



In this issue:

Editorial.....	1
Record age for Taiwan bird	1
The odyssey of E7.....	2
Kiwis visit Broome	4
Shorebirds 2020 underway	5
Record movement for Oystercatcher	5
The role of AWSG Conservation Officers.....	6
New Ramsar listing for NSW.....	6
Geum estuary southward migration counts	7
Northward migration counts at Kamchatka.....	7
Call for papers- AOC and Shorebird Symposium ..	8
NW wader and tern 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

Firstly, I would like to correct a mistake in the last edition of *Tattler*. Researcher Nick's Chinese name should have been Yang Hong Yan. Sorry Nick!

This edition is full of records and firsts for countries

all along the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. In particular, the amazing story of Bar-tailed Godwit E7 who is still eluding on ground observers. With another three godwits also being tracked, the story can only continue to amaze and of course, lead to more unanswered questions.

The monitoring of shorebird numbers continues throughout the flyway and it is great to see that many countries in the flyway are supporting and working in conjunction with other countries to study shorebirds and their movements.

This edition

- The amazing story of **Bar-tailed Godwit E7** continues..
 - The **Red Knot** conundrum beginning to be understood or still continuing to confuse and intrigue?
 - Record age and record movement for two species of shorebird as well as northward and southward **migration counts**
 - **Shorebirds 2020** is underway and looking for volunteers
 - New **Ramsar** site declared in NSW
- All this and more inside....

The Oldest Shorebird recorded in Taiwan

On the night of the 14th August, six people from the Taiwan Wader Study Group went banding at Lun-Wei, north Chang-Hwa coastal area. There were no surprises and the mist nets were closed before 10pm. When we started processing our catch, I found a Greater Sandplover was already banded, but with only a Taiwan metal band and no flag. I assumed this was a GSP which we banded a few years ago.

When we went back and checked our TWSG database I wondered why this bird was not in it. I opened another database of all banded waterbirds in Taiwan and found this bird was banded on 19th August, 1989 as a juvenile. This makes it a very old bird- 18 years old this year! It is also a new record

for the OLDEST shorebird in Taiwan (the second one is a 1987 Grey-tailed Tattler which was recovered at 80 Mile Beach, 2002, 16+ years old). I am not sure if this is a new age record for Greater Sandplover, but it's really exciting for us. We put new white/blue flags on his left tibia and white flag was engraved letter "7H". Maybe you will see it again somewhere in the flyway in the future.

In total we caught 46 birds of 5 species that night:

- 31 Greater Sandplover
- 8 Little tern
- 5 Kentish plover
- 1 Ruddy Turnstone
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler

ChungYu Chiang, Taiwan Wader Study Group



Compiled and published by the Australasian Wader Studies Group

A Special interest Group of Birds Australia



Could the stars be any more aligned? The odyssey of satellite-tagged godwit E7

In the last issue of Tattler (August 2007) I provided an update of the Pacific Shorebird Migration Project and our work with northbound Bar-tailed Godwits. At the end of the article I talked about the extended battery life we were getting from that batch of transmitters and mentioned that one of the birds tracked northward from New Zealand was still on the air and had just taken off on its southward migration from Alaska. I ended with "Will we be lucky enough to track a bird on consecutive north and south migrations? Stay tuned."

Well, here is the rest of the story and it's a good one! Let's begin with the two obvious highlights. Not only is godwit E7 the first shorebird to be tracked by satellite throughout an annual migratory cycle, but she also flew non-stop distances heretofore undocumented for any landbird. The crowning accomplishment was a non-stop, 11,700-km-long haul from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River in Alaska to the mouth of the Piako River in the Firth of Thames, New Zealand. This is something we knew godwits were capable of doing based on previous work with the species and satellite transmitters, yet unconfirmed in the eyes of many because we had yet to track a bird of this size along its entire route between Alaska and New Zealand. But let's back up a bit and consider other events that seemingly overnight shot E7 to stardom. The signs were there from the beginning but events had to run their course before we could truly appreciate how extraordinary the story would be.

