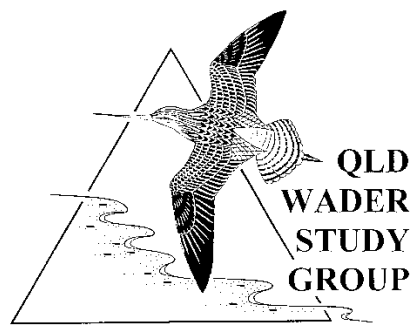


# QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 075

March, April, May 2011

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

## Chairperson's report 2010

By Andrew Geering

Time does seem to go quicker as you get older. I feel it was only yesterday that I was writing the Chairperson's report for last year (but maybe this is because that report was late!).

There were many significant milestones in 2010 and up amongst the best was the launch of the QWSG website ([www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)). This is a project that had a very long gestation but in the last 12 months there was a final push to get it finished and voila, complete! I think the site will be a very valuable resource and tool for communication and I know there are plans to enhance it even more next year with interactive tools like google map and blog sites. Having recently (last week!) subscribed to Facebook, I know that interactivity greatly increases the attractiveness of a website to all age groups. Many people have made great contributions to producing the web site including David Edwards, Heather Smith and Jon Coleman, and I thank them for their efforts. Also, Ricki Coughlan was the web designer, a job she did at a greatly discounted price, for which I thank her also. Heather has had to resign from the committee because of ill health and the web site will be a lasting legacy to her.

Another project that has really "grown legs" in the last 12 months is the tracking project, led by Jon Coleman. The original plans have changed slightly as we have chosen the cheaper option of geolocators rather than satellite transmitters to track the birds but great success has been obtained in Victoria using geolocators. The plans are to attach the geolocators to both Grey-tailed Tattlers and Curlew Sandpipers in order to precisely map their migrations. The only catch with geolocators (mind the pun) is that you have to re-catch the bird in order to download the data. For this reason, Jon has begun cannon netting to improve the chances of re-catching the tagged birds. The geo-locators have been ordered and I am anticipating they will be attached to birds before the next northward migration.

It was pleasing to see that the first "Nigel Roberts Student Bursary" was awarded to Tara Nielsen, who is studying for a PhD at the University of the Sunshine Coast. The title of her project is "Quantifying the factors that influence shorebird occurrence on sandy beaches in South-East Queensland" and her principal supervisor is Associate Professor Thomas Schlacher. The bursary consists of a \$5,000 contribution to Tara's annual operating funds, to be renewed each year subject to satisfactory progress. Thanks to Peter Rothlisberg and David Milton for their work in administering this bursary.

Another very significant milestone on the research front was the success of the ARC-Linkage project application "Understanding and reversing the rapid declines in Australia's shorebirds", led by Dr Richard Fuller of the University of Queensland and with the QWSG, the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management, the Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the Port of Brisbane Corporation as industry partners. At the moment, research contracts are being sorted out but I am anticipating that this project will commence early in 2011. The aims of this project are to identify shorebird population trends in Moreton Bay and in Australia as a whole, to develop a general theory for distinguishing local and remote causes of declines in migratory species and to discover how to optimally monitor and manage migratory shorebirds in Australia.

This project will employ a post-doctoral research scientist, a PhD student and a research assistant over a three-year period. The QWSG has contributed \$45,000 in cash and \$225,960 of in kind contributions, which includes access to our count database. Richard has already has one paper in press in the international scientific journal "Conservation Biology", which presents preliminary analyses of count data held by the QWSG. It is extremely satisfying to see our data being used in this way, as unless it is utilized, it may as well not have been collected in the first place. I am confident that many more scientific papers will arise from this project and that as a result there will be good conservation outcomes.

As in every year, education has been an important priority of the QWSG and perhaps the most significant achievement on this front has been our involvement in a Brisbane City Council-led project to develop education material on shorebirds. In this project, organized by David Fitzgibbon and Lori Daniells, a short film, display material and an Eastern Curlew costume have been made. Apart from being a financial sponsor of this project, we have also contributed expert advice and there is also a guest appearance from me in the short film. The film and display material are soon to be launched – it would have happened already if it was not for the floods. My thanks go to Ivell Whyte for her pivotal role in this project. The QWSG has also sponsored a brochure, website and a shorebird festival for the Cooloola Coast, organised by Kelvin and Amelia Nielsen.

The count programme has continued unabated in 2010 thanks to the efforts of the counters and organizers (viz. Dawn Beck, Linda Cross, Peter Rothlisberg, David Milton and Sandra Harding). Apart from the monthly count programme, we also had another expedition to Mackay and again had a consultancy with the Port of Brisbane Corporation to monitor shorebirds at their facility. Dawn Beck has passed the count coordinator mantle back to Linda Cross, and I thank Dawn for her contributions in the role over the last couple of years. Another significant loss to the group is the retirement of Maureen Cooper, who has moved to Victoria to be closer to her children and grandchildren. Maureen has been a tireless campaigner for shorebirds in Mackay and a good host to us Brisbane folk when we have visited Mackay to do surveys. I can't leave the topic of the count programme without mentioning Joyce Harding, who once again has worked quietly in the background entering all the count data into the database.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee for their efforts in 2010. Many jobs just seem to happen – of course it is not like this – and this is a tribute to people's dedication. Dave Edwards has been newsletter editor for as long as I can almost remember – how do you keep it up? Likewise, Sheryl Keates has worked quietly and very efficiently in the background doing the treasurer's job. Peter Rothlisberg helps me keep the committee meetings on track, and sometimes embarrassingly for me, never forgets an action item. Vicki Campbell, who is sadly leaving the committee, has done a great job looking after the merchandise.

I would encourage everyone to consider having a go as a member of the committee. Renewal is not only important to maintain energy levels but also helps bring new ideas into the QWSG. Happy shorebirding in 2011.

