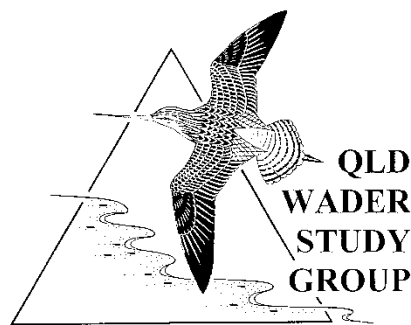


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 070

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

Great Sandy Strait Wader Id Workshop And Survey 2nd – 7th October, 2009

David Milton and Sandra Harding

QWSG held a wader workshop at the Sea Scouts Hall in Torquay, Hervey Bay on the evening of Friday 2 October in conjunction with the Burnett-Mary Regional Group (BMRG) and Birds Australia Shorebird 2020 project (BA). The workshop was attended by 21 locals and lasted from 7 – 11 pm. Attendees were given presentations on wader ecology, identification, threats and declines, BMRG's "Feathering our Futures" project and the Shorebird 2020 project. Attendees included Dennis and Lorna Johnson, John Bell and Judy Turner, Don and Lesley Bradley, David Dormog, Bob and June Gleeson, Bill Price, Barbara Hayes, Carol Bussey, Teresa and Andy Pavone, Jenny Watts, Peter Duck, Ron and Cheryl Bishop, Nerida Silke and Marion Williams. At the end of the night, Sandra Harding ran a wader ID test that was won by Lorna Johnson. She received a prize of a signed copy of "Shorebirds of Australia" by Andrew Geering, Lindsay Agnew and Sandra Harding. Andrew Geering also presented another signed copy of the book as an encouragement award to Andy Pavone for the lowest score in the test. A field wader identification session was held the next morning at the Gables on Pt Vernon. This session was well attended and allowed participants to see the finer differences between Lesser and Greater Sand Plovers as well as between Whimbrel and Eastern Curlew. Other species seen at the roost were Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Pacific Golden Plover and five species of tern.



Wader ID workshop participants at the morning ID session at the Gables high tide roost at Pt Vernon in Hervey Bay (Photo: Bob Gleeson).

QWSG members then undertook a wader survey of the 55 known roosts in the Great Sandy Strait from 4 – 7 October with help from the local QPWS marine parks staff. Four separate boat trips were made to roosts on the western coast of Fraser Is and islands throughout the Great Sandy Strait. Andrew Geering and Chris Purnell from BA experienced strong winds and very wet conditions on Sunday 4 October as they pounded their way across Hervey Bay to count the wader roosts at Moon Pt on Fraser Is. However, the count of over 3,500 more than compensated for the uncomfortable boating conditions. Other large roosts counted on the Sunday included over 3,000 birds at Boonaroo, 2,500 birds at Maaroom and 2,000 birds at Shark Inlet. The total count for the survey was in excess of 30,000 birds over the four days. This total is similar or greater than those made during previous comprehensive surveys of the Great Sandy Strait between 2001 and 2005. Bar-tailed Godwits were the most abundant species and the count of >13,700 represented 50% of all the migratory waders counted. The next most abundant species were Grey-tailed Tattler (2,150) and Great Knot (2,100).

The Great Sandy Strait has been identified to hold internationally-significant numbers of seven species of migratory wader (Bar-tailed Godwit 4%; Common Greenshank 1.8%; Eastern Curlew 15.8%; Grey-tailed Tattler 15.4%; Lesser Sand Plover 1.1%; Terek Sandpiper 5%; Whimbrel 3.1%) based on the latest population estimates in Bamford *et al.* (2008). The counts that showed these Great Sandy Strait populations to be internationally significant were based on surveys in 1990 by the former long-serving QWSG chair, Peter Driscoll. Now, 19 years later, the species composition in the Great Sandy Strait is quite different and only four species are still present in internationally-significant numbers.

The total counts from the October 2009 and the previous January 2005 surveys are shown in Table 1 below. They show that the counts of three of the seven species previously counted in numbers > 1% of their flyway population are no longer present in large numbers (Common Greenshank, Lesser Sand Plover and Terek Sandpiper). Even among the other species still present in internationally significant numbers (Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler and Whimbrel), only Bar-tailed Godwit appear not to have declined by more than 50%. Even common resident waders such as Pied Oystercatcher were in much lower numbers in October 2009. This may be a real decline, or many birds may still be nesting and so gone undetected during high tide roost counts.

Overall, the survey found a similar number of waders were present to previous surveys in the last 10 years. Our coverage during the survey was the most comprehensive we have achieved in several years. Only four of the 55 known roosts were not surveyed in October 2009. Despite this, several species appear to have declined by more than 50% in the region. This pattern is consistent with the results of surveys in other parts of Australia (see article on AWSG conference in this issue). It points to an on-going need to continue to monitor regions like the Great Sandy Strait as these still hold some of the largest concentrations of waders in Australia.

The organisers thank all the participants in the survey: *QWSG members* – Andrew Geering, Ivell and Jim Whyte, Dawn Beck, Vicki Campbell, Ken Cowell, Floss Wainwright, Peter Rothlisberg, Chris Barnes, Bob and Karyll Butler, Linda and Phil Cross, Sandra Harding, Joyce Harding, David Milton, John Bell, Bob and June Gleeson, Don and Lesley Bradley, Marion Williams, Marilyn Sweetman, John Knight, Paul Finn, Clare Underwood, Dorothy Pashniak, Kelvin and Amelia Nielsen. *Qld Dept of Environment and Resource Management*: Bill Alstrom, Daniel Clifton, Danny Eckert, Michael Ford, Peter Tierney, Moyra McRae and Maria Zann; *Birds Australia*: Chris Purnell; *Local birders*: Britt Einerman, Nev Capell, Bill Price, Barbara Hayes, Andy Pavone.

