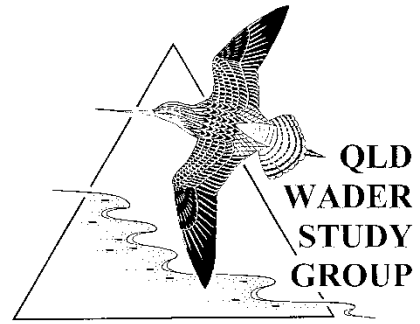


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 069

September, October, November 2009

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

Scientists In Northern Alaska Spot A Shorebird Tagged 8,000 Miles Away

ScienceDaily (Aug. 6, 2009)

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) scientists studying shorebirds in western Arctic Alaska recently made a serendipitous discovery when they spotted a bar-tailed godwit with a small orange flag and aluminum band harmlessly attached to its legs. Further research revealed that scientists in Australia had banded the bird and attached the flag near Victoria – more than 8,000 miles away.

While banded birds are sometimes seen in the area where they were originally released, it is very rare to see them so far from a release site. The observation was made by WCS biologists Dr. Steve Zack and Joe Liebezeit.

“It’s extremely unusual to find a banded bird that has flown literally thousands of miles from where it was released,” said Steve Zack. “While we know that birds from all over the world come to the Arctic to breed, to see a living example first hand is a powerful reminder of the importance of this region.”



Zack and Liebezeit also sighted a banded dunlin and Semi-palmated sandpiper both of which were originally marked and released by WCS scientists three years ago in nearby Prudhoe Bay, Alaska for a study testing to see if birds that winter in Asia are carrying highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza to North America. Semi-palmated sandpipers migrate from South America, and dunlins migrate from Asia. So far, shorebirds have not been detected to carry H5N1 into North America .

"These sightings represent direct examples of the importance of Arctic Alaska as an international gathering place for migratory birds," said Jodi Hilty, Director of WCS's North America Programs.

"Birds from every continent and every ocean come to Arctic Alaska to breed during the short summer," said Zack "The immense wetlands of western Arctic Alaska, encompassed almost entirely by the National Petroleum Reserve, are particularly important to migratory birds and worth conserving."

Zack and Liebezeit have been conducting studies of breeding birds in the Arctic since 2002 for WCS.

"We have worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, governmental agencies in the Republic of Korea , and with WCS Global Health staff in capturing shorebirds in Arctic Alaska and in the Republic of Korea to test for the presence of avian flu" said Liebezeit. "It was exciting to see birds we captured three years ago again in the Arctic. Knowing that they have made six long flights back and forth during that time really makes you appreciate their incredible life history."

Migratory shorebirds of many species are in decline. Both climate change and expanding energy development are affecting these birds, as are habitat loss and other changes to their wintering wetland habitats around the world. The Wildlife Conservation Society is working to understand how best to conserve these international migrants in changing times. There is also a need to create more protection of key wildlife areas in advance of oil development in the National Petroleum Reserve and a need for funding to help highlight and understand those areas.

"Shorebirds like bar-tailed godwits from Australia , dunlin from Asia, and semipalmated sandpipers from South America are affected by different threats in their wintering and summering grounds," says Zack. "The conservation of this highly migratory group of birds is truly a challenging worldwide issue."

Wildlife Conservation Society (2009, August 6). Scientists In Northern Alaska Spot A Shorebird Tagged 8,000 Miles Away. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved August 23, 2009.

Monitoring Waders on Moreton Island

Moreton Island is a significant wader site in SE Queensland and waders have been monitored there for many years. Early counts in the 1980s were made by Peter Driscoll, Jeremy Thomson, Greg Miller and others to estimate and establish base line numbers of waders using the island on their yearly migrations.

