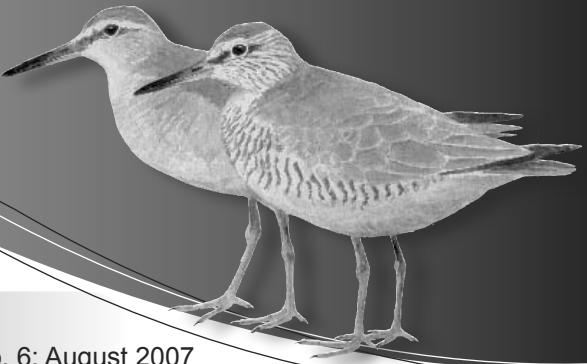


Editor: Lisa Collins
Email: lisacollins@wildmail.com



Newsletter for the Asia Pacific Flyways

No. 6: August 2007

In this issue:

Editorial.....	1
AOC and Shorebird Symposium	1
AWSG committee meeting	2
6th Australasian Shorebird Conference	3
Shorebirds 2020.....	4
AWSG sponsors research.....	4
Godwits still going	5
Effects of reclamation	6
Winter counts in Victoria.....	6
SSMP update.....	7
Northward migration at Chongming Dao	7
New Shorebirds of Australia book	8
Join the NW expedition.....	8

Tattler is the quarterly newsletter of the Australasian Wader Studies Group. Contributions are welcome and encouraged for all working with shorebirds and their habitats along the East Asian- Australasian Flyway. Please contact the editor for more information.

Editorial

SO here it is... my first edition of *Tattler* as editor. I thank Phil for the last 13 years as editor as I for one have enjoyed the good news, been motivated to action by the not-so-good and been humbled by those stories demonstrating the passion and eternal enthusiasm of shorebirders along the flyway fighting

for these amazing transboundary travellers.

I would like to thank all involved for the support I have received and especially thank all contributors to this edition for their articles. I would encourage all members to submit news items and articles of interest to me at the above email address.

This edition

- For those of you who were unable to attend the **Shorebird Conference** in Newcastle, read an overview of the proceedings and also a summary of the key outcomes for the AWSG arising from the conference.
- Read about the new **Shorebirds 2020** project, undertaken through Birds Australia, that aims to reinvigorate and coordinate national shorebird monitoring.
- Catch up on the latest news of the radio-tagged **Bar-tailed Godwits** which are still being monitored.
- This years results from northward migration counts at **Saemangeum** are tallied.
- Read about a study performed in the UK looking at the **effects of loss of shorebird habitat due to reclamation**, a very interesting study that has enormous implications for those fighting reclamation activities.

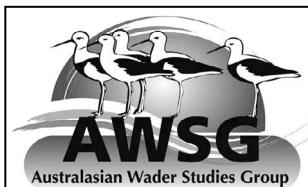
All this and more inside....

Call for papers- Australasian Ornithological Conference and Shorebird Symposium

The Fourth Biennial Australasian Ornithological conference is being held in Perth, Western Australia, from 3rd to 5th December 2007. It will include a symposium on shorebirds. A good line-up of speakers has already been built up, but there are slots for a few further presentations, and poster papers are also welcome. If you are interested in giving a presentation or have other questions about the shorebird symposium, please contact Danny

Rogers(drogers@melbpc.org.au).

Information on the conference can be found at www.birdswa.com.au/aoc2, or by contacting the conference coordinator, Sue Mather (Birds Australia Western Australia, 167 Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat, WA 6014, Australia; Telephone: 61 (0)8 93896416; Email: aoc2007@birdswa.com.au



Compiled and published by the Australasian Wader Studies Group

A Special interest Group of Birds Australia



AWSG committee meets in Newcastle

The Committee of the AWSG took the opportunity to meet in Newcastle on 6th July where many of us were gathered to attend the Australasian Shorebird Conference. Eleven committee members were able to attend; we were also pleased that Alison Russell-French, President of Birds Australia, was able to join us. Some of the matters discussed which will be of interest to members are briefly summarized below.

