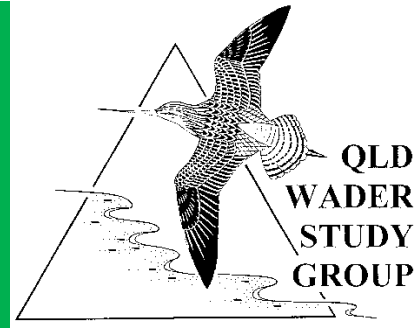


QUEENSLAND WADER



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Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of
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www.waders.org.au

Ramsar 20th Anniversary Celebrations

October 22 was the 20th Anniversary of the listing of Moreton Bay as a Ramsar site. Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Centre (YNOC), Narashino City, Chiba, Japan was listed as a Ramsar site in July 1993 and are affiliated with Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre as a sister wetland. The last 5 year affiliation agreement was signed by the then Lord Mayor of Brisbane City Council, Campbell Newman and Isamu Araki, Mayor of Narashino.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary on the day, Brisbane City Council staff and QWSG members strolled down the Queen St Mall with "Ellie, the Eastern Curlew", distributing brochures along the way. For those who have not seen Ellie, she is larger than life at over 2 metres high. School children, families, shoppers, tourists, workers, including police and tradesmen, posed for photos with Ellie.

Nine volunteers from YNOC arrived on October 24 to join in our anniversary celebrations. There have been 16 visits from YNOC since the first in 1996. This time student Rikuto Ito from Narashino Daiichi Junior High School joined the YNOC volunteers. It was the volunteer's first visit, except for Mr Hitoshi (Hit) Akutsu and Mr Akihito Hasegawa who had been several times previously.



Arrival and greeting of our Japanese visitors at Brisbane Airport

Day 1 – After arrival at the airport, our visitors were driven to Sandgate for lunch and the launch of the commemorative bird viewing binoculars and unveiling of the Ramsar 20th anniversary plaque. A duplicate plaque was presented to Hit Akutsu to be taken back to Yatsu-higata. An afternoon visit to the refurbished City Hall included a tour to the clock tower.

Day 2 – Osprey House for a walk and morning tea (including lamingtons) with the volunteers started the day. Lunch at Toorbul roost with shorebirds and kangaroos was followed by an interesting talk on the shorebirds of Pumicestone Passage by QWSG founder, Dr Peter Driscoll.

QWSG member, Jill Dening, met us on arrival at Kakadu Beach on Bribie Is for a very informative talk on the history of the development of the artificial roost with cooperation with the Pacific Harbour Developers.

Our YNOC visitors ended the day with pizza and beer in the new building at Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre (NBEEC).

Day 3 – Marquees were set up by Environmental Groups at Sandgate under the shady trees at the southern end of Flinders Parade. YNOC volunteers conducted bird brooch making for the public. The QWSG display boards were set up under our marquee, as well as telescopes to show the public shorebirds feeding on Moreton Bay. Children were encouraged to make kites and participate in games on the beach.

Saturday night was a dinner at Breakfast Creek Hotel with 60 guests including YNOC volunteers, BCC staff and volunteers, QWSG members (past and present) and Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld. Many of us had not seen each other for many years so it was a great opportunity to reminisce about what we used to do many years ago, catch up on the present and discuss the future.

Day 4 – Visits to southern wetlands including Sandy Camp Rd Lytton; Kianawah Rd Hemmant; Manly Harbour and Lytton roosts and Port of Brisbane artificial roosts were made. During our lunch on the foreshore at Wynnum North, Dr Jon Coleman and his team of volunteers caught shorebirds including a Grey-tailed Tattler "C5" and were able to remove the Geolocator to endeavour to retrieve the data of its migration routes via Japan since the device was fitted 3rd April 2011. QWSG, Wild Bird Society of Japan and Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd have funded the Geolocator project.

Day 5 – As a treat for our visitors last morning, they were taken to Downfall Ck Bushland Centre where Geckos Wildlife was an absolute hit. Mother Yoko Hino was terrified of the Black-headed Python, while her daughter Akiko, was happy to have the snake wrapped around her neck! Other animals seen were Golden Brush-tailed Possum from Tasmania, Sugar Glider, Tawny Frogmouth and Barn Owl. After an Aussie BBQ, our visitors were taken to the airport for their flight to Japan via Cairns.

Thank you to all who helped in any way, to make this a very successful and memorable 20th anniversary Ramsar celebration. I know that this visit has made us even closer to our friends from Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Centre.

I'm looking forward and already thinking about the 25th anniversary in 2018 (only 5 years away)!

Please see our website www.waders.org.au for information on shorebirds including results from Geolocators, Ramsar and events.
Sheryl Keates

Moreton Bay - Celebrating 20 years as a wetland of international importance

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has some excellent information both on the net and as hard copy with particular reference to Ramsar.

If you visit Wetlands*info* website it can lead you to many wonderful pages.

Also, you can download info as PDFs.

Those of note are:

- Moreton Bay Ramsar factsheet
- Moreton Bay Ramsar 20 year achievements
- Ramsar Poster.

Home site <http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/>

Ramsar topics <http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/facts-maps/ramsar-wetland-moreton-bay/>

**Please note cancellation of the ID day Saturday 7th December at
Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island. Page 11**

Timekeeping Birds Unlock Early Migration Mystery

Written by Planet Earth Online

The remarkable timekeeping of birds could finally explain how some bird species are able to respond to climate change by migrating earlier and earlier each year.

According to a new study, individual Black-tailed Godwits migrate at more or less the same time every year. But the migration of the population as a whole seems to be happening progressively earlier.

Dr Jenny Gill of the University of East Anglia, who led the research, explains: "The only explanation that's left, is that new birds are hatching and migrating earlier. As the older birds die off, the population fills up with early migrators".

Climate change is likely to be driving this change because Black-tailed Godwits nest earlier in warmer years. Birds that hatch earlier are likely to have more time to gain the body condition needed for migration, and to find good places to nest in the winter.