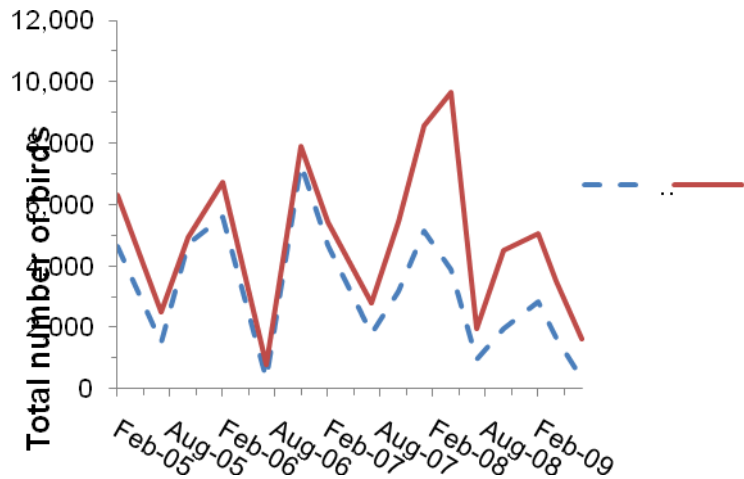
When regular monthly counts of Queensland waders were started by QWSG, regular counts on Moreton were not always possible because of the difficulties of time and access. In 2005 it was agreed with Qld Marine Parks that a regular count of waders and shorebirds be undertaken by QWSG with the assistance of transport supplied by the Queensland Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DERM). This has developed into a regular seasonal count of waders on southern Moreton Island using the vessel *Spoonbill* and a 4WD vehicle to access the Mirapool area. DERM also has a designated shorebird officer who arranges these surveys. On 24 July 2009, we completed the 16th survey of the series.

Many changes to shorebird habitat on Moreton Island have occurred over this time. As Moreton Island is a sand island, severe and extreme weather patterns can change the landform patterns that affect wader behaviour and their roost choices. People disturbance can also cause shifts in bird behaviour. With a build up of sandbanks offshore many birds are using these as high tide roosts in preference to beaches. A recent breakthrough at Mirapool has again altered the fresh-salt mix of this habitat. These continuous changes in conditions on the island require constant monitoring by DERM staff.

Observations and counts of birds have included waders, other waterbirds, seabirds and raptors. The highest number of an individual wader was 5000 Bar-tailed Godwit in November 2006 at Reeders Point.

Many members have participated in these surveys which we hold on the Friday or Monday of our regular count. Should any QWSG member wish to participate on a future count please get in touch with me at my address below. Numbers of counters are limited so it might be some time before you can be included.

As can be seen in the graph below bird numbers fluctuate with the seasons. Weather and extreme tide conditions also have an effect on numbers at some sites. The increasing pressure from human presence is also of concern and must be factored in when surveying wader needs and habitat.



QWSG Members who have participated:

Dawn Beck, Leanne Bowden, Vicki Campbell, Lyn Cole, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, Sandra Harding, Joyce Harding, Harry Hines, Dave Houghton, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, David Milton, Greg Miller, Joanna Morgan, Peter Nichols, Graham Palmer, Peter Rothlisberg, , Kath Shurcliff, Brenda Smith, Graham Smith, Heather Smith, , Jeremy Thompson, Andre Varlamov, Floss Wainwright, Dez Wells, Ivell Whyte, Jim Whyte.

DERM officers who have helped over this time:

Sarah Baker-Webb, Linda Behrendopf, Peter Beloff, Crissy Bonello, Adam Coleman, Marian Dunn, Chris Dawe, Brian Dermody John Esdaile, Lisa Ford, Jane Graham, Justin Herdman, Travis Jones, George Kreiger, David Lamb, Peter Lehman, Trevor Mullen, Jodie Murphy, John Olds, Richard Orchard, Alistair Parker, Ross Patterson, Gill Pierce, Andy Quirk, Natalie Reed, Karen Rudkin, Geoff Smith, David Stewart, Leanne Siebuhr, Katya Thompson, Nicola Udy, Melanie Venz, John Wordsworth.

Joyce Harding

QWSG Moreton Is trip coordinator

Ph: 07 XXXX XXXX

Email: xxxx@xxxx.com.au

BirdLife Grant Helps Endangered Shorebird

16-06-2009

A grant from the BirdLife International Community Conservation Fund is helping establish a new population of Endangered Shore Plover *Thinornis novaeseelandiae* on Mana Island, off the west coast of Wellington, New Zealand.

The project is showing early signs of success. A pair from among 41 juveniles introduced to the island in 2007 hatched and fledged a chick during 2008, and five more young Shore Plovers have fledged in 2009. The first chick was born to one-year-old parents. Shore Plovers normally breed from two years.

The sole natural breeding population of Shore Plover is on Rangatira (South East) Island in the Chatham Islands. The species was once widespread around the coast of New Zealand's South Island, but had been extirpated by the 1870s. Their global population is estimated to be less than 250 birds, with a total range of just 4 km².