Communications

The importance of the following publications was recognized:

Stilt – The landmark Volume 50 publication has received wide acclaim; thanks were expressed to Ken Rogers as the editor and to all contributors. Ken has relinquished this position and the new Editor is Roz Jessop who would be pleased to receive contributions.

Tattler – The importance of continuing this newsletter was recognized. Phil Straw who has been editor for the last 13 years wished to 'pass the baton' and we are pleased that Lisa Collins has agreed to become the new editor. All members are encouraged to provide news and events relating to activities throughout the Flyway to Lisa. Thanks are due to Phil for the job he has done as editor over these years.

Website – This will be updated and provided with a new address. It is planned that it will be closely linked with the proposed new Birds Australia web site.

Membership Pamphlet – In order to improve publicity and attract new members a colour pamphlet has been prepared and printed. Enquiries regarding copies should be sent to Penny Johns.

Population Monitoring

Shorebirds 2020 – This is an ambitious program with an objective of reinvigorating the Population Monitoring Program that has been carried out by the AWSG for 25 years. Funding from WWF and the Australian Government will enable this to be initiated (see a separate article in this issue).

Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia (MYSMA) – This program commenced almost 3 years ago with the objective of establishing early population trends in key species which utilise particularly threatened regions of the Yellow Sea as a stopover. With the completion of the Saemangeum reclamation in South Korea last year, this important project will monitor the trends of Great Knot particularly in Australia.

Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Project (SSMP)

(SSMP) - The AWSG is providing assistance as a partner with Birds Korea to monitor the impacts of the massive Saemangeum reclamation project.

Two years of field work have been completed with a further survey planned for April/May next year. A comprehensive report will be prepared well before the Ramsar CoP10 in Korea next year.

Banding activities

NWA expeditions – Clive Minton continues to lead these important expeditions to north-west Australia. Last year 4000 birds were caught, banded and flagged. This is providing a great deal of useful information about migration routes and stopover sites, as well as breeding success. A further expedition is planned for later this year (see article this issue).

Leg Flags – The AWSG, through Clive Minton and Heather Gibbs, operates the leg flag database on behalf of the Australian Banding Office. Almost 2,500 Australian flagged birds are recorded as being seen each year. The increasing use of engraved leg flags is providing invaluable information on individual birds including movements and survival rates.

Scientific Committee

Danny Rogers, as the Chair of this committee, has been intimately involved with the SSMP project, where he is a co-leader, the MYSMA project and the Shorebirds 2020 project previously mentioned.

Conservation Committee

As the convener of this committee Ann Lindsey works through a team of local representatives whose names are listed on the cover of Stilt. There are a number of local issues within Australia that are being monitored and on which submissions have been made.

Flyway Issues

Flyway Partnership – As a signatory to this important initiative, AWSG will be an active participant in the development and implementation of its strategy. This may involve training, information exchange, surveys etc throughout the Flyway.

Ramsar 10th Meeting of Conference of Parties (CoP10)

(CoP10) - The next meeting of the CoP will be held in Korea in late October 2008. Following the work that AWSG has done in China and Korea in recent years the Committee is developing strategies with an objective of ensuring a greater focus on the Yellow Sea and the need to preserve remaining tidal areas. There is a great body of evidence which clearly shows the importance of these tidal zones for migrating shorebirds.

Please contact me if you require further information or would like to offer assistance on any of these issues.

Ken Gosbell, Chairman (ken@gosbell.id.au)

6th Australasian Shorebird Conference

6-8 July 2007, Newcastle, NSW

The Australasian Shorebird Conference held in Newcastle in July 2007 was exceptional. The latest satellite tracking of Bar-tailed Godwits winging their way from New Zealand non-stop to the Yellow Sea made an exciting talk and emphasised the need for international cooperation, not only to observe, catch and track the birds, but also to ensure that there are suitable foraging and roosting areas preserved along the flyway. Young presenters from China, South Korea and Thailand brought home the reality of ongoing development and degradation of shorebird sites along the flyway. There is rapid expansion of seawalls to enclose mudflats along the Chinese coast for prawn and fish farming or salt production. Tidal flats are also being reclaimed for industrial development. The longest seawall in the world at Saemangeum in South Korea is an extraordinary expression of man's dominance over nature.