The team have monitored a population of Black-tailed Godwits for over 20 years. The citizen science project relied on the help of more than 2,000 bird-watching volunteers across Europe.

In winter, the wading birds can be found in estuaries all the way down the west coast of Europe, as they flee the harsh Arctic conditions of their Icelandic home.

It's long been known that birds tend to return to the same place each time they migrate: that's why many of the characters in your garden will be familiar to you.

But the new study, published in *The Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, is the first to show they also return at the same time, within just a few days. Dr. Gill says: "They can tell the time. I have no idea how, but they can. We thought that individual birds might migrate earlier or later in response to the weather. But it seems that, whatever the weather, they migrate at almost exactly the same time every year; it's quite remarkable. If you think about it from the bird's point of view, it makes sense. You know that the place you've been to before will be available, and you know that it will be available at that time.

Other studies have shown that birds which migrate over longer distances have found it difficult to adapt their migration cycles to a changing climate. Many of those species are also suffering rapid decline. The study could explain why those birds are struggling to respond". Dr. Gill also added:

Many long-distance migrants arrive so late on to the breeding grounds that they only have a short time in which to mate and nest. They simply don't have time to respond to warming conditions by nesting earlier.

Reference: Jenny Gill, Jose Alves, William Sutherland, Graham Appleton, Peter Potts and Tomas Gunnarsson, 'Why is timing of bird migration advancing when individuals are not,' *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 2013

Phonetically Speaking – Hearing Waders by Arthur Keates

Recently when doing a wader count, the arrival of a White-bellied Sea-eagle on the scene had the immediate effect of a large flock of mixed species taking to the air. The noisy swirling mass of birds circled a few times before it started to break up into smaller flocks and return to the roost when the birds had sensed the raptor no longer posed a danger.

As the birds landed, I took particular notice of the variety of calls. The most notable call was the distinctive yapping call of the Black-winged Stilt which most wader watchers are familiar with. The high-pitched piping "peepapeep" call of the Australian Pied Oystercatcher was also unmistakable, a really pleasant sound to my ears.

Other species in the flock that clearly announced their presence were the Common Greenshank and Eastern Curlew. The Common Greenshank's call is one of the most familiar sounds in wader habitat, sometimes giving away its presence before it is observed. The field guides consistently describe its alarm call as a clear, loud and rapid "tew-tew-tew" with a slight drop in pitch in the last note, or sometimes the shortened "tew-tew".

The call of the Eastern Curlew lives up to its common name, a loud rapid “cur-loo” which is usually given in flight or when disturbed but sometimes the call is a melodious more drawn-out “cuur-lee”. According to the field guides, the Eastern Curlew also has a mournful “karr-er” not unlike the grating “croo-ee” sometimes given by the Whimbrel. In Australia, the well-known call of the Whimbrel is described by the field guides as a rather musical, even pitched rapid “tee-tee-tee”. It too was in the flock.

The “kerk-kerk-kerk” call of the sheer number of Bar-tailed Godwit drowned out most of the other species still circling. When a flock of small grey waders broke off and landed near me, I realised the flock was predominantly made up of Grey-tailed Tattler, a species that has a readily identifiable call, especially when flushed. To me, one field guide accurately describes its call as a musical, but slightly mournful, drawn out “too-weet”. A flock on the wing also has a rapid sequence, rising in pitch and accelerating heard as “weit-weit-weet-weet-weetweetweet”. This was the call I heard as the flock settled back on the roost.

When another small flock landed, I knew they were sand plovers but had no idea whether they were Greater or Lesser Sand Plover, or both, as the chattering flight calls sound much the same to me. One field guide attempts to distinguish their calls as “trrrri-trrrri-trrrri-trrrri” and “tirrit-tirrit trritt” respectively.

The Ruddy Turnstone has a call I am familiar with but I didn't hear any of them call even though there were a few among one of the small flocks. As well as having distinctive plumage, the Ruddy Turnstone has distinctive contact and flight calls. Several birds in contact give a clear whistling “kiew”, “keeu” or “kee-oo”, depending on the field guide consulted. An individual gives what one field guide describes as a rippling trill, “trit-tit-tit-tit” or “trittititi” and another describes as a rattling “kitititit” which is multiplied when several are flushed.

Fortunately, the rest of the birds soon settled down and I resumed the count, more aware of what I was hearing as well as seeing. Walking around the roost I was alerted to the presence of a Red-capped Plover by its short sharp contact call “wit”. I looked to where the call was coming from and sure enough, there was a male bird warily watching me. Then I heard a drawn-out trilling “trrrrrit”, the familiar alarm call of presumably the male bird's mate as it performed a distraction display, time for me to move away.

A tern flying into join the roosting flock appeared to be enough to flush about 30 nervous Pacific Golden Plover from where they had been roosting, most of them had been well hidden in the samphire. As the birds flushed and settled down, I heard a musical “too-weet” but have to admit I would not have associated the call with the species without observing them when they landed. Nor was hearing a fairly loud repeated “chit” enough for me to identify the “peep” uttering it, the contact call of the Red-necked Stint, yet it is a species I see regularly. The last species to be counted was the Red-kneed Dotterel and as I clicked the tally counter, I heard their sharp “chit-chit”, not unlike the “tip-tip-tip” of the Black-fronted Dotterel.

Having completed the count, I headed home and thumbed my Australian field guides to find there is quite a deal of variation in the descriptions of how the authors “hear” waders leaving a lot to the imagination – as no doubt are some of the descriptions I have chosen to use here. However, help is at hand in this technical age, field guide applications include most bird species calls allowing the bird observer to really hear the calls.

For me, listening as well as looking, adds to the enjoyment of wader watching. Try it sometime; you too may be surprised at how many species you recognise when you hear them call.

Catch Report for the 27th October 2013 at Manly Marina

A team of 20 people arrived at Manly on the Sunday morning to set two small mesh cannon nets at the manly Marina roost side, both nets were set on the marina side of the lagoon with the hope of an early catch of Grey-tailed tattlers (hopefully some with geolocators) and a later catch of Bar-tailed godwit.

