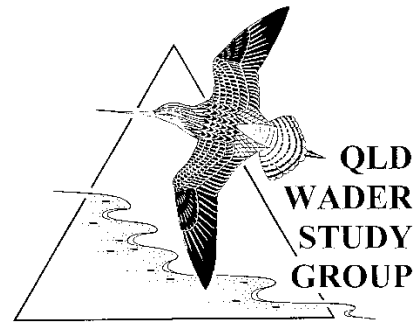


QUEENSLAND WADER



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Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of
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CHAIRPERSONS REPORT FOR 2012

Jon Coleman, Chairperson for Queensland Wader Study Group

Well, this is my first report as Chairperson and although I've been a committee member for a number of years I didn't appreciate how much really goes on until I took the role of Chairperson on from Andrew early this year. Our activities broadly fall into three categories, research, education and conservation/consulting and this year we've been busy on all these fronts.

David Edwards continued to produce high quality newsletters throughout the year and we've had lots of feedback from both QWSG and non-QWSG sources on the quality and interesting content David produces. In particular this year we've had articles from elsewhere in the flyway including Spoon-billed sandpipers, and the Tuamotu Sandpiper just to keep us on our toes and provide different contexts from around the Pacific.

Sheryl Keates also passed on the role of treasurer, after 15 years, to Deidre Chrzescijanski. Thanks to Sheryl for such a long time in that role and good luck to Deidre! We've also taken the opportunity to do some housekeeping and start refreshing our educational material and brochures. Robert Bush has taken on the task of refreshing our banners and exhibition material and Ivell Whyte recently organised a refresh and reprint of our QWSG brochures which arrived in November.

We've also made some small grants this year to help out with other projects or initiatives and provided a small grant to AWSG to help maintain the national leg flag database as well as helping to support the development and/or reprint of a range of booklets, brochures and other educational and informational materials.

Finally, as with every year we were involved with, through either providing information on a consulting basis, or by direct interaction through meetings and letters with a whole range of shorebird related issues in 2012, ranging from providing data and highlighting concerns in relation to the Port of Gladstone through to being involved with local councils and councillors throughout the region in relation to matters concerning disturbance or shorebird development.

Some of the key activities in 2012, in no particular order of priority are highlighted below:

EDUCATION

Sheryl, having passed on the role of treasurer has found time in 2012 to organise a whole set of Doggie breakfasts, working with SEQ catchments. These have been held at a whole range of locations between Caloundra and the Gold Coast and are important in bringing shorebirds to the attention of the public and educating them about disturbance. In a similar vein Sheryl and Arthur Keates, Phil and Linda Cross, David Milton and Sandra Harding also organised a number of wader id days at Manly and Toorbul which as always proved popular with members and non members alike.

I was fortunate enough to go on the exchange visit this year with Brisbane City Council to the Yatsu Higata wetland in Narashino, Japan, the sister wetland to Boondall. It was a great opportunity to not only build on our existing relationships with both the Yatsu Higata Centre team and Wild Bird Society of Japan, but also to see how they approach education of the public and exchange ideas.

SURVEYS

In 2012 we completed surveys of the high tide roosts in both the Great Sandy area (January) and Mackay Region (November) adding to our long term count dataset for those areas and helping to complement the counts that many of our local members do on a monthly basis in those areas. David Milton, Sandra Harding and Linda Cross were instrumental in organising those surveys but thanks are also due to all the volunteers who gave up their time to go and count roosts over those weekends.

This year also saw a preliminary survey of the Karumba/Burketown region of the gulf in October, ahead of a full survey planned for March 2013. The initial fact finding survey was organised by Peter Driscoll and David Milton with Adrian Reigen from New Zealand also helping out with the initial survey. It has been many years since the Karumba region was surveyed in detail so this will be a particularly exciting and very important survey.

THE COUNT PROGRAMME

Linda Cross again tirelessly organised and managed the count programme in 2012 with monthly counts across a whole range of sites in Moreton bay and further afield up and down the Queensland coast. Our contract to count the Port of Brisbane was also renewed this year allowing us to continue counting this important location. This dataset has become one of the most accurate and comprehensive datasets on shorebird counts in Australia. The analysis done as part of the ARC linkage project is probably one of the most important pieces of work in recent years in demonstrating clearly the declines in shorebirds and is a fantastic example of how important and powerful citizen science combined with formal scientific analysis is. Without the time many of our members give to count program each month this work would not be possible and the dataset we now have would be far less valuable in providing quantitative data that can be used to help conserve and highlight the issues facing our birds. Thank you to every one of you that has attended a count, or who regularly counts their local roost. Linda is always looking for new counters so if you know anyone, or would like to count your own site please get in touch with her. I should also acknowledge the work of Joyce Harding and Vicki Campbell who assist Linda by helping with data entry and data checking. Next year we hope to move to online data submission, which should help make the process of data entry and validation less arduous.

BANDING AND GEOLOCATORS

I have produced a separate report on banding but thought it worth highlighting that we've continued with fieldwork throughout the year targeting both migratory and non migratory shorebirds around Moreton bay and have put engraved leg flags on 519 shorebirds of 18 species in 2012 and now have over 1400 re-sightings of individually identifiable birds at feeding roosting and migration stopover sites.

The results of our first two retrieved geolocators were shown in the last newsletter and reveal some amazing insights into the migration of the species and the next batch of 20 geolocators are being calibrated now and will be put on at Manly in December and January. Thanks to the many individuals who volunteer for banding, spending long hours in the field, often wading hip deep in water and mud to get birds into position for catching and also to Phil Cross who maintains the database of leg flag sightings, his workload goes up as the group and flag more birds each year! If you are interested in getting involved in banding please contact me for further information.

ARC LINKAGE AND OTHER UNIVERSITY AFFILIATIONS

The ARC linkage project has continued and we have made further payments into the project this year as per the original project plan. Richard Fuller's team continues to grow at UQ and we continue to support them where possible by providing count data and more recently leg flag data. We will also be helping one of Richard's newer PhD students in the next few months to catch Godwit, so that small field trackers can be glued to their tails to quantify disturbance at roosts which will be an exciting and very relevant piece of work.

