

## **WADER WATCH Phil Cross**

Can everyone please remember to use the 'Leg Flag Observation Report' form. **Please email leg flag sightings to Phil on his new email address.** [phillipcross50@gmail.com](mailto:phillipcross50@gmail.com)

Can we also please ask people to carefully check which leg the flag is on. If you are not sure, or just see the colour, and do not know which leg it is, please do not make it up. We do record the sighting on the database, even if we do not know which leg it was on. Recording information that you have not seen, or do not know creates extra work for Phil and other people who this information goes to. We would appreciate your cooperation on this issue.

### **Green leg flag sightings**

In each Qld Wader issue there are quite a number of green leg flag sightings recorded within Moreton Bay region, which is where the bird was banded originally. As we are now seeing more leg flag combinations from other states and countries, and have limited space available for sightings, we will not be listing each individual sighting of green flag records in Queensland unless there is a significant movement of the bird. Instead, we will list the number of flags for each species.

Sightings in the Moreton Bay region reported during the last three months totalled 711. They were reported by Sarah Beavis, Robert Bush, Ian Brown, Jill Brown, Tony Cotter, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, David Edwards, Finn Emerson, Mary Hines, Renate Hottmann-Schaefer, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Penn Lloyd, Paul Marty, Paul Maxwell, Niven McCrie, Peter Rothlisberg, Brian Russell, Michael Strong, Nicola Udy, Chris Walker and Dez Wells.

Arthur and Sheryl Keates gave us 265 records, Penn Lloyd over 150, Dez Wells 108 and Tony Cotter 101.

Species recorded and number of records:

Eastern Curlew 20, Bar-tailed Godwit 324, Double-banded Plover 4, Pied Oystercatcher 28, Black-winged Stilt 10, Great Knot 58, Grey-tailed Tattler 123, Curlew Sandpiper 12, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 5, Terek Sandpiper 2, Lesser Sand Plover 3, Pacific Golden Plover 5, Red-capped Plover 3, Red-necked Stint 105, Ruddy Turnstone 4 and Whimbrel 5.

As 96% of the records are engraved flags there are too many to list in this article.

### **Green leg flag sightings in Qld other than Moreton Bay**

There are 27 records for this period, four from Cairns, three of which were of Bar-tailed Godwit (BSV on flag) which was flagged in Gladstone in January 2015, the other was Red-necked Stint PS.

We had one sighting from the eastern side of the Gulf of Carpentaria, a Curlew Sandpiper (flag could not be read) and two from Great Sandy Strait (Godwit BRF and Great Knot AJW). The other twenty were spotted in the Gladstone area, consisting of 5 Bar-tailed Godwit, 9 Great Knot, 5 Pied Oystercatcher and 1 Red-necked Stint.

Interestingly 36 non green flags were also recorded in this area, flags from Western Australia, Victoria and six overseas countries were seen!

### **Green leg flag sighting seen Interstate**

Red-necked Stint

(SF on flag) – reported from Broome Western Australia on 5 occasions - Clare and Grant Morton - 16.9.15 to 1.10.15. This bird was recorded in our last newsletter as being in China on 16.5.15!

### **Green leg flag sighting seen Overseas**

#### Bar-tailed Godwit

- 1 – (AYW on flag) Sone Estuary Fukuoka Japan – Shiroy Yoshibumi – 16.04.15
- 1 – Yangkou Rudong Jiangsu, China – Yuetao Zhong & Tong Mu – 24.04.15
- 1 (BAK on flag) – Arao Beach Kumamoto Japan – Machitori Kaname – 5.05.15
- 1 (AJK on flag) – Miranda North Island, New Zealand – Jonas Kotlarz – 2.11.14 & 4.1.15 & 4.10.15
- 1 – Golden Bay, South Island, New Zealand – Ingrid Hutzler – 24.1.15
- 1 – Miranda North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 15.3.15
- 1 – (ABW on Flag) Omaha Sandspit Auckland, New Zealand – Jonas Kotlarz – 7.10.15 & Marie Ward 16.10.15

#### Broad-billed Sandpiper

- 1 – Prison Ponds, China – Tong Mu – 17.05.15 & 23.5.15

#### Eastern Curlew

- 1 – Seocheon Tidal Flat, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 04.07.15

#### Great Knot

- 1 (AYV on flag) – Tomas Noah – 27.07.15
  - 1 (ALS on flag) – Tomas Noah – 2.08.15
  - 1 (AZB on flag) – Dmitry Dorofeev – 8.08.15
  - 1 (BCM on flag) – Dmitry Dorofeev – 8.08.15 & 9.8.15
  - 1 (AYR on flag) – Dmitry Dorofeev – 23.08.15
- All of the above were seen at Khairusovo & Belogovaya Rivers Estuary, Russia

#### Grey-tailed Tattler

- 1 (AAR on flag) – Lake Samei Shizuakaken, Japan – Kurata Nahoko – 3.05.13
- 1 (AYN on flag) – Tokyo Bay Tokyo, Japan – Kei Fujimura – 7.08.14
- 1 (AYN on flag) – Tokyo Bay Tokyo, Japan – Michiko Hamada – 31.07.15
- 1 (AXD on flag) – Mouth of Seto River Hyogo-ken, Japan – Ohashi Kosaku – 27.08.15
- 1 (APV on flag) – Akkeshi Hokkaido, Japan – Yoshida Yuki – 12.09.15

#### Red Knot

- 1 – Clark's Bay Manukau Harbour Auckland, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 8.03.15

#### Ruddy Turnstone

- 1 (ABX on flag) – Yalu Jiang, China – Chen Lixia – 5.04.15

### **Leg flags from Interstate seen in Qld**

#### **Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings**

A total of 77 orange flag sightings were reported, engraved flags were seen on 37 Bar-tailed Godwit, 2 Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Red Knot and a Red-necked Avocet.

