

WADERS OF LITTORAL HABITATS IN SOUTH-EASTERN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOHN BRANSBURY

INTRODUCTION

Between June 1982 and May 1983 I travelled regularly along the coast between the Murray Mouth and the Victorian border. During these trips I recorded the number, distribution and habitat preference of all waders I saw, and, in the case of resident species, looked for evidence of breeding. The main object of these trips was to study the Hooded Plover *Charadrius rubricollis* and consequently most time and effort was devoted to this species. However, there is a lack of published data on waders in the South-East of South Australia, and this paper presents my results plus some additional records collected by D. Close, I. May and D. Rowley. Their records were obtained chiefly during the national wader counts conducted in the area in 1981 and 1982, and I have included only those observations which can be compared directly with my own.

With the exception of the first trip in June 1982, when I used a four-wheel drive vehicle, all trips were made using a three-wheeled motorcycle. The survey area was divided into manageable sections and I endeavoured to cover the entire coast as quickly as possible to

reduce the likelihood of birds moving into, or out of, sections already covered. However, most of my fieldwork was carried out at weekends and it was often six weeks or more before coverage was complete. Undoubtedly, the discontinuous coverage affected the accuracy of my results, but it is difficult to say to what extent. The sections and dates of visits are shown in Table 1. For the purposes of this paper I have combined some sections.

All sections were visited at least once during each season (winter, spring, summer, autumn), and all except A were covered in full on each visit. Section A is approximately 110 km long and the range of the motorcycle permitted me to cover only 60 km of it. Coverage of this section was therefore as follows:— 14.6.82 (by 4-wheel drive) — 110 km; 20.11.82 and 21.2.83 — 60 km; 7.5.83 — 45 km. In addition to the main seasonal visits the sections were covered at other times, chiefly during the breeding season when I searched for nests and banded Hooded Plover runners. I have also included records collected from all of section A on 6 February 1982, when I covered this part of the coast during a national wader count.

SECTION	DATES VISITED			
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
A 42 Mile Crossing to Murray Mouth	14.6.82	20.11.82	21.2.83	7.5.83
B 42 Mile Crossing to Kingston SE	3.7.82	18.10.82	2.1.83	2.5.83
		22.11.82	31.1.83	16.5.83
C Kingston SE to Robe	4.7.82	4.9.82	31.12.82	4.4.83
		16-17.10.82	22.1.83	
		24.10.82	30.1.83	
		31.10.82		
		27.11.82		
D, E Robe to Beachport	17-18.7.82	17.9.82	30.12.82	3-4.4.83
		30-31.10.82	24.1.83	
F Beachport to Southend	6.8.82	13.11.82	29.12.82	3.4.83
			22.1.83	
G, H Southend to Carpenter Rocks	6-7.8.82	13-14.11.82	28-29.12.82	2-3.4.83
			23.1.83	15.5.83
I Port MacDonnell to Victorian border	8.8.82	14.11.82	27.12.82	1.4.83

TABLE 1. Dates of visits to the study area.

The only part of the coast not visited at all was that between Carpenter Rocks and Port MacDonnell, for this stretch is generally rocky and unsuitable for Hooded Plovers.

Forty days were spent in the field and 16 wader species were recorded. Of these, five are resident and 11 migratory. The Annotated List includes three species not recorded during my field trips but which were recorded by Close, May and Rowley.

Habitat

The coast within the study area varies considerably, with uninterrupted sandy beaches occurring between the Murray Mouth and Kingston SE, and rocky headlands becoming frequent south of Robe. There is also considerable variation in both the width and slope of many of the beaches, and in the degree of seaweed coverage, from one season to the next. During winter, all the beaches are generally narrower and steeper, and the amount of beach-washed seaweed greater, than in summer.

The littoral habitat within each section is briefly outlined below. The approximate lengths of the sections are given in parentheses.

A (110 km). The beach along the entire length of this section is predominantly flat, wide and sandy, with occasional banks of shell-grit, especially near 42 Mile Crossing. The section is backed by an extensive dune system, which stretches inland 1 to 2 km on average, and there are no rocks. Seaweed coverage varies throughout the year but is never extensive, and the greatest disturbance occurs between 42 Mile Crossing and Tea Tree Crossing, a distance of approximately 15 km.