E7 was one of 16 godwits fitted with satellite tags in New Zealand in February 2007. Before any of them departed on their northward flight, E7 became the featured bird in a published article by Noah Warnock, Nils' 11-year-old son, in which Noah chronicled his experiences during the capture efforts at Golden Bay and Miranda. Now consider that the Miranda Shorebird Centre, where E7 was captured, and the Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, on the border of China and North Korea, are formal 'sister' migratory bird sanctuaries and learning centers. Which, if any among the satellite-tagged birds, would be the first to cement this relationship? —none other than E7 when she touched down at Yalu Jiang on the evening of 24 March (all dates and times are local) after a 10,300-km-long nonstop flight (Figure 1). She remained there for almost five weeks, recovering from her flight and preparing for the next leg of her journey, but oddly evading detection by people on the ground looking specifically for her.

During the night of 2 May she headed east across the Sea of Japan and out into the North Pacific, crossing the date line, and landing on the central Alaska Peninsula on the morning of 8 May (Figure 1). Over the next two days she visited another

estuary further east along the Peninsula where my colleague Dan Ruthrauff and I were working on a sister species, the Marbled Godwit. Despite staying in a village with a total population of fewer than a dozen people, we had access to wireless Internet and could check on the location of E7 and quickly went out to search for her. But again she evaded on-ground efforts to find her. Hm! A theme was emerging.

On 11 May her signal was detected on the southern Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta (YKD) of western Alaska and four days later it was on the central delta, where she settled for the breeding season. Ironically, this area was only 1.5 km from a camp whose members were conducting research on nesting geese. Via satellite telephone and periodic text messages, the researchers were apprised of E7's locations. Repeated attempts were made to locate her and her nest and, indeed, one message indicated they had found the nest of a marked godwit, only to have it be a bird marked in New Zealand but one without a satellite transmitter. [A couple of years ago this in itself would have been exciting news.] On about 25 June, E7 left her presumed nesting area and headed to the coast after practically residing in the back yard of a camp of biologists for six weeks and yet going undetected from the ground. The theme continues.

Did she nest? Very likely, given the time she spent in one relatively fixed area. This aside, the important thing was that her prolonged presence on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge added another key link to the chain of sites used by godwits throughout the East Asia-Australasian flyway. On the one hand this is heartening because it confirmed the importance to shorebirds of the three sites, while on the other it was a bit disconcerting in that E7 revealed no other sites that might be important to her or other waders. [The two sites on the Alaska Peninsula have already been designated as Alaska State Critical Habitat Areas.]

Meanwhile back at operation-central at the USGS Alaska Science Center, Lee Tibbitts and I were marveling at how long E7's battery was lasting and ever so briefly entertaining notions that it might last long enough to document her departure.

Between mid-July and late August, E7 took up residency on the Kuskokwim Shoals on the southern YKD, a site that is emerging as the single most important site for godwits in Alaska. But by early August the voltage in the battery in her transmitter had noticeably declined and we feared she would soon stop reporting. For whatever reason her battery stabilized in mid-August and we continued to get reports from her. Then in the late evening of 29 August we got a report that indicated she was in

the air headed toward the Alaska Peninsula. She crossed the Peninsula in the early morning of 30 August and headed out over the North Pacific. At the time I remember Lee and I thinking aloud at what a cruel joke this was because, based on past performances, once batteries reach the level of hers we could expect them to fail in a matter of a day or two. But onward she flew, next reporting about 600 km from the Hawaiian Islands after making a pronounced course change to the southwest (towards New Zealand). She traversed the Hawaiian archipelago over open ocean well west of Kauai and continued on a south-southwest course towards Fiji. On 5 September she crossed the date line about 500 km north of Fiji and continued past Fiji with her battery barely registering any voltage output. Would we get one more report?

