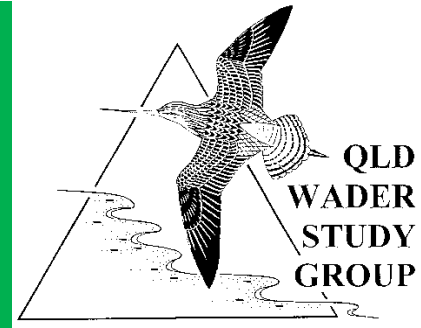


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 088

June, July, August 2014

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

Port of Brisbane Count Results 2013 by Linda Cross

Last year was the eleventh extensive count conducted by the QWSG for the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL) at the Port of Brisbane complex (formerly known as Bishop or Fisherman Island). As with previous years, the counts were conducted the day after the scheduled monthly count set for the QWSG count programme.

The methodology for the counts has continued as before with numbers being listed under the appropriate habitat that the birds were observed using (dry open area, wet margin, broken ground and bund wall). The overall count for the complex in 2013 was 57,490 waders, 6,739 terns/gulls and 14,464 waterbirds/raptors which do not include the figures for the Visitors Centre Lake (304 waders, 10 terns/gulls and 7,076 waterbirds/raptors). However, these figures of course are not the number of birds using the site at any one time, but the aggregate of the monthly totals. No count was completed in January due to rain making unstable conditions within the complex.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
2013	No count	5897	7377	4312	4553	3989	2709	2934	4089	7793	7331	6506	57490
2012	6214	6676	6476	1335	1624	No count	1098	1267	2862	9461	10029	8389	55431
2011	No count	10173	No count	8108	2112	1552	1236	1488	2004	5430	8738	No count	40841
2010	7345	7099	6709	2864	1256	2145	1648	2568	5205	6942	5904	NC	49685
2009	10072	13243	7192	2293	NC	1200	1245	2439	4372	6478	6182	8003	62719
2008	5179	8935	4394	4204	2202	2793	2700	2724	5468	4069	6617	8286	57571
2007	8853	5264	8307	1120	1989	1543	1752	1629	3885	7609	6165	5664	53780
2006	12323	10573	7055	4230	2142	1969	2250	2635	5296	8051	8995	7514	73033
2005	4751	5609	3572	3317	2162	3034	2436	2096	3790	6173	6745	7731	51416
2004	11650	4528	7398	1607	2416	1617	1328	2410	2974	6026	5976	8194	56124
2003	7445	6922	6126	4021	2286	2107	2041	1720	4466	4118	8054	7996	57302

The following table provides the numbers for waders, terns, waterbirds and raptors for the complex and Visitors Centre Lake each month for 2013.

2013 Month	Port Waders	Port Terns	Port Waterbirds/ Raptors	Lake Waders	Lake Terns	Lake Waterbirds/ Raptors	Totals
January	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count
February	5897	607	124	0	1	394	7023
March	7377	333	239	4	0	499	8452
April	4312	816	548	0	0	894	6570
May	4553	2391	1684	0	0	1494	10122
June	3989	304	3538	2	0	682	8515
July	2709	246	3052	1	0	771	6779
August	2934	271	1342	18	0	608	5173
September	4089	575	2074	67	1	612	7418
October	7793	361	669	72	0	419	9314
November	7331	452	492	116	7	446	8844
December	6506	383	702	24	1	257	7873
Totals	57490	6739	14464	304	10	7076	86083

The unusually high totals for May and June was due to large numbers of Red-necked Stint, Silver Gull, Chestnut Teal and Little Black Cormorant within the complex.

Comments on individual count sites for 2013 follows:-

S3A & S3B: – These two older paddocks have been heavily under construction since the middle part of the year. The only time the site attracted any birds was when rain created ponds within the paddock attracting a handful of Chestnut Teal. May was the last time both waders and waterbirds were recorded totalling 25 birds, of which, seven were Red-kneed Dotterel.

R3: – This large riverside paddock recorded the highest wader counts four times during the summer months and then numbers reduced when the large flocks varied their use of seven other paddocks for the remainder of the year. In February, six Broad-billed Sandpiper were recorded among the flock of birds along with 448 Lesser Sand Plover, 408 Curlew Sandpiper and 287 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. The later part of the year saw the birds favouring the site again even though this paddock was dry during those surveys. The September count provided the largest count of Pacific Golden Plover (191). In October, 158 Pacific Golden Plover, 934 Red-necked Stint, 877 Curlew Sandpiper and 32 Red Knot were counted and the numbers increased in November with 181 Pacific Golden Plover, 508 Lesser Sand Plover, 1,856 Curlew Sandpiper and 1 Broad-billed Sandpiper somehow finding the very dry site suitable to their needs. In December, 1,264 Lesser Sand Plover, 834 Red-necked Stint and 613 Curlew Sandpiper were recorded. Other waders of interest were 301 Red-necked Avocet in April, 18 Double-banded Plover in June with 17 still using the site in July.

C1: – After the first four months of the year, this site became unsuitable for waders as large volumes of sand were placed on the site as part of the development process. The best total was 141 waders in February and either zero, or a handful of birds during most other counts.

C2: – March was the only month that a significant number of waders (2,992) used this site, of which 2,673 were Red-necked Stint. From April onwards the counts struggled to make much in excess of 100 birds. In April, 51 Double-banded Plover used the site and their total increased to 67 in May.

C3: – This central paddock has lacked species variety for most of the year; however Red-necked Stint found it attractive with 1,196 recorded in February, 1,644 in May and 1,706 in June. Although high numbers would be expected in February, the high counts of stint in May and June were quite surprising. The only other significant species record was 119 Pacific Golden Plover in March. The last five months of the year the site has been virtually dead, with only five birds being recorded for the whole period.

BS1: - This bay-side paddock continues to lack much interest for waders, with only March providing seven species of waders totalling 2,169, which included 929 Red-necked Stint, 538 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 177 Greater Sand Plover and four Double-banded Plover. For the rest of the year the counts have been very low with a maximum count of only 79.

