

The Stilt 48 (October 2005)

RESEARCH

BOYD, H., C. MINTON & K. ROGERS. 2005. **Has the timing of snowmelt in Eastern Siberia affected the numbers of juvenile Waders wintering in South-east Australia.** *Stilt 48*: 2-9. (1032 Pinewood Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2B 5Y5; EM: hughboyd@magma.ca)

We examined the effect of weather conditions in Siberia on the breeding success of six wader species. Proportions of juveniles in annual wader cannon-netting catches in south-east Australia in November to March were used as indicators of breeding success in eastern Siberia in the previous summer. Estimates of the timing of partial snow clearance in eastern Siberia were made from weekly maps of snow and ice cover derived from satellite imagery for the period 1981-1996. Average temperatures for the months of June and July for each year were available from weather stations along the coast of Arctic Siberia. Logistic models were used to examine the relationship between juvenile proportions and these variables. Some extreme data points were not used in model calibration. These could arise from the heterogeneous distribution of juveniles in wader flocks. Two species (Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot) showed a statistically significant relationship with date of snow melt; the Red Knot result is considered tentative. Four species (Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Sanderling) showed a significant relationship with temperature. Over much of eastern Siberia winter snowfall is low, so that the spring snow cover on the tundra is shallow. The breeding success of waders in eastern Siberia does not seem to be primarily constrained by the condition of the tundra on their arrival, even in years when complete snow clearance is much delayed. Higher temperatures in July are generally associated with higher breeding success.

WHITELAW, A., J. WHITELAW & M.A. WESTON. 2005. **Delayed dispersion of a juvenile Hooded Plover from its natal territory.** *Stilt 48*: 10-12. (83 Bayview Ave., Inverloch, Vic. 3996, Australia).

BARTER, M.A., K. GOSBELL, L. CAO & Q. XU. 2005. **Northward Shorebird migration in 2005 at four new Yellow Sea sites in Jiangsu and Liaoning provinces.** *Stilt 48*: 13-17. (21 Chivalry Avenue, Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150, Australia; EM: markbarter@optusnet.com.au).

Shorebird surveys were conducted in late-April and early May focussing on four previously unsurveyed regions of intertidal areas, near-coastal salt works, and aquaculture ponds in southern Jiangsu and Liaoning. A total of 64,368 shorebirds was counted in southern Jiangsu, and 87,370 in Liaoning. The principal species in Jiangsu were Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit and Grey Plover, and in Liaoning were Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew, Eastern Curlew, Great Knot and Dunlin, where the great majority of shorebirds occurred in the region closest to Yalu Jiang NNR. The main species present in salt works in north-eastern Liaodong Wan (i.e. Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper) were typical of those found in this habitat in the Yellow Sea region. Levels of human disturbance were extremely high with those in southern Jiangsu being the highest seen yet during Yellow Sea shorebird surveys. Significant, and ongoing, reclamation of intertidal areas has occurred in recent years in both Jiangsu and Liaoning, with activity being particularly high in southern Jiangsu and west of Pulandian.

BATLEY, P.F. 2005. **Mechanisms by which juvenile Bar-tailed Godwits form subgroups.** *Stilt 48*: 18. (Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56 Dunedin, New Zealand; EM: philbattley@quicksilver.net.nz).

CROSSLAND, A.C. & S.A. SINAMBELA. 2005. **An initial assessment of the migratory wader community found on Batam Island, Riau Archipelago, Western Indonesia.** *Stilt 48*: 19-21. (34 Chichester Street, Woolston, Christchurch 8006, New Zealand; EM: Andrew.Crossland@ccc.govt.nz)

ROGERS, D.I., K.G. ROGERS & C.D.T. MINTON. 2005. **Wader Ageing Series. Methods and Terminology.** *Stilt 48*: 22-27. (340 Ninks Road, St Andrews, Vic. 3761, Australia; EM: drogers@melbpc.org.au)

BAMFORD, M.J., J. TALBOT, D.I. ROGERS, C.D.T. MINTON & K.G. ROGERS. 2005. **Wader Ageing Series No. 1 - Red-necked Stint.** *Stilt 48*: 28-33. (WA Wader Study Group, c/- 23 Plover Way, Kingsley, WA 6026, Australia).

ISLAM, M.S. & M.A. KHAN. 2005. **Shorebird abundance in the western part of Char Bahauddin during northward migration.** *Stilt 48*: 34-37. (Marinelife Alliance, Sayeman Road, Baharchara, Cox's Bazar 4700 Bangladesh; EM: sazed_marine@yahoo.com)

A comprehensive shorebird survey was conducted on 29 February 2004, almost at the end of the non-breeding season, of the western side of Char Bahauddin, an island off the central coast of Ganges Delta in Bangladesh. A total of 3,130 shorebirds of 30 species including 400 unidentified birds was recorded. The five most abundant species were Pacific Golden Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, and Bar-tailed Godwit; 165 Black-headed Ibis were also counted. The count of 1,033 individuals of Pacific Golden Plover and two Spoon-billed Sandpipers were the significant findings.

GAN, J.T.W.M. & R.K. RAMAKRISHNAN. 2005. **Notes on Shorebird numbers in Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Singapore in 2000 and 2001.** *Stilt 48*: 38-41. (National Parks Board, Sungei Buloh Wetland reserve, 301 Neo Tiew Crescent, 718925, Singapore; EM: James_GAN@nparks.gov.sg)

Shorebirds from the Scolopacidae and Charadriidae were counted regularly on a monthly basis in Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Singapore between January 2000 and December 2001. A total of 17 species was recorded during the census sessions. Total shorebird numbers peaked in December for both years. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* had counts exceeding 1,000 during both southward and northward migrations. The counts have revealed information on the mix of shorebird species, and their general movements and numbers over the two years.

REPORTS

MINTON, C., R. JESSOP, P. COLLINS, A. EWING & H. GIBBS. 2005. **Sightings of Waders leg-flagged in Victoria: Report No. 12.** *Stilt 48*: 42-49. (165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia; EM: mintonsoz@ozemail.com.au)

MINTON, C., R. JESSOP, P. COLLINS, M. CHRISTIE, I. STEWART, A. EWING & H. GIBBS. 2005. **Sightings in 2004-2005 of Waders leg-flagged in South Australia: Report No. 4.** *Stilt 48*: 50-53. (165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia; EM: mintonsoz@ozemail.com.au)

SKEWES, J. 2005. **Report on population monitoring counts.** *Stilt 48*: 54-60. (13 Waterloo Street, Heathmont, Vic. 3135, Australia)