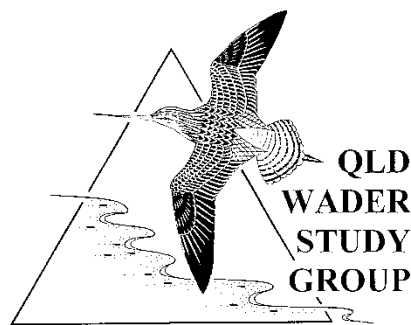


# QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 071

March, April and May 2010

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

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## Chairpersons report – 2009

By Andrew Geering

I must sound like a broken record as every year I seem to start my report by saying that the past year was yet another busy year for the QWSG, with many achievements.

In my mind the most significant development was the establishment of the partnership with the Department of Environment and Resource Management and the Spatial Ecology Group of the University of Queensland. This partnership was instigated by the review of the Moreton Bay Zoning Plan by DERM and the allocation of \$20,000 per year to investigate the conservation outcomes of the new zones on waders. The QWSG was chosen to be a recipient of the money as we already had a strong track record of monitoring in the Bay. At the first meeting with DERM, we really did not have firm proposals as to how the money could be used effectively but we reached the conclusion that some analyses of the count database should be done to determine how useful it really was. UQ were contracted to do some preliminary analyses and prepare a report and the findings were both encouraging and also quite alarming. The QWSG was highly praised for the quality of the database and the information it contained. The bad news was that the data provided compelling evidence for the decline of eight species. For example, since 1992, the number of Whimbrel in the Bay has declined by about 50%.

An exciting corollary of this pilot project is that the three original partners, plus the Port of Brisbane Corporation and the Australian Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts, have applied for an ARC-Linkage grant and if successful, a new project will begin in 2011. This project, which will engage three full-time staff (a post-doctoral scientist, a research assistant and a PhD student) and will allow much more detailed analyses of the QWSG count database including identifying environmental correlates of population trends and investigating spatial trends in populations. Dr Richard Fuller, who many will know from the Port of Brisbane Count program, is the chief investigator of this project. I have my fingers crossed that the project is approved by the powers that be.

We made up for the absence of workshops in 2008 by running three in 2009, one at Hervey Bay and two in Brisbane (one each for the general public and for DERM Marine Parks staff). A survey of the Great Sandy Strait was also done in association with the Hervey Bay workshop. As in past years, we had very good attendance at the workshops (greater than 40 people in each of the Brisbane workshops) and much positive feedback was received from the participants. Many people contributed to the running of these workshops, including Vicki Campbell (principal organizer of the Brisbane workshops), David Milton, Sandra Harding, David Edwards, Ivell Whyte, Paul Finn, yours truly and a team of expert tutors in field ID, too many to mention. These workshops were also run in conjunction with the Shorebirds 2020 project of Birds Australia and Rob Clemens, and Chris Purnell travelled from Melbourne to give lectures and assist with field IDs. It would also be an oversight not to mention that David Milton contributed to a Birds Australia-North Queensland Branch "Wave good-bye to the waders" workshop in Cairns in March.

I finally can predict with confidence that we will soon have a web site. Some projects like "the book" and "the website" have had very long gestations. Heather Smith and Jon Coleman have reinvigorated the web site

development process and Ricki Coughlan is currently working to deliver the site. When finished, I think it will be a very useful resource.

Another sleeper has been the matter of what to do with the money endowed to QWSG by Nigel Roberts, an ex-committee member. A decision was made to award a commemorative bursary for post-graduate research and the first invitation for applicants went out in 2009. Unfortunately we were not able to award the bursary but nevertheless, all the processes are finalized. Thanks to Peter Rothlisberg, David Milton and Arthur Keates for organizing this.

As can be seen by in the Treasurer's Report, the QWSG is in a healthy financial position. Early in the year, the QWSG made a decision to spend some of the money. Recognizing that many of the major threats to Australian waders actually occur abroad, particularly in the Yellow Sea region, a \$11,000 donation was made to Birds Korea to support their conservation activities and one wonderful output is the book 'Wings across the Ocean', produced for Korean children. A copy of this book will be lodged in the QWSG library.

On the topic of education material, Maureen Cooper is also in the final stages of production of a booklet on Sandfly Creek, Mackay, which again the QWSG is contributing towards the printing costs. A new QWSG membership brochure was also produced in 2009, thanks to the efforts of Ivell Whyte. Imperfection does not appear in Ivell's vocabulary!

More roost site mapping was done in 2009, this time in southern Moreton Bay. These data are incorporated into all relevant council GIS systems and are used to develop council zoning plans and to assess coastal development. Thanks are due to Ken Cowell and David Milton for doing this work. Ken generously donated his pay entitlements to the BQ research fund, which is an extra generous gesture from him.

Bird banding continued unabated throughout 2009, and the use of unique codes on each of the leg flags is allowing very valuable information on the movements of birds in Moreton Bay to be gathered. Jon Coleman, our bird-banding project leader, is in the process of getting his cannon netting endorsement at the moment. Thus, we should see a ramping up of our banding effort in 2010 and some of our old equipment dusted off. Thanks to Jon and his team for all their efforts in progressing this area of research.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all the great work done by the QWSG committee throughout the year. Four excellent newsletters were produced right on time. How does Dave Edwards do this after all these years in the job? Sheryl Keates has done an excellent job with the accounts and membership, as has Dawn Beck, Peter Rothlisberg and Linda Cross in organizing our count program – and thanks to Joyce Harding for entering all the data into the database! Another unheralded job is Minutes Secretary, ably undertaken by Peter Rothlisberg.

Here's to another great year in 2010.