The group also provide financial support for shorebird related PhDs through the Nigel Roberts Bursary which Peter Rothlisberg and David Milton administer on behalf of the committee. We continued to provide supporting grants to Tara Neilsen at the University of the Sunshine Coast for her work on factors influencing shorebird occurrence on sandy shores as well as providing similar support for Francesco Bancala at the University of Queensland who is studying feeding and roosting behaviour in shorebirds.

QWSG is also collaborating with scientists from University of Queensland on a project called "Birds without Borders" to develop a methodology for monitoring shorebird habitat quality with workshops held at Maaroom this year as a pilot.

I could go on forever and have tried to cherry-pick some of the bigger highlights of the year and mention some of the individuals involved. I'd like to finish by taking the opportunity to thank every single committee member and also our non-committee roles such as Phil, Linda and Vicki Campbell, who administers the merchandise. Everyone has contributed to the group in many different ways and many things that just seem to happen actually take a great deal of work in the background such as accounting, maintaining meeting minutes and actions and so on. We always like to see new faces on the committee as they bring new ideas and perspectives so I'd encourage anyone who would like to stand to get in touch.

Finally, I have to say thank you to the QWSG members for your support and fieldwork over the last 12 months. Hopefully this brief (or not so brief report) has shown you how important your support, your counts, and your involvement in local issues or education in your local area is for shorebirds and without you we would actually have very little use, so thank you and here's to an equally busy and valuable 2013.

WEB SITE REPORT FOR 2012

The web site continues to be an important information source on shorebirds and also on our group. On average there are 220 individual user sessions every day, up to 700 page views daily and between 700 and 1500 hits on a daily basis. Virtually all of our email correspondence is through the web site email addresses suggesting that people really are using the website to see what we're doing and to communicate with us.

Most Google searches on shorebirds will return a first page search engine result for our web site demonstrating that it is still widely referenced as an information source. This year we scoped out a process for submitting and validating our count program data online, rather than the highly manual process we have now. This will involve a secure area on the site into which counters can logon and upload their data and this same process will also allow general membership access for newsletters. The committee are currently waiting on a formal quote for this work and hope that this can be completed over the next few months.

BANDING REPORT FOR 2012

2012 was a good year for banding with 519 individuals caught and leg flagged with engraved leg flags (compared to 240 in 2011). The breakdown is shown in table 1. This was largely a result of the increased use of cannon netting which allows larger catches to be made. In 2012 we also moved to a new leg flag manufacturer, which uses a 2-ply plastic, green on white rather than a single green ply. This means the engraving is much clearer and doesn't fade in the same way the old ink or marine paint techniques used to.

4 cannon net catches at Manly and Toorbul and 2 mist net catches at Manly resulted in a catch of 513 shorebirds and a further visit to Coochiemudlo in August resulted in a further 6 Bush-Stone curlews being banded. Since 2006 the group now have 1491 individually identifiable shorebirds of 21 species, complementing the large numbers banded with plain leg flags pre 2000. Highlights this year in the catches have been recapturing a 17 year old Great Knot at Toorbul, originally banded in 1996 at Nudgee, and a Red Knot, recaptured at Toorbul that was originally banded in 1996 at Miranda New Zealand, that bird has already been resighted at Whitford, just a few Kms away from Miranda since we caught it. Both these records show the incredible longevity and site faithfulness of these birds and the group have recently submitted a paper for publication, which highlights the importance of site fidelity in shorebirds.

To date our 1491 individually identifiable birds have generated over 2300 individual re-sightings allowing not only migration stopover sites to be catalogued but also large amounts of data on roosting and feeding patterns in our shorebirds. A big thank you to the many people who send in sightings, Tony Cotter in particular generates hundreds of re-sightings from the Wynnum foreshore and also a big thank you to Phil Cross for maintaining the database of flag sightings.

Foreign re-sightings of individuals followed the usual trends with 2 Grey-tailed tattlers identified in Japan, one on the Yatsu Higata where we have a longstanding relationship with the centre and the Wild Bird Society of Japan in Chiba. We also had Bar-tailed Godwits identified in Yalu Jiang, China (5) and Auckland (3) as well as a Red Knot originally banded at Miranda, New Zealand, recaptured at Toorbul and now at Whitford in New Zealand. Even our resident shorebirds have been moving with manly flagged Oystercatchers identified as far north as Hervey bay and as far south as Ballina.

We recovered 2 geolocators in 2012 of the 20 originally put on and a further 20 geolocators are being calibrated as I type this report and will be put on tattlers in December and January so that we can collect more data on this exciting project. The results of the first two geolocators can be seen in the last newsletter and show how truly remarkable these birds are when they migrate.

TABLE 1: NUMBERS OF SHOREBIRDS BANDED BY QWSG IN 2012

SPECIES	Number caught 2011	Number caught 2012
Bar-tailed Godwit	43	152
Black-winged Stilt	3	16
Bush Stone-curlew	17	6
Curlew Sandpiper	5	46
Double-banded Plover	0	1
Eastern Curlew	1	0
Great Knot	0	96
Greater Sandplover	2	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	61	113
Lesser Sandplover	2	2
Masked Lapwing	5	1
Pacific Golden Plover	1	0
Pied Oystercatcher	16	17
Red-capped Plover	1	1
Red Knot	0	6
Red-necked Stint	35	27
Ruddy Turnstone	17	6
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	11	26
Terek Sandpiper	8	1
Whimbrel	11	1
TOTALS	240	519

9th Mackay Shorebird Survey by QWSG

QWSG aims to undertake a survey of the high tide shorebird roosts in the Mackay region every two years. As the usual organizer was away on holidays (thanks Linda !) it was apparent that the job was mine. Luckily, Linda is very organized and so was able to provide the necessary details before she left for her trip to South Africa. We planned to survey 67 roosts and wetlands between Repulse Bay near Airlie Beach and Cape Palmerstone, south of Sarina. This is the normal survey region that has been completed each time. We were lucky with the weather and had all the boat trips go ahead as planned. But it was still disappointing to miss out on 11 roosts that were not counted on the Sand Bay and Ince Bay trips. The methods and sites for these 2 areas will need to be reviewed before the next comprehensive survey. The survey was made over 3 days – 16 to 18 November 2012.

