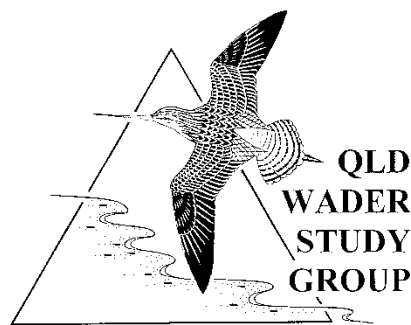


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 068

June, July, August 2009

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

Chairperson's report for 2008

By Andrew Geering

The year 2008 was yet another busy year for the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) with many accomplishments.

Familiar activities included a continuation of the count program, which is now in its 16th year of operation and has become a very valuable scientific resource, unmatched anywhere in Australia. The Moreton Bay Zoning Plan expired in 2008 and a new plan was implemented on 1st March 2009. To measure the impact of the new zoning plan on the ecological health of the Bay, the Queensland Government has begun a 5-year monitoring program and the QWSG is a key player in this program. Twenty-thousand dollars per annum has been allocated for wader-related monitoring activities. To ensure that the money is directed towards worthwhile activities, David Milton (manager of the QWSG database) and I had several meetings with the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM, previously the Environmental Protection Agency). Questions arose as to what data was already available, could it provide useful information to guide management of the Bay and what, if any, additional monitoring activities were needed. In response to these questions, the DERM and QWSG engaged scientists in the Spatial and Quantitative Applied Ecology Group at the University of Queensland, led by Professor Hugh Possingham, to investigate the power of the dataset to detect ecosystem change and to look at the spatial distribution of disturbance.

I have now received the final report of this review and the findings were very interesting. Firstly, the QWSG received very positive comments about the comprehensiveness and error-free nature of the dataset. Secondly, because we count on a monthly basis, estimates of measurement error (the difference between the actual number present and the numbers counted) could be obtained, which allowed for much more powerful analyses to be done and conclusions to be made that would not have been possible if only maximum summer counts were collected. Over the duration of the count program, significant declines were detected in eight species and increases in four. Alarmingly, the number of Whimbrel in Moreton Bay has declined by 50% since 1992. It should come as no surprise to the people that count the sites that Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island, Dunwich, South Stradbroke Island tip, Kakadu Beach and Thornside were the most disturbed sites in Moreton Bay. I refer people to the article by Richard Fuller *et al.* in this newsletter to read a more detailed description of the analyses.

As people will perceive from the Treasurer's Report of Sheryl Keates, the QWSG has a healthy bank balance! There has been vigorous debate within the Committee on how to spend the money and the membership were also polled on their preferences. Finally, in 2008, we started to spend large chunks of the money. The Yellow Sea is a critical link in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and the conservation groups working in this region often go into battle with only shoestring budgets. The 10th Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention was held for 8 days from Oct.28 to Nov.4, 2008 in Changwon, Gyeongnam, South Korea and the Committee therefore thought it an opportune time to donate to Birds Korea to support their lobbying, research and education activities. A total of \$11,000 was given to this organisation, which is the largest donation they have ever received. The money is being used for various activities including counts at key sites and the last news I heard is that a small shorebird education book is about to be published.

A new scheme initiated in 2008 was the Nigel Roberts Student Research Fund, which offers a student research grant of a maximum of \$5,000 per annum for up to 3 years to support postgraduate research on waders and/or their habitats. This research fund commemorates Nigel Roberts, an ex-QWSG committee member and Griffith University student, who passed away in 1997 and bequeathed the majority of his estate to the QWSG. The first call for applicants went out in March 2009 and we hope there will be a strong field of applicants. Thanks go to Peter Rothlisberg and David Milton for their efforts in initiating this research fund and to Arthur Keates for helping compose the wording of the agreement.

There have been many other highlights in the year. The first Doggies Breakfast in Queensland was held at Maaroom in the Great Sandy Strait. This event was organised by Don and Lesley Bradley and Vicki Campbell and I had the pleasure of attending. At the breakfast, bikkies, water and leashes were provided for the dogs and bacon and eggs for the humans! This provided a very good opportunity in a friendly atmosphere to talk about waders and explain how unleashed dogs can harm the birds. We hope that the people that attended learnt something and will talk to their neighbours and spread the word.

As in previous years, we hosted a visit of Japanese from Yatsuhigata, the sister wetlands for Moreton Bay. Discussions have begun about a joint project with the Wild Bird Society of Japan (Chiba Branch) to track the migration of Grey-tailed Tattler from Moreton Bay to their breeding grounds using satellite transmitters. We have a long way to go before this project gets up and running and we will have to wait a bit for satellite transmitters that are small enough to be carried by the birds to become commercially available. Jon Coleman is leading this project. Thanks to Ivell Whyte for organising the visit of the Japanese.

In 2008, the very successful roost mapping project continued, this time in the Caboolture region, organised by David Milton and Jill Denning. I believe this is one of the most practical, conservation-related activities we have undertaken, as it provides the GPS coordinates of roost sites for inclusion in the geographic information system of the local council, so hopefully when development proposals are received, consideration will be given to the roost sites. We also undertook the last surveys in the Mackay region funded by the MYSMA (Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia) project but I feel confident that we will return to Mackay sooner rather than later and hopefully in the 2009/10 summer.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the QWSG Committee for their efforts in 2008. In particular, I would like to thank Sheryl Keates, who is standing down from the treasurer's job after a very long stint and will be heading back to Darwin for another few years. In 2008, the job of count coordinator passed from Linda Cross to Dawn Beck and again I thank Linda for a sterling effort over all those years. Thanks again to David Edwards for doing the newsletter editor's job so proficiently (it is always on time) and for producing such interesting reads. To the general membership, we need your help on the committee, as many of the committee members have been doing the job for a very long time and new blood is needed to keep the group going strong.

