02	Wonbyn Lake nr Merimbula NSW	315 NE
10115973	3+	2/08/00	Rhyll, Phillip Is.	20/12/02	Wonboyn Lake, NSW	426 E
10115458	1	28/02/99	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	28/12/02	Pt Fairy Vic	394 WSW
10115535	1	28/06/99	Stockyard Pt	30/12/02	Pethers Rock SA	476 NW
10103545	3+	6/06/92	Barry Beach	4/01/03*	Golden Beach, south of Sale, Vic	104 NE
10085049	2+	8/02/98	Stockyard Pt	5/01/03**	French Is., Western Port Bay, Vic	10 NW
10115919	3+	20/06/00	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	20/02/03	Merimbula, NSW	385 NE
10121267	3	28/05/02	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	26/02/03	Wonboyn Lake, NSW	367 NE
10096921	1	22/07/90	Rhyll, Phillip Is.	1/03/03*	Churchill Is., Westernport Bay, Vic	4 S
10099465	3+	21/03/92	Off Manns Bch Corner Inlet	00/04/03*	Robertsons Beach, Corner Inlet, Vic	11 W

* Found dead

** leg only found

*** shot

This species produces by far the highest recovery rate. Its large size and conspicuous colouring mean that a dead bird is more likely to be noticed and we therefore receive far more reports in a year of dead birds of this species than of all other wader species added together. The unique colour band combinations used on Pied Oystercatcher also mean that birds attract the attention of bird watchers. Many of the records in the above list are the result of enthusiastic colour band observing by birdwatchers in Merimbula, NSW, Geelong, Warrnambool and Port Fairy in Victoria and south-eastern South Australia.

Movements of Pied Oystercatcher up to 500km from their banding location are normal. The species is clearly not as "resident" as was at one time thought.

More local movements (not listed here) are helping delineate birds use of local areas such as Western Port. Thanks to Graham Beal in particular for regularly reporting the birds in Western Port.

Sooty Oystercatcher

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date(s) seen/ recovered	Location found	Km moved
10082131	2+	25/06/83	Queenscliff	02/02/02 17/06, 10/07, 06/11/02	Flynns Beach Vic	122 E
10103691	2+	09/07/94	Altona	24/02/02 01,21/10/02	Killarney Bch Pt Fairy Vic	226 WSW
10116013	3+	25/03/00	Barry Beach Corner Inlet	21/03/02	Edwards Point Vic	56 W
10115851	2	07/05/00	Yanakie	21/09/02	Little Musselroe River Tas	266 S
10115872	3+	07/05/00	Yanakie	16/10/02	Cotters Beach Vic	14 E
10115108	3+	24/07/97	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	11/12/02	Rabbit Is. Vic	24 S
10116012	3+	25/03/00	Barry Beach Corner Inlet	11/12/02	Rabbit Is. Vic	25 S
10115504	3+	17/05/99	Roussac Pt Corner Inlet	28/12/02	Seal Rocks Vic	106 W
10121278	3	12/06/02	Lyons Downs Yanakie	15/04/03	Pelican Point, Carpenter Rocks SA	520 W

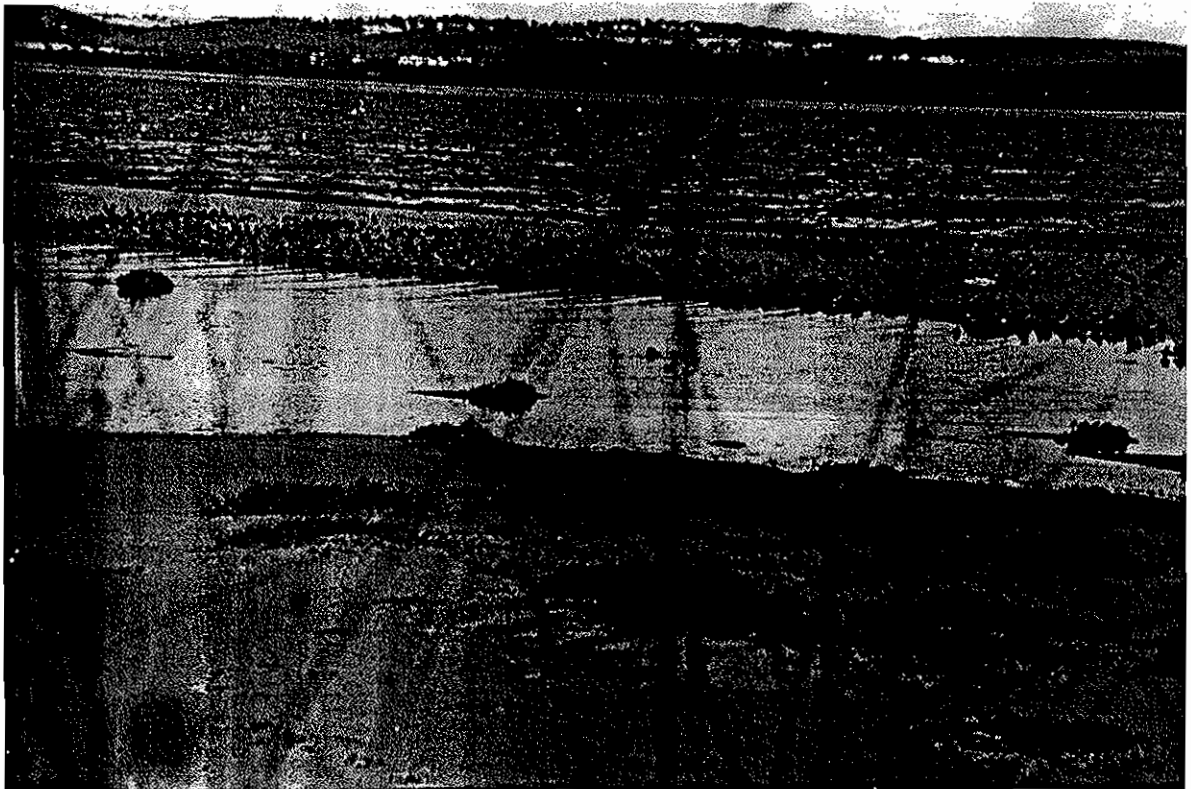
Sooty Oystercatcher are not quite as mobile as Pied Oystercatcher and a movement of 520km is at the top end of the range. More usually Sooty Oystercatcher remain within the Corner Inlet/Bass Strait Islands/north-east Tasmania area. It is interesting to note that two Sooty Oystercatcher have taken up residence on Rabbit Island, off Wilson's Promontory and one on Seal Rocks near Phillip Island. One bird which moved from Queenscliff as a young bird to live on Phillip Island is now more than 22 years old.

More local movements (not listed here) are helping delineate birds use of local areas such as Western Port. Thanks to Penny Johns in particular for regularly reporting the birds at Flinders.

Double-banded Plover

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recaptured	Location	Km moved
0414766 6	2+	20/05/89	Stockyard Point	27/07/02	Stockyard Point	Local
0410982 4	2+	5/05/84	Yallock Creek	10/08/02	Yallock Creek	Local

These two records both refer to recaptures of old birds. 041-09824 is in fact the oldest Double-banded Plover ever recorded, from either New Zealand or Australian banding activities. The elapsed time between banding and recapture (at the same location) was 18¼ years. But taking into account that it was originally banded as an adult, and therefore must have been hatched in late 1982 or before, the bird had almost reached its 20th birthday. Having made that number of return journeys between New Zealand and Australia it must now know the trans Tasman route pretty well!



Double-banded Plover and Red-necked Stint at Stockyard Point (photo Doris Graham)

Recoveries of waders banded in South Australia 2002/03

Clive Minton, Lauren Beasley, Rosalind Jessop, Peter Collins,
Maureen Christie and Iain Stewart

This list details recoveries reported since those listed in the last VWSG Bulletin from VWSG banding activities in the southeast corner of South Australia.

Ruddy Turnstone

Overseas Recoveries

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date reported	Location	KM moved
05119922	1+	28/02/97	Pelican Pt, Carpenters Rocks	00/04/97	Hangzhou Bay, Shanghai City, China	7888 NNW

Australian Recoveries

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recaptured	Location	KM moved
05222455	2+	21/04/01	Carpenters Rocks	19/09/01	Roebuck Bay, Broome, WA	2818 NW

Overseas recoveries of Ruddy Turnstone are not common and therefore it is particularly pleasing to get one on northward migration through China. However there is some possible doubt over the age at banding or the year of recovery for this bird. A first year bird would not be expected to migrate northwards, at least not as far as China. When banded on 28th February it was still only partway through its primary moult ($5^5 3^1 0^4$) had no signs of breeding plumage and was close to its normal base weight (106g). With the recovery not being reported to the Australian Bird Banding Office until 2001 it seems quite possible that the recovery year may have been later than 1997. Turnstones normally migrate northwards for the first time when they are two years old.

The bird recaptured at Broome was clearly using that area as a stopover location on its southward migration back to South Australia.

Sanderling

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recovered	Location	KM moved
04227355	2+	9/03/00	Brown Bay	30/10/01*	Coconut Well Beach, 15km N of Broome, WA	2885 NW
04182719	2+	28/11/93	Canunda National Park	15/08/02**	Chaivo Bay, Sakhalin Is., Russia	10015 N

* Recaptured

** Shot

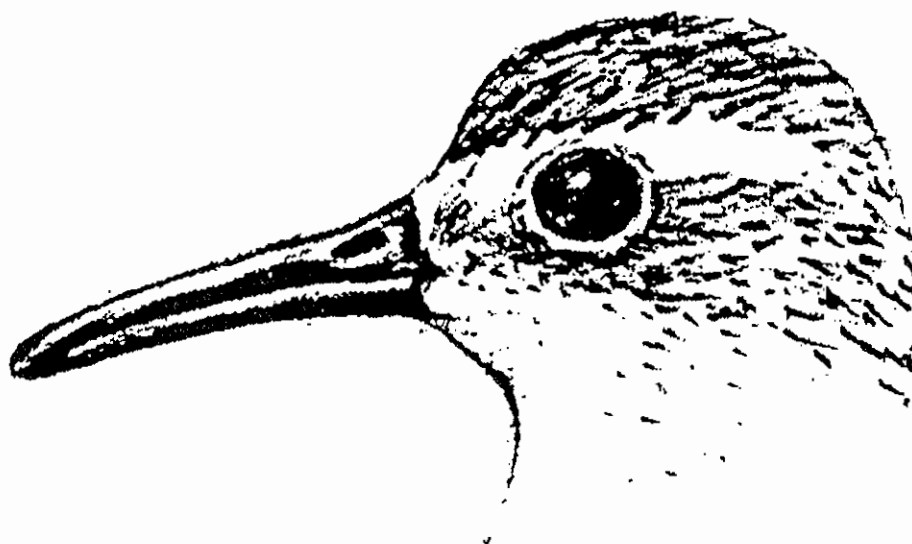
The recovery on Sakhalin Island on the east coast of Russia is our first for this species in that country. It was clearly already well on the way back to Australia from its presumed north Siberian breeding grounds. The bird was apparently used to make a tasty soup!

The bird near Broome was probably still on its way back to South Australia.

Red-necked Stint

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recaptured	Location	KM moved
03606523	1	19/10/02	Carpenters Rocks	15/05/03	Stockyard Point, Westernport, Vic	453 E

This bird could well have still been on migration when originally banded at Carpenters Rocks.



Recoveries of waders banded elsewhere 2002/03

Clive Minton, Lauren Beasley, Rosalind Jessop and Peter Collins

When the VWSG catches a bird banded by someone else, somewhere else it is technically called a "control". It is always an exciting occasion to handle someone else's bird and one eagerly awaits obtaining the banding details from the original bander. The report is formally routed via the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, Canberra, but is sometimes circumvented by direct e-mail contact!

In most cases the VWSG adds an Australian band to the other leg of the control. This is to increase the chances of us hearing if the bird is subsequently found again anywhere. It also draws attention to the bird if it is recaptured back at its place of origin by the original bander who might not otherwise recognise that he has a "double journey recovery".

Red Knot

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recaptured	Location	KM moved
Korea 040-02136	1	18/10/01	Okgu Saltpan, Okgu-Up, Kunsan City, Korea	25/07/02	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet, Vic	8544 SSE

This is the first Korean banded Red Knot to be recaptured in Victoria. It demonstrates clearly that one-year-old birds remain in their non-breeding areas during their first Austral winter.

Curlew Sandpiper

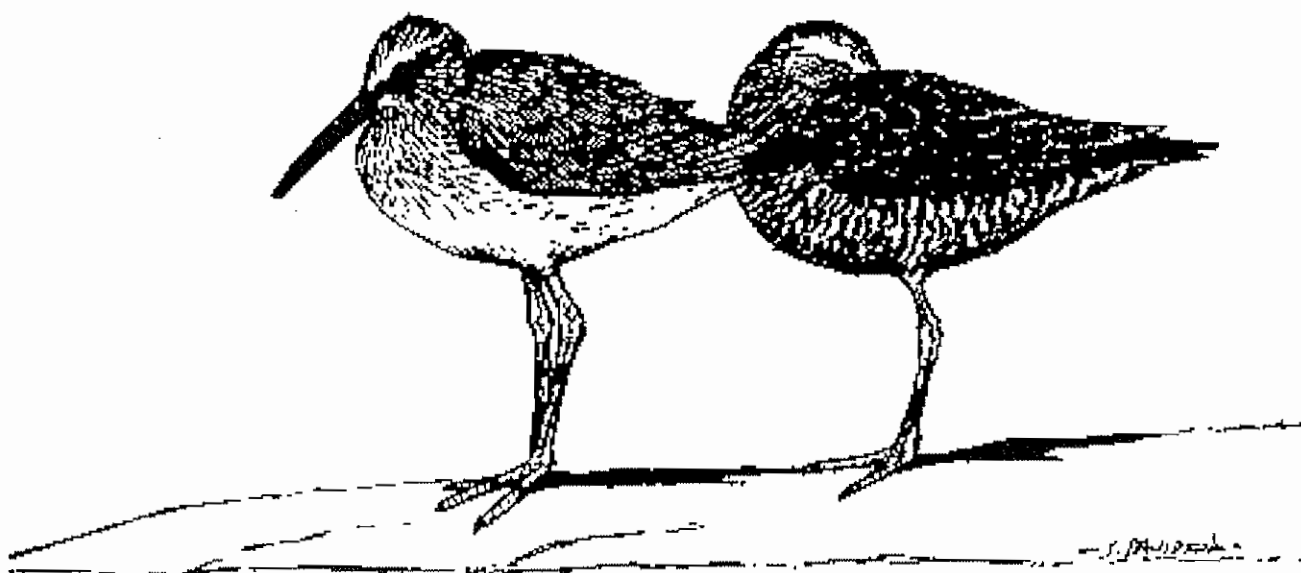
Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date recaptured	Location	KM moved
New Zealand B51971	1	21/04/92	Taramaire, Firth of Thames, New Zealand	8/01/03	Yallock Creek, Vic	2616 SW

This is an amazing record. Curlew Sandpipers are uncommon birds in New Zealand and only ten had been banded at Taramaire, in early 1992. That one of them should have even survived for more than 10 years is surprising but that it should be recaptured alive in Australia is incredible. It would appear to have changed its non-breeding area to Victoria after having (unintentionally?) travelled to New Zealand in its first year.

Double-banded Plover

Band	Age	Date banded	Location	Date Seen	Location	KM moved
New Zealand C50852	2+	7/10/94	Lower Ohau River, New Zealand	30/04/02	Werribee Sewage Farm, Vic	2242 W

The above was a sight record of a bird carrying an individual colour band combination. Many of the Double-banded Plover from this central region of the South Island of New Zealand come to Australia in the winter – many other Double-banded Plover remain in New Zealand



Sightings of Waders Leg-flagged in Victoria

Report Number 10

Lauren Beasley, Clive Minton, Roz Jessop and Peter Collins

A large number of further sightings of waders' leg flagged in Victoria have been received during the last year. Details of all those that have moved away from their original flagging area are given in the attached list. Relevant comments on the significance of these sightings are also provided under each species.

The total number of waders leg flagged in Victoria had risen to 56,648 by the end of December 2002 (see separate table). The addition of the flagging process to normal marking with metal bands, commenced in Victoria in December 1990, has proved extremely beneficial with overseas flag sighting reporting rates being up to 20 times those of overseas recovery rates for most species. The flag sightings generated, in conjunction with recoveries, are now being extensively utilised in scientific papers and for conservation purposes in relation to migration paths and stopover locations for the various species.

This list (List No. 10) follows the one published in the last VWSG Bulletin (No. 25, August 2002, List No. 9). It mainly covers flag sightings received in the second half of 2002 up until the beginning of August 2003. However as some overseas countries collect flag sightings together and only send us them in batches periodically there are some gaps in the data for the past year (Japan, Korea and the northward migration in 2003 in Hong Kong).

Considerable thanks are due to all those persons, overseas and within Australia, who have gone to the trouble of recording and reporting leg flag sightings. The flagging scheme's success is due greatly to their efforts.

VWSG member, Lauren Beasley, has maintained the Leg Flag Database for the VWSG (and the AWSG) for the last year under a contract from Environment Australia to the AWSG. EA are much thanked for this vital support which has enabled the database to be kept completely up to date, with reports to sighter/flaggers, and with rapid extraction of data whenever needed.

