
FLAGWATCH 1991

Australian wader banding groups have commenced placing coloured leg flags on a variety of species caught in south-eastern Australia and Java, Indonesia. This activity is part of a cooperative East Java - Australasia Flyway project, which has the objective of increasing knowledge of wader migration routes.

So far (mid-February) over 3,200 birds have been flagged and we hope that a further thousand birds will be marked before the birds depart on northward migration in late March/ early April.

Numbers of birds flagged to date are as follows:

Red-necked Stint <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	1443
Curlew Sandpiper <i>C. ferruginea</i>	933
Oriental Pratincole <i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	602
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	99
Red Knot <i>C. canutus</i>	60
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	40
Pacific Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	25
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper <i>C. acuminata</i>	11

Other target species are Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, Grey Plover *P. squatarola*, Sanderling *C. alba*, Great Knot *C. tenuirostris* and Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*.

The flags are durable and should be visible as long as the marked bird remains alive. Therefore, a check should be made of any waders of the above species seen in the flyway for the next few years. We will keep you informed regularly concerning flagging activities and results.

The flags consist of either orange or dark green plastic bands with a flap, at right angles to the band, which has a length of about twice the band diameter.

The great majority of flags have been placed on the upper right leg (tibia), but a few are on the lower right leg (tarsus) and on the left leg. The exact position is not important.

Please could you keep a watch for these birds ? Particularly during the migration periods in April/May and July/September and also in the breeding season. Reports of sightings should include species name, place, (including latitude and longitude), date and approximate numbers and species of waders present. The information should be sent to:

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