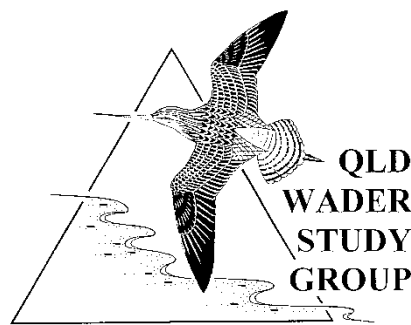


QUEENSLAND WADER



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

Population Decrease of Shorebirds in Saemangeum

Extract from Saemangeum Report, Korea by Mun, Kyu-hyun

Shorebirds who are depending their lives on Saemangeum are under endanger, too. The number of shorebirds in Saemangeum, Geum Estuary, and Gomso bay were researched by SSMP (Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Program) conducted by AWSG (Australian Wader Study Group) and BirdsKorea from 2006 to 2008. The population of shorebirds in Saemangeum decreased from about 198,045 in 2006 to about 87,226 in 2007. Although the population increased in nearby Gomso Bay and Geum River Estuary by 3,522 and 37,665 respectively, the number of the total three areas decreased by 69,632. In Autumn 2007, about 100 dead birds were found in dried tidal flats. In 2008, the shorebird population decreased to 54,394. the number of three areas of Saemangeum, Gomso Bay, and Geum River Estuary decreased to by 114,486 to 167,706.

This survey shows that the existence of the other areas could not compensate for the loss of Saemangeum. Although the birds who preferred Saemangeum may moved to the other tidal flats in western seashore, such as Namyang bay, Asan bay or Sihwa tidal flat, it is doubtful that they may survive in this world. It is known that similar phenomena were in Europe, and the lost birds were never compensated in the other areas. They just disappeared from the earth.

The possibility is high that the birds population will further decrease, because the tidal flats in Geum river Estuary and Gomso Bay is changing from sand-flat to mud-flat. According to the residents, shellfish of small size living in sand-flat are decreasing, then *Upogebia major* and Lugworm living in mud-flat are increasing. In 2008, Great Knots, who eats shellfish of small size were not founded. It may cause conflicts between birds and human. Because the Great Knot may feed shellfish of small size that was spread by the people. The residents are already reporting the damage from the birds.

Decrease of shorebirds population may cause international problems. They balanced the ecology of breeding sites and wintering sites by feeding on their prey. If the population decreases, the ecology in the breeding sites and wintering sites will must change. Perhaps with such reason, Australian government is leading negotiation between countries in the flyway. Although South Korea Government signed a treaty with Australia in 2006 and China in 2007 for the protection of shorebirds and other flyway waterbirds, South Korea Government is not keeping the treaty at all. In 1996 at the COP6 meeting of Ramsar Convention, "Asia - Pacific Migratory Birds conservation Strategy" was signed, Shorebirds Network of Flyway Partnership made. At shorebirds Network, Dongjin River Estuary of Saemangeum region was included, but the Korea government did not make an effort positively for protection and wise use.

However, Saemangeum tidal flat is still an internationally important wetland that meet the Ramsar Criteria according the 2008 SSMP result. 54,394 birds were found at the same time, meeting the criteria of 20,000 birds. And there are 12 species of birds of which more than 1% of the worldwide population comes to Saemangeum: Eurasian oystercatcher, Grey plover, Mongolian plover, Bar-tailed godwit, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Terek sandpiper, Grey-tailed tattler, Great knot, Red-necked stint, Dunlin and Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

Because the Korean government has hosted Ramsar COP10 in October 2008, it must promise to world society Saemangeum tidal flat protection and wise use. And, it must be that Geum River Estuary and Gomso bay tidal flat determine to Ramsar wetland.

Report on MYSMA and Shorebirds 2020 Projects

by Arthur Keates

In early December, I represented QWSG at the shorebird counter training workshops and counts organised by the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) in conjunction with Birds Australia (BA) as part of the MYSMA (Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia) and Shorebirds 2020 Migratory Shorebirds Population Monitoring Projects. Other participants attending included BA staff, representatives from other wader study groups and Asian representatives, 4 from Birds Korea and 2 from China. In all, well over 20 people were involved, including several Broome locals who volunteered their time and generously made their 4WDs available for use.

The main objective was to count the areas from the ground, something that had not been done since before 2001. Participants also had a unique networking opportunity, exchanged ideas and sharing knowledge about shorebird monitoring.

The main part of the program of activities comprised:

- 2 days of identification and counting workshops including practice counting sessions at freshwater wetlands as well as Roebuck Bay
- 6 days of extensive surveys of Roebuck Bay, Eighty Mile Beach, Bush Point and beaches north of Broome.

The identification and counting workshops were presented by well known shorebird enthusiasts, Dr Danny Rogers and Chris Hassell. Experienced and novice shorebird counters all learned from their presentations.

Identification and counting skills were tested at Taylor's Lagoon and Lake Eda, freshwater wetlands on Roebuck Plains Station, as well as on the shores of Roebuck Bay.

Participants were divided into teams to count Eighty Mile Beach over 3 days, most of which were based at Anna Plains Station while another team was based at the Caravan Park at Wallal and the 3rd team further south.

Counts were conducted by driving along the beach with a spotting scope mounted or resting on a car window. Each vehicle had a dedicated scribe to record the species and numbers counted. Those of us who camped at Anna Plains Station were fortunate to be able to explore parts of the cattle property and the sand dunes bordering the property and the beach. We are all grateful to the owners of the station who were extremely generous in allowing us the use of facilities.

After completing the counts at Eighty Mile Beach all teams returned to Roebuck Bay for the final 2 days of counting Roebuck Bay, Bush Point and some northern beaches. To date, final figures for the counts are not yet available but are eagerly awaited.

Having completed the entire counts, the final day was set aside for participants to give a presentation about their region. Niall Moores, Birds Korea, started the ball rolling with the depressing tale of Saemangeum. Niall thanked QWSG for its generous donation to Birds Korea. The 3 other representatives from Birds Korea gave interesting presentations on Mokpo Namhang Urban Wetland, Heuksando & Hangdo Islands and the Nakdong Estuary. The Chinese participants gave informative presentations on Yalu Jiang and Chongming Dongtan. Yalu Jiang is a vital stopover point where one of the participants found and photographed a Bar-tailed Godwit fitted with a satellite transmitter in February 2008. I gave a short outline of QWSG and its activities. Participants from SA, WA, NSW did similarly for their regions.