The last survey reported 18,054 waders in November 2010 from 52 sites and this survey recorded 16,568 waders from 56 sites. Species that were down from last time were: Beach Stone-curlew, Grey Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Terek Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Great Knot and Red Knot. Higher counts were made of Bush Stone-curlew, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Black-fronted Dotterel, Red-kneed Dotterel, Masked Lapwing, Comb-crested Jacana, Latham's Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Wandering Tattler, Marsh Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper. The increase in the Curlew Sandpiper numbers was minimal (57 in 2010 to 59 in 2012).

The site with the second highest count of waders was Dudgeon Point, north of Hay Point. The future of Dudgeon Point roosts for waders is doubtful as the Queensland Government's plan is to develop coal terminals on this peninsular. This survey found 980 Greater Sand Plovers (1.24% for the flyway population). While the Hay Point Master Plan intends to avoid the claypan area to protect shorebird roosting (Draft Final Port of Hay Point Ten Year Development Master Plan), this will not work as it is not where the shorebirds roost and does not provide the type of habitat for the species using the Point. The recently released waterbird population estimates (WPE5 - Wetlands International 2012 – wpe.wetlands.org) reduced the flyway population of Greater Sand Plover from 110,000 to 79,000, which shows the species has declined by 31% in the last five years. Refer to the following web site for the details of the planned Dudgeon Pt coal terminals. - <http://www.ngbp.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Draft-Final-Port-of-Hay-Point-Ten-Year-Development-Master-Plan.pdf>

It was good to meet up with local counters in the region during the survey. We encourage local counters to visit as many of the roosts they can and send in the counts to Linda. In particular, we hope that Marlis Schoeb can count Nell's Beach, Sand Bay via land access in the future. It was also an opportunity to improve on the GIS mapping of roosts in the region that is maintained by Reef Catchments natural resource management group. Thank you to Kerri Woodcock for her support in providing us with the maps to take out in the field. Once again thank you to Jim Ryman for providing his services and boat to take the team out to Bakers Creek, McEwan's Beach and Dunrock sites. The accommodation at Illawong Beach Resort was perfect and the helpfulness of the staff at the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel at Walkerston was appreciated. Thank you also to Brenda and Deirdre for their assistance with logistics during the survey.

Wader breeding records

Hodges Lagoon, Shoal Point	3 juvenile black swan
Dudgeon Point	Red-capped Plover nesting/eggs
Dudgeon Pt Ck mouth	3 Red-capped Plover nesting/eggs
Dudgeon Pt wetland	1 Masked Lapwing chick
Dudgeon Pt Beach	Aust Pied Oystercatcher nesting with 2 eggs
Mackay Port Wetlands	2 pairs of Masked Lapwings (b) with chicks, 1 pair of Black-fronted Dotterel (b) with 3 chicks
Tedlands wetland	2 juvenile White-bellied Sea-eagle

Flagged birds

St Helens Beach	Male Godwit – orange right upper leg (flagged in Victoria)
Dudgeon Pt	Green flag on Sand Plover glimpsed – no other details available (flagged in SE Qld)
Dudgeon Pt Ck mouth	Terek Sandpiper black over white on right upper, metal band on left upper (flagged in Shanghai, China)
Armstrongs south point	2 Great Knots black over white, right leg above knee (flagged in Shanghai, China)

Disturbance

Disturbance was recorded at 10 sites. The types of disturbance recorded were dogs off-leash, people walking, jet skis, loud music, motor bikes, fishers and boats. A number of beaches are being targeted by Reef Catchments and the Mackay City Council and the survey indicates that this is a very urgent issue if the sites are to continue to be used by the birds.

Points of interest

Total birds: 26,059 of 82 species of waterbird, water-dependent raptor and shorebirds

Site with highest count of shorebird species: – O'Connell River mouth (2900 waders)

Total shorebirds: 16,568 of 32 species. This comprised 21 migratory species and 11 resident species, which is the highest number of shorebird species for any of the surveys.

Highest counts: Great Knot 5142 (IUCN internationally listed as Vulnerable)

Bar-tailed Godwit 2755

Red-necked Stint 1684

Greater Sand Plover 1442 (IUCN internationally listed as Vulnerable)

The region is internationally significant for 6 species (> 1% flyway population) based on the current survey results.

One Wood Sandpiper recorded at Tedlands Wetlands.

Special thanks to land owners

Angelo Sant – owner of Sant's Lagoon and Nell's Beach

Joe & Phyllis Abela – owners of Habana Wharf

Chris Pappas – part owner of property at Shoal Point

Vic Welsh – owner of Tedlands

Dugall & Kerry McDougall's - owner of Alligator Hole Tedlands South

Brett Windsor – lessee of Dudgeon Point owned by North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation

The participants for this survey

QWSG Members: Robert Bush, Deirdre Chrzescijanski, Jon Coleman, Ken Cowell, David Edwards, Andrew Geering, Sandra Harding, Lisa Johnston, Arthur Keates, David Milton, Felicity Moore, Brenda & Graham Smith, Floss Wainwright, Ivell & Jim Whyte

QWSG Members in Mackay and Airlie Beach: Marlis Schoeb, Graham Armstrong

Birdlife Australia, Mackay: Gerry Woodruff, Marg Andrews, Greg Strohal, Dan Burndred

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing: Stephen Burke, Ludi, John

Sandra Harding

China Coastal Waterbird Census wins Ford Green Award

Birdlife Fri, Jan 25, 2013

The China Coastal Waterbird Census is a long-term project to monitor the distribution, numbers and seasonal movements of waterbirds along the Chinese coast (Marcus Ho).

China lies at the centre of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, and vast numbers of migratory birds pass through the country every year on the journeys between their breeding and non-breeding grounds. In the past seven years the China Coastal Waterbird Census has gathered a wealth of new information on the populations of the waterbirds that migrate along the coast of China, including many globally threatened species.

In late 2012, the team of volunteers that runs the China Coastal Waterbird Census was awarded the second prize in the Nature Conservation Pioneer Award category of the Ford Green Awards 2012. The extra resources provided by the award will be used to recruit new surveyors and cover additional sites, and to provide training to enhance the skills of the team.

The China Coastal Waterbird Census is a long-term project initiated by a group of keen birdwatchers in September 2005 with an aim of monitoring the distribution, numbers and seasonal movements of waterbirds through monthly surveys along the Chinese coast. It was also hoped that the results of the China Coastal Waterbird Census would assist with the conservation of the country's biodiversity and Important Bird Areas.