The Mana Island translocation is the latest in a series of releases of Shore Plover.

The Mana Island translocation is the latest in a series of releases of Shore Plover. Ten pairs are held in captivity, mainly at the Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre in northern Wairarapa. Young birds produced by the captive flock are released on to predator-free islands as soon as they are old enough to fly.

A local community NGO, the Friends of Mana Island (FOMI), is funding and providing volunteers for the five-year translocation project, which includes intensive monitoring of the newly introduced birds. The BLICCF grant, together with local support and the proceeds of an art auction held in London last year by the New Zealand Society and New Zealand's Department of Conservation, has provided FOMI with sufficient funding to complete the project.

"It's great for visitors to see one of the world's rarest shorebirds as soon as they get off the boat," said Colin Ryder - FOMI President and Forest & Bird (BirdLife in New Zealand) regional committee member. "It's hard to believe that they are only 30 to 40 minutes from downtown Wellington."

FOMI was set up to assist the Department of Conservation in implementing the restoration plan for Mana Island. Mice have been eradicated from the island, which is now predator-free, over half a million native trees have been planted, a wetland restored, and threatened reptiles and invertebrates reintroduced. Forest & Bird has also been heavily involved in the island's restoration, most importantly having initiated and resourced the mouse eradication project.

The island is a scientific reserve, and Shore Plover joins other successful introductions of New Zealand's endemic bird species that are rare on the mainland, including two more Endangered species - Takahe *Porphyrio hochstetteri* and Brown Teal *Anas chlorotis*.



Colin Miskelly

Five young Shore Plover have fledged in 2009.

"The BirdLife grants are supporting the recovery of a number of Globally Threatened bird species in New Zealand and elsewhere in the South Pacific", said Mr Ryder. "FOMI is extremely grateful that our project on Mana Island was selected for funding and I can assure the donors that their contribution has made a real difference."

Pelican and Seabird Rescue

A Brisbane group, Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc has helped many waders and seabirds in Moreton Bay and further north. The group recently rehabilitated a juvenile Ruddy Turnstone that could not fly. Any waterbird feeding on the foreshores can potentially get tangled in fishing tackle and be injured. The most likely waterbird that finds itself in need of rescue are pelicans because they are attracted to fish and scraps left behind by recreational fishers. If you find a bird in difficulty contact the Pelican and Seabird Rescue team who can catch the bird, treat it and take it into care if necessary.



Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc.

EPA ecoaccess permit # WIRP04133206

Rescue Hotline 0404 118 301
PO Box 1015 Capalaba Qld 4157

saveme@pelicanandseabirdrescue.org.au
www.pelicanandseabirdrescue.org.au

Slender-billed Curlew Quest

The RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) and other partners have launched a last push to find one of the world's rarest birds.

They have issued a call to search for and find any remaining populations of Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*. This announcement was made at the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP-CMS COP 9), in Rome, Italy, 1-5 December.

Classified as Critically Endangered, Slender-billed Curlew is the rarest species found in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, with no confirmed records since 1999. Regarded as very common in the 19th century, it declined dramatically during the 20th. It migrated from its presumed breeding grounds in Siberia, across central and eastern Europe to wintering grounds in North Africa and the Middle East. Flocks of over 100 birds were recorded from Morocco as late as the 1960s and 1970s. However, between 1980 and 1990, there were only 103 records, and from 1990-1999, this dropped to 74, with most recent verified records being of one to three birds. However, the Slender-billed Curlew is easily overlooked, challenging to identify and may use countries, such as Iraq and Iran, that have been relatively inaccessible to experienced birders in recent years.

"Although the situation for Slender-billed Curlew does look gloomy, the fact that other species have risen from the 'dead' recently does fuel our optimism. We are encouraging people not to give up on this bird", said Nicola Crockford of the RSPB and chair of the Slender-billed Curlew working group. "Additionally, this bird was known to inhabit remote areas - so it is just possible that small numbers of the bird may still be wintering in an isolated part of North Africa or the Middle East, or that some unknown nesting site may be discovered in the depths of Central Asia. But our quest is definitely a race against time."

The working group has developed a tool kit to assist people to identify and report Slender-billed Curlew in the field. This identification leaflet, a downloadable mp3 file of the call and a map of all recent sightings by season, mean that birders will now know what to look for, and when and where to look for it. Technological advances will assist with this work. Satellite tags are now small enough for use on Slender-billed Curlews; if any can be found and caught then the sites used during the migratory cycle could be determined. Also, research on feather samples from museum skins may soon enable a narrowing down of the search area for the breeding grounds (the only nesting records date from 1909-1924 in the Tara area of the Omsk-Novosibirsk region, south-west Siberia).

