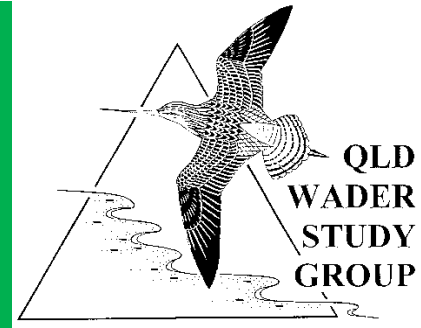


QUEENSLAND WADER



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www.waders.org.au

Save the Hoodie! - Beach-nesting Birds – Crisis Appeal

From BirdLife Australia

We urgently need your help to save our Hoodies



With only 3 months until we nest again, please help our chicks dodge feet, paws, tyres and hooves to survive and fly to safety.

BE PART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Every spring Hooded Plovers begin their long battle to raise a family on Australia's ocean beaches. They must share the beach with thousands of beach-goers, plus their dogs, vehicles, horse and introduced predators. It is no wonder that their tiny camouflaged eggs and chicks have one of the lowest survival rates of any species in the world.

BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Program is turning this around. Once in decline, birds are now returning to beaches where they've been extinct for up to 15 years.

This highly successful program is funded by donations and government grants. A recent change in priorities for government funding means our work relies on your generosity.

Many of the gains we have made together are now at risk which is why **we need your help.**

HELP US CONTINUE OUR CRITICAL WORK

The Beach-nesting Birds program provides training and support to almost 1,000 volunteers and coastal residents to monitor and protect the nesting sites of the Hooded Plover. It raises awareness in schools, coastal towns and on beaches, so that everyone can assist by sharing the beach with these birds.

Simple actions such as alerting beach users through signs and temporary fencing, wooden shelters for chicks, and educating people about the need to leash their dogs on beaches, has improved the hoodie's chances of successfully raising chicks from 2 per cent to 55 per cent.

A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR COASTS

We are on the cusp of major changes to the way Australian's view the coast—no longer is it seen as just a place for recreation. Now people recognise how valuable it is as habitat for our unique and precious birds, such as the hoodie.

This appeal will pay for the resources needed to maintain a national network of trained volunteers to monitor and protect the Hoodie from disturbance by people, their dogs, horses and vehicles.

BEACH-NESTING BIRD FACTS

The Hoodie is endangered in many areas around Australia. Their nests are simple bowl-like hollows in dry sand located either on the beach, or in dunes. Eggs are about the size of a 20 cent piece.

The main **threats** to beach nesting birds are:

- If you get too close to a nest the adult bird will stay off its eggs while it tries to distract you and lead you away. If this happens on a day over 35°C, the tiny chicks inside the eggs will die within half an hour.
- When people playing at the water's edge stay within 100 metres of a Hooded Plover's nest, parent birds can't get to the water to wet their bellies, so they are not able to keep their eggs cool. Also, instead of feeding at the water's edge, chicks will be hiding in the sand dunes instead, so they aren't able to find food, and then they starve
- People sometimes ignore the warning signs and the fences, and they head into the sand dunes. It only takes one thoughtless person to accidentally crush some eggs or kill a chick by accidentally stepping on them.
- If dogs disturb an adult Hooded Plover while it is trying to sit on its eggs in the nest, the eggs may not hatch. Dogs also prevent chicks from feeding in the same way that people do. They can also accidentally crush eggs, just like people, or even eat them!
- People who take their cars onto the beach often drive in the dry sand where they can easily run straight over a nest or chicks without even knowing it.

Things you can do to **HELP** save beach-nesting birds are:

1. **Beach-nesting birds use camouflage to keep their eggs and chicks safe.** When you go to the beach, keep an eye out for Hooded Plovers and their eggs in the dry sand. Watch where you walk!
2. **On a hot summer day, beach-nesting birds sit on their eggs to keep them cool.** They keep their bodies cool by running down to the waves and dipping their bellies in the water. If you see the birds, move away quickly so they can get to the water. Staying at least 100 metres clear of a signed or fenced area where birds are nesting gives them a much greater chance of surviving.
3. **Driving on the beach can kill baby birds because they are impossible to see, especially in the dry sand.** If you absolutely have to drive along the beach, make sure you stick to the wet sand, down by the water's edge, and keep the speed down so that chicks can run out of the way.
4. **Dogs go sniffing around nests and will often tread on eggs or eat chicks.** Dogs on beaches should wear leashes at all times.
5. **BirdLife Australia places small wooden shelters on the beach to give the chicks a safe hiding place.** This increases their chance of survival by up to 75%.

PROGRAM FACTS

- Beach-nesting Birds program has reached over 30,000 people;
- More than 400 signs are in place in South Australia, Victoria and NSW; and
- The My Hoodie portal collects scientific data from volunteers to inform recovery efforts around the country.

LINKS Hooded Plover website

Find out more about the Beach-nesting birds program here.

DONATE NOW and select Beach-nesting birds in the drop-down box.

Kakī / Black Stilt

Kakī, or black stilts (*Himantopus novaezelandiae*), are a native wading bird only found in New Zealand. They are regarded by Māori as a taonga species – a living treasure. Kakī have completely black plumage and long red legs. Young kakī have black and white plumage until 18 months old, when they become all black. Kakī are critically endangered.

Where is it found?

Once common throughout New Zealand, kakī are now restricted to the braided rivers and wetlands of the Mackenzie Basin, South Canterbury. At the time of European settlement, kakī were found in many of New Zealand's rivers and wetlands. There was plenty of habitat and the risk of predation was low. As European settlement intensified, New Zealand's environment began to change. Settlers introduced foreign plants and animals, drained wetlands for development, and channelised rivers. With the spread of new predators and extensive modification of their habitat, by 1981 kakī numbers declined to a low of just 23 birds.