At the end of the program, participants walked away with improved identification skills and counting techniques and a better knowledge of issues throughout the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Thanks go to BA and AWSG for organising the program, especially Chris Hassell whose planning and tireless efforts made it all successfully happen. Also, a special thanks to Andrea, Maurice and Clare for the culinary delights they presented the tired and hungry throughout their stay.

The Chairperson's report and financial statement will appear in the next issue of Queensland Wader.



Shorebirds on beach Roebuck Bay. Photo G O'Brien

Final Survey of Mackay

It was just about a year ago that we completed the sixth full survey of the Mackay region as we headed back for a seventh one. The area to be covered was 200km of coast between the Conway Ranges, near Airlie Beach and Cape Palmerston south of Sarina.

As with the previous survey, this area is one of selected regions (Australia-wide) with large numbers of Great Knot. A small amount of funding came from the Australasian Wader Study Group, but the majority of the money was from our own QWSG funds.

We have included the table listing the results of previous surveys, with the additional data from this last count. As you will see from the table, the results are the third highest count of waders over all the surveys we have done. Weather conditions during the survey were fine, dry and quite hot, and thankfully the winds light enough to allow all boats on the water to enable coverage of all the sites. Quite a few sites needed mapping and although the tides were again fairly high the counters got to the sites early to ensure this was done and that all birds were counted before they were pushed off the roosts.

A total of 21 sites were counted north of the Pioneer River, 28 sites south of the river and 6 wetland sites, making a total of 55 sites counted for the survey weekend. Of these, four were new sites that added to the database (three coastal sites south of the river and one wetland).

Three new species were added to the list (Latham's Snipe, Wood Sandpiper & Wandering Tattler), which now brings the total of migratory and resident wader species seen whilst surveying in the Mackay region to 36. Other waterbirds counted at the sites totalled 5651.

The Latham's Snipe and Wood Sandpiper were seen at Tedlands Wetland, while Wandering Tattlers were recorded at Sand Bay No. 1, Dudgeon Point, Rocky Island and Cullen Island (new site).

We had the largest count of Beach Stone-curlews (18), which is an increase of five on the previous maximum. They were recorded at eight sites as follows: 2 at north bank Bakers Creek, 2 at Bakers Creek mouth, 2 at Dudgeon Point Claypan, 2 at Rocky Island, 2 at Cuttack Island northside, 5 at Temple Island (new site), 2 at St. Helens Beach and 1 at Reliance Creek sandbar.

Another excellent resident wader count was Sooty Oystercatcher (77), an increase of 26 birds since last year. They were recorded at sites as follows: 2 at Pioneer River mouth banks, 20 at Dudgeon Point, 16 at Rocky Island, 1 at Taffy Islet, 28 at Temple Island (new site), 2 at Cullen Island (new site), 1 at St. Helens Beach, 6 at Seaforth Beach and 1 at Reliance Creek sandbar.

The only wader breeding record came from St. Helens Beach where 2 Red-capped Plover nests were observed, one with 2 eggs. Other breeding records were all of waterbirds. Habana Wharf claypan had a pair of Brolga with one young, Lake Barfield had Great-crested Grebe (2 on nests and one collecting nesting material), and Black Swan had five cygnets at Dudgeon Point wetland.

Three flagged birds were recorded during the survey. All were Great Knot flagged in Chongming Dao, Shanghai, China. One seen at Armstrong's Beach south (black flag over white flag), and two seen at Cuttack Island northside, were one had black over white flag and the other was white over black flag (old combination).

Some of the higher counts were as follows:

2825 Great Knot at O'Connell River mouth

1014 Great Knot at Armstrong's Beach

300 Eastern Curlew at Deadman's Creek, New Beach

520 Greater Sand Plover at O'Connell River mouth

346 Whimbrel at McEwan's Beach swamp

251 Whimbrel at Nell's Beach

127 Red-capped Plover at Reliance Creek sandbar

158 Pacific Golden Plover at McEwan's Beach swamp

Other sightings of interest were:-

2 Black-necked Stork at Dudgeon Point claypan

52 Black-naped Tern at Cullen Island (new site)

61 Bridled Tern at Irving Island (new site)

8 Great-crested Grebe at Lake Barfield

78 Wandering Whistling Duck at Lake Barfield

44 Whiskered Tern at Tedlands Dam 2

778 Magpie Goose at Tedlands wetland

19 Radjah Shelduck at Tedlands wetland

1 Black-necked Stork (juvenile at Mackay Port wetland)

1 Brown Songlark at Dudgeon Point wetland

30 Black-naped Tern at Rocky Island

188 Black Swan at Lake Barfield

21 Radjah Shelduck at Lake Barfield

7 Cotton Pygmy Goose at Lake Barfield

36 Glossy Ibis at Tedlands wetland

9 Cotton Pygmy Goose at Tedlands Dam 2

135 Royal Spoonbill at Tedlands wetland

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 Kerri Woodcock and Derek Ball for organising vessels, the helicopter and for joining and transporting two teams in work vehicles during the weekend. 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, Vicki Campbell, Maureen Cooper, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, David Edwards, Andrew Geering, Fay Griffin, Sandra Harding, David Milton, Peter Rothlisberg, Floss Wainwright, Dez Wells, Jim Whyte, Ivell Whyte.

AWSG: Ann Lindsey

Birds Australia member: Geoff McLaughlin

MWNRM: Derek Ball & Kerri Woodcock,

QPWS (Marine Parks) staff: Caleb Bailey & Steve Fisher.

Mackay City Council: Lisa Kermode.

BOCA Mackay: Marj Andrews & Gerry Woodruff.