**NB. We turn 20 in February 2012. We should have a big party!**

## **Web Site Report for AGM**

The QWSG website went live late in 2010 and now has 114 pages of content on line covering what the group does, providing basic information on shorebirds and also providing information on shorebird sites around Queensland. The site was designed by Ricki Coughlin, at Freshr and many people in the group provided basic content which was then edited and loaded in the latter few months of the year. For anyone who hasn't seen the site the link is.....[www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)

Despite the contribution of content by many individuals a few deserve particular mention. David Edwards spent a considerable amount of time recreating all of the individual species accounts and loading them to the site for editing and publishing. Without this I would probably still be putting species accounts on line. May people also provided images but particular thanks go to Jill and Ian Brown for answering a call for help for images to get the site live and more recently to Jun Matsui, a QWSG member in Cairns who has provided a wealth of images of waders of different ages and plumages. These will go in the individual species accounts to create an identification gallery and you can see how this is developing if you look at the species account for Bar-tailed godwit.

The site is already developing into a valuable resource with most Google searches for species or shorebird related activities returning a hit on the first page of results displayed and our usage statistics show an average of 120 different users browsing the site every week.

The site is a continual work in progress and next stages are to improve the species accounts further with images and descriptions of ages, sexes and plumage characteristics and update the watching shorebirds section with interactive maps and blogs for each site.

The website will remain a standing item on the committees meeting agenda from now on to ensure we keep identifying new uses for the site and new content. However, please don't rely on the committee to do this all on their own. If you've any ideas, thoughts for improvement or worse find any errors then please let me know and I'll make sure the errors are sorted and also make sure any ideas that are put forward get presented to the committee for discussion.

You can e-mail Jon on [XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXX.COM](mailto:XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXX.COM).

## Banding Report for the AGM

2010 was another very mixed year for banding with wet weather disrupting a lot of planned fieldwork. Despite this a 145 shorebirds of 17 species were caught and leg flagged during the year with banding conducted at Manly, Toorbul, South Stradbroke Island and Coochiemudlo Island. 10 birds previously banded were also recaptured, including one 14 year old Lesser Sandplover originally banded at Manly and re-caught there in October 2010. Mist-nets remained the primary catching tool in 2010 but from October onwards cannon netting was attempted on three occasions with a successful catch of 100 birds at Manly on the 30<sup>th</sup> October. The totals for 2010 are shown below and the re-introduction of cannon netting to the banding work now opens access to a range of other sites in which mist-nets have proved unsuccessful in the past. This will hopefully improve the number of birds banded and expand the locations around Moreton Bay in which they are banded.

SPECIES	TOTAL BANDED
Bar-Tailed Godwit	13(1)
Black-fronted Dotterel	1
Black-winged Stilt	2
Bush Stone-curlew	17 (5)
Curlew Sandpiper	4
Double-banded Plover	1
Eastern Curlew	1
Great Knot	1
Greater Sand-plover	1
Grey Plover	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	21(2)
Lesser Sand-plover	40(1)
Pied Oystercatcher	18(1)
Red-capped Plover	1
Red-necked Stint	20
Ruddy Turnstone	1
Terek Sandpiper	2

Since 2006 QWSG have now put 767 individually engraved leg flags on shorebirds these have generated huge numbers of local sightings of individuals as well as good numbers of international re-sightings. During 2010 re-sightings of individually identifiable birds were made in a number of countries with individual Bar-tailed godwits identified in New Zealand (5 records), South Korea (2 records) and Alaska (1 record), and Grey-tailed tattlers identified in Japan (4 records).

During 2010 the re-sightings made during engraved leg flags were used to analyse return rates of shorebirds to both Moreton Bay and to individual roosting and feeding sites and this has been written up for publication and is currently under peer review. Data collected on breeding and movements of Bush Stone-curlews banded and monitored on Coochiemudlo has also been written up and will be submitted to a journal for publication shortly.

2011 is a particularly exciting year as we will also be putting geo-locators on Grey-tailed tattlers and Curlew Sandpipers to get a detailed understanding of their migration routes, stopover locations and times and breeding areas. The tattlers are being studied in partnership with the Wild Bird Society of Japan, CHIBA and Hit Akutsu who QWSG has a long relationship with, will be here in early March when we hope to deploy the locators onto the leg flags of selected individuals. The Port of Brisbane have also provided funding over a two year period to help with the costs of the technology being used.

The locators weigh only 1 gramme and will capture light data every few minutes that can be used to calculate latitude and longitude when we re-catch the birds at Manly, remove the device from the leg flag and download the data. If you have any questions on banding or the geolocator project specifically contact Jon on [XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXX.COM](mailto:XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXX.COM).

<b>Financial Report for the Queensland Wader Study Group</b> <b>Special Interest group of Birds Queensland</b>
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**QUEENSLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.****Wader Study Group****Statement of Profit and Loss****For Year Ended 30 September 2010**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Contract Income</b>		
EPA Central Mapping Project	\$-	\$9,020
EPA data/surveys	\$1,466	\$1,000
MBRC Mapping Project	\$-	\$12,000
Port of Bris Surveys	\$13,496	\$14,038
Courses	\$2,375	\$320
Donations	\$629	\$520
Education & Publicity	\$-	\$200
<b>Fundraising Income</b>		
Badges	\$-	\$24
Books/reports	\$1,150	\$815
Shirts	\$105	\$280
Other	\$30	\$60
Interest	\$5,860	\$7,513
Membership	\$2,595	\$2,115
Miscellaneous income	\$-	\$910
Postage income	\$-	\$17
Royalties on book	\$1,762	\$-
Sale of data	\$4,700	\$-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$34,168</b>	<b>\$48,832</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Bank charges	\$15	\$43
<b>Contract expenses -</b>		
EPA Central MP Mapping Project	\$-	\$8,599
EPA Data/surveys	\$6,510	\$12,309
MBRC Mapping Project	\$-	\$683
Port of Bris Surveys	\$1,160	\$3,630
Course expenses	\$919	\$-
Depreciation Expense	\$388	\$-
Donation Expense	\$-	\$11,500
Education & publicity material	\$4,085	\$878
Fundraising expenses	\$164	\$3,368
Insurance/rego	\$870	\$840
Membership refund	\$25	\$-
Miscellaneous expenses	\$8,587	\$-
Mist netting	\$324	\$932
Newsletter expenses	\$1,610	\$1,640
Stationery/post/phone/copying	\$397	\$1,064
Subscriptions	\$45	\$45
Web site expenses	\$2,611	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$27,710</b>	<b>\$45,530</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(-DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$6,458</b>	<b>\$3,302</b>