Queensland Wader Study Group Financial Statement

Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 30 September 2008

	2008	2007
RECEIPTS	\$	\$
TOTAL INCOME	67,687.80	37,438.41
PAYMENTS		
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,660.97	58,713.64
SURPLUS/(-DEFICIT)	54,026.83	-21,275.23
Opening retained profits	106,050.62	127,325.85
Net profit/loss attributed to the group	54,026.83	-21,275.23
Closing retained profits	160,077.45	106,050.62
CURRENT ASSETS	\$	\$
Total Current Assets	160,079.54	108,067.82

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Total Current Liabilities	0.00	2,017.00
Total Liabilities	0.00	2,017.00

RECONCILIATION:

TOTAL FUNDS IN HAND	160,077.45	106,050.62
Balance shown:		
Cash Management	34,694.67	14,094.94
Term Deposit	120,984.83	92,000.00
Subtotal	155,679.50	106,094.94
Less outstanding cheques	-	2,547.13
Plus uncredited deposit	-	0.00
TOTAL	155,679.50	103,547.81

SUMMARY OF SOURCED FUNDS

	30/09/2008	30/09/2007
GSS	-	8559.17
Nigel's Estate	50573.12	46201.02
Port of Brisbane	45294.64	30822.73
Total Sourced Funds	95,867.76	85,582.92
Cash at bank	155,679.50	103,547.81
Less Sourced Funds	95,867.76	85,582.92
Total General Funds	59,811.74	17,964.89

Because of lack of space in this issue of Queensland Wader the financial statement has been pruned, but a full statement can be received if you E-mail gouldian@ozemail.com.au with the subject heading Financial Statement 07-08

WANTED: A New Treasurer, Please.

As you will have read in the Chairperson's report our long-time treasurer, Sheryl Keates, is having to stand down from the position she has held with such great distinction and thoroughness.

We are now looking for someone to take over this important position. We will be able to help train someone to the skills required, remembering that Sheryl has set-up a great system to follow. Though no experience is required it would be perfect if there is anyone out there who has had some experience as a treasurer willing to take on this role.

"Pacific Adventurer" Oil Spill

Following the oil spill from the "Pacific Adventurer" on 11th March 2009 near Brisbane, many QWSG members made a special trip to various roost sites to search for oiled birds. These members, in combination with searches by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff, RSPCA and Pelican and Seabird Rescue members checked more than 25000 birds (many birds would have been observed more than once). Despite the widespread distribution of oil, only about 100 live birds were observed with varying amounts of oil on their feathers or legs (once again, several birds may have been observed more than once at different locations). These were mostly pelicans, pied oystercatchers and terns, no waders were affected. Eighteen of these birds were able to be caught, washed, rehabilitated, and subsequently released as various sections of the coastline were declared clean. Oil was a likely cause of death for only 2 birds found dead (a little tern and a petrel) since the oil spill.

I would like to thank Andrew Geering for sending out the call for assistance and to all QWSG members who made a special trip down to the bay to check roost sites for oiled birds. Your efforts were much appreciated.

Nicola Udy
Operations Manager
Moreton Bay Marine Park

Port of Brisbane Count Results – 2008

At the end of 2008 we completed our sixth year of monthly counts for the Port of Brisbane Corporation (PBC) at the Port of Brisbane (formerly known as Fisherman Islands). All counts were conducted on the day after the scheduled monthly count set down for the QWSG count programme (with the exception of the January count, which was done the day before).

The methodology used for the counts stayed the same, with numbers being listed under the appropriate habitat where the birds were observed (dry open area, wet margin, broken ground and bund wall). In 2008 the overall count was 57,571 waders and 10,315 waterbirds which do not include the figures for the Visitors Centre Lake (71 waders and 3,542 waterbirds). These figures of course are not the number of birds using the site at any one time, but the aggregate of the monthly totals. The largest count of waders was in February (8,935).

2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
57571	53780	73033	51416	56124	57302

The table following is the total count results for migratory waders recorded at the Port of Brisbane over the last five years. **Note: These figures do not include the Visitors Centre Lake site.**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	5179	8935	4394	4204	2202	2793	2700	2724	5468	4069	6617	8286
2007	8853	5264	8307	1120	1989	1543	1752	1629	3885	7609	6165	5664
2006	12323	10573	7055	4230	2142	1969	2250	2635	5296	8051	8995	7514
2005	4751	5609	3572	3317	2162	3034	2436	2096	3790	6173	6745	7731
2004	11650	4528	7398	1607	2416	1617	1328	2410	2974	6026	5976	8194
2003	7445	6922	6126	4021	2286	2107	2041	1720	4466	4118	8054	7996

Following is a brief comment on individual count sites:

S3A/S3B – Very little useable areas for waders in these sites remain. There is a drainage section that attracts a few waders, and has had one breeding record for Red-capped Plover and five breeding records for Chestnut Teal.

Area 5 – Wader numbers using this permanent constructed roost are still relatively low. However, nine species totalling 1,072 waders were counted in October and ten species for a total 1,032 in November. The only other wader species recorded at this site in reasonable numbers has been Black-winged Stilt with 102 in June and 124 in August, and Red-necked Avocet with 232 in August, 115 in September and 110 in October. The site is very popular with many waterbird species, with the Chestnut Teal the most numerous being recorded every month. Three highest totals for the year were 269 in June, 252 in October and 258 in November.

R2 – This very large site attracted a variety of birds during the year. This was the favourite site for Broad-billed Sandpiper with three in February, two in March, two in November and three in December. This sandy site is a good breeding area for Red-capped Plover with four records of chicks during the year. February was the best count for waders which totalled 5,482. High numbers from February include 1,076 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 2,057 Red-necked Stint and 1,739 Curlew Sandpiper. There was also 785 Little Tern recorded during February, and the highest total of Grey Plover (145) was recorded at the site in March.

R3 – This is a new site along the river and was added to the count for the first time in May. It was covered in water for most of the year and only started attracting a handful of waders in November and December.

C1 – This site does not attract many waders, but it had the largest count of Double-banded Plover (131) recorded in April. Regular small numbers of Red-necked Stint are also recorded at the site with the highest total being 719 in July. Two Broad-billed Sandpiper were observed in January and one White-winged Black Tern was seen in April.