BS2: – Red-necked Stint are the primary species that utilise this site, with 318 in February, 392 in May, and an unusually high total of 1,276 for June and 617 in July. A total of 71 Red-necked Avocets joined the stints in July, but since then the site has suffered the same fate as the C sites and B1 paddock. The dry conditions for the latter half of the year in some of the paddocks within the Port of Brisbane complex has probably contributed to the lack of bird numbers and species.

BS3: – Unlike 2012 and 2011 when the site failed to attract waders, 2013 saw quite an improvement in the number of birds (but not the number of species) using this paddock. The site was favoured by two species most months. Red-necked Stint were observed five months of the year with the highest totals being 837 in February and 1,030 in April. The other wader was Red-necked Avocet that used the site from April through to December with counts ranging from eight to 566, which was the highest count in August. A lone Red-kneed Dotterel was seen in the site in October and November.

BS4: – This newly formed pond taken from part of the Outer FPE only attracted a few hundred waders until August. However, the majority of Australian Pied Oystercatcher prefer to use this site and were recorded every month except July, with their numbers being pretty consistent ranging from a 49 to 67. In April, 215 Black-winged Stilt were recorded in the site and Red-necked Avocet numbers went from 51 in June to 177 in July, 174 in September and 171 in August. In August, 15 Red Knot were also recorded at the site. From September until the end of the year quite a variety of species started to congregate in this new pond with the largest count for the year coming from here with 3,579 waders in October. Some of the higher species totals were 1,215 Bar-tailed Godwit, 783 Grey-tailed Tattler, a staggering 724 Red Knot, 240 Great Knot and 257 Curlew Sandpiper in October. In November, 612 Bar-tailed Godwit, 640 Grey-tailed Tattler and 650 Great Knot made up the bulk of the group. In December, high totals were 72 Ruddy Turnstone and 740 Grey-tailed Tattler. In September, two Black-tailed Godwit were seen, which are very uncommon within the complex.

FPE Outer: – This very large last paddock within the complex has seen waders in low numbers for most of the year, with the exception of August, when it recorded the highest wader count (1,224). The rock wall still attracted Grey-tailed Tattler, with totals from 134 through to a maximum count of 335. Other significant wader records were 83 Ruddy Turnstone recorded in February, 50 Double-banded Plover in June, 67 Australian Pied Oystercatcher in July, 400 Bar-tailed Godwit in November and 23 Grey Plover in November increasing to 37 in December. Unfortunately, there was not one Wandering Tattler recorded for the whole of 2013, which was very disappointing considering the species was seen six times during 2012 at this site. It is quite possible that the formation of BS4 has contributed to the decline of numbers using this site in favour of the new pond.

PBAR – (Artificial Roost): - For the first half of 2013 this man made constructed roost just attracted a few waders and the second half only improved by a few hundred birds. However, the remediation works completed on the site towards the end of the year did create more area for waders and although the numbers only increased slightly, there were more variety of species recorded during counts. One resident wader species favouring the site was Red-kneed Dotterel observed from May through to December, with counts ranging from a minimum of three birds to a maximum of 47 in August. Other high wader counts were 219 Black-winged Stilt and 37 Red-necked Avocet in October and nine Black-fronted Dotterel in November. Plenty of waterbirds continue to favour the roost and have produced the highest count of all the sites for six months of the year. Hundreds of Chestnut Teal were recorded during every monthly count with totals of 1,270 in June, a staggering 2,346 in July, 917 in August and 1,803 in September. Large numbers of Little Black and Little Pied Cormorant along with Grey Teal have also been recorded during May, June and July. Unusually there was one Eastern Reef Egret on site during the December count.

Claypan: – This very large claypan recorded a few hundred waders each month, with November being the best count of 1,042. In June and July, it was not possible to survey the site due to road works. The claypan is still the stronghold for Eastern Curlew that were recorded eight months of the year giving a maximum count of 218 in October. A lone Grey Plover was seen during the February count and there were two high records of Red-kneed Dotterel, 53 in April dropping to 42 in May. There were also two records of Red-necked Avocet, one bird in May and two in November.

Visitor Centre Lake: – For the first seven months of the year only six waders (all Masked Lapwing) were recorded around the lake, with only a slight improvement towards the end of the year. November was the best month with eight wader species, although in low numbers, which included 88 Black-winged Stilt, eight Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, six Red-kneed Dotterel, two Black-fronted Dotterel, three Red-necked Avocet and four Marsh Sandpiper in the count. As one would expect, waterbirds continue to utilise the site and Chestnut Teal, Purple Swamp Hen, Eurasian Coot and Black Swan all had one breeding record during the year, while Dusky Moorhen had two. Eurasian Coot totals were quite high in March (246), April (435) and peaking at 636 in May. Pink-eared Duck were observed in the lake in May (1 bird), June (8 birds) and September (5 birds). There was one Australasian Shoveler reported during the October count.

Leg flag sightings:

There were 12 green leg-flagged birds seen during the counts, but because these birds have been flagged by our group in Moreton Bay, and have not travelled any significant distance, they have not been included in the leg flag sightings.

Other leg-flagged birds seen throughout the complex are as follows:

- May** Yellow flag (C8) on a Pied Oystercatcher (flagged in New South Wales), and Orange flag on a Caspian Tern (flagged in Victoria).
- June** Orange flag on a Caspian Tern (flagged in Victoria).
- August** Orange flag over a yellow flag on a Curlew Sandpiper (flagged in South Australia).
- October** Orange flag on a Bar-tailed Godwit, orange flag on a Great Knot and an orange flag on a Caspian Tern (all flagged in Victoria)
- November** Yellow flag on a Curlew Sandpiper (flagged in North West Western Australia).

Breeding records:

Pied Oystercatcher – one juvenile in R3 in November.