All this might have left us feeling depressed and defeated for the future of 'our birds', which we so obviously share with the rest of the people along the Flyway. But there was hope as well. The youthful enthusiasm and commitment of the presenters confirmed the widespread desire to preserve habitat for the birds. And an incredibly moving video of the *Three Steps and One Bow* march of gentle protest against the Saemangeum seawall in South Korea showed a groundswell of opposition to this form of development.

As the conference was held within a short distance

of the Hunter Estuary, the most significant site for shorebirds on the New South Wales coast, it was an opportunity for the local shorebird enthusiasts and researchers to discuss the status of the estuary. Unfortunately, as for overseas shorebird sites, the Hunter Estuary is in serious ecological decline and has had a correspondingly severe decline in migratory shorebird numbers from more than 10,000 birds in the 1970s to about 3,500 birds today. There is great frustration that, although the reasons for the decline are recognised and measures could be easily implemented to rehabilitate critical areas of habitat, there are numerous developmental and legislative impediments that are preventing this from happening. In well-monitored areas such as this and, no doubt, in other shorebird sites in Australia, we do not need more monitoring, we need urgent action. Organisations and government departments that were present at the conference that support Ramsar agreements and administer international treaties such as CAMBA, JAMBA and now ROKAMBA need to influence State governments and local governments to take appropriate action.

As the human tide sweeps over the planet, it is ever more critical to protect known shorebird habitat and ensure that compensatory habitat is provided wherever possible. Otherwise our monitoring will simply document an inevitable decline in these awe-inspiring travellers.

Liz Crawford and Chris Herbert

Conference Outcomes

A series of themed sessions with excellent presentations given by national and international shorebird experts informed and updated delegates on a number of issues related to the study and conservation of shorebirds.

The Conference concluded that migratory shorebird populations continue to be under major threat because of the loss of habitat along the length of the Flyway, both at end sites and staging sites.

Delegates requested the AWSG committee, working with Birds Australia, make representations to the Australian Government to discuss how the EPBC act could better address the loss of shorebird habitat loss in Australia. The bilateral Migratory Bird Agreement meetings proposed for early 2008 in Australia, and the Ramsar CoP 10 in November 2008 in South Korea, provide significant opportunities for the Australian Government to promote collaborative activities to address habitat loss in coastal area in China and South Korea.

In addition to the approaches to the Australian

Government, AWSG agreed to take the following action:

- Continue its engagement in collaborative shorebird conservation projects with non-government organisations in South Korea
- Actively contribute to the development of the Flyway Partnership and its program of activities
- Seek the reactivation of the Australian Wetland Alliance to provide for coordination of Australian NGO input into the 2008 Ramsar CoP in South Korea
- Seek assistance of the IWSG to raise awareness of the impact of coastal reclamation on shorebirds and to discuss a joint program of action for the Yellow Sea
- Continue the publication and distribution of the *Tattler* in a Flyway newsletter on shorebirds
- Support the development of the Asia-Pacific

(Continued on page 4)





Shorebird Network to increase communication between shorebird researchers and conservationists in the region

- Re-develop the AWSG web site to increase

awareness of shorebirds and their conservation needs

Ken Gosbell, Chairman

ken@gosbell.id.au

Shorebirds 2020 – Preview of a reinvigorated Population Monitoring Program in Australia

The Australasian Wader Studies Group has coordinated biannual counts of shorebirds in Australia since the early 1980's. The data generated from these counts is one of the most important datasets for shorebirds in Australia. It has been critical to informing on important wetlands, as well as population numbers, distribution and trends throughout Australia.