The Godwit with CHH on flag was recorded 7 times, flag CRR was seen 6 times and flag D9 was reported 4 times.

#### **Yellow (West Australia) leg flag sightings**

Six sightings each at Cairns and Maaroom, one from the Gulf and one in the Gladstone area add up to a total of 14 records, a bumper crop of yellow flags recorded in Qld during this period, compare that to only 3 records for all of 2014 !

This total may be inflated due to the fact that one bird, Great Knot (WDA on flag), was reported on five occasions at Cairns.

### **Pied Oystercatcher 2 digit Yellow leg flag sightings**

**The following sightings of yellow flagged oystercatchers are not birds flagged in North West Western Australia, as per the flagging protocol. They are another project being run from Victoria and New South Wales. Birds flagged in Victoria will have a yellow flag on the right tibia and inscribed with two digits. New South Wales birds will have the yellow flag on the left tibia and inscribed with two digits.**

1 (C4 on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.07.15

1 (S1 on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 29.09.15

### **Overseas leg flag sightings**

#### **White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**

One sighting from the Gladstone area, four recorded at Maaroom and twenty seen in the Moreton Bay area, a total of 25. Flag ZJJ was seen twice, ZMT was recorded three times and ZJS was reported on four occasions, 16 of the 25 were engraved flags. Penn Lloyd reported 11 white flag sightings.

#### **Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four combinations**

##### Great Knot

1 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 30.10.15 (flagged Hokkaido)

##### Grey-tailed Tattler

1 – (311 on blue flag) Zilzie Headland, near Rockhampton – Barry Ellis – 1.10.15 (flagged Torinoumi)

1 – (90 on blue flag) Redland Bay, Brisbane – Penn Lloyd – 4.10.15 (flagged Torinoumi)

1 – Cairns Esplanade – Hidetoshi Kudo – 13.10.15 (flagged Hokkaido)

1 – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 17.10.15 (flagged Hokkaido)

1 – (TT on blue flag) Toorbul – Linda Cross & Arthur Keates – 12.9.15 (flagged Torinoumi)

1 – Cairns Esplanade – Tony Neilson – 7.10.15 (flagged Hokkaido)

1 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 15.10.15 (flagged Hokkaido)

1 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 23.10.15 (flagged Hokkaido)

##### Lesser Sand Plover

1 – blue flag right tibia & blue flag right tarsus – Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 26.11.14 (flagged Hokkaido)

1 – blue flag right tibia & blue flag right tarsus – Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 18.01.15 (flagged Hokkaido)

##### Terek Sandpiper

1 – blue flag left tibia & white flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Mary Hines – 18.08.15 (flagged Yatsu Tokyo Bay)

1 – AM on blue flag left tibia & white flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Brian Russell – 3.09.15 (flagged Yatsu Tokyo Bay)

1 – blue flag left tibia & white flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Linda Cross & Arthur Keates – 12.09.15 (flagged Obitsu Estuary Tokyo Bay)

## **Black over white or white over black (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings**

A quantity of 27 sightings were added to the leg flag database these consisted of Bar-tailed Godwit (3), Great Knot (17), Lesser Sand Plover (2), Red Knot (4) and (1) Terek Sandpiper. Engraved leg flags were found on four Great Knot, three of which were of J62 the other was E4. Two Red Knot with engraved flags were recorded, one was KJ the other one could not be read by the observer.

## **Blue over yellow (Bohai Bay, China) leg flag sightings**

### Red-necked Stint.

1 – Eastern Gulf – Arthur Keates & Peter Driscoll – 30.08.15

### Red Knot

1 – Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 30.08.15

1 – Gladstone area – Danny Rogers – 31.08.15

## **Green over orange (Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, China) leg flag sightings**

### Bar-tailed Godwit

1 – Gladstone area – Danny Rogers – 9.10.14

1 – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 18.10.15

## **White over blue (Taiwan) leg flag sightings**

### Curlew Sandpiper

1 – Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 31.08.15

### Greater Sand Plover

1 – Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 31.08.15

## **Yellow over white (Russia) leg flag sightings**

### Great Knot

1 – Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 21.01.15

1 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 9.11.15

### Grey-tailed Tattler

1 – Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 17.03.15

### Red-necked Stint.

1 – Cairns Esplanade – Hidetoshi Kudo – 20.09.15

1 – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 23.09.15

## **Black (Alaska USA) leg flag sightings**

### Bar-tailed Godwit

1 – (N5 on flag) Gladstone area – Danny Rogers – 9.10.14

1 – Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 6.2.15

1 – (K3 on flag) Gladstone area – Jimmy Choi – 20.3.15

1 – (YO on flag) Gladstone area – Dylan Moffitt – 23.3.15

## **Other leg flag sightings and banded birds**

### Caspian Tern

A quantity of seventeen Caspian Tern with orange leg flag were recorded in the last three months. Engraved flags seen were: 47 four times, 37 three times, E2 twice and E6 once all at roost sites in the Bribie Passage. In the Gladstone area engraved flags recorded were 10 twice, 70 and E5 once each and plain orange flag on three occasions.

