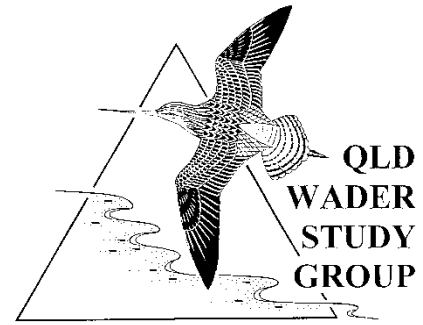


# QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 063

March, April, May 2008

---

Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of  
Birds Queensland Incorporated.

---

## QWSG Chair Report for 2007

The biggest news for QWSG during 2007 was the publication of our well-received book "Shorebirds of Australia" launched in July at Port of Brisbane (POB) Visitor Centre by Darryl Choi, the parliamentary secretary for the environment. This has been a massive undertaking and the editors, Andrew Geering, Lindsay Agnew and Sandra Harding are to be congratulated. This book started out about 10 yrs ago as a wader guide to Moreton Bay. Through a series of ups and downs in enthusiasm by people involved, it had reached a stage where it needed a new advocate. Andrew had the drive and vision to see the project through some long and time-consuming negotiations with publishers and committee. Sandra helped when things got tough and they both are to be congratulated with the final product. The book is published by CSIRO Publishing for a RRP \$49.95. QWSG has some copies in stock and you can get them from Dawn Beck for a 10% discount (\$45.00). The Port of Brisbane helped fund the production costs with a grant of \$17,000 and we thank them for their support.

The large Burnett Mary NRM Group project to map and count waders in the region between Tannum Sands, near Gladstone and Pt Vernon in Hervey Bay was also completed in July. The final report contained the results of the surveying and mapping of 158 high tide roosts, details of breeding by resident waders in Great Sandy Strait and the coast, counts of waders on the offshore islands in the southern Great Barrier Reef and an assessment of the threats to waders at each roost. This assessment identified priority sites for increased management intervention. Besides the report the BMRG and EPA, Sandra Harding and I gave public talks to planning staff from each of the councils in the region. The mapping will form a layer within their planning schemes. It will lead to improved knowledge and understanding by the council planners of the distribution of waders and their needs within their shires. When coastal development applications are submitted now, the planners will know if these proposals will affect wader roosts nearby. I particularly thank Sandra Harding, Ivell Whyte, and Sheryl Keates for their efforts with the project. Many members participated in the surveys and we had over 60 people in the field counting waders on the October 2006 survey. Thank you to all who participated.

The count program continues to do well with almost 1000 wader counts done in 2007. These were made at 196 sites on the Queensland coast, including 75 sites in Moreton Bay. The greatest number of counts at one site was 38 by Joyce Harding at Oyster Pt, south of Cleveland. Regular monthly counts were made at 53 sites in Moreton Bay and 26 sites elsewhere on the Queensland coast. Three counts of southern Moreton Is were done with help from the Qld EPA. QWSG also undertook 12 counts at the POB reclamation site. I thank all counters for their contribution and especially Linda Cross for her tireless efforts as count coordinator for another year. Joyce Harding entered all the data with very few errors.

David Edwards produced another four 'Queensland Wader' newsletters in 2007. I receive lots of positive comments from members about the newsletter and all have said they enjoy them. I thank David and the main contributor, Linda Cross, for keeping the newsletters full of interesting articles. In 2008, David is considering making some changes to the format, so stay tuned !

QWSG made two surveys of the Mackay coast for the Australasian Wader Study Group in 2007 (January and November). These surveys are part of a study of regions in Australia with large numbers of Great Knot and are funded by the federal government. I thank Linda Cross for coordinating participants and logistics for these surveys. In November, we counted almost 25,000 waders in Mackay, considerably up from the previous highest total of 21,000 birds. This total included over 6,700 Great Knot and almost 5,000 Sand Plovers.

After a break for three years, QWSG held another wader course at the Port of Brisbane Visitor Centre in November 2007. The course was attended by 50 people and we had to turn away another seven applicants. I think people enjoyed the day and thanks goes to Dawn Beck for organising the logistics and Andrew Geering for the talks.

We have continued wader banding in Moreton Bay during 2007. The team led by Jon Coleman banded and flagged 274 birds of 17 species. Each bird was flagged with an individually labelled green flags. Most (246) were caught at Manly artificial roost, with another 23 caught at Geoff Skinner Reserve, Wellington Pt. Banding will continue in 2008 with plans to expand the number of locations to try and cover more of the bay. Most banded species in 2007 were: 90 Grey-tailed Tattler, 40 Red-necked Stint, 33 Lesser Sand Plover and 25 Bar-tailed Godwit. We have had 110 recoveries or re-sightings of flagged birds, including 12 re-sightings away from Manly at other roosts in Moreton Bay – POB, Lytton, Toorbul, Thorneside, Dunwich, Manly foreshore and Oyster Pt. Two birds were resighting overseas, one Bar-tailed Godwit in South Korea and a Grey-tailed Tattler in Japan.

I hope members can see from the activities listed above, that the committee have been busy again in 2007. We are being increasingly recognised for our expertise on waders and let us hope this leads to increased efforts to protect waders and their habitats by all three levels of government. Conservation is an incremental process and I think we have seen some encouraging signs in 2007. Only time will tell! I am standing aside as chair in 2008 after four years. I have renominated for committee that will be chaired by Andrew Geering. I thank everyone for their support over the four years and look forward to seeing you at new QWSG activities in 2008.

**David Milton**

## Financial Statement for The Queensland Wader Study Group

### QUEENSLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC. QUEENSLAND WADER STUDY GROUP BALANCE SHEET

|                            | 2007           | 2006           |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Opening Balance            | 127,326        | 104,429        |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for year | -21,275        | -22,897        |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>     | <b>106,051</b> | <b>127,326</b> |
|                            |                |                |
| Cash at Bank               | 103,548        | 121,738        |
| Stock of Goods for Resale  | 2,627          | 558            |
| Plant & Equipment          | 1,893          | 6,963          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>        | <b>108,067</b> | <b>129,258</b> |

### QUEENSLAND WADER STUDY GROUP STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007

| RECEIPTS        |                          | 2007  | 2008   |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|
| Contract Income | BCC                      | 0     | 90     |
|                 | Port of Brisbane Surveys | 9,832 | 9,364  |
|                 | Burnett-Mary Project     | 7,962 | 27,867 |
| Courses         |                          | 680   | 0      |
| Donations       |                          | 818   | 781    |

|                               |                 |               |               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Fundraising Income            | Badges          | 48            | 0             |
|                               | Books / Reports | 5,483         | 127           |
|                               | Shirts          | 0             | 68            |
|                               | Other           | 336           | 164           |
| Interest                      |                 | 4,207         | 5,054         |
| Membership                    |                 | 2,125         | 2,223         |
| Miscellaneous Income          |                 | 2,858         | 309           |
| Postage                       |                 | 90            |               |
| Gain on sale of Motor Vehicle |                 | 3,000         |               |
|                               |                 |               |               |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>         |                 | <b>37,438</b> | <b>46,045</b> |

| <b>PAYMENTS</b>                |                          | <b>2007</b>   | <b>2008</b>   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bank Charges                   |                          | 71            | 41            |
| Contract Expenses              | BCC                      | 0             | 90            |
|                                | Port of Brisbane Surveys | 825           | 886           |
|                                | Burnett-Mary Project     | 31,906        | 8,857         |
| Depreciation Expense           |                          | 3,819         | 5,322         |
| Donations                      |                          | 200           | 182           |
| Education & Publicity Material |                          | 355           | 837           |
| Fundraising expenses           |                          | 7,224         | 211           |
| Insurance / Registration       |                          | 62            | 1,875         |
| Membership Expenses            |                          | 159           | 95            |
| Miscellaneous Expenses         |                          | 2,810         | 523           |
| Newsletter Expenses            |                          | 1,545         | 1,178         |
| Postage & Stationery           |                          | 476           | 617           |
| Wader Guide Expenses           |                          | 9,261         | 2,435         |
|                                |                          |               |               |
| <b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>          |                          | <b>58,714</b> | <b>23,149</b> |
| <b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>     |                          | <b>-21275</b> | <b>22,897</b> |