"This is the last chance to find Slender-billed Curlew. If we lose this species, it will be the first extinction of a European bird since Canary Islands Oystercatcher *Haematopus meadewaldoi* in 1981", said Richard Grimmett, BirdLife's Head of Conservation. "We've launched The BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme to save the world's most threatened birds. For many species - such as Slender-billed Curlew - the first step is to confirm if they still survive, and then identify and protect the sites that they use."

Wader Populations Decline Faster than Ever

According to a new publication by Wetlands International, more than half the populations of waders in Europe, West Asia and Africa are declining at an accelerating rate.

Waders are a group of relatively small waterbirds including species like lapwings, plovers, godwits, curlews and sandpipers. Many of them undertake long distance migrations from their Arctic breeding grounds to wintering areas as far away as Southern Africa. Some concentrate in huge numbers at just a few sites, making these wetlands critical for their survival.

The new 'Wader Atlas' is the first comprehensive overview of key site networks for waders in Europe, West Asia and Africa, and the publication highlights a need for better protection of the key wetlands along their flyways, especially in Africa and the Middle East.

The authors outline that whilst many European Union (EU) Member States have established a fairly comprehensive network of protected areas for waders, many of which are Important Bird Areas (IBAs) identified by the BirdLife Partnership, the protection and management of key sites is still far from adequate beyond the EU's borders.

“Waders such as Ruff [*Philomachus pugnax*] are heavily protected in the EU; farmers receive thousands of Euros for nest protection”, said author Simon Delany. However, the new publication outlines that resources outside the EU urgently need to be increased – helping to conserving waterbirds at all stages of their lives.

The wetlands of the African west coast are under enormous pressures. The sparse water resources in the Sahelian zone are tapped by dams which have turned formerly shallow wetlands into permanently dry lands. Irrigation schemes for growing human population disrupt the water flow in wetlands such as the shrinking Lake Chad. The atlas also outlines that wetlands themselves are often converted to agricultural use - such as in the Tana River Delta in Kenya, which is threatened by conversion to sugar cane plantations.

“Migratory waterbirds can only be effectively conserved through international cooperation along their entire flyway”, said Dr Vicky Jones - BirdLife’s Global Flyways Officer. “BirdLife Partners are focusing on joining up site-based action at critical sites for waterbirds within the African-Eurasian area”.

BirdLife is a key partner in the Wings over Wetlands (WOW) project which is making an enormous difference to the understanding of migratory waterbirds and their needs, demonstrating best practice in the conservation and wise-use of wetlands, and increasing cooperation along the African-Eurasian flyway.

BirdLife is also involved in a new ‘WetCap’ project to help strengthen waterbird conservation and build capacity for wetland management activities at key sites in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Mauritania. “WetCap will promote the wise-use of wetlands which benefit local people by providing clean water and opportunities for fishing, agriculture, recreation and tourism”, said Dr Jones.

On the ground, IBA Caretakers and Site Support Groups are working to protect and monitor key sites for migratory birds. “A wide range of activities are being implemented by the BirdLife Partnership to support the development and growth of this local approach to site conservation, through capacity building, networking, sharing experience and provision of seed-financing”, added Dr Jones.

BirdLife recognises that despite their importance, wetlands are amongst the world’s most vulnerable ecosystems. “In response to these worrying declines, BirdLife has launched the Born to Travel Campaign to protect migratory waterbirds, soaring birds and songbirds along the African-Eurasian flyway”, said Ania Sharwood Smith - BirdLife’s European Coordinator for the Born to Travel Campaign. “Born to Travel is a perfect example of how effectively our unique BirdLife Network meshes together as a united force to take action for conservation”.

Red-kneed Dotterel: a Personal Observation

By David Edwards

I observe the North Pine River site during the monthly counts, amongst the birds that frequent MY site the Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythronyx cinctus* is a regular visitor. Most often I see this species during the winter months, particularly when it is drier out west. The July 2009 count resulted in 7 birds, I have often recorded over 40 birds, including juvenile birds.

This observation is about a feeding habit used by these birds. The Red-kneed Dotterel is usually placed in the Lapwing sub-family, Vanellinae, and its larger eye shows its tendency to feed by surface pecking as is seen within this group.