Linda Cross.

| SPECIES | Reconnaissance Nov 2002 | Jan 2003 | Apr 2003 | Oct 2003 | Feb 2004 | Jan 2006 | Nov 2007 | Nov 2008 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Latham's Snipe | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Black-tailed Godwit | - | 331 | - | 116 | 71 | - | - | - |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 1242 | 4360 | 236 | 1530 | 2343 | 2854 | 3324 | 4343 |
| Little Curlew | - | 16 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Whimbrel | 332 | 813 | 1586 | 1647 | 975 | 1002 | 1673 | 1960 |
| Eastern Curlew | 546 | 1324 | 448 | 1235 | 294 | 422 | 533 | 808 |
| Marsh Sandpiper | 5 | 50 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 13 | 22 | 5 |
| Common Greenshank | 88 | 153 | 80 | 148 | 90 | 136 | 189 | 143 |
| Wood Sandpiper | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Terek Sandpiper | 21 | 152 | 179 | 172 | 329 | 118 | 369 | 55 |
| Common Sandpiper | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Grey-tailed Tattler | 46 | 417 | 1311 | 929 | 832 | 358 | 572 | 643 |
| Wandering Tattler | | | | | | | | 9 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | - | 61 | 98 | 10 | 38 | 53 | 122 | 102 |
| Great Knot | 447 | 5679 | 229 | 1935 | 6047 | 4407 | 6701 | 5418 |
| Red Knot | - | 31 | 29 | 251 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 17 |
| Sanderling | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Red-necked Stint | 162 | 1995 | 844 | 1676 | 749 | 628 | 3692 | 1976 |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 25 | 1030 | 4 | 1006 | 68 | 68 | 497 | 261 |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 40 | 90 | 13 | 191 | 5 | 44 | 221 | 22 |
| Comb-crested Jacana | - | 18 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 12 | 29 |
| Bush Stone-curlew | - | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | - |
| Beach Stone-curlew | 2 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 18 |
| Pied Oystercatcher | 134 | 662 | 477 | 223 | 539 | 357 | 312 | 302 |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 10 | 40 | 33 | 20 | 35 | 51 | 43 | 77 |
| Black-winged Stilt | 15 | 268 | 39 | 8 | 56 | 86 | 101 | 56 |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 59 | 457 | 208 | 775 | 39 | 7 | 349 | 677 |
| Grey Plover | 91 | 113 | 89 | 39 | 175 | 81 | 156 | 159 |
| Red-capped Plover | 57 | 356 | 231 | 419 | 157 | 99 | 366 | 542 |
| Double-banded Plover | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lesser Sand Plover | 33 | 1817 | 895 | 499 | 1887 | 2637 | 1980 | 424 |
| Greater Sand Plover | 14 | 493 | 170 | 1462 | 1078 | 817 | 2732 | 1148 |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | 4 | 20 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | - | 4 | - | 3 | - | - | - | 0 |
| Masked Lapwing | 14 | 81 | 118 | 76 | 51 | 68 | 102 | 75 |
| 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 | - | - | - | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Total migratory waders | 3232 | 20160 | 7073 | 13977 | 15074 | 13692 | 23140 | 18172 |
| Total resident waders | 236 | 1469 | 917 | 774 | 851 | 685 | 957 | 1103 |
| Total waders | 3468 | 21629 | 7990 | 14751 | 15925 | 14377 | 24097 | 19275 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Total migratory species | 15 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 18 | 17 | 19 | 20 |
| Total resident species | 7 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Total species | 22 | 31 | 27 | 30 | 27 | 26 | 28 | 28 |

Body Condition, Survival and Movements in Shorebirds

PROJECT AIMS

- 1) To maintain a banded, individually colour flagged population of shorebirds that use Moreton Bay. These can be monitored by Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) counters to better identify roosting, feeding and staging areas around the bay and their relative importance to waders.
- 2) To collect weight and size data from individuals caught to calculate body condition indices from a range of resident and migratory wading bird species. These data will be built up in a consistent manner over a number of years so that trends in change in body condition index can be monitored over time as a means of assessing site quality and understanding fluctuations in numbers.
- 3) To use age criteria for the birds to establish age ratios that can be used to estimate breeding productivity in the various species, which can be compared between years.
- 4) To understand fidelity of birds to roosting and feeding sites.
- 5) To contribute data on wader movements and survival in the Pacific flyway by banding and flagging Queensland birds that can be observed on migration, with waders from other regions and their movements plotted and survival estimated internationally.

METHODS

Mist-nets are set to intercept waders flying into known roost sites in the Moreton Bay area at night. Every bird caught is banded and given a green engraved leg flag, on the other leg to the metal band, allowing it to be identified in the field by observers. Banding will be done once a month catching birds as they come into roost sites on a rising tide. In addition low tide mist netting of birds in feeding areas is also planned where lines of nets will be set across mud flats used for feeding, on a dropping tide.

Each bird caught is aged, sexed if possible, and a series of biometric measures recorded. These are maximum wing chord length, tarsus length, total head length, bill length and weight. Weight will be regressed against a composite size measure to provide an indicative body index for every bird caught.

A database of sighting records around the Moreton Bay area will be built up allowing patterns of habitat utilisation to be built up and changes monitored over time. This data is being collected through *ad hoc* sightings of colour flags and also from data collected by QWSG observers during the course of planned surveys.

The body index data will be used to show trends in body condition index for species which can be used as an indicator of health, providing additional granularity to the data collected in survey work that may help to explain any observed changes.

Age data will be used to calculate proportions of juveniles to adults as comparative estimates of productivity of the various species caught between years.

FIELD VISITS INVOLVING TRAPPING

| MONTH | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|---|-----|------|---|-------|-------|
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| MANLY MARINA | 11/1 | 5/2 | 7/3 | 4/4 | 4/5 | 21/6 | | 2/8 | 27/9 | | 2/11 | 13/12 |
| GEOFF SKINNER RESERVE | 25/1 | 22/2 | 21/3 | | | | | | 13/9 | | | |
| COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | 19/11 | |
| CSIRO CLEVELAND | | | | | | | | | 7/9 | | | |

NUMBERS BANDED DURING PERIOD

I) GEOFF SKINNER RESERVE, WELLINGTON POINT

| SPECIES | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | TOT |
|------------------------|------|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | |
| Bar Tailed godwit | 2 | 1 | 46 | | | | | | | | | | 49 |
| Black winged stilt | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Eastern Curlew | | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Greater Sand-plover | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Red necked stint | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Sharp Tailed Sandpiper | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 4 |
| Whimbrel | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |

II) MANLY MARINA

| SPECIES | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | TOT |
|-----------------------|------|---|------|------|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|--------|
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | |
| Bar Tailed godwit | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8(1) | 7 | | | | 4 | | 3 | 2 | 31 (1) |
| Black winged stilt | | | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | | | 4 |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | 4 | | | 2 | 10 |
| Eastern curlew | 1 | | | 4 | | | | 3 | | | 1 | | 9 |
| Greater Sandplover | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| Grey Tailed Tattler | 3 | | 1(1) | 4 | 5(1) | | | | | | | | 13 (2) |
| Lesser Sandplover | 2 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 5 |
| Masked Lapwing | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Pacific Golden plover | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Pied Oystercatcher | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 2(1) | 8 (1) |
| Red Capped Plover | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Red necked stint | 4 | 1 | | 5 | | | | | | | | | 10 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | | | 3 | | | | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| Terek Sandpiper | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | 4 | 10 |
| Whimbrel | | 1 | | | | | | | 5 | | 3 | | 9 |