The tattlers arrived very early and after some light twinkling, we had what looked like well over a hundred tattlers and a few other species in front of the first net so took the opportunity to fire just after midday, catching all the birds in the area 142 birds in total. 101 of these were tattlers including one with a geocator.

As part of Brisbane's RAMSAR celebrations a number of long-standing friends from the Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre in Japan were here on an annual exchange visit with Brisbane City Council and took the opportunity to visit us while we were banding. They have a special interest in our tattlers that extends beyond our long standing relationship, they, along with the Port of Brisbane and the Wild Bird Society of Japan, Chiba, provided a significant amount of the funding for our geolocators, so they were keen to see us retrieving the one we had caught.



Terek Sandpiper, just prior to release © Jon Coleman 2014

On their walk in to the site they 'twinkled' birds on the far side of the roost perfectly across the lagoon resulting in a second small, but mixed catch of small shorebirds in the second net at 1:30pm. Although there appeared to be 50-60 birds, mainly stint and sand-plover in the area we only caught 28 birds, despite the net firing well.

The totals caught are in the table below:-

SPECIES	NUMBER NEW	NUMBER RETRAP	TOTAL
Black-winged Stilt	3	1	4
Curlew Sandpiper	12	4	16
Grey-tailed tattler	83	18	101
Lesser Sand-plover	7	3	10
Red-necked Stint	13	1	14
Ruddy Turnstone	1	0	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	12	0	12
Terek Sandpiper	9	3	12
TOTAL CATCH			170

The geolocator was activated in 2010 and recorded two northward migration routes and the intermediate southward migration route. You can see the interim trace of the birds' migration route at the following link [Tattler Geolocator Results](http://www.waders.org.au/studying-waders/banding-shorebirds/satellite-transmitters-and-geolocators/)

Thanks to all who attended for making the day entertaining and more importantly safe for the people and birds involved in the day.

Rare Sighting of Marked Spoon-Billed Sandpiper on Migration

Written by BirdLife International

This Spoon-billed Sandpiper was marked in north-east Russia and has now been seen in China. © Michelle and Peter Wong

A rare sighting of a marked Spoon-billed Sandpiper on migration was reported last weekend from Rudong mudflats north of Shanghai.

The Critically Endangered bird was identified by a lime green plastic flag on its leg marked '01' that was attached by scientists from Birds Russia on its breeding grounds this summer.

Conservationists know that this bird 'Lime 01' fathered six fledglings this summer – three that were hand-reared by conservationists and three that he raised himself – which is 10 times the average for the species.

In all, this summer sixteen hand-reared spoon-billed sandpiper fledglings and eight adults were marked with the lime green plastic leg flags. Birdwatchers are being asked to report all sightings of spoon-billed sandpipers.

Rudong mudflats are the most significant known staging post in China for Spoon-billed Sandpipers where 106 individuals were counted last year in October. Demand for land is high in the region, which is only 150km from Shanghai, and land has already been reclaimed from the marshes at Dongling to the southern end.

Pavel Tomkovich of Birds Russia, who caught and marked the bird with Nikolai Yakushev, said: "When I marked "Lime 01" I wondered if anybody would ever see it on its travels, almost a quarter of the way round the world, as looking for Spoon-billed Sandpipers can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Looking for marked birds is even more difficult as we were only able to mark eight adult birds with these unique flags. Thanks to the reports of local birdwatchers, we're learning their stopover points."

'Lime 01' was seen leaving the breeding grounds on 4 August and was seen 5,000km away at Rudong on 31 August. Spoon-billed sandpipers can cover as much as 1,000km per day, leaving around three weeks during which it may have been staging elsewhere.

Zhang Lin of the "Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China" Team said:

"The first Spoon-billed Sandpiper arrived at Rudong about two weeks ago since when I have been regularly scanning the increasing numbers of waders at the high tide roost at Rudong. When I glimpsed a bird on 31 August that looked like it had a lime green leg flag, I knew something exciting was in front of me. On closer inspection it turned out to be 'Lime 01'. I was over the moon as this is the first time that one of the birds marked in 2013 has been seen in China."

It is amazing to see how these little but Critically Endangered birds are connecting our key sites along the flyway between Russia and China. They are very important as they allow us to track whether efforts to save the species are working.

BirdLife's project to save Rudong and Minjiang Estuary, two key resting and feeding sites used by Spoon-billed Sandpipers in China, 'Saving Spoony's Chinese Wetlands' is supported by a \$100,000 grant from The Walt Disney Company, through Disney's Friends for Change.

Guidance on reporting spoon-billed sandpiper sightings is available from the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force <http://www.eaaflyway.net/spoon-billed-sandpiper.php>.

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 Pied Oystercatcher – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 09.11.13

1 Great Knot (**AWE on flag**) – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 16.10.13

1 Great Knot (**AWE on flag**) – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs totalled **508** between 27.07.13 and 10.11.13. They were sighted by Robert Bush, Tony Cotter, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, David Edwards, Rick Franks, Richard Fuller, Nicolas Haass, Sandra Harding, Bob James, Arthur Keates, David Lattaway, Judith Lattaway, Judy Leitch, David Milton, James Niland, Barbara O'Connor, Brian O'Connor, Helen Page, Sonja Ross, Peter Rothlisberg, Julie Sarna, Michael Strong, Nicola Udy, Peter Valentine, Mark Walker, Dez Wells, Jim Whyte and Ivell Whyte.

6 Eastern Curlew, 2 Whimbrel, 265 Bar-tailed Godwit, 10 Pied Oystercatcher, 8 Black-winged Stilt, 1 Pacific Golden Plover, 106 Great Knot, 2 Ruddy Turnstone, 84 Grey-tailed Tattler, 7 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 10 Curlew Sandpiper, 1 Lesser Sand Plover and 12 Red-necked Stint.

