

Editor: Lisa Collins
Email: lisacollins@wildmail.com

Newsletter for the Asia Pacific Flyways

No 8: January 2008

In this issue:

Editorial	1
Nominations for AWSG Committee.....	1
NWA expedition	2
Shorebirds 2020.....	4
Volunteers recognised.....	4
EAAF Partnership update.....	5
Second MOP of the EAAF.....	5
Calendar of Shorebirds 2020 counts	6
Saemangeum update.....	8
Pratincole movement.....	8
Kamchatka expedition.....	9
IWSG Conference.....	10
Godwits update.....	11
Painted Snipe a new species	11
Call for volunteers	12
Shorebird Symposium.....	12
Upcoming events	12

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

I have enjoyed putting together this edition of *Tattler* immensely. In its pages are many reports from expeditions, both in the field and from conferences around the world. Just reading about the NWA expedition inspires me to pick up the scope and head for the mudflats, not to mention booking the next flight to Kamchatka to witness

the awe inspiring scene that is 2,000 Whimbrels flying overhead in six hours. I bet there were a few stiff necks that night!

And news of the Godwits is still coming in! After fearing the worst for E5 and her unexpected detour, she has been sighted alive and well on the central coast of NSW. I can now look forward to becoming engrossed in the story of the next group of tagged godwits and marvel at their journeys all over again and scan the mudflats expectantly for my own 'find'.

Brigita's attendance at the IWSG Conference waved the flag for the AWSG/VWSG and for oystercatchers worldwide. While on the subject of oycs, it seems that NWA Sooty Oycs are being outdone by their southern counterparts in movements. Both Sooty and Pied Oycs banded at Corner Inlet, Victoria, have turned up in north eastern Tasmania, a distance of approximately 275 km. Thanks Ralph for the info!

This edition also highlights the importance that volunteers and casual observers can make in understanding migratory shorebirds through participating in counts, reporting leg flag sightings and by becoming involved in local conservation groups or even the AWSG Committee. I hope all of you who live near Shorebird 2020 study sites will put your hand up to assist in this exciting project.

So whether it be in Broome or Botany Bay, Korea or Kamchatka get out there and be a part of the action!

This edition

- Expeditions galore, big catches and bigger numbers
- Get involved in Shorebirds 2020– count dates inside
- Collaboration on the Flyway– update on the EAAF Flyway Partnership
- Saemangeum waders– down but not yet out
- Australia's own Painted Snipe now recognized

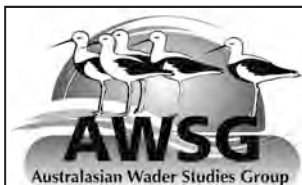
All this and more inside.....

Nominations for AWSG Committee

As advised in the last issue of *Stilt*, nominations are now being called for people to serve on the AWSG Committee for the next two years. If you would like to take an active part in the running of our Group please consider nominating; in this role you will have opportunities to input to plans and strategies aimed at achieving our objectives in a number of different ways. You don't need any specific skills apart from a passion for gathering

information about these special birds and utilising this towards their conservation throughout Australia and the Flyway. If you would like to discuss please contact either myself or Penny Johns, our Secretary pjohns@optalert.com. Nominations are due by 31 January 2008.

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



Compiled and published by the Australasian Wader Studies Group

A Special interest Group of Birds Australia



North-west Australia Wader and Tern Expedition 2007

Each year that we visit north-west Australia as part of the AWSG long term study of waders and terns we say that "this year's expedition was the best". So, again, it seemed to be this November. We achieved all our principal scientific objectives, we had a large and extremely hard working team throughout the three-week period (10th November to 1st December 2007), fieldwork was extremely successful with the highest total of birds caught yet for a three-week expedition, we operated within budget, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed being part of an efficient and happy team.

In more recent years the primary focus of the banding activities of NWA expeditions has gradually switched from trying to find out migration routes, destinations, and stopover locations of the waders to demographics – obtaining estimates of annual breeding success and survival rates.

The main achievements in relation to the objectives of this expedition are outlined below.

- The weather was the hottest yet experienced during our November expeditions, and was the hottest place in Australia on two days, reaching 44 and 45°C. A really pleasing outcome was the continued development of cannon-net catching techniques that can be successfully used in such climatic conditions.
- A total of 3939 waders (29 species) and 107 Terns (7 species) were caught during 18 days in the field. The total of 4046 was slightly higher than in November 2006 (4001) (see Table 1 for species totals).
- Birds were caught in 18 cannon-net catches and one mist-net catch. The average cannon-net catch size of 211 was almost the same as the previous year (209).
- The largest catch was 595 at 80 Mile Beach. This contained 332 Curlew Sandpipers, the largest single catch of this species for 20 years. Other notable single catch species totals were 275 Great Knot, 219 Bar-tailed Godwit and 68 Ruddy Turnstone.
- The mist-net catch of 243 in one night at Lake Eda was a record also. This occurred in the middle of a peak of intense, and exhausting fieldwork when almost 1000 waders were caught in two daytime cannon-net catches and the overnight mist-netting- a period of 36 hours almost non-stop fieldwork!
- Great Knot (1412) again topped the list of species totals. Extremely pleasing was the massive total of 567 Curlew Sandpipers, the largest total for this species for many years. Part of the reason for this was the exceptionally good breeding success achieved by Curlew Sandpipers in 2007 with almost a third of the birds caught being identified as juveniles (28.7% against a nine-year average of 17.0%) . As this species has shown the largest and most sustained reduction in population levels throughout Australia over the last 25 years it is particularly valuable for it to have such a bumper breeding success this year.
- In contrast only low numbers of Black-tailed Godwit (1), Oriental Plover (1) and Eastern Curlew (7) were caught and no Whimbrel, Pied Oystercatcher or Oriental Pratincole. Several attempts were made to cannon-net Oriental Plover at 80 Mile Beach without success. There needs to be further development in our technique if we are to be able to sample regularly the huge population (many tens of thousands) of Oriental

Plovers which peak in November in the 80 Mile Beach/ Anna Plains region each year.