Kakī facts

- Kakī are found in braided riverbeds, side streams, swamps and tarns and sometimes on lake margins and irrigated paddocks if there is good feed available. Most riverbed birds migrate to the coast in winter, but kakī usually continue to feed on the parts of river and delta which do not freeze over.
- Kakī first breed when aged two or three years, and are known to mate for life. If they cannot find a kakī mate, they may sometimes breed with the pied stilt, a close relative.
- Each pair of kakī defends a territory, and nest alone, on stable banks near the water in braided riverbeds, side streams and swamps. They rely on camouflage to protect their eggs and chicks, and actively defend their nests.
- Incubation is shared equally by the parents and takes 25 days. Within hours, newly hatched chicks can hunt for food and swim if necessary.
- Kakī are opportunistic feeders, mostly taking aquatic insects, molluscs and small fish.
- They can wade out into deeper, slower moving water than most riverbed birds, reaching down to catch insects, such as mayfly and caddisfly larvae, on the river bottom. Sometimes they dart at insects and small fish in shallow rapids or muddy areas. Unlike pied stilts and other waders, they can also feed by using a scything motion with their bill.

Threats

The main threats to kakī include:

- Predators – especially introduced mammalian predators like feral cats and ferrets.
- Habitat loss and modification – such as hydroelectric and agricultural development and weed invasion.
- Human disturbance – recreational users of riverbeds and wetlands can crush eggs or chicks and scare adult kakī away from their nests.

The challenge now is to learn how and when to manage these threats. Targeted research will help to identify the most effective and efficient management techniques to use. With the support of landowners, recreationalists and the general public, we hope that kakī will thrive in their natural habitat once more.

Kakī recovery programme

Kakī have been intensively managed since 1981, when their population declined to a low of just 23 birds. The Department of Conservation's captive breeding centre, near the town of Twizel in the Mackenzie Basin, plays an important role in the Kakī Recovery Programme. A number of kakī pairs are held at the centre for captive breeding. All kakī eggs are artificially incubated and the young chicks are raised in captivity. At 2–9 months they are released into the wild. Rearing them in captivity significantly increases their chances of survival by preventing predation when they are most vulnerable, (as chicks and eggs).

Conservation efforts to date have succeeded in averting extinction and increasing kakī numbers. By 2005, kakī numbers in the wild had increased to 55 adults, including 11 pairs. The next phase of the recovery programme will address the complex issues associated with managing kakī in the wild.

How can you help?

When recreating in the riverbeds of the Mackenzie Basin, follow the river care code. Minimise the risk to nesting birds by driving on marked tracks, learning about and responding appropriately to bird behaviour, keeping pets off riverbeds or dogs on a leash. You can take a guided tour of the Kaki Visitor Hide, near Twizel in the Mackenzie Basin, and learn about the ecology and conservation of these unique birds. The hide is next to the captive breeding centre and overlooks aviaries where kaki pairs are held. Tours can be booked during spring and summer (see contact details below) and there is a facility for collecting donations.

River care code

- River birds nest on the ground. Their eggs and chicks are almost impossible to spot from a vehicle. Please refrain from driving in riverbeds from August to December.
- Birds swooping, circling or calling loudly probably have nests nearby. Move away so they can return to them, or their eggs and chicks could die.
- A dog running loose can wreak havoc. Leave your dog at home or keep it under strict control.
- Jet boats disturb birds and can wash away nests near the water's edge. The speed limit for boats is 5 knots within 200 m of the bank.

For more information

Guided tours of the Kaki Visitor Hide are able to be booked during spring and summer. For more information contact the Twizel Information Centre, phone 03 435 3124 or visit the DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz

Red Knot Isn't Only Shorebird Facing Decline

By RICHARD DEGENER Staff Writer:

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP - Every spring, David Mizrahi sees fewer of the tiny shorebirds arriving to eat horseshoe crab eggs on the Delaware Bay. His expeditions to South America are documenting a similar decline on their wintering grounds. But the bird is not a red knot.

Mizrahi, vice president of research and monitoring for the New Jersey Audubon Society, is tracking a shorebird called the Semipalmated Sandpiper. He began studying it in 1995, when he was working toward his doctorate, and he continued his studies after being hired by the society 13 years ago.

The red knot, a state-endangered bird under consideration for federal listing, migrates from South America, stopping locally along the Delaware Bay to eat horseshoe crab eggs to gain enough weight to continue its trek to Arctic nesting grounds. A decline in its numbers, from perhaps 90,000 birds in the 1980s to just 26,000 today, gets most of the media attention.



But Mizrahi said the Semipalmated Sandpiper, and several other shorebird species that depend on the crab eggs, may be declining just as fast, proportionately. "Red Knots suck all the air out of the room, but there are other shorebirds and they're declining in some cases because of what's happening on the Delaware Bay. It's apparent we're facing a decline of several species," Mizrahi said.

Most of his work is on Semipalmated Sandpipers, but Mizrahi said there are also declines in Sanderlings and

Ruddy Turnstones, and he suspects several others - including Dowitchers and Dunlins - are down as well.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature elevated the concern status of the Semipalmated Sandpiper from "least concern" to "near-threatened" in 2012. Similarly, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently ranked the Semipalmated Sandpiper as a "species of conservation concern."

At the height of the Red Knot population, before horseshoe crabs were heavily harvested on the bayshore to be used for commercial bait, there may have been 90,000 of the birds traveling each year from South America to the Arctic. Mizrahi said at that time there were as many as 3 million Semipalmated Sandpipers. Now there are about 500,000.

