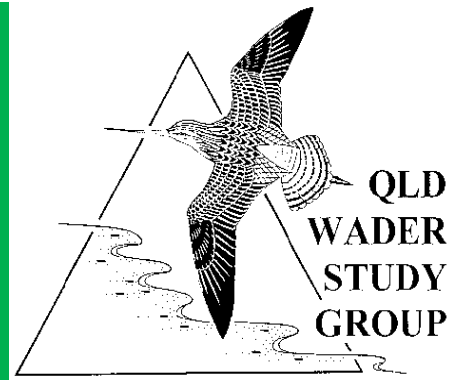


# QUEENSLAND WADER



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Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a Division of  
*Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated.* [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

## Chairperson Report to QWSG 2023 Annual General Meeting

I am pleased to present this report as Chairperson of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), on behalf of the 2023 QWSG Management Committee.

Once again it has been a busy twelve months.

This Chairperson report will highlight some of the achievements and activities of the QWSG over the past year, as we have continued to promote the protection of wader habitats, some under threat, and promote the scientific study and conservation of all Waders. Brief reports from Counts, Flagging, Banding, Membership and Education officers will be tabled at this meeting. The full reports will be added to the full minutes of the meeting, as well as being produced in the next issue of Queensland Wader.

Some of the key activities in 2023, in no particular order of priority are highlighted below:

### **TOONDAH HARBOUR**

The start of the year saw the flurry of activity around replies to the Walker Group's EIS submissions to the Federal Government. There has been continued lobbying on all three levels of government. Where possible the QWSG has been trying to help behind the scenes imparting its data and attend events like "Welcome back Shorebirds". I will give a special mention to Robert Bush for his involvement in these actions and his representation of QWSG at the many and varied meetings.

The most recent actions around Toondah Harbour show that vigilance and action will be required over a long period of time.

### **EDUCATION**

The close personal nature of education and the menace of Covid meant a truncation to a lot of our children's education activities, but I am pleased to announce that these events will be up and running next year. Many thanks to Sheryl and Arthur Keates for their tireless efforts in the past and a warm welcome to Rae Clark who is taking over the running of this important work.

ID days are always popular and give an opportunity for not only education within the group but also as a 'meet and greet' component that is missing at many of our other activities. Again, many thanks to Sheryl and Arthur Keates, and Linda and Phil Cross for so ably running these days. The three main areas, Manly Harbour, Kakadu Beach and Toorbul have all had good turnouts for the ID days

We have been able to run a one-day Wader course. The day consist of a presentation on shorebird migration and breeding, plus some conservation issues affecting shorebirds followed by questions and discussions. Next Peter Rothlisberg, the QWSG Secretary, guided participants through a well-structured session giving tips for successful Wader identification. We then visit Manly Boat Harbour to put these ID tips into practice.

Many thanks to Sheryl and Arthur Keates for the organisation and help for these days. Many thanks to Marine National Parks for arranging the use of their rooms.

The QWSG has talked to many local groups and has had displays at local libraries trying to spread the word locally.

The QWSG Facebook page has been kept up to date by Robert Bush. Robert regularly posts items throughout the year. All are informative, with some managing to reach far around the world, attracting a very large number of hits. Thank you, Robert.

This side of the QWSG activities, the education of the general public, needs reinforcement over the next couple of years. I suggest, we make a concerted effort to raise the profile of Waders and the QWSG throughout Queensland.

### **THE COUNT PROGRAM**

Linda Cross again tirelessly organised and managed the count programme in 2023 with monthly counts across a whole range of sites in Greater Moreton Bay and further afield up and down the Queensland coast. The online data entry continues to make life easier in terms of data entry, but validation is still necessary to make sure the high standard of QWSG data is maintained. Linda is always looking for new counters, so, if you know anyone, or would like to count your own site please get in touch with her. Thanks, Linda.

Thanks, not only to Linda but, to every one of our members who counts, because without you, we would not have been able to contribute as much as we have to shorebird conservation. The counts are our core business. Please don't underestimate the value of consistently counting a location over long periods of time. Our count program has been responsible for some very influential discussion on shorebird declines and has influenced opinion throughout the flyway as a result of the QWSG dataset that is held in the highest of esteem.

The QPWS provide personnel and a boat to take QWSG counters to Moreton Is, Peel Is, Goat Is and Toondah Harbour every quarter. This is greatly appreciated, because it makes sure that a full coverage of the Bay is achieved. Many thanks to all involved.

This year has seen the QWSG return to the Great Sandy Strait region for the biennial survey of the area. The trip was a great success showing the importance of this area for waders. In total 57 sites were listed for counting by land and boat, only 46 were surveyed. However, an additional 8 sites not listed were counted bringing the total number of counts to 54.

We will look forward to the Greater Mackay survey next year to achieve our usual routine of these two survey areas.

### **BANDING AND TRACKERS**

This side of QWSG activities has seen four sessions three in Moreton Bay and one at Maaroom. The total numbers of birds caught was 289 new birds of 16 species banded and 17 recaptures of previously banded birds. While no birds were fitted with PTT's during the early part of the year, one Far Eastern Curlew, one Bar-tailed Godwit and a Whimbrel from previous projects are still providing data.

We have also assisted University of the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Region City Council by catching Australian Ibis for a study of their movements.

Be warned that, once again 2024 is looking to be a busy time for banding and flagging.

### **FLAGGING**

Many thanks to Jon Coleman for his hard work with the flag sightings, checking and validating them as they come in, plus he gives quarterly reports for the Newsletter. 2,836 leg flag resightings were made by members of the QWSG and other members of the public. This included 342 resightings of foreign flagged birds. The vast majority of the resightings (2,614 or 92%) were of Queensland leg flagged birds with most recorded within the state of Queensland.

Once again thanks to all of you who send in your sightings, they go a long way in the protection of the waders and their habitat. Even with all the work required to log these sightings Jon still goes out and issues more flags

### **FINANCES and MEMBERSHIP**

Judith Giles and Brenda Smith have been working efficiently behind the scenes to make the financial and membership sides of the QWSG run smoothly. Judith's clear reports at each Committee meeting gives us confidence that all is well, plus the prompt payment of our bills shows that all is under control.

We have been blessed over the last twelve months by some very generous donations to QWSG. The heartiest of thanks to all those who thought of the QWSG.

As you will see from the Financial Report our finances are not only sound, but in good hands.

Our membership is around 300.

Brenda is standing down as Membership Officer for the next year. Many thanks to Brenda for your hard work in managing the role so effectively, plus the preparation of various lists needed for the smooth running of the group.

### **QWSG DATA**

The QWSG data is still very much in demand and, with Peter Driscoll as manager, data is released judiciously. The money we receive goes back into more surveys and so more information.

## THE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter, Queensland Wader, has been presented every quarter with the vast majority of the editions now being sent out as an electronic version. Weight restrictions means that the print version is limited to 18 sides which means that it cannot present all of the content, whilst the electronic copy is virtually unlimited, I think the biggest last year would have been 38 pages. Once again, many thanks to all contributors, a special thanks to Linda Cross, who produce content for the Newsletter each quarter and to Arthur Keates for all his articles on flag sightings. Please contribute we need to hear from you all.

## PORT OF BRISBANE

The Port of Brisbane has been very keen to re-invigorate the Artificial Roost site and to help protect areas outside the Port's reclamation and development, this may lead to better access to view the waders. We will continue these talks next year.

The monthly counts of the Port provide a large and valuable contribution to our knowledge of Waders in Moreton Bay. The QWSG values the contact we have with PBPL and looks forward to an ongoing relationship.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Wernadinga

The Qld Wader Study Group was honoured to be able to participate in an on-country dedication of the Wernadinga Coast East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site and Lower Gulf of Carpentaria Shorebird Stakeholder Meeting to be held on 9 & 10 August 2023. This meeting made many valuable contacts in the southern Gulf area.

### Yatsu Higata Naturalist Observation Centre's (YNOC) Visit

A delegation from QWSG and Brisbane City Council education centres managed to make it to Japan and Yatsu-higata at the end of October. They were shown around the centre and surrounding birding areas. A great time was enjoyed by all who were able to attend. With friendships made and contacts forged. The hope is that as soon as possible an exchange visit can be arranged.

### Nigel Roberts Bursary

The QWSG is pleased to announce that a Researcher from The University of Queensland, Daniel Terrington, has been successful in obtaining a three-year grant from the Nigel Roberts Student Research Fund. Daniel will be studying Plains Wanderers in western Queensland in association with DES.

### Australasian Ornithological Conference

The QWSG was a sponsor for the Conference and had a presence by way of a display table. We had a small but interested flow of people to our stand.

One of the most pleasing things to come out of the talks was the praise that QWSG received for its data.

### Development on the Coast

This is still an ongoing problem for waders and their habitat. We have had pointed out to us several developments that could directly impact on our waders. We feel that more local representation could be a powerful tool to tackle these problems, allied with QWSG data and backing an efficient use of manpower a great result can be achieved. We are still concerned as to how the 2032 Olympics will affect the Manly Boat Harbour. There are developments proposed for both Manly and Scarborough Harbours.

### Healthy Land and Waters (HLW)

Our partnership with HLW came to a conclusion at the end of June with no money from the Federal Government to extend the program for shorebirds in Greater Moreton Bay. This partnership produced some exciting results for waders and their habitat, however how much will be built on is in the question, both at a practical level as well as politically.

A big thank you also goes to Birds Queensland (BQ) for their collaboration throughout the year.

Thank you to every single committee member and those who run the non-committee roles of QWSG. We always underestimate the effort required to make a group like this run effectively.

On that note, I would like to point out that your committee will be investigating as to how best to utilise our members' skills and time to push QWSG into the future. So, we will be communicating with the whole membership, through Chimpmail, to gain a sense of what we do well and what we can improve on.

All of these meetings and contacts take time, so if you feel you can help, please let us know.

I am sure I have missed someone or something in this roundup, so to everyone who has contributed to the group in many different ways, thank you.

Finally, and most importantly, I have to say thank you to all QWSG members for your support and fieldwork over the last 12 months. Without you we achieve nothing. I hope this 2023 report has shown you how important your support, your counts, and your involvement is in everything to do with Waders.

So, I wish you all a great 2024, good Wader Watching and please stay safe.

David Edwards – Chairperson QWSG

10th December 2023

## QWSG Treasurer's Report to 2023 AGM

Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) is a special interest group of Queensland Ornithological Society (QOSI), also known as Birds Queensland (BQ). QWSG statements are included in the complete Audited Financial Statements and Treasurer's report for QOSI, which you will find in the members section of the QOSI website. Today I present the QWSG Profit and Loss Account from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023, and the QWSG Balance sheet as at 30 September 2023, along with my Treasurer's report at that date (note rounded figures in reports).