B (70 km). This section also has a predominantly sandy beach, but patches of shell-grit are more frequent than in section A. It is generally steeper and narrower than section A, markedly so in winter, although about 20 km north of Kingston SE the beach becomes quite flat and has an extensive coverage of seaweed for much of the year. The dunes are wide (average 1 km) and high (up to 30 metres) south of 42 Mile Crossing to about 20 km north of Kingston SE. South of this point the dunes are low and narrow. The only rocks are 'The Granites', an isolated outcrop about 20 km north of Kingston SE. Disturbance was greatest along the flat section of beach and near 42 Mile Crossing.

C (50 km). This section is again predominantly sandy although there are rocky areas between Wright Bay and Boatswain Point, adjacent to

Baudin Rocks. The reef at this point is a favourite feeding and roosting area for many waders, notably Lesser Golden Plover and Ruddy Turnstone. The dunes are quite extensive between Cape Jaffa and Wright Bay, but south of there they become narrow and those backing Guichen Bay are low and well vegetated. There are many holiday shacks at Boatswain and much of the Guichen Bay hinterland has been sub-divided. The beaches are narrow and steep for much of the year but Guichen Bay becomes flat and wide in summer and attracts many holidaymakers. Unfortunately, the period of greatest disturbance coincides with the Hooded Plover's breeding season. Seaweed coverage is extensive in places, especially between Cape Jaffa and Kingston SE and between Wright Bay and Boatswain Point.

D, E (45 km). Between Robe and Beachport there are numerous sandy bays interspersed with rocky stretches and offshore reefs. The dunes are generally extensive between the rocky headlands. South of Nora Creina there are long stretches of sandy beach. For much of the year, these are narrow and steep. Although the beaches are unsuitable for conventional cars, many four-wheel drive vehicles travel along this section and the coast between Nora Creina and Robe is subject to a great deal of disturbance during the summer months. Seaweed coverage is extensive in places, especially near Nora Creina.

F (15 km). This section consists of an uninterrupted sweep of sandy beach (Rivoli Bay), which is usually narrow and steep. Like Guichen Bay, however, it becomes flatter and wider in summer and is then subject to considerable disturbance from vehicles. There is an extensive patch of seaweed about 8 km south of Beachport.

G, H (50 km). From Southend south to the Millicent Dump track, a distance of about 15 km, the coast is very rocky with a few sandy bays. From just north of the Dump track south to Carpenter Rocks there are long stretches of sandy beach interspersed with occasional rocky areas. This section is rarely flat and wide, even in summer, and consequently it suffers little disturbance from vehicles. Nevertheless, four-wheel drive vehicles are quite frequent in summer. Away from the rocky headlands the dune system is extensive and there are few patches of seaweed.

I (60 km). This section is quite different from the coast north of Carpenter Rocks in that the

beaches are flat and have an extensive coverage of seaweed for much of the year. The dunes are low and narrow along the entire section and the hinterland is chiefly agricultural. Disturbance is generally high.

ANNOTATED LIST

Interpretation

The letters A, B, through to I refer to the sections shown in Table 1. An asterisk against the date (section A only) indicates incomplete coverage. All records are the author's except for those prefaced by DC (David Close), IM (Ian May) and DR (Dulcie Rowley).

PIED OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus longirostris

A: 325 on 6 February 1982; 476 on 14 June 1982; 200+ on 20 November 1982* and 385 on 21 February 1983*. Mostly pairs and groups (up to 30), evenly distributed along the beach. Groups were present on all visits and were therefore probably not post-breeding aggregations. Breeding: at least 10 runners on 20 November 1982. Human recreational useage of this and other sections of the coast is high and it is possible that this is having an adverse effect on the breeding success of this species. Gosper (1983) makes the same observation in his study area at Patches Beach near Ballina, northern NSW.

B: 16 on 18 October 1982; 10 on 22 November 1982; 12 on 2 January 1983; eight on 31 January 1983 and 10 on 16 May 1983. DC and IM recorded nine on 27 January 1981. Mostly singly or in pairs; evenly distributed along the beach but becoming more frequent towards 42 Mile Crossing. Breeding: two runners on 2 January 1983.