Reference:

Bamford, M., Watkins, D., Bancroft, W., Tischler, G., Wahl, J. (2008). Migratory shorebirds of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway: Population estimates and internationally important sites. Wetlands International-Oceania, Canberra, Australia. 239pp.

Table 1: The total counts of each species during the recent October 2009 survey, the most recent survey in January 2005, the counts made in 1990 to identify species in internationally-significant numbers and the recently-published flyway population estimates (Bamford et al. 2008).

GROUP	SPECIES	OCT 2009 TOTAL	JAN 2005 TOTAL	1990 TOTAL	Flyway population
Resident wader	Beach Thick-knee	4	–	–	–
	Black-fronted Dotterel	3	1	–	–
	Black-winged Stilt	194	54	–	–
	Bush Thick-knee	2	0	–	–

GROUP	SPECIES	OCT 2009 TOTAL	JAN 2005 TOTAL	1990 TOTAL	Flyway population
	Comb-crested Jacana	8	3	-	-
	Masked Lapwing	95	40	-	-
	Pied Oystercatcher	103	287	-	-
	Red-capped Plover	157	210	-	-
	Red-kneed Dotterel	5	0	-	-
	Sooty Oystercatcher	0	3	-	-
	TOTAL Residents	571	598	-	-
Migratory wader	Australian Pratincole	2	0	-	-
	Bar-tailed Godwit	13,727	8869	12,986	325,000
	Black-tailed Godwit	8	43	-	-
	Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	0	-	-
	Common Greenshank	463	186	1,069	60,000
	Curlew Sandpiper	194	291	-	-
	Eastern Curlew	1,865	2,279	6,018	38,000
	Great Knot	2,082	2,094	-	-
	Greater Sand Plover	310	414	-	-
	Grey Plover	142	91	-	-
	Grey-tailed Tattler	2,154	696	7,680	50,000
	Lesser Sand Plover	624	2,345	1,430	130,000
	Marsh Sandpiper	10	50	-	-
	Pacific Golden Plover	129	24	-	-
	Red Knot	228	4	-	-
	Red-necked Stint	1,462	2,774	-	-
	Ruddy Turnstone	19	14	-	-
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	318	102	-	-
	Terek Sandpiper	258	130	2,494	50,000
	unidentified medium wader	25	3	-	-
	Wandering Tattler	5	0	-	-
	Whimbrel	1,419	396	3,128	100,000
	Wood Sandpiper	1	0	-	-
	TOTAL Migrant waders	25,446	20,805	-	-
Resident waterbird	Australasian Shoveler	2	0	-	-
	Australian Darter	9	0	-	-
	Australian Little Grebe	79	7	-	-
	Australian Pelican	51	275	-	-
	Australian White Ibis	136	10	-	-
	Black Swan	57	36	-	-
	Black-necked Stork	0	2	-	-
	Brolga	3	3	-	-
	Buff-banded Rail	1	0	-	-
	Chestnut Teal	11	2	-	-
	Dusky Moorhen	6	2	-	-
	Eastern Reef Egret	0	5	-	-
	Eurasian Coot	0	1	-	-
	Glossy Ibis	17	9	-	-
	Great Egret	11	5	-	-
	Grey Teal	104	16	-	-
	Hardhead	50	0	-	-
	Intermediate Egret	7	0	-	-
	Little Black Cormorant	27	16	-	-
	Little Egret	26	14	-	-
	Little Pied Cormorant	7	5	-	-

GROUP	SPECIES	OCT 2009 TOTAL	JAN 2005 TOTAL	1990 TOTAL	Flyway population
	Magpie Goose	3	0	-	-
	Pacific Black Duck	76	45	-	-
	Pied Cormorant	89	71	-	-
	Purple Swamphen	21	0	-	-
	Royal Spoonbill	28	53	-	-
	Straw-necked Ibis	12	0	-	-
	Striated Heron	3	0	-	-
	Wandering Whistling Duck	0	2	-	-
	White-faced Heron	42	5	-	-
	TOTAL waterbirds	878	584		
Resident raptors	Australian Kestrel	1	1	-	-
	Brahminy Kite	6	4	-	-
	Osprey	6	6	-	-
	Peregrine Falcon	1	0	-	-
	Whistling Kite	8	10	-	-
	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	7	9	-	-
	TOTAL raptors	29	30		
Resident terns and gulls	Caspian Tern	69	128	-	-
	Crested Tern	1,165	193	-	-
	Gull-billed Tern	360	1,190	-	-
	Lesser Crested Tern	8	0	-	-
	Little Tern	2,267	66	-	-
	Silver Gull	77	84	-	-
	Whiskered Tern	6	11	-	-
	TOTAL Terns	3,952	1,672		

**The 7th Australasian Wader Study Group Conference,
Hobart 4th – 6th September 2009:
“Resident and Migratory Shorebirds –Managing Their Future”**

