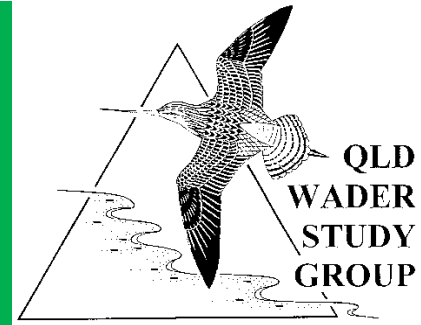


# QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 084

June, July, August 2013

Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of  
*Birds Queensland Incorporated.* [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)

## Port of Brisbane Count Results 2012

by Linda Cross

We now have a decade of extensive counts completed by the QWSG for the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL) at the Port of Brisbane complex (formerly known as Bishop or Fisherman Island). As with previous years, the counts were conducted the day after the scheduled monthly count set for the QWSG count programme.

The methodology for the counts has continued as before with numbers being listed under the appropriate habitat that the birds were observed using (dry open area, wet margin, broken ground and bund wall). The overall count for the complex in 2012 was 55,431 waders, 4,512 terns and 6,277 waterbirds and raptors which do not include the figures for the Visitors Centre Lake (233 waders, 2 terns and 6,605 waterbirds). However, these figures of course are not the number of birds using the site at any one time, but the aggregate of the monthly totals. No count was completed in June due to bad weather and unstable conditions within the complex.

The following table is the total migratory and resident waders recorded at the Port of Brisbane over the last ten years. **Note: these figures do not include the Visitors Centre Lake site.**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<b>2012</b>	6214	6676	6476	1335	1624	No count	1098	1267	2862	9461	10029	8389	55431
<b>2011</b>	No count	10173	No count	8108	2112	1552	1236	1488	2004	5430	8738	No count	40841
<b>2010</b>	7345	7099	6709	2864	1256	2145	1648	2568	5205	6942	5904	NC	49685
<b>2009</b>	10072	13243	7192	2293	NC	1200	1245	2439	4372	6478	6182	8003	62719
<b>2008</b>	5179	8935	4394	4204	2202	2793	2700	2724	5468	4069	6617	8286	57571
<b>2007</b>	8853	5264	8307	1120	1989	1543	1752	1629	3885	7609	6165	5664	53780
<b>2006</b>	12323	10573	7055	4230	2142	1969	2250	2635	5296	8051	8995	7514	73033
<b>2005</b>	4751	5609	3572	3317	2162	3034	2436	2096	3790	6173	6745	7731	51416
<b>2004</b>	11650	4528	7398	1607	2416	1617	1328	2410	2974	6026	5976	8194	56124
<b>2003</b>	7445	6922	6126	4021	2286	2107	2041	1720	4466	4118	8054	7996	57302



The following table provides the waders, terns, waterbirds and raptors numbers for the Port areas and Visitors Centre Lake each month for 2012.

2012 Month	Port Waders	Port Terns	Port Waterbirds/Raptors	Lake Waders	Lake Terns	Lake Waterbirds/Raptors	Totals
January	6214	241	443	12	0	550	<b>7460</b>
February	6676	293	130	3	0	306	<b>7408</b>
March	6476	638	193	2	0	246	<b>7555</b>
April	1335	290	368	0	0	438	<b>2431</b>
May	1624	263	629	2	0	387	<b>2905</b>
June	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count
July	1098	112	1401	1	0	709	<b>3321</b>
August	1267	98	719	7	0	853	<b>2944</b>
September	2862	204	581	6	0	761	<b>4414</b>
October	9461	252	598	21	0	905	<b>11237</b>
November	8389	1011	702	35	0	570	<b>10707</b>
December	10029	1110	513	144	2	880	<b>12678</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55431</b>	<b>4512</b>	<b>6277</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6605</b>	<b>73060</b>

**Comments on individual count sites for 2012 follow:**

**S3A & S3B** – The very little area that remains of these two paddocks only attracted a handful of birds on a couple of occasions.

**R1** – This site was completely covered in sand to a height of 18 feet in readiness for development and therefore did not attract any birds during the year. This site was deleted from our surveys at the end of the year.

**R3** – This large riverside paddock was still favoured by many species for most of the year. As in 2011 the numbers dropped in October as birds appeared to favour the central ‘C’ sites. The early months of the year produced some good records with eight Broad-billed Sandpiper, 290 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 708 Lesser Sand Plover and 978 Curlew Sandpiper using the site in January. February records included five Broad-billed Sandpiper, 859 Lesser Sand Plover and 1,056 Red-necked Stint. Other records of interest include two Broad-billed Sandpiper in March, three Black-fronted Dotterel in August, 586 Great Knot, 1,184 Bar-tailed Godwit and 22 Grey Plover in November. Red-necked Avocet were recorded in the site for three months, with totals of 302 in July, 198 in August and 283 in September. One overwintering Double-banded Plover was observed in April and 11 recorded in August. Unusually, in September 118 Eastern Curlew were recorded in this site and also 106 in October, which was probably due to the fact that the large Claypan outside the complex was dry, and where this species is normally recorded.

**C1** – This central paddock failed to attract any waders for most of the year. The best totals were 137 Pacific Golden Plover and three Broad-billed Sandpiper in January, 155 Pacific Golden Plover, 140 Greater Sand Plover and three Broad-billed Sandpiper in February. Two Double-banded Plover were recorded in April and 11 of the species in May.

**C2** – Only two months during the year had anything of significance at this site. In March 1,180 Red-necked Stint, 837 Lesser Sand Plover, 150 Greater Sand Plover and 416 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper used the site and again in November there were good totals of the same species favouring the site with 1,370 Red-necked Stint, 992 Curlew Sandpiper, 888 Lesser Sand Plover, 120 Greater Sand Plover and 313 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper being counted.

**C3** – As per the previous year, this site failed to attract birds. However, in February one Common Sandpiper was recorded and the only other records of note were 436 Black-winged Stilt, 74 Red-necked Avocet, two grey phase Eastern Reef Egret in April and in November 1,121 Curlew Sandpiper and 379 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper decided to use the site.

**BS1** – The oldest of the bay-side paddocks continued to hold little interest for most birds during the year. However, October attracted just over 5,000 waders to the site with totals of 2,378 Curlew Sandpiper, 1,424 Lesser Sand Plover, 251 Greater Sand Plover and 706 Red-necked Stint among the numbers. The site also attracted nearly 3,000 waders in December with 1,087 Lesser Sand Plover, 241 Greater Sand Plover, 418 Pacific Golden Plover, 315 Red-necked Stint, 278 Curlew Sandpiper, 261 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and 204 Eastern Curlew helping make up the figures. Other interesting sightings were one Broad-billed Sandpiper in January, 14 Double-banded Plover in May and 176 Pacific Golden Plover in November.