I have noted several birds helping this feeding pattern by trembling one of its feet in the water or the wet mud at the edges of the water. I have found myself saying that they are ‘puddling the water’. This action stirs up the water and mud just in front of them. This must disturb prey lying low in the substrate, because they then peck at the surface and appear to eat.

I spent 5 minutes following one of the birds using this technique. It stopped and ‘puddled’ the water 45 times and peck at something 41 times. It used both feet almost equally but favoured the right slightly. Whilst ‘puddling’ it would stand very still on the one leg. This result seems to be successful for the bird.

HANZAB mentions the usual methods of lapwing-type feeding an one of ‘puddling’ by Schulz in 1986. I have noticed this behaviour before, so consider it to be commoner than imagined. I will try to remember to follow up on this behaviour and bring the results to a future newsletter.

Count Programme by Dawn Beck

Thank you to all those counters who have returned their winter count forms along with the questionnaire asking for information on the state of the habitat of the roosts. This information will be sought once a year to try to monitor any change to your sites. Climate change is causing a rise in sea level, which may be affecting some locations, and the increase in storms along the whole of the Queensland Coast has resulted in some large scale resculpturing of the shoreline including roosts. Mangrove growth is also affecting some places. Lytton, the iconic roost where so many of us learnt to identify waders, has undergone much change and in the July count only 5 birds were recorded and none of them waders. Maybe the summer migration will bring the waders back.

Recently two very experienced counters from UK have joined us. QWSG gives a very warm welcome to Richard Fuller and Andy Jensen. Both are getting acquainted with the waders of the East Asian/Australasian Flyway and are learning several of the roosts around Moreton Bay so they will be invaluable when regular counters are unavailable. We look forward to a long and happy association.

The winter season has been a time when we could relax a little and prepare ourselves for the arrival of the summer migrants. As usual in winter, many counters have been delighted with sightings of our regular visitors from NZ, Double-banded Plovers. Flocks were seen in Moreton Bay, 160 at Reeders Point on Moreton Island in both April and July. On Stradbroke Island, flocks of about 80 were observed at both Horseshoe Bay and at Wavebreak Sand Island from April to July. Smaller groups were seen in other Moreton Bay roosts, Sunshine Coast, Great Sandy Strait and the furthest north was reported at Shellgrit Creek northern mouth, where 38 were reported on 06.08.09 by F Wainwright. By July, the birds were looking splendid in their breeding plumage.

Interesting Sightings for Winter

Bar-tailed Godwit

Maaroom GSS – 990 – 24.05.09 and 1400 – 26.07.09 – John Bell

Mathiesens Homestead GSS – 900 – 23.05.09 and 860 – 23.06.09 – John Knight

Toorbul – 630 – 24.05.09 – Dez Wells

Great Knot – 520 – Mathiesens Homestead 9.06.09 – John Knight

Grey-tailed Tattler – 1100 – Mathiesens Homestead 26.04.09 – John Knight

Australian Pratincole – 1 – 27.05.09 – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui

Common Sandpiper – 1 – 24.04.09 – Dalrymple Creek Bowen – Jon Wren

Sanderling – 1 – 24.07.09 Bishop Island Port of Brisbane – QWSG

Not Waders but Interesting

Laughing Gull – Still being seen on Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui

Black-necked Stork seen at Garnets Lagoon No.2 – John Knight, O'Reagan's Creek W – Marion Williams,

Pelican Waters Lamerough Creek – Jill Chamberlain and Reeders Point Moreton Island – QWSG

Breeding Records

Black-necked Stork – 26.04.09 on nest and 25.05.09 two nestlings – Garnets Lagoon No.2 – John Knight

Pied Oystercatcher – 23.07.09 Incubating eggs – Noosa River Sandbanks – Jill Denning

Black Swan – 22 cygnets – 25.07.09 – Young Ave Kinka Beach

5 cygnets – 26.07.09 – Visitors Centre POB

Birds from the southern migration will be arriving from August onwards. If possible, note whether the birds are in adult or sub-adult plumage. Most field guides distinguish between these. Slater's Field Guide illustrates breeding, non-breeding and juvenile plumages for most species and Pizzey and Knight show breeding, non-breeding and immature. The adult birds should arrive first followed later by the immatures or juveniles.