### PROFIT & LOSS

#### **Total Income: \$67,695**

The major items of income, Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd, Course Fees, Donations, Bank Interest, and Sale of Data are all higher than in the past year.

- Donations included General Donations \$600, David Milton Fund, and the overseas donation of \$11,784 to be earmarked for purchase of trackers. Although this latter amount was \$20,00, the auditor felt the balance should sit in the Liabilities, under Donations not spent \$8,216.
- Sale of Data was to DES \$1,000, Healthy Land and Water \$5,000, and balance of DES grant CSAT20034 was transferred to sale of Data \$4,784.45 as a transfer from the Liabilities as negotiated with the DES Grant representatives.
- Course fees were for QYAC Rangers' Course fees and catering \$350, and EIANZ/BL Southern Queensland workshops \$500. (Catering income separately noted \$113).
- Bank Interest continues to be significant income in all three savings accounts. See the item in the Balance representing the interest earned on the large term deposit, as accrued interest to 30 September.

#### **Total Expense: 58,571**

Running down the column of Expenses, our regular General Expenses Audit fee, Bank Fee, Computer Expense, Course Catering, Insurance, Miscellaneous, Subscriptions, and Website Expense show no surprises, and in some cases, they have increased and others decreased compared to the previous year.

Major Expenses are:

- Advertising and marketing: less than last year as Billboard Campaign has finished.
- Cannon Netting: This year items purchased were Black Powder, Igniters, Leg Flags, and firing box repair. Our new Mist nets show under Assets rather than as an expense and will be depreciated over 3 years.
- Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd Travel (contract expenses): higher this year as more counters claimed and claimed for more counts.
- Depreciation: less this year as most of our assets have been written off (see Balance Sheet).
- Donations higher this year: \$2,000 Donation for Fieldwork Bohai Bay China: Global Flyway Network; Financial Support for the Australian Shorebird Conference 2022 \$2,750; AOC 2023 Sponsorship: University of Queensland \$2,200; and Donation to Toondah Alliance: Welcome Back Waders Oct 23 \$2,000.
- Japanese visit \$1,050: this is expense for the visit to Brisbane. See Other Assets, Prepayments for flight and accommodation expense for D Edwards visit to Japan in the 2023-24 financial year (which was paid prior to 30 September).
- Last financial year we supported a publication by Brad Woodward et al.
- Project Expenses: Eastern Curlew Satellite Tracking (and other species?) is higher this year due to the grant having finished. QWSG now has to pay all the monthly tracking expenses.
- Satellite Import Duty \$2,510: QWSG paid the duty on trackers purchased by Birdlife and Sunshine coast Council.
- Donated Satellite Transmitters: Purchase cost and import duty on the transmitters purchased with the overseas donation.
- There were many more survey and banding expenses this year.

#### **Net Profit/Surplus for the year: \$9,125 (last year \$20,706)**

### BALANCE SHEET

- Current Assets: Total Cash at Bank has risen to \$228,285. (This consists of our Cash Management Account for regular payments, two Term Deposits, the smaller one being earmarked for Research Grants,

and one Visa Debit Account for small purchases by office bearers. The balance of the Visa Account is always kept at \$1,000 by reimbursement from the General Account

- Other Assets: We always have a large figure in Trade Debtors, as Port of Brisbane is invoiced late in the year, and they pay in the new financial year. There are two new items in Other Assets: Sundry Debtor – term deposit interest and Prepayments - Japan visit.
- Although the small term deposit matured on 2 November, the interest on the 6 month term will come into the 2023-24 year, but the auditor chose to calculate how much of the large interest payment due on the large term deposit represented income in the 2022-23 financial year – hence the Sundry Debtor.
- Although QWSG paid \$2,421 for David Edwards' accommodation and flight for his visit to Japan in 2023, the auditor put that in the Balance sheet as a prepayment. I shall have to do some adjustments on 1 October.
- The figure for Non-Current Assets has reduced to \$2,250 as our assets are depreciated. Only the Vortex Scope, Leg Flag Computer, Billboard skins, and Mist Nets have not yet been fully depreciated. Depreciation has been a large expense in the last few years.

**TOTAL ASSETS: \$258,786**

- Current Liabilities. There are no Trade Creditors.
- Member subscriptions paid in advance: \$845 (this is a popular option).
- Unspent donations: \$8,216. The auditor felt the balance of the overseas donation for purchase of trackers should sit in the Liabilities, under Donations not spent \$8,216.

**TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$9,061**

- Total Assets \$258,786 minus \$Total Liabilities \$9,061 gives us Net Assets \$249,725.
- When Net Profit \$9,125 is added to the Opening retained Profits 240,600, the Closing Member Funds are \$249,725 which equals our Net Asset figure. (Last year Closing Member Funds \$240,600).

This is a very good result both financially and in achieving our goals, and in our having sufficient funds to plan for future activities towards these goals.

Thanks to all who help by giving advice, by collecting and forwarding receipts, advising of invoices to be issued, approving payments, scrutinising the written reports, and to Brenda as we try to navigate the vagaries of some of the payments in our membership system, Thanks also to Jon Coleman for taking responsibility for the Asset Register. When new assets are purchased, I'll be sending him the invoices, and it will help him keep the register up to date if he is advised when assets are moved to a new home or become lost or unusable. Many thanks again, it is a privilege to work for such an important group, and to be able to see, as I navigate the finances, the jolly hard work done by the individuals in the group.

Judith Giles, Treasurer

10 December 2023

## QWSG Membership Officer's Report to 2023 AGM

QWSG Membership as of 9th Dec 2023 AGM report

As at 9th Dec 2023 there is a total of 247 memberships, with 318 members, this includes all family members and life members (6 memberships 8 members).

In addition - there are 18 memberships, 20 members whose membership is on hold awaiting payment. These are less than 3 months overdue.

There are 40 complimentary newsletter recipients – not included in the above figures.

In the past year there have been 74 new memberships, 97 members. A number of these are joining when joining Birds Queensland.

During the year there have been several memberships cancelled when they were 3 months overdue for payment, however the number of new members keeps the numbers of memberships/members fairly steady.

Whilst new members are not offered the option to join via Birds Queensland this doesn't seem to have had any effect of the number of new memberships.

Brenda Smith, QWSG Membership Officer

10 December 2023

## Count Coordinator's Report to 2023 AGM

There was no rest month for the count programme in 2023 with 12 counts completed for the year. An additional optional count was included in early September to capture returning Far Eastern Curlew numbers. A total of 13 counters conducted the optional count at 28 count sites.

Unfortunately, once again, some sites have not been fully covered for the year. To date, the 7 sites in Tweed Heads have only been counted once (January) this year due to shortage of counters and just 5 counts were conducted at Wave Break Sand Island on the Gold Coast due to the counter travelling during the year. Luggage Point has also suffered a similar fate (5 counts to date) due to work commitments by the counters. In the Burdekin region, only 8 sites have been surveyed 3 times due to bad weather conditions and holidays.

Although there are still numerous sites that are not being counted along the Queensland coast, we have managed to gain a few more counters (or perhaps I should say replacement counters). Alice and Frank Ekin (with helpers Frank Lawlor and Christine Heiser) have been counting Garnet's Lagoons Susan River since late 2022 while John Knight recuperated after surgery. Alice and Frank may well become the permanent counters for the site. Anne De Bleser and Corinne Carpentier are counting the 4 sites at Boonooroo while Cecile Espigole takes some extended breaks away and Burnice Starkey has been assisting Judith Coles to count the Caloundra sites.

There were 4 seasonal counts completed for Moreton Island and 3 for St. Helena Island.

Online entries by counters continued to be excellent and required very few amendments.

Monthly counts conducted during 2023 are as follows:

- 948 entered, validated and uploaded into the data base (includes 37 from the GSS Survey)
- 110 validated and waiting to be uploaded into the data base
- 4 waiting to be validated

Approximately 80 counts to be entered from counters for December which will need checking, validating and uploading.

This will make a total of 1,142. However, when we extract the 37 GSS survey counts, the total is then reduced to 1,121 (5 less than 2022) from the count programme itself.

Arthur Keates was the most prolific counter with more than 129 entries to the end of November, followed very closely by Dez Wells with 122.

To the end of November, Manly Harbour was again the most counted site during the year with 57 entries (11 more than last year), and again, Arthur Keates was the reason for 45 of those counts. Kakadu Beach Bribie Island was the second most counted with 23 entries, with most of them contributed to Michael Strong.

I once again thank Peter Driscoll (Data Manager) for his continued work maintaining the database and website. His job answering my enquiries and sorting out issues related to the count programme, the database and the website have been many and challenging.

The count programme would not exist if it were not for the dedicated counters who have contributed so much to the QWSG database, which is the most extensive wader (and other shorebirds) database in Australia. The QWSG and I, would like to sincerely thank all of you for your commitment.

Newsletter articles sent to David Edwards have been punctual and on a couple of occasions, early.

My thanks to the people I have already mentioned for their assistance during the year, and to everyone else from the group (on and off committee), for their commitment to the QWSG.

Linda Cross, QWSG Count Coordinator

10 December 2023

## Port of Brisbane Report to 2023 AGM.

A summary of the QWSG's contracted work with the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL).

This year I took a back seat regarding the upkeep of the counter/inductions list. Many thanks to Richard Ravell who relieved me of this job and maintained the list by liaising with Port Staff, Brenda Smith and Peter Rothlisberg.



In 2023 we scheduled 13 counts (1 more than the count programme) for the year. As I submit this report the December PBPL count has taken place prior to the AGM which will bring the total counts completed by the QWSG team to 13 for the year. The 13th count that we scheduled was conducted on a king tide on 22 January to ascertain how many birds utilised the Port complex during very high and king tides.

Including today's count for December, 167 Port counts (1 more than 2022) will be added to the database this year.

Attendance by QWSG members improved again this year with between 13 and 18 (average 14) volunteers most months. Seven new members have attended several counts during the year, and judging by their attendance, it looks like we have at least 4 who will be regular counters joining the rest of us each month.

Excluding the December count that took place today, the highest wader count for the year was the additional count on 22 January, with a total of 11,891 (which now includes the totals from Lytton No. 1 Claypan) being counted for the whole of the complex. This is an increase of 3,656 birds compared to 2022 (8,235) and an increase of 766 birds compared to 2021 (11,125). The 15 January count was the next highest count of 9,564 waders.

