

The Stilt 47 (April 2005)

RESEARCH:

ISLAM, M. SAZEDUL & M. ANISUZZAMAN KHAN. (2005). **Conservation Values of the South-Central Coast of Ganges Delta - Record Flock of Indian Skimmers**. Stilt 47: 2-3. (House 11, Road 138, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh; EM: sazed@iucnbd.org)

MELVILLE, D.S. (2005). **Variable Oystercatchers feeding on Sand Scarab Beetle larvae**. Stilt 47: 3. (Dovedale, R.D. 2, Wakefield, Nelson New Zealand)

ROGERS, K.G., C.D.T. MINTON & D.I. ROGERS. (2005). **Some sampling considerations relevant to estimating the first year proportion**. Stilt 47: 4-9. (340 Ninks Road, St Andrews, Vic. 3761, Australia; EM: kenrogers@hotmail.net.au).

Confidence limits of age proportions estimated from small samples are asymmetric and have higher variances than do those estimated from large samples. In consequence, summaries and plots of such data can suggest a negative association between the proportion of young birds and increasing sample size where none applies. Whether or not there is such a relationship, it usually makes little difference to the final estimate if birds from small samples are included or excluded. Due to the heterogeneous distribution of young birds in flocks, individual samples may over- or under- estimate the true first year proportion but these biases tend to cancel each other out. We know of no compelling reason for excluding data from small samples from the calculation of juvenile proportions. Samples are necessarily opportunistic and not demonstrably representative. For large populations as many birds as possible should be sampled. For small populations, a single large catch used in conjunction with a population count might be preferable to several small catches.

MINTON, C., R. JESSOP, P. COLLINS & C. HASSELL. (2005). **Juvenile percentages of migratory Waders in the 2004/05 Australian Summer**. Stilt 47: 10-14. (165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia; EM: mintons@ozemail.com.au)

Data are presented on the age composition of primarily cannon-net catches in summer 2004/05 in both south-east Australia (SEA) and north-west Australia (NWA). NWA juvenile percentages were again low, with Great Knot being persistently poor and only Curlew Sandpiper doing well. In SEA juvenile percentages were extremely mixed with exceptionally high figures for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Bartailed Godwit and very low for Red-necked Stint and Red Knot. Annual monitoring of age proportions will continue in both NWA and SEA.

REPORTS

MELVILLE, D.S. (2005). **Migratory Shorebird Banding Workshop, Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve, Shanghai China, 30 August - 7 September 2004**. Stilt 47: 15-19. (Dovedale, R.D. 2, Wakefield, Nelson New Zealand; EM: david.melville@xtra.co.nz).

STUART, A. (2005). **Survey of the Shorebirds of Port Stephens, February 2004**. Stilt 47: 20-25. (81 Queens Road, New Lambton, NSW 2305, Australia; EM: almarosa@bigpond.com)

The population of migratory and resident shorebirds in Port Stephens in NSW was surveyed using boats at high tide on 8 February 2004. The total population was 2,053 shorebirds, with 13 species present. Two species, Eastern Curlew and Pied Oystercatcher, were present in numbers representing >1% of their total world population, 2% of the Australian population of Whimbrel were present, and around 0.5% of the Australian populations of Bar-tailed Godwit and Sooty Oystercatcher. The results, and the data available for Port Stephens between 1970 and 1990, demonstrate that Port Stephens has been an important shorebird habitat over the long term. The 2004 survey is the first complete survey of the area and it provides baseline data that can be used to manage shorebirds and their habitat in Port Stephens.

SWANN, G. (2005). **Occasional Count No. 7 - Ashmore Reef, 21 to 30 January 2002**. Stilt 47: 26-33. (P.O. Box 220, Broome, WA 6726, Australia; EM: kimbird@tpg.com.au).

SWANN, G. (2005). **Occasional Count No. 8 - Ashmore Reef, 23 January to 4 February 2003**. Stilt 47: 34-39. (P.O. Box 220, Broome, WA 6726, Australia; EM: kimbird@tpg.com.au).

SINGOR, M. (2005). **Summary of Hooded Plover research in Yalgorup National Park. Report No. 3**. Stilt 47: 40-44. (149a Bishopsgate Street, Carlisle, WA 6101, Australia; EM: msingor@iprimus.com.au)

HARDING, S. (2005). **Wader survey of islands out from Mackay, Queensland, December 2004**. Stilt 47: 45-46. (336 Prout Road, Burbank, Qld. 4156, Australia; EM: pitta@gil.com.au)

MINTON, C., R. JESSOP, P. COLLINS, C. HASSELL, A. EWING & H. GIBBS. (2005). **Sightings of Waders and Terns leg-flagged in North-West Australia: Report No. 9**. Stilt 47: 47-57. (165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia; EM: mintons@ozemail.com.au)

MINTON, C., R. JESSOP, P. COLLINS, & C. HASSELL. (2005). **NWA 2005 Wader and Tern Expedition, 12 February to 6 March 2005**. Stilt 47: 58-64. (165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia; EM: mintons@ozemail.com.au)