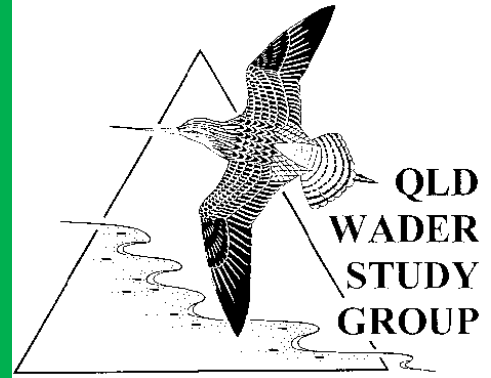


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue 102

December 2017, January and February 2018

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

Observations of Chongming Dongtan Flagged Great Knot in Queensland

by Arthur Keates

In May 2016, the Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), a species endemic to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), was listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) because of the rapid population decline of the species.

It is recognised the decline in the numbers of Great Knot across Australia in the non-breeding season is largely due to the ongoing loss of intertidal habitat at key migration staging sites in the Yellow Sea region, primarily through reclamation and wetland degradation. Recent research shows that long-term population declines is greatest for the species that rely heavily on refueling stops in the Yellow Sea region. About 80% of the EAAF Great Knot population relies on the region as a staging site, especially on northward migration. Chongming Dongtan, near Shanghai, People's Republic of China (CMD) is one of the sites in China of international importance for the Great Knot's northward migration.



Mr Jin Weigo setting a trap to catch shorebirds at Chongming Dongtan (note the decoys in front of the net) Photo: A Keates

Prior to the arrival of Great Knot in Australia on southern migration in 2017, QWSG's leg flag database had reports of 327 observations of Great Knot flagged at CMD. Of course, those records include multiple observations of particular individuals as can be seen by a perusal of the data.

Between April 2003 and April 2006, birds flagged at CMD had a white flag fitted above a black flag. However, I understand the difficulty of seeing the white flag against the white underparts of the birds in the field led to the reversal of the fitting of the flags and so the black flag is now fitted above the white flag. More recently, CMD flagged Great Knot have been fitted with a plain black flag above a white engraved leg flag (ELF).

Records of plain white/black flags relate to observations at sites in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria, Far North and Central Queensland, the Great Sandy Strait and Moreton Bay. The first of the 29 records is of an observation on 25th August 2005 at a roost site in Pumicestone Passage, Moreton Bay. The last record of an observation of plain white/black flags was on 16th December 2015. Assuming that bird was an adult on northern migration when banded, it would have been at least 11 years old when observed.

Of the 227 reports of individuals fitted with plain black/white flags, the majority relate to observations in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria (63), Cairns (28), the Great Sandy Strait (51) and Moreton Bay (44). The first record of an observation of plain black/white flags relates to an observation of a bird at Karumba Point, on 8th October 2006, just 6 months after banding that year when on northern migration. Roosts in Pumicestone Passage account for 36 of the observations in Moreton Bay; the earliest record on 3rd September and the latest record on 23th March, giving an indication of migration arrival and departure dates.

QWSG's leg flag database has 53 records of ELF's. Of these, only 4 are of unread flags although quite probably they relate to individuals the subject of other observations at the relevant sites. Records of ELF's relate to observations in the Gulf of Carpentaria (9, at least 5 individuals), Cairns (2, the same individual), Mackay (2, different individuals), Gladstone (3, 2 individuals), the Great Sandy Strait (1) and Moreton Bay (36, at least 5 individuals).

The greater observer effort in south-east Queensland results in the 3 most reported individuals, **J62** (21), **J74** (8) and **T58** (4).

Between 24th Sep 2016 and 18 November 2016, **T58** was observed at roost sites in Pumicestone Passage. An unread observation of a black/white ELF on 19th September 2016 is also likely to have been **T58**. With no observations of **T58** after the November observation, it may merely have been passing through on southern migration; a more likely explanation rather than simply being undetected by the many observers who frequent the roost sites.

The first report of **J74** relates to an observation on 24th February 2016 at the Port of Brisbane constructed roost, the first and only observation of it before northern migration. Seven observations of **J74** between 26th Dec 2016 and 3rd April 2017, indicate it stayed in Moreton Bay for the summer, with observations at the Port of Brisbane (1), Wynnum (2) and Manly (4).

