# Important wetlands in northern and eastern Kazakstan

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Kazakstan is an important country for migratory birds passing from Siberia to the north and east to their wintering grounds in Africa, the Middle East and India. Kazakstan also has globally important breeding populations of White-headed Duck and Sociable Plover. A survey of wetlands in northern and eastern Kazakstan was carried out July — September 1998. Important sites for migratory birds, White-headed Duck and Sociable Plover were identified. With the exception of huge wetland areas such as Lake Tengiz many of the wetlands used by migratory birds are relatively small, and a network of small sites rather than single large sites are probably most important. White-headed Ducks were found breeding near Lake Tengiz at Yesei, Sultankeldy and Kokai lakes of the Kurgaldjin lake system and the area is probably important for the species. White-headed Ducks were also found at Lake Alakol. Sociable Plovers were only found in small numbers at Naurzum and another small reserve in the same region. Human pressure on wetlands in the north of Kazakstan appears to be declining because of depopulation since the break up of the Soviet Union. Much of the habitat appears pristine and there is probably little need for conservation concern for the network of wetlands that cover the north of Kazakstan.

Keywords: White-headed Duck; Sociable Plover; Migratory Birds

Azakstan is probably extremely important for migratory birds passing from Siberia to the north and east to their wintering grounds in the Middle East, Africa, India and Pakistan because of its extensive network of wetlands and general geographical position. Kazakstan also has

important breeding populations of several threatened European bird species such as White-headed Duck Oxyura leucocephala and Sociable Plover Vanellus gregarius (Heredia et al. 1996). Kazakstan is thought to contain the majority of the world's breeding population of White-headed

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Duck (del Hoyo et al. 1992), a species that has undergone a large decline in recent years and is now classified as vulnerable (Collar et al. 1994). The Sociable Plover breeds almost entirely within Kazakstan and its world population may be as low as 10,000 (del Hoyo et al. 1996). The species is classified as vulnerable (Collar & Andrew 1988) and has been declining in numbers throughout this century, apparently through habitat loss (del Hoyo et al. 1996; Heredia et al. 1996). Despite its apparent importance for breeding and migratory birds there is little current information on the status of wetlands important for these birds within Kazakstan. Since the break up of the Soviet Union, government funding for local bird survey work within Kazakstan no longer exists. Survey work to establish the current status of important bird areas in Kazakstan can only occur with collaboration and funding from outside of Kazakstan. This paper details the results of a collaborative survey of some northern and eastern wetlands in Kazakstan, involving the Institute of Zoology, Almaty and Glasgow University, UK.

The aim was to survey major wetland and semi-wetland sites in north-eastern Kazakstan, July - September 1998 in order to identify important staging sites for migratory waders and waterfowl. The survey also aimed to count post-breeding White-headed Ducks so that important breeding areas could be located and to identify important passage sites for Sociable Plover.

# Survey area and methods

Wetland areas in the northern region of Kazakstan were surveyed between July 17 and August 17, from Tengiz to the west of Astana, to Kustani further west and then eastwards to Petropavlosk. Wetland areas in the north-east of Kazakstan were surveyed in the Lake Alakol and Zayshan September between September 25. Sites were selected based on previous work carried out by the Institute of Zoology in Almaty that indicated that the areas were important for migratory birds. Within a site lakes were chosen for counts according to reasonable accessibility from the road. Within Kustani and Petropavlosk region lakes were chosen mostly at random from a map according to accessibility. An attempt was made to survey all wetlands encountered or an unbiased sample where many similar lakes were clustered together.

At each lake counts were carried out from a single point recorded by a GPS receiver. For large lakes an area of survey was estimated in hectares. The area of survey was simply that area of water in which all of the birds could be identified and counted (although unidentified ducks and Marsh Terns Chlidonias sp. were also counted). Identification depended on the direction of the sun, wind speed and any obscuring vegetation. For small lakes the size of the lake was estimated in hectares and all birds present were counted. For each count all water bird species within the defined area were identified and counted. Counts were usually done simultaneously by several people using telescopes, and with individuals counting particular groups or species of birds. The first counts at the same point on a lake at Tengiz were done independently by six pairs of observers and there was almost exact agreement in the counts between observers. Where several counts were made on the same lake, large distances separated points (more than I km) to



Figure 1. Maps showing the location of Kazakstan and the survey areas (numbered 1-11, See Table 1).

avoid double counts. Counts were carried out at any time of day.

