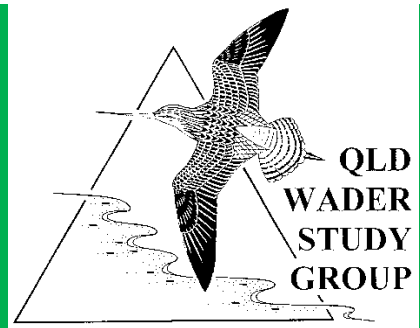


# QUEENSLAND WADER



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Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of  
*Birds Queensland Incorporated.*

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

## GREAT SANDY STRAIT WADER SURVEY 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2014

The Queensland Wader Study Group made their 13<sup>th</sup> complete survey of the Great Sandy Strait region between 10 – 12 October, 2014. A total of 23,629 waders of 28 species were counted at 54 roosts by 28 members and friends. Participants came from Brisbane, Sunshine coast, Gympie and Hervey Bay, joined the survey, including eight from the Great Sandy Strait region. The total count of waders this year was similar to the count from the last survey in December 2013 and was substantially lower than counted in January 2012. Counts of Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Pacific Golden Plover and Terek Sandpiper have declined in each of the last two surveys. Only Whimbrel counts appear to be higher in this survey. The lower counts of some species may have been due to the different season that this survey was made. However, in other species it is also probably at least partially due to declining populations. The numbers of resident waders and waterbirds were also lower than in previous surveys. This is most likely due to the extremely dry conditions over the last three months reducing the available habitats. No breeding by resident waders was recorded during the survey, although the islands in the northern GSS were not systematically surveyed. These islands have had most of the wader breeding records in previous surveys.

The survey found a total of 3298 waterbirds and terns of 34 species. This count was about a third of that counted in the last survey and half that counted in January, 2012. The highest counts were of Gull-billed and Little Terns. Despite this, the Little Tern count was only 11% of that counted last December. The low count suggests that the majority of the migrant Little Terns had not arrived in the GSS yet from the northern hemisphere.

### Some of the highest roost counts

- 4000 Bar-tailed Godwit at Pelican Banks, Fraser Is
- 1728 Bar-tailed Godwit at Moon Pt Meereenyoor Ck, Fraser Is
- 965 Red-necked Stint at Moon Pt Meereenyoor Ck, Fraser Is
- 450 Grey-tailed Tattler at Poyungan Rocks
- 376 Eastern Curlew at Mangrove Pt claypan

### Flag sightings (minus Maaroom)

- 3 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flags
- 1 Red Knot with orange flag
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with a green flag

### **Summary of the wader counts made during the last three Great Sandy Strait surveys**

Common name	Jan-12	Dec-13	Oct-14
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	475	232	151
Bar-tailed Godwit	19507	12366	13574
Beach Stone-curlew	12	3	5

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Jan-12</b>	<b>Dec-13</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	6	2
Black-tailed Godwit	16	10	2
Black-winged Stilt	346	1094	308
Comb-crested Jacana	18	10	0
Common Greenshank	245	229	190
Curlew Sandpiper	189	161	242
Eastern Curlew	2104	1394	1268
Great Knot	1793	1471	884
Greater Sand Plover	780	53	286
Grey Plover	123	106	234
Grey-tailed Tattler	1349	634	1164
Latham's Snipe	2	5	2
Lesser Sand Plover	1362	529	824
Marsh Sandpiper	5	51	10
Masked Lapwing	92	78	52
Pacific Golden Plover	234	191	134
Red Knot	211	23	178
Red-capped Plover	461	491	82
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	75	14
Red-necked Avocet	97	1	0
Red-necked Stint	1807	1344	2098
Ruddy Turnstone	24	3	10
Sanderling	0	10	18
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	244	322	179
Sooty Oystercatcher	9	6	2
Terek Sandpiper	638	224	136
Wandering Tattler	6	0	0
Whimbrel	821	938	1321
<b>TOTAL WADERS</b>	<b>32971</b>	<b>22060</b>	<b>23361</b>
Australasian Darter	12	2	0
Australasian Grebe	20	68	4
Australasian Shoveler	0	0	8
Australian Pelican	7	192	104
Australian White Ibis	26	81	33
Australian Wood Duck	0	11	18
Black Swan	122	2	112
Black-necked Stork	2	1	23
Brahminy Kite	9	9	12
Brolga	2	2	0
Buff-banded Rail	0	1	0
Caspian Tern	89	126	64
Cattle Egret	54	15	2
Chestnut Teal	4	22	0
Common Tern	2751	1000	140
Crested Tern	273	41	254

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Jan-12</b>	<b>Dec-13</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>
Dusky Moorhen	34	8	0
Eastern Great Egret	4	4	3
Eastern Osprey	14	11	13
Eastern Reef Egret	3	8	3
Eurasian Coot	6	103	1
Glossy Ibis	0	15	8
Great Cormorant	0	3	0
Grey Teal	22	164	41
Gull-billed Tern	700	1150	855
Hardhead	0	33	0
Intermediate Egret	1	4	1
Lesser Crested Tern	0	1	0
Little Black Cormorant	60	34	24
Little Egret	65	26	113
Little Pied Cormorant	15	15	3
Little Tern	1137	7053	808
Pacific Black Duck	105	153	24
Pied Cormorant	26	65	258
Purple Swamphen	121	77	0
Royal Spoonbill	6	42	92
Silver Gull	351	175	52
Straw-necked Ibis	0	12	6
Striated Heron	6	5	1
Whiskered Tern	0	94	87
Whistling Kite	10	16	12
White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	12	11
White-faced Heron	47	51	67
White-necked Heron	0	1	0
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	0	2	0
<b>TOTAL OTHERS</b>	<b>6106</b>	<b>10910</b>	<b>3298</b>