C: Two on 4 September 1982; two on 17 October 1982; four on 31 October 1982; four on 31 December 1982; three on 22 January 1983 and four on 4 April 1983. Singly or pairs; recorded only from Guichen Bay and at Cape Jaffa where there are stretches of open beach.

D, E: Two on 17 September 1982; eight on 30 October 1982; 18 on 30 December 1982 and three on 3 April 1983. DC and IM recorded two between Beachport and Nora Creina on 27 February 1981, and IM recorded 10 on 26 July 1981. Mostly pairs but a few single birds; usually on open sandy beaches or in sandy bays, but occasionally feeding on exposed reefs. Breeding: a pair with a nest on an islet off

Long Gully on 17 September 1982. Two pairs on 30 October 1982 probably had nests or runners judging by their behaviour.

F: No records.

G, H: Six on 14 November 1982; one on 29 December 1982; two on 3 April 1983 and two on 15 May 1983. IM recorded four on 30 June 1981. Singly or in pairs; usually on sandy bays with most records from north of the Millicent Dump track. The scarcity of this species in Canunda NP is surprising in view of the apparently suitable habitat there.

I: I have no records from this section but DR recorded seven between Danger Point and French Point on 6 February 1982, and eight between Green Point and the Victorian border on 6 February 1981.

SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus fuliginosus

A: Five on 6 February 1982.

B: No records.

C: One was recorded at Boatswain Point on 17 and 31 October 1982. On 3 October 1983 a Sooty Oystercatcher, possibly the same individual, was recorded in the same place. Bonnin (1982) lists this species for the adjacent Baudin Rocks and one wonders whether this individual moves between Baudin Rocks and the mainland.

D, E: A group of three on 18 July 1982, a pair on 31 October 1982 and one on 3 April 1983. DC and IM recorded one on 27 February 1981. All records were from the Beachport area where the coast is considerably more rocky than further north in this section.

F, G, H: No records.

I: One on 27 December 1982, near the Victorian border. IM recorded one on 16 June 1981 between Port MacDonnell and Danger Point.

MASKED LAPWING *Vanellus miles*

A: Six on 6 February 1982.

B: 20+ on 22 November 1982 and 300+ on 31 January 1983. DC and IM recorded 77 on 27 January 1981. Recorded only from Kingston SE to approximately 12 km N of The Granites; the beach here is generally flat with a moderate to extensive coverage of seaweed. The large number of birds recorded on 31 January 1983 consisted of numerous groups (up to 40), which may have been post-breeding aggregations. The weather on that day was very hot, close to 40°C, with a strong northerly wind.

C: Eight on 24 October 1982; two on 31 Oc-

tober 1982; 20+ on 31 December 1982; 50+ on 22 January 1983 and eight on 4 April 1983. DC recorded 112 on 25 January 1981. Mostly pairs or groups (up to 20); recorded only at Cape Jaffa, between Boatswain Point and Wright Bay and at the northern end of Guichen Bay. All these areas have a moderate to extensive coverage of seaweed.

D, E: Four on 30 October 1982. IM recorded five on 26 July 1981. Recorded only at Nora Creina where there is extensive seaweed.

F: Two on 3 April 1983, in an area with extensive coverage of seaweed.

G, H: I have no records but IM recorded four, north of the Millicent Dump track, on 23 July 1981.

I: 30+ on 27 December 1982 and 11 on 1 April 1983. IM recorded 52 between Port MacDonnell and Danger Point on 16 June 1981. DR recorded 106 between Danger Point and French Point on 6 February 1982, and 21 between Green Point and the Victorian border on 6 February 1981.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

One record only: DC and IM recorded a single bird between Kingston SE and 42 Mile Cross (section B) on 27 January 1981.

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER

Pluvialis dominica

A: No records.

B: A single bird at The Granites on 22 November 1982.