About this time Phil Battley was mobilizing the Miranda crew—seemingly along with the entire New Zealand media—for the arrival of E7 back at Miranda. In the morning of 7 September we got yet another series of signals from her indicating she was 100 km off the north tip of North Island, but her last signal in this series placed her over open ocean about 30 km west of Cape Reinga. Where was she headed? We had to wait one more reporting period to find out and on 8 September her signal was picked up at the mouth of the Piako River, 15 km east of Miranda where she began her odyssey six months earlier. Based on her average

speed of travel and her last report off Cape Reinga, E7 likely arrived off Piako in the late evening of 7 September. Unfortunately for the observers and media waiting at Miranda there was no E7 to be found and formidable efforts to locate her at Piako through 18 September have been unsuccessful despite satellite signals that indicate she is there and moving around. These repeated failures to observe E7 throughout the flyway may simply be a function of her having lost her black and white flag. Or she may have some unique cloak of invisibility. Only time and willing eyes of the likes of Adrian Riegen, Tony Habraken, and Keith Woodley will tell.

I am reluctant to end this update—as was the previous—with an open-ended pronouncement, but three other godwits besides E7 are still on the air, all along the Kuskokwim Shoals, awaiting a break in the weather that will allow them to migrate south. Stay tuned.

For the Pacific Shorebird Migration Project team,
Bob Gill (Robert_gill@usgs.gov)

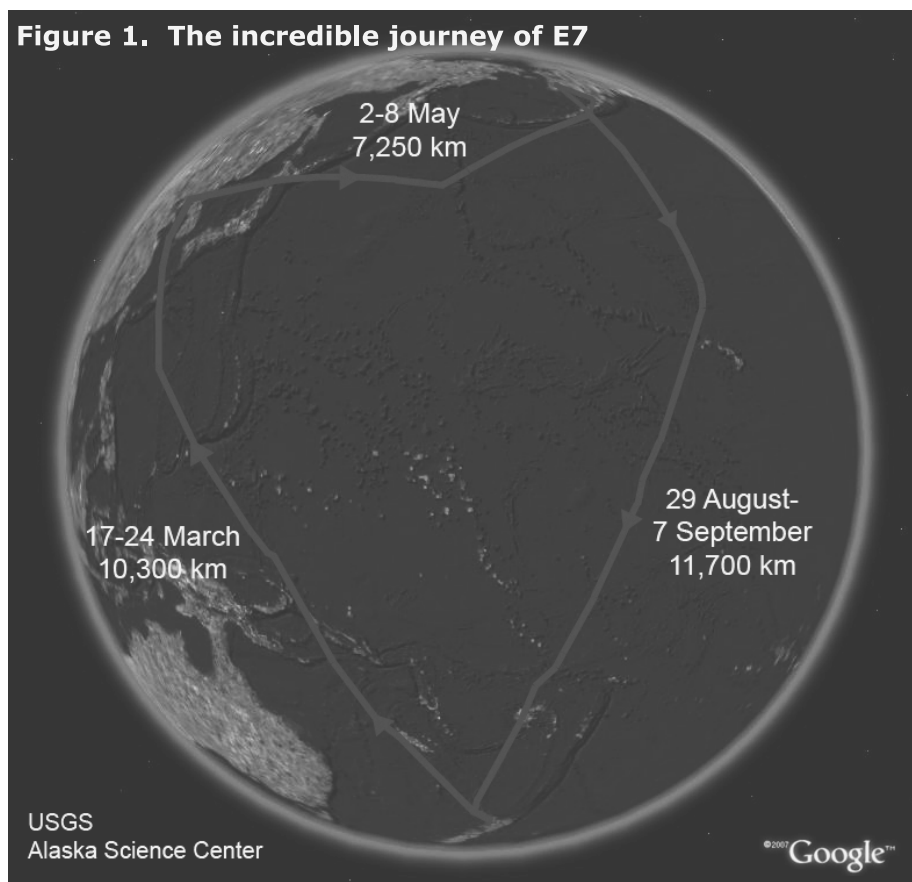
Those interested can still follow the birds on project websites at:

http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/shorebirds/barg_updates.html

<http://www.prbo.org/cms/425>

19 September 2007

Figure 1. The incredible journey of E7





Kiwis visit Roebuck Bay, Broome

Those of you who were at the AWSG conference would have heard Clive Minton talking about the Red Knot conundrum. Well, the North West Wader Studies Group have added a couple of pieces to the jigsaw.