C2 – This site had the largest number of waders during most months this year. It is a difficult site to count with some extensive broken ground that the smaller waders love to roost in, which sometimes makes for a long counting period trying to sort out the littler beggars hunkered down in the rubble. A number of species regularly use this site and I have listed some of the highest totals:

- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (648) in January and (656) in April.
- Lesser Sand Plover (925) in February, (690) in September and (787) in December.
- Greater Sand Plover (210) in September and (266) in November.
- Curlew Sandpiper, (663) in September and (1140) in November.
- Pacific Golden Plover (303) in March and (256) in December.
- Red-necked Stint (1284) in November.
- Red-capped Plover (93) and Double-banded Plover (75)

In addition, during October and November the **claypan** site was very dry and Eastern Curlew was recorded using the reclamation ponds instead, which is quite uncommon. A total of 157 were recorded at this site in October and 204 in November. The only other species of interest was Little Tern, which numbered 860 in January and 497 in December.

C3 – This new central site was formed in June, and started attracting a variety of wader species in November and December.

BS1 – This bay side site did not attract many wader species during the year. However, 3,153 Red-necked Stint found something interesting to feed on in December. The only other interesting waders recorded were Red-necked Avocet, with 67 in May and 74 in July.

BS2 – Although this site was formed in April 2007 when **FPE BS** was split into two paddocks, the site has not attracted many waders. Chestnut Teal has been the main species using the site until December 2008 when a total of 1,621 waders were counted. Of these waders there was a couple of species in high numbers, such as, 749 Curlew Sandpiper and 314 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

BS3 – This third bay side site was formed in June, however very few waders are using it. The highest count of waders was in December (264), and of that total, 119 were Australian Pied Oystercatcher.

FPE Outer – Although the area of this site has been reduced with the creation of three new paddocks (**B3**, **C3** and **R3**) it is still a relatively large count area on the outer section of the Port expansion, which continues to be a favourite site for Grey-tailed Tattler, Australian Pied Oystercatcher and Ruddy Turnstone. The highest Tattler counts were 1,090 in February and 775 in April. April was also the month for the highest count of Australian Pied Oystercatcher (123). Although Ruddy Turnstone has been using a number of sites within the reclamation area, they still favour this site and their numbers have increased since 2007. Some of the highest totals were 84 in March, 116 in June, 126 in August 154 in September, 126 in October and 123 in November. A Sooty Oystercatcher was recorded in January and a juvenile Australasian Gannet was seen in April.

Claypan – With access now gained from the other side of the drainage channel the area covered during the count is much more substantial. This is still the favoured site for Eastern Curlew and Whimbrel. However, total numbers during the year were much lower than in 2007 with the largest count for Eastern Curlew being 202 in December and the highest Whimbrel count being 75 in April. During October and November the claypan was completely dry and Eastern Curlew was recorded in the reclamation sites, with most having a preference for site C2. A large group of 333 Red Knot was recorded in September on southward migration and 112 Chestnut Teal seen on the July count.

Visitors Centre Lake – Only four species of waders were recorded at this site during the year. Small numbers of Masked Lapwing were recorded most months, and Black-winged Stilt (again in small numbers), was only recorded in the last five months of the year. One Red-kneed Dotterel was seen in October and one Marsh Sandpiper in November. The Lake continues to support good numbers of waterbirds, with breeding records for Black Swan, Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Purple Swamphen and Dusky Moorhen.

Flagged birds seen throughout the reclamation area are as follows:

February Blue flag over white flag on Curlew Sandpiper (one). Black flag over white flag on Lesser Sand Plover (one). Green flags on Curlew Sandpiper (one), Lesser Sand Plover (two) and Greater Sand Plover (one).

March	Green flag on Lesser Sand Plover (one).
May	***Yellow flag on Red-necked Stint (one).
July	***Yellow flag on Red-necked Stint (one) and green flag on Ruddy Turnstone (one).
August	***Yellow flag and black flag on Red-necked Stint (one).
September	Green flags on Bar-tailed Godwit (two), Australian Pied Oystercatcher (one) and Grey-tailed Tattler (two).
November	Orange flag on Curlew Sandpiper (one), yellow flags (NSW) on Australian Pied Oystercatcher (two – C1 & C4), green flags on Australian Pied Oystercatcher (four – AC, AP, AS & BN), Lesser Sand Plover (four), Greater Sand Plover (two), Eastern Curlew (one), Grey-tailed Tattler (one), Bar-tailed Godwit (three) and Great Knot (two).
December	Green flag on Bar-tailed Godwit (one), Australian Pied Oystercatcher (three – AC, AN & AP), Pacific Golden Plover (one) and Lesser Sand Plover (one).

*** The yellow flagged Red-necked Stint seen in May and July was observed in **C2**, which is a muddy site making observation of the black flag positioned low on the left tarsus difficult. This is probably the same bird that was seen in **R2** on a dry open sand area in August, where the black flag was clearly visible. This bird was flagged in Kamchatka, Russia

Breeding records: **R2** reclamation site is mostly sand, which appears to be a favourite area for Red-capped Plover to breed. The records for the site are two chicks in January, four chicks in February, one in October and one in December. Additional Red-capped Plover breeding records were at **3B** in January (two chicks) and **Area 5** in November (two chicks). The only other wader breeding record came from the **Visitors Centre Lake** in August with three Masked Lapwing chicks being recorded.

Some other interesting sightings (not waders) during the counts were:

January	542 Silver Gull in R2 , 860 Little Tern in C2 and four Black Swan cygnets at the Visitors Centre Lake .
February	785 Little Tern in R2 .
March	A Black Swan on a nest at the Visitors Centre Lake .
April	One Brown Falcon over R2 , one White-winged Black Tern in C1 , one Australasian Gannet in the Outer FPE , six Black Swan in Area 5 and Chestnut Teal ducklings seen in S3A, S3B, BS1 and the Visitors Centre Lake .
May	One immature Black-necked Stork and two Australasian Shoveler at the Visitors Centre Lake.
June	269 Chestnut Teal in Area 5 and one Swamp Harrier over C2 .
July	112 Chestnut Teal in the Claypan .
August	One Brown Goshawk, 102 Royal Spoonbill and seven Black Swan cygnets at the Visitors Centre Lake .
October	322 Little Tern in C2 and 252 Chestnut Teal in Area 5 .
November	258 Chestnut Teal in Area 5 .
December	One Buff-banded Rail in Area 5 and eight Chestnut Teal ducklings in 3A .