Counts for each lake were pooled. Counts for each lake represent underestimates because of detection difficulties caused by fringing vegetation in small lakes and because larger lakes could only be sampled. Counts between lakes can be compared, however, when controlling for the area surveyed.

#### Results and discussion

#### General bird density

In total 177 counts were made at 75 lakes; site details are given in **Table I** and **Figure I**. Counts for each species pooled by site are given in **Appendix Table I** (A full list of lake specific counts is available at the Alexander Library, Oxford). In general the number of species recorded at each site increased with survey effort at each site to a maximum of about 65 species recorded after 200 ha. **Figure 2** suggests

that two sites had relatively low numbers of species (Sites 10 and 11 lie well below the trend line in **Figure 2**): Lakes of Kalbinsky Altai mountain range (lakes north of Zayshan) and Lake Alakol were of relatively low diversity. Site two, Naurzum probably had a slightly higher relative diversity.

Sites varied considerably in the approximate density of birds present (**Table 1**). Taldy Kurgan (Site seven) had the highest density of birds although these were almost all Coots. Sasykkol (Site eight) also had a high density of birds almost entirely because of Coots; central region lakes had a high density of birds because of both Coots *Fulica atra* and Tufted Ducks Aythya fuligula. Naurzum (Site two) had a large number of both ducks and waders resulting in a very high density of birds. In general all sites surveyed had a high density of birds apart from the northeastern sites of Zayshan and Alakol.

#### Important bird areas

Lake Tengiz (site one): This is already a large protected area within Kazakstan and

Table I The main areas surveyed and the density and diversity of birds at the different sites.

| Site                                       | Site<br>No | Dates of<br>Counts | Location of first and last count       | Number<br>of counts | Number of species | Total area<br>surveyed<br>(hectares) | Total<br>birds | Approx<br>density<br>per ha |
|--|------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Lake Tengiz                                | ŀ          | July 27-29         | 58°28' N 69°33' E<br>50°24' N 69°21' E | 33                  | 66                | 404                                  | 26618          | 66                          |
| Naurzum                                    | 2          | Aug 1-2            | 51°40' N 64°35' E<br>51°41' N 64°34' E | 4                   | 50                | 33                                   | 5234           | 159                         |
| Kustani Region                             | 3          | Aug 3-7            | 53°19' N 63°36' E<br>53°53' N 64°41' E | 28                  | 64                | 340                                  | 23062          | 68                          |
| Shoskally                                  | 4          | Aug 7              | 53°40' N 64°56' E<br>53°40' N 64°54' E | 6                   | 49                | 100                                  | 10495          | 105                         |
| Petropavlosk<br>region                     | 5          | Aug 8-13           | 53°59' N 64°46' E<br>54°3' N 69°10' E  | 26                  | 67                | 214                                  | 18195          | 83                          |
| Central region                             | 6          | Aug 15-17          | 53°7' N 70°18' E<br>50°7' N 72°57' E   | 3                   | 35                | 38                                   | 5842           | 154                         |
| Taldy Kurgan                               | 7          | Sep 3-25           | 45°21' N 78°37' E<br>45°21' N 78°37' E | 2                   | 28                | 4                                    | 728            | 183                         |
| Sasykkol                                   | 8          | Sep 4-19           | 46°40' N 80°35' E<br>46°41' N 80°35' E | 3                   | 23                | 13                                   | 1824           | 141                         |
| Lake Za <b>y</b> shan                      | 9          | Sep 6-12           | 48°43' N 83°17' E<br>47°58' N 85°1' E  | 33                  | 63                | 326                                  | 4965           | 15                          |
| Lakes of Kalbinsky<br>Altai mountain range | 10         | Sep 14-18          | 49°22' N 83°1' E<br>48°43' N 80°47' E  | 15                  | 34                | 129                                  | 2938           | 23                          |
| Lake Alakol                                | П          | Sep 20-24          | 46°26' N 81°29' E<br>46°29' N 81°9' E  | 24                  | 49                | 396                                  | 8406           | 21                          |
| Total                                      |            |                    |  | 177                 |                   | 1997                                 | 108307         | 54                          |