The multiple observations of **J62** in Moreton Bay reveal its interesting movement between Toorbul, in the Pumicestone Passage, and bayside Manly and adjacent Lota. The first observation of **J62** was at Toorbul on 29th August 2015, 5 months after banding on 29th March 2015 aged 2+. By 12th October 2015, **J62** had moved a little further south to Manly where it was seen twice in November 2015. Then, just before northern migration, **J62** moved back to Toorbul where it was observed on 27th February 2016. On 2nd September 2016, at a time when migrants start to arrive in south-east Queensland, **J62** was again observed at Toorbul. An unread observation of a black/white ELF on 3rd September 2016 may also have been **J62**. As it did the previous year, **J62** moved south, being observed 15 times at Wynnum, Manly and Lota between 6th September 2016 and 2nd March 2017 (see photo).

In only 21 days of surveys in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria from mid-March to early April 2013, a team of 13 dedicated shorebird enthusiasts, whose primary task was to count shorebirds, reported an impressive 84 observations of CMD flagged birds (which of course included multiple observations of some individuals). Nevertheless, putting this into context, those reports represent:

- just under one-third of all plain white/black flags reported
- more plain black/white flags than in each of the Great Sandy Strait and Moreton Bay, despite the greater observer effort at regularly monitored sites in south-east Queensland; and the same number of all ELF's reported in Moreton Bay and more than the number of ELF's reported at each of the other sites in Queensland.

This high reporting rate reflects the fact that the total count of Great Knot in those surveys was just over 32,000 birds. However, it also strongly suggests that many flagged birds go unobserved because of the remoteness and largely inaccessible nature of the southern Gulf of Carpentaria.



Great Knot **J62** with a cohort at Wynnum foreshore just before northern migration on 2 March 2017. Photo: A Keates

Thanks go to the shorebird enthusiasts who report their leg flag observations and to Phil Cross for his diligence in maintaining QWSG's leg flag database.

As a postscript, signaling the arrival of birds on southern migration, **J62** and **J74** have returned to south-east Queensland, both being observed on 16th September at Manly and Wynnum respectively. By mid-September, 4 other individuals fitted with ELF's at CMD were observed at 2 sites in Far North Queensland. It will be interesting to know if those birds stay in North Queensland throughout the austral summer.

25th Year Celebration of the Queensland Wader Study Group

This year is the 25th since the founding of the Queensland Wader Study Group. There had been various meetings held previously to this to discuss how the group should function and whether it should be a stand-alone organisation or be a special interest group within, what was then Queensland Ornithological Society Inc (QOSI).

The Newsletter, Queensland Wader was produced prior to the establishment of the group, hence the issue number is greater than it should be for 25 years of existence.

In those early years most of the activities that we participate in now were established. The monthly counts started then have given rise to one of the most detailed databases in Australia, with information that is now so important to track the population trends of so many species.

The early newsletters give an insight to the trials and tribulations of cannon netting that we know only too well today. Although there have been many changes concerning the flagging etc the methods and equipment are still the same. It is a testament to the QWSG's operations that it has always been at the fore-front of tracking technology. It was one of the first groups to introduce satellite tracking to its arsenal with early ones being fitted to Eastern Curlew. We have seen the introduction of engraved leg flags, geolocators used and the most up-to date trackers used now.

The evening was spent reminiscing about these and many others aspects of the QWSG. (Remember what was said at the meeting, stays at the meeting, so don't be afraid). It was great to see so many of the older members meeting up after so long. There was much laughter and storytelling.

The get-together was held at St. Mary's Church Hall, Kangaroo Point. We were met by Ellie the Eastern Curlew and then escorted up to a view over the Brisbane River for drinks and nibbles. This was most pleasant. Then down to the hall for the main course and dessert, plus tea or coffee.

During the meal a few people took the opportunity to recall happenings etc. Peter Driscoll had asked us all to supply a fact about ourselves that others might not know and then we had to match fact to face. It was great fun and threw up some amazing details. Who knew we had a girl from James Bond in our midst?

We have to thank Peter Driscoll, Sheryl Keates, Gary Harch and Ivell Whyte for all their help in organising the event and setting up the hall on the night. A special thank you to Gary for making the venue available to us. The biggest thanks go to the volunteers of the Church who provided us with a magnificent meal.

