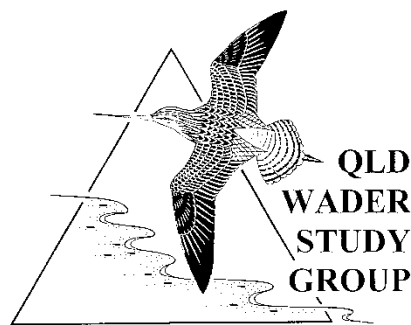


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 072

June, July and August 2010

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

Rocky/Gladstone Surveys

A brief break in the weather in Gladstone in March sent one Melbournian wader enthusiast home a very happy man. The rain lifting momentarily allowed Rob Clemens from Shorebirds 2020 to take part in much anticipated surveys of shorebird sites within Gladstone Harbour. The surveys followed an aerial reconnaissance funded by QWSG of the Rockhampton/Gladstone region to locate shorebird roosts and resolve which of the previously known roosts are still being used. The aerial survey was undertaken at the end of February by QWSG member Ken Cowell and Allan Briggs from Birds Australia Capricornia.

On the same weekend, in collaboration with BA Capricornia and as part of the shorebirds 2020 project, a successful shorebird training workshop was carried out at Rosslyn Bay (near Yeppoon). Fifty attendees showed keen interest in presentations given by Andrew Geering and Ivell Whyte from QWSG and Allan Briggs and Rob Clemens from BA. Wader species diversity at Kinka Beach roost for the ID session afterwards was good. Local counters were delighted that numbers were greater on the day than had been recorded on the site for some time.

During the four days following the workshop, Rob Clemens, Ken Cowell, Floss Wainwright and Jim and Ivell Whyte undertook land and sea surveys in the Gladstone area. Strong support was received from Queensland Alumina Ltd to a request for access to survey their ash ponds and conservation officer Alison Green escorted the group in the company minibus. Eastern Curlew was the main species counted and an article in QAL's monthly Aluminews concerning waders and our visit generated quite a bit of interest locally. QAL is keen to have monitoring continue. Allan Briggs is coordinating counters to do so in future.

Rain bucketed down as the second survey day dawned. When it cleared briefly, Rob and Ivell decided after talking with skipper Johnny Mitchell, to risk the weather and head out in his small boat. Ken and Floss carried out land-based surveys on the day. Conditions on the water, although a bit rough, weren't as bad as had been forecast and the decision to go out proved worthwhile. Johnny, aka the "Barefoot Barra Fisher" from Lake Awoonga, knows the waterways intimately and was a fantastic guide. All sites planned for survey were accessed. It was a top day for Rob, a high point his sighting for the first time waders roosting in mangroves - Whimbrel, Grey-tailed Tattlers and Tereks.

Counts were carried out mainly from the boat, however the most significant site within the harbour, a claypan on the southern end of Curtis Island, was accessed on foot. A trek through low-growing Casuarina and Banksia was necessary to come within reasonable counting distance of the roost. Ivell remained initially to count Whimbrel separated from the rest of the flock, while Rob headed off through the scrub. Golden Orb Weavers danced on his face as he scrabbled to remove dozens of cobwebs he walked into. Rob's tall and Ivell's short. She followed afterwards. No cobwebs left.

The roost site, currently known as Pelican Banks, after the area from which it is accessed, held 1868 waders, with large numbers of Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Eastern Curlew. There were more than 200 Great Knot, a wader we're anxious to see in good numbers anywhere, given the impact the Saemangeum seawall has had on the species. The roost is close to the planned coal gas facility on Curtis Island. QPWS Gladstone however, considers the current buffer zone ample to protect the birds from disturbance.

Surveys outside Gladstone harbour, planned for the following day with QPWS Gladstone's support, unfortunately had to be abandoned, when weather took a decided turn for the worse.

A couple of major supporters of the wader monitoring efforts in Gladstone in the '90's, QPWS officers Bruce Knuckey and Don Arnold, have expressed an interest in renewing the acquaintance with their local waders. Their involvement again would be most welcome. Thanks to Bruce for his part in providing us with a contact at QAL and for offering QPWS support for the proposed outer surveys. Thanks also to Allan Briggs for a top effort in arranging the aerial reconnaissance and workshop at Rosslyn Bay.



Wader identification at Kinka Beach high tide roost



QAL Conservation officer Alison Green checks out Eastern Curlew on the Queensland Alumina ash ponds

Intrepid Wader Watchers Brave Tsunami!

Another report of the Rockhampton – Gladstone trip

Well...not quite. But imagine what it must have looked like: fifty or so people lined up on the beach with scopes and binoculars looking out to sea at the very hour that a tsunami generated by the earthquake in Chile was supposed to reach Australian shores. People driving past must have thought we were idiots.

In fact, we were taking part in a wader training day at Rosslyn Bay near Yeppoon on Sunday 28th February as part of Birds Australia's Shorebirds 2020 program which aims to increase shorebird monitoring around Australia, and more monitoring requires more trained counters.

The day was organised chiefly by Allan Briggs, local wader expert and chair of Birds Australia Capricornia. Rob Clemens from Shorebirds 2020 flew up from Melbourne to speak about the national count program and explain how to fill in count sheets. Andrew Geering and Ivell Whyte from QWSG gave talks on migration, breeding ecology and shorebird identification. Allan discussed shorebird monitoring activities in the local area. Jim Whyte, Ken Cowell, Floss Wainwright and I were also on hand to assist with field identification.

High tide was quite early in the morning, which explains why our field trip to Kinka Beach coincided with the tsunami prediction. Fortunately the waders were not worried and we had a good assortment of species for our keen wader watchers to look at. A day of lectures followed the field trip with a break for lunch at Rosslyn Bay Inn. A second field trip to Kinka Wetlands in the afternoon was not as useful as hoped due to the recent extensive flooding and dispersal of wetland birds.

If you would like to experience the excitement of wader counting and contribute to a valuable monitoring program which may help to influence formal agreements for the protection of shorebirds contact QWSG's Count Coordinator, Dawn Beck.

Vicki Campbell

Exciting Results from Geolocator Trials on Ruddy Turnstones

We apologise to VWSG members, and others on our world-wide circulation list, for the long time it has taken to provide full feedback on the results of our geolocator trials over the past year on Ruddy Turnstone. Although we retrieved the last three geolocators in early January it has taken until now to fully tease out of the stored data the full information on where birds were during the period they were carrying the geolocators.