**Acknowledgements:** I would like to especially thank Linda Cross for her help in making sure everyone knew where to go and what to do. Rob Clemens spent three days out on boats seeing almost all the offshore roosts. Great Sandy Strait Marine Park staff provided two boats that enabled the inside of Fraser Island and the central GSS island roosts to be surveyed. For a second survey, Peter Driscoll used his own boat to survey the inaccessible roosts in the southern GSS. Without their dedication, the survey would not have been such a success. QWSG also thank the Queensland government for providing a Friends of Parks grant of \$6,723.20. This grant enabled QWSG to cover the out of pocket travel, accommodation and some food costs of survey participants. Last, but not least, I thank everyone who joined the survey and got out in the GSS and enjoyed each other's' company in such lovely weather.

**Survey counters:** John Bell, Peter Rothlisberg, Linda and Phil Cross, Arthur and Sheryl Keates, Ken Cowell and Floss Wainwright, Kelvin and Amelia Nielsen, Geoff Skoien, Dez Wells, Rob Kernot, Rob Clemens, Peter Driscoll, Robert Bush, Dierdre Chrzescijanski, Peter Tierney, John Knight, Bill Price, Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao, David Edwards, Dudley Dennis, Don and Lesley Bradley, Moyra McRae, Sandra Harding and David Milton.

David Milton

## Australasian Shorebird Conference

by Arthur Keates

Along with just over 100 others, mostly shorebird enthusiasts, I attended the 9th Australasian Shorebird Conference in Darwin in late September.

The 2 day conference got off to a depressing start with QWSG committee member Richard Fuller's presentation on his team's research and analysis of population trends, habitat loss and the impacts of climate change on migratory shorebirds. The work by Richard and his team suggests the cause for the population declines in migratory shorebirds (and not resident shorebirds) is due to the rapid loss of the intertidal wetlands in eastern Asia, particularly the Yellow Sea Region (YSR), where several species relied on critical staging sites for food to fuel their migration. Most of us are aware of the destruction of Saemangeum, a tidal flat system on the west coast of South Korea that was the single most important staging site for migratory shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (the EAAF), particularly Great Knot with 20-30% of the EAAF population staging there on northward migration. At a Flyway level, population declines are staggering, some species crashing by 80% in 20 years.

Paper after paper followed presenting a bleak future for migratory shorebirds in the EAAF, including the dire warning that Eastern Curlew and Curlew Sandpiper, once common here, are plummeting to local extinction. We heard that at the far southern end of the EAAF, in Tasmania, Eastern Curlew numbers have collapsed by 75% while just 5% of Curlew Sandpiper remain. These species are likely to become the first migratory shorebirds to be added to the Australian threatened species list, mandating recovery plans.

Loss of the extensive tidal flats of the YSR is not the only threat to migratory shorebird habitat. Delegates heard of the rapid expansion of invasive species like *Spartina alterniflora*, an introduced salt-marsh grass that has colonised large areas of Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve and other coastal areas in the YSR.

Apart from loss of shorebird habitat, disturbance, hunting and pollution add additional pressures. The manufacture of DDT in China until 2011, and widely used in anti-fouling paint on China's large fishing vessel fleet, is thought to be largely responsible for continuing high levels found in coastal sediments and marine life resulting in the accumulation by shorebirds of pollutants in fat deposits and then released into the blood stream. As if that is not enough, the significant decrease in a species of clam, once abundant in the Yalu Jiang coastal wetland and the principal food source for Great Knot and Bar-Tailed Godwit, is cause for concern, especially on those species.

While large-scale habitat loss in north-east Asia, particularly the YSR, is the biggest factor contributing to the decline of migratory shorebirds, the incremental loss of habitat in Australia for port, industrial and urban development is also destroying and degrading shorebird habitat. Delegates heard the use of artificial habitat by shorebirds is a valuable management tool, but habitat offsetting should be used only if it is the only viable option. In a following presentation, Michael Linde, Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd, talked about the construction of the artificial roost at the Port of Brisbane and the adaptive management necessary to maximise the ecological values of the roost. Managing shorebird habitat at the Western Treatment Plant, Victoria through water level manipulation and vegetation management while at the same time habitat for other species was described as challenging and made more complex at times by drought, floods and sewage treatment operational requirements. Another paper addressed the study of the use of salt and aquaculture ponds by shorebirds in Thailand, and their management to minimise negative impacts on shorebirds.

Having heard a brief report on the shorebird surveys in the Gulf of Carpentaria, an interesting paper was presented on the good work being done by indigenous ranger groups in the monitoring of shorebird sites in the Gulf. The Yawuru Joint Management Team, based in Broome, is similarly doing good work in the Yawuru Conservation Estate and Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, assisting with shorebird research and monthly benthic sample collection at Roebuck Bay. These projects show indigenous communities are well placed to play a key role in shorebird management.