- A total of 509 waders already carrying bands were recaptured during the expedition. This represents a retrap rate of 12.9% overall.
- An unprecedented number of Chinese-banded birds were recaptured – 9 Great Knot, one Bar-tailed Godwit and one Curlew Sandpiper. Many additional Chinese-

Table 1: Wader and Tern Catch Details

SPECIES	Catch Totals		
	New	Retrap	Total
Great Knot	1219	193	1412
Curlew Sandpiper	521	46	567
Bar-tailed Godwit	330	102	432
Greater Sand Plover	240	28	268
Red-necked Stint	224	41	265
Grey-tailed Tattler	201	30	231
Terek Sandpiper	157	15	172
Red Knot	123	12	135
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	102	2	104
Ruddy Turnstone	47	21	68
Common Greenshank	42	-	42
Little Curlew	38	-	38
Black-fronted Plover	22	10	32
Black-winged Stilt	25	1	26
Wood Sandpiper	19	-	19
Grey Plover	15	2	17
Long-toed Stint	16	1	17
Red-capped Plover	14	1	15
Marsh Sandpiper	11	-	11
Red-kneed Dotterel	11	-	11
Sooty Oystercatcher	9	1	10
Broad-billed Sandpiper	8	1	9
Sanderling	8	-	8
Masked Lapwing	8	-	8
Eastern Curlew	5	2	7
Lesser Sand Plover	6	-	6
Australian Pratincole	5	-	5
Black-tailed Godwit	1	2	3
Oriental Plover	1	-	
Waders (29 species)	3430	509	3939
Common Tern	41	-	41
Gull-billed Tern	24	1	25
Whiskered Tern	15	-	15
White-winged Black Tern	13	-	13
Crested Tern	7	-	7
Lesser Crested Tern	5	-	5
Roseate Tern	1	-	1
Terns (7 species)	106	1	107
Total	3536	510	4046

flagged birds were also seen in the field. This is the result of the hugely successful wader banding activities at Chongming Dao, in the Yangtse Estuary near Shanghai, over the last four years.

- In addition a Hong Kong banded Bar-tailed Godwit, was caught twice, on successive days, at different locations some five km apart. Two Great Knot originally banded at Broome were recaptured at 80 Mile Beach and several Great Knot, Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit with engraved flags or individual colour band combinations banded at Broome were seen at 80 Mile Beach. This suggests that the movements between these two locations, 200 km apart, may be slightly more frequent than we've previously detected.
- Rather fewer terns (107) were captured during this year's expedition, although the variety was still nice (7 species).
- Good catch samples were obtained of all the nine species for which we monitor breeding success annually via the percentage of juveniles (see Table 2). Overall it seems to have been a much better breeding year in 2007 for the wader populations that visit NW Australia. 2006 was an exceptionally poor year for breeding success so this was a welcome improvement.

Table 2: % Juveniles in N.W. Australia Cannon-net Catches, 11-30 Nov 2007

SPECIES	Total Catch	% Juv.	Average % Juv 98/99-06/07	Assessment of 2007 breeding success
Great Knot	1412	12.7	9.8	Good
Bar-tailed Godwit	432	6.0	8.9	Poor
Red Knot	135	23.0	16.9	Good
Grey-tailed Tattler	231	24.7	17.1	Good
Terek Sandpiper	172	12.8	12.7	Average
Curlew Sandpiper	565	28.7	17.0	Very good
Red-necked Stint	264	20.5	23.2	Average
Ruddy Turnstone	68	10.3	13.1	Poor
Greater Sand Plover	268	27.2	22.3	Good

- Engraved leg flags, primarily intended for survival rate determination, were again placed on most waders caught at Broome (except Red-necked Stint). This year a number of species were added to the target list and included the use of engraved leg flags at inland locations such as Lake Eda. Thus species such as Black-winged Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Wood Sandpiper and Gull-billed Terns were fitted with engraved flags for the first time as well as Marsh Sandpipers and Greenshank.
- Intensive observations by Alice Ewing (whose Melbourne University Ph.D. is centred on survival rate determination for four key species), Chris Hassell, Adrian Boyle and others have now resulted in some 80% of birds marked with ELF's being re-sighted. In addition, Chris Hassell, on behalf of Theunis Piersma, is

individually marking Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Red Knot with colour-band combinations in a parallel study. Whilst most re-sightings are intentionally made at or close to the original marking location, there have now been nearly 100 sightings of ELF and colour-banded birds overseas, thus adding valuable recovery data on migration routes and stopover locations.

- Interesting or unusual birds have quite frequently been seen during north-west Australia expeditions e.g. Spotted Redshank, Blue and White Flycatcher and Arctic Warbler in 2006. This year it was Chris Hassell's turn to come up trumps. During a "twinkle" on 80 Mile Beach he spotted a Eurasian Curlew, the first for Australia. It was seen well by most of the rest of the team and photographed.
- John Curran and a team from AQIS again accompanied us in the field on 14 days and collected a large number of cloacal swab and blood samples for analysis for avian-borne diseases. Overall the incidence of any form of avian-borne disease is very low and no examples of the highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza have been found.

Participants

Thirty-six people from seven different countries participated with almost half (17) being from overseas. Origins were as follows- 19 Australia (7 Vic, 4 WA, 3 SA, 3 ACT, 1 NSW, 1 Qld), 5 U.K., 4 China, 4 USA, 2 New Zealand, 1 Japan, 1 Nigeria.

It was particularly pleasing to have with us representatives from the two main wader locations in China – Ma Qiang from Chongming Dao and Zhang Guangming from Yalu Jiang. It was also rewarding that Yahkat Barshep, a Nigerian student undertaking a Ph.D. on Curlew Sandpipers at the Avian Demography unit in Cape Town, should visit NWA in what turned out to be a bumper year for that species.

There were two other welcome features of the 2007 team. Thirteen (over a third) of the participants were "younger generation" (i.e. under 40!). Secondly there were a good number of really experienced wader people from Australia and overseas, many of whom had been on NWA expeditions many times previously. This blend of age and experience was a perfect mix and led to the high level of efficiency, satisfaction and enjoyment of the expedition.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all members of this year's expedition for their excellent work. It is invidious to mention names but three in particular stand out. Chris Hassell and his team with the cannon-netting equipment, Maureen Christie with all of the catering arrangements, and Frank O'Connor with his teams of people making leg flags.

We again enormously thank those who assisted the expedition with accommodation and various permissions. Two separate periods were spent happily based at Broome Bird Observatory, and John, David and Helen Stoate at Anna Plains Station provided two houses for us to use this year as well as even more refrigeration space.

The group also greatly thanks Chris Hassell, Broome Bird Observatory, George Swann, the Department of Environment and Conservation and AQIS for kindly loaning trailers.

