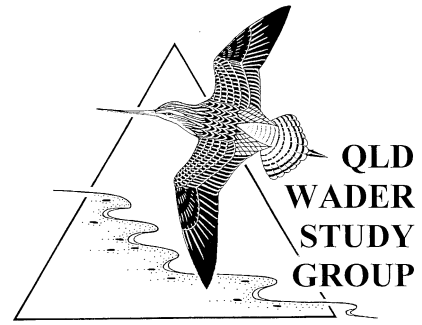


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 27

AUTUMN 1999

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

Why Waders? – A personal perspective

by Arthur Keates

Many birdwatchers have a special interest in the avian world. Some birdwatchers have a particular interest in raptors while others specialise in seabirds or nightbirds. I have a passion for waders. But why waders?

I had my introduction to waders at the Esplanade in Cairns in January 1993 on my way to bird week at Pajinka Wilderness Lodge, Cape York. I have to admit, I was totally confused at first as I watched, with the aid of binoculars only, several species running around the mudflats feeding. They all looked very much the same. Here was a challenge, identify the different species. I learned a lot about waders on that trip, thanks to the help of more experienced birders.

I very soon realised that a telescope is an essential tool to a wader watcher and on returning home buying a telescope was a priority. My very first outing with telescope in hand was at Nudgee Beach as part of a wader course run by the Queensland Wader Study Group. I can remember being puzzled as I tried to tell the difference between Great Knots and Red Knots in non-breeding plumage. Even now, I sometimes find it difficult to pick a Greater Sand Plover from a Lesser Sand Plover when they are in non-breeding plumage. But identifying waders is one of the great attractions of wader watching. One thing is for sure, a wader watcher cannot take anything for granted when observing a mixed species flock of waders. To do so may result in overlooking the vagrant among the flock.

So my affinity with waders had begun with the challenge of identification. But what is it that makes them so special? To me, the things that set them apart from the rest of the bird world are the migratory lives most of them lead and their diversity.

Undoubtedly, the most outstanding thing about waders is the phenomenal migratory journeys many undertake between their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere and the southern limits of Australasia, Africa and South America, a round trip of about 25,000 km. It never ceases to amaze me that small species like Curlew Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint make this trip each year, returning to the same stretch of beach. Just imagine though, what does a Red-necked Stint think when, having survived the perils of such a long journey, it returns to find its summer home has been 'developed'?

In April 1998 at Roebuck Bay, Western Australia, I realised a long held desire to see a flock of waders leave Australia on their migratory journey, their first port of call being China, a distance of about 4,500 km. I watched in awe as flocks of birds lifted, circled above us calling to each other, gained altitude, formed a 'V', checked their course and headed off. As they disappeared into the distance, I wondered 'how many will make it?', 'what will happen to them when they get there?', 'having made it that far, how many will be taken by a raptor or even worse end up as someone's meal?', 'how many will go on to make it to the breeding grounds?', 'will they breed successfully?' and 'will they have the strength and good fortune to safely make the return journey?'. It is an emotional experience.

(Continued on Page 3)

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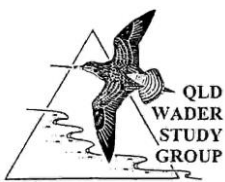
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How did you hear about QWSG

What activities do you wish to participate in? WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL, OTHER (specify.....)

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(continued from Page 1)

Apart from their migratory feats, the diversity in the size, shape and colour of waders as well as diversity in their habitats and feeding habits puts them in a class of their own.

Of the 214 or so species of waders in the world, about 70 have been recorded in Australia. They are found in a diversity of wetlands, both inland, comprising lakes and swamps, and coastal comprising, rocky shores, beaches and tidal flats. It is a different story, however, on the breeding grounds in Siberia, Mongolia and north China where their habitat ranges from the treeless plains of the tundra, to mountains, to forests and even to deserts. There they spread out over a huge expanse in contrast to their time in Australia when they congregate in flocks, living together for months.

With a change in habitat, wader diets change too. When migrating and in Australia, most species prefer marine life, including, marine worms and small crustacea. In contrast, on arrival on the breeding grounds, many species eat fruits of plants and berries. However, they turn to their main prey, insects, as the peak of chick hatching is timed to coincide with great insect abundance.

There are differences in when, where and how waders feed. Of course, the availability of food is dependent on the size of the bird, its bill length and shape as well as leg length. While some feed generally at night, the majority of them, the plovers and sandpipers are neither diurnal nor nocturnal. In contrast with most bird species, their lives are governed by the tide and not the sun. As the tide ebbs, they leave their high tide roost sites to feed on the intertidal mudflats, day or night. There they spread out depending on how they feed.

It is engrossing watching them employ their different feeding methods, the smaller waders scurrying about seemingly with much more urgency and energy than the more efficient feeding larger birds. At one end of the scale, the resident Red-capped Plover feeds in the stop-run-look-peck manner typical of the plovers. At the other end of the scale, members of the sandpiper family, like the much larger Eastern Curlew or Bar-tailed Godwit, vigorously probe their sensitive bills into soft mud or sand feeling for food. Among the others, the Red-necked Stint constantly picks over mudflats or at a lake's edge, the Black-fronted Plover or Red-kneed Dotterel uses its foot-trembling technique, the Sanderling forages along a sandy beach at the water's edge on the wave-washed sand; the Curlew Sandpiper reminds me of an oil rig in Texas as it probes its bill below the surface of belly deep water in an almost perpetual down-up-down motion; the aptly named Ruddy Turnstone turns over stones and other beach washed debris; the Marsh Sandpiper jerkily picks food off the surface of water; the Terek Sandpiper with its distinctive feeding action combining a rapid run with frequent changes of direction and abrupt halts; the Pied or Sooty Oystercatcher prises open molluscs using its strong bill and a flock of Red-necked Avocets swish their up-curved bills from side to side while wading. It is all really quite fascinating.

Despite what may be said about waders being drab, I find them truly beautiful birds. Anyone who has had the privilege of having an Eastern Curlew or a Grey-tailed Tattler in hand will appreciate the beauty in the subtlety of its colouring. Importantly, in the generally brown or grey non-breeding or juvenile plumage they are well camouflaged when feeding on the mud flats or roosting.