## Queensland Wader Study Group Statement of profit and loss for the year ending September 2009

	2009	2008
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contract Income	36058	44,691
Courses	320	1400
Donations	520	1,294
Fundraising Income	1179	2539
Interest	7,512	9,388
Membership	2115	2135
Miscellaneous	927	6240
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>48,832</b>	<b>67,688</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Contract Expenses	25221	1,745
Donation Expenses	11,500	245
Newsletter, printing & stationery	2704	2209
Other expenses	6104	9462
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>45,530</b>	<b>13661</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$3,302</b>	<b>\$54,027</b>

Opening retained Profits	160,077	106,050
Net Profit / loss attributed to group	3,302	54,027
<b>Closing Retained Profits</b>	<b>\$163,379</b>	<b>\$160,077</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash in Bank	27,076	155,679
Term Deposit	128,265	Nil
Stock of Goods for Resale	4,807	2,861
Plant & Equipment	1,453	11,539
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$161,601</b>	<b>\$160,080</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Plant & Equipment – At cost	35,176	35,176
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(33,398)	(32,685)
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>2,491</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Total Liabilities	Nil	Nil
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$163,379</b>	<b>\$162,571</b>

This is an extract from the full report given to Birds Queensland. If there are any questions the Treasurer's contact details are on page 18.

## Port of Brisbane Count Results 2009 by Linda Cross

The seventh year of extensive counting has been completed for the Port of Brisbane Corporation (PBC) at the Port of Brisbane (formerly known as Fisherman Islands). All counts were conducted the day after the scheduled monthly count set for the QWSG count programme. The count for May was cancelled due to extensive flooding of the reclamation area after heavy rains.

The same methodology for the counts has continued with numbers being listed under the appropriate habitat that the birds were observed using (dry open area, wet margin, broken ground and bund wall). The overall Port of Brisbane count in 2009 was 62,719 waders, 11,940 terns and 4121 waterbirds and raptors which do not include the figures for the Visitors Centre Lake (223 waders, 22 terns and 3,870 waterbirds). These figures of course are not the number of birds using the site at any one time, but the aggregate of the monthly totals. February had the highest count of waders (13,243) at the Port during the seven year period of counts, greater than January 2006 (12,323).

The following table is the total migratory and resident waders recorded at the Port of Brisbane over the last seven years. **Note: these figures do not include the Visitors Centre Lake site.** (NC – no count in May due to flooding)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<b>2009</b>	10072	13243	7192	2293	NC	1200	1245	2439	4372	6478	6182	8003	62719
<b>2008</b>	5179	8935	4394	4204	2202	2793	2700	2724	5468	4069	6617	8286	57571
<b>2007</b>	8853	5264	8307	1120	1989	1543	1752	1629	3885	7609	6165	5664	53780
<b>2006</b>	12323	10573	7055	4230	2142	1969	2250	2635	5296	8051	8995	7514	73033
<b>2005</b>	4751	5609	3572	3317	2162	3034	2436	2096	3790	6173	6745	7731	51416
<b>2004</b>	11650	4528	7398	1607	2416	1617	1328	2410	2974	6026	5976	8194	56124
<b>2003</b>	7445	6922	6126	4021	2286	2107	2041	1720	4466	4118	8054	7996	57302

The following table provides the waders, terns, waterbirds and raptors numbers for the Port areas and Visitors Centre Lake each month for 2009. It should be noted that the January count took place on 1<sup>st</sup> February and the February count on 1<sup>st</sup> March due to poor tide heights in each respective month.

2009 Month	Port Waders	Port Terns	Port Waterbirds/ Raptors	Lake Waders	Lake Terns	Lake Waterbirds/ Raptors	Totals
January	10072	988	175	0	0	175	<b>11410</b>
February	13243	2066	203	0	0	131	<b>15643</b>
March	7192	906	381	0	0	201	<b>8680</b>
April	2293	474	376	0	0	240	<b>3383</b>
May	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	<b>NC</b>
June	1200	767	550	3	0	456	<b>2976</b>
July	1245	738	399	0	0	511	<b>2893</b>
August	2439	521	287	4	0	391	<b>3642</b>
September	4372	725	234	8	0	426	<b>5765</b>
October	6478	1146	430	79	4	537	<b>8674</b>
November	6182	1550	752	6	13	375	<b>8878</b>
December	8003	2059	334	123	5	427	<b>10951</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62719</b>	<b>11940</b>	<b>4121</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3870</b>	<b>82895</b>

### A brief comment on individual count areas follows:

**S3A&S3B** – Similar to 2008, very little useable area for waders remains in these paddocks. A section of drain attracts a few waders, and the area had two breeding records for Red-capped Plover, one for Black-winged Stilt and one for Chestnut Teal. A lone Broad-billed Sandpiper was recorded in December.

**PBAR** – This site was formerly known as Area 5, but was renamed the Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost and given its own site code (PBAR) at the beginning of the year for incorporation into the QWSG database. Waders using this permanent constructed roost are still relatively low, but in October and November wader species and numbers increased to records similar to the same time in 2008. This may have been due to the southward migration. The site continues to be favoured by waterbird species, particularly Chestnut Teal.

**R2** – The area did not attract as many birds in 2009 as previously, as over half of the paddock has been filled with sand leaving a much smaller section of suitable bird habitat. Red-necked Stint is the most common species in R2. There were two Broad-billed Sandpiper recorded in March and the only Double-banded Plover recorded for the September. This was a very late record for this species still on our shores on 29<sup>th</sup> September. There was quite a bit of excitement during the July count with the first ever record of a Sanderling at the Port of Brisbane.

**R3** – The dynamics of the R3 paddock changed during the year which created suitable areas for a large variety of species. It will be interesting to see if this very big, and difficult to count site, will be the most frequented by birds next year. Interesting numbers were 216 Red-necked Avocet in August and 211 in September, 153 Red Knot in October and 450 Pacific Golden Plover in December. Large numbers of Little Tern also use the site.

**C1** – This paddock has been slowly reclaimed, reducing the suitable areas for waders, but Double-banded Plover found it attractive and the first winter record was one bird on 1<sup>st</sup> March with numbers increasing to the highest total of 18 in April. The site also held the highest total of Red-capped Plover during April (103).

**C2** – This second “Central” paddock is also undergoing a similar reclamation process as C1 and wader numbers reduced after the first three months of the year. The January count produced the largest numbers for the year with 5,271 waders which included 1,300 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 930 Curlew Sandpiper, 824 Bar-tailed Godwit and one Broad-billed Sandpiper.