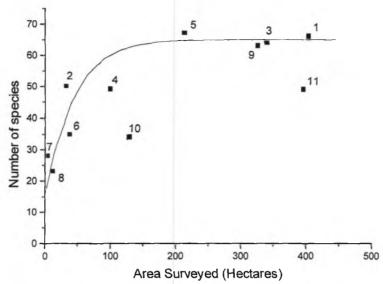


Figure 2 Numbers of species recorded at each site with area surveyed at each site. the curve of best fit is plotted; points are marked by site numbers.

is one of the most important bird areas within Kazakstan. The site is protected as a Strict Nature Reserve (237,000 ha) since 1958 and as a Ramsar Site from 1976. Our survey data confirms its continuing importance. The site may be the most important area in Kazakstan for breeding White-headed Duck. In the spring of 1998 a flock of 800 White-headed Duck was present at 50° 28' 11" N 69° 40' 33"E (Lake Kurgaldjin) according to the local warden. We found a breeding female with young and a post-breeding flock of 15 birds there. Tengiz has a huge central area of reedbed and reed and vegetation fringed lakes where a large number of White-headed Ducks could undetected. Tengiz has large breeding populations of other wildfowl including reasonable numbers of Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca. Although we only counted 16 Ferruginous Duck on 4 different lakes in the Tengiz area (lakes Yesei, Sultankeldy, Taban-Kaza and Asau-Balyk) there are severe problems of detectability of the species in late summer. Some numbers of Ferruginous Duck were probably breeding in the Kurgaldjinskyi State Reserve. Few Ferruginous Duck were encountered at other sites. Tengiz is particularly important for migratory wildfowl and waders. The site is already well known for huge numbers of passage Red-necked Phalarope Phalarobus lobatus (see Hayman et al. 1986) where I to 5 million birds may be present (S. Yerekhov unpublished data). Good numbers of migratory waders of a wide range of species were present at all of the shallow lakes or lake shores surveyed at Tengiz. Considering the size of the Lake Tengiz area very large numbers of birds must be present during passage periods.

Naurzum (site two): This is already a protected area within Kazakstan and is clearly an important bird area in the country. The area is much more prone to drying up than Tengiz and as a result the numbers of wildfowl that breed there varies each year. No White-headed Ducks were seen and none had apparently bred in the area that year (reserve staff pers. comm.). Eight individuals were present at Malyi Aksuat lake in spring 1998 (N.Berezovikov unpublished data) and two pairs were present on the same lake on 10 May 1997 (S.Yerokhov unpublished data). During our visit there were few areas of open water remaining, although those encountered had very high density and diversity of birds, particularly waders attracted to the drying out lakes. A flock of 17 Sociable Plover were found at 51° 40' 44" N 64° 35' 13" E. None of the flock of 17 birds were juveniles.

Shoskally (site four): This area is a managed hunting preserve and had extremely large numbers of birds. The area is only about 500 ha in size and we estimated, based on counts of about 20% of the reserve that over 50,000 birds (mainly ducks and waders) were present. There were probably at least 10,000 Garganey Anas querquedula present at the site. A flock of four Sociable Plover was found at the site (all adults) and there were probably several hundred Blackwinged Pratincoles Glaereola nordmanni present.

Kustani lakes (site three): Most lakes within the Kustani region were good for birds. The large lake close to Kustani at 51° 40′ 44″ N 64° 35′ 13″ E has a breeding colony of Great Black-headed Gulls *Larus ichthyaetus* and at least 55 were counted in the area. Great Black-headed Gulls occurred at many lakes in the Kustani region. Other notable lakes were lakes at 52° 32′ 12″ N 65° 35′ 20″ E (high numbers of breeding and migrant birds), 52° 39′ 30″ N 65° 48′ 9″ E (large breeding colony of White-winged Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus*) and 53° 20′ 21″ N 65° 34′ 20″ E (large numbers of ducks).

Petropavlosk region (site five):The north of Kazakstan has many thousands of lakes varying from a few hectares to many hundreds of hectares. Almost all of the lakes surveyed had large numbers of mainly migrant birds. The general impression was that the whole region provided an extremely large total area of suitable migrant waterbird habitat and that no lake was much more significant than any other. Notable lakes, however, were at 53° 59' 57" N 64° 46' 5" E (high numbers of duck) and 53° 52' 9" N 64° 51' 0" E (high density and diversity).