The Red Knot is the most intensively studied wader in the world, yet new facts about its migrations are still being discovered and many mysteries still remain. Two subspecies occur in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Our knowledge to date tells us that *rogersi* breed in Chukotka, in the far north-east of Siberia, and most are thought to spend the non-breeding season in eastern Australia and New Zealand. *Piersmai* breed in the New Siberian Islands, off the north coast of Siberia, with some also possibly nesting on the adjacent mainland in Yakutia. They are thought to mainly spend the non-breeding season in north-west Australia.

The slow accumulation of recoveries and, more recently, the much larger number of flag sightings have shown that the link between breeding origins and non-breeding locations is more complex than previously thought. There is, in fact, a strong link between Red Knot in north-west Australia and New Zealand. *Rogersi* probably occur quite extensively in north-west Australia, at least at certain times of the year. There is now growing evidence that some *piersmai* also visit New Zealand. The movement patterns have become more complex, with growing evidence that some immature birds from south-east Australia, and even New Zealand, may move northwards in winter to north-west Australia. In addition to the well established pattern of many young Red Knots spending their first (and sometimes second) year in south-eastern Australia before crossing the Tasman to establish their regular non-breeding area in New Zealand, it now appears that some immature birds in north-west Australia may behave similarly.

The jigsaw pieces we refer to, are:

1. the re-sighting of an engraved flagged Red Knot and;
2. the capture/control of a banded and flagged Red Knot.

1. The re-sighting was on 23/05/2007 at Wader Spit on the northern shores of Roebuck Bay. The bird was carrying a white flag with black lettering 'ATK'. It was in 100% breeding plumage. If it was indeed a 2 at banding it should be at the breeding grounds as it had had its 3rd birthday. Chris had been seeing both subspecies of Red Knot in Bohai Wan just 4 weeks prior to this sighting but he was unable to be 100% sure to which subspecies this bird belonged. His hunch was that it was *rogersi* but with a little wearing of the fringes on the upperparts feathers giving it a darker appearance than a fresh plumaged *rogersi*.

It was banded by the NZWSG.
Number: C74963 (engraved flag ATK)
Date of banding: 25/11/2006
Age of bird when banded: 2?
Miranda Firth of Thames

2. The North West Wader Studies Group caught a NZ Red Knot in one of our regular cannon net catches on September 16th. It had a moult of 0:10 and weighed 121g. It was carrying a NZ metal band and a plain white leg flag.

It was banded by the NZWSG.
Number: C55303
Date of banding: 06/01/1999
Age of bird when banded: 2
Miranda Firth of Thames

Just to add a rather fantastic twist to the story, the catch on 06/01/1999 just happened to coincide with a visit Chris made to Miranda, where he joined Adrian Riegen and his team on the catch! Then, hey presto, 8 years and 8 months later Chris catches the same bird on his home patch. What are the chances of that? Are these birds regular visitors and we have not seen them before or did they just come this way for a change this year?

We are looking forward to March and April when the Red knot start to put on their breeding plumage. After experiences in Bohai we are confident we can recognise the 2 subspecies on plumage at that time of year, and we can assess whether *rogersi* are passing through Broome on northward migration or do they only visit on southward? By that time of the birds yearly cycle, it is much more difficult to assess the subspecies due to the worn breeding plumage.

In addition to these very interesting records, we had a much more surprising one. During a scan for colour-bands for the joint GFN/AWSG project we found a colour-banded Ruddy Turnstone (here at Broome we are only colour-banding Bar-tailed Godwit, Great and Red Knot) After a while staring at it the bird moved and revealed its white flag, another NZ visitor!

Re-sighting details:

15/09/07

Ruddy Turnstone

Campsite Rocks

Northern Shores of Roebuck Bay

1BYYW, that is white leg flag left tibia, Blue over Yellow left tarsus, metal right tibia, Yellow over White left tarsus.

Banding details:

6/11/06

Awarua Bay, Nr Invercargill South Island NZ.

Age 2+

Some comments from our NZ colleagues

"A truly spectacular resighting and the first international record from this species from the South Island!!!!"

