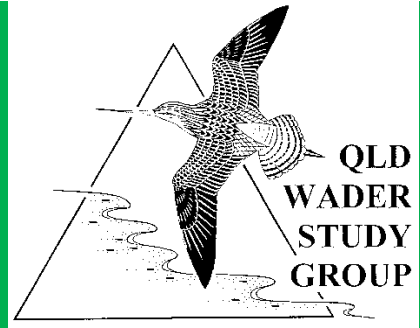


QUEENSLAND WADER



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

Chairperson Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting 14th December 2014 by Jon Coleman

2014 was an even busier year, following what many of us felt was a busy 2013. Our activities broadly fall into three categories, research, education and conservation/consulting and again this year we've been busy on all these fronts.

I'll talk about the years highlights later in the report under those broad banner headings but the group do a lot of things routinely that make us who we are which deserve mention before we get to the 2014 highlights. Again this year we have had exceptional feedback on the high quality newsletters that David Edwards commitment to the newsletter cause results in. This year we've seen a more international theme coming into the newsletters which demonstrates David's continual search to improve the content and keep the readers motivated.

Deidre Chrzescijanski completed another year as treasurer, ably assisted by Sheryl Keates, this is a huge role and really is too much for one person so as well as thanking Deidre for keeping the group under control financially we are also going to split the role of treasurer so that membership becomes a separate committee role. Sheryl is going to do that in an acting capacity until we find someone to fill the role permanently so if you know of a person who may be interested please let me know.

As we do every year we were involved with a whole range of shorebird related issues in 2014 and managed to influence repair work at Manly protecting the roost site there from storm damage and are involved with a number of issues involving development or mangrove encroachment on a number of feeding or roosting locations for shorebirds. Wavebreak Island on the Broadwater and the Toondah proposed developments are also current issues of concern. Our involvement has ranged from providing advice, being involved in *ad hoc* survey work and providing historical data for reports involving these issues.

This year has also seen us involved in a particularly contentious issue at Sandgate where disturbance is a significant issue and there have been calls for an off-leash area on the foreshore. This is ongoing and QWSG will continue to represent the plight of shorebirds in this debate and ensure there needs are properly represented. Sadly these sort of conflicts are likely to increase and this is where our education activities play such a huge role in getting people on side so they will listen to the research and conservation proposals objectively. On a brighter note our collaboration with the Port of Brisbane has also continued this year with the count program continuing and the group now analysing data and providing annual updates for the Port on their shorebird populations.

Other unsung volunteers who don't always make the highlights are Peter, who maintains our meeting minutes and has the unenviable task of making us all accountable for our actions and David Milton who maintains all our data, which is essentially our lifeblood and as I'll talk about we've made some big changes there this year. Finally Sandra Harding and Arthur Keates (who's not even a committee member) continue to help draft formal letters and provide advice in relation to conservation legislation, without whom we would all struggle a lot more so thank you to them too.

This year also saw us document our rules of operation which we will go through today and endorse for the group going forward from here.

Some of the key activities in 2014, in no particular order of priority are highlighted below;

EDUCATION

Doggie breakfasts dried up in 2014 but a number of wader ID days and a wader course were held in 2014 with Sheryl and Arthur Keates, Phil and Linda Cross and David Milton and Sandra Harding doing the lion's share of the work and attendance at these events. The wader course was again held at the marine Park offices at Manly and we are grateful to NPRSR and Kristy for the venue and time. As last year the course was fully subscribed and we have already been asked about a follow on course next year for local and state government attendees.

The work by Ivell Whyte and Robert Bush really came to the fore on the course where the finished banners and posters were on display and really demonstrated in a modern professional way what we do and why the birds we represent require our focus. Work on the educational material for use by schools is almost completed using a grant from the Port of Brisbane and this online material will be available for use early next year for a range of school ages.

Sheryl has also started working with the Moreton Bay Environmental Centre educating young school children about shorebirds and also extending some of the education activities with a Japanese story telling approach called Kamishibai.

ARC LINKAGE AND OTHER UNIVERSITY AFFILIATIONS

We continued to work closely with University of Queensland during 2014 and were successful in a collaborative bid between UQ, a number of other parties and ourselves in securing funding to monitor shorebirds in the Gladstone area as part of the ongoing industrialisation in that area.

A Nigel Roberts bursary grant was given to Maddie Stigner this year and although an honours rather than PhD project Maddie is looking at shorebird disturbance which is very topical at the moment. Soon we will be issuing letters to the local universities to advise that we are looking for nominations for the next round of awards. Peter Rothlisberg and David Milton, along with Andrew Geering continue to ensure applications are validated appropriately and that the requirements of the grant are met each year, before the money is issued.

Although delivering sobering news on shorebird declines the results of the last ARC linkage project we were involved in were hugely successful and now completed. We have already contributed to another ARC application with UQ and a number of other parties including the Burnett Mary Regional Group. If successful this project will start to look at when and where to take action in response to shorebird declines and we look forward to hearing of the success of the project mid next year.

SURVEYS

2013 was a huge survey year and difficult to follow in 2014. However we completed surveys of Mackay, organised by Peter Driscoll and Great Sandy, organised by David and Sandra, so we had a successful year completing two surveys instead of our usual one. We are still waiting for a formal response from the marine part authority in relation to mangrove encroachment at Mathieson homestead and for further feedback on the proposed development at Turtle cove, both in the Great Sandy region.

THE COUNT PROGRAMME

Linda Cross again tirelessly organised and managed the count programme in 2014 with monthly counts across a whole range of sites in Moreton bay and further afield up and down the Queensland coast. Added to this were the additional workload of count sheets from two major surveys. Our contract to count the Port of Brisbane was renewed again this year allowing us to continue counting this important location. One of our big highlights this year was moving to online data entry for our count data and now every counter has a login ID to the website, submits their data online where it is checked, processed and then downloaded to our back end database. Linda has been instrumental in driving this initiative and we expect this to reduce error rates and reduce workload substantially now. Linda is always looking for new counters so if you know anyone, or would like to count your own site please get in touch with her. Thanks not only to Linda but to Joyce and Vicki for their roles as well in manually checking data sheets while we got this process working. Vicki also continued looking after our merchandise and sales in 2014.

BANDING AND GEOLOCATORS

We continued with banding fieldwork throughout the year targeting both migratory and non-migratory shorebirds around Moreton bay and put engraved leg flags on 398 shorebirds of 13 species in 2014, with cannon netting twice at Manly and once at the Port of Brisbane.

QWSG now have over 2,700 birds leg flagged with 5600 resightings of individually identifiable birds at feeding roosting and migration stopover sites providing important data on the way birds utilise Moreton Bay and also on their use of stopover areas on migration.

