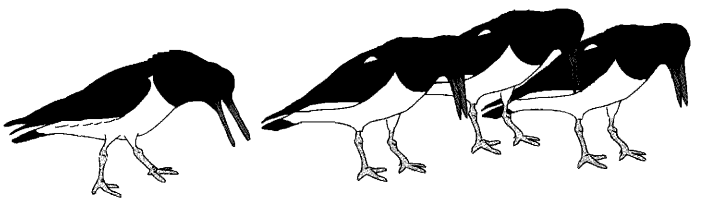
NOTES & NEWS



We are now on the World Wide Web!

In February 2001, the International Wader Study Group launched its own website which can be found at http://www.waderstudygroup.org.

The IWSG site was brought into being thanks to René Navarro and the Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town. Pages detail the IWSG's objectives, latest projects, conferences, recent wader publications and a list of contacts. The contents of the latest WSG Bulletin is also to be provided. Therefore, those in far flung places of the globe, yet to receive their issue, may whet their appetite for what is to come.

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The Australiasian Wader Studies Group is also on the Web!

The Australasian Wader Studies Group have launched their new website at **www.tasweb.com.au/awsg/index**. *The Tattler*, the newsletter of the AWSG, is posted on this site, and also abstracts from the *Stilt*, the journal of the AWSG.

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Pablo Canevari Award for Shorebird Research and Conservation

On 4th December in Buenos Aires, Argentina, it was announced by Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), that the first recipient of the Pablo Canevari Award would be Patricia González. Patricia lives at San Antonio Oeste, Argentina, and has been a leader of shorebird monitoring and research along the Atlantic Coast of Patagonia. Originally a student of Pablo Canevari, her many years of hard work have been vital to our understanding of the biology of shorebirds in South America and were the basis for identifying Bahía de San Antonio as a WHSRN site. Currently, Patricia is involved in intensive studies of shorebirds from Tierra del Fuego to Delaware Bay (USA) and the Canadian Arctic as a leading member of the International Shorebird Team coordinated by Dr Allan Baker of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada. She has also successfully involved local schools in her projects and works tirelessly to educate the public about the importance and beauty of shorebirds.

Our congratulations go to Patricia who is also an Executive Committee member of the International Wader Study Group.

Pablo Canevari, who died in early 2000, was the first South American Coordinator of WHSRN and a major leader in wetlands research and conservation throughout the Americas (see the obituary by Theunis Piersma on pp. 33–36). The annual Award has been established by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and WHSRN to give recognition to Latin American biologists and conservationists who reflect the values and contributions of Pablo Canevari in their work.

[Source: WHSRN Website]

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2nd Workshop on Project "Tringa glareola 2000"

WRG KULING and the Dept. of Vertebrate Ecology and Zoology of the University of Gdansk (Poland) have pleasure in announcing that the 2nd International Workshop on the Project "Tringa glareola 2000" will be held on 9 December 2001 in Gdansk, Poland. We invite all persons interested in the migration of the Wood Sandpiper who took part in the Project, as well as others who would like to contribute, to take part. During the Workshop the present results of the project will be summed up and topic groups for planned publication will be established.

All persons interested in taking part in the meeting – please contact Magda Remisiewicz via e-mail at **biomr@univ.gda.pl** for further details.

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Latest Victoria Wader Study Group Bulletin

Volume no. 24 of the VWSG Bulletin was produced in April 2001. It was a record 114 pages and contains details of all banding and flagging results for the previous 18 months on waders and terns banded by the VWSG in Victoria as well as a range of articles. The VWSG banded a record 12,944 waders in the year 2000. Top species were 8,638 Red-necked Stints, 1,558 Curlew Sandpiper, 795 Sanderling, 408 Red Knot and 362 Bar-tailed Godwits. Of the 23 species banded, ten had totals of over 100.

Copies of the report can be obtained from the editor, Dr Ros Jessop (**rjessop@penguins.org.au**).

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Breeding success and recoveries in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

Clive Minton reports having recently received Australia's first overseas flag sighting report of an Asian Dowitcher, banded in northwest Australia. It was seen on migration in Taiwan on 22nd April 2001. Only a few hundred Asian Dowitchers occur in Australia (all in NWA) and the world population is considered to be only about 10,000. Less than 100 have been banded and flagged.

