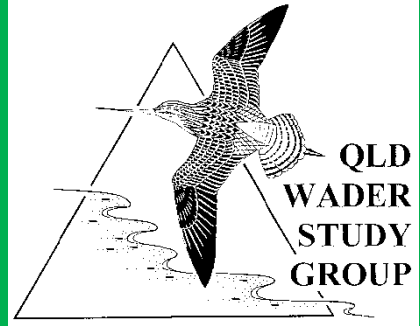


# QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue 101

September, October, November 2017

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

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



## Vale Joyce Harding 1931-2017

Sadly, QWSG lost one of its most-loved and dedicated members, and waders and their environment a passionate champion, with the passing of Joyce Harding on 20.07.2017.

Joyce joined Birds Queensland in 1982 and at BQ outings and campouts, was noted for her wisdom, humour and conversation. Her love of birds and concern for their well-being was both passionate and infectious. Many others, including daughter Sandra, became avid bird watchers and conservationists because of Joyce's example, encouragement and help.

Joyce was an active member of the Qld Wader Study Group almost from its inception in 1992. She recognized the potential within the group to achieve positive outcomes in shorebird conservation and wanted to be a part of this. Wherever Joyce saw waders or their habitat threatened, she was always at the forefront, working for their protection.

Joyce was not only knowledgeable, she was fun to be with, and fearless when it came to doing what was needed for her beloved birds. On Mackay low tide surveys, she went in over her knees in silty mud and David Edwards had to tow her out with a hand towel. This wasn't the first time she'd had to be towed. Sandra and partner David Milton did that when her car bogged on BQ campout in 1990 at Booringa Downs. She bogged them, too, but Joyce's unfailing good humour shone through then, as it did on numerous other occasions.

A regular at wader counts and surveys, Joyce also coordinated for some years, the quarterly Moreton Island surveys done in conjunction with QPWS.

Joyce loved Moreton Island, her interest in the environment having been engendered on weekend campouts there, with the Moreton Island Protection Committee, well before she joined BQ. When dodgy feet meant she could no longer join group members for the counts on Moreton, Joyce would see us off at the Jetty at Manly and meet the QPWS boat when we returned.

After these counts, Joyce always wrote a report, which she ensured reached the widest possible audience, so that results of the group's efforts would be noted.

Joyce served on QWSG committee for many years and her input as the group's "wise elder" was always appreciated. She was honoured with life membership of QWSG in appreciation of her contribution to the group, and untiring devotion to the wellbeing of our shorebirds.

An intelligent woman with kind heart and strength of purpose, Joyce will be remembered and greatly missed by so many of us.

## Observations of Queensland Flagged Curlew Sandpiper

by Arthur Keates

On 19 November 2006, the first engraved leg flag (ELF) was fitted to a Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) in Queensland, a species now listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth).

At the end of May, 2017, 191 Curlew Sandpiper had been fitted with an ELF, 5 at each of the Port of Brisbane and Geoff Skinner Reserve, Wellington Point, 4 at Toorbul and the rest at Manly Boat Harbour. To put this into context, an ELF has been fitted to 812 Bar-tailed Godwit, 597 Red-necked Stint and 575 Grey-tailed Tattler. QWSG's leg flag database has 336 records of observations of ELFs fitted to Curlew Sandpiper and 73 records of observations of a plain green leg flag (PLF) fitted to individuals of the species.

In my experience, the Curlew Sandpiper is one of the most difficult of species to read an ELF because the birds are often actively feeding in belly deep water covering the tibia (to which the flag is fitted), even when at high tide roosts. When roosting, Curlew Sandpiper quite often form tight flocks with other species, particularly Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint – see photograph. Adding to the challenge of reading an ELF, I have observed 2 ELFs that, inexplicably, have been fitted upside down. These factors partly explain the fact that, of the 392 records in the database of ELFs fitted to Curlew Sandpiper, nearly 60 are of incomplete or uncertain observations. Indeed, I venture to suggest there are many more observations of ELFs that are unable to be read and so go unreported or possibly even reported as a PLF.



Curlew Sandpiper **AJA** (ELF circled) with other roosting shorebirds. Photo: A Keates

Observations of leg flagged Curlew Sandpiper at sites in the northern hemisphere of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway account for only 14 of the 330 records in the database; mainland China (5) and Taiwan (9). The only report for Curlew Sandpiper **CM**, aged 2 years when banded at Manly Boat Harbour on 27 September 2008, comes from Taiwan where it was seen on northern migration on 10 April 2013. Also seen in Taiwan on northern migration, is one of the most reported Curlew Sandpipers, **ACA**. After banding at Toorbul on 23 September 2012, **ACA** was seen 6 times at the banding site in the next 3 years and last seen in Taiwan on 7 April 2016. Another Curlew Sandpiper seen in Taiwan, **ACS**, was seen in Tainan County on 15 August 2013, 7 months after banding and since then has been seen at Manly on 31 March 2015 and 10 January 2017.

Of other reports from China, 2 are of PLFs, one of a misread ELF and the others of **CT** and **AAV**, both observed at Bohai Bay on northern migration on 13 May 2010 and 14 May 2015 respectively. Neither bird has been observed since those reports.

In Australia, there are records of observations of leg flagged birds in the Gulf of Carpentaria (1 unread ELF), Stockton, NSW (1 ELF), Ballina, NSW (1 PLF) and Westernport Bay, Vic (1 PLF) while all other reports are of observations in Moreton Bay.

Based on the observations reported, the following Table shows the ages of some of the older known individuals when last observed:

ELF	Banding Date	Age at Banding Date	Last Observation Date	Age at Last Observation Date
CB	11/01/2008	2+	20/12/2016	9+ years
AP	30/03/2007	1+	27/01/2015	8+ years
BT	26/10/2007	2+	25/03/2014	8+ years
DR	30/10/2010	2+	05/02/2017	8+ years
FN	02/10/2011	2+	02/04/2016	6+ years
AC	19/12/2006	2+	23/11/2012	6+ years
AAM	12/02/2012	2+	26/12/2016	6+ years
AAP	12/02/2012	2+	20/12/2016	6+ years

The limited data does confirm site faithfulness here in south-east Queensland, with reports of ELFs relating to observations at or near the banding site with some exceptions:

- **AC** was reported at Toorbul about 6 years after banding at Manly Boat Harbour in late 2006;
- **ALV** was reported at Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island 6 months after banding at Geoff Skinner Reserve on 7 March 2015; and
- **ASC** was reported at Toorbul about 2 years after banding at the Port of Brisbane in late 2014.