I would like to thank Michael Linde, Penelope Webster and Michael Whitty from the PBPL for looking after us during the counts.

Special thanks to Peter Rothlisberg and other members who arrived an hour earlier each month to conduct the Lake count prior to the scheduled count times and additional thanks again to Peter for organising the emails and allocating sites. Thank you to Richard Ravell and Brenda Smith for liaising on memberships, and finally a big thank you to the counters who turn up each month to conduct the count. Without you, these counts would not be possible to complete.

At this stage, it looks like I am still in a caretaker role!

Linda Cross

10 December 2023

## Banding and Flag Report to 2023 AGM.

Shorebird banding in 2023 was conducted on four occasions at both Great Sandy and Moreton Bay Marine Parks. This involved a combination of mist and cannon netting at Manly (January and October), Geoff Skinner Reserve (February) and Maaroom (February). The total numbers of birds caught are shown in Table 1 with a total of 289 new birds of 16 species banded and 17 recaptures of previously banded birds. While no birds were fitted with PTT's during the early part of the year, one Far Eastern Curlew, one Bar-tailed Godwit and a Whimbrel from previous projects are still providing data. In December further PTT's will be fitted with two targeted for Wandering Tattler and four for Bar-tailed Godwit to fill in gaps in our home range data. Thanks to Sunshine Coast Council, Birdlife SEQ and an anonymous QWSG donor for funding these devices.

Species	Number Banded	Number Recaptured	Total Caught
Bar-tailed Godwit	75		75
Common Greenshank	1		1
Curlew Sandpiper	71	4	75
Far Eastern Curlew	1		1
Great Knot	35	1	36
Greater Sand plover	1		1
Grey-tailed Tattler	22	4	26
Lesser Sand plover	12	3	15
Marsh Sandpiper	7		7
Pacific Golden Plover	8	2	10
Pied Oystercatcher	24	1	25
Pied Stilt	22	2	24
Red-necked Stint	7		7
Red Knot	1		1
Terek Sandpiper	11		11
Whimbrel	2		2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>306</b>

Up to the 31st October 2,836 leg flag resightings were made by members of the QWSG and other members of the public. This included 342 resightings of foreign flagged birds including 83 resightings of Chinese birds, 48 Japanese, 6 resightings of a Hong Kong flagged Great Knot, 4 resightings of New Zealand birds and 9 from Taiwan. There were also 74 resightings of birds in Queensland that were flagged in other states, typically birds on migration through Queensland but with some over summering.

This involved 65 records of Victorian birds, 7 Pied Oystercatchers with yellow flags put on in New South Wales and two records of birds flagged in Western Australia.

However, the vast majority of the resightings (2,614 or 92%) were of Queensland leg flagged birds with most recorded within the state of Queensland. There were 96 records of Queensland flagged birds either interstate (4) or overseas (92). Six birds were recorded in China and New Zealand respectively with the vast majority of birds (90) being records of Bar-tailed Godwit staging at sites in South Korea.

While leg flag resightings were sent in from sites all over Queensland three sites stood out with the most flag resightings, Manly Harbour (1,234 resightings), Wynnum Esplanade (628 resightings) and Thorneside Esplanade (291 resightings). Of all the resightings reported by the many, many observers both in Australia and overseas 81% (2,305) of the resightings were reported by two people with Arthur Keates reporting 1487 resightings and Tony Cotter 818. While these two deserve special mention every single resighting is important in furthering our understanding of shorebirds local and migratory movements. So, thank you to every single one of you who has taken the time to report a leg flag resighting or who has helped with banding and flagging. Without your help and support we wouldn't be collecting any data to help understand and better protect our shorebirds.

Jon Coleman Banding and Flag Officer

10 December 2023

## QWSG Education Report for AGM 10 Dec 2023

### **Wader Identification Days 2023**

Arthur and I led 5 wader identification days at Manly on 28 Jan, 26 Feb, 22 Oct, 19 Nov and 3 Dec, while Linda & Phil Cross lead 6 wader identification days at Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is on 23 Jan and 21 Feb, as well as Toorbul on 13 Mar, 23 Mar and 3 Nov. Thanks to Linda & Phil Cross and those who attended.

### **Shorebird presentations for the public**

On 21 Jan, Arthur and I did a shorebird presentation at the Wellington Manor Retirement Village, Birkdale for about 70 resident "inmates". They were very interested and asked many questions. Word has spread and we did another presentation for the Redlands Probus at Redlands Sports Club on 7 Feb.

On 15 May we did a presentation for Women's Interactive Group (WIG) at Cleveland, followed by a talk for Probus at Victoria Pt on 20 June and Probus Cleveland on 10 Aug.

### **Toondah Harbour**

14 May – Mother's Day March - Raby Bay Harbour Park to Cleveland Central. The march was peaceful with police keeping everyone safe. About 2,000 attended. Milly Formby's talk was well received. People visited us at the QWSG "Threats" banner. We chanted as we marched with Far Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit cut-outs, I was on Channel 7 TV news in its report of the event.

14 Oct – Welcome back the waders shorebird festival – QWSG shorebird photos were displayed for the first time in 2 marques erected together by Robert Bush who also did a talk for the public. Thanks Robert. QWSG's 3 banners were on display. Telescopes were on hand to show shorebirds to the public. Thanks for everyone who helped.

**QWSG Shorebird Education** in partnership with Moreton Bay Environmental Education (MBEEC) - To be recommenced for Grade 3 students at the Port of Brisbane in 2024. Principal Diane Aylward said they are planning a major re-launch next year for Birds & Beaches, Dogs & Leashes with help from QWSG volunteers. I would like to thank our volunteers for being patient with this program and hope you are available to help in 2024. I sincerely thank Rae Clark for taking over this part of QWSG Education.

### **QWSG Courses**

"Introduction to Shorebirds of Moreton Bay" course at QPWS Office, Manly and a field trip on 13 Jan to the Manly Harbour High Tide Roost. 3 out of 10 Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) Rangers plus Liz Gould from Healthy Land & Water attended. Thanks to David Edwards and Peter Rothlisberg for their presentations and Arthur for sharing his knowledge during the course.

"Introduction to Shorebirds of Moreton Bay" was on 2 Dec at the QPWS Office at Manly, followed by a visit to the Manly Harbour High Tide Roost for the field trip.

Once again, thanks to David Edwards and Peter Rothlisberg for their presentations. 27 participated out of 30 enrolments with 3 not able to attend on the day. Thanks to QPWS for providing a wonderful venue for our course. In particular, thanks Natalie Sands. I have received good feedback which I will pass on to David and Peter. One of the participants has written a report about the course which will be in the next newsletter.

### **Shorebird Library Displays**

A display on Bar-tailed Godwits was set up at Carina Library 1-22 Aug. This was limited to one species because of limited space. Migration maps showed the amazing journeys that these birds are capable of. I had a Bar-tailed Godwit cut-out in a container of sand and some photos.



The display at Stones Corner was 28 Oct–25 Nov with 4 shelves available for Far-eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey-tailed Tattler, Lesser Sand Plover and Red-necked Stint cut outs with migration maps except for Lesser Sand Plover.

Wynnum Library has requested a display and a talk at their library next year.

Regrettably, I will stand down from my position of Education Officer due to health reasons. I haven't made this decision lightly and will miss my role.

Thanks to everyone who helped bring shorebird education to the public.

Best wishes to all for 2024.

Sheryl Keates, QWSG Education Officer

10 December 2023

## QLD Wader Study Group – Shorebird ID Course

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 – Manly

I have been a birdwatcher for 20 years, but shorebirds (along with little brown birds) have remained largely a mystery to me. So, I was excited to attend the QWSG Shorebird ID course at Manly on 2 December 2023. There were 27 participants which probably means I was not alone in finding shorebirds difficult to identify and is a hopeful sign that there are lots of us who are interested in shorebirds and helping to protect them.

David Edwards welcomed the participants and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land we were meeting on.

David explained the role of the Queensland Wader Study Group and then gave some general information about migratory shorebirds and their migration and breeding patterns as well as information about the Moreton Bay shorebird area which stretches 130km from Caloundra to Southport. We learnt the main threats to shorebirds are: loss and/or degradation of habitat; disturbance from human activities; lack of community awareness; and climate change.

Peter Rothlisberg then presented some specific information about how to identify shorebirds. We learnt there are three ways to identify species:

- anatomy or topography;
- GISS (General Impression, Size and Shape)
- and habitat.

Peter gave very specific anatomy, GISS and habitat clues for the 25 most abundant shorebird species in Moreton Bay. At this point my confidence was soaring – it all seemed quite clear as we worked through the species one by one.

But then Peter gave us a test prepared by Arthur Keates! The test consisted of a photo of approximately 100 shorebirds on a shoreline. There were many different species in the group, and we had to identify four of them. Grrr – it wasn't so easy with more than one species in the picture and they're all grey or brown!

After lunch we met at the Manly Harbour Roost site for an opportunity to put what we had learned in the morning sessions into practice. Several members of the QWSG provided their scopes for our use and were on hand to assist with ID. I was very impressed with how generous and patient the members were as they wrangled 27 eager newcomers all clamouring to catch a sight of species as they were spotted and of course attempting to identify species on our own with varying levels of success. And all on a very hot December afternoon.

I personally saw Bar-tailed Godwits, Grey-tailed tattlers, Ruddy Turnstones, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint, Terek Sandpiper, and Broad-billed Sandpiper. And I know others saw more.

Many thanks to Sheryl Keates for organising the training and keeping things on track on the day (and for morning tea!). Thanks also to all the QWSG members who so generously gave their time, equipment, and expertise.

## Eight threatened shorebirds added

Eight species of migratory shorebirds which regularly visit Australia were added to the Federal Government's List of Threatened Species recently, reflecting substantial declines in their populations. Long-term surveys conducted by volunteers across Australia, including Queensland Wader Study Group, were crucial in the birds' inclusion on the list.

It has long been known that migratory shorebirds are under pressure from several threats right along the length of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, and by far and away the most pressing of these is the loss of their coastal habitats, especially the intertidal mudflats that they rely on for foraging, and the adjacent hinterlands which are used for roosting.

Whether situated along their migratory route or in their overwintering sites, these pressures have combined to send the populations of many species of shorebirds that visit Australia into a steep decline in recent decades. These alarming declines have been shown clearly by wader surveys that have been conducted across Australia by volunteers since the early 1980s. Falls in the numbers of birds visiting Australia reflect declines in their overall world populations.