Monitoring of the percentage of juvenile/first year birds in wader populations in Victoria and northwest Australia in the late November to early March period indicated that the year 2000 breeding season in the Siberian Arctic was gen-

erally less good for most species than the 1999 breeding season. However, Red-necked Stints again fared pretty well and, following good breeding seasons in the previous 2 years, populations have now reached record levels.

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STOP PRESS!! N.W. Australia Expedition 2001

The North-west Australia 2001 expedition is now almost fully booked with an average team of 30 for the period 15th September until 15th October. However, for the last month of the expedition, 15th October to 17th November, there are still a few places left. It is in November that a full count of 80 Mile Beach will be undertaken. It is also then that some of the less common species, such as Little Curlew and Oriental Plover, arrive in their biggest numbers. The expedition enables people to come into close contact with, and learn about, almost every species of wader and tern occurring in Australia, from the world's experts. Anybody interested in participation should contact Clive Minton as soon as possible via e-mail at: **mintons@ozemail.com.au** or phone/fax on (61) 3 5989 4901.

During the course of the NWA 2001 expedition two One-day Wader Symposia will be held in Broome (25th September and 28th October). These are partly in celebration of the centenary year of the Royal Australiasian Ornithologists' Union (RAOU being the previous name of Birds Australia).

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Arctic research and monitoring

A new directory, the AMAP Project Directory, has just been released at the website: **http://www.amap.no/pd2000.htm**

This gives an overview of "who is doing what" in Arctic research and monitoring. This public domain resource was set up to assist the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) to identify monitoring and research projects that might be relevant to its assessment activities (for more information about AMAP, see **http://www.amap.no**).

The on-line database currently includes information about 200-plus projects/programs of Arctic research/monitoring, throughout the Arctic region. While a few information fields are directed at AMAP needs, this database is by no means restricted to AMAP environmental monitoring projects. Projects registered to date also cover such fields as biological and biological effects studies, climate change research, UV/ozone, geology, oceanography, remote-sensing, data management, mapping and GIS, laboratory studies, resource exploitation, socio-cultural research projects, etc.

All people active in Arctic research and monitoring are encouraged to consider contributing information to this Directory. At present, many existing Arctic shorebird projects are not mentioned. Therefore this is an opportunity to use the Directory to raise the profile of such work. Take a few minutes to check out the AMAP Project Directory database. The Project Directory includes a simple-to-use on-line registration system that is specifically designed to allow information to be cut and pasted from available electronic documents (project proposals, etc.). It includes only a few mandatory information items so you can be as brief or as detailed as you like.

Any comments you may have about the system and suggestions for its future extension are also very welcome. Please address these to Simon Wilson, Deputy Executive Secretary, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP),

Tel: + 31 10466-2989, Fax: + 31 10466-2989, e-mail: **s.wilson@inter.nl.net**, Internet: **http://www.amap.nl.**

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Launch of the "new" AEWA website

Over the last few months, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the African–Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Secretariat have worked very hard to develop the existing AEWA Website as an interactive site. The site now includes all the background documentation presented to the first Meeting of Parties in 1999 and the resulting Recommendations and Resolutions. Although the website is still not perfect and we have to deal with some problems everyday, I have the pleasure to launch this new site now. Unfortunately the Netscape version is still under construction but those using Internet Explorer can already have a look. The address is: **http://www.wcmc.org.uk/AEWA**. Both WCMC and the AEWA Secretariat would like to receive feedback from you to enable us to improve the site further.

Bert Lenten, Executive Secretary, African–Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, UN-Premises, Martin-Luther-King Str. 8, 53175 Bonn, Germany, Tel: (49) 228 815 2414, fax: (49) 228 815 2450, E-mail: **aewa@unep.de**, Website: **http://www.wcmc.org.uk/AEWA**.

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Economic assessment of the Horseshoe Crab

Few readers will be unaware of widespread concern about the over-harvesting of Horseshoe Crabs *Limulus polyphemus* in Delaware Bay, United States, and its impact upon shorebird populations along the Western Atlantic Flyway. Red Knot, Turnstone, Sanderling and Semi-palmated Sandpiper are some of the key shorebird species that, every May, gorge themselves on Horseshoe Crabs' eggs to lay down resources to fuel migration to their arctic breeding grounds. A report that looks at a different aspect of the debate was published in 2000 entitled *Economic Assessment of the Atlantic Coast Horseshoe Crab Fishery*. The purpose was to provide a comparison of the relative economic value of the three major industries that depend upon the Horseshoe Crab population. These are eco-tourism (including thousands of birdwatchers), the biomedical industry and commercial fishing. The biomedical industry produces a valuable substance known as *limulus ameboecyte lysate* (LAL) from the blood of Horseshoe Crabs.