"When looking at the great circle route Broome to Awarua it is interesting to see that fits quite well with those Turnstone seen and caught in South Australia and Tasmania. Every chance then, that this bird it will end up in Awarua again. Also

interesting is the fact it is only c5, 200 km Broome - Awarua as opposed to Broome - Miranda c5, 500 km. Not a lot of people know that!"

The NWA wing of the NZWSG is now up and running.

Chris Hassell

Adrian Boyle

Shorebirds 2020 Project Underway

Shorebirds 2020 is designed to reinvigorate and coordinate national shorebird monitoring in Australia. It is a collaborative enterprise between Birds Australia, the AWSG, WWF Australia and the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust. The primary objectives of the programme are to collect data on the numbers of shorebirds in a manner that can be utilised to aid their conservation and management, specifically long- and short-term population trends, and explore what may be causing those changes.

Furthermore, this project will seek to understand the relationship between habitat, habitat quality, and threats on the distribution and abundance of shorebirds. We hope to achieve these objectives by a programme of improved count methodology; counter training, recruitment and support; and identification of important new shorebird sites.

A Project Manager (Jo Oldland), Technical Manager (Rob Clemens) and Project Officer (Angie Haslem) have been appointed to oversee the project.

We want to hear from anyone with an interest in shorebirds and shorebird conservation, or who would like to learn more about these

amazing birds. In particular we are also looking for volunteers to assist with biannual national population monitoring counts at sites throughout Australia.

People with limited shorebird experience need not feel daunted as we aim to set up a regional 'mentoring' programme, as well as run shorebird ID training workshops where feasible. The next round of national PMP counts will be the summer 2008 season, and we are aiming for as many sites as possible to be counted on the weekend following World Wetlands Day on 2nd February 2008 (i.e. the weekend of 3-4 Feb) or closely prior, depending on tides and logistics etc.

To register your interest in getting involved in this exciting project, please contact Joanne Oldland at Birds Australia National Office on (03) 9347 0757, email j.oldland@birdsaustralia.com.au. Check out the Shorebird Conservation Toolkit at <http://shorebirds.org.au/> and join the Shorebirds Australia Yahoo Group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shorebirds_Australia to keep informed on the project and join the discussion on Australia's amazing shorebirds.

Long distant Sooty Oystercatcher

The NWWSG have been putting engraved flags on Sooty Oystercatchers since November 2003. There is only ever a maximum of about 40 of them at Roebuck Bay and so we don't catch many. We have flagged 32 individuals and only had records from Roebuck Bay, where all the birds were banded, and the Lacepede Islands 100KM north of Broome.

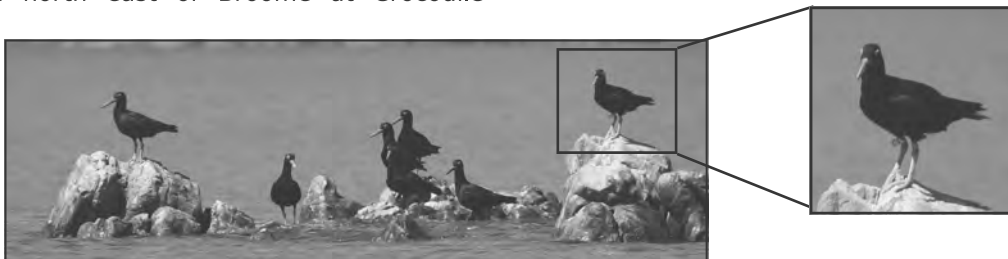
So it was with great interest that we received information of a sighting and great photographs on the 1st September 2007 of Sooty Oystercatcher C9 from 245KM north east of Broome at Crocodile Creek (16 09 01S 123 39

46E) in the Buccaneer Archipelago, Kimberley region.

The bird was banded on in Roebuck Bay on the 29th of Jan 2004 and was only recorded three times in March 2004 before this fantastic sighting.

This is the longest recorded movement of this species in Australia.

Many thanks to Emma Carlos for the record and the excellent photos.