The national monitoring of migratory shorebird populations in Australia is a critical task. Monitoring involves repeated counts of important shorebird habitat to determine trends through time, or with changing site conditions- vital for the conservation of shorebirds, within the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. The current Program has been carried out by a dedicated team of volunteers over some 25 years who continue to cover around 29 of the most important wetland sites in Australia.

We are constantly being reminded that shorebirds are under threat. Degradation and destruction of their habitat, both in Australia and throughout their migratory routes is widespread and increasing. Disturbance of the birds while they roost or feed can upset the fine and critical energetic balance among these long distance athletes and climate change is altering the weather patterns in the flyway. Consequently, populations of many shorebirds are in decline.

In light of a greater demand for information on shorebirds and their populations, and a long understanding of some of the limitations of the existing shorebird monitoring, the AWSG working with Birds Australia developed a project whose primary aim was to improve the methodologies, and plan a national shorebird monitoring program. In an exciting development, WWF Australia and the Australian Government have undertaken to support the project for at least two years which will enable the initiative which is termed **Shorebirds 2020** to

become a reality. **Shorebirds 2020** is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust, James Fairfax, Lady Southee and the Myer Foundation. A preview of this project was provided by Graeme Hamilton, CEO of Birds Australia, at the Australasian Shorebird Conference in Newcastle in July.

Some of the points made by Graeme about this program included:

- Shorebirds 2020 is a reinvigorated national shorebird monitoring program building on 25 years of shorebird monitoring in Australia
- It would respond to increased demand for information on population trends and identify significant sites
- It would be a Partnership involving AWSG, WWF, BA and the Australian government.
- The Program will be formally launched later this year
- Appropriately qualified staff have been recently appointed by Birds Australia

This is an exciting development for all interested in the conservation of shorebirds and there will be many opportunities for involvement e.g. training counters and related tasks. Birds Australia has recently announced the appointment of two people whose task it will be to plan and implement this program in consultation with a steering committee. The Program Manager will be Joanne Oldland and the Technical Manager will be Rob Clemens and we congratulate them on their appointment. They may be contacted at Birds Australia and will be seeking your help as they start this important program.

Ken Gosbell

ken@gosbell.id.au

AWSG sponsors Chinese researcher

The AWSG are funding the flights for a young Chinese researcher Yan Hong Yen, 'Nick', to fly to the Netherlands and work with Theunis Piersma and his team at NIOZ, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, to learn the latest techniques for benthos sampling and study.

After 3 months with NIOZ Nick will return to her study site in Bohai Wan and study the benthos of that part of the Yellow Sea, an area that gets the only large concentrations of Red Knots yet found on migration (of both the *piersmai* and *rogersi* subspecies). We wish her well in her endeavours.

Satellite-tagged godwits keep on ticking and ticking

During the last update of this project (see April 2007 Tattler), seven Bar-tailed Godwits (6 females and 1 male) that we captured in New Zealand in February '07 had been tracked to sites in the Yellow Sea, but none had yet departed for the breeding grounds. Based on the expected battery life of these transmitters (PTTs) we were challenged to program the units such that birds could be followed throughout the four-month-long period between their departure from New Zealand and their arrival on the breeding grounds. The best we hoped for was to track birds into late May. Given this window, four of the godwits cooperated nicely by departing the Yellow Sea the first week of May while two others pushed it a bit, not leaving until the third week of May. That we were able to record the departure of the last bird on 9 June was a sign of things to come. Indeed, as I write this on 14 August, there are still five godwits in Alaska with functioning transmitters. So what transpired in the intervening period between birds leaving the Yellow Sea and this report?

