

SOUTH AUSTRALIA WADER SURVEYS. JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2000. A joint project between the Australasian Wader Studies Group and the South Australian Ornithologists [sic] Association by J.R. Wilson. 94 pages, \$20rrp, available from Ken Gosbell, 17 Banksia Crt, Heathmont, Vic 3135, kenbg@ozemail.com.au, or j.wilson@dynamite.com.au.

Jim Wilson is a British wader enthusiast who has launched himself whole-heartedly into Australian wader surveys during a three year stay in this country. In this publication he reports on wader surveys of Gulf St Vincent, the Spencer Gulf, West Eyre Peninsula and the Coorong regions of South Australia conducted in January and February 2000. The report also revises previous wader population estimates in these areas and highlights sites of international significance according to Ramsar criteria.

The project was jointly run by the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) and the SAOA with the assistance of Natural Heritage Trust funds and at least 40 volunteers. Surveys occurred on land, air and water, and covered public, private, reserved, defence and Aboriginal land. A microlight was used for aerial surveys of the West Eyre Peninsula and Spencer Gulf with the intention of identifying key sites for visitation by a ground party.

Results are outlined for the four regions mentioned above. The results include ground count totals by species and location, identified key areas, total population estimates, sites considered to be of international importance, protected areas and accounts of selected species. Maps are provided which indicate sites considered to be of international significance, key areas for migrant waders and key areas for individual

species.

The report provides an important snapshot of waders in South Australia given the scarcity of wader surveys along the Spencer Gulf and West Eyre Peninsula. Notably almost all wader sites in the Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf have no formal protection and the only Ramsar site on the South Australian coast, the Coorong, may have serious environmental problems largely due to altered hydrology.

One hopes the report is a catalyst for ongoing surveys, particularly in key identified areas, with a view to determining the trend in population numbers, sites for protection, and providing input to coastal development proposals. It is important to note that developments which may cause significant impacts to migratory waders listed under the Japan- and China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreements (JAMBA and CAMBA) may trigger referral under the federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The AWSG aims to survey parts of the coast on an ongoing basis, with input from SAOA members (e.g. Wilson 2001). David Paton and the University of Adelaide have also been conducting ongoing research along the Coorong and other coastal areas (D. Paton pers. comm.).

Already this report has proven to be an important reference for professionals involved in management of the South Australian coast.

REFERENCE

Wilson, J.R. 2001. *Wader surveys in the Coorong. January and February 2001*. Australasian Wader Studies Group, Kingston, ACT.

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