Wader species and numbers using the Port of Brisbane sites during 2008 (with the exception of the Visitors Centre Lake), are included with this article. Species are listed in the new taxonomic order as per Christidis L & Boles W E. 2008. 'Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds.'. Many other waterbirds were also recorded using the sites; however, lack of space in the newsletter does not allow the printing of them.

Our thanks to the Port of Brisbane Corporation for their ongoing support to the QWSG and supplying the vehicles and equipment during the counts.

Brad Kitchen, Manager Environment, Victoria O'Rourke, Environmental Planner, Melanie Dixon, Technical Officer Planning & Environment, and Scott McKinnon, Environmental Coordinator for the PBC share the role in looking after our welfare and needs during the counts.

The results obtained for the PBC and our database would not be possible without the help of committed regular counters and other members and friends, whose names appear below. Our very sincere thanks to everyone for their help. My apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list.

Dawn Beck, Ian Brown, Jill Brown, Michele Burford, Vicki Campbell, George Chapman, Jon Coleman, Ken Cowell, Alan Crawford, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Rumna De, Melanie Dixon (PBC), David Edwards, Richard Fuller, Ross Gallardy, Andrew Geering, Marion Grover, Joyce Harding, Sandra Harding, Roger Harte, Keith Hickman, Teresa Hickman, John Holt, Herve & Noelle Jacob (France), Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Brad Kitchen (PBC), Rupsha Kundu, Cici Legoe, Scott McKinnon (PBC), David Milton, Victoria O'Rourke (PBC), Peter Rothlisberg, Brenda Smith, Graham Smith, Heather Smith, Andre Varlamov, Floss Wainwright, Mike West, Ivell Whyte.

Counts are continuing at the PBC in 2009 and we really need a good support group to help us each month as a number of our group have now retired, or are semi-retired and are taking extended holidays. If you can assist us (even by scribing or counting the easy waders), please contact myself or Peter Rothlisberg. The dates and meeting times for the counts are listed at the back of this newsletter.

Linda Cross email: xxxx@xxxx.net.au Home phone: 07 xxxx xxxx
Peter Rothlisberg email: xxxx@xxxx.au Home: xxxx xxxx Work: xxxx xxxx

A table of the results can be seen on page 8

Something new – the Wetlands Exchange Club of Narashino and Brisbane

In February this year, as an extension to World Wetlands Day celebrations, Brisbane's Environment Centres North held a week of special activities culminating in a festival focussing on migratory shorebirds. The WMMWa (World Music for Migratory Waders) festival at Nudgee Beach was also a belated celebration of the 10th anniversary of the sister wetlands exchange agreement between Brisbane and Narashino City in Japan.

The affiliation agreement, between sister wetlands Boondall and the Yatsuhigata, was first signed in 1998. Its aim was the protection and conservation of migratory shorebirds and their habitat. Annual exchange visits have focussed on this. Moreton Bay Marine Park staff and NGO groups, including QWSG, have regularly participated, introducing our visitors to Moreton Bay's wetlands and wader sites and exchanging information in between times.

Japanese hospitality on reciprocal visits by Brisbane people to the Yatsuhigata has been without equal. This, in combination with the visit to the Yatsu tidelands and the Yatsuhigata Nature Observation Centre, has resulted in many an unforgettable experience.

Unfortunately, while Environment centre staff have given their all in support of the agreement, as with this year's festival, current Brisbane City Council administration is much less supportive of the agreement than was the previous one. Although Council is signing for a further five years, its participation will be in a much reduced capacity. Someone said in jest that part of the reason could be "tunnel-vision".

The lack of official enthusiasm over the last few years hasn't gone unnoticed by our Japanese friends, although they've been too polite to comment on same. A proposal however, has been put forward by the Japanese volunteers to form an alliance of NGOs, a "Wetland Exchange Club of Brisbane and Narashino". Members would collaborate on projects related to the agreement in cooperation with the official exchange.

The proposal was initiated by Hit Akutsu, who would have to be absolutely the most dedicated of all of the exchange participants. Hit brought with him on his "Fly on the Wings" visit in February, a display celebrating the 10 years of exchange. The panels had been displayed for two months in the Yatsuhigata Nature Observation Centre last year to celebrate the 10-year anniversary. They were featured here at the WMMWa festival.

QWSG and Boondall to Tinchi Tamba WPSQ also had displays at the festival, aimed at raising awareness of the sister wetlands exchange and the cooperation between volunteers from both cities. QWSG's display material is currently on show at the Yatsuhigata Observation Centre along with material from Boondall and Downfall Creek Environment Centres.

Yatsuhigata Day celebrations in Japan are held during the first weekend in June, and QWSG's chairperson, Andrew Geering, will be attending this year as a representative of our group. Wife Margaret will be accompanying him. Along with Jennifer Singfield, chair of Boondall to Tinchi WPSQ, they will be Brisbane's only visitors to Narashino in 2009. Both Andrew and Jennifer will present at forums. Andrew will also be discussing QWSG's collaboration on future shorebird projects.

Their visit will be memorable and no doubt appreciated by the Japanese for the show of support by our respective groups. Let's hope that QWSG can continue to extend this support and build on the relationship into the future for the welfare of our waders.

	12.01.08	24.02.08	09.03.08	06.04.08	18.05.08	22.06.08	06.07.08	24.08.08	21.09.08	05.10.08	02.11.08	07.12.08
Species												
Bush Stone-curlew		1										
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	200	144	118	124	32	21	13	96	48	46	121	130
Sooty Oystercatcher	1											
Black-winged Stilt	9	5	3	43	47	214	233	182	62	33	96	37
Red-necked Avocet					124	148	152	232	239	110	29	35
Pacific Golden Plover	104	275	303	16		29	6		65	137	189	263
Grey Plover	21	38	145	8	10	12	4	10	28	21	47	23
Red-capped Plover	69	61	15	34	102	88	38	42	53	59	26	60
Double-banded Plover				172	76	36	11	25	1			
Lesser Sand Plover	154	954	303	489			114	55	690	493	481	821
Greater Sand Plover	42	13		17				1	210	34	267	89
Black-fronted Dotterel												
Red-kneed Dotterel												
Masked Lapwing	1	1	6	7	11		2		2	2		4
Latham's Snipe												
Black-tailed Godwit												
Bar-tailed Godwit	657	601	593	142	553	284	306	435	582	449	649	530
Whimbrel	7	2	2	75	21	1	2	2	3			13
Eastern Curlew	64	79	12	20	39	33	16	81	65	163	207	202
Terek Sandpiper		1	3	1	3	10		1	3	5	4	6
Grey-tailed Tattler	601	1288	519	775	230	327	46	217	467	481	416	137
Common Greenshank		3	1	6	1				4	7	1	3
Marsh Sandpiper												
Ruddy Turnstone	34	113	84	28	67	116	83	126	154	127	146	104
Great Knot	183	165	104		15	28	17	16	75	71	54	79
Red Knot	2	5							401	62	30	
Red-necked Stint	1670	2127	1109	1047	842	1298	1358	873	1479	906	1961	4427
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	766	1201	424	657		5	5	33	141	404	464	374
Curlew Sandpiper	592	1855	528	543	29	143	293	297	693	459	1427	946
Broad-billed Sandpiper	2	3	2								2	3
Unidentified wader			120				1					
Total Wader Species	20	22	19	19	17	18	18	19	22	20	20	21
Total Wader Numbers	5179	8935	4394	4204	2202	2793	2700	2724	5468	4069	6617	8286