**C3** – This “Central” paddock was formed in June 2008 and did not produce consistently high numbers of waders as it was usually full of water. Most months had been fairly low numbers with the exception of March with a total of 1,566 waders of which 961 were Grey-tailed Tattler, and October with 1,193 waders. The site also had the highest total of Ruddy Turnstone, 85 in March and 100 in December.

**BS1** – The “Bay-side” paddocks have not attracted many wader species or numbers during the year which is mainly due to the paddocks being dried out for six months. However, BS1 did have the second highest count of waders (3,889) in February and Red-necked Stint appear to find something here that suits them with

high totals for the summer months. In January, 1,466 were counted along with 2,088 in February and 918 in March. The February count also had 1,103 Curlew Sandpiper, 666 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and one Broad-billed Sandpiper, while two Broad-billed Sandpiper were seen in March.

**BS2** – Only a handful of waders have used this paddock during the year, but as with BS1 Red-necked Stint were recorded in high numbers during the summer months. In February, 1,485 used the site, and towards the end of the year 1,617 were counted in November and 1,645 in December. In February, 919 Lesser Sand Plover were also recorded and a high number of Chestnut Teal was seen in November.

**BS3** – This paddock continues to lack any attraction for waders. The two highest counts of just over 500 waders were in January and February, and of those the main species was Grey-tailed Tattler, 455 in January and 331 in February.

**FPE Outer** - Favoured by Grey-tailed Tattler, Pied Oystercatcher and Ruddy Turnstone in previous years, this area did not suit them in 2009 with only 118 Pied Oystercatcher in October and 360 Grey-tailed Tattler in November. Only the second record for Sooty Oystercatcher at the Port of Brisbane was seen at this site in December (the first sighting was January 2008). The first record of a grey phase Eastern Reef Egret during our seven year count was at this site in April and has been seen three times since then.

**Claypan** – This large site struggled to attract many waders this year with the highest species record being 273 Eastern Curlew in March. No waders were recorded for October and November as the area was completely dry.

**Visitors Centre Lake** – There was a slight increase in wader species at the Lake during the year which was due to the dry conditions in October and the water level of the lake dropping to create a margin of mud. During this month species additions were Black-fronted Dotterel, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-kneed Dotterel, Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Most of these species were also recorded in December and Marsh Sandpiper was an addition during this month along with a breeding record for Black-fronted Dotterel. The Lake continues to support a large number of waterbirds, with breeding records for Black Swan, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Purple Swamphen and Dusky Moorhen.

#### Flag sightings:

There were many sightings of green flagged birds during the counts, but because these birds have been flagged by our group in Moreton Bay, and have not travelled any significant distance, they have not been included in the flag sightings. Other flagged birds seen throughout the Port of Brisbane area are as follows:

<b>January</b>	Black flag over white flag on Greater Sand Plover (one). Orange flag on Red-necked Stint (one) and Caspian Tern (one).
<b>February</b>	Black flag over white flag on Greater Sand Plover (one). Blue flag on Grey-tailed Tattler (one).
<b>July</b>	Yellow flag ( <b>C4</b> ) on Pied Oystercatcher (one).
<b>August</b>	Black flag over white flag on Red-necked Stint (one). Yellow flag ( <b>C4</b> ) on Pied Oystercatcher (one).
<b>September</b>	Orange flag on Red-necked Stint (one). Yellow flag ( <b>C1</b> ) on Pied Oystercatcher (one).
<b>October</b>	Orange flag on Red-necked Stint (two). Yellow flag ( <b>C4</b> ) on Pied Oystercatcher (one).
<b>November</b>	Yellow flag ( <b>C1</b> ) on Pied Oystercatcher (one). Orange flag on Caspian Tern (one).
<b>December</b>	Blue flag right tibia and blue flag right tarsus on Red-necked Stint (one). Orange on Red-necked Stint (one). Orange flag on Curlew Sandpiper (one).

(Flag colour code regions can be found in the “Wader Watch Section” of this newsletter).

#### Breeding records:

One Pied Oystercatcher chick was seen in **R2** in November.

Black-winged Stilt records were from **S3B** in March (four chicks), **R1** also in March (two juveniles), **C2** in March had two young and one adult on a nest was seen in the same site in September. A pair of Black-winged Stilt was seen mating in the Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost in September.

There were nine breeding records for Red-capped Plover, **BS3** (one chick) in January, **S3B** and **R2** (one chick each) in February, **C3** (one chick) in March, **R2** (one chick) in July, **R2** (broken wing display from adult) in August, **S3B** (two chicks) and **B2** (one chick) in September, and **R2** (two chicks) in December.

The Visitors Centre Lake also had a breeding record for December with one Black-fronted Dotterel chick being seen.

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

<b>January</b>	813 Little Tern in <b>C2</b> .
<b>February</b>	669 Silver Gull in <b>R1</b> (in a very small area left at this site) and 589 Little Tern in <b>C2</b> .
<b>March</b>	421 Little Tern in <b>C2</b> , Six Chestnut Teal ducklings in <b>S3B</b> and one duckling at the Visitors Centre Lake.
<b>April</b>	281 Silver Gull in <b>R3</b> .
<b>June</b>	One (grey phase) Eastern Reed Egret in <b>Outer FPE</b> , 51 White-faced Heron in Claypan and 50 Hardhead at the Visitors Centre Lake.
<b>July</b>	114 Little Pied Cormorant at <b>PBAR</b> , 119 Royal Spoonbill and six Black Swan cygnets at the Visitors Centre Lake.
<b>August</b>	Four Chestnut Teal ducklings <b>PBAR</b> , one Australasian Gannett in the Outer FPE and six Chestnut Teal ducklings at the Visitors Centre Lake.
<b>September</b>	Four Chestnut Teal ducklings in C1, Australasian Grebe chicks, Black Swan cygnets, Dusky Moorhen chicks, Grey Teal and Pacific Black Duck ducklings at the Visitors Centre Lake.
<b>October</b>	818 Little Tern and five White-winged Black Tern in R3. One Australian Hobby (first record for our seven year count) and 299 Chestnut Teal in PBAR. Two Whiskered Tern and three Pink-eared Duck at the Visitors Centre Lake.
<b>November</b>	1,233 Little Tern in R3, 353 Chestnut Teal in B2, one (grey phase) Eastern Reef Egret in Outer FPE, nine Whiskered Tern and one Australian Hobby at the Visitors Centre Lake.
<b>December</b>	1,042 Little Tern and one Whiskered Tern in R3 and one Whiskered Tern at the Visitors Centre Lake.

