



Forest and Bird members are among the teams which support the New Zealand Wader Study Group, based at Miranda Shorebird Centre, near Auckland.

In their search for basic data about our migratory wading birds (local and international) the group captures birds for recording purposes, and bands their legs with identification rings.

Above, a bird-capture net is laid along the tideline adjacent to a known roosting place where birds gather when driven off the mudflats by a rising tide. The pipe-style cannons are carefully angled to carry the net over the roosting place, and the net is disguised with seashells. The cannon is loaded by study leader Adrain Riegen (above), to carry the leading edge of the net over the birds.

When the birds move into the area covered by the net the cannons are fired electronically. Projectiles (below) pull the net up and over the roosting birds.

This catch includes godwit and knot, both migrants from Alaska and Siberia.