Central Kazakstan (site six): Again the general impression was that the whole region contained many lakes of suitable migrant waterbird habitat; few were surveyed but many were scanned opportunistically from adjacent roads. Of particular note was a lake at 52° 48' 47" N 70° 12' 22" E (Ferruginous Duck, many ducks and White-winged Terns).

North-eastern Kazakstan (Sites seven to II): In general the lakes surveyed in the north-east of Kazakstan had lower density and diversity of birds. Lake Zayshan (48° 2' 21" N 84° 19' 56" E had high numbers of Great Black-headed Gull and Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*.

# White-headed Ducks in Kazakstan

A total of 25 White-headed Duck were found at two sites. At Lake Kurgaldjin (Lake Tengiz site), a female with two young was found at 50° 28' 10.7" N 69° 33' 26.9" E on 27 July. At least 15 White-headed Ducks (four male and 11 female or juveniles) were present at Kokai Lake at 50° 28' 44.6" N 69° 23' 51.6" E on 27/9/98. A post breeding flock of four male and eight female/juveniles was present at the same location on 29 July but were

probably the same birds. At Lake Alakol, two males and one female/juvenile were found at 45° 59' 33.9" N 81° 30' 25.6" E on September 24: a further females/juveniles were found at 45° 59' 52.2" N 81° 27' 30.0" E. Despite breeding habitat being available at Naurzum and at many of the larger lakes surveyed in Kustani region, Central region and in particular Petropavlosk region, no other White-headed Ducks were found. All of these areas have been well documented as forming the core areas of breeding for the White-headed Duck (Anstey 1989).

Lake Kurgaldjin, a huge area of interconnected reedbed lakes adjacent to Lake Tengiz is known as a breeding site for White-headed Ducks, although mostly historically (Anstey 1989). Approximately 30 – 70 pairs were recorded in the area in the late 1960s (Anstey 1989) but extensive boat surveys would be needed for accurate counts. It seems likely, due to the extensive suitable breeding habitat and its continued existence in a fairly pristine state that the number of breeding pairs at Tengiz may be globally important. The report of a flock of 800 White-headed Ducks being present in the spring of 1998 may also indicate this. Naurzum was described as having about 30 pairs of White-headed Ducks in the 1960s (Anstey 1989) but the site is much more prone to drying up and therefore variable breeding numbers. Lake Alakol has not been identified as a breeding site in previous surveys, although Dolgushin (1960) thought that breeding in the freshwater bays of Sasykkol and Alakol Lakes was possible. The White-headed Ducks we encountered there in late September may well have been migrants. The lake is brackish and similar to the favoured wintering lakes in Turkey.

White-headed Ducks breed in areas that

are difficult to survey and can be very difficult to detect in areas where there are extensive reedbeds. Many breeding Whiteheaded Duck were almost certainly overlooked in the Kurgaldjin Lakes System at Lake Tengiz. However, most Whiteheaded Ducks should have finished breeding by August and post-breeding flocks should have been relatively easy to detect because they gather in large groups with other diving ducks well out from the fringes of lakes (Cramp & Simmons 1977). White-headed Ducks are easy to detect when loafing or sleeping on water, even at a distance and in poor light because of their characteristic "cocked tail" silhouette (caution should be used with this character as many Goldeneye Bucephala clangula also cock their tails, although the cocked tail tip does not exceed head height in Goldeneyes). It is therefore surprising that none were found on any of the many apparently suitable lakes in the Kustani and Petropavlosk region of Kazakstan. Many lakes surveyed had reedbeds and extensive fringing vegetation, were slightly brackish and had large numbers of other bird species that are associated with White-headed Duck habitats (eg Black-necked Grebes Podiceps nigricollis and various diving duck species). During September all White-headed Ducks should have finished breeding and large post-breeding flocks are expected in suitable habitat. Lake Alakol is such an area yet despite 15.7 km of lake shoreline being surveyed in total only two small groups of White-headed Ducks were found. Whiteheaded Ducks are difficult to find in Kazakstan and/or occur at very low densities throughout their breeding range.