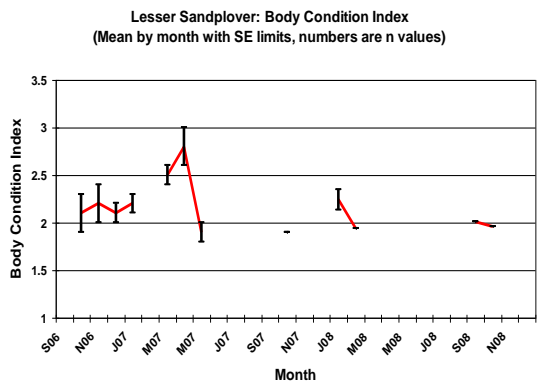
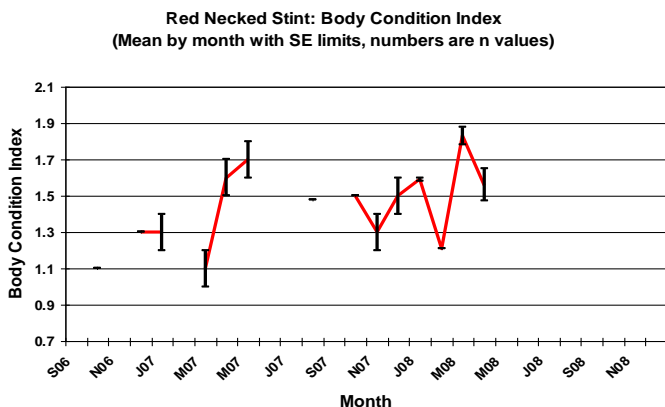
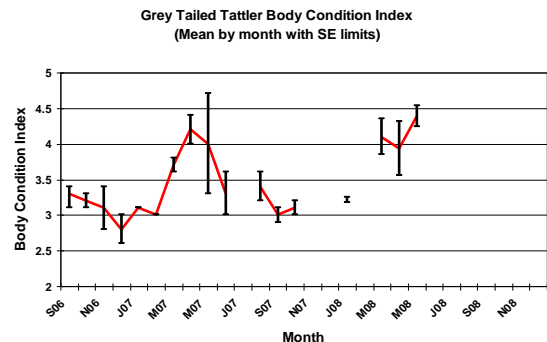
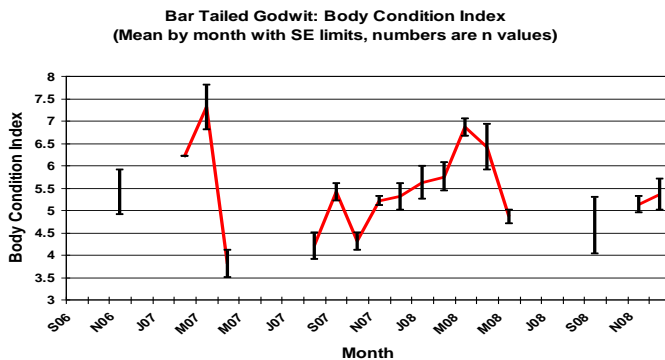
Figures in brackets are recaptures

III) CLEVELAND AND COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND

| SPECIES | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | TOT |
|-------------------|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|-----|
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | |
| Bush Stone Curlew | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 22 | | 24 |

A) RESULTS TO DATE

Body condition indices were calculated monthly for the following species and form the comparative baseline for future years of analysis (Figs 5.1-5.4). Data shows arrival body condition, average condition while using the bay as a feeding area and body condition prior to departure. The data shows that birds maintain body condition through the summer but significantly improve body condition prior to departure in the autumn. Further graphs for additional species will be provided from 2009 onwards now that banding at a range of locations is producing a wider range of samples for additional migratory and non-migratory species.



Catching in the latter part of 2008 was hampered by poor weather with high winds causing the cancellation of several banding visits leaving gaps in the data. That said, where data appears for the same periods in 2006, 2007 and 2008 the values appear remarkably consistent between years. The Grey Tailed Tattler and Bar Tailed Godwit data, the most complete datasets, represent species taking different migratory routes with the godwits staging mainly in South Korea and China and the Tattlers staging further east, mainly in Japan. These graphs over time should therefore provide useful trend data for the two routes, particularly when combined with count data for the Moreton Bay area.

The Red Necked Stint and Lesser Sand-plover graphs demonstrate that, for some species, larger sample sizes are required and this is being addressed with the adoption of new sites in Toorbul and Deception Bay which should lead to more species and numbers of those species being captured through 2009.

Additional graphs will be produced from 2009 onwards showing age profiles for the species caught, which again should be indicative of breeding success providing comparative data between years.

Table 5.1 shows local movements around the bay and wider movements within Australia, which demonstrates that most birds (99.6% of all resightings) from Manly and Geoff Skinner utilise the bay between the two sites as a preferred feeding location. From 2009 additional data should be presented for birds roosting at Toorbul and Deception Bay roost sites. The data also suggests that birds are remarkably faithful to their roost sites with 85% of all high tide resightings being at the original high tide banding location. The selected recoveries section below provides more detail on faithfulness and also on staging areas for some species demonstrating that birds are faithful to feeding and roost sites both within and between seasons.

| Movement | High tide to High tide | High tide to Low tide | Staging |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Geoff Skinner to Manly | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Geoff Skinner to Wellington Point | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Geoff Skinner to Acacia St | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Geoff Skinner to Thorneside | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Geoff Skinner to Oyster Point | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Geoff Skinner to Reeder Point | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Manly to Manly | 316 | 0 | 0 |
| Manly to Thorneside | 0 | 153 | 0 |
| Manly to Wynnum | 1 | 44 | 0 |
| Manly to Port of Brisbane | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Manly to Oyster Point | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Manly to Wellington Point | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Manly to Acacia Street | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Manly to Dunwich | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Manly to Toorbul | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Manly to Cairns | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Manly to Lytton | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Manly to Bribie Island | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Manly to Lota | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 372 | 224 | 4 |

Table 5.2 Local Movements of individually flagged birds recorded around Moreton Bay and within Australia (data 2006 to 2008 inclusive)

Selected recoveries are shown below which demonstrate key staging areas for shorebirds on Northward migration and also demonstrate the high level of site fidelity both within and between years to feeding and roosting locations.