The exciting results have been well worth waiting for and we detail some of them below. This information is extracted from a short paper which we've prepared over the last two weeks and which has already been accepted for publication in the April edition of the International Wader Study Group Bulletin. Discussions are taking place concerning it also being published in *Stilt*.

Extensive trials using dummy geolocators attached via backpack harnesses or via plastic leg flags were carried out in March and early April 2009. These showed that whilst harnesses appeared to be satisfactory on lean Turnstone they became less so as birds put on weight prior to migratory departure. Some individuals on King Island for example reached 190 - 198 g, compared with a fat-free weight of 90 to 100 g. They were so round (like a tennis ball) that harnesses were almost impossible to position securely.

Eight 1.1 g Mark 10 and 10S light-sensor geolocators, supplied by British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, England, were put onto Ruddy Turnstone in April 2009 - six at Flinders in Victoria and two at Carpenter Rocks in the south-east of South Australia. The geolocators were pre-attached to a specially made Darvic leg flag placed on the left tibia of each bird, with the normal engraved leg flag in its usual position on the right tibia.

The first result came unexpectedly quickly. One bird carrying a geolocator was seen, and photographed, in Taiwan less than three weeks later. Taiwan is the country from which most sightings of our flagged Ruddy Turnstones are reported during northward migration each year.

The first two birds carrying geolocators were seen back at Flinders on 18th October and one was recaptured there on 20th October. The remaining geolocators were eventually retrieved on 8th January. The retrieval of four of the six geolocators applied at Flinders exceeded all expectations. Unfortunately neither of the two birds given geolocators in South Australia has yet been seen again. Initial downloading of the data showed some exciting results, but it has taken weeks of patient delving into the stored data (with the assistance of James Fox, of BAS) to fully reveal everything about each bird's movements. Refer to the maps below.

All four birds flew nonstop 7,600 km. from Flinders to Taiwan in just over six days. The tracks followed by the birds are shown in the accompanying maps. Three appear to have travelled in the same flock. Birds spent between 8 and 17 days in Taiwan before travelling on towards northern Siberia, through eastern Asia. They all followed slightly different paths and made stopovers at different locations before all the light sensors ceased to collect data as birds entered the Arctic region of continuous daylight in early June.

When readings restarted in late July on three of the birds they were all still in northern Siberia. Soon afterwards two of them moved south eastwards, and then southwards before their light sensor stalks failed when the birds were in Korea and in south-east Siberia respectively in early August.

The fourth bird (with engraved leg flag **9Y**) had a quite unexpected return migration route to Flinders via the western Central Pacific! It was first picked up moving south-eastwards through north-east Siberia on the 24th and 25th July and it then arrived in the Aleutian Islands, south-west Alaska on 26th July. It remained there for 2½ months, until 15th October, before flying 6200 km southwards across the Pacific in four days to the Gilbert Islands. It remained there for another six weeks, before making a four day, 5000 km flight to the east coast of Australia, which was reached on 3rd December. Five days later the bird was back at Flinders. All previous recovery and flag sightings information suggested that adult Turnstone usually return to their non breeding areas by late October.

This bird had made a 27,000 km. round trip migration. Surprisingly the apparently circuitous route back was only 1000 km longer (because it was close to a great circle route) than the path it had used on northward migration.

There has only been one previous record of an Australian-banded or flagged Ruddy Turnstone on a Pacific island - one caught on Guam (south of Japan) in September 2008.

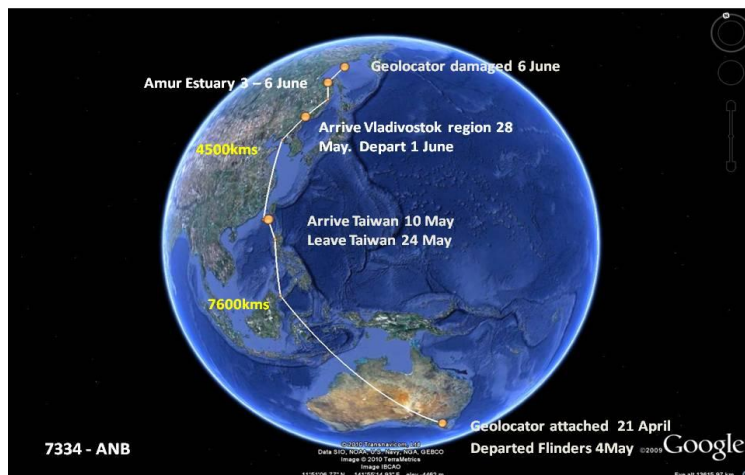
However there are precedents for Ruddy Turnstone from south-west Alaska reaching Australia, with three birds banded in the Pribiloff Islands in the mid-1960s subsequently being reported on the east coast.

It is interesting that on some of the longer flights it was possible to calculate the "over ground" flight speed achieved. For the flights from Flinders to Taiwan and the flight back from the Gilbert Islands to Australia the average speed was 50 to 55 km per hour. A higher speed of 65 km per hour was achieved during the flight from Alaska to the Gilbert Islands, indicating possible assistance by tail winds.

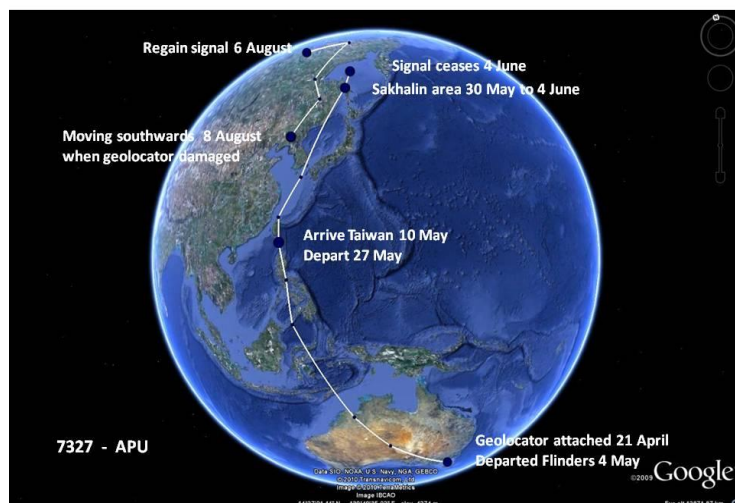
Spurred by these exciting results from the initial trials of geolocators a further 60 have been applied (or will be applied) in March/April 2010. Ten have already been put on Ruddy Turnstone in South Australia and 38 in King Island. It is hoped that at least a further 12 geolocators will be deployed in Victoria. In addition 30 geolocators have been applied to Greater Sand Plovers at Roebuck Bay, Broome, in northwest Australia and to four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Werribee Sewage Farm. The Australasian Wader Studies Group (north-west Australia) and Marcel Klaassen of Deakin University (north-west Australia, King Island and Victoria) have provided some of the geolocators and are now working in partnership with the VWSG.