C: One on 4 September 1982; two on 16 October 1982; 20+ on 24 October 1982; 50+ on 27 November 1982; 110+ on 31 December 1982; 150+ on 22 January 1983; 90+ on 30 January 1983 and four on 4 April 1983. DC recorded 180+ on 25 January 1981. Large numbers were recorded between Boatswain Point and Wright Bay, where the birds feed on the exposed reef during low tide and roost on the beach amongst extensive seaweed during high tide. I only recorded single birds at Cape Jaffa and at the northern end of Guichen Bay. The large number of birds recorded by DC on 25 January 1981 were roosting on a reef adjoining the sandy beach.

D, E, F, G, H: No records.

I: 20+ on 27 December 1982. DR recorded 72 between Danger Point and French Point on 6 February 1982.

HOODED PLOVER *Charadrius rubricollis*

A: 50 on 6 February 1982; 25 on 14 June 1982; 27 on 20 November 1982*; 12 on 21 February 1983* and seven on 7 May 1983*. Mostly pairs; evenly distributed along the beach, although few within 20 km N of 42 Mile Crossing where disturbance by fishermen and four-wheel drive vehicles is greatest. It is difficult to say whether the variation in numbers along this section is due to seasonal fluctuations, or whether birds simply move to the inner shores of the Coorong. Breeding: one runner and one nest with two eggs on 20 November 1982; one free-flying immature on 7 May 1983, which had not been colour banded.

B: Two on 3 July 1982; 27 on 18 October 1982; 49 on 2 January 1983 and one on 2 May 1983. The increase in numbers along this stretch during spring-summer is quite marked, the narrowness of the beach during winter possibly being unattractive to the plovers.

Further study is needed to establish the exact reasons for the apparently considerable seasonal movement of this species.

Mostly in pairs and evenly distributed during spring-summer. Breeding: one runner on 18 October 1982 was colour banded and re-sighted in the same locality on 2 January 1983, by which time it had reached the free-flying stage. It was seen again on 31 January 1983, 18 km N of the banding locality. Two nests, one with one egg and one with three, on 22 November 1982, and one runner on the same date. A further two nests, each with three eggs, and four runners on 2 January 1983. Two free-flying immatures were recorded on 2 January 1983; they were not colour banded.

C: 15 on 4 July 1982; 19 on 16-17 October 1982; 22 on 31 December 1982 and five on 4 April 1983. On 4 July 1982 all the birds were recorded from the vicinity of Cape Jaffa. During spring-summer they were evenly distributed along the northern part of Guichen Bay, where at least five pairs bred, and between Wright Bay and Cape Jaffa. On 4 April 1983 all birds were again in the vicinity of Cape Jaffa, with none being recorded from Guichen Bay. Breeding: two nests, each with three eggs, and three runners on 17 October 1982. Nest with three eggs on 13 November and another with three eggs on 15 November 1982. Two runners on 31 December 1982, and another on 22 January 1983. A runner which was colour banded on 31 December 1982 was re-sighted in the same locality on 22 January 1983, and again on 29 January 1983, having successfully

reached the free-flying stage. A further two free-flying immatures were recorded at Cape Jaffa on 30 January 1983; they were not colour banded.

D, E: 27 on 17-18 July 1982; 28 on 30-31 October 1982; 21 on 30 December 1982 and eight on 3-4 April 1983. Evenly distributed along the coast between Nora Creina and Robe, but surprisingly few between Beachport and Nora Creina. The low number on 3-4 April 1983 may have been due to the very high disturbance over the Easter holiday weekend, or it may indicate seasonal movement. Breeding: four nests, three with two eggs and one with three, on 30 December 1982; two runners on the same date. Two free-flying immatures were recorded 4 km N of Beachport on 24 January 1983. One had been colour banded and proved to be a bird that I had banded 0.5 km N of Lake Bonney outlet on 14 November 1982, at an estimated age of 21-28 days. Thus it had moved *ca* 57 km N, the longest movement recorded during the study. A further two free-flying immatures, not colour banded, were recorded on 4 April 1983.

F: 16 on 6 August 1982; 10 on 13 November 1982; eight on 29 December 1982 and four on 3 April 1983. Evenly distributed along the beach. Again the low numbers on 3 April 1983 may have been due to disturbance. Breeding: nest with two eggs on 29 December 1982. One free-flying immature was recorded on 29 December 1982, and a further two on 22 January 1983. None had been colour banded.