**Balance Sheet as at 30 Sept 2010**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Opening Retained Profits</b>	\$163,379	\$160,077
Net Profit/Loss attributed to the Group	\$6,458	\$3,302
	<b>\$169,837</b>	<b>\$163,379</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank	\$30,085	\$27,076
Term Deposit	\$133,767	\$128,265
<b>Inventories</b>		
Stock of Good for Resale	\$3,699	\$4,807
Plant & Equipment	\$1,143	\$1,453
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$168,694</b>	<b>\$161,601</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment - At Cost	\$47,977	\$35,176
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$(46,834.00)	\$(33,398)
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,143</b>	<b>\$1,778</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Total Liabilities	Nil	Nil
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$169,837</b>	<b>\$163,379</b>

## Port of Brisbane Count Results 2010 by Linda Cross

The QWSG has completed the eighth year of extensive counting for the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL) at the Port of Brisbane (formerly known as Fisherman Islands). All counts were conducted the day after the scheduled monthly count set for the QWSG count programme.

The same methodology for the counts has continued with numbers being listed under the appropriate habitat that the birds were observed using (dry open area, wet margin, broken ground and bund wall). The overall Port of Brisbane count in 2010 was 49,685 waders, 7,349 terns and 3,730 waterbirds and raptors which do not include the figures for the Visitors Centre Lake (31 waders and 3,038 waterbirds). Obviously, if the December count had taken place the figures would have been higher. However, these figures of course are not the number of birds using the site at any one time, but the aggregate of the monthly totals.

The following table is the total migratory and resident waders recorded at the Port of Brisbane over the last eight years. **Note: these figures do not include the Visitors Centre Lake site.** (NC – no count in May 2009 due to flooding and December 2010 due to bad weather and unstable conditions around the sites in the complex)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<b>2010</b>	7345	7099	6709	2864	1256	2145	1648	2568	5205	6942	5904	NC	49685
<b>2009</b>	10072	13243	7192	2293	NC	1200	1245	2439	4372	6478	6182	8003	62719
<b>2008</b>	5179	8935	4394	4204	2202	2793	2700	2724	5468	4069	6617	8286	57571
<b>2007</b>	8853	5264	8307	1120	1989	1543	1752	1629	3885	7609	6165	5664	53780
<b>2006</b>	12323	10573	7055	4230	2142	1969	2250	2635	5296	8051	8995	7514	73033
<b>2005</b>	4751	5609	3572	3317	2162	3034	2436	2096	3790	6173	6745	7731	51416
<b>2004</b>	11650	4528	7398	1607	2416	1617	1328	2410	2974	6026	5976	8194	56124
<b>2003</b>	7445	6922	6126	4021	2286	2107	2041	1720	4466	4118	8054	7996	57302

The following table provides the waders, terns, waterbirds and raptors numbers for the Port areas and Visitors Centre Lake each month for 2010. (NC – no count in December 2010 due to bad weather and unstable conditions around the sites in the complex)

2010 Month	Port Waders	Port Terns	Port Waterbirds/ Raptors	Lake Waders	Lake Terns	Lake Waterbirds/ Raptors	Totals
January	7345	2631	585	6	0	232	<b>10799</b>
February	7099	654	199	5	0	193	<b>8150</b>
March	6709	648	175	2	0	140	<b>7674</b>
April	2864	721	207	1	0	143	<b>3936</b>
May	1256	300	345	2	0	258	<b>2161</b>
June	2145	146	540	1	0	515	<b>3347</b>
July	1648	45	524	4	0	546	<b>2767</b>
August	2568	419	543	3	0	411	<b>3944</b>
September	5205	374	252	3	0	306	<b>6140</b>
October	6942	934	175	0	0	203	<b>8254</b>
November	5904	477	185	4	0	91	<b>6661</b>
December	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49685</b>	<b>7349</b>	<b>3730</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3038</b>	<b>63833</b>

A brief comment on individual count sites for 2010 follows:

- S3A & S3B** – Basically all that remains of these two paddocks are two drains that attract a very small number of waders. Breeding records for Chestnut Teal at these sites were recorded in February, May and June.
- PBAR** – (Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost). Wader numbers using this site continue to be low, particularly on count day. The **first record** of a Common Sandpiper for the Port was seen at this site in October. Other species of interest were two Black-fronted Dotterel in May. The site continues to be favoured by waterbird species, particularly Chestnut Teal.
- R1** – Although this site was filled in during 2007 a very small portion of this paddock still remains close to the compound, but only attracts a small number of waders to a pool that forms after rain.
- R2** – As most of this site had been filled in and the remaining area became difficult to define the boundary between this site and R3, it was decided in April to incorporate the little area left into R3 for easier counting. Prior to the incorporation there was a good record of five Broad-billed Sandpiper in January.
- R3** – The dynamics of this paddock still frustrate those who have to count it, particularly the broken ground section where numerous species of wader tuck themselves into the ground and are very difficult to see, let alone count. The large size of the site compounds the counting process too. However, the site is still one of favoured sites for species, and the following good sightings have come from here. 40 Grey Plover, 350 Pacific Golden Plover, 730 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and three Broad-billed Sandpiper in March. Two Black-tailed Godwit and one Sanderling (**only the second record**) in April. 38 Double-banded Plover in June, 235 Red Knot in September and 742 Curlew Sandpiper in November. There was also a **first record** of a Kelp Gull at this site in October.
- C1** – This nearly reclaimed paddock has only attracted a handful of waders with Red-capped Plover and Red-necked Stint being the main species.
- C2** – Although open and large, this site failed to draw any significant numbers of birds during the year and like (**C1**), the main species being Red-capped Plover and Red-necked Stint.
- C3** – The last of the central paddocks has produced a few species a couple of times during the year, but not in big numbers. Unusually two Sooty Oystercatcher were recorded on the site in February along with 504 Grey-tailed Tattlers. The only other significant totals were 768 Red-necked Stint and 579 Curlew Sandpiper in October.
- BS1** – The first of the “bay-side” paddocks continues to hold little interest for any birds, with the exception of Red-capped Plover and Chestnut Teal for breeding.
- BS2** – Migratory species were drawn to this middle “bay-side” pond during the first three months of the year and again from September onwards. In January 1,996 Red-necked Stint were counted and the number increased to 2,373 the following month. Also in February 305 Pacific Golden Plover roosted within the site. Three Broad-billed Sandpiper were spotted in March, while 241 (including 23 immature) Black-winged Stilt chose the site in April. The autumn and winter months were fairly quiet until the return of the migratory waders in September, October and November and good numbers of Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpipers were recorded. The highest totals were 1,210 Red-necked Stint in September and 836 Curlew Sandpiper in October.
- BS3** – Another site that holds no attraction to the birds, with only one significant record of 328 Grey-tailed Tattler in September.

**FPE Outer** – Although abandoned by Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone and Australian Pied Oystercatcher in 2009 there appears to have been a return to the outer rock wall by these species. While the oystercatchers and turnstones used the site all year the tattlers have only used it during the summer months. Highest totals have been 568 Grey-tailed Tattlers in November, 92 Ruddy Turnstone in July and 122 Australian Pied Oystercatcher in August. The **first record** of a Wandering Tattler was made in January and again in February, but no other sighting until one was recorded on the November count. Two Sooty Oystercatcher have also been roosting on the rock wall during the first six months of the year and an Eastern Reef Egret (grey phase) has been recorded on the site five times during the year.

**Claypan** – Numbers using this very large roost did not exceed more than a few hundred most months and the highest Eastern Curlew number was 207 in February. In July five Grey Plover were recorded and 127 Red Knot were counted in August.

**Visitor Centre Lake** – Unlike 2009 when there were drought conditions, 2010 has seen a good supply of water in the lake. With no mud edges to attract waders only two wader species were recorded. A couple of Black-winged Stilt were in the lake for the first two months of the year, and the only other wader recorded was Masked Lapwing for most of the year. There was one breeding record for Masked Lapwing with one chick in July. The site continues to support good numbers of waterbirds, with breeding records for Black Swan, Chestnut Teal, Australasian Grebe, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen and Eurasian Coot.

### Leg flag sightings:

There were 12 green leg-flagged birds seen during the counts, but because these birds have been flagged by our group in Moreton Bay, and have not travelled any significant distance, they have not been included in the leg flag sightings. Other leg-flagged birds seen throughout the Port of Brisbane area are as follows:

**January** Orange flag on Red-necked Stint (three).  
**February** Black flag over white flag on Red Knot (one). Black flag over white flag on Curlew Sandpiper (one). Blue flag on Grey-tailed Tattler (one).  
**August** Yellow flag (**C1**) on Australian Pied Oystercatcher  
**September** Orange flag on Red Knot (two).  
**October** Orange flag on Ruddy Turnstone (one). Yellow flag (**C1 and C4**) on Australian Pied Oystercatcher.  
**November** Yellow flag (**K3**) on Australian Pied Oystercatcher.

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

### Breeding records:

**Black-winged Stilt** – three chicks on S3A, two chicks on S3B and two chicks on R1 in February – one on a nest in C1 in September and two chicks on C2 in September.  
**Red-capped Plover** – nest with broken egg on R3 in January – one chick on R1 in February – two chicks on R3 in April – one chick in B1 in August – two chicks on C1 in September – half grown chick on R3 in October – nest with one egg on B1 in October and two chicks on R1 in November.  
**Masked Lapwing** – one chick on PBAR in July – two chicks on Visitor Centre Lake in July and two chicks on PBAR in August.

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

**January** 1,059 Silver Gull in R2, 1,379 Little Tern in R3 and 181 Chestnut Teal in C2.  
**February** A Peregrine Falcon was observed taking an unknown small wader from R3 during the count.  
**April** 505 Silver Gull in C1.  
**May** Three Australasian Gannet flying over the Outer FPE area and six Black Swan cygnets at the Visitors Centre Lake.  
**June** One large Australian Pelican egg was seen on the island in PBAR and also at the same site 187 Chestnut Teal and one Buff-banded Rail.  
**July** 274 Chestnut Teal and two Buff-banded Rail in PBAR.  
**August** 237 Chestnut Teal in C3 and 113 Dusky Moorhen at the Visitors Centre Lake.  
**September** 12 Chestnut Teal ducklings in B1, four Chestnut Teal Ducklings on Claypan, 18 Chestnut Teal ducklings and 125 Dusky Moorhen at the Visitors Centre Lake.  
**October** One Kelp Gull (**first record for the Port**) and 734 Little Tern in R3 and five Australasian Grebe on the Claypan.  
**November** Five Chestnut Teal ducklings in R3 and one Great Cormorant at the Visitors Centre Lake.

A table showing wader species and numbers at the Port of Brisbane during 2010 (with the exception of the Visitors Centre Lake), have been included. Many other waterbirds were also recorded using the sites; however, lack of space in the newsletter does not allow the printing of them.