Attendees of the biennial AWSG shorebird conference heard for the first time the results from a number of studies documenting declines in shorebirds in several regions of Australia. Some declines, such as those reported from the Coorong in South Australia by Ken Gosbell were the result of changes in the local environmental conditions. Others, such as those in Corner Inlet and Port Phillip Bay in Victoria, Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck Bay in NW Western Australia and Moreton Bay could not be explained by habitat loss or degradation. For the first time, participants heard of the alarmingly consistent patterns of population crashes in different parts of the country. They indicate that our shorebird populations are in deep trouble. It is only now that sufficient count data have been accumulating from different parts of the country to enable quantification of the rates of decline. Several species of migratory wader were reported to decline in each region, although the species differed in some cases. Species reported to be declining in more than one region included the larger species of migratory wader (Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit), Curlew Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint. A meeting was held at lunch on the second day among people interested in merging all data to undertake a single, more comprehensive analysis of wader populations in Australia, and possibly throughout the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. If this analysis occurs, it will provide a definitive assessment of the status of Australia's wader populations. However, the results are unlikely to disprove the reported declines from different regions, so the diagnosis is grim.

On the second day of the conference, talks were mostly on resident shorebird species. These were all from southern Australia and included several presentations on Hooded Plover, Red-capped Dotterel, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers. Red-capped Dotterel populations appear to be declining in southern Australia, unlike the situation here in Queensland. The exact causes are unclear, but relate to poor breeding success and habitat loss near large urban centres.

QWSG was well represented at the conference with seven members attending. Jill Dening gave an oral presentation on the need for better links between shorebird researchers and local government and Sandra Harding, Dawn Beck, Vicki Campbell and David Milton gave a poster presentation on the results of the April study of wader disturbance at Buckleys Hole sandbar on Bribie Is.
David Milton

Spoon-billed surveys

BirdLife 18-03-2009

Two surveys of the wintering grounds of Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* starkly illustrate the extreme and growing pressures this Critically Endangered species faces. The second annual survey on the coast of Myanmar found one new wintering site, but numbers overall were less than in the previous year. But in Vietnam, where more than 27 individuals were recorded in the mid-1990s, not a single Spoon-billed Sandpiper was seen in January 2009.

The Myanmar survey was carried out in mid-January by an international team of German, British, Russian, Canadian and Burmese scientists, led by BANCA (BirdLife in Myanmar) and ArcCona Ecological Consulting, Cambridge (UK). In total, 63 birds were found by two teams, operating on the Rakhine (Arakan) coast, and in the Bay of Martaban. The total of 48 birds in the Bay of Martaban was similar to the 2008 figure, but at the island of Nan Thar near the Bangladeshi border, only 14 were recorded, compared to 35 in 2008. A new site with at least one Spoon-billed Sandpiper was found along the Rakhine coast. The survey indicates that the Bay of Martaban, close to Yangon (the capital of Myanmar), may be the most important wintering site for the species in Myanmar. The 48 birds observed are a minimum, and probably well below the total number that winters in the estuary. The survey covered only 25-40% of suitable habitat, and the flocks of waders were difficult to approach. The surveys also took place during neap tides, when some prime feeding areas dry out, resulting in considerable local movements within the bay.

"Taking all this into consideration, the site may hold more than 100 Spoon-billed Sandpiper", said Christoph Zöckler of ArcCona Cambridge. "However, it has no protected status at present, putting the site at risk from development."

At both Martaban and Nan Thar island there was evidence of hunting and trapping, which targets larger birds, but may also entangle and kill small waders. The pressure of an increasing coastal population means that younger hunters may have begun to target smaller birds.

"With the support of a member of a local environmentalist group, we negotiated an immediate halt to trapping with the hunters from two villages which take birds from the island, in return for a small compensation", said Zöckler. "In the longer term the local environmentalist group is being encouraged to develop an economically and ecologically sound alternative to hunting, of which community-based eco-tourism seems the likeliest."

The survey in the Red River Delta, Vietnam, was a part of a long-term initiative by the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (SBS) Recovery Team to discover key non-breeding grounds of the species. It was organized in cooperation with the BirdLife Indochina Programme, supported by Japan Wetlands Action Network, and funded by Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund.

Between 9 and 18 January, six expedition members from Russia, Japan and Vietnam surveyed three key locations (Quan Lan, Thai Thuy and Xuan Thuy), where the species had been observed before. In spite of intensive efforts, no Spoon-billed Sandpipers were seen, although over 5,700 shorebirds were counted, and most of them identified to species level.

"There is still a chance that some Spoon-billed Sandpiper are staying in the area, since we didn't cover the whole coast, and because two birds were seen in Quan Lan on 26 December, 2008", said survey member Evgeny Syroechkovskiy. But he added: "We may have missed some individuals, but not any serious numbers."

Enormous pressure on the intertidal areas was observed in many parts of the Red River Delta. "It is likely that local habitat transformation and illegal bird trapping were among the main reason for the species decline in the earlier years", said Syroechkovskiy. However, problems at migratory stop over sites have may have contributed.

"These surveys, and monitoring in Thailand and Bangladesh, are increasing our knowledge of the wintering range of the species, and will enable us to propose coastal areas which need to be protected to ensure the survival of Spoon-billed Sandpiper", said Mike Crosby, Senior Conservation Officer, BirdLife's Asia Division.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper is one of the species benefitting from the BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme. In August 2008, Wildsounds became a Species Champion for Spoon-billed Sandpiper. The programme is spearheading greater conservation action, awareness and funding support for all of the world's most threatened birds, starting with the 190 species classified as Critically Endangered, the highest level of threat.