**BS2** – Apart from 596 Red-necked Stint in October and 172 Eastern Curlew in November the site was virtually dead. As the Claypan site outside the complex was dry, the Eastern Curlew were again using the sites within the complex. The only other birds that found the site of interest were 122 Chestnut Teal in January and 155 of the same species in July.

**BS3** – As per 2011, there was no attraction for birds at this site. The highest total for any species was 116 Silver Gull in May.

**FPE Outer** – Although the outer rock wall is still a favoured site for Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone and Australian Pied Oystercatcher, the numbers for these species are lower this year. Tattler numbers of interest are 414 in January, 381 in February, 478 in March, 810 in September, 980 in October and 413 in December. Ruddy Turnstone highlights have been 89 in January, 86 in February and 98 in October. Australian Pied Oystercatcher was recorded on site every month, with the largest count being 82 in March. The outer rock wall is also being favoured by Wandering Tattler with records of three in January, one in February, two in March, one in May, one in September and two in October.

**PBAR** – (Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost). This site still continued to attract mostly waterbirds in 2012, although numbers of migratory waders did improve a little during the last three months of the year. This could possibly have been the result of either of two changes to the site. There may have been movement from the large Claypan west of this site as the Claypan was completely dry during this period. This would certainly be the case with the large total of 226 Whimbrel recorded in October. In November 394 Bar-tailed Godwit and a smaller amount of other waders were recorded at the site, and in December the Bar-tailed Godwit count was 704. Also in December 195 Whimbrel were present. The other good news is that PBPL had undertaken remediation works on the roost to adjust sediment distribution and remove colonising mangroves and terrestrial grasses. The increased Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit numbers were also probably in response to the larger amount of habitat available. Other species of interest was two Black-fronted Dotterel in January. The site still attracted a number of waterbirds (particularly Chestnut Teal) during the year.

**CLAYPAN** – Records of species using this roost were much lower this year because the last four months (September to December), the Claypan was completely dry and no birds of any species were seen at the site. However, there were a few sightings of interest. In January 54 Black-tailed Godwit were counted at the site and one Grey Plover along with seven Red Knot were seen in March.

**VISITOR CENTRE LAKE** – Two species (Black-winged Stilt and Masked Lapwing) are recorded at this site most months, usually in very low numbers, but 124 Stilt were recorded in November. A few additional wader species made their way into the records for 2012. One Latham's Snipe was seen in January and three Bar-tailed Godwit, one Black-fronted Dotterel, one Red-kneed Dotterel and eleven Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were recorded for November. This site still supports a large selection of waterbirds with Dusky Moorhen having the largest counts of any of the species using this site. There were several breeding records for Australasian Grebe, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Purple Swamphen and Black Swan.

### Leg flag sightings

There were 34 green leg-flagged birds seen during the counts, but because these birds have been flagged by our group in Moreton Bay, and have not travelled any significant distance, they have not been included in the leg flag sightings. Other leg-flagged birds seen throughout the Port of Brisbane area are as follows:

<b>January</b>	Blue flag right tibia on Grey-tailed Tattler.
<b>February</b>	Blue flag over yellow flag on Curlew Sandpiper.
<b>March</b>	Yellow flag left tibia on Pied Oystercatcher.
<b>April</b>	Red band ( <b>XVZ</b> ) on Black Swan.
<b>May</b>	Green flag over white flag left tarsus and pale blue flag over metal band right tarsus on Little Tern and orange flag ( <b>39</b> ) on Caspian Tern.
<b>August</b>	Yellow flag ( <b>C1</b> ) left tibia on Pied Oystercatcher.
<b>September</b>	Yellow flag ( <b>C1</b> ) left tibia on Pied Oystercatcher.
<b>October</b>	Orange flag on Bar-tailed Godwit and orange flag on two Caspian Terns.
<b>December</b>	Black flag over white flag on Great Knot.

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

**Breeding records:**

Red-capped Plover –one chick in R3 and 2 chicks in C1 in May, and one chick in B1 in October.

**Interesting sightings** (not waders) during the counts were:

<b>January</b>	One Eastern Reef Egret in the Outer FPE and 216 Black Swan in the Lake.
<b>March</b>	One immature Peregrine Falcon that fed on a dead bird and 456 Little Tern in <b>R3</b> .
<b>May</b>	Two Eastern Reef Egret in <b>C3</b> and 268 Chestnut Teal in the CLAYPAN.
<b>July</b>	527 Little Black Cormorant in the Outer FPE – 221 Chestnut Teal and 93 Eastern Great Egret in the Artificial Roost – 149 Royal Spoonbill in the Lake.
<b>August</b>	One Australasian Gannet over Outer FPE – 215 Chestnut Teal in the Artificial Roost – 202 Chestnut Teal in the Claypan.
<b>September</b>	Four Whiskered Tern in R3 – 340 Chestnut Teal in the Artificial Roost – 140 Dusky Moorhen and 168 Pacific Black Duck in the Lake.
<b>October</b>	309 Chestnut Teal and 215 Pacific Black Duck in the Artificial Roost.
<b>November</b>	679 Little Tern in R3 – 328 Chestnut Teal in the Artificial Roost – 176 Dusky Moorhen in the Lake.
<b>December</b>	705 Little Tern in R3 and 463 Chestnut Teal in the Artificial Roost.

The table below shows wader species and numbers at the complex during 2012 (with the exception of the Visitors Centre Lake). Many other waterbirds were also recorded using the sites; however, lack of space in the newsletter does not allow the printing of them.

