

**Stilt - Journal for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. Number 57.
April 2010**

CROSSLAND, A.C., A.S. SITORUS & H.A. CHANDRA. 2010. **Discovery of an important site for the Sanderling *Calidris alba* on the south coast of Java.** *Stilt* 57: 3-4. (46 Frensham Crescent, Woolston, Christchurch 8062, New Zealand; EM: Andrew.Crossland@ccc.govt.nz)

CROSSLAND, ANDREW C. 2010. **The Avon-Heathcote Estuary and the Bromley Oxidation Ponds, Christchurch, New Zealand: an important area for waterbirds.** *Stilt* 57: 5-10. (46 Frensham Crescent, Woolston, Christchurch 8062, New Zealand; EM: Andrew.Crossland@ccc.govt.nz)

CROSSLAND, ANDREW C. 2010. **Shorebird use of a South Island, New Zealand, high country lake delta during the breeding season.** *Stilt* 57: 11-12. (46 Frensham Crescent, Woolston, Christchurch 8062, New Zealand; EM: Andrew.Crossland@ccc.govt.nz)

PHOTIENG, DUANGRAT, KRAIRAT EIAMPAPAI, SIRIPORN THONGAREE, WANLAYA CHAIPUKDEE, SOMCHAI NIMNUAN & PHILIP D. ROUND. 2010. **Banding and flagging Shorebirds and Terns in Thailand: a preliminary assessment of work during 2005-2009.** *Stilt* 57: 13-15. (Wildlife Research Group, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants Conservation, Phaholyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900).

ROUND, PHILIP D. 2010. **Moult in Asian Dowitchers *Limnodromus semipalmatus* in the Inner Gulf of Thailand.** *Stilt* 57: 16-17. (Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Rama 6 Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand; EM: frpdr@mahidol.ac.th)

STUART, ALAN. 2010. **Australian Pied Oystercatchers *Haematopus longirostris* in the Hunter Region of New South Wales, Australia.** *Stilt* 57: 18-20. (81 Queens Road, New Lambton, NSW 2305, Australia; EM: almarosa@bigpond.com).

In 2008-2009, counts of Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* at roost sites along the coast of the Hunter Region of New South Wales, Australia, indicated that at least 200 birds were regularly present. These counts are significant in the light of previous estimates of just 232-250 birds for the entire NSW coastal population. Port Stephens has been identified as a very important site for this species, with frequent counts of 100-150+ birds during the surveys. There are relatively few breeding records in the Hunter Region, and it is possible that most of the birds at Port Stephens come from breeding territories elsewhere.

MINTON, CLIVE, KEN GOSBELL, PENNY JOHNS, MAUREEN CHRISTIE, JAMES W. FOX & VSEVOLOD AFANASYEV. 2010. **Initial results from light level geolocator trials on Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* reveal unexpected migration route.** *Stilt* 57: 21-28. (165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic 3193, Australia; EM: mintons@ozemail.com.au)

With the development of archival light level geolocators weighing only 1g, their deployment on medium size waders is now possible. Trials showed that attachment via leg flag rather than backpack harness was preferable because of the large weight gains of Ruddy Turnstone during preparation for migration. Geolocators attached to leg flags were fitted to six Ruddy Turnstones at Flinders, Victoria, SE Australia, and four were retrieved the following season. All four birds had made an initial non-stop 7,600 km flight, in six days, to Taiwan, with three probably travelling in the same flock. Individuals then followed separate paths through E Asia before locations became indiscernible in early June in E Siberia as birds encountered continuous daylight. Brief data were recorded for two birds at the beginning of southward migration through E Siberia in early August before the damaged light sensor stalk on the geolocator failed, as another had also done on the breeding grounds. The fourth bird, without a stalked light sensor in its geolocator, was in the Aleutian Islands, SW Alaska, when locations again became discernible on 26 July. It remained there until 15 October and then made a 6,200 km non-stop flight to the Gilbert Islands, western central Pacific in four days. After another prolonged stopover it departed on 29

November reaching E Australia in four days (5,000 km) and arrived back at Flinders on 8 December. This bird had made a round trip migration of around 27,000 km. Between 26 June and 14 July, when it was in the Arctic, the light data record of this bird suggested that it had been incubating. A further 60 geolocators will be deployed on Ruddy Turnstones in SE Australia in March/April 2010.

TIUNOV, I.M. & A.Y. BLOKHIN. 2010. **The role of north-east coast of Sakhalin for *Calidris alba* (Pall.) on Asian-Australasian Flyway.** *Stilt* 57: 29-35. (Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia, 690022; EM: ovsianka11@yandex.ru)

Original data on quantity dates of flights and location of stop-over sites of Sanderling *Calidris alba* in Sakhalin Island and continental coast of northern part of Tatar Strait are presented. The results of 20 years research show northeast Sakhalin and in particular Chayvo Gulf is a key area for Sanderling on the Asian-Australian migratory way. Information on timing of sightings of flagged birds from Australia and China are also presented.