Recent surveys in Myanmar and Vietnam are adding to our knowledge of the non-breeding distribution of Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*

FAO study on agro-ecological resilience shines light onto the dynamics of persistence of H5N1 HPAI

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

11 November 2009 – In late 2003 highly pathogenic avian influenza (A) subtype H5N1 (H5N1 HPAI) emerged in Southeast Asia causing poultry and economic losses on a large scale. Since 2004, the disease has spread to the rest of Asia, Europe and Africa. The virus is nowadays believed to persist in China, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Bangladesh and Egypt. Veterinary epidemiologists involved in influenza research remain struck by the degree to which H5N1 HPAI persists, producing repeated outbreaks despite interventions on many fronts, including public education, surveillance sampling, restrictions on livestock movement, improvements in farm bio-security, live-bird market disinfection, culling rounds, and vaccination campaigns.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations commissioned a study to examine the main drivers behind H5N1 HPAI persistence in different agro-ecological contexts across the globe. Previous research identified five variables that helped differentiate areas according to their level of persistence: chicken density, duck density, agricultural population density, purchasing power parity per capita, and chicken production output/input ratio. Localities that host the greatest persistence were characterized by high chicken and duck densities, high agricultural population densities, intermediate purchasing power per capita, and intermediate chicken production output/input ratios. These localities included, among others, Egypt, Viet Nam, Indonesia and several coastal Chinese provinces.

A more recent study indicates that localities may differ in ecological resilience –the capacity to absorb external shocks– including disease outbreaks. Although this study is still a work in progress, preliminary results derived from a stochastic multivariate auto-regression model suggest that the agro-ecological variables that define H5N1 HPAI epidemiology may in some countries be more tightly interconnected than in others. Industrialized countries in the West appear to differ from countries undergoing progressive economic transition in the ways in which their agro-ecological variables are interconnected. Ongoing work aims to address the effects such differences may have on the spread and evolution of the virus.

The results so far obtained also suggest that emergence of new influenzas, including H1N1/2009, may depend on more than just the agricultural sector from which they arose. Influenza dynamics may encompass broader ecological contexts in which livestock farming takes place. If this is indeed the case, effective disease management cannot be achieved by veterinary services alone, thus warranting collaboration from a wide array of stakeholders. Interventions must therefore be directed towards policies and practices that help shape the ways in which agro-ecological variables interrelate across the landscape. Such interventions may help reorganize livestock production systems and their corresponding agro-ecologies in such a way as to minimize the potential impacts of influenza outbreaks.

This study is being carried out by Robert G. Wallace from the University of Minnesota and Lenny Hogerwerf from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, under the overall guidance of Jan Slingerbergh, Senior Animal Health Officer and Head of EMPRES at the Food and Agriculture Organization.

A Local Report by John Knight

During a special study of waders in Great Sandy Strait (4.10.2009), a group from Hervey Bay consisting of Dawn Beck (Brisbane), Chris Barnes and Edward (Bundaberg), Marilyn Sweetnam, Nerida Silke, Britt Einnermen, Alice Ekin and John Knight (Birdwatchers of Hervey Bay) visited two private properties, Mathiesens Bird Hide and Garnets Lagoons.

There were approximately 2579 waders roosting at Mathiesens and approximately 544 on the count sheet for Garnets.

We were most surprised to find three rarely seen species. A Broad-billed Sandpiper and a Woods Sandpiper were identified feeding around grass tussocks. Two Australian Pratincoles being much larger, were clearly noticeable and they were seen again on three other occasions over the next ten days.

Thirty-three members of Birdwatchers of Hervey Bay visited Kingfisher Bay Resort on 21.10.09. An interesting Latham's Snipe, which was a new bird for the area, was seen. It had mid-gold coloured stripes on its back and more white underneath than usual. It was hungry and busily fed out in the sunlight on the edge of a Wallum pond until at least mid-day. Unfortunately the sun wasn't right for a clearly defined photo, for exact colours.

On 25.10.09 Bill Gauld, Peter Royall and John Knight saw 4 Little Curlews at Garnets Lagoons. On 28.10.09 Frank and Alice Ekin, Kay Humphries and John Knight saw 8 of them in the same area.

Ivor Davies reported that a South Polar Skua has been photographed in Sandy Strait some distance from the resort.

John Knight



Little Curlew near Garnets Lagoon By John Knight



Australian Pratincole Garnets Lagoon By John Knight

Count Programme by Dawn Beck

Now that the northern migrants are back, counting has become a lot more hectic, but it is terrific to see the roosts so busy. I hope you did better than me at identifying juvenile birds. I only managed to identify Bar-tailed Godwits and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (they were so brightly coloured) in juvenile plumage; obviously, I have a lot of work to do. It is important to get an idea of how many juveniles did make it to here as it indicates how successful breeding was and if the young survived the southern trip.

Away from the coast, some interesting species have been seen in some of the wetlands. Unfortunately the smaller sites have largely dried up and been abandoned, however at the more extensive wetlands there has been sufficient drying to form muddy margins, a most suitable habitat for small waders, crakes, rails etc. Garnets Lagoons in Great Sandy Strait and Buckley's Hole on Bribie Island are excellent examples. Australian Pratincole, Wood's Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterel, Latham's Snipe, Glossy Ibis and Brolgas were some species seen at Garnets. The GSS counters have fostered a great rapport with landholders and have gained access to some very productive land, congratulations. Recent sightings at Buckley's Hole include 9 Latham's Snipe, 6 Buff-banded Rail and 1 Spotless Crake.

