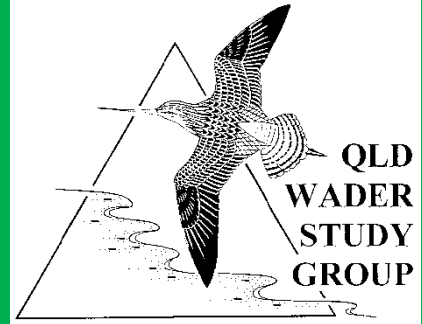


QUEENSLAND WADER



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

www.waders.org.au

Green Leg Flag Observations of Grey-tailed Tattler

By Arthur Keates

As at mid-September 2016, QWSG's leg flag database had 3,132 records of observations of green leg flags fitted to Grey-tailed Tattler, *Tringa brevipes*, (Tattler). On 7 November 2006, the first Tattler was fitted with a green engraved leg flag (ELF) and, for just over a decade before that, a plain green leg flag (PLF) was fitted to Tattlers. The introduction of ELFs gives researchers the advantage of being able to identify a particular individual. At the end of 2015, QWSG's banding team had fitted 555 ELFs to Tattlers, 528 in the Moreton Bay area and 33 near Gladstone.

The most striking aspect of these records is that 2,995 are reports of observations of Tattlers in Moreton Bay, 5 reports of birds on the Queensland coast on migration between Moreton Bay and Cairns and only one bird south of Moreton Bay, a bird captured at Corner Inlet, Victoria.

Reports of overseas observations of PLF and ELF Tattlers come only from Japan perhaps because of the human population density there compared to less populated areas in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway as well as the observer effort. Regardless, in Japan:

- 84 reports have been made for PLF Tattlers since 1996;
- 47 reports have been made for ELF Tattlers in relation to 28 individuals with multiple observations of 7 individuals.

While a PLF does not identify a particular individual, having regard to PLF observations at different sites and times as well as observers' reports of multiple PLF observations over a known period at some sites, it is probable the reports relate to 19 individuals on northern migration and 17 individuals on southern migration. This of course does not mean 36 PLF Tattlers have been reported because some individuals are likely to have been reported in more than one year or indeed in the same year on northern and southern migration.

Over 50 of the PLF observations in Japan relate to reports from Yatsu Higata, one of 33 internationally important sites in Japan for Tattlers (for both northern and southern Tattler migration). Interestingly, all PLF reports for Yatsu Higata are for birds on southern migration, and only ELF Tattler **ARK** has been observed there on northern migration. The observation period and duration of the stopover in the following Table accepts the multiple observations of a PLF Tattler, based on observers' reports, is the same individual observed in the period:

Table – PLF Observations at Yatsu Higata

Year	Observation Period	Stopover Days
1998	8 Aug – 26 Aug	19
1999	3 Aug – 22 Aug	20
2000	10 Aug – 27 Aug	18
2001	24 Jul – 17 Aug	25
2002	23 Jul – 7 Aug	15
2004	18 Jul – 13 Aug	26

The observation periods and stopover days shown in the Table for years 1998 to 2000 are not inconsistent with ELF Tattler **A6** whose geolocator established its stopover duration on southern migration to have been 19 days from 31 July 2011. Although pure speculation, the earlier observation dates in years 2001 to 2004 may have been of failed breeders. Of course, an individual's stopover duration could be longer than shown in the Table because the individual may have been present but not observed outside the stated period.

Three observations of a PLF Tattler on northern migration from 5 to 25 May 1996 were reported at the same site, the Tempaku River, Nisshin, Aichi Prefecture. On 6 May 1997, an observer reported a PLF Tattler on northern migration at the same site, noting its presence until 26 May. Then again the next year, the same observer reported a PLF Tattler at that site on 6 May. Had an ELF been fitted, we may well know whether these sightings were of the same individual, rather than leaving us to speculate that to be the case. Even so, the stopover duration for the 1996 and 1997 observations (21 days) is consistent with 2 of the ELF Tattlers whose geolocators established their stopover duration on northern migration as 16 and 18 days respectively.

Before looking at reports of ELF Tattlers, it should be borne in mind that over time, 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 older individuals going unreported, reported as a PLF or even incorrectly read.

Some of the longest surviving individuals known from observations are Tattlers **AV**, **AX**, **BN** and **BT**. These birds have a number of things in common: they were banded at Manly in March-April 2007, all observations have been at or within 5 km of the banding site and they were all observed in mid to late April 2016; the latest being **BT** observed on 26 April just before their expected departure on northern migration. Tattler **BT** has now returned to Moreton Bay having observed at Lytton on 9 September.

The most reported individual is **AVC**, one of 41 individuals fitted with a yellow flag and geolocator on the left tibia. Since banding on 16 December 2012 aged 1 year old, observations of **AVC** have been reported 47 times, the last being 3 April 2016. This individual was observed 3 times during the austral winter of 2013, confirming it was a juvenile and so did not migrate.

Other Tattlers fitted with geolocators, **APD**, **APJ** and **BAD** have also been well reported. A high reporting rate for Tattlers fitted with geolocators may well be due in part to the fact that, in addition to having an ELF, the yellow flag is very eye-catching and observers, knowing it is a geolocator, are likely to take more time to read the ELF borne out by the 263 reported observations of 33 Tattlers fitted with an ELF. Incidentally, the only geolocator Tattlers observed in the field outside the Moreton Bay area are **C2** and **BAD**, both on northern migration: **C2** on 7 May at the mouth of the Tama River near Tokyo and **BAD** on 21 May 2016 at Koroen Beach, Nishinomiya, just west of Osaka.

