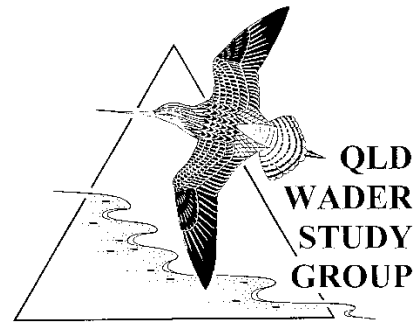


# QUEENSLAND WADER



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

## **Rena disaster: The dotterels insurance policy**

MICHELLE COOKE

Oil from the Rena threatens to decimate the Bay of Plenty population of the endangered New Zealand dotterel. To ensure they survive 60 birds have been uprooted from their natural habitat to be cocooned from danger at the Wildlife Response Centre.

There are 60 New Zealand dotterels in the space of one pair's territory - they're feisty, they're scared and they have no idea why they've been captured and are being held at the Wildlife Response Centre. But it's for their own good, because if these endangered birds were not pre-emptively caught then their population worldwide could diminish by up to 10 percent.

There are only 1700 New Zealand dotterels left. Sixty of the 150 to 200 known to nest in the Bay of Plenty region have been pre-emptively caught as a "safeguard", after crippled cargo ship Rena spewed oil into the sea near their habitat, and while it threatened to spill more.

"These dotterels are forming an insurance population because we know that there is still over 1000 tonnes of oil on the Rena," centre manager Brett Gartrell said. "There's a great likelihood if she breaks up then we could get a catastrophic release of that oil, which would mean the beaches around here that are home to the dotterels would be flooded. "We might be able to rescue some, but we wouldn't be able to rescue all of them."

While eight little blue penguins are being kept together in one small vegetable crate, the Wildlife Response team doesn't dare put the dotterels in the same aviary as each other. That's because these endangered birds have been plucked from their natural territory in the middle of breeding season, making them especially aggressive. Their eggs have been left behind. Sixty makeshift aviaries have been built especially for these rare birds. Wooden boards have had to be placed in between each aviary, made out of mesh and wood, because they're violent and always trying to attack each other, Dr Gartrell said.

Dotterels are small, rounded birds that stick together in pairs for most of the year. They are scattered through the New Zealand coastline but one of the largest breeding populations resides in the Bay of Plenty. Some pairs have been captured but the wildlife team is keeping them separated, for now.

"Out in the wild if there is any aggression between a pair then they can get away from each other," Dr Gartrell said. "But here, if one starts an aggressive display and the other can't get away then they will just continue on until they die."

They will stay at the centre, along with the 300 other birds, until all oil is cleared from the beaches and removed from the Rena. It could be weeks, but the centre is preparing for months ahead.

The 60 dotterels were caught before they became heavily oiled, because if they were left on the coast then they "would almost certainly get oiled", and quite likely would have added to the oil spill death toll, ecologist and dotterel expert John Dowding said.

Rena struck the Astrolabe Reef in Tauranga more than two weeks ago and has since spilled about 350 tonnes of oil into the ocean. About 1300 birds have been found dead and 300 are being cared for at the response centre.

The dotterels are the only birds caught as a precautionary measure. And that's because they are too precious and too endangered to risk any of them dying.

"We did something that was really quite unusual," Dr Dowding said. "We decided we would take them to captivity before they got oiled rather than respond to them after they had been oiled. A very large population in that area could have been lost - it could have been up to 10 percent of the world population."

Keeping so many dotterels in captivity is an "experiment" that has never being conducted before. "Dotterels are classed as "conservation dependent", which means the population was likely to decline if it was not carefully managed.

If Dr Dowding hadn't spent the last 25 years managing New Zealand dotterels then the 60 now in captivity probably wouldn't have being captured and the Bay of Plenty's population could have easily been diminished.

"I know how they react to me and I can make them come to me - it's very hard to explain how I do it." Dr Dowding and his team captured 60 dotterels in seven days. They needed 60 to sustain the Bay of Plenty population. When they went searching for dotterels a few days after the Rena was grounded, Dr Dowding came across one bird that he first encountered, and tagged, 20 years ago.

The New Zealand dotterel population is so small that it didn't really surprise him. Dotterels, found only in New Zealand, are long-living birds. Dr Dowding knows of one that is understood to be 33 years-old. Most of the 60 birds captured were found on Matakana Island, west of Tauranga, and Maketu Spit and Pukehina Spit to the east.

The team first had to locate the birds then place a nylon-looped contraption on the ground. Dr Dowding would then lure the bird towards him, over the net, which would then entrap the bird by its feet. Once two or three birds were caught they would be sent to the centre and placed in a small aviary while they adjusted to new food. Many of the dotterels had oil on their feet and five had oil on their feathers, which had to be removed once they reached the centre. The real risk was that the birds would ingest the oil, which was quite likely as sand hoppers are their staple food.

They have had to adjust to a new diet since they reached the centre, which has been the greatest challenge, Dr Gartrell said. Their new food consists of a meat mix, with supplements and mealworms for added taste. The captured dotterels were doing surprisingly well apart from one, which had lost weight, and the team suspected it had ingested oil.

They have all being tagged and will be returned to the exact spot they were found, once the time comes for them to be let go. They will be followed for years to come to track whether this so called "experiment" has any impact on their survival rates.

"The best case scenario is they will be able to get all the oil off the ship and we will be able to put these birds out in a week or two," Dr Gartrell said. "The worst case scenario is that we have to keep them for two months. So that's what we're planning for but we're hoping we don't have to do that."

