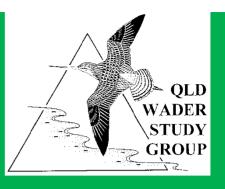
QUEENSLAND WADER



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Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated. <u>www.waders.org.au</u>

Engraved Leg Flag Observations of Bar-tailed Godwit

By Arthur Keates

Spending many hours scanning shorebirds for leg flags prompted me to delve into QWSG's leg flag database painstakingly maintained for several years now by QWSG stalwart, Phil Cross. An enormous amount of data has been collected over the years, thanks to the shorebird enthusiasts who report their observations.

Since the first green engraved leg flag ("ELF") was fitted by QWSG's banding team to a Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica* ("Godwit") on 7 November 2006, 751 Godwits have had ELFs fitted, the last on 28 February 2016. At the end of April 2016, the leg flag database held 4,902 records of observations of ELFs on Godwits throughout the flyway, including overseas observations from New Zealand, South Korea, Japan and China. There have been no confirmed observations of about 130 individuals fitted with ELFs.

As anyone who has read, or tried to read, an ELF knows, as time passes engraved letters and numerals become dirty and, particularly for the older flags, fade completely leaving only an outline of the letters and numerals resulting in the ELF being very difficult to read other than in good light conditions. Indeed, this may account for the lack of some observations.

Before looking at some overseas observations, it is worth looking at some regularly reported birds in southeast Queensland ("SE Qld").

A female Godwit "**JE**", banded at Manly on 30 October 2010 aged 2+ years, has been the subject of more reported observations than any other Godwit. All 63 observations of this individual have been made at Wynnum, Manly and Oyster Point, the last on 19 March 2016. Interestingly, even though of breeding age, she does not appear to have migrated in 2012 having been seen at Wynnum in May, June and July of that year.

The next most reported is "**AE**", banded on 16 February 2007. All 57 observations of this individual have been at the banding site or the nearby Wynnum foreshore; the last on 27 February 2016. Another individual that has been seen only in the Moreton Bay area is male Godwit "**PU**". As expected, a juvenile when banded on 13 January 2013, it appears to have overwintered here in 2013. Observations of "**PU**" at Lytton, Wynnum, Manly and Oyster Point make up the 31 reports for it between 17 Aug 2013 and 12 Mar 2016.

Let's look at some overseas observations starting with the SE Qld-New Zealand connection.

New Zealand

It is known some juvenile Godwit arriving in eastern Australia head east across the Tasman Sea and some "wander" between Australia and New Zealand ("NZ"). ELF Godwit observations provide examples of this.

Since 20 February 2009, 74 reports of ELFs on Godwits have been made in relation to 25 individuals observed in NZ. All but 6 of the reports relate to observations at various sites on the north island. Moreover, those 6 reports relate to observations near Nelson, on the south island, of a male Godwit "**HC**". Like several other individuals reported in NZ, this bird was never seen in Queensland again after it was banded at Geoff Skinner Reserve, Wellington Point on 19 September 2009, aged 2+ years.

Among the first batch of Godwit banded at Manly on 7 November 2006, "**AK**" was fitted to a bird aged 2+ years. "**AK**" was site faithful, being observed each year in Manly or Thorneside until mid-March 2009 sometime after which it moved to Miranda, NZ where it was next reported on 6 January 2013.

Other Godwits moving across the Tasman Sea, include "EP" and "FX", both aged 2+ years when banded. Not seen in Queensland after banding on 21 March 2008, male Godwit "EP" was first observed at Kaipara Harbour, Auckland on 16 October 2009 and in the next 4 years 15 more observations of it in the area were reported. Also, "EP" was observed on northern migration at Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve, China (27 April 2012) and Geum River Barrage, South Korea (30 March 2013). Within 2 weeks after banding at Manly, male Godwit "FX" was seen there but less than a year later it was observed at Clifton Beach, Auckland where it was observed for the following 5 years.

Female Godwit "ALB" and male Godwit "ALK", both aged 2+ years when banded at Toorbul on 23 September 2012, were next reported within 2 days of each other at Miranda in early January 2013. "ALB" was then observed on 6 October 2013 at Clark's Bay, Manukau Harbour, Auckland, but there its NZ history ends. In the following year, "ALB" was observed back at Toorbul, prior to northern migration on 15 March 2014, after the 2014 breeding season in October and November and then on 2 January 2015. After the initial report of "ALK" at Miranda, the only other report of it indicated it too had returned to SE Qld having been observed at Wynnum in October 2013.

South Korea

Aphae Island, at the south-western tip of the Korean Peninsula, is an internationally significant site for 5 shorebird species on northern migration, one being the Godwit. Of the 276 reports for South Korea of ELFs on Godwits, 196 relate to observations on the island. A further 57 reports are of observations at the Mokpo Namhang Wetland, a large relict area of intertidal wetland on the mainland near Aphae Island (see map). These reports are largely due to the dedication of Mr Andreas Kim whose immense contribution to the database is acknowledged.