Some other interesting sightings (not waders) during the counts were:

- February** 310 Little Tern and 3 White-winged Black Tern in R3 – 4 Whiskered Tern in B1.
- March** One Eastern Reef Egret in the Outer FPE – six Pacific Black Duck ducklings in BS2 – seven Chestnut Teal ducklings in the Lake.
- April** 122 Whiskered Tern and 205 Silver Gull in R3.
- May** 1,303 Silver Gull in the Outer FPE – 533 Silver Gull in BS4 – 814 Little Black Cormorant in PBAR.
- June** 1,000 Little Black Cormorant on the rock wall of the Outer FPE – 530 Chestnut Teal, three Hardhead and one Pink-eared Duck in BS3 – 1,270 Chestnut Teal, 314 Grey Teal and 18 Eastern Great Egret in PBAR.
- July** 131 Little Pied Cormorant in PBAR – 51 Australian Pelican, 102 Chestnut Teal, 104 Hardhead and 272 Royal Spoonbill in the Lake.
- September** 123 Little Tern in BS3 – 245 Royal Spoonbill in the Lake.
- October** Two Eastern Reef Egret in the Outer FPE.
- November** 217 Little Tern in the Outer FPE – one Buff-banded Rail and 127 Hardhead in the Lake.
- December** One Whiskered Tern in R3.

Table 1 showing wader species and numbers at the complex during 2013 (with the exception of the Visitors Centre Lake), has been included at end of article. Many other waterbirds were also recorded using the sites; however, lack of space in the newsletter does not allow their inclusion here.

QWSG would like to sincerely thank the PBPL for their ongoing support to the group and supplying their staff and vehicles during the counts.

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

Our sincere thanks must go to our committed regular counters and other members and friends, whose names appear below for helping us obtain the results for the PBPL and the QWSG database in 2013. Without people like these this would not have been possible. My apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list.

Rachael Attard (PBPL), Robert Bush, Vicki Campbell, Deirdrie Chrzesciajanski, Rob Clemens, Jon Coleman, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, David Edwards, Sandra Harding, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, David Lattaway, Judith Lattaway, Michael Linde (PBPL), Penn Lloyd, David Milton, Glen Pacey, Peter Rothlisberg, Brenda Smith, Graham Smith, Floss Wainwright, Ivell Whyte and Jim Whyte,

The contract with PBPL continues throughout 2014 and as over half of the regular counters are now retired and taking off on extended holidays we need a bigger support group to help spread the workload, particularly during the spring and summer months. As the PBPL insurance only covers their employees you will need to be either a QWSG or BQ member to attend these counts so their liability insurance will cover you. Please also note that these counts are not recreational outings, but we are always looking for committed counters to join our team. Please contact Peter Rothlisberg or myself if you would like to participate. The dates and meeting times for the counts are listed at the back of this newsletter.

Peter Rothlisberg
Or

Linda Cross email

	19.01.13	24.02.13	24.03.13	28.04.13	26.05.13	23.06.13	28.07.13	25.08.13	22.09.13	20.10.13	17.11.13	17.12.13
Species												
Bush Stone-curlew												
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	NO	64	62	54	66	66	69	56	53	71	59	68
Sooty Oystercatcher	COUNT											
Black-winged Stilt	AS RAIN	14	121	453	228	62	94	181	184	252	123	184
Red-necked Avocet	MADE	2		325	396	423	568	597	386	253	80	42
Pacific Golden Plover	COMPLEX	48	128	36		1	2	2	192	189	205	184
Grey Plover	UNSTABLE	6	2	3							23	40
Red-capped Plover		46	165	117	177	153	82	41	21	21	14	61
Double-banded Plover			4	51	69	68	17	5				
Lesser Sand Plover		489	730	60	75	1	34	10	103	480	538	1424
Greater Sand Plover		10	198	32	6	1	7	3	9	7	1	24
Black-fronted Dotterel				1	2	1			1		11	7
Red-kneed Dotterel				53	52		23	47	22	7	12	11
Masked Lapwing			3	4	3							3
Latham's Snipe												
Black-tailed Godwit				3					2			
Bar-tailed Godwit		252	108	176	198	64	28	67	685	1604	1481	779
Whimbrel		8	83	9	9			1	40	69	79	78
Eastern Curlew		52	16		32			107	169	220	119	105
Terek Sandpiper					3						5	2
Common Sandpiper												
Grey-tailed Tattler		285	267	142	157	134	124	504	47	783	640	766
Wandering Tattler												
Common Greenshank		1	3							3	1	6
Marsh Sandpiper											1	2
Ruddy Turnstone		91	18	10	1			6	15	46	60	77
Great Knot		39	3	6	1			2	376	251	708	7
Red Knot								25	4	760	3	1
Sanderling												
Red-necked Stint		3323	4444	2389	3040	3006	1650	1144	1272	1425	877	1665
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		476	696	344	1		4	1	250	188	250	244
Curlew Sandpiper		685	326	44	37	8	7	135	258	1164	2040	726
Broad-billed Sandpiper		6									1	
Unidentified wader						1						
Total Wader Species		19	19	21	20	13	14	19	20	19	24	24
Total Wader Numbers		5897	7377	4312	4553	3989	2709	2934	4089	7793	7331	6506

Table 1. The wader species and numbers at the complex during 2013

Filler Fact**Pacific Golden-Plover**

The large shorebirds set groundspeed records of 60 mph as they flew 9,900 to 14,900 miles (16,000 to 24,000 km) on a previously unknown circular migration route around the Pacific Ocean. The birds flew from American Samoa in the South Pacific to a stopover in Japan before completing their trip to Alaska. The return flight from Alaska to American Samoa lasted just six and a half days.

Chongming Dongtan National Nature Reserve

by Arthur Keates

For 2 weeks from mid-April, I took part as a volunteer in the China Coastal Waterbird Census focussing on the northern shorebird migration at the Shuangtaizi National Nature Reserve in the Liaoning Province on the northern coast of the Yellow Sea, about 90 km south west of the city of Panjin.