The 2010/11 wader season is going to be very exciting indeed as we attempt to retrieve geolocators from returned migrants for downloading. Hopefully we should be able to obtain a much fuller picture of the migrations of Ruddy Turnstone which spend the non-breeding season in south-east Australia, as well as some initial data on other species.

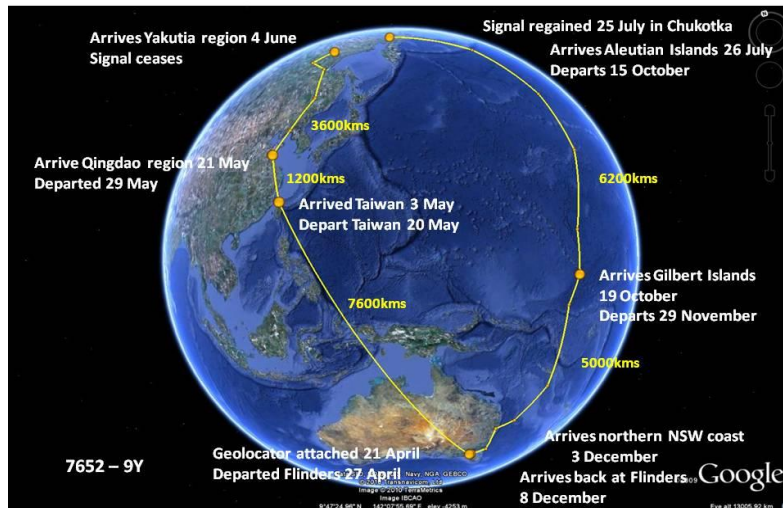
Thanks again to the many colleagues who provided advice in the early stages of this project and to the team members in Victoria and SA who were so diligent in catching and recatching the birds in the field.
From Clive Minton and Ken Gosbell



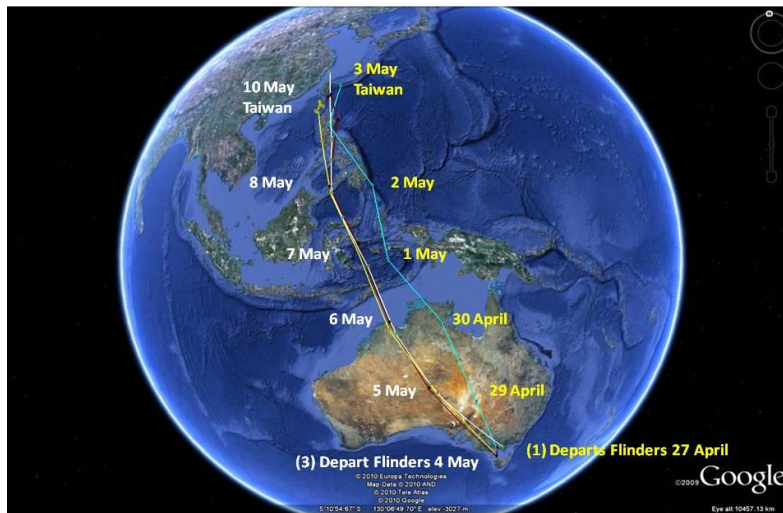
Migration route recorded by geolocator for Ruddy Turnstone with leg flag ANB.



Migration route recorded by geolocator for Ruddy Turnstone with leg flag APU.



Migration route recorded by geolocator for Ruddy Turnstone with leg flag 9Y. This bird departed Flinders (Victoria) 27 April, 2009 and returned 8 December, 2009 after a journey of 27,000kms.



Migration routes of the four Ruddy Turnstones from Flinders (Victoria) to Taiwan.

TIDAL FLATS TURNED INTO FATAL SHORES

The world's greatest travellers, migratory shorebirds, are threatened by coal ports and heavy industry.

Story by TIFFANY INGLIS and DANNY ROGERS
 This Article is taken from **ethicalinvestor** march 2010 issue 90

The air is salty. The ocean rolls in and then gently retreats. Underfoot is soft sediment with the muted shimmer of a tin roof. A crab emerges, hovers at the edge of its hole. There seems to be little other life around.

This is a tidal flat. And despite its sparse appearance and ethereal quiet, it is one of our planet's most productive ecosystems. Like rainforests and coral reefs, tidal flats support an exceptional diversity of wildlife.

Bristleworms, clams and crabs are some of the many species that live in tidal flats. Not always visible, they burrow deep into the sediment – a mix of sand, mud and nutrients, carried in by the sea and washed off the land. These animals are specialised – they can live only in tidal flats. When the tide is in, they are submerged and cool. They have a bewildering range of tentacles, siphons and claws to extract food from the water and sediment. When the tide is out, they need to bury themselves to avoid exposure to the air, the sun and foraging shorebirds.

In Australia, one such large and productive tidal flat is Roebuck Bay near Broome in Western Australia. Every day, the tide rises by up to nine metres and then slowly recedes to reveal a vast array of life. But not all tidal flats are equally productive. It takes special conditions to create truly diverse tidal flats. Tidal areas such as Roebuck Bay have a good mix of sediments, suitable currents and flat topography. There are only a few areas like this in the world.

Migratory shorebirds

Tidal flats provide a source of food for those with the tools to access it. Highly specialised birds travel immense distances to feed on the plethora of worms, clams and crustaceans. The distances travelled are amazing. They migrate each year from breeding grounds in the Arctic tundra to non-breeding grounds in Australia and New Zealand, where they moult, feed and rest before they head north again.