1. All 7 godwits departed the Yellow Sea with winds that aided their flights to the breeding grounds.
2. Six birds (all females) flew to western Alaska; the lone male godwit flew to the Anadyr Basin in Chukotka, Russia.
3. Flights by birds to Alaska were nonstop across the Aleutian Islands to the mainland. The bird that went to Chukotka also appeared to fly nonstop.
4. Five birds appeared faithful to small portions of known breeding habitat, thus suggesting nesting. Indeed, one bird (Z0) was found on the



*Godwit Z0 on the breeding grounds
(photo by D. Ruthrauff, USGS)*

breeding grounds paired with an unmarked male who was defending a territory (Figure 1).

5. Following the nesting period, birds moved to the same Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YKD) staging areas used by the cohort of godwits marked with PTTs in 2006.
6. Since moving to the YKD staging grounds, two birds have picked up and flown to estuaries along the Alaska Peninsula, only to return to the YKD a few days later. This is a 900-km-long round-trip flight and one of the birds has done this twice – in a two-week period! What is this all about?
7. Y3, the lone godwit that did not migrate from New Zealand, continues to report from Farewell Spit, where her daily activities occur within the same 7-km long by 4-km wide area.
8. The implanted PTTs, rated for 400 h of life by the manufacturer (Microwave Telemetry, Inc.), have now reported on average for over 585 h (longest 614 h).
9. The first birds to return south in 2006 departed Alaska on 31 August. Will we be lucky enough to track a bird on consecutive north and south migrations? Stay tuned.

Those interested can still follow the birds on project websites at <http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/shorebirds/> and <http://prbo.org/cms/index.php?mid=424>

Also on these sites you can find the latest on movements of Bristle-thighed Curlews that were fitted with satellite transmitters in Alaska in June 2007. As of 14 August, 4 of the 13 birds had begun their southward migrations. While at these site also learn what is being planned for work with Bar-tailed Godwits in Western Australia and New Zealand in 2008 and with other species of large shorebirds in North and South America through 2009.

I close with a plea for readers to help look for marked godwits. It is crucial to both the birds and our understanding of the applications of satellite technology to know how the transmitters might affect individual birds. All of the tagged birds have a large black leg flag with white letters and numbers (e.g., Z0 or Y3). Some will even have an antenna projecting from under the tail so please look carefully. Good luck!

On behalf of the Pacific Shorebird Migration Project and its outstanding team of cooperators,

Bob Gill (robert_gill@usgs.gov)





Effects of loss of wader habitat and implications of reclamation activities

Goss-Custard J.D. et al (2006) Test of a behaviour-based individual-based model: response of shorebird mortality to habitat loss, *Ecological Applications* 16(6):2215-2222.

This publication concerns the effects - predicted and actual - of the loss of a wader habitat (in this case by reclamation).

For a long time we have tended to assume that when waders are displaced from a habitat, by some major change which makes it unsuitable, they redistribute themselves in other adjacent habitats. We also assumed that overall numbers would gradually be reduced due to consequent higher mortality and/or lower breeding success, so that in the end the net effect was a loss to the world population equivalent to the number of birds displaced from the lost habitat. Also, in some actual or proposed habitat changes, proposals have been made for creating or managing other areas in a way which would partially, or completely, offset the expected negative effects.

This publication details the development of an earlier model which was used to try and predict the effects of habitat change on populations of Oystercatchers in the UK. John Goss-Custard and his team have now tested the new model using data on Redshank displaced from Cardiff Bay in South Wales when a controversial barrage was completed in 1999. This resulted in a loss of inter-tidal feeding habitat that had been regularly used by 200 Redshank.

Almost all the birds in this population had been previously marked with individual colour band combinations so their survivorship and movements to other areas could be determined.

After reclamation all the birds moved to an adjacent area of mudflats, where the population rose from 300 to 500. The model predicted that the mortality rate of the combined population would increase by 3.65%. Monitoring over subsequent years showed

that it actually increased by 3.17%, very similar to the predicted level. Further simulations helped to demonstrate that mortality was density dependent and that it had risen both as a result of increased interference between feeding birds and because of the reduced amount of available prey in the mudflats.