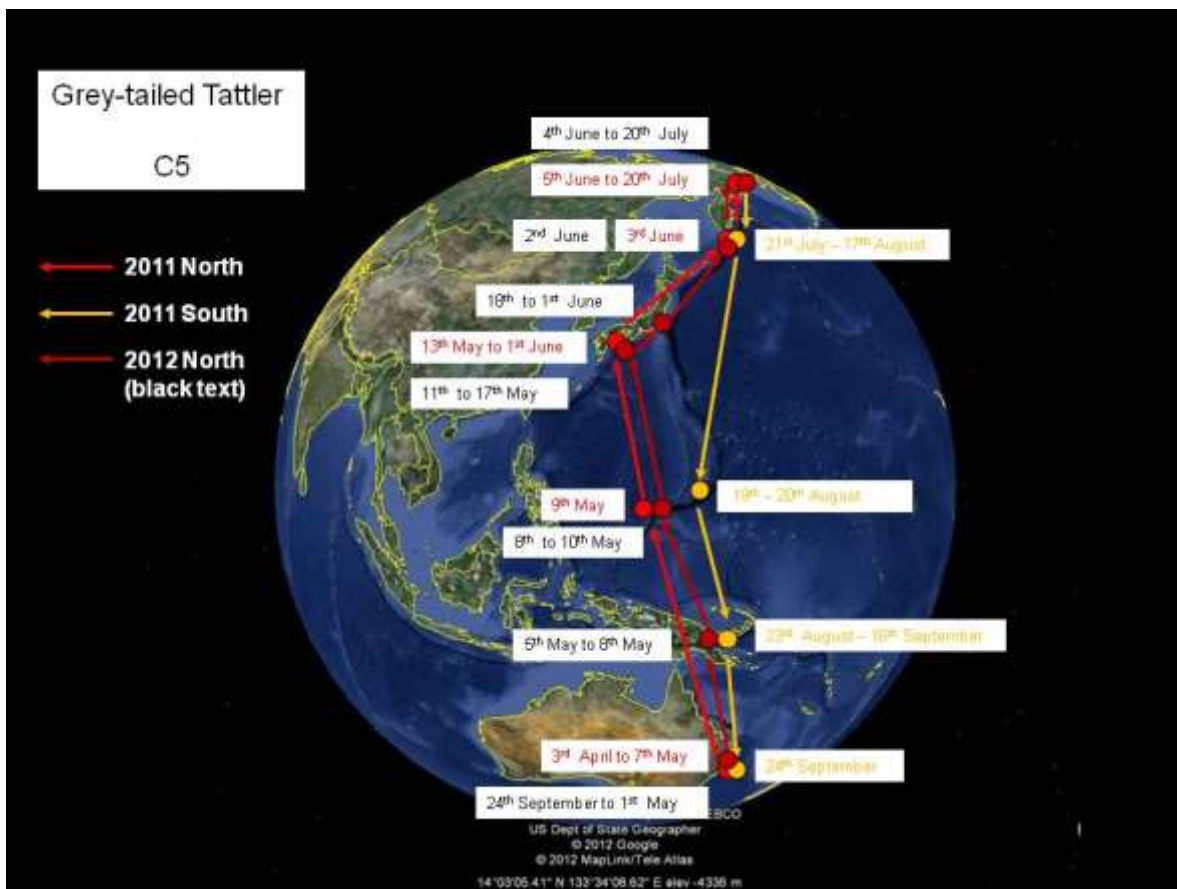
Thanks to the many individuals who volunteer for banding, spending long hours in the field, often wading hip deep in water and mud to get birds into position for catching. Also, a big vote of thanks to Phil Cross who maintains the database of leg flag sightings, his workload goes up as the group flags more birds each year and as our leg flag readers become more competitive with each other. This may explain the hundreds and hundreds of sightings we now get from locations such as Toorbul, Wynnum, Kakadu Beach and Manly! Phil will provide an update on leg flag sightings showing just how far our shorebirds really travel.

Following this report I've included the latest geolocator trace retrieved earlier this year and which shows both a three routes, northward, southward and the next northward migration for that individual. At the end of this year we will write up the results we have and publish a report, along with the Wild Bird Society of Japan (Chiba) and the Port of Brisbane who helped fund that project. Also a table of birds banded during 2014.

If you are interested in getting involved in banding please contact me for further information. For those interested we now publish both the leg flag reports and our banding trip reports online on the website.

I could go on forever and have tried to pick some of the bigger highlights of the year and mention some of the individuals involved as a demonstration of just how much we achieve each year. Thank you to every single committee member and also our non-committee roles such as Phil, dealing with leg flags, Linda looking after the count program, Vicki Campbell who looks after merchandise and Arthur, Joyce and Ivell who I've already mentioned earlier. Everyone has contributed to the group in many different ways and we always underestimate the effort required to make a group like this run effectively. We always like to see new faces on the committee as they bring new ideas and perspectives so I'd encourage anyone who would like to stand to get in touch, now your chance as we dissolve the committee.

Finally and most importantly, I have to say thank you to the QWSG members for your support and fieldwork over the last 12 months. Without you we achieve nothing and I hope the 2014 report has shown you how important your support, your counts, and your involvement in everything to do with shorebirds really is. Here's to an equally busy and valuable 2015.



Geolocator Trace of Grey-tailed tattler

Species	Number Banded	Number recaptured
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	0
Broad-billed Sandpiper	2	0
Curlew Sandpiper	53	3
Greater Sandplover	1	0
Grey-tailed Tattler	78	9
Lesser Sandplover	21	0
Pacific Golden-plover	8	0
Pied Oystercatcher	10	2
Red Knot	1	0
Red-necked Stint	153	3
Ruddy Turnstone	11	0
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	58	2
Terek Sandpiper	1	0
TOTALS	398	19

Table of Waders banded during 2014

New Life Members of the Queensland Wader Study Group

The Management Committee of QWSG had the great pleasure of confirming the Life Membership of Peter Driscoll. Peter has had a life membership for many years, with the changes to our by-laws this has officially been bestowed. Peter was a founding member and the first Chairperson. His drive in the early days is still felt within the group today.

Two new Life memberships were given to Ivell Whyte and Joyce Harding

Ivell's great artistic talents and hardworking attitude have been a mainstay to the group. Ivell's artwork can be seen around the state on information signs. Ivell has also been very active promoting our liaison with Yatsu Higata in Japan, organising many successful visits. Her help to so many people behind the scenes has been invaluable.

Joyce is one of those people who is always around quietly getting on with business. When you inquire into what Joyce has done the list goes on and on. Her work on checking, organising and entering data for us all is truly staggering. Plus Joyce has a wealth of knowledge and history of QWSG that has been so important.

The QWSG and the committee is honoured to have members of such high quality and is proud to bestow Life Membership on Peter, Ivell and Joyce.

Count Coordinator's Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting 14th December 2014 by Linda Cross

The year started off well with the addition of a new counter and site to the count programme. Member Gary Cox contacted me saying he wanted to count the birds he had been seeing at Base Street, Victoria Point. Although the mudflat is only a staging site, recording the birds using the area and detailing which way they fly as the tide comes in will give us an indication if these same birds turn up in roosts close by. A further nine other sites were added to the database, three being inland wetland sites, two ponds at the Port of Brisbane and four coastal sites.

I must be losing my touch at not bullying people enough as I have been unsuccessful at dragging anymore counters into the programme. Thankfully I received two emails in the latter part of the year from Paul Finn and Ed Gallo-Cajiao, who are helping with monthly counts, Port counts and surveys. I am very thankful that they both made the effort to contact me as experienced counters are hard to get. I must remember to be on my best behaviour to keep them in the programme.

Before the middle of the year I pushed Jon Coleman very hard to get the online count entries up and running on the website, which eventually started slowly in May and June before it took off fully in July. In the process I made Joyce and Vicki's job redundant, which I hope they have forgiven me for. Now if I could just make my job redundant!

The counters have taken extremely well to the online entries and the feedback I have had from most of them has been that they like it. There are however some continuing problems when some people enter date and times. Unfortunately it appears that no matter how many times I ask them to read the instructions and follow them, they either forget or don't read them. Of course I regularly hear "I entered them just like you said, so I don't understand why they are wrong. Perhaps there is something wrong with the system. Suggest you talk to the IT guys". Well I can assure you that I have entered more counts online than anyone, and I don't have a problem with the count entry itself, however, there may well be the occasional problem that I need to talk to the IT guys about.