Migratory shorebirds, also called waders, may travel up to 26,000 km each year. Often the birds fly for days on end without stopping. Some of these birds weigh as little as 25 grams - a similar weight to two 50-cent coins.

To fly such long distances they need to build up huge fat reserves. Before their long migratory flights shorebirds feed frantically, almost doubling their weight. For many species, tidal flats are the only habitats that provide enough food. Over the non-breeding season, shorebirds forage widely on tidal flats with specialised bills. Great knots, sandpipers and plovers dig out the life hidden in the sediment. The birds are camouflaged and blend into the subdued coastal tones.

On the way to Australia and back, shorebirds stop on tidal flats in Southeast Asia, the Philippines, China, Korea and Japan and other countries. The route the birds take is known as the East-Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF). This Flyway is made up of over 20 countries and is one of eight flyways around the world. Scientists have come to realise that tidal flats form the basis of an international shorebird 'super-highway'.

A hub in the Yellow Sea

One of the main pit-stops for shorebirds along the Flyway is the Yellow Sea, a vast expanse of tidal flats between China and the Republic of Korea. It is used by at least one million birds as a staging site on their journey south and some two million individuals on the journey north. It is vital for their survival. If shorebirds are unable to rest and feed before the next section of their journey, they are likely to die en route.

In the Yellow Sea, people share tidal flats with shorebirds. Fishers use traditional methods to extract shellfish. Simple tools, such as hoes, are used to dig the animals out, with little impact on shorebirds feeding nearby. But the Yellow Sea tidal flats are under attack. Land reclamation has increased at a rapid rate. With nearly 45 per cent of the world's population living in the Flyway, land is a precious resource. To make new land, governments 'reclaim' tidal flats.

Land reclamation is land destruction

Land reclamation is a misleading phrase. It is not the process of 'reclaiming' or bringing dry land back. Land reclamation is a change of habitats. Tidal flats are not land. They are coastal areas that are part sea and part land. Reclamation changes tidal flats into dry land that is more suitable for human use. The conversion of tidal flats into land is no less destructive than clearing a rainforest or draining a wetland.

In China and the Republic of Korea, large-scale land reclamation projects have destroyed almost 50 per cent of tidal flats in the Yellow Sea, mostly in the past 30 years. Sea walls and dykes are built around tidal flats and filled in to extend the coastline. The newly made land is used for houses, factories and infrastructure, to develop industry, expand ports and create energy facilities, including wind farms.

Land reclamation of tidal flats in the Yellow Sea continues. In the Republic of Korea, the Government forecasts that by 2011 approximately 75 per cent of tidal flats will have been reclaimed. The situation in China is no better.

The impact this has had on shorebirds is immense. Of 54 migratory shorebird species that use the Flyway regularly, about 30 are dependent on tidal flats at some time. And of those species that occur in Australia, five are now classed as threatened (under the national Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999). At least nine other species are in decline. Land reclamation destroys the habitat of migratory shorebirds.

Shorebird studies

In Australia, the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG), a part of Birds Australia, carries out population counts of shorebirds on a regular basis. Since the early 1980s the group has collected data on the numbers of migratory shorebirds that visit Australia. The data set is now long enough to reveal strong trends.

For 25 years, the AWSG has closely monitored the population sizes of seven migratory shorebird species. It is now clear that significant declines have occurred in four of these species, including the Eastern Curlew and Curlew Sandpiper. The AWSG believe that declines are likely in other shorebird species, but that changes are too hard to record because few sites have been monitored over a long enough period of time.

“It is so sad to know that the habitats these birds use - tidal flats - are being destroyed,” says Ken Gosbell, chair of the AWSG. “Time and again I have seen how the amazing story of shorebird migration inspires people.”

The AWSG, with Birds Australia, WWF Australia and the Australian Government, recently established the Shorebirds 2020 project. It encourages members of the community to take part in annual counts of shorebird numbers around Australia. “It is really important to collect data so that we have concrete evidence that this loss is happening,” says Gosbell.

In 2004, the AWSG also set up the MYSMA project – Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia. Shorebird numbers are counted in northern Australia over summer (when the birds arrive to spend their ‘winter’ in the Southern Hemisphere). The AWSG have counted fewer shorebirds since data collection began. The numbers of Great Knot have significantly declined and a major drop was witnessed in 2007 and 2008.

Saemangeum – a tragedy

From 2006 to 2008 the AWSG teamed up with Birds Korea, a non-government organisation that works to conserve birds and their habitats. With volunteers in other countries of the Flyway, the organisations ran a special monitoring program.

In 2006, the government of the Republic of Korea finished the construction of a 33-kilometre seawall on the southwest coast. The wall isolated 401 square kilometres of tidal flats (roughly seven times the size of Port Jackson) from the ocean and destroyed the most important shorebird site within the Yellow Sea. ‘Saemangeum’, once a fertile and vast tidal flat, is now being turned into land for industry and agriculture.

The AWSG and Birds Korea wanted to record the impact of the Saemangeum seawall on shorebird numbers in the Flyway. The results were staggering. The study revealed a decline of 137,000 shorebirds from Saemangeum on their migration north to breed. And between 2006 and 2008, the numbers of nineteen of the most numerous shorebird species dropped. The hardest hit was the Great Knot, an elegant species that breeds in the tundra of Siberia.

Back in Australia, the MYSMA project also recorded declines in shorebird numbers after 2006. It is estimated that the global population of the Great Knot could have declined by 20 per cent due to one single land reclamation project: Saemangeum.

Port development in China

A new shorebird threat has recently emerged. This year, the largest Chinese port to be built to-date, Caofedien, will be completed in Bo Hai Bay in the Yellow Sea. Over 40 square kilometres of tidal flats will be reclaimed.

Dependent on these tidal flats is the Red Knot. Population counts of the shorebird in 2009 recorded roughly 50,000 individual Red Knots in Caofedien. It is thought that up to three-quarters of the Flyway population of Red Knot are dependent on the Caofedien tidal flats during their migration north.

The port of Bo Hai Bay is under development to receive shipments of Australian coal and ore. Australian ships will dock at the core of what was once a Red Knot hotspot.

Bound by law

Australia has a responsibility to protect migratory shorebirds and the tidal flats they use. At the international level, Australia has signed the Ramsar Convention, or what is officially known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. As a member, Australia is obliged to protect Australian wetlands that are recognised as internationally important. This involves the development of a detailed management plan to state clearly what needs to be done to maintain a healthy wetland.