<b>Year 2012</b>	<b>15.01</b>	<b>12.02</b>	<b>11.03</b>	<b>22.04</b>	<b>06.05</b>	<b>03.06</b>	<b>21.07</b>	<b>19.08</b>	<b>16.09</b>	<b>14.10</b>	<b>04.11</b>	<b>02.12</b>
<i>Species</i>												
Bush Stone Curlew												
Aust Pied Oystercatcher	42	89	86	32	50		30	34	48	40	18	64
Sooty Oystercatcher												
Black-winged Stilt	72	45		153	499	NO	50	199	195	160	83	132
Red-necked Avocet			27		74	COUNT	302	254	283	94	27	50
Pacific Golden Plover	299	238	136	8	7	AS		6	45	170	180	418
Grey Plover	8	23	12			RAIN			4	21	22	33
Red-capped Plover	52	157	99	115	118	MADE	68	49	30	20	38	40
Double-banded plover			2	5	25	COMPLEX		14				
Lesser Sand Plover	1416	1439	1458	79	152	UNSTABLE	17	21	100	1770	1104	1856
Greater Sand Plover	43	147	432		40			23	77	257	205	336
Black-fronted Dotterel	2				4			3	2			
Red-kneed Dotterel												
Masked Lapwing	4		4	2	3		4				1	
Latham's Snipe												
Black-tailed Godwit	54											
Bar-tailed Godwit	354	206	268	83	68		49	25	89	799	1630	1283
Whimbrel	58	6	52	6					1	226	88	199
Eastern Curlew	108	75	56	33	20		41	92	118	111	203	259
Terek Sandpiper	3	2										
Common Sandpiper		1										
Grey-tailed tattler	414	391	478	14	31			33	810	983	285	413
Wandering Tattler	3	1	2		1				1	2		
Common Greenshank	3	1		10					1	9	9	9
Marsh Sandpiper												
Ruddy Turnstone	99	104	5	10				27	25	99	17	20
Great Knot	180	157	160					3	222	398	586	515
Red Knot		5	7					1	35	53	5	1
Sanderling												
Red-necked Stint	1064	1733	2015	761	528		493	388	380	1487	2527	1602
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	579	102	610	23	4		12	3	157	299	831	462
Curlew Sandpiper	1345	1746	564	1			32	92	239	2463	2171	697
Broad-billed Sandpiper	12	8	3									
Unidentified Wader												
<b>Total Wader Species</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total Wader Numbers</b>	<b>6214</b>	<b>6676</b>	<b>6476</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>1624</b>		<b>1098</b>	<b>1267</b>	<b>2862</b>	<b>9461</b>	<b>10029</b>	<b>8389</b>

The QWSG would like to sincerely thank the PBPL for their ongoing support to the group and supplying their staff, vehicle and equipment during the counts.

Rachael Attard, Environmental Advisor, Michael Linde, Environmental Advisor and Craig Wilson Environmental Manager for the PBPL all shared the role in looking after our welfare and needs during the counts.

We would like to sincerely thank our committed regular counters and other members and friends, whose names appear below for helping us obtain the results for the PBPL and the QWSG database in 2012. Without people like you this would not have been possible. My apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list.

Rachael Attard (PBPL), Michele Burford, Robert Bush, Vicki Campbell, Deirdrie Chrzesciajanski, Lyn Cole, Jon Coleman, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, David Edwards, Richard Fuller, Marion Grover, Joyce Harding, Sandra Harding, Andy Jensen, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, David Lattaway, Judith Lattaway, Michael Linde (PBPL), David Milton, Andrew Moore, Felicity Moore, Rob Morris, Glen Pacey, Stuart Pickering, Jeff Rabbidge, Peter Rothlisberg, Brenda Smith, Graham Smith, Jim Sneddon, Floss Wainwright, Ivell Whyte and Craig Wilson (PBPL).

The contract with PBPL is continuing in 2013 and as over half of the regular counters are now retired and taking off on extended holidays we need a bigger support group to help spread the workload, particularly during the spring and summer months. As the PBPL insurance only covers their employees you will need to be either a QWSG or BQ member to attend these counts so their liability insurance will cover you. Please also note that these counts are not recreational outings, but we are always looking for committed counters to join our team. Please contact Peter Rothlisberg or myself if you would like to participate. The dates and meeting times for the counts are listed at the back of this newsletter

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## **Gulf of Carpentaria Surveys – A Non-scientific Personal Perspective**

by Arthur Keates

In late March I was fortunate to be part of a team to conduct surveys of waders in the Karumba area of the Gulf of Carpentaria, the object being to repeat the surveys of waders conducted by Peter Driscoll and others in the late 1990's.

Given his knowledge and experience, supplemented by a reconnaissance survey of the area in September 2012 with New Zealander Adrian Riegen of the Miranda Naturalists Trust, Peter proficiently dealt with the logistics in planning the surveys putting together 2 teams to conduct the surveys.

Because of the wave dynamics in the Gulf there is only one high tide during spring tides. The surveys were conducted over 2 tidal cycles, one in late March and the other about a week later in early April. I was part of the team for the first tidal cycle.

The adventure began soon after picking up a hire car in Normanton when, with 4 other participants, we headed across the floodplain to Karumba. On the way, we soon found ourselves stopping frequently to check out the masses of birds. Apart from the tens of thousands of waterbirds, our eyes were continually drawn to the hundreds of Little Curlew feeding along the roadside with occasional flocks flying overhead.

By mid-afternoon, we arrived at the Pilot's Rest, our accommodation for the duration of the surveys, conveniently located at Karumba Point. After settling in and satisfying our appetites we gathered around maps and the tide chart for a briefing on what lay ahead. Over the next few days we were to be dropped off by boat and helicopter in small teams at roost sites and feeding flats up to 50 km to the north-east and west of Karumba.

We started to wonder what we had let ourselves in for when told the places included the ominously named Alligator Bank, Camp Misery and Disaster Inlet. We would also count at roost sites bearing the QWSG

assigned names Jim's Beach, Brian's Beach and Mark's Beach because wader identities Jim Wilson, Brian Venables and the late Mark Barter had a liking for those sites.

Only from the air does one get to appreciate the vastness of the area and the numbers of waders using it, as well as soon realising the expanse of habitat available to waders for roosting and feeding. Behind the sandy beaches and mangrove lined foreshore lie enormous floodplains dissected by numerous watercourses creating spectacular tentacle-like patterns. Above all, it is just awesome to see the tens of thousands of waders gathered along the foreshore and sandbanks.



Wader roost at Brian's Beach, west of Karumba - Photo by Adrian Riegen.

While seeing the large flocks from the air is something to behold, an accurate count of the species making up the flock needs to be made on the ground. Scanning a flock of a few thousand waders, many of them in advanced breeding plumage, is enough to make you forget about the heat and humidity. Of the most abundant species I observed, Great Knot and Red Knot in particular were in near full breeding plumage. Can anything surpass a Red Knot in full breeding plumage and in peak physical condition?

Having completed a count, we always found time to scan for leg flags. In addition to the birds I saw flagged in Victoria, South Australia, New Zealand and Chongming Dao and Bohai Bay, China others sighted birds that had been flagged in Taiwan and Sakhalin Island, Russia with probably more places to be confirmed later.