About 50 percent of all Semipalmated Sandpipers migrating north to breeding grounds are believed to stop at the Delaware Bay to feed on horseshoe crab eggs, and the numbers locally are down about 75 percent. New Jersey Audubon has also surveyed Semipalmated Sandpipers wintering grounds in French Guiana, Suriname and the northern coast of Brazil since 2008 while studying surveys done previously by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

"The population is down 70 to 80 percent in wintering areas. The last two years we found the number was down in Brazil by 90 percent. We have funding to look at Venezuela and Columbia to see if they travel there," Mizrahi said.

The species nests from the eastern Canadian Arctic to Alaska, but Mizrahi said some specific nesting populations, including one that used the Hudson Bay area, has all but disappeared. Like the Red Knot, the bird times its migration to maximize food sources.

The question is how much of the decline can be blamed on a reduction in horseshoe crab eggs. Like Red Knots, the birds are not just facing changes here but also in South America, where they are still hunted, and in the Arctic, where climate change is impacting the environment. But it is clear that fewer crab eggs are available. In the mid-1980s, egg densities could approach 50,000 eggs per square meter of sand on the Delaware Bay coast. In 2012, the density ranged from 5,700 to 8,300 eggs per square meter of sand. "The density of crab eggs is so far below what they need. They're having difficulty meeting their needs," said Megan Tinsley, a conservation advocate with the society.

From 1995 to 1997, when Mizrahi worked on his doctorate, he said the sandpipers would feast on the eggs and gain a gram of weight per day, easily plumping up from 20 to 25 grams to the 38-45 gram range needed to make the Arctic flight. That was before overzealous crab harvesters decimated the population, which led to a ban on harvesting in 2008. There is a proposal to lift the ban, and the society opposes it.

"In the 1990s, tractor trailers were pulling in and taking the crabs out," Mizrahi noted. But his work is not limited to this part of the bird's range. "Humans are predators in South America and the Caribbean. No hunter targets semi-palms. They're too small. But a 20-gauge shooting a Red Knot or a Whimbrel will hit them as well," Mizrahi said.

Coded leg bands the society's team affixed to birds during previous expeditions along with first-hand accounts provide evidence that migratory shorebirds are being hunted in Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and throughout the Caribbean Basin. This is likely having a significant impact on viability of several species, but the degree of the impact is not fully known.

Climate change is also impacting the Arctic and possibly the relationship with predators there such as the Arctic fox and jaegers, which Mizrahi described as a predatory gull. Mizrahi is also looking into possible contaminants in the Delaware Bay intertidal mudflats the sandpipers also feed on but red knots don't use. The last such study was done three decades ago.

Red knot numbers may have gone as low as 12,000 birds a few years ago. At that level, a single catastrophic event could spell extinction and the genetic diversity of the species can become compromised. Mizrahi has no problem with the Red Knots getting all the attention because other species may be "proportionately down but numerically OK."

The society wants to educate the public about the issue and especially the importance of getting more crab eggs on the beaches. The society is working on conservation measures in the wintering grounds, and knows it can't control climate change in the Arctic, but hopes to at least prevent lifting the crab harvesting ban in New Jersey.

"If we know they don't have enough food here, we can control that," Tinsley said.

Contact Richard Degener:

From Endangered to Extinct: the Tragic Flight of the Eskimo Curlew

Abridged From Canada.com

It is — or was — a long-legged shorebird about the size of a mourning dove, with mottled brown feathers and a distinctively long, thin, downward-curving beak. For the Eskimo curlew, a once-plentiful species of sandpiper that's eerily linked in history to a better-known North American bird — the passenger pigeon — this is a watershed year.

Before the end of this summer, exactly 50 years will have passed since the last time an Eskimo curlew was seen alive anywhere in its vast range between Arctic Canada — where all that ever lived were hatched in northwest tundra breeding grounds — and its winter home on the pampas of Argentina.

It's a sorrowful milestone: a half-century of utter absence from the scientific record for a creature once known for its prolific numbers, its epic migration, and its widespread presence. Within Canada alone, the bird's distinctive flight or head-bobbing gait have been witnessed, at one time or another, in every province and territory except British Columbia.

Now, though, the Eskimo curlew's time is up. Under Canada's endangered species protocols, the elapse of 50 years since the last confirmed sighting of any animal is a key criterion for formally declaring it extinct. And while it could take years for that to happen, when Canadian officials eventually do take the step it will be the first time since the passenger pigeon vanished almost a century ago — in 1914 — that any bird in Canada will be officially classified as lost forever.

“As a marker, it's a significant event,” says Jon McCracken, director of national programs at Bird Studies Canada and editor of a 2009 report on the Eskimo curlew issued by COSEWIC, the federally mandated Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. While the “50-year threshold is a guideline” and not a “hard and fast rule,” notes McCracken, a contributor to the *State of the World's Birds* report, he says a half-century gap between credible sightings of a fragile species means rediscovering it is only “a very slim probability.”

That was also the conclusion of a 2011 status report on the Eskimo curlew by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which cited one study indicating the likelihood that the species still exists at 0.0003 per cent. The calculation was based on the amount of time that has passed since the last confirmed report of a live Eskimo curlew — a September 1963 sighting by a market hunter in Barbados. That man promptly shot and killed the bird, which was probably stopping for a rest during its migration between Canada's Atlantic shore to its distant wintering grounds in South America.

Decades of dashed hopes for a fresh glimpse of an Eskimo curlew have followed, leading many experts to conclude that the species has already gone the way of the dodo — or, in terms of Canadian avian calamities, the Labrador duck, the Great Auk and, most infamously, the passenger pigeon.



Mounted Eskimo curlew on display at Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, which also holds the carcass of the last known Eskimo curlew seen alive, just moments before it was shot by a market hunter in Barbados on Sept. 4, 1963, while the bird was en route from its Canadian breeding range to its wintering grounds in Argentina.