## Australian Painted Snipe Declared a Full Species

There has been inconsistency in the taxonomic status recognised for the Painted Snipe in Australia for several years. It used to be considered a subspecies (*australis*) of the Greater Painted Snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*). Lane and Rogers (2000 *Stilt* 36: 26-34) pointed out that the plumage, morphology and probably vocalisations of Australian birds differed considerably from those in Asia and Africa, and proposed that those in Australia should be treated as a full species. Although this recommendation was followed by a number of authorities, other preferred to retain the old treatment until genetic studies were carried out.

A recent publication has now resolved this uncertainty: Baker *et al* 2007. Mitochondrial DNA evidence shows the Australian Painted Snipe is a full species, *Rostratula australis*. *Emu* 107:185-189. Considerable differences were found between the mitochondrial DNA sequences of Australian and Greater Painted Snipe, which are believed to have diverged c. 19 million years ago. It is now clear that the Australian Painted Snipe should be treated as a full species *Rostratula australis*, and this will be the treatment followed in subsequent Australian checklists.

The Australian Painted Snipe is rare and declining, apparently because of the loss of its specialised breeding habitat in temporary freshwater wetlands. It is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act (1999), and the Threatened Bird Network maintains a database of all records of the species, in addition to carrying out regular surveys. Assistance on these surveys is always welcome; please contact Dean Ingwersen at Birds Australia if you are interested or have unreported Painted Snipe records in your notebooks. xxxx@xxxx.com.au.

Danny Rogers  
From the *Tattler* No8: January 2008

## Shorebird Banding in Moreton Bay Late 2006-December 2007 Update

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As most of you will be aware shorebird banding using plain green leg flags was started around Moreton Bay in the 1980s but then ceased in the early 1990s when Peter Driscoll moved away from the area. Banding resumed in September 2006 and is planned to continue for the foreseeable future. The leg flags are now engraved so that we can generate information on individual birds rather than groups.

The aims of the study are to:

- generate long term trends in the body condition of birds using the Bay
- look at local movements to determine which areas of the bay are important to the birds
- use the age of birds caught as an estimate of productivity on the breeding grounds, and
- look at how faithful the birds are to roosts and feeding areas both within and between seasons.

The birds are caught in mist-nets at night either coming into roost, or flying around feeding areas at low tide and are banded, flagged, measured weighed and released. Hopefully the birds are then resighted around the bay or on migration and their flag numbers recorded, building up the database on individual birds.

In late 2006 and 2007 visits were made to Manly Marina, Port of Brisbane Reclamation area, Geoff Skinner reserve, Wellington Point, Acacia Road Wellington Point and King Street Reserve, Thorneside resulting in 339 birds banded (18 Species) and 6 recaptures (3 species) .

#### A) NUMBERS BANDED DURING PERIOD

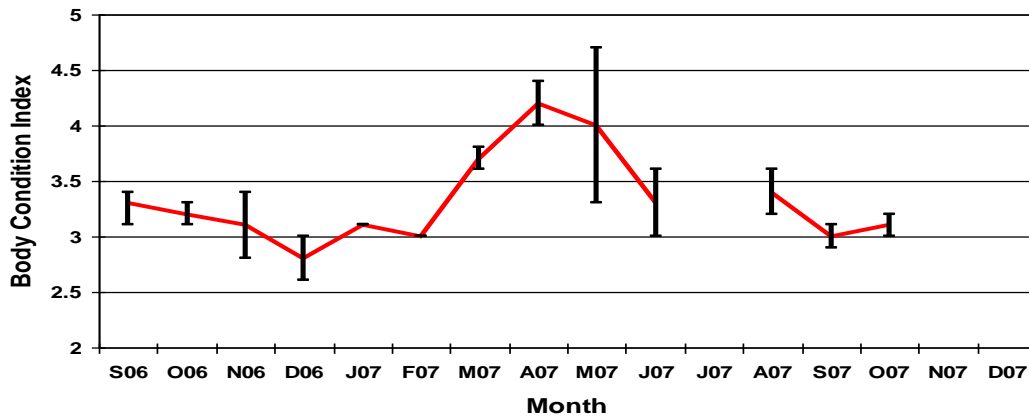
| SPECIES                       | Manly          | Geoff Skinner | Port of Brisbane | Totals        |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Bar Tailed godwit</b>      | 30             | 7             | 0                | <b>37</b>     |
| <b>Black winged stilt</b>     | 3              | 3             | 0                | <b>6</b>      |
| <b>Curlew Sandpiper</b>       | 13             | 1             | 1                | <b>15</b>     |
| <b>Eastern curlew</b>         | 1              | 0             | 0                | <b>1</b>      |
| <b>Great Knot</b>             | 0              | 3             | 0                | <b>3</b>      |
| <b>Greater Sandplover</b>     | 8              | 0             | 0                | <b>8</b>      |
| <b>Grey Tailed Tattler</b>    | 106(3)         | 0             | 0                | <b>106(3)</b> |
| <b>Lesser Sandplover</b>      | 37(2)          | 0             | 0                | <b>37(2)</b>  |
| <b>Masked Lapwing</b>         | 6              | 0             | 0                | <b>6</b>      |
| <b>Pacific Golden plover</b>  | 2              | 0             | 0                | <b>2</b>      |
| <b>Pied Oystercatcher</b>     | 8              | 1             | 0                | <b>9</b>      |
| <b>Red Capped Plover</b>      | 3              | 1             | 1                | <b>5</b>      |
| <b>Red knot</b>               | 3              | 0             | 0                | <b>3</b>      |
| <b>Red necked stint</b>       | 33             | 7             | 3                | <b>43</b>     |
| <b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>        | 15(1)          | 0             | 0                | <b>15(1)</b>  |
| <b>Sharp Tailed Sandpiper</b> | 5              | 16            | 0                | <b>21</b>     |
| <b>Terek Sandpiper</b>        | 11             | 0             | 0                | <b>11</b>     |
| <b>Whimbrel</b>               | 11             | 0             | 0                | <b>11</b>     |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                 | <b>295 (6)</b> | <b>39</b>     | <b>5</b>         | <b>339(6)</b> |

Figures in brackets are re-captures

### B) RESULTS TO DATE

Body condition indices were calculated monthly for the commonly caught species and Grey Tailed Tattler data is shown here as an example. Over a period of years we will be able to look at the comparative condition of birds arriving on the bay, their condition while on the bay and their condition prior to departure providing early indications of any changes that may be occurring.