This flag sightings list is published for the information and benefit of VWSG members. Records and data from this and earlier similar compilations are not to be used without previously obtaining permission from the VWSG. This is both to protect the interests of VWSG members, who have generated these flag sightings and will be using them in scientific papers, but is also to ensure that all data is checked for accuracy and completeness before being used for such a purpose.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Overseas Sightings

USA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
25/05/02	1	St. Paul, Pribilof Islands, Alaska	Rick Knight
17-25/08/02	13	Tutakoke River, central Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska	Dan Ruthrauff, Marin Sardy
18/08/02 to 14/09/02	8	Tern Mountain, Village of Cheforak, Yukon Delta, Alaska	Chadd Fitzpatrick, Melanie Spies, Marin Sardy

KOREA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
14/04/02	1	Song Do, Incheon	Nial Moores
9/05/03	1	Nak-dong Estuary	Wetlands & Birds Korea
11-12/05/03	1	Mokpo city in south-west Korea	Jeong-sik Lee
11/05/03	1	Geum River Estuary, Chungham Province	Bjorn Johansson

NEW ZEALAND

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
3/07/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	N. Dillon
17/09/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Keith Woodley
16/06/02	1	Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland	Will Perry et al
7/09/02	1	Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland	Tony Habraken
14/09/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Tony Habraken
23/09/02	1	Walker Is., Rangaunu Harbour, Far North	Gillian Vaughan, Tony Habraken
28/09/02	2	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland	David Lawrie, Tony Habraken
29/09/02	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Gillian Vaughan, Sue MacIntosh
6/10/02	2	Big Sand Is., Kaipara Harbour, North Is.	Gwen Pulham
9/10/02	1	Opoutere on the Coromandel	Nigel Milius
11/10/02	1	Foxton Spit, near Wanganui, North Is.	Brian Hardin, Enfys Graham, Rosemary Heather
12/10/02	1	Opoutere on the Coromandel	Ted Wnorowski
13/10/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Tony Habraken, David Lawrie et al
13/10/02	1	Colville, Coromandel	Ted Wnorowski
14/10/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Bruce Keeley
16/10/02	1	Washdyke Lagoon, Timaru, Canterbury, South Is.	Alan Collins
23/10/02	1	Mangawai Wildlife Refuge, near Whangarei	Katrina Hansen
25/10/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Tony Habraken
28/10/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Tony Habraken
3/11/02	1	Bells Is, Waimea Inlet, near Nelson	Willie Cook
3/11/02	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Ian Saville

5/11/02	1	Nelson Haven, South Is.	Peter Field
9/11/02	1	Motueka Sandspit, near Nelson	Steve Wood
10/11/02	3	Thames, Firth of Thames	Tony Habraken
20/11/02	1	Mangere Sewerage Ponds, Manukau Harbour	R. Clough
24/11/02	1	Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland	Gwen Pulham et al
5/12/02	1	Thames, Firth of Thames	Tony Habraken
7/12/02	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
14/12/02	2	Thames, Firth of Thames	Tony Habraken
21/12/02	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
2/01/03	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
4/01/03	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Betty Seddon
6/01/03	1	Papakanui Spit, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland	Gwen Pulham, Bryce Lummis
12/01/03	1	Waihou River, Thames, Firth of Thames	David Lawrie, Tony Habraken
16/01/03	3	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, South Is.	Peter Field
17/01/03	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
19/01/03	1	Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch	Andrew Crossland
20/01/03	1	Big Sand Is., Kaipara Harbour, North Is.	Gwen Pulham
7/02/03	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Nigel Milius
19/02/03	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Brent Stephenson
22/02/03	1	Walker Is., Kaipara Harbour	Gwen Pulham, Gordon Gorbey, Darryl Jeffries
1/03/03	1	Clifton Bay, Auckland	Ted Wnorowski
19/03/03	2	Rangitoto Point, Raglan Harbour, Waikato	Nigel Milius
23/03/03	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland	David Lawrie et al.
3/05/03	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland	Gillian Vaughan et al.
4/05/03	1	Tapora Wildlife Refuge, South Kaipara Harbour	Gillian Vaughan et al.
18/05/03	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland	David Lawrie et al.
15/06/03	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland	David Lawrie

Sightings within Australia

Western Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
11/06/02	1	Stilt Viewing, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Kerry Davenport
21/05/03	1	Wader Spit, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
29/05/03	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Jonny Schoenjahn
7/07/03	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Megan Underwood
15/07/03	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Megan Underwood

Queensland

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
22/06/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates
1/09/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates, David Edwards
8/09/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates
10/09/02	1	Lytton High Tide Roost, Moreton Bay	Dawn Beck, Chris Bollar
13/09/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates, David Edwards
21/09/02	1	Lytton High Tide Roost, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates
25/09/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Gavin Goodyear
28/09/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates, David Edwards
4/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	E. Townsend
5/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Jill Denning
6/10/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates, Dawn Beck
12/10/02	1	South Esplanade, Deception Bay	Phil Cross
13/10/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates, David Edwards
15/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
19/10/02	1	Lytton High Tide Roost, Moreton Bay	Harry Briggs
20/10/02	1	Lytton High Tide Roost, Moreton Bay	Bobbie Bevan
20/10/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates, David Edwards
26/10/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates, David Connolly
2/11/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	David Milton, Sandra Harding, Arthur Keates
19/11/02	1	Catalina Boat Ramp, Bowen, NQ	Phil & Linda Cross, Jon Wren
5/12/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
21/09/02	1	Kooragang Nature Reserve, Hunter River	Hunter Bird Observers Club
27/09/02	2	Nambucca Heads	John Seale, Craig Cassady
11/10/02	2	Kooragang Is., Stockton Bridge	Chris Doughty

It has been a fantastic year for Bar-tailed Godwit flag sightings. Pride of place must go to 22 further reports from Alaska – the now strongly confirmed breeding location of Bar-tailed Godwit that visit eastern Australia and New Zealand. The sightings in Korea would have been of birds on their northward migration, where the route is through China and Korea before an over-sea flight to Alaska. The return route is now known to be direct across the Pacific, from southwest Alaska to the coasts of Australia and New Zealand – an incredible 10,000km non-stop flight that would take 7 or 8 days to complete.

The amazing number of flag sightings in New Zealand further confirms that, like the Red Knot, there is a considerable interchange between the populations in eastern Australia and New Zealand. This record number of New Zealand sightings is partly a consequence of the VWSG's success in catching Bar-tailed Godwit over the last few years but is also a reflection of the enthusiastic and skilled army of wader watchers in New Zealand.

The number of individual Bar-tailed Godwit flagged in Victoria and seen elsewhere in Australia is relatively few. Many of the sightings in the list above clearly refer to individual birds which remained in well watched areas, such as Moreton Bay in Queensland and Broome in northwest Australia, for a significant period. At least one bird appears to have permanently changed its "home" to Moreton Bay. The Broome records probably relate to an immature individual that went north for its "winter holidays".

Eastern Curlew

Sightings overseas

JAPAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
14, 19, 23/03/03	1	Sone Estuary & Tidal Flat, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka	Mr. Takeshita et al.

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
9/03/03	1	Kao-Mei, Taichung County	Mr. Pan, Chih-Yuan

Sightings within Australia

Queensland

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
11/08/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates
25/04/03	1	Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay	John Knight, Sally Sheldon

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
23/08/02	1	Fingal, Tweed River	Terry Dillon

Only five records, but two adding valuable information, especially on the timing of northward migration back to the breeding grounds in southeastern Siberia.

The bird seen in Taiwan on 9th March, of which some excellent photographs were provided, had two shiny new orange leg flags (we put one flag on each tibia on Eastern Curlew for maximum visibility). It was almost certainly one of 36 Eastern Curlews caught and leg flagged in Corner Inlet on 27th December – only 11 days earlier. Since the flying time for this 7,000km non-stop journey would have been at least 5 days the bird must have left Corner Inlet less than a week after it was caught. The 9th of March is the earliest day on which any wader banded or flagged in Australia has been reported in Asia on the northward migration.

Terek Sandpiper

Sightings Overseas

KOREA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
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23/08/02	1	Okku, Mangyeung	Nial Moores
9/09/02	1	Okku, Mangyeung	Nial Moores

These are only the fourth and fifth sightings of Victorian flagged Terek Sandpipers. There has been one sighting previously in Korea. Three of the five sightings refer to birds on southward migration, when generally flag reports are scarce. This and count data indicate that Terek Sandpipers particularly favour the shores of South Korea as a stopover site during their southward migration.

Ruddy Turnstone

Sightings Overseas

KOREA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
27/08/02	2	Dongjin Estuary	Jin-Young Park

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
1/05/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Chung-Yu Chiang, Yan-feng Wu
6/05/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Chung-Yu Chiang
14/05/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Chung-Yu Chiang

NEW ZEALAND

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
26/12/02	1	Kaikoura, South Is.	Nick Allen

Sightings within Australia

South Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
22/06/02	1	Cape Banks Lighthouse, Carpenters Rocks	Maureen Christie
10/03/03	1	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell	Matthew Dwyer

Western Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
16/07/03	1	Beaches, Crab Creek Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
3/10/02	1	Lord Howe Is.	Betty Seddon

The Korean sighting is the first Victorian flagged Ruddy Turnstone seen in that country. There have been quite a number of previous sightings indicating that Taiwan is an important stopover location for this species and that birds on their way to non-breeding areas in New Zealand may pass through Victoria en route.

The flag sighting in Lord Howe Island is a little puzzling. It could be a bird that was in the process of making a long transpacific migration from Alaskan breeding grounds. Some Alaskan Turnstones have long been thought to come to eastern Australia, but there has been no direct evidence of this during the last 25 years of banding.

Some interchange between the Ruddy Turnstones spending their non-breeding season on the coasts of Victoria and the southeast of South Australia does occur, and two further examples are listed above. The bird seen at Broome in mid July however is most likely another example of an immature bird taking its winter holidays in northwest Australia.

Great Knot

Sightings Overseas

KOREA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
23/08/02	1	Okku, Mangyeong	Nial Moores
9/09/02	1	Okku, Mangyeong	Nial Moores

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
13/04/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Yan-feng Wu

Sightings within Australia

Queensland

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
8/09/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Phil & Linda Cross
12/09/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks	Jill Denning
22/09/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Linda Cross et al
4/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	E. Townsend
5/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Jill Denning
15/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
22/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
25/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Gavin Goodyear
27/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Arthur Keates et al.
29/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge

4/11/02	1	Artificial roost on Bribie Is.	Jill Denning
8/11/02	1	Toorbul, 1km north of high tide roost	Dennis Stanbridge
24/12/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dez Wells
5/01/03	1	Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is.	Esther Townsend
8/01/03	2	Toorbul Sandfly Bay roost	Dennis Stanbridge
9/01/03	1	Toorbul, 1km north of high tide roost	Dennis Stanbridge
11/01/03	1	Toorbul, 1km north of high tide roost	Dennis Stanbridge
13/01/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
21/01/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
23/01/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
25/01/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
6/03/03	1	Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is.	Ivan Fien
23/03/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	QWSG Committee & Members on Wader ID Day
5/04/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dez Wells

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
21/09/02	1	Kooragang Dykes, near Stockton, Newcastle	Hunter Bird Observers Club

Korea and Taiwan are both areas where leg flag sightings of Great Knot from Victoria have previously been reported. Note that the Korean sightings are both birds on southward migration. Many Great Knot are thought to use a take off point further north than Korea, on the southern shores of the Sea of Okhotsk in eastern Siberia for a direct 7,000km non-stop flight to the northern coast of Australia.

At least one individual appears to have changed its non-breeding area from Victoria to near Bribie Island in southeast Queensland.

Red Knot

Sightings Overseas

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
15/04/03	1	Hsia-Pu, Ilan County	Mr. Lin, Fang-Tse
21/04/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Chung-Yu Chiang, Hsin-de Yaung

NEW ZEALAND

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
17/09/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Keith Woodley
29/09/01	2	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	T. Piersma, P. Battley & A. Riegen
30/09/01	3	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Will Perry
15/10/01	3	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Keith Woodley
24/10/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Keith Woodley
3/11/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	T. Wilson
19/11/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	D. Price
26/11/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	S. & J. Rowe
16/12/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Simon Fordham
28/01/02	7	Walker Is., Kaipara Harbour	Tony Habraken
4/02/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Bev Woolley
20/02/02	4	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	T. Barnard
23/03/02	3	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Betty Seddon
24/03/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Betty Seddon
31/03/02	1	Bay Flat, Farewell Spit, Sth Is.	Peter Field
2/04/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	B. Keeley
13/04/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Will Perry
4/05/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	N. Milius & M. Day
16/05/02	3	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	J. King & C. Whiddett
27/07/02	6	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken
10/08/02	10	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	David Lawrie & Tony Habraken
15/08/02	1	Mangere Sewerage Ponds, Manukau Harbour	Tony Habraken
24/08/02	8	Taramaire, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken
7/09/02	4	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Adrian Riegen
14/09/02	3	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken
21/09/02	1	Parengarenga Harbour, Far North Cape	Gillian Vaughan & Tony Habraken
23/09/02	3	Walker Is., Rangaunu Harbour, Far North	Gillian Vaughan & Tony Habraken
28/09/02	1	Papakanui Spit, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland	Gwen Pulham
28/09/02	5	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	David Lawrie & Tony Habraken
29/09/02	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Gillian Vaughan & Sue MacIntosh
6/10/02	4	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, Sth Is.	Rob Schuckard & David Melville
12/10/02	1	Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury, Sth Is.	Colin Hill
13/10/02	11	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	T. Habraken, David Lawrie et al
14/10/02	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Bruce Keeley
15/10/02	2	Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury, Sth Is.	Colin Hill, Jan Walker & Professor Chu
25/10/02	11	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken
27/10/02	2	Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury, Sth Is.	Steve Wrattens
28/10/02	12	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken

28/10/02	2	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, Sth Is.	Peter Field
1/11/02	1	Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch	Jan Walker
2/11/02	3	Shellbanks, Miranda	Tony Wilson
3/11/02	1	Bells Is, Waimea Inlet, near Nelson	Willie Cook
3/11/02	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Ian Saville
3/11/02	1	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken
9/11/02	1	Mangawhai Spit, North Auckland	Gwen Pulham, Tony Moore, Gordon Gorbey
9/11/02	2	Motueka Sandspit, near Nelson	Steve Wood
9/11/02	2	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Ian Saville
10/11/02	15	Thames, Firth of Thames	Tony Habraken
10/11/02	3	Shellbanks, Miranda	David Lawrie
10/11/02	3	Kaiaua, Firth of Thames, Auckland	Gwen Pulham
17/11/02	3	Mangere Sewerage Ponds, Manukau Harbour	G. Pulham & T. Wnorowski
23/11/02	2	Tapora Wildlife Refuge, Sth Kaipara Harbour	Elliane Lagnez et al.
23/11/02	1	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Ian Saville
24/11/02	3	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken et al.
24/11/02	2	Seagrove, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	G. Vaughan & N. Dyson
1/12/02	1	Waipu Estuary, Northland	Gwen Pulham & Ted Wnorowski
5/12/02	3	Thames, Firth of Thames	Tony Habraken
7/12/02	1	Maketu Bay of Plenty, North Is.	Tim Barnard
7/12/02	2	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
7/12/02	7	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Keith Woodley
14/12/02	9	Thames, Firth of Thames	Tony Habraken
15/12/02	1	Papakanui Spit, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland	Gwen Pulham & Ted Wnorowski
18/12/02	1	Lake Wainono, Sth Is.	Alan Collins
21/12/02	2	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
22/12/02	1	Walker Is., Kaipara Harbour	Gwen Pulham & Ted Wnorowski
24/12/02	3	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
24/12/02	5	Motueka Sandspit, near Nelson	Colin Miskelly
26/12/02	6	Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	T. Habraken & D. Lawrie
28/12/02	6	Waihou River, Thames, Firth of Thames	T. Habraken & D. Lawrie
28/12/02	2	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Will Perry
2/01/03	3	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
4/01/03	5	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Betty Seddon
12/01/03	3	Waihou River, Thames, Firth of Thames	David Lawrie, Tony Habraken
12/01/03	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Keith Woodley
12/01/03	2	Rangaunu Harbour, Far North, North Is.	Tony Wilson
16/01/03	6	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, Sth Is	Peter Field
17/01/03	3	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
26/01/03	2	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	David Lawrie

27/01/03	1	Maketu Bay of Plenty, North Is.	Tim Barnard
27/01/03 & 29/01/03	1	Maketu Bay of Plenty, North Is.	Tim Barnard
29/01/03	1	Waipu Estuary, Northland	Mike Hazel
30/01/03	1	Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury, Sth Is.	Sheila Petch
3/02/03	4	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Tony Wilson
6/02/03	2	Maketu Bay of Plenty, North Is.	Tim Barnard
7/02/03	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Nigel Millus
8/02/03	3	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Will Perry
16/02/03	7	Tapora Wildlife Refuge, Sth Kaipara Harbour	Gwen Pulham et al
19/02/03	2	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Brent Stephenson
20/02/03	1	Motueka Sandspit, near Nelson	Steve Wood
22/02/03	6	Walker Is., Kaipara Harbour	Gwen Pulham, Gordon Gorbey, Darryl Jeffries
23/02/03	5	Mataitai Bay, near Auckland	Tony Habraken
28/02/03	3	Maketu Bay of Plenty, North Is.	Tim Barnard
1/03/03	9	Miranda, Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland	Ted Wnorowski
2/03/03	2	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Adrian Riegen et al
8/03/03	1	Batley, Kaipara Harbour	Gwen Pulham, Darryl Jefferies, Ted Wnorowski
12/03/03	4	Clifton Bay, Auckland	Tony Habraken
20/03/03	20	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, Sth Is.	David Melville
21/03/03	4	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, Sth Is.	David Melville
22/03/03	4	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, Sth Is.	David Melville
23/03/03	2	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	David Lawrie et al.
23/03/03	2	Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu, North Is.	Sav Saville
23/03/03	5	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, Sth Is.	David Melville
23/03/03	2	Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Gillian Vaughan
23/03/03	4	Kirk's, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Gillian Vaughan
24/03/03	4	Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, Sth Is.	David Melville
25/03/03	1	Foxton Estuary, North Is.	Rosemary Heather
19/04/03	25	Big Sand Is., Kaipara Harbour, Nth Is.	Gwen Pulham
20/04/03	8	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	David Lawrie, Gillian Vaughan et al.
27/04/03	15	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken
3/05/03	3	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Gillian Vaughan et al.
4/05/03	11	Tapora Wildlife Refuge, Sth Kaipara Harbour	Gillian Vaughan et al.
16/05/03	2	Tapora Wildlife Refuge, Sth Kaipara Harbour	G. Pulham, S. Chamberlin
18/05/03	4	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	David Lawrie et al.
18/05/03	2	Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Gillian Vaughan, Ian Southey & Jan Butcher
1/06/03	12	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken, Gillian Vaughan, Ian Southey
20/07/03	4	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	David Lawrie, Tony Habraken
2/08/03	22	Karaka, Manukau Harbour, Sth Auckland	Tony Habraken, Gillian Vaughan