Papers on scientific research into shorebird migration included the use of satellite tracking of Little Curlew and the results of the deployment of geolocators on Ruddy Turnstone, both subjects captivating delegates. However, scientists are not alone in research; amateur shorebirders can contribute by collecting data. This was clearly demonstrated in an interesting presentation on the use of the Hunter Estuary as a significant staging site for Red Knot on southward migration by reference to the observation of leg flagged birds over 3 successive non-breeding seasons.

In closing the highly successful Conference, Professor Stephen Garnett, chair of the Conference organising committee, commented "I have been working on threatened species for more than 30 years and have never heard such a tale of woe". Following the close of the conference, Professor Garnett circulated the conference declaration aptly titled "Our Disappearing Shorebirds" which was published in national newspapers. Clearly the perilous situation facing migratory shorebirds needs immediate action by governments of countries in the EAAF otherwise future generations will not experience the great natural wonder of shorebird migration, a phenomenon that has been happening for thousands of years.

## Cannon Netting Catch Report: Manly 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014

The original purpose of Saturday was to retrieve more geolocators from the Grey-tailed Tattlers roosting at Manly but as the first catch of the season we were hoping for a good mixed catch including tattlers to start the seasons catching off. The recce was promising with over 2000 birds present including at least 300 tattlers with at least one geocator bird present.

As usual we set two nets on the western shore at 5am and then waited for the tide to bring the birds off the mud flats. The high tide meant an early catch and after some brief twinkling a substantial mixed flock, including a lot of tattler was in front of one net and we fired the net at 9:30am.



A successful catch at Manly (c) Jon Coleman 2014

The net fired extremely well and what we thought was a catch of c. 300 birds was closer to 400 once we had cleared the nets and checked the content of the cages. Four banding teams worked through the birds, finishing at high tide at which point we starting moving birds slowly around the roost to get a second catch of godwit before the tide dropped. However, the birds were clearly wise to the plan and were happy to move anywhere on the roost except the area where the net was set so we stopped after 30-40 minutes, packed up the equipment and left.

There were a number of retraps in the catch, none older than 5 years, and also a good number of Curlew Sandpiper, which given their current status was a pleasant catch and a late Red Knot was also a surprise. The catch details are below. As always, a huge thank you to the 21 people who attended and helped out.

Species	New	Retrap	Total
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	0	1
Curlew Sandpiper	52	3	55
Grey-tailed Tattler	78	9	87
Lesser Sand-plover	2	0	2
Pacific Golden-plover	1	0	1
Red Knot	1	0	1
Red-necked Stint	152	3	155
Ruddy Turnstone	11	0	11
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	54	2	2
Terek Sandpiper	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>372</b>

## WADER WATCH Phil Cross

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

Can we also please ask people to carefully check 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**

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 Grey-tailed Tattler – Reef Islands, Great Sandy Strait – Rob Kernot – 10.10.14

1 Grey-tailed Tattler (ABS on flag) – Coquette Point, mouth of Johnstone River, Innisfail – Yvonne Cunningham – 26.08.14

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs totalled 442 between 23.02.14 and 12.10.14. They were sighted by Robert Bush, Vicki Campbell, Jimmy Choi, Tony Cotter, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Kiran Dhanjal-Adams, David Edwards, Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Paul Maxwell, Jeremy Ringma, Susan Rogers, Peter Rothlisberg, Brian Russell, Michael Strong, John Thompson, and Dez Wells.

7 Eastern Curlew, 4 Whimbrel, 160 Bar-tailed Godwit, 42 Pied Oystercatcher, 5 Black-winged Stilt, 3 Pacific Golden Plover, 65 Great Knot, 124 Grey-tailed Tattler, 1 Terek Sandpiper, 3 Ruddy Turnstone, 10 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 2 Lesser Sand Plover, 21 Curlew Sandpiper, 4 Red-capped Plover and 10 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, BC, BD.

Whimbrel – ABT.

Bar-tailed Godwit – AR, CN, DR, EC, EY, HA, HL, HP, HU, JA, JB, JE, JH, JJ, NN, PA, PJ, PP, PS, PU, AAB, AAH, AAL, ABJ, ABN, ABU, ACA, ACC, ACD, ACJ, ACK, ACT, ADD, ADM, ADN, ADR, ADU, ADX, AES, AHA, AHD, AHE, AHL, AHT, AHZ, AJH, AJP, ALD, ALV, ANH, ANJ, APL, APP, APT, APX, ARZ, ASC, ASD, ASE, AST, ASU, ASW, ASY, ATD, AVB, AVC, AVH, AVK, AVM, AVP, AVS, AWA, AWE, AXS, AYH, AYS, AYX, AZD, AZX, BAC, BAK, BAR, BAS, BAX, BAY, BBD, BBR, BCK, BCZ, BJC, BJK, BJU, BKJ, BNA, BNH, BPF, BPH, BPJ, BPK, BPT, BPY, BRJ.

Pied Oystercatcher – B7, C4, H7, AAD, AAE, AAH, AAK, AAT, AAV, AAX, AAZ, ABB, ABC, ABE.