I encourage shorebird enthusiasts to report their observations of leg flags to QWSG even if an ELF is unread or partially read. In some circumstances; it just may be enough to identify the individual. All observations reported add to the knowledge of the movement and longevity of shorebirds.

## Canary in The Arctic Coal Mine: Warming Harms Migrating Red Knot

by Gloria Dickie on 8 August 2017

- *The Arctic is warming faster than any other part of the world, and its ecosystems are changing quickly, with shifts in the timing of insect hatches, plant growth and more.*
- *Those changes are impacting migratory species that move between the Arctic, the tropics and temperate zones. One such species is the red knot, a shorebird whose Arctic food supply and stored energy have been reduced due to climate change.*
- *A recent study found that young red knots (*Calidris canutus*) have shrunk by about 15 percent since 1985. This shrinkage includes a smaller beak which jeopardizes the juvenile birds' survival as they dig for bivalves.*
- *Researchers have detected a variety of global warming risks to species as they move from tropical wintering and Arctic summering grounds, and along migratory routes, including shrinking tundra; rising seas; increasingly extreme weather; ocean acidification*

What happens in the Arctic, doesn't stay in the Arctic: change flows south of the Arctic Circle as an altered jet stream brings extreme weather to middle latitudes, some scientists say. It also rises, as thawing permafrost leaks CO<sub>2</sub> and methane into the atmosphere, heightening global temperatures. And, more and more, it flies out of the North, into temperate and tropical ecosystems, as migratory birds are impacted adversely by a hotter Arctic climate.

In recent years, climate change-affected migratory species have become a major focus of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna subgroup, and the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species. Both are trying to determine not only how climate change is altering Arctic ecosystems, but how those shifts are impacting ecosystems to the south, with migratory animals — especially birds — acting as a kind-of vector of transmission.

One major problem they're looking at: the rapidly warming Arctic has resulted in dramatic changes in plants and the makeup and timing of insect hatches, meaning that birds reliant on a particular Arctic food supply are often now departing the North on long migratory journeys with less stored energy than in years prior.

"The Arctic is very important for shorebirds and waterbirds, like geese and ducks, and some species of sea birds, like terns," says Borja Heredia, head of the avian unit at the UN Convention on Migratory Species. "All of these creatures use the Arctic. But the ice is melting, the conditions are changing, and the timing of migration is being affected by climate change." Migratory birds that spend their summers in the Arctic, have winter destinations as far away as the forests of Central America and the Amazon basin, or the shores of West Africa — which makes the conservation of stopover habitat all the more important

The Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) is a scientifically documented example of a climate change impacted migratory species. Flocks of these shorebirds, a medium-sized sandpiper, fly 9,300 miles north, from wintering grounds on the Mauritania coast in West Africa, to the high Russian Arctic. There, as the snow melts, the birds mate. Once the chicks emerge from their eggs, they spend two months gorging on insects, fattening up for the long voyage back to Africa. Or at least, that's how it used to work.



In a 2016 study, researcher Jan van Gils found that as a result of climate change and reduced Arctic food supplies, juvenile red knots have shrunk by about 15 percent since 1985, which has resulted in shorter beaks, which makes digging for bivalves, an important food source, more difficult. Photo by Tom Benson on flickr

"Due to Arctic warming, the juvenile red knots are still making it to West Africa, but by the time they arrive they're so small they have a problem getting food out of the sediment," says Jan van Gils, a marine ecologist at the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research. In a 2016 study in *Science*, van Gils found that the young birds have shrunk by about 15 percent since 1985. Part of this shrinkage includes a smaller beak which jeopardizes their survival. Red knots eat bivalves buried about three to four centimeters in the sand, but now their beaks are often too short to reach such depths, and the birds are forced to subsist on less nutritious seagrass instead.

As a result of this problem, along with other stressors especially habitat loss, red knots are listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN.

Scientists hypothesize that the red knots' shrinking size is likely due to a trophic mismatch in the Arctic breeding grounds. Because they are migratory, they have difficulties keeping up with the rates of change in the high Arctic, especially in their own food supply," says van Gils. With the snow melting earlier and earlier, insects are emerging ahead of schedule, while the birds' arrival and hatching dates have stayed the same. As a result, the red knots' reproduction schedule is now mismatched with peak food availability, and the chicks grow without an adequate protein source.

This North-originating problem "might even lead to a vicious cycle where, once they're smaller, they cannot feed on bivalves in West Africa and have to switch to seagrass, which is harder to fuel up on, [making it] harder to leave earlier for Russia to get the insects."



A reduced Arctic food supply means that while juvenile red knots are still able to fly from the Arctic to West Africa, by the time they arrive they're so small they have a problem getting food out of beach sediment. Keith Carver on flickr

Of greater concern, this phenomenon isn't likely limited to red knots. A number of species around the world are shrinking in body size due to global warming, impacting their ecosystems in various ways. For migratory species, these impacts are doubled.

Heredia emphasizes that regional climate change effects on migratory species can be a two-way street. "These impacts happen in one direction and the other direction [too]... Many of these [Arctic] species will go into the tropics, and there you have deforestation," along with escalating drought and other climate change precipitated stressors. There are problems for long distance migrators at mid latitudes too.

A 2014 study, for example, found that climate change exacerbates the risk of extinction for nearly 90 percent of North American shorebirds, all of which are migratory. Researchers detected global warming risks in tropical wintering and Arctic summering grounds, and along migratory routes — including shrinking tundra; rising sea levels; increasingly stormy, extreme weather; ocean acidification; and alterations to specialized environments, such as the temperate stopover havens where migrants rest.

For North American red knots, this makes for multiple climate change-induced pressures all along their routes. Beside shrinking nesting grounds and a food shortage in the Arctic, the birds must also face warming and acidic oceans that inhibit the growth of shellfish (another important high energy food source); rising sea levels that can degrade and flood

"Migration is a risky adventure," says Heredia. "If birds are not well prepared, they'll have a lot of problems."



Red knots are just one of many long range migratory species possibly being impacted by climate change. But studies are lacking due partly to the expense of tracking birds on their long trips between the Arctic and tropics. Photo by Tom Lee on flickr

One solution: scientists and policymakers are now rallying nations along migratory flyways to conserve stopover habitat that provide avian species with a place to shelter, feed, and rest.