A table showing wader species and numbers at the Port of Brisbane during 2009 (with the exception of the Visitors Centre Lake), have been included. Species are listed in the new taxonomic order as per Christidis L & Boles W E. 2008. 'Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds'. Many other waterbirds were also recorded using the sites; however, lack of space in the newsletter does not allow the printing of them.

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

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

We would like to sincerely thank our committed regular counters and other members and friends, whose names appear below for helping us obtain the results for the PBC and the QWSG database in 2009. Without you this would not have been possible. My apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list:

Dawn Beck, Terry Blows, Ian Brown, Jill Brown, Alison Brunott (PBC), Michele Burford, Robert Bush, Vicki Campbell, Deirdrie Chrzesciajanski, Lyn Cole, Jon Coleman, Ken Cowell, Alan Crawford, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Melanie Dixon (PBC), Andy Eacott, David Edwards, Richard Fuller, Andrew Geering, Joyce Harding, Sandra Harding, Andy Jensen, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Brad Kitchen (PBC), Scott McKinnon (PBC), David Milton, Victoria O'Rourke (PBC), Peter Rothlisberg, Peter Ryan, Rebecca Ryan, Brenda Smith, Graham Smith, Heather Smith, Jim Sneddon, Floss Wainwright, Ivell Whyte, Jim Whyte and Howard Wilson.

QWSG has again been contracted to continue the counts in 2010 and although we do have a good support team there is room for more now that some of our counters are retired and are taking off on extended holidays. As the PBC insurance only covers their employees you will need to be either a QWSG or BQ member to attend these counts so their liability insurance will cover you. Please also note that these counts are not recreational outings, but we are always looking for committed counters to join our team. Please contact Peter Rothlisberg or myself if you would like to participate. The dates and meeting times for the counts are listed at the back of this newsletter.

Peter Rothlisberg email: peter.rothlisberg@csiro.au Home: 3822 3759 Work: 3826 7225

Or

Linda Cross email: xenus@big.net.au Home: 5495 2758 Mobile: 0404 916 047

	01.02.09	01.03.09	29.03.09	26.04.09	24.05.09	28.06.09	26.07.09	23.08.09	29.09.09	18.10.09	15.11.09	20.12.09
<b>Species</b>												
Bush Stone-curlew					<b>NO</b>							
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	97	152	149	143	<b>COUNT</b>	47	73	77	69	120	92	195
Sooty Oystercatcher					<b>IN</b>							1
Black-winged Stilt	57	56	105	259	<b>MAY</b>	333	240	145	126	165	221	205
Red-necked Avocet		24	7		<b>DUE</b>	45	124	216	212	121	76	36
Pacific Golden Plover	372	348	191	4	<b>TO</b>	9			120	109	316	497
Grey Plover	31	32	11		<b>FLOODS</b>				17	30	39	30
Red-capped Plover	71	108	98	168		72	57	102	96	71	51	129
Double-banded Plover		1	1	18		9	14	5	1			
Lesser Sand Plover	890	1256	729	1				12	13	625	614	242
Greater Sand Plover	185	90	6						3	10	27	216
Black-fronted Dotterel												
Red-kneed Dotterel												
Masked Lapwing		2	4	4		1	2			3		1
Latham's Snipe												
Black-tailed Godwit												
Bar-tailed Godwit	849	913	944	361		290	351	336	346	1213	831	908
Whimbrel		50	21	10				3	1	1		56
Eastern Curlew	108	213	35	54				56	68	127	111	186
Terek Sandpiper	2	10	4	2					7		5	42
Grey-tailed Tattler	584	347	961	308				362	484	355	560	412
Common Greenshank	11	11	4						1	8	19	23
Marsh Sandpiper												7
Ruddy Turnstone	23	84	124	10		21	8	16	73	16	56	125
Great Knot	62	111	55	8		9		10	101	110	261	82
Red Knot									14	153	10	
Sanderling							1					
Red-necked Stint	3759	5785	2714	867		343	340	897	1691	2003	2179	3026
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1753	1626	464	36				64	367	568	328	790
Curlew Sandpiper	1217	2023	561	40		21	30	138	562	670	386	793
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	1	4									1
Unidentified wader							5					
<b>Total Wader Species</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Total Wader Numbers</b>	<b>10072</b>	<b>13243</b>	<b>7192</b>	<b>2293</b>		<b>1200</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>2439</b>	<b>4372</b>	<b>6478</b>	<b>6182</b>	<b>8003</b>

## Time to take a stand on dogs off leash.

*“Oh Shite! – It’s a copper on a trail bike – What have we done???”*



Dogs off-leash on the Nudgee Beach mudflats have been a problem for a number of years. Birdos in particular, have been exasperated seeing feeding shorebirds being harassed as they attempt to fatten up for migration. Dogs have been known to menace both adults and children on the beach. There is a concern for the safety of children that QWSG members take to Nudgee Beach as part of our Schools Shorebird Education Programme.

A public awareness and enforcement plan has finally been put in place to reduce the problem. This began with a letter to Lord Mayor Campbell Newman from BQ President Mike West in February 2009. During World Wetlands Day, Mike saw how negatively our sister city visitors from Japan reacted to dogs chasing shorebirds within a Ramsar site. Just like a number of QWSG members, Mike had volunteered to “man the scopes” to run an awareness and education session for attendees on the day – but most of the birds had been chased away.

After a follow-up letter from Mike in December, Cr. Newman replied positively, sharing Mike’s concerns for the well-being of the migratory birds. Melissa Cooper (BCC Environmental Ranger and QWSG member) is now on the case.

Ken Cowell, Floss Wainwright and Jim & Ivell Whyte undertook low tide counts on Nudgee Beach during January and February. Martin Ryan, a volunteer at Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre also gave up his time on four occasions to assist. Both shorebirds and dogs (on and off leash) were counted. The data will enable Melissa to monitor changes in numbers and dog owners’ habits when future counts are conducted after she works on the problem.

