

Vital rates of New Zealand waders

This project will obtain information on vital rates for New Zealand waders that will contribute to a better understanding of their ecology and support future conservation management. OSNZ/Birds New Zealand has been collecting information on populations of waders in New Zealand since its founding. Count data are valuable in helping determine population trends, but identifying potential underlying drivers of such trends requires additional information on vital rates such as productivity, survival of young, recruitment of young into the breeding population, annual survival of adults, and movements.

This project will build on the work already undertaken by OSNZ/BirdsNZ members over the past two decades on both endemic and Arctic-breeding waders. Currently focal species include South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Variable Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot and Turnstone. The project will be the method of delivery for the Collaborative Research Agreement between BirdsNZ and the Department of Conservation: *Mapping landscape scale movement networks and survival of Tōrea/South Island Pied Oystercatchers*.

The project will enable additional people to train in bird capture and banding techniques, thereby ensuring a continuation of such activities in future (currently there are only 6 Level 3 cannon netters in New Zealand, only 2 being in the South Island).

David Melville and Rob Schuckard



Cannon netting Variable Oystercatchers, Tasman Bay. Photo: Julia Melville