Later this year, in the Philippines, the Convention on Migratory Species will convene the parties in hopes of passing an agreement to protect the East Asian-Australasian flyway, a route that stretches from the Taimyr Peninsula in Russia to Alaska, and southward to Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and finally Antarctica. An estimated 55 migratory species travel along this route, with about five million birds using it per year.

Other migratory routes, summering and wintering grounds, urgently need to be assessed and protected. "From a conservation perspective, it's very important to look at the whole itinerary of [a migratory bird species], not just one country or ecosystem," says Heredia. "If we destroy these stopover sites, then forget it. It's the end of the story."

**Citation:**

Van Gils, J. (2016). Body shrinkage due to Arctic warming reduces red knot fitness in tropical wintering range. *Science*, 352 (6287).

## Tracking the Migratory Movements of Pacific Golden Plover Spending the Summer in Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia

As most of you will know, with financial support from the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd, the Queensland Wader Study Group placed four 5-gram Platform Terminal Transmitters (**PTTs**) from Microwave Telemetry on Pacific Golden Plovers prior to their northward migration. The birds were caught at the Manly artificial shorebird roost, located near Brisbane, in Queensland, Australia.

Previous studies using geolocators in Hawaii and Alaska have provided detailed information on the migration of those central Pacific birds (Johnson *et al.* 2015) but there have been no corresponding studies from birds spending the non-breeding season in Australia. Leg-flag resightings of Australian banded birds are sparse, with records in the Yellow Sea (Minton *et al.* 2006) and a more recent record in Japan (QWSG database). Occasional records of Alaskan flagged birds in Australia suggest that at least some birds in Australia may originate from Alaskan breeding sites (Minton *et al.* 2006).

All four birds provided several months of data on local dispersal and utilisation of Moreton Bay for roosting and feeding which was invaluable and uncovered some behaviours that the wader study group were not aware of from leg-flag resightings alone. All four birds continued to roost at Manly regularly with their daytime feeding areas being within 1-3 km of the Manly roost, mainly to the north in the Wynnum area and in the Wellington Point area with some occasional movements further north to the Port of Brisbane. At night, both **DAA** and **DAB** have been regularly flying inland and spending time at night on the Royal Queensland Golf Course, situated on the banks of the Brisbane River 10 km west-north-west of Manly, which is something we didn't know.

While one bird (**DAB**) stopped transmitting prior to departure, the remaining three birds all left between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April with all three birds flying to the East of Papua New Guinea with one heading towards Guam (**DAA**), one towards Palau (**BSA**) and one which turned south towards the coast of New Guinea (**BHM**).

Unfortunately the PTTs on **BSA**, **BHM** stopped transmitting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May mid Pacific and we think as the birds have lost body mass that the units may have fallen off. **DAA**, with a harness fitted when the bird was lean continued to operate as the bird migrated north and **DAA** made landfall in Guam on the 2<sup>ND</sup> May and remained there until at least the 10<sup>th</sup> May. The bird was flying north from Guam on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, making landfall in Japan on the 14<sup>th</sup> May where it visited three locations, all agricultural areas before leaving Japan on the 29<sup>th</sup> May heading straight for Alaska. **DAA** made landfall on Gareloi island on the 31<sup>st</sup> May confirming suspicions that at least some of our birds breed in Alaska. Unfortunately the PTT stopped transmitting a few days later so we didn't get to the final breeding site or get a record of the return journey but we learnt an enormous amount about Pacific Golden-plover migration through this, even though we didn't get absolutely everything we went for.

This season we're doing more with transmitters and have committed, between ourselves and the University of Queensland to fit 10 transmitters on Far-Eastern Curlew as part of a coordinated national recovery program. We will also be working with Fudan University in China and fitting ten transmitters onto Whimbrel to study their migration in more detail so an exciting season ahead as we dig deeper into the migration mechanisms of these remarkable birds.

Many thanks to the Port of Brisbane for their support and to the many volunteers at Queensland Wader Study Group who have helped with the catching of the Golden Plover.

**Jon Coleman, Queensland Wader Study Group**

## Count Programme - Linda Cross



As counters will have read in this newsletter, it was with great sadness to hear of the passing of Joyce Harding. Most of the counters will have known Joyce, or know of her work entering your counts for over 20 years. Joyce did this laborious and tedious job without complaint, and really missed the workload when the online count entries started on the website. Joyce was also the counter for 4 sites in the southern section of Moreton Bay until a few years ago when she passed the job over to Robert Bush and Deirdre Chrzescijanski. However, Joyce continued to accompany Robert and Deirdre to the sites whenever she could. Robert shared a lovely photograph and story with myself and Ivell Whyte, but it was just so Joyce that we want to share it with the rest of the QWSG members.

*Photo taken about two years ago. One of the last counts we managed to get Joyce to come along to. Still counting and surrounded by Mr Daley's cows.*

*She had said she would stay in the car while I counted. Ten minutes later I looked around and she was behind me. "How did you get here Joyce, I locked the gate."*

*"Oh, I just rolled under it with my scope!" Even the cows were impressed.*

*A little later I said, "I think there are 122 Gull-billed Terns." "Probably an under-count" she replied with a smile. Robert Bush*

We would also like to pass on our condolences to Robert MacKenzie (organiser and counter for Tweed Heads sites) and his family. Robert's wife passed away on the same day as Joyce. Our deepest sympathy to both families.

As per the last couple of newsletters, I will continue recording wader species and numbers in the table below for other count sites within the count programme. In this issue, we move further south to the Pumicestone Passage and Bribie Island.

Table below with counts from Toorbul and 1 of the Bribie Island sites. List as per IOC taxonomic order.

Species	TGBC 23 Jul 17	TRSS 23 Jul 17	TRNT 23 Jul 17	TRSF 23 Jul 17	TOOR 23 Jul 17	BHMS 23 Jul	BHBI 23 Jul
Pied Oystercatcher			2	1	2		1
Masked Lapwing			2	2	6	73	
White-headed Stilt **		269	177	10	480	5	2
Black-fronted Dotterel							7
Red-kneed Dotterel	9					6	
Red-capped Plover							14
Black-tailed Godwit					24		
Bar-tailed Godwit					148		
Whimbrel				6	71		
Far Eastern Curlew				65	149		
Common Greenshank					1		

\*\* White-headed Stilt – the combined total for all 4 Toorbul sites = 936 birds. Quite an impressive number.

TGBC – Toorbul George Bishop Causeway

TRNT – Toorbul 1km north

TOOR – Toorbul

BHBI – Buckley's Hole sandbar Bribie Island

All the above sites are counted by Den Wells. Dez also covers another site down in Moreton Bay. This site will be detailed in future lists.