Also, please watch out for leg flags, note them on your count sheet, and send a Leg Flag report off to Phil Cross. Rob Schuckard from NZ flagged some Bar-tailed Godwits and some of these birds were sighted in Queensland in 2006. Rob is keen to see if they turn up here again. They have a white flag on right tibia (upper) and four different coloured ankle rings, two on each tarsus (lower). These are hard to determine if the bird is in water or mud, but please do your best.

Looking forward to receiving all those count sheets.

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.

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs between 22.03.09 & 30.07.09

1 Eastern Curlew, 24 Bar-tailed Godwit, 11 Pied Oystercatcher, 4 Black-winged Stilt, 1 Great Knot, 2 Grey-tailed Tattler, 2 Terek Sandpiper, 5 Curlew Sandpiper & 3 Red-capped Plover.

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

Bar-tailed Godwit – **AR, CL, CR, DH, DL, DN, DS, FB, FC, FR, NC, NJ.**

Pied Oystercatcher – **AE, AH, AK, AT, CJ, CK, CL, EB ED.**

Black-winged Stilt – **CJ, CV, KX.**

Great Knot – **ED.**

Grey-tailed Tattler – **HJ.**

Terek Sandpiper – **DN, DP.**

Curlew Sandpiper – **CV, CX.**

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FY) – Mangere Sewage Ponds, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Phil Hammond – 09.08.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clonmel Island, Corner Inlet, Victoria – Hazel Watson – 22.06.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Mr Bai Qing Quan – 09.05.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (DL) – Mundok, North Korea – Tony Habraken – 27.04.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Mr Bai Qing Quan – 11.04.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX) – Clifton Road, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Bruce Keeley – 06.04.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Cape Avinof, Alaska, USA – Daniel Ruthrauff – 05.09.08

1 Red Knot – Bohai Oil Rig Site, China – Adrian Boyle – 26.05.09

1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (BN) – Wetland of Huanghua Port, Cangzhou, Hebei Province, China – Mr Meng, De-Rong – 24.08.08

1 Greater Sand Plover – Hanbou, ChangHwa County, China – Chia-Hsiang Lin – 24.06.09

1 Greater Sand Plover – Hanbou, ChangHwa County, China – Chih-Hui Liu – 14.04.09

1 Greater Sand Plover – Hanbou, ChangHwa County, China – Chih-Hui Liu – 13.04.09

1 Greater Sand Plover – Hanbou, ChangHwa County, China – Chih-Hui Liu – 08.04.09

1 Lesser Sand Plover – Hanbou, ChangHwa County, China – Chia-Hsiang Lin – 13.04.09

1 Lesser Sand Plover – Hanbou, ChangHwa County, China – Chia-Hsiang Lin – 08.04.09

1 Red-necked Stint – Funabashi Sea Park, Chiba, near Tokyo, Japan – Stephen Rumsey – 18.04.09

Orange leg flag sightings

1 Eastern Curlew – orange flag left tibia and orange flag right tibia – Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay – John Knight & Barbara Love – 14.08.09

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

No sightings.

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag right tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Sheryl Keates, David Milton & Sandra Harding. – 28.03.09

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

No sightings.

Other wader leg flag sightings

No sightings.

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.

Six NSW birds seen as follows:

C4 – Fisherman Islands – David Edwards et al – 26.07.09

A6 – Reeder's Pt Moreton Island – Dawn Beck et al – 24.07.09

D4 – Reeder's Pt Moreton Island – Dawn Beck et al – 24.07.09

J5 – Reeder's Pt Moreton Island – Dawn Beck et al – 24.07.09

K4 – Reeder's Pt Moreton Island – Dawn Beck et al – 24.07.09

J8 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Dez Wells – 25.04.09

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates & Gavin O'Brien – 30.07.09

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Sandfly Bay, Toorbul – Dez Wells – 25.07.09

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Jill Denning – Thooloora southeast, Pumicestone Passage – 24.07.09

Great Sandy Straits Shorebird Survey - Sunday 4 October 2009

The QWSG will be going back to the Great Sandy Straits to undertake a full count of roosts from Tin Can Bay, across to Inskip Point and up to Point Vernon. The last time the area was surveyed was in January 2005.

The tide times (on Sunday 4 Oct) are:

- Urangan -- 3.51m at 0827; and
- Waddy Point (Fraser Island) -- 1.71m at 0752.