ELF Observation Sites in Yellow Sea Region

All 62 individuals reported were observed on northern migration, from late March to mid-May, and include multiple observations; 20 individuals have been reported more than once. In fact, multiple observations of the following birds using Aphae Island year after year as a stopover show their site fidelity:

ELF	Banding date	2013	2014	2015	2016
EC	21 Mar 2008	•	•	•	•
AEU	23 Sep 2012		•	•	•
AHZ	23 Sep 2012	•	•		•
PR	13 Jan 2013	•	•	•	•
ALV	13 Jan 2013	•	•	•	•
AWE	3 Feb 2013		•	•	•
AYB	22 Dec 2013		•	•	•
AYD	22 Dec 2013		•	•	•
AZX	3 Feb 2013		•	•	•

As well as being the first person to observe "PR" and "ALV", Andreas has observed them each year since they were banded. Since his first observation of "PR", the "pin-up girl" of the Wynnum foreshore, on 27 April 2013, Andreas and his colleagues have observed and photographed her many times: 24 April to 18 May 2014 (4), 12 April to 5 May 2015 (4) and 9 April to 15 May 2016 (16). The first observation of "PR" in South Korea this year is especially notable because QWSG member Tony Cotter observed and photographed her at Wynnum on 2 April. "PR" could well have been one of the Godwits observed departing on migration from Manly on 3 April, a day when a south-easterly wind would have favoured a migration departure and fits well with her arrival at Aphae Island on or very shortly before 9 April.



Bar-tailed Godwit "PR" at Aphae Is, South Korea on 5 May 2016 - photo Andreas Kim.

The stopover duration of individuals of a species at a site together with the turnover rate at the site are used to determine the abundance of the species at the site and are of great value in understanding the importance of the site for the species in the flyway. The minimum stopover duration of each of the individuals in the following table is known from observations at sites in South Korea:

Table - Observation Dates and Stopover Duration for ELF Godwits at Aphae Island

ELF		Observation Dates*				Stopover Days		
AYB	4 Apr 4 May		31					
AVB		6	Apr		13 May	/		38
ADL			8 Apr	1	1 May			34
ALV			8 Apr		13 May	/		36
EC			9 Apr			2	0 May	42
PR			9 Apr		15 M	ay		37
BNN			12 Apr		17	7 May	У	36

^{*}Observations in 2016 except ADL - 2013 and BNN - 2014

Of course, the mere fact an individual is not observed does not mean it was not present earlier or later and so its stopover duration could have been longer than known.

The first Godwit fitted with an ELF, "**AB**", on 7 November 2006, then aged 2+ years, is probably also the longest surviving Godwit fitted with an ELF. This individual has been reported 11 times, although only once in South Korea, on 20 April 2014. All other reports relate to observations in the Moreton Bay area, including an observation at Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island; the latest observation on 17 January 2016 at Wynnum.

Another long-living individual is male Godwit "AX", having been banded at Manly on 17 March 2007. After 15 sightings at or within 5 km of its banding site, but not reported in SE Qld since 5 November 2010, "AX" was observed at Aphae Island on 8, 9 and 22 April 2016.

After banding as a juvenile on 23 September 2012, male Godwit "**AET**" stayed in the Pumicestone Passage area where it was last seen in early February 2013. As an example of a classic move across the Tasman Sea by a juvenile, over a year later on 6 April 2014, the irrepressible Tony Habraken observed "**AET**" at Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, NZ. The observations at Aphae Island show its stopover duration in 2015 was at least 21 days and in 2016 at least 18 days.

Also, the observations of "**AET**" in South Korea indicate it, like its NZ cohorts, tend to arrive there earlier than birds from SE Qld. This year, "**AET**" was first observed on 23 March 2016, 10 days before the observation of the first known SE Qld individual, during which time at least 9 other NZ flagged birds, and 2 SE Qld flagged birds known to have moved to NZ, were observed.

Another apparent emigrant to NZ, "ABW" has never been seen in Queensland after being banded at Toorbul on 23 September 2012 and indeed the first observation was at Aphae Island on 8 April 2015. After being observed twice at North Auckland in October 2015, the last observation was, again at Aphae Island, on 3 April 2016.

China

Each of the 25 reports from China is of an observation in the Yellow Sea region and all but one is from Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve. Further, the reports all relate to observations of birds on northern migration between 11 April and 18 May. One of these individuals has been reported 5 times, 3 individuals have been reported twice (each observation on the same day or within 2 days of the other) and 13 individuals have each been reported once.

QWSG member, Jimmy Choi, is the 5 times observer of male Godwit "**JD**" which was banded at Manly on 30 October 2010. Jimmy's observations of this bird were made between 28 April and 14 May 2012, giving an indication of the length of its stopover at this critical site for migrating shorebirds on its way to the breeding grounds.

Another regular along the Wynnum Esplanade is female Godwit "PA" which was banded at Manly on 17 December 2011. Since banding, this individual has been reported 44 times, 31 of them by Tony Cotter, the last on 26 March 2016. However, more noteworthy is an observation of this bird at Yalu Jiang on 20 April 2013.

Japan

Only 10 reports of observations of ELFs on Godwits at 6 sites in Japan have been made, including 2 reports for each of "ASD" and "BAK". "ASD" was reported twice (3 weeks apart in April 2014) at Arao Kaigan, the only site in Japan hosting internationally significant numbers of Godwits on the east coast of Kyushu. Banded at Toorbul on 3 February 2013, aged 2+ years, this male Godwit has been observed in Pumicestone Passage 11 times since the observation in Japan.

"BAK" was first observed at Arao Kaigan on 19 April 2013 just 3 months after banding and again reported from the same site on 5 May 2015 before the last observation of it at Oyster Point on 22 October 2015.

Observations at other sites in Japan on 10 April 2016 were the first for "BTC" and "CPC" since their banding on 10 January and 28 February 2016 respectively. The reason for the lack of observations in SE Qld may well be an indication of their site faithfulness to the banding sites that are not generally accessed by the public.