One of the measures of economic value used in the report is the regional economic importance of the Horseshoe Crab. For the eco-tourism industry, this is estimated at 120 to 180 jobs with a regional output of $7–$10 million. For the commercial fishing industry (whelk pot and eel pot), the figures are 340–440 jobs and $13–$17 million. In contrast, the biomedical industry (LAL) is estimated to provided 440–540 jobs, but a regional output of $73–$96 million. The eco-tourism figures, however, are based solely upon data from Cape May, New Jersey, whereas horseshoe crabs contribute to birding activities elsewhere in Delaware Bay. Thus, as is made clear in the report, the figures for eco-tourism underestimate the actual value of tourism that is dependent on Horseshoe crabs.

The report cautions that the values presented are approximate. They are based upon the best available information and reflect the economic models that were used. However, as each industry is treated in a similar manner, the report can be used to compare the relative economic importance of the three industries. The authors express the hope that the report will provide information that will help in managing the shared resource.

Economic Assessment of the Atlantic Coast Horseshoe Crab Fishery was prepared by Industrial Economics, Inc., under contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Economics.

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The Tattler (Shorebird newsletter for the East Asian–Australasian Flyway)

According to the editor, Phil Straw, several articles in the latest issue of *The Tattler* (No. 28) paint a grim picture. Most worrying is the imminent loss of over 38,000 hectares of coastal wetlands in Korea. Reproduced is a letter from Wetlands International to the Korean President, Kim Dae-Jung, expressing concern over threats to several inter-tidal areas, particularly the Saemankeum reclamation project on the Mankyeung and Tongjing Rivers (see item below). Nial Moores writes questioning the validity of this project which, according to a Korean Government announcement of 25th May, is soon to restart.

Another article suggests that Banded Stilts are declining (see below) whilst Jim Wilson brings news of a crash in the populations of migrant wader species in southern Australia. During January and February 2001, the Australian Wader Study Group (AWSG) conducted wader counts across the whole of Victoria and also along the Coorong in South Australia. The results show a widespread and alarming crash in several species, particularly Great Knot, Curlew Sandpiper and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. The AWSG Population Monitoring Project has counted five sites in February in Victoria over 20 years, and The Bird Observers Club of Australia, one site over the same period. These counts show that the crash is not a once-off event, peculiar to 2001, but has been developing over the last 5–10 years. Possible reasons for the declines are thought to include habitat loss, poor breeding seasons and, perhaps more worrying, the first indication of the consequences of extensive habitat destruction on the staging areas in Asia.

The Tattler is produced by the AWSG whose new website can be found at **www.tasweb.com.au/awsg/index.htm.**

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Australian Ornithological Congress:

Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, NSW 4–7 December 2001

This conference will span three days and feature topical symposia and regular contributed paper sessions. In addition, poster contributions will be encouraged.

There will be sessions for discussing the role of Birds Australia in the development of Australian ornithology, as well as a session on planning future AOCs.

Potential topics include:

- ❑ *Systematics of Australian birds*: new approaches and challenging results
- ❑ *Distribution ecology and biogeography*: the Australian perspective
- ❑ *Adaptations to the Australian environment*: physiology, movements and life-history strategies
- ❑ *Bird–habitat relationships*: a hierarchy of scales
- ❑ *Seabirds*: ecology, conservation and management
- ❑ *Birds in degraded landscapes*: declines, consequences and management implications
- ❑ *Birds on the brink. Captive breeding and reintroduction*: lessons for management
- ❑ *Bird impacts on human interests*
- ❑ *Birds and eco-tourism*: is it a win-win?

The organisers are currently in the process of producing a printed registration brochure as well as establishing an on-line registration facility via the conference website.

Registration fees:

❑ Early Bird (before 28 September)	$295
❑ After 28 September 2001	$395
❑ Students	$195
❑ Day registration	$140

Contact: Tarnia Libby, Event Manager, Conference Solutions, PO Box 238, DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600. Tel: 02 6285 3000 Fax: 02 6285 3001

E-mail: **tarnia@con-sol.com** Website: **www.con-sol.com.**

* * *

Is the Banded Stilt on the decline?