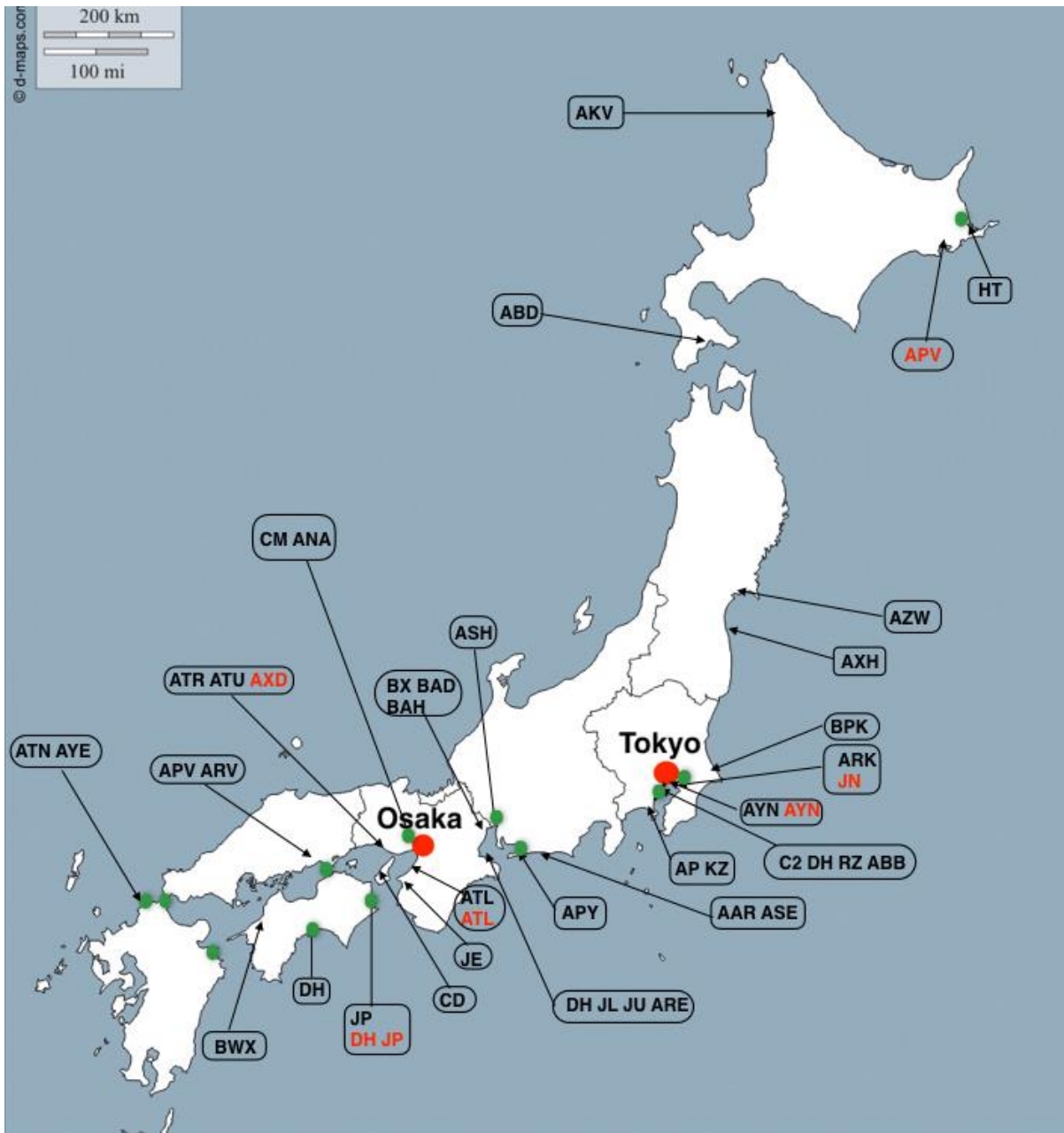
Tattlers **APD**, **APJ**, **AVC** and **BAD**, all in advanced breeding plumage, were observed in the Moreton Bay area in late April 2016 just before their expected departure on northern migration. It is worth noting the data obtained from the retrieval of geolocators from 3 Tattlers show they all passed through Japan on their northern migration but only one on southern migration, the others taking a more direct southerly route east of Japan over the Pacific Ocean. Tattlers **APJ** and **AVC** have since been observed back in Moreton Bay and hopefully the others have also returned.

Of the 41 reports of observations of ELF Tattlers in Japan, only 13 of the observations were made during southern migration, consistent with the more direct easterly route taken by 2 of the geolocator birds.

Incredibly, Tattler **DH** which was banded at Manly on 8 September 2007 has never been observed in Australia but has been observed 6 times in Japan. Of those observations, **DH** was observed at the same site on the eastern coast of the island of Shikoku on southern migration on 8 August 2009 and 15 August 2011. Furthermore, **DH** has been observed at 3 different sites on northern migration. In 2010, **DH** was observed at the same site on the southern coast of the island of Shikoku on 10 April and 4 May, indicating a stop-over there of at least 25 days. In early May 2011 and 2014, **DH** used sites in Tokyo Bay and Ise Bay, both on the island of Honshu, on its northern migration. Reasons for the use of different sites by an individual include the flock in which it is migrating taking a different route, the bird's physical condition, weather conditions and changes to habitat.

Two of the longest surviving individuals known from observations of ELFs in Japan are Tattlers **JN** and **KZ**, both banded at Manly, on 5 September 2009 and 2 October 2011 respectively. Last observed in south-east Queensland in early April 2016, **JN** was reported on the same day by different observers at different sites in Tokyo Bay on 31 July 2012.

Tattler **KZ** has been reported in consecutive years on northern migration from the same site (about 150 km south-east of Tokyo) on 11 May 2014 and 15 May 2015. Last seen in advanced breeding plumage at Wynnum on 28 April 2016, no observation report has been received for the 2016 northern migration season.



Sites of reported PLF observations (green dots) and ELF observations (black letters northern migration, red letters southern migration)

Even though an internationally important site, Lake Furen, on the northern island of Hokkaido, has recorded the highest maximum count for tattlers (2,000), only one observation of an ELF has been reported from there (in addition to a single PLF Tattler). After banding on 5 September 2009, Tattler **HT** was first observed at Lake Furen on 20 May 2010 and was last seen at Lytton on 31 January 2016.

Tattler **ATU**, another individual that has never been reported in Queensland since it was banded on 12 October 2014, has been observed on northern migration in consecutive years, 11 May 2015 and 15 May 2016, at the Mouth of the Kako River, about 60 km west of Osaka on the island of Honshu. Three other Tattlers, **JP**, **ATL** and **AYN**, have been observed in the same year on both northern and southern migration using the same site: **JP** on 14 May 2012 and 19 August 2012 on the eastern coast of the island of Shikoku near to a site **DH** used; **ATL** on 14 May 2015 and 2 September 2015 about 50 km, south-east of Osaka; and **AYN** on 22 May 2016 and 17 August 2014 and 31 July 2015 at the Tokyo Bay Bird Sanctuary. On the other hand, Tattler **APV** was observed on northern migration on 19 May 2014 near Hiroshima on the island of Honshu and on southern migration at Akkeshi on the northern island of Hokkaido on 12 September 2015.

Thanks to the shorebird enthusiasts who report their observations of leg flagged Tattlers, QWSG's leg flag database has a significant amount of data. Pending a more thorough and scientifically rigorous examination of the data and recognising the effort of observers may skew, or at least influence, interpretation of the data, I think some preliminary inferences can be drawn:

- The data confirm the importance of several stopover sites for Tattlers scattered throughout the islands of Japan, particularly on northern migration, while a more direct easterly route across the Pacific Ocean is taken by most (or at least some) on southern migration (as did 2 of the 3 geolocator Tattlers).
- The majority of Tattlers leave Japan to continue their northern migration by late May: the last observation date of all but one of the ELF Tattlers is 25 May and the last observation date of a PLF Tattler is 26 May.
- Multiple observations of individuals provide some evidence of their longevity based on banding and observation data before the 2016 northern migration season: at least 7 known surviving individuals have reached 10+ years.
- The high fidelity of Tattlers to feeding and roost sites in the non-breeding season has been known for some time: now the ELF observations show a degree of site fidelity by some individuals along their migration route through Japan.

Observations of Juvenile and Adult Wader Behaviour at the Other End of the East Asian Australasian Flyway

By Robert Bush

In July and August 2016 I joined a wader research expedition to the western side of Kamchatka; a long peninsula of land in sub-Arctic far-eastern Russia. The precise location was the Belogolovava river estuary, which flows into the Sea of Okhotsk. In winter this region is covered in snow but between May and October the ground softens and waders return to breed here and to the north around the Arctic Circle. In this article I focus on observations of wader behaviour in this area during the breeding period and before their southern migration.

