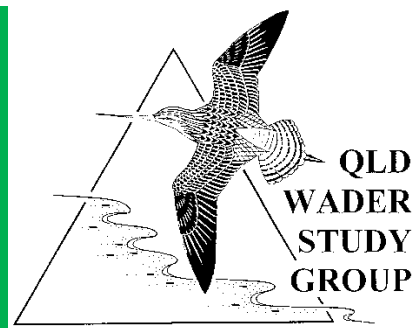


# QUEENSLAND WADER



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Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated. [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)

## Port of Brisbane Count Results 2014 by Linda Cross

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

The methodology for the counts has continued as before with numbers being listed under the appropriate habitat that the birds were observed using (dry open area, wet margin, broken ground and bund wall). The overall count for the complex in 2014 was 61,200 waders, 4,824 terns/gulls and 7,548 waterbirds/raptors which do not include the figures for the Visitors Centre Lake (349 waders, 91 terns/gulls and 6,174 waterbirds/raptors). However, these figures of course are not the number of birds using the site at any one time, but the aggregate of the monthly totals.

The following table is the total migratory and resident waders recorded at the complex over the last 12 years.  
**Note: These figures do not include the Visitors Centre Lake site.**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<b>2014</b>	8701	7673	6520	4809	1075	1022	1513	1839	7007	8145	7329	5567	61200
<b>2013</b>	N	5897	7377	4312	4553	3989	2709	2934	4089	7793	7331	6506	57490
<b>2012</b>	6214	6676	6476	1335	1624	NC	1098	1267	2862	9461	10029	8389	55431
<b>2011</b>	NC	10173	NC	8108	2112	1552	1236	1488	2004	5430	8738	NC	40841
<b>2010</b>	7345	7099	6709	2864	1256	2145	1648	2568	5205	6942	5904	NC	49685
<b>2009</b>	10072	13243	7192	2293	NC	1200	1245	2439	4372	6478	6182	8003	62719
<b>2008</b>	5179	8935	4394	4204	2202	2793	2700	2724	5468	4069	6617	8286	57571
<b>2007</b>	8853	5264	8307	1120	1989	1543	1752	1629	3885	7609	6165	5664	53780
<b>2006</b>	12323	10573	7055	4230	2142	1969	2250	2635	5296	8051	8995	7514	73033
<b>2005</b>	4751	5609	3572	3317	2162	3034	2436	2096	3790	6173	6745	7731	51416
<b>2004</b>	11650	4528	7398	1607	2416	1617	1328	2410	2974	6026	5976	8194	56124
<b>2003</b>	7445	6922	6126	4021	2286	2107	2041	1720	4466	4118	8054	7996	57302

NC = No Count

The following table provides the numbers for migratory and resident waders, terns, waterbirds and raptors for the complex and Visitors Centre Lake each month for 2014.

2014 Month	Port Waders	Port Terns/ Gulls	Port Waterbirds /Raptors	Lake Waders	Lake Terns	Lake Waterbirds/ Raptors	Totals
January	8701	835	584	19	1	343	<b>10483</b>
February	7673	397	347	26	2	289	<b>8734</b>
March	6520	524	440	31	8	428	<b>7951</b>
April	4809	244	415	10	0	355	<b>5833</b>
May	1075	197	933	4	1	674	<b>2884</b>
June	1022	74	910	2	0	579	<b>2587</b>
July	1513	66	1436	7	0	503	<b>3525</b>
August	1839	57	496	61	0	1187	<b>3640</b>
September	7007	471	753	5	0	444	<b>8680</b>
October	8145	540	470	75	7	556	<b>9793</b>
November	7329	547	455	77	58	433	<b>8899</b>
December	5567	872	309	32	14	383	<b>7177</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61200</b>	<b>4824</b>	<b>7548</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>6174</b>	<b>80186</b>

Comments on individual count sites for 2014 are as follows:-

**S3A & S3B** – These two older paddocks continued to be heavily under construction since mid-2013 with virtually no attraction to any birds. A few birds were present in January and February and two Black-fronted Dotterel were drawn to S3B in April. Both paddocks were bare for the rest of the year until 17 birds were recorded in December.

**R3** – This large riverside paddock attracted the highest number of waders for eight months of the year, with only the winter months seeing some species preferring other sites. The highest wader count during the northward migration was in February, with a total of 5,138 waders, 67% of the total waders recorded on site, while on southward migration, October had the highest total of waders for the year with 6,256, 76% of the total waders recorded on site. Some of the larger species numbers for the year were 2,253 Red-necked Stint in January and 2,422 in February, and close to two thousand both in October and November. Lesser Sand Plover were the next highest with 1,095 in March, 1,079 in February, 1,063 in October and 1,057 in January. Curlew Sandpiper numbers peaked in October, with 985 being counted and 694 Bar-tailed Godwit was the highest count for that species in November. The largest total for Great Knot was 534 in November along with 328 Pacific Golden Plover the same month. Other high counts include 195 Red-necked Avocet in September, 118 Greater Sand Plover in October, 34 Grey Plover in November and 334 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in December. The northward migration brought a large number of Broad-billed Sandpiper to the Port complex and 66 of this species were recorded at this site in April, while the southward migration produced 461 Red Knot in September and surprisingly eight Sanderling in October, with two still being on site in November. The east-west migration brought nine Double-banded Plover to the site in May increasing to 15 in June before dropping to seven in July and then finally down to one in August. In December it was interesting to see two Black-tailed Godwit (very uncommon within the complex), in the flock of Bar-tailed Godwit, and in October there were 208 Eastern Curlew, which were probably drawn to the ponds within the complex due to the dry conditions on the claypan outside. R3 also recorded the highest number of terns and gulls for six months of the year.

**C1** – This site was removed from the monthly counts in January as works on the site continue to prepare it for development.

**C2** – Apart from the month of February, total wader counts for the site were below 20, while the maximum wader count in February was only 76 waders in total.

**C3** – As with the C2, wader numbers struggled to get to double figures most months. The highest was 50 waders in December, of which, 48 were Australian Pied Oystercatcher.

**BS1** – The number of birds using this site continue to be low, with six months of the year having virtually nothing on site. The highest count was in February with 420 small waders using the pond, with 272 being Red-necked Stint. In December the highest total of terns and gulls (479) was recorded at this site.

**BS2** – For nine months of the year the wader count for this site was either zero, or single figures, and only for three months did the count reach double figures. In February the maximum total was 53, made up of three small wader species. The lack of birds in the C paddocks and the first two B paddocks are undoubtedly due to dry conditions within the Port of Brisbane complex.