In *The Tattler* No. 24, successful breeding of Banded Stilts in July 2000 was reported at Lake Eyre, with potentially 30,000 eggs hatching.

In January and February 2001, the whole of Victoria and much of coastal South Australia, from the Victorian border west to Port Augusta, were counted for waders. The total number of Banded Stilts recorded was 83,698.

In Victoria 19,910 birds were counted. Major concentrations of 1,000 or more were noted at Lake Martin (12,000), at Moolap saltworks (2,272), at an unnamed saltlake in the Western District Lakes (1,200) and at Lake Bookar (1,000). The rest were recorded in varying numbers at 27 sites with eight sites having more than 100. It is possible that there could have been some movement between sites during the survey.

In South Australia 63,748 birds were counted. There were 15,611 in the Coorong, 15,400 at Penrice saltfields, 15,400 at Price saltfields, 11,000 at Lake George, 6,000 at the Port Augusta saltfields and 337 at the Morrella Basin, a newly created wetland near the Coorong. It is probable that all these birds were different individuals, unless there has been some fairly rapid switching between sites.

Further west in South Australia there are sites, such as the Spencer Gulf, Whyalla saltfields and Lake Newland, which can have numbers of Banded Stilts, but which were not visited. On previous experience these sites would not hold more than 8,000 birds in total.

The first colony at Lake Eyre comprised approximately 18,000 pairs and with a potential 30,000 chicks this would give a theoretical maximum population of 66,000 birds. Thus the surveys located more Banded Stilts than the theoretical

population from the Lake Eyre breeding attempt.

There must have been more birds in South Australia than recorded in the surveys. Possibly there were also birds in Queensland and New South Wales in January and February 2001, although the previously published population estimates from those states were only 1,525 and 10,005 respectively.

With a previous estimate of 181,191 for the East Australian population and the previous odd reported massive concentrations such as 100,000 at Lake Torrens, 77,000 in the Coorong and 50,000 in Lake George, these preliminary counts might suggest that there has been a large decline in Banded Stilt populations since the 1980s. That is unless more than half the population in January and February was hidden away in sites, which have not been reported to the AWSG, and those birds, did not go to Lake Eyre to breed.

J.R. Wilson

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East Asian–Australasian Flyway Colour Flagging Programme

The Australian Wader Study Group (AWSG) has been awarded a contract by Environment Australia to develop further its colour-flagging programme. The key elements of the contract are to develop a database for flag sightings that can be used throughout the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, establish an electronic reporting form to be used on the Internet, maintain and develop material about the programme and activities on the AWSG website, prepare an information pack to be sent to bird groups, scientists, and other organisations through the flyway to promote the search for flagged birds.

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Australasian Wader Study Group Colour Banding Register

As well as the colour-flagging programme mentioned above the AWSG is to set up a colour banding register. This will only be for colour bands (as opposed to flags). There already exists a protocol and country codes for the flagging programme. The register will be posted on the AWSG website and published in *The Stilt* or *The Tattler.*

The purpose of the register is twofold. First, to provide a means of reporting colour banded birds. Second, to co-ordinate the use of bands in different projects to avoid duplication and the confusion and damage to data that this might entail. As many wader species are migratory, the register covers the whole East Asian–Australasian Flyway. Also it is vital that no researchers use flags in local research projects as this could damage or destroy the existing flagging programme and the work of many people in different countries. It is important that everybody follows the agreed protocol in relation to both flags and bands.

Everyone who has a colour banding programme anywhere in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, or has had one in recent years, should please inform Heather Gibbs RMB 4375, Highland Road, Seymour 3360, Australia; phone: ++ 03 5796 9396; e-mail: **h@ancc.com.au**. Please give details of species, colour and leg combinations, country and district where the study is taking place, period of colour-marking programme and name, address, telephone and e-mail of contact persons to whom correspondence and sightings should be sent. AWSG hope that all researchers will recognise the need for this register and respond to this request.

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New cash to protect breeding Stone Curlew

A new scheme to protect rare birds in England was announced last February by the government conservation advisers, English Nature. The scheme will make payments available to farmers to encourage them to conserve the Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* – with only 250 breeding pairs, one of Britain's rarest birds.