Getting baseline data

The China Coastal Waterbird Census is coordinated by representatives from the different survey sites and to date more than 150 volunteers from Chinese birdwatching societies, nature reserves and other organisations have participated in the census work. At present, waterbirds are counted at thirteen coastal intertidal wetlands every month, in Liaoning, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Fujian, Guangdong and Hong Kong.

The results of the monthly surveys are providing important baseline information on the biodiversity of the thirteen coastal sites and the distribution, populations and migratory movements of individual waterbird species in China. Since the start of the project, a total of 21 globally threatened species (four Critically Endangered, six Endangered and 11 Vulnerable) has been recorded, as well as 71 species that have been counted in internationally important numbers (exceeding 1% of their global or flyway population at one or more sites).

The China Coastal Waterbird Census has made some exciting discoveries, notably that Rudong in Jiangsu is a key stopover site for both Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Critically Endangered) and Spotted Greenshank (Endangered), that the Min Jiang Estuary in Fujian support a wintering population of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and that Lianyungang in Jiangsu is a key wintering site for Eurasian Oystercatcher.

Reporting back

Two reports have been published on the results of the China Coastal Waterbird Census – in Chinese with an English summary – covering 2005-2007 and 2008-2009, and the data have been cited in both national and international studies. A new report covering 2010-2011 will be published shortly. A leaflet about the China Coastal Waterbird Census was produced to promote wetland and waterbird conservation to the general public.

A meeting of the China Coastal Waterbird Census participants is held every year or two, to review the previous year's counts and plan for the following year. Training courses have been held on survey techniques, the identification of difficult waterbird groups and site conservation, which has helped to build the capacity of the Chinese birdwatching societies.

The Ford Green Award provides an important opportunity to expand the China Coastal Waterbird Census, and provide further training to increase the skills of the participants.

Since it was established in 2005, the China Coastal Waterbird Census has received support from The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, BirdLife International, Darwin Initiative, Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, Tolkien Trust and Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund.

Shorebird Trapping Threatens new Spoon-billed Sandpiper Wintering Site in China

Fri, Jan 18, 2013

Four Spoon-billed Sandpipers were found at Fucheng, near Leizhou, south-west Guangdong Province in December 2012. Together with several other recent sightings this record indicates that Spoon-billed Sandpiper is a more widespread wintering species on the coast of southern China than was previously known. However, evidence was found of large-scale trapping of shorebirds and action is needed to address this threat.

The discovery was made by Jonathan Martinez and Richard Lewthwaite of Hong Kong Bird Watching Society during a project to investigate the winter distribution of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in southern China. They surveyed nine sites in south-west Guangdong and found the group of Spoon-billed Sandpipers in a large area of drained-down fishponds at Fucheng. This site is close to Zhanjiang, where the French ornithologist Pierre Jabouille described Spoon-billed Sandpiper as fairly numerous in winter in the 1930s, and where Professor Fasheng Zou of the South China Institute of Endangered Animals recorded three Spoon-billed Sandpipers in March 2003.

Since 2005, there have been sightings of Spoon-billed Sandpiper during the winter months at several other sites in southern China, indicating that this is a more important wintering area for the species than was previously known. The northernmost wintering location is the Minjiang Estuary in Fujian, where a flock of Spoon-billed Sandpipers has regularly been present in recent winters. There have also been sightings of up to three birds at Xitao in south-west Guangdong, Mai Po in Hong Kong, Fangcheng and Qinzhou Bay in Guangxi and the Changhua Estuary in Hainan. The on-going project will carry out further surveys in Fujian, Guangxi and Hainan and will hopefully locate some more wintering Spoon-billed Sandpipers.

One of the three Spoon-billed Sandpipers recorded at Zhanjiang in 2003 was caught in a bird trapper's net. Since then the problem of trapping appears to have become even worse and illegal bird-netting now poses a major threat to Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other shorebirds. The team counted a total of 460 mistnets during the survey – these were typically 25 m long and 3 m high, meaning that the nets counted equated to a length of 11.5 km. The nets were placed, often in parallel lines or V-shapes, beside shorebird roost-sites on fishponds, salt pans and sandbars on the coast, as well as in nearby paddyfields and marshes.



In 2003, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper was found caught in a hunter's net (Fasheng Zou)

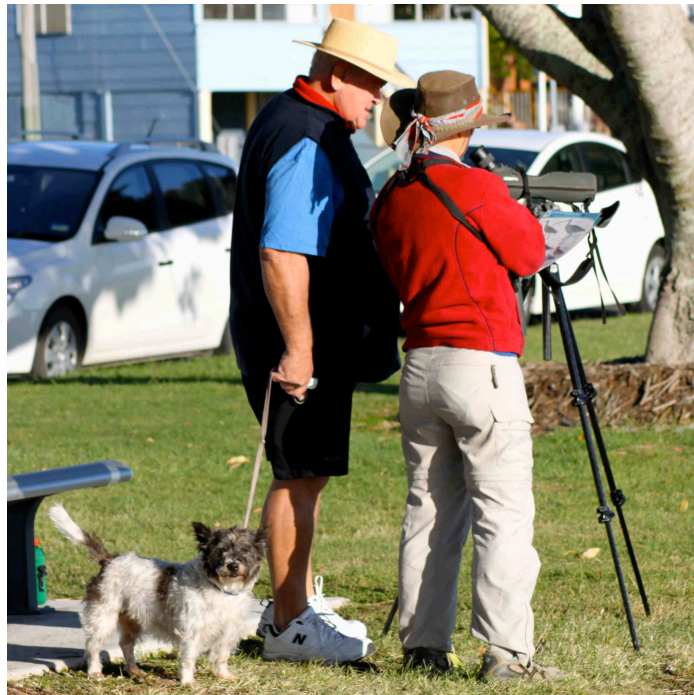
The shorebird trapping found during the survey has been reported to Guangdong Forestry Department, which is responsible for the protection of wildlife. Discussions are underway amongst Chinese birdwatchers and conservationists about how to support the local government agencies to address the trapping of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other migratory birds (and other forms of illegal hunting) at the key sites for these birds.

The project "Study of the non-breeding distribution of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Southern China" is being managed by The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and supported by Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong. It is being implemented in partnership with Fujian Bird Watching Society, Xiamen Bird Watching Society, Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve and Kadoorie Conservation China of Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden.