Some examples: Sun 17.1.10 – 1 hr – 1076 birds - 110 people – 12 dogs on leash – 55 dogs off leash  
Mon 18.1.10 – 1.5 hrs – 1740 birds - 42 people – 0 dogs on leash – 40 dogs off leash  
Sat 30.1.10 – 2 hrs – (no bird count) 83 people – 5 dogs on leash – 59 dogs off leash

Many dogs were chasing birds to flight – some being encouraged by their owners - and one for as long as 20 minutes. Ivell had a few “hairy” moments (excuse the pun) when menaced by 3 large dogs. The owner called them off only when he noticed that Ivell was photographing the dogs.

Whereas many people think that Nudgee Beach is a total “off-leash” beach, many others are fully aware that only Tuckeroo Park at the southern end of the beach is available for dogs off leash. For this reason, on 6<sup>th</sup> February, Melissa arranged for BCC Local Laws Officers and Conservation Rangers to be on hand to advise everyone entering the beach with a dog that it must be kept on leash and why. She also had two Queensland Police officers on very quiet trail bikes helping most effectively with both education and enforcement.

The patrol worked well as a public relations exercise for those who didn’t know that they were breaking any laws. Those who did not take advice and decided to let their dogs off leash were intercepted and fines of up to \$200 were issued.

This is only the start. Melissa plans to run a series of these days to gradually educate dog owners. She wants most of the days to coincide with pre-departure of the birds on migration and after they return. It will be a long haul, but the birds are very lucky that Melissa has their welfare at heart and has the determination to achieve a positive result.

By the way – the couple in the picture did not get a ticket. They’d entered the beach via the mangroves and had not had a warning from the BCC Local Laws Officers. Phew!!



## 'No-shooting' shorebird refuge established in Barbados

BirdLife 23-11-2009

BirdLife International has created Barbados' first shorebird refuge at an abandoned shooting swamp at Woodbourne, close to the village of Packers. Woodbourne is a four hectare swamp on the flank of the St. Philip Shooting Swamps Important Bird Area (IBA), at which hunting and maintenance ceased in October 2004. Two former hunters were instrumental in securing the lease and financing the initial restoration of Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge. Restoration work started in May and the swamp was ready for the 2009 southbound, autumn migration.

Barbados is an important stop-over site for tens of thousands of Nearctic-nesting shorebirds on their southbound migration to South America where they pass the non-breeding (southern summer) season. Adverse weather in the Atlantic during their flight can force large numbers to stop for shelter on the island, but 15,000-30,000 of these shorebirds – including a number of species of conservation concern – are shot in a handful of managed shooting swamps.

With funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, BirdLife has been working closely with the Barbados WildFowlers Association, shooting-swamp owners and individual hunters to increase the survival prospects for migratory shorebirds on the island. The establishment of Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge is an important part of this broader effort that is helping to change rather than stop the tradition of hunting migratory shorebirds on Barbados. Though a few individuals may choose to remain 'in denial', most hunters recognise that in order to continue hunting, the sport must be sustainable. The old culture of 'kill as many as you can' is being replaced by a conservation ethic among older and younger hunters alike. One leading swamp no longer hunts American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (which has a global population of just 200,000 individuals), most swamps (seven out of 10) no longer use tape lures to attract birds, and those hunters who maintain swamps year-round (instead of only during the hunting season) are helping provide vital wetland habitats for all waterbirds.

Many individuals have generously provided advice, equipment, and other resources to restore and improve shorebird habitat at Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge. Among them were ex-hunters, hunters, conservationists, and a growing group of 'hunter-conservationists'. The restoration work has also been made possible through support from West Pasco Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada (BirdLife Partner) and the Peter Moores Barbados Foundation. The result is a wetland that is already teeming with birds.

Twenty species of shorebird have been observed this season, five of which were USFWS Species of Conservation Concern. A flock of more than 70 Snowy Egrets and a few Little Egrets (and Old World species, now established in the New World in Barbados and Antigua) coming to roost in the wooded 'back swamp' was a highlight. Two Eurasian Spoonbills that arrived in the St. Lucy Shooting Swamps IBA during November 2008 are regular visitors among a host of resident and migratory waterbirds.

Communication and cooperation between conservationists and local hunters is already providing significant returns in the survival prospects of shorebirds. However, this is just the beginning of BirdLife's work. Additional refuges for shorebirds, in concert with a more responsible hunting ethic and the establishment, and adherence to bag limits for species of concern would ensure that Barbados earns a reputation as a haven for passage shorebirds rather than be discredited with notoriety as one of the places where shorebirds are shot.

Towards this end, some of the hunters must be commended for starting to release shooting data to BirdLife International for analysis by the Canadian Wildlife Service. This signals a most welcome locally-driven change from unexamined resource consumption to data-informed resource conservation. In the long term, this transparent alliance will benefit all. Not least, the magnificent flights of shorebirds.



Richard Roach

**With funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, BirdLife has been working closely with the Barbados WildFowlers Association, shooting-swamp owners and individual hunters to increase the survival prospects for migratory shorebirds on the island.**

## Deep Sea Port Sonadia, Bangladesh - Bangladesh's proposed deep-sea port at Sonadia Island: Another alarm bell rings in South Asia

by Zahirul Islam, MarineLife Alliance

The Bangladesh Government is considering to establish a deep water sea port at Sonadia Island, in Cox's Bazar, a biodiversity hotspot that is currently free from anthropogenic impacts such as development and tourism. Its pristine sandy beach, mudflats, nearshore sandbars, high dunes and mangrove formations are unique – serving as an important habitat for endangered sea turtles and wintering shorebirds.

Lying within the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, Sonadia is used by migratory birds as a stopover during their long migration further south. In January 2009, in the area where the deep-sea port has been proposed, we counted eight individuals of Spoonbill sandpiper – one of the rarest migratory birds in the world, with a population of just 300-350 pairs in the wild (Zöckler, 2006). Sonadia is considered ecologically important by the government and in 1999 was declared as an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) under Environmental Act of 1995.