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.

1 Great Knot – Yellowpatch sandbar, Gladstone – Adam Leavesley – 12.02.13

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs totalled 121 between 20.01.13 and 24.08.13. They were sighted by Claire Anderson, Robert Bush, Tony Cotter, Kristy Currie, Tony Habraken, Arthur Keates, David Milton, Julie Sarna, Michael Strong, and Dez Wells.

1 Eastern Curlew, 68 Bar-tailed Godwit, 8 Pied Oystercatcher, 19 Black-winged Stilt, 6 Great Knot, 19 Grey-tailed Tattler, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, and 1 Red-kneed Dotterel.

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

Eastern Curlew – **BD**.

Bar-tailed Godwit – **JE, PU, AAK, ABJ, ABY, ACC, ACJ, ACW, ADB, ADD, ADJ, AEB, AEE, AEN, AEP, AER, AHC, AHE, AHR, AJH, AJK, AJY, AKA, ALM, ALT, AMD, APP, ARB, ARC, ARH, ARJ, ARM, ARU, ASB, ASN, ASP, ASS, AST, ASU, ASV, ASX, ASY, AVM, AVU, AVY, AZC, AZZ, BAD, BJZ, BKJ**.

Pied Oystercatcher – **AT, B2 B3, AAA, AAH, AAK**.

Black-winged Stilt – **BB, EA, AAR, AAT, AAX, ABA**.

Great Knot – **AWK, AZC**.

Grey-tailed Tattler – **AV, EM, KY, LK, LS, AAA, AKX, ANE, AVB, AVC, AVN, BAJ**.

Curlew Sandpiper – **ABY**.

(Tattler, AVC, has 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 – Seocheon Tidal Flat, Geum Barrage of Geum Estuary, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 04.05.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Geum River Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 03.05.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (HJ on flag) – Seocheon Tidal Flat, Geum Barrage of Geum Estuary, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 02.05.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANL on flag) – Seocheon Tidal Flat, Geum Barrage of Geum Estuary, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 02.05.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (PE on flag) – Songdo mudflat, Incheon, South Korea – Jae-Dae Lee – 30.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADL on flag) – Mokpo Wetland, South Korea – Andreas Kim & Kim Seok-Yee – 28.04.13 & 29.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ALV on flag) Aphae Island south, South Korea – Andreas Kim & Kim – 28.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (EC on flag) Aphae Island south, South Korea – Andreas Kim & Kim Seok-Yee – 28.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (PR on flag) Aphae Island south, South Korea – Andreas Kim & Dr. Robin Newlin – 27.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADL on flag) – Mokpo Wetland, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 26.04.13 & 27.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADL on flag) – Mokpo Wetland, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 21.04.13 & 22.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BAK on flag) – Arao Beach, Arao, Kumamoto, Japan – Muratomi Mitsuaki – 19.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BJX on flag) – Arao Beach, Arao, Kumamoto, Japan – Muratomi Mitsuaki – 19.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADL on flag) – Mokpo Wetland, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 17.04.13 & 19.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AYR on flag) – Nabeta Yatomi-shi, Aichi-ken, Japan – Yamagam i Katsuji – 17.04.13

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AHZ on flag) – Aphae Island south, South Korea – Anderas Kim – 15.04.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FC on flag) – Aphae Island south, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 15.04.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADL on flag) – Mokpo Wetland, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 10.04.13 to 14.04.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AKC on flag) – Fukiage beach, Kaseda, Minamisatsuma-shi, Kagoshima-ken, Japan – Kozono Takuma – 11.04.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX on flag) – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, South Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 12.12.12
Bar-tailed Godwit (EP on flag) – Tapora area, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 08.12.12 & 09.12.12
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX on flag) – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, South Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 12.11.12
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (EP on flag) – Tapora area, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 10.11.12 & 11.11.12
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX on flag) – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, South Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 16.10.12 & 23.10.12
2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pakawau, Golden Bay, South Island, New Zealand – Grant Bawden – 15.03.12
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pakawau, Golden Bay, South Island, New Zealand – Grant Bawden – 14.03.12
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Farewell Spit, Gobi near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Grant Bawden – 12.03.12
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (HC on flag) – Motueka Sandspit, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – David Melville – 12.03.12
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (HC on flag) – Motueka Sandspit, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Rob Schuckard – 03.12.12
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (EP on flag) – Tapora area, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 17.12.11
1 Pied Oystercatcher (A6 on flag) – Iluka, New South Wales – Krishna & Warwick Buckman – 16.07.13
1 Great Knot (BAU on flag) Gochang Tidal flat, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 15.04.13
1 Great Knot (BBE on flag) – Mouth of Anou River, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan – Kenishi Katayama – 13.04.13
1 Great Knot (BBT on flag) – Mouth of Anou River, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan – Kenishi Katayama – 13.04.13
1 Great Knot (AAS on flag) – Takasu Beach, Japan – Mitsuki Sugiyama – 11.04.13
1 Great Knot (BAT on flag) – Takasu Beach, Japan – Mitsuki Sugiyama – 11.04.13
1 Great Knot (BBL on flag) – Hama Koshien, Edagawa-cho, Nishinomiya-shi, Hyogo-ken, Japan – Okuyama Shinji – 11.04.13
1 Great Knot (AES on flag) – Sone Estuary and tidal flat, Kitakyushu, Fukuoke, Japan – Yoshikum i Shiroi – 09.04.13
1 Great Knot (AEZ on flag) – Mouth of Mitarai River, Hatsukaichi-shi, Hiroshima-ken, Japan – Okamura Tomoaki – 08.04.13
1 Great Knot (AEP on flag) – Gonushi beach, Gonushi-cho, Matsuasaka-shi, Mie-ken, Japan – Imai Mitsuaki – 07.04.13
1 Great Knot (BAY on flag) – Gan-No-Su, Higashi-Ku, Fukuoka-Shi, Japan – Koji Takenaka – 07.04.13
1 Ruddy Turnstone (HB on flag) – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Chiba, Japan – 12.08.13
1 Grey-tailed Tattler (ABD on flag) – Hakodate, Hokkaide, Japan – Stuart Price – 13.05.13
1 Grey-tailed Tattler (JP on flag) Katsuura River Estuary, Rondan-cho, Tokushima-shi, Japan – Toichiro Ogawa – 19.08.12
1 Grey-tailed Tattler (JN on flag) – Tokyo Bay, Japan – Tatsuya Shibahara – 13.07.12
1 Grey-tailed Tattler (JP on flag) Katsuura River Estuary, Rondan-cho, Tokushima-shi, Japan – Toichiro Ogawa – 14.05.12
1 Grey-tailed Tattler (CZ on flag) – Tama River Estuary, Ota, Tokyo, Japan – Yukitsugu Yamane – 07.05.12
1 Grey-tailed Tattler (DH on flag) – Tama River Estuary, Ota, Tokyo, Japan – Hiroyoshi Hayashi – 01.05.11

Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 23.08.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 17.08.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 10.08.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 22.06.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Linda Cross & Arthur Keates – 09.06.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 26.05.13
1 Great Knot – Jim's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 02.04.13
1 Red Knot (40 on flag) – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Peter Driscoll – 07.04.13
1 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Robert Bush – 07.04.13
1 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Kristelle Wi – 07.04.13

- 1 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Liz Crawford – 06.04.13
2 Red Knot – The Oaks, south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Keith Woodley & Liz Crawford – 03.04.13
1 Red Knot – The Oaks, south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Keith Woodley – 03.04.13
1 Red Knot (D9 on flag) – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 02.04.13
1 Red Knot (S7 on flag) – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 02.04.13
4 Red Knot – The Oaks, south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Keith Woodley & Dan Weller – 02.04.13
2 Red Knot – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 02.04.13
2 Red Knot – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Dan Weller & Liz Crawford – 29.03.13
2 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen et al – 26.03.13
2 Red Knot – The Oaks, south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen et al – 23.03.13
3 Red Knot – The Oaks, south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Detlef & Carol Davies – 22.03.13
1 Red Knot – Jim's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 22.03.13
1 Red Knot – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Arthur Keates – 21.03.13
1 Red Knot – Fitzmaurice River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Arthur Keates, Penny Johns & Roger Jaensch – 20.03.13
2 Red Knot – Camp Misery, 20km north of Karumba – Peter Driscoll, Detlef & Carol Davies – 20.03.13
1 Red-necked Stint orange flag left and right tarsus – Camp Misery, 20km north of Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria – Peter Driscoll – 20.03.13

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit white flag left tibia, yellow band left tarsus, yellow band right tarsus – Theodolite Creek, Woodgate – Les Turner – 03.06.13
1 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Kristelle Wi – 07.04.13
1 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Peter Driscoll – 07.04.13
1 Red Knot (CCY on flag) – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Dan Weller & Liz Crawford – 29.03.13
1 Red Knot (BNZ on flag) – Disaster Inlet beach, Leichhardt River, Queensland – Adrian Riegen & Arthur Keates – 21.03.13
1 Red Knot (CEM of flag) – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 20.03.13
1 Red-necked Stint white flag on right and left tarsus – Camp Misery, 20km north of Karumba – Peter Driscoll – 20.03.13

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four combinations

No sightings

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

- 2 Black-tailed Godwit – Camp Misery, 20km north of Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria – Peter Driscoll, Detlef & Carol Davies – 20.03.13
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 22.06.13
1 Great Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Keith Woodley – 07.04.13
1 Great Knot – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Keith Woodley, Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 03.04.13
6 Great Knot – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Robert Bush – 02.04.13
2 Great Knot – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Keith Woodley, Dan Weller & Kristelle Wi – 02.04.13
1 Great Knot (99 on white flag) – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Keith Woodley – 01.04.13
1 Great Knot (33 on white flag) – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 01.04.13
4 Great Knot – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Keith Woodley – 01.04.13
4 Great Knot – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Dan Weller & Liz Crawford – 29.03.13
1 Great Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Dan Weller – 26.03.13
2 Great Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Arthur Keates & Adrian Riegen – 25.03.13
1 Great Knot – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen et al – 23.03.13
1 Great Knot (55 on white flag) – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Carol & Detlef Davies – 22.03.13
3 Great Knot – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen et al – 22.03.13
3 Great Knot – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Detlef & Carol Davies – 22.03.13
2 Great Knot – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Carol & Detlef Davies – 22.03.13

- 3 Great Knot – Jim's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 22.03.13
1 Great Knot – Pelican Island, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 22.03.13
1 Great Knot – Mark's Beach east, Gulf of Carpentaria – Arthur Keates – 22.03.13
1 Great Knot (CN on white flag) – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Arthur Keates – 21.03.13
1 Great Knot (99 on white flag) – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Arthur Keates – 21.03.13
7 Great Knot – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Arthur Keates – 21.03.13
5 Great Knot - Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Peter Driscoll – 21.03.13
1 Great Knot (30 on white flag) – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Carol & Detlef Davies et al – 20.03.13
8 Great Knot – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 20.03.13
6 Great Knot – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 20.03.13
1 Great Knot – Fitzmaurice River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Arthur Keates, Penny Johns & Roger Jaensch – 20.03.13
1 Great Knot (33 on white flag) – Brannigans, Gulf of Carpentaria – Carol & Detlef Davies et al – 18.03.13
2 Great Knot – Brannigans, Gulf of Carpentaria – Carol & Detlef Davies et al – 18.03.13
1 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 07.04.13
2 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Kristelle Wi – 07.04.13
1 Red Knot (9D on white flag) – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 06.04.13
1 Red Knot – Alligator Bank, Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 06.04.13
1 Red Knot – Disaster Inlet Inland, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Keith Woodley – 01.04.13
2 Red Knot – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen et al – 23.03.13
2 Red Knot – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Detlef & Carol Davies – 22.03.13
1 Red Knot (1U on white flag) – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 21.03.13
1 Red Knot – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 20.03.13
1 Terek Sandpiper – Disaster Inlet, inland Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Arthur Keates – 21.03.13
1 Broad-billed Sandpiper – The Oaks, south of the Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen et al – 23.03.13
2 Red-necked Stint – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Jun Matsui – 02.04.13