Such population declines have already been acknowledged for a few species; the Eastern Curlew, for example, was included on the Australian threatened species list several years ago.

Now, the Federal Government has recognised the dire situation of eight more species of migratory shorebirds by adding them to the burgeoning list of threatened species in Australia.

The species added to this unenviable list were:

- Black-tailed Godwit (Endangered)
- Common Greenshank (Endangered)
- Ruddy Turnstone (Vulnerable)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Vulnerable)
- Latham's Snipe (Vulnerable)
- Asian Dowitcher (Vulnerable)
- Grey Plover (Vulnerable)
- Terek Sandpiper (Vulnerable)

In addition, the Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit had its conservation 'uplisted' to Endangered.

Meanwhile, the Siberian Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Red Knot have all been 'downlisted'.



## Queensland to Ban New Oil and Gas Projects in Lake Eyre Basin.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



BirdLife Australia welcomes today's announcement by Queensland Premier Steven Miles, which will reinforce protections for the vital wetlands of the Channel Country within the Lake Eyre Basin.

Chris Purnell, BirdLife Australia's Wetland Birds Program Manager, emphasised the critical significance of these wetlands for the survival of some of Australia's most unique and threatened wetland-dependent bird species, including the Endangered Australian Painted Snipe.

"In times of flood these wetlands boom with breeding waterbirds. Herons, cormorants, pelicans and other wetland birds from across Australia will gather in the Channel Country in the tens of thousands to breed and grow their flocks. Today's announcement of new environmental regulations, including banning future oil and gas projects, will help protect this special place and ensure our amazing waterbirds thrive," said Purnell.

Sheena Gillman, BirdLife Southern Queensland Conservation Officer – a driving force behind BirdLife Australia's public campaign advocating for enhanced protections in the Channel Country – also endorsed the announcement. She urged the Miles Government to seize this opportunity for investment in sustainable nature-based tourism.

"After years of campaigning to protect this special place, bird and nature lovers will be celebrating the Queensland Government's announcement to remove the threat of oil and gas in the Channel Country," said Gillman. Investment in sustainable tourism opportunities is the next step and will provide regional rural communities a long-term economic alternative. Birdwatchers the world over make the pilgrimage to the Lake Eyre Basin during times of flood to witness the spectacle of thousands of waterbirds congregating together. We look forward to working with the Queensland Government to protect and promote this special part of Australia."

BirdLife Australia is eager to collaborate with the Queensland Government in safeguarding and promoting this extraordinary part of Australia.



## Kakadu Beach Bird Hide Vandalised

On the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> February local residents heard very loud music and shouting, alternating with offensive swearing. A group of young people carrying torches and loud music speakers were gathering at the bird hide, and they walked along the path then returned to the bird hide, during this time they kicked the walls of the bird hide and broke a few planks off the wall.

The police link was called at the time but they said police was extremely busy last night and unable to attend straight away!

Maybe the council will rethink the idea of CCTV now to protect our public assets



Vandalism at the Kakadu Beach Bird Hide

## And More Problems for Kakadu Beach

Approximately 12 Noon Sunday 25th February. High tide peaked just over an hour before and there was still lots of waders on the beach when these people turned up. It appears (but not sure) that they stopped so that they could have a rest and make some calls. The one jet ski (YC863Q) on the beach had a young lady passenger who is just to the right of the edited clip. I can provide several photos if required. When the two still on their jet skis saw me taking photos, they decided to go out further. They did not land on the beach, but they did come in close enough and it would have scared the waders if the first jet ski had not have already done this. They stayed on the beach for about 5 to 10 minutes, then drove off. Initially I thought that there may have been a fault with the jet ski, but how the left, it appeared to be operating normally and they were still using the jet ski for some time later.



## Minister's Reply to e-Petition

Our Ref: CTS 22882/23  
Your Ref: AI 193565

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8 JAN 2024

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 1 December 2023 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition Nos. 3964-23 and 3995-23 concerning protection of migratory shorebirds and the Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan.

A The Moreton Bay Marine Park was established in 1993 and includes tidal lands and tidal waters from Caloundra Head in the north to the northern breakwall of the Gold Coast Seaway in the south. A large proportion of the Marine Park is also designated as an internationally significant wetland under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention). The Moreton Bay Ramsar site is one of five sites in Queensland.

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (the department) manages the Marine Park through the Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2019. The Zoning Plan currently contains a number of provisions to protect shorebirds within the Marine Park by making it an offence for a person to disturb shorebirds by:

- taking a dog into the Marine Park that is not controlled or restrained in such a way as to cause unreasonable disturbance to a shorebird in the Marine Park;
- navigating an aircraft or vessel or driving a vehicle through a group of feeding or roosting shorebirds;
- landing, or taking off in, an aircraft through, or hovering in an aircraft above, a group of feeding or roosting shorebirds; and
- a person must also not cause undue disturbance to the habitat of a shorebird in the Marine Park.

The Zoning Plan also places restrictions on certain activities in each of the four zone types that occur in the Marine Park — Marine National Park, Conservation Park, Habitat Protection and General Use — to ensure that areas of sensitive and/or important habitat are not physically disturbed from impacts associated with development and some commercial fishing methods.

The department is currently in the preparatory stages of a review of the Zoning Plan in accordance with the provisions of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, which requires subordinate legislation to be reviewed every 10 years. The review provides an opportunity to identify issues and propose changes to improve management to deliver the purpose of the Marine Parks Act 2004, which is the conservation of the marine environment.

As part of the review, analysis of whether the current Zoning Plan provisions are effective and efficient in protecting shorebirds and their habitat in the Moreton Bay Marine Park will be undertaken.

The recent work by Healthy Land & Water to identify and map significant shorebird roosting and feeding sites in Moreton Bay Marine Park will be considered during the zoning plan review process.

I am aware that there are significant shorebird roosting areas outside of the Marine Park boundary, and of the community calls to increase protection at these sites.

Work is currently being undertaken to consider the issue of increased protection measures for migratory shorebirds within the Moreton Bay Marine Park. The department will continue to have discussions with organisations such as the Queensland Wader Study Group on improving protection measures for shorebird habitat both inside and outside State marine parks.

Our government is committed to the protection of endangered and threatened species, and I note the imperative of ensuring the correct protection measures are in place. The revised Zoning Plan will be finalised in due course, and the concerns raised in this petition will be considered as part of this process.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Linard MP Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef  
Minister for Science and Innovation

## Count Programme by Linda Cross

Variable weather conditions along the Queensland coast for the National Summer count over the weekend of 27 and 28 January 2024 created issues for some counters.

A total of 82 sites were counted but regrettably 29 sites were not due to a variety of factors. It was disappointing that several counters could not do the count on the scheduled day due to numerous issues with only 39 sites being counted on the 27 January and a further 40 surveyed within 3 days either side of that date. Wunjunga Wetlands in the Burdekin region was counted on 4 January, St. Helena Island count took place on 2 February, Maroochydore sites were surveyed on 5 February and due to storms and heavy rain in Brisbane on 28 January, 2 of sites were rescheduled with the Port of Brisbane complex count taking place on 9 February and Luggage Point on 11 February.

The 2024 National Summer count produced a total of 33,816 waders from 82 count sites.

In the table below are the results for the National Summer count. Species listed as per IOC checklist v14.1. Also included in the last column are the totals for the 2023 count (from 95 count sites) for comparison.

Species	FNQ	CQ	GSS	SC	NMB	CMB	SMB	GC/TH	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
Beach Stone-curlew	-	-	-	3	5	12	-	-	20	11
Bush Stone-curlew	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Pied Oystercatcher	5	2	187	9	130	216	282	-	831	649
Sooty Oystercatcher	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	4	10
Pied Stilt	402	69	64	-	133	1250	166	-	2084	69
Red-necked Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	38	-
Grey Plover	-	-	37	-	82	8	-	-	127	103
Pacific Golden Plover	-	8	26	195	56	46	108	-	439	816
Black-fronted Dotterel	-	27	1	-	3	4	-	-	35	19
Masked Lapwing	86	19	35	4	74	49	7	-	274	348
Siberian Sand Plover	-	73	92	-	44	860	130	-	1199	1489
Greater Sand Plover	2	-	9	-	4	50	-	-	65	350
Red-capped Plover	24	210	445	44	40	140	22	-	925	721
Comb-crested Jacana	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	8	13
Eurasian Whimbrel	20	46	-	108	498	274	118	62	1126	1112
Far Eastern Curlew	5	65	482	40	494	447	266	-	1799	1941
Bar-tailed Godwit	69	144	2659	80	6951	1707	1726	-	13336	9814
Black-tailed Godwit	4	-	1	-	-	408	-	-	413	67
Latham's Snipe	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	4	3
Terek Sandpiper	6	-	2	-	-	-	17	-	25	273
Grey-tailed Tattler	38	-	-	4	484	1275	222	-	2023	1165
Wandering Tattler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marsh Sandpiper	107	-	28	-	-	5	2	-	142	76
Nordmann's Greenshank	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Common Greenshank	-	2	-	-	1	7	44	-	54	68
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	13	-	1	119	21	-	154	70
Great Knot	205	-	780	-	353	435	28	-	1801	2508
Red Knot	2	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	7	64
Broad-billed Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	13	37	76	33	30	577	32	-	798	194
Curlew Sandpiper	8	13	27	-	-	2186	10	-	2244	3361
Red-necked Stint	2	336	90	-	58	2798	548	-	3832	4263
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	6	4
Unidentified small wader	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
Unidentified med wader	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	64
<b>Total Wader Species</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total Wader Numbers</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>5060</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>9453</b>	<b>12915</b>	<b>3751</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33816</b>	<b>29779</b>

**FNQ** – Far North Queensland – Burdekin region, Cairns and Cooktown (4 sites). Eight sites in the Burdekin River area were not counted.

**CQ** – Central Queensland – Gladstone and Yeppoon (6 sites). No counts for Bundaberg or Mackay.

**GSS** – Great Sandy Strait – Boonooroo, Maaroom and Hervey Bay (10 sites). No counts for Tin Can Bay.



**SC** – Sunshine Coast – Caloundra, Maroochy River and Noosa River (10 sites).

**NMB** – North Moreton Bay – Moreton Island, Redcliffe, Deception Bay, Bribie Island and Toorbul (25 sites). Two sites were not counted.

**CMB** – Central Moreton Bay – Port of Brisbane, St. Helena Island, Luggage Point, Kedron Brook and Pine River (12 sites).