**Grey Tailed Tattler Body Condition Index 2006/07  
(Mean by month with SE limits)**



Local movements around the bay, demonstrates that most birds from Manly and Geoff Skinner utilise the bay between the two sites as a preferred feeding location. The data also shows that birds are remarkably faithful to their roosting sites with most re-sightings being of birds roosting at the same location they were banded at, both within and between seasons.

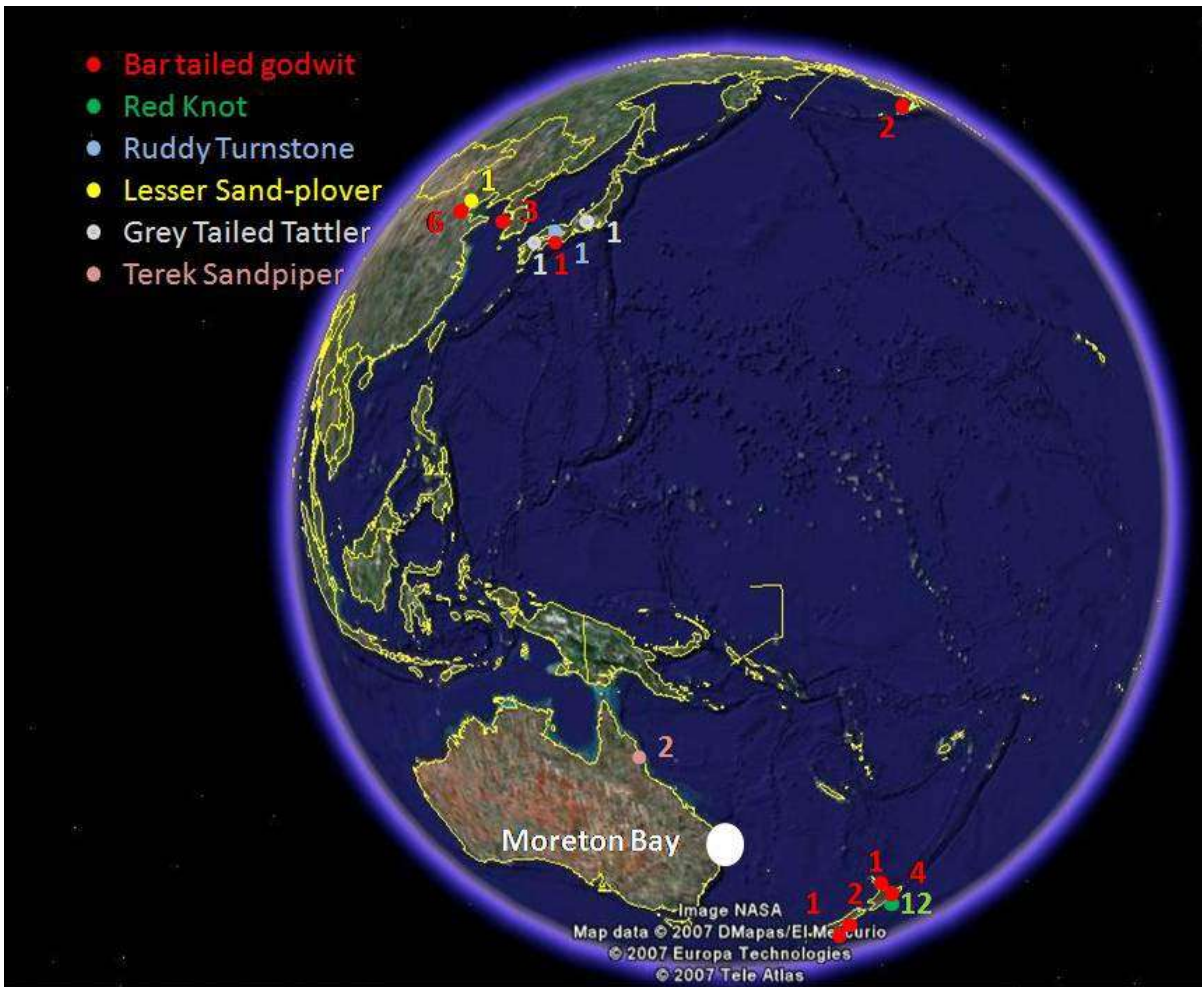


Long distance movements of individually green flagged birds from Moreton Bay recorded in 2007 have shown some remarkable movements.

Bar Tailed Godwit **AM** was banded at Manly Marina on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006, was resighted multiple times there until his last sighting on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 after which **AM** was seen at HongSung, SOUTH KOREA on the 16<sup>th</sup> April (7660km in 16 days). **AM** was back at Manly Marina roosting on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

Grey Tailed Tattler **CM** was banded at Manly Marina on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007 and was resighted in Osaka, JAPAN on the 16<sup>th</sup> May (7160km in 12 days). We're still looking to see if **CM** has returned to the bay this year.

While the individually coded flags provide a lot of detail about individuals the original flagging still continues to generate an enormous amount of data on movements with birds still being regularly sighted around the Pacific. The following diagram shows some of the sightings in 2007 of birds carrying plain green leg flags from Queensland.



## 1. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The existing fieldwork will continue in its current form and using the existing locations for the foreseeable future so that trend data for species and for the sites can start to be developed. As trainee banders become qualified it is hoped that the quality of the data collected can be improved as we take on additional high and low tide sites. This should increase sample sizes for currently captured species as well as expanding the datasets to include new species, or generate bigger sample sizes for species only infrequently encountered.

Please as always, if you see any shorebirds with leg flags please try and record the code and send the details to Phil and Linda Cross so we can contribute to generate information on our shore birds.

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pamela Pavey, representing Manly Marinas Incorporated provides regular access to the Manly high tide roost, currently our main banding site and Redland Council, along with the Moreton Bay Marine Park EPA provide access to a number of shorebird banding locations in the Southern part of the Bay. The Port of Brisbane allows access to the Reclamation area at the Port and also allows access to the Manly high tide roost. Queensland Wader Study Group fund all wader banding activities. As always we remain extremely grateful for the support of those organisations.

The field team in 2007 comprised David Milton, Sandra Harding, Stephen Macdonald, David Edwards, Jim Whyte, Ivell Whyte, Heather Smith, Judit Szabo, Graham Smith, Brenda Smith, Anna Kearns, Rebecca Ryan, Wayne Young, Renee Young, John Esdaile with Phil and Linda Cross continuing to collate all the flag sightings.

A program of proposed dates for catching in 2008 appears in this bulletin. If you are interested in helping please contact Jon Coleman E-mail: [xxxx@xxxx.com](mailto:xxxx@xxxx.com) to arrange to come out well in advance. Please note that due to the permit requirements for handling wild birds, prior arrangements have to be made for people coming to help with banding.

Jon Coleman, January 2008.