**BS3** – Few wader species are attracted to this site, with the two highest totals being 569 in September and 704 in November. In the September flock were 306 Bar-tailed Godwit, 137 Eastern Curlew, 43 Red-necked Avocet and 31 Red-necked Stint. The November count high totals were 145 Curlew Sandpiper, 79 Eastern Curlew, 30 Red-necked Avocet, 397 Red-necked Stint and 48 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. In December a higher total of 89 Avocets were recorded on site.

**BS4** – This newer outer bay side pond was the second favoured site for waders for eight months of the year, (although with significantly lower numbers than in R3), and January had the highest number of waders with a total of 2,111. Grey-tailed Tattler and Ruddy Turnstone continued to favour this site with good numbers for both species. For three months of the year the tattlers have numbered between 400 and 550, and for six months the numbers have been between 740 and just under 1,000. Of those six months, the highest totals were 983 in April and 974 in September. Ruddy Turnstone numbers have only been significant during the summer months starting with 31 in September increasing to 128 in January, then decreasing to 82 by April. The only other reasonable totals of other species were 99 Australian Pied Oystercatcher and 353 Curlew Sandpiper in January, 219 Curlew Sandpiper in February and 72 Red-necked Avocet in August. Other interesting records were one Sooty Oystercatcher and one Wandering Tattler in January, six Broad-billed Sandpiper in April, 13 Red Knot in September and one Common Greenshank in November.

**FPE Outer** – The largest pond within the complex that is mainly filled with water continues to have low numbers of waders, with the exception of the winter months of June and July, when the highest count of waders was recorded within the complex. June had a total of 703 waders while July totalled 606. The only other high count was in December with 1,302 waders which was the second highest count within the complex. Australian Pied Oystercatcher still favour this site over any other within the reclamation area but numbers have been below 100 on each count. Bar-tailed Godwit has been recorded on site 11 months of the year. However, their numbers did not exceed 374, which was the highest total in January. Other interesting totals were 357 Great Knot in January, five Grey Plover and 101 Red-necked Avocet in May, 203 Curlew Sandpiper and 155 Red-necked Avocet in June, 302 Red-necked Avocet in July and 1,146 Grey-tailed Tattler in December. There was one Sooty Oystercatcher recorded on site in January and the site recorded the highest total of terns and gulls (587) for four months of the year.

**PLDE (Lucinda Drive drain east)** – Although it is not a paddock, it is a new long drain that has been constructed along the southern end of the reclamation area. Just 18 waders were observed in the drain in January, three in February and two in October. Other times of the year one or two waterbirds were recorded and the site was empty for four months of the year.

**PBAR (Artificial Roost)** – Wader numbers and species increased after the remediation works at the end of 2013. Although the highest total of waders for the year was only 964 in January, there have been a variety of species using the site, and some of them have been interesting. In January there were two Asian Dowitcher, 15 Broad-billed Sandpiper, 18 Red-kneed Dotterel and 12 Red-necked Avocet recorded. In March a staggering 131 Broad-billed Sandpiper were counted along with 12 Red-kneed Dotterel. One Broad-billed Sandpiper was still on site in April. One Black-fronted Dotterel and 245 Black-winged Stilt used the site in May, and one Red-kneed Dotterel was on site in June. An unusual record of one Black-tailed Godwit in a flock of 289 Bar-tailed Godwit was seen in August and then followed by six of the same species in September. Another unusual sighting was a lone Marsh Sandpiper during the November count. The site also continued to attract large numbers of waterbirds during the year recording the highest totals for seven months.

**FICP (Claypan)** – This very large claypan outside the reclamation area has been getting more difficult to count due to the Casuarina and mangrove tree growth around the site. For three months during the year, there were no waders on the site, and a total of ten or less on three other occasions. The highest counts were 583 waders in February and 582 in March with Bar-tailed Godwit and Eastern Curlew making up most of the totals. Eastern Curlew was only recorded seven times during the year with numbers lower than 100 with the exception of 128 in February. Surprisingly there were 119 Whimbrel recorded in April

**FIVC (Visitor Centre Lake)** – Wader numbers and species were not very high during the whole of the year. Black-winged Stilt is the most common wader species being recorded for ten months with the highest total of 75 in November. Masked Lapwing is the next common wader species, recorded seven times, but only two birds on each count. Other wader species recorded were, one Black-fronted Dotterel in January, one in August, and two in October, one Red-kneed Dotterel in March, four Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and 12 Curlew Sandpiper in October and one Latham's Snipe in November. Waterbirds continued to use the site with the highest being 1,187 in August. Chestnut Teal was recorded at the lake every month with the highest total peaking at 306 in August. Nineteen Pink-eared Duck turned up in June, increasing to 94 in July, before peaking at 127 in August, then decreasing down to two birds in September and October.

Although Royal Spoonbill have been recorded in the Port complex, the artificial roost and the claypan, the lake is their favoured site and were recorded every month, with the highest total being 209 in August. Larger totals of Little Black Cormorant (212) were reported in May and 112 Australian White Ibis were recorded in August. Other interesting sightings during the year were 12 Pied Cormorant (unusual at this site), one Buff-banded Rail, one Spotless Crake and one Swamp Harrier in July, one Nankeen Night Heron in August, 47 Whiskered Tern in November and 12 in December. The only possible breeding record for the whole of the year was two immature Chestnut Teal seen in October.

**Leg flag sightings:** There were 18 green leg-flagged birds seen during the counts, but because these birds have been flagged by our group in Moreton Bay, and have not travelled any significant distance from the banding site, they have not been included in the leg flag sightings. Other leg-flagged birds seen throughout the complex are as follows:

<b>September</b>	Blue over yellow flag on Curlew Sandpiper (flagged in Bohai Bay, China)
<b>October</b>	Orange flag on a Bar-tailed Godwit (flagged in Victoria)

**Breeding records:**

Unfortunately there were no records of any breeding resident waders.