TRSS – Toorbul sandspit

TRSF – Toorbul Sandfly Bay

BHMS – Bishop's Marsh Toorbul

A new site in the Great Sandy Strait region was added to the database in May. It is Comber's Paddock at Boonooroo which has been added to the count sites workload for Bill Price, Peter Tierney and Cecile Espigole. It is a non-tidal site in a paddock between sites 1 and 2 in Boonooroo, and is more attractive to waterbirds, although White-headed Stilt sometimes frequent the site.

An older count site at Dunwich on Stradbroke Island has been without a counter for many years, but we now have 2 new counters enrolled into the count programme to take on this site. Mary Barram and Sue Ellen Carew have sent the June and July counts through. The site is particularly favoured by Pied Oystercatcher. We welcome Mary and Sue Ellen to the count programme and hope they will find counting our shorebirds interesting and rewarding.

Spring is nearly upon us, which can only mean one thing, time to give your scope a good clean in readiness for the returning migrants. There will be a variety of plumages to look at, which will include juvenile birds. Please try to record the number of juvenile birds of each species within the flock which will give an indication on how successful the breeding season has been. Also, don't forget to check for leg flags and report to Phil.

The arrival of spring also means the majority of Double-banded Plover will have left our shores to return across the ditch to their home in New Zealand for their breeding season. A total of 23 count sites have been recording the species during the past few months, and August has seen the birds transform from non-breeding into near full breeding plumage. Sites and highest count over this period are as follows:

Sandbank off Amity Point (110), Port of Brisbane (79), Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay (62), Manly Harbour (53), East Geoff Skinner Reserve (51), King Street mudflat, Thornlands (36), West Geoff Skinner Reserve (24), Maroochy River Northshore (16), Redcliffe Airport northside (16), Kinka Beach, Yeppoon (14 – highest count ever recorded at site), O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay (13), Sandbank No. 1 Caloundra (12), Thangawan Creek, Great Sandy Strait (11), Noosa River sandbanks (10), Caboolture River mouth (9), Cairns Esplanade (8), Reeder's Point, Moreton Island (5), Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island (5), Fisherman Island claypan (3), Cooloola roost, Tin Can Bay (3), Garnett's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay (2), Kinka Beach sandbar, Yeppoon (1) and Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet (1).



There have only been a few interesting and unusual sightings during the last few months which included 1 Asian Dowitcher at Manly Harbour on 30.05.17 and again on 06.06.17. At Bundaberg Port 1 Broad-billed Sandpiper was recorded on 25.06.17 and another of the same species was at the Port of Brisbane on 23.07.17. During the Moreton Island surveys on 10.08.17 a large total of 34 Sanderling were recorded at the sandbank off Amity Point.

Some counters find waders quite addictive and cannot resist visiting a site to view the birds (and record leg flags). One of these people is Arthur Keates, who has been visiting Manly Harbour 3 times a month for the last 2 months, and although it is additional work for both Phil and myself, I am thankful that Arthur has taken the time to enter the count of these visits online. With these additional counts one can see the increase in some of the species in the last couple of weeks. Arthur has also made mention of any with remnant or trace of breeding plumage. This gives us an indication that perhaps some of the migratory species are starting to return a little earlier, as they did last year. Far Eastern Curlew is an early arrival, as is Latham's Snipe. Both these species are known to arrive back in early August.

With the lack of migratory birds around through the winter months I share highlights of some of our resident species. Extracts from counts suggest there has been more movement of species from inland Australia toward the coast. This is also evident in the "Interesting Sightings" section "Not waders but of interest anyway".

There have been many more records for our more uncommon Red-kneed Dotterel since the last newsletter. Previously they were only recorded at 8 sites, but records since then now come from 17 sites which include 37 at Garnet's Lagoons 1 & 2 combined, 22 at St. Helena Island homestead, 20 each at Bundaberg Port and King Street mudflats Thornlands, 18 each at Kianawah Road wetland and Redcliffe Airport northside, 11 at Bishop's Marsh Toorbul, 9 at George Bishop Causeway Toorbul, 5 at Pine Rivers northside, 4 at Gregory Road Hay's Inlet, 3 at Lytton roost, 2 each at Kinka Wetland Yeppoon, Manly Harbour and Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve, and finally 1 each at Port of Brisbane and Kedron Brook Wetland. Among those records the only immature birds recorded came from Manly Harbour (1) and Pine Rivers northside (3).

Black-fronted Dotterel records increased from 14 sites to 23 (9 more than noted in the last newsletter), and they ranged from southern sites in Moreton Bay right up to Cooktown. Here are some of the larger counts recorded:

56 at Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats Gladstone, 45 at both Bundaberg Port and Redcliffe Airport northside, 37 at Queensland Aluminium settling pond Gladstone, 24 at Kinka Wetland Yeppoon, 20 at Queensland Aluminium Ashpond Gladstone, 14 at Lytton roost and 10 at both St. Helena Island south-east and Caboolture River mouth. All other site records were single digits and there was only one record of an immature bird at Buckley's Hole sandbar on Bribie Island.

Red-necked Avocet were recorded at 15 sites from Tweed Heads through to Maaroom throughout the last few months. Some of the more significant numbers came from the Port of Brisbane (845), Luggage Point (158), Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve (131), Deception Bay south (85), Kedron Brook Wetland (84), Trute's Bay Tweed Heads (77), Maaroom (48) and Kianawah Road Wetland (38). Totals were below 20 at the other sites and 3 counters who recorded immature within the flock gave us an indication of breeding success for this species. Immature accounted for 18% of the Kianawah Road Wetland flock, at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve the figure was 14% and Manly Harbour was just under 12%.

Although the number of sites recording White-headed Stilt were only 26 compared to 39 in the previous newsletter, the number of birds was higher. During the surveys 10 counters took the time to record the number of immature birds within the flocks on 23 occasions. Sites, highest count and percentage of immature in some of the flocks over the past few months are as follows:

Luggage Point (705 – 30%), Maaroom (557), Bundaberg Port (552), Toorbul (480 – 13%), Toorbul Sandfly Bay (476 – 43%), Manly Harbour (366 – 38%), Toorbul sandspit (364 – 52%), Pine River Wetland Reserve (293 – 30%), Lytton No.1 claypan (242), Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (193), Deception Bay south (190 – 16%), Toorbul 1km north (177 – 16%), Kianawah Road Wetland (172 – 9%), Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost (155 – 23%), Queens Esplanade Thornside (154 – 15%), Trute's Bay Tweed Heads (139), Redcliffe Airport northside (131), Nathan Road Redcliffe (121), Dohle's Rocks (113) and Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats Gladstone (113). There were 6 other sites that had less than 100 birds and of those sites Pine Rivers northside recorded 46% immature within the flock, Sandbank No. 2 Caloundra had 24% and Lytton No.1 claypan had 8%.