Lastly, I take the opportunity to caution members about trying to get too close to a bird to read a leg flag or take a photograph. It is important not to disturb roosting or feeding shorebirds particularly at critical times just before and after migration. In my experience, a lone observer can usually get close enough by adopting a slow and quiet approach, and withdraw in the same way. In time, the birds seem to accept the observer presents no danger, and indeed, a feeding bird quite often will move closer to the observer as it continues to feed.

World's oldest tagged Terek Sandpiper discovered in Belarus

By Sanya Khetani-Shah, 24 Jun 2016



The Terek Sandpiper's tracking band shows the bird is 17 years old. © APB It was a regular day in the field for ornithologists at the birds ringing station in the **Turau Meadow**, Belarus on 13 May, 2016. That is, until they caught a **Terek Sandpiper**.

While this is cause for excitement in itself (the species is rare in Belarus; there's even a sculpture of it in the neighbouring town of Turov), what really caused researchers and birdwatchers to take notice was the band on the bird's leg: it showed that the bird was 17 years old, the oldest of its kind in the world, with 200.000 kilometres of flight under its belt (or wing).

Ornithologists from the Academy of Sciences of Belarus discovered that this Terek Sandpiper was banded as a chick in a meadow near the village of Zapesochye on 21 June, 1999 – the year the Turau meadow ringing station was founded. Since then, 'meetings' have occurred between the bird and ornithologists during recatching in 2005, 2011 and now in 2016.

Before this discovery, the known maximum age of a tagged Terek Sandpiper was 16 years (that bird was found in Finland). The Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) of Turau Meadow seems to be a favourite spot for the seniors of the species: recently, two other Terek Sandpipers – 14 and 15-year-old birds – were caught there, said Pavel Pinchuk, director of the Belarusian birds ringing centre.

The 17-year-old Terek Sandpiper again draws our attention to the banding of birds to learn more about them and their migration patterns.

In recent years, there have been more and more opinions that banding as a way of studying birds is becoming outdated and is no longer effective enough. Metal bands are being replaced by modern equipment.

However, any transmitter fixed to birds and transmitting signals will never stay alive as long as a simple band; the lifespan of a transmitter is usually only a few years and it can fall prey to technical issues. Finding a bird with a 17-year-old band still attached to it shows that this method's importance cannot be underestimated.

The fact that this old Terek Sandpiper came back to the same spot more than once for the last 17 years also shows that it is vital for birds to have a safe site that they can return to. The Turau Meadow IBA is home to thousands of waders and other wetland birds.

APB (Birdlife in Belarus) is working hard to ensure it stays that way: a management plan has been developed for this territory and volunteers clear the flood plain of the river Pripyat of bushes every summer. The Waders' Festival also takes place on 1 May every year, and it raises awareness among locals and city visitors about the importance of preserving this unique avian habitat.

New Recovery Plan for Plains-wanderer

From Birdlife

The Plains-wanderer is a small, cryptic species of shorebird that few people ever get to see, thanks mostly to its cryptic nature and nocturnal habits. Usually it's only a handful of researchers, farmers and birdwatchers that ever get to see this unique grassland species.

A couple of years ago, the Critically Endangered species, which occurs only in Australia, was classified as the world's fourth most 'unique and imperilled' species of bird in the world, and last month it was listed as an iconic species in New South Wales (joining the Malleefowl, Koala, Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby, Southern Corroboree Frog and the Wollomi Pine).

Unfortunately, the Plains-wanderer is in trouble. Its population has declined rapidly in recent years, mainly due to the loss or modification of its habitat—sparse native grasslands.

Between 2010 and 2012, it is estimated that the population of Plains-wanderers declined by more than 90 per cent.

Against this background, a National Recovery Plan for the Critically Endangered Plains-wanderer was released today. The plan outlines the species' ecology and population trends as well as the key factors and processes that threaten its population.

Most importantly, the Recovery Plan also outlines the key strategies that will be necessary to ensure the survival of the species, with clear conservation objectives, as well as the effects of the strategies on other native species and biodiversity, and outlines resulting social and economic considerations.

You can download a cop of the *National Recovery Plan for the Plains-wanderer* (Pedionomus torquatus) at http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery-plans/plains-wanderer-2016

About this Document from Department of Environment and Energy

This document constitutes the National Recovery Plan for the Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*). The plan considers the conservation requirements of the species across its range and identifies the actions to be taken to ensure the species long-term viability in nature, and the parties that will undertake those actions.

The plains-wanderer has recently been upgraded to Critically Endangered on the list of threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). In recent years, significant declines in numbers of plains-wanderers have been recorded in the species core locations. Over longer timeframes the primary threats to the survival of the plains-wanderer have been identified as habitat loss, primarily through the expansion of agriculture, and inappropriate grazing regimes.

The overall goal of this recovery plan is to achieve a viable, self-sustaining wild population capable of persisting through extended poor breeding seasons, and to put in place long-term management arrangements that ensure key plains-wanderer habitat is appropriately managed. To achieve this goal a range of strategies will be employed, including the development and implementation of a robust, targeted conservation breeding program and projects to facilitate management of grazing and burning regimes to maintain suitable habitat.

WANTED: MERCHANDISE OFFICER

After many years of valued help Vikii Campbell is unable to continue as our Merchandise Officer and will be standing down at the end of the year. This means that we are looking for someone to take Vickii's place.

The job requires purchasing and obviously selling our stock. At the moment there is not a lot on hand so the successful applicant can make this position their own, with new ideas etc.

It is not necessary to be on the Committee to hold this position.

If you are interested please contact the QWSG for more details.

Riddle Solved: Russian Birds Arrive at Secret Destination

Australian researchers have been eagerly following the progress of a handful of Grey Plovers on a marathon migration from Australia back to their secret breeding grounds somewhere in the wilds of Siberia. And now we know exactly where they go.