As well as surveying high tide roost sites, low tide feeding surveys were also conducted at accessible sites, including Alligator Bank at the mouth of the Norman River where we trudged across the mud flats to see thousands of waders fuelling up for their imminent migration. Here, under Adrian's expert eye, I had the opportunity to compare the two subspecies of Red Knot, *Calidris canutus rogersi* and *Calidris canutus piersmai*, a distinction that is possible when in full breeding plumage.

During the week, we had time to venture out on to the Karumba Plain to survey the abundant bird life. Apart from the waterbirds, harriers and kites continually hunted and soared overhead while terns, mostly White-winged Black Tern in varying stages of moult into breeding plumage, hunted over the lagoons and grassland.

For me, the week was a marvellous experience, learning more about waders, seeing the country and of course the spectacle of tens of thousands of waders. It would be remiss of me not to mention the camaraderie and the delicious nightly meals enjoyed by all as we discussed the day's events and planned the next day's activities. Indeed, we were all grateful that Adrian's culinary skills, whose specialty is baked beans, were not needed thanks to the more consummate cooks among the team.

QWSG is grateful to BirdLife Australia, the Australasian Wader Studies Group and Miranda Naturalists' Trust for their financial contribution to the surveys.

## The 2013 AWSG North West Australia Wader and Tern Expedition A Personal Account

By Robert Bush

Shortly after Chinese New Year Hebo Peng packed his bags and flew out of Shanghai on his first ever overseas trip. A year earlier at Yalu Jiang by the northern Yellow Sea he had caught, measured, banded and placed a transmitter on a Great Knot. Along with Professor Ma's team from Fudan University he had tracked the bird's southern migration to Roebuck Bay, near Broome in Western Australia, but in November 2012 all contact was lost. It seemed perhaps the bird had perished.

I met Hebo Peng in February when we joined the North-West Australia Wader and Tern Expedition in Broome with others from China, Taiwan, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Germany, Hong Kong and the UK. For 21 days the group of 27 led by Clive Minton from AWSG and Chris Hassell, who is with Global Flyway Network, set cannon nets to support research on waders around Roebuck Bay and along 80 Mile Beach. Biometric measurements were recorded for some 3000 waders. Geo-locators were attached to 57 Great Knot about to migrate north for the breeding season. A wide range of other wader species were flagged for scientific studies of their movements and longevity.

German and Australian film crews were also with us to make documentaries on migratory shorebirds. Hopefully this will lead to greater public support for conservation efforts across the flyway.

On our third day at 80 Mile Beach, Hebo was assigned to a Great Knot banding team. He placed his hands into the first hessian-holding cage, carefully retrieved a Great Knot and placed it on his lap to take measurements. It was a re-trapped bird with a green and orange leg flag and the letters EC; the very same bird he had measured, flagged and attached a transmitter to more than a year earlier. The transmitter must have fallen off last November. There was some early breeding plumage and increase in weight indicating it was preparing well for its northward migration. The chance of Hebo finding exactly the same Great Knot again must be many thousands to one.

The significance of Roebuck Bay and 80 Mile Beach for migratory shorebirds is a relatively recent discovery. In 1980 Simon Bennett, who was working for RAOU (now Birdlife Australia) at that time, commented on the large number of waders he had seen on 80 Mile Beach and around Broome. The first wader surveys were carried out the following year and expeditions have been organized every year since<sup>1</sup>. With increasing international concern about conservation across the Australasian flyway, the study of waders in north-west Australia plays a vital role in understanding wader ecology and survival. Scientific information on waders across the flyway is important not only for determining the most appropriate conservation strategies but also when arguing the case for conservation with national governments.

For those like me who are more used to counting a few hundred to a couple of thousand waders on our monthly count days, north-west Australia is in a different dimension. Looking down 80 Mile Beach on my first day there I could see 60,000 birds across a four kilometre stretch of beach. The variety of waders is also extraordinary. Where perhaps I might see two or three Terek Sandpipers a summer in Moreton Bay, I found myself banding 20 in one morning. With luck, on a clear day I might occasionally identify a Broad-billed Sandpiper through my scope around Moreton Bay, but in the north-west on one day I retrieved more than 15 from a cannon net. Even so, overall numbers are declining across all flyways worldwide. There remains a clear urgency for sound data on waders especially across the Australasian flyway. At present there is insufficient data to accurately determine trends for almost two thirds of wader species coming to Australia each year.

Successive years of banding have provided the opportunity for good numbers of re-trapped birds. Re-traps can provide useful data on bird health and life expectancy. In 2013, the oldest re-trap was a 22-year-old Great Knot in robust health. Some re-trapped Curlew Sandpipers and Greater Sandplovers had been migrating for 20 years. Examination of wing moult can be used to identify juveniles. The data from moult examination suggested a poor 2012 breeding season for species that nest within the Arctic Circle and an average breeding year for those waders that nest further south.

The expeditions have always attracted international volunteers but in more recent times these volunteers have

come from countries along the flyway to Australia's north. For me, one of the most inspiring aspects of the expedition was the enthusiasm of young volunteers from across Asia who joined the expedition. It is generally acknowledged that expeditions have been a major boost to fieldwork training and in building networks of committed citizens and scientists across the Australasian flyway. Volunteering for the expedition can be a highly rewarding experience. Having a good level of fitness, handling waders while vigilantly following ethical practices for wader welfare and a keenness to work as a team member, seem to me to be essential for a rewarding.

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## Plight of Wetland Bird Recognised in Australia

*Written by BirdLife Australia*

Why is the Australian Painted Snipe being placed on the national Endangered List good news? It means that the beleaguered shorebird can finally receive the level of protection that it needs to survive.



*Australian Painted Snipe. © Andrew Silcocks*

It's ironic that being listed as 'Endangered' is good news for the endemic Australian Painted Snipe. Fewer than 1500 of the birds are left in the wild and this week Australia's Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke added it to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act's 'Endangered' category following a nomination by researchers at BirdLife Australia.

*"Wetlands are critical to the species' survival. Over the last 50 years important wetlands have been disappearing from our landscape because of inappropriate water management and development,"* said BirdLife Australia (BirdLife Partner) CEO, Paul Sullivan. *"The population has nose-dived and this crucial listing will help us to protect remaining wetlands and restore important ailing wetlands to their former glory."*

Of immediate concern is a proposed expansion of a coal terminal at Abbott Point, near Bowen in Queensland, will cause significant degradation of important Australian Painted Snipe habitat. Up to 24 snipe were seen there last year.