Australia has also signed a number of international agreements with other countries (bilateral agreements) that outline how we will work together to protect migratory birds. JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA are 'Migratory Bird Agreements' we have with Japan, China and the Republic of Korea. The protection of migratory birds and their habitats is pivotal to the agreements, as is the need to share information.

At a national scale, all the birds listed under the Migratory Bird Agreements are also protected as matters of national significance under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Within Australia, this is a powerful law that protects a variety of species and ecosystems from destruction if they are listed as nationally significant. Australian companies or individuals that undertake developments that impact on listed species (including migratory shorebirds) could face serious penalties.

What can we do?

Tidal flats need urgent protection. Non-government organisations continue to raise awareness about shorebirds and lobby governments to better manage our tidal flats. But the biggest gains will be when tidal flat reclamation in important shorebird habitats is stopped.

It is time to recognise the value of tidal flats – all the values, especially their use by migratory shorebirds. It is imperative the Australian Government works with the governments of China and the Republic of Korea to better manage tidal flat areas in the Yellow Sea; encourage industry to include shorebirds as a priority when assessing development sites; and raise public awareness about the need to protect tidal flats and migratory shorebirds into the future.

The development of tidal flats and compensation of their loss with other environmental projects is not sustainable. Any investment in development projects within the Yellow Sea region should be carefully considered. You need to ask: What will be lost for an economic gain? Is the loss irreplaceable?

Danny Rogers is chairman of the

Australian Waders Study Group's (AESG) scientific committee. Ken Gosbell, chair of the AWSG, contributed to this article.

Useful websites

- The Australasian Wader Studies Group - www.awsg.org.au
- Shorebirds 2020 - www.shorebirds.org.au
- Birds Korea - www.birdskorea.org

Cages prevent wader predation

Published by BirdWatch (<http://www.birdwatch.co.uk>)

Experiments to limit predation of wading bird nests have shown that the use of protective cages and decoy eggs can be very effective. Studies in Sweden looked at non-lethal ways to prevent predation, including a form of aversion therapy. In an attempt to find ways to halt the decline in breeding wader species in Sweden, scientists at the University of Gothenburg have tested drastic new methods to protect Northern Lapwings and Redshanks from predators.

Researcher Daniel Isaksson, from the Department of Zoology, protected nests by enclosing them in a protective cage. "Both Lapwings and Redshanks hatched more eggs when their nests were inside the cages," said Isaksson. "But this technique works only for species that leave the nest early when a predator is in the vicinity, as species that stay longer risk being trapped and themselves becoming the prey."

Another method tested involved putting out artificial nests containing hens' eggs painted to resemble waders' eggs and injected with a drug that induces vomiting. The idea was to 'teach' predators that waders' eggs are inedible. "We found that predation of the real waders' eggs immediately decreased during the first three weeks in areas with the decoy eggs, which suggests that the method had an effect," said Isaksson.

The studies also show that nest-robbing and the positioning of waders' nests are to a great extent governed by the surrounding environment. Crows preferred elevated perches such as fences where they can keep watch and avoid attacks by waders. In two out of three years, Northern Lapwings positioned their nests further and further away from such sites, limiting the breeding area and probably impacting on the size of the local population.

See University of Gothenburg (<http://gupea.ub.gu.se/dspace/handle/2077/18848>)

Audubon Fears Birds Will Become Next Victims of Gulf Oil Spill

BirdLife 29-04-2010

Audubon experts across the Gulf Coast are monitoring the spread of thousands of litres of oil that threaten to turn last week's drilling platform explosion into a growing environmental disaster.

"The terrible loss of 11 workers may be just the beginning of this tragedy as the oil slick spreads toward sensitive coastal areas vital to birds and marine life and to all the communities that depend on them", said Melanie Driscoll an Audubon bird conservation director, who is monitoring the situation from her base in Louisiana. "For birds, the timing could not be worse; they are breeding, nesting and especially vulnerable in many of the places where the oil could come ashore."

Sensitive coastal areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida are all potential targets of the growing spill. "The efforts to stop the oil before it reaches shore are heroic, but may not be enough", added Driscoll. "We have to hope for the best, but prepare for the worst, including a true catastrophe for birds."

In Florida, Audubon (The BirdLife Partner in the U.S.) is recruiting volunteers and making its Center for Birds of Prey available for bird cleansing and rehabilitation. Elsewhere, the organisation is gearing up to help mobilise volunteers and provide other assistance in the event the oil reaches sensitive shorelines.

Several "Important Bird Areas," designated by Audubon and its partners for their essential habitat value to bird species lie within potentially-affected areas. Those under immediate threat include Chandeleur Islands IBA and Gulf Islands National Seashore IBA in Louisiana and Mississippi; and the Active Delta IBA in Louisiana, which includes Delta National Wildlife Refuge and Pass-a-Loutre Wildlife Management Area.

The numbers behind the spill

One tonne of crude oil is roughly equal to 308 US gallons, or 7.33 barrels.

The Gulf Oil spill was announced 21 April - which is 682 tonnes of oil per day. Therefore at least 5,500 tonnes of oil lost so far.

Gulf of Mexico spill in context

PRESTIGE, Spain (2002) 63,000 tonnes

ERIKA, France (1999) 15,000–25,000 tonnes

EXXON VALDES, Alaska, USA (1989) 35,000 tonnes

Brown Pelican - The state bird of Louisiana nests on barrier islands and feeds near shore. Their breeding season just began and many pairs are already incubating eggs. Removed from the U.S. Endangered Species list only late last year, Brown Pelicans remain vulnerable to storms, habitat loss and other pressures. Their relatively low reproductive rate means any disruption to their breeding cycle could have serious effects on the population.

Beach-nesting terns and gulls (Caspian Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Least Tern, Laughing Gull, Black Skimmer) - These birds nest and roost in groups on barrier islands and beaches. Some species have begun nesting or building pair bonds in preparation for nesting. They feed on fish and other marine life. Roosting and nesting on the sand and plunging into the water to fish, they are extremely vulnerable oil on the surface or washing ashore.