QWSG have held two very successful courses in wader identification, one in Brisbane and the other at Hervey Bay. Numerous people indicated they wished to continue and they are being matched up with experienced counters to learn the "art" of wader counting with a view to becoming back up counters and eventually to take on roosts of their own. The dates for the 2010 counts appear elsewhere in this newsletter. If you cannot do your count, please contact me and I will try to get a replacement counter.

This is especially important for the National Summer Count of Sat 16.01.10.

Some interesting sightings

Bar-tailed Godwit

Toorbul – 3832 – 14.11.09 – Dez Wells

Kakadu Beach – 3115 – 6.11.09 – Michael Strong

These are probably the same birds using both sites.

Eastern Curlew – 535 – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells – 19.09.09

Great Knot – 3020 – Ross River Mouth – Peter Driscoll – 16.10.09

Red-necked Stint – 1893 – Fisherman Island – QWSG – 18.10.09

Sanderling – 7 – North Spit Fraser Island – Mike West – 26.08.09

5 – Horseshoe Bay – Terry Dillon – 21.09.09

Asian Dowitcher – 1 – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 19.09.09

1 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Michael Strong – 08.10.09

Breeding Records

Red-capped Plover – Young Avenue, Kinka Beach – 14.11.09, Oregon's Creek East – 17.10.09, Kakadu Beach – 6.09.09, Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – 14.11.09, Redcliffe Airport North Side Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – 14.11.09 14.11.09 and Fisherman Island – 20.09.09.

Pied Oystercatcher – Noosa River Sandbanks – 21.08.09 and Kakadu Beach – 06.09.09

Black-winged Stilt – Kakadu Beach – 24.09.09 and Fisherman Island – 20.09.09

Keep the counts coming and don't forget to notify Phil Cross of any flag sightings.

Phone XXXX XXXX or email XXXX@XXXX.

A note from Linda Cross about the Count Dates

Additional counts: Once again there are not too many good heights or times at the weekend for our Count Programme. However, I have picked the best I can to accommodate our count day and the Port of Brisbane Corporation Count dates. There are other good heights and tides on other dates and if you can fit in an extra count during northward and southward migration that would add to our database and give us an indication on numbers using known roosts during these periods. If you would like more details on tides and times suitable for your roost please contact me for more details.

Linda Cross. Phone XXXX XXXX or email XXXX@XXXX

Check out the new dates on the last page of this Newsletter.

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 22.08.09 & 14.11.09

1 Eastern Curlew, 29 Bar-tailed Godwit, 13 Pied Oystercatcher, 5 Great Knot, 2 Grey-tailed Tattler and 1 Curlew Sandpiper.

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

Eastern Curlew – **AR**.

Bar-tailed Godwit – **AX, BM, BT, BV, BX, CC, CE, CN, CS, DE, DS, DY, ED, EH, EK, EL, FY, GY, HJ, KR**.

Pied Oystercatcher – **AC, AJ, AN, AS, BN, CK, CL, DS, EA, ED**.

Great Knot – **NA**.

Grey-tailed Tattler – **DD, DZ**.

Curlew Sandpiper – **CY**.

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

1 Pied Oystercatcher (**BC**) – Kingsford Smith Park, Ballina, New South Wales – B. Moffatt – 20.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 26.09.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Karaka, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 19.09.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 18.09.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – S. McPherson – 13.09.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Dandong, Liaoning, China – Bai Qingquan – 23.08.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maehiang-Ri, Hwasung-kun, Kiongkido, South Korea – Kyu-Sik Shim – 12.04.09

1 Red Knot – Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 29.03.09

1 Red Knot – Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 31.12.08

1 Curlew Sandpiper (**CH**) – Hanbou, ChangHwa County, China – Chih-Hui Liu – 23.04.09

Orange leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 14.11.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Ken Cowell & Phil Cross – 07.11.09

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Linda Cross – 24.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Horseshoe Bay, South Stradbroke Island – Jason Searle – 24.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**B1**) – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 17.10.09

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 17.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell & Peter Duck – 17.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Acacia St, Wellington Point – Nicola Udy – 17.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Horseshoe Bay, South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon & Jason Searle – 12.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Oyster Point – David Milton – 09.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 07.10.09

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Linda & Phil Cross – 04.10.09

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 29.09.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Rob Schuckard – 28.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 26.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Phil Cross – 24.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 24.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 20.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 19.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 19.09.09
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 14.11.09
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 02.10.09
3 Great Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 29.09.09
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 26.09.09
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Phil Cross – 24.09.09
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Linda Cross et al – 06.09.09
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 07.10.09
1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Linda Cross – 04.10.09
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 20.09.09
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 19.09.09
1 Red Knot – Lytton – David Connolly – 19.09.09
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 08.09.09
1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Phil Cross & Sandra Dungleison – 06.09.09
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 04 & 05.09.09
1 Sanderling – Jumpinpin, Gold Coast – Terry Dillon & Jason Searle – 28.09.09
1 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Boat Harbour – Rob Schuckard – 27.09.09
1 Curlew Sandpiper – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 26.09.09
2 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – Dawn Beck & Vicki Campbell – 18.10.09
1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – Dawn Beck & Vicki Campbell – 20.09.09