Foreign recoveries were primarily recorded for Bar Tailed Godwit, Grey Tailed Tattler and Terek Sandpiper with Tattlers and Terek Sandpipers recorded in Japan and Bar Tailed Godwits recorded in South Korea and China on Northward migration. In a number of instances birds were recorded on migration and subsequently recorded again back at the same roost site in subsequent seasons and also at the same feeding locations.

This study is the first to use engraved leg flags on the smaller species such as Red Necked Stint and it is encouraging to see that these flags are also being read in the field and records on local movements collated.

Certainly for Grey Tailed Tattler and Bar Tailed Godwit the numbers of resightings recorded from the individually engraved flags will allow future survival analysis and detection of trends to be attempted, at least for those species. With new sites planned for 2009 and a focus on some of the non migratory species data for this type of analysis will also be collected for other species in enough detail to allow accurate estimates in future years.

First Call for Papers for the 7th Australasian Shorebird Conference. Hobart, Tasmania, AUSTRALIA 4 – 6 September 2009

Hello everyone,

This newsletter provides information, new announcements and the First Call for Papers for the 7th Australasian Shorebird Conference.

1. Conference theme

The theme of the 7th Australasian Shorebird Conference will be “*Resident and Migratory Shorebirds – Managing Their Future*”. This will encompass several inter-related themes including:

- Future prospects for shorebirds in the East-Asian Australasian Flyway
- Knowledge gaps in regard to Resident shorebirds
- Beach nesting birds and sea level rise
- Conservation status and threats to shorebirds

If you are interested in presenting an oral or poster at the Conference, please email the organisers at awsg2009@gmail.com with a title, author(s) and affiliation(s), and an abstract of no more than 150 words. Please indicate whether the abstract is for an oral or poster presentation.

2. Mailing list

We have received approximately 30 emails asking to be placed on the mailing list for the Conference. Clearly, we are hoping for more attendees! If you wish to receive future newsletters and emails, or if you wish to attend the Conference, please email the Conference organisers at xxxx@xxxxl.com.

3. Social functions, dietary requirements and partners

We will be having an ice-breaker on the evening of Friday 4 September, and there will be a Conference dinner on the Saturday evening. If you have specific dietary requirements, please advise the organisers as we will cater for your dietary needs at the Saturday and Sunday lunches, ice breaker and the Conference dinner. If you wish to bring a partner to the Icebreaker or Conference Dinner, please advise the organisers. The Icebreaker will be free and open to partners, but extra tickets for the Conference dinner will be on sale.

4. Visas

Some delegates have indicated that they require a letter of invitation for an Australian visa to be issued. If you require such a letter, please contact the organisers and an invitation on Conference letterhead will be sent to you. This should be sufficient for the visa to be issued.

5. Conference accommodation and trips

We request that Conference attendees organise their travel to Tasmania, accommodation in Hobart, and pre- or post-Conference trips with Tonia Cochrane at xxxx@xxxx.com.au. Tonia has negotiated special prices for the Conference, so please email her to discuss your travel and accommodation needs. Please contact Tonia directly for all accommodation and trip enquiries and bookings and payments for these. Do not send payments for accommodation or trips to the organisers.

Depending on interest, visits may be organised to local shorebird sites in south-east Tasmania; trips to other shorebird sites in the state may also be organised if sufficient interest is shown.

6. Other queries?

If you have any queries or if we can assist you in any way, please contact the organisers at xxxx@xxxx.com and we will be happy to help you.

Please circulate this newsletter and call for papers as widely as you can to colleagues, associates and students. If you wish to be placed on the email list for further information, please email the organisers at xxxx@xxxx.com

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee, I look forward to seeing you in Hobart later this year.

Warmest regards to all.

Dr Eric J Woehler

Convenor, 7th Australasian Shorebird Conference

Count Programme by Dawn Beck

This is my first report as count coordinator so perhaps I should introduce myself. I have been a member of QWSG for a long time and have helped count at the Port of Brisbane for many years. Eventually I earned Linda's trust and she gave me Point Halloran Reserve to count but then she sacked me and gave the job to Barbara and Rob Collyer who live there. I must admit I was not too upset as it was a long way to drive and I became a "fill in" counter for sites when the regular counters were away or unavailable. Vicki Campbell is my counting partner; we enjoyed being "locum" counters as it was interesting visiting the various roosts. Now Vicki and I have taken over Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve from Floss Wainwright and Ken Cowell who are doing a new monthly count at Nathan Road Redcliffe behind the airport. This means we need relief counters for the Brisbane area, Heather Smith has offered to do the sites south of the river; is there anyone who would like to help Heather and anyone to learn the sites north of Brisbane River?

It did not take long to realise that this is a difficult job and I do not have Linda's vast knowledge and experience of the sites and the overall distribution of waders around the state. You will have to be patient with me and please tell me of any mistakes I make. I am constantly in touch with Linda who has complained that she has never had so many emails. I hope these decrease, Linda, as I gain more experience and confidence. I am interested in all the comments that you write in the General Notes part of the form; especially those relating to disturbance.

I would like to thank Kath Shurcliff and Dave Houghton for taking on a roost on the Endeavour River, Cooktown and to Marilyn Sweetnam who is now counting the beach near O'Reagans Creek, Hervey Bay. I also welcome Margaret Cameron and her team from BASQ who are supplying counts from Bundamba Lagoon near Ipswich.

One last thing, as I get free phone calls on my mobile from 7-8 pm, if I have any queries I will ring you then, so please do not hang up, I will not offer you a fantastic holiday, a mobile phone nor offer to lower your mortgage.