Waders breed across a wide range of climatic zones from within the Arctic Circle, to sub-Arctic regions as well as well to the south. The vegetation at these different latitudes varies and so attracts different wader species that have species-specific preferences for different nesting environments. The north-western side of Kamchatka is a sub-Arctic region consisting of lowland tundra, remnants of Targa forest, coastal marshlands and tidal mudflats. The Long-toed Stint, Grey-tailed Tattler, Common Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Lesser Sandplover and Dunlin, among others, nest in these marshlands and the Far Eastern Curlew nests on the lowland tundra.

Other wader species nest to the immediate north of Kamchatka in the Arctic and high Arctic but fly south after breeding to feed on these intertidal mudflats. The dominant species that breed directly to the north are Ruddy Turnstone, Red-necked Stint, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Great and Red Knot.

Wader parental role at the nest is minimal after hatching has taken place. Chicks are able to walk straight away, can tolerate a wide range of temperatures and are able to feed themselves. Parenting is limited to showing young the best and safest feeding areas and signalling danger from predators, such as approaching Raptors, Skuas and larger Gulls. When I approached Common Greenshank nesting sites for instance, the guarding adult who was usually perched on the top of shrubs, made continuous alarm calls until I left the area.

Female adults usually depart the nesting area following hatching leaving male adults to take up these limited duties. Within two to three weeks males also leave the fledgling young to fend for themselves. Within a further two weeks or so the young leave the nesting area and fly to nearby intertidal feeding grounds.

This means that post breeding there is a continuous cycle of waders arriving on the intertidal mudflats over a period of about 10 weeks; first females and then a mix of females and males, then juveniles mixed in with these adults and eventually flocks that are predominantly young birds hatched a few weeks earlier. Despite a continuous flow of new arrivals on the mudflats, population estimates determined from observations undertaken on the estuary, remained constant at about 30,000 birds per day. This suggests that while there is a continuous flow of waders from the nesting grounds there is also a continuous number setting off on southern migration over the same period. Migration watch carried out on most evenings suggested that between 1000 and 10,000 waders leave the estuary on several nights in any given week. However, while population estimates remain constant over this period, the nature of the population changes from predominately adults to a predominantly juvenile population.

Adult waders arriving at the intertidal mudflats behave differently to juveniles. Adults quickly occupy the productive feeding areas of the mudflats. Different species dominate different parts of the mudflats where their food preference is most abundant. Great Knots prefer molluscs (bivalves) on or near the surface of the central and south-western tidal zones. Black-tailed Godwits probe for polychaetes at what appeared to be the most abundant middle of the south-western mudflats. Eastern Curlew concentrated to the far end of the south-western edge of the intertidal zone. They mainly forage for burrowing prey such as crustaceans (crabs and shrimps). They use visual surface clues in the mud before probing. Eastern Curlews can have the appearance of stalking; looking downward to the mud surface, moving slowly and then quickly probing deep into the mud, pulling out a crab, lifting their heads and swallowing. These abundant species tended to be in quite dense flocks, sometimes lifting together to move to other parts of the mudflats to feed. The density of the flocks probably indicates the specific areas of best food supply but also acts as some protection from predating Raptors and Skuas.

Juvenile Knots and Godwits arriving from the nesting grounds tended to join other juveniles to form small flocks (5 to 30) on the tundra close to the mudflats. They moved onto the edge of the mudflats and if disturbed moved back onto the tundra. While they displayed their species specific feeding actions by probing (godwits) and pecking and probing (knots) or turning over small stones (Ruddy Turnstones) they did so in areas largely devoid of any abundant food supply. As such they were inefficient feeders until after several days they joined up with adult flocks. They now began to feed more efficiently although remain on the edge of the flocks in what appeared to be the less food productive areas. Being on flock edges made them more prone to predation than the adult birds towards the centre.



Juvenile Great Knot on the Belogolovava River estuary feeding on the common bivalve, *Macoma Balthica*.

Resighting of flagged birds suggested that birds at this site could spend up to two weeks feeding before beginning southern migration.

Migration south occurred mainly in the evening. While migrating flocks tended to be dominated by the same species, it was common to have smaller numbers of other waders join. So for example, flocks of Black-tailed Godwit set off with Common Greenshank mixed in at the edge of the flock. A common pattern was for a flock to lift off the mud surface rising 50 to 300 metres into the air and then to glide downwards again to settle on the mud. These 'lifts' would occur several times before eventually a flock would continue to climb, forming a rough V shape to head South West over the Sea of Okhotsk.

Mudflats and the surrounding tundra on the western side of Kamchatka provide a transition environment before migration for both adults and juveniles coming off the nesting grounds locally and for many waders that breed to the north. Both adults and juveniles feed and put on fat reserves here before migrating southward. While adults use existing knowledge and feeding skills to locate and exploit the most abundant food source zones of the mudflats, juveniles must learn how to achieve efficient feeding through joining up with adult flocks. The question this raises in my mind is whether juveniles that leave the nesting grounds early in the breeding season, when adult flocks are numerous on the mudflats, have a better chance of survival than juveniles leaving the nesting grounds late in the breeding season, after most adults have set off on migration?

The study of survival factors and rates needs further exploration as climate change alters the synchronisation between breeding, food supply, migration timing and climatic conditions. What does seem apparent is the importance of these transition sites, like the Belogolovava River estuary in western Kamchatka, at the beginning of southern wader migration.

The expedition was organised through the All Russian Institute for Nature Protection and took place in July and August 2016. The expedition members were Dmitri Dorofeev (RU) Alexander Matsyna (RU) Ric Elles (UK) Hazel Watson (UK) Peter Crighton (AU) and Robert Bush (AU).

I am grateful to Grace Maglio for assistance with assessment of feeding wader photos

The World's Smallest Satellite Tag Helps One of the World's Rarest Species!

28 Oct 2016 by Rebecca Lee From Nigel Clark, Guy Anderson and Baz Hughes

Very exciting news from the international research efforts helping the Spoon-billed Sandpiper – one of the world's most endangered birds. We now have three wild adult 'spoonies' fitted with satellite tags – brand new tiny tags that are the smallest of their type in the world. Our knowledge of where and when Spoon-billed Sandpipers move from and to along the east coast of Asia has always been limited. This has hampered our ability to identify and protect key areas for them; from their Arctic Russian breeding areas on the tundra, to their wintering grounds on the mudflats of south-east Asia. But these three amazing new tags are the first step in revealing more secrets of the Spoony.

The tags were fitted to Spoonies on their autumn stopover and moulting area in Jiangsu Province, China, in the south-western corner of the Yellow Sea. The birds were caught and tagged as part of a collaboration between Nanjing Normal University, SBS in China, BTO, RSPB, WWT and Microwave Telemetry Inc.



One of the three Spoon-billed Sandpipers fitted with a satellite tag at Tiaozini, October 2016.

In 2015, Microwave Telemetry agreed to provide the first few of the world's smallest satellite tags to a project where they would make a significant contribution to conservation efforts. The research into Spoon-billed Sandpipers was the chosen project. There then followed an extensive testing process to make sure the tags would work as intended, and be safe for the birds, when fitted to small waders. With less than 250 breeding pairs of Spoonies in the world, these were birds we had to be very, very careful with. Trials with captive dunlin went very well though, and both tags and birds behaved normally for months. Independent experts were consulted and the project to use these tags on Spoonies was approved. Much effort went into securing all necessary permissions and authorisations for getting the tags to China, catching Spoonies and fitting tags to them. We assembled a team of experienced wader catchers from the UK, New Zealand and Hong Kong to work with our colleagues in Jiangsu, and we were ready to go in late September.