See you all in 25 years' time.



The five Chairs of the QWSG. David Milton, Jon Coleman, Andrew Geering, Peter Driscoll, David Edwards

A Message from Hitoshi Akutsu Representing Wild Bird Society of Japan Chiba, and Y&B Wetland Exchange Society

Dearest and most esteemed QWSG Friends 7th October 2017

This is to express our heartfelt congratulations for the 25th Anniversary of QWSG. We are fully aware of your dedication to the preservation of the nature and the birds during the time. Now 15 years passed since we knew of your splendid activity. During the time, you have kindly introduced us the preservation of Natural Environment and showed us your sites such as Kakadu Beach, Toorbul, Port of Brisbane and others. We all remember the time you have shown us the long term investigation data on the birds at the meeting two years ago in Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Center.

We are very certain your work has impressed our activity and the relevant authorities in Japan as well as Queensland on the preservation of the natural environment and the birds. In these few years, we have enjoyed the collaboration with your group on "The Study of Migrant routes of Grey-tailed Tattler by use of Geolocator".

We all wish the QWSG to develop more and further. We all wish to continue the strong tie with you for nature and birds. And we all wish to say "Arigato" for the Past, Present and Future.

Best Regards,
Hitoshi AKUTSU Wild Bird Society of Japan Chiba, Y&B Wetland Exchange Society.

Trip to Japan and Yatsu-higata for QWSG September 2017

This trip is taken every two years in association with Brisbane City Council to cement relationships between Yatsu-higata Observation Centre and Boondall Wetlands. Representing Brisbane City Council were Gemma Hawes and David Fitzgibbon. I thank them for their great company and David for his Japanese language skills, both appreciated.

Day 1: Friday September 8th 2017

Picked up from hotel by Narashino Council and taken to City Hall buildings to meet with the mayor.

Mayor Yaisuke Miyamoto, with his major ranking staff from the Urban Development and Environment staff, conducted a meeting with the three of us. In this he welcomed the delegation and passed his regards and wishes to the Brisbane Council and Lord Mayor.

The Narashino Council has recently moved into new office space and we were given a comprehensive tour of its facilities with a run-down of the various departments, and their responsibilities to the people of the Narashino area. We were also able to see the construction of the building with its protections against earthquakes. Most interesting to see the large dampeners in the basement.

Next we travelled to the recycling plant for Narashino and once again an in depth tour showed us its operation. This included the high temperature furnaces that reduce some of the waste to metal ingots and slag. Even the slag is used by the council to make paving blocks etc.

The first of many meals was then provided at a Japanese buffet. I made sure that the QWSG was well represented.

In the afternoon we were able to ditch the shirt and tie and do some bird watching with members of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, Chiba district. This took place at Sanbanse Environment centre. This is on the shore of Tokyo Bay on reclaimed land. An impressive centre has been constructed with great educational facilities using many interactive and computer based activities, plus a platform area that gives a view of the mudflats.

We were able to see the birds at fairly close quarters. Some egret and cormorants were the most obvious birds but then the wader came into view on the incoming tide. Firstly, there were a couple of Grey-tailed Tattlers, one with flags from Yatsu-higata. Other waders seen were Grey Plover, Terek Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin and a Ruff (Reeve).

The day ended with a quite evening with nothing planned.



Viewing waders on the beach at Sanbanse Environment centre

Day 2: Saturday September 9th 2017

Again we were picked up at the hotel by Narashino council staff and taken to Yatsu-Higata and the Yatsu Nature Observation Centre (YNOC). Here we were introduced to the staff and volunteers of the centre, then given a fully guided tour of the centre and its operation.

Next was to help out with the annual Great Reed Warbler nest survey. This took place in the reed bed that is alongside the YNOC buildings, because of the different designations of the area of the wetlands they can only use this smaller area. We were decked out in full body waders and led to the edge of the reed beds, then walked out into the reeds looking for the used nests of the warblers. The birds had finished breeding. Gemma Hawes from our group was the only one to find a nest, great excitement. The nest, with its supporting reeds was removed from situ and a number of measurements were taken. A metre square of the surrounding reed was also harvested and more measurements taken of length and diameter of reeds.



After the successful Reed Warbler Survey, with the reed bed behind the group. Gemma is holding reeds with the nest

A light lunch was provided.