A quick look at the website entries since it started shows 334 have been downloaded into the database, 27 have been validated and waiting to be downloaded into the database and 121 (up to Friday night), are entered and waiting for me to validate them. There are also two months of Port counts, snail mail counts and the Mackay survey counts yet to be entered online or directly into the database which total 124. The number of counts that have gone into the database since 1st January total 731. When we add the additional counts I have mentioned, the combined total will be 1337 to date. With a potential additional 113 counts to come for December, we will have added around 1450 counts to our data for 2014.

Of course these figures would not be possible if it were not for the counters, who I thank sincerely for continuing to support the count programme. I would also like to thank Joyce for all the years she has sat tirelessly at the computer entering the counts, and Vicki for data entry checks, although I believe Vicki still has some months of count checks to do.

I need to also thank the Database Manager (David Milton), for answering my never ending questions regarding counts, sites and other matters. I think he dreads hearing the phone ring, or collect emails because I just create more work for him. Thank you also to the Editor (David Edwards), for his patience when I missed the deadline for the newsletters with my articles. I must also thank our Chairperson (Jon Coleman), who put up with my nagging to get the online entries on the website to fruition, and for following through when I had any issues with the system.

In closing, there are also other people who work hard for this group (on committee and off committee), and they too should be thanked for their work.

Leg Flag Database Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting 14th December 2014 by Phil Cross

The leg flag database now consists of 10752 entries, 2466 of which were added during 2014, this is a 30% increase year on year.

Green leg flags.

This year more green flag records were added to the database than any previous year. A total of 2213 entries were loaded in, only 69 were plain flags, the rest were all engraved flags. This is the same ratio of engraved flags reported (97%) versus plain flags as the previous year.

Waders carrying Green flags, seen overseas, (quantity 173) were reported from five different countries. Reported sightings from South Korea totalled 88, 76 of which were engraved leg flags, interestingly one individual bird was reported 32 times.

This year only 46 reported sightings were received from New Zealand, compared to last year's total of 53. Of the 46 sightings 36 carried engraved leg flags.

I received 24 sightings recorded in China, 17 of which were engraved leg flags.

All of the 8 reports from Japan were of birds carrying engraved leg flags.

Of the 7 sightings from Taiwan only 3 were of birds with engraved leg flags.

The data presented above confirms that there are still plenty of plain (not engraved) flags being seen in the field.

Birds flagged overseas reported as seen in Queensland.

Fewer sightings this year (134) than in 2013 (166).

China

Black/white combination - a total of 19 records of birds flagged at Chong Ming Dao.

White/black combination - 1 only which was also flagged at Chong Ming Dao.

Blue/yellow combination - 2 entries from Bohai Bay.

Green/orange combination - a quantity of 18 records from Yalu Jiang, included in this total were 11 reported sightings of one individual bird identified by the coloured bands it carries. Nicknamed 'Mr Bling' by some observers, this bird was reported 13 times in 2013.

Taiwan

White/blue – 1 record this year.

Japan

Blue – birds flagged at Hokkaido reported on 43 occasions.

Blue/orange combination – 2 records from Kyushu.

Blue/white combination – 7 separate sightings.

New Zealand

Birds carrying a White flag were reported on 33 occasions; 16 times they were carrying engraved leg flags.

USA

One sighting of a wader with an engraved Black flag that was flagged in Alaska.

Russia

This year 3 only sightings of a Red Knot, with Yellow and White flags, reported from Maaroom, which was flagged on Sakhalin Island.

One sighting of a bird with a pale green flag which was flagged at southern Chukotka

A Red Knot seen in the Wynnum Manly area on three occasions, carrying a Pale Green flag, was identified as probably flagged at southern Chukotka.

Interstate leg flags seen in Queensland.

Victoria

A quantity of 104 sightings of waders with Orange flags were recorded.

New South Wales

Pied Oystercatcher with an engraved Yellow flag was recorded on 12 occasions.

West Australia

A total of 3 records of waders with a Yellow coloured flag flagged in the northern area of this state were also added to the database during the year.

I would like to thank all the people who sent leg flag sighting records to me and tell them to keep on watching out for them, as Jon Coleman and the banding team fitted approximately 360 more during the year, there are plenty out on those mudflats and roost sites.

Phil Cross.

Shorebird Education

by Sheryl Keates

The Lord Mayor of Brisbane asked the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre (MBEEC) if they could ask students about how they could help protect the "Champions of the Bay" (shorebirds of Moreton Bay).

The schools involved were Hilliard's State School at Capalaba and Ormiston State School. Neil Humphris, BirdLife Southern Qld (Education Sub-committee) asked me if QWSG could help as he would be away. Volunteers from BirdLife, Birds Qld and QWSG helped with field trips at the Lytton roost and the nearby Wynnum boardwalk.

The students had booklets with questions to answer about the environment which shorebirds use. Volunteers used telescopes to show the students shorebirds at the roost and the northern end of the boardwalk. Some students took notes from our "Threats to Waders" banner. The fact that the bird hide at Lytton, provided by BCC, is made from recycled material was brought to their attention.

I used the QWSG banner to show the students the feeding and roosting areas of Moreton Bay and where Lytton was on the map as well as the artificial roosts that QWSG has played a part in the construction.

The students were amazed at long distances shorebirds fly during migration. I showed them leg flags, photos of the satellite transmitters and geolocators as well as the migration routes that we now know from this technology.

As a follow up, Georgina Robertson, teacher at MBEEC, asked me to accompany her to Ormiston State School. The experience was truly inspiring. We visited 4 classes. Each class had a different approach to the project.

The students in the first class had done posters with drawings of migratory shorebirds as well as resident shorebirds with nests and eggs. Messages on these posters were "Don't disturb the shorebirds", "Keep your dog on a leash" and "Put your rubbish in the bin".

Another class did a rap song. Although they had performed it 2 weeks previously, every student remembered their lines. All students sat on the carpet and one by one they would stand up with a different message to background rap music. Messages included "Don't litter the beach"; "Keep your dog on a leash". We certainly needed a video to capture all the clever messages and the way it was presented.

When we visited another class, they were watching the video "Sharing Shorelines", made by BCC, which included BCC staff and QWSG past Chairperson Andrew Geering. Georgina recorded all the suggestions on a white board for each class so she could use them to write a reply letter to the Lord Mayor.

This year, I hope to work with MBEEC, with the help of volunteers, to cover more schools. I think this is a very important way to bring awareness of shorebirds to the community. I take this opportunity to thank all those who helped. Without you, I could not do this. As a thank you, MBEEC invited the helpers to "A Day on the Bay" on Dec 2 on their catamaran "Inspiration" which is specially designed for on-board student research. It was a great day, good food and time to talk to other like-minded people involved with environmental education.

On Oct 3, Vicki Campbell, Virginia Ridgley and I presented Kamishibai (paper theatre), a traditional Japanese story telling at the Wynnum library (see photo). The story is about the first migration of Tom the Red-necked Stint from Siberia to Brisbane via Japan. Boondall Wetlands kindly lent the mini theatre and props to us. We now have our own copy thanks to Ivell Whyte and her son-in-law Tony who made the frames.

Our new kamishibai was used at the Open Day at the Moreton Bay Research Station on Nov 22. We also had our banners and brochures displayed indoors as well as telescopes set up to show people shorebirds at nearby Bradbury's Beach. A very strong north-easterly wind was blowing. Just as well the shade tent was weighed down with big cement blocks. One of the chairs became a wind-powered rocking chair as it blew back and forward against the tent pole. At least we weren't hot.