Other wader leg flag sightings

- 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 – Clare & Grant Morton – 10.02.13 (flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China).
1 Black-tailed Godwit - orange over black flag right tibia – Camp Misery, 20km north of Karumba, Gulf of Carpentaria – Peter Driscoll, Detlef & Carol Davies – 20.03.13 (flagged in Sumatra, Indonesia)
1 Great Knot – yellow flag right tibia – Jim's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 02.04.13 (flagged Roebuck Bay, Broome, Western Australia)
1 Great Knot – yellow flag right tibia and orange flag right tarsus – Brian's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen – 02.04.13 (flagged south-west corner of Western Australia)
1 Great Knot – white flag right tibia, orange (possibly white) flag right tarsus – Jim's Beach, Gulf of Carpentaria – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 22.03.13 (flagged Korean Peninsula)
1 Great Knot – yellow flag right tibia and white flag right tarsus – Disaster Inlet Beach, Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Arthur Keates – 21.03.13 (flagged Sakhalin Island, Russia)
1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia and orange flag right tarsus – The Oaks, south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Keith Woodley, Dan Weller & Kristelle Wi – 02.04.13 (flagged south-west corner of Western Australia)
2 Red Knot - orange flag over black flag right tibia – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Detlef & Carol Davies – 22.03.13 (flagged in Sumatra, Indonesia)
1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Detlef & Carol Davies – 22.03.13 (flagged Roebuck Bay, Broome, Western Australia)
1 Red Knot – orange flag over yellow flag right tibia – The Oaks south of Norman River mouth, Gulf of Carpentaria – Detlef & Carol Davies – 22.03.13 (flagged at Lake George, South Australia)
1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia – Fitzmaurice River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Arthur Keates, Penny Johns & Roger Jaensch – 20.03.13 (flagged Roebuck Bay, Broome, Western Australia)
1 Red-necked Stint – orange flag right tibia, yellow flag right tarsus – Disaster Inlet, inland Leichhardt River, Gulf of Carpentaria – Adrian Riegen & Arthur Keates – 21.03.13 (flagged in South Australia)

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.

D3 on flag – Kristy Currie – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 26.07.13

K3 on flag – Tony Cotter – Wynnum Esplanade – 16.06.13

C8 on flag – Robert Bush – Bishop (Fisherman) Island – 26.05.13

H1 on flag – Laurel Allsopp – Tony's Island, Tweed Heads – 18.05.13

C4 on flag – Kristy Currie – St. Helena Island – 17.05.13

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 27.05.13

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Bishop (Fisherman) Island – Phil Cross – 26.05.13

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag left tarsus – Stockton Borehole Lagoon, New South Wales – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 17.05.13

1 Gull-billed Tern – orange flag left tarsus – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 11.08.13

Interesting wader sightings

Please note these sightings are not authenticated records.

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

4 Beach Stone-curlew – Maroochy River sandbank – 29.07.13

3 Beach Stone-curlew – Finlayson Point, north of Mackay – 20.07.13

2 Beach Stone-curlew – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 11.08.13

2 Beach Stone-curlew – Mirapool, Moreton Island – 26.07.13

2 Beach Stone-curlew – Noosa River sandbanks – 16.05.13

1 Beach Stone-curlew – Shellgrit Creek mouth, Mackay – 22.06.13

1 Common Sandpiper – Endeavour River mouth, Cooktown – 25.07.13

1 Comb-crested Jacana – Redcliffe Airport northside – 22.06.13

3 Black-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – 28.07.13

5 Sooty Oystercatcher – Wickham Point, Caloundra – 27.07.13

4 Sooty Oystercatcher – Shellgrit Creek mouth, Mackay – 22.06.13

3 Sooty Oystercatcher – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – 09.06.13

Not waders but of interest anyway

Lots of very interesting sightings taken from count sheets, but many more reported through Birds Queensland and other bird websites.