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Oyster Point – David Milton – 09.10.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (engraved) – Boonooroo – Linda & Phil Cross – 04.10.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over blue band over yellow band left tarsus and blue band over yellow band right tarsus – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 02.10.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over 2 yellow bands left tarsus and 2 red bands right tarsus – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 02.10.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over 2 yellow bands left tarsus and 2 red bands right tarsus – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 29.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over blue band over yellow band left tarsus and blue band over yellow band right tarsus – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 26 & 29.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag between white and blue bands left tarsus, right tarsus unknown – Manly Boat Harbour – Rob Schuckard – 27.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over yellow and blue band left tarsus and yellow over blue band right tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 24.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over 2 yellow bands left tarsus and 2 red bands right tarsus – Toorbul – Phil Cross – 24.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over yellow band over blue band left tarsus and red band over blue band right tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 24.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over 2 yellow bands left tarsus, 2 red bands right tarsus and metal band right tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 24.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over 2 yellow bands left tarsus, 2 red bands right tarsus, metal band right tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 19.09.09
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over blue band over white band left tarsus and blue band over white band right tarsus – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 08.09.09
1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 03.11.09
1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 03.11.09
2 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 07.10.09
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 04.10.09
2 Red Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 29.09.09
1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 26.09.09
1 Red Knot (ANY) – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 20.09.09
1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 19.09.09
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 20.09.09
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 19.09.09
1 Red Knot (engraved) – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 04 & 05.09.09

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – blue over white left tibia and metal band right tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 03.11.09
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – blue angle cut left tibia and white angle cut left tarsus – Toorbul – Linda Cross & David Milton – 24.10.09
- 1 Great Knot – blue right tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 24.09.09
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Andy Eacott – 21.11.09
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue left tibia, metal band right tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Ken Cowell & Phil Cross – 07.11.09
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue left tibia – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 03.11.09
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Rob Schuckard – 28.09.09
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Rob Schuckard – 27.09.09
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue left tibia – Toorbul – Dawn Beck – 06.09.09

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 03.11.09 (**white over black**)
- 2 Great Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 15.11.09
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Linda Cross – 24.10.09
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 17.10.09
- 1 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – Adrian Boyle – 15.10.09
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 08.10.09 (**white over black**)
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 07.10.09
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 04.10.09
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 02.10.09
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Rob Schuckard – 30.09.09
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 29.09.09
- 1 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – John Seale – 24.09.09
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 20.09.09
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 04 & 05.09.09
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 07.10.09
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell & Peter Duck – 17.10.09
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 08.10.09
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 20.09.09
- 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 03.11.09
- 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – John Seale – 29.09.09
- 1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – Andy Jensen & Linda Cross – 23.08.09

Other wader leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black flag over white engraved flag right tibia and yellow band on tarsus – Boonooroo – Linda & Phil Cross and Nev Capell – 04.10.09 (**possibly New Zealand flagged, awaiting confirmation**)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black flag right tibia – Boonooroo – Nev Capell – 04.10.09 (**unknown – awaiting confirmation**)
- 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – blue flag right tibia and yellow (cut) flag right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Adrian Boyle – 15.10.09 (**flagged in Cangzhou, China**)
- 1 Ruddy Turnstone – orange flag left tibia, blue flag left tarsus, metal band right tibia – Inskip Point – Dorothy Pashniak – 10.09.09 (**flagged in Tasmania**)
- 1 Sanderling – orange flag right tibia, yellow flag right tarsus, metal band left tibia – Horseshoe Bay, South Stradbroke Island – 12.09.09 (**flagged in South Australia**)
- 1 Red-necked Stint – orange flag right tibia, yellow flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Coongul Creek, Fraser Island – Andrew Geering & Chris Purnell – 04.10.09 (**flagged in South Australia**)

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.

Eleven NSW birds seen as follows:

- J8 – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 14.11.09
- J8 – Toorbul – Russ Lamb – 25.10.09
- J8 – Toorbul – David Milton & Linda Cross – 24.10.09
- C4 – Fisherman Island – Heather Smith & Lyn Cole – 18.10.09

J8 – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 17.10.09
C1 – Fisherman Island – David Edwards & Heather Smith – 20.09.09
B3 – Oyster Point – David Milton – 11.09.09
D6 – Oyster Point – David Milton – 11.09.09
E6 – Oyster Point – David Milton – 11.09.09
C4 – Fisherman Island – David Edwards & Heather Smith – 23.08.09
J8 – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 22.08.09

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross – 15.11.09
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Manly Boat Harbour – Ken Cowell & Phil Cross – 07.11.09
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 29.09.09
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus- Manly Boat Harbour – Rob Schuckard – 28.09.09
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Toorbul – Phil Cross – 26.09.09
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Boonooroo Point – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 20.09.09
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 19.09.09
2 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 22.08.09
1 Roseate Tern – white flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Lady Elliott Island – Jill & Ian Brown – 16.10.09
1 Black-naped Tern – white flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Lady Elliott Island – Jill & Ian Brown – 15.10.09
1 Little Tern – blue flag left tarsus and metal band right tarsus – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon – 21.09.09

Stories about Black-winged Stilts

Hi QWSG members,

The Black-winged Stilts are the mascot for the Hays Inlet Festival in June 2010 and festival organisers are looking for stories about the stilts to help create posters, information sheets and activities for the festival. The festival aims to highlight & protect the environmental values of Hays Inlet.

If you have any stories, bits of interesting information or funny facts about Black-winged Stilts, the festival organisers would love to hear from you, especially if these stories come from Hays Inlet. Also, if you have any good quality photos of the stilts or other birds that use Hays Inlet, they would be greatly appreciated to help develop posters and information sheets.