Before taking part in the surveys, I was fortunate to have a short stay at Chongming Dongtan National Nature Reserve. The reserve is at the eastern end of Chongming Island encompassing an area of about 1,041 km² at the mouth of the Yangtze River, only 46 km east of Shanghai. The reserve, containing 24,000 ha of extensive estuarine wetlands, was listed in January 2002 under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance because it is a staging and wintering site for millions of birds, swans, geese and of course shorebirds.

One of the current management challenges being addressed is the control of cordgrass, *Spartina alterniflora*, which is a fiercely invasive salt-marsh grass that has colonised a large area of the reserve, shrinking the mudflats and so threatening the thousands of migratory shorebirds that rely on the reserve as a stopover site. Because authorities feared spraying herbicides would damage native plants, wildlife and local fisheries, a dyke is being constructed to enclose and drown the marauding weed. When completed, the wall will be 8 m high and 27 km long.

On the first day of my visit, I saw about 9,000 Dunlin and well over 10,000 a day later at another site, about the size of the population that over-winters there. The object of the first day was to scan birds as they roosted looking for leg flags. However, it was not a particularly productive session with only locally banded birds found. On the last day, we ventured to the northern dyke area and while north western Australian banded birds were located we were not close enough to read the engraved alpha-numerals on the flags as the fog rolled in.

On a free afternoon, I braved the drizzly weather for a walk around the Education Centre at the reserve. From the extensive boardwalk, I had exceptional views of a variety of shorebirds, including, Little Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Common Greenshank, Marsh, Wood, Common, Green, Curlew, Sharp-tailed and Terek Sandpipers, Common and Spotted Redshanks, the ubiquitous Dunlin and Red-necked and Temminck's Stints. The highlight of the outing was not a shorebird but a passerine, the rather splendid looking, but internationally threatened, Reed Parrotbill, found only in China.

My visit to the reserve was fulfilled by accompanying a small banding team. On arrival at the banding site, a cold wind straight off the Arctic was blowing and light rain was falling. We walked briskly out to the banding hut, dropped off some gear and headed out to the catchers to find Mr Jin Weiguo, the head catcher, already had a catch of Great Knot. So it was back to the banding hut to process the birds, a welcome relief from the cold. Rather than try to describe how the birds are caught, the following website explains how it is done and has a short video of Mr Jin Weiguo in action:

<http://www.icshanghai.com/en/information/3194.html>

While usually only small catches are made, the 2 catchers working together can get over 100 birds in a morning session. On this morning, the total catch was made up of 9 Bar-tailed Godwit (including a NW Australia retrap), 7 Great Knot, 2 Red Knot (both *rogersi* subspecies) and a single Red-necked Stint.

Back in the banding hut, the banders go about processing the birds; measurements are taken, bands and leg flags are fitted, photographs are taken and the birds are released. To see a godwit fitted with a white engraved leg flag in the range "MC" to "YC" when scanning a flock of shorebirds here in Queensland would make a great postscript to this report. Regardless, seeing any bird sporting black and white leg flags will mean so much more to me in the future.

My thanks to staff at the reserve, particularly AJ who facilitated my stay at the reserve.

Filler Fact

The average Red Knot, weighing 135 grams, gains 54 grams during its visit to Delaware Bay. To gain this much weight and to meet its daily energy needs, the Red Knot must consume roughly 1,052 grams of horseshoe crab eggs-about 285,000 eggs in all! Approximately 90,000 Red Knots do this every year. This is equivalent to a 150-pound person gaining 50 pounds in two weeks.

Happy 20th Anniversary to the Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre (YNOC)

The Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre (YNOC) opened on 1st July 1994 and is therefore celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. There is a strong agreement between YNOC and the Brisbane City Council by way of the Narshino agreement, and the Boondall Wetlands and staff. Also the Queensland Wader Study Group has a strong and lasting connection with YNOC.

QWSG wishes a great future for Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre, all its staff and all of our friends there.

Some History of Yatsu Higata

1898 The Yatsu Higata (tidal flat) was a vast tidal flat located in the depth of the Tokyo Bay. It was used as a salt field (Irihama Method) on the shoal beach. In 1911, however, it was forced out of business by the damage of typhoons which frequently occurred. Then, partly the place was used for a fish farm of gray mullets and eels. Later, the fish farm was also forced out of business by the gigantic damage by the big typhoon in 1916.

1925 The Keisei Rail Road Co. bought 78.4 hectares salt field including the Yatsu Higata for a beach side leisure land. The 30 hectares were used for the Yatsu Amusement Park, which became popular among the people until it is closed in 1982.

1940 The then Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Transport and Communication bought 49.6 hectares of the land including the Yatsu Higata from the Keisei Rail Road for construction of a drainage canal along with the Tone River Reinforcement Project. Later, the project was abrogated in 1955, and the land became an ordinary property of the Ministry of Finance.

1974 The Narashino city submitted a report to the Prefecture the basic plan of land utilization reclaiming the Yatsu Higata in relation to the second phase reclamation of the Keiyo Harbor as an opinion of the Head of the local community by the law of reclamation of public-owned-water-surface.

'The water surface of the Ministry of Finance' began to be called 'Yatsu Higata'.

'The Chiba Wild Bird Club' was organized. The Club started its activities of conservation of the Yatsu Higata and the survey on wild birds.

1977 The Environment Agency and the Chiba Prefecture planned the designation of the Yatsu Higata as a National Sanctuary of birds and animals.

1981 The Wild Bird Society of Japan, branch office of Chiba' started its motion toward the Preservation of Yatsu Higata.

1989 A city plan was decided that the Yatsu Higata Park is added to the greenery area in Narashino.

The jurisdiction over the Yatsu Higata was transferred to the Environment Agency from the Ministry of Finance.