A handful of these long-legged shorebirds from Broome were fitted with tiny satellite tracking devices that allowed scientists from the Australasian Wader Studies Group, a special interest group of BirdLife Australia, to follow their every move. Some additional Grey Plovers—this time from Adelaide—were also fitted with tracking devices by other bird enthusiasts from Friends of Shorebirds South East, in collaboration with the VWSG and the Adelaide Mt Lofty NRM.

"The trackers are so light that they don't impede the birds' movements at all," said Dr Clive Minton, from the AWSG, "but their signal is powerful enough to provide us with regular information about where they are. Every detail of their journey that we can learn is important, as almost nothing is known about these birds' private lives after they leave Australia."

With the trackers beaming a signal back every couple of days, the Grey Plovers' migration route—including crucial and previously unknown stop-over sites where the birds pause to 'refuel'—was soon revealed, and eventually, so were their breeding grounds.

"After weeks of nail-biting as the Grey Plovers migrated northwards from Australia, through the Yellow Sea, we finally have the answers we wanted," Dr Minton said.

The birds all took different routes after they left Australia in March, as they migrated north along the East Asian—Australasian Flyway. The birds from Broome headed straight across South East Asia, while the South Australian birds first had to fly across Australia's arid centre before reaching Asia. Each bird stopped on the shores of the Yellow Sea, then headed further north for another 3000 kilometres or so to the coast of Yakutia in north-eastern Siberia.

The birds from Broome are now nesting in Yakutia, while the two birds from Adelaide flew even further to nest on Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean, leap-frogging the birds from Broome in the process. The two South Australian birds flew 13,000 kilometres in 3 months.

"It is interesting that the South Australian birds, with the most southerly non-breeding area, finished up at the northernmost breeding locations [on Wrangel Island]," said Dr Minton. "These are the first birds of any species from Australia which are known to visit this remote arctic island."

The findings are particularly satisfying for Dr Minton, who had previously predicted that some Grey Plovers wintering in Australia might originate from Wrangel Island.

With the riddle of their breeding grounds now solved, Dr Minton and his fellow researchers are keen to monitor the plovers' return flight to Australia in a few weeks' time, hoping to solve another mystery—the route of their southward migration.

From BirdLife Australia

<u>Subject: ABC News: Nuclear physics used to track Australian</u> waterbirds with single feather

Scientists are using nuclear physics to track and potentially save Australia's declining waterbird numbers — and they are doing it with discarded feathers

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-14/nuclear-physics-employed-to-track-save-australian-waterbirds/7728162

A great newsletter to read

If you want to read a great newsletter on Hooded Plover go to: http://birdlife.org.au/projects/beach-nesting-birds/newsletters-bnb From the Editor

Wader ID Days 2016

Toorbul Saturday 8th October 2016

1.94 m high tide at 14:02 (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul – 14:32). Meeting time 13:00 (1.00 p.m.) onwards. Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to 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 of the left.

Amenities: At the T-junction turn left and 200 metres ahead is the toilet block and shop.

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.

If you have any questions or are planning to attend an ID day, please contact the leaders.

Leaders: Phil & Linda Cross.

Kakadu (Banksia) Beach roost Bribie Island Saturday 17 December 2016 UBD Map 52 J5

2.57 m high tide at 12 noon. Meeting time 10:00 onwards.

We are hoping that the king tide will help produce a variety of birds at this roost as the large tide should push the waders off other roosts.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane and take the Bribie Island exit. Continue on this road to Bribie Island and follow the signs to Banksia Beach. When you arrive at the T-junction at Banksia Beach turn left and after a short distance turn right into the car park for the roost. A bird hide is positioned at both ends of the roost.

Amenities: At the T-junction at Banksia Beach the toilet block is directly opposite.

Bring morning tea (and lunch for those keen wader enthusiasts), 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.

If you have any questions or are planning to attend an ID day, please contact the leaders.

Leaders: Phil & Linda Cross

Manly Harbour Saturday 24 September 2016

2.12 m high tide at 16:10. Meeting time 15:00 (3.00 p.m.).

<u>And</u>

Manly Harbour Saturday 19 November 2016

2.39 m high tide at 13:09. Meeting time 13:00 (1.00 p.m.).

This is your chance to access the wader roost at Manly Harbour. Meet at the end of Davenport Dr, south of the Royal Queensland Yacht Clubhouse, Manly.

QWSG has a licence over the wader roost. Under the conditions of the licence, participants in this field trip will be required to sign a form acknowledging responsibility for their own health and safety, including:

- wearing protective clothing at all times (for example, hat, shoes, sunglasses) and using sunscreen
- drinking water to avoid dehydration
- · using insect repellant if necessary
- telling a group leader about any health issues that may affect taking part in the field trip
- if feeling unwell, or concerned about someone else being unwell, immediately telling a group leader or another participant
- immediately telling a group leader or another participant about any injury suffered (including a slip, trip, fall and snake bite) or hazard that may cause injury to someone.

Participants must wear enclosed footwear and, as we are likely to be on site for up to 2 hours, must have enough drinking water.

Anyone who does not comply with these conditions will not be allowed to enter the site or asked to leave.

The gate will be locked after we enter the site and late arrivals will not be able to enter.

If you have any questions or are planning to attend an ID day, please contact the leaders. As numbers are kept at a reasonable level, you are advised to book early.

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates.

WADER WATCH - Phil Cross

Can everyone please remember to use the 'Leg Flag Observation Report' form? Please email leg flag sightings to Phil on his new email address.

