

# Catch Report 2019 09 15

“Get ready everyone, there’s 500 birds on the beach, arm the box... ah, there’s one bird on the beach.”

The morning had started really well. We got the net set up and with a tideline of leaves scattered all along the beach we were able to join the leaves up to the net, which improved camouflage. Two dog hermit is also a sandy beach so setting up the shade and cages was also easier and quicker than the dreaded Wader Beach. However, even though there was no wind the shorebirds seemed very flighty and wouldn’t settle. The Whistling Kite, the Brahminy, the Beach Stone-curlew, all unsettled them, but some twinkling and the work of the tide produced 500 in front of the net.

What reduced that number to one Ruddy Turnstone was the second appearance that day of the Pied Butcherbird flying out from the cliffs chasing a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike - the shorebirds scattered and went to a nearby beach. Chris, rather grumpily, mentioned that he had many and varied things disturb catches including Great Egrets in the catching zone and a small boys waving a hat and chasing the birds but NEVER a Pied Butcherbird!

More twinkling was needed after the dispersal of the shorebirds, but even so half of the shorebirds (mostly the bigger ones) flew off towards the Dampier Creek marshes. All the small shorebirds flew around for ten minutes or so before 200 or so finally landed on the beach including a Grey Plover.



It wasn't the worst catch, with Ruddy Turnstone, Red and Great Knots, Curlew Sandpipers, Broad-billed Sandpipers and many Greater Sand Plovers including juveniles at the remarkable proportion of 62.5%. Speaking of the Grey Plover, the last time we caught a Grey Plover was at Quarry Beach (pic on right). It was also lovely to see Beach Stone- curlew which hasn't been spotted for a few months. As well as doing my usual jobs of collecting and releasing birds, I started to learn about how to age birds by moult and I put a few bands on to Red-necked Stints. I feel like I may have a long way to go on the moult, however starting with juvenile Greater Sand Plovers was a great way to start.

Daniel Aspey

15-09-2019						
SPECIES	NEW	RETRAP	Age 1 1st Year of Life	Age 2	Age 3+ 3rd year of life or older	TOTAL
Broad-billed Sandpiper	2	0	0	0	2	2
Curlew Sandpiper	30	1	13	1	17	31
Greater Sand Plover	35	5	25	6	9	40
Great Knot	4	1	0	2	3	5
Grey Plover	1	0	0	0	1	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	17	2	0	7	12	19
Red Knot	3	0	0	0	3	3
Red-necked Stint	41	8	1	9	39	49
Ruddy Turnstone	11	0	1	0	10	11
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	27	0	0	1	26	27
Terek Sandpiper	3	0	0	1	2	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>191</b>