If you wish to share your stories or images, please contact Simon Brown, Pine & Pumicestone Community Partnership Manager with SEQ Catchments on XXXX XXX XXX or XXXX@XXXX.com.au

Feel free to forward this email to other birdwatchers / photographers who may be able to help.

Thanks.
 Deborah Metters
 Land for Wildlife Regional Coordinator
 South East Queensland

SEQ Catchments
 Level 2, 183 North Quay, Brisbane Q 4000
 PO Box 13204, George Street Q 4003
 T: 07 XXXX XXXX F: 07 XXXX XXXX M: XXXX XXX XXX

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

Saturday 20th February 2010 at Toorbul

High tide at 12.49pm (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul) of 1.86m. Meeting time 12 noon.

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

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

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross XXXX XXXX. David Edwards XXXX XXXX. Dawn Beck XXXX XXXX. David Milton or Sandra Harding XXXX XXXX.

Saturday 20th March 2010 at Toorbul

High tide at 11.50am (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul) of 1.88m. Meeting time 10.30am

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

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

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross XXXX XXXX. David Edwards XXXX XXXX. Dawn Beck XXXX XXXX. David Milton or Sandra Harding XXXX XXXX.

Wader ID Day Reports

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 6 SEPTEMBER 2009 By Linda Cross

After receiving only one call about this outing we were pleasantly surprised to see numerous vehicles and people as we arrived at the Toorbul wader roost. Guests came from far and wide to welcome back the waders on their southward migration. Attendees were local, Brisbane and Sunshine Coast members, but a number had travelled from Toowoomba. We also had one guest (Shirley Croll) from New Zealand and two (Aun Tiah & Siew Ping Lim) from Peninsular Malaysia. It was lovely catching up with Aun Tiah and Siew Ping during another of their regular trips to Brisbane to visit their family.

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

The few QWSG members were kept busy trying to help people identify the fifteen species of waders at the roost. There were only two Black-tailed Godwit among the Bar-tails to show and explain the difference, but a good number of Red Knot, some sporting a little post breeding plumage, made for good comparisons alongside Great Knot. Finding the only two Terek Sandpipers among the Grey-tailed Tattlers for people to see was a little more difficult, but was eventually achieved.

Another highlight that kept the photographers interested was the large number of Nankeen Night-Heron roosting in the Mango trees on a neighbouring property that the owners were keen for us to see. I lost count after twelve, but I am sure there were many more.

The following leg flagged birds were observed: -

- 1 Great Knot with green engraved flag (**NA**)
 - 1 Great Knot with orange flag
 - 1 Red Knot with orange flag
 - 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag on left tibia
- (Green – Moreton Bay Orange – Victoria Blue – Japan)

A count of the birds at the roost was conducted towards the end of the identification and the numbers for each species are recorded in the species list below.

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs, (my apologies if I have omitted any):

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Northern Mallard, Pacific Black Duck, Spotted Dove, Crested Pigeon, 1 Little Pied Cormorant, 4 Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, White-faced Heron, 4 Little Egret, Nankeen Night-Heron, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, 12 Australian Pied Oystercatcher, 27 Black-winged Stilt, 4 Red-capped Plover, 1 Masked Lapwing, 2 Black-tailed Godwit, 730 Bar-tailed Godwit, 203 Whimbrel, 173 Eastern Curlew, 2 Terek Sandpiper, 63 Grey-tailed Tattler, 2 Common Greenshank, 61 Great Knot, 45 Red Knot, 29 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 30 Curlew Sandpiper, 41 Gull-billed Tern, 3 Caspian Tern, Galah, Little Corella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Sacred Kingfisher, Collard Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Mangrove Gerygone, Striated Pardalote, Mangrove Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Brown Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Australasian Figbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Welcome Swallow, Tree Martin, Common Starling and Common Myna.

Bishops Marsh was almost dry and not surveyed.

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 24 OCTOBER 2009 By Linda Cross.

Twenty one people came to this wader identification day. Among the attendees were Roy and Jane Griffith from Wellington in New Zealand who were on holiday in Brisbane. They had found out about the outing and asked if they could join us.

Weather conditions were fine, dry and warm with a few clouds and a strong wind from the north-east.

As usual, the few QWSG members present were kept busy trying to help people identify the species present. About half an hour after we started I was busy scanning through the flock for leg flags and commented on the number of juvenile Bar-tailed Godwits in the flock when something spooked the birds. About two thirds of the flock went to Kakadu roost on Bribe Island which put paid to my attempt to count all the juvenile godwits, but I did count 76 juveniles and David Milton counted 453 adults among the flock that was left. It was unusual not to have any Grey-tailed Tattlers or Terek Sandpipers present at the roost.

Nankeen Night Herons were again roosting in the Mango trees on a neighbouring property and 3 adult White-bellied Sea-Eagle that were calling came close to the roost and put the waders up as did an Australian Hobby.

The following leg flagged birds were observed: -

2 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag on right tibia (one was non-breeding female)
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (female) with angle cut blue flag on left tibia and angle cut yellow (or stained white) flag on left tarsus
 1 Pied Oystercatcher with yellow engraved flag (**J8**) on left tibia and metal band on right tibia
 1 Great Knot with black flag over white flag on right tibia
 1 Great Knot with white flag
 1 Great Knot with green leg flag on right tibia
 (Green – Moreton Bay Orange – Victoria Yellow flagged Oystercatcher – Northern NSW
 Black over white – China White – New Zealand Blue over white angle cut - Japan)

No count of the waders was conducted, but numbers next to some species below were noted during the outing.