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 you 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 92 in the last three months, the species recorded and the number of observations was as follows. Australian Pied Oystercatcher 51, Bar-tailed Godwit 1, Curlew Sandpiper 1, Double-banded Plover 18, Eastern Curlew 5, Red-capped Plover 5, and White-headed Stilt 11.

They were sighted by Laurel Allsopp, Sarah Beavis, Tony Cotter, Phil Cross, Linda Cross, Liz Crawford, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, David Milton, Brian Russell, and Melissa Whitby.

The following is a list of the individually marked green flags that have been seen on these species during this reporting period:

Australian Pied Oystercatcher - AAB, AAE, AAH, AAK, AAT, AAU, AAY, ABC, ABE, ABU, B4, C4,

C6, EX and Unread

Bar-tailed Godwit - CPD

Curlew Sandpiper - Unread

Double-banded Plover - ABU, AZA, AZD and Unread

Eastern Curlew - Unread

Red-capped Plover - CP, JH and Unread

White-headed Stilt - AAS, AAV, AAX, AAZ, BB, BZC, EA

Green leg flag sightings seen Interstate

Australian Pied Oystercatcher

1 Pied Oystercatcher (A6 on flag) – Iluka Bay NSW – Neil Edwards -22.5.2016

Green leg flag sightings seen Overseas

North Korea

Bar-tailed Godwit

1 with plain flag - David Melville & Adrian Riegen - Sema-ri - 22.4.2016

1 flag unread - Adrian Riegen - Mundok Rong Rimri - 23.4.2016

South Korea

Bar-tailed Godwit - All these Godwit seen at Aphae Island (south) by Andreas Kim

EC on flag – 4, 9, 11, 15 & 20.5.2016

PR on flag - 4, 5, 7, 11, 13 & 15.5.2016

ALV on flag - 4 & 13.5.2016

ATA on flag - 4.5.2016

AVB on flag - 5 & 13.5.2016

AYB on flag - 4.5.2016

AZX on flag - 4.5.2016

BSD on flag - 4.5.2016

BTF on flag - 4.5.2016

Great Knot

Flag unread – 8.5.2016 – Nial Moores

Ruddy Turnstone

EY on flag – 13.5.2016 – Andreas Kim

China

Great Knot

Flag unread - 8.4.2016 – Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve Shanghai – observer not recorded Red-necked Stint

Z5 on flag – 24.5.2016 – Dongling of Rudong County Jiangsu Province _ observer not recorded

<u>Japan</u>

Bar-tailed Godwit

Flag unread - 9.4.2016 - Arao Beach Arao Kumamoto - Nishiki Isao

BAK on flag - 30.4.2016 - Arao Beach Arao Kumamoto - Machitori Kaname

BJX on flag – 26.4.2016 – Arao Beach Arao Kumamoto – Ryuji Shimazaki

Grey-tailed Tattler

ANA on flag - 10.5.2016 – Tsukinoki-cho Ikeda-shi Osaka – Imai Nana

ATU on flag - 15.5.2016 - Mouth of Kako River Takasago Hyogo - Onishi Nagamichi

AYE on flag - 13.5.2016 - Hanatsuru River mouth Koga-shi Fukuoka-ken - Koji Takenaka

BPK on flag – 26.5.2016 – Tone River Gyouda-shi Saitama-ken – Takako Shinozaki

BWX on flag - 5.5.2016 - Mouth of Shigenobu River Iyo Ehime - Jiro Ogawa

ATN on flag - 14.5.2016 - Shimoichiki Mihama-cho Mie-ken - Setsuji Nakamura

AYN on flag - 5.5.2016 - Tokyo Bird sanctuary Tokyo - Hiroshi Toyamori

ASE on flag - 15.5.2016 - Wajo-cho Hamamatsu-shi Shizuoka-ken - Sumio Suzuki

AKV on flag – 20.5.2016 – Toyomisaki Fishing Harbour Shosanbetsu-mura Hokkaido – Yukihiro Matsudaira

BAD on flag - 21.5.2016 - Koroen Beach Nishinomiya-shi Hyogo-ken - Takashi Hirooka

Red-necked Stint

V8 on flag – 28.5.2016 – Lake Komuke Monbetsu Hokkaido – Kazuhiro Oodate

Taiwan

CNP on flag - 19.4.2016 - Zhuangwei Yi-Ian County - Chen Han-Yu

Yellow (Western Australia) leg flag sightings

Red Knot

Jimmy Choi - Gladstone - 30.9.2015

Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings

All below seen by Jimmy Choi in Gladstone area

Bar-tailed Godwit

1 with plain flag - 1.10.2015

CHV on flag - 1.10.2015

Great Knot

30.9.2015

Red Knot

2 birds - 30.9.2015

1S on flag - 30.9.2015

Red-necked Stint

30.9.2015

2 birds 16.12.2015

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

All these China flagged sightings by Jimmy Choi in Gladstone area

Bar-tailed Godwit

9Z on flag - 23.10.2015, 15.1.2016 & 7.2.2016

Great Knot

1 with plain flag - 30.9.2015, 11.12.2015

2 with plain flag - 16.12.2015

C25 on flag - 30.9.2015 & 16.12.2015

E69 on flag - 15.1.2016

Terek Sandpiper

1 with plain flag - 16.1.2016

Greater Sand Plover

1 with plain flag - 11.12.2015

Blue over Yellow black (Bohai Bay, China) leg flag sightings

Red Knot 2 birds - 30.9.2015

Green over Blue (Tiaozini Jiangsu, China) leg flag sightings

Red-necked Stint

16.12.2015

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

Red Knot (All seen in Gladstone area on 30.9.2015)