A Japanese consultancy firm named Pacific Consultant International (PCI) conducted a feasibility survey for the construction of the deep-water seaport. The proposed port would have 58 jetties, with a total length of 11 kilometers. The plan is to build the port in three phases, with an expenditure of US \$8.6 billion. The Bangladesh government will seek project funding from international donors. The first phase would be completed by 2016 and the full development finished by 2055.

If constructed, the port would drastically change the habitats important for sea turtles, shorebirds and cetaceans, but it would also threaten mangroves and overall marine resources in an area where hundreds of thousands of community people from the whole of Moheskhal, Kutubdia and even Chittagong depend for their daily livelihood. According to some estimates, 700-800 fishing boats are engaged in fishing in Sonadia's nearshore and offshore waters, depending on the season.

PCI selected the Sonadia site in the Cox's Bazar district, with a second suitable site option (of similar depth) about 20 km north at Kutubdia Island. This alternative site is less important for biodiversity as compared to Sonadia Island, and would leave a sufficient buffer zone. Sonadia's selection is backed by people with financial motivations, who appear not to have any environmental consciousness. One has to question whether a full environmental assessment was even carried out during the feasibility study.

It is sad that none of the government departments responsible for these issues, nor the international conservation organisations in the country, have raised questions publicly about the deep seaport proposal. It is our request to all concerned people, scientists and environmentalists – nationally and internationally – to advocate and raise these issues and try to convince the Bangladesh Government to relocate the deep-sea port site away from this biodiversity hotspot.

Please support Zahirul Islam on his campaign to prevent the project. The RT is thinking to launch a major international campaign soon and we will inform everybody in time. For further details and also moral support write to Zahirul: [marinelife\\_al@yahoo.com](mailto:marinelife_al@yahoo.com)

*Editor: Another area for us to have concern over the development*

## Report of 7<sup>th</sup> Australasian Shorebird Conference 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> September 2009

From Tattler No 15 October 2009

Despite the overwhelming evidence of a decline in shorebird numbers, in some species to catastrophic levels, it is hard to keep shorebird passionistas too depressed. The mood at the conference in Hobart over the weekend of 5th-6th September was one of cautious optimism.

The conference was hosted by Birds Tasmania, a regional group of Birds Australia, and held at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. It was an excellent venue, and its proximity to the city and accommodation meant it was very convenient for delegates.

A benevolent dictator is the perfect person to organise and run a conference and we certainly had one in Eric Woehler. His cheery disposition, attention to detail and his ability to herd cats meant that the weekend went off without a hitch and on time.

The conference was opened on Saturday by Alison Russell-French, the President of Birds Australia. Alison reminded us of the importance of spreading the message more widely about the crucial position of birds for our environment, and of course waders in particular.

Ken Gosbell, the Chairman of AWSG, followed with the Keynote Speech, The Coorong- A Decade of Decay. The waders in the Coorong were first monitored in 1981 and had been annually until 1987. After deducting the Banded Stilt, whose numbers have increased due to hypersalinity in the Coorong, the wader numbers have declined by 85%. Ken felt that the role of the AWSG must be the continuing collection of scientific data, the publication of results and communication with governments at all levels and with the community at large.

This theme of communication was a strong one in many of the subsequent papers. From Jo Oldland's excellent update on the 2020 Shorebird Monitoring Project to Richard Fuller's account of the 16 years of shorebird monitoring at Moreton Bay in Queensland, and Sheree Maden from the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) who presented a paper on the important subject of human disturbance on beaches. This monitoring took place on South Stradbroke Island by the GCCC and Terry Dillon from QWSG. South Stradbroke Island is the only known nesting location for the Little Tern in Moreton Bay. It is also used by 16 species of migratory shorebirds.

The variety in the papers on the theme of migratory and resident shorebirds was notable. Adrian Riegen from New Zealand gave a fascinating and entertaining report on the first shorebird survey conducted in the Mundok area in North Korea. Fellow Kiwi, Keith Woodley from the Miranda Naturalists' Trust, gave a wonderful account of his trip to Alaska and the observations of a pair of breeding Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*). Keith has recently had published by Penguin Books NZ, "Godwits, Long-haul Migrants". Hopefully this will be available here in bookshops from October.

Serendipitously, Saturday concluded with time for a forum and questions. This was very productive and gave people the chance to put forward ideas for initiatives for future management of shorebird sites, how we can involve the wider community and the development of projects in the education sector. Adrian spoke of the sister city relationship with Yalu Jiang in China. The conference dinner on Saturday evening in the University Club was most enjoyable and lively. The food was delicious as indeed it was for the whole weekend.

Sunday began with the Keynote address by Mike Weston from Deakin University. He reminded us that an understanding of relevant aspects of human behaviour can enhance shorebird implementation and management. As humans are in the end responsible for nearly all threats to shorebirds ipso facto we are responsible for the solutions.

Peter Dann then spoke about the Hooded Plovers on Phillip Island. The importance of communication again was impressed upon us. He said that if you tell people what is going on compliance with Hooded Plover protection goes up to 100%.

To conclude there were some excellent papers, well presented, from younger members of the shorebird fraternity, Lucy Aplin, Ben Arthur, Paul Finn and Alice Ewing.

All in all it was an enjoyable, stimulating, and thought provoking weekend .

I congratulate Eric Woehler and his team from Birds Tasmania for their great hospitality and a well organized conference.

*Penny Johns*

## Count Programme by Dawn Beck

All the remaining count dates for 2010 appear on the last page of the newsletter. If you know you are unable to do any count, please try to find a replacement to do it. If you do not have a back-up counter, please advise me as soon as possible so that I can try to find one; [alphabec@powerup.com.au](mailto:alphabec@powerup.com.au) or phone me 07 3378 8598.

The count programme always needs new counters, you do not have to commit to counting once a month, there is a big demand for relief counters for many reasons; people have to take holidays, family commitments, medical reasons etc. The more members involved in counting, the less pressure there is on those who are dedicated to this important and enjoyable activity. To be a counter it is necessary to have a telescope and be competent with wader identification, this will naturally improve as you do more. If you want to contribute to the count programme please contact me as above, and depending on your geographical location I will pair you off with a regular counter so that you can learn the peculiarities of the site and the best way to cover it.