**SMB** – Southern Moreton Bay – Victoria Point, Thornlands, Cleveland, North Stradbroke Island, Wellington Point, Thorneside, Manly and Lytton (14 sites). No counts for 2 sites in the southern section.

**GC/TH** – Gold Coast (1) site. No counts for 7 sites in Tweed Heads NSW.

Note: There are 14 sub-sites within the Port of Brisbane complex but recorded as 1 site for the table.

In the table, 21 migratory (2 less than last year) and 9 resident species (same as last year) were recorded during the summer count. Migratory waders accounted for 88% (6% less than last year) of the count. Of those, 45% were Bar-tailed Godwit, Red-necked Stint count was 13% and Curlew Sandpiper was 8%. Resident wader numbers were 12% (6% more than last year) of the count with Pied Stilt accounting for 49%, Red-capped Plover was 22% and Pied Oystercatcher was 20% of the resident wader total. Central Moreton Bay sites recorded 38% of the total summer count followed by North Moreton Bay with 28% and Great Sandy Strait with 15%.

In the table below are the regional National Summer counts for the past few years for comparison.

Year	Sites counted	FNQ	CQ	GSS	SC	NMB	CMB	SMB	GC/TH	Total
2024	82	999	1056	5060	520	9453	12915	3751	62	33816
2023	95	2076	1737	3188	369	7701	11050	3544	114	29779
2022	66	5167	190	447	327	3261	7746	5615	NC	22753
2021	85	103	270	7209	436	7231	10051	7333	87	32720
2020	97	720	827	2892	380	9277	11809	8622	10	34537

It was unfortunate that the Burdekin region was not surveyed because potentially that would have added additional numbers for a few species in the table (Grey Plover, Terek Sandpiper and Great Knot) and the total Eurasian Whimbrel count for North Moreton Bay should certainly be higher as they were not recorded on the Toorbul or Kakadu Beach counts. When disturbed from Toorbul, most of this species do not relocate to Kakadu Beach with the other waders but prefer to perch in the mangrove trees in the middle of the passage. This has been observed on several occasions and is confirmed by the database records. Equally, other species such as Grey-tailed Tattler and Terek Sandpiper, also like to roost in mangrove trees, so these (along with Eurasian Whimbrel) are not seen at most high tide roosts. Given that 29 sites in the count programme were not surveyed, the overall count is encouraging. We have lost numerous counters and sites all along the Queensland coast which are no longer included in the count programme and where surveys do not take place anymore, which would add greatly to these figures.

When the Port of Brisbane complex count was rescheduled due to heavy rain on 28 January, the most suitable date for the Port staff was 9 February, which just happened to be a 2.68m king tide. This was another opportunity to record the number of waders using the Port complex on king tides. The count produced a total of 9,940 waders (1,951 less than the previous king tide count on 22 January 2023). Some of the high counts included 183 Pied Oystercatcher, 509 Pied Stilt, 860 Siberian Sand Plover, c 50 Greater Sand Plover, 289 Far Eastern Curlew, 1,632 Bar-tailed Godwit, 1,275 Grey-tailed Tattler, 119 Ruddy Turnstone, 411 Great Knot, 436 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 2,105 Curlew Sandpiper and 1,897 Red-necked Stint.

In the table below are remaining records for juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit. This exercise helps determine the breeding success of the birds on the breeding grounds.

Site	Date	Bar-tailed Godwit flock size	Juveniles in flock
Goat Island SE	02.11.23	387	32
Dead Tree Beach Moreton Island	02.11.23	1220	<70
Noosa River mouth sandbanks	02.11.23	55	Over 80%
Manly Harbour	09.11.23	640	>16
Thorneside Queen's Esplanade	09.11.23	164	8
Lytton Claypan No. 1	11.11.23	639	37
Oyster Point	17.11.23	24	13
Port of Brisbane complex	12.11.23	3	1

In addition to the juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit records the following juveniles were recorded:

Site	Date	Species	Flock size	Juveniles in flock
Port of Brisbane complex	12.11.23	Pied Stilt	52	7
Oyster Point	17.11.23	Pied Stilt	21	11
Endeavour River claypan Cooktown	14.12.23	Pied Stilt	3	1
Kakadu Beach Bribie Island	17.12.23	Pied Stilt	314	numerous
Port of Brisbane complex	12.11.23	Red-necked Avocet	38	5

Thank you to the counters who took the time to check and record juvenile birds.

The vagrant Nordmann's Greenshank that was first recorded at the Cairns Esplanade in early 2021 returned for another summer to the area and was recorded during the National Summer Count.

Although other vagrant waders have been reported this summer on different portals, only 2 were recorded on QWSG count entries. An Asian Dowitcher was recorded at Oyster Point on 12.12.23 and a Pectoral Sandpiper surveyed at a restricted site in Moreton Bay on 22.12.23.

As you receive this newsletter the birds should be showing breeding plumage (BP) and if you wish, you can record information on the varying amount of BP in the comments alongside each individual species. Double-banded Plover will be arriving soon from across the Tasman to our shores, so please look through the smaller wader flocks during your count.

Although you will see I have recorded some high counts for Pied Stilt and Silver Gull extracted from the counts, it is quite noticeable that some waterbirds (particularly ducks) numbers have dropped. This is possibly due to parts of inland Queensland and other states receiving a lot of rain that has attracted them elsewhere.

**Grey Plover:** Mirapool Beach Moreton Island (76) on 29.01.24, Burdekin River 1 (42) on 22.12.23 and Boonooroo (37) on 27.01.24

**Pacific Golden Plover:** Port of Brisbane complex (410) on 12.11.23, O'Regan Creek Hervey Bay (255) on 12.11.23 and Maroochy River sandbar (136 – large number for this site) on 05.02.24

**Siberian Sand Plover:** Port of Brisbane complex (860) on 09.02.24, Geoff Skinner Reserve (621) on 09.12.23, Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay (410) on 09.12.23 and Manly Harbour (334) on 13.01.24

**Greater Sand Plover:** Burdekin River 1 (c 500) on 22.12.23 and Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay (96) on 09.12.23

**Eurasian Whimbrel:** Goat Island SE (248) on 29.01.24, Port of Brisbane complex (230) on 12.11.23 and Toorbul (228) on 12.11.23 and Mirapool Moreton Island (213) on 29.01.24

**Far Eastern Curlew:** Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (515) on 19.11.23, Boonooroo (372) on 27.01.24, Mirapool Moreton Island (360) on 02.11.23 and Mangrove Point sth claypan Hervey Bay (332) on 04.01.23

**Bar-tailed Godwit:** Dead Tree Beach Moreton Island (4,930) on 29.01.24, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (2,932) on 03.12.23, Geoff Skinner Reserve (1,690) on 13.01.24 and Port of Brisbane complex (1,632) on 09.02.24

**Black-tailed Godwit:** Gregory Rd Hays Inlet (360) on 27.01.24 and Redcliffe Airport northside (283) on 08.12.23

**Latham's Snipe:** Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (5) on 05.11.23 and Nathan Road Redcliffe (2) on 27.01.24. Single birds were also recorded at Kedron Brook Wetlands, Dohle's Rocks Road Pond, Garnet's Lagoon Susan River and Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone between December and January

**Terek Sandpiper:** Burdekin River Delta mangroves (c 200) on 22.12.23, Maaroom (98) on 09.12.23 and Manly Harbour (82) on 13.01.24

**Common Sandpiper:** Burdekin River Delta mangroves (1) on 22.12.23 and Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (1) on 11.12.23 and (1) on 03.11.23

**Grey-tailed Tattler:** Port of Brisbane complex (1,275) on 09.02.24 and (865) on 10.12.23, Manly Harbour (664) on 22.01.24 and Godwin Beach (439) on 28.01.24

**Marsh Sandpiper:** Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (107) on 04.01.24 and Maaroom (58) on 09.12.23

**Common Greenshank:** Geoff Skinner Reserve (42) on 27.01.24 and Redcliffe Airport northside (17) on 08.12.23

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Port of Brisbane complex (119) on 09.02.24 and Manly Harbour (68) on 09.11.23

**Great Knot:** Maaroom (c 1,300) on 11.11.23 and (c 900) on 09.12.23, Port of Brisbane complex (552) on 10.12.23

**Red Knot:** Maaroom (c 100) on 11.11.23 and Gregory Rd Hays Inlet (45) on 11.11.23

**Broad-billed Sandpiper:** Port of Brisbane complex (6) on 10.12.23, Manly Harbour (4) on 23.11.23, Burdekin River 1 (3) on 22.12.23 and Cairns Esplanade (1) on 09.11.23

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** Port of Brisbane complex (602) on 10.12.23

**Curlew Sandpiper:** Port of Brisbane complex (2,105) on 09.02.24 and (1,963) on 12.11.23

**Red-necked Stint:** Port of Brisbane complex (2,522) on 12.11.23, Geoff Skinner Reserve (573) on 09.12.23 and Burdekin River 1 (c 500) on 22.12.23

**Sanderling:** Mirapool Beach Moreton Island (6) on 29.01.24, Godwin Beach (1) on 26.11.23 and Noosa River mouth sandbanks (1) on 02.11.23

**Breeding records – resident waders:**

**Beach Stone-curlew:** Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (newly hatched chick) on morning of 04.11.23

**Pied Oystercatcher:** Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladston (2 adults with 1 chick) on 03.11.23. Manly Harbour (2 adults with juvenile) on 09.11.23 and several immatures in a large flock on 06.02.24. Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (2 juveniles and 2 chicks) on 12.11.23 and (2 small chicks) on 19.11.23.

**Pied Stilt:** Manly Harbour (1 on nest) on 03.01.24, (3 pairs nesting) on 08.01.24 and (>4 pairs nesting) on 22.01.24. Kianawah Road Wetland (1 pair copulating) on 27.01.24. Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (1 nest) on 25.01.24. Manly Harbour (>14 pairs nesting, 2 pairs with 2 chicks and 1 pair with 1 chick) on 06.02.24.

**Black-fronted Dotterel:** Port of Brisbane complex (pair mating) on 12.11.23.

**Masked Lapwing:** Boonooroo (4 juvenile) on 11.11.23. Maaroom (adult sitting on nest with 2 eggs). Manly Harbour (aggressive behaviour indicates breeding) on 06.02.24.

**Red-capped Plover:** Port of Brisbane complex (2 juvenile) on 12.11.23. Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (2 nests with 2 eggs in each) on 11.12.23. Manly Harbour (1 runner) on 17.12.23 and a pair nesting on 19.12.23. Manly Harbour (pair nesting on 08.01.24). Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (1 chick and 2 juvenile) on 25.01.24.