Sightings within Australia

Western Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
12/06/02	1	Stilt Viewing, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Kerry Davenport
15/06/02	1	Stilt Viewing, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Danny Rogers
25/06/02	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Danny Rogers
31/08/02	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Dan Blunt & Chris Hassell
9/11/02	1	Nicks Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle, Chris Hassell
26/01/03	1	Rushy Point, Albany	David Secomb
28/06/03	1	Pelican Point, mouth of Gascoyne River, Carnarvon	Les George
17/07/03	1	Boat Harbour, Gascoyne River, Carnarvon	Les George

Queensland

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
28/07/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil & Linda Cross
17/08/02	1	Nudgee Beach, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates
1/09/02	3	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates & David Edwards
8/09/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Phil & Linda Cross
8/09/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates
13/09/02	3	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates & David Edwards
21/09/02	1	Lytton High Tide Roost	Arthur Keates
21/09/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates
22/09/02	1	Toorbul Sandfly Bay roost	Arthur Keates et al.
22/09/02	2	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Arthur Keates et al.
26/09/02	1	Queens Esplanade, Thornside	Joyce Harding
30/09/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Harry Briggs
4/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	E. Townsend
6/10/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates & Dawn Beck
12/10/02	2	South Esplanade, Deception Bay	Phil Cross
13/10/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates & David Edwards
20/10/02	2	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur & Sheryl Keates & David Edwards
26/10/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates & David Connolly
29/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
2/11/02	1	Inskip Point, near Gympie	John Cummings
2/11/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	David Milton, Sandra Harding & Arthur Keates
4/11/02	1	Artificial roost on Bribie Is.	Jill Denning
8/12/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Esther Townsend

11/01/03	1	Toorbul Sandfly Bay roost	Dennis Stanbridge
23/01/03	1	Toorbul, 1km north of high tide roost	Dennis Stanbridge
25/01/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Dennis Stanbridge
31/01/03	1	Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is.	Trevor Ford
2/02/03	1	Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is.	Trevor Ford
8/02/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	David Edwards et al
21/03/03	1	Toorbul North	Dennis Stanbridge
23/03/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	QWSG Committee & Members on Wader ID Day
28/03/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is.	Esther Townsend

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
21/09/02	1	Fullerton Cove Beach, Hunter River	Hunter Bird Observers Club
21/09/02	1	Kooragang Nature Reserve, Hunter River	Hunter Bird Observers Club
10/10/02	1	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater	Bo Totterman
11/10/02	2	Kooragang Is., Stockton Bridge	Chris Doughty
20/10/02	2	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater	Bo Totterman

Victoria

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
26/09/02	1	Mallacoota Inlet	Simon Starr

The flag sighting reports emanating from marking Red Knot are incredible. In spite of our considerable success in catching this species in the last few years we still have never had a flag sighting (or a recovery) on or anywhere near the expected breeding grounds in northeast Siberia. Even sightings on migration though Asia are few and far between and proportionately far less than we receive for species such as Bar-tailed Godwit and Great Knot. The explanation is probably that they use a small number of discrete stopover locations during their migration and that these are at locations less frequented by bird observers (and hunters) - other species using a much wider range of stopover sites.

The number of flag sightings in New Zealand is staggering, indicating the huge interchange of Red Knot between Victoria and there. Banding data shows that most of these movements refer to birds originally marked in their first year in Australia which then in subsequent years change their preferred non-breeding area to New Zealand. The huge effort put in by some of the field observers in New Zealand is illustrated by several different birds being reported on each occasion – topped by Gwen Pulham finding 25 in one flock in Kaipara Harbour on 19th April, Tony Habraken and Gillian Vaughan finding 22 on 2nd August in Manukau Harbour and David Melville recording 20 at Farewell Spit on 20th March.

The sightings at Broome and Carnarvon in June/July probably refer to immature birds that had moved to the northern coast of Australia for the winter period. But the November record in Broome and the January record in Albany look more like birds which have changed their non-breeding location.

The records in Queensland seem to be a mixture of birds on southward migration in August/September and birds which had probably shifted their non-breeding area from Victoria (records in October to March). The records in New South Wales however were probably mostly birds still on their way south.

Sanderling

Sightings Overseas

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
25/08/02	1	Tayuan, Taoyuan County	Li-Chun Chu

HONG KONG

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
20/04/02	1	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
21/04/02	1	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
24/04/03	1	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader/Geoff Carey/Mike Leven

Sightings within Australia

Western Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
2/10/02	1	Coconut Wells near Broome	Chris Hassell

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
7/09/02	1	South Beach, Ballina	Bo Totterman
27/09/02	1	Nambucca Heads	John Seale, Craig Cassady
13/10/02	1	South Beach, Ballina	Bo Totterman

South Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
18/01/03	1	Entrance to Boundary Creek on Mundoo Is.	Mark Ziembicki
11/03/03	1	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell	Digger Jackson

Surprisingly, this year there were no reports of Victorian flagged Sanderling in Japan, the main location of overseas sightings in previous years. There have been several previous reports in both Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The sightings in northern and eastern Australia probably all refer to birds still on southward migration. However the sightings in South Australia relate to birds which had moved along the coast of Victoria and changed their non-breeding area. This behaviour is quite common in Sanderlings.

Red-necked Stint

Overseas Sightings

RUSSIA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
27/06/02	1	south east Taimyr Peninsula	Mikhail Soloviev
12-13/07/02	1	Lena River delta, Yakutia	Vitali Kontorschikov

MONGOLIA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
5/08/01	1	Lake Khokh Nuur, North East Mongolia	Holger Lauruschkus & Harald Legge

KOREA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
26/05/02	2	Cheonsu Bay	Jin-Young Park
9/09/02	1	Okku, Mangyeong	Nial Moores

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
3/06/01	1	Fubou, Chang Hwa County	Ms. Lin, Gin-Yueh
19/05/03	1	Kang-Nan Coastal Area, Hsin-Chu City	Mr. Tsai, Yi-Chung
23/05/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Mr. Yeh, Chih-Wei
27/05/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Chung-Yu Chiang, Yan-feng Wu, Shih-han Hsu



HONG KONG

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
1/05/02	2	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
12/05/02	3	Mai Po Marshes	Yu-Yat Tung
16/05/02	2	Mai Po Marshes	Yu-Yat Tung
9/08/02	1	Mai Po Marshes	Rohan Clarke
2/05/03	2	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader
5/05/03	1	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader & Mike Leven

MALAYSIA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
25-26/04/03	1	Teluk Mahkota Beach, Sedili (se Johor state)	Yang Chong

NEW ZEALAND

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
from 18-20/09/01	1	Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	per Adrian Riegen

Sightings within Australia**Western Australia**

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
2/07/02	1	Wader Spit, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
10/07/02	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Judi & Neil Russill
28/07/02	1	Wader Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
1/09/02	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Dan Blunt
3/09/02	1	Observatory Beach, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
3/09/02	2	Wader Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
9/09/02	1	Wader Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
18/09/02	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Jenny Lewis
29/11/02	1	Alfred Cove, Swan River, Perth	Mike Bamford
12/01/03	2	Alfred Cove, Swan River, Perth	Toni Webster
23/01/03	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
2/04/03	1	Stokes Inlet, about 80km west of Esperance	Alex Morrison
5/04/03	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Inka Veltheim
26/04/03	2	Kanidal Beach, 12km west of Eyre BO	Bea Myers & Ian Tarbin
7/05/03	6	Kanidal Beach, 5-11km west of Eyre BO	B. Myers, I. Tarbin, B & L. Murphy, S. Mueller
20/05/03	1	Kanidal Beach, 11km west of Eyre BO	Bea Myers & Ian Tarbin
20/05/03	1	Kanidal Beach, 12km west of Eyre BO	Bea Myers & Ian Tarbin
11/06/03	1	Kanidal Beach, 10km west of Eyre BO	Bea Myers & Ian Tarbin

Queensland

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
15/10/02	1	Cairns	Chris Doherty
2/02/03	1	Fisherman Is., Moreton Bay	Linda Cross

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
26/09/02	1	Long Reef, near Dee Why, Sydney	Keith Brandwood
3/11/02	1	Boat Harbour near Cronulla	David Hair
30/01/03	1	Boat Harbour, Botany Bay National Park	Keith Brandwood
2/02/03	1	Boat Harbour, Botany Bay National Park	Mark Husk

South Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
11/07/02	1	Nene Valley	Maureen Christie
25/07/02	1	Lake Hawdon North	Maureen Christie
9/12/02	1	Murray River Mouth, Coorong	David Dadd
9/03/03	1	Dry Creek Saltfields, 5km NW of St. Kilda	David Edey, Vicki-Jo Russell
11/03/03	1	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell	Digger Jackson
27/03/03	10	Penrice Saltfields St Kilda Adelaide	Tony Russell
10/05/03	1	Smokey Bay, between Streaky Bay & Ceduna	Bob & Lesley Murphy

Victoria

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
15/09/02	1	Marlo, east coast	David Hollands
28/02/03	1	Port Fairy	Edward Woodward
28/03/03	2	Lake Ranfurly, near Mildura	Alec Hawtin

Tasmania

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
18/08/02	1	Orielton Lagoon, Hobart	Stewart Blackhall
20/09/02	1	Cape Portland	Ralph Cooper
6/01/03	1	Georgetown Reserve, Tamar Estuary	Ralph Cooper
2/02/03	1	Pipe Clay Lagoon, Hobart	F. Wainwright & K. Cowell
16/03/03	1	Dora Point, Georges Bay	Hazel & Peter Britton & Mark Barter
17/03/03	1	Little Musselroe Bay, Northeast Tasmania	Hazel & Peter Britton & Mark Barter

Two most valuable sightings on the breeding grounds in northern Siberia – a rare occurrence for any species, especially our smallest wader. Another sighting on migration through Mongolia is also pleasing and this time it was of a bird on southward migration. Korea is right on the eastern edge of the Red-necked Stint' migration path. Taiwan and Hong Kong are right in the core area of the northward migration route.

The sighting in Malaysia is only the second for this species. On the second day it was seen, it was in the company of a yellow flagged Red-necked Stint from northwest Australia.

Very few Red-necked Stint reach New Zealand. Most previous flag sightings have been from Lake Ellesmere, near Christchurch, in South Island.

The sightings within Australia are a mixture of birds which have obviously changed their non-breeding area, birds which were on migration to/from Victoria or through Victoria to Tasmania, or wandering first year birds (some of which had gone to the northern coast of Australia for the Austral winter).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Sightings overseas

KOREA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
21/04/01	1	Geum River Estuary, Chungham Province	Nial Moores
22/04/01	1	Geum River Estuary, Chungham Province	(unknown)

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
17/05/03	1	Ne-Hai, Tayuan County	Ms. Yu, Su-Lien Ms. Pan, Ming-Li Ms. Chang, Su-Chen

Sightings within Australia

Northern Territory

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
12/05/02	1	Blue Lagoon 2, Newhaven Reserve	Bob & June Gleeson et al
13/05/02	2	Blue Lagoon 2, Newhaven Reserve	Bob & June Gleeson et al

Queensland

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
20/09/02	1	Lytton High Tide Roost, Moreton Bay	Brian Ryan

South Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
22/04/02	1	Lake Goolangirie, Coongie Lakes Region,	Brydie Hill

The VWSG does not catch many Sharp-tailed Sandpipers so it is particularly pleasing to have flag sightings reported from Korea and Taiwan as well as birds on migration elsewhere in Australia. It was especially nice to have two Victorian flagged Sharp-tailed Sandpipers seen at the new Birds Australia reserve at Newhaven, in the Northern Territory, although the 12/13 May date seems rather a late date for birds still to be in Australia on northward migration.

Curlew Sandpiper

Sightings overseas

CHINA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
30/04/03	1	Taipa-Coloane Wetland, Macao	Mr. Leung, Va

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
15/07/02	1	Tseng-Wen Estuary, Tainan county	Mr. Fu, Yung-Tsang
21/07/02	1	FuPao, Changhua County	Mr. Lin, Shih-Hsien
1/05/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Chung-Yu Chiang, Yan-feng Wu
8/05/03	1	Szu-Tsao, Tainan city	Mr. Li, Shin-Hsueh
9/05/03	2	Ma-Gon, Peng-Hu County	Mr Cheng, Chien-Hsuin

HONG KONG

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
1/04/02	1	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
4/04/02	1	Mai Po Marshes	Peter Kennerley
5/04/02	4	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
10/04/02	3	Mai Po Marshes	Ying Hak King
14/04/02	1	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
15/04/02	2	Mai Po Marshes	Stephen Harris
15/04/02	2	Mai Po Marshes	Ying Hak King
17/04/02	1	Mai Po Marshes	Ying Hak King
20/04/02	1	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
21/04/02	8	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
27/04/02	2	Mai Po Marshes	Ying Hak King
28/04/02	5	Mai Po Marshes	Geoff Carey
24/04/03	2	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader, Geoff Carey, Mike Leven
25/04/03	1	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader
2/05/03	8	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader

Sightings within Australia

Western Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
30/07/02	2	Wader Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
3/09/02	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Dan Blunt
6/09/02	1	Tattler Rocks, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Jonny Schoenjahn
9/09/02	1	Wader Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
22/09/02	1	Quarry Beach, Broome	Jenny Lewis
11/11/02	2	Sandy Blowout, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle, Chris Hassell
20/12/02	1	Lake McLarty, near Pinjarra, SE of Perth	Leon Dykstra
27/12/02	1	Lake McLarty, near Pinjarra, SE of Perth	Michael Craig
29/12/02	1	Lake McLarty, near Pinjarra, SE of Perth	John Darnell & Rolf Jensen
9/01/03	3	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
31/03/03	1	Roebuck Plains, 30km East of Broome	Jan van de Kam
6/06/03	2	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Chris Hassell
16/07/03	3	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle

Queensland

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
6/10/02	1	Manly Boat Harbour, Moreton Bay	Arthur Keates, Dawn Beck

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
21/09/02	1	Big Pond on Kooragang Is., Stockton Bridge	Hunter Bird Observers Club
21/09/02	1	Kooragang Nature Reserve, Hunter River	Hunter Bird Observers Club
11/10/02	1	Kooragang Is., Stockton Bridge	Chris Doherty

South Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
21/06/02	2	Drain M, Lake George	Maureen Christie
10/03/03	1	Danger Pt, Brown Bay, near Port MacDonnell	VWSG Members

Sightings of Curlew Sandpipers on northward migration through Hong Kong and Taiwan are normal, but it was nice to get two sightings in Taiwan on southward migration, one on the very early date of 15th July. Sightings on the Chinese coast, other than Hong Kong, are few and far between so the report from Macao on 30th April was welcome.

Most other records within Australia relate to birds obviously on migration to/from Victoria, but the one at Lake McLarty, southeast of Perth, had clearly changed its non-breeding area.

Grey Plover

Overseas Sightings

JAPAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
29/07/01	1	Tama River Mouth, Kawasaki, Kanagawa	Hiroshi Yukawa

There has been one previous sighting of a Victorian flagged Grey Plover in Korea. All other overseas sightings have been in Japan.

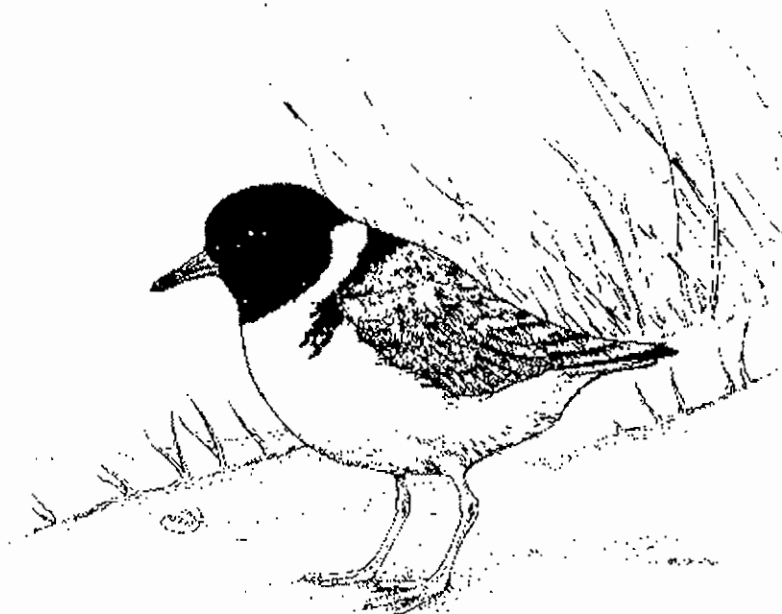
Pectoral Sandpiper

Sightings within Australia

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
23/10/02	1	Lagoon on Gronos Farm Rd, Wilberforce, near Sydney	Keith Brandwood

Only a handful of Pectoral Sandpipers have ever been banded/flagged in Victoria and this is the first sighting of a flagged bird away from the banding area. It was almost certainly flagged at Werribee Sewage Farm in January/February 2002 and was probably on its way back there when seen near Sydney.



Sightings of Waders Leg Flagged in South Australia

Report No. 3

Lauren Beasley, Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Peter Collins, Maureen Christie and Iain Stewart

The use of an orange over yellow flag code for South Australia commenced in April 1999. Previously, an orange flag on the right *tarsus* was used – for Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone only – to indicate a South Australian origin.

This is the third list of flag sightings emanating from colour marking in the southeast of South Australia – between Beachport and the Victorian border. The previous list was published in the last VWSG Bulletin (No. 25, August 2002).

Please see the introduction to the Victorian flag sightings section for other relevant information, including the caveat about the use of this flagging data.

Ruddy Turnstone

Overseas Sightings

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
13/05/01	1	Ta-chia river mouth, Taichung County	Mr. Tsai, Chung-Huang
22/08/02	1	HanBou (Hanpou), ChangHwa County	Chung-Yu Chiang, Yen-Fong Wu

NEW ZEALAND

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
31/12/00	1	Taramaire, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	Will Perry
11/02/01	1	Kaiaua, Firth of Thames, Auckland	Tony Habraken
18/05/01	1	Taramaire, Firth of Thames, South Auckland	David Williams
16/02/03	1	Tapora Wildlife Refuge, South Kaipara Harbour	Gwen Pulham et al

Sightings within Australia

Northern Territory

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
24/09/01	1	Darwin	Peter Hayman

Western Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
18/09/01	1	Bush Point, south Roebuck Bay, near Broome	Peter Collins/Ken Gosbell et al
28/09/01	1	Broome Sewage Works	Adrian Boyle
2/09/02	1	Broome Sewage Works	Adrian Boyle
3/09/02	1	Broome Sewage Works	Adrian Boyle

Victoria

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
1/10/02	1	Port Fairy	Edward Woodward

The above sightings fit well with the previous established pattern for Ruddy Turnstones flagged in southeast South Australia (and Victoria). This includes migration through Taiwan, movements into New Zealand, migrants passing through northern Australia and an interchange with the populations in Victoria. These coastal movements within southeast Australia, however, are much less prevalent than in the Sanderling.

Sanderling

Overseas Sightings

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
22/08/02	1	HanPao, Changhua County	Chung-Yu Chiang & Yeng-Fong Wu

JAPAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
23/08/02	1	Takamatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture, Kahoku-Gun	Tadao Miura, Tomio Nakagawa
31/08/02	1	Takamatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture, Kahoku-Gun	Tadao Miura, Tomio Nakagawa

KOREA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
29/08/01	1	Nak-dong Estuary	Nial Moores

Sightings within Australia

Western Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
9/09/98	1	80 Mile Beach	AWSG members
16/07/03	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle

New South Wales

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
13/10/02	1	South Beach, Ballina	Bo Totterman

Northern Territory

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
22/09/02	1	Casuarina Beach, Darwin	Gavin O'Brien
13/07/03	1	Casuarina Beach, Darwin	Gavin & Meg O'Brien

Victoria

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
19/02/02	6	East of Killarney, near Port Fairy	Edward Woodward
20/02/02	7	West of Killarney, near Port Fairy	Edward Woodward
12/10/02	4	Livingstone Is. Nature Walk, Nelson	Derek Carter
25/02/03	1	East end of Clonmel Is., Corner Inlet	Digger Jackson, Pete Collins & Peter Anton
28/02/03	1	East end of Clonmel Is., Corner Inlet	Digger Jackson, Pete Collins & Peter Anton
9/03/03	3	Between Killarney & Port Fairy	Laurie & Hazel Jones
25/03/03	5	Mills Reef or Reef Point, Port Fairy	Barbara Garrett
25/06/03	1	Between Waratah Bay & Shallow Inlet	M. Keenan, M. Hoskins, E. Thomas, J. Wilson

Sightings of leg flagged birds in Japan, Taiwan and Korea are the norm for Sanderling marked in southeast Australia. Migratory passage through northwest Australia, the Northern Territory and the east coast of Australia is also usual. The apparent "winter" movement of immature non-breeding Sanderling northwards to Broome and Darwin – mid July records – is less frequently documented.

The extensive list of sightings in Victoria is further confirmation of the quite significant mobility of this species along the coasts of southeast Australia.

Red-necked Stint

Overseas sightings

KOREA

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
26/05/02	1	Cheonsu Bay	Jin-Young Park

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
20/05/03	1	Shin-Nan, ChuangWei, Ilan County	Mr. Hou, Yi-Luen

Sightings within Australia

Victoria

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
19/08/02	1	Cheetham Saltworks Pt Cook Rd Laverton	Bernie McCarrick
1/10/02	1	Woodvale settling ponds NW of Bendigo	John & Pam Land
10/10/02	1	Werribee Sewage Farm	Maarten Hulzebusch
28/02/03	9	Port Fairy	Edward Woodward
22/05/03	1	Cheetham Saltworks Pt Cook Rd Laverton	Bernie McCarrick
26/06/03	1	Southeast corner of Lake Corangamite	Barry Mousley

The above flag sightings all fit into the established pattern for Red-necked Stint movements overseas and within Australia.

Curlew Sandpiper

Overseas Sightings

TAIWAN

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
14/04/03	1	Han-Pao, Changhua County	Chung-Yu Chiang

HONG KONG

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
24/04/03	1	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader, Geoff Carey, Mike Leven
25/04/03	1	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader
2/05/03	1	Mai Po Marshes	Paul Leader

Sightings within Australia

Western Australia

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
15/06/02	1	Stilt Viewing, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Danny Rogers
28/07/02	1	Wader Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
3/09/02	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Dan Blunt
8/09/02	1	Serpentine River Reserve in Mandurah	Marcus Singor
9/09/02	1	Wader Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
11/11/02	1	Sandy Blowout, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle, Chris Hassell
27/12/02	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle
31/03/03	1	Roebuck Plains, 30km East of Broome	Jan van de Kam
30/06/03	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	AWSG Expedition members
22/07/03	1	Beaches, Crab Ck Rd, Roebuck Bay, Broome	Adrian Boyle

South Australia

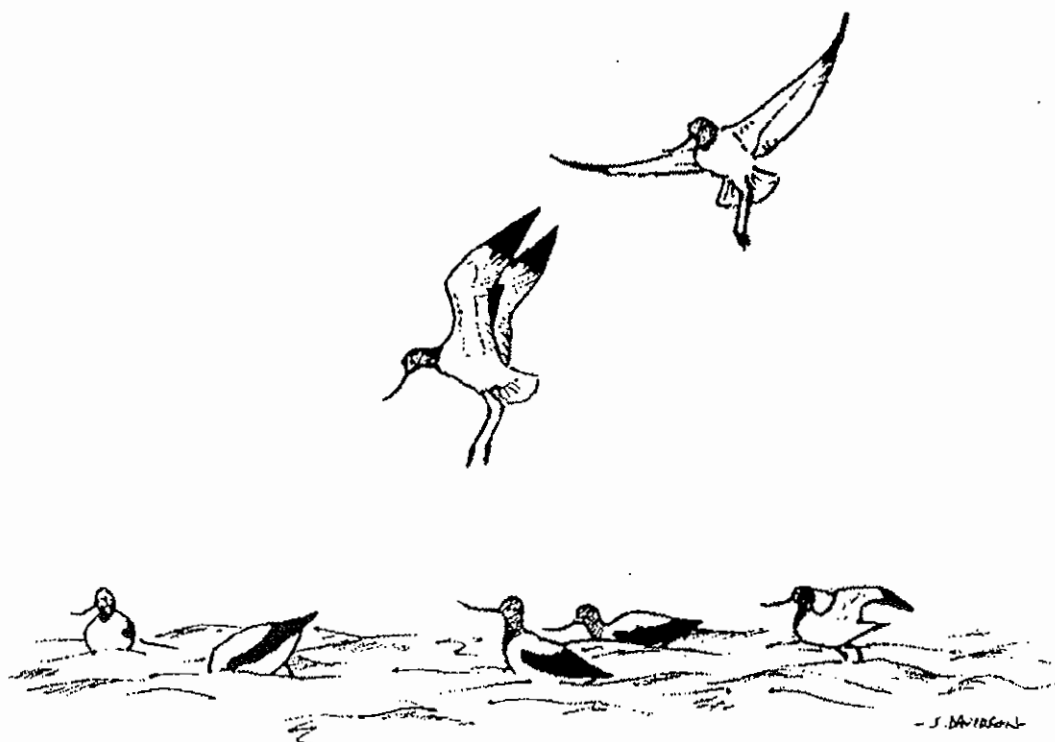
Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
21/12/02	1	Port Prime, Adelaide	Colin Rogers
28/01/03	1	East side of Baird Bay (West Eyre Peninsula)	Colin Rogers, David Close

Victoria

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer
12/06/02	1	Barry Beach, Corner Inlet	Peter Anton
18/10/02	1	Werribee Sewage Farm	Maarten Hulzebusch
26/01/03	1	Werribee Sewage Farm	Digger Jackson

The overseas sightings in Hong Kong and Taiwan are in the core migration area/time for northward movement through Asia.

Some of the sightings within Australia clearly relate to birds that have changed their non-breeding area from South Australia. The sightings in June/July each year at Roebuck Bay, Broome, refer to immature first year birds that had crossed the continent to spend the Austral winter in warmer climes.



Tern Recovery Report

Clive Minton, Lauren Beasley, Rosalind Jessop and Peter Collins

Listed below are recoveries and flag sightings relating to terns banded by the VWSG and reported during the last year (recoveries) or the last three years (flag sightings) and Crested Terns marked with coloured metal bands.

Caspian Tern

Australian Recoveries

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date recovered	Location	Km moved
09141485	Chick	10/01/02	Off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet	8/12/02	Oyster Bay, Tuan, Qld	1553 N

The coast of southeast Queensland is the main area to which Caspian Terns from Victoria migrate for the non-breeding season. The above bird had clearly remained there when one year old and not migrated back to Victoria.

Flag Sightings

Caspian Terns banded at Mud Islands

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer	Km moved
15/03/01	1	Victoria Lagoon, Gippsland Lakes, Vic	Lyn Turner	236 N
28/03/01	1	Wave Break Is. South, Gold Coast, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1401 NE
22/04/01	1	Ricketts Point, Beaumaris, Vic	Alex Farias	42 NE
4/08/01	1	Rhyll, Phillip Is., Vic	Peter Collins	54 SE
22/09/01	1	South Esplanade, Deception Bay, Qld	Trevor Ford	1460 NE
12/06/02	1	Flannagan Is., Gippsland Lakes, Vic	Margaret Regan	282 E
26/12/02	1	Buckley's Hole Sandspit, Bribie Is., Qld	Gavin Goodyear	1469 NE
18/07/03	1	Booral, 12km from Hervey Bay, Qld	Bob & June Gleeson	1627 NNE

Caspian Tern chicks banded at Mud Island have the metal band put on the right leg and an orange flag on the left leg (lower leg – tarsus).

The list of sightings above includes 3 which have, as usual, gone to southeast Queensland for the Austral winter. Hervey Bay/Fraser Island is the northern limit reached by these birds. A fourth bird, presumably still an immature, was still there in December. Most of the other sightings refer to birds in eastern Victoria, presumably on their way to/from Queensland, although one was still on the Gippsland Lakes in mid winter (12th June).

Caspian Terns banded at Clonmel Island

Date Seen	No	Location Seen	Observer	Km moved
6/02/01	1	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1326 NNE

8/02/01	1	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1326 NNE
10/02/01	1	Lake Connewarre delta, Vic	Rob Mackenzie	214 W
15/02/01	5	Victoria Lagoon, Gippsland Lakes, Vic	Jim Reside	89 NE
15/03/01	5	Victoria Lagoon, Gippsland Lakes, Vic	Lyn Turner	89 NE
15/03/01	1	Victoria Lagoon, Gippsland Lakes, Vic	Lyn Turner	89 NE
15/03/01	1	Richmond River Estuary, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1255 NE
26/03/01	1	Wave Break Is. South, Gold Coast, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1340 NNE
4/04/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
9/04/01	1	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1326 NNE
19/04/01	1	Bell's Creek, Caloundra, Qld	Jill Chamberlain	1446 NNE
26/04/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
4/05/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
10/05/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
24/05/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
31/05/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
21/06/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
2/08/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
9/08/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
16/08/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
30/08/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1446 NNE
3/10/01	1	Wave Break Is South, Gold Coast, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1340 NNE
31/10/01	1	Wave Break Is South, Gold Coast, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1340 NNE
23/03/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is., Qld	Gavin Goodyear	1420 NNE
6/04/02	1	Buckleys Hole, Bribie Is., Qld	Phil & Linda Cross	1424 NNE
14/04/02	1	Fisherman Is, Moreton Bay, Qld	Arthur & Sheryl Keates	1391 NNE
1/05/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is, Qld	Linda Cross	1420 NNE
12/06/02	1	Flannagan Is, Gippsland Lakes, Vic	Margaret Regan	132 NE
30/07/02	1	Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is., Qld	Trevor Ford	1420 NNE
22/09/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is., Qld	Arthur Keates et al.	1420 NNE
4/10/02	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is., Qld	E. Townsend	1420 NNE
8/02/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is., Qld	David Edwards	1420 NNE
20/03/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is., Qld	Terry Dillon	1420 NNE
9/04/03	1	Toorbul, near Bribie Is., Qld	Mark Ponniah	1420 NNE
10/04/03	1	Buckleys Hole, Bribie Is., Qld	Rohan Clarke	1418 NNE
11/06/03	1	Gold Scrub Lane, Samsonvale (Lake Samsonvale), Qld	Gavin Goodyear	1387 NNE

Caspian Terns banded on Clonmel Island in Corner Inlet have the metal band put on the left tarsus and an orange flag on the right tarsus. There have been an excellent series of subsequent sightings of these birds, many in the traditional "wintering" area in southeast Queensland. However one bird was still on the Gippsland Lakes in mid June, so presumably was spending the winter much further south than the main population. Most other records relate to birds in the Gippsland Lakes, probably on their way up to Queensland. There is also one in northern NSW, the southern end of the main non-breeding area.

The movement of a bird 200km westward to Lake Connewarre is unusual.

Common Tern

Flag Sightings

Sightings of Common Terns banded at Gippsland Lakes

Date seen	No	Location seen	Observer	Km moved
18/03/91	1	Off Mann's Beach, Corner Inlet, Vic	Clive Minton	110 SW
13/10/00	1	Agno River Mouth, Pangapisan, Lingayen, PHILIPPINES	Dante N. Ferrer	6696 NNW
30/11/00	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
18/01/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
27/01/01	1	Flat Rock between Lennox Head & Ballina, NSW	Arthur Keates & David Edwards	1154 NNE
3/03/01	2	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
8/03/01	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
11/03/01	2	Hastings Point Lookout, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1200 NNE
11/03/01	1	Hastings Point Lookout, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1200 NNE
16/03/01	1	Caloundra National Park, Qld	Jill Denning	1331 NNE
16/03/01	1	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1221 NNE
16/03/01	1	Hastings Point Lookout, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1200 NNE
22/03/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning & Barbara Dickson	1344 NNE
23/03/01	4	Salty Lagoon, near Evan's Head, NSW	Bo Totterman	1128 NNE
24/03/01	1	Flat Rock between Lennox Head & Ballina, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1154 NNE
24/03/01	1	Flat Rock between Lennox Head & Ballina, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1154 NNE
1/04/01	1	Flat Rock Beach, North of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1154 NNE
2/04/01	1	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1221 NNE
4/04/01	6	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
7/04/01	4	Hastings Point Lookout, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1200 NNE
11/04/01	1	Hastings Point Lookout, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1200 NNE
12/04/01	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
13/10/01	1	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
13/10/01	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
17/10/01	1	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
17/10/01	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
17/10/01	1	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
17/10/01	3	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE
20/10/01	3	Hastings Point Lookout, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1200 NNE
27/10/01	2	Flat Rock between Lennox Head & Ballina, NSW	Edward Kleiber	1154 NNE
3/11/01	2	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
17/11/01	1	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
17/01/02	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
23/01/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE

31/01/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
7/02/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
7/02/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
14/02/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
21/02/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
9/03/02	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning et al	1344 NNE
10/03/02	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Barbara Dickson et al	1344 NNE
14/03/02	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning et al	1344 NNE
15/03/02	3	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning et al	1344 NNE
28/03/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning et al	1344 NNE
29/03/02	3	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE
29/03/02	1	Salty Lagoon, Broadwater National Park, NSW	Bo Totterman	1121 NNE
4/04/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
20/04/02	1	Evans Head, adj to Broadwater NPK, NSW	Bo Totterman	1118 NNE
6/05/02	1	Hasaki Town, Kashima-gun, Ibaraki, Chiba, JAPAN	Shigeru Yamamoto	8247 N
30/08/02	1	Toyokawa River, Toyohashi-city, Aichi Prefecture, JAPAN	Masuo Watae & Tomoki Ariyama	999 W
29/09/02	1	RAAF Bombing Range, Evans Head, NSW	Bo Totterman	1112 NNE
6/10/02	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
7/11/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
29/11/02	1	Salty Lagoon, Broadwater National Park, NSW	Bo Totterman	1121 NNE
30/11/02	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
12/12/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
19/12/02	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
26/12/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
26/12/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
11/01/03	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
16/01/03	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning	1344 NNE
23/01/03	1	Caloundra Bar, Qld	Jill Denning	1342 NNE
13/02/03	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Barbara Dickson et al	1344 NNE
28/02/03	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning & Barbara Dickson	1344 NNE
6/03/03	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning et al.	1344 NNE
9/03/03	1	Flat Rock between Lennox Head & Ballina, NSW	June Harris	1154 NNE
14/03/03	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning et al.	1344 NNE
20/03/03	2	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Denning et al.	1344 NNE
27/03/03	2	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
27/03/03	2	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
27/03/03	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
27/03/03	1	Salty Lagoon, Broadwater National Park, NSW	Bo Totterman	1121 NNE
30/03/03	2	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
30/03/03	6	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE

15/04/03	1	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE
15/04/03	1	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE
15/04/03	1	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE
17/04/03	2	Salty Lagoon, Broadwater National Park, NSW	Bo Totterman	1121 NNE
18/04/03	2	Patches Beach, South Ballina, NSW	Chris & Ro Lester & Bo Totterman	1137 NNE

Common Terns have been cannon netted in the Gippsland Lakes since 1989 and most have been marked with an orange flag on the right tarsus. A few recoveries have ensued, including one in central Siberia, but most of the migratory route information has come from the very large number of leg flag sightings.

In the current list are reports of flagged Common Terns in Japan – one on northward and one on southward migration – and in the Philippines (southward migration).

The majority of flag sightings relate to birds seen in southeastern Queensland and northern NSW when on southward (late September/November) or northward (March/April) migration to/from Victoria down the east coast of Australia. However there are few sightings which indicate that some birds have remained in southeast Queensland or northern NSW right through the Austral summer and not travelled on further, as previously, down to Victoria.

Crested Tern

Australian Recoveries

Recoveries of terns banded as chicks at Mud Islands, Port Phillip Bay

Band	Date banded	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location	Km moved
?*	17/12/95	Seen	1/11/97	Robin's Beach, South Ballina, NSW	1322 NE
?*	17/12/95	Seen	13/09/98	South Ballina Beach, NSW	1320 NE
?*	17/11/99 or 6/12/99	Seen	21/12/00	Stanley, Northern Coast, Tas	280 S
?*(2 birds)	17/11/99 or 6/12/99	Seen	1/01/01	Fortescue Bay, Tasman Peninsula, Tas	605 SE
07223939	19/12/92	Sick or injured, died	7/08/01	Rippleside Beach, Corio Bay, Vic	35 W
?*	17/12/95	Seen	16/08/01	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	1496 NE
?*	17/11/99 or 6/12/99	Seen	21/09/01	South West Rocks, NSW	1128 NE
?*	6/12/00 or 16/12/00	Seen	24/11/01	Kerosine Inlet (lower Tweed Estuary), NSW	1389 NE
?*	17/11/99 or 6/12/99	Seen	16/05/02	South West Rocks, Mid North Coast, NSW	7739 N
?*	6/12/00 or 16/12/00	Seen	28/05/02	South West Rocks, NSW	1128 NE
07272220	21/12/96	Dead	5/06/02	The Neck, Bruny Is., Tas	596 SSE
07285317	3/12/98	Dead	1/07/02	The Spit, Southport, Qld	1399 NE
?*	17/11/99 or 6/12/99	Seen	23/07/02	South West Rocks, NSW	1128 NE
07292180	17/11/99	Seen	11/08/02	Buckley's Hole Sandspit, Bribie Is., Qld	1469 NE
?*	17/12/95	Seen	15/08/02	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	1496 NE
?*	17/11/99 or 6/12/99	Seen	25/09/02	at sea, off South West Rocks, NSW	1128 NE
07305102	6/12/00	Mercy killed	12/10/02	Phillip Is. Bridge, Vic	60 ESE
07272694	21/12/96	Sick or injured, died	22/10/02	Flinders Beach, North Stradbroke Is., Qld	1455 NE
07247110	18/12/94	Dead	24/10/02	Gunnamatta Beach, Vic	23 SSE
07305853	6/12/00	Dead	12/12/02	Beach near Station Pier, Port Melbourne, Vic	49 N
07318911	17/12/02	Leg found	17/02/03	Beach near Port Lonsdale Pier, Vic	12 W
?* (3 birds)	17/12/95	Seen	18/03/03	Breamlea, between Torquay & Barwon Heads, Vic	31 W
?*	11/12/02 or 17/12/02	Seen	10/04/03	Buckleys Hole, Bribie Is., Qld	1470 NE
07285174	3/12/98	Seen	10/04/03	Buckleys Hole, Bribie Is., Qld	1470 NE
?*	17/11/99 or 6/12/99	Seen	25/06/03	Between Waratah Bay & Shallow Inlet, Vic	133 E

??	6/12/00 or 16/12/00	Seen	25/06/03	Between Waratah Bay & Shallow Inlet, Vic	133 E
??	3/12/98 or 20/12/98	Seen	12/07/03	Inverloch, Vic	98 SE

*Coloured metal band

Most of the recoveries reported through the Banding Office are of birds found dead on the shore. Because the metal band number can be read, the individual bird involved can therefore be identified. However at Mud Islands, chicks banded there since 1995 have been given a colour coated metal band – different each year in order that yearly cohorts can be identified. Although some of the paint wears off, generally it is still possible to identify the colour of the bands in the field. Sightings of such birds enable the bird to be ascribed to a particular banding date (or dates). Even though the bird cannot be identified individually.

The list above contains both genuine recoveries and birds where only a coloured metal band was seen.

Examination of the pattern of movements shows that most birds move eastwards from Victoria after fledging in January and spend the next few months (March to early September), in their non-breeding areas in northern NSW and southeast Queensland.

Exceptions to the above were three birds which moved down into Tasmania (one as far as Bruny Island in southeast Tasmania) and a couple of birds which made small westerly movements.

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

Band	Date banded	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location	Km moved
07306792	19/12/00	Dead	21/08/02	Main Beach, Cowes, Phillip Is., Vic	14 NE
07247536	22/12/94	Dead	20/12/02	Point Grant, Phillip Is., Vic	Local
07286913	15/12/98	Dead	23/12/02	The Nobbies, Phillip Is., Vic	Local
07248570	22/12/94	Dead	31/01/03	The Nobbies, Phillip Is., Vic	Local
07313438	23/12/02	Mercy killed	9/02/03	Cleeland Bight, Phillip Is., Vic	20 E
07320013	23/12/02	Mercy killed	12/02/03	Cleeland Bight, Phillip Is., Vic	19 E
07319547	16/12/02	Dead	14/02/03	Cleeland Bight, Phillip Is., Vic	19 E
07313192	16/12/02	Dead	16/02/03	Forrest Caves Beach, Phillip Is., Vic	17 E
07316088	17/12/01	Seen	17/03/03	Pt Wilson, Sperm Whale Head, Lakes NP, Vic	232 NNE
07319371	29/11/02	Dead	6/04/03	Cleeland Bight, Phillip Is., Vic	19 E
07320014	23/12/02	Mercy killed	24/05/03	Eaglehawk Neck, Tasman Peninsula, Tas	553 SW

Surprisingly, fewer distant recoveries are received relating to Crested Tern chicks banded at the Nobbies. During the last 12 months none have been received from

NSW or Queensland. The furthest Nobbies movement was one bird which was recovered in southeast Tasmania.

Recoveries of terns banded as chicks off Manns Beach, Corner Inlet

Band	Date banded	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location	Km moved
07317720	21/12/02	Seen	17/03/03	Pt Wilson, Sperm Whale Head, Lakes NP, Vic	109 NE
07320390	9/01/03	Sick or injured, died	14/02/03	On ship at sea, approx 50km off Port Albert, Vic	132 E

The second of the two birds listed above could only have been flying for about two weeks. It was shipwrecked out in Bass Strait.

Controls in Victoria of Crested Terns banded elsewhere

Recoveries of terns banded as chicks at West Island, 1.5km SW of Rosetta Head, SA

Band	Date banded	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location	Km moved
07061057	31/12/85	Caught at nest	17/12/02	Mud Is., Port Phillip Bay, Vic	623 NW

Recoveries of terns banded as chicks at Troughbridge Island, Edithburgh, SA

Band	Date banded	Method of recovery	Date recovered	Location	Km moved
07287721	4/12/99	Cannon netted	1/02/03	Spermwhale Head/Ocean Grange area, Vic	939 E

The first of the above birds was breeding over 600km from its natal area. Most Crested Terns breed closer to their natal area, often in their natal colony.

Little Tern

Overseas Recoveries

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date Seen	Location	Km moved
04191587	2+	26/01/96	Albifrons Is., Ocean Grange, Lakes NP, Vic	1/06/00	Tenryu River, Nagashima, Hamakita-shi, Japan	8153 N

Most of the Little Terns present in non-breeding flocks in the Gippsland Lakes in January/February each year are birds from the Northern Hemisphere. Most breed at colonies in Japan and the above record adds to that data. This bird was identified by a unique combination of three leg flags.

Australian Recoveries

Band	Age	Date banded	Location banded	Date Seen	Location	Km moved
04200660	2+	13/03/99	Albifrons Is., Ocean Grange, Lakes NP, Vic	17/10/01	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	1125 NE
04198924	Chick	10/12/98	Rigby Is., Lakes Entrance, Vic	3/11/01	South Ballina Beach, NSW	1128 NE
04200399	2+	25/01/99	The Cut, Mitchell River, Lakes NP, Vic	8/11/01	South Ballina, nr Patch's Beach, NSW	1132 NE
04183747	2+	29/01/94	Albifrons Is., Ocean Grange, Lakes NP, Vic	24/10/02	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	1328 NNE
04192196	2+	27/01/96	Albifrons Is., Ocean Grange, Lakes NP, Vic	2/01/03	Barry Beach, Corner Inlet, Vic	148 SW

All of the above birds were identified by individual colour flag combinations. The three sightings in northern NSW and the sighting in southeast Queensland could have been either Japanese or Australian breeding birds returning from their unknown wintering area (? northern Queensland). Movements of birds between the Gippsland Lakes and Corner Inlet are not uncommon during the summer.

Flag Sightings

Little Terns flagged at the Gippsland Lakes

Date Seen	No	Location Seen	Observer	Distance
6/03/96	1	Kooragang Is., Stockton Bridge, NSW	David Geering	671 NNE
12/05/99	1	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	John Harris	1133 NNE
11/03/01	1	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1221 NNE
12/03/01	1	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1221 NNE
12/03/01	1	Kerosine Inlet (lower Tweed Estuary), NSW	Matthew Angus	1221 NNE
14/03/01	1	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1221 NNE
26/03/01	2	Tweed River Entrance, Qld	Edward Kleiber	1221 NNE
13/10/01	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
4/11/01	1	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
4/11/01	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
11/11/01	1	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
17/11/01	1	Patch's Beach, South of Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1133 NNE
17/11/01	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
8/01/02	1	Wallaga Lake, NSW	Darryl McKay	274 NE
14/02/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Dening	1344 NNE
21/03/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Dening et al	1344 NNE
29/03/02	1	Salty Lagoon, Broadwater National Park, NSW	Bo Totterman	1121 NNE
4/04/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Dening	1344 NNE
11/04/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Dening	1344 NNE
24/10/02	1	Caloundra Sandbanks, Qld	Jill Dening	1344 NNE
1/11/02	1	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE
8/11/02	1	South Beach, Ballina, NSW	Bo Totterman	1149 NNE
23/01/03	1	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE
12/04/03	1	Broadwater Beach, Broadwater, NSW	Bo Totterman	1132 NNE

The above sightings all relate to Little Terns which could not be individually identified but which had an orange leg flag on the right tarsus to indicate that they emanated from Victoria. At banding, they were thought to be birds of northern hemisphere (mainly Japanese) origin. Thus, most of the above list of sightings in northern NSW and southeast Queensland probably relate to birds on migration along the east coast of Australia on their way to/from their non-breeding area in Victoria.

Tern breeding and banding report 2002/03

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop and Peter Collins

Although “tern” does not feature in the VWSG’s name, tern studies have been an integral part of its activities almost since its inception in late 1978. Since the mid 1980s the Group has attempted to collect comprehensive data each summer on the number of breeding pairs of the various species of tern in the central region of Victoria and to band as many of the chicks produced as possible (thereby at the same time obtaining an estimate of the “productivity” each year). Since 1989 the VWSG has also been cannon netting adult terns at daytime roosts in the Gippsland Lakes, with the main focus being on Little Terns and Common Terns.

Below is a summary of activities and results in the 2002/2003 summer.

Caspian Tern

Location	Breeding Pairs	Chicks banded
Mud Islands	20	10
Corner Inlet	55	36
Totals	75	46

There are three Caspian Tern colonies in Victoria (as well as a few scattered single pairs). The VWSG annually monitors two of these – at Mud Islands in Port Phillip Bay and on Clonmel Island, Nooramunga National Park, off Port Albert (Corner Inlet). The third colony at Mallacoota is geographically too far away to be visited regularly.

The table above shows the number of breeding pairs in the 2002/2003 breeding season and the number of chicks banded, which in this case is probably slightly greater than the number which fledged. All known chicks were banded, but as usual a few of these died, or were predated before fledging.

The number of breeding pairs in both colonies has increased. At Corner Inlet this brought the figure back to the long-term average (55 pairs), but at Mud Islands, it restored the population to former levels after some decline in recent years.

Chicks at both colonies were again orange flagged and have produced some nice sightings, mainly in the southeast Queensland wintering areas.

Crested Tern

Location	Breeding Pairs	Chicks banded	banded adults retrapped at nest
Mud Islands	1200	970	118
The Nobbies	2700	2316	115
Corner Inlet	650	510	21
Totals	4550	3796	254

Crested Terns are a real success story! They demonstrate just what can be achieved by fairly simple habitat management conservation measures.

The number of breeding pairs at the three colonies regularly monitored reached a record of 4,550 pairs. The only other colony in Victoria is on an island off Mallacoota in East Gippsland and this is not regularly visited by ornithologists. This is a marked increase on the 3,400 pairs recorded the previous year and just above the highest previous level of 4,320 pairs in the 1999/2000 summer.

There is a slight decline in the numbers of pairs at Mud Islands, possibly due to the habitat maintenance at the breeding colony being made much more difficult by the ingress of a strong, tall, tough, difficult to clear grass in the last couple of years. However The Nobbies colony reached an amazing level of 2,700 pairs – not bad for a colony which was only first started 8 years ago. Corner Inlet also had a better than average breeding population of 650 pairs, with the habitat on the west end of Clonmel Island – a multitude of new, small, quite well spaced out dunes – being ideal for rather more secure (from windblown sand and storm tides) than usual nesting. All three colonies were very successful at producing young and a record 3,796 were banded. Almost all these birds are thought to have successfully fledged representing an 83% success rate in turning the single egg laid by each pair into a fledged offspring.

The long term program aimed at measuring the age(s) at which Crested Terns first breed was continued. 980 chicks were given a gold coloured metal band (NOT the pink colour foreshadowed in the last VWSG Bulletin) at Mud Island so that their age can be determined in the field when birds return to breed in future years. Scanning of the breeding adults at colonies was continued to quantify the proportion of birds carrying colour bands from the age cohorts marked during the previous 7 years. In addition, 254 banded adult Crested Terns were recaptured, by hand/hand net, at the nest.

Good results are emanating from this colour marking/colour band sighting/ banded breeding adult retrapping and it will probably be possible to discontinue the application of coloured bands after one more season. However it will still be necessary to carry out scanning and retrapping work for another 4-5 years to maximise the volume of data for the purpose of quantifying “first breeding age”.

Little Tern

No breeding was recorded in 2002/2003 at any of the normal VWSG monitoring sites.

Fairy Tern

For the second consecutive year, no Fairy Tern breeding colony was located in the Corner Inlet island complex. The weather was particularly windy in the November/January period with severe windblown sand and some storm tides. It may be that after many many years of almost completely unsuccessful breeding attempts, Fairy Terns have decided that Corner Inlet is not a good location to nest.

The only known Fairy Tern breeding colony to the west of the Gippsland Lakes was in Westernport, on French Island. They apparently had 28 nests at the usual site on Rams Island in December but these all failed due to storm tides (Chris Chandler). Apparently, some then re-nested on Tortoise Head in January – 12 nests, with at least 6 chicks observed and about 50 adults in total in the air (Martin O'Brien and Friends of French Island). Apparently, the last time Fairy Terns nested on Tortoise Head was 1967.

It is now more than 12 years since Fairy Terns have nested in Port Phillip Bay. They continued to spurn the cleared area prepared for them on one of the shingle islands behind South Spit at Werribee. This has been maintained in suitable condition since it was recreated three years ago. The experiment will be continued even though the Fairy Terns have not yet recognised the attractive housing location on offer!

Cannon netting at the Gippsland Lakes

After a gap of two years, caused by algal bloom problems, cannon netting of roosting terns in the Gippsland Lakes was resumed in February and March 2003.

Little Terns were scarce throughout the area – after negligible local breeding and the non appearance of the main flocks of non-breeding birds from the northern hemisphere. Common Terns were also difficult to catch because the very low water levels enable them to roost on an empty, but muddy, lagoon just north of the western end of Lake Victoria. Also, the whole of the Gippsland Lakes system was dominated by Crested Terns this summer.

The first visit on 1st and 2nd February mostly produced Crested Terns and only a small total (43) of Common Terns. However a return visit on 17 March, following excellent recce information from Ray and Gwenda Lyons and some skilled boat work from them, resulted in much better catches, including 135 Common Terns. It was particularly pleasing to find many of the Common Terns already banded from previous years, including one that was 14½ years old.

Of the 131 Crested Terns caught, 43 (33%) were already banded. Almost all of these had originally been banded by the VWSG at the Mud Island/Nobbies/Corner Inlet colonies. Most were still immature birds 1-4 years old. It would appear that the huge increase in the breeding Crested Tern population in Victoria, and in its breeding success in recent years is now manifesting itself in a high summer non-breeding population in the Gippsland Lakes area.

Let's hope that in the 2003/2004 summer Little Terns return to former levels and some further successful catching of both species can be undertaken.

Terns cannon netted at Gippsland Lakes -- summer 2002/03

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Common Tern	156	22	178
Crested Tern	88	43	131
Little Tern	4	1	5
Caspian Tern	1	-	1
Total	249	66	315

VWSG Conservation Officers Report 2002/03

Doris Graham

Ramsar Sites

Early in 2002 Parks Victoria, in conjunction with the Department of Sustainability and the Environment undertook a project to prepare a Strategic Management Framework for Victoria's Ramsar sites. To this end Draft Management Plans for each site were prepared and when completed were made available for public comment. The importance of these plans to the long-term future of waders in Victoria necessitated the appointment of someone to take responsibility for assessing them to ensure that maximum protection for wader habitats would be guaranteed.

Unfortunately Jeff Campbell, who had been the VWSG conservation officer for many years and who has vast and broad ornithological knowledge of waders as well as many other bird species in Australia was unavailable to do this. With considerable trepidation I accepted the job and would not have been able to carry it through without help from several other members of the VWSG and from people living and working locally to particular sites. These persons had much more knowledge than I of the needs of waders and of the many issues involved in the management of wetland and coastal biodiversity about which these plans are concerned.

Victoria currently has 11 Ramsar sites. Ten of these were listed in 1981 and Draft Management Plans for these were prepared during the past 18 months. A separate Management Plan for the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands, which was listed in 2001, was drawn up by Melbourne Water Corporation as part of the Ramsar siting process and was not available for comment. Written submissions were made to Parks Victoria in relation to nine of these sites.

Overall, major inputs were made to several specific site submissions by Clive Minton, Roz Jessop, Pete Collins, Mike Weston and Mark Anderson. In order to thank others who contributed substantially to particular site plans I have detailed them below.

Barmah Forest - Richard Loyn, Chris Coleburn.

Corner Inlet – Susan Taylor, Ross Williamson.

Gippsland Lakes - Jim Reside.

Gunbower Forest - Chris Coleburn, Simon Starr.

Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes - Miriam Pywell and the Sunraysia Field Naturalists, Mildura.

Kerang Wetlands - Chris Coleburn, John O'Bree, Tim Lowe.

Lake Albacutya -

Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline), and Bellarine Peninsula – Sue Longmore and the Swan Bay Integrated Management Committee, Colin Gibbs.

Western Port – Richard Loyn, Victorian National Parks Association via Michael Fendley, Pete Collins, Peter Dann.

Unfortunately time did not permit comments to be submitted on the Plan for the Western District Lakes.

Other Projects

The following projects, which were considered to impinge on the sustainability of wader habitats, have been examined and written submissions, sent to the appropriate authorities.

- *Phillip Island Nature Park* – Management Plans for the Rhyll Inlet/Observation Point, part of the Western Port Ramsar site, June 2002.
- *Bairnsdale Heavy Vehicle Bypass Study* - proposal to build a major road to carry heavy vehicles along the edge of Macleod's Morass, part of the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site, December 2002.
- *Lang Lang Foreshore Draft Management Plan* - an overall plan to develop "a vision" for the area between Jetty Lane and Stockyard Point, part of which is within the Western Port, Ramsar site, January 2003.
- *Point Nepean* – proposal the Victorian Government to not purchase the last 90ha of land at Point Nepean still controlled by the Federal Department of Defence and important to Hooded Plovers and Oystercatchers, April 2003.
- *Lonsdale Golf Club Redevelopment Project* - proposal to extend the golf course to the edges of Lake Victoria, an area very important to waders using the Swan Bay Ramsar site, June 2003.

Two other projects are being closely monitored as at August 2003: -

- (i) Proposed development of an industrial complex at Barry Beach.
- (ii) Proposal to create an "inland" marina, golf course and residential complex from Maher's Landing, near Inverloch, close to Red-necked Stint and Eastern Curlew roosts and feeding areas.

Conclusions: - We hope these submissions will help secure wader habitat. In order to continue to do this we need persons who have knowledge of specific areas/wetlands, which are used by waders, other shorebirds and waterbirds to volunteer to help with the preparation of submissions. If you think you may be able to help I would be very pleased to hear from you - my contact details are on the inside front cover of this Bulletin (dorris_graham@hotmail.com).

Stop Press

25/08/2003

The federal government has decided to stop its controversial sale of beachfront land at Point Nepean. The former defence land will become a public park in Commonwealth hands, with its centrepiece a marine and coastal research centre.

Arctic breeding success in 2002, based on the percentage of first year birds in wader populations in Australia in the 2002/03 Austral summer

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop, Peter Collins and Chris Hassell

Introduction

Monitoring of wader populations in S.E. Australia (Victorian Wader Study Group) and N.W. Australia (Australasian Wader Studies Group Expeditions and N.W. Australia Wader Study Group) continued during the 2002/03 Austral summer. This paper gives results of the apparent breeding success, measured by the percentage of juveniles in cannon net catch samples, during the 2002 Northern Hemisphere summer of wader populations which spend their non breeding season in these two regions, 3000km apart on the Australian continent.

This data collection is part of long term study programmes which commenced in 1978 in S.E. Australia and in 1981 in N.W. Australia. Procedures have been standardised as far as possible throughout this period. Results for the previous four breeding seasons (1998 to 2001) were detailed in Arctic Birds Newsletters 2, 3 and 4.

Methods

Only samples of birds which were caught in cannon nets were included in the data analysed. This is because previous, and current, evidence suggests that catches made by mist netting may quite often have significantly higher proportions of young birds. This is probably caused by their greater naivety, but is also possibly associated with habitat.

The dates for which data is included for the 2002/03 Austral summer samples are consistent with those used previously. Only catches made after most of the juveniles have arrived or before the adults commence their northward migration are included.

Consideration of potential limitations of this method of measuring breeding success were detailed in Arctic Birds Newsletter 2 and are still relevant.

Results

Tables 1 and 2 give the results of wader catches in 2002/03. As previously, the number and size of catches made for each species is shown also, to give an indication of the spread of samples obtained.

S.E. Australia

Overall, the 2002 Arctic Summer seems to have been reasonably good for breeding for most wader species.

Most notable was the record high proportion of juvenile Sanderling (43%). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (20% juveniles) also seemed to have a good breeding year, certainly the best for this species over the last 5 years.

In contrast, Red-necked Stint (13%) had only moderate breeding success following their exceptional run of excellent breeding seasons in three of the previous four years. Curlew Sandpipers (15%) fared moderately well, though were still down on the high level of the previous year (27%).

Another wader breeding in northern Siberia, the Ruddy Turnstone, appeared to have reasonably good breeding success also (17%), the second highest level for this species in the last five years. At one stage, it seemed possible that 2002 might have been an exceptional year for this species as the first juveniles arrived in S. E. Australia (12000km from their breeding grounds) in mid-September. Two were actually cannon netted in a sample on 21st September.

Unfortunately, Red Knot proved extremely elusive to catch this year. Certainly there were not the widespread flocks of juvenile birds around as recorded in the 2001/02 Austral summer. Some young were clearly produced in 2002 but the figures given in the table for the very small sample should not be considered indicative of the situation in the population as a whole.

The Bar-tailed Godwit spending the non-breeding season in S.E. Australia are all thought to be of Alaskan origin (*baueri* sub-species). With 16% juveniles, they had a much better breeding season in 2002 than in the disastrous 2001 (1.4%).

Of waders which breed further south in Siberia, small samples of Greenshank and Eastern Curlew suggested that they did not have a particularly good breeding year in 2002. However it should be noted that in Eastern Curlew the percentage of juveniles in cannon netted samples has always been at a very low level.

N.W. Australia

For wader populations spending their non-breeding season in Northwest Australia the 2002/03 breeding season also seems to have been reasonably good.

Great Knot had a much better breeding season (17% juveniles) than the previous year (5.2%). This is particularly welcome since in three of the previous four years breeding appears to have been very poor and populations have noticeably declined in N.W. Australia, the species' principal non-breeding area.

Curlew Sandpiper (15%) had the same proportion of first year birds as in S.E. Australia and also exhibited some reduction from the higher level the previous year (19%). Surprisingly, Red-necked Stint (41%) showed a very much greater apparent breeding success than in S.E. Australia, almost up to the record 1999/00 level of 46%. It is just possible that this N.W. Australia figure is inflated by late migrating juveniles still on their way to non-breeding areas in southern Australia. On the other hand, banding recovery data suggests that the Red-necked Stint spending the non-breeding season in N.W. Australia may come from a significantly different breeding area (N.E. Siberia) to those from S.E. Australia (Yakutia, S.E. Taimyr). If this is the case it is quite feasible that markedly different breeding success may be experienced by the two populations.

The Sanderling figure (16%), though lower than the exceptional S.E. Australia figure (43%), still indicates that the Sanderling population had a reasonable breeding season in 2002.

Red Knot appear to have had a much needed boost to the population in N.W. Australia with 32% juveniles – way higher than the low figures recorded in three of the previous four years. The Red Knot in N.W. Australia are from the *piersmai* population breeding in the New Siberian Islands, several thousand kilometres to the west of the N.E. Siberia breeding grounds of the *rogersii* sub-species which occurs in S.E. Australia. Hence it's not surprising that there is no similarity (in fact, probably a negative correlation!) between the yearly breeding success of Red Knot in S.E. Australia and N.W. Australia.

The same is true for Bar-tailed Godwit. However N.W. Australian birds had a reasonable breeding outcome in the 2001 Arctic summer and followed this with similar breeding success in 2002.

Little Curlew continue to perplex. For the fourth year out of the last five, reasonable samples were caught and the proportion of young was high (30% in 2002/03). This level (30-59%) is markedly higher than other similar-sized wader species such as Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Grey Plover. Whether there is a major segregation of young birds into the populations of Little Curlew visiting N.W. Australia or whether this is a high reproduction rate/compensating high mortality rate species is yet to be determined.

Of waders which nest further south in Siberia (or northern China/Mongolia) only Greater Sand Plover (32%) seem to have had a good breeding season in 2002. This tallies with limited data from S.E. Australia.

Discussion and Conclusion

Interpretation of percentage juvenile data must be carried out with caution, as detailed in Arctic Birds Newsletter 2. Nevertheless all the indications are that the systematically collected percentage juvenile figures in cannon netted samples of waders on their non-breeding grounds are a strong indication of the scale of variation in relative breeding success of each species/population annually. Differences between the general situation for species within each non-breeding area, or between the two non-breeding areas themselves, can generally be related to known differences in the breeding origins of birds.

Overall, it appears that 2002 was a moderate to good breeding season across the wide range of the Arctic (S.E. Taimyr, right across Siberia and into N.W. Alaska) from which wader populations come to spend the non-breeding season in Australia. Sanderling travelling to S.E. Australia and Red Knot and possibly Red-necked Stint in N.W. Australia seem to have had exceptionally good breeding seasons in 2002. No species/population fared particularly badly.

In contrast, the data suggests that some of the wader species breeding further south in Siberia had less good breeding success in 2002, probably classed as moderate to poor. The exception to this is Greater Sand Plover, which did well.

Monitoring will be continued in the usual way in the 2003/04 Austral summer, to enable estimates to be made of the success of the 2003 Arctic breeding season for wader populations which spend the non-breeding season in Australia.

**Table 1. Proportion of first year birds in wader catches
in S.E. Australia in 2002/2003**

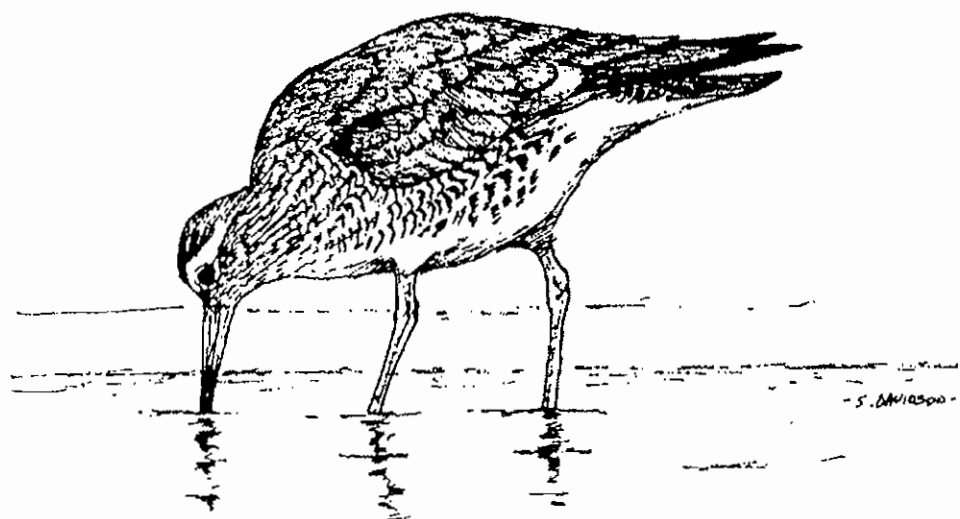
Species	Number of catches		Total birds caught	Number of first year birds	% first year
	Large >50	Small <50			
Ruddy Turnstone	-	4	89	15	17
Red-necked Stint	7	10	3357	438	13
Sanderling	2	5	459	196	43
Curlew Sandpiper	3	8	402	60	15
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2	5	270	54	20
Red Knot	-	3	12	11	(92)
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	2	164	27	16
Non-arctic northern migrants:					
Eastern Curlew	-	2	38	1	(2.6)
Greenshank	-	1	41	1	(2.4)

All catches in period 28 Nov 2002 to 27 Feb 2003 except for Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone and Red-necked Stint where catches up to 12 Mar 3002 are included.
Cannon netting catches only.

Table 2. Proportion of first year birds in wader catches in N.W. Australia in 2002/2003

Species	Number of catches		Total birds caught	Number of first year birds	% first year
	Large >50	Small <50			
Red-necked Stint	3	5	584	240	41
Grey-tailed Tattler	2	7	239	22	9
Ruddy Turnstone	-	5	12	2	(17)
Sanderling	1	-	64	10	16
Curlew Sandpiper	1	9	247	36	15
Great Knot	3	8	411	69	17
Red Knot	-	10	90	29	32
Broad-billed Sandpiper	-	2	13	4	(31)
Little Curlew	1	-	269	82	30
Whimbrel	-	2	37	0	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	3	11	424	53	13
Grey Plover	-	6	72	4	6
Non-arctic northern migrants:					
Greater Sand Plover	1	6	381	123	32
Terek Sandpiper	1	8	193	21	11
Black-tailed Godwit	-	1	33	3	9
Common Greenshank	-	5	23	1	4
Oriental Plover	-	6	19	5	26

Also Eastern Curlew (8, 2, 25%), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (8, 1, 13%), Marsh Sandpiper (1, 0, 0%), Common Sandpiper (1, 0, 0%), Lesser Sand Plover (5, 0, 0%), Pacific Golden Plover (1, 1, 100%). All catches in period 18 Nov 2002 to 16 Feb 2003. Cannon netting catches only.



Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone breeding success between 1989 and 2002

Clive Minton, Rosalind Jessop and Peter Collins

Introduction

The measurement of apparent breeding success of waders by calculating the proportion of juvenile birds in samples caught for banding is increasingly being used for demographic studies (Boyd 2001, Atkinson et al, in press). Such data is also being used to assess other methods of estimating breeding success, including observations on the breeding grounds.

"Percentage juvenile" data obtained from banding studies in Australia has been published in Arctic Birds Newsletters 2, 3, 4 and 5 and covers a variety of species for the breeding seasons 1998 to 2002. In addition an analysis of information gathered on Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper populations in S.E. Australia since 1991 was published in Arctic Birds Newsletter 4 (Minton et al 2002).

This paper presents data on Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone collected in S.E. Australia since 1989.

Methods

All data was collected from cannon net catches made by the Victorian Wader Study Group in Victoria and the southeast corner of South Australia (i.e. S.E. Australia). Only catches made in the period between the 18th November and 20th March are included. These dates were selected to ensure:

- a. All juveniles have arrived in their non-breeding areas,
- b. No adults had commenced their northward migration. For these two species, most birds do not leave S.E. Australia on northward migration until April.

Note should be taken of the potential limitations and biases in reproductive rates measured by the percentage of juveniles in banding catch samples (see Arctic Birds Newsletter 2). It should also be noted that technically it is the recruitment rate into the non-breeding population which is being measured, rather than fledging rate. Some mortality of fledged birds will have occurred already during their southward migration from Siberia to the non-breeding areas in Australia where these samples were obtained.

Results

Tables 1 and 2 give catch data and the number/proportion of first year birds for Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone respectively. Note that the Ruddy Turnstone sampling commenced a year earlier than that for Sanderling and that there is also an unfortunate gap in the Sanderling data for the 1991/92 Austral summer.

Populations

The sample sizes obtained annually need to be assessed in the light of the populations of these two species in the study area. Both species occur all along the 700km of the coast of Victoria. But numbers of both are modest by comparison to the much more numerous populations of Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit and Red Knot.

Total Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling populations in Victoria are probably normally not more than 1000 individuals during the non-breeding season. The Ruddy Turnstones are fairly widely spread in small flocks with only two or three locations where a flock of more than about 75 birds can be found. In contrast, most of the Sanderling occur at only four, widely separated, locations, with flock size at these ranging between 100 and 400/500 individuals.

In contrast, in the 60km stretch of coast on which catches were made in South Australia (just across the border from Victoria) numbers and concentrations of both species are higher. This is because of the extensive accumulation of rotting seaweed, detached from offshore rock platforms, which collects on the coast and becomes full of maggots during summer. These weed beds, and the sandy shores containing run off from them, provide extremely rich feeding resources, particularly in late summer/early autumn. Around 1000-1500 Ruddy Turnstone generally occupy this relatively short section of coast, with individual flocks often being in the range of 50-150 birds. The Sanderling population in the same area, usually confined to two locations, is also at least 1000 birds and at times nearly all of these are gathered together in one flock.

In the context of the above figures, it can be seen that the annual sampling of the Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone populations is significant.

Sanderling

The results for Sanderling (Table 1) may be summarised as follows:

- a. The median percentage first year birds in the 12 years for which samples have been obtained was 12.5%.
- b. For 7 out of the 12 years, the % first year birds was between 10 and 17%.
- c. Exceptionally good breeding years occurred in 2002 (43%) and 1997 (30%). Unfortunately no sample was obtained in the Austral summer following the 1991 breeding season. This was a year in which most wader species in Siberia had extremely high breeding success.
- d. Sanderling appear to have experience very poor breeding seasons in 1995 (3.1%), 1996 (1.5%) and 2000 (2.9%). Note that two of these were successive years. Fortunately for population levels, they were followed by one of the extremely good breeding seasons.

Ruddy Turnstone

For Ruddy Turnstone the results can be summarised as detailed below:

- a. The median percentage juvenile figure for Ruddy Turnstone over the 14 years sampled is 9.3%, significantly lower than that for Sanderling.
- b. In 8 of the 14 years, the percentage juveniles in catch samples ranged between 6 and 11%.
- c. Ruddy Turnstones had extremely good breeding years in 1991 (an unbelievable 80%), 1997 (40%) and 1999 (29%).
- d. During the whole 14 year period, Ruddy Turnstones appear to have only had two poor breeding years 1989 (0%) and 1992 (2.6%).

1992 saw widespread breeding failures around the Arctic in most species of waders (Ganter and Boyd 2000).

Discussion and Conclusions

Both Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone exhibit high year to year variations in breeding success, as is observed in most species of waders breeding in the Siberian Arctic. No particularly regular pattern is apparent in the figures for either species. In some cases the level of breeding performance is very similar e.g. in 1997 both species had exceptionally good breeding years, whereas in the preceding year both species were at, or close, to the lower end of their scales of breeding success rate. In contrast 1995 appeared to be a much worse season for Sanderling than for Ruddy Turnstone. And the exceptionally high 2000 breeding success for Sanderling was only partially reflected in the Ruddy Turnstone figures.

It would be easy to gloss over the 1989 figure for Turnstone of 0% for juveniles. Unfortunately at that time a suitable location to catch Sanderling had not yet been identified. But it is noteworthy that 1989 was also an exceptionally poor breeding year for Red-necked Stint spending the non-breeding season in S.E. Australia (0.7%) and also for Curlew Sandpipers (0.3%) in the same area (VWSG unpublished data). These figures are even lower (Red-necked Stint) or equal to (Curlew Sandpiper) the figures in the renowned poor breeding year 1992. Thus it would appear that the 1989 breeding season in the Arctic was even worse than that of 1992.

Population levels of both Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone in the study area during the last 10-15 years are not considered to have changed significantly. Normal annual variations occur but no long term trend is apparent. It would thus appear that the pattern of percentage juvenile figures, representing indexes of annual breeding success, are currently at a level sufficient to sustain the populations of both species.

Acknowledgments

Considerable thanks go to the many members of the Victorian Wader Study Group, and others, who have assisted with the fieldwork over many years. Their efforts and perseverance to obtain annually the required samples within the given time period have been crucial to gathering suitable data for this analysis.

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**Table 1. Catches of Sanderling in S.E. Australia
between 1990/91 and 2002/03**

Year	Sanderling				
	No. of catches		Total caught	No. first years	% first years
	Large >50	Small <50			
90-91	1	0	208	29	14
91-92					
92-93	0	1	35	6	17
93-94	1	1	161	23	14
94-95	0	2	49	6	12
95-96	1	1	192	6	3.1
96-97	2	0	404	6	1.5
97-98	1	4	271	82	30
98-99	1	1	110	11	10
99-00	1	0	462	58	13
00-01	2	0	243	7	2.9
01-02	4	2	483	49	10
02-03	2	5	459	196	43
Median					12.5
Mean					14.25

**Table 2. Catches of Ruddy Turnstone in S.E. Australia
between 1989/90 and 2002/03**

Year	Ruddy Turnstone				
	No. of catches		Total caught	No. first years	% first years
	Large >50	Small <50			
89-90	1	0	109	0	0
90-91	1	2	140	16	11
91-92	1	3	152	122	80
92-93	0	3	78	2	2.6
93-94	0	2	14	1	7.1
94-95	2	5	185	11	6.0
95-96	0	6	108	10	9.3
96-97	1	5	197	12	6.1
97-98	4	7	331	133	40
98-99	1	4	177	11	6.2
99-00	0	5	51	15	29
00-01	0	6	181	19	10
01-02	1	4	118	11	9.3
02-03	0	4	89	15	17
Median					9.3
Mean					16.7

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Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Graham Beal

On the annual post Christmas fieldwork visit to Werribee Sewerage Farm last year, after a successful days cannon netting, as featured on commercial TV news! some mist netting took place over a few nights. Along with an assorted species of birds, two Marsh Sandpipers were caught.

This is the 36th species to be added to the list of Waders banded by the V.W.S.G. since 1975. This is surprising as it is quite a common species although it prefers salt, brackish or freshwater wetlands and besides Werribee S.F., can also be found at Bangholme water purification plant and Avalon and Moolap Salt Works at Geelong. For example in the Victorian Bird Report, 1986-87, 1987 was described as "an exceptional year" particularly in the spring with rarely fewer than 20 at Werribee throughout the year, 86 at Geelong Saltworks 45 at Avalon as well 20 at Point Cook and up to 7 at Edithvale Wetlands.

At Broome in NW Australia 145 have been caught and banded from 1981 up to the end of the last expedition in Nov. 2002. It is commoner in the north of Australia than in the south and Tasmania. The alternative name of Little Greenshank is an accurate description. It is described as smaller, (22-25cm.compared to 30-34cm), with a strait needle like black bill and proportionately longer and more Stilt like yellow-green, grey-green or yellow legs. In non-breeding plumage the face and foreneck are whiter than Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, with no dark eye line, also black shoulders and flight feathers contrast more with grey of wings than the Greenshank. It's voice is described as a sharp 'yip-chip'; musical 'chiff-chiff'; twittering trills and a soft 'teeoo' as opposed to the familiar 'tew-tew' or 'tew-tew-tew' of the Greenshank (Pizzey). It breeds from Austria to Mongolia and as well as Australia migrates to Africa, India, s.e. Asia and Indonesia, and is regarded as vagrant in New Zealand.

Web sites for Marsh Sandpiper

<http://www.oceanwanderers.com/MarshSand.html>

http://www.naturia.per.sg/buloh/birds/Tringa_stagnatilis.htm

<http://www.thaiwaterbirds.com/eng/186n.html>

<http://www.bird-stamps.org/cspecies/6204400.htm>

Bird's-eye View

Terry Allen

The ramparted rock platform,

*castellation of brown sandstone
in a sea of foam,*

holds the waves at bay,

safe haven for waders at extreme high tide.

Beyond, breakers surge over the sandbars,

churning grit,

then curl, spurge flying,

as they crash in crescendo;

creaming foam spills over the crenellations,

rippling, purling across the flat.

In a cleft filled with rotting bubble weed

like a gigantic pasta bowl of spaghetti,

silver gulls dip and peck,

at times intimidated by three pacific gulls.

On a slight ridge, oceanwards,

five hooded plovers shelter,

walking ahead of the wavelets,

desultory pecking,

black heads and collars immaculate

against pearl grey and white plumage,

short scarlet beaks a contrast.

Incessantly foraging,

eleven sooty oystercatchers –

plump bodies dipping,

sturdy pink legs lumbering over potholes and crevices,

coral beaks probing, ever vigilant –

roam the platform, strut the strand,

sifting amid maggoty kelp.

yellow/black/red; white/white/metal sticks with the clan.

A few break ranks to search the rock pools and mussel patches.

The waves' onslaught increases, cascading from the west,

infiltrating the sides to send waves shimmering across the flat,

inundating rockpools,

herding the skittering birds close together.

Squabbling stops

as birds jump and flutter.

Distant cormorants perch on rock outcrop,

preening,

soon to be flooded off.

Two gannets crank/spindle/glide,

aerodynamic acrobats,

following the crest of a wave,

another riding a glissading tube.

Hooded Plovers maintain their duty at water's edge,

moving closer shoreward.

Rock awash, the cormorants take flight,

arrowing across the platform
to land far up the beach,
wings out to dry.

Suddenly the birds are up!

A white-bellied sea eagle curves around the coast,
over the platform, northwards.

The birds settle,

continue feeding.

A pacific gull steals a warrener from an oystercatcher,
but cannot crack it;
drops it from ever increasing heights
to lose it in a channel.

Silver gulls lift as one

to float and freed in the swelling gulch,

they join the oystercatchers at the streaming kelp heaps.

Waves rush like molten silver far up the beaches,

shimmering like shot silk,

a flurry and flirtation of flowing petticoats.

One oik, replete,

roosts, beak on back on a small knoll.

Another works a sandbank,

open beak plunging half its length,

pecking rat-a-tat.

Gulls confetti the gulch,

bobbing and ducking,

they surf to shore to the seaweed line.

One oik vigorously scratches its head;

another runs at a hooded plover.

The tide is at the full,

the waves a churning maelstrom of foam,

the platform a pasta bowl of industry.

The watcher retreats.

Harmers Haven 23/07/2001.

**A wader for your thoughts, my dear?
North-west Australia wader and tern expedition
JUNE 28 to JULY 19, 2003**

Birgita Hansen

Someone once asked me 'What is so special about Broome?' How do you answer a question like that? It is just one of those things you have to experience for yourself to understand. But for those of you, who are not satisfied with this reply, I will attempt to elaborate the virtues of Broome.

Picture this. The temperature averages about 28-35°C each day and drops to a very manageable 20°C at night. The landscape is a visual feast – especially for one from Melbourne in winter – with the land so red, the vegetation so green, the sky so blue and the sea so turquoise. The sun has more purpose here and less bite. It warms rather than burns. The people transform your daily chores from mundane to pleasurable. There can't be any better place in Australia to make leg flags, in the shadehouse at the Observatory watching the sparrowhawk get a drink at the bird bath and enjoying a coffee or a beer with the expedition members or the BBO staff. And the birds are something to behold. Even in winter, the shores of Roebuck Bay and 80-Mile Beach teem with bird life. If you think no rarities are to be seen when everyone has gone north to breed, you are wrong. Oh yes. For a relative newcomer to the group and the NWA expeditions, I could hardly contain myself at my first viewing of an Asian Dowitcher. And it is not every day that a Golden Plover is unfortunate enough to be caught with a bunch of stints and Red-capped Plover and requires a band. And then there's the Broad-billed Flycatcher that is not so careful when visiting the birdbath and ends up in a mist net. And perhaps a viewing of a Letter-winged Kite or a flock of Brolgas? And shall we just have a bit of a talk about the Lesser Frigatebirds making the count at Bush Point on Roebuck Bay's southern tip even more interesting (or more difficult, depending on your point of view). And where else in Australia can you sit in a café on the beach, supping your latte whilst the local osprey flies to and from its nest with food for its chick. No sir, no complaints here. And apart from the waders, the beers around the BBO barbeque in the pleasant evening air, there is the people. That 11 people can participate in an expedition, meeting the demands of the days catch every day for 3 weeks and still enjoy each other's company, is a wonderful thing. It is never easy to work and live with someone day in and day out, especially when things get hectic and nets don't quite fire as they should and people get stressed, but the team managed admirably. We had a great international representation (Singapore, Israel, New Zealand, Japan, England and I am sure there is something about Wales in there too) as well as a number of folks from around the country, and every person pitched in to make the whole expedition very enjoyable. As always our good man John Stote of Anna Plains Station very generously provided his facilities for our use, and we also received a surplus of fresh fish from local fishermen (a blessing or a curse depending on your tastes). One must not forget, of course, the BBO management committee members who lent time where they could (where would we be without Mrs Macs biscuits), or folks like Chris Hassell and Adrian Boyle for their assistance in counts and catches. And who could forget the lovely BBO staff for accommodating our food and alcohol and our constant presence at the Observatory at the busiest time of their tourist year.

And of course, thanks to our untiring expedition leaders Clive, Roz and Pete for bringing the whole thing together and making it work. The pay off is in the data collected for shorebird conservation, and a gap in the data on juvenile birds during winter in NWA has now been filled. Thanks to everyone who participated.

My first Cannon-netting trip to Roussac Point

Ian Connell

Having never been cannon-netting before and having very little idea of what it involves, beyond something to do with using cannons and a large net to trap waders, I was very excited and not a little apprehensive to have been invited to the VWSG cannon netting trip to Corner Inlet in July 2003.

After a two hour journey to our destination on the shore of Corner Inlet we followed a small convoy of Landcruisers and other assorted off road vehicles across the pasture land to the sea wall, where the wader group put up their base camp.

My first impressions were of how friendly everyone was and how it was absolutely no problem to explain to a complete novice what was going on. On the beach the cannon-net was put in place with the efficiency of a well-oiled machine, everyone clearly knowing exactly what to do and just when to do it. However if I thought the team would let me sit back and watch them at work I was mistaken, I was soon roped into attaching projectiles, baling the net and camouflaging it.

Once the net was set the team retired to base camp for tea and some sandwiches while the generalissimo Clive Minton carefully explained the tactics for the day. Eventually we got the news that the twinklers had successfully moved a large flock of oystercatchers in front of the net, and we were ordered to go to the foot of the bund ready to go over the top when the cannons were fired. Someone muttered something about Gallipoli and having to face Turkish guns. In no time at all we heard the boom of the cannons and we were over the top and dashing along the beach towards the net. A moment of confusion about what to do next was instantly evaporated as Clive's commands rang through the air. I found myself up to my knees in the water lifting the net up the beach onto the dry sand. I was amazed at the size of the catch, which was soon put into bags and ferried back to base camp for processing.

The processing was a very rewarding experience, working in a small team we got to work banding, measuring and recording the catch. Lauren Beasley was skilled and very reassuring when answering questions about the processing and showing how to handle the birds. Shortly before sunset the last bird had been processed and released and we were off home.

My first experience of cannon netting was certainly an event I will never forget, and given the friendly and co-operative nature of the team one I would be very willing to experience again.

Answers to questions:

1. *The 11.4cm Least Sandpiper, that weighs a maximum of 37.7g.*
2. *The Eastern Curlew.*

Being a helper at the nest

Moira Longdon

It was August, 2002, when Clive received the call from Philip Maher that a nesting event was occurring north of Deniliquin, following an inch of rain a month previously. Within 24 hours we were on our way, Clive, David Hollands and I. Clive and David are writing a book on waders and are attempting to photograph every species. The 2 species which provoked such urgency were Inland Dotterel and Banded Lapwing. Lesson No. 1 -not all waders are shorebirds.

My luggage was simple, a swag, a hiker's tent, a large pot of all in one stew and a food box. The men were laden with photography gear, hides, a few odds and ends of personal gear, camping equipment and the important stove.

Early the next morning Philip met us at a Deniliquin motel. "It's easy," he said. "We just travel north for an hour then turn right at the eagles' nest. We will probably see a couple of brolgas on the way" Sure enough there they were doing a little bowing to each other. At the turn-off there was the eagles' nest quite close to the road in a small tree.

Further up the track we reached the farming property of John and Glenys Nevinson where the birds were nesting. Perhaps because of the drought there appeared to be few stock. There was little ground cover. We piled into one vehicle and Philip showed us the Banded Lapwings which were all in one paddock. The nests were widely spaced from each other and there also appeared to be a number of non-breeding birds in small flocks. Philip said that the biggest problem which the birds faced was predation from brown falcons, however we saw none the whole time. Small flocks of ravens hung about but whenever they approached a nest too closely a squadron of lapwings would take off after them calling loudly and drive them off.

In the next paddock were the Inland Dotterels. The birds were in flocks but we could find no nests. Later the Nevinsons told us that such is the birds' power of camouflage that they had never succeeded in finding a nest. They are spectacular birds but when they turn their backs they become almost invisible or so it seemed to me.

In another paddock nearby were the eagles. This paddock had strong growth of vegetation to about 2 metres. Philip told us that the kangaroo shooters had been through here recently so this must have accounted for so many eagles being present. David remarked what a marvellous opportunity it would have been for someone to photograph eagles. It was quite a sight to see 6 or 7 eagles sitting along a fence like outsize starlings.

We then were taken to meet the Nevinsons who have a profound interest in birds and indigenous plants. Their machinery shed was filled with hundreds of plants which they are propagating from their remnant bushland. Black kites hung over the farm buildings. In the home garden Superb Fairy-wrens chased among the plants whilst from outside White-winged Fairy-wrens called from the saltbush. Each night a kestrel roosts in the machinery shed but we were too early for that. The Nevinsons very kindly offered us the use of their shearers quarters on a nearby deserted farm. This was a turn up as we each had a single bedroom complete with bed and dressing table. There was a kitchen and dining room, an ablutions block with electric hot water service and an outhouse, though we did wonder at the large stick at the door, and another one inside.

After consuming the stew, Philip took us out spotlighting in another paddock to look for Plains Wanderers but none were found. Philip says that they are much fewer in number lately. Then he left us.

The next day the real work began, but not until 1000 because David was concerned about egg chill. It was a perfect day for photography, sunny, still, but very cold. The eagles were not aloft yet. Lesson No. 2, learn to drive the Landcruiser. It was surprisingly easy. My job was to put the men into their hides and perhaps to do some gentle twinkling. Clive and David each chose a nesting Banded Lapwing, the vehicle was parked close by, then the hide was unpacked behind it. Each hide was a small camouflaged tepee large enough to take an adult person sitting and camera equipment. Then I drove away. The birds were remarkably tolerant of both the hides and the Toyota unless you put a hand or any body part outside. Clive had me move him up 3 times until he was feet away from the nest. I had to be careful lest I drove over an unseen nesting bird so followed the same wheel ruts when possible. We were in radio contact. Clive was keen to get the changeover of nesting duty when both birds were present. The nests were no more than a scrape in the ground. The off duty bird usually remained close by. In between being needed I had fun eyeballing the eagles which were perched on fences or bushes. A car is a very effective hide.

That afternoon Clive and David tried for some shots of Inland Dotterels. Our technique was to drive very slowly through their paddock with each man poised with camera at a window. There was no shortage of birds, but as we inched towards them they would maddenly pivot like little weather vanes to conceal their attractive frontal plumage, or move away out of range. And then the best moment of all came. "Chicks" yelled David. "I'll take the left, you take the right." And then they both hit the ground running flat out. It was a sight I shall cherish. The two little chicks at the sight of these huge bipeds thundering towards them flung themselves prostrate so that they resembled no more than a tiny piece of thistledown. But it did not work because each man had noted the exact spot. One little chick was covered by a hat, the other had his spot marked. David estimated them to be one or two days old, head with large luminous eye, well developed legs and a tiny body. Mother stood a little way off with a third chick, anxiously watching proceedings. Beautiful pictures were taken and we were all very pleased with ourselves.

One more go at the Banded Lapwings just as the sun was turning everything golden and then we were finished. That night Clive cooked steak and Swiss Brown mushrooms which was superb except for one frantic moment as the oil flared up nearly setting the chimney surround alight.

Back to the real world the next day after thanking the Nevinsons. I had a marvellous time and learned many things about birds and especially enjoyed being a helper at the nest. The hardest job of all remains for Clive and David, however. Having seen some of the slides, how will they choose which ones to put in the book? Perhaps they will need to publish a second book devoted solely to pictures which were not included.

Obituary - Gail Gibbs (1943-2003)

Gail Gibbs passed away on Wednesday 13th August 2003 after a three-year illness due to cancer.

Born in Sutton, Surrey, England, she met Colin, while each was an undergraduate studying Chemistry and found they also shared many other interests. After marrying they enjoyed very adventurous holidays including sailing and birding, and snow camping in the mountains of Iceland. After both worked in chemistry in Britain and Canada, they migrated with their young daughter Heather, to Australia in 1975. Colin worked at the Marine Chemistry Laboratories, Department of Agriculture in Melbourne, then in 1980 joined the Marine Science Laboratories, Queenscliff, and the family moved to a small farm nearby.

Gail was soon involved in local activities and concerns. Her enthusiasm and love of life meant that she was accepted readily into community groups and became Treasurer of the Ocean Grove Stamp Collectors Club and very involved with the Geelong Organic Gardeners. For 10 years, until 1997, she tutored Chemistry at the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Deakin University, where she was very popular with students and staff. She joined the departmental lunchtime bridge group, and then played competitively with the Geelong Bridge Club. Here, recently with one of her colleagues, Dr Roger Dillard, she won the Mixed Pairs Championship, bringing great pleasure to them both, as well as to Colin and Heather.

Since moving to Queenscliff, the family has been strong supporters of the VWSG. This support was especially appreciated when as near to the day of catching as possible, alone or with her family Gail did the necessary "reccies". This entailed walking the beaches and lagoons of Swan Bay to count by species the waders, gulls and terns to ascertain precisely where were the current favourite high-tide roosts of each species. On several occasions the teams involved in these catches were very grateful to Gail and Colin who allowed us to "camp" on the floors of their home to escape huge storms, one of which dumped much more than 25mm rain overnight and would have blown all tents into Swan Bay. Gail was also a keen participant in the tern-chick banding at Mud Islands. She was a meticulous, willing and enthusiastic volunteer. Always kind and gentle, friendly, patient and encouraging with the students and children helping us and eager to share her extensive knowledge of the environment, of waders and birds in general and of any new happenings in the area which might impinge on their security.

Gail, Colin and Heather braved the rigours of a Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) Expedition to Broome in 1998. They survived the heat, humidity, hard work, insect invasions and the extensive bushfires, which came so close to the Observatory. Despite these hazards they revelled in the wonderful bird life, especially that of the waders. Gail and Heather returned to Broome for the expedition in 2000, which they greatly enjoyed, especially exchanging notes on digital photography.

Gail always supported her family in their work and interests. Perhaps one of the most adventurous of these involved intrepid trips in a small boat to Pope's Eye in Port Phillip Bay to accompany and help Heather with her BSc Honours Research Project on Australasian Gannets.

Gail's will be sadly missed by all her friends at the VWSG and our sincere condolences go to Colin and Heather.

Doris Graham

Obituary – Angela Elizabeth Jessop (1960-2002)

Angela was born in Perth, WA on 12th October 1960 and died at the Werribee Mercy Hospital, Victoria on 3rd September 2002.

After completing a degree in Zoology at La Trobe University, for her honours year she undertook a project studying the "Foraging Strategies of the Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets) at the Laverton Saltpans, Victoria" (results published in *Stilt* 10, 15-19). To improve her skills in wader identification for this project she began going out with the VWSG early in 1982.

After completing her honours degree, she worked part-time for the RAOU at the Moonee Ponds Office from 1983 to 1985. These were pioneering days for AWSG. Angela organised volunteers to undertake bird counts (waders -regular monthly counts at Werribee as well as National Counts and Orange Bellied Parrots), liaised on the phone with counters checking data etc., input and checked count data on computer system (Apple 2E in those days!) and prepared reports for counters. She helped organise the first two AWSG expeditions (35 people) to NW of Western Australia (involving the organisation of fuel dumps in remote locations, accommodation, access to private properties and was responsible for banking). She also prepared data, maps, text for analysis of data for reports on the expeditions and was the chief motivator for radar studies of shorebird migration at Broome and Port Hedland. Part of her work involved the preparation of species distribution maps for the first issue of Simpson and Day and analysis of count data for inclusion in *Shorebirds in Australia* by Lane and Davies.

Angela then had a variety of jobs and completed a graduate diploma in accounting in 1993. She continued her interest in shorebirds regularly counting the Altona area and coming cannon-netting until her mobility decreased. She continued to keep notes on waterbirds using the wetland behind her house until a few weeks before she died. Her last paper "Gut Analysis of Five Wader Species Collected from the NW of Australia" was published in *Stilt* 43, in April 2003.

Angela was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995, and it is a testament to her courage that many people did not know how ill she was. After initial treatment resulting in remission the cancer reappeared in her bones in 1997 and she underwent radiotherapy and chemotherapy until early in 2002 when no further treatment was possible. She remained bright spirited and determined to continue her life as "normal". She died after a few days in hospital on 3rd September 2002.

Thanks to all VWSG who have offered their support over the last few months. A great thankyou to Don and Bev Blanksby who were the most understanding of employers over the last few years, allowing Angela time off as she needed it.

Rosalind Jessop

Obituary - Murray Charles Portbury (1938-2003)

One of the pleasures of attending the A.G.M. at The Minton's is seeing people that you may have not seen since last years meeting or on a fieldwork outing. One person who I always enjoyed catching up with was Murray Portbury. We would chat about what birds we had or had not seen lately, how things had gone on the last survey or other places we had visited etc. I was therefore shocked and saddened to hear of his sudden death.

He first joined The Bird Observers Club in 1953 and left in 1960 due to family commitments. He rejoined in 1970 and had been a team leader for the B.O.C.A. Westernport Survey for the last 10 years.

This is one of Australia's longest surveys and is now in its 30th year. He conducted counts on French Island and always kept Clive informed of what the situation was with Fairy or Little Terns on Rams Island and any Oystercatcher sightings.

He had also been a Birds Australia and V.W.S.G. member for several years and helped out on fieldwork trips whenever possible, often bringing along a friend to enjoy a pleasant day of cannon netting and share his fascination of migratory waders. One of his favourite spots, which many of us also appreciate, was Stockyard Point on Westernport Bay. Just before his death he told a long time friend and fellow birder, Murray Bouchier, that he was feeling better and fancied a visit there. For bush birds he liked to visit Long Forest Reserve, north of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria. His other favourite birds were raptors.

An Electrical contractor by trade Murray or "Muzz" as he was affectionately known by his close friends and family, enjoyed photography and beekeeping as other hobbies. He had up to 30 hives which he kept at such locations as Seymour, Wallan and Warrandyte.

He first became unwell in February this year and died peacefully of a heart attack, in his sleep at his home in the Eastern Melbourne suburb of Park Orchards on the morning of Sunday 25th May. He was aged 65 years.

I'm sure many members would like to join me in offering our condolences to his wife Margaret and Children Andrea, Mark, David, Matthew and Sarah.

Graham Beal

VWSG Financial Report 2002/2003

Below are details of the income and expenditure of the VWSG in the year to 30th June 2003, together with the cash position at the beginning and end of the financial year.

It was again a year of heavy expenditure on refurbishing and expanding equipment. If one excludes monies received (in advance) from the EnviroFund (\$9,465) relating to preparing information on Shallow Inlet and Discovery Bay, and a Coast Action/Coastcare grant for the Pied Oystercatcher breeding survey (\$16,380), then income was \$7,240. Expenditure, excluding the Pied Oystercatcher project (\$18,439), was \$10,919. We thus spent, on our normal operations and on capital equipment, almost \$3,700 more than our income. This was in spite of a generous grant of \$2,980 received from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (via Coast Action/Coastcare) towards the costs of new equipment.

The loss was, fortunately, covered by accumulated reserves from previous years. It is hoped that in the future equipment costs will reduce to a more normal level.

In the light of the financial performance in recent years the VWSG subscription will be increased to \$20 (from \$15) for the 2003/04 year. This increase has to be ratified at the AGM on the 30th August. On the assumption this occurs, then all members will be expected to pay the higher rate for this financial year.

Financial Statement from 1st July 2002 to 30th June 2003- Victorian Wader Study Group Inc.

Income	\$	Expenditure	\$
Subscriptions	1,689.75	Printing Bulletin	1,413.50
Bank Interest	731.26	Postage & Stationary	495.00
Sale of bulletin	5.00	Photocopying	177.00
Donation P. Hermans	20.00	Phone calls re: cannon-netting teams	345.19
Surplus from AGM food	174.20	Bank & Government charges	46.30
Surplus - Yanakie trip - food	80.30	Incorporation charges	33.00
Surplus from Manns Bch rent	32.00	Shorebirds Inserts	125.00
Hire of nets to Phillip Island Nature Park	250.00	South Australian banding license	50.00
Sale of net to Royal Ontario museum	778.03	Boats & fuel (Barralliar Island)	181.00
Sales of fuses to NZ WSG	100.00	Misc expenses (flowers, gifts etc)	161.21
Sub-total	3,860.54	Sub-total	3,027.74
		Equipment	
		Firing boxes -- new & repairs	1,600.00
		Elastic cord and twine	169.00
		Oyk colour bands	295.00
		Balance repairs	88.00
		Windbreak & stool repairs	80.00
Grants		Glue	120.00
NRE September 2002 for consumables	400.00	Trailer reg. Repairs and tyre	93.00
NRE June 2003 for equipment	2,980.00		
Aust Gov Enviro Fund			
Shallow Inlet	3,679.00		
Discovery Bay	5,786.00		
Coast Action Coast Care	16,380.0	Colour bands (Darvic)	576.74
Oystercatcher Breeding Survey	0	Fuses	1,834.80
Sub-total	29,225.0	Netting and ropes	2,116.00
	0		
		Paint, batteries, grease, soap	68.90
		Radio batteries	300.00
		Repairs to cannons	549.50
		Sub-total	7,890.94
		Coast Action/Coast Care expenses	
		Oyc breeding success project	18,439.85
		Labour, equipment, travel expenses	
TOTAL INCOME	33,085.54	TOTAL EXPENSES	29,358.53
Cash balance 01/07/2002	19.45	Cash balance 30/06/2003	
Petty Cash	607.60	Petty cash	0.55
Bank of Melbourne Account	18,103.00	Bank of Melbourne Account	1,262.79
Macquarie Account	18,730.05	Macquarie Account	22,121.31
Total		Total	23,384.65
Unpresented cheque	67.10	Unpresented cheques	994.69
Net total	18,662.95	Net Total	22,389.96
TOTAL CASH together with	18,662.95	TOTAL CASH together with	22,389.96
TOTAL INCOME	33,085.54	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	29,358.53
	51,748.49		51,748.49

VWSG Inc Membership List

Bev & Geoff Abbott
Rick Aitchison
Richard & Margaret Alcorn
Charles & Jocelyn Allen
Terri Allen
Mark Anderson
Peter Anton
Gabrielle Archard
Allen Archbold
Bruce Atkin
Steve & Robyn Atkinson
Mark & Terry Barter
Graham & Jenny Beal
Lauren Beasley
Rob & Gail Berry
Mark Bezuijen
Pat Bingham
Malcolm & Judy Brown
Paul & Anna Buchhorn
Barbara Burns
Tanya Butcher
Margaret Cameron
Jeff & Sarah Campbell
Smathie Chong
Maureen Christie
Alan Clarke & Marj Reni
Mike Connor
Dave Cropley
Rosemary Davidson
Michael Dawkins
John Dawson
David (Frankie) Farrar
Ren & Norma de Garis
Kathryn Goyen
Julie Deleyev
Jill Denning
Lee Duclos
Andrew Dunn
John Eckert
Dianne Emslie
Alice Ewing
Jon Fallaw & Becky Hayward
Damian Howard
Maureen & Robin Fitzgerald
Tim Gale
Dave Gerard
Colin Gibbs
Heather Gibbs
Peter & Melanie Gibbs
Dave Gillison
Ken & Carlene Gosbell
Andrew & Kath Gosden
Doris Graham
Bob Green
Nicole Grenfell
Tim Gunn & Petina Pert
Angie Gutowski
Tony Habraken
Paul Hackett
Birgita Hansen
Sue Harris
Neville & Robin Hatten
Brian & Toni Haywood
Peter Hermans
Margaret Hollands
Vivien Holyoake
Peter Houston
Tania Ireton
Ros Jessop & Peter Collins
Penny & Murray Johns
Barbara Khalifa
Irma Kluger
Ken & Femmie Kraaijeveld
Joy Knight
Leona Knight
Tessa Lamin
Brett Lane
Rowena Langston
Janet Limb
Laurie Living
Maira Longden
Sue & Andy Longmore
Richard & Debbie Loyn
Donald & Meg Macmillan
Ellen McCulloch
Pat McWhirter
Brian Martin
Krystii Melaine
Tove Melgaard
David Melville
Clive & Pat Minton
Barbara Moss & Peter Mitchell
Stewart Monckton
Melanie Mumford
John Munro
Brenda Murlis
Priscilla Park
Hugo Phillipps
Gordon Phillips-Ross
Heather Phillipson
David Phillipson
Thomas Putt
Susan Quirk
Jim, Jenny, April & Shane Reside
Roger & Annabel Richards
Bruce Ridgeway
Ken, Annie & Danny Rogers
Thierry & Joanne Rolland
Paul & Natalia Rose
Neville & Nancy Roussac
Graeme & Margaret Rowe
Stuart & Liz Sarraithe
Debra Saxon-Campbell
Ira Savage
Clinton Schipper
Andrew Silcocks
Charles Silveira
Howard Simco
Jenry Skewes
Colin Smith
Roger Standen
Will & Angela Steele
Iain, Sandy, Sally, Anna & James Stewart
Bob Swindley
Sally Symonds
Susan Taylor
Deryn Thomas
Pavel Tomkovich
Leon Trembath
Lyn Turner
Megan Underwood
John Vaitkunas
Paul Van Loon
Helen Vaughan & Rodney McFarlane
Inka Veltheim
Keith Ward
Andrew Wells
Mike Weston
Jim & Anthea Whitelaw
Ross Williamson
Jim Wilson
Avron Woolf
Prue Wright
Bulletins also sent to
Arthur Rylah Institute
Australian Bird & Bat Banding Scheme
Australasian Wader Studies Group
Barren Grounds Bird Observatory
Birds Australia
Bird Observers Club of Australia
Broome Bird Observatory
CSIRO Library, ACT
Dept. of Defence, Swan Is. Queenscliff
Eyre Bird Observatory
French Is. Head Ranger FINP
Highland Ringing Group, Scotland
Hong Kong- Geoff Carey
Japan- Kiyo Ozaki Bird Mig. Res. Cent.
Korea- Jin Young Park
Melbourne Water (Werribee Sew. Farm)
Melbourne Museum
National Library- ACT
NRE Geelong
NSW Wader Study Group
NWA WSG- Chris Hassell
NZWSG- Adrian Riegan
Queensland Wader Study Group
Phillip Is Nature Park
Parks Victoria, Foster
Parks Victoria, Queenscliff
Parks Victoria, Wonthaggi
Senckenbergische Bibliothek
Taiwan Dr W H Fang
Vic. Ornithological Research Gp
Victorian State Library
Wash Wader Ringing Group
And landowners on whose property the group operates in Victoria

Journal of the Victorian Wader Study Group
Bulletin Number 26 2003

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