## QWSG GOES SURVEYING IN MACKAY AGAIN

In November 2007, the QWSG completed the sixth full survey of the 200 km of coast between the Conway Ranges, near Airlie Beach and Cape Palmerston south of Sarina. This survey was part of the larger Australia-wide study of selected regions with large numbers of Great Knot. Great Knot was the species found in the largest numbers at the recently reclaimed Saemangeum estuary in Korea during northward migration. Studying their numbers in the non-breeding grounds in Australia is one way to see if we can measure the expected decline in Great Knot numbers after they have lost their most important migratory refuelling site. The Mackay region has good numbers of Great Knot and so was chosen as one of the sites in this study. Other sites are Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck Bay in NW Western Australia. This study is funded by the federal Department of Heritage and Arts through the Australasian Wader Study Group. Danny Rogers from AWSG and Jo Oldland from the Shorebird 2020 project at Birds Australia joined QWSG members for the survey.

We have included the table listing the results of previous surveys, with the additional data from the November count. You will note that the November survey recorded the highest count of waders over all the surveys we have done, which was surprising considering the fact that we had extremely high tides for the weekend. Having experienced problems with the very high tides on one other survey the counters were asked to get to the sites much earlier to ensure that we did not miss any of the birds.

There were a couple of other things that helped achieve such a good count. The first was having good weather that allowed us to get the boats out on to the water on both days and the second was adding an extra site that had not previously been included in the surveys. At East Point, (north bank of the Pioneer River mouth) a large sand spit has formed since the area was looked at during the reconnaissance survey in November 2002. This site added just over 2000 waders to our totals.

A total of 27 sites were counted north of the Pioneer River, 19 sites south of the river and 4 wetland sites, making a total of 50 sites counted for the survey.

A new species was added to the list (Sanderling), which now brings the total of migratory and resident wader species in the Mackay region to 33. Other waterbirds counted at the sites totalled 4270.

It was good to see that Beach Stone-curlew numbers have increased and recorded at 7 sites as follows: 1 at Pioneer River, 2 at Dudgeon Point Claypan, 2 at Rocky Island Cape Palmerston, 2 at O'Connell River mouth, 3 at Deadman's Creek New Beach, 2 at Seaforth Beach Creek mouth and 1 at Habana Wharf.

There were a couple of breeding records. At Finlayson's Point 2 Red Capped Plover nests (both with 2 eggs) were moved to higher ground as they would have been washed away on the king tide. Interestingly one lot of parents came back to the nest and successfully hatched two chicks, while the other nest was abandoned. 6 Red-capped chicks were recorded at Habana Wharf Claypan, a broken wing display was given by a Red-capped Plover at Dudgeon Point creek mouth, suggesting possible nest and 2 Red-capped runners were seen at Sand Bay roost 1. Also noted at Sand Bay roost 1 was a hatched Beach Stone-curlew egg.

Two flagged birds were recorded during the survey. A Lesser Sand Plover with a white flag (etched L3) above a blue flag on the left tibia and a metal band on the right tibia (Taipei, Taiwan) seen at Blacks Beach, and a Great Knot with a black over white flag (Shanghai, China) seen at Roost 3 in Sand Bay.

Some of the higher counts were as follows:

2750 Great Knot at O'Connell River mouth  
 1028 Great Knot at Deadman's Creek, New Beach  
 760 Greater Sand Plover at O'Connell River mouth  
 292 Whimbrel at Pioneer River  
 198 Curlew Sandpiper at Pioneer River  
 116 Terek Sandpiper at Pioneer River  
 139 Red-capped Plover at Nell's Beach Sand Bay  
 172 Pied Oystercatchers at St. Helens  
 141 Grey Plover at Roost 1 Sand Bay  
 15 Sooty Oystercatchers at Dudgeon Point

Other sightings of interest were:-

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 800 Little Tern at East Point sand spit | 1 Brown Songlark at Dudgeon Point claypan |
| 11 Glossy Ibis at Dudgeon Point wetland | 209 Black Swan at Lake Barfield           |
| 6 Rajah Shelduck at Mackay Port wetland | 166 Black-naped Tern at Rat Tail Island   |
| 1 Brown Booby at East Point sand spit   | 1 Brown Booby at Rat Tail Island          |

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the survey for their assistance. The following people allowed survey teams onto or through their property to conduct the counts. Their cooperation is very much appreciated.

Joe & Phyllis Abela – owners of Habana Wharf  
 Mackay Port Authority – Mackay Port wetlands  
 Brett Windsor – lessee Dudgeon Point owned by Qld Ports Corporation  
 Vic Welsh – owner of Tedlands  
 Chris Pappas – owner of property at Shoal Point  
 Mick Hodge – lessee Hodges Lagoon, Shoal Point

We extend a special thank you to Maureen Cooper, who once again supplied accommodation for the team at Padaminka and also for her generosity letting us use her two vehicles for the surveys. We would also like to sincerely thank Matt Bloor and Derek Ball for organising people, vehicles and vessels. Without the assistance of the people and organisations listed below, these surveys would not be possible, and we thank you all for your continued support.

Our sincere thanks to everyone for his or her assistance. My apologies if I have omitted anyone.

The participants for this survey are listed below:-

- **QWSG Members:** Dawn Beck, Maureen Cooper, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, David Edwards, Peggy Harding, Sandra Harding, David Milton, Peter Rothlisberg, Floss Wainwright, Dez Wells, Jim Whyte, Ivell Whyte.
- **AWSG Members:** Danny Rogers.
- **Birds Australia:** Jo Oldland
- **Birds Australia member:** Geoff McLaughlin
- **MWNRM:** Matt Bloor, Derek Ball, Kerri Woodcock, Angela Welk, Regina Bernard.
- **QPWS (Marine Parks) staff:** Caleb Bailey & Steve Fisher.
- **Mackay City Council:** Lisa Kermode.
- **BOCA Mackay:** Marj Andrews, Richard Atkinson, Stella Mearns, Dell Williams & Gerry Woodruff.

**David Milton & Linda Cross.**

| <u>SPECIES</u>         | <u>Reconnaissance<br/>Nov 2002</u> | <u>Jan<br/>2003</u> | <u>Apr<br/>2003</u> | <u>Oct<br/>2003</u> | <u>Feb<br/>2004</u> | <u>Jan<br/>2006</u> | <u>Nov<br/>2007</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Black-tailed Godwit    | -                                  | 331                 | -                   | 116                 | 71                  | -                   | -                   |
| Bar-tailed Godwit      | 1242                               | 4360                | 236                 | 1530                | 2343                | 2854                | 3324                |
| Little Curlew          | -                                  | 16                  | -                   | 1                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Whimbrel               | 332                                | 813                 | 1586                | 1647                | 975                 | 1002                | 1673                |
| Eastern Curlew         | 546                                | 1324                | 448                 | 1235                | 294                 | 422                 | 533                 |
| Marsh Sandpiper        | 5                                  | 50                  | 5                   | 2                   | 11                  | 13                  | 22                  |
| Common Greenshank      | 88                                 | 153                 | 80                  | 148                 | 90                  | 136                 | 189                 |
| Terek Sandpiper        | 21                                 | 152                 | 179                 | 172                 | 329                 | 118                 | 369                 |
| Common Sandpiper       | -                                  | 2                   | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   | 2                   |
| Grey-tailed Tattler    | 46                                 | 417                 | 1311                | 929                 | 832                 | 358                 | 572                 |
| Ruddy Turnstone        | -                                  | 61                  | 98                  | 10                  | 38                  | 53                  | 122                 |
| Great Knot             | 447                                | 5679                | 229                 | 1935                | 6047                | 4407                | 6701                |
| Red Knot               | -                                  | 31                  | 29                  | 251                 | 7                   | 8                   | 5                   |
| Sanderling             | -                                  | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   | 1                   |
| Red-necked Stint       | 162                                | 1995                | 844                 | 1676                | 749                 | 628                 | 3692                |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 25                                 | 1030                | 4                   | 1006                | 68                  | 68                  | 497                 |
| Curlew Sandpiper       | 40                                 | 90                  | 13                  | 191                 | 5                   | 44                  | 221                 |
| Comb-crested Jacana    | -                                  | 18                  | 2                   | 1                   | 1                   | 7                   | 12                  |
| Bush Stone-curlew      | -                                  | 12                  | 5                   | 3                   | 4                   | 1                   | 3                   |