There are 15 sites/groups of sites to be counted so for counters who can help please keep this weekend free for the survey. The Department of Environment and Resource Management will hopefully be providing the two boats needed to survey Fraser Is and remote sites. Sue Sargent from the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Resource Management will also be able to help as necessary.

In conjunction with the survey a shorebird training workshop will be held on the Friday night in Hervey Bay with identification practice in the field on the Saturday morning. The program is as follows.

The shorebird training workshop to comprise three half-hour talks with quiz and prize (interesting facts, ID, threats and quiz) from 7pm till 10pm with refreshments of coffee/tee for a \$5.00 charge. Saturday at 8.30am to meet for the field identification and have until 10am to look at the birds.

The people we want attending are people who have recently joined the count program or people who might like to join the count program - general bird watchers. All counters welcome as well.

I will be in contact with past counters of the GSS and will send out the further information on the workshop and details for the survey. Please call/email me if you would like to get involved.

Sandra Harding - phone 07 XXXX XXXX or email - xxxx@xxxx.com.au or mob xxxx xxx xxx.

Wader Populations Decline Faster than Ever

BirdLife 04-06-2009

According to a new publication by Wetlands International, more than half the populations of waders in Europe, West Asia and Africa are declining at an accelerating rate.

Waders are a group of relatively small waterbirds including species like lapwings, plovers, godwits, curlews and sandpipers. Many of them undertake long distance migrations from their Arctic breeding grounds to wintering areas as far away as Southern Africa. Some concentrate in huge numbers at just a few sites, making these wetlands critical for their survival.

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Flickr / Silvanin De Munck

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The authors outline that whilst many European Union (EU) Member States have established a fairly comprehensive network of protected areas for waders, many of which are Important Bird Areas (IBAs) identified by the BirdLife Partnership, the protection and management of key sites is still far from adequate beyond the EU's borders.

"Waders such as Ruff [*Philomachus pugnax*] are heavily protected in the EU; farmers receive thousands of Euros for nest protection", said author Simon Delany. However, the new publication outlines that resources outside the EU urgently need to be increased – helping to conserving waterbirds at all stages of their lives.

The wetlands of the African west coast are under enormous pressures. The sparse water resources in the Sahelian zone are tapped by dams which have turned formerly shallow wetlands into permanently dry lands. Irrigation schemes for growing human population disrupt the water flow in wetlands such as the shrinking Lake Chad. The atlas also outlines that wetlands themselves are often converted to agricultural use - such as in the Tana River Delta in Kenya, which is threatened by conversion to sugar cane plantations.

"Migratory waterbirds can only be effectively conserved through international cooperation along their entire flyway", said Dr Vicky Jones - BirdLife's Global Flyways Officer. "BirdLife Partners are focusing on joining up site-based action at critical sites for waterbirds within the African-Eurasian area".

BirdLife is a key partner in the Wings over Wetlands (WOW) project which is making an enormous difference to the understanding of migratory waterbirds and their needs, demonstrating best practice in the conservation and wise-use of wetlands, and increasing cooperation along the African-Eurasian flyway.

BirdLife is also involved in a new 'WetCap' project to help strengthen waterbird conservation and build capacity for wetland management activities at key sites in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Mauritania. "WetCap will promote the wise-use of wetlands which benefit local people by providing clean water and opportunities for fishing, agriculture, recreation and tourism", said Dr Jones.

On the ground, IBA Caretakers and Site Support Groups are working to protect and monitor key sites for migratory birds. "A wide range of activities are being implemented by the BirdLife Partnership to support the development and growth of this local approach to site conservation, through capacity building, networking, sharing experience and provision of seed-financing", added Dr Jones.

BirdLife recognises that despite their importance, wetlands are amongst the world's most vulnerable ecosystems. "In response to these worrying declines, BirdLife has launched the Born to Travel Campaign to protect migratory waterbirds, soaring birds and songbirds along the African-Eurasian flyway", said Ania Sharwood Smith - BirdLife's European Coordinator for the Born to Travel Campaign. "Born to Travel is a perfect example of how effectively our unique BirdLife Network meshes together as a united force to take action for conservation".