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

<b>January</b>	464 Little Tern and one Eastern Reef Egret in Outer FPE; 300 Chestnut Teal in PBAR.
<b>February</b>	276 Little Tern in R3; two Eastern Reef Egret in BS4; one Eastern Reef Egret in PBAR.
<b>March</b>	211 Little Tern in R3; one Eastern Reef Egret in B4; two Eastern Reef Egret in the Outer FPE; one Eastern Reef Egret; 209 Chestnut Teal and 41 Australian Pelican in PBAR.
<b>April</b>	One Eastern Reef Egret in BS4; 194 Chestnut Teal in PBAR.
<b>May</b>	222 Little Black Cormorant, 195 Little Pied Cormorant and 316 Chestnut Teal in PBAR 108 Chestnut Teal in FIVC.
<b>June</b>	One Peregrine Falcon in R3; 566 Chestnut Teal, 47 Eastern Great Egret and three Eastern Reef Egret in PBAR; 155 Chestnut Teal, 175 Royal Spoonbill in the Lake.
<b>July</b>	716 Little Pied Cormorant and two Eastern Reef Egret in BS4; 109 Little Black Cormorant, 15 Eastern Great Egret, 303 Chestnut Teal and 156 Grey Teal in PBAR; 109 Chestnut Teal in the Lake.
<b>August</b>	273 Chestnut Teal in PBAR; 201 Little Black Cormorant in the Lake.
<b>September</b>	336 Little Tern and four Whiskered Tern in R3; 532 Chestnut Teal in PBAR; 165 Royal Spoonbill in the Lake.
<b>October</b>	368 Little Tern and six Whiskered Tern in R3; four Whiskered Tern and 361 Chestnut Teal in PBAR; 108 Chestnut Teal (includes two immature) and two Whiskered Tern in the Lake.
<b>November</b>	387 Little Tern and four Whiskered Tern in R3; 33 Whiskered Tern and 282 Chestnut Teal in the PBAR; 47 Whiskered Tern in the Lake.
<b>December</b>	216 Little Tern, 15 Whiskered Tern and one Eastern Reef Egret in R3; 308 Silver Gull in BS1; 27 Whiskered Tern and two Eastern Reef Egret in PBAR; 14 Whiskered Tern in the Lake.

A table showing wader species and numbers at the complex during 2014 (with the exception of the Visitors Centre Lake), has been included. Many other waterbirds were also recorded using the sites; however, lack of space in the newsletter does not allow their inclusion.

QWSG would like to sincerely thank the PBPL for their ongoing support to the group and supplying their staff and vehicles during the counts. Rachael Attard, Environmental Advisor, Nadene Perry, Environmental Advisor, Michael Linde, Senior Environmental Advisor and Craig Wilson, Environmental Manager for the PBPL shared the role in looking after our welfare and needs during the counts.

Our sincere thanks must go to our committed regular counters and other members and friends, whose names appear below for helping us obtain the results for the PBPL and the QWSG database in 2014. Without people like these this would not have been possible. My apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list.

Rachael Attard (PBPL), Michele Burford, Robert Bush, Vicki Campbell, Deirdrie Chrzescijanski, Rob Clemens, Jon Coleman, Ken Cowell, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Peter Driscoll, David Edwards, Paul Finn, Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao, Andrew Geering, David Hannah, Sandra Harding, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Michael Linde (PBPL), Penn Lloyd, David Milton, Ben Nottidge, Glen Pacey, Nadene Perry (PBPL), Peter Rothlisberg, Brenda Smith, Graham Smith, Maddy Stigner, Floss Wainwright, Ivell Whyte, Jim Whyte and Craig Wilson (PBPL).

The contract with PBPL continues throughout 2015 and as over half of the regular counters are now retired and taking off on extended holidays we need a bigger support group to help spread the workload, particularly during the spring and summer months. As the PBPL insurance only covers their employees you will need to be either a QWSG or BQ member to attend these counts so their liability insurance will cover you. Please also note that these counts are not recreational outings, but we are always looking for committed counters to join our team. Please contact Peter Rothlisberg or myself if you would like to participate. The dates and meeting times for the counts are listed at the back of this newsletter.

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Or

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Count Date 2014	19.01	16.02.	16.03	13.04	18.05	16.06	13.07	17.08	28.09	26.10	23.11	14.12
<b>Species</b>												
Bush Stone-curlew												
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	173	79	71	60	4	20	49	66	63	78	53	61
Sooty Oystercatcher	2											
Black-winged Stilt	142	146	184	167	258	150	220	116	110	99	121	82
Red-necked Avocet	30	14	14	10	101	155	302	91	246	104	104	103
Pacific Golden Plover	301	240	308	50	55	23	21		208	315	331	353
Grey Plover		41	37	16	5				26	33	34	
Red-capped Plover	83	108	65	58	27	15	42	16	9	37	10	14
Double-banded Plover					9	15	7	1				
Lesser Sand Plover	1057	1125	1095	542	90	34	11	18	676	1064	545	746
Greater Sand Plover	18	80		2	1				5	118	56	5
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	3	8	3	1				1	2		
Red-kneed Dotterel	18	7	12			1			3		3	
Masked Lapwing		4	4	6	3	4				3	2	2
Latham's Snipe												
Black-tailed Godwit								1	6			5
Bar-tailed Godwit	1299	775	1112	178	129	292	210	375	1302	986	1077	966
Whimbrel	4	30	7	121				1	20	37	43	42
Eastern Curlew	92	91	128	43			6	51	139	210	165	65
Terek Sandpiper	2			5	3	1		29	6	3	4	2
Common Sandpiper												
Grey-tailed Tattler	803	750	552	1143	137	205	462	458	975	815	752	1230
Wandering Tattler	1											
Common Greenshank	7	4	3					1	3	4	7	2
Marsh Sandpiper										1	1	
Ruddy Turnstone	130	131	115	96	1	8	22	4	34	60	75	32
Asian Dowitcher	2											
Great Knot	586	455	345	71		3	21	76	523	375	534	253
Red Knot									479	395	68	
Sanderling										8	2	
Red-necked Stint	3150	2942	1797	1662	194	55	62	315	1556	2100	2695	347
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	267	103	118	86	1		1	12	111	188	229	441
Curlew Sandpiper	513	545	414	417	56	36	50	208	506	1110	414	814
Broad-billed Sandpiper	18		131	73								2
Unidentified wader						5	27				4	
<b>Total Wader Species</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total Wader Numbers</b>	<b>8701</b>	<b>7673</b>	<b>6520</b>	<b>4809</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>1513</b>	<b>1839</b>	<b>7007</b>	<b>8145</b>	<b>7329</b>	<b>5567</b>

## Being More Colorful Found to be Disadvantage for Female Plover

A team of researchers working in Australia has found that bright colouring on female birds appears to be a reproductive disadvantage.

In their paper published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, the team describes how they tested predation of red-capped plover eggs and discovered that enhanced colouring by the parent tending the nest, made the eggs a more likely target, at least during the day.

In many bird species, males sport bright colours and sometimes long feathers, as part of attracting a female. Meanwhile, females of the same species tend to be much more sedate in colouring.