Stone Curlews need open, stony ground for breeding. Such conditions are found in the unique landscape of the Brecklands of East Anglia, an area that holds 70% of the British Stone Curlew population. Over the past ten years, the number of birds has more than doubled on Breckland farmland, an increase made possible by sympathetic farmers and landowners who carefully avoid damaging nests and young, protecting them from disturbance and predators. English Nature's main aim is to build on the good work carried out so far. The Breckland Farmland Wildlife Enhancement Scheme will pay for management that is beneficial to the birds. Breeding Stone Curlews like areas of sparse and low vegetation so the scheme will encourage farmers to provide these amongst the growing crops and on areas of land taken out of agricultural production under the EU set-aside scheme.

The grants will be available to farmers and landowners within the Breckland Farmland Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). On behalf of Government, English Nature is currently consulting on a proposal to include this and other Breckland SSSIs in a Special Protection Area, a designation required by the European Birds Directive to protect internationally important bird populations.

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LowTide 2002

LowTide is a free annual inter-tidal festival. The aim is to offer people the opportunity to explore and celebrate local inter-tidal sites and other aspects of the sea under expert guidance, using a combination of art and science. LowTide is a collaborative project between riverOcean, a U.K.-based not-for-profit environmental group, and a growing number of groups and individuals throughout the region, nationally and internationally. It is grant-aided in England by English Nature.

LowTide is held every year on the Saturday in May with the lowest tide. Since 1995, individuals and community groups all over the world have been joining forces to put on Discovery Walks and EcoFayres. Discovery Walks are interdisciplinary walks into inter-tidal areas, led by one or more experienced guides. EcoFayres are larger, all day events offering a range of activities such as interactive exhibitions, environmental games, touch tanks, art activities, storytelling, displays, aquaria, parades, video animation and more. The target audience is children aged 7–12, and their parents or guardians.

EcoFayres that took place outside of the U.K. on Low Tide 2001, 5th May, included 3 French sites (Fecamp, Lessay, Sallenelles), 2 Irish sites (Cork and Galway) and a Moroccan site, Essaouira.

LowTide 2002 will take place on Saturday 25 May. For further information of planned events or organising an event in your area please contact: RiverOcean (113–117 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3XG, England; phone: + 44 (0) 1273 234032; Fax: + 44 (0)1273 234033 or visit the website **www.riverocean.org.uk**.

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Asia faces bird extinction crisis

Hundreds of Asian bird species face extinction because of unsustainable human activities causing habitat loss and degradation, according to *Threatened Birds of Asia: The BirdLife International Red Data Book*, a landmark assessment compiled by BirdLife International, sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment and launched by HIH Princess Takamado of Japan in Tokyo on 5 June.

The crisis can still be reversed by implementing the practical solutions and policy commitments identified for the first time in this book, which also ranks as the most comprehensive dataset ever assembled on the subject.

Taking into account newly identified species, two rediscovered species and changes in status, the new assessment shows there are 323 threatened species out of a total of 2,700 in Asia in 2001, compared with 340 in 1994, 287 in 1988, and 51 in 1981. The total for 2001 is a shocking 12% of all bird species in the region. All 323 threatened species are at risk of extinction from human activities, particularly habitat loss or degradation resulting from unsustainable and often illegal logging, and land or wetland clearance for agriculture or exotic timber plantations.

No less than 41 species are listed as "critically endangered". Eleven of these may already be extinct, including Javanese Lapwing *Vanellus macropterus*. Seven others have fewer than 50 mature individuals in the wild, including Gurney's Pitta *Pitta gurneyi* which is confined to one locality in Thailand where forest degradation continues. A further 65 species are listed as "endangered" and 217 as "vulnerable". Another 317 "near threatened" species are close to qualifying as "threatened" and one is "conservation dependent". For 23 "data deficient" species there are inadequate data to make an assessment, but these too may be at risk. Altogether, 664 species – a deeply disturbing 25% of all Asian birds – are of conservation concern.

Wetlands are crucial for the survival of 20% of threatened species, including the well-loved Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*. Many large waterbirds are already very close to extinction because of disturbance or conversion of their habitat, such as the magnificent Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* and Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*. Planned coastal reclamation in east China and the Korean peninsula also threatens to disrupt the migratory routes of threatened species such as Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorynchus pygmeus* and Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*, and could lead to more migratory east Asian waterbirds becoming threatened in future.