We were confident that we could successfully catch Spoon-billed Sandpipers in Jiangsu, the same collaborative team having successfully caught ten there in September 2015. But this year, the weather was against us to start with. The tail end of a typhoon limited what we could do for the first few days – even seeing any waders through the wind and rain was challenging at times!

The birds then kept us on our toes by using different locations to last year; finding a handful of Spoon-billed Sandpipers within flocks of thousands of small waders can be a challenging task. Using a variety of methods, we managed to catch a couple of Spoonies, and eventually caught a bird that was suitable for tagging. We needed to catch adult birds that had completed enough of their annual feather moult, as the tags were to be attached to the back feathers. If we attached the tag to feathers that were old and just about to be moulted (rather than newly grown), the tag would not stay on the bird for very long at all.

First we ringed, and measured the bird and – like all the Spoonies we caught – fitted it with a small engraved plastic leg flag, so that could be seen and identified in the field. We had 30 individually coded flags to choose from so we asked the Nanjing students to choose a code. They chose ET; very fitting for the first Spoonie to communicate with a satellite! Tagging went smoothly, and ET was released soon afterwards, to return to its mudflat feeding areas. There was more good news that day as we had located a roosting flock of 3,000 waders but with at least 45 Spoonies in it! (That's getting on for 10% of the estimated post-breeding world population...). We had two days to go before most of the team had to leave, so it was maximum effort for the next 48 hours. Technical problems with our catching equipment robbed us of 2 attempts to catch Spoonies, but by using mist-nets at night, we managed to fit a second tag at 2am on our last day, and with 6 hours to go before some of us had to drive back to Shanghai airport, we managed to catch a third suitable bird and our last tag was fitted. To get this far we had caught nine Spoonies in total – all of which were fitted with individual colour flags – and 900 other waders – all of which were ringed, and also colour-flagged.

There was just time to go back to our base, pack all our equipment, scrape the mud off all our possessions and have a celebratory dinner with the whole team before we left for the airport, exhausted but elated that we had succeeded.

Some of us are now back in the UK and we are getting regular location fixes from our pioneering Spoonies. All being well, the satellite transmitters should stay attached to the birds for a few months and reveal their movements during this time, but they will eventually drop off of their own accord. We will give regular updates on their progress so that we can all be awed by how this amazing technology is unlocking the mysteries of one of the world's strangest, and rarest, birds. Stay tuned, folks.

The UK-based project team (BTO, RSPB and WWT) would like to thank our supporters and donors for making this ground-breaking study possible, in particular British Airways Community and Conservation Programme for providing free flights for the UK team members. Special thanks to Rhys Green (RSPB) and Paul Howey (Microwave Telemetry Inc) for expert advice throughout, and to Jon Dew of Five Star Freight Systems, for very timely help negotiating paperwork at Heathrow Airport! Thanks to the other members of the catching team; Ewan Weston (UK), David Melville (New Zealand), Katherine Leung (WWF Hong Kong) and well as to Professor Chang Qing and his team of excellent, hardworking students from Nanjing Normal University, and Jing Li and Zhang Jun from SBS in China.

Editor's Note: Check out <http://www.saving-spoon-billed-sandpiper.com/>

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.

WANTED: MERCHANDISE OFFICER

After many years of valued help Viki 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 Vicki'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.

Wader ID Days 2016

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

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates.

Kakadu (Banksia) Beach roost Bribie Island, Saturday 14 January 2017

UBD Map 52 J5

2.64 m high tide at 10:56. Meeting time 09:30 onwards.

See above for info for ID day.

Manly Harbour, Saturday 4 February 2017

1.97 m high tide at 14:58. Meeting time 14:45.

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 license over the wader roost. Under the conditions of the license, 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 repellent 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.

Toorbul, Saturday 4 March 2017

1.99 m high tide at 13:39 (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul – 14:09). Meeting time 13:00 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.

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 your cooperation on this issue.

Green leg flag sightings

In each Qld Wader issue there are quite a number of green leg flag sightings recorded within Moreton Bay, which is where the bird was banded originally. As we are now seeing more leg flag combinations from other states and countries, and have limited space available for sightings, we will not be listing each individual sighting of green flag records in Queensland unless there is a significant movement of the bird. Instead, we will list the number of flags for each species and the period in which they were seen.

Sightings in Moreton Bay & Environs totalled 711 in the last three months, the species recorded and the number of observations was as follows. Australian Pied Oystercatcher 35, Bar-tailed Godwit 228, Curlew Sandpiper 28, Double-banded Plover 10, Eastern Curlew 14, Great Knot 56, Grey-tailed Tattler 286, Grey Plover 2, Lesser Sand Plover 1, Red-capped Plover 8, Red-necked Stint 20, Ruddy Turnstone 1, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 11, Terek Sandpiper 3, Whimbrel 4, and White Headed Stilt 4.

They were sighted by Chris Barnes, Karen Blake, Sarah Beavis, Robert Bush, Jimmy Choi, Diedre Chrzescijanski, Max Chrzescijanski, Tony Cotter, Phil Cross, Linda Cross, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Elliott Leash, Neale Maynard, Steve Popple, Julie Sarna, Michael Strong, Ged Tranter, Dez Wells, 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 – AAD, AAE, AAK, AAT, AAU, ABC and EX.

Bar-tailed Godwit – AAA, AAB, AAE, ABL, ACA, ACJ, ACK, ACL, ACM, ACX, ADK, ADW, ADX, ADZ, AEA, AEJ, AES, AEU, AHA, AHE, AHS, AHT, AJD, AJE, AJM, AJZ, AKA, AKB, AKR, AKY, ALM, ALU, ALZ, AMH, AML, AND, ANX, APN, APP, APV, AR, ASM, AST, ATA, ATB, AVA, AVB, AVC, AVK, AVU, AXT, AXU, AXV, AYB, AYC, AYD, AYK, AYW, AZB, AZM, AZS, AZU, BAP, BAR, BBD, BBE, BBJ, BBN, BBR, BBS, BCC, BJK, BJZ, BKJ, BKK, BKL, BKP, BKS, BKT, BNP, BNS, BNU, BPL, BPP, BPS, BPU, BPY, BRL, BRP, BRS, BTC, BTD, BTF, BTL, BTN, BTY, BTZ, BUA, BX, CPD, CU, EC, FY, HL, HP, HR, HU, JA, JB, JE, JH, JJ, JP, PA, PE, and PU.

Curlew Sandpiper – AAN, AAP, AAY, ABP, AHX, AJD, AJK, AJL, AJS, AJX, AKD, ANU, ASC, ASJ.

Double-banded Plover – ABU, AZA, AZD

Eastern Curlew – ADF, AHA, AR,

Great Knot – AAP, AAV, ADA, AEL, AEV, AHM, AHY, AJE, AJN, AJU, AJV, AJW, ALE, ALL, ALU, AMJ, ATH, ATK, ATL, ATZ, AUA, AWK, AYU, BAZ, BBT, BBX, BBZ, BCA, BCY, BRY, CMB, CMP and CNH.

Grey Plover – JT.