During the survey no evidence was found of major (or even minor) habitat destruction, pollution or hunting. Fishing is common, however, with small numbers of

fishermen living beside most large lakes. Fishing is of a relatively low intensity from rowing boats and there was little evidence of much export of fish out of the immediate area of the lake. In dry summers, however, fisherman may become concentrated into the same areas as White-headed Ducks. White-headed Ducks have undergone a large decline in recent years (Green & Hughes 1996) and are now classified as vulnerable (Collar et al. 1994). The reasons for this decline seem unlikely to be linked to human-mediated habitat change in the breeding areas of north and east Kazakstan. The human population and level of infrastructure is clearly declining through much of northern Kazakstan, with many parts of towns and villages now abandoned. One possibility to account for the decline in the global population of White-headed Ducks may be climate change. Naurzum, for example, was undergoing its third consecutive extremely dry summer and many lakes in northern Kazakstan may be drying out earlier in the summer.

#### Sociable Plovers in Kazakstan

A total of 21 Sociable Plovers were found; flocks of 14 and 3 at 51° 40' 43.6" N 64° 35' 12.9" E at Naurzum and a flock of four at 53° 40' N 64° 54' E at Shoskally. The north of Kazakstan, in particular the Kurgaldjin area (between Lake Tengiz and Achmola) and Naurzum are well known by the ornithologists at the Institute of Zoology as good areas for breeding Sociable Plover. In 1995 between 25 July - 10 August, about 70 individuals were seen around the Kurgaldjino village area (V. Julyi unpublished data), and two Sociable Plovers were possibly seen by a single member of our team there on 29 July

1998. In 1998 three small colonies of Sociable Plover consisting of about 25 pairs total were found at a nearby village of Dokuchayevka and displaying birds were also present there 10 May 1997 (S. Yerekhov unpublished Nevertheless data). none were confirmed during our survey at Kurgaldjino and very few at Naurzum. Local scientists at the reserve centre at Naurzum thought that Sociable Plover nests were locally very unsuccessful because they favoured nesting in grassland that is heavily grazed. Those few nests that survived trampling were then frequently depredated by the very high density of Rooks Corvus frugilegus, that also favour heavily grazed pasture (see also del Hoyo et al. 1996). Of 18 Sociable Plovers observed immediately after the breeding season, when ageing of juveniles is straightforward, none were juvenile birds. Only two flocks were encountered, however, segregation by age is common in waders.

Staff at Nauzum and at the Institute of Zoology have no clear idea of the current status of the Sociable Plover but all agreed that the species has become much harder to find, even in well known breeding areas. The Sociable Plover is classified as vulnerable (Collar & Andrew 1988) and has been declining in numbers throughout this century, apparently through habitat loss (del Hoyo et al. 1996; Heredia et al.) It seems an urgent priority for research to be carried out on the factors influencing breeding success of Sociable Plover. A simple measure such as reduction in stocking densities of grazing animals in some key areas may allow Sociable Plover to breed more successfully.

#### Migrant waterbirds in Kazakstan

The survey found large numbers of migrant birds using the wetlands. Small lakes of a few hectares frequently contained hundreds of ducks, grebes and waders. Garganey, Black-necked Grebes and Red-necked Phalaropes occurred in particularly high numbers. Of species of particular conservation interest, Dalmatian Pelicans occurred in reasonable numbers on lakes in the Kustani region and Lake Zayshan and Demoiselle Cranes Grus virgo occasionally used wetlands but were widespread away from wetlands. In general wetlands in the north were equally good for migrant birds regardless of whether they were in protected areas such as Lake Tengiz or small lakes by towns or roads. Wetlands to the northeast of Lake Balkash were much less important for migrant birds.

In late summer, Kazakstan is clearly an important staging area for many waders and wildfowl migrating from Siberia to Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Whilst on migration, waterbirds often rely on a small number of sites at which they can replenish food reserves to enable them to continue their passage. The protection of such sites is therefore vitally important for the conservation of these species. However, in northern and eastern Kazakstan, there are very many wetlands of varying size. With the exception of huge wetland areas such as Lake Tengiz most of the wetlands used by migratory birds are relatively small. Protection or destruction of any one wetland would make little difference; it is the network of many small sites that is probably most important.