Dog Walkers BBQs 2012 -2013

QWSG and SEQ Catchments Community Partnerships have been holding dog walkers BBQs to increase awareness of shorebirds needs on shorelines in SE Qld with funding from a Commonwealth Caring for Country Grant.

Several BBQs for dog walkers have been held since starting at Bribie Island in May last year. Other sites have been Maroochy North Shore, Sandgate, Nudgee Beach, Wynnum, Thorneside and Victoria Pt., with the Esplanade near Penfold Pde, Wynnum being the busiest with over 100 people.



These events have provided free BBQ food, juice, water, sunscreen, information on shorebirds, brochures on sharing shorelines as well as dog treats, water for dogs and free dog leashes. QWSG volunteers have given walkers a chance to see the birds through telescopes and provided expertise on migration, identification and shorebird needs.

The next BBQ is scheduled for Saturday March 9th, 8 am at Doug Jennings Park on the Spit at Southport. Another is to be held at Nudgee Beach with volunteers from Boondall Wetlands Environmental Centre on Sunday March 10th, 11am to 1:30pm.

Joel Bolzenius, SEQ Catchments Community Partnerships Manager for Redlands, Moreton Bay and the Islands, has been a good organiser and BBQer with colleague Mahala Burns helping when needed in the Brisbane area while other SEQ Catchments Community Partnerships Managers, Louise Orr from Brisbane and Moreton Regions, Susie Chapman from Sunshine Coast and Linda Durham from Southport organising events in their areas. Marine Parks staff has also helped with some of these events.

Thanks to all QWSG members who have helped in any way.

Sheryl Keates

Yatsu Higata Visits Brisbane!

Back in January this year, Boondall Wetlands and the QWSG were lucky to be visited yet again by Mr Hit Akutsu and Mr Yutaka Matsukawa. Both are volunteers at the Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre. Their first stop on their visit was to Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre where they were shown around the centre and the reserve by staff and volunteers. After a bite to eat they left with their hosts Arthur and Sheryl Keates.

The next day, a group of enthusiastic wader watchers meet up at Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island where QWSG was holding a wader identification morning. It was a great morning with such a variety of species, including a sighting of a Beach Stone Curlew.

in the afternoon, a small group of us took our international visitors down to Manly to set up the canon netting for the Sunday. We met Jon Coleman and David Edwards on site and we weren't sure what to expect. However, with a bunch of enthusiastic people we set up the equipment ready for the next day.

The day of the canon netting (the Sunday) everyone arrived on site at Manly and was given a briefing and people were allocated different jobs, some jobs were less muddy than others!



Mr Hit Akutsu and Mr Yutaka Matsukawa

Hit and Yutaka were allocated the job of transporting the birds from the nets to the holding pens. The amount of different jobs, time, people and enthusiasm to get canon netting done is quite impressive. Hit and Yutaka enjoyed themselves tremendously.

Thank-you to anyone who was involved with making Hit and Yutakas visit to Australia so welcoming.

Felicity Moore



Young Masked Lapwings

WADER WATCH Phil Cross

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

Can we also please ask people to carefully check on which leg the flag is. 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 and other people who this information goes to. We would appreciate your cooperation on this issue.

Green leg flag sightings

In each Qld Wader issue there is 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.

1 Great Knot (**AJW on flag**) – Maaroom – John Bell – 09.12.12 and 17.02.13

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs between 01.10.12 and 17.02.13 were sighted by Jill & Ian Brown, Robert Bush, Jon Coleman, Tony Cotter, Linda & Phil Cross, Kevin Delahoy, Trevor Ford, Kristy Currie, Arthur Keates, Angus Innes, Paul Maxwell, David Milton, Felicity Moore, Barbara & Brian O'Connor, Glen Pacey, Adrien Riegen, Peter Rothlisberg, Brian Russell, Brenda & Graham Smith, Michael Strong, Esther Townsend, Marjorie Webber, Dez Wells and Peter Woodhall.

6 Eastern Curlew, 3 Whimbrel, 259 Bar-tailed Godwit, 1 Black-tailed Godwit, 5 Pied Oystercatcher, 6 Black-winged Stilt, 2 Masked Lapwing, 113 Great Knot, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 65 Grey-tailed Tattler, 8 Curlew Sandpiper, 6 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 1 Greater Sand Plover, 4 Lesser Sand Plover and 5 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**.

Bar-tailed Godwit – **AE, CN, CX, EN, HL, HR, HU, JB, JE, JH, NP, PA, PC, PT, RJ, RL, RV, RX, AAA, AAB, AAL, AAM, ABL, ABN, ABP, ABY, ABZ, ACC, ACD, ACK, ACP, ACR, ACU, ACW, ACX, ACY, ACZ, ADA, ADB, ADC, ADD, DH, AEC, AED, AEE, AEJ, AEM, AEN, AEP, AET, AEU, AEV, AEX, AHA, AHC, AHD, AHH, AHJ, AHK, AHL, AHM, AHN, AHP, AHR, AHS, AHT, AHU, AHW, AHZ, AJA, AJB, AJC, AJD, AJE, AJJ, AJL, AJM, AJP, AJR, AJS, AJU, AJX, AJY, AKA, AKB, AKC, AKD, AKY, AKZ, ALD, ALH, ALJ, ALM, ALN, ALP, ALS, ALT, ALY, ALX, AMA, AMJ, AMK, AMN, ANB, APN, APP, APW, ARH, ARL, ARM, ARN, ARR, ARS, ARV, ASD, ASE, ASH, ASL, ASS, ASU, ASW, ASX, ATA, AVK, AVS, AVY, AYK, AYR, AYW, AZC, AZW, BBC, BJU, BJZ, BKN**.

Black-tailed Godwit – **APB**.

Pied Oystercatcher – **A7, BC, C8, D8, H7**.

Black-winged Stilt – **KC, AAN, AAS, ABD, APB**.

Masked Lapwing – **HA, AAA**.