Grey-Tailed Tattler – ABD, ACA, ACD, ACJ, ACK, ACW, ADH, ADZ, AKB, AKC, AKJ, AKU, AKV, AMA, ANA, ANN, ANT, ANZ, APJ, APL, APP, APS, APT, APU, APY, ARD, ARJ, ARL, ARP, ARS, ARY, ASE, ASL, ASN, ASP, ASU, ASY, ASZ, ATA, ATB, ATC, ATD, ATE, ATH, ATJ, ATL, ATP, ATS, ATV, ATW, AUA, AUB, AUK, AUN, AUP, AUS, AUT, AUU, AUW, AUX, AUZ, AVC, AVN, AWA, AWU, AWV, AWW, AWX, AWY, AWZ, AXB, AXD, AXS, AXX, AYJ, AZJ, AZM, AZU, AZV, AZW, AZX, AZY, BAJ, BAL, BAM, BDB, BDH, BDJ, BDL, BT, BWC, BWX, BXC, BXH, BXN, DX, EM, EN, JC, KV, KX, LM and RC.

Lesser Sandplover – DL.

Red-capped Plover – AH, CP, CR and JH.

Red-necked Stint – F6, K7, N2, N4, N5, SJ, X2, XD, XT, Y4, Y9, Z2, Z6 and ZZ.

Ruddy Turnstone – AXT.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – ACY, AEL, AJK, AJM, AJR, AXC, AXJ, AXZ and BXN.

Terek Sandpiper – EJ, HD.

Whimbrel – FX.

White-headed Stilt – AAZ, BB, BZC, EA.

Green leg flag sightings seen Interstate**Australian Pied Oystercatcher**

A6 on flag – Iluka Bay NSW – Keith Collicat -15.9.2016

Green leg flag sightings seen Overseas**South Korea****Great Knot**

BTS on flag – 17.4.2016 – Chang Wan Kang

China**Red-necked Stint**

H3 on flag – 18.8.2016 – Tiaozini Dongtai County Jiangsu Province – Wu Cheng-Wen

Japan**Grey-tailed Tattler**

C2 on flag – 12.5.2012 – Tama River Chofu City Tokyo – Kimiko Shimazaki

APY on flag - 1.8.2016 – Ikawazu Tidal Flat Tahara-shi Aichi-ken – Minoru Sugihara

ASY on flag – 20.8.2016 – Arao Beach Arao-shi Kumamoto Kyushu – observer unknown

ANK on flag – 21.8.2016 – Moro-machi Shuuchi-gun Shizuoka-ken – Sachiko Nakamura

CD on flag – 20.8.2016 – Mihara River Matsuhiko Wakita Minamiawaji-shi Hyogo-ken – Kensuke Ariga

JU on flag – 19.5.2016 – Sohara-cho Matsusaka-shi Mie-ken – Mitsumasa Imai

AYN on flag – 23.7.2016 – Tokyo Bird sanctuary Tokyo – Hatsue Mmori

BWB on flag – 5.9.2016 – Kizu Beach Kahoku Ishikawa Prefecture – Ichiro Ohno

BWX on flag – 7.9.2016 – Ninomi-cho Tsu-shi Mie-ken – Seishi Imahori

BWC on flag – 11.9.2016 – Mouth of Ohtsu River Izumiohtsu-shi Osaka – Toshio Kohno

ATL on flag – 16.8.16 Estuary of Onosato River Izumisano-shi Osaka

New Zealand**Bar-tailed Godwit**

ASJ on flag – 10 & 23.8.2014 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

ALR on flag – 27.9.14 – Clark's Bay Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

AKU on flag – 28.8.2014 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

ALJ on flag – 22.11.14 – Kaipara Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

ALX on flag – 22.11.14 – Kaipara Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

FX on flag – 4.12.14 & 16.2.2015 – Clifton Beach Whitford Auckland – Tony Habraken

AVY on flag – 27.12.2014 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken & David Lawrie

EP on flag – 2nd & 31.1 & 1.2.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Harbour – Tony Habraken

AKE on flag – 2.1.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Harbour – Tony Habraken

AET on flag – 2.1 & 1.2.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Harbour – Tony Habraken

ALB on flag – 26.1.2015 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

AJT on flag – 15.2.2015 – Mangere Sewage Ponds Manukau Harbour – Tony Habraken

ASJ on flag – 8.2.2015 – Kawakawa Bay North Island – Ian Southey

AEN on flag – 28.2.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Harbour – Tony Habraken

AMJ on flag – 28.2.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Harbour – Tony Habraken

ASB on flag – 18.1 & 28.2.2015 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

Russia

All seen at Khairusovo and Belogovaya Rivers estuary Kamchatka

Great Knot

BCM on flag – 10.7.2016 – Dmitry Dorofeev

BNJ on flag – 26.7.2016 – Ric Else

CMM on flag – 1.8.2016 – Peter Crighton

AEE on flag – 5.8.2016 – Peter Crighton

BTK on flag – 4.7.16 – Dmitry Dorofeev

BTJ on flag – 9.7.2016 – Peter Crighton

Grey-tailed Tattler

BWB on flag – 19.7.2016 – Peter Crighton

Yellow (Western Australia) leg flag sightings**Red Knot**

Arthur Keates – Manly Harbour – 25 & 30.8.2016

Arthur Keates – Manly Harbour – 1.9.2016

Arthur & Sheryl Keates – Manly Harbour – 26.8 & 3.9.2016

Tony Cotter – Wynnum Esplanade – 11.9.2016

Great Knot

ANH on flag – 18.9.2016 – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – Michael Strong

Chris Barnes – Maaroom – 24.9 & 14.10.2016

Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings**Bar-tailed Godwit**

2 with plain flag – 15.9.2016 – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes & Karen Blake
 CNL on flag – 15.9.2016 – Boonooroo - Chris Barnes & Karen Blake
 1 with plain flag – 15.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Karen Blake
 JW on flag – 15.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 15.9.2016 – Rose Bay Manly – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 17.9.2016 – Lytton Claypan No.1 – Arthur Keates
 CBB on flag – 19.9.2016 – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – Linda Cross
 CKV on flag – 20, 22 & 24.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 22.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 2 with plain flag – 24.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 1 with plain flag – 27.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 18.9.2016 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
 2 with plain flag – 6.10.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 AJJ on flag – 8.10.2016 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates
 CBB on flag – 8.10.2016 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates
 CWS on flag – 9.10.2016 – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – Michael Strong
 1 with plain flag – 27.9.2016 – Pine Rivers Wetland – Ged Trantere

Great Knot

1 with plain flag – 5.9.2016 – Toorbul - Dez Wells

Red Knot

2 with plain flag – 25.8.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 3.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 2 with plain flag – 9.9.2016 – Toorbul - Dez Wells
 1 with plain flag – 11, 17.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 1 with plain flag – 13.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
 1 with plain flag – 14.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 15.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Karen Blake
 1 with plain flag – 17.9.2016 – Lytton Claypan No.1 – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 20.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 24.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 3Z on flag – 24.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 1N on flag – 9, 15 & 22.10.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 1N on flag – 10.10.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flag – 15.10.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Stewart Pickering