|                                |             |              |             |              |              |              |              |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Beach Stone-curlew             | 2           | 4            | 10          | 2            | 7            | 10           | 13           |
| Pied Oystercatcher             | 134         | 662          | 477         | 223          | 539          | 357          | 312          |
| Sooty Oystercatcher            | 10          | 40           | 33          | 20           | 35           | 51           | 43           |
| Black-winged Stilt             | 15          | 268          | 39          | 8            | 56           | 86           | 101          |
| Pacific Golden Plover          | 59          | 457          | 208         | 775          | 39           | 7            | 349          |
| Grey Plover                    | 91          | 113          | 89          | 39           | 175          | 81           | 156          |
| Red-capped Plover              | 57          | 356          | 231         | 419          | 157          | 99           | 366          |
| Double-banded Plover           | -           | -            | 1           | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Lesser Sand Plover             | 33          | 1817         | 895         | 499          | 1887         | 2637         | 1980         |
| Greater Sand Plover            | 14          | 493          | 170         | 1462         | 1078         | 817          | 2732         |
| Black-fronted Dotterel         | 4           | 20           | 2           | 19           | 1            | 6            | 5            |
| Red-kneed Dotterel             | -           | 4            | -           | 3            | -            | -            | -            |
| Masked Lapwing                 | 14          | 81           | 118         | 76           | 51           | 68           | 102          |
| Australian Pratincole          | -           | 4            | -           | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Unidentified larger wader      | -           | -            | 21          | -            | 1            | -            | -            |
| Unidentified medium wader      | 60          | 53           | 108         | 202          | -            | -            | -            |
| Unidentified small wader       | 21          | -            | 179         | -            | 35           | 39           | -            |
| Unidentified Sand Plover sp.   | -           | 714          | 140         | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Unidentified Tattler sp.       | -           | 9            | -           | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Unidentified Snipe sp.         | -           | -            | -           | 1            | -            | -            | -            |
| Unidentified wader             | -           | -            | 200         | 150          | -            | -            | -            |
|                                |             |              |             |              |              |              |              |
| <b>Total migratory waders</b>  | <b>3232</b> | <b>20160</b> | <b>7073</b> | <b>13977</b> | <b>15074</b> | <b>13692</b> | <b>23140</b> |
| <b>Total resident waders</b>   | <b>236</b>  | <b>1469</b>  | <b>917</b>  | <b>774</b>   | <b>851</b>   | <b>685</b>   | <b>957</b>   |
| <b>Total waders</b>            | <b>3468</b> | <b>21629</b> | <b>7990</b> | <b>14751</b> | <b>15925</b> | <b>14377</b> | <b>24097</b> |
|                                |             |              |             |              |              |              |              |
| <b>Total migratory species</b> | <b>15</b>   | <b>20</b>    | <b>18</b>   | <b>20</b>    | <b>18</b>    | <b>17</b>    | <b>19</b>    |
| <b>Total resident species</b>  | <b>7</b>    | <b>11</b>    | <b>9</b>    | <b>10</b>    | <b>9</b>     | <b>9</b>     | <b>9</b>     |
| <b>Total species</b>           | <b>22</b>   | <b>31</b>    | <b>27</b>   | <b>30</b>    | <b>27</b>    | <b>26</b>    | <b>28</b>    |

### From an Email - Old Bird

I think the recent report of the recovery of a 37-year-old Oystercatcher banded by The Wash Wader Ringing Group is worthy of circulation round your wider list of contacts. It was banded as a juvenile in August 1969. It was then recaptured in September 1986 and the metal band was changed. Finally, in May 2006 it was "taken by a predatory bird" near its nesting location on the coast of southern Norway.

At 37 years old, this was the oldest Oystercatcher yet recorded by the British Bird Ringing Scheme (beating a 35-year-old bird which I had originally ringed in 1960 as a chick on The Wash - a large estuary on the east coast of England about 100 miles north of London). Given that Oystercatchers normally start breeding when they are four years old this bird is likely to have migrated backwards and forwards across the North Sea some 33 times during its lifetime. (The Wash is the main wintering area for Oystercatchers which breed in Norway.)

It also amazes me to think that I was only 34 years old when I was involved in the catching and ringing of this bird! It lived for slightly more than half my current age (73).

We've still some way to go in Australia before we get anywhere near this age for a wader. Our current record is for a 27-year-old Bar-tailed Godwit, recaptured alive at Broome last year.

Best wishes

Clive.

## Count Programme by Linda Cross

I start this article with a big thank you to all counters for the extra effort you made in not only filling in your regular count sheet, for the National Summer Count, but also trialling the new Birds Australia count sheets and giving feedback. Thank you too, for those of you who were able to do a second count two weeks later for Birds Australia.

As most of you are aware from my emails and postal mail, you are to go back to the QWSG count sheet until further notice. I would also like to remind you that there were a couple of changes to the count dates and the amended dates can be found under 'Count Activities' at the back of this newsletter. Please amend your calendars and be aware that the tide height at the Brisbane Bar for the March count is 2.45 metres. This means that most of your count sites will be in-undated well before the peak of the high at 09:58, which will require that you get to your sites much earlier than you would normally because the birds will almost certainly be pushed off the roost.

Even though a high tide count is supposed to be done one and a half hours either side of the high (giving you a 3 hour window), you can still get into position before that, count the birds, and as long as they do not leave before that designated time slot (eg. 08:28 start), you can list them under a high tide count. If you count the birds and they leave before the one and a half hours of the high, you must class it as an incoming high count. If anyone does not understand what I am saying, please give me a call and I will explain.

We have three new counters to welcome into the programme. The first one is Geoff McLaughlin, who assisted us during the last Mackay survey and has already sent in counts for Sunset Bay at Eimeo and Black's Beach Spit, Mackay. The second new counter is Judith Hewett, (one of the people who have helped count the Maroochy River sites). Judith offered to take over the count of these sites soon after Shirley Rooke decided to retire. I should point out that I did not bully Judith into the job. And, the third counter is Jun Matsui, who is counting Cairns Esplanade. Jun has been sending Phil leg flag sightings for quite a while now, and as you all know, whenever there is a chance to get a new counter I go for it.

All three new counters were also thrown in at the deep-end with their first counts involving the trial of the Birds Australia count sheets and handled the task well. We welcome Geoff, Judith and Jun into the count programme and hope you all get hours of pleasure watching and recording these special birds.