The Department of Environment and Conservation is also greatly thanked for its generous financial support of two of the visitors from China. BBO also kindly provided free accommodation for these two visitors.

Clive Minton, Roz Jessop, Chris Hassell, Maureen Christie
Expedition Leaders





Wader counts and the launch of Shorebirds 2020

It is that time of year again, when wader enthusiasts throughout the country take to the mud-flats to witness the wonder of the large groups of shorebirds that spend their non-breeding season on our shores.

Entering into its 27th year, the Australian national shorebird count data set rivals that collected anywhere in the world. With notably fewer observers available to cover such a vast continent, this achievement is truly inspiring.

Unfortunately, the data is showing us that many shorebird species are in trouble. Decreasing population numbers have been observed and there are growing threats to populations throughout the flyway.

The combination of declining numbers and increasing threats, with a need to determine population trends for more species and an increase in public concern have led to an impressive partnership between four organisations and the establishment the Shorebirds 2020 project. With Birds Australia and the AWSG managing the project, and WWF-Australia and the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust providing the funding, this project looks to build on the success of the national wader count program.

Shorebirds 2020 was officially launched at the Australasian Ornithological Conference in Perth on December 5th 2007 by representatives from each of the partner organisations.

The next round of national shorebird counts will be conducted in January/February 2008 with an aim to complete two counts at as many of the historic shorebird sites as possible. See pages 6-7 for a calendar of counts

across Australia.

We also would like to encourage everyone to submit a count data sheet anytime they are observing shorebirds, as each count adds one more piece of knowledge to the shorebird conservation puzzle.

If you would like to take part in the counts or learn more about the project, please contact those listed in the calendar, or contact us directly at Birds Australia National Office:

Joanne Oldland, Rob Clemens, and Angie Haslem

Ph: (03) 9347 0757

Email: j.oldland@birdsaustralia.com.au;

r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au;

a.haslem@birdsaustralia.com.au

Also, check out the Shorebird Conservation Toolkit at <http://shorebirds.org.au/> and join the Shorebirds Australia Group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shorebirds_Australia to discuss Australia's amazing shorebirds and to keep up to date on the project and counts program. Further information will also be available on the Birds Australia website.

Finally, if anyone has any thoughts regarding the Shorebirds 2020 project, please let us know. We welcome suggestions and feedback from you, the experts, on anything related to this project. We hope you will consider joining us so that we can add to the foundation on which shorebird conservation is based.

Rob Clemens

r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au

Volunteers the key to helping shorebirds

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) says volunteers are playing a key role in shorebird conservation projects around the state.

"Coastcare Week, which runs from 3 to 9 December this year, is the perfect time to thank our volunteers for their amazing contribution to conserving South Australia's shorebirds," said Louisa Halliday, Manager of DEH's Biodiversity Programs in the West Region.

"In the West Region, we have a flock of committed bird enthusiasts who walk along the same beach every three months to monitor numbers of shorebird species such as Hooded and Red-Capped Plovers, and Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers.

"The monitoring is part of the 'Scoping the Shoreline' project, a collaborative project between DEH, Birds Australia, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board, the Southern Eyre Birds Group and several friends of parks groups.

"The project aims to document where shorebirds occur on the Eyre Peninsula and how they are affected by predators, weeds and recreational beach users," Louisa said.

"It has largely been driven by local volunteer Jane Cooper, who was recently recognised for her valuable contribution to shorebird research over the last 28 years with the 2007 Premier's Natural Resources Management Award for Exceptional Volunteer Contribution to Research.

"The data collected by the volunteers is contributing to

Birds Australia's national bird sightings database and DEH's state biological databases, resulting in a dataset that can guide future research, decision making and planning at a regional level."

Ross Anderson, DEH's District Ranger for the Lower South East, said volunteers have also made valuable contributions to shorebird conservation in the South East.

"With help from DEH, the Friends of Shorebirds have roped-off Little Tern nests to protect them from vehicles, and monitored the nests over a period of three years," Ross said.

"Last summer, three Tern chicks successfully fledged – a great result.

"Recently DEH and the Friends of Shorebirds undertook a project, supported by the World Wildlife Fund Australia, which identified critical sites for shorebirds and the impacts of human disturbance to shorebirds in the Lower South East.

"The project is a major step forward, giving us a really good basis from which to make better decisions about how to conserve shorebirds and their habitat," Ross said.

Other important shorebird sites in South Australia include the Coorong and Lower Lakes, Kangaroo Island and the Spencer Gulf.

Department for Environment and Heritage
News Release 7 December 2007

www.deh.sa.gov.au/data/press/helping_shorebirds.pdf

The future of shorebirds in the new East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership

Prior to the 2nd Meeting of the Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway held in Beijing from 13 – 14 November, an informal meeting of interested people was held on the morning of 12 November to discuss how best to include shorebird conservation under the new Partnership framework. Many participants at the informal meeting felt strongly that there was a need to continue the work that the Shorebird Working Group (SWG) used to carry out under the Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy. However, with the formation of the EAAF Flyway Partnership Network, the Terms of Reference, structure and operations of the old SWG needed to be reviewed to see how it could work more effectively under the new framework.

Ken Gosbell, the Chairperson of the Australasian Wader Studies Group, was selected as the Interim Chairperson of the new 'shorebird working group', which would be made up of experts providing advice on shorebird issues to the Partnership. The members of the group would be nominated by the Partners and by relevant experts. A team has also been formed to draw up Terms of Reference for the group and a first draft has been completed.

At the informal meeting, participants reported on the shorebird related work they have carried out over the past year, as well as their plans for the coming year.

Report on activities (December 2006 to November 2007)

There are currently 49 Network sites in 12 countries of importance to shorebirds. Some of these sites also support internationally important numbers of migratory Anatidae, cranes or other migratory waterbirds.

Key activities carried out over the past 12-months include:

- Satellite tracking of Bar-tailed Godwit from Alaska and

New Zealand which generated some very important data on the migration of the species and, as the results were placed on the internet, raised awareness amongst scientists and interested members of the public to the amazing migration of this species. This project was a collaboration between the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USA) and the Miranda Naturalists Trust (NZ);

- Phil Straw has set up a Asia-Pacific Shorebird Network website as well as a "Shorebird Site Network" e-alert discussion forum which has 700 e-mail addresses; and
- Shorebird Site Network members have been active in assisting with the establishment and maintenance of 'Wetland Link International – Asia', which is a network of wetland education centres across the flyway, carrying out wetland CEPA, habitat management, monitoring and research of waterbirds and their conservation.