Black-winged Stilt – EA, KC, AAS, BZC.

Pacific Golden Plover – AVS.

Great Knot – AAN, AAP, AEE, AEJ, AEK, AEN, AEU, AEV, AHC, AHE, AHP, AJK, AJP, AJX, ALD, ALL, ALN, ALU, AMJ, ATK, ATU, ATX, ATZ, AUD, AUM, AWA, BAP, BAT, BAV, BAZ, BBC, BBE, BBH, BBJ, BBZ, BCD, BCH, BCK, BCN, BCP, BCZ

Grey-tailed Tattler – AX, DK, JY, KM, RC, RH, RU, RY, AAJ, AAK, ABD, ABE, ABS, ACA, ACD, ACH, ACJ, ACK, ACX, ACY, ACZ, ADH, ADJ, ADU, ADZ, AHD, AKB, AKC, AKR, ANA, ANC, ANN, ANU, APJ, APK, APM, APP, APT, ARC, ARD, ARH, ARK, ARL, ARU, ARV, ARW, ASM, AVA, AVC, AVD, AVJ, AVL, AVN, AWM, AWN, AWS, AWU, AWV, AWW, AXC, AXD, AXE, AXH, AXK, AXL, AXR, AXW, AXY, AYH, AYK, BAH, BAJ.

Terek Sandpiper – HD.

Ruddy Turnstone – AN, ABX.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – ABT, ACB, AEL, AEN, ALM, AMN, ANC.

Curlew Sandpiper – AAD, AAH, AAM, AAN, AAS, AAY, ABA, ACA, ACL, ACR, ACV, ADA, ANC, ANN.

Red-necked Stint – NC, ZB, ZL.

Tattler, ANC, APJ, AVC and AVD has green flag right tibia, yellow flag and geolocator on left tibia and metal band left tarsus.

**Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings**

All sightings notified to database since the previous newsletter.

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Motueka Sandspit near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Rob Schuckard – 29.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 06.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Seocheon Tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung-ki – 26.05.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BJZ on flag) – Seocheon Tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung-ki – 20.05.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Muan Tidal Flat (north of Mokpo), South Korea – Ju Yung-ki – 02.05.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Seocheon Tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung-ki – 30.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADU on flag) – Seocheon Tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung-ki – 25.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Seocheon Tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung-ki – 25.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (JH on flag) – Yalu Jiang Site 5, China – Kun Tan – 25.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Seocheon Tidal Flag, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung-ki – 24.04.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Yalu Jiang Site 6, China – Kun Tan – 12.04.14
- 1 Pied Oystercatcher – (A6 on flag) – Fishing Coop, Iluka, NSW – Allan & Wendy Pilkington – 22.08.14
- 1 Great Knot – Yangkou Rudong Jiangsu, China – Zhang Lin – 19.08.14
- 1 Great Knot – (AEK of flag) – North Creek Richmond Estuary, Ballina, NSW – Steve McBride – 17.08.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler (APY on flag) – Ikawazu Tidal Flat, Tahara-shi, Aichi-ken, Japan – Ishida Ikuyo – 18.05.14

**Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings**

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al – 15.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al – 15.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 12.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABR on flag) – Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay – Phil & Linda Cross – 11.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Adair Street, Boonooroo – Phil & Linda Cross – 11.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Shark Inlet, Great Sandy Strait – Peter Rothlisberg & Dez Wells – 11.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABU on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 11.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AAW on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 11.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – south tip Stewart Island, Great Sandy Strait – Rob Kernot – 10.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (9P on flag) – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – Arthur Keates – 09.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (D9 on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 07.10.14 & 09.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CKV on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 07.10.14 & 09.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABU on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 07.10.14 & 09.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CKV on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 06.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 06.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CER on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 06.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (JS on flag) – Cairns Esplanade – Inka Veltheim – 05.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABU on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 05.10.14
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 05.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – John Thompson – 03.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Kim Challenger – 04.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AAW on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 02.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 02.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Brian Russell – 01.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABU on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 29.09.14
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell & Peter Tierney – 28.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – O'Regan's Creek, Dundowran Westside, Hervey Bay – Marilyn Jacobs – 27.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AHH on flag) – Toorbul – Dez Well – 27.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADU on flag) – Toorbul – Dez Well – 27.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Well – 27.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CKV on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 26.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CH on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 26.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJL on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 26.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CH on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 14.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CH on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Sheryl Keates – 12.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 09.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell – 16.08.14
- 1 Great Knot – Moon Creek, Great Sandy Strait – David Edwards – 10.10.14
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – John Bell & Peter Tierney – 28.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay – Phil & Linda Cross – 11.10.14

- 1 Red Knot – Queen's Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 03.10.14
- 1 Red Knot (B9 on flag) – Maaroom – John Bell – 01.10.14 & 30.09.14
- 2 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14
- 2 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 29.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates – 28.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 28.09.14
- 2 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 26.09.14
- 3 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 26.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (1C on flag) – Many Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.09.14
- 3 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 20.09.14
- 2 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 14.09.14
- 2 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 12.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (1C on flag) – Many Harbour – Arthur Keates – 12.09.14
- 2 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 09.09.14
- 2 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates et al – 07.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – O'Reagan's Creek, Dundowran Westside, Hervey Bay – Marilyn Sweetnam – 16.08.14

