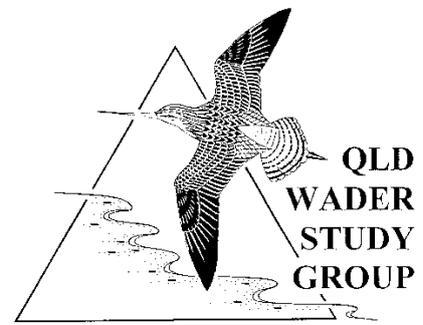


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 074

December 2010, January February 2011

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

QWSG WEBSITE!!!! www.waders.org.au

The Queensland Wader Study Group website is now live and on line, This has been a project that has taken a number of years to come to fruition and after some design and build work by Ricki Coughlin of FRESHR a number of us have been loading data onto the site. We now have a live site with well over 100 pages of content, describing what we do, who we are, what shorebirds are, how to identify them, where to go and see them and a lot of other information on their threats, biology and a whole range of other topics.

This is just the beginning of the site and over time the intention is to add more interactive content, continually add the results of QWSG's surveys and research projects and build the site into a complete reference site for shorebirds in Queensland that becomes peoples first port of call for information. The next stage in its development will be around the species pages and the wader watching sites.

For the species pages the intention is to start building up a library of images for each species showing different ages, sexes, plumages and moult stages so that the pages become a valuable reference for identification. Have a look and if you've any images you'd like to see on the site to help with that goal please forward them onto me. Every image will acknowledge the person who took the photograph.

For the wader watching sites section the intention is to now add a blog for every site so people can record what they've seen and any comments and google maps references will also be provided for each site. It would also be good to start capturing dated images of the sites in these pages so we can see how some of them change over time. So again if you've any images you'd like to share, send them over and I'll make sure they're loaded and acknowledged.

To avoid the site becoming static our intention is to have a whole program of new additions to the site which over time we'd like to become more and more interactive to encourage use of the site. Please let me know if you've any ideas to develop the site and I'll make sure they're captured and discussed at committee meetings for inclusion. Also if you see anything wrong, or any errors let me know and I'll correct them, a huge amount of content has gone onto the site in the last few weeks so there are bound to be some remaining errors, even after a lot of proof reading.

The site's address is:-
<http://www.waders.org.au>

and if you've suggestions comments or feedback give me a call or drop me an e-mail. My contact details are..... on the Contacts Page on the website, along with the rest of the committee!
Jon Coleman

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Jon for all his hard work in setting up and establishing a great site. As Jon says get in, have a look around and give us some feedback. Also keep popping back to see the new additions.

Dogs, Disturbance and Shorebirds – Sandfly Ck roost, Mackay

Sandra Harding

Disturbance at shorebird roosts are a widespread concern. The latest newsletter from Shorebirds 2020 (downloaded from <http://www.shorebirds.org.au/news/>) includes two items about restricting dogs from shorebird roosts, one in Richmond Estuary, Ballina Shire, NSW and the other about restricting horse and dog access to the roost between Lee Point and Buffalo Creek, Darwin, NT.

QWSG count data has been used to demonstrate the effects of disturbance on shorebird numbers at Sandfly Creek, Mackay to the Department of Environment and Resource Management. This is a very significant roost in the Mackay region. The graph below illustrates the downward trend in shorebird numbers. The area is subject to indiscriminate burning, a major walkway/bikeway, fishers using the river edge, unleashed dogs and motorbikes. There are several 10,000 steps signs along the path for walkers/joggers and until recently no environmental educational signs.

QWSG wrote to the Ministers of Environment and Resource Management expressing our concern at the effects of disturbance on the shorebirds roosting at the site. We received advice that by creating an environmental reserve over the majority of the State land comprised within the Sandfly Creek Management Plan area under the trusteeship of the Mackay Regional Council, that this acknowledges the important values of the area including the habitat and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds. The department had previously provided a recommendation for seasonal closure of the road as part of the management plan consultation. The department will continue to raise the matter with the council and to work with it and other appropriate organisations to ensure that the reserve is effectively managed to protect the environmental values of the area.

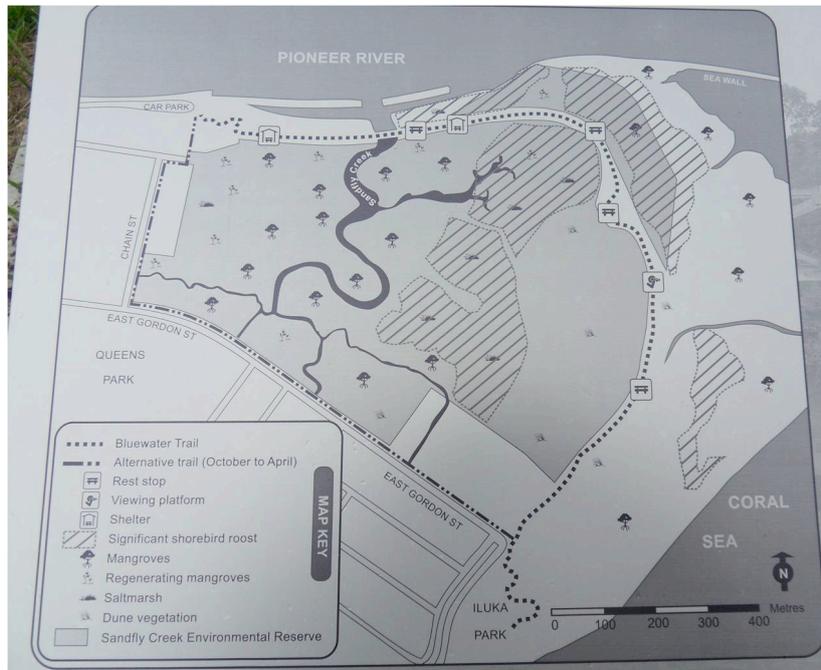
There is now a Sandfly Creek Management plan advisory committee with a QWSG representative. At the last meeting the council officers advised that council has recognized its responsibility to treat the area as an environmental reserve. During the recent Mackay shorebird survey (6 and 7 Nov) we noted that there are now signs about the shorebirds and the environmental values of the area. Also shorebirds were using the central wetland, which has greater separation from the walkway than the riverside roost. However, this roost area is restricted by people using the walkway.

An alternative path for the walkway is planned that will be used during October to April when the migratory shorebirds are in high numbers. This has been included in the interpretation sign about Sandfly Creek. Furthermore the council intends to hold a 'welcome back the waders' event this year to help educate and inform people about the shorebirds using Sandfly Creek. This will coincide with information about the alternative path. The management plan will need to be revised to address the range of shorebird disturbance problems associated with uncontrolled access by people and dogs.

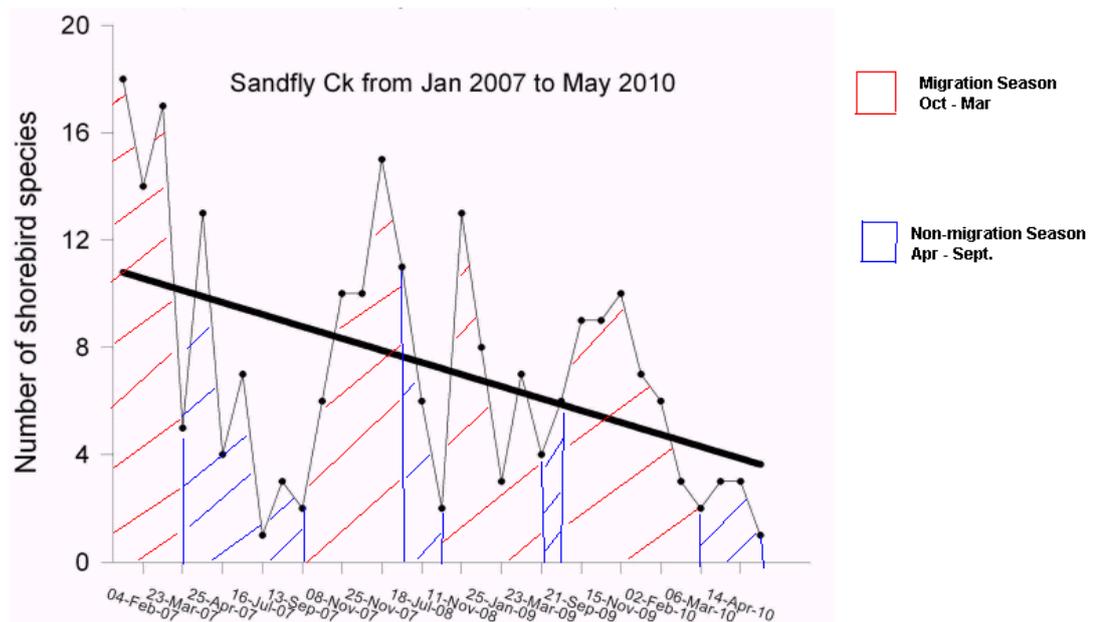
A Pied Oystercatcher chick was observed which indicates that a resident shorebird has successfully bred. This was particularly welcoming.

It is hoped that with these management actions that this roost can again be a significant shorebird roost for this region. Thank you to everyone who have been involved particularly to Maureen Cooper and Patricia Julien who have worked tirelessly to put the future of Sandfly Creek before QWSG's attention and been QWSG's presence in Mackay.





Map on reserve sign at Sandfly Creek



Number of shorebird species declining in both the migratory and non-migratory seasons at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve

Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting will be held at the port of Brisbane Visitors' Centre at noon on Sunday 7th of December 2010 before the Port of Brisbane Count (12:00). We are always keen to have new members on the committee who bring enthusiasm and new ideas to the committee. It can seem daunting but you will be welcome to sit and observe at first. A great way to become more involved with Waders.

Application form can be found on page 15.

If you want further details please contact Andrew Geering (07) 3376 1241

Recording disturbance on QWSG count sheets

Recently, I had a query from QWSG member Kristy Currie about the level of disturbance at Manly roost recorded in the count database. Kristy works for the Department of Environment and Resource Management and was planning a study on wader disturbance in Moreton Bay. Kristy had seen some deliberate disturbance during our counts and was surprised at the low level of overall disturbance recorded in the QWSG count database for this site. In checking the records, I had discussions with Joyce, our long-suffering data entry person about how disturbance figures on the count sheet was recorded in the database. I had thought by recording disturbance as in the example below:

Record the number of people & dogs on the beach/mudflat, boats (fishing, at anchor, trav.)

in the area, boats with waterskiers & jet skis.				Site code		Date	
People	Dogs	Boats fishing	Boats at anchor	Boats travelling	Boats waterskiing		Jetskis
8	2				1		
Cloud cover (scale 0-5):		3	Rain (scale 0-5):		0		Vehicles: 0
Species		Code	#	Total	Notes		
Australian Pelican		106	49		Page 2		
Australasian Gannet		104	50				
Darter		101	51				
Pied Cormorant		99	52				
Little Black Cormorant		97	53				
Little Pied Cormorant		100	54				

I was recording both **ACTUAL** and **POTENTIAL** disturbance. For the last 18 years I have been recording all disturbances in this way, by putting numbers in the upper spaces on page 2 of the count sheet. This is **WRONG** as any disturbance only recorded here will be treated as **POTENTIAL** disturbance. If you see an actual disturbance event, it must be recorded in the blank spaces at the bottom of the form. For example,

Gull-billed tern	111	//		
Caspian Tern	112	78		
Common Tern	953	79		
White-fronted Tern	114	80		
Little Tern	117	81		
Crested Tern	115	82		
Lesser Crested tern	116	83		

General notes / map below here please.

One person with unleashed dog walked through roost and put birds in flight.	↑
All Eastern Curlew left the site.	
	↓

Text about disturbance written in this section will be recorded as **ACTUAL** disturbance, rather than **POTENTIAL** disturbance as above. The correct recording of disturbance is becoming more critical as we have Kristy's disturbance monitoring project and a new project with researchers from University of Queensland that will use these data as part of a project to understand the causes for changes in wader numbers in Queensland.

Many counters already fill in the comments section in the correct way. However, if I have misunderstood what I was supposed to do for 18 years, then there is the prospect that others have also been confused (I hope I am not the only stupid one!). Now I am on the right path, then hopefully the disturbance recorded on the Manly count sheets will start to reflect the actual levels of disturbance, which is quite high. I always see people at Manly when I do a count, yet only 3% of the Manly records in the database recorded actual disturbance. At least that is fixed now!

2010 SURVEY OF MACKAY.

When I typed the Final report for the 2008 survey of Mackay I thought that was the last one I would have to do. How wrong could I have been?

So, here I am reporting on our eighth visit to survey the Mackay region that was conducted over the weekend of 6th and 7th November. The area we cover is 200km of coast between the Conway Ranges, near Airlie Beach and Cape Palmerstone south of Sarina. This area was selected as one of the regions (Australia-wide) with large number of Great Knot. QWSG had funding for most of the previous surveys firstly from WWWF and then later from Birds Australia. However, for the first time we funded this survey entirely from QWSG funds.

Weather conditions during the survey were mostly fine with occasional showers and cooler temperatures for the time of year. However, the south east winds were very strong on Saturday and Sunday causing cancellation of the boat that was to survey ten sites on Saturday. On Sunday the boat group managed to access two of the sites by road, but the other two sites normally counted by boat were not surveyed. The twelve sites not surveyed over the weekend have resulted in a lower count of the waders using the region. All species seen were identified and a table listing the results of previous surveys, with the additional data from this last count is included with this report. Taking into account the wader numbers missing from the sites not surveyed, which could have produced another 3,000 to 5,000 birds, the results obtained for the weekend are encouraging.

A total of 24 sites (includes 3 wetland sites) were counted north of the Pioneer River and 28 sites (includes 7 wetland sites) south of the river, making a total of 52 sites counted for the survey weekend. Of these, three were new sites that added to the database. All three are wetland sites (two north of the river and one south of the river).

One new wader species was added to the list (Broad-billed Sandpiper), which was recorded at Dudgeon Point creek mouth. This now brings the total to 37 migratory and resident wader species seen whilst surveying in the Mackay region. Other waterbirds counted at the sites totalled 4170. This waterbird figure is just over 1500 less birds than counted in 2008, and is probably due to large areas of Queensland having good rainfall during 2010 and plenty of wetland areas that birds may have relocated to.

As stated earlier, the Mackay region has large numbers of Great Knot and this visit recorded the highest number (6,753) over all the surveys. Although only a slight increase on the November 2007 figure of 6701, it is good to see an increase in numbers for this species in light of the loss of staging habitat in the Yellow Sea. There was also a slight increase in Grey Plover with the highest total recorded for this survey of 187.

A Double-banded Plover in breeding plumage was a big surprise at Sand Bay Roost 1. This is a very late record of this species on our shores. The 37 Red Knot at Nell's Beach was also an interesting sighting.

Beach Stone-curlew count was seven birds, less than half the number for the previous survey. However, seven of this species were previously recorded at island sites that were not visited by the cancelled boat, and the resident pair at St. Helens Beach was not sighted on this trip.

Sooty Oystercatcher numbers are of concern, with only 18 recorded for the whole region. This is a dramatic reduction on the 77 seen in 2008. The cancellation of the boats during the survey would have given us about a third more, but at Dudgeon Point there was none to be seen, which was a surprise because 20 were recorded in 2008.

Wader breeding records came from:-

Pioneer River mouth where one Pied Oystercatcher chick was seen. There was a few Red-capped Plover breeding records that came from Sand Bay Roost 1 with one chick, Dudgeon Point creek mouth site with one chick, Dudgeon Point claypan had two chicks and an adult female on a nest. At Dudgeon Point one Masked Lapwing chick was recorded.

Other interesting breeding records came from Habana Wharf claypan were an adult female Black-necked Stork was observed with three juveniles and an immature Black-necked Stork was seen at Shellgrit Creek entrance. At the Mac BP Truck Stop wetland site three Buff-banded Rail chicks were seen, and five Black Swan cygnets were recorded in Lake Barfield at Hay Point. There were four breeding records for Brolga during the survey. One juvenile at Tedlands Wetlands, one juvenile at Habana Wharf claypan, a nest with two eggs at a new site called Sant's Lagoon and one very young chick with parents at Dudgeon Point wetlands.

Four flagged birds were recorded during the survey. Two Bar-tailed Godwit were seen at St. Helens Beach. One with a green flag over an orange flag on the right tibia and a metal band on the left tibia (flagged at Yalu Jiang, Dandong-Tangshan, Northern Yellow Sea, China)

and the other one with a white flag over an orange flag on the right tarsus and metal band on the left tibia (flagged in Chollapuk-do, Tong Jing Estuary, Korea). A Bar-tailed Godwit with a black flag on the left tarsus was seen at Pioneer River mouth, which is yet to be determined where it was flagged and a Little Tern seen at Black's Beach spit, with an orange flag on the right tibia (flagged in Victoria).

Some of the higher counts were as follows:-

3962 Great Knot at Deadman's Creek, New Beach
1558 Great Knot at Nell's Beach, Sand Bay
682 Great Knot at Armstrong's Beach
200 Eastern Curlew at Proserpine River sandspit
133 Whimbrel at Nell's Beach, Sand Bay
111 Whimbrel at Shoal Point
1343 Lesser Sand Plover at Dudgeon Point creek mouth
260 Greater Sand Plover at Pioneer River mouth northbank
91 Grey Plover at Nell's Beach, Sand Bay
37 Red Knot at Nell's Beach, Sand Bay
23 Comb-crested Jacana at Lake Barfield, Hay Point
18 Comb-crested Jacana at Tedlands Wetland sites

Other sightings of interest were:-

1218 Magpie Goose at Bucasia Gardens Nursery Wetlands (New Site)
18 Radjah Shelduck at Bucasia Gardens Nursery Wetlands
6 Brolga at Bucasia Gardens Nursery Wetlands
28 Cotton Pygmy Goose at Tedlands Wetlands
215 Cattle Egret at Tedlands Wetlands
2 Brown Songlark at Dudgeon Point

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the survey for their assistance. The following people allowed survey teams onto or through their property to conduct the counts. Their cooperation is very much appreciated.

Joe & Phyllis Abela – owners of Habana Wharf
Chris Pappas – part owner of property at Shoal Point
Vic Welsh – owner of Tedlands
Brett Windsor – lessee Dudgeon Point owned by North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation

Thanks also to the following people who helped organise our survey of the Mackay Port Wetlands site. Gary Riches (General Manager Operations) and Paul Schmidtke (Manager Asset Services) at North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation. (NQBPP)
Charlie Jacobson (Network Supervisor), Tony Binnie (Rail Safety Investigator), John Sharpe (Corridor Supervisor), Tony McKay and Larry Sten at QR National Network Services.

Without the assistance of the people from NQBPP and QR National it would not have been possible to gain access through the rail corridor to survey the wetland site. Thanks to Larry Sten who accompanied us during the whole of the exercise and ensured we stayed safe.

We extend a special thank you to Jim Ryman, who once again supplied his services and boat for the team doing the Bakers Creek, McEwan's Beach and Dunrock sites. Jim is a local resident of Mackay that has helped us during most of the surveys to get to these sites in sometimes quite adverse weather conditions. Thanks also to Kerri Woodcock for supplying the mapping aerials for us to check, and Maureen Cooper, Geoff McLaughlin and Hayley Glover for using their vehicles to transport QWSG members to survey sites on Saturday and Sunday.

Although Maureen Cooper offered to accommodate us again at Padaminka we declined because her property is for sale and we did not wish to create extra work for her. It was tough having to slum it in villas at Illawong Beach Resort right on the beach front at Shellgrit Creek entrance where the waders could be observed each day. David Milton was dedicated enough to do three additional counts at this site.

On a personal note I would like to sincerely thank Brenda Smith for taking on some of the jobs that I would normally have to do in Mackay. Thanks Brenda for making my job just that little bit easier.

Without the assistance of the people and organisations I have mentioned, these surveys would not be possible, and we thank you all for your continued support.

Our sincere thanks to everyone for his or her assistance. My apologies if I have omitted anyone.

The participants for this survey are listed below:-

QWSG Members: Dawn Beck, Melissa Cooper, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, David Edwards, Andrew Geering, Sandra Harding, David Milton, Glen Pacey, Peter Rothlisberg, Brenda Smith, Graham Smith, Floss Wainwright, Dez Wells, Jim Whyte, Ivell Whyte.

QWSG Members in Mackay: Maureen Cooper, Hayley Glover and Geoff McLaughlin

Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Inc: Kerri Woodcock

BOCA Mackay: Desley Williams.

Linda Cross.



Nell's Beach, Sand Bay



Dudgeon Point



Lake Barfield

Table of results of Mackay surveys from 2002 to 2010

SPECIES	Recon Nov 2002	Jan 2003	Apr 2003	Oct 2003	Feb 2004	Jan 2006	Nov 2007	Nov 2008	Nov 2010
Bush Stone-curlew	-	12	5	3	4	1	3	-	3
Beach Stone-curlew	2	4	10	2	7	10	13	18	7
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	134	662	477	223	539	357	312	302	215
Sooty Oystercatcher	10	40	33	20	35	51	43	77	18
Black-winged Stilt	15	268	39	8	56	86	101	56	-
Pacific Golden Plover	59	457	208	775	39	7	349	677	158
Grey Plover	91	113	89	39	175	81	156	159	187
Red-capped Plover	57	356	231	419	157	99	366	542	176
Double-banded Plover	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lesser Sand Plover	33	1817	895	499	1887	2637	1980	424	2308
Greater Sand Plover	14	493	170	1462	1078	817	2732	1148	701
Black-fronted Dotterel	4	20	2	19	1	6	5	4	10
Red-kneed Dotterel	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Masked Lapwing	14	81	118	76	51	68	102	75	48
Comb-crested Jacana	-	18	2	1	1	7	12	29	47
Latham's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Black-tailed Godwit	-	331	-	116	71	-	-	-	2
Bar-tailed Godwit	1242	4360	236	1530	2343	2854	3324	4343	3188
Little Curlew	-	16	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whimbrel	332	813	1586	1647	975	1002	1673	1960	985
Eastern Curlew	546	1324	448	1235	294	422	533	808	714
Terek Sandpiper	21	152	179	172	329	118	369	55	227
Common Sandpiper	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Grey-tailed Tattler	46	417	1311	929	832	358	572	643	449
Wandering Tattler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Common Greenshank	88	153	80	148	90	136	189	143	102
Marsh Sandpiper	5	50	5	2	11	13	22	5	2
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	61	98	10	38	53	122	102	61
Great Knot	447	5679	229	1935	6047	4407	6701	5418	6753
Red Knot	-	31	29	251	7	8	5	17	44
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-necked Stint	162	1995	844	1676	749	628	3692	1976	1467
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	25	1030	4	1006	68	68	497	261	123
Curlew Sandpiper	40	90	13	191	5	44	221	22	57
Broad-billed Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Australian Pratincole	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified larger wader	-	-	21	-	1	-	-	-	-
Unidentified medium wader	60	53	108	202	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified small wader	21	-	179	-	35	39	-	-	-
Unidentified Sand Plover sp.	-	714	140	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified Tattler sp.	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified Snipe sp.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified wader	-	-	200	150	-	-	-	-	-
Total migratory waders	3232	20160	7073	13977	15074	13692	23140	18172	17530
Total resident waders	236	1469	917	774	851	685	957	1103	524
Total waders	3468	21629	7990	14751	15925	14377	24097	19275	18054
Total migratory species	15	20	18	20	18	17	19	20	20
Total resident species	7	11	9	10	9	9	9	8	8
Total species	22	31	27	30	27	26	28	28	28

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 16.06.10 and 14.11.10

1 Eastern Curlew, 2 Bar-tailed Godwit, 19 Pied Oystercatcher 4 Great Knot, 4 Grey-tailed Tattler, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Lesser Sand Plover and 1 Red-necked Stint.

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

Bar-tailed Godwit – FR, DA.

Pied Oystercatcher – AB, AE, AH, AN, AS, CJ, DS, EY, JJ, JL

Great Knot – NA.

Lesser Sand Plover – DS.

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings:

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Collingwood South Island, New Zealand – Willie Cook & Peter Bezier 0 07.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Farewell Spit, Gobi, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Ingrid Hutzler & Selena Brown – 06.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Hooper's Inlet, Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand – David Melville – 21.10.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Woodlands Road Beach, Taren Point, NSW – Robert Griffin – 10.10.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (HC) – Bells Island, Waimea Inlet, Nelson, South Island New Zealand – David & Julia Melville – 01.09.10

1 Red Knot – Stockton Sandspit, Hunter Estuary, Newcastle, NSW – Mark Young – 29.09.10

Orange leg flag sightings:

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Laurie Knight – 07.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 24.10.10 & 25.10.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Barubbra Island Bundaberg – Chris Barnes, John Gatley, Sue Sargent and Bill Moorhead – 16.10.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 26.09.10

2 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez wells & Deborah Metters – 01.10.10

1 Red Knot – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon – 17.10.10

1 Red Knot – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Roy Sonnenburg – 28.09.10

1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Roy Sonnenburg – 28.09.10

2 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 26.09.10

2 Red Knot – Fisherman Islands – David Edwards – 26.09.10

1 Red Knot – Pine River Wetland Reserve – Dawn Beck & Vicki Campbell – 25.09.10

1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 09.09.10

1 Red Knot – Osprey House Dohles Rocks – Brenda & Graham Smith – 08.09.10

1 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Frank Harison – 08.08.10

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

2 Red Knot – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon – 17.10.10

1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 26.09.10

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four colour combinations:

2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Boat Harbour – Laurie Knight – 07.11.10

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Paul Walbridge & Brian Smallin – 26.09.10

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Spring Creek, Archer Point south of Cooktown – David Houghton & Kath Shurcliff 24.08.10 & 25.08.10

(All above birds with blue flag on left tibia and metal band on right tibia – flagged in Hokkaido)

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

1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10

1 Great Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 24.10.10

1 Great Knot – O'Reagan Creek Westside, Dundowran, Hervey Bay – Marion Williams – 23.10.10

1 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – Bruce Di Labio – 20.10.10

2 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 01.10.10

1 Great Knot – Inskip Point – Dorothy Pashniak – 09.09.10

1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10

1 Red Knot – Bayside Drive, Coolola Cove – Dorothy Pashniak – 02.10.10

1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 09.09.10

1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 09.09.10

1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – Frank Harison & Ota Yu – 04.09.10

1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – Frank Harison – 08.08.10

2 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Frank Harison – 23.10.10

1 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 21.10.10

1 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Frank Harison – 20.10.10

1 Red-necked Stint – Inskip Point – Dorothy Pashniak – 07.10.10

Other wader leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag right tibia and orange flag right tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10 (flagged at Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag on right tibia and metal band on left tibia – St. Helens Beach north of Mackay – Linda Cross, Brenda & Graham Smith & Dawn Beck – 07.11.10 (flagged at Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag over orange flag on right tarsus and metal band on left tibia – St. Helens Beach north of Mackay – Brenda & Graham Smith, Linda Cross & Dawn Beck – 07.11.10 (flagged in at Chollapuk-do, Tong Jing Estuary, Korea)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – black flag right tarsus – Pioneer River, Mackay – Dez Wells – 06.11.10 (Unknown flagging region)

1 Pied Oystercatcher – white band right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Moreton Island – Dez Wells & Jared Khu – 18.07.10 (banded in Tasmania)

1 Great Knot – white flag left tibia, blue flag left tarsus – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10 (flagged in Tatu River Estuary, Szu-tsao are, Taipei, Taiwan)

1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – yellow flag right tibia, green flag left tibia and metal band left tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 21.10.10 (unknown flagging region)

1 Ruddy Turnstone – orange flag right tarsus – Fisherman Islands – Andy Jensen – 24.10.10 (unknown flagging region)

Pied Oystercatcher 2 digit Yellow leg flag sightings

The following sightings of yellow flagged oystercatchers are not birds flagged in North West Western Australia, as per the flagging protocol. They are another project being run from Victoria and New South Wales. Birds flagged in Victoria will have a yellow flag on the right tibia and inscribed with two digits. New South Wales birds will have the yellow flag on the left tibia and inscribed with two digits.

Six NSW birds seen as follows:

B8 – Horseshoe Bay, South Stradbroke Island – David Milton & Jason Searle – 17.11.10

C4 – Fisherman Islands – David Edwards – 24.10.10

K4 – Manly Boat Harbour – Laurie Knight – 24.10.10

K4 – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Deborah Metters – 01.10.10

C1 – Fisherman Islands – David Edwards – 24.10.10

C1 – Fisherman Islands – David Edwards – 15.08.10

Yellow flag left tibia – Tallebudgera Creek, Gold Coast – Col Collins – 12.11.10 (unable to read digits)

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Trevor Ford – 02.10.10

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon & Jason Searle – 25.09.10

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Dawn Beck & Vicki Campbell – 15.05.10

- 19 Roseate Tern – white flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Wilson Island – Andrew McDougall – 14.05.10
 2 Roseate Tern – green flag left tarsus- Wilson Island – Andrew McDougall – 14.05.10
 1 Little Tern – orange flag right tibia – Black’s Beach spit, Mackay – Glen Pacey and Peter Rothlisberg – 07.11.10
 1 Little Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon & J a s o n Searle – 25.09.10
 1 Little Tern – orange flag right tarsus – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon & Jason Searle – 22.09.10



Flagged Oystercatcher at the Port of Brisbane

Wader Flagging in Japan



Flagging work has been done at Yatsu Higata on September 12 2010.
 Result being: Knot 1, Grey-tailed Tattler 1, Terek Sandpiper 6, Dunlin 1, Snipe 1, Mongolian Plover 1, Grey Plover 1, Rufous-necked Stint 6, Great Knot 1, Common sandpiper 1

These birds have a two characters code that is stamped like A4 or A5 on blue flag.
 Info and Picture supplied by Hit, our good friend from Yatsu-Higata.

Count Program by Dawn Beck

This will be my last report, as I will not be doing this job in 2011. I want to be more active in my local catchment group, which is starting up some exciting new projects next year. I would like to thank you all for your co-operation over the past two years, I have enjoyed our exchange of emails and phone calls and getting to know you. Please send your November and December counts to me and I will let you all know where to send 2011 forms when a replacement has been found.

QWSG would like to welcome Lindsay Boyd and Don Arnold to the count programme. They are counting three sites within QAL's property at Gladstone on the Central Coast. This increases QWSG coverage of this area as previously the only site reported on is at Kinka Beach near Yeppoon, ably covered by Allan Briggs and his team.

Now for the bad news, QWSG has lost coverage of some areas due to relocation of counters. Peter Driscoll will no longer be counting at the mouth of Ross River at Townsville, which is a very significant site for monitoring numbers of Great Knot. Members of Townsville Region of Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (TRBOCA) will cover this important site but they will be reporting directly to S2020; this data will be shared with QWSG. Thanks for all your hard work in covering this difficult site Peter, and I am sure Townsville's loss is SE Queensland gain.

Bowen is now without a counter, as long time wader watcher, Jon Wren, has moved north to Torres Strait. This is a huge loss, but maybe, Jon may take some time from his fishing and enjoyment of the idyllic island life style, to send some counts of roosts on the northern islands. Thanks for all your counts over the years, in particular, those from Bowen Salt Works, which involved a lot of persistence and diplomacy to gain access. All the best in your retirement Jon.

As for the remainder of Queensland, all regions require more counters, and in every newsletter, there has been a plea for volunteers, either to be responsible for a site or to be a back up for the regular counter. This is my last chance to ask you once again, make it your New Years resolution for 2011.

The count dates for 2011 are listed on the back of this newsletter; please mark off your 2011 calendar now. **The Summer Count date is Saturday 5 February with HT 2.32m at 10.52. If you cannot do it, please inform the new coordinator or me.**

Most of the summer migrants have arrived or passed through on their way south. Some of the larger flocks over August, September and October have been:

<u>Bar-tailed Godwit</u>	Kakadu Beach (1127), Toorbul (915), Mathiesens Homestead GSS (900), Maaroom GSS (2570)
<u>Black-tailed Godwit</u>	Maroom (210); Pine Rivers Northside (324)
<u>Eastern Curlews</u>	West Geoff Skinner Reserve (579)
<u>Whimbrel</u>	Mathiesens Homestead (480)
<u>Great Knot</u>	Ross River Mouth (1150)
<u>Red Knot</u>	Maaroom (210)
<u>Red-necked Stint</u>	Fishermans Island (1765) and (2582)
<u>Curlew Sandpiper</u>	Fishermans Island (1601)

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy festive season and good health and many birds in 2011.

Editor's Note:

Many thanks to Dawn for all her help with the QWSG it has been greatly appreciated by the membership. All the best in your future projects.

Wader ID Days

Wader Id days have been very difficult to organise for the next three months, very high tides and wrong tide times have conspired against us.

However, we will be hoping to arrange something in February. This means that we will be using the website to notify you if a time slot is found.

This is a good opportunity for you to visit the site now and latter to find you way around and to

Collective Nouns for Waders

Curlews, a curfew of,	Curlews, a flock of
Curlews, a game of	Curlews, a head of
Curlews, a herd of	Curlews, a salon of
Curlews, a skein of	Dotterel, a trip of l
Dunlin , a fling of	Godwits, an omniscience of
Godwits, a pantheon of	Godwits, a prayer of
Knots, a cluster of	Knots, a fling of
Knots, a tangle of	Lapwings, a desert of
Lapwings, a deceit of	Oystercatchers, a parcel of
Oystercatchers, a Rockefeller of	Oystercatchers, a stew of
Phalaropes, a swirl of	Phalaropes, a twirl of
Phalaropes, a whirl of	Phalaropes, a whirligig of
Phalaropes (Red), a cell of	Plovers, a band of
Plovers, a brace of	Plovers, a concentration of
Plovers, a congregation of	Plovers, a deceit of
Plovers, a flight of	Plovers, a flock of
Plovers, an invisibleness of	Plovers, a leash of
Plovers, a ponderance of	Plovers, a stand of
Plovers, a wing of	Plovers (Grey), a trip of
Plovers (Mountain), a range of	Plovers (Snowy), a flurry of
Ruffs, a collar of	Ruff, a hill of
Sandpipers, a bind of	Sandpipers, a cluster of
Sandpipers, a contradiction of	Sandpipers, a fling of
Sandpipers, a hill of	Sandpipers, a time-step of
Snipe, a couple of	Snipe, a leash of
Snipe, a walk of	Snipe, a whisp of
Snipe, a whisper of	Snipe, a winnowing of
Snipe, a wisp of	Snipe, a volley
Stints, a spell of	Tattlers, a whisper of
Woodcocks, a cord of	Woodcocks, a covert of
Woodcocks, a covey of	Woodcocks, a fall of
Woodcocks, a flight of	Woodcocks, a flock of
Woodcocks, a plump of	Woodcocks, a rush of
Yellowlegs, an incontinence of	

What about a blessing of Unicorns!!