Beach-nesting shorebirds - (American Oystercatcher, Wilson's Plover, Kentish (Snowy) Plover) - These birds nest on the ground on barrier islands and beaches. They feed on small invertebrates along the beach or – in the case of oystercatchers – on oysters. They are at risk if oil comes ashore or affects their food sources.

Reddish Egret - Populations of these large, strictly coastal egrets have dwindled due to habitat loss and disturbance. As specialized residents of coastal environments, they have nowhere else to go if their feeding and nesting grounds are fouled by oil.

Large wading birds - (Roseate Spoonbill, Ibises, Herons, Egrets) - Many herons, egrets and other species feed in marshes and along the coast and nest in large colonies called rookeries. They are vulnerable if oil comes ashore in these areas. The central Gulf Coast region hosts continentally and globally significant populations of many of these birds.

Marsh birds - (Mottled Duck, Clapper Rail, Black Rail, Seaside Sparrow, Marsh-Dwelling Songbirds) - Many of these birds are extremely secretive, hindering understanding of their population dynamics. Recovery efforts would be difficult or impossible if oil accumulates in the coastal salt marshes where they live.

Ocean-dwelling birds - Birds that spend a significant portion of their lives at sea, including the Magnificent Frigatebird, may be affected by oiled waters. Contact with oil could lead to ingestion or damage to feathers. Oil also threatens their food supplies. These birds are difficult to monitor, and potential impacts are not fully understood.

Migratory shorebirds - (plovers, sandpipers and relatives) - These birds' travels span the western hemisphere. But many species are currently en route from wintering grounds in South America to breeding grounds in boreal forests and arctic tundra. They congregate in great numbers on beaches and barrier islands to rest and refuel during their long journeys.

Migratory songbirds - (warblers, orioles, buntings, flycatchers, swallows, and others) - Many of our most colorful and familiar summer songbirds fly nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico twice each year as they migrate between their breeding and wintering grounds. The biggest push of spring migrants moves across the gulf during a two-week period from late April to early May. The journey across 500 miles of open water strains their endurance to its limits. They depend on clear skies and healthy habitats on both sides of the gulf in order to survive the journey.

"It is unfortunate that it takes a potential disaster to remind the nation of the risks involved with our addiction to oil," said Audubon Legislative Director Mike Daulton. "This spill would give anyone pause regarding the pursuit of risky drilling in environmentally sensitive coastal areas. For the long term, we need to move as quickly as possible from the addiction to fossil fuels to the promise of clean, renewable energy."

Credits: Audubon

Birds Queensland Raffle

Proceeds to be used for the conservation research on the endangered

Eastern Bristlebird

Prize: Original Oil Painting by **Peter Slater**

Valued at \$3500

Closing Date: August 24th 2010

Drawing Date: September 7th 2010 for

National Threatened Species Day

Ticket Price: \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

Winner will be notified by mail and phone.

The result will be published in the Birds Queensland Newsletter and the website:

www.birdsqueensland.org.au

We would greatly appreciate your assistance as a

volunteer "Ticket Seller". Please contact Marion

Grover for tickets: marion.grover@gmail.com



Editor's Note: the picture does not have the horizontal white lines, my problem of fitting the pic to the page.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

Malcolm Campbell,

Kristy Currie

Glen Pacey

Marlis Schoeb

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. Could you use the subject line as "Electronic Newsletter". Editor

Note price reduction on "Shorebirds of Australia"

Buy Now \$35.00!!

Check out QWSG Merchandise on page 17

Types of colour marks

Depending on the type of study and species involved, waders can be identified with a number of different types of marks. The commonest types of marks used are colour-marks (usually Colour-rings or Flags) that are fitted onto the bird's legs. These marks are permanent and are intended to remain on the bird throughout its life. Other marks can be temporary, such as colour-dye and temporary leg marks.

Both Colour-rings and Flags can be used separately or together and can either be plain or with inscriptions. The combinations of marks and colours used form Colour-marking Schemes that identify a bird to a particular project. The International Wader Study Group maintains a Colour-marking Register for projects in the East-Atlantic Flyway.

Colour-rings



Colour-rings are the commonest type of colour-mark currently in use. Colour-rings are made of plastic and are fitted around a bird's leg, similarly to a conventional metal ring.

Typically, more than one Colour-ring is used per bird, sometimes up to six. It is the position and colour of these rings that together make up a Colour-marking scheme. It is important to record both the colours and exact positions of the rings when recording Colour-rings.

A range of standard colours are used and biologists planning to use Colour-rings should register with the Colour-marking Register. Each Colour-ring is a single colour and although stripped rings are available these are not recommended for use on waders because of the likelihood of confusion with other colours.

Inscribed Colour-rings

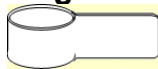


Inscribed Colour-rings tend to be larger than conventional Colour-rings to enable the inscription to be read and are, therefore, usually only used on larger species of waders; for example, Oystercatcher, Avocet and Curlew. The inscriptions used can vary from one to four characters. Both letters and numbers are used and often a combination of both. Both normal and inscribed colour-rings have been fitted to the Oystercatcher in the photo to the right.

Inscribed Colour-rings might be used on their own although are often used in conjunction with conventional Colour-rings to make up a Colour-marking scheme. It is important to record both the colour of the ring and inscription as well as the actual code when recording Inscribed Colour-rings.

A range of standard colours are used and biologists planning to use Inscribed Colour-rings should register with the Colour-marking Register. Inscribed Colour-rings are made of layered plastic of two colours. The rings are made by machines that cut the shapes of the codes out of the upper layer so that the inscription is actually the colour of the underneath layer seen through the upper layer. Because of the special equipment needed to inscribe these rings, it may be best to buy them ready- or part- made.

Flags



Flags are similar to Colour-rings although have an additional 'tag' that extends out to one side of the ring part. They are made of the same plastic as conventional Colour-rings and are fitted onto a bird's leg. Typically, only one Flag is used per bird, but nearly always in conjunction with Colour-rings. It is the position and colour of the Flag and rings that together make up a Colour-marking scheme. It is important to record both the colours and exact positions of the rings and Flag when recording Flags.

A range of standard colours are used and biologists planning to use Flags should register with the Colour-marking Register.

Inscribed flags



Flags are similar to Colour-rings although have an additional 'tag' that extends out to one side of the ring part. The inscriptions used can vary from one to four characters. Both letters and numbers are used and often a combination of both.