Some other interesting records extracted from counts below, with some unusually high counts during the winter season:

- 149 Far Eastern Curlew – Toorbul – 23.07.17
- 146 Whimbrel – Luggage Point – 27.05.17
- 638 Curlew Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane – 23.07.17
- 180 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 05.08.17
- 490 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – 06.06.17
- 63 Ruddy Turnstone – Manly Harbour – 30.05.17
- 28 Red Knot – Maaroom – 27.05.17
- 23 Greater Sand Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay – 22.07.17
- 385 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane – 28.05.17
- 115 Red-capped Plover – Kinka Beach Yeppoon – 24.06.17
- 108 Red-capped Plover – Bundaberg Port – 25.06.17
- 101 Red-capped Plover – Port of Brisbane – 23.07.17
- 2 Beach Stone-curlew – Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island – 25.06.17
- 1 Beach Stone-curlew at each of the following sites:
  - Tweed River entrance Tweed Heads on 01.07.17, Reeder's Point Moreton Island on 10.08.17,
  - Noosa River sandbank on 12.06.17 & 28.07.17, Site 1 at Boonooroo on 23.07.17 and
  - Queensland Aluminium Ashpond Gladstone on 21.07.17.

### **Breeding records**

- Pied Oystercatcher – a pair nesting at Manly Harbour on 08.08.17 and a pair mating at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 30.07.17.
- Masked Lapwing – nest with 4 eggs at Maaroom on 22.07.17
- Red-capped Plover – pairs staking out nesting sites at site 7 Queensland Aluminium Gladstone on 21.07.17 and 1 young at Port of Brisbane on 23.07.17.

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: [xenus69@xxxxxx.com](mailto:xenus69@xxxxxx.com)

Snail mail: xx xxxxxx Road, xxxxxx. Qld 4xxx Phone: xxxx xxxx

**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

### **Interesting wader sightings**

An Inland Dotterel was reported as being seen at Lake Moondarra, Mt. Isa on 05.08.17, and has been in that same general area for 6 weeks prior to the August sighting. Information received states that this has been only the second Inland Dotterel seen in Mt. Isa for 55 years.

- 73 Masked Lapwing – Bishop's Marsh Toorbul – 23.07.17
- 53 Masked Lapwing – Redcliffe Airport northside – 24.06.17
- 11 Grey Plover – Thangawan Creek Great Sandy Strait – 23.06.17
- 3 Grey Plover – Queensland Aluminium Ashpond Gladstone – 23.06.17
- 102 Lesser Sand Plover – Manly Harbour – 14.08.107
- 2 Marsh Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 05.08.17
- 6 Terek Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 08.08.17 and 5 on 06.06.17
- 26 Black-tailed Godwit – Manly Harbour – 08.08.17
- 24 Black-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – 23.07.17
- 1 Latham's Snipe – Lake Kurwongbah - 14.08.17

### **Not waders but of interest anyway**

Evidence below of winter migrants from the south and perhaps a drying inland with species moving toward the coast.

- 755 Little Black Cormorant – Port of Brisbane – 25.06.17
- 112 Little Pied Cormorant – Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost – 28.05.17
- 5 Australasian Shoveler – Buckley's Hole Bribie Island – 08.06.17
- 5 Australasian Shoveler – Garnet's Lagoon No.1 Hervey Bay – 24.06.17
- 14 Pink-eared Duck – Bundaberg Port – 23.07.17
- 4 Pink-eared Duck – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 Hervey Bay – 29.04.17 & 27.05.17
- 2 Pink-eared Duck – Bishop's Marsh Toorbul – 27.05.17

- 1 Pink-eared Duck – Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats Gladstone – 23.06.17  
 1,000 Chestnut Teal – Bundaberg Port – 04.06.17  
 505 Chestnut Teal – Nathan Road Redcliffe – 22.07.17  
 540 Grey Teal – Bundaberg Port – 23.07.17  
 507 Grey Teal – Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats Gladstone – 29.05.17  
 81 Maned Duck – Garnet's Lagoon No. 2 Hervey Bay – 24.06.17  
 57 Plumed Whistling Duck – Comber's Paddock Boonooroo – 27.05.17  
 1 Wandering Whistling Duck – Buckley's Hole Bribie Island – 25.06.17  
 3 Radjah Shelduck – Kina Beach Yeppoon – 22.07.17  
 6 Cotton Pygmy Goose – Ewan Maddock Dam – 18.06.17  
 218 Royal Spoonbill – Lake at Port of Brisbane – 23.07.17  
 2 Hoary-headed Grebe – Queensland Aluminium settling pond Gladstone – 29.05.17  
 1 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats Gladstone – 23.06.17  
 1 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Bundaberg Port – 04.06.17  
 1 Spotted Harrier – Port of Brisbane – 23.07.17  
 1 Spotted Harrier – Bundaberg Port – 04.06.17  
 23 Glossy Ibis – Nathan Road Redcliffe – 22.07.17  
 16 Glossy Ibis – Garnet's Lagoon 1 & 2 Hervey Bay – 22.07.17  
 5 Glossy Ibis – Bundaberg Port – 23.07.17  
 6 Great Cormorant – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 13.08.17  
 2,010 Greater Crested Tern – Noosa River sandbanks – 28.07.17  
 975 Gull-billed Tern – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 Hervey Bay – 24.06.17  
 1 Gull-billed Tern (*race affinis*) – Toorbul – 25.06.17 & 23.07.17  
 4 Whiskered Tern – Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats – 29.05.17  
 14 Little Tern – Manly Harbour – 30.05.17  
 80 Straw-necked Ibis – Kinka Wetland Yeppoon – 27.05.17  
 2 Australasian Gannet (1 adult & 1 juvenile) – Wickham Point Caloundra – 24.06.17 & 22.07.17  
     Lesser Crested Tern – seen at 7 sites over the past few months with the highest total for each site being 24 at Manly Harbour, 20 at Seaforth Beach creek mouth north of Mackay, 13 at O'Regan's Creek westside Hervey Bay, 8 at sandbank off Amity Point, 7 at St. Helena Island Pier, 2 at Port of Brisbane and 1 at Gable's Point Rocks Hervey Bay.  
 White-necked Heron – seen at 7 sites over the past few months with the highest totals for each site being 6 at Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon, 3 at Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats, 2 at Nathan Road Redcliffe and 1 each at Thangawan Creek Great Sandy Strait, Redcliffe Airport northside, Luggage Point and Buckley's Hole Bribie Island.  
 White-faced Heron – large totals seen at 4 sites. 54 at Lytton No. 1 claypan on 27.05.17, 54 at West Geoff Skinner Reserve on 22.07.17, 51 at Trute's Bay Tweed Heads on 02.06.17 and 42 at Fisherman Island claypan on 25.06.17.  
 30 Eastern Great Egret – Port of Brisbane Artificial roost – 25.06.17  
 23 Little Egret – Port of Brisbane Artificial roost – 25.06.17  
 1 Australasian Darter (unusual in Noosa) – Noosa River sandbanks – 28.07.17  
 2 Black-necked Stork – Bundaberg Port – 04.06.17  
 1 Black-necked Stork at the following sites:  
     Nathan Road Redcliffe on 22.07.17, Bell's Creek Caloundra on 23.06.17, Cooloola Tin Can Bay on 26.06.17 and Kinka Wetland Yeppoon on 22.07.17.