The first of our Tasman visitors for the season has been recorded at Noosa River Sandbanks by Jill Denning on 21.02.08, with just the one Double-banded Plover being seen.

Due to limited space in this edition of the newsletter I have to keep extracts and sightings to a minimum. Therefore, I have put some records in the interesting sightings under 'Wader Watch' and extracted some of our not so common waders and recorded them in this article. The Beach Stone-curlew records from the south-east are particularly good to see.

### Beach Stone-curlew

- 2 Tweed River Entrance 30<sup>th</sup> November 07
- 2 Seaforth Beach Creek Mouth, north of Mackay 7<sup>th</sup> December 07
- 2 Horseshoe Bay, Gold Coast 10<sup>th</sup> December 07 and 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 2 Noosa River Sandbanks 19<sup>th</sup> December 07 and 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 2 Mirrapool, Moreton Island 28<sup>th</sup> December 07
- 3 Reeder's Point, Moreton Island 30<sup>th</sup> December 07 and 2 on 14<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 1 Point Vernon, Hervey Bay 5<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 1 Sunset Bay, Eimeo, Mackay 12<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 1 Kinka Beach Sandbar 13<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 2 Dux Creek, Bribie Island 13<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 2 Cairns Esplanade 13<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 08

### Sooty Oystercatcher

- 1 Redcliffe Point 3<sup>rd</sup> January 08
- 2 Point Vernon, Hervey Bay 5<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 1 Dunwich 1 mile, North Stradbroke Island 7<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 9 Finlayson's Point, north of Mackay 14<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 3 Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay 20<sup>th</sup> January 08
- 2 Dux Creek, Bribie Island 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> January 08
- 2 Wickham Point, Caloundra 28<sup>th</sup> January 08

Wandering Tattler

2 Cylinder Beach, North Stradbroke Island 31<sup>st</sup> December 07  
 1 Redcliffe Point 3<sup>rd</sup> January 08  
 1 Wickham Point, Caloundra 13<sup>th</sup> January 08  
 5 Wickham Point, Caloundra 28<sup>th</sup> January 08

**Breeding records.** Nest, eggs or chick records from 25<sup>th</sup> November 07 to 9th January 08

- Black-winged Stilt Buckley's Hole Bribie Island, Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island, Garnett's Lagoon Hervey Bay, Coombabah Wetland Gold Coast, Kedron Brook Wetlands, Nudgee Bike track Wetland, Anne Beasley Lagoon
- Red-capped Plover. Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island, Kedron Brook Wetlands
- Masked Lapwing. Maaroom, Kedron Brook Wetlands

Happy counting.

**Linda Cross.**

## WADER WATCH

Linda and Phil Cross, Joyce Harding

**Leg Flag Banding Legend** (colour = where banded)

- Green = Brisbane/Queensland
- Orange = Victoria
- Yellow = Northern Western Australia
- White = New Zealand (some species banded in New South Wales)
- Blue = Japan

**There are more leg flag sightings detailed in this newsletter.**

Can everyone please remember not to use the 'Leg Flag Observation Report' form that appeared to the last edition of the newsletter because it was not correct. Room permitting, the correct form should appear in this edition of the newsletter.

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

**Green leg flag sightings**

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

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs between 21.11.07 & 03.02.08

5 Eastern Curlew, 3 Whimbrel, 79 Bar-tailed Godwit, 17 Pied Oystercatcher, 1 Pacific Golden Plover, 13 Great Knot, 75 Grey-tailed Tattler, 14 Terek Sandpiper, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 1 Lesser Sand Plover, 7 Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Red-capped Plover & 15 Red-necked Stint.

The birds sighted above included some of the individually marked flags that QWSG have been fitting and I have listed them below.

Eastern Curlew - AR

Whimbrel - EN

Bar-tailed Godwit: - AE, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AT, AX, AZ, BA, BB, BC, BE, BF, BK, BM, BP, BR, BS, BT, BV, BX, BY, CA, CC, CD, CE, CK, CS

Pied Oystercatcher - AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AJ, AK, AL, AN, AP

Pacific Golden Plover - EZ?

Great Knot - EP, ER, EV

Grey-tailed Tattler – AB, AC, AD, AL, AM, AN, AT, AV, BC, BE, BK, BL, BN, BP BU, BV, BX, BY, CA, CC, CS, CT, CZ, DA, DM, DN, DP, DS, DT, DV, DX, DZ, ED, EE, EJ, EL, EM, ES, EU, EY,  
Terek Sandpiper – AB, AK, AM, AT, AU, AV, AY, BB, BK, CK, CL  
Ruddy Turnstone - BC  
Curlew Sandpiper – AD, AN, AP, BN, BT, BU, BV  
Red-capped Plover - AL  
Red-necked Stint – AJ, AV

### **Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings**

No sightings

### **Orange leg flag sightings**

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 27.01.08  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 13.01.08  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 01.01.08  
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 26.12.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Thorneside Queens Esplanade – Jon Coleman – 26.12.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 23.12.07  
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Willem Renema – 16.12.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Linda Cross et al – 15.12.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton – 11.12.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Esther Townsend – 09.12.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton *et al* – 08.12.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Oyster Point – David Milton & Sandra Harding – 02.12.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Graham & Brenda Smith – 26.11.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Esther Townsend – 11.11.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mathiesen Homestead – John Knight – 10.11.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – John Newman – 24.10.07  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – beach area Eurong Village, Fraser Island – Judith Hewett – 15.10.07  
1 Great Knot – Toorbul -Esther Townsend – 11.11.07  
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 10.11.07  
1 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Boat Harbour – Laurie Knight – 27.01.08  
1 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 26.12.07  
1 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton *et al* – 08.12.07

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

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag right tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 10.11.07  
1 Great Knot – white flag right tibia – Mathiesen Homestead – John Knight – 27.01.08

### **Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings**

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Mathiesen Homestead – Peter Royall & John Knight – 02.02.08  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Boat Harbour – Laurie Knight – 27.01.08  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 05.01.08  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – West Geoff Skinner Reserve – Jon Coleman – 29.12.07  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 26.12.07  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton – 11.12.07  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Mathiesen Homestead – John Knight – 10.11.07  
 All birds above had blue flag left tibia. (Flagged Northern Japan)

2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton *et al* – 18.11.07  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton *et al* – 14.01.08

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

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black flag over white flag right tibia – Mathiesen Homestead – Bill Gauld & John Knight – 27.01.08  
1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag right tibia – Toorbul 1 km north – Dez Wells – 28.01.08  
1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag right tibia and metal band left tarsus – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 01.01.08  
1 Great Knot – white flag over black flag right tibia and metal band left tarsus – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 23.12.07 & 26.12.07  
1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 18.12.07  
1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag right tibia – Toorbul – Willem Renema – 16.12.07  
1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag right tibia – Wader I D day Toorbul – David Milton – 15.12.07

1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag right tibia – Sand Bay Roost 3 Mackay – David Edwards, Dez Wells & Danny Rogers – 24.11.07

#### **Other wader leg flag sightings**

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black flag (etched C9) right tibia – Toorbul 1 km north – Dez Wells – 28.01.08.  
(Flagged Alaska)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black right tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Willem Renema – 01.01.08 (possible Alaska or New Zealand)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black flag (etched C9) right tibia, metal band left tarsus and antenna on back – Toorbul – Willem Renema – 16.12.07. (Flagged Alaska)

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – black flag left tibia and metal band right tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 28.01.08.  
(Unknown – possibly a Japanese blue flag discoloured)

1 Lesser Sand Plover – white flag (etched L3) over blue flag left tibia and metal band right tibia – Blacks Beach Spit Mackay – Ken Cowell, Floss Wainwright and Geoff McLaughlin – 16.11.07. (Flagged Taiwan)

1 Red-necked Stint – yellow flag left tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Shigemi Oyama – 30.12.07

#### **Yellow leg flag sightings**

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

All birds below had flag on left tibia (NSW) birds.