Planned activities over the coming 12-months
Work over the coming 12-months includes the continuation of ongoing activities, such as:

- Monitoring at sites on national and regional levels; and
- Activities on specific species, e.g. Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Dunlin.

New initiatives will include:

- Investigate the impact of climate change on coastal wetlands and migratory waterbirds;
- Projects on poverty alleviation at network sites for the conservation and sustainable use of sites; and
- Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund (AWCF) to support projects on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the sustainable management of their wetland habitats.

Lew Young

Second meeting of Partners of the EAAF

The second Meeting of Partners of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership was held in Beijing, China on 13-14 November 2007, kindly hosted by the State Forestry Administration.

The meeting was attended by representatives of government, inter-governmental and non-government partners, including the Governments of Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Union of Myanmar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States, and representatives from the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat, the Australasian Wader Studies Group, Birdlife International, the International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International and WWF. Two new partners were warmly welcomed to the meeting – the Wild Bird Society

of Japan and the Royal Government of Cambodia.

A number of observers also attended the meeting, including representatives from the Governments of China, India, Iran, Laos, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, Japan Association for Wild Geese Protection and the Japan Wetlands Action Network.

The second Meeting of Partners welcomed the new Seabird Working Group and the continuing participation of the Shorebird, Anatidae, Crane and Avian Influenza Groups under the Partnership. The meeting made further progress on administrative arrangements, including adoption of an annual reporting process, a site information sheet for site nominations, and a template for nominating technical experts. The meeting also reflected on progress against the Implementation Strategy over the past year and had a fruitful discussion of possible collaborative projects across the flyway to support the conservation of migratory waterbirds.

Further information on the Partnership is available on the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/migratory/waterbirds/flyway-partnership/index.html>

Vicki Cronan, Vicki.Cronan@environment.gov.au



The Chair of the EAAF Partnership, Mr Andrew McNee, presenting Ken Gosbell, Chairman, AWSG, with the Partner Certificate in Beijing together with Mr Hong-Joo Kim, Vice Chairman of the Partnership, and Mr Phil Straw, Vice Chairman, AWSG.





2008 Calendar of Shorebird 2020 Counts

Area	Count dates	If you would like to join these one of these teams please contact:
------	-------------	--

NEW SOUTH WALES

THE HUNTER	19 Jan, 23 Feb, 8 Mar, 19 Apr, 17 May, 21 Jun, 19 Jul, 16 Aug, 13 Sep, 18 Oct, 15 Nov, 13 Dec	Chris and Liz Herbert- 02 4959 3663, chrisliz@tpg.com.au
BOTANY BAY	19 Jan, 23 Feb, 8 Mar, 19 Apr, 17 May, 21 Jun, 19 Jul, 16 Aug, 13 Sep, 18 Oct, 15 Nov, 13 Dec	Phil Straw- 02 9597 7765, PhilStraw@avifaunaresearch.com
PARAMATTA RIVER	19 Jan, 23 Feb, 8 Mar, 19 Apr, 17 May, 21 Jun, 19 Jul, 16 Aug, 13 Sep, 18 Oct, 15 Nov, 13 Dec	Judy Harrington- 0403 026 660, judy.harrington@sopa.nsw.gov.au
CLARENCE ESTUARY	2 and 3 February	Gary Whale- 02 6646 1286, gbwhale@bigpond.net.au
RICHMOND ESTUARY	2 and 3 February	Bo Totterman- 02 6683 4135, dromas@dodo.com.au
SHOALHAVEN	2 February	Phil Craven- 02 4422 2345 phil.craven@environment.nsw.gov.au
TUGGERAH LAKES, BRISBANE WATERS, & HASTINGS ESTUARY	Count dates not finalised	Phil Straw- 02 9597 7765, PhilStraw@avifaunaresearch.com
PORT STEPHENS	10 February, a few spaces remain	Alan Stuart- 02 4952 8569 almarosa@bigpond.com

NORTHERN TERRITORY

NORTH DARWIN	26 January, counts are done throughout the year if you find yourself in Darwin	Arthur and Sheryl Keats- 08 8948 1794, tattlers@tpg.com.au
--------------	--	---

QUEENSLAND

MORETON BAY	13 January and 24 February, more people needed	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au
CAIRNS	13 January and 24 February, more people needed	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au
TOWNSVILLE	13 January and 24 February, more people needed	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au
GLADSTONE	13 January and 24 February, more people needed	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au
MACKAY	13 January and 24 February, more people needed	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au
GREAT SANDY STRAIGHT	13 January and 24 February, more people needed	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au
TWEED ESTUARY	Completely covered	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au
BOWEN	Completely covered	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au
BOWLING GREEN BAY	An interesting possibility if a boat could be found, would be best on a different date	Linda Cross- 07 5495 2758 xenus@big.net.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE COORONG	2 and 3 February	Paul Wainwright- paul.wainwright@saugov.sa.gov.au or Maureen Christie- 08 8738 0014 twinpeppers@icisp.net.au
SE COAST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	9 February	Jeff Campbell- 08 8726 8366 barnmotel@mountgambier.net
SE LAKES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Date not set but likely before or after the weekend of 2-3 February	Maureen Christie- 08 8738 0014 twinpeppers@icisp.net.au
WESTERN EYRE PENINSULA	Date not set but around 29 Jan - 5 Feb	Jane Cooper- 08 8685 2121 ocyphaps@bigpond.com
GULF OF ST VINCENT, AND SPENCER GULF	A few people have agreed to help out with the Port Augusta area, but many more people are needed to cover these nationally important shorebird areas.	Jo Oldland- 03 9387 7095 j.oldland@birdsaustralia.com.au

TASMANIA

SE TASMANIA SITES: (East Derwent / Pittwater, Lauderdale, Marion Bay, Orielton)	9 February	Eric Woehler- 03 6223 1980, 0438 204 565 eric_woe@primus.com.au
ROBBINS PASSAGE / BOULLANGER BAY	Completely covered	Eric Woehler- 03 6223 1980, 0438 204 565 eric_woe@primus.com.au
CAPE PORTLAND & GEORGE TOWN / TAMAR	Completely covered	Eric Woehler- 03 6223 1980, 0438 204 565 eric_woe@primus.com.au
GEORGES BAY	16 and 17 February Completely covered	Eric Woehler- 03 6223 1980, 0438 204 565 eric_woe@primus.com.au