Great Knot – **AAM, AAN, AAP, AAS, AAT, AAU, AAW, AAX, AAY, ADA, ADB, ADC, AEB, AEC, AED, AEE, AEH, AEJ, AEK, AEP, AES, AET, AEU, AEV, AHA, AHE, AHH, AHL, AHM, AHP, AHS, AHU, AHV, AJB, AJC, AJD, AJE, AJH, AJM, AJT, AJU, AJV, AJY, ALA, ALB, ALD, ALH, ALK, ALM, ALN, ALP, ALS, ALU, ALW, ALY, ALZ, AVY, AWB, AWC, AWE, AWJ, BAS, BAT, BAU, BAW, BAX, BAY, BAZ, BBC, BBE, BBJ, BBK, BBL, BBM, BBU, BBZ, BCD, BCZ**.

Ruddy Turnstone – **ER**.

Grey-tailed Tattler – **A3, B5, C2, AX, KB, KC, KD, KY, LM, LR, LS, RC, RV, RX, AAC, AAJ, ACA, ACE, ACJ, ACK, ACN, ACT, ACZ, ADH, ADM, ADN, ADY, AEW, AHN, AHT, AHX, AKC, AKL, AKN, AKR, AKV, ANA, ANK, ANN, AVA, AVD, AVE, AVH, AVL, BAD, BAJ**.

Curlew Sandpiper – **DR, AAD, AAW, ABZ, ACA, ACH, ACR**.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – **HH, AAE, AAN, AAR, ABD**.

Tattlers A3, B5, C2, RX, AVC, AVD, AVH, BAC and BAD have green flag right tibia, yellow flag and geolocator on left tibia and metal band left tarsus

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**ACS on flag**) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, south Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 14.01.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**ALB on flag**) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, south Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 14.01.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**ALB on flag**) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, south Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – David Melville – 09.01.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**ALK on flag**) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, south Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Heliose Gauvin – 07.01.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**AK on flag**) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, south Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 06.01.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, south Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 03.01.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**AEW on flag**) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, south Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 28.12.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**AR on flag**) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, south Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 28.12.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**AHV on flag**) – Maitaitai, Firth of Thames, Clevedon, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 13.12.12 & 14.12.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**JD on flag**) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China – Jimmy Choi – 07.05.12 & 14.05.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**JH on flag**) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China – Jimmy Choi – 04.05.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China – Jimmy Choi – 30.04.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**JD on flag**) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China – David Melville – 29.04.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**JM on flag**) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China – David Melville – 27.04.12
- 1 Pied Oystercatcher (**FA on flag**) – Kingsford Smith Park, Ballina, NSW – Steve McBride – 27.01.13
- 1 Red Knot (**ABK on flag**) – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 15.10.12 (**This bird was flagged and banded on 20th October 1996 and is now 18 years old**)

Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**SP on flag**) – St Helen's beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 17.11.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**SP on flag**) – St Helen's beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 31.10.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – St Helen's beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 31.10.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 21.10.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**PZ on flag**) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 20.10.12.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Bishop Island (Fisherman Island) – David Edwards – 14.10.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**PZ on flag**) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 13.10.12.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – St Helen's beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 13.10.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.10.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Goat Island, Maroochy River – Barb Dickson & Clive Allen – 03.10.12
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mathiesen Homestead, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 30.09.12
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 03.11.12
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Jon Coleman – 23.09.12

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (**ZPD on flag**) – Toorbul sandfly bay – Dez Wells – 12 & 13.10.12
- 1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.10.12.

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four combinations

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – angle cut blue flag left tibia, angle cut white flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 03.11.12 & 01.12.12 (flagged Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino, Chiba).
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 03.02.13 (flagged Hokkaido).
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 04.01.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Seaforth Beach north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 15.11.12 (flagged Hokkaido).

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

- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 14.02.13

- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul, sandfly bay – Dez Wells – 03.02.13
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Jon Coleman *et al* – 03.02.13
2 Great Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 09.12.12
1 Great Knot – Bishop Island (Fisherman Island) – Linda Cross – 02.12.12
1 Great Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 01.12.12
2 Great Knot – Armstrong south point, south of Mackay – Felicity Moore & Lisa Johnston – 18.11.12
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 03.11.12
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.10.12
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Jon Coleman *et al* – 23.09.12
1 Terek Sandpiper – Dudgeon Point creek mouth, Mackay – Arthur Keates, Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright – 18.11.12

Other wader leg flag sightings

A Bar-tailed Godwit with a green flag over an orange flag on the right tibia, a yellow band over a yellow band on the right tarsus, a blue band over a white band on the left tarsus and a metal band on the left tibia has been sighted by numerous people from 12th October 2012 to 14th February 2013 at the Toorbul roost and Kakadu roost on Bribie Island. Although some observers only sighted one yellow band on the right tarsus, it is in fact two yellow bands that can look like one. This bird was flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China. Below are the sighting details:-

- Toorbul – Dez Well – 14.02.13
 Toorbul – Jill & Ian Brown – 03.02.13
 Kakadu roost Bribie Island – Linda Cross *et al* – 12.01.03
 Kakadu roost Bribie Island – Michael Strong & Peter Woodall – 16.12.12
 Toorbul – John & Julie Eley – 06.12.12
 Toorbul – Dez Wells – 01.12.12
 Toorbul – Angus Innes, Barbara & Brian O'Connor – 13.11.12
 Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.10.12

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, metal band left tibia – St Helen's beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 31.10.12 (flagged Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, China)
1 Curlew Sandpiper – blue flag over yellow flag right tibia, metal band left tibia – Nudgee Beach – Arthur Keates – 29.11.12 (flagged Bohai Bay, 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.

- H1 on flag** – Tony's Island, Tweed Heads – Laurel Allsopp – 04.01.13
K3 on flag – Tony Cotter – Wynnum Esplanade – 05.01.13
K3 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 17.11.12
K3 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Chris Martinez – 20.10.12.
K3 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 13 & 20.10.12

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 2 Caspian Tern – orange flag left tarsus, metal band right tarsus – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 28.10.12

Count Programme by Linda Cross

Ex tropical cyclone Oswald wreaked havoc for some counters trying to do the National Summer Count in January. While most of the Moreton Bay counters managed to survey their sites, those affected the worst were sites from the Sunshine Coast and north and they were unable to conduct their count. Unfortunately a few counters in the Bundaberg region suffered badly during the flooding they received, with a lot of personal goods being lost or damaged. Are thoughts and wishes are extended to those people affected. Bird numbers at sites were down due to flooding of count sites, and the inability of counters being able to find where the birds went. However, some seabirds got blown in during the bad weather and count sheets had Black Noddy, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern and Lesser Frigatebird on their lists.