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & Linda Cross – 15.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag left leg, red band over red band right tarsus, metal band right tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 07.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag right tarsus, white band over flag over red band right tarsus, yellow band over white band left tarsus, metal band left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 07.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag left tarsus, red band over red band right tarsus, white flag over white band left tarsus, metal band right tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 06.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag right tarsus, white band over red band right tarsus, yellow band over white band left tarsus, metal band left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 06.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag right tarsus, white band over red band right tarsus, white band over blue band left tarsus, metal band left tibia – Toorbul – Brian Russell – 01.10.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BTW on flag) – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag right tarsus, white band over flag over red band right tarsus, yellow band over white band left tarsus, metal band left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 26.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Arthur Keates – 11.10.14
- 1 Red Knot (EHD on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 09.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 06.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Queen's Esplanade Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 03.10.14
- 1 Red Knot (BWH on flag) – Maaroom – John Bell – 01.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell & Peter Tierney – 28.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates – 28.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 28.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 26.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (BWV on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 26.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 26.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (BWV on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 25.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (BRU on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 25.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (BRU on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 20.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (BWW on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 20.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (BRU on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Robert Bush – 14.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (CEY on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 12.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (BRU on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 12.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 09.09.14
- 1 Red Knot (CEY) on flag – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates et al – 07.09.14

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

- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 11.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – 6O on blue flag left tarsus and white flag left tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 07.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 07.10.14



- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – 60 on blue flag left tarsus and white flag left tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 06.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 06.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 05.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – 60 on blue flag left tarsus and white flag left tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 02.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 02.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Linda Cross – 14.09.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 09.09.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 07.09.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 07.09.14

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

- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Arthur Keates – 11.10.14
- 1 Great Knot – Boonooroo – Linda Cross – 11.10.14
- 1 Great Knot – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates – 28.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – Arthur Keates – 11.10.14
- 1 Red Knot (7W on white flag) – Maaroom – John Bell – 01.10.14
- 1 Red Knot (NC on white flag) – Maaroom – John Bell – 01.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 01.10.14
- 1 Red Knot (NC on white flag) – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 26.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.09.14

#### **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 et al – 15.10.14 (This bird is known as 'Mr Bling'.)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia – Toorbul – Brian Russell – 01.10.14

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

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (M2 on black flag) – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14 (possibly flagged in Alaska – awaiting confirmation)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – (VS on yellow flag) – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia, white flag right tarsus – Maaroom – John Bell – 01.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tarsus, red band over yellow band right tarsus – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia, white flag right tarsus – Maaroom – John Bell – 30.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia, white flag right tarsus – Maaroom – John Bell & Peter Tierney – 28.09.14
- 1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Vicki Cambell – 27.09.14 (flagged north-west Western Australia)
- 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – DV on blue flag left tibia, yellow flag left tibia, metal band right tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 29.09.14 (flagged Bohai Bay, China)
- 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – DV on blue flag left tibia, orange flag left tibia, metal band right tarsus – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 28.09.14 (possibly same bird as above)
- 1 Curlew Sandpiper – blue flag over yellow flag right tibia – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – Glen Pacey & Maddy Stigner – 28.09.14
- 1 Red-necked Stint – white flag left tarsus – O'Reagans Creek, Dundowran Westside, Hervey Bay – Marilyn Sweetnam – 16.08.14 (banding region yet to be determined).

#### **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.

- K3 on flag – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 09.09.14
- L6 on flag – Cudgen Creek, NSW – Laurel Allsopp – 04.09.14
- K3 on flag – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 28.08.14
- H1 on flag – Tony's Island, Tweed Heads, NSW – Laurel Allsopp – 18.08.14

**Other leg flag sightings and banded birds**

- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Kakadu roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 12.10.14
- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (37 on flag) – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – Dez Wells – 28.09.14
- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag– Kakadu roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 28.09.14
- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (47 on flag) – Toorbul – Arthur Keates – 16.09.14
- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Kakadu roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 17.08.14
- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (B7 on flag) – Burnett Heads Bundaberg – Chris Barnes – 15.08.14
- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag (74 on flag) – Toorbul sandspit – Dez Wells – 09.08.14
- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Toorbul – Judith Coles – 23.09.14

**Count Programme**

by Linda Cross

Two new counters have been added to our much-needed list of helpers. One is Paul Finn, who has been a QWSG member for many years, and has in the past been heavily involved in QWSG activities including the count programme, but his work and family commitments saw him withdraw for a few years. Some members might remember Paul from his work with the feeding habits of Eastern Curlew, where a lot of counters got involved doing low tide feeding counts of this species. Paul will assist with surveys, Port counts and also as a standby counter.

The other new counter is Eduardo (Ed) Gallo-Cajiao, an experienced wader surveyor who was assistant warden at Broome Bird Observatory, and has also coordinated counts at Long Reef in Sydney for 3 years. Ed joined us on the Great Sandy Strait counts in early October. We welcome Paul and Ed into the count programme and already have their names penciled in for a list of places for them to go.