VICTORIA

GENERAL SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION DAY	20 January, 9:00am followed by an indoor presentation on shorebirds and the project	Jo Oldland- 03 9347 0757 j.oldland@birdsaustralia.com.au
WESTERNPORT BOCA COUNT	9 February, 5 July, 15 November	Xenia Dennet (BOCA count coordinator)- 03 9457 2816, xdennett@melbpc.org.au
	26 January, a second summer count will be done provided enough people can be found	Rob Clemens- 03 9347 0757, 0425 805 087 r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au
WERRIBEE / AVALON	19 and 27 January, 16 February	Danny Rogers- 03 9710 1345 drogers@melbpc.org.au
ANDERSON INLET	Date not set and space limited so book early	Jim & Anthea Whitelaw- 03 5674 3598 birds3996@pocketmail.com.au
BELLARINE PENINSULA (Lake Connearre area, Swan Bay, Moolap)	16 and 17 February, a second count will be scheduled for 27 January provided enough people can be found	John Newman- 03 5243 8685 littlehouse@iprimus.com.au
ALTONA	Dates of two summer counts most likely to correspond to dates at Bellarine and Werribee	Ken Gosbell- 03 9729 5524 ken@gosbell.id.au
EAST CORNER INLET	31 January, area will be well covered as usual by Clive Minton and others. A second count here has not been ruled out	Rob Clemens- 03 9347 0757, 0425 805 087 r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au
WEST CORNER INLET	18 February will be well covered as usual by Peter Dann and others. A second count here has not been ruled out	Rob Clemens- 03 9347 0757, 0425 805 087 r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au
SHALLOW INLET	18 February	Rob Clemens- 03 9347 0757, 0425 805 087 r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au
PORT FAIRY AREA	27 January and 9 February	Rob Clemens- 03 9347 0757, 0425 805 087 r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au
LAKE CORAGAMITE AND SURROUNDING LAKES	2 February	Rob Clemens- 03 9347 0757, 0425 805 087 r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au
SW VICTORIA (Yambuk to SA BORDER)	27 January and 9 February	Rob Farnes robfarnes@yahoo.com.au
NORTHERN LAKES IN TECHEWOP AREA (Kelly, Cullen, Swan Hill, Woorenin drainage ponds)	Date not set	Simon Starr- 03 5455 7116 sandastarr@bigpond.com
GIPPSLAND LAKES	Date not set	Duncan Fraser- 03 5147 1671 d Fraser@netspace.net.au
THE MILDURA AREA AND CENTRAL WIMMERA LAKES	Many will be covered by Dale Tonkinson, but contact Rob Clemens if interested in this area or other inland wetlands	Rob Clemens- 03 9347 0757, 0425 805 087 r.clemens@birdsaustralia.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SWAN ESTUARY, AND SWAN COASTAL PLAIN, ROTTNES ISLAND, PEEL INLET, LAKE MCLARTY, LAKE CLIFTON, LAKE PRESTON	2 February	Bill Rutherford- 08 9284 9285 calidris@inet.net.au
BUSSELTON / VASSE ESTUARY	13 and 20 January, 2 February	Kim Onton- Kim.Onton@dec.wa.gov.au
WILSON INLET & ALBANY	Date not set but first week in February dependent on conditions	Anne Bondin- 08 9844 1793 sophieperry@hotmail.com
80 – MILE BEACH AND ROEBUCK BAY	2007-08 summer counts completed successfully by Chris Hassell and team	
ESPERANCE AND POSSIBLY OTHER AREAS IN SW WA		Bill Rutherford- 08 9284 9285 calidris@inet.net.au





Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Program Update

As reported previously, Birds Korea and the AWSG are conducting a joint shorebird monitoring program of key shorebird sites on the west coast of South Korea. The sites monitored include Saemangeum, formerly the most important shorebird staging site in the Yellow Sea, and the adjacent Geum Estuary. The 2007 Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Report, summarising results from surveys carried out during the northwards migration (April-May) of 2007, was released in South Korea in November 2007. A pdf version of this document is available on the recently redesigned Birds Korea website (www.birdskorea.org) and hard copies are available on request from Birds Korea or the Australasian Wader Studies Group.

The 2007 report demonstrates that enormous changes in shorebird populations have occurred in Saemangeum since closure of the Saemangeum sea-wall in April 2006, as part of a huge land reclamation project. A couple of species (such as Kentish Plover) have increased in numbers at Saemangeum since sea-wall closure, but most species have declined, with a catastrophic decrease in the numbers of Great Knot being of particular concern. Nevertheless, Saemangeum remains a site of international conservation significance to shorebirds, most notably for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, which is now being reclassified as Critically Endangered (Memo, December 21st, Threatened Asian Birds Forum, maintained by BirdLife International). There was evidence that some shorebirds displaced by the Saemangeum reclamation relocated to the nearby Geum Estuary and Gomso Bay, but tens of thousands are 'missing' and only further monitoring, both in Korea and on the non-breeding grounds, will determine what has happened to them.

With the decrease in habitat quality at Saemangeum, the Geum Estuary has now become the most important shorebird site in Korea. Despite the cancellation in 2007 of a long-standing plan to reclaim the whole area, much of the site still remains threatened by a broad range of 'development' proposals, and advocacy is needed to secure its conservation values (see www.restoresaemangeum.com). The vulnerability of remaining shorebird habitat in the Geum Estuary was further highlighted by a huge oil spill from the Hebei Spirit on 7th December 2007. The spill occurred near the shores of the Taean Peninsula, some 95 km north of the Geum Estuary. Rapid assessments of local avifauna carried out by Birds Korea soon after the spill suggested that several

thousand birds on the local coastline were oiled, but that the great majority were gulls (especially Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris*) rather than shorebirds. The Taean Peninsula is not a major shorebird site (though its scenic nature supports a large tourism industry). However, there was considerable concern for the internationally important shorebird populations of the Geum Estuary as currents and winds swept the oil spill south, with oil-balls being found within 7 km of the most important roost site at Yubu Island. Poor weather conditions have made monitoring difficult, but at this stage it appears that the shorebirds of the Geum Estuary have escaped the oil-spill: a great relief, especially considering that over 50% of the estimated world population of 10,000 Eastern Oystercatcher *Haematopus (ostralegus) osculans* have been recorded here. A report on the oil-spill, and on Korea's limited capacity to deal with such disasters, can be found on the Birds Korea's website.