1 Pied Oystercatcher (C3) – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Michael Strong – 06.01.08

1 Pied Oystercatcher (A2) – Dunwich Nth Stradbroke Island – Harry Hines – 31.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (B8) – Dunwich Nth Stradbroke Island – Harry Hines 31.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (C4) – Dunwich Nth Stradbroke Island – Harry Hines – 31.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (D3) – Dunwich Nth Stradbroke Island – Harry Hines 31.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (D5) – Dunwich Nth Stradbroke Island – Harry Hines 31.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (A2) – Dunwich Nth Stradbroke Island – Peter Kyne – 10.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (A2) – Dunwich Nth Stradbroke Island – Peter Kyne – 17.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (A8) – Dunwich Nth Stradbroke Island – Peter Kyne – 17.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (A7) – Oyster Point – Joyce Harding – 05.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (C9) – Oyster Point – Joyce Harding – 05.12.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (B8) – Oyster Point – Joyce Harding – 05.10.07

1 Pied Oystercatcher (C3) – Godwin Beach – Bob Inglis – 10.11.07

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

1 Roseate Tern – white flag above blue flag left tarsus – Gannet Cay, Swain Reefs, Great Barrier Reef – Clive Minton – 12.01.08 (flagged ChiShan Island of PengHu County, Taiwan)

1 Caspian Tern – orange band right tarsus – Redcliffe Airport area – Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright – 27.01.08

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Dux Creek, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 13.01.08

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Fisherman Island – David Edwards, Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright – 09.12.07

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag left tarsus and metal band on right tarsus – Gables Point Rocks, Hervey Bay – Donald & Lesley Bradley – 11.11.07

**Errata:** the following sighting was recorded incorrectly in the last newsletter.

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, white band (probably metal band) left tarsus – Mathiesen Homestead – John Knight – 01.11.07

The sighting date should have read 18.10.07

#### **Interesting sightings**

**Please note these sightings are not authenticated records.**

\* = to be submitted to BQ RAC \*\* = to be submitted to BARC

1742 Red-necked Stint – Redcliffe Airport area – Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright – 27.01.08

2623 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – QWSG count – 09.12.07

321 Black-tailed Godwit – Deception Bay mangrove – Phil & Linda Cross 27.01.08

734 Eastern Curlew – Mangrove Point, Hervey Bay – Bob & June Gleeson – 26.01.08

1 Broad-billed Sandpiper - Acacia St, Wellington Point – Peter Rothlisberg – 26.01.08  
5 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Fisherman Island – QWSG count – 09.12.07  
950 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toolara Island, Pumicestone Passage – Jill Dening et al – 26.01.08  
1800 Grey-tailed Tattler – Mathiesen Homestead, Hervey Bay – John Knight, Jim & Barbara Love – 13.01.08  
103 Marsh Sandpiper – Maaroom – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 13.01.08  
409 Curlew Sandpiper – Deception Bay mangrove – Phil & Linda Cross – 13.01.08  
662 Curlew Sandpiper – Fisherman Island – QWSG count – 11.11.07  
200 Pied Oystercatcher – Fisherman Island – QWSG count – 12.01.08  
766 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Fisherman Island – QWSG count – 12.01.08  
310 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Lytton roost – David Connolly – 08.12.07  
1 Wood Sandpiper – GJ Fullers Oval, Wynnum – Alan Crawford – 23.12.07  
1 Wood Sandpiper – Garnett's Lagoon, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 06.12.07  
3125 Great Knot – Ross River Mouth, Townsville – Peter Driscoll – 10.12.07  
280 Red Knot – Ross River Mouth, Townsville – Peter Driscoll – 10.12.07  
116 Red-capped Plover – Deception Bay claypan – Phil & Linda Cross 08.12.07  
1 Common Sandpiper – Finlayson's Point, north of Mackay – Peggy Harding – 07.12.07  
11 Red-kneed Dotterel – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 09.12.07  
11 Red-kneed Dotterel – Garnett's Lagoon, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 06.12.07  
1 Little Curlew (photograph supplied) – Lady Elliott Island – Graham & Brenda Smith – 02.12.07  
171 Ruddy Turnstone – Fisherman Island – QWSG count – 11.11.07

### **Not waders but of interest anyway**

Chestnut Teal (7 ducklings) – Lytton roost – Dawn Beck & Vicki Campbell – 26.01.08  
2 Plumed Whistling Duck (1<sup>st</sup> record for site) – Maaroom – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 13.01.07  
Little Tern (six nests) – North Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon – 08.11.07  
Little Tern (possible 11 on nests) – Ross River Mouth, Townsville – Peter Driscoll – 10.12.07  
2 Rajah Shelduck – Young Ave, Kinka Beach – Allan Briggs – 08.12.07  
4 Brolga (2 adults & 2 chicks) – Garnett's Lagoon, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 06.12.07  
50 Whiskered Tern – Garnett's Lagoon, Hervey Bay – John Knight et al – 10.11.07

## **WADER ID DAYS**

### **TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 15 DECEMBER 2007 - Linda Cross.**

As we had only received a couple of phone calls from members saying they would be attending this outing, it was a pleasant surprise to have thirty four members and guests turn up for this wader identification day. Some came from the sunshine coast and others from as far south as Cleveland. The weather conditions were fine, dry and sunny with a few clouds and light breeze. The four attendees who arrived before anyone else saw the Black-necked Stork before it flew off to the north. There was a good variety of species to help people improve their wader identification skills.

The following leg flagged birds were observed: -

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag right tibia
- 1 Great Knot with black over white flag right tibia
- 1 Great Knot with green flag right tibia

(Green – Moreton Bay, Orange – Victoria, Black over white – Shanghai China)

Birds seen at **Toorbul Roost** and environs:

Black Swan, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Striated Heron, Black-necked Stork, Osprey, Brahminy Kite, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Spotted Turtle-Dove, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Rainbow Bee-eater, Little Wattlebird, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Mangrove Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Magpie-lark, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Figbird and Welcome Swallow.

**Bishops Marsh** was not surveyed.

Unfortunately the tides are not being helpful for ID days for the rest of the season. We are saddened that we will have to wait for the waders return in September, but we hope that we will be able to have tides and times that help you all with identifying those tricky species.

