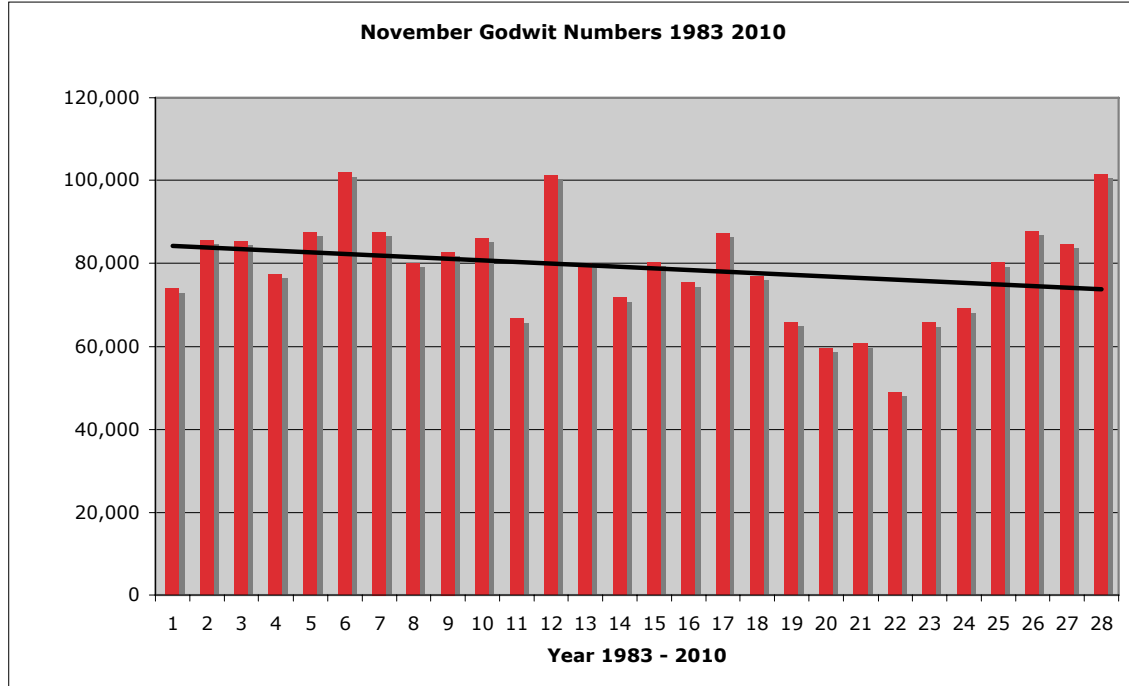


OSNZ National Wader Census  
November – December 2010 & February - March 2011

Summary compiled by Adrian Riegen

A total of 159,111 waders of 25 species were counted during the November and December 2010 census. This is the third highest November count behind the 1994 total of 192,762 and 1995's 166,829. There was very good national coverage this time with only Gisborne/Wairoa, Lake Wairarapa and the Chatham's not counted. Semipalmated Plover, which was added to the list in June 2010, was seen again in November. 1 Grey Plover, 1 Siberian Tattler, 2 Large Sand Dotterels and 2 Hudsonian Godwits made up the other rarities.

Of the main species Bar-tailed Godwit led the way with 101,459, the second highest count, eclipsing the 1994 count of 101,189 but not the 1988 count of 101,771. There have been big fluctuations in godwit numbers since 1999, with a steady decline from 87,261 in 1999 to a low of 48,989 in 2004 before a steady climb back to the 2010 total. Full nationwide coverage did not occur in all years, which will account for some of the variation.



Lesser Knot numbers show a steady decline since the first national count in 1983 and this disturbing trend is probably set to continue with

serious loss of habitat happening at their major northward staging sites in China's Bohai Sea.