Vicki Campbell, Virginia Ridgley and Sheryl Keates presenting Kamishibai

Volunteers in "Ellie" the Eastern Curlew costume looked "cool" but they were hot inside. Thanks to Virginia Ridgley (QWSG/BQ), Diane Blewett (BQ), Moreton Bay Research Station staff, MBEEC staff, Joel Bolzenius (SEQ Catchments) and Friends of Stradbroke Is who provided transport, chairs and assistance.

On 1 Nov, QWSG had a very successful Wader Course with 43 registrations but one unable to attend due to illness on the day. Thanks to Jon Coleman, Andrew Geering, Paul Finn, Rob Clemens and David Edwards for their time and PowerPoint presentations. Thanks to Kristy Currie for providing and setting up the venue at the Manly NPRSR office and Jon's wife Janet who provided a gourmet lunch. Last, but not least, thanks to everyone who helped with the field trip. Your time and dedication are very much appreciated.

QWSG: Wader Course 1st November 2014

(Reviewed by Peter Storer)

I've always lived fairly well inland (half my life in the UK and half in Australia), so my wader ID skills have never been great and I decided that I should attend the workshop run by the QWSG.

The day began with coffee and registration, and attendees were each given a bag of excellent reference documents relating to Moreton Bay waders. Jon Coleman gave an overview of the day and then introduced the key speakers.

Andrew Geering, a plant molecular biologist by trade, walked us through the taxonomy and evolution of waders, which belong to the Order Charadriiformes. This is an ancient group that survived the fifth extinction 93 million years ago. The term waders excludes gulls (and allies), herons and egrets, and buttonquails. The sandpipers comprise the largest sub-order with 29 species represented in Australia (of 88 species world-wide).

Paul Finn, a PhD student, then discussed the ecology and feeding of waders and described the various strategies they use. Sandpipers tend to probe using their tactile senses, whereas plovers run and search. All waders have very high food requirements, especially before their long migrations. Smaller waders tend to feed for longer. Food has to be available, profitable and ingestible and birds have to make trade-offs when selecting food. Afterwards, access to roost sites is critical, and many of these sites are increasingly being affected by recreational disturbance.

Andrew Geering then enlightened us about wader migration. All sandpipers, godwits, curlews and pratincoles migrate, but only 60% of plovers and lapwings do so, whereas our oystercatchers and stilts all breed here in Australia. Most migrants return to their north Asian breeding grounds annually via the East Asian/Australasian flyway. They navigate using various senses including sensing the Earth's magnetic field, the position of the stars and the sun. Before migration, mass gain may be as high as 70–80%, with a gain of 2–5% per day. Andrew then discussed various breeding strategies including polygyny (one male breeds with several females) and polyandry (the opposite).

Rob Clemens then provided a very sobering update on the 'conservation' of waders, including the dramatic and rapid decline of some species. The main threat is habitat loss anywhere along the flyway (e.g. 4400 ha of valuable habitat has been lost in the Yellow Sea). The impacts need to be diagnosed and responses implemented. Monitoring occurs via banding (which began as far back as 1899) and attaching geolocators to migrating waders. In terms of responses, roosting sites need to be protected, catchment management improved, hunting reduced and disturbance minimised.

Finally, David Edwards gave us a rather rushed (because the team was keen to get us into the field) overview of key identification points of Moreton Bay waders, based on the birds' size, plumage, colour and size of bill and colour and length of legs. There were some great tips, such as looking closely at the forehead of sand plovers ('steep' in Lesser and 'flat' in Greater). We were also told to take note of the jizz of the bird (e.g. Curlew sandpipers bob like an oil derrick).

Lunch was a sumptuous buffet served overlooking the marina. I have been to many a corporate lunch, but few would rival the feast provided.

In the afternoon we drove around to the other side of the marina to walk to the wader roost, which is behind locked gates. A howling gale made viewing difficult, but it was very rewarding as we gradually learned to distinguish the various species. It was immediately apparent that a sturdy telescope and tripod is essential for wader watching: binoculars just don't cut it. Many thanks to all the QPSG members who gladly loaned their scopes and picked out the various species. A personal thanks to Sheryl Keates for showing such extraordinary patience as we novices grappled with tricky IDs.

Overall, this was a very worthwhile day and I thank the organisers for such an inspiring, well-organised and informative workshop. I would recommend the course to anyone who want to learn more about our wonderful waders. The workshop represents great value for money.

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.

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs totalled 2,199 between 23.09.14 and 15.02.15. They were sighted by Julian Ashton, Sarah Beavis, Robert Bush, Jimmy Choi, Judy Coles, Jon Coleman, Tony Cotter, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Edith Cuffe, Kristy Currie, Rip Curtis, David Edwards, David Exton, David Hannah, Renate Hottman-Schaefer, Bob James, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Penn Lloyd, Greg McLachlan, David Milton, Joanne Morris, Jan Nargar, Hebo Pang, Alan Pilkington, Wendy Pilkington, Peter Rothlisberg, Michael Strong, Nicola Udy and Dez Wells.

9 Eastern Curlew, 16 Whimbrel, 942 Bar-tailed Godwit, 3 Black-tailed Godwit, 54 Pied Oystercatcher, 6 Black-winged Stilt, 5 Pacific Golden Plover, 96 Great Knot, 5 Red Knot, 418 Grey-tailed Tattler, 22 Terek Sandpiper, 47 Ruddy Turnstone, 97 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 1 Greater Sand Plover, 21 Lesser Sand Plover, 97 Curlew Sandpiper, 3 Red-capped Plover and 357 Red-necked Stint.

The birds sighted above included some of the individually marked flags that QWSG have been fitting. However, because of the great work by observers the list of flagged waders is extensive this means that they will not be listed this issue, but will be on the website in the near future

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

1 Red Knot (AKM on flag) - Stockton Sandspit, Hunter Estuary, near Newcastle, NSW – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 20.11.14

Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kougari Street claypan, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Jann Capell – 18.02.15
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 17.02.15
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CHH on flag) – Oyster Point – Penn Lloyd – 14.02.15
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 27.01.15
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queen's Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 22.01.15
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kougari Street claypan, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 19.01.15
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Hebo Pang – 19.01.15
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Reeder's Point Moreton Island – Arthur Keates – 09.01.15
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – David Milton – 04.01.15
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Cairns Esplanade – Tony Neilson – 03.12.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – Arthur Keates, David Edwards & Linda Cross – 28.11.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 23.11.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 21.11.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 04.11.14
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 03.11.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Port of Brisbane (Fisherman Island) – Arthur Keates – 26.10.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 25.10.14
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point sandbank – Arthur Keates – 24.10.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 23.10.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 21.10.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (NP on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 17.10.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 17.10.14
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CAB on flag) – Shellgri Creek entrance, Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 14.10.14
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 13.10.14

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ANH on flag) – Toorbul – Judy Coles – 27.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ADP on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 27.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABU on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 27.09.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 27.09.14
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & Jimmy Choi – 15.11.14
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 25.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Amity Point sandbank – Arthur Keates – 24.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 23.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 22.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Lytton – Arthur Keates, Virginia Ridgley & Sandra Harding – 16.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 27.09.14

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

- 1 Red Knot (AVH on flag) – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 22.10.14
- 1 Red Knot (EHD on flag) – Queens's Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 20.10.14
- 1 Red Knot – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 27.09.14