What can volunteer monitoring tell us about the fate of Moreton Bay?

Richard A. Fuller, Howard B. Wilson, Bruce E. Kendall & Hugh P. Possingham

Living their lives perpetually in the summer, millions of shorebirds escape harsh boreal winters by making a 20,000km round trip from their arctic breeding grounds to wetlands in the Southern Hemisphere and then migrating north again. Australia is a terminus of one of these migration routes, the busy East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which connects the continent with a dozen Asian countries (figure 1). One of the largest and most important sites for shorebirds in Australia is Moreton Bay, just east of Brisbane. In the austral summer, it teems with up to 40,000 shorebirds. There are internationally significant numbers of eight species in the Bay, and it has been designated a Ramsar site, part of a network of 1800 critical shorebird sites across the planet.

Moreton Bay's water quality and aquatic ecosystems are the subject of a major monitoring program. Established in 2001, the Healthy Waterways Partnership assesses the state of south-east Queensland's freshwater and estuarine systems through a network of 389 sampling sites

(Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program 2008). An annual report card communicates the monitoring data, showing simply and convincingly whether aquatic ecosystem health has improved or declined.



Figure 1 The East Asian-Australasian flyway connects the Arctic with Australia & New Zealand via many migratory stopover sites. Effective management of such an interdependent network is an exciting challenge for conservation.

There is nothing comparable for birds, despite their prominence in defining Moreton Bay as a Ramsar site. Moreover, changes to shorebird populations in the Bay could blow the whistle on problems elsewhere in the flyway connecting Australia with the Arctic. Fortunately, the Queensland Wader Study Group has been counting shorebirds in the bay since 1992, having now amassed 16 years of systematically collected data (Milton & Driscoll 2006). Many people in the scientific community have questioned the value of volunteer data, claiming that it often lacks the rigour and good design that characterizes hypothesis testing (Anderson 2001 and references therein). Although any dataset arising from a large monitoring programme will present some similar analytical challenges, the sheer size of volunteer datasets such as this, and the low cost at which they were collected makes them a potentially valuable tool for conservation. We did a preliminary analysis of the data to determine its utility. In so doing, we stitched together several techniques in population trend analysis, and developed a novel method that has potential for analysing volunteer monitoring data around the world.

The problem is this. In no two years will the number of birds in Moreton Bay remain exactly the same, but how big does a change have to be before we begin to worry? We need to distinguish long term declines from normal year-to-year fluctuations in numbers caused by environmental variability. To make things worse, we don't know exactly how many birds there are in any given year: even the best counts will be imprecise across such a large area as Moreton Bay (this is known as 'measurement error'). Both types of variability limit our ability to make inferences from our observations, but they do this in very different ways. Reducing measurement error results in more precision in determining whether a population has declined or not. The amount of environmental variability affects the statistical confidence in deciding whether an observed decline is part of a long-term trend.

Existing analysis techniques account for either inter-annual variability or measurement error, but not both; thus we had to pull together several methods in population trend analysis. The data on Whimbrel are a case in point. Numbers cycle dramatically each year as birds arrive from the Arctic, spend the summer feeding in the Bay and then migrate north again (figure 2). We used a periodic model to track these changes (red line on the graph). A separate term reflected measurement error, which we can estimate, using the variability around the seasonal trend, because many counts are conducted each year. This model identifies a 50% decline in numbers from 1992 to 2008, equivalent to a decline of 4.4% per year ($p = 0.003$). However, this is not yet evidence of a long-term trend. By using data for the intervening years, and explicitly incorporating between-year variability in the model, we conclude that there is indeed a long-term decline, though our confidence in the result is slightly weaker ($p = 0.008$).

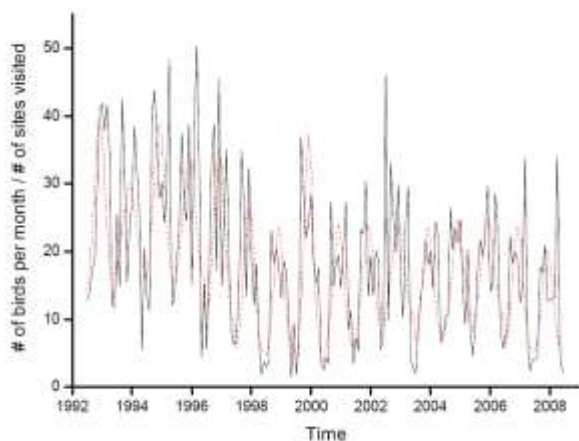


Figure 2 The upper graph shows mean monthly counts of whimbrel in Moreton Bay since 1992 (black line). A periodic model fitted to the data (red line) describes the seasonality excellently, explaining 43% of its variance. The lower graph shows the same data corrected for survey effort, from which the decline in numbers is readily apparent.

In contrast, if one follows the recently developed Shorebirds 2020 methodology, which uses one count each year, taken in the summer period (Oldland *et al.* 2008), we can detect no decline in the whimbrel ($p = 0.86$). Clearly, the dual-model approach that also accounts for measurement error is far superior, owing in large part to the extra information derived from the monthly counts performed by dedicated QWSG observers. An analysis of population trends must routinely consider both measurement error and environmental variability to increase the power to detect change. When used in conjunction with data from independent sites, as outlined by Shorebirds 2020, this will provide a powerful technique for detecting declines.

