

wait in anticipation.

WADER BANDING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Jeff Campbell

In February 1995 nine Victorians and one Tasmanian travelled to the Millicent area in South Australia in order to cannon-net waders. Victorian Wader Study Group members had previously visited the area in November 1993 and had caught 160 Sanderling on Canunda Beach.

For the February catching we were joined by a number of South Australians including members of the "SA Chapter" of the VWSG - Adrian Boyle, Ren de Garis and Iain Stewart. Although it was our intention to again catch Sanderling on Canunda Beach, plus if possible Ruddy Turnstone, a reece on our arrival showed that no birds were using the beach. Because of this we moved to Pelican Point near Carpenter Rocks on the following day where we caught a total of 165 birds of four species (Ruddy Turnstone, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper). Following the days catching we dined on the lawn of Iain Stewart and family on typical wader bander's fare of two huge crayfish caught by our host.

On the next day we caught again at Pelican Point with a total of 172 birds of the same four species in two catches and then moved on to Port MacDonnell where we stayed in on-site caravans in order to avoid camping in the severe rain storms we were experiencing. In two catches at Brown Bay, some 15km east of Port MacDonnell, we caught a total of 121 birds of five species (those above plus Sanderling).

It was a very successful trip with a total of 460 birds of five species caught, with good numbers of each.

PROBLEMS WITH LEG-FLAGS

Trials with white leg-flags, by the NSW WSG, have revealed problems associated with staining of the flags from contaminants in the waters of the Hunter Estuary. It was originally intended to use white flags on species of waders not banded by other areas using white as a site specific colour, in this instance New Zealand. However certain species retrapped revealed heavy staining with the appearance, in the field, of yellow leg-flags. Only certain species were affected and it appears that these birds were utilising fresh/brackish habitats on Kooragang Island. It is assumed that minerals or other contaminants released into the water were responsible. Because of the obvious confusing with yellow flags used in NW Australia leg flagging has been abandoned for the time being until other colours can be approved by the Banding Office. No problems have been experienced by New Zealand banders who use white flags on different species than those banded in NSW. Further investigation needs to be carried out to determine whether the

problem is unique to the local material used in NSW or whether the Darvic material, imported from the UK by most other groups, would also be affected under the same conditions.

SHORE PLOVERS IN NEW ZEALAND - Adrian Reigen

The Shore Plover (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*) was formerly found on sandy beaches in New Zealand but has been more recently restricted to South East Island in the Chatham Islands group (where they frequent largely rocky habitat). It was therefore with some excitement that a Shore Plover was seen by New Zealand bird watchers at Jordan's Farm on the south-east Kaipara in New Zealand. The bird was later identified as one of a small group of birds released the previous month on Motuoro Island in the Hauraki Gulf, about 35 km from Jordan's Farm.

A GLIMPSE AT NW TASMANIA - Howard Simco

In North-west Tasmania there are several promising looking locations for waders. However it is only the areas of mud and sand at the Asbestos Range National Park, between Devonport and Stanley, where waders are found, except for a few Pied Oystercatchers and Masked Lapwings on the beaches along the coast and the tidal sections of the rivers.

During July in the National Park, a flock of about 40 Double-banded Plovers have been seen, also a static population of some 50 Pied Oystercatchers and 6 Hooded Plovers. Wintering waders have been observed in substantial numbers on one of the small islands west of Smithton including 700 Double-banded Plover, 300 Ruddy Turnstone, 40 Curlew Sandpiper, 80 Red-necked Stint, 2 Bar-tailed Godwits, 9 Eastern Curlew, 200 Red-capped Plover, 10 Hooded Plover, 580 Pied Oystercatcher, 200 Sooty Oystercatcher and 16 Red Knot.

The number of species and wader population increases during February in the National Park, with approximately 40 Eastern Curlew, 120 Red-necked Stint, 100 Curlew Sandpiper, 15 Red-capped Dotterel, 6 Hooded Plover, 5 Black-fronted Plover. At this time of the year there is a substantial increase of waders on the islands west of Smithton, particularly of Red-necked Stint, 2,100, plus 800 Curlew Sandpiper, 35 Pacific Golden Plover, 1100 Ruddy Turnstone plus the odd Grey-tailed Tattler, Bar-tailed Godwit and Sanderling.

It is almost certain that there are other roosts yet to be found which will add considerably to the wader population of this important area.

4WD IMPACT ON PIED OYSTERCATCHERS. (N. NSW) - Bo Totterman

A seventeen kilometer stretch of beach, between the Richmond River in the north to Broadwater in the