

## A FIRST BREEDING RECORD OF THE TWO-BANDED PLOVER *CHARADRIUS FALKLANDICUS* IN BRAZIL

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The Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus* is considered as a migrant in southern Brazil. It breeds from Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands to Santiago, Chile and Buenos Aires, Argentina (Olrog 1968, Blake 1977, de Schauensee 1966). Belton (1984), however, already cited the species as a "moderately common winter visitor to Brasil from southern latitudes with few possibly resident" and wrote "it is reasonable to anticipate that small local breeding populations of *Charadrius falklandicus* may eventually be found". Here we confirm the breeding status of this species in southern Brazil.

From May 1986 to May 1987, we documented the use of Lagoa do Peixe by a total of 28 migratory species of shorebirds (Charadriidae and Scolopacidae) and gulls (Laridae) (Lara Resende & Leeuwenberg 1987) with the objective of providing data for conservation strategies for the region. Lagoa do Peixe is a brackish to saltwater lagoon in the southernmost state of Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul. It is located in the municipality of Tavares, 225 km south of Porto Alegre, on the long peninsula separating Lagoa dos Patos from the Atlantic Ocean, between 31°26'S 51°10'W and 31°14'S 50°54'W.

On 18 October 1986, accompanied by W. Belton, we observed an adult in full breeding plumage at Lagoa do Peixe with a chick of 10-14 days, not yet able to fly. Five days later, 2 slightly younger chicks were seen together with 2 adult individuals in full breeding plumage. The latter immediately reacted very nervously to our presence and repeatedly performed the broken wing display. On 20 November 1986 another full breeding plumage individual was seen caring for 3 chicks of 7-10 days on one of the temporary islands created by high water levels.

We measured the density of Two-banded Plovers at Lagoa do Peixe along three different transects, 30 ha along the beach, 14 ha in the 'barra' (the region near the connection with Atlantic Ocean) and 50 ha in the central mudflats of the lagoon. In November no counts were made due to extreme weather circumstances. Two-banded Plovers occurred at the lagoon year round, but their density was significantly lower during the austral spring and early summer, between October and January. This low density resulted mainly from the migration of most birds to their southern breeding grounds, but also from a shift in spacing pattern during the breeding period, in which hardly any bird leaves the breeding spots along the marshy borders of the lagoon. By January numbers had slowly increased and 50% of the birds were juveniles, possibly those hatched at the lagoon. We suggest that the increased numbers in March and April are caused by birds returning from southern regions of Argentina (and probably staying until August). Monthly transect counts and daily estimations of the maximum numbers present in the lagoon resulted in several figures showing the fluctuations during the year.

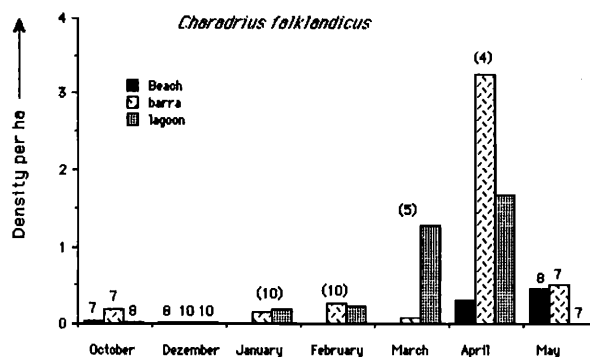


Figure 1. Mean density per ha of Two-banded Plovers in three different transects at Lagoa do Peixe, RS, Brasil for 1986-1987. N = number of counts per transect, (N) = equal number of counts for all three transects.

From our observations we cannot determine the total number of the individuals breeding at the lagoon, but it is certainly more than we observed. The high number of juveniles seen in January are most likely the offspring of these non-migrants. As there are still a few smaller saltwater lagoons north and south of Lagoa do Peixe, we do not exclude the possible breeding of the Two-banded Plover in other areas. Closer investigations in these areas is needed to confirm the suitability of the lagoons and the presence of juveniles between October and February.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Dr. William Belton for his help in finding the first chick of *Charadrius falklandicus* at Lagoa do Peixe. The authors also thank World Wildlife Fund/WWF-US, International Council for Bird Preservation/ICBP-PanAm Section, Canadian Wildlife Service/CWS, Manomet Bird Observatory/MBO, Mass., PanAmerican Shorebirds Program/PASP and Projecto Profaua (Brazil) for their financial support to the Project Lagoa do Peixe, under which the present observations were made.

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## PRAIRIE SHOREBIRD WORKSHOP HELD IN SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

### H. Loney Dickson

On Saturday 28 January 1989 the Saskatchewan Natural History Club held the Prairie Shorebird Workshop in Regina, Saskatchewan. The shorebird workshop was held in conjunction with the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Workshop. The workshops were a big success with just over 300 registered people and the general public attending the various sessions.

With this being the first prairie shorebird workshop it was extremely gratifying to see the interest and enthusiasm of participants. There were 10 posters presented at the workshop which were provided by researchers from across Canada and from North Dakota.

The sessions were started off by Guy Morrison's (Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) - Ottawa) presentation on the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and his work on the South American Atlas. This was followed by a series of sessions on Piping Plovers *Charadrius melodus* starting off with a presentation by Paul Goosen (CWS - Edmonton) talking about the Canadian Research and Management Plan in Canada. A large contingent of North Dakota participants including Paul Mayer, Pamela J. Dryer, Eleanor

P. Gaines, Randy Kreil, Mark Ryan and Karen A. Smith presented information regarding the co-operative efforts presently undertaken between State, Federal and Private Agencies in North Dakota to reach Piping Plover recovery goals for that state.

Mark Colwell (North Dakota) presented a paper on the effects of fluctuating wetland conditions on Prairie Shorebird Assemblages based on his work at Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan and Cleve Wershler (Alberta) presented a management strategy for Mountain Plovers *Charadrius montanus* in Alberta. Loney Dickson presented a paper on the progress of the prairie shorebird survey and banding program over the past 2 years.

Preparation of the proceedings of both workshops are now underway and are hoped to be completed by December 1989. Anyone interested in receiving copies of the proceedings should contact:

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