Happy counting.  
 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.** xxxxxx

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

Only 307 sightings of green flags in Moreton Bay & Environs added to the database in the last three months compared to 1,522 in the previous three months, down by 80%, which is to be expected as most of migratory

waders would have gone to the northern hemisphere to breed. The species recorded and the number of observations were as follows. Pied Oystercatcher 30, Bar-tailed Godwit 25, Curlew Sandpiper 17, Double-banded Plover 27, Eastern Curlew 3, Great Knot 2, Grey-tailed Tattler 27, Lesser Sand Plover 29, Red-necked Stint 47, Ruddy Turnstone 82, Terek Sandpiper 2, Whimbrel 4, and White-headed Stilt 12.

They were sighted by Diane Blewett, Kathy Clark, Tony Cotter, Kristy Currie, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Steve McBride, Georgia Sneesby, Andrew Thelander, Dez Wells and Melissa Whitby. Arthur Keates was an observer on 274 occasions (89% of the sightings)!

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

Bar-tailed Godwit –ACZ, BEB, BRX, CBA, CBD, CBY, CCD, CJD, CJS, CPT, and JE.  
 Curlew Sandpiper – ABE, AJL, AKA, AUB, AYH, AYF, AYS.  
 Double-banded Plover – AVJ, AZA, AZD,  
 Eastern Curlew – AHB, AHC.  
 Great Knot – Flag unread.  
 Greater Sand Plover – CCB.  
 Grey Plover – JT.  
 Grey-Tailed Tattler – AAJ, AAK, ACD, ACN, ACZ, ADL, AKC, APU, APZ, ARE, ARJ, ASL, ATW, AUK, AZZ, BDB, BSP, BXD, FA and RC.  
 Lesser Sand Plover –AUD, AUH, AUU, AUY, AUZ and AVC,  
 Pacific Golden Plover – AVS, AVV, AVW, BHK, BHL, BHM, BSA, BSC, BSF, BVA, DAA and DAB.  
 Pied Oystercatcher – AAA, AAD, AAE, AAK, AAT, AAU, AAY, ABC, ABD, ABE, ABM, AML and C4.  
 Red-necked Stint – 2A, 2Y, 4F, 4T, 4Z, 5D, 5Z, 6A, 6C, 6D, 6P, 8N, 8S, 8Y and 8Z.  
 Ruddy Turnstone – APJ, ATA, ATB, ATC, ATD, ATF, ATH, ATJ, ATK, ATL, ATN, ATP, ATT, ATU, ATV, ATY, ATZ, AUD, AUH and AXY.  
 Terek Sandpiper – AJN.  
 Whimbrel – DAD, DAN and FV.  
 White-headed Stilt – AAS, AAU, AAZ, ABD, BB, BDP and KC.

## **Green leg flag sightings seen Interstate**

None

## **Green leg flag sightings seen Overseas**

### **Japan**

#### **Bar-tailed Godwit**

ASD on flag – 29.4.2016 – Daijyu-garami, Higashiyoga-cho, Saga-ken – Hitomi Yagl  
 ASD on flag – 30.4.2017 - Daijyu-garami, Higashiyoga-cho, Saga-ken – Shota Sawamoto

#### **Great Knot**

BRJ on flag – 29.4.2017 – Torinoumi, Wafari, Miyagi – Miho Maruko

#### **Grey-tailed Tattler**

BXJ on flag - 6.5.2017 – Mouth of Tsukui River – Kohno Yasutoshi  
 KZ on flag 8.5.2017 – Zaimokuza, Kamakura-shi, Kanagawa-ken – Ike Hideo  
 APP on flag – 8.5.2017 – Minato, Minamizu-cho, Shizuoka-ken – Akira Nishiyama  
 ADS on flag – 20.5.2017 – Fijimae Tidal Flat, Nahoya-shi, Aichi-ken – Tsuguo Ohta  
 DAC on flag – 21.5.2017 – Yodo River, Fukushima, Osaka – Masakazu Tanuguchi  
 ATC on flag – 29.7.2017 – Mouth of Arakawa River Kotoku – Tatsuo Yanagi  
 ANN on flag – 3.8.2017 – Koromozaki, Isshiki-cho, Nishio-shi Aichi-ken – Hikaru Asai

#### **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**

AEL on flag – 30.4.2017 – Komesu beach, Itoman-shi, Okinawa – Kouzo Hashimoto

### **South Korea**

All recorded at Aphae Island (south) by Andreas Kim

#### **Bar-tailed Godwit**

ATA on flag – 2, 4, 11 & 15.4.2017	AYB on flag – 4, 5 & 6.4.2017
AWE on flag – 5.4.2017	AJM on flag – 6.4.2017
ARA on flag – 7.4.2017	ANB on flag – 7.4.2017
BSD on flag – 8.4.2017	AYD on flag – 11 & 12.4.2017
BBL on flag – 11.4.2017	BJE on flag – 11 & 15.4.2017
CDC on flag – 11.4.2017	PN on flag – 11.4.2017
BAP on flag – 12.4.2017	NC on flag – 12, 18, & 23.4.2017

