

International Shorebird Survey

Progress report 1976-77

From the Canadian Wildlife Service Shorebird Colour-Marking Programme, James Bay 1976. Excerpts are taken (with permission) from the Contributor's Progress Report by R.I.G. Morrison.

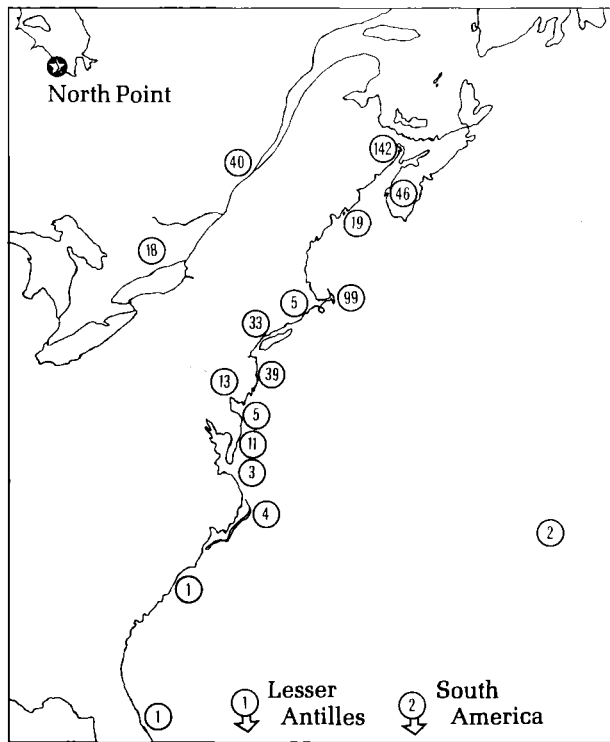
Results — 12,402 shorebirds of 24 species were trapped during banding operations. Approximately 95% were captured in mist nets and about 5% in cannon nets. Up to 15 February 1977, reports of 577 "bird-days" of sightings involving 12 species of shorebirds had been received (Table 1). One "bird-day" was counted for each day a coloured-marked shorebird was reported from any locality. Where multiple sightings are reported from a given area over a relatively short period, it is often

difficult to determine how many individual birds may have been involved. Records suggested that individuals may have remained in one locality from a few days to several weeks.

Discussion — The colour-marking studies are helping to define the migration routes of shorebirds from a wide geographical breeding range which pass through major staging areas in James Bay in the autumn. They are also helping to underline the vital importance of east coast estuaries in the yearly cycles of many populations of shorebirds. Without the feeding and resting areas that such estuaries provide, many shorebirds would be unable to accumulate the large fat

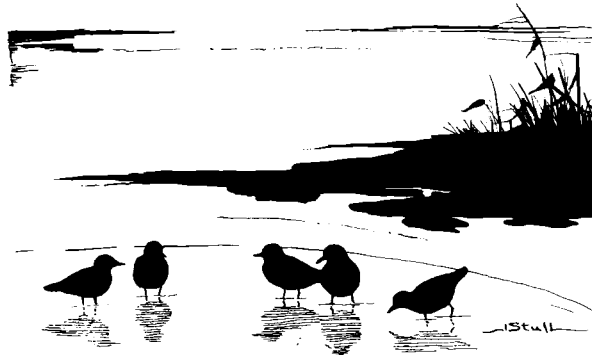
TABLE 1 Sightings of shorebirds colour-marked in James Bay, 1976.

	Semipalmated Plover	Black-bellied Plover	Ruddy Turnstone	Lesser Yellowlegs	Red Knot	Pectoral Sandpiper	White-rumped Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper	Dunlin	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Sanderling	Wilson's Phalarope	Total
Ontario									2	18	3	1	24
Quebec	3									40			43
New Brunswick	1	1								142			144
Nova Scotia										46			46
Maine	1		2							19			22
New Hampshire											3		3
Massachusetts	13	1		4	1	1	1	1	2	99	9		131
Rhode Island										5			5
New York	1			2						33	1		37
New Jersey	3			1						39	5		48
Pennsylvania										13			13
Delaware										5			5
Maryland										11	6		17
Washington, D.C.								2					2
Virginia	1									3	2		6
North Carolina			2						2	4	2		10
South Carolina										1			1
Florida			1							1	2		4
North Dakota								1					1
Wisconsin								1					1
Michigan								1					1
Ohio			1										1
Illinois					3								3
Louisiana					1								1
Bermuda										2			2
Lesser Antilles	1									1			2
South America								2		2			4
Total	24	2	6	3	4	5	1	8	6	484	33	1	577
No. dyed Birds released	121	7	85	63	32	94	431	302	400	9504	107	1	
Sightings as % dyed birds	19.8	28.6	7.1	4.8	12.5	5.3	0.23	2.6	1.5	5.1	30.8	100	



reserves required for an overseas journey to the wintering grounds. With estuarine habitat under increasing pressure from a variety of sources, renewed concern must be expressed for this group of birds, and the future preservation of their habitat must be viewed as a matter of some importance. A sound knowledge of the migration routes used by various populations and the purposes for which they are using different areas, will be essential for the future management and conservation of shorebirds. ♦

Figure 1. Sightings of Semipalmated Sandpipers colour-marked in James Bay, 1976. Reports received to mid-February 1977.



Wanted: Data on the seasonal distribution of North American gulls

We are developing a procedure whereby the U.S. Air Force can predict the potential seasonal hazard to aircraft represented by gulls in parts of North America. This knowledge will be used to schedule missions around high risk areas thereby reducing the likelihood of any bird/aircraft collisions. Supplemental data on local gull populations are needed from all parts of the continent. The assistance of field workers is solicited to aid us in this task. Please submit reports of your gull observations to Dr. William E. Southern, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois

University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Data will be gathered for a 2-year period beginning 1 September 1977.

For each observation, please provide the following information: list of species present, approximate number of each species, precise locality description, dates observed, any information about causes for concentrations (e.g. sanitary landfill operation), and any details about the frequency of such concentrations in the respective areas. Information is sought from inland as well as coastal localities.

Thank you for your cooperation.