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four combinations

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – cut blue flag left tibia, orange flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.01.15 (flagged in Kyushu, Southern Japan).
- Following birds flagged in Miyagi Prefecture Central Japan
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – C2 on blue flag over white flag left tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 16.01.15
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – blue engraved flag over white flag left tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 01.11.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – C2 on blue flag over white flag left tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 17.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag over white flag left tarsus – Wilson Island, east of Rockhampton – Andrew McDougall – 27.11.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue engraved flag over white flag left tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 03.11.14

All birds below flagged in Northern Japan (Hokkaido)

- 1 Great Knot – blue flag left tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.01.15
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Lytton – Arthur Keates – 12.01.15
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 07.02.15
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – King Island Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 07.02.15
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – King Island Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 08.01.15
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – King Island Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 03.01.15
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – King Island Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 30.12.14
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 13.11.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 08.11.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 04.11.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 03.11.14
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 27.10.14
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 21.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 26.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 19.10.14
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 17.10.14
- 1 Red-necked Stint (337 or 33Z on flag) – blue flag right tibia, blue flag right tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Hebo Pang – 19.01.15

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

- 1 Great Knot – Adair Street Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 19.01.15
- 1 Great Knot – Kougari Street claypan Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 19.01.15
- 1 Great Knot – Maaroom – Chris Barnes – 24.11.14
- 1 Red Knot – South Esplanade, Deception Bay – Madeleine Stigner – 23.10.14

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 (two flags and four bands) – This bird is known as 'Mr Bling' and has been seen at Toorbul by the following people: Arthur Keates et al on 15.11.14, Sarah Beavis on 02.11.14, Graeme Toft & Gary Knight on 29.12.14
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag right tibia, yellow band over yellow band right tarsus, blue band over white band left tibia and blue band over yellow band left tarsus (two flags and six bands) – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 25.10.14, 23.11.14, 16.12.14 & 12.01.15 (most probably a Yalu Jiang flagged bird, but yet to be confirmed)

White over orange (South Korea) leg flag sightings

- 1 Great Knot – white flag over orange flag right tibia, metal band left tarsus – Bushland Beach, north of Townsville – Brin Crowther – 01.01.15 (flagged Korean Peninsula)

Other wader leg flag and banded sightings

- 1 Pacific Golden Plover – red over blue band right tibia, red (or orange band) left tibia, metal band right tibia – O'Reagan's Creek eastside, Hervey Bay – Christine Heiser – 01.02.15 (Banding region yet to be determined)
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – 90 on blue flag left tarsus over yellow flag left tarsus – Redland Bay mudflat – Penn Lloyd – 09.01.15 (possibly Bohai Bay, China. Yet to be confirmed)
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – 60 on blue flag left tarsus over yellow flag left tarsus – King Island, Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 08.01.15 (possibly Bohai Bay, China. Yet to be confirmed)
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – engraved blue flag on left tarsus above yellow flag on left tarsus – King Island, Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 03.01.15 (possibly Bohai Bay, China. Yet to be confirmed)
- 1 Red Knot – lime green band right tibia, metal band left tibia – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 04.11.14 (possibly Chukotka, Russia. Yet to be confirmed)
- 1 Red Knot – lime green band right tibia, metal band left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 22.10.14 & 27.10.14 (possibly Chukotka, Russia. Yet to be confirmed)
- 1 Red Knot – black flag left tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 16.12.14 (possibly flagged Chongming Island, China. Old white flag maybe above the black flag and unable to see, or it has lost the white flag)
- 1 Red-necked Stint – pale green flag right tibia – King Island, Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 31.12.14 (possibly Chukotka, Russia. Yet to be confirmed)

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.

- N3 on flag – Oyster Point – Penn Lloyd – 11.02.15
- N3 on flag – Point Halloran, Redlands – Penn Lloyd – 07.02.15
- L6 on flag – Point Halloran, Redlands – Penn Lloyd – 07.02.15
- R8 on flag – Oyster Point – Penn Lloyd – 11.02.15
- R8 on flag – Point Halloran, Redlands – Penn Lloyd – 07.02.15
- S1 on flag – Point Halloran, Redlands – Penn Lloyd – 07.02.15
- C4 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 07.02.15
- C4 on flag – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 31.01.15
- C4 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 17.01.15
- C4 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 16.01.15
- D3 on flag – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – Arthur Keates – 09.01.15

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus (47 on flag) – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al – 15.11.14
- 1 Caspian Tern – orange engraved flag right tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & David Edwards – 01.11.14
- 1 Crested Tern – red band over light green band right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Pelican Park, Clontarf – Renate Hottmann-Schaefer – 23.01.15
- 1 Roseate Tern – white flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Lady Musgrave Island – Peter Rothlisberg – 15.11.14
- 1 Little Tern – blue flag left tarsus (and possible geolocator) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 04.11.14 & 13.11.14
- 1 Little Tern – blue engraved flag left tarsus, metal band right tarsus – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 03.11.14

Count Programme - Linda Cross

After five weeks in Peru, the busy lead up to Christmas and spending a week in Coffs Harbour area over the festive season, I was confronted with three months of counts entered online and on emails when I returned at the end of 2014. I guess that's retribution for going off and enjoying yourself overseas. The wader scene was certainly different in that part of the world, and it was very interesting and challenging looking at Spotted, Least, Stilt, Western, Semipalmated and Baird's Sandpipers along with Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs.

Added to the three months of counts for 2014 are those for January and February making five months in total that I have been checking and validating. The extracts from all these counts are extensive and I have tried to cover as many as possible in this issue, but apologise if some of them have not made it into this newsletter. I would also like to thank all counters for their patience and understanding during the last few months for my lack of communication.

Along with a few rarer wader sightings, I thought I would also report on some of the less common migrant and resident wader species.

An Asian Dowitcher has been recorded at the following four sites, and given that one has been recorded on the same day at different sites suggests there are at least two in the Moreton Bay region this summer.

Toorbul on 27.09.14, 25.10.14, 15.11.14 and 23.11.14
Lytton roost on 10.01.15

Manly Harbour on 04.01.15
Pine River northside on 10.01.15

Little Curlew have made an appearance at Garnett's Lagoons in Hervey Bay, with three being recorded on 13.12.14 and four on 10.01.15. Also recorded at this same site was a Wood Sandpiper on 10.01.15.

Bundaberg Port counters have recorded one Pectoral Sandpiper during their count on 11.01.15 and two on the count the following month on 08.02.15.

A surprising eight Sanderling were among the counts at the Port of Brisbane on 26.10.14, with two observed on site during the November count. One Sanderling was also recorded for Redcliffe airport northside on 25.10.14 and one at Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay on 20.12.14.

There have been a few records of Broad-billed Sandpiper from five sites. Among the records are one at Cairns on 14.10.14, two at Toorbul on 12.01.15 and six at Port of Brisbane on 11.01.15, while at Bundaberg Port two were recorded on 23.11.14, two on 14.12.14, one on 11.01.15 and one on 08.02.15.

The cryptic Latham's Snipe has been spotted at five sites with the highest totals being 12 at Garnett's Lagoon No.2 on 22.11.14, eight at Garnett's Lagoon No.1 on 28.09.14 and six at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 23.12.14. The only other two sites where this species has been recorded were one at Nathan Road, Redcliffe on 07.02.15 and one at Fisherman Island Visitor Centre Lake on 23.11.14.

The Grey Plover is limited to just a few sites in our database and one of those sites is the Port of Brisbane, where on 08.02.15 the highest total of 38 was recorded for the last six months. The only other count programme record is for 3 at Fisherman Island claypan on 11.01.15, which is very close to the Port reclamation area. This species has also been recorded on Moreton Island during QWSG seasonal surveys, and Fraser Island and Boonooroo during QWSG Great Sandy Surveys. A chat to one of the Bundaberg counters as I made enquiries regarding their data revealed that a count was done at Boonooroo on 18.02.15, where they counted 68 Grey Plover, and also observed one at Maaroom soon after. Boonooroo is an excellent location where many species can be observed at close range, and currently we do not have anyone counting that site, so if you are interested, please get in touch.