See the interview at:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/5834718/Rena-disaster-The-dotterels-insurance-policy>

## Triple figures of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China

Thu, Oct 27, 2011

Up to 103 [Spoon-billed Sandpipers](#) were observed earlier this month at Rudong, in Jiangsu Province just north of the Yangtze Estuary in China. This is a significant proportion of the remaining global population of this Critically Endangered shorebird, and one of the highest counts of the species in recent decades.

What is surprising is that Rudong was only discovered to be an important shorebird site in 2008, by a team from the China Coastal Waterbird Census, which is supported by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the BirdLife China Programme. The area is currently not under protection of any kind. The mudflats where the waders feed are threatened by several industrial development projects, as well as by an introduced species of spartina grass.

The grass is rapidly covering the estuarine mud. This is reducing the feeding areas for the waders but is also restricting the opportunities for local people to seek out their traditional living from shellfish. Protecting and managing these coastal areas will benefit local people and wildlife.



BirdLife's China Programme, the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society and Wild Bird Society of Shanghai have been working at Rudong, thanks to a grant from Disney's Friends for Change, a global initiative that encourages kids and families to join together and make a lasting positive impact on their world by helping people, communities and the planet. Conservation education at local schools and awareness-raising events have been a crucial part of this work, which aim to rapidly increase understanding amongst local communities of the importance of the coastal wetlands for migratory birds and people. This approach has worked well at other sites in China, not only for Spoon-billed Sandpiper but also for Chinese Crested Tern, the country's rarest bird.

In August, a conservation education training course targeted at teachers and local environmental groups was organised. About 40 teachers from Jiangsu Province, Shanghai and neighbouring Zhejiang Province attended this workshop. Barrie Cooper from RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) helped to lead the workshop. The plan is for student conservation groups to become ambassadors for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, informing local people and the government about the importance of conservation and protecting wildlife and the benefits it can have to local livelihoods.

A meeting held with government officers and the local mayor during August was encouraging. There is understanding of the importance of the coastal mudflats for migratory shorebirds and an acceptance that the spread of spartina needs to be controlled and there has been a discussion about the possibility of developing a nature reserve.

There are huge pressures from development at Rudong and elsewhere along the Chinese coast. Hopefully, increasing environmental awareness will lead to the protection and sustainable management of key areas for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other shorebirds.

## **Two Shorebirds Tracked by Satellite Over Thousands of Miles, Killed by Hunters at Unregulated 'Shooting Swamps' in Guadalupe**

(September 21, 2011) Unregulated and unmonitored recreational shooting swamps in the Caribbean have claimed perhaps their most notable bird victims, two Whimbrels. One, named Machi, had been tracked by satellite for two years over a distance of 27,000 miles. The other, named Goshen, had been tracked for about one year over nearly 14,000 miles. The birds were likely exhausted after navigating through severe weather – Machi having navigated through Tropical Storm Maria, and Goshen through Hurricane Irene, and were forced to land in Guadalupe, an area they had avoided in previous recorded migrations.

Both Goshen and Machi were born in the Arctic, and were part of a collaborative tracking project involving The Center for Conservation Biology, The Nature Conservancy, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, and Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences.

Machi had been tracked over 27,000 miles through a total of five spring and fall migrations between its breeding grounds in Canada and wintering grounds in Brazil since 2009. On seven different occasions, the bird flew nonstop more than 2,000 miles, and in the spring of 2010, it flew more than 3,400 miles directly from Brazil to South Carolina without rest. Goshen began with the tracking program in the fall of 2010 and was tracked over a total of three migrations. Prior to the deaths of these birds, the program was tracking a total of four birds.

"The unrestrained sport killing of migrating birds for fun at these shooting swamps must be stopped by local authorities. The practice is not only untenable from a wildlife conservation perspective, but it also robs communities that tolerate it of the potential economic benefits from wildlife tourism," said George Fenwick, President of American Bird Conservancy, the leading national bird conservation organization in the United States.

According to American Bird Conservancy, shooting swamps are one of several threats birds face in the Caribbean. Wetlands throughout the islands are vanishing due to increasing tourism development, agriculture and urban expansion. More than half of the wetlands that remain are seriously degraded by the cutting of mangroves and coastal forest, pollution, water mismanagement, and natural catastrophes such as droughts and hurricanes. Many threatened birds that rely on these Caribbean wetlands are now declining.

While the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed, in part, to protect dwindling numbers of birds that migrate across country borders, both Guadeloupe and Martinique are part of the European Union and are not party to the Treaty. Barbados, which also has the distinction of being the place where the last Eskimo Curlew in the world was shot in 1963, is an independent state and also not party to the Treaty.

## **The shorebird sessions at the 2011 Australasian Ornithological Conference**

The Australasian Ornithological Conference held this year from 28 September to 1 October on the campus of James Cook University north of Cairns was fantastic. The sunbird nests hanging from the rafters along the walkways, or the odd Emerald Dove walking on the grass between the classrooms were welcome reminders of the remarkable setting of James Cook University, but the talks were by far the highlight.

The plenary address on the importance of birds in Australian ecosystems provided a useful framework to consider where birds fit into a bigger picture, while a talk by John Endler left everyone marvelling at how Great Bowerbirds use forced perspective to improve mating success. Interesting sessions provided something for everyone with topics including everything from birds in modified landscapes, to seabird conservation, to fascinating ratites, to the direct impacts of warmer temperatures on desert birds, to bird song, to community & institutional involvement in conservation, to translocations. In short, for those of us interested in birds, the conference provided stacks of interesting things to absorb and discuss. For me though, the shorebird sessions, and the session on migration left the biggest impression. These sessions were great at highlighting how incredible migratory shorebirds are, the large scale of the growing threats they are facing, and how strikingly powerful 30 years of monitoring data collected by volunteers can be in highlighting population declines in shorebird populations.