The role of AWSG's Conservation Officers

AWSG has a strong conservation policy and aims to ensure the future of waders and their habitats through undertaking research and conservation programmes and encouraging and assisting similar programmes in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

One of the official objectives of AWSG is 'to formulate and promote policies for the conservation of waders and their habitat, and to make available information to local and national governmental conservation bodies and other organisations to encourage and assist them in pursuing this objective'.

At the moment each Australian state has its own AWSG conservation officer and in some cases there are two people. The Northern Territory is not represented, a situation which may be remedied at some time in the future. New Zealand has two officers, one for the South Island and one for the North. Asia has one representative. For the purposes of brevity they will all be referred to as State Conservation Officers (SCOs). In addition, there is a national conservation officer who is a member of the AWSG committee. All SCOs are welcome to attend this annual committee meeting as observers if they wish.

Ensuring the protection of waders and their habitats requires effort and vigilance. With the endless industrial, residential and agricultural demands on coastal, estuarine and inland wetland habitats and the resulting decline in most shorebird populations we need to be constantly aware of proposed developments and to respond to them at the earliest moment. The State Conservation Officers have an essential role to play as they are the ones closest to events in their own areas. Their role is to identify issues and to respond by raising the issue with the national conservation officer whereupon they would both work out a strategy for response. In most cases the SCO would deal with the matter.

Perhaps the SCOs could make a list of the issues which are likely to have a negative, or for that matter a positive, impact on waders so that we all have an overview of the national situation.

If a state issue has national ramifications, it may necessitate involvement from the national conservation officer and/or advice from the AWSG committee. With so many SCOs, it is important that at least one person has an overview of the whole situation and correspondence should be forwarded to the national conservation officer for filing and reference. In addition to liaising with the SCOs on particular issues, the national conservation officer can provide an effective means of communication amongst the members of the group.

The national conservation officer also keeps up to date with federal policies that may have an influence on shorebirds and monitors and responds to issues affecting or likely to affect shorebirds in the East-Asian Australasian Flyway in general. There may be particular Flyway issues in which the AWSG takes a special interest. For example, the Saemangeum project in South Korea is one where representation has been made to high levels of government and where AWSG is joining with Birds Korea to assist with a population monitoring program.

The roles of the various conservation officers are difficult to formulate and at times they will cross over. What is most important is to keep the lines of communication open so that we work together in our efforts to convince other people, organisations and governments that shorebirds are a valuable asset to the community.

Ann Lindsey – AWSG National Conservation Officer
polytelis@bigpond.com

Outback NSW wetland internationally recognised

The Federal Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull announced the Paroo River Wetlands in north-west New South Wales as Australia's latest addition to the list of internationally important wetlands recognised under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

"The Paroo River is the last remaining free-flowing river in the northern Murray-Darling Basin, and the inclusion of the magnificent Paroo River Wetlands as Australia's 65th Ramsar Site represents a significant addition to Australia's Ramsar estate," Mr Turnbull said.

"The Paroo River Ramsar Site is one of the most

important wetland systems for waterbirds in eastern Australia – supporting threatened species including painted snipe and freckled ducks."

The artesian mound springs at Peery Lake are the largest active complex in New South Wales. Mound springs are an uncommon landform and those found at Peery Lake are home to the nationally threatened Salt Pipewort, one of the rarest vascular plants in New South Wales."

For more information on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands visit www.environment.gov.au/wetlands

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/env/2007/pubs/mr20sep07.pdf>

Internationally Important Shorebird Species at the Geum Estuary: southward migration, 2007.

With the closure of the Saemangeum seawall in April 2006, the adjacent and much smaller Geum Estuary (comprising mainland and offshore tidal-flats centred on Yubu Island), has now become the most important remaining shorebird site in South Korea. This site too is threatened with reclamation – though less imminent and certain than before due to national and international advocacy (please go to: www.restoresaemangeum.com).

During Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Program (SSMP) counts conducted by Birds Korea and the AWSG in April and May 2007, at least 119,000 shorebirds were recorded at the Geum Estuary. The site's extreme international importance is therefore now widely recognised for northward migration (with, for example, a peak count of 70 Nordmann's Greenshank in May 2006 and 50,000 Great Knot in mid-April 2007) as well as for the boreal winter (especially for "Eastern" *osculans* Oystercatcher, with 5300 recorded on January 19, 2001). However, there remain rather few accessible data for the southward migration period. Shorebird counts were therefore conducted by the authors at Yubu Island on August 16th -17th, on the mainland of the Geum Estuary on August 17th, and again at Yubu Island on September 12th.

Based on Wetlands International's Waterbird Population estimates – Fourth Edition, 10 or more shorebird species were found in internationally important concentrations (i.e. of 1% or more of their known population). August counts included: 2240 *osculans* Oystercatcher (22% of the estimated EAA Flyway population); 1670 Grey Plover (1%); 1550 Kentish Plover (1.5%); 3320 Mongolian Plover (ca 5% of combined populations of *mongolus* and *stegmanni* subspecies); 1800 Eurasian Curlew (ca 5% of conservative Flyway estimate); 3350 Terek Sandpiper (6%); 562 Grey-tailed Tattler (1%);

13,600 Great Knot (3%); and 590 Sanderling (2.5%). In addition, there were three adult Spoon-billed Sandpiper sighted on August 17th.

Tide conditions were not as optimal for the count at Yubu Island on September 12th, and the only internationally important species that were obviously more numerous than in August were Kentish Plover (which had increased to 2000, or 2%) and Dunlin (with the ca 10,000 present possibly representing 1% of a population, dependent upon which subspecies were involved). In addition, 4 Nordmann's Greenshank and 13 Spoon-billed Sandpiper (8 adults and five juveniles) were counted – the latter very probably representing significantly over 1% of the remaining population of this fast-declining species, recently suggested to have a breeding population possibly of only 100 pairs (C. Zockler in lit., 2007). The only other Korean records of Spoon-billed Sandpiper away from the Geum known to Birds Korea during this year's southward migration have come from the Nakdong Estuary, Busan, where 4 juveniles were present in mid-September.

Further shorebird counts will be conducted at the Geum Estuary in late September, when the peak of Nordmann's Greenshank and Spoon-billed Sandpiper are anticipated, and again during April and May 2008. Those wishing to take part in next year's SSMP counts at the Geum and Saemangeum are urged to contact Nial Moores (at: spoonbillkorea@yahoo.com) or Danny Rogers (at: drogers@melbpc.org.au): your support will be very greatly appreciated!

Nial Moores & Ju Yong-Ki.

www.birdskorea.org
www.birdskorea.or.kr

Observation of the visible northward migration of shorebirds on south-west Kamchatka in May 2007

The counts of the waterfowl and shorebirds flying on northward migration along the coast the Sea of Okhotsk were carried out in southwestern Kamchatka Peninsula (52°48'N; 156°10'E) from April 22 to May 24. The periods of daily observation were from 4 to 17 hours, and the total period of direct observation was 424 hours.

In total approximately 632,000 birds were counted including: 44,4706 Anatidae, 15,033 loons, 4,425 grebes, 14,375 cormorants, 86,989 auks and 60,837 thousand Laridae were counted.

However the number of waders was comparably

small – only 5,194 individuals of 16 species were counted. Only Dunlin were numerous – 4,358 individuals. Migration of this species started on May 15 with a peak on May 17. Migration of Common Snipe started on May 6; Eastern Curlew – May 9; Wood Sandpiper – May 16; Mongolian Plover, Red-necked Stint and Black-tailed Godwit – May 17, Bar-tailed Godwit – May 21.

The works were carried out with support from the Pro-Natura Fund of the Nature Conservation Society of Japan.

Yuri Gerasimov and Yulia Zavgarova





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

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 (moonbird@waterfront.net.au or rjessop@penguins.org.au) to reserve your place as Clive Minton is away from his desk until 15th September.

**Keep your eyes open for this
Greater Sandplover, the
oldest recorded shorebird in
Taiwan**

**Left tibia: white flag/blue flag
White flag engraved with 7H**



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

Annual subscriptions:	
Australia	A\$35.00
New Zealand	A\$35.00
Overseas	A\$40.00
Institutions	A\$45.00