1992 A part of the Yatsu Higata was opened.

QWSG Wader Course

The QWSG will be holding one of its popular Wader Courses later this year.

The 1st November 2014 has been scheduled. However, details are still being sorted out.

The committee thought that we should give members a heads-up so that they can let friends, colleagues and groups can pencil in the date. There will be another newsletter before this date in which we will have all the details. Also remember the web site has upcoming events listed.

Farewell to Shorebirds

Farewell to Shorebirds took place earlier in May and the ABC has a nice article on the departure of waders from our shores. Some text from the article:- Millions of shorebirds have just flown north for their annual migration and for some, it may be a final goodbye. **Ann Jones** investigates the worldwide threats to migratory shorebirds' incredible lifecycle, including habitat destruction, human disturbance and predators.

Link:- <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/twitchers-wave-farewell-as-annual-shorebird-migration-begins/5442242>

Embedded in the article is this link:- **YouTube:** [Farewell Shorebirds - Interview with a Red Knot](#)

Editor's Note: Please have a look at this from YouTube – funny and thought provoking.

Flyway – an artistic journey prepared with visits to shorebird sites including sites in Queensland

By Elizabeth Dunn et al. (2014) Published by Aphids (www.aphids.net)

I received a copy of this story about a mixed media art work by Elizabeth Dunn and friends documenting the amazing lives of waders. I particularly enjoyed the section where they describe the flyway and the challenges for wader conservation. We met Elizabeth in Brisbane during her journey up the Australian east coast from Melbourne to Maryborough as part of the project and helped show her the wader highlights in Moreton Bay.

The following is an excerpt taken from their book:-

“For me the birds are very much what Morton¹ would call ‘strange strangers’ – familiar yet entirely mystifying. They can transcend the gravity that fixes us to the earth. They are in continual transition between breeding and non-breeding plumage. They are transnational and transient, constantly moving between the ends of the Earth, navigating using light, visual topography, magnetic forces and aural fields. They are increasingly translocated by human activity and they articulate the state of ecological connections between people, places and things along their epic flight paths. Conservation efforts to support the birds’ survival require complex negotiations between human networks across vast physical and cultural distances.”

¹ Morton, Timothy (2007). *Ecology Without Nature*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. P 30.

Sandra Harding

Surveys! Surveys! Surveys! – Calling all counters

In mid-2013, the QWSG applied for a Friends of Parks grant to fund our biannual survey of high tide roosts in the Great Sandy Strait (GSS). This grant was planned to support the proposed survey in December 2013. However, the outcome of the grant application was not announced until after we made the survey on the weekend of 7 – 8 December 2013. QWSG was successful in obtaining a grant for approximately \$6,700 to fund the survey. We now have to make another survey of the Great Sandy Strait before the grant completion date on 31 December 2014.

For the last six years, QWSG have made surveys of the Mackay – Whitsunday coast during the alternate years between surveys of GSS. Thus, the biannual survey to Mackay is due this year.

QWSG committee have decided to undertake surveys of both GSS and Mackay in 2014. All members and interested wader counters are welcome to participate in either or BOTH surveys. The proposed dates for each survey have been identified based on the best tides available during the summer that do not clash with our regular monthly counts.

The proposed dates are as follows:

Great Sandy Strait survey: 11 – 12 October, 2014 – Interested participants please contact David Milton

Mackay survey: 8 – 9 November, 2014 - Interested participants please contact Peter Driscoll (for details).

Accommodation and transport costs during both surveys will be provided by QWSG. For the GSS survey, vehicle fuel costs travelling to and from the survey will also be reimbursed. In Mackay, air flights and most food costs will also be covered for participants. We need about 14 counters to undertake each survey efficiently, but always appreciate more counters if interested. Both surveys are suitable for new and experienced members with a telescope and provide great opportunities to learn about wader id and visit interesting parts of the Queensland coast.

David Milton

WADER WATCH Phil Cross Count Programme by Linda Cross

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

Can we also please ask people to carefully check which leg the flag is on. 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

As there are quite a lot of overseas leg flag sightings to report in this issue of the newsletter, reluctantly we are unable to list the local green leg flag sightings. However, they are available for you to view (along with all these other flag sightings) on our website. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AHZ on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 29.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AYD on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 29.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 29.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AYB on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 25.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ALV on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 25.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 21.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (PR on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 21.04.14 & 25.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (EC on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 21.04.14 & 29.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ASW on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 21.04.14 & 25.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AEU on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 21.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AB on flag) – Seocheon tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 20.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ARE on flag) – Seocheon tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 20.04.14
- 4 Bar-tailed Godwit – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 15.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BJE on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 15.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Seocheon tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 14.04.14
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Muan tidal flat, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 13.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Gomso Bay, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 12.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BJE on flag) – Gomso Bay, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 12.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BNN on flag) – Mokpo Wetland, South Korea – Andreas Kim – 12.04.14 through to and including 05.05.14
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Seocheon tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 11.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BBD on flag) – Seocheon tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 11.04.14
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 11.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BNT on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 11.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AZX on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 11.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AYB on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 11.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AWE on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 11.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ASW on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 11.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AEU on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 11.04.14
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 09.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AET on flag) – Tabora South, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 06.04.14
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 06.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABR on flag) – Seocheon tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 01.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJT on flag) – Kidds, Karaka, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 24.03.14 & 25.03.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Motueka Sandspit, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – David Melville – 19.03.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 14.03.14 & 15.03.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 09.03.14 & 11.03.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 27.02.14