AZX on flag – 15.4.2017  
 PR on flag – 15, 18, 22 & 23.4.2017  
 1 unread flag – 8.4.2017

EC on flag – 15, 18, 22, & 23.4.2017  
 1 plain flag – 8.4.2017

**Great Knot**

CMX on flag – 13.4.2017

**China****Great Knot**

BNP on flag – 1.4.2017 – Wenzhou Bay, Zhejiang China – Guanghui Chen & Banaboo Tidot

**Ruddy Turnstone**

ABY on flag – 25.5.2015 - Jalu Jiang Nature Reserve – unknown observer

**USA****Whimbrel**

CJX on flag – 2.6.2017 – St George Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska – Nat Drumheller

**Orange (Victoria) leg flag sightings seen in Qld.****Bar-tailed Godwit**

CKV on flag – 17 & 19.9.2015 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

**Great Knot**

1 with plain flag – 29.4 & 24.6.2017 – Thorneside Queens Esplanade – Kristy Currie

1 with plain flag – 16.7 & 8.8.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

**Yellow (West Aust) leg flag sightings seen in Qld.****Red-necked Avocet**

82 on flag – 25.6.2017 – Maaroom Great Sandy Strait – Arthur & Sheryl Keates

**Overseas flagged birds seen in Qld**

None

**Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – (use four combinations)****Grey-tailed Tattler**

1 plain flag 17.9.2015 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

**Other wader leg flag and banded sightings**

None

**Pied Oystercatcher Yellow leg flag (2 digit) 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.

C4 on flag – 25.7.2017 – St Helena Island Pier - Kristy Currie

**Other leg flag sightings and banded birds****Beach Stone Curlew**

Engraved Yellow (NSW) flag unread – 25.6.2017 -Lucinda Bay Moreton Island – Kristy Currie

**Caspian Tern Orange flag (Victoria)**

E\_ on flag (second digit unread) – 26.3.2017 – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – Michael Strong

U8 on flag, right tarsus - 27.5 & 23.7.2017 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

E6 on flag, right tarsus - 23.7.2017 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

Engraved flag unread – 23.7.2017 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur & Sheryl Keates

24 on flag – 30.7.2017 – Toorbul – Steve McBride, Kathy Wilk & June Harris

47 on flag – 30.7.2017 – Toorbul - Steve McBride, Kathy Wilk & June Harris

## Wader ID Day Reports

### Manly Shorebird Roost Report 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

On a delightful winter's day, with the temperature reaching the predicted maximum 23 degrees under a clear blue sky, observation conditions were good with a gentle north-easterly breeze. We arrived on site on the incoming tide but most of the birds had already arrived and settled down to roost.

The main purpose of this outing was to see Double-banded Plover, or "Bandies" as they are colloquially known in New Zealand, just before their return migration to the other side of the ditch. The 15 observers attending were not disappointed, with very good views of these enchanting little birds, most of them in advanced breeding plumage.



A Red-necked Stint with 4 Double-banded Plover. Photo: A Keates

We estimate the total number of shorebirds to have been in the vicinity of 1,200 birds and the diversity was good, with observations of 13 species of migratory shorebird, 4 species of resident shorebird and 4 species of tern. The notably absent shorebird species was Whimbrel, usually a regular at the roost site throughout the year.

Overhead, a White-bellied Sea-eagle put the birds to flight twice; a Brahminy Kite less of a concern to the birds but nevertheless they did take to the air briefly. An Eastern Osprey was also seen flying around the marina.

Birds of several species fitted with a Queensland green leg flag were observed but no overseas or interstate flagged birds were noted.

The following species were seen at the roost site:

Grey Teal, Little Pied Cormorant, Eastern Great Egret, Little Egret, White-faced Heron, Australian Pelican, Pied Oystercatcher, White-headed Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Double-banded Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Far Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Greater Crested Tern and Lesser Crested Tern.

If you can help we are looking for other members to help with leading these ID days particularly the next few due to holidays and other reasons. Please contact QWSG if you can assist. Also, can you let the leaders know of your desire to attend giving a means of contact just in case we have to cancel at short notice due to weather etc. Many thanks.

## Toorbul Wader Report 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017

By Linda Cross.

Weather conditions for this morning wader viewing were fine and dry with a few clouds. The wind was from the south west at first before swinging around to the south-east by lunch time.

In total, 17 people attended the outing, with one couple and their grandchildren coming from Toowoomba, while others came from Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. We also had a handful of the general public who stopped and chatted to us about the birds, and were given a quick introduction to shorebirds.

The tide was not at the peak of the high when we arrived, and birds were stretched out along the foreshore towards the main roost. There were 11 species of waders for the group to identify, and it was a surprise to see some Grey-tailed Tattlers within the group (a species that had been lacking during a few previous outings to this roost).

There were large numbers of White-headed Stilt, Far Eastern Curlew and Whimbrel, but numbers for other migratory waders were low, which was to be expected so early in the southward migration. Thankfully there were Red and Great Knots for comparison, and a couple of Red Knot still with some remnant breeding plumage helped make it a little easier for the attendees to pick out. Unfortunately, no Black-tailed Godwit were present to help show the difference between them and the Bar-tailed Godwit. The flock was disturbed on several occasions by the raptors, but most resettled each time, apart from some smaller species which left as the tide peaked.

Two overseas flagged waders were seen and recorded, along with 33 south-east Queensland flagged waders and 2 terns with flags. All are listed below:

- 1 Red Knot with white flag on right tibia. (Flagged in New Zealand).
  - 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag on left tibia. (Flagged in Hokkaido, Japan).
  - 2 Caspian Tern with engraved orange flag (K9 and U8) on right tarsus. (Flagged Victoria).
- There were also 33 birds sporting engraved green leg flags. (Flagged south-east Queensland).

A count was conducted at the roost and added to the QWSG database.

Birds seen at Toorbul Roost and environs (F/O – flying over):

9 Black Swan in the passage, 8 Australian White Ibis (F/O), 2 Royal Spoonbill (F/O), 1 Great Egret, 1 White-faced Heron (F/O), 1 Eastern Osprey (F/O), 2 Whistling Kite (F/O), 3 White-bellied Sea Eagle (F/O), 9 Pied Oystercatcher, 265 White-headed Stilt (includes 84 immature), 8 Masked Lapwing (includes 4 F/O), 299 Bar-tailed Godwit, 278 Whimbrel, 354 Far Eastern Curlew, 2 Common Greenshank, 52 Grey-tailed Tattler, 35 Great Knot, 7 Red Knot, 2 Curlew Sandpiper, 203 Gull-billed Tern and 11 Caspian Tern.