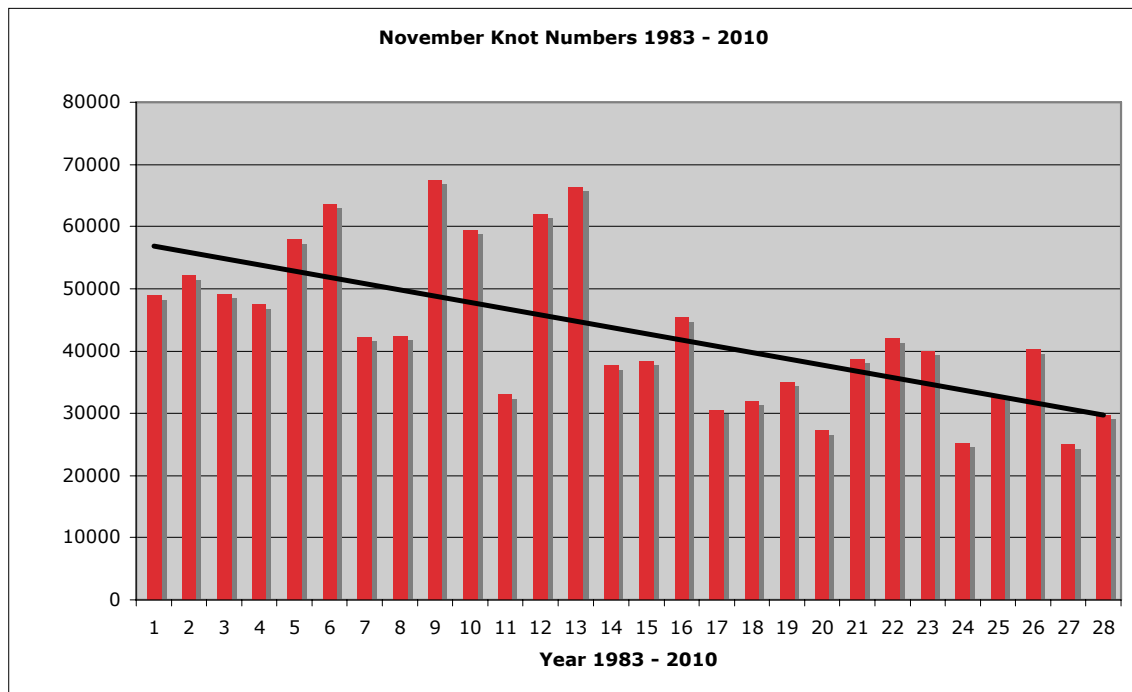


TABLE 1. Total Count Nov-Dec 2010

Species	Total
Pied Oystercatcher	16,477
Variable Oystercatcher	1,965
Oystercatcher Hybrid	13
Pied Stilt	5,240
Black Stilt/Hybrids	4
New Zealand Dotterel	442
Banded Dotterel	273
Black-fronted Dotterel	4
Semi-palmated Plover	1
Large Sand Dotterel	2
Wrybill	59
Pacific Golden Plover	219
Grey Plover	1
Spur-winged Plover	1,535
Turnstone	1,589
Lesser Knot	29,724
Curlew Sandpiper	6
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	8

Pectoral Sandpiper	7
Red-necked Stint	54
Eastern Curlew	9
Whimbrel	17
Bar-tailed Godwit	101,459
Hudsonian Godwit	2
Siberian Tattler	1
TOTAL	159,111

The February - March 2011 census was not completed nationwide, but most South Island sites were covered.

TABLE 2. Comparison between South Island counts of November 2010 and February 2011

Species	Nov.10	Feb.11	Feb Total +/-
Pied Oystercatcher	6,175	30,183	+24,008
Variable Oystercatcher	695	1,068	+373
Oystercatcher Hybrid	13	18	+5
Pied Stilt	2,530	2,695	+165
Black Stilt/Hybrids	3	3	0
New Zealand Dotterel	0	10	+10
Banded Dotterel	207	2,346	+2,139
Black-fronted Dotterel	4	2	-2
Wrybill	1	140	+139
Pacific Golden Plover	95	41	-54
Spur-winged Plover	561	337	-224
Turnstone	533	1,340	+807
Lesser Knot	9,988	7,552	-2,436
Sanderling	0	2	+2
Curlew Sandpiper	2	2	0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3	1	-2
Pectoral Sandpiper	7	9	+2
Red-necked Stint	26	36	+10
Eastern Curlew	3	1	-2
Whimbrel	4	5	+1
Bar-tailed Godwit	2,8542	2,8766	+224
Hudsonian Godwit	1	0	-1
Marsh Sandpiper	0	1	+1
Terek Sandpiper	0	1	+1