Dylan Moffitt - white flag right tibia

Dylan Moffitt – white flag right tibia, red over blue band left tarsus, yellow over blue band right tarsus Jimmy Choi – white flag right tibia, red over red band left tarsus, blue over yellow band right tarsus Jimmy Choi – white flag right tibia, yellow over yellow band left tarsus, blue over blue band right tarsus

Jimmy Choi – white flag right tibia, blue over red band left tarsus, blue over white band right tarsus

White over blue (Taiwan) leg flag sightings

Greater Sand Plover

Jimmy Choi - Gladstone area - (059 on flag) - 16.12.2015

Black over Yellow (Kamchatka Peninsula Russia) leg flag sightings

Red-necked Stint

Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell - Redcliffe Aerodrome - 7.5.2016

Black (Alaska USA) leg flag sightings

Bar-tailed Godwit

Jimmy Choi – Gladstone area – (YO on flag) – 14.1.2016

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.

Brian Russell – (P2 on flag) – Point Halloran – 29.4.2016 Laurel Allsopp – (H1 on flag) - Tweed Heads – 11.6.2016 Laurel Allsopp – (P2 on flag) - Tweed Heads – 8.8.2016 Arthur Keates & David Milton – (K3 on flag) – St Helena Island – 9.8.2016

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

Caspian Tern

Orange (63 on flag) left tarsus, metal band right tarsus – Coolangatta – Laurel Allsopp – 6.6.2016 & Tweed River entrance – 11.6.2016

Orange (A1 on flag) right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Noosa River sandbanks – Jill Dening – 10.6.2016

Orange (24 on flag) right tarsus, metal band left tarsus – Buckley's Hole Sandspit Bribie Island – Phil Cross – 22.7.2016

Orange (E3 on flag) left tarsus, - Kakadu Beach Bribie Island - Michael Strong - 24.7.2016

Count Programme - Linda Cross

As July was an optional count month, and although it was extra work for me, it was wonderful to see the very large number of counts entered onto the website. Only a very small number of counts were not conducted during July. I thank all counters for helping submit more valuable data for the database. All July counts and one or two early August counts have been validated.

<u>Double-banded Plover</u> – This cross Tasman visitor to our shores has been recorded at 22 sites from the Gold Coast to Mackay during the last 3 months. At 15 of the sites numbers were less than 20, while 5 sites recorded numbers between 20 and 50, and two sites recorded higher numbers. Manly Harbour recorded 54 on 05.05.16 and 55 on 07.05.16, but the highest count was 147 birds at the large sandbank off Amity Point on 25.07.16. More recent totals include 26 at Manly Harbour on 16.08.16, 5 at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 08.08.16 and 4 at Noosa River sandbanks on 10.08.16. Generally, all of this species have left our shores by the end of August with a possible straggler or two around early in September. Although not from Queensland it is interesting to note a single Double-banded Plover was observed and photographed on 30.07.16 on the

western side of Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria, the first record for the species in the Northern Territory.

During the winter months wader numbers and species are usually lower, but some species records on counts have made for interesting reading.

<u>Whimbrel</u> – This species has been recorded at 10 sites during the northern hemisphere breeding season. The counter for Wave Break sand island on the Gold Coast recorded 48 (noting this was a high number) on 22.06.16, and totals at 5 other sites have been up to 85 birds. Other impressive numbers have come from the main Toorbul site with 171 recorded on 19.04.16 then decreasing to 118 on 09.05.16 before increasing to 273 on 05.05.16 and finally decreasing to 186 on 22.07.16. At Cairns Esplanade 152 were recorded on 22.06.16 and at Geoff Skinner Reserve West 172 were recorded on 23.07.16. The counter covering the Port of Brisbane claypan on 08.05.16 recorded a staggering 338 birds that were flushed out of the mangroves when a Whitebellied Sea Eagle flew over the area.

<u>Far Eastern Curlew</u> – A good total of 201 birds were counted at Fisherman Island claypan during the May count and during the June count 108 were seen at Maaroom and 105 at Toorbul.

<u>Marsh Sandpiper</u> – On 25.06.16, 9 birds were reported at Redcliffe Airport North side and 6 were seen at Kinka Beach sandbar, Yeppoon on 07.05.16.

Red-capped Plover – Numbers for this species appear to increase during the winter months in Queensland and although there have been some very high totals for this bird in recent years, it has been recorded at 13 sites during the May, June and July counts. Reasonably high counts were 115 at the Port of Brisbane and 95 at Bundaberg Port on 08.05.16 followed by 81 at Cooloola in Tin Can Bay on 06.05.16. Other good totals in excess of 60 birds came from Kinka Beach sandbar at Yeppoon, Shellgrit Creek entrance at Mackay and Reeder's Point on Moreton Island.

<u>Black-fronted Dotterel</u> – This species was recorded at 16 sites along the coast during the winter months from Cooktown to Moreton Bay. Although counts at most sites were less than 10 birds, Kinka Wetlands in Yeppoon recorded the highest count with 23 on 04.06.16 followed by 19 at Bishop's Marsh on 19.04.16. The next best figures were 19 at Luggage Point on 05.06.16.

<u>White-headed Stilt</u> – Recorded at 23 sites during the last few months with totals at most sites well in excess of 100 birds and more than 200 birds at others. The highest totals came from Maaroom with 411 on 03.06.16 and Toorbul Sandfly bay with 391 on 05.06.16.