Typically, only one Flag is used per bird, but nearly always in conjunction with Colour-rings. It is the position and colour of the Flag and rings, as well as the Flag Inscription, that together make up a Colour-marking scheme. It is important to record both the colours and exact positions of the Flag and any rings as well as the inscription when recording Inscribed Flags.

A range of standard colours are used and biologists planning to use Inscribed Flags should register with the Colour-marking Register. The inscription is often etched into the Flag by laser before being filled with ink, making the inscription much more durable than if simply written onto the surface of the plastic. Because of the special equipment needed to inscribe Flags properly, it may be best to buy them ready- or part- made.

Temporary marks

Temporary marks include colour-dye and temporary leg marks. The colour-dye most commonly used is yellow (that can turn orange over time), although pink can also be used. The dye only colours the feathers of the bird and is, therefore, lost when the bird moults. Only part of the bird is marked, usually part of the breast or vent. Colour-dye is used for short-term studies where groups of birds need to be identified, rather than individuals. Occasionally, dye is used to increase the re-sighting of birds fitted with permanent colour-marks, although this is usually only in intensive studies.

The commonest temporary leg mark used is type of temporary leg-flag, which is made by wrapping a piece of coloured tape around the metal ring and leaving a short 'flag'. This tape eventually wears off, leaving just the metal ring. Temporary leg flags are used for short-term studies, such as looking at the fledging success of young birds. Biologists intending to use temporary leg-flags should consult the Colour-marking Register to reduce the risk of identical schemes running concurrently.

Metal rings

As a rule, all waders that are marked are first fitted with a metal ring. These metal rings are issued by National Ringing Schemes and carry a unique serial number as well as a return address. It is the metal ring that ultimately identifies a bird as an individual, if the metal ring can be read (either if through a telescope or if a bird is found dead) then the details should be submitted directly to the relevant National Ringing Scheme. You can also report a metal ring online.

In the past some waders have been marked with blank metal rings that form part of a Colour-marking scheme. These are usually recorded as a Grey ring, or 'S' in the codes of standard colours. Due to the possibility of confusion with scheme metal rings and Colour-rings, blank metal rings are not widely used.

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 30.01.10 and 16.05.10:

1 Whimbrel, 22 Bar-tailed Godwit, 19 Pied Oystercatcher, 1 Pacific Golden Plover, 3 Great Knot, 4 Grey-tailed Tattler, 1 Greater Sand Plover.

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

Bar-tailed Godwit – **BA, BS, BV, BX, CE, DA, DS, DX, DZ, ED, EE, EH, EN, HJ, HL.**

Pied Oystercatcher – **AM, EJ, EY, JJ, JL, KA, KC, KZ,**

Pacific Golden Plover – **US**

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Caihongqiao, Hangu, Tianjin, China – Paul Holt – 23.04.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, NI, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 11.02.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, NI, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 18.01.10

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Motueka Sandspit, Nelson, SI, New Zealand – David Melville & Jesse Conklin – 03.01.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX) – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, NI, New Zealand – Will Perry – 28.12.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, NI, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 15.11.09

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, NI, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 14.11.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, NI, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 31.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX) – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, NI, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 30.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, NI, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 18.10.09

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, NI, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 17.10.09

1 Red Knot – Farewell Spit, Stockyard to Mullet Creek, SI, New Zealand – Rob Schuckard – 16.03.10

Orange leg flag sightings

1 Eastern Curlew (orange flag on right tibia and left tibia) – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 12.04.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 12.04.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Laurie Knight – 14.03.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Richard Fuller – 13.03.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 24.02.10

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Bundaberg Port – Chris Barnes & Trevor Qusted – 10.04.10

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Burnett Heads, Bundaberg – Chris Barnes – 19.03.10

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

No sightings

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – blue flat left tibia, white flag left tarsus and metal band right tibia – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 24.02.10

2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia and metal band right tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 12.04.10

2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Laurie Knight - 20.03.10

(Tattlers were flagged in Hokkaido, Northern Japan and the Godwit was flagged in Tokyo Bay)

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

1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 10.03.10

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 13.02.10

1 Red-necked Stint – Inskip Point – Dorothy Pashniak – 16.04.10

Other wader leg flag sightings

1 Greater Sand Plover – white flag left tibia, blue flag left tarsus and metal band right tibia – Burnett Heads, Bundaberg – Chris Barnes – 23.03.10 (flagged Taipei, Taiwan)

1 Curlew Sandpiper – blue flag right tibia and yellow flag right tibia – Nudgee Beach – Ivell & Jim Whyte – 20.01.10 (flagged Bohai Bay, China)

1 Masked Lapwing – two blue bands left tarsus – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 24.12.09 (unknown bander)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – yellow band left tarsus – Tony's Island, Tweed Heads – Laurel Allsopp, K Wilk & F Hill – 09.12.09 (bird had broken right leg – unknown bander)

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.

C4 – Fisherman Islands – David Edwards & Robert Bush – 16.05.10

N4 – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 12.04.10

H1 – Point Halloran Reserve – Brian Russell – 06.02.10

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

1 Caspian Tern – orange ring right tarsus and metal ring left tarsus – Pine Rivers Wetlands Reserve – Dawn Beck, Vicki Campbell, Ross & Cathy Smith – 15.05.10

1 Little Tern – ring number 3E04358 – Sunshine Beach Noosa – Peta Moore from Australian Wildlife Hospital – 03.03.10 (found injured and was euthanased). *This Little Tern was banded as a chick on 29.06.07 at Showajima, Ota, Tokyo, Japan. The breeding area is on the roof of a sewage disposal plant where several hundred Little Tern use every summer.*

Please note: Due to computer problems there are a number of flag sightings that do not appear in this issue. We hope we will be able to place them in the next issue. Our sincere apologies.

Count Programme by Dawn Beck

I thought I would use this report to let you know what happens to the forms and the data collected after you have diligently and relentlessly gone out, counted the birds and sent the count sheets to me.

1 As I receive the forms I check them to see that all the spaces such as date, start time, finish time etc have been filled in and that the birds reported "look" correct. It is very easy to enter a bird on the wrong line, e.g. Banded Lapwing for Masked Lapwing and the very common mistake of putting down Black-tailed instead of Bar-tailed Godwits. When this is done, I pass the sheets on to Joyce Harding.