2 Pacific Gull (both first winter) – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – 27.05.13 to end of June.

1 Kelp Gull (second winter bird) – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – 26.05.13

2346 Chestnut Teal – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – 28.07.13

1351 Chestnut Teal – Luggage Point – 25.05.13

2 Australasian Gannet – Wickham Point, Sunshine Coast – 27.07.13

1 Australasian Gannet – close to Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 09.06.13

5 Australasian Shoveler – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 30.06.13

2 Australasian Shoveler – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 30.05.13

12 Australasian Shoveler – Luggage Point – 25.05.13

9 Freckled Duck – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay - 30.05.13 (12 on site a week or so earlier)

2 Freckled Duck – Luggage Point – 25.05.13

33 Pink-eared Duck – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 30.05.13

26 Pink-eared Duck – Pine River northside – 27.04.13

20 Pink-eared Duck – lagoon across from Osprey House – 04.06.13

17 Pink-eared Duck – Luggage Point – 25.05.13

8 Pink-eared Duck – Visitors Centre Lake Port of Brisbane – 23.06.13

12 Wandering Whistling Duck – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 30.05.13

314 Grey Teal – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – 23.06.13

7 Hoary-headed Grebe – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 30.05.13

4 Hoary-headed Grebe – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 23.06.13

1750 Eurasian Coot – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 27.07.13

601 Black Swan – on water in Pumicestone Passage off Toorbul roost – 09.06.13
537 Black Swan – on water in Pumicestone Passage off Toorbul roost – 27.05.13
61 Glossy Ibis – Nathan Road Wetlands, Redcliffe – 22.06.13 (35 still on site 27.07.13)
56 Glossy Ibis – Dudgeon Point Wetlands, south of Mackay – 25.07.13
9 Glossy Ibis – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 25.05.13 (7 still on site on 27.07.13)
3 Brown Booby – close to Dudgeon Point, south of Mackay – 25.07.13
272 Royal Spoonbill – Visitors Centre Lake Port of Brisbane – 28.07.13
2 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 30.05.13
2 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 25.05.13
1 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Bundaberg Port – 25.05.13
1 Brolga on a nest with 2 eggs – Nathan Road Wetlands, Redcliffe – 27.07.13
4 White-necked Heron – Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 30.05.13
4 White-necked Heron – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 25.05.13 and other sightings at nine other sites from Tweed Heads to Mackay during the last couple of months.
65 White-faced Heron – Geoff Skinner Reserve east – 27.07.13
2582 Crested Tern – Noosa River sandbanks – 17.06.13
1011 Little Black Cormorant – Bishop (Fisherman Island) – 23.06.13
493 Little Black Cormorant – Acacia Street, Wellington Point – 10.07.13
250+ Magpie Goose – Dudgeon Point Wetland, south of Mackay – 25.07.13
2 Spotted Harrier – Bundaberg Port – 25.05.13
1 Black Falcon – Bundaberg Port – 27.07.13
3 Swamp Harrier – Luggage Point – 27.07.13
Swamp Harriers also at eight other sites during the last couple of months.

Count Programme by Linda Cross

My sincere thanks to all counters who sent their condolences by cards and emails on the passing of my mother. I have to say that you are all a wonderful bunch of people, and it is (and has been) my pleasure to be working with you. Although there is still a lot of paperwork to be done to finalise my mother's affairs I now have to get back to some sort of normality in my life. Thank you all for your patience during this time.

With spring upon us it's time to clean those binoculars and scopes for the waders return. Remember to look for leg flags and advise Phil. Another exercise you might like to consider is counting the number of juvenile species in the flocks and recording them on your count sheet. This gives an indication on how successful they have been during the breeding period.

Alex Bisgrove reported a South Island Pied Oystercatcher at Clontarf on 23 and 24 of July, but was unable to locate it after that date. A few Marsh Sandpiper have been seen at three sites, seven at Bishops Marsh on 27.05.13, four at Nathan Road Wetlands, Redcliffe on 22.06.13 and two at Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon on 27.07.13. The only other interesting wader of note is four Terek Sandpiper seen at Dudgeon Point in Mackay on 25.07.13, and one at Noosa River sandbanks on 15.07.13. Counters of these sites were surprised to find them during their surveys at this time of year. The only other species of interest was 22 Red Knot at Maaroom on 26.05.13.

During the winter months there was not a lot to extract from your count sheets on migratory waders, and most of the interesting records are of our resident nomadic species and waterbirds. I have had reports from people who have been visiting western parts of Queensland, that it is very dry and lacking bird numbers and species. No doubt most of you are aware of some of the interesting species that have been turning up along the coast (such as Freckled Duck and Australasian Shoveler). However, there have been some staggering numbers of Chestnut Teal at three sites. I will cover in depth the nomadic wader species in this report and endeavour to include lots of other species of interest in the "Interesting sighting" of the Wader Watch section of this newsletter (providing the Editor can fit them all in).

With the interior of the country drying out anything could turn up at your count site, so it would pay to have a good look around. I received a report as I write this article that an Australian Spotted Crake has turned up at one of the Brisbane count sites on 23.08.13.

The unusually high and extensive site records of Red-kneed Dotterel I reported in the last newsletter have reduced somewhat, but they have still been recorded at 23 sites, and in good numbers at the following 12 sites:-

231 at Lytton claypan on 27.07.13
 220 at Redcliffe airport on 22.06.13
 132 at Geoff Skinner Reserve west on 27.07.13
 120 at Lytton roost on 25.05.13
 97 at Luggage Point on 25.05.13
 93 at Redcliffe airport northside on 27.07.13

53 at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 25.05.13
 51 at Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon on 27.07.13
 45 at Pine Rivers northside on 25.05.13
 42 at Caboolture River mouth on 23.06.13
 30 at Bundaberg Port on 23.06.13
 30 at Deception Bay Bermuda Avenue on 25.05.13

Numbers of Black-fronted Dotterel have reduced quite a lot, but were still found at 13 sites. Records for most sites are in single figures, but Bundaberg Port had 18 in June and 16 still on site in July. The only other sites with double figures were 15 at Caboolture River mouth in June and 13 at Maaroom in May.

Black-winged Stilts are spread widely on count sites, with eight sites having in excess of 300. A few sites have bigger totals and appear below.