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

Eastern Curlew – AR, BD.

Whimbrel – UF, ABT.

Bar-tailed Godwit – AB, AE, BT, CN, CU, JE, JH, JL, JN, NZ, PA, PC, PD, PE, PR, PS, PU, RJ, RN, AAA, AAB, AAE, AAL, AAM, ABJ, ABK, ABL, ABV, ACA, ACC, ACH, ACN, ACP, ACJ, ACT, ACY, ADB, ADD, ADH, ADJ, ADM, ADR, ADY, ADZ, AEJ, AEM, AEN, AEP, AEU, AEV, AEZ, AHA, AHC, AHD, AHE, AHL, AHM, AHR, AHS, AHT, AHW, AHZ, AJB, AJC, AJE, AJH, KE, AKL, AKM, AKZ, ALA, ALK, ALM, ALN, ALP, ALR, ALT, ALZ, AMA, AMD, ANB, ANP, APH, APP, APT, ARA, ARB, ARC, ARD, ARH, ARK, ARM, ARN, ARS, ART, ARU, ARW, ASA, ASB, ASC, ASD, ASJ, ASK, ASL, ASM, ASN, ASP, ASR, ASS, AST, ASW, ASX, ASY, ASZ, ATB, ATD, AVK, AVU, AVW, AYK, AXT, AZC, AZY, AZZ, BAD, BAE, BAP, BAU, BAW, BAY, BJD, BJK, BJU, BJX.

Pied Oystercatcher – B6, C4, D6, D8, J4, AAE, AAH.

Black-winged Stilt – BB, AAT, AAY, AAZ, ABA, ABE.

Pacific Golden Plover – AVS.

Great Knot – AAN, AAP, ADA, AEC, AED, AEE, AEL, AEM, AEN, AEP, AEU, AEX, AHE, AHH, AHL, AHP, AHW, AHY, ALD, AJB, AJC, AJH, AJJ, AJK, AJL, AJN, AJT, AJU, AJY, ALB, ALE, ALH, ALL, ALN, ALP, ALR, ALS, ALT, ALU, ALW, ALZ, AMJ, AMM, AVX, AVY, AWA, AWD, AWJ, BAP, BAT, BAU, BBE, BBH, BBN, BBP, BBT, BCB, BCE, BCH, BCZ.

Ruddy Turnstone – HE.

Grey-tailed Tattler – A6, C5, AW, AX, CA, CD, HK, HV, HY, JD, JZ, KA, KV, LK, LS, RH, RN, AAA, AAH, ABD, ABE, ABH, ABS, ABU, ACH, ACJ, ADH, ADL, ADZ, AHB, AHD, AKA, AKH, AKM, ANL, ANN, APD, APH, APJ, APN, ARN, ARP, AVB, AVC, AVE, AXJ, AXN, AXR, BAJ, BAM.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – AAE, AAH, AAR, ABD, AMC.

Curlew Sandpiper – AAK, AAM, AAP, AAY, ABR, ACA, AHT, ANJ, APH.

Lesser Sand Plover – ED.

Red-necked Stint – AN, JP, KE, KT, LB, LR, MU, NB, PZ,

(Tattlers, C5, AKH, ANL, APD, APJ, AVC, have green flag right tibia, yellow flag and geolocator on left tibia and metal band left tarsus).

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

1 Whimbrel – Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Singapore – David Li – 15.11.12

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (HC on flag) – Motueka sandspit, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Craig Martin – 20.10.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Matarangi, Coromandel Peninsula, North Island, New Zealand – Bev Woolley – 04.10.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AEX on flag) – Ohima, North Island, New Zealand – Tim Barnard – 18.08.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJN on flag) – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 13.08.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADL on flag) – Mokpo Namhang Tidal flat, South Korea – Andreas Kim – seen everyday from 01.05.13 to 11.05.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BR on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim & Dr Kim Seok-Yee – 11.05.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AHZ on flag) – Aphae Island (north), South Korea – Andreas Kim & Dr Robin Newlin – 05.05.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (PA on flag) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve Site 5, Liaoning Province, China – Bai Qing Quan – 20.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ALH on flag) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve Site 2, Liaoning Province, China – Bai Qing Quan – 14.04.13

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Totara Avenue, Golden Bay, South Island, New Zealand – David Melville – 12.12.12

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Bells Island, Waimea Inlet near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – David Melville – 10.12.12

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pakawau, Golden Bay, South Island, New Zealand – David & Julia Melville – 18.11.12

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (EP on flag) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve Site 5, Liaoning Province, China – Mr Bai Qing Quan – 27.04.12

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (male bird) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve Site 5, Liaoning Province, China – Mr Bai Qing Quan – 27.04.12

1 Great Knot – (unable to read letters) – Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve Site 5, Liaoning Province, China – Bai Qing Quan – 25.04.13

1 Red Knot (ABH on flag) – Tabora South, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 10.03.13

1 Red Knot (ABK on flag) – Mataitai, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 03.03.13
(this bird was banded on 20.10.1996 at Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand making this bird now 18 years old).

- 1 Red Knot – Bohai Oil Rig, China – Chris Hassell – 17.05.12 & 18.05.12
1 Red Knot – Bohai Oil Rig, China – Chris Hassell – 15.15.12
1 Red Knot – Bohai Oil Rig, China – Chris Hassell – 10.05.12
1 Red Knot – Bohai Oil Rig, China – Chris Hassell – 07.05.12 & 08.05.12
1 Red Knot – Bohai Oil Rig, China – Chris Hassell – 05.05.12
1 Grey-tailed Tattler (DH on flag) – Yoshino River, Nakahara Oujin-cho, Tokushima-shi, Tokushima-ken, Japan – Tadakazu Hiroi – 15.08.11
1 Greater Sand Plover – Han-Pao, Changhua County, Taiwan, China – Chih-Hui Liu – 06.04.12
1 Curlew Sandpiper (female bird) – Bohai Oil Rig, China – Chris Hassell – 22.05.12
1 Red-necked Stint – South Ballina beach, New South Wales – David Charley, June Harris & Bob Moffat – 26.10.12

Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 06.11.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (HX on flag) – Toorbul – Linda & Phil Cross & Arthur Keates – 25.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (51 on flag) – mudflats Gorman Park, Burnett Heads, Bundaberg – Chris Barnes – 24.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – Robert Bush – 21.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong, Jan Nagar & Julian Foster – 20.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 20.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Port of Brisbane (Fisherman Island) – Phil & Linda Cross – 20.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells, Julie Sarna & Helen Page – 19.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (51 on flag) – mudflats Gorman Park, Burnett Heads, Bundaberg – Chris Barnes – 15.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (9P on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 12.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Tony Cotter – Wynnum Esplanade – 12.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADU on flag) – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 12.10.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (Y4 on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 29.09.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & Phil Cross – 26.09.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & Phil Cross – 26.09.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 21.09.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 12.09.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Barbara & Brian O'Connor – 29.08.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Nicolas Haass – 25.08.13
1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Nicolas Haass – 27.07.13
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross & Arthur Keates – 25.10.13
1 Great Knot – Port of Brisbane (Fisherman Island) – David Edwards & Robert Bush – 20.10.13
1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Arthur Keates – 26.09.13
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 16.10.13
2 Red Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.10.13
1 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 03.10.13
2 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 21.09.13
1 Red Knot – Luggage Point – Arthur Keates – 20.09.13
2 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13
1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 12.09.13
1 Red Knot – Pine River Wetland Reserve – Rob Clemens & Maddy Stigner – 24.08.13
1 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – Gill Norton – 23.10.13

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – O'Reagan's Creek east side, north Hervey Bay – Marilyn Sweetnam – 19.10.13
1 Red Knot (BXD on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 10.11.13
1 Red Knot (BTA on flag) – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.10.13
1 Red Knot (engraved flag right tibia, geolocator left tibia) – Toorbul – Linda Cross – 12.10.13
1 Red Knot (EAE on flag right tibia & geolocator on left tibia) – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Linda & Bernie McIvor – 05.10.13
1 Red Knot (BPL on flag) – Luggage Point – Arthur Keates – 20.09.13
1 Red Knot – Luggage Point – Arthur Keates – 20.09.13
1 Red Knot (BWV on flag) – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13
1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13

1 Red Knot – white flag right tibia, white over blue bands left tarsus, white over white bands right tarsus, metal band left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 06.09.13

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four combinations

1 Great Knot – Bushland Beach, north of Townsville – Julie Sarna – 10.10.13

2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 06.11.13

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 20.10.13

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul – Dez Wells, Julie Sarna & Helen Page – 19.10.13

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 21.09.13

2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13

All Tattlers had blue flag left tibia. The Great Knot had blue flag right tibia, white flag right tibia and metal band left tibia.

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

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 06.11.13

1 Great Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 10.11.13

1 Great Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.10.13

1 Great Knot – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13

1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13

1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 16.10.13

1 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 03.10.13

1 Red Knot (N6 on white flag) – Toorbul – Barbara O'Connor, Arthur Keates & Phil Cross – 26.09.13

1 Red Knot (N6 on white flag) – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 21.09.13

1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13

1 Red Knot – Pine River Wetland Reserve – Rob Clemens & Maddy Stigner – 24.08.13

1 Terek Sandpiper – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 09.11.13

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Luggage Point – Arthur Keates – 20.09.13

1 Red-necked Stint – beach adjacent to Karumba Point airstrip – Kath Shurcliff & Dave Houghton – 16.09.13

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 – Phil & Linda Cross & Arthur Keates – 25.10.13 (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 – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong, Jan Nagar & Julian Foster – 20.10.13 (flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China).

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia – Acacia St, Wellington Point – Nicola Udy – 19.10.13 (flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China)

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – yellow flag right tibia – Calliope River, Gladstone – Adam Leavesley – 05.10.13 (flagged North-West Australia)

1 Pacific Golden Plover – blue band over green band right tibia, white band left tibia and metal band right tibia – Bundaberg Port – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 18.12.12 (flagged in Alaska)

1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia, metal band left tarsus – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 19.09.13 (flagged South Australia)

1 Red Knot – pale green flag right tibia – beach adjacent to Karumba Point airstrip – Kath Shurcliff & Dave Houghton – 16.09.13 (flagged South Chukotka, Russia)

1 Curlew Sandpiper – orange flag over yellow flag right tibia, metal and left tarsus – Port of Brisbane (Bishop Island) – Floss Wainwright, Ken Cowell & Arthur Keates – 25.08.13 (flagged South Australia)

1 Lesser Sand Plover – yellow flag right tibia, metal band left tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 09.11.13 (flagged Western Australia)

1 Lesser Sand Plover – yellow flag right tibia, metal band left tarsus – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 16.10.13 (flagged Western 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.

H1 on flag – Tony's Island, Tweed Heads – Laurel Allsopp – 09.11.13

H1 on flag – Shallow Bay, Tweed Heads – Laurel Allsopp – 09.11.13

- K3 on flag** – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 27.10.13
L7 on flag – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – Robert Bush – 21.10.13
K3 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 12.10.13
 Yellow flag (unable to read letters) – Shallow Bay, Tweed Heads – Laurel Allsopp – 12.10.13
K3 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 21.09.13 & 18.09.13
K 3 on flag – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 06.09.13
J4 on flag – Eastern Beach, Fraser Island – Tim Howes – 02.09.13

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

Errata - the Gull-billed Tern reported in the last newsletter at Kakadu Beach roost on 11.08.13 was incorrect, and should be as follows:-

- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 11.08.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (**24 on flag**) – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 20.10.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (**partial number on flag 97**) – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – Dez Wells & Julie Sarna – 20.10.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong, Jan Nagar & Julian Foster – 20.10.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Port of Brisbane – Linda & Phil Cross – 20.10.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (**24 on flag**) – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – Dez Wells – 26.09.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (**37 on flag**) – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 12.09.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Nicolas Haass – 25.08.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (**24 on flag**) – Toorbul – Judy Coles – 24.08.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Toorbul – Judy Coles – 24.08.13
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Toorbul – Dez Wells & Nicolas Haass – 27.07.13

Interesting wader sightings

Please note these sightings are not authenticated records.