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Appendix Table I Overall counts at each site

| Site number            |                      | 1    | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5    | 6   | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
|------------------------|----------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of lakes        |                      | 6    | 4   | 12  | 2   | 23   | 3   | I  | 2   | 8   |     | 4   |
| Number of counts       |                      | 33   | 4   | 28  | 6   | 26   | 3   | 2  | 3   | 33  | 15  | 24  |
| Gavia arctica          | Black-throated Diver |      |     |     |     | 1    |     |    |     | 10  |     |     |
| Tachybaptus ruficollis | Little Grebe         | 6    | 2   | 3   |     |      |     |    |     |     |     |     |
| Podiceps grisegena     | Red-necked Grebe     | 48   | 2   | 13  | 7   | 7    | I   |    |     |     |     | 2   |
| Podiceps cristatus     | Great Crested Grebe  | 134  |     | 365 | 7   | 192  | 10  | 41 | 39  | 134 | 77  | 216 |
| Podiceps auritus       | Slavonian Grebe      | 20   | 5   | 10  |     | 5    |     |    |     |     |     |     |
| Podiceps nigricollis   | Black-necked Grebe   | 56   | 27  | 243 |     | 1171 | 226 | 4  | 1   | 5   | 10  | 7   |
|                        | Unidentified Grebes  | 73   |     | 4   | ŀ   |      |     |    |     |     |     |     |
| Phalacrocorax carbo    | Great Cormorant      | 50   |     | 189 | 42  | 117  |     |    |     | 93  | 1   | 188 |
| Pelecanus onocrotalus  | Great White Pelican  |      |     |     | 55  |      |     |    | 2   |     |     |     |
| Pelecanus crispus      | Dalmatian Pelican    | 15   |     | 39  |     | 3    |     |    | - 1 | 158 |     |     |
| Ardea cinerea          | Grey Heron           | 39   |     | 79  | 39  | 69   | 1   | 28 |     | 42  | 54  | 16  |
| Casmerodius albus      | Great Egret          | 18   |     | 42  | 11  | 11   |     | 1  | 3   | 16  | 23  | 49  |
| Botaurus stellaris     | Great Bittern        |      |     | 1   |     |      |     |    |     |     |     |     |
| Ciconia nigra          | Black Stork          |      |     |     |     |      |     | 3  |     |     | 24  |     |
| Phoenicopterus ruber   | Greater Flamingo     | 4234 |     |     |     |      |     |    |     |     |     |     |
| Cygnus olor            | Mute Swan            | 51   |     | 7   |     | 23   | 2   |    | 6   |     |     | 8   |
| Cygnus cygnus          | Whooper Swan         | i i  | 7   |     |     | 15   |     |    |     | f   |     |     |
| Anser anser            | Greylag Goose        | 712  |     | 138 | 7   | 1801 |     |    | 12  | 268 |     | 272 |
| Tadorna ferruginea     | Ruddy Shelduck       | 253  | 32  |     |     |      |     | 2  |     | 17  | 114 |     |
| Tadorna tadorna        | Common Shelduck      | 922  | 149 | 7   | 2   | 121  | 25  |    |     | 9   |     | 20  |
| Anas strepera          | Gadwall              | 276  | 23  | 15  | 299 | 77   | 485 |    |     | 66  | 171 | 183 |
| Anas penelope          | Eurasian Wigeon      | 1187 |     | 81  | 461 | 165  | 2   |    |     | 3   | 31  | 21  |