I must acknowledge and welcome many people who have started helping:

Robert Bush, Deirdre Chrzescijanski, Pete Nichols, Andy Eacott and Lynn Roberts in the Brisbane area. Robbie and David Leslie on the Sunshine Coast.

Jean Tucker and Hayley Glover in Mackay.

Brian Venables, Lisa and Tim Gale and John Seale in Cairns.

I hope you all enjoy your days counting; QWSG appreciates your contribution.

Counting and observing waders at sites around Queensland is the core activity for QWSG. Without the data gathered there would be nothing to study, no actual evidence for decline or increase in wader numbers. These facts are necessary for QWSG to act on behalf of the birds. Governments do not respond to intuition or subjective information.

### November 2009 to January 2010 Sightings

#### **Some sites with large flocks**

<u>Eastern Curlew</u>	Cooloola Tin Can Bay – 550 – 4.12.08 – Kelvin Neilsen Reeder's Point Moreton Isld – 581 – 15.01.10 – QWSG
<u>Whimbrel</u>	Mathiesen Homestead GSS – 510 – 24.12.09 – John Knight
<u>Bar-tailed Godwit</u>	Toorbul – 3832 - 14.11.09 – Dez Wells Kakadu Beach – 3115 – 06.11.09 – Michael Strong Reeder's Point Moreton Isld – 2866 – 15.01.10 – QWSG
<u>Black-tailed Godwit</u>	Pine Rivers Northside – 204 – 14.01.10 – David Edwards
<u>Great Knot</u>	Ross River Mouth – 2380 – 03.02.10 - Peter Driscoll
<u>Red-necked Stint</u>	Fisherman Islands Main Roost – 3547 – 17.01.10 – QWSG
<u>Lesser Sand Plover</u>	Gables Point Rocks Hervey Bay – 792 – 16.01.10 – Don & Lesley Bradley
<u>Curlew Sandpipers</u>	Fisherman Islands Main Roost – 768 - 20.12.09 – QWSG

#### **Rarities**

Little Curlew: - 14 at Garnets Lagoon No 2 – John Knight

Wood Sandpiper: - Garnets Lagoon No 2

Broad-billed Sandpiper: - Cairns Esplanade, Garnets Lagoon No 2, Kakadu Beach and Fisherman Islands Main Roost

Asian Dowitcher: - Cairns Esplanade and Manly High Tide Roost

Sanderling: - 18 at Ross R Mouth and 6 Swan Bay North Stradbroke I

Beach Stone Curlew: - Ross R Mouth, Dalrymple Ck Bowen, Finlaysons Beach, Noosa R Sandbanks and Reeder's Point Moreton I

#### **Most unusual sighting**

##### 1 Naked Homo sapiens

This was observed by a lone lady counter on a relatively isolated site. The gentleman said he was not expecting to meet anybody there, we joked about it but this could have had very serious repercussions and is a reminder to everyone about the safety issues that arise when counting lonely, out-of-the-way sites. Try to always have at least two people in the party and always take a mobile phone (test the coverage of the area), there can be other hazards apart from people. Car parking is also a problem in some places; try to park in a well used public area even if it means walking a greater distance to the roost.

If you are still game to go out, enjoy it, the birds are colouring up beautifully.

**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 14.11.09 and 14.02.10:

5 Eastern Curlew, 9 Whimbrel, 64 Bar-tailed Godwit, 16 Pied Oystercatcher, 2 Black-winged Stilt, 3 Great Knot, 16 Grey-tailed Tattler, 2 Greater Sand Plover, 3 Lesser Sand Plover, 1 Red-capped Plover and 1 Red-necked Stint.

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

Eastern Curlew – **CO**.

Whimbrel – **CT, EN, EP, FT, FX, KL, NE**.

Bar-tailed Godwit – **AX, BA, BR, BT, BV, BX, BY, CC, CE, CR, CU, DH, DJ, DN, DT, DV, DY, DZ, EE, EH, EK, EM, EN, ES, EV, EY, EZ, FA, HJ, KT, NC, ND, NJ, OX**.

Pied Oystercatcher – **AM, AN, AS, AT, AY, CJ, CL, EA, EC, ED**.

Grey-tailed Tattler – **BB, BY, CB, CD, CP, CU, DZ, EU, HC, HU, HZ**.

Red-capped Plover – **AZ**.

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

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Hooper's Inlet, Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand – David & Julia Melville – 19.11.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Bells Island, Waimea Inlet, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Willie Cook – 10.11.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (EP) – Tapora South, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 31.10.09, 18.10.09, 17.10.09 and 16.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Dandong, Liaoning – Bai Qingquan, China – 10.05.08

1 Great Knot – Dandong, Liaoning – Bai Qingquan, China – 24.04.08

### **Orange leg flag sightings**

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 18.01.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 18.01.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 16.01.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.12.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Eric Zillman – 16.11.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 20.09.09

1 Red Knot – Deception Bay – Rein Hofman – 24.11.09

1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.11.09

1 Red Knot – Lytton roost – David Connolly – 19.09.09

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Fisherman Islands – Andrew Geering – 20.12.09

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Mathiesen Homestead – Chris Barnes – 14.12.09

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton & Sandra Harding – 14.11.09

1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Islands – Chris Sanderson & David Milton – 17.01.10

1 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – Peter Rothlisberg – 20.12.09

### **White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings - see note below from banders in NZ**

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Acacia Street, Wellington Point – Nicola Udy – 17.12.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – yellow band over white band right tarsus and blue band over yellow band left tarsus – Acacia Street, Wellington Point – Nicola Udy – 17.12.09 (**although a white flag was not sighted on this bird, it is probably a New Zealand banded bird**).