Black-tailed Godwit is also another less common species to find in a flock of waders, but you can probably see them more regularly at certain sites. Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve had 495 during the November count and 332 chose to visit the site on the other side of the river (Pine River northside) on 10.01.15. If you want to brush up on your identification skills between Bar-tailed Godwits and this species, the other sites where they have been recorded (but only in single and double figures) during the last six months are Manly Harbour, Lytton roost, Fisherman Island claypan, Deception Bay, Toorbul, Garnett's Lagoons Hervey Bay, Maaroom, Bundaberg Port and Cairns Esplanade.

Another uncommon wader is our resident Sooty Oystercatcher, which does not normally appear on many count sheets. However, during the last six months it has been recorded at 13 sites, and although the numbers are all single figures, it is nice to know that they are being seen more often. Best count was nine birds at Lilly's Beach, Boyne Island in the Gladstone region and four recorded at Finlayson Point and Haliday Bay rocks, north of Mackay on 06.02.15. At Wickham Point on the Sunshine Coast, four have been recorded during each count for December, January and February and three during the November count. Other sites where this species has been recorded during the last six months are Ball Bay, Seaforth north of Mackay, Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay, Gables Point Rocks Hervey Bay, Maroochy River sandbar, Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island, Port of Brisbane, Goat Island Moreton Bay, Manly Harbour and Tweed River Entrance Tweed Heads.

With only a dozen or so counts not arriving before I send this article off to the newsletter editor, it has been interesting to note that from all the counts I have received, there are no records of Double-banded Plover having arrived on our shores. Make sure you don't overlook them in your next flock of waders, particularly if you have sandpipers in the group, which are similar in appearance to those who have not encountered them before, or you are a little rusty on how to identify them.

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

Eastern Curlew – AR, BD.

Whimbrel – FV, FX, UE, UF, UH, UJ, UP, AAD.

Bar-tailed Godwit – AB, AE, AR, BC, BM, BX, CN, CU, CX, DN, DP, DS, DZ, EC, EH, EL, EM, EN, ET, EY, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FZ, HA, HL, HP, HR, HU, JA, JB, JE, JH, JP, JS, JR, JX, KN, NC, NK, NH, NN, NU, NV, NZ, PA, PC, PD, PE, PJ, PM, PR, PS, PU, PX, PY, PZ, RL, RM, RP, RR, RY, AAA, AAB, AAE, AAH, AAL, AAM, ABJ, ABL, ACA, ACB, ACC, ACD, ACJ, ACL, ACN, ACT, ACW, ACX, ACY, ADA, ADC, ADD, ADH, ADJ, ADK, ADM, ADN, ADP, ADT, ADU, ADV, ADW, ADX, ADY, ADZ, AEA, AEB, AEH, AEJ, AEM, AEN, AER, AES, AEU, AEV, AHA, AHC, AHE, AHH, AHL, AHM, AHN, AHS, AHT, AHW, AHZ, AJB, AJC, AJE, AJH, AJJ, AJL, AJM, AJR, AJS, AJY, AJZ, AKA, AKB, AKC, AKD, AKE, AKS, AKY, AKZ, ALB, ALM, ALN, ALP, ALS, ALT, ALV, ALZ, AMA, AMB, AMD, AMH, AMK, AML, AND, ANH, ANJ, ANK, ANP, ANW, ANX, APB, APJ, APK, APP, APT, APU, APV, APW, APX, APY, ARA, ARD, ARE, ARH, ARJ, ARN, ARR, ART, ARU, ARZ, ASA, ASC, ASD, ASE, ASH, ASL, ASM, ASN, ASR, AST, ASU, ASV, ASY, ASX, ASZ, ATA, ATB, ATD, AVA, AVB, AVC, AVH, AVK, AVN, AVP, AVR, AVS, AVU, AVW, AVX, AVZ, AWA, AWC, AWD, AWE, AWH, AXS, AXT, AXY, AXZ, AYA, AYD, AYH, AYK, AYN, AYP, AYS, AYU, AYV, AYW, AYX, AZC, AZD, AZX, BAB, BAC, BAE, BAK, BAN, BAP, BAR, BAS, BAU, BAW, BAX, BAY, BBA, BBD, BBE, BBH, BBJ, BBK, BBL, BBM, BBN, BBP, BBR, BBS, BBT, BBU, BBV, BBW, BBX, BBY, BCB, BCC, BCE, BCJ, BCK, BCX, BJB, BJN, BJP, BJS, BJU, BJV, BJK, BKC, BKD, BKH, BKJ, BKK, BKL, BKM, BNA, BNB, BND, BNH, BNJ, BNK, BNL, BNP, BNS, BNU, BNV, BNX, BNY, BNZ, BPA, BPB, BPC, BPD, BPF, BPH, BPJ, BPK, BPL, BPN, BPP, BPS, BPT, BPU, BPV, BPX, BPY, BRD, BRJ, BRL, BRN, BRP, BRS, BRT, BRU, BRV, BRX, BRY, BSA, BZL,

Black-tailed Godwit – APA.

Pied Oystercatcher – B2, B4, B7, C4, D6, H7, AAA, AAB, AAC, AAD, AAH, AAK, AAT, AAU, AAV, AAW, ABB, ABC.

Black-winged Stilt – BB, AAN, AAY, ABA, ABD, BZC.

Pacific Golden Plover – AZR, BVA, BVC,

Great Knot – EV, AAN, AAP, AAY, ADC, AED, AEL, AEU, AEX, AHA, AHC, AHY, AJC, AJD, AJH, AJK, ALL, ALU, ALZ, AMH, AMK, ATH, ATL, ATM, ATN, AUD, AUH, AUK, AUL, AUM, AWE, AWK, AYR, AYY, AZD, BAT, BAX, BBC, BBE, BBJ, BBL, BBX, BCD, BCE, BCK, BCN, BCP, BCR, BCT, BCU, BCX, BCZ, BVK.

Red Knot – ABM, AKM.

Grey-tailed Tattler – A7, AR, AV, AX, BN, CD, DX, JC, JJ, JN, JX, JY, KA, KB, KH, KV, KX, KZ, LE, LH, LM, LN, RC, RD, RH, RU, RY, AAA, AAC, AAD, AAJ, ABB, ABD, ABE, ABS, ABZ, ACA, ACB, ACD, ACH, ACJ, ACP, ACW, ACY, ACZ, ADH, ADL, ADM, ADW, ADZ, AHD, AHN, AKB, AKJ, AKT, AKV, AKW, AMA, AMB, ANA, ANN, ANT, APJ, APM, APP, APX, APZ, ARD, ARE, ARH, ARJ, ARK, ARS, ARY, ASE, ASN, ASP, AST, ASV, ASW, ASX, ASZ, ATA, ATB, ATC, ATD, ATE, ATH, ATK, ATL, ATM, ATP, ATR, ATS, ATV, ATW, ATX, AUA, AUB, AUC, AUD, AUE, AUH, AUJ, AUK, AUL, AUM, AUN, AUP, AUS, AUT, AUU, AUV, AUX, AUY, AUZ, AVA, AVB, AVC, AVD, AVH, AVJ, AVN, AWA, AWP, AWT, AWU, AWV, AWW, AWZ, AXA, AXB, AXC, AXE, AXH, AXL, AXS, AXU, AXV, AXX, AXY, AYA, AYB, AYC, AYD, AYE, AYL, AYN, AYS, AZJ, AZK, AZL, AZM, AZN, AZP, AZS, AZT, AZU, AZV, AZW, AZX, AZY, BAD, BAH, BAJ, BAL, BAM, BDA, BDB, BDD, BDH, BDJ, BDK, BDL, BDM, BDN, BDP.