While we generally see waders in non-breeding plumage, we do get to see many species in well advanced breeding plumage just before they head off on migration. In breeding plumage, many species are simply stunning, with patterns of various colour combinations. Who could deny how strikingly beautiful Grey Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Curlew Sandpiper and Red Knot are in breeding plumage? The stunning outfits they wear give them ideal camouflage in their habitat on the breeding grounds.

Leaving aside the wonders of migration and their incredible diversity, waders are so 'reliable' and so 'visible'. They can be readily seen feeding when the tide is out and then when roosting at high tide. In either case, they provide wonderful subjects for the observer, photographer or artist. I can watch them for hours as they go about their lives feeding, preening, bathing, loafing and roosting. Try doing that with those LBJs in the rainforest or those seabirds gliding just above the surface of the water from the deck of a boat or hundreds of metres off shore.

While Roebuck Bay, is the place to see waders in Australia, we in south east Queensland don't have to travel far to observe them. The Great Sandy Strait is close at hand and on our doorstep we are privileged to have the feeding grounds of Moreton Bay, home to thousands of migratory waders during our summer.

Waders are truly special birds. Wader watching is challenging, satisfying and educational. It can also be exciting, particularly when a vagrant wader turns up or when you pick out that blue leg flag, evidence of its wearer having been banded in Japan.

Apart from the joys of wader watching, through the Queensland Wader Study Group, I can do my little bit to help in their conservation and the conservation of their habitat.

by Arthur Keates

Developments concerning Thornlands High Tide Roost

The area in Thornlands (south of Cleveland, Qld) is currently rural and will be developed soon for urban purposes in the near future. The recently gazetted Development Control Plan recognises the need to protect the wader high tide roost.

The **East Thornlands DCP** states:

“Land situated between the top of the embankment to the landward (western) edge of the area included within the Special Protection Area/Open Space Preferred Dominant Land Use allocation, approximately one hundred and fifty (150) metres from the wader bird roost site, may be retained in private ownership where it can be demonstrated such will help preservation and protection of the roost.

The area of land which may be retained in private ownership may be re-configured into one (1) hectare allotments. This includes one (1) allotment for the existing dwelling house.

No new dwelling house or associated outbuilding, structures or facilities involving intensive human activity shall be located within seventy-five (75) metres of the wader bird roost site.”

Disturbance Buffer Distances recommended by Wayne Lawler in the NSW Shorebird Manual include:

High key disturbance:

- boats: high speed (over 4 knots), noisy, including their wash, particularly boats navigated close to feeding areas at speed (these tend to be professional boats)
- people: active - swimming, running, playing, horse riding, shouting, walking purposefully, bait collecting;
- helicopters, jet-skis and other fast, noisy machines.

Low key disturbance:

- boats: passing slowly (less than 4 knots), creating wash over 60mm at the shore, drifting, moored;
- people: inactive - fishing, strolling, oyster farmers working on racks;
- dogs: although a major source of disturbance because they chase birds, actual disturbance distances are in this category.

Mean disturbance distances and recommended minimum buffer distances for feeding migratory shorebirds. High and Low key disturbances are defined above.

Recommended Minimum Buffer Distance in metres

Bar-tailed Godwit:	High:	110m	
	Low:	40m	
Whimbrel	High:	160m	
	Low:	70m	
Eastern Curlew	High:	140m	
	Low:	80m	

Discussion

Wader roosting areas in Moreton Bay are at a premium and any further loss needs to be avoided. Significant disturbance can amount to loss of a site. In protecting the roost site, recognition also has to be given to protection of an area that could be used at the higher than normal tides. Waders have been known to use grassed areas above the highest astronomical tide (HAT) in some circumstances. As such it is recommended that an adequate buffer area be maintained for the wader roost.

The area currently identified on the map for the Wader Roost Buffer Area is pretty much above HAT and of a width of about 100m. The Special Protection Area/Open Space area currently shown on the map needs to be retained for the purposes of the buffer area with disturbance minimised as much as possible, whether in private or public ownership. I suggest that rather than measuring the distances from the roost site, the distances should be measured from the embankment or the 2.4 m AHD line on the map, landward of the roost site, and that this area be the 150/75 m distances as described in the DCP.

The centre of the roost area used by waders on most tides is about 75 m from the casuarinas and this is below the embankment area. If the low areas below the embankment are maintained in public ownership and the private ownership areas are managed as intended by the DCP, this would maintain a good buffer to the roost. The land kept as public ownership should be managed appropriately to minimise disturbance, access may need to be restricted to a bird hide for instance.

One way to determine exactly where the roost is in relation to the privately owned land, is to out on site with a GPS.

As the waders use a number of areas in addition to the main roost, all foreshore areas particularly at inlets need to be considered as roosts and managed accordingly with buffers and controls on disturbance.

By Sandra Harding

AUSTRALIAN WADER STUDIES GROUP CONFERENCE 12th –13th June 1999

This conference will take place at Banfields, Thompson Avenue, COWES, Philip Island, Victoria, Australia on the 12th – 13th June 1999.

Contents of the conference are:

- Lifestyle, Management and Conservation of Hooded Plovers: Susan Taylor, Mike Weston, Bernice Dowling, Peter Dann.
- Wader Population Monitoring: Richard Loyn, Tom Scotney, Peter Driscoll.
- Wader Conservation in the Next Century: Brett Lane, Tom Scotney, Doug Watkins.

Other Papers Received:

- Satellite Tracking of Eastern Curlew – Peter Driscoll,
- Mussel Beds and Pied Oystercatchers – Iain Taylor,
- Movements of Pied Oystercatchers – Pete Collins,
- Feeding Ecology of Curlew Sandpipers – Peter Dann,
- Feeding Ecology of Great Knots – Danny Rogers,
- Energetics of Great Knot – Phil Battley,
- Beach Stone Curlew – Alex Appleman,
- NW Wader Expedition 98 – Clive Minton,
- AWSG China Expeditions – Mark Barter,
- Gulf of Carpentaria – Jim Wilson.

There will be entry to the Penguin Parade on Saturday Evening as well as a Conference Dinner. It is hoped to arrange trips to Philip Island attractions and wader spots dependent upon demand.

For further information contact:

Peter Collins, AWSG Conference, PO Box 97, COWES, Philip Island, Victoria 3922

CURLEW LOW TIDE FEEDING COUNT CONSIDERATIONS

By Paul Finn, Peter Driscoll, and Carla Catterall.

The low tide feeding survey of Eastern Curlew carried out in November 1998 and January 1999 was very successful. A total of 160 sites consisting of tidal flats of varying sizes were surveyed. Observers found this experience to be an enjoyable opportunity to see a range of birds engaged in feeding activities. The area of Moreton Bay covered was significant, spanning from the north, the top end of Pumistone Passage, to the south, the northern tip of Never Fail Islands. The total number of curlew counted across all sites is displayed in the table below.

The results from this survey provide the most comprehensive count of Eastern Curlew on their feeding grounds ever completed. There were over 2000 curlew on each of the four days. This is equivalent to one tenth of the world population, as estimated at 21000 by Watkins in 1993, and more than one third of the total population of South East Queensland, as estimated at approximately 5000 curlew by Driscoll in 1997.

The total number of Eastern Curlew counted across 160 sites (tidal flats) within Moreton Bay.

	28 th Nov	29 th Nov	30 th Jan	31 st Jan
Total number of Eastern Curlew	2388	2357	2216	2067
	November Average = 2372		January Average = 2141	

Large numbers of curlew were counted in certain areas including: Pumistone Passage; Deception Bay; Hays Inlet; Fisherman and Whyte Islands; Lota; North Stradbroke and Moreton Islands; and immediately south of Jumpinpin Bar. We also identified areas where there were low numbers of curlew and places where they did not occur at all. The next step is to obtain information on the size of each flat surveyed and convert the total numbers counted to density measures for each flat. Then we may be able to identify the preferred and non-preferred feeding habitat of Eastern Curlew and subsequently discover what characteristics are associated with the preferred habitat. This is an important factor for the future management of curlew and will help ensure that they and many other shorebirds that utilise the same habitat do not decline in numbers.

The relative numbers of curlew across different flats correspond closely. Statistically this means that there is a high correlation coefficient (approximately 0.9) across sites between the counts on day 1 and day 2 in both November and January, and between the average number of curlew counted in November and January. This constancy of curlew numbers across sites may occur because they are being faithful to particular sites. Future radio tracking of individual curlew will help prove or disprove this suggestion. The constancy of curlew numbers across sites also suggests that short surveys can give fairly reliable results.

The 51 volunteers, whose enthusiastic counting made this survey possible, are listed here in alphabetical order:

Greg Anderson, Fred Armbrust, Simon Baltais, Phil Battley, Alex Bisgrove, Mike & Erna Brazier, Carla Catterall, Adrian Caneris, Ben Cook, Gary & David Cox, Olwyn Crimp, Phil & Linda Cross, Peter & Jene Crow, Ian Curtis, Jill Dening, Peter Driscoll, Andy Eacott, David Edwards, Paul Finn, James Hall, Roy & Pam Hallett, Joyce & Sandra Harding, John Harris, Dave Havill, Tony & Judy Iveson, Gayle Johnson, Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Russell Mackenzie, Peter & Barbara Main, Rob Mancini, David Milton, Dawn Muir, Peter Nichols, Greg Nye, Jo Oirbans, Peter & Lynne Reilly, Ian & Gerardine Schofield, Rob Stogdale, Chris Wiley, and Brad White.

The next stage is to compare the summer counts to similar counts made in winter, thus surveying the non-breeding population. Planned dates these winter counts are shown in the table below. We hope that those who helped during the summer counts will be able to participate again. Paul will be in touch with all the volunteers listed above closer to the count dates to check on your availability. However, a list of new volunteers is also needed to fill any gaps.

If you can participate in this project please phone me on:

(07) xxxx xxxx (Uni)
 or (07) xxxx xxxx(hm)
 or Email me at P.Finn@xxxqu.edu.au

Planned dates for the winter survey effort			
Survey No.	Date	Time at Low Tide	Survey Period
1	Sat. 26 th June	13:46hrs	11:46 to 15:46 hrs
1	Sun. 27 th June	14:24hrs	12:24 to 16:24 hrs
2	Sat. 24 th July	12:27hrs	10:27 to 14:27 hrs
2	Sun. 25 th July	13:14hrs	11:14 to 15:14 hrs

References:

Driscoll, P. (1997) *The Distribution of Waders Along the Queensland Coastline*. In, Shorebird Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region (eds. P. Straw), Australasian Wader Studies Group of Birds Australia: Victoria.

Watkins, D. (1993) *A National Plan for Shorebird Conservation in Australia*. RAOU Report No. 90. (Australasian Wader Studies Group, Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, and World Wide Fund for Nature: Melbourne.)

Paul Finn, Peter Driscoll, and Carla Catterall.

SUCCESS AT FUJIMAE TIDAL FLATS
A letter from Atsuo Tsuji, Save Fujimae Association

To Our Overseas Supporters:

I want to thank you for your support in protecting the Fujimae Tidal Flat over the years. At long last I can happily say that the Fujimae Tidal Flat will be preserved.

The Environment Agency and the Ministry of Transportation took the opportunity at last December's International Wetlands Symposium to express their strong opposition, and this led Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya City to state their intention to abandon the garbage landfill project at Fujimae Tidal Flat. Yesterday (February 8th) Takehisa Matsubara, Mayor of Nagoya, at an extraordinary meeting of the city council (to debate the proposal to hold a referendum on the Fujimae Tidal Flat garbage landfill project) officially declared:

1. The city is abandoning the tidal flat landfill project and withdrawing its application for the landfill.
2. To preserve the tidal flat, the city will ask for this site to be designated a Ramsar Treaty national wildlife preserve.
3. The city will declare a garbage emergency and will work towards becoming a city promoting garbage reduction.

We welcome this decision, and as an individual citizen of Nagoya I want cooperation in order to achieve this goal as quickly as possible.

The preservation of Fujimae Tidal Flat is not only a great piece of news to the endangered natural environment of Japan but also an epoch-making event in the history of the public works-environmental assessment process up to now. It can be viewed as a turning point, when we begin to progress towards a sustainable recycling society that will be needed in the 21st century.

I deeply thank you for the great support you have given us, and I hope that you will continue to support other Japanese wetlands such as Isahaya Bay, Sanbanze, Wajiro and Yoshinogawa, and help us to link this to the preservation of tidal flats in Korea and China.

From all over the country friends who have heard the news are sending jubilant messages. They are strengthened by the Fujimae case and feel that this is the beginning of a new era. I hope to be able to inform you of more actual progress at the Ramsar Treaty Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica in May.

Finally I want to express my thanks to the birds and sea creatures of the tidal flat and to the many happy messages from the children.

Signed, Atsuo Tsuji, Save Fujimae Association.

For those who have been following the history of this site this is great news, and we commend all those in Japan for their hard work and also thank all those who spread the word world wide of their struggle.

Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Shorebirds in Asia Pacific: 1998-2000

A component of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 1996 - 2000

1. Background

At an international meeting at Kushiro, Japan in December 1994 it was agreed that there was an urgent need for multilateral cooperation for the conservation of migratory waterbirds in Asia-Pacific. The meeting recognised that there was not a suitable international legal framework to develop conservation plans and called on Governments and non-government organisations to work in partnership to develop a regional conservation strategy. In response an *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy* (the *Strategy*), for the period 1996-2000 was drafted. The *Strategy* was refined at international meetings in Japan and Malaysia and then launched during the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) in March 1996 in Brisbane, Australia.

Implementation of the *Strategy* is being coordinated by Wetlands International with core funding from Environment Australia and the Environment Agency of Japan.

This *Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Shorebirds in Asia Pacific: 1998-2000* has been prepared by Wetlands International to provide guidance on the priority actions that need to be undertaken by Government agencies, site managers, researchers and non-government organisations.

2. Rationale

Conservation through Networks of Important Sites

In Asia Pacific there are over 130 populations of migratory shorebirds with a combined minimum population of over 9 million. This includes 10 species that are considered to be threatened. The migratory behaviour of these shorebirds means that each year they move through several countries. Consequently their conservation is dependent on international cooperation.

The *Strategy* recognises three major flyways in Asia Pacific. It identifies the development of networks of internationally important sites as a primary implementation mechanism for conservation actions.

The development of Shorebird Reserve Networks will provide:

- international recognition for important sites
- a focus for public awareness and education activities
- an international framework for public awareness and education, training and research activities
- an integrated conservation model for Governments and funding bodies.

In March 1996, during the Brisbane Ramsar Conference, the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network was launched and also promoted to Parties and non-Parties through Recommendation 6.4 (Annex 1). This Network now includes 21 sites from 9 countries. The Network is being coordinated by a Shorebird Flyway Officer, engaged by Wetlands International with funding from Environment Australia, based in Canberra, Australia. Two international consultative committees (Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee and the Shorebird Working Group) have been established to oversee the implementation of these conservation initiatives for migratory waterbirds.

Focus on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

This Action Plan focuses attention on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. In this Flyway there is considerable documentation of the threats to shorebirds and their habitats, a significant knowledge base on shorebird populations and important sites and a number of organisational structures to implement actions.

Information is more limited in the Central Asian Flyway and organisational structures are less developed. It is anticipated that these two issues will be addressed as part of the implementation of the *Strategy* by Wetlands International - Asia Pacific and that this will provide the basis for the future development of a shorebird site network in this Flyway.

In the West Pacific Flyway shorebirds are widely distributed in low abundance. It is considered that shorebird conservation will be best addressed in this Flyway through more general wetland conservation initiatives. During the term of this Action Plan such initiatives will be progressed by Wetlands International - Oceania through its various actions in the Pacific Islands region.

Time Frame: This Action Plan covers the period January 1998 - December 2000.

Mission Statement

To achieve the long term conservation of migratory shorebirds and their habitats in Asia Pacific through the establishment of networks of appropriately managed sites that are of international importance for migratory shorebirds.

3. Priority Actions

Development of the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network

It is estimated that the East Asian-Australasian Flyway has more than 250 sites of international importance for migratory shorebirds. At the beginning of 1998 the Network included only 8% of these sites.

It is planned to develop the Network to include at least 20% of the sites of international importance to migratory shorebirds. This gives a target of 50 sites in total for the Network by the year 2000. The geographic coverage of the Network will also be broadened to include all countries in the Flyway

- Action 1 Obtain the nomination of the 4 foreshadowed Network sites (Chongming Dao, China; Kaoh Kapik, Cambodia; Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck Bay, Australia).
[Shorebird Flyway Officer, Site Management Bodies, Governments, Shorebird Working Group]*
- Action 2 Publish a map of sites of international importance for migratory shorebirds.
[Shorebird Flyway Officer, Governments, Non-government organisations]
- Action 3 Obtain the nomination of 25 new sites for the Network, to reach the target of 50 sites.
[Shorebird Flyway Officer, Site Management Bodies, Governments, Shorebird Working Group]
- Action 4 Obtain the nomination of at least one site from all countries with sites of international importance in the Network. Priority countries will include Vietnam, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore, United States of America (Alaska), Thailand, Myanmar and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.
[Shorebird Flyway Officer, Governments, Non-government organisations]
- Action 5 Conduct dedication ceremonies at 35 Network sites that involve the site management agency, and Government and local community representatives.
[Site Management Bodies, Shorebird Flyway Officer, Non-government organisations]
- Action 6 Ensure adequate planning and fund raising for the development of the Network. Conduct annual reviews of the implementation of the Action Plan and prepare an annual work-plan
[Wetlands International, Shorebird Working Group, Shorebird Flyway Officer, Non-government Organisations]

Appropriate management of Network sites

Supporting the implementation of appropriate management (wise use of wetland resources as defined by the Ramsar Convention) at each Network site is the highest priority of the Action Plan. This will be achieved by improving site management skills and building community awareness.

- Action 7 Provide access for site management and associated personnel to existing training initiatives in species monitoring, wetland management, management planning, education and public awareness, and project management. The target will be to involve two people per site during the term of the Action Plan (through Actions 7 and 8).
[Shorebird Flyway Officer, Site Management Bodies, Governments, Non-government organisations]
- Action 8 Assist in the development of at least one special training activity for the Network each year.
[Shorebird Flyway Officer, Site Management Bodies, Governments, Non-government organisations]
- Action 9 Promote the development of management plans for Network sites. Site management bodies will be provided with information on management planning and potential links with existing wetland planning initiatives (eg. Ramsar). The Flyway Officer will be available to respond to enquires from site management bodies regarding shorebirds and habitat management issues.

[Shorebird Flyway Officer, Site Management Bodies]

- Action 10 Develop at least one educational and public awareness product each year to cover issues such as shorebird migration, habitat conservation and the Network.
[Shorebird Flyway Officer, Governments, Non-government Organisations]
- Action 11 Enhance the exchange of information on shorebird conservation and habitat management between site managers, researchers and non-government organisations. This will include the use of existing publications (eg. *The Stilt* and *Tattler*), wetland newsletters, e-mail and Web sites.
[Non-government Organisations, Site Management Bodies, Shorebird Flyway Officer]

Increasing the information base on migratory shorebirds

Ongoing survey, monitoring and research work on shorebirds and their habitats is needed to ensure that the Network is achieving the conservation of migratory shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

- Action 12 Develop statistically robust methodologies to monitor shorebird populations and design implementation projects in priority countries (Australia, New Zealand and Japan).
[Non-government Organisations, Site Management Bodies, Governments, Shorebird Flyway Officer]
- Action 13 Develop and implement projects to identify internationally important sites for shorebirds in countries where knowledge is incomplete, notably the Peoples Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Vietnam, The Philippines and Papua New Guinea.
[Non-government Organisations, Governments, Shorebird Flyway Officer]
- Action 14 Support existing and initiate new projects on shorebird migration with a special focus on the use of colour leg flags. Seek to maximise community involvement in these projects, particularly in reporting sightings of colour flagged birds.
[Non-government Organisations, Governments, Shorebird Flyway Officer]
- Action 15 Compile and publish an overview of the status of shorebirds and internationally important sites in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Assess the adequacy of the Network to conserve species.
[Non-government Organisations, Shorebird Flyway Officer]

4. Implementation

The Action Plan has been developed to make the maximum use of existing organisational structures and activities. Successful implementation requires cooperative action between Government agencies, site management bodies and non-government organisations.

Key Personnel and Agencies

Shorebird Flyway Officer. Implementation of the Action Plan will be coordinated by the Flyway Officer. The Officer will be responsible for the development of the Network, promoting appropriate management of Network sites and supporting shorebird research.

National Government Agencies. These agencies are responsible for the endorsement of nominations for sites to be part of the Network. It is anticipated that they will provide in-principle support and, where possible, funding for activities associated with implementation of the Action Plan.

Site Management Bodies. It is the day-to-day management of internationally important sites that determines the future of shorebird populations. Site management bodies need to have access to training opportunities, up to date knowledge and resources for appropriate site management.

Non-government Organisations. National and regional shorebird specialist groups exist in the Russian Federation, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. International organisations such as Wetlands International, BirdLife International and World Wide Fund for Nature are also involved in shorebird conservation in the Flyway. These organisations perform a vital role in such activities as monitoring, research, public awareness and the exchange of information. All of these organisations will be invited to be fully involved in implementation of the Action Plan.

Review and Consultation Mechanisms

Shorebird Working Group. A consultative committee has been formed consisting of eight members drawn from government and non-government organisations from across the Flyway. The Shorebird Working Group has agreed on the Action Plan, will monitor/review its implementation, assist to identify and secure resources,

review the annual work-plan of the Flyway Officer, provide advice and assistance to the Flyway Officer, promote the Action Plan and establish links with related activities. It will meet at least annually and report to the Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee.

Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee. This Committee has up to 12 members drawn from representatives of governments, the Ramsar Bureau, the Bonn Convention Secretariat, development assistance agencies and international non-government organisations. The Committee oversees the implementation of the *Strategy* and receives reports from working groups. The Committee reports to the Council of Wetlands International - Asia Pacific.

Linkages to Major Regional and Global Initiatives

The Action Plan is a component of the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 1996-2000*. It links to a number of other initiatives, such as the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 1997-2002 and bilateral agreements for the conservation of migratory birds.

5. Resource Implications

A preliminary costing of the implementation of the three year Action Plan indicates that the minimum funding needed is AUD\$ 870 000 (US\$ 540 000). This funding will be directed into building the Network (25%), supporting the Network (45%) and increasing information on shorebirds (30%).

NEWS FROM THE QWSG COMMITTEE

Equipment Maintenance Day and Social Get-together.

When? 5th of June at 9:00 am
 Where? Nudgee Beach Environment Centre, 1588 Nudgee Beach Road, Nudgee Beach.
 What do you need? BYO Picnic Lunch/BBQ, binoculars, insect repellent, suntan cream, enthusiasm, humour, clothes that don't matter.
 Who to Contact? Linda Cross, phone 07 xxxx xxxx for more details.

The Gulf of Carpentaria Survey.

Peter and his helpers have deployed 15 transmitters on Godwits. There has been rain but not as much as last year! There does not seem to be the same large numbers of birds in the area as last year.

Eastern Curlew Satellite Program.

As you have read elsewhere in the newsletter 13 satellite transmitters have been fitted to the Curlew. 5 have been placed on birds from Moreton Bay, 4α and 1 ♂. 8 transmitters have been placed by the VWSG, all were females, which were a very good weight. All 5 of the Moreton Bay birds have been seen since they were fitted with their backpacks.

Eastern Curlew Low Tide Survey.

As you will have seen in Paul Finn's article it has been decided to run a winter program to see if there are any differences and to give a good count of the birds in Moreton Bay.

Wader Course.

A Wader Course is on the drawing board for October or November. These are always well received and if you know of anyone who might be interested keep an eye open for dates and spread the word.

Southern Hemisphere Ornithological Congress.

This Congress will be held in Brisbane on 27th June – 2nd July 2000.

Next Committee Meeting.

Committee members please note that the next committee meeting will take place at 6:30 pm on Tuesday 18th May 1999 at 25 Crichton St, Yerongpilly.

Wanted.

Russell Watson is looking to purchase a second-hand telescope. If you have one for sale Russell can be contacted at:

Home: xxxxxxxxxxxx	Work: Great Keppel Island Resort
Yeppoon 4703	xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Phone: 07 xxxx xxxx	North Rockhampton 4701
	Phone: 07-xxxx xxxx

COUNT PROGRAMME

Linda Cross

As I sit and write this article on the first day of March I'm convinced the year will fly by again. I think it's the booked dates on the calendar which make it appear to go so fast. You no sooner get one event over with and your looking toward the next one. Perhaps the secret is not to list it on the calendar. I'm sure many of you out there are experiencing the same thing!

We have recently obtained a couple of filing cabinets for our personal use, but the top draw of one is already filled with QWSG material. By the time the next newsletter is in your hands the spread of paperwork reported in my last article hopefully will have disappeared into another draw.

A lot of count sheets for the national summer count have arrived but there are still a few to come in. If you have not done yours yet, now is the time.

There have been fourteen reported sightings of Beach Stone Curlew from Finlayson Point - A & J Ruddell, Noosa River - Ian Watson, Bakers Creek - Robert Farnes, Barron River - Grahame Finnigan, Cairns Airport - Keith Fisher, Cairns Esplanade - Grahame Finnigan, Sandy Point and Great Keppel Island - Russell Watson, between 13-8-98 and 24-1-99. Latest report from Russell Watson on Great Keppel Island is that their breeding pair laid 3 times in as many months and have finally produced one young which was still going strong and growing on 14-2-99.

There was 5 sightings of Sooty Oystercatchers from Barron River - Grahame Finnigan, Great Keppel Island - Russell Watson, Dux Creek - Frank Bigg, Tweed River Entrance - Eddie Kleiber, between 4-10-98 and 13-2-99. The 4-10-98 sighting by Grahame Finnigan at Barron River had 6 birds, which included 2 chicks.

A number of other breeding waders was a pleasure to read from the count sheets. They included 2 young Pied Oystercatchers at Barron River on 1-11-98 - Grahame Finnigan. 1 young Black-fronted Plover at Tweed Cobaki Wetlands on 22-1-99 - Ian Watson.

A Black-winged Stilt nest with 4 eggs at Luggage Point on 23-1-99 - Greg Nye. 3 fluffy Black-winged Stilt chicks at Boondall Wetlands on 13-2-99 - Jim & Ivell Whyte. John Thomson of Kinka Beach is almost certain he has Black-winged Stilts nesting too.

Although we sometimes forget that they are in the classification of waders, there was also reports of Bush Stone Curlew and Masked Lapwing young.

Early stages of breeding plumage has been noted on Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwits since late January and some seen at Toorbul during the Wader ID Day on 7th February had quite extensive breeding plumage evident.

We formally welcome Robert Farnes and Russell Watson to the count program. Both have already submitted a number of counts for their areas. Robert covers Mackay while Russell covers Great Keppel Island. We look forward to a long relationship with you both.

As there is no count in June we will hold an equipment maintenance/come social day. It is important that we keep our equipment in good order so please come along and help. We prefer the social side over the work side, so the more members that help means we finish earlier to socialise. See details under News from the QWSG Committee on page 14.

Happy counting.

Linda Cross.

Note: While out with the BOPPAS group at Caboolture River Mouth on 4-3-99 I spotted a lone Double-banded Plover close to 2 Red-capped Plovers. Has anyone else seen any? I'd like a note on their arrival dates please.

An errata from last newsletter under Other leg flag sightings and Banded Birds:

The blue flagged Grey-tailed Tattler seen by Brad White & Linda Welch at Peel Island Jetty was 21-11-98 (not 21-11-09). This would have made it a very old or very late record!!

WADER WATCH *Linda Cross, Peter Driscoll, Joyce Harding*

Leg Flag Banding Legend (colour = where banded)

- Green = Brisbane/Queensland
- Orange = Victoria
- Yellow = Northern Western Australia
- White = New Zealand (some species banded in New South Wales)
- Blue = Japan

Green leg flag sightings - Queensland

27 Eastern Curlew - Greg Nye, Sheryl Keates, Arthur Keates and David Edwards at Lota, Mirrapool Moreton Island and Manly Boat Harbour, between 6-1-99 and 6-3-99. 1 bird from Mirrapool and 5 from Manly Boat Harbour also carried satellite transmitters.

50 Bar-tailed Godwit - Alex Bisgrove, Rob Stogdale, Sheryl Keates, Jim & Ivell Whyte, Martin Waugh, Phil Cross, Wader ID, Arthur Keates, David Connolly, Linda Cross, David Edwards, Bob James and Gary Fisher at Clontarf, Cribb Island, Cabbage Tree Creek, Amity Point, Manly Boat Harbour, Godwin Beach, Toorbul, Luggage Point, Caboolture River Mouth and Osprey House Pine River between 21-11-98 and 8-3-99.

11 Great Knot - Sheryl Keates, Wader ID, Arthur Keates, and Bob James at Cribb Island, Toorbul, Luggage Point and Manly Boat Harbour between 30-1-99 and 7-3-99.

1 Grey-tailed Tattler - Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 16-2-99.

5 Ruddy Turnstone - Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates and David Edwards at Manly Boat Harbour between 6-1-99 and 6-3-99.

1 Greater Sand Plover - Greg Nye at Lota on 30-1-99.

1 Curlew Sandpiper - Arthur Keates at Luggage Point on 30-1-99.

Other leg flag sightings and Banded Birds

Curlew Sandpiper - 1 with orange flag seen by Arthur Keates and David Connolly at Luggage Point on 31-1-99.

Red-necked Stint - 1 with blue flag seen by Rob Mancini at Manly on 28-1-99, 1 with blue flag seen by Arthur & Sheryl Keates at Manly Boat Harbour on 13-2-99, 1 with orange leg flag and one with metal band seen by Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates and David Connolly at Manly Boat Harbour on 27-2-99.

Grey-tailed Tattler - 1 with blue flag and metal band seen during Wader ID at Toorbul on 7-2-99 and 1 with blue flag and metal band seen by Arthur Keates during Wader ID at Toorbul on 7-3-99.

Great Knot - 1 with metal band seen by Bob James during Wader ID at Toorbul on 7-3-99.

Pied Oystercatcher - 2 with metal band seen by Arthur Keates, David Edwards and David Connolly at Manly Boat Harbour on 6-1-99 and 27-2-99.

Crested Tern - 6 with metal bands seen by Michele Burford and Peter Rothlisberg at St Helena Island Pier on 13-2-99.

Interesting sightings

3 Broad-billed Sandpiper - Grahame Finnigan at Barron River on 4-10-98 and again 1-11-98.

635 Curlew Sandpiper - Greg Nye at Luggage Point on 21-11-98.

18 Sanderling - Russell Watson at Sandy Point Rockhampton on 21-11-98.

120 Lesser Golden Plover - Cliff & Peg Whiteoak, Jan Bedwell, Shirley Rooke, G & B Shelton at Maroochy River North Shore on 12-2-99.

450+ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper - David Edwards at Pine Rivers North Shore on 13-2-99.

20 Sanderling - John Cummings & Kelvin Nielsen at Tin Can Bay on 21-2-99. John & Kelvin also report at Tin Can Bay on the same day a white Sand Plover. The bird was with Lesser Sand Plovers, same shape but slightly larger. Black bill, black eyes, totally white except for 2 black dots on wing and black border on tail.

1 Double Banded Plover - Linda Cross and BOPPAS at Caboolture River Mouth on 4-3-99.

Not waders, but of interest anyway:

2 Striated Heron - (with 3 chicks) Russell Watson at Great Keppel Island on 20-11-98, and 3 Adults with 3 chicks on 24-1-99.

1 Pied Heron - Keith Fisher at Cairns Airport on 6-12-98.

c1100 Chestnut Teal - Greg Nye at Luggage Point on 23-1-99.

1 Lewins Rail - Michele Burford and Peter Rothlisberg at St Helena Island on 13-2-99.

1 Blue-billed Duck (Male) - Nicci Thompson at Lake Broadwater on 13-2-99.

c100 Hoary-headed Grebe - (1 with very small chick) Nicci Thompson at Keongs Dam on 17-2-99. Good numbers of other water birds recorded on both sites from Nicci.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

WADER ID DAY - TOORBUL 7 FEBRUARY 1999

Despite the overcast showery conditions a record 57 people (counting Phil & myself) attending this wader identification day. QOSI and QWSG members were joined by Noosa Parks Bird Observers Group and 4 very keen members from the Toowoomba Bird Club.

A brief shower was experienced while we set up a tarpaulin for what looked like a showery day. Fortunately luck was with us and apart from moderate SE winds the rest of the afternoon was dry.

The number of people attending made things just a little bit difficult to ensure everyone was given enough opportunity to view and receive diagnostic features on the waders present, for which we apologise. (YOU CAN REMEDY THIS BY JOINING ANY NUMBER OF OUR COUNTERS ON COUNT DAY AT THEIR WADER ROOST SITES)

Some Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit had breeding plumage evident, some extensive. Green leg flags were sighted on 2 Bar-tailed Godwits and two Great Knots. A blue leg flag was sighted on a Grey-tailed Tattler.

QOSI members Lindsay and Andrew, who stayed with Phil and I until dusk, had one to one tuition for the waders and then joined us checking out the birds at Bishops Marsh. A Hobby was hunting dragonflies over the water and returned to the power lines above us to eat its catch. Andrew was pleased that he stayed until the end as he ticked 4 new life bird.

Thank you to Arthur Keates for supplying numbers for most species at Toorbul.

Toorbul birds:- Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Great Egret, 1 Striated Heron, Australian White Ibis, 1 Osprey, 2 Whistling and 1 Brahminy Kite, 1 White-bellied Sea-Eagle, c1000 Bar-tailed Godwit, 200 Whimbrel, 1 Eastern Curlew, 30 Common Greenshank, 30 Terek Sandpiper, 120 Grey-tailed Tattler, 5 Ruddy Turnstone, 50 Great Knot, 2 Red-necked Stint, 30 Curlew Sandpiper, 4 Pied Oystercatcher, 1 Grey Plover, 20 Lesser and 8 Greater Sand Plover, 2 Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, 2 Caspian Tern and 4 Little Tern.

Bishops Marsh birds:- 1 Plumed Whistling Duck, 11 Pacific Black Duck, 2 Australasian Shoveler (M+F), 2 Little Pied Cormorant, 1 White-faced Heron, 2 Intermediate Egret, 4 Straw-necked Ibis, 1 Black-necked Stork (M), 1 Australian Hobby, 2 Brolga (seen earlier in the day), 1 Marsh Sandpiper, 1 Black-winged Stilt (Juv) and 5 Masked Lapwing.

Linda & Phil Cross

WADER ID DAY - TOORBUL 7 MARCH 1999

Fine sunny weather with a light sea-breeze made ideal conditions for the day's wader watching.

Among the 35 people who attended the outing were members and visitors from Nambour, Tamborine Mountain and Toowoomba.

A good variety of waders were present with a number of species in various stages of breeding plumage.

Birds seen:- 2 Black Swan, 2 Australian Wood Duck, 1 Little Pied Cormorant, 12 Australian Pelican, 1 White-faced Heron, 2 Little Egret, 1 Great Egret, 1 Intermediate Egret, 1 Striated Heron, 12 Australian White Ibis, 13 Straw-necked Ibis, 1 Whistling Kite, 1 White-bellied Sea-Eagle, c600 Bar-tailed Godwit, 100 Whimbrel, 6 Eastern Curlew, 12 Common Greenshank, 11 Terek Sandpiper, c350 Grey-tailed Tattler, 11 Ruddy Turnstone, 50 Great Knot, 4 Red-necked Stint, 25 Curlew Sandpiper, 4 Pied Oystercatcher, 27 Black-winged Stilt, 1 Grey Plover, 60 Lesser and 20 Greater Sand Plover, 1 Masked Lapwing, 14 Silver Gull, 2 Caspian Tern, 1 Crested Tern and 120 Little Tern.

There was no waders present at Bishops Marsh.

Linda & Phil Cross.

Curlew Catching for the Radio Tracking Program

A lot was riding on catching enough Eastern Curlew to fit 13 of this seasons migrants with satellite transmitters. The first week of February was set aside for curlew catching. The team involved consisted of Sheryl Keates, Arthur Keates, Phil Battley, Barry Ingham, Edward Kleiber, Les Thyer, Scott Butcher, Ben Brett, Rose Hindmarsh, Rob Mancini, Peter Driscoll and myself. In the week leading up to the 1st of February a lot of preparation work was carried out at the Manly roost site. Several dummy nets were set up to get the birds accustomed to roosting around them. The trenches that housed the nets were contoured to resemble a natural shoreline. As we have come to expect, the first day was unsuccessful and the nets were not fired. The weather was against us producing a king tide and associated high winds resulting in the Manly roost site being inundated by water. One net was completely drowned. The Curlew, keeping clear of the wind, chose a very sheltered area to roost that was not in the catching area.

After noting the weather conditions and where the Curlew were situated, three of the four nets were altered to fire in the opposite direction. This meant that the nets were aimed to fire over the most northerly rock wall and into the water adjacent to the channel leading into the Manly boat harbour. If the nets were to be fired in this direction, retrieving birds from the water was a concerning priority. On the second day (Tuesday, 2nd Feb.), despite having a baker's dozen in the catching area, the middle net tangled and let several Curlew escape. Only six Curlew were captured, as well as about 30 Pied Oystercatchers. Five of the six Curlew were adults in good condition and were fitted with transmitters (see the table below). The heaviest bird, "Min", was a recapture and had previously nursed a dummy backpack during preliminary tests of the protocol.