Our model detects a significant past decline in eight species (Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Greater Sand Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Sanderling) and increases in four (Pacific Golden Plover, Wandering Tattler, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper). Although power to determine if these are part of long-term trends for the species involved is rather low, volunteer monitoring data have proved invaluable in tracking the state of shorebirds in Moreton Bay.

Four urgent tasks arise from this work. **First**, we can use this approach to optimize shorebird monitoring activity in Moreton Bay. Should a core set of sites be prioritized to receive frequent coverage, or is it better to spread the effort more widely among a larger number of sites? **Second**, a spatial analysis of sites within Moreton Bay and around Queensland will identify whether declines are local or more widespread in scale. **Third**, we must work out the causes of any declines observed, in particular deciding whether the effects are local to Australia, or being driven from problems in other parts of the migratory flyway. **Fourth**, we must get better at reporting effectively on population trends and spelling out what management interventions are required to address them.

Many thanks to all the volunteer counters, without who this dataset would not exist, and to QWSG staff, including Linda Cross, David Milton, Peter Driscoll, and Andrew Geering among others. David Milton, Andrew Moss and Andrew Geering were instrumental in commissioning this report, which was jointly funded by the Department of Environment and Resource Management, and the Queensland Wader Study Group.

References

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- Oldland, J., Clemens, R., Haslem, A., Shelley, L. & Kearney, B. (2008) *Shorebirds 2020: Migratory shorebird population monitoring project*. Final report to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Birds Australia, Carlton, Australia.

Count Programme by Dawn Beck

Counting is easier now that the migrating waders have left, leaving behind the populations of non-breeders that will probably make the epic flight next year. As a reward for all your hard work over spring, summer and autumn, you can have the month of June off. However, if you suffer withdrawal symptoms, we will be happy to receive any counts you do. **Remember July 25th is the National Winter Count, so please make an effort to do your count/counts. If you are unable to, try to find a substitute or let me know, so that I can try to find someone.** Do not forget to scan the legs for flags to send to Phil Cross.

Some of you are lucky enough or observant enough to have sighted birds that are on the Queensland Rarities List. I have no authority to decide on the validity of such sightings, so if you do see such a bird, will you please report it to the Queensland Rarities Committee. A form can be downloaded from the Bird's Queensland web site, www.birdsqueensland.org.au. Go to Report a Sighting. About halfway down the page, there are downloads for the forms and further down the page is a list of Queensland's rare birds. We use the Queensland list as there are some birds on it that are not on the Australian list for obvious reasons, these include Kelp Gull and Fairy Tern. I can also post a form to anyone. Please advise me when you have reported a bird.

Nicola Udy would like to thank all those counters who reported on oil-affected birds. Fortunately our waders all seemed have been unharmed. (See page 3)

I would like to welcome back Marion Williams to the counting team who is now counting at Toogoom and O'Regan's Creek.

Some interesting and significant sightings.

First two corrections from Issue 067.

L & P Cross saw 3 not 8 Latham's Snipe at Deception Bay Clay pan on 08.01.09

In the breeding records, I reported that adult and young Red-necked Avocets were sighted at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 17.10.08. In doing this, I implied that they had bred there, which is most unlikely; more probably they had flown in from their Western breeding grounds.

Double-banded Plovers were first reported on 28.02.09 at Manly by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Since then the numbers have built up – 61 Reeders Point – 24.04.09 - QWSG, 48 at Horseshoe Bay & 47 at Wavebreak sand island - 28.04.09 - Terry Dillon *et al.*

10 Bush Stone-curlew - Pioneer River Mackay- Les & Dawn Thyer – 23.02.09

Beach Stone-curlew –seen at several sites from Ellie Point, Cairns south to Tweed River Entrance.

311 Pied Oystercatcher - Reeders Point Moreton Isld – QWSG – 24.04.09

16 Sooty Oystercatcher – Finlaysons Point Seaforth – Peggy Harding -27.02. & 27.03.09

1256 Lesser Sandplover – Bishops Isld POB – QWSG – 01.03.09

662 Black-winged Stilt – Kedron Brook Wetlands - 03.03.09 – Dez Wells

530 Eastern Curlew – Geoff Skinner Reserve E – 28.02.09 – P Rothlisberg & M Burford

534 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly HT Roost – 28.02.09 - Arthur & Sheryl Keates

9 Wandering Tattler – Wickham Point Caloundra – 28.03.09 - Barbara Dickson

170 Marsh Sandpiper – Deception Bay – 28.02.09 – Linda & Phil Cross

337 Black-tailed Godwit – Deception Bay – 28.02.09 - Linda & Phil Cross

2960 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – 28.02.09 – D Metters

24 Latham Snipe – Nathan Road Redcliffe – 28.03.09 – K Cowell & F Wainwright

2800 Great Knot – Ross River – 06.02.09 – Peter Driscoll

1571 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Bishop Island POB – 01.03.09 – QWSG

1918 Curlew Sandpiper – Bishop Island POB – 01.03.09 – QWSG

5048 Red-necked Stint – Bishop Island POB – 01.03.09 – QWSG

Not Waders but Interesting

Laughing Gull - Cairns Esplanade – 28.01.09 & 27.02.09 – Jun Matsui

Kelp Gull - Inskip Point - 22.02.09 – Kelvin Neilsen and 14.04.09 Dorothy Pashniak (photo)

45 Common Noddy – Jumpinpin – 27.03.09 Terry Dillon

Black-necked Stork – were reported from Cooktown, Young Ave Kinka Beach, Mathiesen Homestead, Caboolture R Mouth and Reeders Point Moreton Isld.

Brolga – Reported from Shellgrit Ck Mackay, Young Ave Kinka Beach, Garnets Lagoon No 2 and Bishops Marsh.