Phil and I stopped at Bishop's Marsh on the way out of Toorbul as there was water present in the paddock and conducted a count for the database. The 4 species of birds counted were: 9 Grey Teal, 1 Little Pied Cormorant, 24 White-headed Stilt and 52 Masked Lapwing.

## Toorbul Wader Report 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017

By Linda Cross.

Some cloud and a moderate south-easterly wind greeted the 19 attendees for this ID session. Although there were a couple of spots of rain on one occasion, it remained dry for the rest of the time.

David Edwards arrived much earlier than the meeting time and observed 45 Far Eastern Curlew (FEC) stretched out along the foreshore before 2 White-bellied Sea Eagle flew over putting the FEC to flight along with the birds assembled on the main Toorbul roost. The FEC never returned, but the roost flock did resettle.

Once again, the wader species diversity at the roost were low with only 8 to identify. Thankfully there were a handful of Black-tailed Godwit and 2 Red Knot within the flock which gave us the opportunity to explain the difference between the two godwit and knot species. Within the flock there were also 25 juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit and the attendees were given a lesson in how to distinguish them from the adults.

No overseas flagged waders were seen, however there was one Great Knot sporting a plain orange flag (flagged in Victoria), and 90 green flags seen on 3 species of waders (Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Whimbrel), which were flagged in south-east Queensland.

A count was conducted at the roost and added to the QWSG database.

Birds seen on the main Toorbul Roost during ID session (F/O – flying over. F/P – flying past, H – Heard):

6 Australian White Ibis (F/O), 1 Royal Spoonbill (F/O), 1 Striated Heron (F/P), 1 White-faced Heron (F/O), 4 Little Pied Cormorant (F/O), 1 Little Black Cormorant (F/O), 1 Australasian Darter (F/O), 2 Whistling Kite (F/O), 4 Pied Oystercatcher, 44 White-headed Stilt, 2 Masked Lapwing, 6 Black-tailed Godwit, 1,230 Bar-tailed Godwit (includes 25 juveniles), 156 Whimbrel, 60 Great Knot, 3 Red Knot, 1 Silver Gull, 4 Gull-billed Tern, 3 Caspian Tern,

Paul Marty did a count of the birds in Toorbul Sandfly Bay before he joined the rest of the group at the main roost. However, most of the birds listed as follows eventually flew to the main roost and were included in the above counts. Birds counted: 3 Australian Pelican, 6 Pied Oystercatcher, 29 White-headed Stilt, 8 Black-tailed Godwit, 353 Bar-tailed Godwit, 130 Whimbrel, 20 Great Knot and 1 Caspian Tern.

Bishop's Marsh was not surveyed.

## Wader ID Days 2017

### **Saturday 9 September at Toorbul**

2.15 m high tide at 11:29 (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul – 11:59). Meeting time 10:00 onwards.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to Donnybrook/Toorbul exit. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue 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.

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### **Sunday 8 October at Manly Harbour**

2.35 m high tide at 11:11. Meeting time 10:45.

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 an access agreement for the wader roost. Under the conditions of the agreement, 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, have drinking water and, because the site is exposed and the likelihood of a westerly wind, a jacket is advisable.



**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.

**Participation in this field trip is strictly limited to those who have registered with the leaders. Please do not just turn up on the day without registering.**

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates

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**Saturday 11 November at Toorbul**

2.20 m high tide at 15:38 (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul – 16:08). Meeting time 14:00 (2.00 p.m.) onwards.

**Please see relevant information above for Toorbul**

Leaders: Phil & Linda Cross.

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**Saturday 9 December at Manly Harbour**

2.34 m high tide at 14:06. Meeting time 13:45 (1:45 p.m.).

**Please see relevant information above for Manly Harbour**

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates

## QWSG CONTACTS

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

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

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

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	David Edwards	<a href="mailto:chairperson@waders.org.au">chairperson@waders.org.au</a>
<u>TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP</u>	Sheryl Keates	<a href="mailto:membership@waders.org.au">membership@waders.org.au</a>
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	<a href="mailto:secretary@waders.org.au">secretary@waders.org.au</a>
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	<a href="mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au">gouldian@ozemail.com.au</a>

Robert Bush	Jon Coleman
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 suspended.

BQ PRESIDENT **Rae Clark** Email [president@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:  
The QWSG Chairperson,  
54, Elliott Street,  
CLAYFIELD,  
QLD 4011

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QLD 4152

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

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **November 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au)

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## 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, Rae Clark  
 Secretary, Robert Bush  
 Treasurer, Judith Giles

[president@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)

[secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au)

[treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Monthly Meetings Birds Queensland

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

## 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.

## Missing QWSG Spotting Scope

After our course last year the group's spotting scope has gone missing. So, please check your gear to see if it has taken a holiday with your stuff.

It is a black Carton Spot 60 with a 20-40x zoom lens + Velbon tripod

If found please let one of us know at:-

David Edwards

Email [chairperson@waders.org.au](mailto:chairperson@waders.org.au)

Sheryl Keates

Email [membership@waders.org.au](mailto:membership@waders.org.au)

Linda Cross

Email [xenus69@bigpond.com](mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com)

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Ms Samantha ARMATYS Mr Liam BARTLETT Mr Kevin DONOHUE

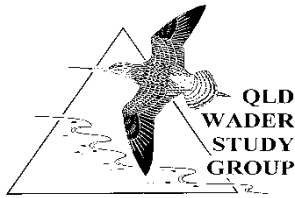
Ms Wendy GAISFORD Ms Jo KASPARI Ms Gillie MATTHEW

Dr Sean McELWAIN Tarquin MOON Ms Laura PHILLIPS

Miss Ziyou YANG

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.



## Count Activities – 2017

### QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2017

- Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep    2.14m at 11:23
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Oct    2.26m at 10:21
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov    2.33m at 09:24
- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec    2.32m at 08:25

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 2017

- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Sep    2.10m at 11:59 Meet 10:10
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct    2.25m at 10:55 Meet 11:05
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Nov    2.35m at 09:58 Meet 08:10
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 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).....

Email .....Fax.....

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

Are you a member of Birds Queensland? .....

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

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

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

Signature ..... Date:.....

**Please email this form to:** [membership@waders.org.au](mailto:membership@waders.org.au)

Direct funds transfer to:

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140

Account number: 08305297

**or**

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

Cheques to be made out to: Qld Wader Study Group