Red-capped plovers are one such example, the red cap on the head of males is bright red, while on the female it's light brown. The researchers wondered if the female colouring was subdued due to reasons other than it simply being unnecessary.

To find out, they set up a test environment consisting of models of plovers sitting next to a clutch of eggs—they used pheasant eggs instead of plovers—they look the same. They then taped ravens as they swooped down and grabbed some of the eggs.

They varied the models, sometimes using red capping to mimic males, other times brown to mimic females. They also conducted their study when it was dark out, when it is foxes that are after the eggs. Plover parents take turns sitting on the nest—the females take the day shift while the males are on at night.

In analysing the video, the researchers discovered that ravens were far more likely to grab some eggs during daylight hours if a male with its red cap was guarding the eggs (80 percent of those on display were taken by ravens) versus the females (only 20 percent the eggs were taken)—at night, the red markings made no difference because foxes find eggs using their nose—the predators ran off with 80 percent of those set out.

The researchers claim their findings indicate that the female birds have clearly evolved in ways that make them less noticeable to predators, and thus their eggs are more difficult to find than if they had colouring similar to their male mates.

Abstract Ornamentation of parents poses a high risk for offspring because it reduces cryptic nest defence. Over a century ago, Wallace proposed that sexual dichromatism enhances crypsis of open-nesting females although subsequent studies found that dichromatism per se is not necessarily adaptive.

We tested whether reduced female ornamentation in a sexually dichromatic species reduces the risk of clutch depredation and leads to adaptive parental roles in the Red capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*, a species with bi-parental incubation.

Males had significantly brighter and redder head coloration than females. During daytime, when visually foraging predators are active, colour-matched model males incurred a higher risk of clutch depredation than females, whereas at night there was no difference in depredation risk between sexes.

In turn, red-capped plovers maintained a strongly diurnal/nocturnal division of parental care during incubation with males attending the nest largely at night when visual predators were inactive and females incubating during the day.

We found support for Wallace's conclusion that reduced female ornamentation provides a selective advantage when reproductive success is threatened by visually foraging predators. We conclude that predators may alter their prey's parental care patterns and therefore may affect parental cooperation during care.

This article was first published by Phys.org on 08 Apr 2015.

**Is Banded Stilt actually a Banded Avocet?**

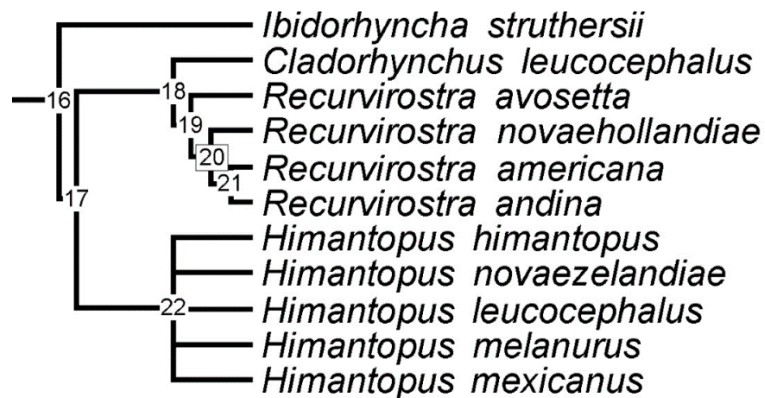
April 17, 2015 by Gyorgy Szimuly in Taxonomy



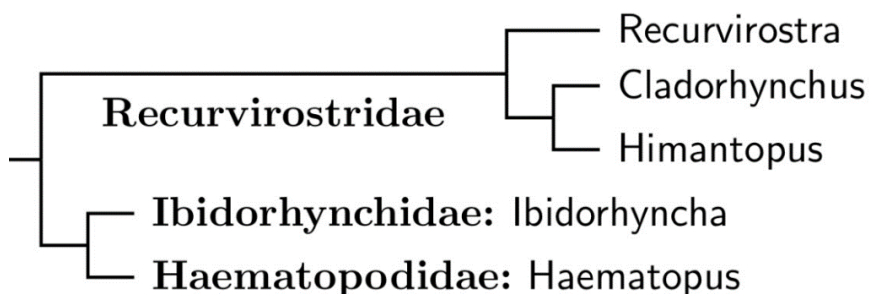
Image was taken near Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. © Jan C. Wegener

Back in 2004 scientists published a supertree hypothesis as a framework for future molecular studies on shorebirds. According to their concept the family *Recurvirostridae* is divided into two subfamilies: *Himantopodinae* and *Recurvirostinae*. Surprisingly, the tribe *Cladorhynchini* with the single genus *Cladorhynchus* is placed under the subfamily *Recurvirostinae* and not under the *Himantopodinae*. This is opposite to the taxonomic order of most authorities. Unfortunately, the article doesn't explain this case in detail.

In John H. Boyd's *Charadriiformes* tree (TiF Checklist) *Cladorhynchus* is a sister genus to *Himantopus*, thus placed under the *Himantopodinae* subfamily. The Banded Stilt was first described by the French ornithologist, Louis Jean Pierre Vieillot in 1816. The protonym was *Recurvirostra leucocephala* which was replaced by *Cladorhynchus leucocephala* and later *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*.



Position of the genus *Cladorhynchus* according to Charadriiformes supertree concept by Gavin et al.





Position of the genus *Cladorhynchus* according to Boyd's Charadriiformes Tree.

Morphologically the Banded Stilt looks to be an intermediate evolutionary 'unit' between Avocets and Stilts. The bulkier, avocet-like body, the avocet-like vocalisation or the alternate plumage suggest relation to Avocets, while the fine bill, even if that is slightly upcurved, resembles to Stilts. Similar to Red-necked Avocets, Banded Stilts are living nomad life and travelling large distances in the desert to find suitable nesting habitats. Furthermore, they often form large mixed flocks.

Vieillot initial naming suggests he classified Banded Stilt as avocet. According to the supertree of Gavin et al, Banded Stilt is more closely related to Avocets than to Stilts. Naming an avocet as Banded Stilt is a bit fumbling then.

## Revolutionary Approach of Thinking about Seasonal Survival in Bird Populations

Posted by Silke Nebel on 13 March 2015

*With a little bit of 'basic math', Russian biologist Eldar Rakhimberdiev shows how changes in seasonal survival may be used as a tool to detect problems in bird populations. 'A dip in survival during a certain period or in a certain place, means the population cannot cope with the problems they are facing there', Rakhimberdiev says.*

'It's just basic math', Rakhimberdiev says jokingly. Nevertheless, many biologists may frown while reading his latest article in *Journal of Avian Biology*. If it is not for trying to understand the math, it will be for the revolutionary approach of thinking about seasonal survival in bird populations.