G, H: 59 on 6-7 August 1982; 41 on 13-14 November 1982; 47 on 28-29 December 1982 and 37 on 2-3 April 1983. Evenly distributed along the beach, with numbers in the northern part of the section (Southend to Millicent Dump track) fluctuating from 23 on 6 August 1982 to 10 on 13 November 1982, 16 on 29 December 1982 and 12 on 3 April 1983. This variation may have been due to the greater human disturbance along this stretch. Breeding: interestingly only one breeding record was obtained for the northern part, compared with ten for the south. Two nests with three eggs, and two with two eggs, on 14 November 1982; two runners on the same date. Nest with one egg and another with three eggs on 28 December 1982; two runners on 28-29 December 1982. Nest with two eggs and one runner on 23 January 1983. A free-flying immature, not colour banded, was recorded on 28 December 1982. Another, recorded on 23 January 1983, had been banded at the same

locality on 28 December 1982. A third, seen on 2 April 1983, was not colour banded.

I: Six on 8 August 1982; six on 14 November 1982; four on 27 December 1982 and three on 1 April 1983. Isolated pairs between Port MacDonnell and the Victorian border. Breeding: a nest with three eggs on 14 November 1982.

DOUBLE-BANDED PLOVER

Charadrius bicinctus

A: Two on 14 June 1982.

B, C, D, E: No records.

F: DC and IM recorded one on 28 February 1981 and IM recorded two on 17 June 1981.

G, H: 60+ on 7 August 1982; six on 3 April 1983 and 36 on 15 May 1983. DC and IM recorded one on 28 January 1981 and IM recorded 30 on 30 June 1981. Apparently prefers the area north of the Millicent Dump track, where it feeds in the intertidal zone and on the dry sand above the high tide mark.

I: IM recorded five on 16 June 1981 between Port MacDonnell and Danger Point.

ORIENTAL PLOVER *Charadrius veredus*

A group of six was recorded at the Murray Mouth (Younghusband Peninsula) on 6 February 1982 (McCrie 1984). This record is the second record from an ocean beach in South Australia. The birds were quite tame and allowed me to approach to within 15 m.

They were identified by "yellowish legs" and lack of wingbar. One of the birds was an adult male in full breeding plumage, having a white chin and pink-brown breast, with a narrow black band separating the rufous from the white belly. Several others were probably adult males coming into breeding plumage because their bands were indistinct.

They were seen in an area of open, flat sand and were inactive, mostly standing on one leg. When approached they were reluctant to move far and flew in short bursts, circling low and landing behind me. They were not seen to feed. It was mid-day and very hot. Notes on the identification and plumage of these birds have appeared in McCrie (1984). IM recorded a single bird a little north of Beachport on 7 January 1977.

RED-CAPPED PLOVER

Charadrius ruficapillus

A: Seven on 6 February 1982; 40+ on 14 June 1982; 40+ on 20 November 1982* and 30+ on 21 February 1983*. Mostly pairs or small groups (up to eight) evenly distributed

along the beach. Numbers were not as high as one might expect considering the length of this section. Breeding: at least six runners and three nests, each with two eggs, on the 20 November 1982.

B: 30+ on 18 October 1982; 40+ on 22 November 1982; 70+ on 2 January 1983; 150+ on 31 January 1983 and 32 on 16 May 1983. DC and IM recorded 381 on 27 January 1981. The plovers were most common between Kingston SE and "The Granites", where the beach is flat for most of the year and has extensive seaweed coverage. On the 31 January 1983 they were present in numerous small groups (up to 10), which may have been post-breeding aggregations. Like the Hooded Plover, this species is considerably more common in summer, perhaps because the beach is generally wider and flatter at this time of year. Breeding: at least three runners and two nests, each with two eggs, on 22 November 1982; two runners on 2 January 1983.