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

1 white flag unread – 3.9.2016 – Toorbul – Deidre Chrzescijanski & Robert Bush
 1 white flag unread – 19.9.2016 – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – Linda Cross
 J62 on white flag – 2.9.2016 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
 J62 on white flag – 6, 7, 15 & 20.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J62 on white flag – 20.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 J62 on white flag – 28.9.2016 – Thornside Queens Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 J62 on white flag – 15.10.2016 – Thornside Queens Esplanade – Kristy Currie
 J62 on white flag – 10.10.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J62 on white flag – 5.11.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 T58 on white flag – 24.9.2016 – Toorbul – Steve Popple
 1 plain flags – 1.10.2016 – Mouth Black River Townsville – John Lowry
 1 plain flags – 3.10.2016 – Mouth Black River Townsville – Ed Pierce
 1 plain flags – 14 & 28.10.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 U04 on white flag – 22.10.2016 – Cairns Esplanade – Hidetoshi Kudo

Red Knot

1 with plain flags – 14.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 1 with plain flags – 17.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 1 with plain flags – 17.9.2016 – Lytton Claypan No.1 – Arthur Keates
 NC on white flag – 27.9.2016 – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Ged Tranter

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

- E19 on blue flag – 9 & 15.10.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 E19 on blue flag – 10.10.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Green over Orange (Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, China) leg flag sightingsBar-tailed Godwit

- Also blue over white band left tarsus, yellow over yellow band right tarsus and metal band left tibia –
 8.10.2016 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & Linda Cross
 30.10.2016 – Toorbul – Stuart Pickering
 6.11.2016 – Toorbul – Jon Coleman

Yellow over White (Sakhalin Island Russia) leg flag sightingsRed Knot

- 26.10.2016 – Cairns Esplanade – Nana Hoshino

Great Knot

- 28.10.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightingsBar-tailed Godwit

- BJE on flag - 19.8.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 BCY on flag – 7.9.2016 – Toorbul – Brian Russell
 BCY on flag – 9.9.2016 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
 Plain white flag – 15.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Karen Blake
 BAB on flag – 17.9.2016 – Maaroom – Cecile Espigole
 ZSH on flag – 17.9.2016 – Maaroom – Cecile Espigole
 Plain white flag – 24.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 BAB on flag – 24.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 AXH on flag – 24.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 ZAY on flag – 27.10.2016 – Toorbul – Sarah Beavis
 BNA on flag – 7.11.2016 – Burnett Heads Bundaberg – Chris Barnes
 White flag left tarsus, red over yellow band left tarsus, white over yellow band right tarsus – 9.9.2016
 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
 White flag right tibia, red over yellow band left tarsus, yellow over blue band right tarsus – 15.9.2016
 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes & Karen Blake
 White flag over white band left tarsus, red over red band right tarsus – 20 & 22.9.2016 – Manly Harbour
 – Arthur Keates
 Red over white band left tarsus, red band over white flag over red band right tarsus, geolocator right
 tibia – 27 & 30.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Red over white band left tarsus, red band over white flag over red band right tarsus, geolocator right
 tibia – 1.10.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Red over yellow band left tarsus, blue band over white flag over red band right tarsus, geolocator right
 tibia – 8.10.2016 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & Linda Cross
 White flag right tibia, red over red band left tarsus, white over blue band right tarsus – 17.9.2016 –
 Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve - Ged Tranter

Red Knot

- BLT on flag - 25.8 & 1.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 BLT on flag - 28.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Plain white flag – 1.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 CHB on flag - 3.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Sheryl Keates
 White flag unread - 3.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Plain white flag – 11.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 CHE on flag – 11.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 CHE on flag – 14.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 BRU on flag – 14.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 White flag unread - 17.9.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 ADJ on flag – 27.9.2016 – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Ged Tranter
 ANS on flag – 27.9.2016 – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Ged Tranter
 Plain white flag – 27.9.2016 – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Ged Tranter
 Plain white flag – 28.10.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 CCW on flag – 28.10.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

- White flag right tibia, white over white band left tarsus, white over blue band right tarsus – 11.9.2016
– Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
- White flag right tibia, yellow over unknown colour band left tarsus, yellow over yellow band right tarsus
– 28.10.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

White & Green (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

Bar-tailed Godwit

- White & Green flag left tibia – 9.9.2016 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

Red (New Zealand) leg flag sightings

Bar-tailed Godwit

- Red flag left tibia, blue over blue band left tarsus, blue over red band right tarsus – 9.9.2016 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
- Red flag left tibia, blue over red band left tarsus, yellow over red band right tarsus – 24.9.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
- Red flag over blue band over red band left tarsus, blue over yellow band right tarsus – 8.10.2016 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – use four combinations

Great Knot

- 28.10.2016 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

Grey-tailed Tattler

- 2 plain flag – 19.4.2016 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
- 17.9.2016 – Lytton Roost – Arthur Keates
- 28.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- 1, 2, 9 & 15.10.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
- 3 & 12.10.2016 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
- 5.11.2016 - Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Blue & White (Japanese) leg flag sightings

Grey-tailed Tattler

- 191 on blue flag – 7.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- 315 on blue flag – 20.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- Blue flag unread – 30.9.2016 - Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- Plain flags – 15.9.2016 – Cairns Esplanade – Darren O'Connell

Red-necked Stint

- Blue left tibia, white left tarsus – 15.9.2016 – Karumba Gulf of Carpentaria – Roger Jaensch

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.

- J4 on flag – 27.10.2016 – Ocean Beach Bribie Island – Kristy Currie

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

Caspian Tern Orange flag (Victoria)

- E6 on flag, left tarsus - 9.5.2016 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
- 24 on flag, right tarsus – 20.8.2016 - Buckley's Hole Bribie Island – Dez Wells
- 37 on flag, right tarsus – 9.5.2016 -Toorbul – Dez Wells
- 39 on flag, right tarsus – 18.9.2016 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
- 47 on flag, right tarsus – 19.4.2016 & 9.5.2016 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
- 47 on flag, right tarsus – 20.8.2016 & 2.9.2016 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
- Unread engraved flag, right tarsus – 20.8.2016 – Caboolture River Mouth – Phil Cross
- Unread engraved flag, right tarsus – 21.8.2016 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates
- Plain flag, right tarsus – 30.9.2016 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Little Tern

- ALX on green flag, right tarsus – 25.4.2016 – South Ballina Beach NSW – Steven McBride

Count Programme - Linda Cross

Count Programme

by Linda Cross

The dates have now been selected for the 2017 count programme and appear toward the end of this newsletter. I have also emailed it out to all counters who have an email address so that they can print out the dates in readiness to mark their calendars for next year. Please also read the notes I have placed with the count dates for 2017.

Unfortunately once again the count programme has lost more counters. Judith Lattaway has had to resign from counting Caboolture River mouth due to health problems. Judith counted the site from May 2013 until July 2016 and contributed 57 counts to the database. We thank Judith for her short, but worthy contribution. Currently this site is being counted by Phil and myself (in addition to our own sites), until another counter can be found.

Sue Sargent no longer works for Bundaberg Port, which was very disappointing to hear given that she has been instrumental in co-ordinating the counters to cover the large Bundaberg Port wader area. I would like to personally thank Sue for her commitment to the count programme and David Milton (Database Manager) has kindly written the next paragraph explaining just how much Sue has contributed to waders.