A documentary team from channel seven was filming the activities for a special on Moreton Bay to be shown on "Frank Warrick's World Around Us". Keep your eyes out in June/July to see it.

The names and weights of the five Eastern Curlew fitted with satellite transmitters.

Name	Weight (g)
Min	1040
Wendy	1000
Sally	900
Sheryl	900
Alfonse	900

As there were eight transmitters remaining and the birds at the Manly roost site were too spooked to try there again, a new location had to be used. Thus, a small team (Sheryl Keates, Scott Butcher, Ben Brett, Melinda Laidlaw, Peter Driscoll and myself) left for Moreton Island on Thursday the 4th of February and began preparations. The roost site at Mirapool is so large and the conditions so unpredictable that any success there was certainly not assured. After spending Friday and Saturday attempting to twinkle Curlew into the catching area with little success we were forced to pack up and go home.

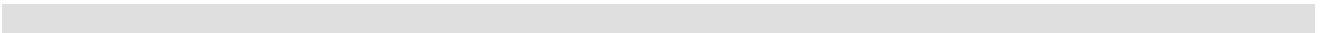
Following these efforts, Clive Minton has caught 60 Curlew in Melbourne and has fitted the final eight transmitters.

by Paul Finn

COUNT SITES

*The following article is the one of a series of descriptions of each of the sites regularly counted as part of the Count Program. **All Counters are encouraged** to share the details of their sites with other members, providing details of history of the survey, general description of the site, site access, any problems encountered regularly, completeness of the count, changes noted over time and any other relevant information.*

It would be great to get this section going again so that the other counters to hear about your site, so please put pen to paper, finger to the keyboard and send me your article. I should be able to use any photos you might have. If you have access to a computer a disc or e-mail would be appreciated.



WHAT'S IN A NAME

by Arthur Keates

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the English names of waders? While some need no explanation, others are not quite so obvious. A little delving into texts and dictionaries as well as some surfing on the Net reveals the following: (in alphabetical order) -

Curlew - HANZAB states the name is derived from its call. The curlew sandpiper is so named because it resembles a curlew in having a long decurved bill.

Greenshank - An obvious name, being derived from the colour of its legs (shanks). The colour of the legs of the much rarer (in Australia) Redshanks also gives them their name.

Godwit - While HANZAB states the origin of the name Godwit is obscure, the Webster Dictionary, 1913, suggest the name is probably derived from the Anglo Saxon 'gd' good and 'wiht' creature, thus they were valued as game birds. The Shorter Oxford Dictionary seems to confirm this stating the birds were formerly in great repute for the table.

Dowitcher - Apparently derived from the Dutch 'deutscher' or German 'duitsch' meaning snipe, because of its snipe like bill.

Knot - Both HANZAB and the Webster Dictionary, 1913, state the specific name of the Red Knot, *canutus*, is in honour of Knut or Canute, the King of England, Denmark and Norway [1016-35], who it is said waded into the water to turn back the tide. The bird often feeds along the tide line. HANZAB goes on to state that 'according to legend, the King regarded the Red Knot, fattened with milk and bread, as a delicacy'.

Oystercatcher - Hardly needs comment. As the names suggests, molluscs (although not necessarily oysters) feature largely in their diet. The powerful bill of the Oystercatcher is skilfully used to open mussels and prise molluscs off rocks.

Plover - The name comes from the Latin pluvia meaning rain or the old French plovier or the French pluvier meaning rainbird. This may be because the numerous species belonging to the family do not seek shelter when it rains.

Ruff - The name is derived from the large ruff or collar of erectile feathers (variable in colour) on the neck of the male birds.

Sandpiper - The name possibly comes from birds' feeding habit of using their bills to probe pipes or tubes in the sand.

Stilt - Obviously named because of their long legs, as if on stilts.

Stint - The opposite to stilts. Possibly from the old English stinten, Icelandic styttá or Swedish stynta, meaning to shorten, stunt or short, they being some of the smallest waders in the world.

Tattler - So named because of the birds' tattling, ie, being the first species to give a warning call.

Turnstone - Aptly named given their habit of turning over stones, shells and other beach wash in search of food.

Whimbrel - HANZAB states the English name is derived from its call, a whispering cry.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last magazine was printed:

Jan Ibbotson, Maggie Nuis, Mike West.

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.



ACTIVITIES - 1999

Wader Counts (general monitoring)

Contact: Linda Cross (07) xxxx xxxx. Completed count forms should be returned to Mrs L Cross at xxxxxxxxxxxx, Bellmere, Qld 4510.

WADER COUNTS DATES (general monitoring) FOR ALL OF 1999

Sat 20 th March	High Tide of 2.33m at 11.21am
Sat 17 th April	High Tide of 2.29m at 10.15am
Sat 15 th May	High Tide of 2.19m at 9.04am
NO COUNT IN JUNE	
Sat 31 st July	High Tide of 1.87m at 11.16am (NATIONAL WINTER COUNT)
Sat 14 th August	High Tide of 1.91m at 11.26am
Sun 12 th September	High Tide of 2.00m at 10.58am
Sun 10 th October	High Tide of 2.10m at 9.57am
Sat 13 th November	High Tide of 2.10m at 12.23pm
Sat 11 th December	High Tide of 2.27m at 11.27am

Cannon Netting

As Peter Driscoll is going to be busy surveying the Gulf of Carpentaria for waders until the end of April it is very unlikely that there will be any cannon netting trips until the waders return in the spring months. These trips are most rewarding, so if you are slightly interested keep your eyes open for dates later in the year.

Wader ID Days

There will be a break from our Wader ID days until spring because the waders will be heading north very soon and the tides are not being very cooperative, with a good high-tide height and timing not coinciding. However, keep your eyes open for dates in the coming newsletters.

Other Activities

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Queensland Ornithological Society 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: Dawn Muir, President (07) xxxx xxxx; Sheena Gillman, Secretary (07) xxxx xxxx; Treasurer, Lyal Grundy (07) xxxx xxxx

Monthly Meetings **QOSI** - 7.45pm Queensland Museum Brisbane
1st Thursday each month except January.
Entry via Dinosaur Garden in Grey Street. Doors open between 7.30 and 8.00pm.

Copy Deadline for Winter Edition

The deadline for the next issue is the 31st of May.

Contributions should be addressed to David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011 or E-mail to ybw@xxxxx.com.au Computerised contributions should be in IBM Word, ASCII or Rich Text.