	17.01.10	14.02.10	14.03.10	11.04.10	16.05.10	20.06.10	18.07.10	15.08.10	26.09.10	24.10.10	21.11.10	18.12.10
Bush Stone-curlew												NO
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	105	115	169	47	61	45	37	123	49	53	53	COUNT
Sooty Oystercatcher	2	3	2			1	2					IN
Black-winged Stilt	184	78	35	39	271	287	305	193	49	26	6	DEC
Red-necked Avocet	34	10	6				1					DUE
Pacific Golden Plover	131	548	351	20	5	27	8	11	142	136	149	TO
Grey Plover	33	45	40	5			5		15	37	35	BAD
Red-capped Plover	78	45	95	89	57	110	59	80	79	66	79	WEATHER
Double-banded Plover				14	12	38	27	35				AND
Lesser Sand Plover	378	579	643	126	2	23	19	95	171	536	416	UNSTABLE
Greater Sand Plover	24	65		63		1		10	1	57	1	CONDITIONS
Black-fronted Dotterel					2							AROUND
Black-tailed Godwit				2								THE SITES
Bar-tailed Godwit	942	320	739	230	158	728	497	493	617	842	577	IN THE
Whimbrel	3		83	91		35		3	13	38	78	COMPLEX
Eastern Curlew	151	227	58	33	84	76	42	1	153	74	102	
Terek Sandpiper	19	8	2	4	1					2	1	
Common Sandpiper										1		
Grey-tailed Tattler	312	1105	568	566		9		34	333	366	568	
Wandering Tattler	1	1									1	
Common Greenshank	10		1	4			2	7	5	11	1	
Marsh Sandpiper	2					1		1			1	
Ruddy Turnstone	166	112	67	84	48	34	92	38	28	74	99	
Great Knot	116	16	87			5		5	74	179	17	
Red Knot		3				2	3	15	363	59		
Sanderling				1								
Red-necked Stint	3640	2976	2191	883	406	622	239	1265	1780	2582	2111	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	289	363	774	431	3	4		2	210	198	126	
Curlew Sandpiper	720	474	741	126	143	95	306	153	1123	1601	1481	
Broad-billed Sandpiper	5	2	6		1							
Unidentified wader			51							2		
<b>Total Wader Species</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>Total Wader Numbers</b>	<b>7345</b>	<b>7099</b>	<b>6709</b>	<b>2864</b>	<b>1256</b>	<b>2145</b>	<b>1648</b>	<b>2568</b>	<b>5205</b>	<b>6942</b>	<b>5904</b>	



The QWSG would like to sincerely thank the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd for their ongoing support to the group and supplying their staff, vehicles and equipment during the counts. Brad Kitchen, Manager Environment, Jason Sprott, Manager Planning & Environment, Victoria O'Rourke, Environmental Planner, Melanie Dixon, Technical Officer Planning & Environment, Scott McKinnon, Environmental Coordinator, Matthew Howe, Environmental Officer and Alison Brunott, Sustainability Officer for the PBPL all share the role in looking after our welfare and needs during the counts. Both Brad Kitchen and Melanie Dixon resigned from the PBPL earlier in the year to take up new positions elsewhere and we wish them both successes in their new endeavours. Jason Sprott, Matthew Howe and Alison Brunott are new representatives that have joined Victoria O'Rourke and Scott McKinnon to keep us all under control.

We would like to sincerely thank our committed regular counters and other members and friends, whose names appear below for helping us obtain the results for the PBPL and the QWSG database in 2010. Without people like you this would not have been possible. My apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list.

Dawn Beck, Chris Bell, Alison Brunott (PBPL), Robert Bush, Vicki Campbell, Deirdrie Chrzesciajanski, Lyn Cole, Jon Coleman, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Melanie Dixon (PBPL), Andy Eacott, David Edwards, , Mat Gilfedder, Joyce Harding, Sandra Harding, Matthew Howe (PBPL), Andy Jensen, Brad Kitchen (PBPL), Scott McKinnon (PBPL), David Milton, Victoria O'Rourke (PBPL), Glen Pacey, Peter Rothlisberg, Peter Ryan, Rebecca Ryan, Chris Sanderson, Brenda Smith, Graham Smith, Heather Smith, Jim Sneddon, Floss Wainwright and Ivell Whyte.

QWSG has again been contracted to continue the counts in 2011 and although we do have a good support team there is room for more now that some of our counters are retired and are taking off on extended holidays. As the PBPL insurance only covers their employees you will need to be either a QWSG or BQ member to attend these counts so their liability insurance will cover you. Please also note that these counts are not recreational outings, but we are always looking for committed counters to join our team. Please contact Peter Rothlisberg or myself if you would like to participate. The dates and meeting times for the counts are listed at the back of this newsletter.

Peter Rothlisberg email: [xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.au](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.au) Home: xxxx xxxx Work: xxxx xxxx

Or

Linda Cross email: [xxxxx@xxx.net.au](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.net.au) Home: 07 xxxx xxxx Mobile: 0xxx xxx xxx

## **A small but internationally significant roost in Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island**

**Peter Kyne**

The available shorebird roost-sites in Moreton Bay vary considerably in size and in the number of birds frequenting them. Although attention is often paid to larger sites, smaller roosts (small in terms of both the area available for roosting, and in the number of birds utilising the site) may be locally important if they are close to substantial feeding areas or if there is a lack of other suitable roost-sites nearby. Small roosts add to the cumulative area available for roosting birds and provide a network of sites at the landscape scale.

The results of a study examining the diversity and seasonality of roosting birds at a small high-tide roost-site in the town of Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island (south-east Queensland) were recently published in the journal *Australian Field Ornithology*. The study also considered natural and human-induced disturbance levels at the site. The project was supported by The University of Queensland's Moreton Bay Research Station in Dunwich, with assistance from the Queensland Wader Study Group.

