



Global Flyway Network

The shorebird
ecological demographics &
conservation initiative



Cannon Netting Report 23rd July 2017

I sort of think Whistling Kites are OK (at the moment).

The plan for this catch day was set at Richard's Point where there would be a small flock of shorebirds (as on the 2 reccy days) then one twinkle from Wader Beach and everything lands in front and we fire. We catch 140 Curlew Sands and 40 Red Knot, yes seriously that is what I think as I lay awake at night!

So when we arrived at Richard's Point, where there was a beautifully set net in the previous day's high tide line, I was disappointed to see no birds at all. Still remember just the one push from Wader Beach, that would still work, wouldn't it? Emilia was dispatched to charm George Swann in to letting her twinkle 2,000 birds away from in front of his tour guests (thanks charming Emilia and understanding George!)

So the one move turned in to 5 and the birds just kept streaming past Richard's with hardly a glance. So decoys it was. I am not a big fan of decoys but I didn't have the feeling anything was going to come in. The decoys seemed to work as after a few more moves from Emilia and some back up from Maurice birds started landing on the beach. However they landed on the side away from the decoys. But a fine twinkle from Nigel put a reasonable flock in front of the net and then another big flock arrived from Wader Beach and after a very long pause between one and fire as I waited for birds to land we fired.



The bird standing casually between the running red hat and blue shorts is a decoy!

J. Attard

The net went very well and a large but inexperienced team were fantastic at the net and we had 286 birds in the cages in next to no time.

Processing went very smoothly and the only thing to discuss was moults, lots of them and they were very interesting as usual (OK that sounds a bit nerdy!)

Nearly all birds were age 1 (in their first year of life). This is no surprise as we know from our work in February that Curlew sandpipers had a fantastic breeding season, we had 40.1% juveniles in our catches during the 3-week period of the expedition. We didn't get exceptional numbers of juvenile Red knot then but we did have high counts of Red Knot during the recent dry season population monitoring counts.

There was a very small proportion of re-traps. There was just one re-trap in the 139 Red Knots but it just happened to be one we had put a satellite transmitter on in February this year. The transmitter had stopped working on 24/06/2017. The reason was clear to see on the tag as the aerial had snapped off.



J. Attard

A huge thank you to everyone who helped. This was, once again, citizen science in action!

All in all a very successful day, once again thank you to everyone for your input to the GFN and AWSG projects. We couldn't do it without you.

And a special thank you to Daniel for carefully coordinating all the releases.

Catch details below.

23-07-2017						
SPECIES	NEW	RETRAP	Age 1 1st Year of Life	Known Age 2	Age 2+ 2nd year of life or older	TOTAL
Curlew Sandpiper	128	5	133	0	0	133
Greater Sand Plover	6	1	7	0	0	7
Red Knot	138	1	130	5	4	139
Red-necked Stint	0	1	1	0	0	1
Ruddy Turnstone	5	0	4	1	0	5
Terek Sandpiper	1	0	1	0	0	1
TOTALS	278	8	276	6	4	286

Chris

26/07/2017



Daniel (2nd from left) coordinating a release.

J. Attard