Notable species down-listed since 1994 include Crested Ibis *Nipponia nippon* and Black-faced Spoonbill, which were formerly "critically endangered" but are now listed as "endangered", thanks to a combination of conservation action, a regional Species Action Plan and increased public awareness.

The assessment identifies the practical actions required to save species from extinction. These include: establishing new protected areas, extending existing protected areas, new legislation, increased awareness and advocacy and the implementation of Species Action Plans for those occurring across national boundaries. It provides sound data and policy advice on which governments can base more effective conservation actions. In particular, it highlights the critical need for a strong, co-operative network of Asian and international conservation organisations – including, of course, BirdLife International – that are able to focus on saving the region's threatened birds and the habitats and ecosystems upon which they depend.

[Source: BirdLife International]

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Foot and Mouth halts WeBS

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), the monitoring scheme for non-breeding waterbirds in the U.K., has been brought to a temporary halt by the Foot and Mouth epidemic that has gripped the country. Foot and Mouth disease is an acute, infectious, viral disease, causing fever followed by the development of blisters that particularly affect wild and domestic cloven-hoofed animals. Soon after the first confirmed cases of Foot and Mouth in late February, public access to the U.K. countryside was banned and only since late April have these restrictions been gradually lifted. As a consequence, the synchronised monthly WeBS counts undertaken by around 3,000 volunteers, as well as virtually all other ornithological fieldwork in the U.K., ceased or was greatly curtailed by the restrictions. Many professional researchers and PhD students have found themselves unusually desk-bound, clearing the backlog of paperwork but becoming increasingly concerned with the lack of and gap in data collection. The WeBS partners, composed of non-governmental and government conservation bodies, are currently considering whether WeBS counts can be reinstated in September. Even then, they may have to be restricted to definitely disease-free areas. By early July, a total of 1,814 Foot and Mouth cases had been reported since the outbreak began, but new cases were down to an average of only 3 per day. Therefore the prognosis is encouraging and much of the Scottish countryside, as well as large areas of England and Wales, is now open to the public.

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Saemankeum Reclamation Project goes ahead

On Friday 25 May, President Kim Dae-Jung of Korea announced that the Saemankeum Reclamation Project would restart.

The Saemankeum project is two and a half times larger than the reclamation in the 1990s at Shihwa, South Korea. It will involve the damming of two estuaries, rather than one or two small inlet streams. The catchment area of the rivers is large (the Mankyeung River's catchment alone covers 1,602 km^2), and contains several industrial centres and a large human population. According to Nial Moores, writing in the *The Tattler* (No. 28), the estuary mud in the area already contains high levels of heavy metals and other pollutants, but this is now kept at bay through a combination of rapid water exchange (a product of the strong semi-diurnal tides) and by the enormous biomass present in the still functioning eco-system. Unlike at Shihwa, where there were very little data on biodiversity, the Saemankeum area is known to be extremely important for migratory bird populations and for fisheries.

Dr Taej Mundkur of Wetlands International – Asia Pacific, in a recent letter to the Korean President (reprinted in *The Tattler*), highlighted data collected by Government Agencies and non-government organisations in Korea that shows that the Saemankeum project area:

- ❑ supports the highest number of migratory shorebirds in Korea (up to 250,000 during migration) as well as significant populations of at least 20 other species of waterbird,
- ❑ supports the highest recorded numbers in the Yellow Sea on northward migration of five shorebird species (Dunlin, Terek Sandpiper, Great Knot, Lesser Sand Plover and the globally threatened Spoon-billed Sandpiper) and on southward migration of seven shorebird species (Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Dunlin, Grey Plover, Kentish Plover, Lesser Sand Plover and Spoon-billed Sandpiper),
- ❑ may well support 30% of the global population of one species of shorebird (Great Knot) during northward migration from its non-breeding area in Australia to its breeding area in the Russian Far East, and
- ❑ supports significant number of the following globally threatened species: Spotted Greenshank, Black-faced Spoonbill, Chinese Egret and Saunders's Gull.

In view of its importance, Wetlands International strongly supports the view expressed by Korean environmental groups and the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries that the Saemankeum Reclamation Project should be cancelled.

[Source: The Tattler*]*

Notes & News is compiled by Robin Ward to whom contributions should be sent by the deadlines listed below. (Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Durham, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, UK; phone: +44 (0) 191 374 3350; e-mail: **R.M.Ward@durham.ac.uk**).

1st January for the April issue.
1st May for the August issue.
1st September for the December issue.