**Comb-crested Jacana:** Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (adult with 4 chicks) on 25.01.24.

We would like to remind members that the counter for Tweed Heads (Erina Forrest) is looking for anyone in the Gold Coast/Tweed Heads area that would be willing to help her conduct the counts. Please contact Erina by email at [erina.forrest@gmail.com](mailto:erina.forrest@gmail.com)

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: [xenus69@bigpond.com](mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com)

Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 5495 2758 Mobile: 0490 080 340

A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. Please note that you can now enter flagged and banded sightings on the new website. If you prefer, you can email sightings to Jon Coleman (email address [legflags@waders.org.au](mailto:legflags@waders.org.au)). You can also contact Jon, Phil or me for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Happy counting.  
Linda Cross.

**Interesting resident wader sightings**

**Beach Stone-curlew:** St. Helena Island (12 – very high count) on 02.02.24. Other records during the last few months came from Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (3), Noosa River sandbanks (3), Maroochy River Goat Island (3), Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (2), Reeders Point Moreton Island (2), Toorbul (1) and Gables Point Rocks Hervey Bay (1).

**Pied Oystercatcher:** Manly Harbour (223) on 27.01.24 and Port of Brisbane complex (183) on 09.02.24

**Sooty Oystercatcher:** Wickham Point (5) on 10.11.23, Manly Harbour (2) on 22.01.24 and (1) at the following sites during the last 3 months, Gables Point Rocks Hervey Bay, Scarborough to Clontarf, Maroochy River sandbar, Port of Brisbane and St. Helena Island North

**Pied Stilt:** Port of Brisbane complex (509) and (between 300 and 400) at Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island, Gregory Rd Hays Inlet and Luggage Point during the last 3 months

**Red-necked Avocet:** Gregory Rd Hays Inlet (89) on 22.12.23, Port of Brisbane complex (40) on 12.11.23, Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (39) on 11.12.23 and Luggage Point (37) on 11.02.24

**Black-fronted Dotterel:** Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (33) on 11.12.23 and (25) on 25.01.24. Port of Brisbane complex (14) on 12.11.23

**Masked Lapwing:** Cairns Esplanade (54) on 28.01.24 and Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (c 30) on 04.01.24

**Red-kneed Dotterel:** Garnet's Lagoon Susan River (11) on 11.11.23

**Red-capped Plover:** Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (259) on 11.12.23, O'Regan Creek Hervey Bay (245) on 27.01.24 and Kinka Beach Yeppoon (160) on 09.12.23

**Comb-crested Jacana:** Garnet's Lagoon Susan River (5) on 09.12.23.

**Not waders but of interest anyway**

**Magpie Goose:** Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (c750) on 04.01.24 and Port of Brisbane complex (458) on 10.12.23

**Spotted Whistling Duck:** Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (9 – regular sightings in Cooktown now for this species) on 14.12.23

**Plumed Whistling Duck:** Boonooroo (22 – includes 9 ducklings) on 27.01.24

**Wandering Whistling Duck:** Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (c 200) on 04.01.24

**Black Swan:** Bell's Creek Caloundra (223) on 26.01.24 and Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (148) on 27.01.24

**Radjah Shelduck:** Kinka Beach Yeppoon (40) on 09.12.23 and Queensland Aluminium Limited (3) on 03.11.23  
**Pink-eared Duck:** Garnet's Lagoon Susan River (1) on 11.11.23  
**Australasian Shoveler:** Port of Brisbane complex (1 – female) on 10.12.23  
**Pacific Black Duck:** Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (c500) on 04.01.24  
**Grey Teal:** Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (c300) on 04.01.24  
**Chestnut Teal:** Port of Brisbane complex (1,263) on 12.11.23  
**Buff-banded Rail:** Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (5 – 2 adults and 3 chicks) on 17.12.23  
**Spotless Crake:** Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (2) on 05.11.23 and 19.11.23  
**Brolga:** Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (14) on 27.01.24 and Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (13) on 04.01.24  
**Little Tern:** Port of Brisbane complex (365) on 09.02.24  
**Australian Tern:** Maaroom (212) on 09.12.23 and Garnet's Lagoon Susan River (211) on 09.12.23  
**Whiskered Tern:** Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (c120) on 04.01.24 and Garnet's Lagoon Susan River (45) on 11.11.23  
**Black-naped Tern:** Cairns Esplanade (2) on 09.12.23  
**Common Tern:** Maroochy River sandbar (4,130) on 05.02.24 and Noosa River sandbanks (3,004) on 30.01.24  
**Lesser Crested Tern:** Gables Point Rocks Hervey Bay (3) on 11.11.23 and (1) at Maroochy River sandbar on 05.02.24  
**Greater Crested Tern:** Dead Tree Beach Moreton Island (2,100) on 29.01.24  
**Silver Gull:** Port of Brisbane complex (654) on 09.02.24, Scarborough to Clontarf (473) on 10.11.23 and Cairns Esplanade (318) on 09.11.23  
**Black-necked Stork:** Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (7) on 04.01.24, Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (4 – 1 adult and 3 immature) on 14.12.23 and Boonooroo (1 – unusual at site) on 11.11.23  
**Great Cormorant:** Garnet's Lagoon Susan River (11) on 11.11.23 and Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (1 – unusual at site) on 04.02.24  
**Australian White Ibis:** Nathan Rd Redcliffe (98) on 27.01.24  
**Glossy Ibis:** Nathan Rd Redcliffe (9) on 27.01.24 and Bishops's Marsh Toorbul (2) on 27.01.24  
**Black Bittern:** Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (4) on 26.11.23 and (3) on 14.12.23  
**Nankeen Night Heron:** Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (1) on 11.12.23  
**Pacific Reef Heron:** Port of Brisbane complex (2) on 09.02.24  
**Little Egret:** Gregory Rd Hays Inlet (100) on 09.12.23  
**White-faced Heron:** Geoff Skinner Reserve (41) on 09.12.23 and Godwin Beach (36) on 01.01.24  
**White-necked Heron:** Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (1) on 27.01.24  
**Great Egret:** Gregory Rd Hays Inlet (100) on 09.12.23  
**Black-shouldered Kite:** Kinka Beach Yeppoon (2) on 11.11.23  
**Wedge-tailed Eagle:** Garnet's Lagoon Susan River (1) on 11.11.23  
**Black Kite:** Kinka Beach sandbar (5) on 09.12.23  
**Australian Hobby:** Garnet's Lagoon Susan River (1) on 27.01.24  
**Brown Falcon:** Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin region (1) on 04.01.24

## Wader ID Days

All participants **MUST REGISTER** with the leaders in case ANY of these outings are cancelled. Please supply name, phone number and email address. This will enable the leaders to contact you if the outing is cancelled.

BQ has relaxed the need for its Covid-19 safety practices, but importantly, you **SHOULD NOT** attend the outing if you are feeling unwell.

### Wader ID Days - Manly Boat Harbour

#### **Sunday 3 March 2024**

Meeting time 1400

#### **Saturday 16 March 2024**

Meeting time 1345

Meeting place: At the end of Davenport Dr, on the southern boundary of the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron Clubhouse.

To register for an outing, please send a text message to the leaders.

Under the conditions of the access agreement for the roost, participants must wear enclosed footwear and are responsible for their own health and safety, including:

- wearing protective clothing at all times (eg. hat, enclosed footwear, sunglasses) and using sunscreen
- drinking water to avoid dehydration
- using insect repellent if necessary
- telling a leader about any health issues that may affect taking part in the field trip
- if feeling unwell, or concerned about someone else being unwell, immediately telling a group leader or another participant
- immediately telling a group leader or another participant about any injury suffered (including a slip, trip, fall and snake bite) or hazard that may cause injury to someone.

Anyone who does not comply with these conditions will not be allowed to enter the site or asked to leave.

The gate will be locked after we enter the site and late arrivals will not be able to enter.

Participation in this field trip is strictly limited to those whose registration with the leaders is confirmed by the leaders.

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates 0490 951 661.

## **Wader ID Day Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island**

### **Tuesday 12 March 2024**

255m high tide at 10:59.

Meeting time 09:00 onwards

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane and take the Bribie Island exit. Continue on this road to Bribie Island and follow the signs to Banksia Beach. When you arrive at the T-junction at Banksia Beach turn left and after a short distance turn right into the car park for the roost. A bird hide is positioned at both ends of the roost.

Bring morning tea and a chair. It is a good idea to have a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Most importantly bring your binoculars or telescopes. Hopefully we can provide the answers to all your questions.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758. Linda's mobile: 0490 080 340

## **ID Day Reports**

### **Kakadu Beach Bribie Island Roost ID Report 28 November 2023**

By Linda Cross.

We were first to arrive in the car park at Kakadu roost for this ID session, but it was not long before another couple of attendees arrived and then quite some time later another attendee arrived. A couple of hours later, the last 2 attendees that had registered arrived not realising that the outing had started much earlier.

It was overcast, but dry with a gentle wind from the south, southeast. With a 2.53m high at 10:01, most of the waders were already assembled at the roost when we arrived.

The Beach Stone-curlew were seen bringing in 2 crabs and feeding it to their well grown youngster before the tide became too high for them to go foraging for more. During observations, the large flock were disturbed several times by a Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea Eagle and finally by a person fishing in a tinnie and getting too close to the roost. A lone Eurasian Whimbrel was observed with the flock of Far Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit, which is an unusual sighting at this roost. Also seen were 1 Red Knot and 1 Grey-tailed Tattler hidden in the flock. It was difficult to get everyone onto the Red Knot, but the tattler was an easier target.

Engraved green leg flags (banded in south-east Queensland) were observed on a few Bar-tailed Godwit and recorded for entry into the leg flag database. The group observed 6 migratory and 5 resident wader species.

## Birds seen:

3 Chestnut Teal, 2 Buff-banded Rail, 3 Beach Stone-curlew (2 adults and 1 juvenile) 8 Pied Oystercatcher, 221 Pied Stilt (includes 46 immature) 4 Masked Lapwing, 2 Red-capped Plover, 1 Eurasian Whimbrel, 202 Far Eastern Curlew, 1,027 Bar-tailed Godwit (includes 17 immature), 56 Great Knot, 1 Red Knot, 1 Grey-tailed Tattler, 26 Silver Gull, 7 Australian Tern, 1 Caspian Tern, 2 Greater Crested Tern, 3 Australian Pied Cormorant, 3 Australian White Ibis, 1 Striated Heron, 1 Great Egret, 1 Little Egret, 2 Eastern Osprey, 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle and 1 Peregrine Falcon.