C: 20+ on 4 September 1982; 20+ on 24 October 1982; 40+ on 31 December 1982; 70+ on 22 January 1983 and 40+ on 4 April 1983. DC and IM recorded 59 between Wright Bay and Kingston SE on 25 January 1981, and 10 on Guichen Bay on 10 July 1981. Mostly pairs or small groups (up to 10). Most common at Cape Jaffa, between Boatswain Point and Wright Bay, and in the northern section of Guichen Bay; all these areas have moderate to extensive seaweed coverage. Breeding: a female with a large runner on 24 October 1982; three runners on 31 December 1982.

D, E: 14 on 17 September 1982; 30+ on 30 October 1982; 40+ on 30 December 1982 and 20+ on 3 April 1983. IM recorded 15 between Nora Creina and Beachport on 26 July 1981. Mostly pairs or small groups (up to six). Most common between Beachport and Nora Creina where it appears to prefer the wider sections of beach with moderate to extensive seaweed coverage. Breeding: two runners on 30 October and one runner on 30 December 1982.

F: 17 on 6 August 1982; 24 on 13 November 1982; 40+ on 29 December 1982; 50+ on 22 January 1983 and 70+ on 3 April 1983. DC and IM recorded 35 on 28 February 1981, and IM recorded 12 on 17 June 1981. Mostly pairs or small groups (up to six); most common in areas with moderate to extensive seaweed. Breeding: nest with two eggs on 22 January 1983.

G, H: 15 on 14 November 1982; 30+ on 29 December 1982; 40+ on 22 January 1983; 80+

on 2 April 1983 and 50+ on 15 May 1983. DC and IM recorded 26 on 28 January 1981, and IM recorded 18 on 23 July 1981. Mostly pairs or small groups (up to eight); appears to prefer the wider sections of beach with a moderate to extensive coverage of seaweed. Breeding: two runners and a nest with two eggs on 29 December 1982; one small runner on 22 January 1983.

I: 20+ on 8 August 1982; 40+ on 14 November 1982; 50+ on 27 December 1982 and 30+ on 1 April 1983. IM recorded 32 between Port MacDonnell and Danger Point on 16 June 1981; DR recorded 92 between Danger Point and French Point on 6 February 1982, and six between Green Point and the Victorian border on 6 February 1981. Mostly pairs or small groups (up to 10).

Human recreational use of beaches may be having an adverse effect on the breeding success of this species.

BLACK-FRONTED PLOVER

Charadrius melanops

A single record by DR of two at the mouth of Eight Mile Creek on 6 February 1982.

RUDDY TURNSTONE

Arenaria interpres

A: No records.

B: 23 at The Granites on 22 November 1982.

C: 20+ on 4 September 1982; 60+ on 16 October 1982; 110+ on 31 October 1982; 250+ on 31 December 1982 and 180+ on 4 April 1983. DC recorded 310 on 25 January 1981. Most common between Boatswain Point and Wright Bay, where the birds feed on the exposed reef at low tide. Fair numbers (up to 90) at Cape Jaffa and up to 50 at the northern end of Guichen Bay. Both these areas have extensive seaweed coverage.

D, E: 30+ on 18 July 1982; 50+ on 30 October 1982; 50+ on 30 December 1982 and 20+ on 3 April 1983. IM recorded one on 26 July 1981. Largest numbers were recorded from Nora Creina south towards Beachport, where there are several extensive patches of seaweed.

F: 15 on 6 August 1982; 50+ on 13 November 1982; 140+ on 29 December 1982; 170+ on 22 January 1983 and 20+ on 3 April 1983. DC and IM recorded 273 on 28 February 1981, and IM recorded 28 on 17 June 1981. All the birds were feeding in an extensive patch of seaweed.

G, H: 10 on 7 August 1982; 20+ on 14 November 1982; 50+ on 29 December 1982;

50+ on 22 January 1983; 15 on 3 April 1983 and 26 on 15 May 1983. DC and IM recorded 24 on 28 January 1981, and IM recorded 25 on 30 June 1981. Mostly in scattered groups (up to 10) feeding in seaweed.

I: 40+ on 27 December 1982. IM recorded five between Port MacDonnell and Danger Point on 16 June 1981. DR recorded 174 between Danger Point and French Point on 6 February 1982, and 57 between Green Point and the Victorian border on 6 February 1981.

GREY-TAILED TATTLER *Tringa brevipes*

A: No records.

B: One on 18 October 1982, on the ocean beach 3 km N of The Granites.

C: Four on 31 October 1982 at the northern end of Guichen Bay, in extensive seaweed near the Mount Benson drain outlet.

D, E, F, G, H: No records.

I: DC and IM recorded a single bird on 11 July 1981 feeding in kelp, north of the Port MacDonnell jetty. DR recorded five on 6 February 1982 between French Point and Orwell Rocks, and eight on the same date between French Point and Stony Point.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*

Recorded only from Beachport, one on 31 October 1982, and Robe, three on 30 December 1982. All sightings were of birds on or near rocks.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

A single bird on the beach, between 42 Mile Crossing and the Murray Mouth, on 21 February 1983. DC recorded one between Wright Bay and Kingston SE on 25 January 1981.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

DR recorded a single bird feeding in fresh water at the mouth of Eight Mile Creek on 6 February 1981.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER

Calidris acuminata

A, B: No records.

C: 20+ between Boatswain Point and Wright Bay on 24 October 1982, feeding on the exposed reef. 50+ at Cape Jaffa on 31 December 1982, in an area with extensive seaweed coverage.

D, E: No records.

F: Five on 3 April 1983, in a patch of extensive seaweed.

G, H: One on 2 April 1983.

I: 20+ on 27 December 1982, feeding on an exposed reef. DR recorded 98 on 6 February 1982 between Danger Point and French Point.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*

A: No records.

B: 40+ on 2 January 1983, in several scattered groups. DC and IM recorded 14 on 27 January 1981.

C: 70+ on 24 October 1982; 300+ on 31 December 1982; 200+ on 22 January 1983 and 13 on 4 April 1983. DC recorded 250 at Wright Bay, and 90 between Wright Bay and Cape Jaffa, on 25 January 1981. Most numerous between Boatswain Point and Wright Bay, but also moderate numbers (up to 50) at Cape Jaffa.

D, E: 20+ on 31 October 1982 and 50+ on 30 December 1982 between Nora Creina and Beachport, feeding in a patch of extensive seaweed.

F: 180+ on 22 January 1983; 80+ on 3 April 1983. DC and IM recorded 163 on 28 February 1981.

G, H: 20+ on 7 August 1982; 50+ on 14 November 1982; 130+ on 29 December 1982; four on 2 April 1983.

I: 400+ on 27 December 1982 and 50+ on 1 April 1983. IM recorded 12 on 16 June 1981 between Port MacDonnell and Danger Point. DR recorded 795 between Danger Point and French Point on 6 February 1982, and 226 between Green Point and the Victorian border on 6 February 1981.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

A, B: No records.

C: 20+ on 24 October 1982 and 50+ on 31 December 1982. Recorded only between Boatswain Point and Wright Bay, feeding on the exposed reef or resting in the beachwashed seaweed.

D, E: No records.

F: 50+ on 22 January 1983, feeding in seaweed.

G, H: 10+ on 28 December 1982.

I: 50+ on 27 December 1982 and 30+ on 1 April 1983. On both occasions the birds were feeding on an exposed reef between Eight Mile Creek and Danger Point. DR recorded 376 on 6 February 1982 between Danger Point and French point.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

A, B: No records.

C: One at the northern end of Guichen Bay on 22 January 1983.

D, E: 180+ on 30 October 1982; 250+ on 30 December 1982; 100+ on 3 April 1983. DC and IM recorded 293 on 27 February 1981, and IM recorded one on 26 July 1981. All records were from the area between Nora Creina and Beachport.

F: 40+ on 22 January 1983. DC and IM recorded 84 on 28 February 1981.

G, H: 400+ on 14 November 1982; 240+ on 28 December 1982; 200+ on 23 January 1983; 210+ on 3 April 1983; 170+ on 15 May 1983. DC and IM recorded 170 on 28 January 1981. Mostly in groups (up to 100) feeding at the water's edge or roosting on rock ledges.

I: 50+ on 1 April 1983. DR recorded four on 6 February 1981 between Green Point and the Victorian border.

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11 Gurr Street, Goodwood, S.A. 5034

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