Elementary to the idea of Rakhimberdiev and colleagues is the notion that there should not be such a thing as 'a weakest link' in the life of a bird population. The Russian biologist, currently working as a post-doc at the NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research in The Netherlands and at Cornell University, Ithaca, USA and at, illustrates his case with a notorious bit of recent history from the Dutch Wadden Sea. 'As a consequence of the cockle-dredging around the islet of Griend, from 1998 until 2003, in the western part of the Dutch Wadden Sea, red knots were not able to find enough food. Thanks to a very extensive and long-term colour ringing scheme, we were able to show that was 81 out of 100 of the knots survived a year. During the cockle-dredging when knot-food became scarce, their seasonal survival in winter dropped to 78 (out of 100), while their summer survival peaked to 91. To us, this shows that the birds were not able to cope with the shortage of food around Griend in winter and either moved away or died at the start of winter, the remaining fewer birds being in balance with their food resources again.'

In their article, Rakhimberdiev and colleagues state that problems in a certain place or time should 'even out' over the years. 'If there is not enough food at a certain place, a population will eventually adapt and find a new equilibrium – this may include declines to much lower numbers. If there is a very unbalanced survival between seasons, this means the population is facing problems that they do not yet have answers to', Rakhimberdiev says.

This new way of thinking has strong implications for nature protection, the authors think. 'It means that seasonal survival measurements can give strong indications of the time and place where populations are currently squeezed, where the conservation problems of the day are found (and in need of a solution). It also means that the bottlenecks are transient and thus the basic research of long-breath is necessary to catch these informative times and periods. Only in this way one can try to protect bird populations that may not be in danger yet. It is somewhat sobering to realize that once the population loss has happened, one can no longer observe what the problem was.'

Translated and adapted from an original interview in Dutch by Rob Buiters published in the newsletters of the project Metawad, a project on the research of migrating birds in the Wadden Sea (see [www.metawad.nl](http://www.metawad.nl)).



## WADER WATCH - Phil Cross

### 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 Red-necked Stint – Bushland Beach, north of Townsville – Brin Crowther – 22.11.14

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs totalled 664 between 16.02.15 and 27.04.15. They were sighted by Sarah Beavis, Michele Burford, Robert Bush, Susan Chisholm, Tony Cotter, Linda Cross, Renate Hottman-Schaefer, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Penn Lloyd, Katrina Logan, Pierce Logan, Paul Maxwell, Natalie Reed, Peter Rothlisberg, Julie Sarna, Ross Smith, Betty Walker, Chris Walker, Lois Wooding and Jessica Young.

1 Eastern Curlew, 6 Whimbrel, 347 Bar-tailed Godwit, 1 Black-tailed Godwit, 34 Pied Oystercatcher, 8 Black-winged Stilt, 1 Pacific Golden Plover, 34 Great Knot, 171 Grey-tailed Tattler, 7 Terek Sandpiper, 8 Ruddy Turnstone, 5 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 10 Lesser Sand Plover, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Red-capped Plover and 28 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.

Whimbrel – FT, AAD, ABT.

Bar-tailed Godwit – AE, BC, BM, CS, CU, CX, DT, DZ, EC, EL, EM, ET, EX, EY, FA, FJ, FK, FL, FM, HA, HL, HP, HR, HU, JE, JJ, JR, JX, KN, NC, NK, NU, NV, NZ, PA, PC, PD, PM, PN, PR, PV, PX, RM, RP, RR, RY, AAA, AAB, AAE, AAH, AAL, AAT, AAU, ABJ, ACA, ACB, ACH, ACJ, ACM, ACN, ACT, ACW, ACY, ADC, ADD, ADJ, ADT, ADV, ADW, ADX, ADY, AEB, AEJ, AEM, AEN, AES, AEW, AHA, AHC, AHL, AHN, AHT, AHW, AHZ, AJS, AJY, AJZ, AKA, AKD, AKS, AKV, AKW, ALA, ALL, ALM, ALN, ALR, ALV, AMA, AMH, ANP, ANU, ANW, ANX, APJ, APP, APT, APX, ARA, ARC, ARJ, ARN, ART, ARU, ARZ, ASA, ASD, ASE, ASH, ASM, ASN, ASR, AST, ASU, ATA, ATB, ATC, AVA, AVB, AVC, AVK, AVX, AVZ, AWA, AXT, AXU, AXZ, AYA, AYD, AYH, AYK, AYN, AYP, AYV, AYW, AZB, AZC, AZD, AZE, AZK, AZM, AZN, AZR, AZU, AZX, BAA, BAK, BAP, BAV, BAW, BAX, BBA, BBD, BBE, BBJ, BBK, BBL, BBM, BBR, BBU, BCB, BCC, BCE, BCK, BCX, BCZ, BJC, BJN, BJP, BJZ, BKJ, BKK, BKM, BKR, BND, BNJ, BNL, BNN, BNP, BNU, BNY, BNZ, BPC, BPK, BPL, BPS, BPT, BPU, BPV, BPY, BRD, BRF, BRH, BRJ, BRK, BRL, BRP, BRT, BRY, BSD.

Black-tailed Godwit – APA.

Pied Oystercatcher – B7, C4, D8, J4, AAC, AAD, AAT, AAU, AAV, AAW, AAX, AAY, ABC, ABE.

Black-winged Stilt – BB, EA, KC, AAN, AAU, ABE, BZC.

Pacific Golden Plover – BVA.

Great Knot – EV, AAN, AAP, ADA, ADC, AEJ, AEK, AEL, AHC, ALB, ALZ, ATJ, ATN, ATT, ATX, AUD, AYX, BBK, BBN, BBX, BBY, BCH, BCP, BCR, BCZ.

Grey-tailed Tattler – A7, AR, AV, AX, BN, BT, BU, HY, JC, JD, JM, JN, JZ, KB, KV, KX, KZ, LE, LH, LM, LN, RC, RM, AAA, AAK, AAR, ABB, ABN, ACA, ACH, ACJ, APL, ACP, ACR, ACW, ACX, ADH, ADJ, AHR, AKC, AKE, AKP, AKW, AMB, ANC, ANN, ANU, APJ, APM, APN, APP, APT, APU, APX, APZ, ARC, ARE, ARJ, ARL, ARU, ASL, ASV, ASW, ATL, ATP, ATV, ATX, AUC, AUH, AUJ, AUN, AUS, AUV, AUY, AVA, AVC, AVD, AVE, AVL, AVM, AWL, AWN, AWS, AWV, AXA, AXB, AXC, AXD, AXE, AXL, AXP, AXR, AXX, AYD, AZJ, AZM, AZN, AZU, AZW, BAJ, BAL, BAM, BDH, BDJ, BDP.