## Kakadu Beach Bribie Island Roost ID Report 15 December 2023

By Linda Cross.

It was overcast, dry with cooler conditions than forecast when just 2 attendees (1 attending for the first time) joined us at the roost for this ID session. A 2.58m high at 11:15 saw the birds already assembled at the roost when we arrived. The overcast conditions and fewer attendees made for a pleasant and relaxed couple of hours viewing the birds.

Wader species were lower than the previous month. A Pacific Black Duck (uncommon at the roost) was observed walking through the roosting waders and as with the previous month ID session here, it was interesting and unusual to see a lone Eurasian Whimbrel again at the roost. No small waders were observed during the viewing. A count was conducted and added to the QWSG database.

Engraved green leg flags (banded in south-east Queensland) were observed on Bar-tailed Godwit but not recorded. The group observed 4 migratory and 4 resident wader species.

## Birds seen:

1 Pacific Black Duck, 1 Crested Pigeon, 1 Buff-banded Rail, 3 Beach Stone-curlew (2 adults and 1 juvenile) 4 Pied Oystercatcher, 178 Pied Stilt (includes 37 immature) 1 Masked Lapwing, 1 Eurasian Whimbrel, 226 Far Eastern Curlew, c 1,097 Bar-tailed Godwit, 24 Great Knot, 16 Silver Gull, 1 Greater Crested Tern, 2 Little Pied Cormorant and 1 Striated Heron.

## Kakadu Beach Bribie Island Roost ID Report 13 January 2024

By Linda Cross.

The weather forecast for hot, humid conditions with the possibility of showers was not what we wanted to hear given that 20 people had registered for this outing. Five attendees cancelled reducing the number to 15 (plus the 2 of us) assembling in the bird hide. Thankfully, the weather was pleasant, with a moderate southeast wind, no rain and overcast conditions making it feel cooler. By the time we left (just before midday) there were blue skies, and it was quite hot.

The 2.72m high due at 11:03 saw most of the birds already assembled at the roost when we got there. Once again, wader species were low with no small waders to be seen. Most people saw the 3 Red Knot mingling with the larger Great Knot and godwits. We observed 4 migratory and 3 resident wader species at the roost.

Engraved green leg flags (banded in south-east Queensland) were observed on several Bar-tailed Godwit and were reported on the QWSG website under 'Report a Banded/Leg Flag Sighting'. A count was conducted and added to the QWSG database.

## Birds seen: (F/O – Flying over)

1 Pacific Black Duck, 1 Spotted Dove, 3 Crested Pigeon, 1 Buff-banded Rail, 3 Beach Stone-curlew (2 adults and 1 juvenile) 7 Pied Oystercatcher, 105 Pied Stilt, 190 Far Eastern Curlew, c 1,690 Bar-tailed Godwit (underestimated), 34 Great Knot, 3 Red Knot, 4 Silver Gull, 2 Caspian Tern, 1 Little Pied Cormorant (F/O) 4 Royal Spoonbill (F/O) 2 Striated Heron, 1 Great Egret (F/O) 1 Australian Pelican and 1 Peregrine Falcon (F/O).

## Toorbul Roost ID Report 1 February 2024

By Linda Cross.

A total of 8 attendees (includes us) assembled at the Toorbul roost at 11:30 for this ID session. Weather conditions were partially overcast, dry with a moderate southeast wind.

Far Eastern Curlew were stretched out in front of the picnic area and a large group of godwits and knots were in front of the mangroves and on the roost. A very large flock of 393 Black Swan were on the roost and in the water directly in front of the roost, almost overshadowing the waders.



After the deluge of rain (>260 mm) the City of Moreton region experienced a couple of days prior to this meeting, and the moderate southeast wind being experienced, it was clear that the birds might vacate the roost site well before the 2.05 m peak at 13:45 and they certainly did. Most of the godwits were the first to leave around midday and by 12:15 all that was left were the Common Greenshanks and Black Swans.

On this occasion, we decided not to follow them across the passage to Kakadu roost on Bribie Island. Instead, we spent some time checking out the Beach Stone-curlew that came out of the mangroves. Quite a surprise to see this species here, although 1 has been recorded on site before.

In total, 9 (5 migratory and 4 resident) wader species were viewed at the roost with a couple of godwit and knots showing a trace of breeding plumage. A count was conducted for most species (a couple estimated due to leaving before count completed) and entered into the QWSG count database. Several godwits and whimbrel were sporting green leg flags (flagged in Moreton Bay) and a few were recorded for the leg flag database.

Birds seen at the main Toorbul roost and environs:

393 Black Swan (some on roost, rest in water in front) 1 Beach Stone-curlew, 2 Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt (group in sandfly roost) 4 Masked Lapwing, 148 Eurasian Whimbrel, 177 Far Eastern Curlew (an additional 37 could be seen on the Kakadu roost) c 800 Bar-tailed Godwit, c 30 Great Knot, 6 Common Greenshank, 2 Silver Gull (F/O) 1 Caspian Tern, 2 Little Pied Cormorant (F/O) 5 Australian White Ibis (F/O) 1 Royal Spoonbill, 4 White-faced Heron (F/O) 2 Little Egret (F/O) 3 Australian Pelican, 2 Whistling Kite (F/O) and 1 Brahminy Kite (F/O).

(F/O – Flying over, H - Heard):

Linda Cross.

## Manly Boat Harbour Shorebird Roost Report 3 February 2024

by Arthur Keates

The number of birds and diversity of species observed at the roost on this outing was relatively low with only very small numbers of some species, notably Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers. However, good views were obtained of 4 resident, and 12 migratory, species of shorebirds.

Several pairs of Pied Stilt let participants know by their constant yapping that they had nests nearby and one recently hatched chick at the water's edge was observed with a parent.

Apart from green leg flags on several species fitted in south-east Queensland by QWSG's banding team, a Great Knot banded in Victoria (plain orange flag) and another banded at Chongming Island, China (Black/white) were observed.

The following species were observed at the roost:

Chestnut Teal, Little Egret, Australian Pelican, Little Pied Cormorant, Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Silver Gull, Australian Tern and Caspian Tern.

## Kakadu Beach Bribie Island Roost ID Report 10 February 2024

By Linda Cross.

There was only 1 other vehicle in the car park when we arrived for the ID session. A couple of BQ members were having breakfast in their campervan, which was a sensible idea given that it was overcast with a moderate southeast wind and light drizzle.

The 2.76m king tide due at 10:00 (Brisbane Bar) saw most of the birds already assembled at the roost when we arrived to set up the scopes in the northern bird hide. Attendees arrived soon after making a total of 10 (including us) to view the birds.

Once again, wader species were low with no small waders to be seen for most of the viewing time. Standing in the bird hide was like being in a tunnel with the moderate wind blowing through the openings and the light rain dripping off the structure was showering anyone (and telescopes) standing too close. It became quite cool making some members collect their jackets from vehicles. They were the lucky ones, the rest of us without warmer clothing were forced to endure the wet and cool few hours of viewing.

The king tide and moderate southeast wind pushed the tide further into the roost and the godwits and knots were very unsettled lifting and flying out over the passage several times. They struggled for space on the decreasing sand at the roost while the much longer legged Far Eastern Curlew seemed oblivious to the waves washing in. It was just as well that their numbers were lower than previous outings making more room for the other species. We all searched for Black-tailed Godwit, but none could be found. However, we did find 2 Red Knot and about 10 minutes before the outing ended at 11:45 (with most attendees having left) 3 Red-capped Plover flew in and were added to the species list.

We observed 5 migratory and 4 resident wader species at the roost.

Engraved green leg flags (banded in south-east Queensland) were observed on a couple of dozen Bar-tailed Godwit and were reported on the QWSG website under 'Report a Banded/Leg Flag Sighting'. A count was conducted and added to the QWSG database.

Birds seen: (F/O – Flying over)

3 Pacific Black Duck (1 on roost, 2 F/O) 1 Chestnut Teal, 1 Spotted Dove, 3 Crested Pigeon, 4 Buff-banded Rail (includes 2 chicks) 3 Beach Stone-curlew (2 adults and 1 juvenile) 8 Pied Oystercatcher, 1 Pied Stilt, 4 Masked Lapwing, 3 Red-capped Plover, 1 Eurasian Whimbrel, 43 Far Eastern Curlew, c 1,520 Bar-tailed Godwit (underestimated), 87 Great Knot, 2 Red Knot, 1 Australian Tern, 6 Greater Crested Tern (includes 2 immature) 2 Silver Gull (1 adult and 1 juvenile) 2 Caspian Tern, 1 Little Pied Cormorant (F/O) 1 Little Black Cormorant, 1 Australian White Ibis (F/O) 2 Striated Heron ( 1 adult and 1 immature) 2 Great Egret (F/O) 1 Brahminy Kite (F/O and 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle (F/O).

## Wader Watch by Jon Coleman

Hi everyone,

Welcome to wader watch. For the period October to 11th February 2024. Over this period a total of 1,079 records were received with the breakdown of those records shown below.

### **Green Leg Flag sightings seen in QLD**

A total of 1,032 records of green flagged shorebirds were recorded during this period, many of these repeat resightings of birds recorded at roost sites in Moreton Bay with smaller numbers from Great Sandy Marine Park and other roost sites in Queensland.