Some interesting and significant sightings

Red Knot Recorded at Mathieson Homestead (220); Buckley's Hole Sandbar (15); Toorbul (17); Deception Bay (2)

4000 Great Knot: - Ross River Mouth (4000) – Peter Driscoll, Jo Oldland et al – 10.01.09

247 Black-tailed Godwit: - Pine Rivers Northside (247) – David Edwards – 31.01.09

162 Black-tailed Godwit: - Deception Bay – Linda & Phil Cross – 31.01.09

Bar-tailed Godwit: - Kakadu Beach (2200) – Michael Strong – 28.12.08; Toorbul (3452) - Dez Wells- 24.01.09

525 Eastern Curlew: - Geoff Skinner Reserve- Peter Rothlisberg, Michele Burford et al – 31.01.09

860 Whimbrel: - Mathieson's Homestead - John Knight – 06.12.08

350 Terek Sandpiper: - Mathieson's Homestead – John Knight 06.12.08

64 Marsh Sandpipers: - Deception Bay – Linda & Phil Cross - 05.12.08

1125 Grey-tailed Tattler: - Mathieson's Homestead (1125) – John Knight – 06.12.08

3535 Red-necked Stint: - Port of Brisbane – QWSG – 01.02.09

1680 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: - Port of Brisbane – QWSG – 01.02.09

1208 Curlew Sandpiper: - Port of Brisbane – QWSG – 01.02.09

9 Sooty Oystercatcher: - Finlaysons Point – Peggy Harding – 30.01.09

2 Broad-billed Sandpiper: - Cairns Esplanade - Jan Matsui – 01.11.08

2 Sanderling: - Noosa River mouth Sandbank – Jill Denning – 15.12.08

Beach Stone-curlew- Recorded from Cairns Esplanade; Ross River Mouth; Dalrymple Point, Bowen; Seaforth Beach; Noosa River Mouth; Reeder's Point, Moreton Isld and Tweed River Entrance.

95 Red-necked Avocets: - Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 07.12.08

10 Jacana: - Garnets Lagoon No. 2 – John Knight – 06.12.08

8 Latham's Snipe: - Deception Bay Claypan – L & P Cross – 31.01.09,

8 Latham's Snipe: - Bundamba Lagoon – Margaret Cameron – 08.01.09

Not Waders but Interesting

7 Brolga: - Young Ave Kinka Beach – Allan Briggs & team 31.01.09; also seen at Bishops Marsh & Garnets Lagoon

3 Black-necked Stork: - Cairns Esplanade – Jan Matsui – 05.12.08; also at Garnets Lagoons; Endeavour R, Cooktown; Reeder's Point, Moreton Island.

6 Glossy Ibis: - Garnet's Lagoon No. 2 – John Knight – 06.12.08

Correction from Issue 065 The 3000 Caspian Tern – should read 3000 Crested Tern Inskip Point – Jill Denning et al – 24.04.08

Breeding Records

Black-winged Stilt

6 Chicks at Bundamba Lagoon on 08.01.09

Brolga

2 Adults and 2 chicks at Garnets Lagoon No.2 on 07.10.08

Red-necked Avocet

Adults and young at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 07.12.08

Plumed Whistling Duck

2 Adults with 8 ducklings at Young Ave, Kinka Beach on 31.01.09

14 Ducklings Bundamba Lagoon on 08.01.09

Grey Teal

Ducklings at Bundamba Lagoon on 08.01.09

Australian Grebe

11 nests at Bundamba Lagoon on 08.01.09

WADER WATCH Linda and Phil Cross, Joyce Harding

Can everyone please remember to use the 'Leg Flag Observation Report' form.

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

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – green flag (**HD**) – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 08.02.09

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – green flag – Cairns Esplanade – John Crowhurst *et al* – 06.09.08

1 Greater Sand Plover – green flag – Cairns Esplanade – Per og Henny Schiermacher-Hansen – 03.10.08

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs between 04.10.08 to 10.02.09

14 Eastern Curlew, 7 Whimbrel, 59 Bar-tailed Godwit, 15 Pied Oystercatcher, 3 Pacific Golden Plover, 1 Black-winged Stilt, 3 Great Knot, 2 Ruddy Turnstone, 23 Grey-tailed Tattler, 2 Terek Sandpiper, 1 Greater Sand Plover, 4 Lesser Sand Plover, 4 Curlew Sandpiper, 1 Red-capped Plover & 6 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 – **AA, AR.**

Whimbrel – **AC, CT, FX, NA, NB, NE.**

Bar-tailed Godwit – **AE, AR, AZ, BA, BT, CE, CF, CL, CN, CP, CR, CU, CV, CX, CY, DA, DJ, DT, EC, EB, EJ, EM, FD, FM, FR, FT, FV, FY, NC.**

Pied Oystercatcher – **AC, AE, AH, AN, AP, AT, AY, BN, CL.**

Pacific Golden Plover – **EZ.**

Black-winged Stilt – **KD.**

Ruddy Turnstone – **BH, DL.**

Grey-tailed Tattler – **AA, AN, AV, BB, BK, BX, CA, DN, DT, DV, DY, EB, EU, HC, HM.**

Red-necked Stint – **AV, AT.**

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AY) – Mann's Beach, Corner Inlet, Victoria – Clive Minton – 07.02.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FP) – Waller's Island, Papakanu, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & Elise Verschoor – 31.01.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Hooper's Inlet, Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand – David Melville – 13.01.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Hooper's Inlet, Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand – David Melville – 16.12.08
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu River – Ash ponds, China – Wendy Hare – 11.05.08
 1 Red Knot – Kidd's Karaaka, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – David Lawrie & Miranda Berghuis – 14.12.08

Orange leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queens Esplanade, Thorneside – David Milton – 15.02.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding – 24.01.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 16.01.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 15.01.09
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates – 30.12.08
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – King Street mudflat Thornlands – David Milton & Sandra Harding – 27.12.08
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Oyster Point – Joyce Harding – 17.11.08
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 01.11.08
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mathiesen Homestead, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 06.10.08
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 01.11.08
 1 Red Knot – Hoogly Point, Western Broad Sound – Shane Westley & Roger Jaensch – 17.09.08
 1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – Arthur Keates – 01.02.09

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag right tarsus - Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 24.01.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag left tibia, red over blue band left tarsus, and white band over (unknown) band right tarsus – Mathiesen Homestead Hervey Bay – John Knight – 06.10.08
 1 Red Knot – Hoogly Point, Western Broad Sound – Shane Westley & Roger Jaensch – 17.09.08

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings

- 1 Great Knot – blue flag over white flag right tibia – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 22.01.09 (Central Japan)
 1 Great Knot – blue flag right tibia – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 22.01.09
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Queens Esplanade, Thorneside – David Milton – 15.02.09
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates – 10.02.09
 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 28.01.09
 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates – 16.01.09

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

The following Great Knot seen at Toorbul and reported in the previous issue of the Qld Wader (issue 66) has the wrong date on it. The date the bird was seen is reported correctly below.