Weekly counts of birds at the roost-site were undertaken during 2007–2008. Twenty-two species were recorded utilising the roost during counts, including five species of shorebird that breed in the Arctic, four species of shorebird that breed in Australia and six species of tern. Five species contributed ~90% of counted individuals: Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* (56%), Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* (10%), Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae* (10%), Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (7%) and Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (6%). Small shorebird species were largely absent from the site. During the study period, the diversity of species was highest in winter and spring. Peak counts of Australian Pied Oystercatcher indicate that this is an internationally important site for that species with up to ~2% of the estimated global population present at any one time.

Less than one fifth (18.5%) of the weekly counts were disturbed by natural causes (raptors), whereas nearly half (48.1%) were disturbed by human causes. The highest proportion of human disturbances was from people walking unleashed dogs (44% of recorded encounters). Management recommendations to minimise disturbance to this site include educating the community and local government on the value of the site as an important wildlife area, and enforcing existing state and local regulations designed to minimise disturbance to shorebirds and to manage dogs.

The paper (full citation below) can be requested from the author (peter.kyne@cdu.edu.au)

Kyne P.M. (2010). A small coastal high-tide roost on North Stradbroke Island, South-eastern Queensland: diversity, seasonality and disturbance of birds. *Australian Field Ornithology* 27:94–108.

FIGURE



The high-tide roost at Bradbury's Beach in Dunwich on North Stradbroke Island: looking north, with the roost on the left of the picture (the sandy spit left of the last trees), and One Mile Jetty on the right (Photo: Micha V. Jackson).

## Some pathetic jokes to fill in some space.....Sorry!!

Murphy's Law of Tree Anatomy: There are 2 sides to a tree - the side towards you and the side the bird is on.

Murphy's First Law of Birding: The greater the time spent searching for a rarity, the greater the chances it will be sitting on your car when you return to the parking lot.

Why did the Whimbrel bird cross the road? Because it was the chicken's day off!!

Why did the gum cross the road? It was stuck to the chicken's foot.

How do you get down off an elephant? You don't! You get down off a duck.

Why did the chicken cross the road, roll in the mud, and cross back? He was a dirty double-crosser!

Why did the chicken cross the road? He lived on the other side.

What do you call two happy falcons? a Pair-of-Grins

## 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**

Due to lack of room in this issue of the newsletter the Moreton Bay green leg flag sightings will not appear this time.

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

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clonmel Island, Corner Inlet, Victoria– Clive Minton & Susan Taylor – 01.02.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Bells Island, Waimea Inlet, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Willie Cook – 17.01.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mangere Sewage Ponds, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 30.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 18.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 03.11.10

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Bells Island, Waimea Inlet, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Willie Cook – 15.10.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 02.10.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China – Jimmy Choi – 04 & 10.05.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China – Jimmy Choi - 14 & 21 & 25 & 30.04.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China – Jimmy Choi – 29.03.10

1 Grey Plover – Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China – Jimmy Choi – 27.05.10

1 Grey Plover – Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China – Jimmy Choi – 21.04.10

1 Great Knot – Shoalhaven Heads, NSW – Carla Jackett – 01.02.11

1 Great Knot – Shoalhaven River, NSW – Debbie Andrew – 28.01.11

1 Red Knot – Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 30.10.10

1 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 16.10.10

1 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 03.04.10

1 Red Knot – Waikiri Creek, Kaipara, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 20.03.10

1 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 20.03.10

1 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & S. McPherson – 20.03.10

1 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & Richard Mairs – 13.03.10, 14.03.10 & 15.03.10

1 Red Knot – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 31.12.09

1 Red Knot – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 15.11.09

4 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 17.10.09

### **Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings**

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Tuan, Great Sandy Strait – Dez Wells – 13.02.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 24.12.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Peter Rothlisberg & Michele Burford – 18.12.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 18.12.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 27.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Tibor Hadarics – 05.11.10

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Linda Cross – 11.12.10

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – John Rawlinson – 10.12.10

1 Red Knot – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Michael Strong – 06.02.11

3 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Frank Harison – 15.11.10

**White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**

No sightings.

**Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four combinations**

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 24.12.10

2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – Andy Jenson – 19.12.10

5 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – Laurie Knight – 21.11.10

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – David Milton – 19.10.10

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

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – Kristy Currie & Stuart Pickering – 08.02.11

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

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 27.11.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wynnum north esplanade – Tibor Hadarics – 28.10.10

1 Great Knot – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Dez Wells – 6.02.11

1 Great Knot – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Michael Strong – 06.02.11

1 Great Knot – Bushland Beach, Townsville – John Lowry – 01.01.11

1 Great Knot – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – Dez Wells – 19.12.10

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Paul Marty – 11.12.10

1 Great Knot – Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay – Chris Barnes – 28.11.10

1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 27.11.10

1 Great Knot – Manly Harbour – Laurie Knight – 21.11.10

1 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 17.11.10

1 Great Knot – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 21.02.08

1 Great Knot – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – David Milton – 15.02.08

1 Great Knot – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 02.02.08

1 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 27.11.10

1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10

1 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Frank Harison – 02.12.10

1 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 17.11.10 & 25.11.10

**Black (Alaska USA projects) leg flag sightings**

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – (U1) on black flag right tibia, metal band left tibia and satellite transmitter on back – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Virginia Ridgley – 18.12.10 (flagged Ocean Point, Colville River, North Slope, Alaska, USA)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – (U1) on black flag right tibia, metal band left tibia and satellite transmitter on back – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Virginia Ridgley & David Milton – 18.12.10

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (4H) – black flag left tibia and metal band right tarsus – Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay – Chris Barnes – 28.11.10 (flagged at Punoarat Pt, Kashunuk Rv. Area, Yukon – Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska, USA.

**Other wader leg flag sightings**

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – blue flag over angled yellow flag right tibia – Toorbul – John Rawlinson – 10.12.10 (flagged Cangzhou, China)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, metal band left tibia, two yellow bands right tarsus and yellow band over red band left tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 27.11.10 (flagged at Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China)

1 Red Knot – yellow flag over yellow band right tarsus and yellow band over yellow band left tarsus – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Dez Wells – 06.12.11 (possibly part of flagging project in north-west Western Australia?)