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Waimea Inlet, Best Island, near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – David Melville & Willie Cook – 17.02.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (FX on flag) – Clifton Beach, Whitford, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 17.10.13, 01.11.13, 15.01.14, 27.01.14 and 02.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (EP on flag) – Taporā South, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 28.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AKE on flag) – Taporā South, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 28.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BJK on flag) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Adrian Boyle – 19.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJN on flag) – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Adrian Boyle – 17.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 16.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AEC on flag) – Kidds, Karaka, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 15.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJU on flag) Clark’s Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 11.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – Phil Battley – 06.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 01.12.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kidds, Karaka, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 23.11.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clark’s Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 20.10.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ALB on flag) Clark’s Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 06.10.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ALX on flag) Clark’s Bay, Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 06.10.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 07.09.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABR on flag) – Kidds, Karaka, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 25.08.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Tan Kun – 11.05.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Tan Kun – 09.05.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BC on flag) – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Tan Kun – 07.05.13
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BC on flag) – Yalu Jiang Site 6, China – Tan Kun – 05.05.13 & 07.05.13
- 1 Great Knot – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 11.04.14
- 1 Great Knot – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 09.04.14
- 1 Great Knot – Seocheon tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 05.04.14
- 1 Great Knot – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Tan Kun – 15.05.13
- 1 Great Knot (AEV on flag) – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Tan Kun – 09.05.13
- 1 Great Knot – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Tan Kun – 07.05.13
- 1 Great Knot – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Peng Hebo – 05.05.13
- 1 Great Knot – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Peng Hebo – 25.04.13
- 1 Red Knot (ABH on flag) – Taporā South, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 11.01.14 and 08.02.14
- 1 Red Knot – Taporā South, Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 28.12.13

Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queen’s Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 04.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queen’s Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 24.03.14 & 25.03.14
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – St. Helen’s Beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 17.03.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queen’s Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 24.02.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Tuan, Great Sandy Strait – Mary Hynes – 20.02.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Kiran Dhanjal-Adams – 16.02.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queen’s Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 07.02.14

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

No sightings

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four combinations

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag over white flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & Linda Cross – 22.03.14
(flagged in Obitsu Estuary, Chiba)

All the birds listed below had blue flag left tibia, and where flagged in Hokkaido.

- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 03.05.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 27.04.14
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 21.04.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 18.04.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.04.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 05.04.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 29.03.14
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 22.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Lytton roost – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 20.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 15.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Kougari Street, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 17.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 16.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Lytton roost – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 15.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Kougari Street, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 12.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 07.03.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Queen's Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 24.02.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 21.02.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 17.02.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 05.02.14

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

- 1 Whimbrel – North Keppel Island – Allan Briggs – 30.03.14
- 1 Great Knot – St. Helen's Beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 17.03.14
- 1 Great Knot – Seaforth Beach creek mouth, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 27.02.14
- 1 Terek Sandpiper – Boat Harbour, Burnett Heads – Chris Barnes – 25.02.14
- 1 Red-necked Stint – Maaroom – Bill Price & Peter Tierney – 12.04.14

Green over orange (Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, China) 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 – Arthur Keates – 22.03.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, yellow band over yellow band right tarsus, blue band over white band left tarsus, metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 15.03.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia – Acacia St, Wellington Point – Nicola Udy – 15.03.14
- 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 – Arthur Keates, Phil & Linda Cross – 22.02.14
- 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 – Brian Russell – 16.02.14
- 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 – Pip Grant-Taylor – 14.02.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – metal band over green flag over orange flag left tibia – Toorbul – Pip Grant-Taylor – 14.02.14

Other wader leg flag sightings

1 Greater Sand Plover – white flag over blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Burnett River, Burnett Heads – Chris Barnes – 08.03.14 (flagged in Taipei-Kaohsiung, Taiwan)

Pied Oystercatcher 2 digit Yellow leg flag sightings

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

C4 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 05.04.14 & 05.05.14

P9 on flag – Adair Street, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 12.03.14 & 17.03.14

J4 on flag – Ocean Beach, Bribie Island – Kristy Currie – 12.11.13

Count Programme

by Linda Cross

As I write, winter is a couple of weeks away and the migratory waders have gone, leaving a lot less species and numbers to count. However, there were some really good counts of birds during the summer and the start of autumn, here are a few of the outstanding ones.

- 356 Eastern Curlew – King Street mudflat, Thornlands – 15.02.14
- 248 Whimbrel – Toorbul – 22.02.14
- 2,900+ Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 15.02.14
- 2,106 Bar-tailed Godwit – King Street mudflat, Thornlands – 15.02.14
- 268 Black-tailed Godwit – Pine Rivers north side – 15.03.14
- 58 Grey Plover – Moon Creek west entrance, Great Sandy Strait – 16.02.14
- 57 Grey Plover – Boonooroo, Great Sandy Strait – 16.02.14
- 468 Pacific Golden Plover – Shellgrit Creek, Mackay – 15.03.14
- 58 Greenshank – Maaroom, Great Sandy Strait – 16.02.14
- 31 Marsh Sandpiper – Maaroom, Great Sandy Strait – 16.02.14
- 1,184 Great Knot – Puthoo Creek, Great Sandy Strait – 16.02.14
- 774 Great Knot – Maaroom, Great Sandy Strait – 15.02.14
- 739 Great Knot – St. Helens Beach, north of Mackay – 17.03.14
- 131 Ruddy Turnstone – Port of Brisbane complex – 16.02.14
- 1,143 Grey-tailed Tattler – Port of Brisbane complex – 13.04.14
- 102 Terek Sandpiper – Queen's Esplanade, Thorneside – 07.04.14
- 200 Greater Sand Plover – Pioneer River Mouth north bank, Mackay – 27.03.14
- 519 Curlew Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane complex – 16.02.14
- 131 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Artificial Roost, Port of Brisbane – 16.03.14
- 72 Broad-billed Sandpiper - Port of Brisbane complex – 13.04.14 (quite a lot showing breeding plumage)
- 2,847 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane complex – 16.02.14

Some interesting resident wader numbers also recorded, and listed below.