From the count sheets there are a few interesting sightings worth mentioning. The Asian Dowitcher present at Toorbul on the 12 July count continued to be reported at the site throughout August and September. The trans-Tasman migrant, Double-banded Plover, was reported at 11 sites throughout August with the last sighting of a single individual in full breeding plumage on 7 September.

August and September signal the start of the arrival of migrants from the northern hemisphere breeding grounds. Red Knot were reported at 9 sites, an early record of 10 birds at Toorbul on 9 August at Toorbul while Manly roost had 134 (many with traces of breeding plumage) on 7 September.

Here are some of the higher counts of migratory species in August and September:

- 1,120 Bar-tailed Godwit - Maaroom - 16 August
- 223 Black-tailed Godwit - Pine Rivers Nth - 27 September
- 220 Eastern Curlew - Mathieson Homestead, Great Sandy Strait - 14 August
- 280 Eastern Curlew - Toorbul, Sandfly Bay - 9 August
- 296 Eastern Curlew - West Geoff Skinner Reserve - 27 September
- 96 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper - Pine Rivers Wetlands Reserve - 27 September
- 92 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper - Redcliffe Airport North Side - 27 September
- 458 Grey-tailed Tattler - Port of Brisbane - 17 August
- 320 Grey-tailed Tattler - Toorbul - 16 September
- 174 Whimbrel - Toorbul - 16 September
- 370 Red-necked Stint - Shellgrit Creek, Mackay - 9 August
- 338 Red-necked Stint - Redcliffe Airport North Side - 16 August
- 130 Lesser Sand Plover - Shellgrit Creek, Mackay - 9 August

Of the resident species, Beach Stone-curlew and Black-fronted Dotterel were reported at 10 sites including 6 Beach Stone-curlew at Maroochy River (Goat Is). Black-winged Stilt were seen in good numbers, notably 504 at Maaroom on 16 August and 407 at Luggage Point Treatment Plant the same day. Red-necked Avocet were reported at 13 sites with the highest count of 183 at the Tweed River (Trutes Bay). Lastly, 2 Pied Oystercatcher were observed at Kinka Wetlands on 27 September, an unusual record.

While not waders, what would have been an impressive sight, 1,476 Little Black Cormorant were counted by Jimmy Choi at Manly roost on 7 September. Another impressive sight would have been 2,984 Crested Tern at the Noosa River sandbank on 2 September. The Fisherman Islands Visitor Centre Lake hosted 127 Pink-eared Duck and 209 Royal Spoonbill on 17 August.

The online count entry is into the second month, with a few problems being experienced by some counters. An updated instruction list was sent out to all counters to try to address some of the issues. A small hiccup is being experienced during the download before the counts are uploaded into the database, but hopefully that will be addressed by the time you get this newsletter.

A few people have been out scanning for leg flags and there certainly were a lot of them, as you will see from the Wader Watch Section for this issue of the newsletter. It is worth reiterating, **leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry**. All leg flag sightings must be recorded on the Leg Flag Observation Form and sent to Phil Cross by email or hard copy in the mail. If you don't have a copy of the form, please contact Phil, and he will send it to you.

Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 5495 2758

Happy counting  
Linda Cross

Editor's note: This issue's count programme covers only August and September because Linda and Phil left for a well-deserved overseas wildlife adventure before the October count.

Any remaining counters that will not be entering their counts online, please continue to send counts to me at our email address as follows:

Happy counting.  
Linda Cross.

## Wader ID Days 2015

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Manly Harbour

2.45 metre high tide at 09.02. Meeting time 08.15.

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

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

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Toorbul

1.99 metre high tide at 13.05 (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul – 13.35). Meeting time 12.00 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 or Arthur & Sheryl Keates

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 at constructed roost at the Port of Brisbane**

2.41 metre high tide at 10.55. Meeting time 10.30. 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 without making other arrangements with the Port of Brisbane Corporation.

To register attendance, please contact Arthur & Sheryl Keates

### **Wader ID Days Reports**

#### **Manly Wader ID Report 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

by Arthur and Sheryl Keates

As we assembled at the meeting point, the rolling melodious call of the Striped Honeyeater and the stronger cheerful call of the Mangrove Honeyeater serenaded us.

With southern migration well under way and the number of species and birds in Moreton Bay building up, it was an ideal time to visit the Manly wader roost. Weather conditions were reasonably good for wader watching, a clear sky with a gentle north-easterly breeze.

As we started scanning the main flock of tattlers and knots which were facing away from us into the breeze, one of the less experienced observers was heard to say it was like looking at a 'sea of grey'. However, a closer inspection revealed the diagnostic features, several species showing traces of breeding plumage, particularly the Bar-tailed Godwit and Red Knot.

During our 2 hour stay, observers had good views of 18 migratory and resident wader species as well as waterbirds, terns, gulls and raptors. Apart from the locally banded birds, the following overseas banded birds were seen by some observers:

- Bar-tailed Godwit (orange engraved leg flag - Victoria)
- Grey-tailed Tattler (blue leg flag - Eastern Hokkaido, Japan)
- Red Knot (orange leg flag - Victoria)
- Red Knot (white engraved leg flag - NZ).



Our thanks to Pamela Pavey, Marina Manager, Wynnum Manly Yacht Club Marina for allowing access to the site.

The following species of waterbirds, waders, terns, gulls and raptors were seen at the roost site:

Chestnut Teal, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Little Egret, Eastern Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, Brahminy Kite, Buff-banded Rail, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Masked Lapwing, 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, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Crested Tern, Silver Gull.

## **Toorbul Wader ID Report 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

by Arthur Keates

Despite the lower than usual overnight temperature, it was a hot afternoon as 19 observers gathered at the roost where good views were had of 14 migratory and resident wader species. The majority of the roosting birds were Bar-tailed Godwit with about 6 Black-tailed Godwit amongst them. Similarly, Great Knot outnumbered their smaller relative the Red Knot, some of which had traces of breeding plumage.

The months of September and October are ideal times to scan for migratory species passing through our region. The day's highlight was again seeing 'Mr Bling', the male Bar-tailed Godwit so named because he stands out in a crowd sporting a blue band over white band on the left tarsus, green over orange leg flags on the right tibia and a yellow band over yellow band on the right tarsus. Mr Bling was banded at Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Mr Bling has made Pumicestone Passage his home during the non-breeding season having first been seen at the roost on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012 and then seen throughout our summer until March 2013. Presumably having migrated to the breeding grounds, he was not seen until 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and again was seen throughout our summer until 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014. Our sighting of him at this outing appears to signal his return again from the breeding grounds.

Apart from Mr Bling and locally banded birds, the following overseas and interstate banded birds were seen by most observers:

Bar-tailed Godwit (plain white leg flag on right tibia - New Zealand)

Bar-tailed Godwit (orange engraved leg flag ANH on right tibia - Victoria)

Bar-tailed Godwit (plain orange leg flag on right tibia - Victoria)

Surprisingly, there were no Eastern Curlew present nor were Terek Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone observed. Disappointingly for some, the Asian Dowitcher that had been seen regularly at the roost was not found nor was the Grey Plover that was recently reported at Sandfly Bay, just north of the main roost.

The following species of waterbirds, shorebirds, terns, gulls and raptors were seen at the roost: Australian Pelican, Black Swan, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, 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.

As a result of the continuing dry weather, there was no water in Bishop's Marsh and so there were no waterbirds or shorebirds there.





## High hopes for meeting on migratory species

The Convention Migratory Species provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.

By Martin Fowlie, Fri, 31/10/2014

Bird and animal species don't recognise political boundaries so how does the world try to conserve migratory species?

As an environmental treaty under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a species' migratory range.

BirdLife Partners are taking part in the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP11) which is taking place in Quito, Ecuador, from 4 to 9 November 2014.

The agenda of CMS COP11 may be the most significant ever for the conservation of migratory birds. COP11 is expected to adopt, for the first time, potentially important frameworks for flyway conservation, including intergovernmental working groups and task forces designed to help the implementation of measures to address the key threats to migratory birds. There is a resolution to adopt global guidelines on stopping the poisoning of migratory birds and continuing the global Preventing Poisoning Working Group which developed them.

These guidelines cover insecticides, rodenticides, poison baits and also call for a complete ban on lead ammunition and, at least in freshwater habitats, lead fishing weights. This working group is also one of the ways the Partnership is hoping to achieve a complete ban on veterinary diclofenac – which has caused catastrophic declines in vultures in Asia and which has now been licensed in Europe.

The second main resolution of interest to BirdLife is the establishment of a global Energy Task Force, which initially will focus on African-Eurasian birds. This will help implement global guidelines on renewable energy which it is hoped COP11 will adopt, together with previously endorsed guidelines on powerlines.

A resolution to establish a Pan-Mediterranean Task Force on the illegal killing, taking and trade of birds is also being discussed. This is tied into many existing BirdLife Partner initiatives already in existence, and will strengthen and help coordinate these.

Finally, a resolution to adopt an action plan for African-Eurasian Landbirds is up for grabs. Perhaps surprisingly given our knowledge of these birds there is currently no framework to address declines.

“It is essential that we plug this gap for landbirds as they are the group of birds declining fastest in Europe”, said Nicola Crockford, International Species Policy Officer at the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK). “The development of this action plan has been revolutionary. It has been the African nations that have called for and driven its development, with support from Switzerland.”

The conservation of migratory landbirds needs to be tackled on a broad front, in a very different way to waterbirds, where connected sites can be protected. What is needed is to influence large scale land use decisions for the benefit of both migratory birds and local people.

A particular focus of this implementation is likely to be trying to influence land use in Africa, in collaboration with poverty alleviation, food and water security, anti-desertification and climate change mitigation communities.

“If we get this right then it's a win-win situation for birds and people”, concluded Crockford. “These proposed frameworks should also substantially assist the European Union's efforts to conserve migratory birds within its territory, and to ensure that these efforts are not undermined through damaging activities elsewhere along the flyway.”

## Other Conservation Activities of Interest



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

Separate membership is required.

Contacts: President, Richard Noske [president@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Secretary, Rae Clark [secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Treasurer, Wayne Lock [treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au)

BQ will have an AGM in December so these positions might change.

Monthly Meetings Birds Queensland

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.

Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton.

Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

## Electronic Newsletter??

Are you interested in receiving your "Queensland Wader" by email?