After 16 years of counting Caboolture River mouth for the count programme, we say goodbye to Ivan and Joyce Fien, who have decided that it is time to step down. We thank you both for your long term dedication to this programme and wish you both many years of rest and relaxation. Fortunately there is someone waiting in the wings to step into their shoes. Judith Lattaway (and I expect her husband David will be roped in to help), has offered to take over the surveying of this site in March. We look forward to a long term relationship with Judith.

Extra counters are always welcome, so please contact me if you are interested in having a site to count, or just to help out by being a standby counter.

An adult non-breeding Red-necked Phalarope was seen and photographed at Bowra Station, south-west Queensland on 3rd December 2012 and the sighting has been submitted to Birds Queensland and Birdlife International Rarities Committees.

After my return from a long holiday overseas I have ploughed through four months of counts and there are lots of interesting species and some great totals, which I would dearly love to get into this newsletter, but unfortunately space is limited, our apologies for not being able to print them all. I keep a spread-sheet of extracts from your count sheets and you can see how many sites have the more uncommon species as well as some of the large totals recorded. If you are interested in seeing these details and would like a copy please let me know and I will send the file to you.

Some of the larger totals from the counts are listed below. I wish there was space for more because there are some excellent figures.

530 Eastern Curlew at Reeder's Point, Moreton Island on 15.10.12
457 Eastern Curlew at Geoff Skinner Reserve west on 01.12.12
455 Eastern Curlew at Thornlands on 13.10.12
4684 Bar-tailed Godwit at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 16.12.12
2630 Bar-tailed Godwit at Reeder's Point, Moreton Island on 01.02.13
561 Black-tailed Godwit at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 26.01.13
268 Australian Pied Oystercatcher at Reeder's Point, Moreton Island on 01.02.13
418 Pacific Golden Plover at Bishop Island (Fisherman Island) on 02.12.12
340 Pacific Golden Plover at Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay on 08.12.12
283 Red Knot at Maaroom on 01.10.12
982 Grey-tailed Tattler at Bishop Island (Fisherman Island) on 14.10.12
600 Greater Sand Plover at Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay on 03.11.12
1856 Lesser Sand Plover at Bishop Island (Fisherman Island) on 02.12.12
739 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Bishop Island (Fisherman Island) on 04.11.12
2437 Curlew Sandpiper at Bishop Island (Fisherman Island) on 14.10.12
300 Red-capped Plover at Inskip Point on 25.11.12
2377 Red-necked Stint at Bishop Island (Fisherman Island) on 04.11.12

Other wader sightings can be found in the 'Interesting wader sightings' section of this newsletter (if space is available). If this section does not appear in this newsletter I recommend you ask me for the spreadsheet.

Breeding records.

It was great to read so many notes on count sheets about breeding resident waders. Let's hope it can continue into the future.

Beach-stone Curlew – chick on Normanby Island south of Cairns on 25.12.12 – nesting at Kakadu roost Bribie Island on 28.10.12 – chick hatched 27.10.12 on Redcliffe Island, close to Finlayson Point north of Mackay and was seen as a juvenile with parents at Finlayson Point on 29.01.13.

Pied Oystercatcher – a few juveniles at St. Helens Beach north of Mackay on 26.01.13 – one juvenile at St. Helens Beach north of Mackay on 29.11.12 – nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 28.10.12 – nest with two eggs (failed by November count) at Noosa River sandbanks on 22.10.12 – nesting pair and pair with fledgling at Maroochy River Goat Island on 03.10.12.

Masked Lapwing – one juvenile at St. Helens Beach north of Mackay on 29.11.12 – nest and four eggs at Maaroom on 03.11.12.

Comb-crested Jacana – two chicks and two juveniles at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 25.01.13.

Red-capped Plover – nest with two eggs at Ball Bay north of Seaforth Mackay region on 18.01.13 – two eggs close to hatching got washed away by high tide at Seaforth Beach north of Mackay on 12.12.12 – one on nest at Cooloola roost Tin Can Bay on 02.12.12 – two young at Bundaberg Port on 01.12.12 – one nesting at Kinka Beach sand bar Yeppoon on 01.12.12 – two nests and one chick at Kinka Beach Wetlands Yeppoon on 01.12.12 – nest with two eggs at Seaforth Beach north of Mackay on 30.11.12 – nest with two

eggs(disappeared five days later) at Seaforth Beach north of Mackay on 02.11.12 – one runner and nest with two eggs at Noosa River sandbar on 22.10.12 – breeding at Queensland Aluminium Gladstone on 15.10.12 – two runners at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 13.10.12 – one runner at Maroochy River north shore on 03.10.12.

Please send counts to me at our new email address as follows: 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 Day Reports

Wader ID Report – Kakadu Roost, Bribe Island 12th January 2013

Perhaps a lot of QWSG and BQ members were itching to get out after the Christmas and New Year festivities, as forty three members and guests from both groups attended this outing along with two Japanese visitors.

The weather forecast was for very hot and dry conditions with north, north-west winds. It certainly was hot when we arrived, but the wind coming across the passage was cooled by the water and made it a little more bearable. With so many people attending this outing it was not possible for everyone to fit inside the bird hide, so they spilled out either side of the hide and huddled under the shade of the shrubs and palms. At least those outside the hide did not have to contend with the different viewing slots that make the hide pretty useless for most bird watchers.

Only a small number of waders were on the roost when we arrived, and a quick check in the scope at the Toorbul roost across the passage I could see a large group of waders. With a very large tide predicted I was confident that the birds would be pushed off the Toorbul roost and hopefully they would arrive at Kakadu. Just three minutes later they arrived on mass.

With fourteen species of waders present there was a lot of tuition given to the group on how to identify them all. Two Beach Stone-curlew, that are fairly resident at the site now, were seen by all, but some may have missed the lone Grey Plover at the far end of the beach, the two Red Knot, two Curlew Sandpiper and a few Black-tailed Godwit that were hard to find in among the couple of thousand Godwit and Knot.

There were many Godwit and Great Knot wearing engraved green leg flags that have recently been placed on the birds by the QWSG banding group, and it was difficult for me not to look at the birds without calling out the letters to Felicity Moore, who so diligently wrote them down for me. Felicity, along with a couple of other people were also trying to read the letters and making notes themselves, which eventually was collated by Phil to add to the leg flag database.

