

**02/09/2012**

I usually finish of the reports with the thanks to all the volunteers but I think in this case we might go with that up front. Thanks to the crew who were on the beach at 615AM for the usual difficult set on the rock hard pindan of Wader Beach. And to all the new-comers who helped to the end. A great effort.

I set the net just below high tide knowing our only real hope of success to catch knots on this big tide was to fire early. The birds had been thronging Wader Beach for the last 4 out of 5 days so the decision to be there was easy it was just the 9.6m high tide that was the issue. But things went smoothly and according to plan with thousands of birds on the beach early and although some left to Richard’s Point Maurice was able to send plenty back. I only had ‘small species’ in front of the net and so with my heart in my mouth I got Simon to do a close twinkle and he did a great job and lots of birds walked in to the catching area including 100 Great Knot, I didn’t delay and fired.

A completely dry catch of 459 was great.

Extraction was fairly quick and as usual we had already put up the cages and shade and so birds were held in cool conditions.

46 Great Knot and 7 Black-tailed Godwit were fully processed but due to the relatively inexperienced team we didn’t take any measurements on the rest of the catch but we did moult and age the rest of the birds. Except we did release 50 Red-necked Stints and 30 Red-capped Plovers unfettered by a band.

A big bonus was that we re-caught a Great knot carrying a geolocator and it is already on the way to our techo’ Ken Gosbell in Melbourne to download the data.

The table below shows the fantastic numbers of retraps we got.

The oldest birds were an 18 year old and an 11+ (minimum age 11) Greater Sand Plover, a Curlew Sandpiper at 11+, a Red Knot at 14 and Great Knots at 17+, 15+ and 13+.

Many thanks to you all for your help

See below for the totals.

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| **2/09/2012** |  |  | **AGE IN YEARS** | | |  |  |
| **SPECIES** | **NEW** | **RETRAP** | **1st** | **Known Age 2** | **3+** | **2+** | **TOTAL** |
| Black-tailed Godwit | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| Broad-billed Sandpiper | 7 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 63 | 28 | 0 | 12 | 79 | 0 | 91 |
| Greater Sand Plover | 59 | 44 | 6 | 10 | 86 | 1 | 103 |
| Great Knot | 66 | 43 | 0 | 7 | 101 | 1 | 109 |
| Red-capped Plover | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Red-necked Stint | 30 | 11 | 0 | 21 | 20 | 0 | 41 |
| Red Knot | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Terek Sandpiper | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| **TOTALS** | **250** | **129** | **6** | **54** | **315** | **4** | 379 |

Chris Hassell