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COUNTS OF WADING BIRDS IN THE TAMAKI ESTUARY 1985-1990

The main species of shorebirds, apart from Gulls, are Oystercatchers and Pied Stilts in the winter, and Godwits and Knots in the summer.

Counts are taken in June or July (winter) and November (summer) to avoid the periods when migration occurs.

Most birds roost in the Tahuna-Torea Nature Reserve, and are counted there.

	1985		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990	
	W	S	W	S	W	S	W	S	W	S	W	S
Pied Oystercatcher	270		180		169	9	460	300	780		605	285
Variable Oystercatcher		7	7		4	8	4	5	6		7	1
Pied Stilt	60	10	128	10	106	9	80	5	160		40	
Banded Dotterel					82				98		73	
Bar-tailed Godwit		425	25	460	4	400	23	750	45		50	550
Knot		160		75		100		65				500

The Banded Dotterel flock is usually in the upper Tamaki Estuary, but is sometimes found at Tahuna Torea.

New Zealand Dotterels visit the reserve in small numbers (up to six birds), and attempted to nest on a small sand bar at the lagoon mouth in several of these recent years but all nest appear to have been disturbed and/or predated.

(March 1991)