

OSNZ National Wader Censuses
 June - July 2013
 November - December 2013 & January - February 2014
 Summary compiled by Adrian Riegen

Winter Census 2013

A total of 107,439 waders of 21 species were counted during the June-July 2013 wader censuses, down from 124,741 in June-July 2012 (Table 1). There was good national coverage with only the Far North, Gisborne/Wairoa, Kaikoura/Marlborough and the West Coast regions not counted. The Far North was not counted in 2012 either. Numbers of Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit were around 1,000 lower than in 2012 and about 10,000 fewer South Island Pied Oystercatcher were counted.

Rarities included, 1 Large Sand Plover, 1 Marsh Sandpiper and 2 Terek Sandpiper.

Summer Census 2013

A total of 141,761 waders of 28 species were counted during the November-December 2013 wader censuses (table 2), up from 129,850 in 2012 and down from 148,662 in 2011. National coverage was excellent, with only Rangaunu in the Far North and Gisborne/Wairoa not counted. The differences were approximately 4,000 more godwit and 4,000 more knot than in 2012, accounted for by the Far North in 2013. Pied stilt numbers were up and Turnstone were just over 2,000 (2,001) in 2013, which more than doubled the 2012 count of 914. The Far North accounted for 688 of them in 2013.

Rarities this census included 1 Greater Sand Plover, 1 Oriental Plover (a first for a census day), 3 Great Knot, 1 Black-tailed Godwit, 1 Marsh Sandpiper and 1 Terek Sandpiper.

NOTE: Species listed in the following tables are arranged in the order they appear in the fourth edition of the OSNZ checklist.

Table 1. Total Count June - July 2013

Species	2012	2013
Red Knot	3,183	2,247
Curlew Sandpiper	1	
Red-necked Stint	10	13
Eastern Curlew		2
Whimbrel	3	5
Bar-tailed Godwit	14,142	13,403
Black-tailed Godwit	1	
Siberian Tattler	2	1
Marsh Sandpiper	1	1
Terek Sandpiper	1	2
Turnstone	154	131
Variable Oystercatcher	2,756	2,769
Pied Oystercatcher	72,873	62,353
Oystercatcher Hybrid	22	15
Pied Stilt	17,484	14,431
Black Stilt/Hybrids	25	15
Pacific Golden Plover	5	3
New Zealand Dotterel	852	629
Banded Dotterel	5,993	4,433
Greater Sand Plover		1
Wrybill	5,836	4,827
Black-fronted Dotterel	53	30
Spur-winged Plover	1,344	2,128
TOTAL >	124,741	107,439

Table 2. Total Count November - December 2012

Species	2012	2013
Red Knot	27,594	31,286
Great Knot		3
Sanderling	3	8
Curlew Sandpiper	4	12
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	24	17
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	4
Red-necked Stint	53	105
Eastern Curlew	5	8
Whimbrel	14	18
Bar-tailed Godwit	77,103	81,303
Black-tailed Godwit		1
Wandering Tattler	1	
Grey-tailed Tattler	3	
Greenshank	1	
Marsh Sandpiper	1	1
Terek Sandpiper	1	1
Turnstone	914	2,001
Variable Oystercatcher	2,313	2,129
Pied Oystercatcher	15,653	16,873
Oystercatcher Hybrid	16	16
Pied Stilt	3,446	5,084
Black Stilt/Hybrids		4
Pacific Golden Plover	63	134
Grey Plover	3	
New Zealand Dotterel	432	525
Banded Dotterel	410	387
Greater Sand Plover	2	1
Oriental Plover		1
Wrybill	231	139
Black-fronted Dotterel	12	9
Shore Plover	1	1
Spur-winged Plover	1,545	1,690
TOTAL >	129,850	141,761

There was incomplete nationwide coverage in January-February 2014 but counts from Lake Wairarapa, Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago and Southland were received. Numbers for the Nelson region are compared with the November-December 2013 counts in Tables 3.

Table 3. Nelson Region counts for November 2013 and February 2014

Species	Nov.13	Feb.14	Feb # +/-
Pied Oystercatcher	3,742	18,981	15,239
Variable Oystercatcher	646	766	120
Pied Stilt	73	486	413
Banded Dotterel	56	550	494
Greater Sand Plover	1		-1
Lesser Sand Plover		1	1
Oriental Plover	1		-1
Pacific Golden Plover	8	15	7
Spur-winged Plover	19	13	-6
Turnstone	502	790	288
Red Knot	8,401	8,071	-330
Great Knot	1		-1
Sanderling	3		-3
Red-necked Stint	11	4	-7
Eastern Curlew	3		-3
Whimbrel		1	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	15,169	17,152	1,983
Siberian Tattler		3	3
Terek Sandpiper	1		-1
TOTAL >	28,637	48,833	20,196

Tables 4 and 5 show sites with more than 2,000 waders counted during winter and summer censuses.

Table 4. Sites with >3,000 waders in June-July 2013 & 2012

	2013	2012
Manukau Harbour	25,800	37,428
Kaipara Harbour	23,064	21,271
Firth of Thames	12,535	15,349
Farewell Spit	9,633	7,395
Tauranga Harbour	6,783	6,974
Tasman Bay	5,177	6,645
Golden Bay	4,917	3,815
Maketu - Ohiwa	2,887	1,264
Kawhia Harbour	2,414	5,442
Avon-Heathcote	2,354	3,346
Otago	2,239	1,599

Table 5. Sites with >2,000 waders in November-December 2013 & 2012

	2013	2012
Manukau	30,002	32,851
Farewell Spit	18,939	20,283
Kaipara Harbour	17,399	18,428
Firth of Thames	12,615	11,068
Tauranga - BOP	11,153	6,891
Parengarenga	7,377	
Whangarei	6,732	3,864
Tasman Bay	6,309	5,308
Kawhia	3,908	2,588
Golden Bay	3,389	3,950
Avon-Heathcote	3,009	2,974
Ohiwa H - BoP	2,221	3,808
Lake Ellesmere	2,210	