*"This is a large number for a bird that's a bit of a loner"* said Paul. *"It highlights the importance of this internationally significant wetland for the species. It would be irresponsible to sit back and watch its destruction without a fight — the EPBC listing provides us with good ammunition. That's what it's there for."*



The Australian Painted Snipe is a nomadic species which occurs only in Australia. It has been recorded dispersing to swamps in all mainland states and territories in search of habitat, though its stronghold remains the Murray–Darling Basin.

Australian Painted Snipe relies heavily on temporary wetlands that provide a rich source of food after good rains. Once these dry out, the birds can be forced towards more permanent coastal wetlands.

With the long-term outlook pointing to more frequent and more severe droughts, coastal wetland refuges such as Abbot Point will become increasingly important in the fight to stop the species from becoming extinct.

## Shorebirds, Horseshoe Crabs and Stewards...

*Written by Larissa Smith / Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey*

Once again migratory shorebirds, including the NJ endangered Red Knot, have returned to the Delaware Bay to feed on Horseshoe Crab eggs. This annual phenomenon brings people from around the world to the Delaware Bay beaches.

Beaches are closed during the migration from May 7th through June 7th to protect the shorebirds from disturbance when feeding. Just as the birds return each year so do volunteer Shorebird Stewards who educate the public about the beach closures, shorebirds and horseshoe crabs on nine beaches in Cape May and Cumberland County. Now is a great time to come out to the beaches to view shorebirds and crabs and say “hi” to the stewards.

This year the hot spots for shorebirds in Cape May County are Reed’s, Cook’s and Kimble’s Beaches and Fortescue in Cumberland County.

## WADER WATCH Phil Cross

Everyone, please remember to use the ‘Leg Flag Observation Report’ form.

Can we also please ask people to carefully check to which leg the flag is banded. 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 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 totalled 524 between 15.10.12 and 12.05.13. They were sighted by Claire Anderson, Sarah Beavis, Anne Burgess, Robert Bush, Mike Carr, Rob Clemens, Jon Coleman, Tony Cotter, Linda & Phil Cross, Kristy Currie, Trevor Ford, Julian Foster, Des Jackson, Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Paul Maxwell, David Milton, Jan Nagar, Peter Rothlisberg, Julie Sarna, Michael Strong, Nicola Udy, Marjorie Webber and Dez Wells.

1 Eastern Curlew, 260 Bar-tailed Godwit, 6 Black-tailed Godwit, 12 Pied Oystercatcher, 4 Black-winged Stilt, 2 Pacific Golden Plover, 84 Great Knot, 191 Grey-tailed Tattler, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, 5 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 2 Greater Sand Plover and 4 Lesser Sand Plover.

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, AR, AV, AZ, EK, HL, JD, JE, JX, KK, NC, NP, PA, PC, PE, PN, PS, PT, PY, RJ, RL, RX, AAB, AAL, AAM, ABJ, ABL, ABP, ABV, ABY, ACA, ACB, ACC, ACD, ACH, ACJ, ACK, ACL,**

**ACN, ACP, ACR, ACW, ACX, ADA, ADC, ADD, ADE, ADL, ADT, ADU, AEC, AEE, AEN, AEP, AEU, AEV, AEW, AHA, AHD, AHH, AHJ, AHK, AHL, AHR, AHS, AHT, AHW, AHZ, AJA, AJB, AJC, AJM, AJR, AJW, AJX, AJY, AKB, AKC, AKD, AKM, ALC, ALH, ALM, ALP, ALS, ALT, AMA, AMJ, AMN, ANV, ANZ, APN, APP, ARB, ARC, ARH, ARJ, ARL, ARM, ARN, ARR, ARS, ARV, ARY, ASD, ASE, ASH, ASJ, ASK, ASL, ASR, ASS, AST, ASU, ASV, ASW, ASX, ASY, ASZ, ATA, ATB, ATC, AVD, AVE, AVH, AVK, AVL, AVM, AVN, AVS, AVT, AVY, AWA, AWB, AWD, AWH, AYK, AYR, AYX, AYY, AZC, AZD, AZJ, AZL, AZW, AZX, AZY, AZZ, BAB, BAD, BAR, BBC, BJT, BJZ, BKD, BKJ, BKK.**

Black-tailed Godwit – **APA, APB, ANY.**

Pied Oystercatcher – **AH, B2, B7, C4, KZ, AAD, AAH, AAK.**

Black-winged Stilt – **BB, EA, AAY, AAZ.**

Pacific Golden Plover – **AVP.**

Great Knot – **AAN, AAP, AAS, AAV, ADB, AEP, AES, AET, AEV, AHE, AHS, AJB, AJC, AJL, AJM, AJN, AJP, AJV, ALA, ALB, ALD, ALE, ALP, ALS, ALU, ALY, ALZ, AVY, AVZ, AWB, AWC, AWD, AWE, AWJ, BAP, BAS, BAT, BAU, BAW, BAX, BAY, BAZ, BBB, BBC, BBE, BBJ, BBK, BBL, BBM, BBT, BBU, BBW, BBZ, BCA, BCC, BCD, BCE, BCZ.**

Grey-tailed Tattler – **A3, A6, B5, B7, C2, C4, AC, AV, AX, BJ, BN, DE, HV, HY, JD, JE, JK, JN, JY, KC, KN, KP, KR, KX, KY, KZ, LB, LN, LS, RV, RX, RZ, AAA, AAE, ABC, ABD, ABY, ACB, ACJ, ACN, ACP, ACR, ACT, ACW, ADK, ADM, ADU, ADY, AHN, AHX, AKL, AKM, AKP, AKX, ANA, ANB, ANC, ANH, ANJ, ANL, ANM, ANN, ANS, ANT, ANX, ANZ, APC, APD, APE, APH, APJ, AVA, AVB, AVC, AVD, AVE, AVH, AVL, AVN, AVT, BAC, BAD, BAE, BAJ, BAK, BAM.**

Curlew Sandpiper – **AC.**

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – **AAA, AAP, AAR, ABD, ACS.**