2 Joyce Harding enters all your sightings on to the QWSG database.

3 David Milton, who manages the database, prints out the data and I check it against the original forms.

4 Any corrections are made to the database and the data is then considered clean and can be used.

5 David is able to extract data in response to requests. Commercial interests such as environmental consultants are charged for data but conservation and like-minded organisations are given it free.

6 QWSG provides an annual copy of our database to Queensland Dept of Environment and Resource Management and to Birds Australia Shorebirds 2020 program, and thus it becomes part of the national wader count database. This is used to monitor population fluctuations across the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.

7 QWSG raises money from subscriptions, bank interest, donations, counts at Port of Brisbane and from selling our data. It is used for:-

- a QWSG expenses like the newsletter, postage etc (subscriptions do not even cover newsletter expenses).
- b Doing surveys away from Brisbane e.g. Mackay and the Great Sandy Strait
- c Helping regional groups with funding for booklets and pamphlets.
- d Our book "Shorebirds of Australia"
- e A donation of \$11,000 was given to Birds to Korea to help with publicising the predicament of the waders using the Yellow Sea region.
- f Setting up the QWSG web site (coming soon to a computer near you)
- g Jon Coleman's banding programme
- h In the near future, and very expensive, satellite tracking of Grey-tailed Tattlers so that we can understand their migration routes.

I hope this helps you understand what a vital part you all play, not only in QWSG but also in helping conserve waders in the East Asian Australasian Flyway.

Remember there is no site count in June. Those going to the Port of Brisbane remember Sun 20th Jun and meet at 14:40

Wader ID Days Reports

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 20 FEBRUARY 2010

A group of twenty six people turned up for this outing in fine, dry and sunny conditions, although it was a little humid, a south easterly wind helped keep us cool.

There were quite a lot of waders, but only twelve species to look at which was disappointing, particularly when you need a variety for identification purposes. One of the species (Common Greenshank) only turned up on the outgoing tide after most of the attendees had left.

There was however a good number of Black-tailed Godwit to see and show comparisons with the Bar-tailed Godwit.

The only flags seen were all green (flagged in Moreton Bay), and they were on six Pied Oystercatchers. All were engraved leg flags and coded as follows: **EJ, JJ, JL, KA, KC and KZ.**

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Australian Brush-turkey, Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Crested Pigeon, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Masked Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Eastern Koel (H), Sacred Kingfisher, Striated Pardalote (H), Lewin's Honeyeater (H), Mangrove Honeyeater (H), Noisy Miner, Noisy Friarbird, Rufous Whistler (H), Australian Magpie, Torresian Crow, Magpie Lark and Double-barred Finch.

Bishops Marsh was full of water and most people got close views of the four Brolga in the paddock. Five species were seen at this site:

Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, White-faced Heron, Brolga, and Black-winged Stilt.

Linda Cross.

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 20 MARCH 2010

It was exactly a month since the previous id day was held here in February but twenty four people turned up for another attempt to try and improve their identification skills on 'the birds that all look the same'.

Unfortunately the weather conditions were not in our favour with Cyclone Ului off the coast of north Queensland creating strong south-east winds. Showers were forecast for the day and it was not long before umbrellas came out to protect scopes while looking at the birds.

There was a large number of Black Swan on the waters around the roost site and after a couple of counts we came up with 226. It was nice to see three Sooty Oystercatcher roosting on the small platform off the beach.

Of the 14 species present there were a few with some breeding plumage which was good for people to see the change the birds undertake for breeding. Only two Black-tailed Godwit were seen among the flock of Bar-tails, and one was in extensive breeding plumage. It was good to have two Red Knot in among the Great Knot and explain how to tell them apart. More difficult was trying to find the only Curlew Sandpiper to show people. Thankfully Tattlers and Tereks were among the flock giving us another couple of species to help people separate in the field.

A heavy shower came over and most people retreated to their vehicles for lunch waiting for a break in the rain, which did happen for a brief while. Tom Tarrant and Bob James spotted a Latham's Snipe fly over during the break in the rain, but the rain set in again and most people left, but a handful of hardier soles stayed until the sun finally came out again so we could once again look at the birds.

Only flags seen were all green (flagged in Moreton Bay), and they were on five Pied Oystercatchers and one Grey-tailed Tattler. All were engraved leg flags and coded as follows on the Oystercatchers: **EY, JJ, JL, KA** and **KC**. Unfortunately we were unable to read the letters on the Tattler.

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Masked Lapwing, Latham's Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (H), Laughing Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Mangrove Gerygone, Striated Pardalote (H), Mangrove Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Shrike-thrush, White-breasted Woodswallow, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Welcome Swallow and Common Starling.

Bishops Marsh was full of water and the Brolga were again present for people to see, but only three this time. Birds seen were:

Chestnut Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, White-faced Heron, Brolga, Masked Lapwing and Australasian Pipit.

Plumed Whistling Duck were also seen on the dam wall in the paddock to the west of the marsh.

Linda Cross.

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

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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 **August 18th 2010**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011
or E-mail to: gouldian@ozemail.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.

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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 1st 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

Postage is not included in prices quoted.

Note price reduction on “Shorebirds of Australia”

- BOOKS \$35.00 Shorebirds of Australia
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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
 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.



Tattlers at the Port of Brisbane



Count Activities - 2010

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Programme – 2010

NO COUNT IN JUNE		Sat 23 rd Oct	2.23m at 09:28	
Sat 17 th Jul	2.00m at 13:59	National Winter Count	Sat 20 th Nov	2.26m at 08:28
Sat 14 th Aug	2.14m at 12:40		Sat 18 th Dec	2.17m at 07:19
Sat 25 th Sep	2.13m at 10:26			

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2010

Sun 20 th Jun	2.03m at 16:37	Meet 14:40	Sun 24 th Oct	2.27m at 10:03	Meet 08:15
Sun 18 th Jul	2.01m at 15:00	Meet 13:10	Sun 21 st Nov	2.34m at 09:06	Meet 07:15
Sun 15 th Aug	2.11m at 13:31	Meet 11:40	Sun 19 th Dec	2.29m at 08:03	Meet 06:15
Sun 26 th Sep	2.14m at 11:00	Meet 09:10			

Please note change: Sun 20th 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.....)

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