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- W.F. de Boer* & R.H. Drent, Zoologisch Laboratorium, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, PO Box 14, 9750 AA Haren, The Netherlands.
- * Present address: S.N.V.-Ati, Association Neerlandaise d'Assistance au Developpement, B.P. 1135, n'Djamena, Tchad.

KNOTS IN SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

Alan Vittery

Little is known of migrant waders in Mozambique (see Summers *et al.* 1987). The Knot *Calidris canutus* is known to winter in South Africa on the western seaboard but there are few records from the eastern coast of southern Africa. I was based at Maputo (formerly Lourenco Marques) in Mozambique from October 1975 until April 1978 and saw Knots in each of the three winters, on the sand flats to the north of the city (Costa do Sol) and at Inhaca Island on the seaward side of the Bay of Maputo (formerly Delagao Bay). The records are as follows:

Winter 1975/76

First recorded on 8 November, when 52 birds were at Costa do Sol. A total of 75 were there on 27 November but there were fewer in December/January (maximum 9 on 14 December). Numbers increased again to 45 on 8 February and at least 135 were present from 15 February to 20 March, with 30 at Inhaca Island on 27 February. The last birds seen were 20 at Costa do Sol on 10 April.

Winter 1976/77

Three birds were at Maputo as early as 11 September. A total of 25 were seen at Costa do Sol on 2 October, with 50 at Inhaca Island from 21-28 November. One bird at Costa do Sol on 19 December was the last seen.

Winter 1977/78

Three or four birds at Inhaca Island on 12/13 November and 12 birds at Costa do Sol on 1 December were the only sightings.

The apparent decline in numbers over the three years is probably more a reflection of the increasing difficulty of making observations during that time than of any marked change in status. The records from the first winter based on the largest number of visits to the coast, suggest a late autumn build-up, and then a move to other feeding areas in mid-winter (southern summer) and an early spring passage.

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Alan Vittery, *The Saltings, Cley-next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR25 7RZ, U.K.*