Another interesting finding was that if a proposed offset area, equivalent to only 10% of the area of lost mud flats in Cardiff Bay, had been created and managed appropriately (with tidal dwell times allowing birds to feed longer) it could have provided enough food for all the birds displaced from Cardiff Bay which were ultimately lost to the world population.

This predictive model and proof that it is realistic is going to be of considerable value in helping to mount future cases against destruction of important wader habitats. I'm sure that those involved, for example, in the Saemangeum lost battle and now fighting the new Geum Estuary proposed reclamation in South Korea will be utilizing this new information to the full. And it allows us to more confidently say that the net long-term effect of the loss of feeding habitat for waders is a loss to the world population equivalent to those birds which were occupying that habitat. Whilst in the example quoted here it was thought to be mainly due to increased mortality it is more likely that at key stopover locations (such as the Yellow Sea) much of the loss may be caused via reduced breeding success.

I hope you find these important new findings of interest.

Clive Minton

(If anyone is interested in the full article please email me for a copy- ed)

Winter counts in south-east Victoria

Corner Inlet, south-east Victoria, has been a site of summer and winter wader censuses for the last 25 years; one of only 30 locations within Australia that has had this continuity of surveying. This year's winter count, held in early June, found only 1855 waders in the eastern half of Corner Inlet (Nooramunga National Park). This is the second lowest tally ever with normal winter population counts usually falling between 4000 and 8000 waders.

The lowest ever count at this location was in 1993 where only 933 birds were recorded. This followed the exceptionally bad breeding season for Arctic waders in 1992 leading to a lack of immature birds overwintering in south-east Australia. It is likely that this season's observations can be attributed to the same explanation as the 2006 Arctic breeding season was also exceptionally poor for the wader populations which come to south-east Australia for the non-breeding season.

Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Program (SSMP): July Update

As reported previously, Birds Korea and the AWSG are conducting a joint shorebird monitoring program during April and May 2006-2008 at Saemangeum (until completion of the 33-km long seawall in April 2006, considered the most important site for staging shorebirds in the Yellow Sea), and the neighboring Geum Estuary and Gomso Bay. The program has already proven immensely important, generating essential data and encouraging a key South Korean ministry to voice opposition to the proposed reclamation of the Geum Estuary – now the nation's most important remaining shorebird site.

During northward migration in 2006, the Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Program (SSMP) recorded a minimum 198,031 shorebirds at Saemangeum, and a minimum 82,990 shorebirds at the Geum Estuary. Numbers of shorebirds were much smaller at Gomso Bay. Within this three-site study area, the peak of shorebird diversity and abundance was reached in May.

By April 2007, a year after seawall close, most of the Saemangeum reclamation area had become significantly degraded, littered with dead shells and even stranded fishing boats. Our preliminary analysis reveals that while numbers of shorebirds within the Saemangeum area itself in mid-April (detailed in the Tattler, April 2007) appeared broadly similar between years (with 71,711 in 2006 and 68,743 in 2007), numbers there in Mid-May (especially of shellfish-specialists like the Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*) were massively lower in 2007 (51,768) than in 2006 (176,955). While the SSMP recorded a slight increase of 4,550 shorebirds at the Geum and Gomso between years at this time, this only accounted for less than 4% of the 120,148

decline in the Mid-May shorebird total for the three sites combined. Largely as a result, the minimum total number of shorebirds at the three sites combined throughout northward migration in 2007 was only 207,178, compared to 283,203 shorebirds recorded in the same study area during northward migration the year before.

We do not know what happened to these "missing" 75,000 or so shorebirds. We did not witness any evidence of local mass mortality in either 2006 or 2007, and we can only assume that many of them tried to stage at other, presumably sub-optimal, sites elsewhere in the Yellow Sea.