Terek Sandpiper – AV, CY, EE, ACU, AKY, ALE.

Ruddy Turnstone – EY, AJB, AKV, AKW, ALC, AXY, AYH.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – AEP, AKB, AXP.

Curlew Sandpiper – ACS.

Lesser Sand Plover – EP, AJZ, ANV, APB, APT.

Red-necked Stint – A9, B4, C5, LZ, MT, PS, SJ, SK, SY, TS, TV, UP, UY, VA, VB, VU, VY, YL, YT, ZF, ZZ.

**(Tattler, A7, 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

1 Pied Oystercatcher (A8 on flag) – Pattach's Beach, NSW – Stephen Totterman – 18.03.15

1 Pied Oystercatcher (A8 on flag) – Robin's Beach, NSW – Bo Totterman – 01.12.14

2 Bar-tailed Godwit (1 engraved flag AKC) – Seocheon tidal flat, Geum Barrage, South Korea – Ju Yung Ki – 20.04.15

7 Bar-tailed Godwit (engraved flags EC, NU, AET, AEU, AKS, AZX, BPX) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim & Kim Seok-Yee – 20.04.15.

5 Bar-tailed Godwit (engraved flags EC, NU, AET, AZX, BAP) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 18.04.15.

15 Bar-tailed Godwit (13 engraved flags EC, PR, AEU, ASW, AWE, AYD, AZX, BBE, BKJ, BKT, BRD, BRF, BRN) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 15.04.15

11 Bar-tailed Godwit (9 engraved flags NC, PR, ABM, AET, ALV, ASW, AYD, AZX, BPY) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 12.04.15

5 Bar-tailed Godwit (4 engraved flags ABW, ALV, ASW, ATA) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 08.04.15

5 Bar-tailed Godwit (engraved flags AET, ALV, ASW, AWE, AYB) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim & Kim Seok-Yee – 06.04.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AET on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 31.03.15, 02.04.15 and 04.04.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ATB on flag) – Song Do Korea, South Korea – Spike Millington – 04.04.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJN on flag) – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, South Island, New Zealand – Ian Southey – 11, 17, 20 and 22.03.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJZ on flag) – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, South Island, New Zealand – Ian Southey – 10.03.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ABZ on flag) – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, South Island, New Zealand – Ian Southey – 07.03.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (AJN on flag) – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, South Island, New Zealand – Ian Southey – 06.03.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Omaha, North Auckland, North Island, New Zealand – Marie Ward – 04.03.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Motueka sandspit, near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Rob Schuckard – 20.02.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Ohiwa Island, Bay of Plenty, North Island, New Zealand – Tim Barnard – 19.02.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Big Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour, North Island, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 02.01.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pakawau, Golden Bay, near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Ingrid Hutzler – 01.12.14

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Bells Island, Waimea Inlet, near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Willie Cook – 01.10.14

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Motueka sandspit, near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Rob Schuckard – 29.09.14

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ASD on flag) – Daijyu-garami, Higashiyoga-cho, Saga-ken, Japan – Miyazaki Yasuo – 29.04.15

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (BJT on flag) – Daijyu-garami, Higashiyoga-cho, Saga-ken, Japan – Sayaka Nakamura – 15.04.14

1 Bar-tailed Godwit (ASD on flag) – Arao Beach, Arao, Kumamoto, Japan – Muratomi Mitsuaki – 07.04.14

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda Firth of Thames, South Auckland, South Island, New Zealand – Sue Chatfield, N. Dyson and J. Mitchell – 03.03.14

1 Great Knot (AYU on flag) – Aphae Island (south), South Korea – Andreas Kim – 18 & 20.04.15

1 Red Knot – Stockton sandspit, Hunter Estuary, near Newcastle, NSW – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 11.10.14

1 Red Knot – Stockton sandspit, Hunter Estuary, near Newcastle, NSW – Liz Crawford & Chris Herbert – 16.10.14 & 18.10.14 & 22.10.14

1 Grey-tailed Tattler (BAH on flag) – Kusuchou-Minamigomitsuka, Yokkaichi-shi, Mie-ken, Japan – Ando Nobuaki – 06.09.14

- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler (APV on flag) – Matsunaga Bay, Matsunaga-cho, Fukuyama-shi, Hiroshima-ken, Japan – Imagaway Yoshibumi – 19.05.14  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler (DH on flag) – mouth of Kongo River, Matsusaka Mie, Japan – Tanaka Yoko – 03.05.14

### **Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings**

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CHH on flag) – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 18.04.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Lytton claypan – Arthur Keates – 18.04.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 04.04.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – (CHH on flag) – Oyster Point – Chris Walker – 20.03.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Adair Street, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 20.03.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kougari Street claypan, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 20.03.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Pierce & Katrina Logan – 15.03.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Queen's Esplanade, Thorneside – Arthur Keates – 13.03.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – St. Helen's Beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 02.03.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit (CHH on flag) – Oyster Point – Penn Lloyd – 24.02.15  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Cairns Esplanade – Norton Gill – 05.11.14  
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Cairns Esplanade – Lars Olausson – 25.10.14

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

No sightings.

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

- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – cut blue flag right tibia and cut orange flag right tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 05.04.15 (flagged Kyushu, Japan)  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – cut blue flag left tibia and cur orange flag left tarsus – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.03.15 (flagged Kyushu, Japan)  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – engraved 60 on blue flag left tarsus over white flag left tarsus – King Island, Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 28.02.15 (flagged Miyagi-ken, central Japan)  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – engraved 60 on blue flag left tarsus over white flag left tarsus – King Island, Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 25.02.15 (flagged Miyagi-ken, central Japan)  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – engraved 90 on blue flag left tarsus over white flag left tarsus – Redland Bay mudflat – Penn Lloyd – 25.02.15 (flagged Miyagi-ken, central Japan)  
 All birds below flagged in Northern Japan (Hokkaido)  
 4 Great Knot – blue flag left tibia – Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island – Dez Wells – 07.02.15  
 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 27.04.15  
 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – King Island, Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 25.04.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 24.04.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – Gerry Woodruff – 16.04.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag right tibia – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates – 04.04.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 28.03.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 21.03.15  
 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Kougari Street claypan, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 20.03.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag right tibia – Kougari Street claypan, Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 20.03.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.03.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates & Judy Leitch – 11.03.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Lytton roost – Arthur Keates & Robert Bush – 10.03.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – King Island, Moreton Bay – Penn Lloyd – 28.02.15  
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Lytton roost – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Margaret Cameron – 24.02.15  
 1 Red-necked Stint – blue flag left tibia and blue flag left tarsus – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 20.03.15