1 Terek Sandpiper – yellow flag right tibia, metal band left tarsus – Tuan, Great Sandy Strait – Dez Wells – 13.02.11 (flagged north-west Western Australia)

1 Lesser Sand Plover – yellow flag right tibia, metal band left tarsus – Tuan, Great Sandy Strait – Dez Wells – 13.02.11 (flagged north-west Western Australia)

1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – black flag over orange flag right tibia and metal band left tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 25.11.10 (colour protocol lists flag site as Java, Indonesia. However, at the time of going to press unable to determine if this is correct. Maybe blue over orange, which would be Southern Japan?)

1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – blue flag over orange flag right tibia and metal band left tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 23.09.10 (flagged Southern Japan)

1 Terek Sandpiper – black flag over orange flag right tibia – Boonooroo – Dez Wells – 13.02.11 (colour protocol lists flag site as Java, Indonesia. However, at the time of going to press unable to determine if this is correct. Maybe blue over orange, which would be Southern Japan?)

**Errata.** In newsletter No 74 the following sighting appeared:

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)

The sighting was recorded incorrectly and should be as follows:

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, metal band left tibia, two yellow bands right tarsus and yellow band over red band left tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 24.11.10 (flagged at Yalu Jiang, Northern Yellow Sea, China)

### **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.**

Three or four NSW birds seen seven times as follows:

**K4** – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 20.02.11 & 05.02.11 & 27.06.10

**K3** – Fisherman Islands – Robert Bush – 21.11.10

**K3** – Wynnum north esplanade – Tibor Hadarics – 28.10.10

**C1** – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 26.07.10

Yellow flag, unable to read digits – Point Halloran Reserve – Brian Russell – 25.04.08

## Count Programme by Linda Cross

I want to start my article by sincerely thanking Dawn Beck for stepping into my shoes two years ago. It certainly does not feel like it was that long ago. Dawn has done a wonderful job during this time recruiting new counters, altering the QWSG original count sheet to cater for wetland sites making life easier for those of you who used to write all the waterbirds on the bottom of your count sheet, and for checking and processing all your count sheets. It was a refreshing change to read Dawn's articles over the last couple of years with a different look on the role she undertook. I know Dawn is already enjoying life without the extra workload.

Now that I am back in the chair I guess I am a little envious of Dawn because I had forgotten just how much work this job entails. So it is down to business as usual and although I have been away for two years I certainly have not forgotten what species you get at your sites and have already queried some of the recent records on count sheets.

It has been interesting looking at the counts to see if the same species and numbers that I saw two years ago are still recorded at your sites. It was nice to see that Beach Stone-curlew has been seen at Buckley's Hole Sandbar, with the latest sighting of two birds early this month.

Due to a lack of space in this issue of the newsletter we have had to keep some regular articles short. We apologise and hope you understand.

Double-banded Plover. The first of these winter visitors has been recorded (one bird) by Jill Dening and Dorothy Pashniak at Inskip Point on 17.02.11.

Listed below are the highest totals recorded for some species during the last few months.

Eastern Curlew – 530 at East Geoff Skinner Reserve on 20.11.10

Whimbrel – 280 at Thoolara Island, Pumicestone Passage on 11.02.11

Bar-tailed Godwit – 4,060 at Kakadu Beach Bribie Island on 05.02.11

Black-tailed Godwit – 427 at Luggage Point on 05.02.11

Pied Oystercatcher – 339 at Manly Harbour on 05.02.11

Great Knot – 3,406 at Ross River Mouth on 06.01.11

Grey-tailed Tattler – 650 at Manly Harbour on 08.01.11

Terek Sandpiper – 197 at Tuan, Great Sandy Strait on 13.02.11

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – 455 at Port of Brisbane on 06.02.11

Lesser Sand Plover – 833 at Port of Brisbane on 06.02.11

Curlew Sandpiper – 2,086 at Port of Brisbane on 06.02.11

Red-capped Plover – 800 at Inskip Point on 17.2.11 and 620 the following day on 18.02.11

Red-necked Stint – 4,878 at Port of Brisbane on 06.02.11

The high number of Red-capped Plover recorded at Inskip Point is quite unusual and probably an all time record. The extensive rain, flooding and cyclones throughout the country could all have played a part in this large number.

#### Breeding records.

Only three records to report and all came from Andy Jensen.

Red-capped Plover – one chick and two runners at Port of Brisbane on 06.02.11

Black-winged Stilt – very young bird at Luggage Point on 05.02.11

Broken wing display from and adult Black-fronted Dotterel on 05.02.11 might suggest a breeding record.

All future counts should now be sent to me. Linda Cross. Email: [xxxxxxx@xxxx.net.au](mailto:xxxxxxx@xxxx.net.au)

Snail mail: 40 XXXXXXXX xxx, xxxxxxx. 4510 Phone: xxxx xxxx

Happy counting.

Linda Cross.

## Wader ID Days

### **Saturday 19th March 2011 at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island - UBD Map 52 J5**

High tide at 09.05 am (plus 30+ minutes for Bribie) of 2.52m. Meeting time 07.30am

We are hoping that the king tide will help produce a variety of birds onto this roost as the large tide may push the waders off other roosts.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane and take the Bribie Island exit. Continue on this road to Bribie Island and follow the signs to Banksia Beach. When you arrive at the T-junction at Banksia Beach turn left and after a short distance turn right into the car park for the roost. A bird hide is positioned at both ends of the roost.

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Toorbul – UBD Map 51 R6**

High tide is at 12.38 am (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul) of 1.67m. Meeting time 11.30 am.

This is a low high tide and the birds will be a little further away than normal, but telescopes should help us at least get a look at some of them.