Presentations on shorebird tracking highlighted the awe inspiring migrations of these relatively non-aerodynamic birds. These included the documented long distance non-stop direct flights of Bar-tailed Godwit from Alaska to New Zealand, a distance of over 11,000km straight across the pacific, as well as Ruddy Turnstone non-stop flights of over 7,000km. Talks on movement of migratory shorebirds also pointed out how much we have learned regarding where these birds go when they leave Australia, yet it was clear that there remain many unanswered questions regarding how the various shorebird species move throughout the flyway. Interestingly, new analyses techniques were presented which allow scientists to make broad inferences about behaviour of migrants using telemetry data. The incredible physiological adaptations of migratory shorebirds were also highlighted by the speed in which they can moult in time for their long migrations. We heard additional reports of how some species such as Little Curlew, Pratincoles or Latham Snipe are poorly understood, underrepresented in networks of important habitat, and have not been monitored well to date.

Most of the remaining talks had a remarkably sobering theme, with large long-term population declines in many species of migratory shorebird of 20 – 70% being reported across Victoria, in New South Wales, and at Queensland's Moreton Bay. Further, evidence indicated that a loss of habitat in some areas, such as the Yellow Sea, can have proportionally greater impacts on some shorebird populations than habitat lost in other locations, and the massive scale of habitat loss apparent in the Yellow Sea was staggering. These results while depressing mark a remarkable improvement over what was known five years ago.

Presentations also noted the increasing evidence that these declines are similar in magnitude across large spatial scales, with only a few species showing differences in population trajectories from one location to another. This improved level of understanding is leading to a much improved species specific understanding of large scale population declines in migratory shorebirds, and further work planned by a team at the University of Queensland will further bring together the over 30 years of available national monitoring data to uncover a much more complete understanding of which species are being impacted, by how much, and by what.

If we assume that it is desirable to maintain shorebird populations so that our children might appreciate the same diversity and abundance of birds that can fill the sky and our coastal habitats, then we need to both get some of those remarkable places in the Yellow Sea protected, while further increasing our understanding of which areas of habitat need to be protected, and what other factors might be impacting migratory shorebird populations. Evidence highlights the clear need to protect some habitats immediately, such as those found in the Bohai Sea, Yalu Jiang, and other areas which support incredible numbers of these birds. For example, the Bohai Sea is just one relatively small location used by over 40% of the flyway population of Red Knot, yet like Sameangum in South Korea this vital staging area looks likely to be lost unless efforts are made to move some of the planned development to alternate less critical areas for shorebirds.

Many in the wider shorebird community are keen to encourage those who might be able to sit down with Hu Jintao or other decision makers in the regions of China and Korea to protect some of these disappearing habitats, and the need for the kinds of protection being called for is clear. However, it is looking increasingly likely that shorebird populations are not just being impacted in the Yellow Sea, with a host of factors that may be impacting different species. Improving monitoring efforts, and fully analysing the data that is currently available will further help with correctly identifying and addressing problems.

I hope all will consider contacting decision makers to encourage further international cooperation to protect some of the irreplaceable international treasures of habitat found especially along the Chinese and Korean coasts. Certainly now is the time to encourage some strong conservation actions. At the same time there is a need to increase our understanding of how and where those actions are needed through research. Indeed when large population declines of internationally agreed important birds are indicated, it would seem wise to invest in learning more to maximise the effectiveness of conservation actions.

It is true that without conservation action now we will likely simply continue to document declines of these incredible world travellers, yet without sufficient research it is also likely that additional required conservation actions will be missed, and potentially unhelpful actions will be taken.

## NEW FLYWAY NETWORK SITE: 'YUBU-DO TIDAL FLAT' IN SEOICHEON COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Written by EAAF

25 Oct 2011

Based on the recommendation of the Secretariat and review panel, the 'Yubu-do Tidal Flat' in Seocheon County is now designated in the Flyway Site Network (FSN) as an internationally important habitat for migratory waterbirds on the East Asian-Australasia Flyway.



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important staging and non-breeding habitat for many migratory waterbirds such as Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Lesser Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) and Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). It also regularly supports appreciable numbers of Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpipers (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*).





*South-east Asia provides very important staging sites for Arctic breeder shorebirds. © Neil Fifer*

## Easy Migration Technique

A Common Sandpiper pretending to be a hitch hiker on the Daintree River Ferry. It was pecking around on the deck of the ferry, then it strolled down the ramp and continued to feed on the shoreline. David Edwards



## WADER WATCH     Linda and Phil Cross, Joyce Harding

Can we please ask people to carefully check on which leg the flag is placed? 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 data base, 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.

Can everyone please remember to use the 'Leg Flag Observation Report' form.

### **Green leg flag sightings**

In each Qld Wader issue there are quite a number of green leg flag sightings recorded within Moreton Bay, which is where the bird was banded originally. As we are now seeing more leg flag combinations from other states and countries, and have limited space available for sightings, we will not be listing each individual sighting of green flag records in Queensland unless there is a significant movement of the bird. Instead, we will list the number of flags for each species and the period in which they were seen.

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs between 27.08.11 and 21.11.11

2 Eastern Curlew, 2 Whimbrel, 45 Bar-tailed Godwit, 10 Pied Oystercatcher, 2 Black-winged Stilt, 1 Masked Lapwing, 2 Great Knot, 2 Ruddy Turnstone, 39 Grey-tailed Tattler, 2 Greater Sand Plover, 3 Curlew Sandpiper and 1 Red-necked Stint.