Flag sightings and location where bird was flagged:-

16 Great Knot with engraved green leg flag. (Qld).

1 Bar-tailed Godwit with old plain green leg flag. (Qld)

22 Bar-tailed Godwit with engraved green flag. (Qld)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag over orange flag on right tibia, yellow band over yellow band on right tarsus, metal band on left tibia and blue band over white band on left tarsus. (China)



This bird christened 'Mr Bling' by Jill Brown was flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China, and has been sighted a number of times since mid November at the Toorbul and Bribie roosts. A photograph taken by Ian and Jill on the day appears left.

Birds seen:

Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Australian White Ibis, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Buff-banded Rail, Beach Stone-curlew, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Grey Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Masked Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern flying over, Crested Tern and Silver Gull.

Linda Cross.

Wader ID Report Manly Harbour 10th February 2013

A clear sky and sunshine provided ideal wader watching conditions for the 23 Birds Queensland and QWSG members who attended this outing.

As we approached the roost an immature White-bellied Sea-eagle passed over resulting in swirling flocks of waders. Although some birds did settle, the majority of the birds did not return to the roost. However, the raptor is not the sole reason for the birds' departure. With still over an hour before high tide, the island roost was almost completely inundated. The reason for the flooding is the severe damage to the rock wall around the site. As the morning progressed, sea-water flowed into the roost site at several places where the rock wall has been breached resulting in even less roosting space.

Of the 14 wader species that returned to the roost, most of them were in and around the small lagoon that has formed in the dredge spoil area adjacent to the roost. The majority of the birds were Bar-tailed Godwit some of them showing traces of breeding plumage. Among the Godwits was an Asian Dowitcher, a 'tick' for some observers and the highlight of the day for most. A few Eastern Curlew and Common Greenshank stayed in this lagoon long enough for most people to observe but they too departed. There were no confirmed sightings of Whimbrel, Terek Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone or either of the sand plovers.

Species seen at the roost include the following:

Little Pied Cormorant, Chestnut Teal, Australian Pelican, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Buff-banded Rail, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Asian Dowitcher, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Crested Tern, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull

by Arthur Keates

Wader ID Days**Saturday 16th March at Toorbul**

High tide at 12.06 am (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 12:36 pm) of 1.92m. Meeting time 10.30 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.



QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

www.waders.org.au

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MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

CHAIRPERSON:	Jon Coleman	(07) 3299 2780	
TREASURER	Dierdre Chrzescijanski	(07) 3393 6897 or	membership@waders.org.au
SECRETARY:	Peter Rothlisberg	(07) 3822 3759	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017 or	gouldian@ozemail.com.au
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:			
Robert Bush	0404 805 558	Peter Driscoll	(07) 5478 8967
Richard Fuller	(07)3395 3786	Andrew Geering	(07) 3376 1241
Joyce Harding	(07) 3488 0212	Sandra Harding	(07) 3390 2179
Andy Jensen	0404 348 638	Sheryl Keates	(07) 3843 1874
David Milton	(07) 3390 2179	Richard Noske	(07) 3300 2757
Glen Pacey	0428 510 679	Ivell Whyte	(07) 3802 0757

COUNT COORDINATOR:	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email	xenus69@bigpond.com
MERCHANDISE	Vicki Campbell	07 3378 2964	Email	vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au
CORRESPONDENCE	All correspondence to:			

The QWSG Chairperson,
22 Parker Street,
SHAILER PARK
QLD 4128

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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MANLY
Qld 4179

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 **May 18th 2013**

Contributions should be addressed to:

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

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Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG merchandise, Contact Vicki Campbell Phone 07 3378 2964 or email vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au

Postage is not included in prices quoted.

Note price reduction on “Shorebirds of Australia”

BOOKS	\$35.00	Shorebirds of Australia
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CLOTH BADGES	\$8.00	QWSG logo on rectangular bottle-green or sand background
POLO SHIRTS	\$42.00.	

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
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Other Conservation Activities of Interest



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

Separate membership is required.

Contacts: President, Richard Noske president@birdsqueensland.org.au
Secretary, Rae Clark secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au
Treasurer, Wayne Lock treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au

Monthly Meetings Birds Queensland
1st Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.
Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton.
Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently:
Judith HOYLE, Gavin O'MEARA, Peter O'MEARA
Mary BARRAM, Kathy CLARK, Rod COX and Linda SULAKATKU
David EXTON, Colin & Colette McCOOL, Greg NYE
Carla PERKINS, Warrick SYMONS

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. Please could you use the subject line as “Electronic Newsletter”? Editor



Count Activities – 2013

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2013

Sat 23rd Mar	2.11m at 06:37	Sat 24 th Aug	2.14m at 11:41
Sat 27 th Apr	2.10m at 10:22	Sat 21st Sep	2.24m at 10:34
Sat 25 th May	2.05m at 09:16	Sat 19th Oct	2.31m at 09:31
No Count in June		Sat 16th Nov	2.33m at 08:32
Sat 27th Jul	2.02m at 12:55	Sat 14th Dec	2.25m at 07:28
National Winter Count			

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2013

Sun 24 th Mar	2.20m at 07:23	Meet	05:30	Sun 25 th Aug	2.10m at 12:23	Meet	10:35
Sun 28 th Apr	2.01m at 11:10	Meet	09:20	Sun 22 nd Sep	2.23m at 11:13	Meet	09:25
Sun 26 th May	2.01m at 10:08	Meet	08:20	Sun 20 th Oct	2.33m at 10:09	Meet	08:20
Sun 23rd Jun	1.96m at 09:02	Meet	07:10	Sun 17 th Nov	2.37m at 09:11	Meet	07:20
Sun 28th Jul	1.98m at 13:44	Meet	11:55	Sun 15th Dec	2.32m at 08:12	Meet	06:20

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: \$.....

Do you require a receipt? Yes / No

Phone: (Home) (Work)

Fax / e-mail:

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 (colour version) by E-mail.....

SIGNATURE: DATE:.....

Please post this form to: QWSG Treasurer, 39 Barrinia St., Manly Qld 4179

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group

Or Direct funds transfer to:

For a direct credit, please use the following details.

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140

Account number: 08305297

Please email this form to: treasurer@waders.org.au