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

- 1 Long-toed Stint – Toorbul – 19.10.13 ** has been submitted to BARC
 1 Wood Sandpiper – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 19.10.13
 1 Wood Sandpiper – Big Creek, Punsand Bay, Bamaga – 19.10.13
 2 Oriental Plover – Burnett Heads, Bundaberg – 30.09.13
 1 Oriental Plover – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 28.09.13
 1 Australian Pratincole – Noosa River sandbanks – 12.09.13
 1 Pectoral Sandpiper – Bundaberg Port – 22.09.13
 4 Common Sandpiper – Weir at St George – 12.09.13
 3 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Bundaberg Port – 20.10.13
 2 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – 27.10.13
 7 Latham's Snipe – Nathan Road wetlands, Redcliffe – 23.08.13
 51 Bush Stone-curlew – Seaforth town north of Mackay – 21.07.13
 149 Masked Lapwing – Golf Links Road wetland Mackay – 21.07.13

Not waders but of interest anyway

- 1 Black-tailed Native Hen – lagoon opposite Osprey House – 01.09.13
 2 Baillon's Crane – Fisherman Island Visitor Centre Lake – 15.09.13
 1 Australian Spotted Crane – Manly Harbour – 23.08.13
 4 Buff-banded Rail – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 29.09.13
 2 Cotton Pygmy Goose – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 19.10.13
 1 Musk Duck – Trutes Bay, Tweed Heads – 14.08.13
 1803 Chestnut Teal – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – 22.09.13
 3 Magpie Goose goslings – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 08.09.13
 10 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 19.10.13
 13 Short-tailed Shearwater – sandbank off Amity Point, Moreton Island – 21.10.13
 5 Wedge-tailed Shearwater – Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island – 21.10.13
 54 White-necked Heron – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 19.10.13
 6 White-necked Heron – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 25.08.13
 53 White-faced Heron – Trutes Wetland, Tweed Heads – 12.10.13
 5 Black-necked Stork – Lake Bronto, Bamaga – 19.10.13
 5 Black-necked Stork – Big Creek, Punsand Bay, Bamaga – 19.10.13
 49 Glossy Ibis – Nathan Road wetlands, Redcliffe – 23.08.13

32 Glossy Ibis – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 19.10.13

19 Glossy Ibis – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 20.10.13

Also two other records of this species (in low numbers) at Kedron Brook Wetlands, Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon and lagoon opposite Osprey House.

1 Black Kite – Caboolture River mouth – 21.09.13 & 24.08.13

119 White-winged Black Tern – Bishop (Fisherman Island) – 22.09.13

650 Pied Cormorant – sandbank off Amity Point, Moreton Island on 21.10.13

400 Pied Cormorant – Pelican Waters, Sunshine Coast – 26.08.13

40 Whiskered Tern – Luggage Point on 18.10.13

Count Programme by Linda Cross

Kath Shurcliff & Dave Houghton live and count in Cooktown, Far North Queensland, and have been busy trying to get people interested in counting in that region. They were successful in recruiting Rob Reed from Bamaga to join the count programme and Rob has already submitted his first counts, which include some interesting species (see interesting sightings). We welcome Rob to the programme and look forward to getting his counts as we have nothing in the database for that area.

Phil & I extend our best wishes to everyone for the coming festive season. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year. Thank you all for your involvement in the count programme and reporting leg flag sightings.

Red Knot dropped into sixteen sites on their southward migration. The best totals were from the following sites:-

760 at Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 20.10.13

584 at Luggage Point on 20.09.13

340 at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 21.09.13

The last recorded sighting for Double-banded Plover on our shores before heading back across the Tasman was a lone bird in full breeding plumage at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 08.09.13.

Following are some larger totals of migratory waders extracted from your count sheets:-

530 Eastern Curlew – flying over to roost at Pacific Harbour, Bribie Island on 04.11.13

510 Eastern Curlew – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island on 21.10.13

410 Whimbrel – Toorbul on 12.09.13

3800 Bar-tailed Godwit – sandbank off Amity Point, Moreton Island on 21.10.13

254 Black-tailed Godwit – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 19.10.13

225 Pacific Golden Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay on 19.10.13

856 Great Knot – Maaroom on 21.09.13

30 Marsh Sandpiper – Maaroom on 19.10.13

783 Grey-tailed Tattler – Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 20.10.13

65 Terek Sandpiper – Seaforth creek mouth, north of Mackay on 20.10.13

1157 Curlew Sandpiper – Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 20.10.13

820 Lesser Sand Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay on 21.09.13

1389 Red-necked Stint – Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 20.10.13

Larger totals of resident nomadic waders appear below:-

597 Red-necked Avocet – Bishop (Fisherman Island) on 25.08.13 (This species also recorded at twelve other sites from Tweed Heads to Yeppoon).

976 Black-winged Stilt – Toorbul sandfly bay on 25.08.13 (Lots of other good totals for this species at six other sites during the last three months).

308 Red-kneed Dotterel – Lytton claypan on 24.08.13 (Numbers dropping quite a lot, but still recorded at nineteen sites during the last three months).

675 Red-capped Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay on 19.10.13

386 Red-capped Plover – O'Reagan's Creek Westside, north of Hervey Bay on 19.10.13

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.

Beach Stone-curlew – one chick at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 20.10.13. Egg hatched at Finlayson Point north of Mackay on 19.10.13. Bird nesting at Dudgeon Point Mackay on 18.09.13 and nest with one egg at St. Helens Beach north of Mackay on 22.08.13 (later abandoned, probably due to disturbance).