Red-necked Avocet — A species that is usually seen at coastal sites during the winter months, but almost all the birds disappeared after early May with only 3 sites having any records. After recent rains in western Queensland it is more than likely that this species headed to that area to breed, so perhaps we can expect the return of these birds in the next few months. The Port of Brisbane recorded 302 on 08.05.16, but none have been recorded since. At Maaroom 3 birds were recorded in early June and 17 recorded on 24.07.16, and Trute's Bay at Tweed Heads recorded 5 during the May count, 8 in June and only 1 bird on 11.07.16.

I hope everyone gave their telescopes and binoculars a good clean before heading out to do their August count as a couple of early August counts entered onto the website indicate that waders have already started to return. A few examples follow:

<u>Black-tailed Godwit</u> – Early records for this species came from Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve with 39 birds on 23.07.16 and 7 birds at Bundaberg Port on 24.07.16. On a low tide count in the Pine River from Osprey House 45 were counted on 10.08.16.

<u>Far Eastern Curlew</u> – This species is one of the first migratory birds to return on the southward migration and 6 sites are showing an increase in their numbers in late July and early August. The best totals being 158 at the sandbank off Amity Point on 25.07.16, 155 at Toorbul on 22.07.16 and 150 at Day's Gutter, Moreton Island on 25.07.16. Maaroom and Geoff Skinner Reserve West both recorded fewer than 100 birds each.

Other interesting sightings:

- 1 Sanderling Reeder's Point, Moreton Island 25.07.16.
- 2 Red Knot Toorbul 22.07.16 (one in 90% breeding plumage, subspecies piersmai).
- 9 Common Greenshank Geoff Skinner Reserve West 23.07.16.
- 17 Red Knot Maaroom 24.07.16.

16 Pacific Golden Plover - Manly Harbour - 16.08.16.

268 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – 16.08.16 (some with remnant breeding plumage).

5 Terek Sandpiper - Manly Harbour - 16.08.16.

7 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 16.08.16 (some with remnant breeding plumage).

The southward migration is also a good time to look for leg flags particularly as some species (Red Knot in particular, and some Bar-tailed Godwit), continue their migration further south and across the Tasman to New Zealand.

Breeding records.

Pied Oystercatcher – pair nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 24.07.16. Bird observed turning eggs at Manly Harbour on 06.08.16 and still on the nest on 16.08.16.

White-headed Stilt – no nesting activity recorded at sites, but quite a few immature birds recorded on counts during the winter months, which would suggest birds possibly bred somewhere in inland Australia before returning to coastal regions.

Red-capped Plover – juvenile bird at Garnet's Lagoons No1, Hervey Bay on 07.05.16 and an immature bird at Manly Harbour on 22.05.16.

Other totals for waders and interesting sightings are listed below.

Interesting wader sightings

6 Comb-crested Jacana - Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island - 06.06.16

104 Ruddy Turnstone - Port of Brisbane - 08.05.16

1 Ruddy Turnstone - Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island - 05.06.16 (unusual at this site)

2 Ruddy Turnstone - Toorbul - 09.05.16

3 Beach Stone-curlew - Wave Break sand island, Gold Coast - 22.06.16

3 Beach Stone-curlew - Goat Island, Moreton Bay - 25.07.16

3 Sooty Oystercatcher - Manly Harbour - 05.05.16

13 Grey Plover - Adair Street, Boonooroo - 07.05.16

1,864 Red-necked Stint - Port of Brisbane - 08.05.16

990 Grey-tailed Tattler - Port of Brisbane - 19.04.16

35 Pacific Golden Plover - King Street, Thronlands - 07.05.16

Not waders but of interest anyway

1 Australian Gannet – Wickham Point, Caloundra– 05.06.16

16 Australasian Shoveler – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 04.06.16

363 Chestnut Teal – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – 08.05.16

240 Chestnut Teal - Bundaberg Port - 24.07.16

415 Grey Teal - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 04.06.16

212 Plumed Whistling Duck - Bishop's Marsh, Toorbul - 09.05.16

70 Maned Duck - Bishop's Marsh, Toorbul - 09.05.16

3 Radjah Shelduck – Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown – 04.06.16

740 Australian White Ibis - Sandbank No. 2 Caloundra - 24.07.16

170 Straw-necked Ibis - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 04.06.16

640 Common Tern - Noosa River sandbanks - 13.04.16

2887 Crested Tern - Noosa River sandbanks - 10.08.16

1560 Crested Tern – sandbank off Amity Point – 25.07.16

28 Lesser Crested Tern - St. Helena Island north - 09.08.16

27 Glossy Ibis - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 07.05.16

17 Glossy Ibis – Nathan Road, Kippa-ring – 22.07.16

929 Little Black Cormorant - Port of Brisbane - 24.07.16

350 Little Black Cormorant - Kedron Brook Wetlands - 09.06.16

1480 Pied Cormorant - sandbank off Amity Point - 25.07.16

1 Great Cormorant - Noosa River sandbanks - 11.07.16

1 Lewin's Rail - Kedron Brook Wetlands - 09.06.16

2 Yellow-billed Spoonbill - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 07.05.16

192 Royal Spoonbill - Visitors Centre Lake, Port of Brisbane - 24.07.16

1 Black-necked Stork - Cooloola, Tin Can Bay - 05.06.16

56 White-faced Heron - Trute's Bay, Tweed Heads - 11.07.16

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows:

A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. Please also note that flag sightings emailed to Phil should be sent to his new email address

Please contact Phil or me for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form

Happy counting. Linda Cross.

Notice of 2016 AGM of QWSG

The 2016 AGM will be held on Sunday the 4th Dec 2016 at 1:30 pm at Greene Park - 2 Glenora St, Wynnum.