- 706 Black-winged Stilt – Deception Bay south – 12.04.14
- 392 Red-necked Avocet – Deception Bay south – 12.04.14
- 155 Red-necked Avocet – Trutes Bay, Tweed Heads – 24.03.14
- 175 Pied Oystercatcher – St. Helen's Beach, north of Mackay – 13.02.14
- 54 Bush-Stone Curlew – Seaforth Township, north of Mackay – 02.04.14
- 11 Sooty Oystercatcher – Lilly's Beach, Boyne Island – 18.01.14
- 7 Sooty Oystercatcher – Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay – 18.03.14
- 290 Red-capped Plover – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – 15.02.14

One or two rarer species have been spotted by some Eagle-eyed counters. Sheryl Keates saw a Reeve at Kianawah Road wetland at Hemmant during the April count, and it was still present on 16.05.14. On 13.05.14 both Arthur & Sheryl Keates visited the site again to do a count and also found a Pectoral Sandpiper, which was last seen on 16.05.14

David Milton & Sandra Harding observed one Asian Dowitcher at Manly Harbour on 12.04.14, while a lone Wood Sandpiper was sighted at Dowse Lagoon, Sandgate on 22.03.14, and two Little Curlew were recorded at Garnett's Lagoons in Hervey Bay by John Knight on 15.02.14.

An early record of 13 Double-banded Plover was recorded at Garnett's Lagoons in Hervey Bay on 15.02.14, and this cross Tasman visitor has now turned up at nine other sites since. The highest total so far is 36 recorded at Geoff Skinner Reserve East on 12.04.14

Just a few breeding records as follows:-

- Beach Stone-curlew – juvenile, Finlayson's Point, north of Mackay – 14.02.14
- Beach Stone-curlew – chick, Friday Island, Far North Queensland – end of April 2014
- Pied Oystercatcher – quite a few juveniles in a flock of 175 at St. Helen's Beach north of Mackay – 13.02.14
- Sooty Oystercatcher – two juveniles seen a few days prior to count, Finlayson's Point, north of Mackay – 11.04.14
- Black-winged Stilt – one young, Bundaberg Port – 16.02.14
- Comb-crested Jacana – six young, Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 26.01.14 (four still on site 09.02.14)
- Red-capped Plover – two runners, Seaforth Beach creek mouth, north of Mackay – 02.04.14
- Red-capped Plover – two chicks, Bundaberg Port – 16.02.14

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

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

58 Red-kneed Dotterel – Kianawah Wetland, Hemmant – 15.03.14
 32 Red-kneed Dotterel – Postman's Track, Lake Samsonvale – 08.02.14

Not waders but of interest anyway

2 Australasian Shoveler – Karrashch's Lagoon, Placid Hills, Lockyer Valley – 19.03.14
 873 Black Swan – in Pumicestone Passage, Toorbul – 12.04.14
 352 Pink-eared Duck – Jahnke's Lagoon, Lockyer Valley – 19.03.14
 7 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Jahnke's Lagoon, Lockyer Valley – 09.03.14
 5 Cotton Pygmy-goose – Kinka Wetland, Yeppoon – 16.03.14
 23 Freckled Duck – Peachy Swamp, Lower Tenthill, Lockyer Valley – 19.03.14
 415 White-winged Black Tern – Maroochy River sand bank – 13.03.14
 3 Whiskered Tern (roosting in a Mangrove tree in the Pumicestone Passage) – 05.02.14
 1 Brown Falcon – Luggage Point – 12.04.14
 1 Australian Hobby (attacking Red-capped Plover and Red-necked Stints) – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – 15.03.14
 1 Peregrine Falcon (attacking feeding waders) – Queen's Esplanade, Thorneside – 07.04.14
 538 Magpie Goose – Golf Link's Road Wetland, Mackay – 29.03.14
 200 Magpie Goose – Kinka Wetland, Yeppoon – 15.02.14
 18 Eastern Great Egret – Deception Bay south – 15.03.14
 71 Great-crested Grebe – Postman's Track, Lake Samsonvale – 17.03.14
 2 Hoary-headed Grebe – Postman's Track, Lake Samsonvale – 19.03.14
 75 White-faced Heron – Trutes Bay, Tweed Heads – 21.04.14

We still need 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.

Online count entry.

As a lot of counters are already aware, we are working very hard on setting up online count entries for those who wish to enter their counts directly onto QWSG website. Those of you that I have been in contact with are very keen to get involved, and I will endeavour to make contact with the rest of the counters in due course.

In the meantime, we want you to know that we are very close to having the online count entry up and running and you will be contacted soon when we are ready to go.

Filler Fact**Eastern Curlew**

- The Eastern Curlew is the world's largest shorebird.
- During migration Eastern Curlews travel a 20,000km round trip, with each leg of the journey up to 5,000-7,000km.
- Eastern Curlews normally weigh 800-900grams, however, they increase to about 1.3kg before migration.

Wader ID Days Reports

PORT OF BRISBANE WADER IDENTIFICATION DAY 21 FEBRUARY 2014

Despite the hot dry spell we have been experiencing, 18 people attended QWSG's first field trip to the constructed wader roost at the Port of Brisbane. We were joined by a Japanese visitor, Asuka Shiina, a ranger and education officer at the Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre, Tokyo where heavy snowfalls had recently been recorded preventing her from going to work.

Observers had good views of the birds, including what was undoubtedly the highlight, 2 Asian Dowitcher, feeding and roosting among Bar-tailed Godwit at the northern end of the site. Many of the godwit were in advanced breeding plumage.

As can be seen from the following list of species seen, the diversity was good although the number of birds was not high:

Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Whistling Kite, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Black-fronted Dotterel, Red-kneed Dotterel, Masked Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Asian Dowitcher, Common Greenshank, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Tern, Caspian Tern

After about an hour and a half at the roost we had a tally of 16 wader species so some of us decided to call into the Lytton roost on our way home. Here we added Black-tailed Godwit, Grey-tailed Tattler and Great Knot to the species list for the day. Fittingly for our Japanese visitor, one of the tattlers had a blue leg flag on its upper left leg indicating it had been banded in Hokkaido, Japan. Several of the tattlers had been fitted with QWSG's green engraved leg flags and at least 2 of them also had geolocators.