Australian Pied Oystercatcher – one on nest at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 25.10.13 – nest with two eggs at Redcliffe Island out from Finlayson's Point north of Mackay on 19.10.13 – adult sitting on one egg at Noosa River sandbanks on 10.10.13 – one half grown chick at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 22.09.13 – nest at St. Helens Beach north of Mackay on 20.09.13 – nesting at Dudgeon Point and Dudgeon Point claypan south of Mackay on 18.09.13 – two small chicks at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 08.09.13.

Masked Lapwing – two chicks at Mirapool Lagoon Moreton Island on 21.10.13 – one chick at Manly Lota Esplanade on 21.09.13 – one chick at Kakadu roost Bribie Island on 29.09.13 – two chicks at Queens Esplanade Thornside on 24.08.13 – four runners at Manly Harbour on 23.08.13 – three chicks at Maaroom on 23.08.13.

Comb-crested Jacana – chicks at Buckley's Hole Bribie Island on 02.11.13.

Red-capped Plover – two chicks at Bundaberg Port on 20.10.13 – one juvenile at Maaroom on 19.10.13 – one bird on eggs and a pair mating at Ball Bay near Seaforth north of Mackay on 29.09.13 – nesting at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 22.09.13 – sitting on eggs at Kinka Beach sandbar Yeppoon on 21.09.13 – possible nest at Luggage Point on 20.09.13 – two chicks at Seaforth Beach creek mouth north of Mackay on 19.09.13 – two runners at Noosa River sandbanks on 12.09.13 and 14.08.13 – female on nest at Manly Harbour on 23.08.13 – one chick at Bundaberg Port on 23.08.13.

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.

COUNT COORDINATOR WILL BE WORKING PART TIME IN 2014

Please note that starting in 2014 I will be trying to work just two days a week for QWSG. This will mean that emails replies to you might take longer than usual. I need to have some me time from now on and hope you will understand. If you need to contact me urgently, I suggest a phone call would be the way to go. If I am not available, then perhaps contact through one of the other QWSG committee should be sought. I thank you for your patience in advance. Linda Cross

Wader ID Days

Saturday 7th December at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island.

Please note: Unfortunately this outing has been cancelled because most of QWSG volunteers will be surveying the Great Sandy Strait. Our apologies for the inconvenience.

Thursday 23rd January at Toorbul

High tide at 13:44 hours (1.44 pm) (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 14:14 hours) of 2.00m. Meeting time 13:00 hours onwards (1.00 pm onwards)

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.

Friday 21st February at artificial roost at the Port of Brisbane

High tide at 13:16 hours (1.16 pm) of 1.94m. Meeting time 12 noon in the car park at the roost.

To get there, take Port Drive straight through the roundabout past the service station on the left, soon after crossing the boat passage veer right into Lucinda Drive (signed visitors centre) taking the overpass, continue past the lake on the left for almost 2 km, the car park for the roost is on the right just past Bingera Drive which is on the left.

Please note: Only Birds Qld and QWSG members who register to attend will be allowed to enter the site.

To register attendance, please contact Arthur & Sheryl Keates.

Saturday 22nd March at Toorbul

High tide at 13:02 hours (1.02 pm) (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 13:32 hours) of 1.86m. Meeting time 12 noon.

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 OR
Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Wader ID Days Reports

Toorbul Wader Id Day Report 26th September 2013

As this outing was held during the week it was quite a surprise to have twenty six members and guests assemble at the roost to view the waders.

It was hot driving to Toorbul, but the strong wind blowing along the Esplanade dropped the temperature by five degrees making it a little more pleasant for us, although it did make viewing more difficult.

Our assembly at Toorbul was well before the small high tide which resulted in only pelicans and swans being seen at the main roost. However, a good variety of waders were roosting at the smaller area called Sandfly Bay, which is just before the main Toorbul roost. We spent quite some time viewing the species here but the birds were a little more distant and facing away from us into the wind. Some time later we moved down to the

main roost, where quite a number of waders had arrived, and where we got to see some different species. The birds were easier to observe at the main roost, and positioned better for identification purposes.

Numerous birds were observed at both roosts with leg flags

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with engraved orange leg flag **ANH** (Victoria)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with plain orange flag (Victoria)
- 1 Great Knot with orange flag on right tibia (Victoria).
- 1 Red Knot with black flag over white flag. White flag engraved **N6** (Chong Ming Dao, China)

In addition to these birds above there were also:-

- 23 Bar-tailed Godwit with engraved green leg flags (Moreton Bay)
- 12 Great Knot with engraved green leg flags (Moreton Bay)
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with engraved green leg flag (Moreton Bay)

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Australian Pelican, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Galah and Laughing Kookaburra.

Bishop's Marsh was completely dry and was not surveyed.

Linda Cross.

Some of the attendees.



Photograph
Arthur Keates

Toorbul Wader Id Day Report 12th October 2013

As Phil and I approached the meeting site only one vehicle was parked there. We thought we were in for an easy afternoon, however, that was not to be as very shortly after other vehicles started to arrive and in total (included ourselves), nineteen members and guests joined us for this late afternoon viewing of the waders.

It was fine, dry, sunny and a little humid with a very strong wind blowing from the north. As the waders tend to face into the wind, this made it easier for viewing as we could see them side-on.

There were a good number of waders already at the roost even though the peak of the high tide was not until just before 4 pm. The bulk of the waders were Bar-tailed Godwit with about four Black-tailed Godwit in the flock, which proved challenging to find, but most of the attendees did well at finding these and the Great and Red Knot themselves. Some of the attendees also did well at getting the leg flag details on a few birds.

The waders were a little flighty and some lifted a couple of times, but returned. Some time later all the waders (apart from Black-wing Stilt) left and did not return. However soon after that a few different species (Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint & Common Greenshank) came into the roost, which gave those still viewing a chance to see some different species.