**(Tattlers A3, B5, B7, C2, C4, RX, ANB, ANC, ANJ, ANX, ANZ, APC, APD, APE, APJ, AVC, AVD, AVH, BAC, BAD and BAK 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 (ADX on flag)** – Songdo mudflats, Incheon, South Korea – Judit Szabo – 28.04.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit** – Songdo mudflats, Incheon, South Korea – Spike Millington – 28.04.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit** – Songdo mudflats, Incheon, South Korea – Jae-Dae Lee – 26.04.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit** – Aphae Island south, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 15.04.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BBC on flag)** – Yatsu tidal flat, Chiba, Japan – Fumiko Oyama – 09.04.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit** – Mokpo Namhang tidal flat, Mokpo Wetland, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 09.04.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADL on flag)** – Mokpo Namhang tidal flat, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 08.04.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (PN on flag)** – Aphae Island, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 08.04.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (EP on flag)** – Geum River Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 30.03.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ACE on flag)** – Big Sand Island, Taporā, Kaipara Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 10.03.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AEW on flag)** – Big Sand Island, Taporā, Kaipara Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 29.03.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ALX on flag)** – Big Sand Island, Taporā, Kaipara Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 10.03.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit** – Big Sand Island, Taporā, Kaipara Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 10.03.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJT on flag)** – Mangere Sewage Ponds, Manukau Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 06 & 07.03.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AK on flag)** – Miranda, Firth of Thames, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 14.01.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX on flag)** – Clifton Road, Whitford, South Auckland, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 08.03.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX on flag)** – Clifton Road, Whitford, South Auckland, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 09.02.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX on flag)** – Clifton Road, Whitford, South Auckland, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 11.01.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (JC on flag)** – Karaka, Manukau Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken & David Lawrie – 27.01.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (JC on flag)** – Puhinui, Manukau Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 20.01.13

**1 Bar-tailed Godwit (JC on flag)** – Karaka, Manukau Harbour, north island, New Zealand – David Lawrie – 29.12.12

- 1 Pied Oystercatcher (A8 on flag) – Chickiba Lake, Ballina, New South Wales – Rosemary Stapleton – 10.02.13
- 1 Great Knot (BAU on flag) – Geum Estuary, Gomso Bay, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 15.04.13
- 1 Great Knot – Anou Beach, Tsu-shi Mie-ken, Japan – 02.02.13
- 1 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Tabora, Kaipara Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 08.12.12
- 1 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Tabora, Kaipara Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Gwenda Pulham – 17.11.12
- 1 Red Knot – Big Sand Island, Tabora, Kaipara Harbour, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 10.11.12
- 1 Red Knot (ABK on flag) – Umapuia, South Auckland, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 14.12.12
- 1 Red Knot (ABK on flag) – Mataitai, South Auckland, north island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 14.12.12
- 1 Red Knot (ABK on flag) – Clifton Road, Whitford, South Auckland, north island New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 12.11.12
- 1 Red Knot (ABK on flag) – Clifton Road, Whitford, South Auckland, north island New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 23.10.12
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Hickey Island, Yamba, New South Wales – Geoff & Natalie Ryan – 28.02.13

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AMH on flag) – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells – 27.04.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 11.03.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – West Geoff Skinner Reserve – Peter Rothlisberg & Paul Maxwell – 23.02.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – St Helen's beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 22.02.13

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

No sightings

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

- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 04.05.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 01.05.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Dominic Funnell – 29.04.13
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 27.04.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 27.04.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 19.04.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 06.04.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 30.03.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui – 25.03.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag right tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 23.03.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – front beach Tin Can Bay – Geoff Skoien – 14.03.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 10.03.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Brian Venables – 07.03.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Lytton roost – Rob Clemens – 24.02.13
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Toorbul – Sarah Beavis – 15.10.12
- (All the above birds were flagged at Lake Furen or Skunkunitai in Hokkaido).

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

- 1 Whimbrel – Mazie Bay north, Keppel Island – Stephen Kerr et al – 23.03.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 11.03.13
- 1 Great Knot – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – Dez Wells – 24.03.13
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 23.03.13
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Arthur Keates – 16.03.13
- 1 Great Knot – Seaforth Beach creek mouth, north of Mackay – Stella Mearns – 11.03.13
- 1 Great Knot (014 on white flag) – St. Helens Beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 22.02.13
- 1 Great Knot – St. Helens Beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 22.02.13
- 1 Great Knot (23 on white flag) – Seaforth Beach creek mouth, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 21.02.13

#### **Other wader leg flag sightings**

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green over orange flag right tibia – Acacia Street, Wellington Point – Nicola Udy – 4.03.13 (flagged Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China).

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, yellow band over yellow band right tarsus, blue band over yellow band left tarsus, metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 23.03.13 (flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China).
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (5D on flag) – black flag right tibia, metal band right tarsus – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – Gerry Woodruff – 10.03.13 (flagged Ocean Point, Alaska, USA).
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, metal band left tibia – St Helen's Beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 22.02.13 (flagged Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, China)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, yellow band over yellow band right tarsus, blue band over yellow band left tarsus, metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Claire Anderson – 20.01.13. (The bird was flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China).
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, yellow band over yellow band right tarsus, blue band over white band left tarsus, metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Dez Jackson – 25.10.12 (flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China).
- 1 Great Knot – white flag right tibia, orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – St. Helens Beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 22.02.13 (flagged Korean Peninsula)
- 1 Great Knot (EN on orange flag) – green flag over orange flag right tibia – west of Namalito Creek, Port Musgrave, Cape York – Jason Searle – 06.03.13 (probably flagged Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, China).
- 1 Marsh Sandpiper (F4 or 14 on orange flag) – blue flag over orange flag right tibia – east of Namalito Creek, Port Musgrave, Cape York – Jason Searle – 05.03.13 (possibly flagged southern Japan).

#### **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.**

**C4 on flag** – David Milton – Manly Harbour – 27.04.13

**K3 on flag** – Tony Cotter – Wynnum Esplanade – 04.05.13

#### **Other leg flag sightings and banded birds**

1 Black Swan (DZX on flag) – red flag right tarsus – Toorbul – Sarah Beavis – 17.11.12

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Toorbul – Russ Lamb – 03.04.13

## Count Programme by Linda Cross

I would like to thank counters for their patience and wishes during my recent commitment to my elderly mother. Your kind words were very much appreciated. Unfortunately this is an ongoing problem at present and my time will be somewhat limited to QWSG workload until it is resolved. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Please continue to send counts and emails, but be aware that my replies will almost certainly be delayed.

Another counter is stepping down from the count programme after the May count has been completed. David Connolly started helping count the Lytton roost in mid-1999 before eventually taking over the job the following year. David and his wife would now like to enjoy their retirement and do some travelling in the future. We thank you David for your contribution to the programme. The count site now reverts back to Arthur & Sheryl Keates, who originally used to count the site before getting David involved in waders and handing over the Lytton roost for him to count.