Members are reminded that the roost site at the Port can be accessed Monday to Friday by obtaining the key to the site from the Port of Brisbane visitors centre.



Asuka Shiina with other attendees at the Port of Brisbane Roost observation hut.

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 22 MARCH 2014

Forty seven members and guests from Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba joined us for this wader identification outing on quite a hot, but dry day.

There were sixteen species of waders at the main roost with many showing signs of breeding plumage in various stages. Although we looked very hard, no Black-tailed Godwit were present to help show the difference between them and Bar-tailed Godwit. It was suggested that they had probably already left on migration.

There were three Red Knot in the flock that most people wanted to see and it was not until the tide started to drop and the knots moved out to feed that we could explain more easily where the group could see them. It was interesting that two of them showed some breeding plumage. Equally, only a couple of Terek Sandpiper could be seen in the flock of Grey-tailed Tattler, they too took some time to get onto so that the group could see them while we explained the differences between the two species.

An Eastern Reef Egret (grey phase), was also recorded during the outing, which was quite a surprise.

We did not do a count of the waders, but David Edwards did a count of the Black Swan on the water in the Passage and got a staggering total of 707 birds. This is the largest count of this species in the passage that I can recall.

There were a lot of leg flags and people were keen to try to read the engraved ones so they could give Phil the information for the database, but one of the QWSG members spent quite a lot of time trying to acquire all the flags while his trusty scribe (Dianne Blewett) ensured she recorded them accurately on paper.

In total 91 birds were observed with flags. All green flagged birds were banded in Moreton Bay.

65 Bar-tailed Godwit with engraved green leg flag AAD, ACT, ACX, ADL, AEJ, AHR, AHZ, AJE, AJH, AJZ, AKT, ALP, ALV, ANJ, ARA, ARJ, ARN, ASC, ASE, ASK, ASL, ASX, ATB, ATC, AVD, AVJ, AVZ, AXT, AXY, AYA, AYE, AYK, AYL, AYP, AYR, AYU, AYV, AYX, AZC, AZX. BAD, BAV, BBH, BBJ, BBL, BBM, BBS, BBU, BCK, BCW, BCX, BCY, BNA, BNP, BNT, BPA, BPC, BPD, BPJ, BPT, BPU and BPY.

1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag over orange flag right tibia, yellow band over yellow band right tarsus, blue band over white band left tarsus and metal band left tibia. (This is 'Mr Bling', which has been recorded at Toorbul and Bribie Island on numerous occasions over the last couple of years. This male bird was flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China).

1 Whimbrel with engraved green flag ABT.

2 Pied Oystercatcher with engraved green leg flag AAT and AAU.

21 Great Knot with green engraved flag ATH, ATR, ATT, ATU, AUC, AUD, AUE, AWJ, AYU, AZC, BAZ, BBJ, BCB, BCL, BCT, and BCV.

1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag over white flag left tarsus. (Flagged in Obitsu, Japan).

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Striated Heron, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Eastern Reef Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Little Corella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Mangrove Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Welcome Swallow and Mistletoebird.

Bishop's Marsh was dry.

Linda Cross.

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.

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

QWSG MERCHANDISE

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

Postage is **not** included in prices quoted.

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 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:

Mr/s Steve & Jean CUNNINGHAM	Ms Marie GITTINS	Ms Alison HOWES
Ms Mary HYNES	Ms Rosemary SHEEHAN	Dr Alan KING
	Dr Kees HULSMAN	Mr Matteo GRILLI
Mr Steve MARSTON	Mr Paul MAXWELL	Mr Cameron DAVIDSON

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

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

CHAIRPERSON: Jon Coleman
TREASURER Deirdre Chrzescijanski membership@waders.org.au
SECRETARY: Peter Rothlisberg
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: David Edwards gouldian@ozemail.com.au
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Robert Bush	Peter Driscoll
Richard Fuller	Andrew Geering
Sandra Harding	Sheryl Keates
David Milton	

BQ PRESIDENT Richard Noske

COUNT COORDINATOR: Linda Cross

DATA ENTRY Joyce Harding

LEG FLAG COORDINATOR Phil Cross

MERCHANDISE Vicki Campbell

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:

The QWSG Chairperson,
 xxxxxxxx
 xxxxxxxx
 QLD 4xxx

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 **August 18th 2014**

Contributions should be addressed to:

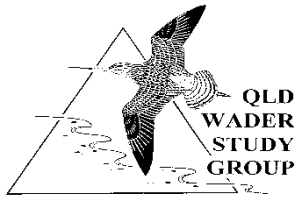
David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011
 or E-mail to: gouldian@ozemail.com.au

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

Advertising Rates are \$20:00 for one-quarter page and \$25:00 for a third of a page.

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admin@jrdsons.com.au



Count Activities – 2014

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2014

Sat 14 th Jun	1.98m at 10:10 Optional	Sat 25 th Oct	2.31m at 10:15
Sat 12 th Jul	1.97m at 09:05 National Winter Count	Sat 22 nd Nov	2.39m at 09:16
Sat 16 th Aug	2.07m at 13:51	Sat 13 th Dec	2.06m at 13:44
Sat 27 th Sep	2.16m at 11:12		

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 – 2014

Sun 15 th Jun	1.97m at 11:01 Meet 09:10	Sun 26 th Oct	2.32m at 10:54 Meet 09:05
Sun 13 th Jul	2.01m at 09:58 Meet 08:10	Sun 23 rd Nov	2.45m at 09:57 Meet 08:10
Sun 17 th Aug	2.02m at 14:51 Meet 13:00	Sun 14 th Dec	1.96m at 14:33 Meet 12:40
Sun 28 th Sep	2.14m at 11:50 Meet 10:00		

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