1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.11.09

Correspondence received:

*Dear friends,**Please be advised that a NEW flag and band combination is now being used on BAR-TAILED GODWITS in NEW ZEALAND - the **FLAGS are RED** (rather than white which has been used up to this time). The colours used for the bands remain the same (Red, White, Blue, Yellow).**The use of red flags is necessary as we are running out of white flag combinations - I should be grateful if you would circulate this information.**Thank you very much.**David Melville - Ornithological Society of New Zealand Banding Liaison Officer***Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four colour combinations:**1 Bar-tailed Godwit – blue flag left tibia and white flag left tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.12.091 Bar-tailed Godwit – blue flag left tibia, white flag left tarsus and metal band right tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Eric Zillman – 16.11.091 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – David Milton – Fisherman Islands – 14.02.101 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Laurie Knight – 30.01.101 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia and metal band right tibia – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 18.01.101 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Long Island – Jill Denning – 04.12.091 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag right tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Brenda Smith & Ivell Whyte – 23.11.091 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton & Sandra Harding – 14.11.091 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia and metal band right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 23.10.091 Red-necked Stint – blue flag right tibia, blue flag right tarsus and metal band left tibia – Fisherman Islands – Linda Cross – 20.12.09**Black over white or white over black (Shanghai, China) flag sightings**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (E8) – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.12.091 Bar-tailed Godwit (E8) – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.11.09 and 03.10.091 Great Knot – O'Reagan's Creek, Hervey Bay – Marion Williams – 16.01.101 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – Brian Venables – 08.01.101 Great Knot – Cabbage Tree Creek – Chris Attewell – 20.12.091 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 19.12.091 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 19.12.091 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 16.12.091 Great Knot – Mathiesen Homestead – Chris Barnes – 14.12.091 Great Knot – Toorbul – Chris Attewell – 13.12.091 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – Alan Gillanders – 11.11.091 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 23.10.09 and 22.10.091 Red Knot – Fisherman Islands – Mat Gilfedder – 14.02.101 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.11.091 Terek Sandpiper – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.12.091 Curlew Sandpiper – The Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – Peter Rothlisberg & Vicki Campbell – 14.02.101 Greater Sand Plover – Chili Beach – David Hair – 14.12.09 (**white over black**)1 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 09.01.101 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 22.10.09 and 09.10.09**Other wader leg flag sightings**1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black flag right tibia – O'Reagan's Creek, Hervey Bay – Marion Williams – 16.01.10 (**country not confirmed yet**)1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – blue flag over yellow flag right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Brian Venables – 30.12.09 and 28.12.09 (**flagged Bohai Bay, China**)1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – blue flag right over yellow flag right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – John Seale – 28.11.09 (**flagged Bohai Bay, China**)1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – blue flag right tibia, yellow (cut) flag right tibia and metal band left tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 27.11.09 and 25.11.09 (**flagged in Cangzhou, China**)1 Curlew Sandpiper – blue flag over yellow flag right tibia – Nudgee Beach – Jim & Ivell Whyte & Ken Cowell – 06.02.10 (**flagged Bohai Bay, China**)1 Greater Sand Plover (UC) – white flag left tibia, blue flag left tibia and metal band right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – John Seale – 29.11.09 (**flagged in Taipei, China**)1 Lesser Sand Plover – white flag left tibia – Mullen's Gully, Great Sandy Strait – Dorothy Pashniak – 11.02.10 (**Not a New Zealand flagged bird. Possibly a Shanghai, China bird - unable to see black flag above, or maybe missing flag**).

**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.

Four NSW birds seen as follows:

**J8** – Toorbul – Gavin O'Brien – 27.12.09

**J8** – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 19.12.09

**C1** – Fisherman Islands – Sandra Harding – 15.11.09

**H1** – Point Halloran – Brian Russell – 06.02.10

**Other leg flag sightings and banded birds**

1 Little Tern – white flag over red flag left tarsus and metal band over green flag right tarsus – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon – 19.09.09

1 Little Tern – black over red flag left tarsus and yellow over metal band right tarsus – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon – 19.10.09 and 21.09.09

1 Little Tern – white flag over dark green flag left tarsus and blue flag over metal band right tarsus – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon – 21.09.09

1 Little Tern – red flag over dark green flag left tarsus and red flag over metal band right tarsus – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon – 21.09.09

## Wader ID Days

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 5495 2758. David Edwards 3262 2017. Dawn Beck 3378 8598. David Milton or Sandra Harding 3390 2179.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

**Ian & Jill Brown, Ron & Sandra Dungleison,  
Hayley Glover, Mat & Cathy Gilfedder,  
Andrew Jensen, David Sparks  
Paul York**

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.

## Electronic Newsletter ??

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

If you are interested email me on [gouldian@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au). Could you use the subject line as Electronic Newsletter. Editor

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

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#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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QLD 4073

#### **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:

Sheryl Keates  
QWSG Treasurer  
30/43 McLachlan St  
DARWIN NT 0800

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

**Copy Deadline** for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **May 18<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Contributions should be addressed to:

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**QWSG MERCHANDISE**

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

**OR**

Contact Vicki Campbell Phone 07 3378 2964 or email [vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au](mailto:vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au)

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE FOR CONTACT**

Postage is not included in prices quoted.

- |              |         |  |
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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  
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**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) 38764844; Secretary, Jim Sneddon (07) 3343 6323; Treasurer, Frank James (07) 3389 7559.

Monthly Meetings            Birds Queensland - 7.45pm  
 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



Tattlers at the Port of Brisbane



## Count Activities - 2010

### QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Programme – 2010

Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.22m at 08:13	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2.14m at 12:40
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.06m at 06:47	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2.13m at 10:26
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> May	1.85m at 10:01	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	2.23m at 09:28
<b>NO COUNT IN JUNE</b>		Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.26m at 08:28
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Jul	2.00m at 13:59	<b>National Winter Count</b>	Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
			2.17m at 07:19

### Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2010

Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.25m at 08:46	Meet 06:55	Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2.11m at 13:31	Meet 11:40
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.10m at 07:29	Meet 05:40	Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2.14m at 11:00	Meet 09:10
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> May	1.80m at 10:46	Meet 08:55	Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.27m at 10:03	Meet 08:15
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Jun	2.03m at 16:37	Meet 14:40	Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	2.34m at 09:06	Meet 07:15
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	2.01m at 15:00	Meet 13:10	Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.29m at 08:03	Meet 06:15

**Please note change: Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Jun 2.03m at 16:37 Meet 14:40**

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, 30/43 McLachlan St, DARWIN NT 0800**

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group

For a direct credit, please use the following details.

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