After lunch there were four presentations given:

- Volunteers and Environmental Education by Gemma Hawes from Brisbane City Council
- Environmental Education and Volunteers at YNOC by Tatsuya Shibahara
- Migratory Bird; Pacific Golden Plover by David Edwards
- Migratory Birds of Yatsu-Higata by Nana Hoshino

Each presentation had a question and answer time. This part day ended with the obligatory photo session.

The evening was spent at a Japanese Barbeque at the Sapporo Beer Garden hosted by the Mayor of Narashino. A wonderful evening cementing friendships. The Mayor joined in cooking meats etc. A very gracious host. More photos.



Mayor Yaisuke Miyamoto, in the jacket, with many of his environmental staff, plus Hitoshi Akutsu standing on the left and David Fitzgibbon leaning in on the right.

Day 3: Sunday September 10th 2017

Once again meet at the hotel by Narashino Council staff and this time back to Yatsu-Higata for a morning with the junior rangers. The junior rangers come from the surrounding area to take part in natural history projects in the grounds of YNOC. There are 3 levels of rangers, with over 250 involved and 60 or so involved at any one time. Some obviously very, very keen.



The Junior Rangers at Yatsu-higata Observation Centre

There was a meeting in the main lecture room detailing what was to take place. We were divided into three groups to do three activities. The first was to make a paper aeroplane and fly it a certain distance to gain points, next was to find and collect what I call Slaters, they called them Roly-polies. These were placed on a circle of cardboard under an upturned jar then released and timed till the last reached the edge of the card. Again a score was recorded. Lastly a game of bingo where you had to see 9 things from the observation window. Some are going to become great bird watchers.

Lastly was a debriefing in the lecture Hall, followed by Bento box lunch with the children.

We were at the YNOC on the day of the Tokyo Bay Shorebird Survey so we went out to count the birds around and on Yatsu-Higata. The highlight was to see a Peregrine Falcon reduce the survey number by striking some unfortunate wader. This survey was started in 2012

We were treated to a Shabu-shabu meal, once again a great time with people who were great company and hosts.

Day 4: Monday September 11th 2017

This morning we were met at the hotel and taken to Yatsu Minami Elementary School. Here we met with the principal before being led to meet with a class of 9 year olds. They were very enthusiastic. They gave some speeches, sang a traditional song and played another song on their recorders. Gemma then gave a presentation on Boondall wetlands; the pictures of the birds and animals got the biggest response.



The attentive school children whilst Gemma gives her talk.

We were given a break before having school lunch in their classrooms. Very well organised. There were some of the junior rangers in the school who came up to us and introduced themselves again.

We went to Makuhari Park where we were given a tour and explanation of a Japanese garden this included a traditional Tea Ceremony.

Finally, we drove to Kasai Rinkai Park on Tokyo bay for some more bird watching. The area has a very large observation area. The whole area, once again is on reclaimed land with areas laid out to encourage waders, waterbirds and bush birds. Highlight bird for me was the Eurasian Curlew.

As if we had not had enough food, we were taken to an all-you-can-eat Okonomiyaki restaurant. This was hosted by members of YNOC. A great night to finish on.

Thoughts

The Japanese were the most excellent hosts. To have the Mayor Miyamoto attend the evening BBQ and join in was something very special. His enthusiasm for what was being done in his area shone through. He also provided staff on every day. Many thanks to Etsuro and Nozomi.

The Wild Bird Society of Japan (Chiba) showed us around and entertained us.

The staff, volunteers and junior ranger of YNOC made us feel so welcome. The work the staff is doing with the Junior Rangers means that we will have people interested in nature and waders well into the future.

All were so generous with their gifts, time and meals I cannot thank them all enough.

The agreement between Narashino and Brisbane is of great importance to the Japanese much more so than to us. I can now see why those who have been to Yatsu-Hiqata have such strong feelings towards it.

We should be helping out the relationship between the groups and making the visit of the Japanese to Brisbane the best yet.

Thanks

To all at the Narashino Council: Mayor Taisuke Miyamoto, Tsukasa Tojo, Isami Kanazaki, Masaaki Tsukamoto, Keiichi Aizawa, Etsuro Nagata and especially Nozomi Suzuki.

To all the members I met of the Wild Bird Society of Japan (Chiba), and the staff and volunteers of YNOC. Kaneko, Arao, Oyama, Kojima, