VICTORIAN WADER STUDY GROUP

STUDY GROUP

VICTORIAN WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN NO. 3 JANUARY 1981

I N D E X

1.	VWSG OFFICE BEARERS		1
2.	EDITORIAL	by David Robertson/ Clive Minton	2-3
3.	VWSG WADER BANDING TOTALS	by Clive Minton	4-5
4.	HOODED PLOVER SURVEY	by Brett Lane	6-8
5.	VWSG RECOVERIES	by David Robertson	9
6.	SIGHTINGS OF COLOUR-MARKED BIRDS	by Clive Minton	10-11
7.	HOW MANY WADERS?	by Peter Curry	12

VWSG Officers

Co-convenors:

Dr Clive D T Minton
74 Dendy St, Brighton 3186 Vic
Tel: (03) 592 6640 (home)
267 5800 (work)

Dr David Robertson
36 Jacka St., Macleod, Vic 3085
Tel: (03) 458 1421

Treasurer:

Miss Julie Strudwick
** Unit 8, 95 Roseberry Street,
Ascot Vale, Vic 3032

Committee:

Mr Peter Dann
Mrs Berrice Forest
Mr Brett Lane
Mr John Martindale
Mr Ira Savage

Subscription Rates:

Full Member	$10.00
Student, Associate, Country or Interstate member	5.00 *

* includes cost of all Bulletins

** from mid-June 1981

EDITORIAL

The last six months have seen continued progress for the Group. Some useful catches of waders have been made, exciting overseas recoveries have been reported, the first comprehensive breeding survey of an Australian breeding wader was carried out (Hooded Plover), and plans were formulated for the creation of an Australasian wader study group.

The July to December 1980 field work programme got off to a poor start with a completely blank weekend in July - the first time we have ever failed to make a catch during a whole weekend's field work! However, thereafter success was above normal and some particularly valuable samples were obtained. The first of these was a small catch of Double Banded Plovers at Spectacle Ponds, Altona, on 10 August. These birds were on the point of departure for their breeding grounds in New Zealand and showed substantial weight increases over their normal fat-free winter levels. Calculations confirm that the pre-migratory fat deposits recorded are sufficient to enable these birds to fly direct to the South Island of New Zealand in one flight.

Regular samples of our three main study species - Rednecked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Sharptailed Sandpiper - were obtained from the end of August (giving some interesting data on arrival weights after migration) right through to the end of the year (providing much data on moult). This was partly facilitated by the fortuitous drying out of one of the sewage tanks at Werribee, just north of the mouth of Little River. This enabled greater concentrations of catchable waders than is normal in the spring - the largest catch was 558 on 4 October. Also a new technique/location for catching was discovered on the foreshore at Little River mouth. Concentrations of waders return to start feeding soon after the tide has turned and before the beach is too wide to make cannon netting impracticable. Unusually good catches of Curlew Sandpipers in particular were made in this way.

The Group visited the Yallock Creek area on Westernport Bay again on 23 November to sample the wader populations there. Members of the Australian Bird Study Association joined us in the field and we were fortunate to make an excellent catch of 842 birds. About one quarter of these were carrying bands from our previous visit in December 1979 and we were fortunate also to catch a Rednecked Stint banded at Stockyard Point in 1974 (one of very few waders previously banded in Westernport).

Other particularly notable events during the period were the catching of 34 Bartailed Godwits and 15 Great Knots, soon after their arrival, at Queenscliff on 28 September. The VWSG's first Longtoed Stint was mistnetted on 22 October at Werribee. And then in early December Brett Lane had the unusual experience of having to chase birds <u>out</u> of the catching area before he could fire the cannon net safely - he had to reduce the potential catch from a few thousand to a few hundred because of the small size of the team (only eight people). The half year, however, ended as it began with a blank three-day visit to Anderson's Inlet between Christmas and New Year. Plenty of waders were present but efforts to catch them were frustrated by strong winds and high tides.

The latest recoveries of banded waders are detailed later in this Bulletin but two deserve special mention. A Curlew Sandpiper banded on the Spit at Werribee in January 1980 was reported in China on 12 May. This is only the third Australian banded bird to be recovered in China and follows closely on the report of another Curlew Sandpiper in Hong Kong on 11 April, mentioned in the last Bulletin. A Rednecked Stint, colour-dyed at Werribee, was also observed at Hong Kong in late April. An even more surprising report was that of another Curlew Sandpiper, banded at Werribee in November 1976, recaptured by an Indian bander in the Madras region (south east India) at the end of August 1980. This was the first movement of a banded bird from Australia to India. Whichever direction this bird would have taken on its further journey back to Australia it would have had to have made a very long sea crossing. It is these exciting recoveries, coming months or even years after original banding, which provide the return on investment of time and effort in the field and which are gradually enabling us to build up an outline of the migratory routes of waders between Australia and their Arctic breeding grounds.

The Hooded Plover breeding survey, carried out on Election Day weekend in October, was a major success. Virtually the whole of the Victorian coastline was covered by a large team of energetic observers and a most useful base line population (as well as other data relevant to conservation) was established against which future changes can be monitored. The results - only 463 birds in the whole of Victoria - certainly confirmed the worst fears about the low population level of Hooded Plovers in Victoria. It is to be hoped that other States inhabitated by breeding Hooded Plovers are surveyed in the near future so that the total Australian population and distribution of Hooded Plovers can be ascertained.

The VWSG took part in an informal meeting, convened by the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, of people interested in waders from throughout Australasia and Papua New Guinea. The meeting, held in Melbourne in August 1980, suggested that an Australasian wader study group should be formed in order to promote and co-ordinate the study of wading birds in the region. The RAOU is hoping to obtain funds to enable a national organiser of wader studies to be appointed for at least a three-year period. Australia is a major wintering area for Palaearctic waders and waders make up a very significant part of Australia's avifauna. Little is known of their habits and at this stage still less is known of their migration routes. Although the number is growing rapidly, there are still relatively few people studying them. Yet they are some of our most interesting and beautiful birds. The VWSG strongly supports the RAOU's proposals, which will be of considerable benefit to the future conservation of waders and their habitats in Australia and elsewhere on their migratory journeys.

DAVID ROBERTSON
CLIVE MINTON

WADER BANDING DETAILS

CATCHES IN VICTORIA - JULY TO DECEMBER 1980

	NEW	RETRAPS	TOTAL
Grey Plover	2	-	2
Redkneed Dotterell	4	-	4
Doublebanded Plover	12	1	13
Redcapped Plover	9	4	13
Rednecked Avocet	2	-	2
Turnstone	1	-	1
Latham's Snipe	5	-	5
Bartailed Godwit	34	-	34
Red Knot	4	-	4
Great Knot	15	-	15
Sharptailed Sandpiper	283	6	289
Rednecked Stint	1967	375	2342
Longtoed Stint	1	-	1
Curlew Sandpiper	417	58	475
	2756	444	3200

The above birds were caught at Werribee (2282), Westernport Bay (842), Queenscliff (54), Altona (16) and Seaford (6).

LOCATIONS OF WADERS CAUGHT BY VWSG IN VICTORIA TO DEC 1980

Werribee	13,365
Westernport Bay	2,384
Queenscliff	903
Corner Inlet	886
Seaford Swamp	98
Altona	52
Mud Island	22
	17,710

These totals include both newly banded birds and retraps.

ANNUAL WADER BANDING TOTALS BY VWSG

VICTORIA

CALENDAR YEAR	NEW	RETRAPS	TOTAL
1975	9	-	9
1976	616	4	620
1977	482	12	494
1978	1296	42	1338
1979	7436	486	7922
1980	6121	1206	7327
Total catches in Victoria	15960	1750	17710
TASMANIA* 1979	1244	83	1327
SOUTH AUSTRALIA* 1980	815	5	820
Total catches in which VWSG involved	18019	1838	19857

* Catches made on visits to these States in association with local banding groups.

THE HOODED PLOVER SURVEY, OCTOBER 1980

Between 11th and 27th October 1980, 65 people took part in a survey of Victoria's sandy ocean beaches to determine the population and distribution of the Hooded Plover (Charadrius rubricollis) in this State. The survey was organised to coincide with the plover breeding season. A total of 463 Hooded Plovers were counted, indicating that the species is not common in Victoria. Habitat data was also collected, for correlation with variation in numbers and distribution along the coast. The majority of birds were in pairs, as would be expected.

From the habitat data, it was clear that Hooded Plovers occurred in highest numbers on beaches either backed by extensive dunes, or with lots of beach-washed sea-weed. This seaweed is known to grow on rocky shores and indeed, beaches with significant amounts had associated rocky shores. The lowest concentrations occurred on long narrow sandy beaches backed by either narrow dunes or cliffs (e.g. Ninety-Mile Beach, Warrnambool-Cape Otway).

These variations can be explained by the nesting requirements of the species. Literature records, and those of survey participants, indicate that the bird will breed in suitable areas in dunes, or on the beach above high tide level. Beaches which provided either of these types of nesting habitat had higher numbers (e.g. Dunes-Discovery Bay, Bridgewater Bay, Portland Bay, Cape Howe to Mallacoota; Beach-Sydenham Inlet to Sandpatch Point).

In addition, food availability would be expected to exert an influence on the numbers of birds on a beach. It would be expected that beaches with associated rocky areas and consequent beach-washed seaweed would be more productive due to the higher input of organic matter in the form of rotting seaweed. Higher plover numbers on such beaches probably reflect this (e.g. Port Fairy area, Sydenham Inlet to Sandpatch Point).

The lack of both suitable breeding habitat and associated rocky shores would account for the paucity of birds along the Warrnambool-Cape Otway stretch and Ninety-Mile Beach.

Superimposed over the variation in densities due to these habitat factors is a general trend of higher numbers in the west and lower numbers in the east. This trend is continued beyond Victoria, as evidenced by high numbers on a stretch of beach in South Australia and very low densities in southern New South Wales, found in similar surveys at the same time.

Perhaps one of the most significant findings of the surveys was the low numbers of birds between Apollo Bay and Inverloch. Here the correlations between habitat features and plover numbers no longer hold, pointing to the negative effect of heavy recreational use of beaches. This result has implications for the future viability of the Hooded Plover population in the light of the present rapid, haphazard development of Victoria's coast.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the survey; the results are a credit to their work. I would particularly like to thank Miss Julie Strudwick and Dr Clive Minton for invaluable assistance in organising the survey.

BRETT LANE

TABLE I Summary of Distribution Data

Area	Km. of beach	No of birds	Birds per km.
Western Victoria (S.A. Border-Cape Otway)	149	212	1.42
Central Victoria (Cape Otway-Wilsons Prom.)	221	117	0.53
Eastern Victoria (Wilsons Prom.-NSW Border)	338	129	0.38

TABLE II Details of Distribution Data

	No. of Birds	
Western Victorian Beaches	212	
Discovery Bay		36
Bridgewater Bay		22
Portland Bay		84
Cape Reamur - Port Fairy		22
Port Fairy - Warrnambool		48
Warrnambool - Cape Otway		0
Central Victorian Beaches	122	
Cape Otway - Apollo Bay		5
Apollo Bay - Anglesea		0
Anglesea - Breamlea		1
Breamlea - Point Lonsdale		15
Point Nepean - Point Leo		7
Phillip Island		15
San Remo - Powlett River		6
Powlett River - Inverloch		4
Venus Bay (incl. Cape Liptrap)		25
Waratah Bay		7
Wilsons Promontory (West Beaches)		37
Eastern Victorian Beaches	129	
Wilsons Promontory (East Beaches)		11
Snake Island - Eastern Corner Inlet		14
Eastern Corner Inlet - Lakes Entrance		23
Lakes Entrance - Marlo		10
Marlo - Cape Conran		7
Cape Conran - Sydenham Inlet		6
Sydenham Inlet - Point Hicks		24
Point Hicks - Sandpatch Point		16
Mallacoota Aerodrome - Mallacoota Inlet		1
Mallacoota Inlet - NSW Border (Cape Howe)		17
TOTAL	463	

TABLE III Details of Group Size Distribution

Size of Group	Number of Groups	[A](%)*
1	40	(9.92)
2	138	(66.25)
3	17	(12.65)
4	2	(0.99)
5	4	(4.96)
6	0	
7	0	
8	1	(1.98)

A This figure refers to the data for which forms have been received from participants, and totals 403 birds.

* The percentage is that of the number of individual birds for which this information has been received (i.e. 403)

TABLE IV Significance of National Parks

Area	No. of Birds	% of State Pop.
Discovery Bay Coastal Park	36	7.86
Cape Schank Coastal Park	7	1.53
Wilsons Promontory National Park	48	10.48
Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park	21	4.58
Croajingalong National Park	58	12.66
TOTAL	170	37.12

RECOVERIES OF BANDED BIRDS

The original banding details are on the top line and the recovery details on the lower line. Local retraps and recoveries are not included.

WADERS BANDED AND/OR RECOVERED IN VICTORIA BY VWSG

Curlew Sandpiper

040-97080	Adult	30.12.79	Corner Inlet	
	Found dead	1.3. 80	Woodside	26 km NE
040-97136	Adult	13.1.80	The Spit, Werribee	
	Caught	12.5.80	Ning-Bo, Zhejiang, China	7700 km NNW
040-92431	Free-flying	20.11.76	The Spit, Werribee	
	Recaptured	29.8.80	Point Calimere, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu, India	8540 km NNW

Two firsts: our first recoveries from China and India, plus our furthest movement from Victoria and our 'oldest' wader recovery. It is also the first recovery for Australia in India.

Bar-tailed Godwit

071-50937	Adult	24.12.79	Corner Inlet	
	Shot	early Feb 1980	Port Albert	8 km W

This bird was unfortunately identified and shot as 'a snipe"!

NON-WADERS BANDED AND/OR RECOVERED IN VICTORIA BY VWSG

Crested Tern

071-50925	Pullus	31.12.79	Corner Inlet	
	Found dead	6.7.80	Bateman's Bay, NSW	480 kmNE
071-50854	Pullus	29.12.79	Corner Inlet	
	Found alive	27.7.80	13 km ENE of Lakes Entrance	190 kmENE

Two birds banded almost simultaneously and found within days of each other 300 km apart

071-50940	Pullus	31.12.79	Corner Inlet	
	Recaptured	8.10.80	Ocean Grange	170 km NE

FURTHER SIGHTINGS OF COLOUR MARKED WADERS

Further reports of colour-dyed and colour-banded waders have been received since those listed in the July 1980 VWSG Bulletin, although no further birds have been colour marked since that time. Details of sightings away from the Werribee marking area are:

COLOUR-DYED (YELLOW/ORANGE)

	Distance moved	Observer
Rednecked Stint		
- late April, Hong Kong	7200 km NNW	David Melville
- 7.7.80, Fraser Island, Qld	1570 km NE	Martin Schulz
- 9.7.80, Lake Corangamite (2 out of 600 birds present)	100 km SW	Andrew Carrick
- 27.7.80, Meningie, Coorong, SA	550 km WNW	Andrew Black
- 8.8.80, Spectacle Ponds, Altona (3 out of 150 birds present)	26 km NE	Ira Savage
Redcapped Plover		
- 19.7.80, Lake Connewarre (1 out of 100 birds present)	23 km SSW	Ira Savage
- 8.8.80, Spectacle Ponds, Altona (2 out of 20 birds present)	26 km NE	Ira Savage
Double-banded Plover		
- 19.7.80, Barwon River Mouth (8 birds - colour dyed at Queenscliff)	16 km W	John Pratt

COLOUR-BANDED (BLUE)

Pied Oystercatcher		
- 29.6.80, Rosebud (2 out of 10 birds seen)	45 km SE	Mike Carter et al
- 12.7.80, Queenscliff (3 out of 28 birds present)	25 km SSE	VWSG

A single Werribee colour-banded Oystercatcher was at Queenscliff from June 1980 until at least early 1981

- 27.9.80, Bass River, Westernport Bay (1 out of 14 birds present)	95 km SE	Peter Dann

It appears that the one year old Rednecked Stints, which overwinter in Australia, are much more mobile in winter than during the summer period (see previous VWSG Bulletin). Whilst there were some Redcapped Plover movements noted it is disappointing that none of these related to observations in the breeding season, to indicate dispersal from wintering grounds. Observations may have been rendered more difficult as in most birds only the yellow underwing coverts remained until the breeding season (Sept-Dec), the remaining underparts having been moulted.

Considering that only 40 Pied Oystercatchers have been colour-banded at Werribee the number of movements observed would suggest that this species is quite mobile, both within Port Phillip Bay and even including Westernport Bay (see previous VWSG Bulletin also).

No colour-dying was carried out during the 1980-81 summer, but it will be resumed on selected species (Doublebanded Plovers and possibly Redcapped Plovers) in winter 1981.

C D T MINTON

HOW MANY WADERS?

As your stint continues, and you wade through lots of tattle on the subject, the question will probably strike you - willet make a difference if you turn(stone) yellowlegs and tie yourself in knots? It probably wood matter if you had mongolian features but to stop people sniping at you, put your long toes forward and ride ruff-shod over the silly plovers who try to be sharp by asking you to take up the merest whim(brel). Send all the bills to Margaret, no matter how broad they may be. Don't be misled by the red-caps who have banded together and become prone to wandering. Rather than being stilted, get down on your pectorals and have a ruddy good try to un-mask those of a hooded countenance. God give you wit.

(Vintage Curry - Ed.) PETER CURRY

VWSG IN JAPAN

Issue No 226, 1980 of the Japanese magazine Nature carries an article titled "The Investigation of Australian Migratory Birds" which was prepared jointly by the Australian Information Service and the Secretary of the Australian Bird Banding Scheme, David Purchase. I am indebted to Professor Jiro Kikkawa of the Queensland Ornithological Society for a translation:

"This programme (the Australian Bird Banding Scheme, Ed.) is in close co-operation with the Yamashina Ornithological Institute which is responsible for the bird banding programme in Japan. Mr David Purchase is in charge of this programme and in his office in Canberra there is a world map on the wall displaying coloured pins where birds banded in Australia have been recovered.

"Also in Melbourne a team led by Dr D G Robertson and Dr C D T Minton has been banding waders. Most of these waders breed in Siberia and migrate to Australia in the northern winter. Some of them pass through Japan en route."

The article also reports a recent recovery of a Short-tailed Shearwater banded at Griffith Island, Victoria and then recovered at Inubosaki Point, Japan, having flown 283 km/177 miles per day since its original banding. There are two photographs, one of the cannon net being fired and the other of Clive Minton, Mr Minton Snr, Minnie Robertson and Julie Strudwick setting up the keeping cages at Werribee. The complete article is available to anyone interested.

D G ROBERTSON

THE EVIDENCE FOR FEEDING GROUND FIDELITY OF WADERS IN SOUTHERN VICTORIA

As wader studies gain momentum in Victoria a number of crucial facts about their ecology are coming to light. These facts are directly relevant to the management and subsequent conservation of waders in Victoria. The transience or fidelity of waders with respect to a particular site determines to some extent how they will respond to any interference of their feeding ecology. Habitat reduction or modification will most dramatically affect those species with limited and/or traditional feeding areas. There are two sources of information available when assessing the fidelity of a species to a particular area.

1) Census data can be used to determine whether or not numbers remain constant or fluctuate. This method provides only circumstantial evidence since even if the population size remains stable, it is not known whether or not the individual birds are the same. It proves most useful for uncommon species which can be counted accurately on a regular basis.

2) The most conclusive evidence of feeding area fidelity comes from the colour-marking and banding of waders in as many localities as possible. Individual colour-marking followed by regular counts is the ideal method but requires more time than is available to most VWSG members.

Considerable work has been carried out in Westernport which illustrates these two methods. The following table was extracted from Loyn (1978):

SPECIES	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH
Lesser Goldon Plover	40	50	26	30
Mongolian Plover	0	15	14	12
Whimbrel	25	20	25	6
Terek Sandpiper	-	3	5	6
Bar-tailed Godwit	275	300	300	300

This survey has been continued by the Bird Obervers Club and for species such as Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit, there has been little variation in numbers from year to year. Some of the variation between months can be attributed to the difficulties of accurately counting each species. If more than one high-tide roost is used, some individuals may be occasionally overlooked among the large flocks of Red-necked Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. In rare instances, individual birds may be recognisable through plumage characters or injuries.

An example of this from Westernport was a female Bar-tailed Godwit with a missing leg which fed on the Rhyll Waterfront each summer for three years.

The VWSG has now made catches at several sites along the Victorian coast including sites in Port Phillip Bay, Westernport, Corner Inlet and soon at Anderson's Inlet (hopefully!). Recapture data from this work is building up for the two common species; the Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper. This information suggests that the adults of these species tend to remain in one place during the summer. The following table is from a report written for the Ministry for Conservation in Victoria (Dann, 1980). The number of birds banded at Werribee at this stage was approximately 11,000.

LOCATION	NO OF BIRDS CAUGHT	NO OF RETRAPPED BIRDS FROM WERRIBEE
Queenscliff	849	3
Westernport	1500	1
Corner Inlet	617	0

A catch at Werribee usually contains a high proportion of Red-necked Stints and Curlew Sandpipers previously banded at Werribee (up to 25%). However, as can be seen from the above table, only one Werribee bird was caught in a catch of 1500 waders at Yallock Creek in Westernport. Interestingly enough this bird was a juvenile Red-necked Stint; it has been suggested that juvenile Curlew Sandpipers are more mobile than adults (Paton, Wykes and Dann, 1981).

The degree of feeding area fidelity may vary considerably between adults and juveniles.

The type of questions the VWSG are attempting to answer includes:

1) Do waders return to the same areas in Victoria each summer?

2) Do they remain there throughout the entire period i.e. juvenile and adult mobility?

3) If discreet groups of waders spend the non-breeding season together, does this also suggest that they breed together? - and migrate together?

As each species must be considered as a separate entity, there is unlimited scope for useful wader banding in Victoria.

PETER DANN

Ref: Dann, P (1980) "The status of the waders of Westernport in relation to other areas in coastal Victoria"

Loyn, R (1978) Emu 78: 11-19: "A survey of birds in Westernport Bay".

Paton, D, Wykes, B & Dann, P (1981) Emu. "The moult of juvenile Curlew Sandpipers" (in press)

AUSTRALIAN BIRD-BANDING SCHEME

NUMBER OF CHARADRII BANDED FROM 1 JULY 1979 TO 30 JUNE 1980 AND GRAND TOTALS 1953-JUNE 1980

	TOTALS BANDED 1979-80				GRAND TOTAL		
	AUSTRALIA			VWSG*	AUST	VWSG*	
	PULL.	TRAP	TOTAL	TOTAL	1953-80	1975-80	%
Comb-crested Jacana					15		
Bush Thick-knee					11		
Beach Thick-knee	1		1		1		
Painted Snipe					16		
Pied Oystercatcher	17	106	123	106	220	136	62%
Sooty Oystercatcher	7	2	9	1	40	1	
Masked Lapwing	27	4	31	1	3842	15	
Banded Lapwing	2		2		1051		
Grey Plover		4	4	4	19	4	
Lesser Golden Plover		37	37		129	22	
Red-kneed Dotterel		38	38	18	564	40	
Hooded Plover					62		
Mongolian Plover		10	10	3	322	10	
Double-banded Plover		150	150	145	375	237	63%
Large Sand Plover					10		
Oriental Plover		1	1		3		
Red-capped Plover	5	303	308	276	1665	370	22%
Black-fronted Plover		3	3	2	695	3	
Inland Dotterel					40		
Black-winged Stilt		20	20	10	441	15	
Banded Stilt		20	20	20	230	20	
Red-necked Avocet		53	53	54	139	56	40%
Ruddy Turnstone		24	24	19	121	25	21%
Eastern Curlew		4	4	3	28	3	
Whimbrel					11		
Little Curlew		5	5		56		
Wood Sandpiper					5		
Grey-tailed Tattler		21	21		231		
Common Sandpiper					30		
Greenshank					13		
Marsh Sandpiper		9	9		26		
Terek Sandpiper		16	16	3	424	4	

	TOTALS BANDED 1979-80				GRAND TOTAL		
	AUSTRALIA			VWSG*	AUST	VWSG *	
	PULL.	TRAP	TOTAL	TOTAL	1953-80	1975-80	%
Latham's Snipe					223	21	
Black-tailed Godwit					4		
Bar-tailed Godwit		209	209	201	512	205	40%
Red Knot		52	52	41	240	138	57%
Great Knot		16	16	15	62	15	24%
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		513	513	387	3396	845	25%
Pectoral Sandpiper					13		
Little Stint		1	1	1	1	1	100%
Red-necked Stint		5729	5729	5407	14437	9504	66%
Long-toed Stint					2		
Curlew Sandpiper		2601	2601	2179	6240	3570	57%
Sanderling		2	2	2	3	2	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper						1	
Broad-billed Sandpiper		6	6		71		
Ruff		1	1		2		
Australian Pratincole		4	4		32		
TOTALS	59	10237	10296	8898 (86%)	36347	15263	(42%)

SUMMARY OF MAIN VWSG CONTRIBUTIONS TO AUSTRALIAN TOTALS

Little Stint	100 %
Sanderling	67 %
Rednecked Stint	66 %
Doublebanded Plover	63 %
Pied Oystercatcher	62 %
Curlew Sandpiper	57 %
Red Knot	57 %
Bartailed Godwit	40 %
Rednecked Avocet	40 %
Sharptailed Sandpiper	25 %

42% of total Australian waders banded

* Includes birds caught during visits to Tasmania (Nov 79) and South Australia (Feb 80)

ANDERSON'S INLET WADER STUDY *

Members of the South Gippsland Conservation Society are working with the Victorian Wader Study group to obtain a detailed picture of wader populations and movements in Anderson's Inlet.

The Victorian count carried out in December 1979 established Andersons Inlet as an interesting wader area having about 7% of the Victorian wader population.

From a number of observations, the counted population appeared to vary; this could be attributed to lack of detailed information about roost areas as well as the dispersal roost areas along the northern shore of the Inlet.

Interesting aspects found to date have been the feeding and roosting areas of the different species within the Inlet, sharp-tailed sandpipers being found in large numbers on the islands and shore line around Nolans Bluff with very few being recorded west of Mahrs Landing; this area was also favoured by green shanks, red-necked stints with the introduced sporting grass patches being used as feeding and roosting sites by the sharp-tailed sandpiper.

The curlew sandpipers, although probably feeding over most of the Inlet, favoured more sandy roost sites found in the vicinity of Mahrs Landing while curlews are found round the Inlet at different times. More information will be obtained with a 12-month count and perhaps a clearer picture of the total number of birds found in the Inlet. Any help in assisting with counting would be appreciated. The dates and meeting times have been listed below.

Meet at Mahrs Landing at the following dates and times:

		Tide Height	tide height
Sunday,	April 5	11.00 am	1.4 m
"	May 3	10.00 am	1.4 m
"	June 7	3.00 pm	1.8 m
"	July 5	2.00 pm	1.8 m
"	August 16	12.00 noon	1.4 m
"	Sept 20	3.00 pm	1.5 m
"	Oct 18	2.00 pm	1.4 m
"	Nov 15	1.00 pm	1.4 m
"	Dec 13	12.00 noon	1.4 m

Any persons interested in assisting please contact Andrew Chapman (056 741 266) or David Legg. The more participants the better the coverage of the Inlet. No previous experience necessary.

ANDREW CHAPMAN
2 Beach Ave, Inverloch

* reprinted from South Gippsland Conservation Society Newsletter, No 23, January 1981.

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA BIRD RINGING SCHEME

Total waders (Charadrii) ringed in Malaya and Singapore during 1970-1979:

Red-wattled Lapwing (Vanellus indicus)	1
River Lapwing (V. duvaucelii)	0
Grey-headed Lapwing (V. cinereus)	0
Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)	5
Lesser Golden Plover (P. dominica)	144
Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula)	0
Little Ringed Plover (C. dubius)	153
Kentish Plover (C. alexandrinus)	37
Malaysian Plover (C. peroni)	2
Long-billed Plover (C. placidus)	0
Mongolian Plover (C. mongolus)	969
Large Sand Plover (C. leschenaulti)	55
Oriental Plover (C. veredus)	0
Eurasian Curlew (Numenius arquata)	7
Whimbrel (N. phaeopus)	8
Eastern Curlew (N. madagascariensis)	1
Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)	32
Bar-tailed Godwit (L. lapponica)	3
Spotted Redshank (Tringa erythropus)	0
Redshank (T. totanus)	2710
Marsh Sandpiper (T. stagnatilis)	212
Greenshank (T. nebularia)	39
Spotted Greenshank (T. guttifer)	0
Green Sandpiper (T. ochropus)	0
Wood Sandpiper (T. glareola)	50
Terek Sandpiper (T. terek)	332
Common Sandpiper (T. hypoleucos)	302
Grey-tailed Tattler (T. brevipes)	0
Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)	4
Asian Dowitcher (Limnodromus semipalmatus)	2
Pin-tailed Snipe (Gallinago stenura)	38
Swinhoe's Snipe (G. megala)	0
Wood Snipe (G. nemoricola)	0
Common Snipe (G. gallinago)	0
Eurasian Woodcock (Scolopax rusticola)	0
Red Knot (Calidris canutus)	4
Great Knot (C. tenuirostris)	19
Red-necked Stint (C. ruficollis)	516
Little Stint (C. minuta)	1
Temminck's Stint (C. temminckii)	6
Long-toed Stint (C. subminuta)	365
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (C. acuminata)	0
Dunlin (C. alpina)	0
Curlew Sandpiper (C. ferruginea)	978
Sanderling (Calidris alba)	0
Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Eurynorhynchus pygmeus)	1
Broad-billed Sandpiper (Limicola falcinellus)	147
Ruff (Philomachus pugnax)	7
Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus)	0
Crab Plover (Dromas ardeola)	0
Great Thick-knee (Burhinus magnirostris)	0
Oriental Pratincole (Glareola maldivarum)	1
Small Pratincole (G. lactea)	0
TOTAL	7151

English and Latin names have been adjusted to conform with Schodde et al., (1977) Emu 77: 245-313 and King, B (1975) Birds of South-East Asia, Collins, London.

DAVID WELLS/DAVID ROBERTSON

AUSTRALASIAN WADER STUDY GROUP

The RAOU has recently agreed to start an Australasian Wader Study Group and has appointed me as an organiser. The roles of the group appear to be:

1) To co-ordinate counting programmes and encourage their expansion and the participation by amateurs. This might involve aerial surveys.

2) To encourage further banding work on waders to gain information on for example, weight and fat utilisation, moult, age and movement. The latter would concern both migration to and from breeding areas as well as dispersal of over-wintering birds within Australia. An important aspect here is the standardisation of data collection, and the definition of age groups.

3) To assist in and co-ordinate the publication of results in co-operation with the workers involved throughout Australia. This might involve statistical assistance, the use of computers and help with the "protocol" of publication.

4) To maintain effective communication between State bodies and to liaise with similar groups overseas, in particular, with the International Waterfowl Research Bureau.

5) To assist in the formulation of management policies and make submissions to the appropriate government and private organisations.

The initiation of regular counts seem to be of high priority in the planning of management strategies.

Following the successful Victorian Wader Count organised by the Victorian Wader Study Group (Peter Dann) last December, we hope to repeat the effort this season on a national scale (at least in southern Australia) on the 21/22 February, 1981.

The annual RAOU Scientific meeting will be held this year in Sydney on Saturday, 16 May, and the subject will be "Waders".

A range of subjects will be covered by speakers from throughout Australia and New Zealand. It is hoped that the proposed Australasian Wader Study Group will be formally inaugurated at the meeting. All VWSG members are encouraged to attend.

JOHN MARTINDALE

VICTORIAN WADER STUDY GROUP

DATES FOR FIELD WORK - 1981

Mar 14-15 : Werribee & Queenscliff (meet Friday evening)

Mar 18-23 : New South Wales (with Fred van Gessel & Bill Lane)

- 18th - travel to Sydney
- 19-20th - catch on Botany Bay
- pm 20th - travel to Newcastle
- 21-22nd - catch at Stockton/Kooragang Island, Newcastle
- 23rd - return to Melbourne (exhausted)

April 4-5 : Werribee & Queenscliff

May 2 - 3 : Werribee

May 30 - 31 : Werribee

June 13 - 14 : Werribee

July 18 - 19 : Werribee

August 1-2 : Werribee

All dates, except that marked, are weekends. Normal meeting time will be early Saturday morning at the shearing sheds ("Werribee Hilton"), Beach Road, Werribee Sewage Farm.

Please phone CDTM, or one of the other contacts below, a few days before each planned fieldwork to advise your availability and to obtain final information on rendezvous time/location. Although Werribee is indicated as the probable location, visits will be made elsewhere if appropriate (Queenscliff, Altona, Westernport etc.)

CONTACTS (* note new phone numbers)

Clive Minton - 592 6640 (home) 267 5800 (office)
74 Dendy St., Brighton 3186

David Robertson - 458 1421 (home)
Julie Strudwick - 370 1272 (RAOU office)
Brett Lane - 51 2152 (home)
Ira Savage - 052 21 6253 * (home)
Berrice Forest - 786 9717 (home)
John Martindale - 370 1272 (RAOU office)
Peter Dann - 059 568 395 * (home)
Honahlee, Summerland, Phillip Island

C D T MINTON

WESTERNPORT WADER & WATERBIRD COUNT DATES FOR 1981

(Bird Observer's Club)

		High Tide
February	21	1450 hrs E.S.T.
April	18	1219
August	1	1344
October	17	1529
December	12	1243

CONTACT: Peter Dann (tel: 059 568 395)
Honahlee, Summerland, Phillip Island

New participants welcome.

VICTORIAN WADER STUDY GROUP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 14.1.81

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Membership Fees/Renewals	785.00	Cheque Book/Bank Fees	24.44
Sale of Bulletins	52.00	Stationery/Postage	63.33
Subscriptions to Bulletin	10.00	Repairs/Maintenance to Equipment	44.50
Donations	174.95	New Equipment	376.62
		Printing (Bulletins)	169.07
		Cash in Bank	288.53
		Cheque/Cash in hand	55.46
	$ 1,021.95		$1,021.95

JULIE STRUDWICK

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Miss J Strudwick
Treasurer
Victorian Wader Study Group
C/- R.A.O.U.
21 Gladstone Street
MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039

I would like to join/renew membership of the Victorian Wader Study Group as a * Full/Country/Associate/Interstate/ Student member. Enclosed is cheque/money order for $..... in payment of membership fee for the year ended 30 June 1982.

Full membership	$10 per annum	1 July to 30 June
Country, Interstate, Student, Associate membership	$ 5 per annum	

* cross out whichever is not applicable

NAME .....
(please use block letters)

ADDRESS .....

.....Post.Code.....

TELEPHONE .....
(please include STD prefix)

SIGNATURE .....