Some of these might not be approved but good fun to read about them.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

Don Arnold
George & Teresa Baker
Hazel Watson

A reminder to members to please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address.
Many thanks too to those who have included a donation with their renewal or membership fee. This is greatly appreciated as such donations make on-going work possible.

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

CHAIRPERSON: Andrew Geering (07) 3376 1241
TREASURER: Sheryl Keates email tattlers@tpg.com.au
SECRETARY: Peter Rothlisberg (07) 3822 3759
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: David Edwards (07) 3262 2017 or email gouldian@ozemail.com.au
COUNT COORDINATOR: To be announced after AGM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Vicki Campbell	(07) 3378 2964	Jon Coleman	(07) 3299 2780
Maureen Cooper	(07) 4959-3770	Joyce Harding	(07) 3488 0212
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Ivell Whyte	(07) 3802 0757		

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
28 Peppertree Street,
SINNAMON PARK
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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription rates:
Single: \$15:00
Student/Pensioner: \$10:00
Family \$25:00

Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward application to:
Sheryl Keates
QWSG Treasurer
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 **February 18th 2011**

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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admin@jrdsons.com.au

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
CD	\$20.00	Bird Calls of the Broome Region (includes 42 Wader Species)
METAL BADGES	\$5.00	Metal QWSG logo badges.
CLOTH BADGES	\$8.00	QWSG logo on rectangular bottle-green or sand background
POLO SHIRTS	\$35.00.	

Our cotton polo shirts are now available.

The locally made shirts are plain bottle or sky with contrast collar in sand, or tri-coloured sand/cocoa/sky and sand/cocoa/bottle.

Men's sizes: SM - XL

Women's : XS - M

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Birds Queensland Inc. whose object is:
“To promote the scientific study and conservation of birds by all means possible, with particular reference to the birds of Queensland”.

Separate membership is required. Contacts: President, Mike West (07) 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.

Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting will be held at the port of Brisbane Visitors' Centre at noon on Sunday 7th of December before the Port of Brisbane Court (12:00). We are always keen to have new members on the committee who bring enthusiasm and new ideas to the committee. It can seem daunting but you will be welcome to sit and observe at first. A great way to become more involved with Waders.

If you want further details please contact Andrew Geering (07) 3376 1241

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee:

Position:

Name of Proposer:

Name of Seconder:

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

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

Signature of Nominee:

Date:

Count Activities - 2010 - 2011

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Programme – 2010 - 11

Sat 18 th Dec	2.17m at 07:19	
Sat 8 th Jan	2.29m at 11:52	Sat 16 th Jul 1.82m at 10:07 National Winter Count
Sat 5 th Feb	2.32m at 10:52 National Summer Count	Sat 6 th Aug 2.06m at 14:51
Sat 5 th Mar	2.27m at 09:52	Sat 3 rd Sep 2.18m at 13:27
Sat 2 nd Apr	2.15m at 08:47	Sat 15 th Oct 2.20m at 11:07
Sat 14 th May	2.18m at 06:18	Sat 12 th Nov 2.32m at 10:54
No Count in June		Sat 10 th Dec 2.36m at 09:19

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2010 - 11

Sun 19 th Dec	2.29m at 08:03	Meet 06:15	
Sun 9 th Jan	2.20m at 12:24	Meet 10:35	Sun 17 th Jul 1.84m at 10:46 Meet 08:55
Sun 6 th Feb	2.26m at 11:20	Meet 09:30	Sun 7 th Aug 2.07m at 16:04 Meet 14:15 (2.15 pm)
Sun 6 th Mar	2.22m at 10:21	Meet 08:30	Sun 4 th Sep 2.11m at 14:29 Meet 12:40
Sun 3 rd Apr	2.12m at 09:18	Meet 07:30	Sun 16 th Oct 2.16m at 11:43 Meet 09:50
Sun 15 th May	2.14m at 07:14	Meet 05:45	Sun 13 th Nov 2.31m at 10:48 Meet 09:00
Sun 5 th Jun	1.78m at 11:38	Meet 09:50	Sun 11 th Dec 2.39m at 09:55 Meet 08:05

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.....)

Would you like to receive your newsletter by E-mail.....

SIGNATURE: DATE:.....

Post to: QWSG Treasurer, 30/43 McLachlan St, DARWIN NT 0800

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group

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