Planning is now fully underway for fieldwork in April-May 2008, the last full field season of the SSMP. Again, we are dependent on the skills of volunteers, and we need help from birders with at least some shorebird counting experience (the more, the better!) to carry out the fieldwork. In particular, we need strong teams to carry out complete counts of the Geum Estuary and Saemangeum during the spring tide periods from 5-11 April, 22-26 April, 4-11 May and 21-25 May. We cannot pay for the airfares of international volunteers, but thanks to major funding from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, we will be able to cover accommodation costs of participants who are able to make their way to Korea. Please contact us if there is a chance that you can participate. We can promise that you will have plenty to do, and that you will see some amazing shorebird spectacles! If you are unable to participate in the fieldwork, you can still make a big difference by donating to the SSMP, or by sending emails of concern to the Korean Government through embassy channels. Ricki Coughlan's wonderful website, at www.restoresaemangeum.com, makes this a task that only takes seconds to complete.

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

Niall Moores, Birds Korea,
spoonbillkorea@yahoo.com



Australian Pratincole movement

The first report of a yellow-flagged Australian Pratincole away from the banding areas in north-west Australia has been received. It was seen on 14th October at Alice Springs!

Not very many Pratincoles are banded so it's particularly nice to get a report of this significant movement. Although they are present throughout the year at Anna Plains, WA, they are partial migrants with most of those in other parts of Australia moving north for the Austral winter and many thought to be going to New Guinea and Indonesia (though there is no direct proof at present).

Presumably the bird reported in Alice Springs was on migration to a breeding area in central Australia when it was originally marked in NW Australia.

International shorebird expedition to Kamchatka

An international expedition for the study of shorebird southward migration was carried out on southwest coast of Kamchatka Peninsula (Russia) from 28 July until 12 September 2007 with support of Pro-Natura Fund of Nature Conservation Society of Japan. Japanese ornithologist Takeyoshi Matsuo, Polish researchers Włodzimierz Meissner and Katarzyna Zolkos participated in the expeditions together with 5 Russians: Yuri Gerasimov from Kamchatka, Vladimir Melnikov and Veronika Gridneva from Ivanovo, Alexander Matsina and Ekaterina Matsina from Nizhny Novgorod. .

Bolshoe Lake (52° 32' N; 156° 19'E), a shorebird staging place, was the main location of the study. This shallow brackish water lake located nearby the mouth of Bolshaya River and has a maximum tidal range of approximately two meters. During low tide the lake has many square kilometres of mudflats and sandy beaches.

Daily (46 days in total) counting of shorebirds during low tide on the mudflats of the western (most important) part of Bolshoe Lake was the main method of studies. The total number of all waders (Fig. 1) as well as total number of Dunlin was smaller than expected. However, the number of recorded species was rather high – 28.

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is globally threatened species and any observations of this bird is interesting for researchers. Single Spoon-billed Sandpipers were recorded during mudflat counting on 19 and 20 August and 1, 2, 5 and 6 September. Two birds together were observed on 26 August and 3 September, while three Spoon-billed Sandpipers were observed on 4 September. Western Sandpiper, as a new species, has been observed on Kamchatka only in August 2004 in the Moroshechnaya Estuary. During this expedition we observed this species on the mudflats quite regularly, with a maximum of 8 birds seen on 19 August.

We have assumed that the migration of Dunlin as well as the migration of some other wader species is continuing much longer than middle of September, the time of end of our observations.

A big number of shorebirds were observed flying over the lake without stopping. These birds are not important for an assessment of the value of the lake as staging place, but the data on them could be very important for general study of shorebird migration on south-west Kamchatka. It is especially important for Whimbrel and some other species, for example Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank, Long-

toed Stint etc. which don't feed much on the mudflats.

For a tentative estimation of shorebird numbers passing on migration we made some counts of flying birds, including observations made at night. For example, on 29 August 4pm - 11pm we counted 10 flocks of Whimbrel flying past with a total estimated number of more than 1100 birds; on 30 August from 5pm - 11pm, 21 flocks were observed with an estimate of 2300 Whimbrel; on 31 August from 7 pm - 9pm, 4 flocks were observed with an estimated 286 Whimbrel; 3/4 September from 10.30pm - 1 am, 11 flocks with an estimated total of 1200 Whimbrels was observed and so on.

One of the tasks of our counting work on Bolshoe Lake was confirming the site as a staging site of international importance for shorebirds during migration. The number of waders counted was less than we expected, nevertheless, we could confirm staging criterion (0.25%) for assessment of international importance for three species (Table 1).

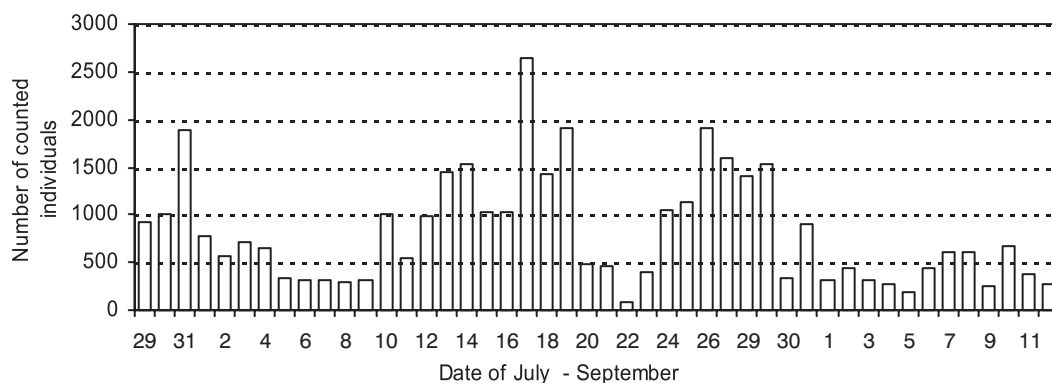
Table 1. Numbers of species on Bolshoe Lake with reference to the 1% and 0.25% criteria to assess international importance.