# Appendix Table I Continued

| Site number             |                         |      | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7   | 8    | 9   | 10  | 11   |   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|---|
| Anas platyrhynchos      | Mallard                 | 581  | 15   | 275  | 443  | 472  | 55   | 95  | 12   | 164 | 484 | 68   | _ |
| Anas clypeata           | Northern Shoveler       | 1524 | 2    | 53   | 170  | 272  | 22   | 13  | 4    | 168 | 15  | 43   |   |
| Anas acuta              | Northern Pintail        | 488  |      | 12   | 145  | 9    | 32   | 20  | 8    | 15  | 38  | 138  |   |
| Anas querquedula        | Garganey                | 84   | 183  | 137  | 2079 | 241  | 190  | 132 |      | 13  |     |      |   |
| Anas crecca             | Common Teal             | 12   | 2    | 20   | 298  | 105  | 175  | 121 |      |     | 106 | 29   |   |
| Netta rufina            | Red-crested Pochard     | 1126 |      | 7    | 2    | 5    |      |     | 12   | 6   | 8   | 399  |   |
| Aythya ferina           | Common Pochard          | 4229 | 38   | 74   | 29   | 77 I | 610  | 26  | 69   | 23  | 255 | 287  |   |
| Aythya nyroca           | Ferruginous Pochard     | 16   |      |      |      |      | 4    |     |      | 2   |     |      |   |
| Aythya fuligula         | Tufted Duck             | 153  |      | 107  |      | 448  | 1090 |     |      |     | 27  | 1    |   |
| Mergelussus albellus    | Smew                    | 43   | 1    |      |      |      |      |     |      |     |     |      |   |
| Bucephala clangula      | Common Goldeneye        | 113  |      | 111  | 3    | 46   | 51   |     |      |     | 18  |      |   |
| Mergus merganser        | Goosander               |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |      |     |     | 1    |   |
| Oxyura leucocephala     | White-headed Duck       | 19   |      |      |      |      |      |     |      |     |     | 6    |   |
|                         | Unidentified ducks      | 7274 | 1146 | 6170 | 4543 | 3049 |      |     | 272  | 554 | 374 | 8    |   |
| Rallus aquaticus        | Water Rail              |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |      | 1   |     |      |   |
| Gallinula Chloropus     | Common Moorhen          |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |      | 2   |     |      |   |
| Fulica atra             | Common Coot             | 915  |      | 664  | 52   | 2153 | 1200 | 12  | 1225 | 116 | 810 | 5918 |   |
| Grus virgo              | Demoiselle Crane        | 7    |      | 7    |      | 4    |      |     |      |     |     |      |   |
| Grus grus               | Common Crane            |      | 5    | 6    |      | 53   |      |     | 3    |     |     | 10   |   |
| Haematopus ostralegus   | Eurasian Oystercatcher  | - 1  |      |      | 15   |      |      |     |      |     |     |      |   |
| Himantopus himantopus   | Black-winged Stilt      | 3    | 150  | 77   | 67   | 62   | 22   | 21  | 4    |     |     |      |   |
| Recurvironstra avosetta | Pied Avocet             | 176  | 194  |      | 10   | 15   | 118  |     |      |     |     |      |   |
| Glareola nordmanni      | Black-winged Pratincole |      |      | 2    | 47   |      |      |     |      |     |     |      |   |
| Pluvialis fulva         | Pacific Golden-Plover   |      |      | 5    |      |      |      |     |      |     |     | 1    |   |
| Pluvialis squatarola    | Grey Plover             |      |      |      | - 11 | 75   |      |     |      |     |     |      |   |
|                         |                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |      |     |     |      |   |