Numerous birds were observed at both roosts with leg flags

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with engraved orange leg flag **ADU** (Victoria)
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit with engraved green leg flag **ACA & AKZ** (Moreton Bay)
- 1 Red Knot with white engraved flag, but unable to read & geolocator (New Zealand)

There were other birds with green leg flags, but the tight flock made it difficult to see the flags and read the letters.

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Australian Hobby, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Mangrove Honeyeater, Magpie Lark and Common Myna.

Bishop's Marsh was completely dry and was not surveyed.
Linda Cross.

Manly Wader ID Report 9 November 2013

Although there was a clear sky and sunshine, a strong north easterly wind made conditions for the birds, and their 35 observers, a little difficult. However, persistence pays and after 3 hours most of those who came along armed with optics and cameras saw 19 species of waders and 4 species of terns.

As usual at this roost site, Bar-tailed Godwit was the majority of the wader species followed by Grey-tailed Tattler including at least 2 fitted with a geolocator as well as a green engraved leg flag. A geolocator is a small device recording light-level information which, when retrieved, is processed to provide latitudinal and longitudinal data of the bird's location enabling its migration route to be ascertained. The device, attached to a yellow leg flag fitted to the bird's left tibia, is clearly visible in the field.

Some juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper roosted with their cohorts and among the Bar-tailed Godwit were about 30 Black-tailed Godwit giving observers a good comparison of the godwit species. A few Red Knot, some still with traces of breeding plumage, also provided a comparison with the more abundant Great Knot.

Our thanks to the experienced wader watchers who helped those less experienced enjoy the outing.

Species seen at the roost include the following:

Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Buff-banded Rail, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Masked Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Crested Tern, Silver Gull



by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Please note a change of time and place for the AGM!! Page 17

Several members did not receive their issue of Queensland Wader, however, it was found that some of the emails had gone to Spam! If you are having problems can you check this first. If further problem please contact the membership registrar Dierdre via membership@waders.org.au

Remember our web site at www.waders.org.au

We try to keep details up to date and it is a good place to check on times and places and is also packed with wader information.

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



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently:
Desley WILLGOSS, Jessica LOVATT, Liz CRAWFORD, Julie SARNA,
Linda SYVRET, Penn LLOYD, Cherrie CAMERON, Stella MEARNS,
Marilyn JACOBS, Miriam THORNEYWORK, Gerry WOODRUFF,
Gary and Vicki COX, Felicia CHAN, Margaret BAKER, Teneille RYAN,
Joachim CULICAN, Rick FRANKS, Mark and Veena WESTBROOK,
Nicolas RAKOTOPARE

A reminder to members, please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address. If you do please make sure that it does allow delivery and not send downloads to spam. 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.

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

www.waders.org.au

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MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	Jon Coleman	
<u>TREASURER</u>	Dierdre Chrzescijanski	membership@waders.org.au
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	gouldian@ozemail.com.au
<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</u>		
Robert Bush	Peter Driscoll	
Richard Fuller	Andrew Geering	
Joyce Harding	Sandra Harding	
Andy Jensen	Sheryl Keates	
David Milton	Richard Noske	
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<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross
<u>MERCHANDISE</u>	Vicki Campbell
<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	All correspondence to: The QWSG Chairperson, XXXXXX, XXXXXX QLD XXXX

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:
 QWSG Treasurer
 PO Box 3138,
 SOUTH BRISBANE,
 QLD 4101

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

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **February 18th 2014**

Contributions should be addressed to:

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

Opinions expressed in Queensland Wader are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Queensland Waders Study Group, nor the Queensland Ornithological Society Inc.
Advertising Rates are \$20:00 for one-quarter page and \$25:00 for a third of a page.

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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.

The AGM of Birds Queensland will take place after 'Queensland Wader' is distributed.

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 2013-14

Please note a change of time and place for the AGM!!

Annual General Meeting will be held at Elanora Park, Wynnum and start 1:00pm on Sunday 19th of January 2014. This will be after the January Port of Brisbane Count, so there may be a slight variance of start time. The meeting place will be at. Elanora Park is at the end of Granada Street, Wynnum, off Glenora Street. UBD page 143 13H.

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

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee:

Position:

Name of Proposer:

Name of Secunder:

(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 - 14

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2013 - 14

Sat 14th Dec 2013	2.25m at 07:28		
Sat 18th Jan	2.38m at 10:49	National Summer Count	
Sat 15th Feb	2.37m at 09:52		Sat 12th Jul
Sat 15th Mar	2.29m at 08:48		1.97m at 09:05
Sat 12th Apr	2.15m at 07:30		Sat 16th Aug
Sat 17th May	1.96m at 11:10		2.07m at 13:51
Sat 14th Jun	1.98m at 10:10	Optional	Sat 27th Sep
			2.16m at 11:12
			Sat 25th Oct
			2.31m at 10:15
			Sat 22nd Nov
			2.39m at 09:16
			Sat 13th Dec
			2.06m at 13:44

Note: We don't normally have a count in June due to poor high tides and lack of birds. However, there is a reasonable tide and time this year if you wish to do a count. It is optional.

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2013 - 14

Sun 15th Dec	2.32m at 08:12	Meet	06:20				
Sun 19th Jan	2.35m at 11:20	Meet	09:30	Sun 13th Jul	2.01m at 09:58	Meet	08:10
Sun 16th Feb	2.36m at 10:23	Meet	08:30	Sun 17th Aug	2.02m at 14:51	Meet	13:00
Sun 16th Mar	2.30m at 09:21	Meet	07:30	Sun 28th Sep	2.14m at 11:50	Meet	10:00
Sun 13th Apr	2.18m at 08:08	Meet	06:20	Sun 26th Oct	2.32m at 10:54	Meet	09:05
Sun 18th May	1.90m at 12:00	Meet	10:10	Sun 23rd Nov	2.45m at 09:57	Meet	08:10
Sun 15th Jun	1.97m at 11:01	Meet	09:10	Sun 14th Dec	1.96m at 14:33	Meet	12:40

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@wadrs.org.au