Terek Sandpiper – AM, CA, CY, DY, EJ, AJN, AKY, ALB, ALD, ALE.

Ruddy Turnstone – AN, EE, HE, ABY, AJB, AKV, AKW, AKX, AKZ, ALC, AXT, AXX, AXY, AYH.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – ABT, AEL, AEN, AJA, AJC, AJD, AJE, AJH, AJJ, AJK, AJL, AJM, AJS, AJT, AJW, AJY, AKB, AKD, AKE, AKH, AKJ, AKN, AKP, AKR, AKS, AKT, ALM, AXA, AXB, AXC, AXD, AXJ, AXK, AXP, AXU, AXV, AXZ, AZH.

Curlew Sandpiper – AP, FM, AAD, AAP, AAS, ABA, ABE, ACJ, ACL, ACR, ACT, ACU, ADA, ADJ, AHC, AHE, AHH, AHK, AHL, AHM, AHN, AHP, AHR, AHT, AHU, AHX, AHY, AHZ, AJA, AJB, AJD, AJH, AJJ, AJK, AJR, AJU, AJW, AJX, AKA, AKC, AKD, AKH, AKJ, AKK, AKL, AKN, ANC, ANN, APF.

Lesser Sand Plover – EP, HZ, AJZ, ANP, ANT, APB, APH, APZ.

Red-necked Stint – A5, A7, A9, B2, B3, B4, B5, B9, C2, C3, C4, C5, C8, C9, AB, BA, CA, DV, KB, KE, KL, KX, LY, MB, ME, ML, MM, NA, NC, NJ, NR, NS, NZ, PC, PP, RC, RL, RS, RU, SA, SB, SC, SD, SF, SH, SJ, SK, SL, SU, SV, SX, SY, SZ, TC, TF, TH, TJ, TK, TP, TS, TT, TU, TV, TY, UA, UB, UK, UL, UN, UP, US, UT, UU, UY, UZ, VA, VB, VC, VJ, VK, VL, VN, VP, VS, VT, VU, VX, VY, VZ, XB, XF, XH, XJ, XN, XS, XT, XX, XY, XZ, YA, YB, YF, YJ, YK, YL, YN, YP, YS, YT, YU, YX, YZ, ZB, ZF, ZH, ZL, ZN, ZU, ZV, ZY, ZZ.

(Tattlers, A7, APJ, AVC AVD, AVH, BAD, has green flag right tibia, yellow flag and geolocator on left tibia and metal band left tarsus)

I have placed a few sightings under the 'Interesting wader sightings' section, and fitted in what I can below for some of the higher species totals. In a lot of cases there are many more large totals of species other than the ones below, but there is just not enough room to list all of them.

547 Eastern Curlew – Geoff Skinner Reserve west – 10.01.15
 535 Eastern Curlew – Geoff Skinner Reserve east – 07.02.15
 416 Eastern Curlew – sandbank off Amity Point – 24.10.14
 322 Eastern Curlew – King Street mudflat, Thornlands – 13.12.14
 260 Whimbrel – Mathiesen Homestead, Hervey Bay – 25.10.14
 242 Whimbrel – Toorbul – 16.12.14
 2,500 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – 26.10.14
 2,414 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – 16.12.14
 2,480 Bar-tailed Godwit – sandbank off Amity Point – 24.10.14
 2,350 Bar-tailed Godwit – Geoff Skinner Reserve west – 22.11.14
 1,060 Great Knot – Maaroom – 10.01.15
 782 Red Knot – Maaroom – 11.10.14
 395 Red Knot – Port of Brisbane – 26.10.14
 256 Red Knot – Manly Harbour – 27.09.14
 108 Red Knot – Queen's Esplanade, Thorneside – 03.10.14
 1,230 Grey-tailed Tattler – Port of Brisbane – 14.12.14
 563 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Pine River northside – 13.12.14
 226 Greater Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane – 08.02.15
 113 Greater Sand Plover – O'Reagan's Creek, Hervey Bay – 17.01.15
 1,915 Lesser Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane – 11.01.15
 430 Lesser Sand Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay – 25.10.14
 1,319 Curlew Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane – 08.02.15
 3,134 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane – 08.02.15

Breeding records.

Beach Stone-curlew – Second egg laid and hatched after first one disappeared at Finlayson Point, north of Mackay on 21.11.14. A pair nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 09.11.14.

Pied Oystercatcher – One juvenile at Tin Can Bay on 21.12.14. One chick at Maroochy River Goat Island on 21.12.14. Two chicks acquiring feathers at Maroochy River Goat Island on 04.11.14. Nest with one egg on 30.10.14 and a nest with two eggs on 13.11.14 at Noosa River sandbanks.

Black-winged Stilt – Two chicks Garnett's Lagoon No.2, Hervey Bay on 06.02.15. Juveniles, chicks and nesting at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 08.02.15. Nesting at Bishop's Marsh, Toorbul on 07.02.15. Report of possibly nesting at Manly Harbour on 04.01.15.

Masked Lapwing – Four eggs at Finlayson's Point, north of Mackay on 21.11.14. Nesting at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 08.02.15. Two recently hatched chicks at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 23.11.14 and nesting on 29.12.14.

Comb-crested Jacana – All records from Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island. Two juveniles on 19.10.14, one half grown young on 23.11.14, two chicks on 17.12.14 and nest building on 01.02.15.

Red-capped Plover – One chick at Reeder's Point, Moreton Island on 09.01.15. Nest with two eggs at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 20.12.14. Four chicks at Bundaberg Port on 23.11.14. Two tiny chicks and three clutches of two eggs each at Ball Bay, Seaforth, north of Mackay on 14.11.14. Two pair sitting on eggs at Noosa River sandbanks on 13.11.14, but no sign of hatched young from a nest with two eggs seen in October. One downy chick at Donnybrook claypan on 10.11.14. Two pair nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 09.11.14. One chick with parents at O'Reagan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay on 25.10.14. Nesting at Sandbank off Amity Point on 24.10.14. Five chicks (one small, two medium and one nearly grown), with three pair of adults at Ball Bay, Seaforth, north of Mackay on 16.10.14.

It has now been just over six months since we started the online count entry, and although there are still a few mistakes being made on entry, everyone seems to be handling the system quite well. Perhaps a quick read of the instructions on how to do the entry before you load your next count would be beneficial to all, as it is easy to forget things if you are only entering one count a month.

Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. All leg flag sightings from now on must be recorded on the Leg Flag Observation Form and sent to Phil Cross using either of the two above methods. If you do not have a copy of the above form, please contact me, and I will send it to you.

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 07 5495 2758

Wader ID Days 2015

Wednesday 25th March at Toorbul

This ID day has been selected as a replacement for the one that had to be cancelled at the Port of Brisbane. See below.