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs, (my apologies if I have omitted any):

Australian Wood Duck, Chestnut Teal, Peaceful Dove, 1 Australian Pelican, 1 Eastern Great Egret, Nankeen Night-Heron, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, 3 White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Australian Hobby, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, 2 Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing, 3 Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, 2 Red Knot, 2 Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 3 Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Rainbow Bee-eater, Striated Pardalote (nesting), Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Mangrove Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Shrike-thrush (H), Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Common Starling and Mistletoebird.

Bishops Marsh was completely dry and not surveyed.

Caboolture River Mouth Count Site

The Caboolture river mouth count site (CABO) is located between the south bank of the Caboolture river lower estuary and Burpengary creek. It comprises a tidal flat which is completely inundated only at very high tides. The substrate is principally mud or a mud/sand mixture. Vegetation consists of fringing Mangroves to the east and north and Casuarina and Eucalypt forest to the west. The open parts of the site have areas of Samphire, with saltwater couch on the western fringe.

The access road (Uhlmann Road) provides a good vantage point for the whole site. However, in order to accurately identify and count the birds, it is necessary to walk the site. This can be a sticky task when the mud surface is saturated. The site is subject to considerable disturbance from the incursion of four wheel drives, trail bikes and fishermen. Disturbance is also caused by boats travelling at high speed on Burpengary creek. This disturbance can, on occasions, make accurate counting difficult.

About mid 2009 the local authority erected a barrier fence consisting of galvanized steel posts and rails with each post set in mass concrete to prevent vehicular access. Within a short time, vandals had torn a section of the fence out of the ground, concrete and all. The council has countered this by replacing the damaged fencing in a heavier mass of concrete and placed a row of large granite boulders behind the fence. At our last inspection, this appears to be working....so far!

About 10 years ago I had occasion to inspect old aerial photographs of the area as part of some consulting involving a local development. It was interesting to note that, going back 20 to 30 years, the site was quite vegetated compared to now. I suspect that illicit vehicle use of the site has caused degradation. It is perhaps ironic that this has made the site more attractive to roosting waders.

Our site records go back for 13 years. We have recorded a significant drop in numbers in recent years. Of course data from one isolated site does not prove a trend. However, in the light of global indications of reduction in numbers of northern hemisphere breeding shore birds, this trend is not surprising.

Ivan and Joyce Fien

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.

The Birds Queensland AGM is held in December 2009, after this Newsletter goes out, so some of the info might have changed.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

Robert Bush **Deirdre Chrzescijanski**
Peter Duck & Jenny Watts
Christine Halais **Amanda Johnston**
Robbie & David Leslie
Tamara Savage

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,
 XXXXXXXXXXXX,
 XXXXXXXXXXXX
 QLD 4XXX

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Treasurer as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

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Forward application to:
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 XXXXXXXXXXXX
 XXXXXX 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 **February 18th 2010**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, XXXXXXXX, Qld 4XXX
 or E-mail to: XXXX @ XXXX com.au

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

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

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

QWSG MERCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG merchandise, items may be purchased at BQ Inc meetings held 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

Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting will be held at the BBQ shelters in front of the Port of Brisbane Visitors' Centre at noon (12:00) on Sunday 20th of December 2009 after the Port of Brisbane Count. We are always keen to have new members on the committee who bring enthusiasm and new ideas to the committee. It can seem daunting but you will be welcome to sit and observe at first. A great way to become more involved with Waders.

If you want further details please contact Andrew Geering (07) XXXX XXXX

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee:

Position:

Name of Proposer:

Name of Seconder:

(Note: Nominees, proposers and seconders must have current QWSG membership).

I accept the nomination for the position on the management committee of the Queensland Wader Study Group as indicated.

Signature of Nominee:

Date:



Count Activities 2009 - 2010

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Programme – 2009-2010

Sat 19 th Dec	2.33m at 11:09		
Sat 16 th Jan	2.37m at 10:16	National Summer Count	Sat 17 th Jul
Sat 13 th Feb	2.33m at 09:19		Sat 14 th Aug
Sat 13 th Mar	2.22m at 08:13		Sat 25 th Sep
Sat 10 th Apr	2.06m at 06:47		Sat 23 rd Oct
Sat 15 th May	1.85m at 10:01		Sat 20 th Nov
NO COUNT IN JUNE			Sat 18 th Dec
			2.00m at 13:59
			2.14m at 12:40
			2.13m at 10:26
			2.23m at 09:28
			2.26m at 08:28
			2.17m at 07:19

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2009-2010

Sun 20 th Dec	2.29m at 11:43	Meet 09:55	
Sun 17 th Jan	2.36m at 10:47	Meet 08:55	Sun 18 th Jul
Sun 14 th Feb	2.34m at 09:51	Meet 08:00	Sun 15 th Aug
Sun 14 th Mar	2.25m at 08:46	Meet 06:55	Sun 26 th Sep
Sun 11 th Apr	2.10m at 07:29	Meet 05:40	Sun 24 th Oct
Sun 16 th May	1.80m at 10:46	Meet 08:55	Sun 21 st Nov
Sun 13 th Jun	1.81m at 09:50	Meet 08:00	Sun 19 th Dec
			2.01m at 15:00
			2.11m at 13:31
			2.14m at 11:00
			2.27m at 10:03
			2.34m at 09:06
			2.29m at 08:03

See note on page 8

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, XXXXXXXX, 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: xxxxxxxx
 Financial Institution: mecu Limited
 BSB: xxxxxxxx

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