Sue Sargent's first involvement with QWSG began in late 2004, when she attended a meeting in Maryborough to discuss the implications of a report by QWSG summarising surveys, habitat mapping and threat assessment for waders in the Great Sandy Strait. At that time, Sue was the Marine and Coastal Project Coordinator for the Burnett-Mary Regional Group (BMRG). Sue wanted QWSG to undertake similar and expanded assessment of waders in the rest of the coast within the BMRG region. This led to a 2-year BMRG-funded project to survey twice the entire coast from Tannum Sands, near Gladstone to Hervey Bay. One of the most important outcomes of the project was mapping of all coastal wader roosts along that section of the Queensland coast for each of the four local government councils in the region. This meant that waders became one of the environmental assets considered when any coastal development occurred and was a major step forward. During that project, waders were found in the Bundaberg Port dredge spoil ponds. Over the years since then, Sue talked with the Port authorities and negotiated access for QWSG members (including herself) to undertake monthly surveys. She also provided funds to allow regular surveys of wader roosts in the Burnett River estuary that were only accessible by boat. Sue coordinated or participate in 103 counts at the Bundaberg Port pond between 16 January, 2010 and 17 September 2016. QWSG greatly appreciate Sue's efforts to improve the conservation of waders in the Burnett-Mary region over the last 12 years and we wish her well as she explores new directions in life.

Thankfully Nev Capell has stepped in to ensure the counts at Bundaberg Port continue and has loaded the last couple of month's counts onto the website. Nev has long been involved with the Bundaberg Port counts and other QWSG surveys further afield, so knows exactly how counts are to be conducted. We look forward to a long relationship with Nev and hope that he can continue to gain access to the important Bundaberg Port site.

Double-banded Plover – This cross Tasman visitor has now returned to their native shores of New Zealand to breed and Manly Harbour was the only site where it was still recorded in September. Up to 6 birds were recorded on 01.09.16 before dwindling down to 2 birds on 06.09.16 and a single bird was last recorded on site on 17.09.16

In September Phil and I were filling in for one of the counters and ended up at Kakadu roost at Banksia Beach on Bribie Island. As we entered the hide there was a man with binoculars and we exchanged a few words about the waders. A couple of minutes went by when the man asked if I was Linda Cross, which I confirmed. Imagine my surprise when he introduced himself as Gerry Woodruff, the counter of Shellgrit Creek entrance in Mackay. We were both pleased to make each other's acquaintance and during the count continued to chat about waders including the issue of ageing counters and both of us not being able to get younger people involved in the count programme. Toward the end of our conversation Gerry asked if there was a possibility of knowing the details of other sites counts and I mentioned to him that I had in the past done this in the newsletters, but that it had been quite a few years since it appeared. Given that there have been some new counters join the count programme since that time, I told Gerry that I would start doing it again, and a table with a number of sites (including Shellgrit Creek entrance), appears below. It was great meeting you Gerry; keep up the good work in Mackay.

Table below with counts from northern count sites. List as per IOC taxonomic order.

Species	ERCC 15 Oct 2016	CAES 26 Sep 2016	SBCM 16 Sep 2016	SHGB 15 Oct 2016	NS06 15 Oct 2016	QAL7 14 Oct 2016	BPSW 17 Sep 2016
Pied Oystercatcher			2	2	2		
White-headed Stilt	3						
Masked Lapwing		15					8
Pacific Golden Plover				123			2
Grey Plover			1				
Red-capped Plover		12	6	10	36	20	52
Lesser Sand Plover		28	14	526	30		
Greater Sand Plover		41		95	28		
Black-fronted Dotterel		2					
Black-tailed Godwit		7					
Bar-tailed Godwit		48		196			99
Little Curlew	1						
Whimbrel	2	61		21	30		7
Far Eastern Curlew		23	1	62	25		24
Marsh Sandpiper							2
Common Greenshank	1						6
Grey-tailed Tattler	9	14		18		18	
Terek Sandpiper		5		2			
Ruddy Turnstone				6			
Great Knot		343		74			
Red Knot		4					
Sanderling		1					
Red-necked Stint		209	49	685	300	9	139
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		101					138
Curlew Sandpiper		45		5		6	38

ERCC – Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown

CAES – Cairns Esplanade

SBCM – Seaforth Beach creek mouth, north of Mackay

SHGB – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay

NS06 – Kinka Beach, Yeppoon

QAL7 – Ashpond 7 Qld Aluminium, Gladstone

BPSW – Bundaberg Port

Counters – Kath Shurcliff & Dave Houghton

Counter – Jun Matsui

Counter – Stella Mearns

Counter – Gerry Woodruff

Counters – Allan Briggs et al

Counter – Margaret Worthington

Counters – Nev Capell et al

You will note that there are a couple of interesting species in the table above. The Little Curlew at ERCC was the first record for the site and only the third record for Cooktown, and although not new to SHGB, the Sanderling was an interesting record for September.

Other more unusual sightings extracted from counts include: 1 Sanderling at Kinka Beach Yeppoon on 18.09.16, 1 Asian Dowitcher at Maaroom on 17.09.16, 1 Asian Dowitcher at Boonooroo on 18.09.16, 2 Asian Dowitcher at Maaroom on 15.10.16 and 1 Common Sandpiper at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 16.10.16.

A few counters commented that they thought the southward migration had started a little earlier than usual with some species having remnant breeding plumage arriving on sites in late August, and September counts had reasonable numbers of some species recorded on the roosts. Listed below are a few of the records:

480 Eastern Curlew at Sandfly Bay Toorbul on 20.08.16

391 Whimbrel at Toorbul on 09.09.16

16 Grey Plover at Boonooroo on 21.08.16

10 Grey Plover at Port of Brisbane on 18.09.16

268 Grey-tailed Tattlers at Manly Harbour on 16.08.16

590 Great Knot at Maaroom on 17.09.16

1,261 Curlew Sandpiper at the Port of Brisbane on 18.09.16

50 Red Knot at Maaroom on 20.08.16

28 Common Greenshank at west Geoff Skinner Reserve on 17.09.16

Given the length of this article with the table included, other totals for waders and interesting sightings are listed under 'Interesting wader sightings' and 'Not waders but of interest anyway' section of this newsletter. Unfortunately due to the limited number of pages allowed for the paper version of this newsletter, the above mentioned section may not appear. However, it should appear in the electronic version.

Breeding records.

Beach Stone-curlew – 2 juvenile with adults at North Shore, Maroochydore on 19.08.16 and chick on Redcliffe Island off Finlayson's Point north of Mackay on 14.10.16.

Pied Oystercatcher – 2 chicks at Manly Harbour on 30.08.16, but only one still surviving on 05.09.16. One chick at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 18.09.16 and 4 adults with 3 chicks at Kakadu beach roost Bribie Island on 15.10.16.

White-headed Stilt – record of some breeding on site at Bundaberg Port on 21.08.16, 2 on nests at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 17.09.16 and nesting at Kianawah Road Wetland on 14.10.16.

Masked Lapwing – bird on nest at Kianawah Road wetlands on 20.08.16, 1 juvenile at Lota on 20.08.16, 3 chicks and nest with 3 eggs at Maaroom on 20.08.16, 3 chicks at 1km north Toorbul on 20.08.16, possibly nesting at Manly Harbour on 30.08.16, 3 chicks at Toorbul on 02.09.16, nesting at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 04.09.16, 1 bird with nest on sand dune at Finlayson's Point north of Mackay, 2 chicks Queen's Esplanade Thornside on 17.09.16 and 3 four week old chicks at Maaroom on 15.10.16.