HASSELL, CHRIS & THEUNIS PIERSMA. 2010. **Record numbers of grasshopper-eating Shorebirds (Oriental Pratincole, Oriental Plover, Little Curlew) on coastal West-Kimberley grasslands, Western Australia in mid-February 2010.** *Stilt* 57: 36-38. (Global Flyway Network, c/o PO Box 3089, Broome, WA 6725, Australia)

IQBAL, MUHAMMAD. 2010. **Recent interesting sightings of Shorebirds in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia.** *Stilt* 57: 39-43. (KPB-SOS, Jalan Tanjung api-api km 9 Komplek P & K Blok E1 Palembang 30152, Indonesia; EM: kpbsos26@yahoo.com)

During a short survey of an oil palm plantation in the Ogan Komering Ilir District of South Sumatra Province from 24-28 September 2009, three interesting shorebirds sightings were recorded at the settling Ponds of the estate's processing mill. The shorebirds recorded were the Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, and Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. The habitat surrounding the plantation is not typical shorebird habitat. The occurrence of these three shorebirds in the location and habitat described make these significantly interesting records for Southern Sumatra. This paper discusses the significance of these records. More surveys of inland and freshwater wetland habitats as well as artificial habitats of this type are required to assess the true abundance of these shorebird species in Sumatra.

IQBAL, MUHAMMAD, AGAS NURZA & TEUKU MUHAMMAD SANIR. 2010. **Notes on the wintering waders at north-eastern tip of Sumatra (Aceh Province), Indonesia.** *Stilt* 57: 44-49. (KPB-SOS, Jalan Tanjung api-api km 9 Komplek P & K Blok E1 Palembang 30152, Indonesia; EM: kpbsos26@yahoo.com)

Thirteen waders species were recorded wintering at eight selected coastal wetlands at the north-eastern tip of Sumatra (Aceh province) in 29 December 2008 -1 January 2009. A maximum of 716 waders were counted in the study area with a new record for the island and Greater Sunda region (Western Indonesia: Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java and Bali), Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*.

BRANSON, N.J.B.A., YOSHIMITSU SHIGETA, C.Y. CHANG & C.D.T. MINTON. 2010. **Movements of Grey-tailed Tattlers and Terek Sandpipers in the East Asian/Australasian Flyway.** *Stilt* 57: 50-58. (CDTM: 165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic 3193, Australia; EM: mintons@ozemail.com.au)

We examine the movements of Grey-tailed Tattlers *Heteroscelus brevipes* and Terek Sandpipers *Xenus cinereus* in the East Asian/Australasian Flyway based on banding recoveries and flag sightings of birds marked in Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia and Russia. Although in the East Asian/Australasian Flyway the two species have similar breeding and non-breeding distributions, there are

significant differences in their migration strategies. Moreover within each species, birds spending the austral summer in NW Australia have different migration strategies to those from E Australia.

Grey-tailed Tattlers from E Australia stop in Japan on both north and south migration. Those from NW Australia mainly stage in S China and Taiwan on north migration. but also use Korea and Japan on south migration, with a two-stop migration strategy.

Terek Sandpipers from E Australia occur widely along the SE Asia mainland, as well as in Japan on both migrations, but those from NW Australia initially stage in Taiwan and S China on north migration. before moving on to Korea. In contrast. only a single stop seems to be made in E Asia on south migration. There is also a passage of Terek Sandpipers along the SE Asia mainland coast to non-breeding areas in Malaysia.

It is likely that Terek Sandpiper populations have been adversely affected by major loss of intertidal habitat around the Yellow Sea as many pass through that area on migration. However, few Grey-tailed Tattlers stop there so they are less likely to have been affected.

TIUNOV I.M. & A.Y. BLOKHIN. 2010. **Odoptu Gulf (Northern Sakhalin) Russia – important site for migratory Waders of EAA Flyway.** *Stilt* 57: 59-62. (Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia, 690022; EM: ovsianka11@yandex.ru)

In 2009 the observations of shorebirds were carried out at Odoptu Gulf (Northern Sakhalin), Russia to investigate the importance of the area to migratory waders. During August and September many thousands of waders were seen on mud shoals off the gulf: 77 waders of five species including colour flagged birds banded in Australia, Japan, China and Taiwan. Ringing of 276 waders of 16 species was carried out by the authors.

MINTON, CLIVE, ROSALIND JESSOP & CHRIS HASSELL. 2010. **Wader breeding success in the 2009 Arctic summer, based on juvenile ratios of birds which spend the non-breeding season in Australia.** *Stilt* 57: 63-66. (165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic 3193, Australia; EM: mintons@ozemail.com.au)

MINTON, CLIVE, ROSALIND JESSOP, CHRIS HASSELL & MAUREEN CHRISTIE. 2010. **Report of North-west Australia Wader and Tern Expedition 31st October to 21st November 2009.** *Stilt* 57: 67-71. (165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Vic 3193, Australia; EM: mintons@ozemail.com.au)