Species	Max. count	1% criterion	0.25% criterion for staging places
Mongolian Plover	394	1300	325
Red-necked Stint	2500	3150	788
Whimbrel	409	550	138

Mistnetting was undertaken from 21 August - 8 September. A total of 415 shorebirds of 15 species were captured, including 325 Red-necked Stints, 25 Red Knots, 16 Dunlins, 12 Grey-tailed Tattlers, 7 Terek Sandpipers, 5 Great Knots, 5 Mongolian Plovers, 5 Whimbrels, 4 Common Snipes, 3 Western Sandpipers, 2 Long-toed Stints, 1 Common Sandpipers, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 1 Sanderling and 1 Bar-tailed Godwit. Yellow / black leg flags were used according to the flyway scheme in addition to standard metal bands. Four Red-necked Stints have since been resighted in Japan during October, in two cases the numbers of metal rings were also read.

Yuri Gerasimov, Veronika Gridneva, Vladimir Melnikov, Alexander Matsina, Ekaterina Matsina, Takeyoshi Matsuo, Włodzimierz Meissner, Katarzyna Zolkos

Fig. 1 Daily count of waders (all species together) on mudflats of Bolshoe Lake.





The International Wader Study Group Annual Conference 2007 La Rochelle, France

I attended the International Wader Study Group's annual conference in La Rochelle, on the central-west coast of France 28 September - 1 October 2007, on behalf of the AWSG and VWSG. As part of the conference proceedings two special workshops were organised in conjunction with the meeting – one on black-tailed godwit and the other on oystercatchers. I presented AWSG and VWSG data on Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers.

The focus of my presentations was data from our banding activities both in Victoria and North-west Australia. This included an enormous amount of data on movements and recoveries of banded oystercatchers, information collected from catches on biometrics, moult and sexing criteria, and information collected from the breeding censuses of Pied Oystercatchers in Corner Inlet. Two other speakers from Australia attended the conference: Annette Harrison from the University of New England in Armidale, who is working on both oystercatcher species for her PhD, and Dr Iain Taylor from Charles Sturt University, who has undertaken his own projects on pied oystercatchers in Tasmania.

Many interesting talks were presented on shorebirds and included data collected from ringing and recovery studies which included some sophisticated modelling of population processes and survival rates, foraging ecology, changes in habitat affecting wintering and migrating waders in parts of Europe, the Yellow Sea and Australasia, sex-related differences in distribution and movements, and many other interesting topics.

For a list of the talks check the following website: <http://iwsq2007.univ-lr.fr>

The conference was held at the La Rochelle aquarium, in a fantastic seminar room that doubled as a viewing area for a large aquarium with fish, a sea turtle and even a moray eel!

After an exciting 2 days of talks about a huge range of shorebird species and the various research and conservation measures currently being undertaken, we adjourned to the University of La Rochelle for the 3rd day, where most conference attendees either went to the godwit or oystercatcher workshop.

The oystercatcher workshop was overwhelming in the vastness of topics covered and data presented—truly there is some excellent research going on worldwide and most oystercatcher species were talked about at the workshop. Bruno Ens and Les Underhill, the workshop organisers, gave an introduction to begin with. Humphrey Sitters kicked off the talks with a boisterous account of his involvement in work on the Magellanic Oystercatcher of southern America. Allan Baker gave an extremely interesting talk about the phylogeny and taxonomic groupings of oystercatchers based upon a wealth of genetic analysis performed in his research group. Simon Delany of Wetlands International "Waterbirds Population Estimates" fame gave us an overview of this publication with respect to oystercatchers, we heard about the North-American's efforts on the conservation and research of the two oystercatcher species there, and the vast amount of work that is being done by researchers and volunteers alike. We heard about the current conservation status of the African Black Oystercatcher and the Eurasian Oystercatcher (which is interestingly the only oystercatcher species to have suffered large population



Humphrey tells us all we need to know about magellanic oyks.

declines in recent times—surprising given that it is also the most numerous). The Australian contingent spoke and then David Melville gave us a talk on each of the three kiwi oystercatchers. Certainly there is much to know about oystercatchers and much more to learn!

After the workshop ended, many of the attendees were up early the next day to travel to the Schiermonnikoog, the Netherlands, for a continuation of the oystercatcher theme with more talks and discussions about current research.

Walking across the mudflats at sunset and stopping to birdwatch, I was particularly excited by the new waders that the average Aussie waderologist rarely sees: Huitrier pie (Eurasian Oystercatchers), Grand Gravelot (Ringer Plover), Pluvier doré (European Golden Plover), Bécasseau variable (Dunlin), Courlis cendré (Eurasian Curlew), Bécassine des marais (Common Snipe), and of course, my need to see species the Chevalier gambette (Redshank).

The conference, workshop and subsequent two-day meeting on Schiermonnikoog were a great success and very enjoyable. I learnt much about oystercatchers as well as meeting many great names in shorebird research. It was clear from the oystercatcher presentations and discussions that, although most oystercatchers are not particularly threatened, they still face a variety of threatening processes, many of which are the result of human and vehicle disturbance on beaches. Disturbance frequently affected breeding birds and chicks, as well as resulting in loss of young to predators like foxes and stoats, and increasing competition for food resources. The outcome of the workshop is a special edition of the WSG Bulletin, devoted to oystercatcher conservation and threats. There will be a document prepared for every oystercatcher species, including the potentially threatened subspecies of the Eurasian Oystercatcher, which occurs in the Yellow Sea.

The whole experience was very rewarding and I would like to thank the AWSG, VWSG, IWSG, the University of La Rochelle and the LPO (Birdlife International, France) for their very generous financial support, allowing me to make it France.

Birgita Hansen

Latest update on the trans-Pacific Bar-tailed Godwit migration

Missing Bar-tailed Godwit found alive and well in NSW

E5, last heard from in New Caledonia in November, has been seen (and photographed) alive and well on the east coast of Australia.

In February this year, sixteen Bar-tailed Godwits were fitted with satellite transmitters for the tracking of the extraordinary migratory flights of these birds from New Zealand and return via the Yellow Sea and their breeding grounds in Alaska. The transmitters have now all switched off after nine months of operation. However birds are still being found and tracked by observers in New Zealand and Australia. The latest surprise was the chance location of a female 'E5' on central coast of NSW by an astute observer, Matthew Jacobs, who not only recorded and reported the birds flag details but took photographs of the bird feeding among a small group of godwits on the tidal mudflats of Pretty Beach, near Gosford, NSW.