668 at Luggage Point on 27.07.13
 512 at Maaroom on 26.05.13

452 at Redcliffe Airport northside on 22.06.13
 417 at Pine River northside on 27.04.13

The nomadic Red-necked Avocet has made an appearance at 13 sites since April. Although most totals are only in small double digits there were a couple of better totals as follows:-

562 – Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 28.07.13
 182 – Deception Bay south on 25.05.13

89 – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 25.05.13
 31 – Trute's Wetland, Tweed Heads on 15.07.13

Double-banded Plover have probably crossed back over the Tasman by the time you get this newsletter. In the previous newsletter this species was recorded at eleven sites. Since then the records have come from 16 sites as follows:-

Bishop (Fisherman Island) – Bundaberg Port – Caboolture River mouth – Caloundra sandbank No.2 – Cooloola – Geoff Skinner Reserve east – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – Goat Island, Maroochy River – King Street mudflat, Thornlands – Manly Harbour – Noosa River sandbanks – O'Regans Creek west, north of Hervey Bay – Redcliffe Airport northside – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – Shellgrit creek mouth, Mackay

Highest totals have been 68 at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 23.06.13, 62 at Shellgrit creek mouth Mackay on 21.07.13 and 47 at Manly Harbour on 25.05.13. The numbers at all other sites have been in smaller double figures.

Not many large totals to extract from the count sheets for the last few months, apart from the surprising count of Red-necked Stint at the Port of Brisbane, which is unusually high for the time of year.

3006 Red-necked Stint at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 23.06.13
 14 Sooty Oystercatcher – Dudgeon Point, south of Mackay on 25.07.13
 7 Sooty Oystercatcher – Gables Point Rocks, Hervey Bay on 26.07.13
 9 Comb-crested Jacana – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 31.05.13

I have listed quite a number of other wader sightings in the 'Interesting wader sightings' section of this newsletter (providing space is available).

Breeding records.

Masked Lapwing – nesting at Kakadu roost, Bribie Island on 11.08.13 – 4 young at Maaroom on 28.07.13 – one chick at Nandeebie Park on 27.07.13 – one young bird Queens Esplanade, Thornside on 30.06.13.
Red-capped Plover – bird on nest at three sites (claypan, creekmouth and the point) Dudgeon Point, south of Mackay on 25.07.13

We are still continuing to seek extra permanent and standby counters for the count programme and also the Port count. If you can help in any way please contact me.

Please send counts to me at our email address as follows

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

Happy counting.
 Linda Cross.

Wader ID Days

Thursday 26th September at Toorbul

High tide at 14:01 hours (2.01 pm) (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 14:31 hours) of 1.94. Meeting time 13:00 hours (1.00 pm)

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
Arthur & Sheryl Keates.

Saturday 12th October at Toorbul

High tide at 15:28 hours (3.28 pm) (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 15:58 hours) of 2.14. Meeting time 14:30 hours (2.30 pm)

Directions as above

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross
Arthur & Sheryl Keates.

Saturday 9th November at Manly Boat Harbour

As this Wader ID outing is on private property numbers will be strictly limited and QWSG members will be given first preference followed by BQ members.

High tide at 14.01 hours (2.01 pm) of 2.28m. Meeting time 12.30 pm

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

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Arthur & Sheryl Keates
Phil & Linda Cross.

Saturday 7th December at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island.

High tide at 12:49 hours (12.49 pm) of 2.48m (plus 30 minutes for Bribie). Meeting time 12 noon

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

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

Bring morning tea (and lunch for those keen wader enthusiasts), 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.
Arthur & Sheryl Keates.

Australasian Shorebird Conference 20-21 September 2014

SAVE THE DATE!

The next meeting of the Australasian Wader Studies Group will be held in Darwin on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September 2014. The conference will be hosted by the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University and will be held at CDU's Casuarina campus. We encourage you to submit symposia proposals and abstracts on key issues concerning shorebirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Further details will be available soon! We hope you will join us.

Conference Deadlines:

15th March 2014 Symposia submission deadline.
30th April 2014 Abstract submission deadline.
1st July 2014 Early registration deadline.

QWSG MERCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG merchandise, Contact Vicki Campbell

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



Editors Notes:

To all of you who receive the Queensland Wader by post, I apologise for the delay in the delivery of the last issue. The reasons or excuses cover computer meltdown and, like the Led Zepplin song a "Communication Breakdown".

The articles this issue are a bit on the dark side, though I thought we should emphasise the waders found in our area that are in trouble. I admit that I have included several articles and reports on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, so some balance for our waders, maybe we can see what we can do to help them.

This month also has a large number of leg flag sightings. Does this take up too much space?

*David Edwards
Editor Queensland Wader.*

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

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Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **November 18th 2013**

Contributions should be addressed to:

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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:

Jessica LOVATT Desley WILLGOSS

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 or the treasurer at membership@waders.org.au
Please could you use the subject line as "Electronic Newsletter". Editor

Annual General Meeting 2013

Annual General Meeting will be held at the Port of Brisbane Lake (old visitor centre) at 10:30 on Sunday 16th of December. This will be after the December Port of Brisbane Count. We are always keen to have new members on the committee who bring enthusiasm and new ideas to the committee. It can seem daunting but you will be welcome to sit and observe at first. This is great way to become more involved with Waders.

If you want further details please contact Jon Coleman (07) 3299 2780

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee:

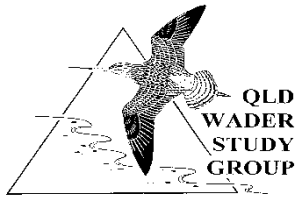
Position:

Name of Proposer:

Name of Seconder:

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

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



Count Activities - 2013

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2013

Sat 21st Sep	2.24m at 10:34
Sat 19th Oct	2.31m at 09:31
Sat 16th Nov	2.33m at 08:32
Sat 14th Dec	2.25m at 07:28

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2013

Sun 22 nd Sep	2.23m at 11:13	Meet 09:25
Sun 20 th Oct	2.33m at 10:09	Meet 08:20
Sun 17 th Nov	2.37m at 09:11	Meet 07:20
Sun 15 th 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 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 PO Box 3138, SOUTH BRISBANE, QLD 4101

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