1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag – Toorbul – John Kooistra & Russ Lamb – 01.11.08

- 1 Eastern Curlew – black over white – King St. Mudflat Thornlands – David Milton & Sandra Harding – 27.12.08
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black left tibia, white flag left tarsus etched E6 and metal band right tarsus – Boonooroo – Jill Denning – 10.02.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white over black – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 28.01.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white over black – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 22.01.09
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white over black – Manly Boat Harbour – Chris Barnes – 13.09.08
 1 Great Knot – white over black – Queens Esplanade, Thorneside – David Milton – 15.02.09
 1 Great Knot – white over black – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates – 10.02.09
 1 Great Knot – black over white – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Michael Strong – 08.02.09
 1 Great Knot – black over white – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 28.01.09
 1 Great Knot – black over white – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 23.01.09
 1 Great Knot – white over black – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – David Milton – 21.12.08
 2 Great Knot – black over white – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 06.12.08
 1 Great Knot – black over white – Cuttack Island Mackay region – David Edwards – 16.11.08
 1 Great Knot – black over white – Armstrong Beach Mackay region – Peter Rothlisberg – 16.11.08
 1 Great Knot – white over black – Cuttack Island Mackay region – Dez Wells – 16.11.08
 1 Great Knot – black over white – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 01.11.08

- 1 Red Knot – black over white – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 23.01.09
 1 Red Knot – black over white – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 15.01.09
 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – white over black – King St mudflat Thornlands – David Milton & Sandra Harding – 27.12.08
 1 Greater Sand Plover – black over white – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 08.02.09
 1 Great Sand Plover – black over white – Fisherman Islands – Arthur Keates – 01.02.09
 1 Greater Sand Plover – white over black – Chilli Beach FNQ – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 15.11.08

Other wader leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – orange over yellow flag right tibia – Toorbul – Gavin & Meg O'Brien – 03.10.08 (flagged South Australia)
 1 Greater Sand Plover – white flag left tibia, blue flag left tarsus, metal band right tibia – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 15.01.09 (flagged Taipei, Taiwan, China)
 1 Lesser Sand Plover – white flag left tibia, blue flag left tarsus, metal band right tibia – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 15.01.09 (flagged Taipei, Taiwan, China)
 1 Red-necked Stint – white flag left tibia, blue flag left tarsus, metal band right tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 22.01.09 (flagged Taipei, Taiwan, China)
 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – yellow band left tibia, blue band over green flag right tibia, metal band left tarsus – Frank Harrison – 15.11.08 (flagged Alaska, USA)
 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – yellow band right tibia, blue band left tibia, green flag left tarsus, metal band right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Yu Ota – 04.11.08 (flagged Alaska, USA)

Pied Oystercatcher 2 digit Yellow leg flag sightings

The following sightings of yellow flagged oystercatchers are not birds flagged in North West Western Australia, as per the flagging protocol. They are another project being run from Victoria and New South Wales. Birds flagged in Victoria will have a yellow flag on the right tibia and inscribed with two digits. New South Wales birds will have the yellow flag on the left tibia and inscribed with two digits. (C9) left tibia – Reeder's Point Moreton Island – Dawn Beck & Lyn Cole – 02.02.09

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross – 01.02.09
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 24.01.09 & 31.01.09
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Jill Dening & Michelle Marrington – 24.01.09
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Mathiesen Homestead, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 07.12.08
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 01.11.08
 1 Common Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Noosa River Sandbanks – Jill Dening & Dorothy Pashniak – 13.01.09

ELF (Engraved Leg Flag) on Victorian Godwits.

In early February this year 100 orange engraved leg flags (ELFs) have been placed on Godwits caught at Corner Inlet, Victoria.

Previously the ELFs were only put on Ruddy Turnstone and Pied/Sooty Oystercatchers in Victoria, but the program has now been extended to include the Godwits.

Please be on the lookout for any of these orange ELFs during the northward migration.

Remember to notify Phil & Linda Cross on any flag sightings.

The Chairperson's report and financial statement will appear in the next issue of Queensland Wader

WADER ID DAYS

The bird species listed in these reports are recorded in the new taxonomic order as per Christidis L & Boles W E. 2008. 'Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds'.

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 28 SEPTEMBER 2008

As we had forgotten to place the wader id notification in the Birds Queensland newsletter we were not expecting a lot of people. Three QWSG members turned up to join Phil and myself, which would have been an easy day for us, however, the Toowoomba Bird Observers Club had organised their outing to Toorbul for this day also and 16 of their members joined us to view the birds.

Weather conditions were fine, dry and warm with a few clouds and light breeze.

The following leg flagged birds were observed: -

- 1 Great Knot with green flag
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag
- 4 Bar-tailed Godwit with white flags. All also had a combination of coloured bands
(Green – Moreton Bay Orange – Victoria White – New Zealand)

Please see the Wader Watch section of this newsletter for a more detailed report on the above birds.

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Spotted Dove, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Striated Heron, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Eastern Osprey, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Masked Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Laughing Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Striated Pardalote (H), Lewin's Honeyeater (H), Mangrove Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Little Wattlebird, Rufous Whistler (H), Grey Shrike-thrush (H), Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, White-breasted Woodswallow, Willie Wagtail, Magpie-lark, and Welcome Swallow.

Bishops Marsh was almost dry and not surveyed.

Linda Cross.

LYTTON WADER ID DAY REPORT 29TH NOVEMBER 2008

As we had forgotten to advertise this outing in the Birds Queensland newsletter we knew we would only have a few people attend. A total of 12 people were in attendance, of which, 7 were either committee members or counters. This meant that Karen Rudkin, Natalie Reed, John Esdaile, Junko Touji and Wendy Dunn had more than a one on one teacher to help them identify the birds.

With warm, dry, humid conditions the bird hide was a cool and pleasant spot from which to view the birds. Sorting out the Black-tailed from the Bar-tailed Godwits was one of the main teachings given to the attendees. Two Red Knot were observed at the roost, with one showing remnant breeding plumage on its belly. Unfortunately there was no Great Knot to compare with for those wanting to learn how to separate these two species. However, plenty of comments on the diagnostic differences were given.

