

REFERENCES

- Fretwell. 1972. Populations in a Seasonal Environment. Princeton University Press (Monographs in Population Biology).
- Hilden, O. 1979. Territoriality and site tenacity of Temminck's Stint, *Calidris temminckii*. *Ornis Fennica* 56: 56-74.
- O'Connor, R.J. 1985. Behavioural regulation of bird populations: a review of habitat use in relation to migration and residency. In: *Behavioural Ecology* (R.M. Sibly & R.H. Smith, Eds.). Symposium of British Ecological Society No. 25. Blackwell Scientific Publications.

Peter Evans, Dept. of Biol. Sci., University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK

(This note is an expanded abstract of a presentation at the 8th International Feeding Ecology Symposium, Ribe, September 1989.)



WADER SURVEYS ON THE COAST OF TANZANIA

T. Bregnballe, I.K. Petersen, K. Halberg, O. Thorup & L. Hansen



Surveys, organized by ICBP in Denmark and Tanzania, were carried out along the coast of Tanzania from the end of January to the beginning of March in 1988 and 1989.

We were four ornithologists in 1988, and that year all coastal sites became accessible, by the combined use of a yacht and a rubber boat. Unfortunately the yacht sank just before the second expedition, so in 1989 one to two ornithologists surveyed, the most southern area and a part of Zanzibar Islands from the land side. The situation of the counted areas are shown in Figure 1.

The coast of Tanzania is composed of a great diversity of habitats, and birds were counted on all types of coastal habitats.

Waders were counted at high tide on some stretches of coast, but the most used method was to count during low tide. By counting around low tide we achieved precise information on numbers per length of coast. The areas surveyed at low tide compose about 160 km of the coast, which corresponds only to about 10 percent of the total coastline.

Numbers are given in Table 1. The guess as to total numbers wintering on the coast of Tanzania has been derived, by extrapolating the mean number of birds per km of coast at low tide, and then compensating for an expected over- or under-representation of the preferred habitats within the surveyed area compared to the whole coast. The given guesses are preliminary.

After comparing total numbers and mean numbers of birds per shoreline in Kenya, South Africa and Namibia with Tanzania, it seems evident that the coast of Tanzania is an important wintering area for at least Crab Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Greater Sandpiper and Grey Plover.

Except for the tidal flats and bays on Mafia Island we found no large areas with very high numbers of feeding waders, but all along the coast we found small areas where waders were feeding in high densities.

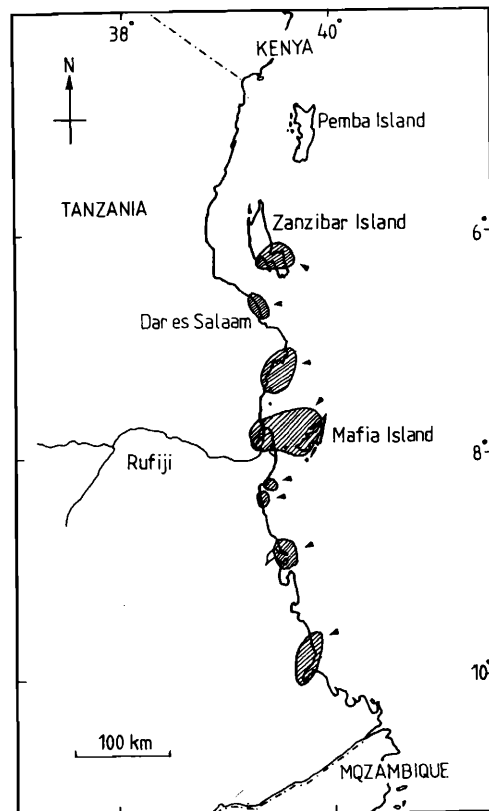


Figure 1. Coastal wader survey areas (shown shaded) on the coast of Tanzania.

It is our hope that a marine reserve, which includes the western and southern coast of Mafia Island, will be established.

Direct threats in the form of habitat destruction and disturbance were found only in Dar es Salaam.

For particulars and reports please apply to Thomas Bregnballe, Dybbolvej 29/37, DK-8240 Risskov, Denmark.

Table 1. Counts of waders observed on the Tanzanian coast. Figures give the total number observed, the density per km on low tide counts, and a 'guesstimate' of the total population on the Tanzanian coast.

	Number observed	birds per km (low tide counts)	total coast 'guesstimate'
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	140	-	-
Crab Plover <i>Dromas ardeola</i>	7,020	24.8	24,000-28,000
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2,160	9.2	11,000-14,000
White-fronted Plover <i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	910	3.9	5,000-6,000
Greater/Lesser Sandplover <i>Charadrius leschenaultii/mongolus</i>	4,740	27.5	24,000-26,000
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	4,390	16.3	17,000-21,000
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	1,290	5.9	8,500-9,500
Little Stint <i>C. minuta</i>	9,450	13.0	17,000-19,000
Curlew Sandpiper <i>C. ferruginea</i>	20,990	86.2	90,000-120,000
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	40	-	-
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	4,510	14.7	12,000-13,000
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	170	-	600-800
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1,370	6.9	7,000-10,000
Terek Sandpiper <i>Xenus cinereus</i>	5,260	26.1	34,000-38,000
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	420	0.4	2,000-4,000
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1,190	5.9	7,000-9,000

T. Bregnballe, I.K. Petersen, K. Halberg, O. Thorup and L.N. Hansen

(This note is an expanded abstract of a presentation at the 8th International Feeding Ecology Symposium, Ribe, September 1989.)

WHERE THE WILD WADERS WANDER

Bruno Ens

A largely true, though highly selective, account of the 8th International Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Symposium, the workshop on Recent Advances in Understanding Knot Migrations and the Wader Study Group Conference in Ribe, Denmark, from 18-24 September 1989.



ABSTRACT

Too many participants. Too few women. Too much good food. Too much good weather. Too few head-banging discussions. Too good to have missed.

PART I: CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT

When Theunis asked me to write an informal report on the 8th International Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Symposium, he quickly added that he did so because of my witty style of writing. Since this is not often said to me (in case you find yourself laughing to death - please tell John Goss-Custard not to censor my manuscripts anymore), I had no psychological defences prepared and proved an easy prey. Clearly, a major objective of this account is to make sure I will not be asked again.

Arriving in Ribe on Sunday 17 September we quickly realized that our self-imposed confinement would be in a very pretty little town indeed. It was clear that the organisers had gone out of their way to make everything run as smoothly as possible. We were handed a compilation of abstracts of papers and posters (very well exposed in a cozy sideroom) and a key to our very comfortable rooms. Apparently, some of the organizers cannot accept the fact

that the conference is really over, because I have just received a nice photograph of my fellow waderologists (including myself) and a very handy list of participants. Most notable, perhaps, was the excellent quality of the food. Some of our British friends arrived in a very poor body condition and this bonanza of food gave them a good possibility to regain body mass. Myrfyn Owen and David Hill actually didn't even make it to the conference, though rumour had it that one was still caught in a traffic jam and the other lost his passport. It turned out that the emaciated British arrivals all worked for the Nature Conservancy Council, which is threatened with being cut into three separate parts. Nature is not generally known to stop at regional boundaries, so Peter Evans made a passionate plea at the end of the conference that every participant sign a letter to the Thatcher government explaining what a rotten idea this is. Since he wants good ole Maggie to turn green instead of red he phrased the message in a slightly different way.

In all, only one minor complaint can be levelled at the organisers of the conference. They seemed surprised that many people actually wanted to visit the conference, so not everybody could be housed in the very comfortable youth hostel which served as a conference centre and not everybody could have a place in the main conference room. The latter