

OSNZ National Wader Censuses  
June - July 2013  
November - December 2013 & January - February 2014  
Summary compiled by Adrian Riegen

**Winter Census 2013**

A total of 107,439 waders of 21 species were counted during the June-July 2013 wader censuses, down from 124,741 in June-July 2012 (Table 1). There was good national coverage with only the Far North, Gisborne/Wairoa, Kaikoura/Marlborough and the West Coast regions not counted. The Far North was not counted in 2012 either. Numbers of Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit were around 1,000 lower than in 2012 and about 10,000 fewer South Island Pied Oystercatcher were counted.

Rarities included, 1 Large Sand Plover, 1 Marsh Sandpiper and 2 Terek Sandpiper.

**Summer Census 2013**

A total of 141,761 waders of 28 species were counted during the November-December 2013 wader censuses (table 2), up from 129,850 in 2012 and down from 148,662 in 2011. National coverage was excellent, with only Rangaunu in the Far North and Gisborne/Wairoa not counted. The differences were approximately 4,000 more godwit and 4,000 more knot than in 2012, accounted for by the Far North in 2013. Pied stilt numbers were up and Turnstone were just over 2,000 (2,001) in 2013, which more than doubled the 2012 count of 914. The Far North accounted for 688 of them in 2013.

Rarities this census included 1 Greater Sand Plover, 1 Oriental Plover (a first for a census day), 3 Great Knot, 1 Black-tailed Godwit, 1 Marsh Sandpiper and 1 Terek Sandpiper.

NOTE: Species listed in the following tables are arranged in the order they appear in the fourth edition of the OSNZ checklist.

Table 1. Total Count June - July 2013

Species	2012	2013
Red Knot	3,183	<b>2,247</b>
Curlew Sandpiper	1	
Red-necked Stint	10	<b>13</b>
Eastern Curlew		<b>2</b>
Whimbrel	3	<b>5</b>
Bar-tailed Godwit	14,142	<b>13,403</b>
Black-tailed Godwit	1	
Siberian Tattler	2	<b>1</b>
Marsh Sandpiper	1	<b>1</b>
Terek Sandpiper	1	<b>2</b>
Turnstone	154	<b>131</b>
Variable Oystercatcher	2,756	<b>2,769</b>
Pied Oystercatcher	72,873	<b>62,353</b>
Oystercatcher Hybrid	22	<b>15</b>
Pied Stilt	17,484	<b>14,431</b>
Black Stilt/Hybrids	25	<b>15</b>
Pacific Golden Plover	5	<b>3</b>
New Zealand Dotterel	852	<b>629</b>
Banded Dotterel	5,993	<b>4,433</b>
Greater Sand Plover		<b>1</b>
Wrybill	5,836	<b>4,827</b>
Black-fronted Dotterel	53	<b>30</b>
Spur-winged Plover	1,344	<b>2,128</b>
TOTAL >	124,741	<b>107,439</b>

Table 2. Total Count November - December 2012

Species	2012	2013
Red Knot	27,594	<b>31,286</b>
Great Knot		<b>3</b>
Sanderling	3	<b>8</b>
Curlew Sandpiper	4	<b>12</b>
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	24	<b>17</b>
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	<b>4</b>
Red-necked Stint	53	<b>105</b>
Eastern Curlew	5	<b>8</b>
Whimbrel	14	<b>18</b>
Bar-tailed Godwit	77,103	<b>81,303</b>
Black-tailed Godwit		<b>1</b>
Wandering Tattler	1	
Grey-tailed Tattler	3	
Greenshank	1	
Marsh Sandpiper	1	<b>1</b>
Terek Sandpiper	1	<b>1</b>
Turnstone	914	<b>2,001</b>
Variable Oystercatcher	2,313	<b>2,129</b>
Pied Oystercatcher	15,653	<b>16,873</b>
Oystercatcher Hybrid	16	<b>16</b>
Pied Stilt	3,446	<b>5,084</b>
Black Stilt/Hybrids		<b>4</b>
Pacific Golden Plover	63	<b>134</b>
Grey Plover	3	
New Zealand Dotterel	432	<b>525</b>
Banded Dotterel	410	<b>387</b>
Greater Sand Plover	2	<b>1</b>
Oriental Plover		<b>1</b>
Wrybill	231	<b>139</b>
Black-fronted Dotterel	12	<b>9</b>
Shore Plover	1	<b>1</b>
Spur-winged Plover	1,545	<b>1,690</b>
TOTAL >	129,850	<b>141,761</b>

There was incomplete nationwide coverage in January-February 2014 but counts from Lake Wairarapa, Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago and Southland were received. Numbers for the Nelson region are compared with the November-December 2013 counts in Tables 3.

Table 3. Nelson Region counts for November 2013 and February 2014

Species	Nov.13	Feb.14	Feb # +/-
Pied Oystercatcher	3,742	18,981	15,239
Variable Oystercatcher	646	766	120
Pied Stilt	73	486	413
Banded Dotterel	56	550	494
Greater Sand Plover	1		-1
Lesser Sand Plover		1	1
Oriental Plover	1		-1
Pacific Golden Plover	8	15	7
Spur-winged Plover	19	13	-6
Turnstone	502	790	288
Red Knot	8,401	8,071	-330
Great Knot	1		-1
Sanderling	3		-3
Red-necked Stint	11	4	-7
Eastern Curlew	3		-3
Whimbrel		1	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	15,169	17,152	1,983
Siberian Tattler		3	3
Terek Sandpiper	1		-1
TOTAL >	28,637	48,833	20,196

Tables 4 and 5 show sites with more than 2,000 waders counted during winter and summer censuses.

Table 4. Sites with >3,000 waders in June-July 2013 & 2012

	2013	2012
Manukau Harbour	<b>25,800</b>	37,428
Kaipara Harbour	<b>23,064</b>	21,271
Firth of Thames	<b>12,535</b>	15,349
Farewell Spit	<b>9,633</b>	7,395
Tauranga Harbour	<b>6,783</b>	6,974
Tasman Bay	<b>5,177</b>	6,645
Golden Bay	<b>4,917</b>	3,815
Maketu - Ohiwa	<b>2,887</b>	1,264
Kawhia Harbour	<b>2,414</b>	5,442
Avon-Heathcote	<b>2,354</b>	3,346
Otago	<b>2,239</b>	1,599

Table 5. Sites with >2,000 waders in November-December 2013 & 2012

	2013	2012
Manukau	<b>30,002</b>	32,851
Farewell Spit	<b>18,939</b>	20,283
Kaipara Harbour	<b>17,399</b>	18,428
Firth of Thames	<b>12,615</b>	11,068
Tauranga - BOP	<b>11,153</b>	6,891
Parengarenga	<b>7,377</b>	
Whangarei	<b>6,732</b>	3,864
Tasman Bay	<b>6,309</b>	5,308
Kawhia	<b>3,908</b>	2,588
Golden Bay	<b>3,389</b>	3,950
Avon-Heathcote	<b>3,009</b>	2,974
Ohiwa H - BoP	<b>2,221</b>	3,808
Lake Ellesmere	<b>2,210</b>	