Cotton Pygmy Goose – Banora Point Sewerage Treatment Pond – 15.04.09 – Laurel Allsop

Breeding Records

Brolga – Young Ave, Kinka Beach, seen mating 28.02.09 and on 24.04.09 3 Adults & 2 chicks – Allan Briggs
Black-neck Stork on nest – Mathiesen Homestead – 28.03.09 – John Knight
Black-winged Stilt on nest – Lytton – 28.03.09 – David Connolly
Black-winged Stilt juveniles – Young Ave – 28.03.09 – Allan Briggs
Black-fronted Dotterel Juveniles – Young Ave – 28.03.09 – Allan Briggs
Red-capped Plover eggs in nest – Seaforth Beach creek mouth – 27.03.09 – Peggy Harding

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 you 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.

One Bar-tailed Godwit was found dead at the Fisherman Islands by Peter Le Gros on 10.10.08. A band numbered 072-62212 was removed and returned to QWSG. This Godwit was banded at Nudgee Beach in Moreton Bay by QWSG on 28.12.1997, and recorded as a third year or older female.

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs between 10.10.08 to 26.04.09.

2 Eastern Curlew, 2 Whimbrel, 42 Bar-tailed Godwit, 12 Pied Oystercatcher, 1 Black-winged Stilt, 6 Great Knot, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 22 Grey-tailed Tattler, 6 Terek Sandpiper, 4 Lesser Sand Plover.

The birds sighted above included some of the individually marked flags that QWSG have been fitting, these are listed below:

Whimbrel – **FX, NA.**

Bar-tailed Godwit – **AK, AR, AV, BA, CN, CV, CX, CY, DH, DK, DL, DN, DS, DY, EE, FA, FB, FC, FR, FT, NC, NJ.**

Pied Oystercatcher – **AP, AS, AU, AV, AY, CJ, CK, CL.**

Great Knot – **ED, EP, EV.**

Ruddy Turnstone – **DL.**

Grey-tailed Tattler – **AB, AE, AN, AV, BB, BX, CT, DB, DY, EB, EC, EU, HJ, HL.**

Terek Sandpiper – **CP, DM, DN, DP, DR.**

Curlew Sandpiper - **CV**

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mundok, North Korea – Tony Habraken – 29.04.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mundok, North Korea – Adrian Riegen – 29.04.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Gyeonggi-do port/foreshore, South Korea – Park Joo-Hyun – 18.04.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BR) – Gyeonggi-do Hwaseong-si, South Korea – Kwak Ho-kyong – 12.04.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Saga, Japan – Nobuhiro Hashimoto – 10.04.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Farewell Spit, Stockyard to Mullet Creek, South Island, New Zealand – Willie Cook & Rosemary Jorgensen – 12.03.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX) – Clifton Road, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 20.02.09

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Road, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 20.02.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Waller's Island, Papakanui, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & Elise Verschoor – 31.01.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & K Bond – 22.01.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 12.01.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken, David Lawrie & K. Woodley – 11.01.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Tauranga Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – T. Barnard – 07.12.08

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 04.12.08
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 26.11.08
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Papakanui Spit, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 15.11.08
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 25.10.08
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 25.09.08
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Island, New Zealand – David Lawrie – 20.09.08
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – whasung Gyeonggi-do, South Korea – Yoo, dae-ho – 22.04.08
1 Red Knot – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & David Lawrie – 01.03.09
1 Red Knot – Papakanui Spit, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & D. Wilson – 10.01.09
1 Red Knot – Mangere Sewage Ponds, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – R. Clough – 09.01.09
1 Red Knot – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 08.01.09
1 Red Knot – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & David Lawrie – 26.12.08
1 Red Knot – Manukau Waiuku Sandspit, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 23.12.08
1 Red Knot – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken, B. Abbott & M Berghuis – 14.12.08

Orange leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 29.03.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 03.03.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 28.02.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 31.01.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 25.01.09
1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Bundaberg Port Swamp – Chris Barnes – 26.03.09
1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Bundaberg Port Swamp – Chris Barnes – 21.03.09

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag right tibia – Shoalwater Bay – Andrew McDougall – 06.04.09

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – angle cut blue flag left tibia and white flag left tarsus – Bob James, Arthur Keates & Linda Cross – Toorbul – 14.03.09 (angle cut flag used at Yatsu tidal flats).
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Shoalwater Bay – Andrew McDougall – 06.04.09
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag right tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton *et al* – 28.03.09
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia and white flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Arthur Keates *et al* – 14.03.09
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 03.03.09
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Fisherman Islands – Arthur Keates – 01.03.09
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia and white flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 01.03.09
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 28.02.09

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black flag over white flag – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 03.03.09
1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag – Toorbul – Arthur Keates – 14.03.09
1 Great Knot – white flag over black flag – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 03.03.09
1 Great Knot – black flag over white flag – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 01.03.09
1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – black flag over white flag – Burnett River Boat Harbour – Chris Barnes – 27.03.09
1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – black flag over white flag – Cairns Esplanade – Ian Northcott – 10.02.09
1 Curlew Sandpiper – black flag over white flag – Deception Bay – Phil Cross – 28.02.09
1 Greater Sand Plover – black flag over white flag – Fisherman Island – Arthur Keates – 01.03.09

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 28.03.09
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 16.03.09
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 28.02.09
1 Little Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Tweed River Entrance – Laurel Allsopp – 18.02.09

Electronic Newsletter ??

Are you interested in receiving your "Queensland Wader" by email?

If you are interested email me on xxxx@xxxxl.com.au. Could you use the subject line as Electronic Newsletter. Editor

WADER ID DAYS

Sunday 6th September 2009 at Toorbul

High tide is at 10.21am (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul) of 2.03m. Meeting time 9.30am

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul 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 can provide the answers to all your questions.

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

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 14 MARCH 2009

This was a combined outing with Birds Queensland (BQ) members and the BQ Photographic Group. There were 44 attendees signed in for the BQ morning bird walk and photography session. When everyone assembled at Toorbul around 10 am another 27 QWSG members and guests swelled the numbers to 71 people. This beats the previous largest group at Toorbul, of 70 back on 31st March 2001.

There were a couple of early showers during the morning walk, and at the beginning of the wader identification session, but then it cleared to a fine, dry, quite warm and humid day.