Please email the chairperson if you are coming along, plus let me know if you require a nomination form for a committee position. chairperson@waders.org.au

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee:	
Position:	
Name of Proposer:	
Name of Seconder: (Note: Nominees, prop	osers and seconders must have current QWSG membership).
I accept the nomination Group as indicated.	n for the position on the management committee of the Queensland Wader Study

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, Jill Brown <u>president@birdsqueensland.org.au</u>

Secretary, <u>secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au</u>

Treasurer, Wayne Lock treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au

Monthly Meetings Birds Queensland

1st Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting. Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton. Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

Dog Disturbance on Shorelines

When people see dogs chasing or disturbing shorebirds, Phone the BCC Call Centre 3403 8888 and request a RAPID RESPONSE TEAM be sent. Add the number to your mobile.

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

See in Newsletter that we require a Merchandise Officer to take over from Vicki Campbell (page 6).



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Ms Elizabeth DALLEY, Mr David PEARSE, Mr Zachary PATERSON,

Mr Ian ROPER & Family, Ms Emma WALTON,

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 Course – Sunday 20th November 2016

This course offers a unique opportunity to learn about a special group of birds, waders. These birds are magnificent athletes, flying up to 25,000 km every year. They range from tiny 24-gram birds to the world's largest wader, the Eastern Curlew, weighing in at over 1 kilogram. Moreton Bay, on Brisbane's doorstep, is an internationally significant area for waders, but most people are oblivious to their presence.

Seventeen resident and 36 migrant species of wader occur in Australia; in total, about 3 million birds. They feed on the shorelines of coastal and inland wetlands of Australia. The majority breed in the higher latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere in places like Siberia and Alaska, and travel the East Asian/Australasian flyway twice a year on migration. From September to April, a large number of species can be found in Moreton Bay, and we have an ideal opportunity to study these species. They face increasing pressures from burgeoning human populations and habitat destruction throughout the flyway.

During this one-day course you will be introduced to these fascinating birds through specific topics that include:

- What are waders, there evolution and taxonomy;
- Field identification;
- · Migration and breeding
- Importance of Moreton Bay;
- The East Asian/Australasian Flyway;
- Challenges and threats:
- National and International conservation agreements.

The field trip will give you the opportunity to have a 'hands on' chance to identify many of the species mentioned in the lectures with experienced wader-watchers.

THE QWSG WADER COURSE CONSISTS OF A MORNING OF LECTURES AND AN AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP

COST: \$55.00 To confirm your registration, please transfer your fee using the details below.

Receipts will be issued on the day of the course at registration. Places are limited so

register soon and keep an eye on the website for availability.

REGISTRATION; Sunday 20th November 2016, 8.30am to 9.00am

at the Manly NPRSR Office, 34 Trafalgar Street Manly 4179

LECTURES: 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, Morning tea and lunch included.

FIELD TRIP: Sunday 20th November, 2016, 2.00 to 4.00 pm, at Manly Marina Roost

Please note that the field site is exposed – remember to bring a hat, sunscreen and water bottle. We also recommend wearing closed shoes for the field visit.

CLOSING DATE: Please enrol by Friday 11th November 2016. Remember places are limited.

ENQUIRIES: Jon Coleman:

Website: www.waders.org.au/queensland-wader-study-group-news email: Chairperson@waders.org.au

ENROLMENT FORM (email to treasurer@waders.org.au)

INTRODUCTION TO WADERS (SHOREBIRDS) IN AUSTRALIA AND MORETON BAY

Course Fee: \$55.00 pay by direct transfer to Qld Wader Study Group BSB: 313 140 Account Number: 08305297 Please use "Surname at the identifier" for the EFT.

Title:First Name:	Last Name:	
Address:		
	Email Address:	
Organisation (if applicable):	Phone Number:	
Do you require a vegetarian or o	other special lunch? Please specify	

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

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Paul Finn Richard Fuller
Andrew Geering Sandra Harding

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BQ PRESIDENT Jill Brown Email president@birdsqueensland.org.au

<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u> All correspondence to:

The QWSG Chairperson,

XXXXXXX, XXXXXX XXXXX

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

<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u> 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.

<u>Copy Deadline</u> for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **November 18th 2016** Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011

or E-mail to: gouldian@ozemail.com.au

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

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Count Activities – 2016

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2016

Sat 17th Sep 2.21m at 09:43 Sat 15th Oct 2.26m at 08:36 Sat 12th Nov 2.22m at 07:26 Sat 3rd Dec 2.31m at 11:43

Port of Brisbane Count Dates - 2016

Sun 18 th Sep	2.28m at 10:29	Meet	08:40
Sun 16 th Oct	2.38m at 09:24	Meet	07:35
Sun 13th Nov	2.39m at 08:17	Meet	06:25
Sun 4 th Dec	2.26m at 12:22	Meet	10:30

Cheques to be made out to: Qld Wader Study Group

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 Title: First name:		rudent/Pensioner: \$10)	
Address:	Postcode:		
Email	o (Work)	(Mobile) Fax	
Are you a member of Birds Queen What activities do you wish to part WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, OTHER (specify:	nsland? ticipate in? (Please cir SCIENTIFIC DATA (rcle) COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICA n) by E-mail?	AL,)
Signature	[Date:	
Please email this form to: memb Direct funds transfer to: Qld Wader Study Group BSB: 313 140 Account number: 08305297 or			404
Please post this form to: QVVS	G Heasurer, PO Bo	x 3138, SOUTH BRISBANE, QLD 4	101