

Summary of National Wader Censuses June 2008 to February 2009

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Results of National Wader Censuses Undertaken by OSNZ in June – July 2008, November – December 2008 and January – February 2009

There was good coverage at most sites on all three counts.

Numbers of **Bar-tailed Godwits** were of great interest: 11,335 (13.8%) more birds were recorded in February 2009 compared to November 2008. The Bay of Plenty showed the biggest disparity between November and February godwits with the latter recording almost 12,000 more birds. Also the Nelson Region held 18,116 in November and 20,385 godwits in February. However, the three main harbours in the Auckland region, Kaipara, Manukau and Firth of Thames held 36,474 in November and 29,659 in February.

Red Knot numbers were higher in November: The Auckland region held 24,072 in November and 21,128 in February. The Nelson region held 12,863 in November and 11,062 in February.

Table 1 shows sites or regions covered on all three counts, table 2 presents national totals by species.

These results have been incorporated in the overall assessment of wader censuses undertaken between November 2003 and February 2009, and a full report of this is currently being prepared.

This report was compiled by Adrian Riegen with help from Rob Schuckard, and many counters and coordinators around the country.

Table 1: Regions and Sites counted June 2008 to February 2009

<i>Region</i>	<i>June-July 2008</i>	<i>Nov-Dec 2008</i>	<i>Jan-Feb 2009</i>
Parengarenga	V	V	V
Rangaunu	V	V	V
Houhora H	V	V	V
Whangarei	V	V	V
North Kaipara	V	V	V
South Kaipara	V	V	V
Mangawhai	V	V	V
Auckland East Coast	V	V	V
Waitemata	V	V	V
Manukau	V	V	V
FoT	V	V	V
Coromandel	V	V	V
Bay of Plenty	V	V	V
Gisborne/Wairoa	-	-	-
Hawkes Bay	V	V	V
Porangahau	V	V	V
Aotea	V	V	V
Kawhia	V	V	V
Raglan	V	V	V
Manawatu	-	V	V
Lake Wairarapa	-	-	-
Tasman Bay	V	V	V
Golden Bay	V	V	V
Farewell Spit	V	V	V
Kaikoura/Marlborough	V	V	V
Canterbury	V	V	V
Lake Ellesmere	V	V	V
West Coast	V	V	V
Otago	V	V	-
Southland	V	V	V

V = counts entered
 - = no count exists

Table 2: National totals

	<i>June-July 2008</i>	<i>Nov-Dec 2008</i>	<i>Jan-Feb 2009</i>
All Shorebirds	130,112	151,918	270,369
Arctic Migrants	17,005	125,658	137,299
Endemic Shorebirds	113,107	26,260	133,070
Pied Oystercatcher	83,352	17,286	107,071
Variable Oystercatcher	2,950	2,014	2,100
Oystercatcher Hybrid	14	17	17
Pied Stilt	17,318	4,798	16,813
Black Stilt/Hybrids	15	2	21
New Zealand Dotterel	484	297	800
Banded Dotterel	6,830	668	5398
Black-fronted Dotterel	92	10	6
Large Sand Dotterel	1	2	2
Mongolian Dotterel		1	1
Wrybill	6,238	596	5,481
Pacific Golden Plover	2	265	335
Spur-winged Plover	2,052	1,168	844
Turnstone	438	2,312	2,201
Lesser Knot	1,751	40,222	35,577
Great Knot			1
Sanderling		1	2
Curlew Sandpiper	3	9	11
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	14	10
Pectoral Sandpiper			11
Red-necked Stint	12	125	81
Eastern Curlew	1	10	11
Whimbrel	6	31	76
Bar-tailed Godwit	8,551	82,069	93,404
Black-tailed Godwit			1
Wandering Tattler		1	
Siberian Tattler	1		1
Marsh Sandpiper			1
Terek Sandpiper			2