Comb-crested Jacana – nest with 3 eggs at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 17.09.16

Black-fronted Dotterel – 2 chicks beside ashpond 7 wall in Queensland Aluminium Ltd Gladstone on 19.08.16.

Red-capped Plover – nest with 1 egg at Thangawan Creek near Boonooroo on 20.08.16, 2 birds sitting on eggs at Kinka Wetland Yeppoon on 21.08.16 and 2 birds recorded sitting on eggs at the same site on 15.10.16. 1 chick at Manly Harbour on 03.09.16, 1 chick at Finlayson's Point north of Mackay on 16.09.16, 1 chick at Endeavour River claypan Cooktown on 17.09.16, 3 pairs with chicks at Bundaberg Port on 17.09.16, 1 juvenile at Reeder's Point Moreton Island on 04.10.06, possibly nesting at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 15.10.16, nest with 2 eggs at Noosa River sandbanks on 24.10.16 and 1 chick recorded at the same site on 04.11.16.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the count programme during the year and wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe new year. I look forward to working with you all again in 2017.

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

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.

Vale Marion Williams

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Marion Williams on 4 October 2016.

As reported in Qld Wader Issue No. 94, Marion passed over her count programme site (O'Regan's Creek Westside); late in 2015 as her illness made it difficult for her to continue counting, but she did manage to join the new counter during some of the counts in 2016.

Marion started counting in the Tweed Heads area of New South Wales in February 2001 and along with Laurel Allsopp, helped cover seven sites in that area for six years until she moved to Hervey Bay. Marion's move to Hervey Bay did not stop her from getting out and finding another site which would enable her to continue her enjoyment of counting waders. In January 2009 Marion found a site in the Toogoom area of Hervey Bay and continued to make a valuable contribution to the count programme with 220 counts entered into the database under her name.

Our deepest sympathy to her husband Gary and families.

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 Secunder:

(Note: Nominees, proposers and seconds must have current QWSG membership).

I accept the nomination for the position on the management committee of the Queensland Wader Study Group as indicated.

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 president@birdsqueensland.org.au

Secretary, secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au

Treasurer, Wayne Lock treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au

Note a new committee will be elected at the BQ AGM in Dec 2016 for 2017

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr David BRAITHWAITE & Family, Ms Jessie CAPPADONNA, Mr Michael DOWLING,
Mr Rohan ETHERINGTON, Dr Michael EVANS, Ms Micha JACKSON
Mr James KENNERLEY, Mr Elliot LEACH, Miss Jessica MACKIE, Mr Chris MARTINEZ
M/s Graham & Gail MASKIELL, Ms Kelly MATTHEWS, Mr Andrew NAUMANN,
Dr Melody PUCKRIDGE, Mr Miles SCHEUERING, Ms Sandra WALTERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

A reminder to members, please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address. If you do please make sure that it does allow delivery and not send downloads to spam.

Many thanks too to those who have included a donation with their renewal or membership fee. This is greatly appreciated as such donations make on-going work possible.

:

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER www.waders.org.au

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	Jon Coleman	president@birdsqueensland.org.au
<u>TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP</u>	Sheryl Keates	membership@waders.org.au
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	secretary@waders.org.au
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	gouldian@ozemail.com.au

Robert Bush	Deirdre Chrzescijanski
Paul Finn	Richard Fuller
Andrew Geering	Sandra Harding
David Milton	

<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross
<u>LEG FLAG COORDINATOR</u>	Phil Cross
<u>MERCHANDISE</u>	Position vacant

Note a new QWSG committee will be elected at the AGM on 4th Dec 2016 for 2017

BQ PRESIDENT Note a new BQ committee will be elected at the BQ AGM on 1st Dec 2016 for 2017
Email president@birdsqueensland.org.au

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
xxxxxxx
xxxxxxx
QLD

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS Annual subscription rates:
Single: \$15:00
Student/Pensioner: \$10:00
Family: \$25:00
A receipt will be forwarded if required.

Forward application to:

QWSG Treasurer,
PO Box 3138,
SOUTH BRISBANE,
QLD 4101

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

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **February 18th 2017**

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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admin@jrdsons.com.au

QWSG MERCHANDISE

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

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

On Page 7 you will see that we require
a Merchandise Officer to take over
from Vicki Campbell.



Count Activities – 2016 - 2017

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program – 2016 - 2017

Sat 3rd Dec	2.31m at 11:43
**Sat 31st Dec	2.43m at 10:51
Sat 28 th Jan	2.48m at 09:57
Sat 25 th Feb	2.43m at 08:53
Sat 25 ^h Mar	2.30m at 07:35
Sat 29 th Apr	2.07m at 11:34
Sat 27 th May	2.06m at 10:31
Sat 24 th Jun	2.01m at 09:25
Sat 22 nd Jul	1.92m at 08:20
Sat 26 th Aug	1.99m at 12:33
Sat 23 rd Sep	2.14m at 11:23
Sat 21 st Oct	2.26m at 10:21
Sat 18 th Nov	2.33m at 09:24
Sat 16 th Dec	2.32m at 08:25

****See note below
National Summer Count**

National Winter Count

****Normally we try to do the monthly counts approximately 4 weeks apart, but the last count in 2016 was 3rd December, which means that it will be 8 weeks from then until the next count on 28th January 2017.**

If you have the time, would all counters consider doing an additional count on 31st December, which would give us more indication on the numbers of birds around in the middle of the period the birds are in Australia.

Also, for 6 months of counts there are quite high tides, but unfortunately these cannot be avoided. Please ensure you get to your sites before the waders are pushed off the roosts. This will probably mean that you do the count on an incoming tide before the peak of the tide, when possibly the birds have gone.

Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2016 - 2017

Sun 4 th Dec	2.26m at 12:22	Meet 10:30	
Sun 29 th Jan	2.50m at 10:33	Meet 08:40	National Summer Count
Sun 26 th Feb	2.49m at 09:31	Meet 07:40	
Sun 26 th Mar	2.39m at 08:19	Meet 06:30	
Sun 30 th Apr	1.93m at 12:26	Meet 10:35	
Sun 28 th May	1.98m at 11:23	Meet 09:35	
Sun 25 th Jun	1.98m at 10:18	Meet 08:30	
National Winter Count			
Sun 23 rd Jul	1.95m at 09:16	Meet 07:25	
Sun 27 th Aug	1.94m at 13:16	Meet 11:25	
Sun 24 th Sep	2.10m at 11:59	Meet 10:10	
Sun 22 nd Oct	2.25m at 10:55	Meet 11:05	
Sun 19 th Nov	2.35m at 09:58	Meet 08:10	
Sun 17 th Dec	2.37m at 09:30	Meet 07:40	

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).....

EmailFax.....

How did you hear about QWSG?.....

Are you a member of Birds Queensland?

What activities do you wish to participate in? (Please circle)

WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL,
OTHER (specify :.....)

Would you like to receive your newsletter (colour version) by E-mail?.....

Signature Date:.....

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

Direct funds transfer to:

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140

Account number: 08305297

or

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

Cheques to be made out to: Qld Wader Study Group