

Pioneering shorebird research in Sri Lanka: launch of the National Bird Ringing Programme

SARATH W. KOTAGAMA, MARIAGRAZIA BELLIO¹, KARIYAWASAM DAYANANDA²

¹Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka, Department of Zoology University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. fogs1@slt.lk

²Department of Wildlife and Conservation, Colombo, Sri Lanka

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We report on the first steps of a new project to establish a network of sites for shorebird research and conservation in Sri Lanka. These include the first training course conducted in April 2005 in the Bundala National Park in which 16 members of staff of the Department of Wildlife and Conservation learnt shorebird study skills including mist-netting, recording biometrics and ageing, under the National Bird Ringing Programme. We describe the methods we developed for ageing Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints and Redshanks.