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

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

**Please contact Phil & Linda Cross xxxx xxxx if you have any questions.**

## Wader ID Days Reports

### **TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 10 OCTOBER 2010**

With heavy rain occurring two days before this outing and a dismal weather forecast for the next two days we did not expect to see too many people at the Toorbul roost. As we drove to Toorbul there was a lot of water on the side of roads and a glance as we passed Bishops Marsh we saw one big paddock of water. A hardy 14 of us in total were brave (or either stupid) enough to battle the elements. Gale force winds, moderate to heavy falls of rain was the forecast for the day and it certainly appeared to be that way soon after we arrived.

Although a high tide of 2.42m forecast for 11:36 am, the water was already in when we got there due to the substrata being soaked from previous day's rain and the strong south east wind that was blowing. A small flock of waders congregated close to the enhanced roost.

Heavy rain blew umbrellas inside out and soaked everyone trying to get a look at the birds. Something spooked the waders and they flew. Some Grey-tailed Tattlers returned to join quiet a number of Black

Swans that were also roosting with the waders. It was unusual to see so many Swans standing on the sand with the waders. They were probably taking refuge from the rough passage waters and strong wind.

With just about everyone's trousers soaking wet, scopes and binoculars fogged up, glasses covered in rain and the continuation of strong wind and rain, plus our concern that the very high tide later in the morning might cut the road back to the highway, a decision was made to abandon the outing. This was disappointing for most of the group that had travelled from Brisbane and particularly for Graham and Liz Palmer who had come all the way from Jimboomba.

With a smaller number of waders I was able to quickly check for leg flags and only found one etched green flag (flagged in Moreton Bay) on a Pied Oystercatcher. It was coded **JJ**.

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Australasian Wood Duck, Australian Pelican, Little Egret, Eastern Osprey, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Masked Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel (1), Eastern Curlew (1), Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank (2), Great Knot, Curlew Sandpiper (3), Caspian Tern (1), Willie Wagtail and Welcome Swallow.

The roadside by Bishop's Marsh was too wet to stop and the water came close to the road. The following birds were seen by some of our members:

Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Grebe, Eastern Great Egret, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Black-winged Stilt and Australasian Pipit.

Linda Cross

## **TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 11 DECEMBER 2010**

A group of twenty one people decided to turn up for this wader id day. Graham and Liz Palmer once again came all the way from Jimboomba and it was nice to see some faces that we had not seen for a while, such as Bob James and Russ Lamb who both came from the Sunshine Coast. Weather conditions were much improved since the last ID day we had here in October. It was quite hot, humid, some clouds and a north-easterly wind. Thankfully the threatening thunderstorm did not happen during the outing, but most people had to travel through one with heavy rain on their return home.

With the water level higher earlier than anticipated the bonus was being able to view the waders closer for longer. It was good to have quite a number of Black-tailed Godwit in the large Bar-tailed Godwit flock to show people the difference, but only a couple of Red Knot was much more difficult to get onto among the many Great Knots present. The lack of smaller waders was most disappointing and eventually standing in the heat sent most people back to the shade for food and drink.

Dawn Beck went to Kakadu Beach on Bribie Island at the same time that we had the wader ID at Toorbul. It was an exercise in recording bird movements between the Toorbul and Bribie roost. There was only Eastern Curlew and a few Bar-tailed Godwit movements recorded from Toorbul to Bribie.

Jill and Ian Brown said they saw a Banded Lapwing at the 1 km north site prior to the meeting and took a photo because they knew I would ask for proof. The photographer's identification was proved to be accurate and most of the group stopped at the site to see the bird as they drove along the Esplanade on their way home, with some people getting good photographs of it.

We checked for leg flags and found the following flagged birds:

- 1 Great Knot with Black flag over white flag – (Shanghai, China).
- 1 Great Knot with orange flag – (Victoria).
- 1 Great Knot with old green flag – (Moreton Bay, Queensland).
- 2 Pied Oystercatcher with etched green flag. Coded **EY** and **JJ**. – (Moreton Bay, Queensland).

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Spotted Dove, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, Whistling Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Banded Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Red Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Rainbow Lorikeet, Rainbow Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Noisy Friarbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow and Magpie Lark.

Bishops Marsh was full of water and no birds were seen.

Linda Cross.

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

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**SECRETARY:** Peter Rothlisberg (07) xxxx xxxx  
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**Copy Deadline** for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **May 18<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
 Contributions should be addressed to:  
 David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, xxxxxxxxxxxx xx, xxxxxx, Qld 4011  
 or E-mail to: xxxxxx@ozemail.com.au

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**QWSG MERCHANDISE**

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

**OR**

Contact Vicki Campbell Phone 07 xxxx xxxx or email

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) xxxx xxxx; Secretary, Jim Sneddon (07) xxxx xxxx; Treasurer, Helen Underwood 0xxx xxx xxx

Monthly Meetings            Birds Queensland - 7.45pm  
 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.  
 Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton.  
 Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:45pm start.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently:

**Stuart Pickering**  
**Jann Capell**  
**Nev Capell**

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

**Electronic Newsletter ??**

Are you interested in receiving your “Queensland Wader” by email? If you are interested email me on xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.com.au. Could you use the subject line as “Electronic Newsletter”. Editor



## Count Activities - 2011

### QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Programme – 2011

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

### Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2011

Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2.22m at 10:21	Meet 08:30	Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2.07m at 16:04	Meet 14:15 (2.15 pm)
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 2.12m at 09:18	Meet 07:30	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2.11m at 14:29	Meet 12:40
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2.14m at 07:14	Meet 05:45	Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2.16m at 11:43	Meet 09:50
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1.78m at 11:38	Meet 09:50	Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2.31m at 10:48	Meet 09:00
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Jul 1.84m at 10:46	Meet 08:55	Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> 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, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx DARWIN NT 0800**

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group

For a direct credit, please use the following details.

Account name: Qld Wader Study Group  
 Account number: 08305297  
 Financial Institution: mecu Limited  
 BSB: 803 140

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