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

Eastern Curlew – **AR**.

Whimbrel – **UF**.

Bar-tailed Godwit – **BD, BM, BR, CH, CV, DA, DR, EC, EE, HA, HR, HV, JD, JE, JH, JL, JN, JT, NN, NP, NZ, PA, RH, RJ, RK, RV, RX**.

Pied Oystercatcher – **AN, BC, CJ, EY, FD, JL, B7, C4**.

Black-winged Stilt – **KE, RD**.

Masked Lapwing – **HA**.

Great Knot – **NA, RA**.

Grey-tailed Tattler – **BN, DN, DS, E7, HE, HT, HY, JC, JE, JN, JV, JX, K7, KB, KP, KR, KX, RM, RZ**,

Grey-tailed Tattler - **A7, A9, B5, B7, C5**. (All five Tattlers have green flag right tibia, yellow flag and geolocator on left tibia and metal band left tarsus).

Greater Sand Plover – **AL**.

Curlew Sandpiper – **BS, DR**.

Red-necked Stint – **JE**.

Red Knot – Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria, Qld – Dave Cropley – 02.09.11

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

1 Eastern Curlew – Site 6 Yalu Jiang, China – Mr Bai Qing Quan – 21.03.11

1 Eastern Curlew – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 21.03.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (JC) – Kidds Karaka, South Auckland, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 31.10.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (JT) – Yalu Jiang, China – Julia Melville – 01.05.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (HR) – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 26.04.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (DT) – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 11.04.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX) – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 28.01.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 10.05.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 07.05.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – David Melville – 04.05.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 03.05.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 02.05.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – David Melville – 02.05.11

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – David Melville – 30.04.11

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Julia Melville – 30.04.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – David Melville – 20.04.11

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 17.04.11

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Chung-Yu Chiang – 17.04.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Julia Melville – 17.04.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Julia Melville – 15.04.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – David Melville – 12.04.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Julia Melville – 11.04.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 02.04.11  
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Site 2 Yalu Jiang, China – Mr Bai Qing Quan – 10.04.11  
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang, China – Jimmy Choi – 26.03.11  
1 Pied Oystercatcher (A6) – Riverside Caravan Park, Iluka, NSW – Christina Port – 23.10.11  
1 Pied Oystercatcher – Flat Rock, Ballina, NSW – Steve McBride – 23.09.11  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler (DH) – Yoshino River, Nakahara, Oujinn-cho, Tokushima-shi, Tokushima-ken, Japan – Tadashi Kasai – 08.08.09  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Asakawa River, Akatsuki-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo-to, Japan – Yoshio Mineo – 02.05.09  
1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Mouth of Naka, Nakagawa Naka, Tokushima, Japan – Kouhei Shinomiya – 01.05.09

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (VP) – Toorbul – Wendy Dunn et al – 19.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (YA) – Toorbul – Wendy Dunn et al – 19.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (A2) – Wellington Point – Chris Martinez – 16.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (MK) – Wellington Point – Chris Martinez – 16.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (VP) – Toorbul – Darryl Larsen – 03.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 29.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pumicestone Passage – Phil Cross – 22.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Sheryl Keates et al – 19.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Trevor Ford – 18.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Bishop Island – Arthur Keates – 16.10.11  
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 15.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 15.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 11.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 11.10.11  
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Tuan, Great Sandy Strait – Rob Schuckard – 07.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 03.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright – 28.09.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 03.09.11  
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Phil Cross et al – 19.10.11  
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 15.10.11  
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 03.10.11  
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Wendy Dunn – 18.09.11  
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 03.09.11  
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 31.08.11  
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 11.10.11  
1 Red Knot – Pine River Wetland Reserve – Vicki Campbell – 15.10.11  
1 Red Knot – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Trevor Ford – 30.09.11  
2 Red Knot – Lytton Claypan – Glen Pacey – 31.08.11  
2 Curlew Sandpiper – Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria – David Cropley – 08.09.11

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – with white flag over red band over blue band left tarsus, white band over yellow band right tarsus and metal band right tibia – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al – 19.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – with white flag over blue band over white flag left tarsus and red band right tarsus – Pine River Wetland Reserve – Vicki Campbell – 15.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AZE) – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al – 19.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AZE) – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 15.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Goat Island Maroochy River – Trevor Ford – 03.10.11  
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Trevor Ford – 01.10.11  
1 Red Knot – Cattle Point tidal flats, Fitzroy estuary, east of Rockhampton – David Charley & Bob Moffat – 11.10.11  
1 Red Knot – Station Point, north Curtis Island east of Rockhampton – David Charley & Bob Moffat – 10.10.11  
1 Red Knot (BMY) – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 03.09.11  
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell, Peter Duck & Bill Price – 03.09.11



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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Wendy Dunn – 18.09.11  
(Blue flag left tibia and white flag left tarsus, both flags angle cut - flagged at Yatsu tidal flat, Narashino, Chiba, Tokyo)
- 3 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 15.10.11
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 11.10.11
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 03.10.11
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul – Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright – 28.09.11  
(The Tattlers above – flagged in Hokkaido)

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 11.10.11
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Tuan, Great Sandy Strait – Rob Schuckard – 07.10.11
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al – 19.10.11
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 15.10.11
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 11.10.11
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 03.10.11
- 1 Great Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Brian Russell – 09.10.11
- 1 Great Knot – Cairns Esplanade – Adrian Riegen – 29.09.11
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 03.09.11
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 10.11.11
- 2 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Brian Russell – 09.10.11
- 1 Red-necked Stint – Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria – Dave Cropley – 08.09.11

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (VP) – Toorbul – Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright – 28.09.11
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (J1) – South Stradbroke Island – Terry Dillon et al – 27.09.11

**Other wader leg flag sightings**

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, white band over red band right tarsus, yellow band over red band left tarsus and metal band left tibia – Gallagher's Point, Bribie Island – Phil & Linda Cross – 22.10.11
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, white band over red band right tarsus, yellow band over red band left tarsus and metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Margaret Cameron – 21.10.11
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, white band over red band right tarsus, yellow band over red band left tarsus and metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al – 19.10.11
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, white band over red band right tarsus, yellow band over red band left tarsus and metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 15.10.11
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, white band over red band right tarsus, yellow band over red band left tarsus and metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Rob Schuckard – 02.10.11  
(The above bird seen five times was flagged at Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China)
- 1 Red Knot – white flag right tibia and orange flag right tarsus – Lytton Claypan No 1 – Glen Pacey – 31.08.11 (Flagged Korean Peninsula)
- 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – blue flag over yellow flag right tibia – Bundaberg Port – Chris Barnes – 20.11.11  
(Flagged in Cangzhou, China)
- 1 Curlew Sandpiper – blue flag over yellow flag right tibia and white flag over blue flag left tibia (**35 engraved on white flag**) – Bishop Island – David Milton & Arthur Keates – 16.10.11 (Flagged China)
- 1 Red-necked Stint – yellow flag right tibia, white flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 23.11.11 (Flagged at Sakhalin Island, Russia)

**Pied Oystercatcher 2 digit Yellow leg flag sightings**

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

Four NSW birds seen as follows:

- C1** – Bishop Island – Vicki Campbell – 13.11.11
- K3** – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 29.10.11
- K3** – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 16.09.11
- N4** – Maaroom – John Bell, Peter Duck & Bill Price – 03.09.11

**Interesting wader sightings****Please note these sightings are not authenticated records.**

\* = to be submitted to BQ RAC \*\* = to be submitted to BARC

1 Common Sandpiper – Endeavour River mouth Cooktown – 18.11.2011  
1 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – 17.10.11  
1 Pectoral Sandpiper – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 16.10.11  
11 Red-kneed Dotterel – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 16.10.11  
7 Latham's Snipe – Nathan Road, Redcliffe – 03.09.11  
13 Black-fronted Dotterel – Bundaberg Port – 07.08.11  
60 Masked Lapwing – Cooloola, Tin Can Bay – 11.09.11  
1 Red-necked Avocet – Trutes Wetland Tweed Heads – 05.09.11

**Not waders but of interest anyway**

1 Brown Falcon – Geoff Skinner Reserve – 12.11.11  
1 Black Falcon – Bundaberg Port – 16.10.11  
1 Peregrine Falcon – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 12.11.11  
1 Peregrine Falcon – Finlayson's Point north of Mackay – 09.11.11  
3 Lewin's Rail (includes 1 juvenile) – Bundaberg Port – 17.07.11  
Little Tern (2 nests, 1 egg in each) – Skyring Estuary mouth eastbank, Bundaberg – 22.10.11  
1236 Little Tern – Fisherman Island – 13.11.11  
6 Buff-banded Rail – Bundaberg Port – 16.10.11  
6 Pink-eared Duck – Luggage Point – 12.11.11  
2320 Common Tern – Inskip Point – 10.11.11  
485 Chestnut Teal – Fisherman Island – 13.11.11  
454 Chestnut Teal – Bundaberg Port – 16.10.11  
63 Whiskered Tern – Luggage Point – 15.10.11  
2 Australasian Gannet – Fisherman Island – 04.09.11  
1 Australasian Gannet – Buckley's Hole Sandbar, Bribie Island – 04.09.11  
2 Hoary-headed Grebe – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 04.09.11  
337 Black Swan – on water in front of Toorbul roost – 03.09.11  
12 Brolga – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 03.09.11  
9 Glossy Ibis – Nathan Road, Redcliffe – 03.09.11  
7 Glossy Ibis – Garnett's Lagoons Hervey Bay – 03.09.11

**Count Programme** by Linda Cross

The count programme and Port of Brisbane count dates for 2012 have been set down and can be found at the back of this issue. Please note the date for the **National Summer Count**. The tide height is 2.31m, which will be a little higher than we would like. However, you will have plenty of time to get to your sites early, count the birds as they come in, and as long as the birds are still on site within the one and a half hour window for a high tide count they can be recorded on your count sheet even if they are pushed off the roost by the time the peak of the tide arrives. If you do not fully understand my explanation regarding the above, please feel free to contact me and I will endeavour to clarify. If for any reason you will not be able to do the count, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can try and get a replacement counter to cover your site. Remember to mark your 2012 calendars with all the count dates early in the New Year.

It appears we have been remiss in acknowledging the departure of one counter and welcoming her replacement quite a while ago. Peggy Harding stepped down from counting three sites at Seaforth north of Mackay due to family commitments and Stella Mearns, who helped Peggy, continued to do the counts alone, and then with new counter Marlis Schoeb. Marlis and Stella continue to cover these three sites and Marlis has also now taken over St. Helens Beach (north of Mackay) count site from Hayley Glover. We are currently working on finding a site closer to Mackay for Hayley so that she does not have to travel so far.

Unfortunately we also have to say goodbye to three other counters, Geoff McLaughlin, Jean Tucker and Judith Hewitt.

Geoff did occasional counts at Black's Beach in Mackay and was also a great help during our many surveys in the Mackay region. Geoff has relocated to the Sunshine Coast and no doubt will be busy acquainting himself with the new and varied birding habitats of the region.

Jean was also a counter in Mackay, and although she did not count for a long period, the counts of Shellgrit Creek Entrance certainly added to the database. Jean is in retirement mode and enjoying travelling to different areas of the country to see new birds and visit her family in other states.

Our third loss is Judith, who has been counting the four sites at Maroochy River for quite a number of years now adding many more records to our database. Due to family commitments Judith has stepped down for now, but might return to the count programme in the future.

We would like to thank Peggy, Geoff, Jean and Judith for their contributions and wish them all the best for the future, and I hope that one day they might all consider joining us again.

Thankfully, we have replacements for two of our other losses. Gerry Woodruff and members of the Mackay branch of Bird Observers Club of Australia have taken over from Jean and already completed the last two months counts for Shellgrit Creek Entrance.

David and Robbie Leslie, have been standby counters for Judith covering the Maroochy sites for a while now, and had no hesitation offering to become the official counters. Russ Lamb has offered to fill in for David and Robbie if they are unable to do any counts.

We have also managed to recruit three other counters into the count programme. Robert Bush and Deirdrie Chrzescijanski have been doing counts at four sites in the Thornlands area with Joyce Harding and Kristy Currie has been doing additional counts at Thorneside.

We extend a warm welcome to all the above new counters and look forward to a long relationship with you all.

Having just returned from a trip to the south island of New Zealand and taking a particular interest in a pair of male Double-banded Plovers in full breeding plumage calling and engaging in a few tussles over a female bird on the beach at South Bay in Kaikoura, it reminded me to check when the last sighting of this species was on our shores. The current last record for Double-banded Plover was two birds at Garnett's Lagoons in Hervey Bay on 03.09.11

Another species that travels further south and onto New Zealand is the Red Knot. The best time to see them is during the southward migration in September and October. During these last two months they have been recorded at eleven sites. The biggest totals have been 185 at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 15.10.11 and 184 at Fisherman Island on 16.10.11.

Allan Briggs reported a very unusual sighting of 8 Black-tailed Godwit at Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon, which caused a bit of excitement during the October count. On checking the database we find this is the first record of the species at the site since counting commenced.

**High totals** recorded for a few species during the last few months are listed below:

Eastern Curlew – 553 at Geoff Skinner Reserve West on 12.11.11

Eastern Curlew – 485 at Bullock Point, Great Sandy Strait on 23.09.11

Bar-tailed Godwit – 3600 at Manly Harbour on 29.10.11

Bar-tailed Godwit – 2800 at Maaroom on 12.11.11

Bar-tailed Godwit – 2000 at Shellgrit Creek Entrance Mackay on 12.11.11

Whimbrel – 450 at King Street mudflat Thornlands on 15.10.11

Red-necked Avocet – 276 at Bishop Island – 04.09.11

Pacific Golden Plover – 283 at Bishop Island on 16.10.11

Pacific Golden Plover – 230 at Shellgrit Creek Entrance Mackay on 15.10.11

Great Knot – 684 at Bishop Island on 13.11.11

Grey-tailed Tattlers – 713 at Toorbul on 15.10.11

Ruddy Turnstone – 115 at Bishop Island on 16.10.11

Lesser Sand Plover – 1905 at Bishop Island on 13.11.11

Terek Sandpiper – 100 at Maaroom on 15.10.11

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – 376 at Bishop Island on 13.11.11

Curlew Sandpiper – 1355 at Bishop Island on 13.11.11

Red-necked Stint – 2354 at Bishop Island on 13.11.11

Beach Stone-curlew – recorded at some different locations during the last couple of months. Sites include Endeavour River mouth Cooktown (3), Finlayson's Point north of Mackay (2),

Seaforth beach north of Mackay (1), Elliott River mouth island Bundaberg (1), O'Reagan's Creek eastside Hervey Bay (1), O'Reagan's Creek westside Hervey Bay (1), Moon Point Fraser Island (2), Inskip Point (2), Noosa River sandbank (1), Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island (1) and Toorbul (2).

Other wader sightings can be found in the 'Interesting wader sightings' section of this newsletter.

### **Breeding records.**

Beach Stone-curlew – one chick on Redcliff Island off Finlayson's Point north of Mackay on 14.10.11 and a very young bird recorded at Elliott River mouth island Bundaberg on 08.07.11

Pied Oystercatcher – chick at Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island on 04.09.11, adult sitting on 2 eggs on Redcliff Island off Finlayson's Point north of Mackay on 14.10.11 and a pair nesting at Luggage Point on 15.10.11.

Masked Lapwing – nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 16.10.11, nest with four eggs at Maaroom on 03.09.11, another nest with four eggs at Maaroom on 12.11.11 and a nest at Noosa River sandbanks on 08.07.11.

Red-capped Plover – two chicks at Finlayson's Point north of Mackay on 07.09.11 and two new born chicks at Kakadu Beach Bribie Island on 16.10.11.

Phil and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued contributions to the count programme and leg flag records during this past year and wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy, healthy and peaceful 2012.

**Please note that we currently have two email addresses. Our old one [xenus@big.net.au](mailto:xenus@big.net.au) is still current for the next month or two, but you can now start to send emails to our new address as follows: [xenus69@bigpond.com](mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com)**

Please send counts to me. Linda Cross.

Email: [xenus69@bigpond.com](mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com)

Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 5495 2758

Send leg flag sightings to Phil Cross using either of the two above methods.

Happy counting.

Linda Cross.

## **Wader ID Days**

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at Toorbul**

High tide at 14.03pm (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 2:33pm) of 2.19m. Meeting time 12.30pm

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.

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

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758. Arthur & Sheryl Keates 3843 1874. David Milton or Sandra Harding 3390 2179.

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### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at Manly Boat Harbour – To be confirmed, so please ring one of the people below to confirm this outing will go ahead.**

High tide at 09.14 am of 2.48m. Meeting time 07.30am

This is your chance to legally get behind the fence and check out the waders with our group. Meet at the end of the road, east of the Royal Queensland Yacht Clubhouse, Manly. UBD map 164 A6. **Gates will be locked after we enter and late arrivals will not be able to access the site. Therefore, we need to know if you are planning to attend this ID day. Please ensure you contact the people below and have your**



**name put on the list. We would also like to keep the numbers at a reasonable quantity, so book early.**

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Arthur & Sheryl Keates 3843 1874, Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758, David Milton or Sandra Harding 3390 2179.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February at Toorbul**

High tide at 11.54am (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 12:24 pm) of 2.04m. Meeting time 11.00 am

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.

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

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758. Arthur & Sheryl Keates 3843 1874. David Milton or Sandra Harding 3390 2179.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Manly Boat Harbour – To be confirmed, so please ring one of the people below to confirm this outing will go ahead.**

High tide at 09.26 am of 2.49m. Meeting time 07.30am

This is your chance to legally get behind the fence and check out the waders with our group. Meet at the end of the road, east of the Royal Queensland Yacht Clubhouse, Manly. UBD map 164 A6. **Gates will be locked after we enter and late arrivals will not be able to access the site. Therefore, we need to know if you are planning to attend this ID day. Please ensure you contact the people below and have your name put on the list. We would also like to keep the numbers at a reasonable quantity, so book early.**

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Arthur & Sheryl Keates 3843 1874, Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758, David Milton or Sandra Harding 3390 2179.

## **Wader ID Days Reports**

### **TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 18 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Twelve people took advantage of a glorious spring day to watch waders at this delightful place. As we were about to move towards the roost, a man (complete with stubby in hand) and a small boy walked from a nearby property through the middle of the roost site with the inevitable result of over a thousand birds taking to the air. Fortunately, the birds were able to roost nearer the shaded picnic area until the incoming tide pushed them back to the roost site by which time the "coast was clear".

Observers had good views of most of the birds as they settled down. It took quite some time before we were able to see a leg-flagged wader, but it was worth the wait, a Bar-tailed Godwit sporting blue and white leg flags telling us it had been banded at Tokyo Bay, Japan. A Great Knot with a Victorian orange leg flag was also seen. Several wader species had remnant traces of breeding plumage.

A large flock of about 160 Black Swan and a small group of Chestnut Teal cruised in the passage and an Eastern Osprey, the only raptor seen, flew overhead. A little further north of the roost site there were 2 Red-capped Plover while the following species of waterbirds, waders, terns and gulls were seen at the roost site (with the count in brackets):

Little Pied Cormorant (1), Australian Pelican (4), Striated Heron (1), White-faced Heron (1), Beach Stone-curlew (1), Australian Pied Oystercatcher (15), Black-winged Stilt (5), Masked Lapwing (2), Bar-tailed Godwit (385), Whimbrel (306), Eastern Curlew (128), Terek Sandpiper (4), Grey-tailed Tattler (646), Common Greenshank (2), \Great Knot (191), Red Knot (38), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (42), Curlew Sandpiper (31), Gull-billed Tern (147), Caspian Tern (8), \Silver Gull (2)

At Bishop's Marsh, a pair of Brolga trumpeted and pranced while a White-necked Heron and White-faced Heron fed in the shallow water. A male Black-necked Stork and some Black-winged Stilt completed the species for the rapidly drying up wetland.  
by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

### **TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 19 OCTOBER 2011**

By selecting a mid-week day for this outing we thought it would be a little quieter than normal. However, when we arrived the Caboolture Bird Observers group was already there, but they left a short time later.

A selection of QWSG, BQ members, a group of Qld Parks & Wildlife people and a few guests, made a total of 29 keen people to view the waders. Among the guests were Andy and Teresa Pavone from Hervey Bay, who are standby counters for two sites in that region.

We had a very light shower as we arrived followed by dry conditions with some cloud for the rest of the afternoon and a south-easterly wind.

In total, seventeen species of waders were present giving us a good variety for people to learn. However some of the smaller species were in very low numbers making it difficult for us to find and show people the differences between them.

A lot of time was spent checking and recording leg flags seen on some birds and explaining to the people how important it is to accurately note whether it is a flag or band, and the position of the flags/bands, which enables us to identify the region where the birds were banded. As you will see from the list below, we had quite a variety of colours banded in different regions.

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with plain green flag over plain orange flag on right tibia, white band over red band on right tarsus, yellow band over red band on left tarsus and metal band on left tibia (Yalu Jiang, Dandong-Tangshan (Northern Yellow Sea) mainland China.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with plain white flag over red band over blue band on left tarsus, white band over yellow band on right tarsus and metal band on right tibia (New Zealand)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with white flag engraved with letters **(AZE)** (New Zealand)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag engraved with letters **(VP)** (Victoria)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag engraved with letters **(YA)** (Victoria)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with plain orange flag on right tibia (Victoria)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with plain old green flag on right tibia (Moreton Bay)
- 1 Great Knot with plain orange flag on right tibia (Victoria)
- 1 Great Knot with plain black flag over plain white flag on right tibia (Chongming Dao, Shanghai, China)
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with plain old green flag on right tibia (Moreton Bay)

Unfortunately we did not conduct a count as we spent a lot of time helping people identify the species; however, we did note numbers for some species. A count was conducted on the Bar-tailed Godwits to ascertain the number of juvenile in the flock. Of the c1600 counted, 103 were juvenile birds. This is an important count to do as it gives us an indication on how successful the breeding season has been for the species.

#### Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

54 Black Swan, 2 Australian Wood Duck, Chestnut Teal, Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Striated Heron, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, 2 Red-capped Plover, 1 Lesser Sand Plover, Masked Lapwing, 3 Black-tailed Godwit, c1600 Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, 1 Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, 3 Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, 100+ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Crested Tern, Silver Gull, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Sacred Kingfisher, Dollarbird, Mangrove Gerygone (H), Mangrove Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Australasian Figbird, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark and Common Myna.

Although Bishop's Marsh was dry, two Brolga were seen as we drove past on the way to Toorbul, and they were still there in the afternoon along with a few Cattle Egrets around the cattle.

A small group of Plumed Whistling Duck, Australian Wood Duck and Pacific Black Duck were also seen on the dam and around the dam wall in the paddock to the west of the marsh.

My thanks to some QWSG and BQ members who came to this outing and ending up helping other people identify the waders.  
Linda Cross.



**Waders at Toorbul 14th November 2011**

Hi David,

Just a photo of the waders at Toorbul yesterday..

The day before the locals in their homes watched as a group of people with tripods and scopes, walked out onto the roost and lifted the birds to look at them in the air.

So much for the training of people.

Yours Peter Boyd

*Editor's Note: A timely reminder to us all to respect the birds. DO NOT DISTURB.*

## Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting will be held at the port of Brisbane Visitors' Centre at noon on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of December before the Port of Brisbane Court (11:30). We are always keen to have new members on the committee who bring enthusiasm and new ideas to the committee. It can seem daunting but you will be welcome to sit and observe at first. This is a great way to become more involved with Waders.

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

## **NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Name of Nominee: .....

Position: .....

Name of Proposer: .....

Name of Seconder: .....

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

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

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

#### **MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG**

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	Andrew Geering	(07) 3376 1241
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Sheryl Keates	(07) 3843 1874
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	(07) 3822 3759
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017 or email <a href="mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au">gouldian@ozemail.com.au</a>

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Robert Bush		Vicki Campbell	(07) 3378 2964
Jon Coleman	(07) 3299 2780	Peter Driscoll	
Richard Fuller		Joyce Harding	(07) 3488 0212
Sandra Harding	(07) 3390 2179	Andy Jensen	0404 348 638
David Milton	(07) 3390 2179	Ivell Whyte	(07) 3802 0757
<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email <a href="mailto:xenus@big.net.au">xenus@big.net.au</a>
<u>MERCHANDISE</u>	Vicki Campbell	07 3378 2964	Email <a href="mailto:vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au">vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au</a>
<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	All correspondence to:		

The QWSG Chairperson,  
28 Peppertree Street,  
SINNAMON PARK  
QLD 4073

#### **New Committee to be elected after publication of this issue.**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please notify the Treasurer as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription rates:  
Single: \$15:00  
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Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward application to:  
Sheryl Keates  
QWSG Treasurer  
PO Box 1483  
CARINDALE  
Qld 4152

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

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011  
or E-mail to: [gouldian@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au)

Opinions expressed in Queensland Wader are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Queensland Waders Study Group, nor the Queensland Ornithological Society Inc.

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## QWSG MERCHANDISE

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

**OR**

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

Postage is not included in prices quoted.

**Note price reduction on “Shorebirds of Australia”**

BOOKS	\$35.00	Shorebirds of Australia
METAL BADGES	\$5.00	Metal QWSG logo badges.
CLOTH BADGES	\$8.00	QWSG logo on rectangular bottle-green or sand background

POLO SHIRTS                \$35.00.

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

Men's sizes: SM - XL

Women's    : XS - M



## Other Conservation Activities of Interest



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

Separate membership is required. **Contacts:** President, Mike West (07) 38764844;  
Secretary, Jim Sneddon (07) 3343 6323; Treasurer, Helen Underwood 0414 340 953

**New Committee to be elected after publication of this issue.**

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:

**Francesco Bancala    Anne Cleary**  
**Alex Ferguson    Lisa Johnston**  
**Felicity Moore    Martin Ryan**

A reminder to all 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 [gouldian@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au). Could you use the subject line as “Electronic Newsletter”? Editor



## Count Activities – 2011/12

### QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2011/12

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011	2.36m at 09:19				
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.31m at 12:51	National Summer Count	Sat 21st Jul	1.90m at 10:47	National Winter Count
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.39m at 11:49		Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1.98m at 09:47	
Sat 10th Mar	2.39m at 10:47		Sat 15th Sep	2.03m at 08:43	
Sat 7th Apr	2.32m at 09:40		Sat 13th Oct	2.02m at 07:34	
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> May	2.19m at 08:26		Sat 3rd Nov	2.19m at 11:54	
No Count in June			Sat 1st Dec	2.33m at 10:58	

### Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2011/12

Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011							
2.39m at 09:55		Meet		08:05			
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.17m at 13:36	Meet	11:45	Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	1.93m at 11:29	Meet	09:40
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.23m at 12:30	Meet	10:40	Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2.04m at 10:29	Meet	08:40
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.26m at 11:29	Meet	09:40	Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2.14m at 09:26	Meet	07:35
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.23m at 10:25	Meet	08:35	Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.18m at 08:20	Meet	06:30
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> May	2.13m at 09:17	Meet	07:25	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.13m at 12:33	Meet	10:40
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun	2.00m at 08:04	Meet	06:15	Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	2.29m at 11:34	Meet	09:45

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:** please let the Treasurer know if you change your contact details.



## 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, PO Box 1483 CARINDALE, Qld 4152

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

2tattlers@gmail.com would be appreciated.