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

- 1 Pacific Golden Plover – Bushland Beach, north of Townsville – Ed Pierce – 06.04.15  
 1 Great Knot – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 04.03.15  
 1 Great Knot – St. Helen's Beach north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 02.03.15  
 1 Greater Sand Plover – McArthur IBA, Warna – Paul Barden – 01.03.15  
 1 Red-necked Stint – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 20.03.15

- 1 Red-necked Stint – McArthur IBA, Warna – Paul Barden – 01.03.15  
 1 Red-necked Stint – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 06.03.15

### **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 (Mr Bling - two flags and four bands) – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 12.03.15

### **White over blue (Taiwan) leg flag sightings**

- 1 Greater Sand Plover – engraved AX on white flag, over blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 20.03.15  
 1 Greater Sand Plover – white flag, over blue flag left tibia – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 20.03.15  
 1 Greater Sand Plover – engraved 072 on white flag, over blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 06.03.15  
 1 Greater Sand Plover – engraved EP on white flag, over blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 04.03.15  
 1 Greater Sand Plover – white flag, over blue flag left tibia, metal band right tibia – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 04.03.15

### **Other wader leg flag and banded sightings**

- 1 Pacific Golden Plover – blue band over green band right tibia, metal band right tibia – Pilot Station Reserve, Burnett Heads – Chris Barnes & Nev Capell – 06.03.15 (flagged Alaska, USA)  
 1 Great Knot – yellow flag right tibia, orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – St. Helen's Beach, north of Mackay – Marlis Schoeb – 02.03.15 (flagged south-west, Western Australia)  
 1 Red Knot – black flag right tibia, yellow flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 20.03.15 (flagged Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia).  
 1 Broad-billed Sandpiper – white flag over orange flag left tibia – McArthur IBA, Warna – Paul Barden – 01.03.15 (flagged Korean Peninsula)  
 1 Red-necked Stint – yellow flag right tibia, white flag right tarsus – Burdekin Delta, east of Home Hill, near Townsville – Denise & Graham Holder – 20.03.15

### **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.**

- (ELF unable to read) – Port of Brisbane – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 19.04.15  
 C5 on flag – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – Arthur Keates & David Milton – 07.04.15  
 D3 on flag – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – Arthur Keates & David Milton – 07.04.15  
 K3 on flag – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates – 31.03.15  
 C4 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 18.04.15  
 C4 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates – 18.04.15  
 C4 on flag – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter – 21.03.15  
 H1 on flag – Tony's Island, Tweed River, Tweed Heads, NSW – Laurel Allsopp – 13.03.15

### **Other leg flag sightings and banded birds**

- 1 Caspian Tern – (E2) on orange flag left tarsus, metal band right tarsus – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 22.03.15  
 1 Caspian Tern – (47) on orange flag right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Toorbul – Renata Hottmann-Schafer – 22.03.15

## Count Programme - Linda Cross

I have to start my report with yet another apology to counters for my lack of correspondence since the last newsletter. I catch up on my workload only to find that there is a sudden rush backwards, and here I am again trying to validate counts and get this article together for the newsletter two days before we leave for Japan where we will be when the next newsletter deadline occurs, so I have had to put this article together a little earlier than I would have liked.

Thank you to all counters who did two counts in April, doing the optional count over the Easter period as well as the scheduled count later in the month. The additional counts add more valuable data into the database.

There have been sightings of rarer waders during the last few months. Two Little Curlew at Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown on 17.03.15. Two Asian Dowitcher at Bundaberg Port on 21.02.15, and three during the count on 19.04.15. At Garnett's Lagoon Number 1 in Hervey Bay, one Common Sandpiper was seen on 07.03.15 and three Wood Sandpiper recorded on 04.04.15. The counter (John Knight) for Garnett's Lagoons in Hervey Bay also saw and photographed a Painted Snipe on 22.03.15. Interestingly, this bird appeared to have some sort of disease that resulted in a loss of feathers. A description of such a bird without seeing the photograph would certainly test ones ability to identify it!



Photograph by John Knight

There have been quite a few records of Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels appearing on counts during March and April. The highest total for Black-fronted Dotterel was 23 at Bermuda Avenue claypan at Deception Bay on 18.04.15, and the highest total for Red-kneed Dotterel was 14 at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 26.04.15.

There have also been some large totals of Black-winged Stilt recorded on counts during the last two months. The highest total being 533 at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 08.03.15. This species has also been recorded nesting (see breeding records), at four count sites. A very small number of Red-necked Avocet have appeared at three sites, however, a staggering 1,398 were counted during the monthly count at the Port of Brisbane on 19.04.15.

A few uncommon waterbirds have also appeared on April count sheets which might suggest the inland is drying out and may well produce some interesting species during our winter months.

In newsletter issue No. 91, I reported there had not been any sightings of Double-banded Plover, which was surprising given that we have previously had early February arrival records. The birds were a little late arriving this year with the first group of 25 being sighted at O'Reagan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay on 07.03.15. Since then more have arrived and been recorded at a further 10 sites, with the largest total being 195 at Geoff Skinner Reserve East on 04.04.15.

The core group of counters (myself included) that dedicate one day a month to survey the birds at the Port of Brisbane had their work cut out for them in March with a combined total of waders for the reclamation area, the artificial roost and the claypan hitting an all time record of 14,299. There was only one wader recorded at the Visitor Centre Lake, which brought the total wader count to 14,300. In addition to the wader total the gulls, terns, raptors and waterbirds counted totalled 1,535.

I have been surprised to see high totals for some species during the April counts, particularly for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Whimbrel. A total of 1,499 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was counted at the Port of Brisbane on 19.04.15 and 500 at Bundaberg Port on the same day. Some of the Whimbrel totals appear below including other extracts from counts.

