

CATCH REPORT 23-09-2018

At one stage this was going to be a very easy report to write. In fact I had already written it in my head sitting on the cliff top at Wader Beach.

'If you meet me in the next week or so please don't mention Great Egrets'. That was it. But the tide dropped the birds came back and we made a huge catch!

I have had catches disrupted by many and varied birds, Brahminy, Black and Whistling Kites, White-bellied Sea-eagles, Hobby's, Swamp Harriers, Torresian Crows and other things, people (adults and children), cars, dogs, helicopters, wind-blown litter.

But a Great Egret setting contentedly next to the shorebirds in the middle of the catching area was a first. It was duly frightened away and took all the shorebirds with it, of course.

So we tried a few times to get them back but by then the tide was close to the net and as some of you will know, on Wader Beach that is a very prominent net.

So we had a cuppa and a sit in the shade and a chin-wag for an hour or so.

Then Nigel pushed the huge flock of Wader Spit and some duly landed on Wader Beach near the net. Then another push from Nigel and a fly around and in no time hundreds landing catchable.

I was urging them to stop! But there was no option of pushing birds out of the catching area after having asked the team to wait so long so we took a big catch and let plenty go, 286 or so! That still left us 328 to process.

It was a long process with a very inexperienced team, but they did not lack for hard work and willingness.

One of the retrap Greater Sand Plovers was a minimum age of 23, twice the minimum age of Daniel.

And I had a very old Red Knot that isn't in my db so I am hoping to find it in the VWSG db.

I hope it doesn't remain a mystery as I am sure it is over 20 years old.

Thanks as always to BBO and the whole team.

The totals of birds processed are below.

Chris 24-09-2018

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SPECIES	NEW	RETRAP	Age 1 1st Year of Life	Known Age 2	Age 3+ 3rd year of life or older	TOTAL
Broad-billed Sandpiper	5	0	0	1	4	5
Curlew Sandpiper	115	24	6	24	109	139
Greater sand Plover	60	19	14	11	54	79
Lesser Sand Plover	1	0	0	0	1	1
Red Knot	33	5	5	13	20	38
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	50	0	0	3	48	50
Terek Sandpiper	15	1	0	2	14	16
TOTALS	279	49	25	54	250	328