

Table 2. Average number of shorebirds counted per census from September 1990 to March 1991 in Parita Bay, Panama

Species	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Western/Semipalmated/ Least Sandpiper	630	1,177	1,800	3,250	977	6,977	1,683
Short-billed Dowitcher	40	383	850	450	736	1,867	0
Semipalmated Plover/ Wilson's Plover	150	400	160	225	255	2,117	450
Willet	230	153	150	700	208	395	56
Black-bellied Plover	7	0	0	0	177	7	0
Whimbrel	28	60	55	40	83	174	16
Yellowlegs spp.	15	5	0	0	23	73	0
Ruddy Turnstone	2	5	8	20	4	17	0
Marbled Godwit	0	23	0	6	0.4	0	4
Sanderling	23	0	0	0	3	0	0
American Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0.7	0	0
Killdeer	0	0	0	0	0.4	0	0
Total	1,125	2,206	3,023	4,691	2,467.5	11,627	2,209
No. of censuses	1	3	2	2	19	3	3

## Shorebird Banding in Ecuador

Due to its strategic position on the Pacific north-west coast of South America, Ecuador lies directly on the route for many thousands of shorebirds that migrate between the Northern and Southern Hemisphere twice a year.

It was not until April 1991 that a systematic wader ringing project was started on the coast of Ecuador. Aluminium US Fish & Wildlife Service rings were used for the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), which also provides the other material used. The project fits into the intercontinental wader ringing program, which gives possibilities for the use of colour flags with an international code for each North or South American country.

From April until November 1991, 596 shorebirds were ringed, of thirteen different species. Every bird was released with an aluminium ring, according to Myers *et al.* (1983. *WSG Bulletin* 38: 30-32). On 96 of the total, two colour flags were also sealed around the bird's leg, conforming to the internationally used code (i.e. for Ecuador, light green over red) as recommended by the WHSRN's program. Besides the ringing activities, systematic shorebird censuses are made twice a month in the area, during which colour-marked birds have been observed on three occasions.

The species list and number of birds ringed are as follows:

Species	Number	(colour-marked)
Semipalmated Plover		
<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	15	(4)
Snowy Plover		
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	9	
Wilson's Plover		
<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	1	
Ruddy Turnstone		
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1	
Spotted Sandpiper		
<i>Actitis macularia</i>	1	
Lesser Yellowlegs		
<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	5	
Short-billed Dowitcher		
<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	57	(4)
Stilt Sandpiper		
<i>Micropalama himantopus</i>	16	(2)
Least Sandpiper		
<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	62	(10)
Semipalmated Sandpiper		
<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	213	(63)
Western Sandpiper		
<i>Calidris mauris</i>	192	(11)
Sanderling		
<i>Calidris alba</i>	15	(2)
Wilson's Phalarope		
<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	9	
Total	596	(96)

The data obtained will be analysed soon and it is hoped that the fieldwork will continue for many years to come. Indeed, help from volunteers is always needed; a limited number of people interested in helping with the field work are very welcome in Ecuador from September until May. For more information about the ringing activities please contact:

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