Now, as we work on formal report publication, we are looking toward 2008, the year in which South Korea will host the next Ramsar Convention conference. With major funding for next year's fieldwork already confirmed by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Takagi Fund (as well as other generous sponsors), we are now appealing to interested shorebirders along the Flyway to join us here in Korea next April and May (to do so, please contact us at the addresses below). In the meantime, we would also respectfully like to encourage all reading this to send emails of concern about Saemangeum and the Geum through Ricki Coughlan's wonderful Restore Saemangeum website (at: www.restoresaemangeum.com)? It's a quick and easy way for all of us to make a real difference! Until 2008...

*Nial Moores, Birds Korea,
spoonbillkorea@yahoo.com*

*Danny Rogers, AWSG,
drogers@melbpc.org.au*

Banding on northward migration at Chongming Dao, China

An excellent catch total was once again obtained at Chongming Dao banding station, near the Yellow Sea, during northward migration this year. A total of 3021 waders representing 39 species were caught, banded and flagged between 21st March and 22nd May. Twenty-four Australian banded birds were caught together with several hundred others from Asia.

The top species totals were:

1633 Great Knot (18 banded in NW Australia)

256	Terek Sandpiper (1 banded in NW Australia)
181	Red-necked Stint (1 banded in Victoria; 1 banded in South Australia)
177	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
162	Red Knot (3 banded in Victoria)
153	Dunlin
146	Bar-tailed Godwit

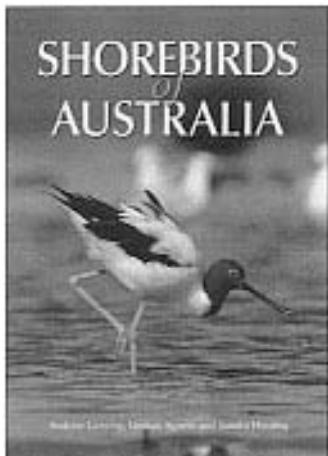
This information was provided by Ma Qiang who has now replaced Zhang Kejia as the resident bander at Chongming Dao.





New Publication- *Shorebirds of Australia*

Andrew Geering, Lindsey Agnew and Sandra Harding



Launched at the Australasian Shorebird Conference, *Shorebirds of Australia* brings together the latest information about the evolutionary history, taxonomy, migration and breeding and feeding ecology of shorebirds found in Australia.

Complete with colour photographs and up-to-date distribution maps, it provides

descriptions and tips to assist with the identification of all species of shorebird in Australia, which comprise about ten percent of Australia's total

avifauna. In addition to information about their habitats, their most significant threats are mentioned, as well as actions in place to help conserve these birds.

The book is a valuable reference for a broad range of people, from the birdwatcher and field naturalist to professional ornithologists and land managers entrusted with the responsibility of managing Australia's natural resources especially its wetlands and coastal regions.

Shorebirds of Australia can be purchased for AUD\$49.95 (plus postage and handling) from CSIRO Publishing,
PO Box 1139
Collingwood, Victoria 3066, Australia
Ph: +[61 3] 9662 7666
Fax: +[61 3] 9662 7555
E: publishing.sales@csiro.au
or order online at www.publish.csiro.au

Join the NW Australia Wader and Tern Expedition

Twenty five people, about half of whom are international participants, are booked in to take part in the next wader and tern banding expedition to north-west Australia 10 Nov-1 Dec 2007. More are needed! Be a part of this globally important research while getting up close and personal with these amazing migrants, learning new skills, meeting new friends and, of course, there will be

time for a bit of bird watching. There are still three or four more places available so if you are interested in joining us please put your hand up quickly. Contact Roz Jessop (moombird@waterfront.net.au or rjessop@penguins.org.au) to reserve your place as Clive Minton is away from his desk until 15th September.



Australasian Wader Studies Group

Membership of the Australasian Wader Studies Group is open to anyone interested in the conservation and research of waders (shorebirds) in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Members receive the twice yearly journal *Stilt*, and a quarterly newsletter, *Tattler*.

Please direct all membership enquiries to:
Membership Manager
Birds Australia
Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester St
Carlton, VIC 3053, Australia.
Ph: 1300 730 075
E: membership@birdsaustralia.com.au

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