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.

A lone male Painted Snipe was recorded at Deception Bay claypan on 23.02.12 and one Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Bundaberg Port on 20.04.13 and two of the same species seen on 29.04.13.

There have been some very interesting sightings recorded on the April count sheets, with a variety of species that you would associate more with inland Australia. This might suggest that the inland is drying, which has brought the birds towards the coast. One species in particular is the **Red-kneed Dotterel** that has turned up at eighteen sites. At some of the sites the numbers have been extraordinary.

The totals recorded have been quite astonishing and during my time as count coordinator (since 1997), I have never seen these sort of numbers for this species, which is quite amazing. With a total of over 1,000 birds

being recorded within three days of counts, this species must have had very good breeding seasons during the last couple of wet periods in the inland of Australia. Here are the records for April.

372 at Lytton claypan on 26.04.13	20 at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 27.04.13
184 at Redcliffe airport on 27.04.13	19 at West Geoff Skinner Reserve on 27.04.13
136 at Pine Rivers northside on 27.04.13	17 at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 28.04.13
121 at King Street mudflat Thornlands on 27.04.13	12 at Endeavour River claypan on 26.04.13
53 at Fisherman Island claypan on 28.04.13	7 at Queensland Aluminium on 26.04.13
29 at Deception Bay south on 27.04.13	6 at Deception Bay claypan on 27.04.13
24 at Lytton roost on 27.04.13	5 at Luggage Point on 27.04.13
23 at Bundaberg Port on 28.04.13	

Black-fronted Dotterel have been sighted at ten sites during April, but in single figures at all the sites except Deception Bay claypan, where 46 were seen on 27.04.13.

Black-winged Stilt numbers are also on the rise and six sites had numbers just over 300 at each during March and April, but a few had the following totals:-

1127 at Lytton on 15.03.13	676 at Lytton on 23.03.13
771 at Luggage Point on 27.04.13	480 at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 28.04.13

Double-banded Plovers from across the Tasman have been sighted at the following count sites:  
Cooloola, Bishop (Fisherman Island), Garnett's Lagoon, east and west Geoff Skinner Reserve, Manly Harbour,  
Maroochy River northshore, Maroochy River sandbank, Noosa River sandbanks, Reeder's Point and Wave Brake sand island.

Highest totals have been 73 at Reeder's Point on 29.04.13, 68 at Wave Brake sand island on 21.04.13 and 51 at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 28.04.13

#### Some of the larger totals from the counts are listed below:

465 Eastern Curlew at Geoff Skinner Reserve east on 23.02.13  
300 Eastern Curlew at Cooloola on 24.02.13  
300 Eastern Curlew at King Street mudflat, Thornlands on 23.02.13  
320 Whimbrel at Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay on 23.03.13  
655 Black-tailed Godwit at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 23.02.13  
158 Black-tailed Godwit at Dholes' Rocks (mudflat in front of Osprey House) on 21.03.13  
3180 Bar-tailed Godwit at King Street mudflat, Thornlands on 23.03.13  
2060 Bar-tailed Godwit at Maaroom on 23.03.13  
650 Pacific Golden Plover at Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay on 27.03.13 and 440 on 23.03.13  
206 Pacific Golden Plover at Dudgeon Point claypan, south of Mackay on 25.03.13  
895 Great Knot at St. Helens beach, north of Mackay on 22.02.13  
880 Great Knot at Maaroom on 23.03.13  
694 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 24.03.13  
714 Grey-tailed Tattler at Lytton on 12.02.13  
198 Greater Sand Plover at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 24.03.13  
654 Curlew Sandpiper at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 24.02.13  
730 Lesser Sand Plover at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 24.03.13  
521 Lesser Sand Plover at Dudgeon Point claypan on 25.03.13  
500 Lesser Sand Plover at Cooloola on 24.03.13  
500 Red-capped Plover at Garnett's Lagoon, Hervey Bay on 24.02.13  
4444 Red-necked Stint at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 24.03.13 and 3318 on 24.02.13

#### Breeding records.

Masked Lapwing – nesting at Kakadu roost, Bribie Island on 17.03.13  
Comb-crested Jacana – four chicks at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 24.03.13.  
Red-capped Plover – two chicks at O'Regan's Creek east Hervey Bay on 23.03.13, one juvenile at Bundaberg Port on 24.03.13, eggs hatched, but chicks disappeared after a few days at Seaforth Beach creek mouth north of Mackay on 26.04.13 and two chicks at Bundaberg Port on 28.04.13

Interesting wader sightings

- 5 Beach Stone-curlew – Maroochy River sandbank – 01.03.13
- 3 Beach Stone-curlew – Finlayson Point, north of Mackay – 21.03.13
- 3 Beach Stone-curlew – Seaforth beach creek mouth – 11.03.13
- 3 Beach Stone-curlew – Haliday Bay rocks, north of Mackay – 21.02.13
- 1 Latham's Snipe – Maaroom – 23.03.13
- 1 Latham's Snipe – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – 23.03.13
- 325 Red-necked Avocet – Bishop (Fisherman Island) – 28.04.13
- 17 Sooty Oystercatcher – Dudgeon Point, south of Mackay – 16.03.13
- 15 Sooty Oystercatcher – Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay – 01.05.13
- 14 Sooty Oystercatcher – Dudgeon Point, south of Mackay – 25.03.13
- 3 Grey Plover – Luggage Point – 27.04.13