#### Appendix Table | Continued

| Site number             |                      | - 1 | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5    | 6  | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10 | 11 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Charadrius hiaticula    | Common Ringed Plover | 2   | 2   | 2   | 25  | 65   | 17 |     |     |     |    | 9  |
| Charadrius dubius       | Little Ringed Plover | 8   | 1   |     |     | 1    |    | 12  |     | 24  | 1  | 1  |
| Charadrius alexandrinus | Kentish Plover       |     |     |     |     |      |    |     |     | 1   |    |    |
| Vanellus vanellus       | Northern Lapwing     | 54  | 52  | 419 | 75  | 447  |    | 107 |     | 114 | 52 | 43 |
| Vanellus gregarius      | Sociable Plover      |     | 17  |     | 4   |      |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Calidris alba           | Sanderling           |     | 4   |     |     |      |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Calidris minuta         | Little Stint         | 250 | 181 | 112 | 13  | 224  | 11 | 15  |     | 65  | 7  | 30 |
| Calidris temminckii     | Temminck's Stint     | 8   | 1   | 7   |     |      |    |     |     | 15  |    |    |
| Calidris alpina         | Dunlin               |     | 25  |     |     | 14   |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Calidris ferruginea     | Curlew Sandpiper     |     |     |     |     | 4    |    | 4   |     | 8   | 2  |    |
| Philomachus pugnax      | Ruff                 | 742 | 857 | 98  | 106 | 202  |    | 20  |     | 16  | 3  | 19 |
| Gallinago gallinago     | Common Snipe         |     |     | 8   | 5   | - 11 |    | 4   | - 1 | -1  |    |    |
| Lymnocryptes minimus    | Jack Snipe           |     |     |     |     | 1    |    |     |     |     |    |    |
| Limosa limosa           | Black-tailed Godwit  | 170 | 505 | 60  | 115 | 724  |    | 4   |     | 19  |    | 27 |
| Numenius phaeopus       | Whimbrel             |     | 4   |     | 2   | 5    | 1  |     |     |     |    |    |
| Numenius arquata        | Eurasian Curlew      |     | 60  | 1   |     | 11   | 1  | 4   |     | 3   |    | 3  |
| Tringa erythropus       | Spotted Redshank     | 10  | 7   | 4   | 2   | 7    |    |     |     | 2   |    | 2  |
| Tringa totanus          | Common Redshank      | 10  | 2   | 3   |     | 34   | 5  |     |     |     |    | 3  |
| Tringa stagnatilis      | Marsh Sandpiper      | 26  |     | 10  | 4   | 50   |    |     |     | 6   |    |    |
| Tringa nebularia        | Common Greenshank    | 5   |     | 2   |     | 12   |    | 6   |     | 1   | 3  |    |
| Tringa ochropus         | Green Sandpiper      | 8   |     | 3   | f   | 18   |    |     |     | 6   |    |    |
| Tringa glareola         | Wood Sandpiper       | 24  |     | 43  | 63  | 168  |    | 19  |     |     |    |    |
| Tringa cinerea          | Terek Sandpiper      | 10  | 11  | 4   |     | 6    |    | 11  |     | 14  |    |    |
| Tringa hyupoleucos      | Common Sandpiper     | 1   | 2   |     |     |      |    |     |     | 3   | 1  |    |
| Arenaria interpres      | Ruddy Turnstone      |     | 20  | 2   |     | 7    |    |     |     | 2   |    | 1  |

### Appendix Table I Continued

| Site number                             |                          | 1     | 2    | 3     | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7   | 8   | 9    | 10  | 11  |  |
|---|--------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|--|
| Phalaropus lobatus                      | Red-necked Phalarope     | 158   | 865  | 42    | 158  | 1816 | 263  |     |     | 58   |     |     |  |
|   | Unidentified waders      | 10    | 450  |       |      | 150  |      |     |     | 64   | 15  |     |  |
| Larus cachinnans                        | Yellow-legged Gull       | 78    | 96   | 2976  | 75   | 591  | 120  | 3   | 107 | 583  | 19  | 103 |  |
| Larus canus                             | Common Gull              |       | 2    | 26    |      | 230  | 1    |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| Larus ichthyaetus                       | Great Black-headed Gull  | 8     |      | 145   |      |      | 4    |     |     | 1042 |     | 114 |  |
| Larus ridibundus                        | Black-headed Gull        | 13    | 6    | 5939  | 417  | 739  | 568  |     | 42  | 198  | 194 | 146 |  |
| Larus genei                             | Slender-billed Gull      | 5     |      |       |      |      |      |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| Larus minutus                           | Little Gull              |       | 26   | 106   | 6    | 153  | 29   |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| Sterna nilotica                         | Gull-billed Tern         |       |      |       |      |      |      |     |     | 10   |     | 1   |  |
| Sterna caspia                           | Caspian Tern             | 20    |      | 2     | 3    |      |      |     |     | 414  |     |     |  |
| Sterna hirundo                          | Common Tern              | 93    |      | 894   | 396  | 349  |      |     | 1   | 397  | 1   | 10  |  |
| Sterna albifrons                        | Little Tern              | 25    |      |       | 2    |      |      |     |     | 7    |     | 1   |  |
| Chlidonias leucopterus                  | White-winged Black Tern  | 18    | 23   | 3058  | 178  | 585  | 501  |     |     | 6    |     |     |  |
| Chlidonias niger                        | Black Tern               | 11    | 32   | 104   |      | 3    |      |     |     |      |     | 1   |  |
|   | Unidentified Marsh Terns |       |      | 102   |      | 10   |      |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| Total by Site<br>Overall Total = 108307 |                          | 26626 | 3251 | 23135 | 1650 | 6637 | 1521 | 209 | 151 | 3079 | 298 | 515 |  |