Five Grey-tailed Tattlers had the new green leg flags on, which have 2 letters on them. They were: **AP – BM – BT – ET and EX.**

13 of the species seen at the roost were waders:

Chestnut Teal, Intermediate Egret, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Masked Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Red Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper.

Linda Cross.

LYTTON WADER ID DAY REPORT 24TH JANUARY 2009

There was good attendance for our first wader id day for the year, with 24 people keen to view the birds. Two people (Peter & Kathy Wilk) were keener than most, coming all the way from Pottsville in Northern New South Wales. It was warm and very sultry even at 7.30 in the morning, but at least it stayed fine and dry.

Bird numbers and species were well down compared to our outing here in November 2008. One lone Black-tailed Godwit was seen with a few Bar-tailed, before they flew off about 15 minutes after our arrival. With only a few species left we decided to try to get approval to go to the wader roost at Manly Boat Harbour. With approval granted after a phone call we all headed off to the Manly roost.

Manly had a few more species to look at, but again the numbers for some of the species were very low. While some QWSG counters helped others identify birds, a couple of us spent our time looking for leg flags and then trying to decipher the letters on the flags.

The following leg flags were seen:-

At the Lytton roost a Black-winged Stilt with engraved green leg flag (**KD**) was seen.

At the Manly roost the following birds were seen with green flags:-

2 Eastern Curlew – **AA** and **AR**

1 Eastern Curlew – old flag

1 Whimbrel – NA

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – new flag unable to read letters.

3 Pied Oystercatcher – **AT**, **AY** and one unable to read letters

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – with orange flag was also seen.

Lytton roost:-

Chestnut Teal, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Brahminy Kite, Black-winged Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Common Greenshank and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Manly Boat Harbour:-

Australian Pelican, Eastern Osprey, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Caspian Tern and Crested Tern

Linda Cross.

WADER ID DAYS

Saturday 14th March 2009 at Toorbul

2.08m high tide at 11.26am (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul). Meeting time 10am

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul exit (Big Fish/Humble Pie billboard) is on the left just prior to the exit. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue on this road to Toorbul. Turn right at the T-junction then first left and then right, which brings you onto the Esplanade. Follow this road to the end (approximately 2kms); we will be on the left.

Bring water, food 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 will have birds arriving on their southward migration.

Please contact Phil & Linda Cross (07) xxxx xxxx if you have any questions.

Birds of the Wadden Sea Under Threat

NABU (BirdLife in Germany) has demanded an action plan for the threatened Wadden Sea. 'If the course of preserving the Wadden Sea is not changed as fast as possible, this unique habitat and central hub for bird migration in Europe will be lost,' said NABU Chief Executive Leif Miller.

NABU believes that the report confirms that losses caused by progressive climate change are imminent for the Wadden Sea and will threaten its globally unique ecosystem. The flats of the North and Baltic Sea are the most significant area of congregation of migratory birds in Europe, and Germany has an important international responsibility to protect these habitats.

QWSG MERCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG merchandise, items may be purchased at BQ Inc meetings held 1st Thursday of the month at the Royal Geographical Society Rooms, 237 Milton Rd, Milton.

OR

Contact Vicki Campbell Phone 07 xxxx xxxx or email xxxx@xxxxx.com.au

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE FOR CONTACT

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 now 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. Remaining sizes are in men's only, SM-XL. Please bear in mind when ordering that sizes are extremely generous.

If smaller sizes are required, please email Vicki and we'll check out having more made up.



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, Mike West (07) xxxx xxxx; Secretary, Jim Sneddon (07) xxxx xxxx; Treasurer, Frank James (07) xxxx xxxx.

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

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

Lesley Games
Stephen Kerr
Jennifer Singfield
Marilyn Sweetnam

A reminder to members to please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address. 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.

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

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TREASURER: Sheryl Keates (08) xxxx xxxx or email xxxx@xxxx.com.au
SECRETARY: Peter Rothlisberg (07) xxxx xxxx

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| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
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| Jon Coleman | (07) xxxx xxxx | Maureen Cooper | (07) xxxx xxxx |
| Joyce Harding | (07) xxxx xxxx | Sandra Harding | (07) xxxx xxxx |
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All correspondence to:
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 xxxxxxxxxxxx
 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,
 xxxxxxxxxxxx,
 xxxxxxxx,
 QLD 4xxx

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 18th 2009**

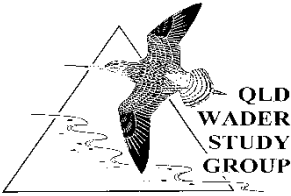
Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, 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.

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Count Activities 2009

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Programme – 2009

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Sat 28 th Mar | 2.15m at 10:24 | Sat 22 nd Aug | 2.10m at 10:47 |
| Sat 25 th Apr | 2.06m at 09:17 | Sat 19 th Sep | 2.18m at 09:42 |
| Sat 23 rd May | 1.94m at 08:04 | Sat 17 th Oct | 2.22m at 08: 39 |
| NO COUNT IN JUNE | | Sat 14 th Nov | 2.21m at 07:33 |
| Sat 25 th Jul | 1.99m at 11:57 National Winter Count | Sat 19 th Dec | 2.33m at 11:09 |

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2009

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Sun 1 st Mar | 2.07m at 11:57 | Meet 10:10 | Sun 23 rd Aug | 2.13m at 11:30 | Meet 09:40 |
| Sun 29th Mar | 2.04m at 11:00 | Meet 09:10 | Sun 20 th Sep | 2.23m at 10:24 | Meet 08:35 |
| Sun 26 th Apr | 1.99m at 10:00 | Meet 08:10 | Sun 18 th Oct | 2.30m at 09:20 | Meet 07:30 |
| Sun 24 th May | 1.90m at 08:54 | Meet 07:05 | Sun 15 th Nov | 2.31m at 08:18 | Meet 06:30 |
| Sun 28 th Jun | 1.88m at 14:07 | Meet 12:15 | Sun 20 th Dec | 2.29m at 11:43 | Meet 09:55 |
| Sun 26 th Jul | 2.00m at 12:45 | Meet 10:55 | | | |

The Port of Brisbane is a work site and we are doing the survey for the Port and ourselves. Unfortunately we cannot accept people who turn up on the day for a bird watching day.

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!

A reminder to members to please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address.



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, xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, QLD 4xxx

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: xxxxxx
Financial Institution: mecu Limited
BSB: xxxxx

An email advice to Sheryl Keates xxxx@xxxx.com.au would be appreciated.