

### Observed diet compositions

The diet of wintering *islandica* mainly comprised *Hydrobia ulvae* (1-9 mm) and small proportions of *Macoma balthica* and *Cerastoderma edule* (Van Gils *et al.* 2003). During stopover, *islandica* fed on *Littorina* spp. (4-15 mm) and *Mytilus edulis* (8-23 mm) and to a lesser extent on polychaetes and chironomid larvae (Alerstam *et al.* 1992). The diet of wintering *canutus* comprised *Bittium* spp. (3-10 mm) and *Arca senilis* (3-6 mm), and to a lesser extent *Veneridae* spp., *Modiolus* spp., *Rissoa* spp., and *Hydrobia ulvae* (in decreasing order of occurrence; P. J. van den Hout, unpubl. data). During stopover, *canutus* mainly consumed *Macoma balthica* (7-19 mm), and occasionally *Hydrobia ulvae*, *Mya arenaria*, and *Cerastoderma edule* (Van Gils *et al.* 2003). The following bivalves predominated in the diet of wintering *piersmai*: *Nucula* spp., *Anodontia omissa*, *Anomalocardia squamosa*, *Tellina exotica*, *Tellina piratica*, *Siliqua pulchella*, and *Tellina capsoides* (in decreasing order of occurrence; D. I. Rogers unpubl. data). The diet of wintering *rogersi* in the North Island, New Zealand, was assumed to be equivalent to that on Farewell Spit, at the top of the South Island: mainly *Amphidesma australe* (2-15 mm) and to a lesser extent *Chione stutchburyi* (P.F.B. unpubl. data). Finally, *rufa* fed on the intermediate size classes (10-20 mm) of *Mytilus edulis* at their wintering site in Tierra del Fuego (G. B. Escudero unpubl. data), and on *Brachidontes rodriguezii* (4-18 mm) at their stopover (González *et al.* 1996).