460 Eastern Curlew – Geoff Skinner Reserve east – 07.03.15  
 375 Whimbrel – Toorbul – 25.03.15  
 363 Whimbrel – Mathiesen Homestead, Hervey Bay – 12.04.15  
 314 Whimbrel – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 07.04.15  
 223 Whimbrel – Geoff Skinner Reserve west – 04.04.15  
 3,000 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 22.03.15  
 2,151 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – 12.03.15  
 2,020 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – 07.03.15  
 32 Common Greenshank – Mathiesen Homestead, Hervey Bay – 07.03.15  
 24 Common Greenshank – Geoff Skinner Reserve west – 07.03.15  
 58 Marsh Sandpiper – Bundaberg Port – 08.03.15  
 750 Great Knot – Maaroom – 07.03.15  
 624 Great Knot – St. Helen's Beach, north of Mackay – 02.03.15  
 150 Red Knot – Maaroom – 18.04.15  
 43 Terek Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 31.03.15  
 933 Grey-tailed Tattler – Port of Brisbane – 08.03.15  
 62 Ruddy Turnstone – Port of Brisbane – 08.03.15  
 1,671 Curlew Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane – 08.03.15  
 6,630 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane – 08.03.15  
 397 Pacific Golden Plover – Port of Brisbane – 08.03.15  
 229 Pacific Golden Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 07.03.15  
 173 Greater Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane – 08.03.15  
 1,929 Lesser Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane – 08.03.15  
 289 Red-capped Plover – QAL mangrove site, Gladstone – 06.02.15  
 5 Latham's Snipe – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 13.03.15

#### Breeding records

Pied Oystercatcher – Some juvenile birds in a flock at St. Helen's Beach, north of Mackay on 02.03.15

Black-winged Stilt – Two pairs nesting at Bundaberg Port on 08.02.15 and 08.03.15. Two juvenile and four chicks at Bundaberg Port on 19.04.15. Some birds were still nesting at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 26.04.15. Eleven nests at Luggage Point on 07.03.15. Four chicks at Manly Harbour on 15.03.15. One pair of adults with two chicks, and a pair with three chicks at Manly Harbour on 31.03.15. One chick at Manly Harbour on 18.04.15

Masked Lapwing – Nest with three eggs at Maaroom on 07.03.15. Nesting at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 15.02.15 and 13.03.15.

Comb-crested Jacana – Three juveniles at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 15.03.15.

Black-fronted Dotterel – One chick at Bundaberg Port on 19.04.15. Two chicks at Luggage Point on 07.03.15.

Red-capped Plover – Two chicks at Bundaberg Port on 08.03.15 and one chick on 19.04.15. Two chicks at the Port of Brisbane on 19.04.15. Two chicks at Noosa River sandbanks on 12.12.14



I would also like to remind counters about the **National Winter Count on Saturday 4 July**. Ideally we would like all sites counted if possible. If you are unable to do the count please let me know.

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: [xenus69@bigpond.com](mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com)  
Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 5495 2758

**A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry.** Please contact Phil or myself for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form

Happy counting.  
Linda Cross.

## Wader ID Days Reports

### Toorbul Wader ID Report 25 March 2015

by Arthur Keates

A very hot and humid day, combined with this outing being held mid-week, resulted in only 12 observers at this premier shorebird site. However, those who did attend had wonderful views of 7 migratory shorebird species, many of which were in near full breeding plumage or well-advanced breeding plumage, and 3 resident shorebird species.

Almost 2,500 birds in total were counted at the roost site, the large majority being Bar-tailed Godwit. A high number of Whimbrel, 375, may indicate the birds were gathering pre-migration. The northward migration was evidenced by the absence of Terek, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers and Red-necked Stint.

No overseas or interstate banded birds were observed, only locally banded. Engraved leg flags were recorded for Australian Pied Oystercatcher (2), Whimbrel (2), Bar-tailed Godwit (24) and Great Knot (4).

At Bishop's Marsh only Black-winged Stilt and Masked Lapwing were observed.

The following species of waterbirds, shorebirds, terns and raptors were seen at, and from, the roost: Australian Pelican (6), Eastern Great Egret (1), White-faced Heron (1), Royal Spoonbill (34), Black Swan (in Pumicestone Passage), White-bellied Sea-eagle (1 juv), Whistling Kite (1), Australian Pied Oystercatcher (11), Black-winged Stilt (1), Masked Lapwing (2), Eastern Curlew (75), Black-tailed Godwit (5), Bar-tailed Godwit (1,594), Whimbrel (375), Grey-tailed Tattler (12), Common Greenshank (6), Great Knot (150), Gull-billed Tern (92), Caspian Tern (2), Little Tern (26)



## 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 Phone 07 3378 2964  
 or email [vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au](mailto:vicki.campbell@cogentia.com.au)

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:

Daniel Anderson  
 Alan & Lesley Chenoweth  
 Josh Cooper & Dani Teixeira  
 Sue Lee  
 David Macfarlane  
 Stephen Radley

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**

<b><u>CHAIRPERSON:</u></b>	Jon Coleman	(07) 3299 2780	
<b><u>TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP</u></b>	Sheryl Keates	(07) 3843 1874	or <a href="mailto:membership@waders.org.au">membership@waders.org.au</a>
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David Milton	(07) 3390 2179		

<b><u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u></b>	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email <a href="mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com">xenus69@bigpond.com</a>
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<b><u>BQ PRESIDENT</u></b>	Richard Noske	07 3300 2757	

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence to:  
The QWSG Chairperson,  
22 Parker Street,  
SHAILER PARK  
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.

#### **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,  
5 Stanmere St,  
CARINDALE,  
QLD 4152

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

**Copy Deadline** for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **August 18<sup>th</sup> 2015**

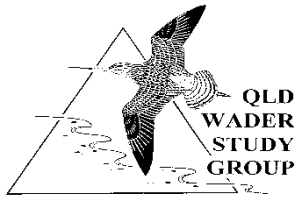
Contributions should be addressed to:

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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## Count Activities – 2015

### QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2015

No Count in June		Sat 4th Jul	1.97m at 11:01
Sat 29 Aug	2.06m at 08:54	Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2.04m at 07:47
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.16m at 11:53	Sat 14th Nov	2.33m at 10:58
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.44m at 10:06		

### Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2015

Sun 14th Jun	2.00m at 07:25 Meet: 06:45	Sun 5th Jul	1.98m at 11:51 Meet: 10:00
Sun 30 Aug	2.15 m at 09:43 Meet 07:55	Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2.18m at 08:36 Meet: 06:50
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.11m at 12:34 Meet: 10:45	Sun 15th Nov	2.30m at 11:36 Meet: 09:45
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!

### 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](mailto: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, 5 Stanmere St CARINDALE QLD 4152.

Cheques to be made out to: Qld Wader Study Group