### **Green Leg Flag Sightings seen Interstate**

Pied Oystercatcher

A8 – 16/01/2024, Ballina: *ABBBS*

ALE – 07/12/2023, Iluka: *ABBBS*

ALE – 13/01/2024, Iluka: *ABBBS*

ALX – 26/10/2023, Iluka: *ABBBS*

ATH – 05/01/2024, Iluka: *ABBBS*

### **Orange Leg Flag sightings (Victoria) seen in QLD**

Bar-tailed Godwit

CYE – 31/10/2023, Maaroom: *Anne de Bleser*

Great Knot

Plain – 09/11/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: *Arthur Keates*

Plain – 23/11/2023, Manly Harbour: *Arthur Keates*

Plain – 14/01/2024, Manly Harbour: *Arthur Keates*

Plain – 26/01/2024, Wynnum Esplanade: *Tony Cotter*

Plain – 03/02/2024, Manly Harbour: *Arthur Keates and ID day attendees*

Curlew Sandpiper

KHM – 01/11/2023, Wynnum Esplanade: *Arthur Keates*

### **Green over Orange Leg Flag sightings (NSW) seen in QLD**

Bar-tailed Godwit

EBA – 19/01/2024, Toorbul Wader Roost: *Arthur Keates*

EBA – 24/01/2024, Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island: *Terry Burgess*

### **Yellow Leg flag sightings (WA) seen in QLD**

Plain – 31/10/2023, Maaroom: *Anne de Bleser*

**Yellow Flagged Pied Oystercatchers from NSW**C4 – 07/11/2023, St Helena Pier: *Arthur Keates, Anne Buchanan, Wayne Matthews*S7-14/12/2023, Oyster Point: *Arthur Keates*J4-14/01/2024, Ocean Beach, Bribie Island: *Darren Jew***OVERSEAS FLAGGED BIRDS SEEN IN QLD****White over blue (Taiwan) leg flag sightings**Curlew Sandpiper6T – 23/11/2023, Manly Harbour: *Arthur Keates***White over Yellow (Hong Kong) leg flag sightings**Great KnotPlain – 31/10/2023, Maaroom: *Anne de Bleser***Black over white or white over black (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings**Great KnotAA1 – 01/11/2023, Wynnum Esplanade: *Arthur Keates*AA1 – 11/11/2023, Lytton Claypan: *Arthur Keates*AA1 – 26/01/2024, Wynnum Esplanade: *Tony Cotter*AA1 – 27/01/2024, Wynnum Esplanade: *Tony Cotter*AA1 – 03/02/2024, Wynnum Esplanade: *Tony Cotter*J62 – 04/11/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: *Tony Cotter*J62 – 09/11/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: *Tony Cotter*J62 – 20/11/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: *Wilmot Senaratne*J62 – 19/12/2023, Geoff Skinner Reserve: *Tony Cotter*J62 – 06/01/2024, Thorneside Esplanade: *Arthur Keates*J62 – 03/02/2024, Manly Harbour: *Arthur Keates and ID day attendees*EVO-29/12/2023, Bushland Beach: *John Lowry*Curlew SandpiperPlain – 09/11/2023, Manly Harbour, *Arthur Keates*Plain – 11/11/2023, Wynnum Esplanade, *Arthur Keates*Plain – 19/11/2023, Manly Harbour, *Arthur Keates*Plain – 23/11/2023, Manly Harbour, *Arthur Keates*Plain – 02/12/2023, Lota Esplanade, *Tony Cotter*Plain – 20/12/2023, Manly Harbour, *Arthur Keates*Lesser SandploverPlain – 16/11/2023, Gable Rocks, Hervey Bay, *Cheryl Ponter***Green over Orange (Yalu Jiang, China) leg flag sightings**L1+ - 19/11/2023, Oyster Point: *Penn Lloyd***Blue over White and Blue (Japan) leg flag sightings**Grey-tailed TattlerT57 – 08/10/2023, Cairns Esplanade: *Jun Matsui*T57 – 12/11/2023, Cairns Esplanade: *Hidetoshi Kudo*K34 – 03/12/2023, Weinam St jetty, Redland Bay: *Penn Lloyd*P79 – 03/12/2023, Weinam St jetty, Redland Bay: *Penn Lloyd*Plain – 18/12/2023, Wynnum Esplanade: *Tony Cotter*Red-necked StintK95 - 19/10/2023, Cairns Esplanade: *Jun Matsui***Black over Yellow (Hong Kong) leg flag sightings**Great KnotYL – 31/10/2023, Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island: *Terry Burgess***White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**Terek Sandpiper### – 31/10/2023, Maaroom: *Anne de Bleser* (Note likely a chinees bird missing the black flag)Great KnotCUL – 31/10/2023, Maaroom: *Anne de Bleser* (Note likely a chinees bird missing the black flag)

The following people and organisations contributed the data used in this report with apologies for any inadvertent omission.

Anne de Bleser, Arthur Keates, Anne Buchanan, R Clarke, Wayne Matthews, Brandon Hewitt, Brian Russell, Cecile Espigole, Cameron Whiley, Faysel Elshemerty, Cheryl Ponter, Chris Lake, Chris Walker, Danny Rogers, Darren Jew, Peter Rothlisberg, Michele Burford, Esther Horton, Frank Burch, G. Harrison, Harry Ting, Helen Leonard, Hidetoshi Kudo, Ian Gibson, Jemaine Mulcahy, John Lowry, Jun Matsui, Kim Cumes, Linda Cross, Michael Strong, David Simpson, Nga Yee Lai, Penn Lloyd, Peter Johannessen, Melissa Whitby, Phil Cross, Reid Waters, Rob Kernot, Sarah Beavis, Sherida Holford, Terry Burgess, Tony Cotter, Vern Beecham, Vernon Kretschmann, Wilmot Senaratne, Zoe Farris.

Every record received is incredibly valuable so thank you to everyone who contributed their sightings. Please remember if your submitting sightings to use our web site and enter your records there as we can process them online, they're easy to enter and far easier to manage through that way. The web site is [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au) and click on the Report a Banded/ Leg Flagged Bird link on the home page. When completing a report only record what you see and don't assume anything in terms of which leg the flag is on, or any other details, we'll work with what you provide.

## Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Birds Queensland Inc. whose object is: "To promote the scientific study and conservation of birds by all means possible, with particular reference to the birds of Queensland".

Separate membership is required.

Contacts: President, Andrea Shaffer [president@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Secretary, Janette Thurley [secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Treasurer, Wayne Lock [treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au)

The BQ AGM takes place this month so some details may change

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Carolyn Barnett, Ian and Margaret Bunce, Jenny and Rod Carey, Michael Carroll, Julie-Magnolia Cass, Kerry Cody, Katie Jane Culpin, Safiya Dixon, Jarrod Fay, Jo Freer, Mary Holliday, John Lawson – rejoined, Frances Long, Jemaine Mulcahy and family, Robert Nicholson, Stuart Pickering, Liz Tasker, Matthew Taylor, Harry Ting, Matt Wright and Jasmine Zeleny

**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!**

## A Space Filler

Editor's Note: I have some long articles that will not fit the hard copy space, so, some bad jokes

Murphy's Law of Tree Anatomy: There are 2 sides to a tree - the side towards you and the side the bird is on.

Murphy's First Law of Birding: The greater the time spent searching for a rarity, the greater the chances it will be sitting on your car when you return to the parking lot.

Two statisticians went duck hunting. A mallard flew overhead and one statistician fired just to the right of the bird. The other statistician fired just to the left of the bird. They turned to each other in glee, and congratulated each other "On average, he's dead!", they cried! The mallard continued his migration.

Question: Why did the vulture cross the road? Answer: The chicken was hit by a car.

What do you call two crows in a field – An attempted murder.

A duck walks into a chemist's store and buys a chap stick. The clerk says, "Will that be cash or charge?"

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of Queensland Wader Study Group

Website [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

### MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

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**Note that QWSG AGM takes place after the issuing of this Newsletter so some details may change.**

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CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:  
The QWSG Secretary,  
PO Box 3138,  
SOUTH BRISBANE,  
QLD 4101.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please notify the Membership Secretary as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Annual subscription rates:  
Single: \$15:00  
Student/Pensioner: \$10:00  
Family: \$25:00  
A receipt will be forwarded if required.

Forward application to:  
Membership Secretary or QWSG Treasurer,  
PO Box 3138,  
SOUTH BRISBANE,  
QLD 4101.

Members are reminded their membership expires on the date shown on the newsletter address label, and the membership joining/renewal form is now on the back page. Note: that your subscription will fall due twelve (12) months after date of joining the QWSG or date of renewal, and only one further newsletter will be sent after expiry of your subscription.

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011  
or E-mail to: [gouldian6@bigpond.com](mailto:gouldian6@bigpond.com)

Opinions expressed in Queensland Wader are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Queensland Waders Study Group, Birds Queensland nor Queensland Ornithology Society Inc.

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# Count Activities – 2024

## QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2024

Sat 9 Dec	2.06m at 06:55				
Sat 27 Jan	2.45m at 10:41	Nat Summer Count	Sat 27 Jul	2.04m at 14:18	
Sat 24 Feb	2.42m at 09:43		Sat 24 Aug	2.19m at 12:58	
Sat 23 Mar	2.32m at 08:37		Sat 21 Sep	2.38m at 11:46	
Sat 20 Apr	2.18m at 07:17		Sat 5 Oct	2.19m at 10:48	
Sat 25 May	1.82m at 10:20		Sat 9 Nov	2.17m at 15:14	
Sat 29 Jun	1.99m at 15:51	Natl Winter Count	Sat 7 Dec	2.33m at 13:45	

Counters Rockhampton and north – please select a date as close as possible to the count programme Sat day with suitable tides to enable you to complete your counts.

## Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2024

Sun 10 Dec	2.22m at 07:38	Meet 06:10			
Sun 28 Jan	2.42m at 11:11	Meet 10:00	<b>Nat Sum Count</b>	Sun 28 Jul	2.07m at 15:23 Meet 14:00
Sun 25 Feb	2.41m at 10:13	Meet 09:00		Sun 25 Aug	2.16m at 13:52 Meet 12:50
Sun 24 Mar	2.32m at 09:09	Meet 08:00		Sun 22 Sep	2.34m at 12:34 Meet 11:30
Sun 21 Apr	2.19m at 07:54	Meet 06:55		Sun 6 Oct	2.18m at 11:22 Meet 10:20
Sun 26 May	1.77m at 11:04	Meet 10:00		Sun 10 Nov	2.21m at 16:22 Meet 15:00
Sun 30 Jun	2.12m at 16:59	Meet 15:00	<b>Nat Win Count</b>	Sun 8 Dec	2.28m at 14:41 Meet 13:40

## MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

A reminder to members: please check to see if your renewal is due and please let the Treasurer know if you change your contact details.

I / We wish to join / renew: (Single: \$15; Family: \$25; Student/Pensioner: \$10)

Title:..... First name: ..... Surname: .....

Address:..... Membership: \$.....

..... Postcode:..... Donation: \$.....

Payment enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a receipt? Yes / No

Phone: (Home) ..... (Work) ..... (Mobile).....

Email .....

How did you hear about QWSG?.....

Are you a member of Birds Queensland? .....

What activities do you wish to participate in? (Please circle)

WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL,  
OTHER (specify :.....)

You will receive your newsletter (colour version) by E-mail.....

Signature ..... Date:.....

Please email this form to: [membership@waders.org.au](mailto:membership@waders.org.au)

Direct funds transfer to:

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia)

Account number: 08305297

OR

Please post this form to: QWSG Membership Secretary

PO Box 3138,

SOUTH BRISBANE,

QLD 4101.

**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!**