If you are interested email me on [gouldian@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au) or the treasurer at [membership@waders.org.au](mailto:membership@waders.org.au)

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	\$6.50	Metal QWSG logo badges.
CLOTH BADGES	\$8.00	QWSG logo on rectangular bottle-green or sand background
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Our cotton polo shirts are available.  
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## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently:

Ms Susan CHISHOLM Mr Chi Yeung CHOI Mr Laurie DRYBURGH Mr/s Roger & Helen HEATHWOOD  
 Mr Hidetoshi KUDO Ms Marilyn MARCH Mr Ben NOTTIDGE Mr Allan PARRY Ms Nadene PERRY  
 Mr/s Alan & Wendy PILKINGTON Mr Keith RIGBY M Amelia SELLES Mr Richard SEATON  
 Mrs Julie SARNA Ms Lara TILSE

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

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

#### **MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG**

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<b><u>TREASURER</u></b>	Deirdre Chrzescijanski		<a href="mailto:membership@waders.org.au">membership@waders.org.au</a>
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<b><u>BQ PRESIDENT</u></b>	Richard Noske	(07) 3300 2757	
<b><u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u></b>	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email <a href="mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com">xenus69@bigpond.com</a>
<b><u>DATA ENTRY</u></b>	Joyce Harding	(07) 3488 0212	
<b><u>LEG FLAG COORDINATOR</u></b>	Phil Cross	07 5495 2758	Email <a href="mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com">xenus69@bigpond.com</a>
<b><u>MERCHANDISE</u></b>	Vicki Campbell	07 3378 2964	Email <a href="mailto:vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au">vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au</a>
<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>	All correspondence to:		

The QWSG Chairperson,  
22 Parker Street,  
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QLD 4128

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

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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 18<sup>th</sup> 2015**

Contributions should be addressed to:

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

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**Where do western European Red-necked Phalaropes spend the winter?**

30 Sep 2014 - 04:09 -- Eduardo de Juana

A male carrying a geolocator tag has recently undertaken a rather unexpected journey, from its breeding area in northern Scotland to a wintering area in the eastern Pacific Ocean between the Galapagos Islands and the South American mainland. This individual left Shetland on 1 August 2012 and crossed the Atlantic to the Labrador Sea, Canada, in six days. It then moved south to reach Florida during September, crossed the Gulf of Mexico into the Pacific, and arrived at its wintering area by mid-October. Its return journey in spring began in late April and followed a similar route in reverse. The seas off the Ecuadorian and Peruvian coasts are known winter quarters of the Nearctic breeding population of the species, but those birds breeding in Iceland, the Faeroe Islands and the British Isles were thought more likely to join other Eurasian populations wintering in the Arabian Sea.

Wader Fact filler

A group of oystercatchers are collectively known as a "parcel" of oystercatchers

Wader Fact filler

The calcium content of the shells of a four-egg sandpiper clutch is greater than the calcium content of the female, which laid the eggs.

**Notice of AGM and QWSG Rules Update**

QWSG have recently updated their rules of operation, which can be seen on the 'downloads' page of the web site, [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au), notice is given that at our AGM we will propose to endorse and accept these rules.

The 2014/15 AGM will be held at 10:00am on Sunday the 14th December 2014 in Greene Park, Wynnum UBD 143 H/J 16. There is car parking available outside closed fish shop, entry via Fox St, northern side of the mouth of Wynnum Creek, plus toilets nearby. BYO chairs would be a good idea.

The meeting is to take place before the Port count, please see the news page of the web site for details, or contact Jon Coleman at [Chairperson@waders.org.au](mailto:Chairperson@waders.org.au) if you want to attend or comment on the rules prior to the meeting.

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***NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE***

Name of Nominee: .....

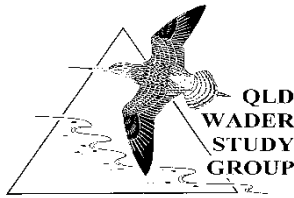
Position: .....

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 – 2014-15

### QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2014-15

Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	2.39m at 09:16	No Count in June
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.06m at 13:44	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Jul
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.22m at 12:28	Sat 29 Aug
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.30m at 11:26	Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.29m at 10:28	Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.21m at 09:26	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.38m at 09:01	Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> May	2.21m at 07:47	

**National Summer Count**

Optional Count

**National Winter Count**

Note: The best tide in April for out count is over the Easter weekend, and as a number of people take the opportunity to go away, we have scheduled our monthly count for later in the month. However, if you are staying home and would like to do an additional count that weekend, that would be great, but **remember it is optional.**

### Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2014-15

Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	2.45m at 09:57	Meet: 08:10	Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1.96m at 14:33	Meet: 12:40
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.12m at 13:04	Meet: 11:15	Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Jul	1.98m at 11:51	Meet: 10:00
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.22m at 11:57	Meet: 10:10	Sun 30 Aug	2.15 m at 09:43	Meet 07:55
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.23m at 10:57	Meet: 09:10	Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2.18m at 08:36	Meet: 06:50
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.31m at 09:47	Meet: 08:00	Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.11m at 12:34	Meet: 10:45
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> May	2.16m at 08:37	Meet: 06:50	Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.30m at 11:36	Meet: 09:45
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Jun	2.00m at 07:25	Meet: 06:45	Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.45m at 10:44	Meet: 08:55

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