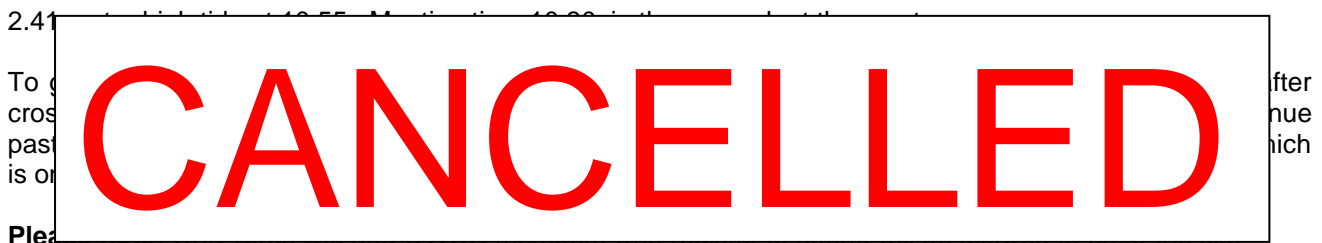
High tide at 13:09 hours (1.09 pm) (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 13:39 hours). Tide height will be 1.86m. Meeting time 12 noon.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul exit. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue on this road to Toorbul. Turn right at the T-junction then first left and then right, which brings you onto the Esplanade. Follow this road to the end (approximately 2kms); we will be on the left.

Bring water, food and a chair. It is a good idea to have a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Most importantly bring your binoculars or telescopes. Hopefully we can provide the answers to all your questions.

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

Sunday 22nd March 2015 at constructed roost at the Port of Brisbane



without making other arrangements with the Port of Brisbane Corporation.

Wader ID Days Reports

Manly Wader ID Report 4th January 2015

QWSG's first wader outing for 2015 was held at Manly Harbour wader roost. Ideal viewing conditions provided 18 attendees with good views of 19 species of migratory and resident waders as well as water-birds, terns, gulls and a lone raptor.

An Asian Dowitcher was picked up by a sharp-eyed observer among a small group of godwits and soon all scopes and cameras were focused on it. A Red Knot in non-breeding plumage mingling with Great Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit was not so easy to pick out at first but was later seen in full view standing in shallow water.

Although a count was not made, interestingly >80 Terek Sandpiper were roosting along the water's edge, mainly at the northern end of the site. A Black-winged Stilt appeared to be sitting on a nest on the island; a follow-up visit will be required to confirm a breeding record.

Nine species of migratory waders were noted with a Queensland green engraved leg flag but no overseas or interstate banded birds seen.

The following species were seen at the roost site:

Chestnut Teal, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Ruddy Turnstone, Asian Dowitcher, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Crested Tern, Little Tern, Silver Gull.

By Arthur Keates

Toorbul Wader ID Day Report 11th February 2015

In total 25 members and guests, this included a group from the Toowoomba Bird Observers, assembled at the main roost along the Esplanade. Thankfully we only had a few spots of rain, which did not disrupt the viewing. However the south-east wind was quite gusty at times.

Only 12 species of waders were observed at the main roost with a good number of birds showing signs of breeding plumage, particularly the Bar-tailed Godwit and Great Knot. Among the flock were two species that some people have difficulty identifying (Black-tailed Godwit and Red Knot), so we spent some time explaining how to tell them apart from Bar-tailed Godwit and Great Knot respectively as we searched through the flock. Viewing the Black-tailed Godwit was quite easy as there were 30, but the three Red Knot in non-breeding plumage required a little more patience in finding them among the numerous Great Knot.

Only one Terek Sandpiper was seen before the flock flew up when a raptor went over, and was not seen again, and there were only two Red-necked Stint and a handful of Curlew Sandpiper.

Locally banded birds were observed with engraved green leg flags, but no interstate or overseas flagged birds were seen. Of the green leg flags, 50 were recorded for the QWSG database, but some were difficult to read and not recorded.

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs:

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Chestnut Teal, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Masked Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Tern, Caspian Tern, Silver Gull, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Mangrove Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Brown Honeyeater, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, White-breasted Woodswallow, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail and Magpie-lark (nesting).

Bishop's Marsh did have water in it, and we saw a Black-winged Stilt as we drove past, but we did not stop to survey the site.

By Linda Cross.

New Counters for Monthly and Port of Brisbane Counts

As mentioned in the Count Co-ordinators Annual report we are looking for counters. Taking part in the counts helps you to speed up your recognition skills and helps the waders. We do need a pool of counters for the Port of Brisbane (PoB), because of the size of the site and the number of waders, plus regular counters need to have a break. Having your own site or visiting the PoB is a great learning experience as well as providing vital information that is used in so many ways.

Any experience will be useful and you will quickly become proficient. We all are continuing to learn. Don't be shy contact Linda Cross

Fact Filler

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.
-

Bar-tailed Godwit

The world's longest known single migratory flight distance. Research suggests a direct non-stop flight of over 10,000km across the Pacific, from southwest Alaska to Australia & New Zealand.

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

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

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	\$6.50	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:

Fay BIELEWICZ, Julian BIELEWICZ, MerryI COOK,
 Trish ELFORD, Lauren HAGGER, Andrew & Michelle HUMPHREYS & family,
 Donald LAKAY, Stephen MACDONALD, Kay MILLER, Jean TULLOCH,

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

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	Jon Coleman	
<u>TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP</u>	Sheryl Keates	membership@waders.org.au
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	gouldian@ozemail.com.au
<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u>	Robert Bush	Deirdre Chrzescijanski
	Paul Finn	Richard Fuller
	Andrew Geering	Sandra Harding
	David Milton	

<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross
<u>LEG FLAG COORDINATOR</u>	Phil Cross
<u>MERCHANDISE</u>	Vicki Campbell
<u>BQ PRESIDENT</u>	Richard Noske

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
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 **May 18th 2015**

Contributions should be addressed to:

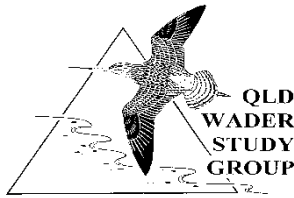
David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011
or E-mail to: gouldian@ozemail.com.au

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Count Activities – 2015

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2015

Sat 7th Mar	2.29m at 10:28	Sat 29 Aug	2.06m at 08:54
Sat 4th Apr	2.21m at 09:26 Optional Count	Sat 26th Sep	2.04m at 07:47
Sat 18th Apr	2.38m at 09:01	Sat 17th Oct	2.16m at 11:53
Sat 16th May	2.21m at 07:47	Sat 14th Nov	2.33m at 10:58
No Count in June		Sat 12th Dec	2.44m at 10:06
Sat 4th Jul	1.97m at 11:01		

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 – 2015

Sun 8th Mar	2.23m at 10:57 Meet: 09:10	Sun 30 Aug	2.15 m at 09:43 Meet 07:55
Sun 19th Apr	2.31m at 09:47 Meet: 08:00	Sun 27th Sep	2.18m at 08:36 Meet: 06:50
Sun 17th May	2.16m at 08:37 Meet: 06:50	Sun 18th Oct	2.11m at 12:34 Meet: 10:45
Sun 14th Jun	2.00m at 07:25 Meet: 06:45	Sun 15th Nov	2.30m at 11:36 Meet: 09:45
Sun 5th Jul	1.98m at 11:51 Meet: 10:00	Sun 13th 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!

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

A reminder to members: please check to see if your renewal is due and please let the Treasurer know if you change your contact details.

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

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

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

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

Payment enclosed: \$.....

Do you require a receipt? Yes / No

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

Email Fax.....

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 (colour version) by E-mail?.....

Signature Date:.....

Please email this form to: membership@waders.org.au

Direct funds transfer to:

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140

Account number: 08305297

or

Please post this form to: QWSG Treasurer, PO Box 3138, SOUTH BRISBANE, QLD 4101

Cheques to be made out to: Qld Wader Study Group