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

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

Not waders but of interest anyway

- 3 Freckled Duck – Luggage Point – 27.04.13
- 19 Australasian Shoveler – Luggage Point – 27.04.13
- 7 Australasian Shoveler – Bundaberg Port – 23.02.13
- 26 Pink-eared Duck – Pine River northside – 27.04.13
- 12 Pink-eared Duck – Luggage Point – 27.04.13
- 6 Pink-eared Duck – Bundaberg Port – 28.04.13
- 313 Hardhead – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 22.03.13
- 800 Chestnut Teal – Bundaberg Port – 24.03.13
- 1 Red Goshawk – Endeavour River, claypan Cooktown – 26.04.13
- 1 Black Falcon (female) – Bundaberg Port – 28.04.13
- 1 Spotted Harrier – Bundaberg Port – 28.04.13
- 1 Spotted Harrier (adult) – Luggage Point – 27.04.13
- 2 Swamp Harrier – Luggage Point – 27.04.13
- 1 Brown Falcon – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 28.04.13
- 13 Black Kite – Bundaberg Port – 28.04.13
- 2 Brown Goshawk – Bundaberg Port – 28.04.13
- 2 Wedge-tailed Eagle – Bishop's Marsh – 24.02.13
- 4 Black-necked Stork – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 24.02.13
- 4 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Kinka Wetland, Yeppoon – 27.04.13
- 2 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 28.04.13
- 42 Glossy Ibis – Nathan Road, Redcliffe – 27.04.13
- 4 White-necked Heron – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 22.03.13
- 435 Eurasian Coot – Fisherman Island Visitor's Centre Lake – 28.04.13
- 5 Great Cormorant – Lillies Island, Tweed Heads – 20.03.13
- 3200 Pied Cormorant – sandbank off Amity Point – 29.04.13
- 2 Eastern Reef Egret (grey) – Tweed River entrance – 20.03.13
- 3000 White-winged Black Tern – Maroochy River Sandbank – 22.03.13
- 1800 Common Tern – Maroochy River sandbank – 22.03.13
- 122 Whiskered Tern – Bishop (Fisherman Island) – 28.04.13
- 18 Lesser Crested Tern – Ball Bay near Seaforth, north of Mackay – 10.03.13

**Please send counts to me at our email address as follows:** [xenus69@bigpond.com](mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com)

Snail mail: Linda Cross, 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.

## QWSG Insurance

Please note that the Queensland Wader Study Group is covered by Birds Queensland Insurance. However, if you partake of our regular activities and are not a member or are the member of a group membership you will not be covered. It is advised that you should join QWSG as a full member so as to obtain full coverage.

## Wader ID Days Reports

### **TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013**

Thirty nine people from QWSG, BQ and a few Toowoomba bird watchers joined us to view the waders at this very popular spot. Weather conditions were fine, dry and quite warm with a north-west breeze.

Surprisingly, there were not a lot of species in breeding plumage, but at least a few could be seen with some colouring. Although the more skilled wader watchers found Terek Sandpiper, Red Knot and Black-tailed Godwit within the flock, it proved difficult trying to explain to the novices where to find them. Thankfully perseverance paid off and most of the group eventually got to look at the differences between these and their more common counterpart.



. **Bar-tailed Godwit in partial breeding plumage and the attendees. Both photographs by Jill Brown**

Quite a number of leg flags were spotted by a variety of people, but Sarah Beavis did a wonderful job checking all the letters, writing them down and handing the list to us at the end of the viewing, so they could be added to the leg flag database.

These were as follows:-

Great Knot – black over white flag right tibia – (flagged Chong Ming Dao, China)

All other flags were engraved green flags – (flagged in Moreton Bay) and individual letters are record next to each species.

Bar-tailed Godwit – **ADC, AHA, AHZ, ANZ, ARB, ASS, ATB**

Black-tailed Godwit – one seen with green ELF flag, but could not be read.

Great Knot – **AWC, BCA, BCC.**

Some species of waders were counted and the numbers appear in brackets before the bird. Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:



Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Australasian Darter, (1) Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Eastern Great Egret, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, (1) Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing, (46) Black-tailed Godwit, (650+) Bar-tailed Godwit, (204) Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, (1) Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank,

Great Knot, (2) Red Knot, (4) Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, (10) Little Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Galah, Laughing Kookaburra, (H) Striated Pardalote, Mangrove Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater and Australian Magpie.

Some of the attendees stopped at Bishop's Marsh on the way into Toorbul and recorded the following birds:- Plumed Whistling-Duck, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Crested Pigeon, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Intermediate Egret, Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Whistling Kite, Swamp Harrier, Black-winged Stilt, Red-kneed Dotterel, Noisy Miner, Australasian Figbird, Grey Butcherbird, Magpie-lark, Welcome Swallow, Common Myna, and Australasian Pipit.

Linda Cross.

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

[www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

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The QWSG Chairperson,  
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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.

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Annual subscription rates:  
Single: \$15:00  
Student/Pensioner: \$10:00  
Family \$25:00  
A receipt will be forwarded if required.

Forward application to:  
Dierdre Chrzescijanski  
QWSG Treasurer  
39 Barrinia Street,  
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 **August 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au)

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**PRINTED BY: Mr Bob Durrington of J.R. Durrington & Sons Pty Ltd.**  
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## QWSG MERCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG merchandise, 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            \$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



## 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](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)  
 Secretary, Rae Clark [secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au)  
 Treasurer, Wayne Lock [treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Monthly Meetings        Birds Queensland  
 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 7:30pm start.

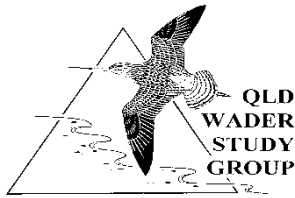
## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently:  
 Janine de la BERGASSIERE Graham CASTLES, Nicole DAVIDSON,  
 Carol DUNCAN, Joy GRAYDON, Scott PASCOE, Madeleine STIGNER,  
 Jane TURNBULL, Philip VENABLES, Justin WATSON,  
 Eric & Aileen WILLIAMS

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

## Electronic Newsletter ??

Are you interested in receiving your “Queensland Wader” by email?  
 If you are interested email me on [gouldian@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au) or the treasurer at [membership@waders.org.au](mailto:membership@waders.org.au)  
 Could you use the subject line as “Electronic Newsletter”. Editor



## Count Activities - 2013

### QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2013

**No Count in June**

Sat 27th Jul	2.02m at 12:55	<b>National Winter Count</b>	Sat 19th Oct	2.31m at 09:31
Sat 24th Aug	2.14m at 11:41		Sat 16th Nov	2.33m at 08:32
Sat 21st Sep	2.24m at 10:34		Sat 14th Dec	2.25m at 07:28

### Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2013

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

The Port of Brisbane is a work site and we are doing the survey for the Port and ourselves. Unfortunately we cannot accept people who turn up on the day for a bird watching day.

## PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!

A reminder to members to please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address.



## MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

I / We wish to join / renew: (Single \$15; Family \$25; Student/Pensioner \$10)

Title..... First name: ..... Surname Name:.....

Address:..... Membership: \$.....

..... Postcode:..... Donation: \$.....

..... Payment enclosed: \$.....

Phone: (Home) ..... (Work) .....

Fax / e-mail: .....

TOTAL \$.....

How did you hear about QWSG .....

Are you a member of Birds Queensland?.....

What activities do you wish to participate in? (Please circle)

WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL,  
OTHER (specify.....)

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

SIGNATURE: ..... DATE:.....

**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](mailto:treasurer@waders.org.au)