**LEG FLAG OBSERVATION REPORT**  
**Return to Phil Cross, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, Qld 4xxx**  
**Phone: 07 xxxx xxxx    Email: xxxx@xxxx.net.au**

Please photocopy this page to use. Phil Cross wants a consistency to the reports received. Also, it will give you a reminder of what information is required.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Name  |  |
| Address   |  |
| Telephone & Email   |  |
| Date and time of observation  |  |
| Location & sitecode (if known)  |  |
| Co-ordinates ( Lat / Long )   |  |
| Species   |  |
| Marking: Colour flag/<br>colour ring/metal ring<br>Position on leg Right tibia<br>(upper)   |  |
| Marking: Colour flag/<br>colour ring/ metal ring<br>Position on leg Right tarsus<br>(lower) |  |
| Marking: Colour flag/<br>colour ring/ metal ring<br>Position on leg Left tibia (upper)      |  |
| Marking: Colour flag/<br>colour ring/metal ring<br>Position on leg Left tarsus<br>(lower)   |  |
| Plumage: Breeding /<br>non breeding/in between  |  |
| Other species associating with  |  |
| Other information: flock size,<br>composition, other details                                |  |
| Photograph included:<br>Yes/No  |  |

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

#### MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE QWSG

|                           |                   |                |                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>       | Andrew Geering    | (07) xxxx xxxx |                     |
| <u>TREASURER:</u>         | Sheryl Keates     | (08) xxxx xxxx | or xxxx@xxxx.com.au |
| <u>SECRETARY:</u>         | Peter Rothlisberg | (07) xxxx xxxx |                     |
| <u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u> | David Edwards     | (07) xxxx xxxx |                     |

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

|                |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Dawn Beck      | (07) xxxx xxxx | Vicki Campbell | (07) xxxx xxxx |
| Jon Coleman    | (07) xxxx xxxx | Maureen Cooper | (07) xxxx xxxx |
| Ken Cowell     | (07) xxxx xxxx | Joyce Harding  | (07) xxxx xxxx |
| Sandra Harding | (07) xxxx xxxx | David Milton   | (07) xxxx xxxx |
| Heather Smith  | xxxx xxx xxx   | Des Wells      | (07) xxxx xxxx |
| Ivell Whyte    | (07) xxxx xxxx |                |                |

COUNT COORDINATOR: Linda Cross (07) xxxx xxxx

#### CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence to:  
The QWSG Chairperson,  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
QLD 4xxx

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Treasurer 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

Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward application to:

QWSG Treasurer,  
xxxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxxx  
NT 08xx

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. Only one further newsletter will be sent after expiry of your subscription.

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **May 18<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, Qld 4xxx  
or E-mail to: xxxx@xxxx.com.au

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

Advertising Rates are \$20:00 for one quarter page and \$25:00 for a third of a page.

**PRINTED BY: Mr Bob Durrington of J.R. Durrington & Sons Pty Ltd.**



## QWSG MERCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG Merchandise, items may be purchased at BQ Inc meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at the Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton.

**OR**

Contact Dawn Beck Phone 07 3378 8598 or email [xxxx@xxxx.com.au](mailto:xxxx@xxxx.com.au)

Postage is not included in prices quoted.

|              |          |  |
|--------------|----------|--|
| BOOKS        | \$45.00  | Shorebirds of Australia  |
|              | \$19.80  | Shorebird Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region                            |
|              | \$20.00  | Status and Conservation of Shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. |
| CD           | \$20.00  | Bird Calls of the Broome Region (includes 42 Wader Species)                  |
| METAL BADGES | \$5.00   | Metal QWSG logo badges.  |
| CLOTH BADGES | \$8.00   | QWSG logo on rectangular bottle-green or sand background                     |
| POLO SHIRTS  | \$35.00. |  |

Our cotton polo shirts are finally available. The locally made shirts are plain bottle or sky with contrast collar in sand or tri-coloured sand/cocoa/sky and sand/cocoa/bottle. Sizes S – XXL in men's as well as XS and S in women's. Please bear in mind when ordering that sizes are extremely generous.

We are having more polo shirts made and there will be smaller sizes available again. So contact to place your order.



## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

Rod BUCHANAN, Ashley BUNTE  
Robert & Barbara COLLYER  
John JOSEFSKI, Tamara van POLANEN PETEL

Many thanks too to those who have included a donation with their renewal or membership fee. This is greatly appreciated as such donations make on-going work possible.

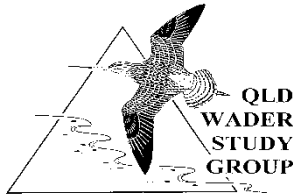
## Other Conservation Activities of Interest



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, Marianne Keller (07) xxxx xxxx; Secretary, Jim Sneddon (07) xxxx xxxx; Treasurer, Frank James (07) xxxx xxxx.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Monthly Meetings | Birds Queensland - 7.45pm<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.<br>Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton.<br>Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:45pm start. |
|------------------|--|



**Count Activities 2008**

**QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Programme – 2008**

|                            |                              |              |                         |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Sat 8th Mar                | 2.45m at 09:58               | Sat 23rd Aug | 2.02m at 14:07 (2:07pm) |
| Sat 5th Apr                | 2.34m at 08:45               | Sat 20th Sep | 2.18m at 12:54          |
| Sat 17th May               | 1.92m at 07:26               | Sat 4th Oct  | 2.08m at 12:16          |
| <b>NO COUNT IN JUNE</b>    |                              | Sat 1st Nov  | 2.24m at 11:14          |
| Sat 5th Jul 1.81m at 11:09 | <b>National Winter Count</b> | Sat 6th Dec  | 2.00m at 15:11 (3:11pm) |

**Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2008**

|              |                |            |              |                         |                      |
|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Sun 9th Mar  | 2.39m at 10:34 | Meet 08:40 | Sun 24th Aug | 2.03m at 15:19 (3:19pm) | Meet 13:30 (1:30pm)  |
| Sun 6th Apr  | 2.30m at 09:26 | Meet 07:35 | Sun 21st Sep | 2.13m at 13:53 (1:53pm) | Meet 12:05           |
| Sun 18th May | 1.88m at 08:05 | Meet 06:30 | Sun 5th Oct  | 2.00m at 12:57          | Meet 11:10           |
| Sun 22nd Jun | 1.72m at 11:31 | Meet 09:40 | Sun 2nd Nov  | 2.17m at 11:49          | Meet 10:00           |
| Sun 6th Jul  | 1.82m at 11:57 | Meet 10:10 | Sun 7th Dec  | 1.95m at 16:12 (4:12pm) | Meet: 14:20 (2:20pm) |

**NOTE CHANGES FOR MARCH, AND CHANGE OF DAY FOR JULY PORT COUNT TO SUNDAY**

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



**MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION**

I / We wish to join / renew: (Single \$15; Family \$25; Student/Pensioner \$10)  
 Title..... First name: .....Surname Name:.....  
 Address:..... Membership: \$.....  
 ..... Postcode:..... Donation: \$.....  
 Payment enclosed: \$.....  
 Phone: (Home) ..... (Work) .....  
 Fax / e-mail: .....

TOTAL \$.....  
 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.....)  
 SIGNATURE: ..... DATE:.....

Post to: QWSG Treasurer, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, NT 08xx  
 Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group  
 For a direct credit, please use the following details.

Account name: Qld Wader Study Group  
 Account number: xxxxxxxx  
 Financial Institution: Uni Credit Union  
 BSB: xxxxx

An email advice to Sheryl Keates [xxxx@xxxx.com.au](mailto:xxxx@xxxx.com.au) would be appreciated.