For those who have been following the story of the satellite tracking program, E5 was the bird that changed course on her way back from Alaska to New Zealand (presumably due to adverse weather conditions along her intended route) and landed in New Caledonia where her transmitter finally switched off in November. This latest finding has made some hard working researchers very happy! All of the satellite tracked birds found so far are in good health and acting normally despite their ordeal, added to by having to carry satellite transmitters.

Researchers are now asking anyone looking at shorebirds in the Asia-Pacific to look out for coloured and numbered leg flags and to report them as soon as possible to help to piece together the movements of shorebirds along their migration and at their stopover sites, even those birds not carrying transmitters.

The story of E5 so far

On 31 March she left NZ for Asia, and flew to Tsushima, an island between Japan and South Korea. She subsequently made her way to South Korea before continuing on to the Yukon Delta in Alaska in early June. She left Alaska on her

southward migration in late September but instead of returning to New Zealand she turned westwards just before Fiji and landed at New Caledonia after a 10,000-km 7-day flight. She stayed there from 29 September until at least 10 November when the last transmission was received from her. New Zealand researchers had volunteers looking for any of the satellite tagged birds but so far few have been seen. Then on 8 December 'E5' was found fit and well feeding with 4 or 5 other godwits on intertidal flats about 100 km north of Sydney, Australia. The information was quickly sent to the research team via the Asia Pacific Shorebird Network.

The next step

The same research team are planning to satellite tag another 6 male and 4 females before their northward migration from New Zealand. This time using the same transmitters used on E5 and E7 on all the birds. The team will also tag birds in the north west of Australia (Broome). The birds in NW Australia (*Limosa lapponica menzibieri*) breed in eastern Russia and are a different subspecies to those on the east coast of Australia and New Zealand (*L. l. baueri*) that breed mainly in Alaska.

<http://www.shorebirdnetwork.org/news071220migration.html>

December 20, 2007

You can help!

Birdwatchers throughout the Asia Pacific Region can help with the research on migratory shorebirds, and their conservation, by looking out for colour flagged or banded birds and reporting their sightings to mintons@ozemail.com.au. We need to know the position of all bands, which colour is on which leg and which colour is above or below the other (Visit the www.shorebirdnetwork.org/leg_flags.html for images).

Australian painted snipe declared a full species

There has been inconsistency in the taxonomic status recognised for Painted Snipe in Australia for several years. It used to be considered a subspecies (*australis*) of the Greater Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*). Lane and Rogers (2000, *Stilt* 36: 26-34) pointed out that the plumage, morphology and probably vocalisations of Australian birds differed considerably from those in Asia and Africa, and proposed that those in Australia should be treated as a full species. Although this recommendation was followed by a number of authorities, others preferred to retain the old treatment until genetic studies were carried out.

A recent publication has now resolved this uncertainty: Baker *et al.* 2007. Mitochondrial DNA evidence shows the Australian Painted Snipe is a full species, *Rostratula australis*. *Emu* 107: 185-189. Considerable differences were found between the mitochondrial DNA sequences of Australian and Greater Painted Snipe, which are believed to have diverged c. 19 million years ago. It is now clear

that the Australian Painted Snipe should be treated as a full species *Rostratula australis*, and this will be the treatment followed in subsequent Australian checklists.

The Australian Painted Snipe is rare and declining, apparently because of the loss of its specialised breeding habitat in temporary freshwater wetlands. It is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act (1999), and the Threatened Bird Network maintains a database of all records of the species, in addition to carrying out regular surveys (the next is scheduled for 19th – 20th January 2008). Assistance on these surveys is always welcome; please contact Dean Ingwersen at Birds Australia (d.ingwersen@birdsaustralia.com.au) if you are interested or have unreported Painted Snipe records in your notebooks.

Danny Rogers
drogers@melbpc.org.au





Volunteers wanted in Hervey Bay region

Volunteers are needed to assist with field work looking at various management techniques for shorebird conservation in the Hervey Bay region. Field work consists of recording human activity in relation to temporary beach closure signs and will be conducted over the periods 23-26 January, 30 January-2 February, 6-9 February and 20-23 February between 7 am and 6 pm.

Food and accommodation will be provided for enthusiastic

people residing outside of the region who can commit to one or more of the study periods.

If you are interested, please contact:
Dr Tamara van Polanen Petel
Centre for Environmental Management
Central Queensland University
Ph: (07) 4970 7289
E-mail: t.vanpolanenpetel@cqu.edu.au

Shorebird Symposium at the Australasian Ornithological Conference

A shorebird symposium was held at the Australasian Ornithological Conference in Perth, 3-6 December 2007. It was well attended, included the launch of the Shorebirds 2020 Project and some very interesting presentations. Abstracts for all 14 presentations, and a number of talks held at other symposiums at the conference of relevance to shorebird biologists, should be posted soon on

www.birdsaustralia.com.au/aoc/index.html

In view of the success of this symposium, the AWSG plans to help organise a shorebird symposium at the next Australasian Ornithological Conference, which will be held at Armidale (northern New South Wales, Australia) at the start of December 2009.

Upcoming Events and Dates for the Diary

25th International Ornithological Congress 2010- Call for symposia proposals

The 25th International Ornithological Congress will be held in Campos do Jordao, Brazil, 22-28 August 2010.

You are invited to submit symposium proposals for this event. Symposia are aimed at the general ornithologist and provide up-to-date coverage of current ornithological research. Proposals for symposia must be received on or before 1 June 2008.

For more information visit the 25th IOC web site www.i-o-c.org or www.ib.usp.br/25ioc or contact the Secretary General for the Congress, Cristina Miyaki: ioc2010@ib.usp.br

Join the next NWA Expedition in 2008

If you enjoyed reading about the 2007 expedition and the amazing amount of shorebirds that were caught, then why not join the expedition in 2008!

The NWA November monitoring expeditions will continue

though additional expeditions at other times may occasionally take place. The November 2008 expedition will take place from Saturday 8 November to Saturday 29 November. It is hoped that the main team can be identified by April and therefore it is not too early to put your hand up (at least tentatively) now!

For more information please contact Clive Minton mintons@ozemail.com.au or Roz Jessop moonbird@waterfront.net.au

2009 AWSG Conference

The 2009 AWSG Conference will be in Hobart, sometime in late winter/early spring. Hosted by Birds Tasmania, the theme will be focused on resident shorebirds and small terns. Arrangements will be made for local and more distant shorebird trips, and the conference will encourage student participation in oral and poster presentations. More details will be announced in upcoming editions of *Tattler*.



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