Bar-tailed Godwit Population Estimate Data

NZ	102,000		102,000	}			
				}			
Tas	600	}		}		<i>baueri</i>	}
VIC	10,000	}	62,600	}		155,000	}
NSW	4,000	}		}			}
Qld	48,000	}		}			}
				}			325,000
SA	2,500	}		}			}
NT	15,000	}	122,500	}			}
WA	105,000	}		}			}
				}			}
China	5,050	}		}		<i>menzbieri</i>	}
Japan	300	}		}		170,000	}
Philippines	2,000	}		}			}
Vietnam	100	}		}			}
Thailand	1,500	}		}			}
Cambodia	1,500	}	39,450	}			}
Myanmar	1,000	}		}			}
Malaysia	4,000	}		}			}
Brunei	500	}		}			}
Indonesia	22,000	}		}			}
PNG	1,500	}		}			}

Note that the third column of figures is the published population estimates not the sum of the figures in the second columns.

Up Coming Talk

Top spot for Great Knot: Migratory Shorebirds in Broad Sound

Who? -- Mr Roger Jaensch, Wetlands International – Oceania

When? -- 12th October 2009

Where?-- Biodiversity Sciences, Queensland Herbarium

Contact -- Dept Environment and Resource Management

Ph: xxxx xxxx fax xxxx xxxx

Email: xxxx@xxxx.qld.gov.au

Visit us on the web at: www.epa.qld.gov.au/herbarium

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.

Electronic Newsletter ??

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

If you are interested email me on xxxx@xxxx.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.

Saturday 24th October 2009 at Toorbul

High tide is at 13.18 (1.18pm) (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul) of 2.02m. Meeting time 12 noon.

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 Phil & Linda Cross xxxx xxxx if you have any questions.

Saturday 21st November 2009 at Manly Boat Harbour

High tide at 12.06 of 2.21m. Meeting time 10.00am

Security has been stepped up at Manly Boat Harbour with a new fence and security patrols, so this is your chance to legally get behind the fence and check out the waders with our group. Meet at the end of the road, east of the Royal Queensland Yacht Clubhouse, Manly. UBD map 164 A6. **Gates will be locked after we enter and late arrivals will not be able to access the site. Therefore, we need to know if you are planning to attend this id day. Please ensure you contact the people below and have your name put on the list.**

Please contact either David Milton & Sandra Harding xxxx xxxx or Phil & Linda Cross xxxx xxxx or Linda Cross Mobile: xxxx xxx xxx

Editor's Notes

Sorry that there has been the use of articles from other sources and that the Newsletter is not as long as usual, but this quarter always seems to be light on for information.

As you see I have a couple of articles from BirdLife a good source for worldwide birding news. Remember that this is your Newsletter and I will try to include any article that you wish to submit.

If you don't send in enough you might get another bad bird joke:-----

Two vultures were in the desert eating a dead clown. The first vulture asks the second vulture: "Does this taste funny to you?"

Don't say I didn't warn you!

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Queensland Wader Study Group Course

Introduction To Waders (Shorebirds) In Australia And Moreton Bay

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2009, 9.15am to 9.45am

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.



Men's sizes: SM - XL

Women's : XS - M

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 :

- Clive Allen**
Andrew McDougall
Chloe Rich
David & Leanne Rowbotham
Cassandra Taylor

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

CHAIRPERSON: Andrew Geering (07) xxxx xxxx
TREASURER: Sheryl Keates email xxxx@xxxx.com.au
SECRETARY: Peter Rothlisberg (07) xxxx xxxx

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dawn Beck	(07) xxxx xxxx	Vicki Campbell	(07) xxxx xxxx
Jon Coleman	(07) xxxx xxxx	Maureen Cooper	(07) xxxx xxxx
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,
 XXXXXXXXXXX,
 XXXXXXXXXXX
 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:

Sheryl Keates
 QWSG Treasurer
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 XXXXX NT 08XX

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

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **November 18th 2009**

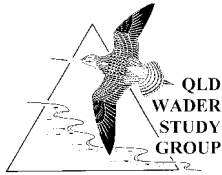
Contributions should be addressed to:

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

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

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

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



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 flyers, 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,
xxxxxxxxxx, Q4xxx.
Places are limited.

REGISTRATION: **SATURDAY 7TH 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: **SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 2009, 1.00 to 4.00 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, xxxxxxxxxxxxx, 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.....



Count Activities 2009

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Programme – 2009

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 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, XXXXXXXXXXXXX, XXXXX NT 08XX

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group
For a direct credit, please use the following details.

Account name: Qld Wader Study Group
Account number: xxxxxxx
Financial Institution: mecu Limited
BSB: xxxxx

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