There were a large number of telescopes for people to use and they were certainly put to good use. There were around two and a half thousand birds at the roost, but not as many species as we would have liked. The biggest number was the Bar-tailed Godwits, but only one Black-tailed Godwit for people to compare the differences. There was also only one Red Knot, which took some of us quite a bit of time trying to find and show it to as many people as possible.

Unfortunately one of the waders was not given the chance to return to the breeding grounds. After most of the group had left, a Peregrine Falcon swooped down on the roosting birds and took off with one of the waders (species unknown).

The following leg flagged birds were observed: -

1 Bar-tailed Godwit with blue flag (angle cut) left tibia, white flag (looked yellow, but is badly stained white) left tarsus, and metal band right tarsus. (Angle cut flag used at Yatsu tidal flats)

1 Great Knot with black flag over white flag right tibia

1 Great Knot with old green flag right tibia.

1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag left tibia and white flag left tarsus

1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag (engraved AE)

(Green – Moreton Bay Blue and White – Central Japan Black over White – Shanghai China)

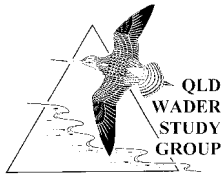
Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Striated Heron, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Masked Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Mangrove Honeyeater, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow and Welcome Swallow.

Bishops Marsh was not surveyed.

Linda Cross.

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'.



INTRODUCTION TO WADERS (SHOREBIRDS) IN AUSTRALIA AND MORETON BAY

This workshop offers a unique opportunity to learn about human populations and habitat destruction throughout the special group of birds, waders. These birds are magnificent athletes, flying up to 25,000 km every year. They range from tiny 24-gram birds to the world's largest wader, the Eastern Curlew, weighing in at over 1 kilogram. Moreton Bay, Brisbane's doorstep, is an internationally significant area for waders, but most people are oblivious to their presence.

Seventeen resident and 36 migrant species of wader occur in Australia; in total, about 3 million birds. They feed on the shorelines of coastal and inland wetlands of Australia. The majority breed in the higher latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere in places like Siberia and Alaska, and travel the East Asian/Australasian flyway twice a year on migration. From September to April, a large number of species can be found in Moreton Bay, and we have an ideal opportunity to study these species. They face increasing pressures from burgeoning

- During this one-day workshop you will be introduced to these fascinating birds through specific topics that include:
- Definition of waders and habitat;
 - Field identification;
 - Factors affecting local and regional distribution;
 - Importance of Moreton Bay;
 - The East Asian/Australasian Flyway;
 - Threats to waders and their habitat;
 - National and International conservation agreements.

The field trip will give you the opportunity to have a 'hands on' chance to identify many of the species mentioned in the lectures with experienced wader-watchers.

THE WORKSHOP CONSISTS OF A MORNING OF LECTURES AND AN AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP

- COST:** \$ 40.00 Cheques payable to the Queensland Wader Study Group.
To confirm your registration, post your payment to Vicki Campbell, xxxxxxxxxxxx, Qxxx. Places are limited.
- REGISTRATION:** SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2009, 9.15am to 9.45am
 at the Port of Brisbane Corporation Visitors' Centre, Whimbrel Street, Fisherman Islands (UBD map 144, H15; <http://www.portbris.com.au/visitorscentre/>).
- LECTURES:** 9.45 am to 1.10 pm, Morning tea and lunch included.
- FIELD TRIP:** SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2009, 2.00 to 5.00 pm, at ROOST SITE (TO BE ADVISED)
 Please note that the field site is exposed – remember to bring a hat, sunscreen and water bottle.
- CLOSING DATE:** Please enrol by WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2009. Remember places are limited.
- ENQUIRIES:** Vicki Campbell – xxxx xxxx or xxxx@xxxx.com.au



**ENROLMENT FORM
INTRODUCTION TO WADERS (SHOREBIRDS) IN AUSTRALIA AND MORETON BAY**

Course Fee: \$40.00 payable to Queensland Wader Study Group.
 Post to: Vicki Campbell, xxxxxxxxxxxx, Q4xxx

Title: First Name: Last Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Organisation (if applicable):

Phone:

E-Mail Address:

Do you require a vegetarian or other special lunch? Please specify.....

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@xxxx.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 :

Melanie Brennan
Natalie Forrest

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	email xxxx@xxxx.com.au
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dawn Beck	(07) xxxx xxxx	Vicki Campbell	(07) xxxx xxxx
Jon Coleman	(07) xxxx xxxx	Maureen Cooper	(07) xxxx xxxx
Joyce Harding	(07) xxxx xxxx	Sandra Harding	(07) xxxx xxxx
David Milton	(07) xxxx xxxx	Heather Smith	xxxx xxx xxx
Dez Wells	(07) xxxx xxxx	Ivell Whyte	(07) xxxx xxxx

COUNT COORDINATOR:	Dawn Beck	07 xxxx xxxx or email xxxx@xxxx.com.au
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	David Edwards	(07) xxxx xxxx or email xxxx@xxxx.com.au

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
 The QWSG Chairperson,
 xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,
 xxxxxxxxxxxxx
 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,
 xxxxx,
 xxxxxxxxxxx,
 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 **August 18th 2009**
 Contributions should be addressed to:
 David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, Qld 4xxx
 or E-mail to: xxxx@xxxxmail.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

NO COUNT IN JUNE

Sat 25 th Jul	1.99m at 11:57	National Winter Count
Sat 22 nd Aug	2.10m at 10:47	
Sat 19 th Sep	2.18m at 09:42	
Sat 17 th Oct	2.22m at 08:39	
Sat 14 th Nov	2.21m at 07:33	
Sat 19 th Dec	2.33m at 11:09	

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2009

Sun 28 th Jun	1.88m at 14:07	Meet 12:15
Sun 26 th Jul	2.00m at 12:45	Meet 10:55
Sun 23 rd Aug	2.13m at 11:30	Meet 09:40
Sun 20 th Sep	2.23m at 10:24	Meet 08:35
Sun 18 th Oct	2.30m at 09:20	Meet 07:30
Sun 15 th Nov	2.31m at 08:18	Meet 06:30
Sun 20 th Dec	2.29m at 11:43	Meet 09:55

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, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, QLD 4xxx

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For a direct credit, please use the following details.

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Account number: xxxxxxxx
Financial Institution: mecu Limited
BSB: xxxxxxxx

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

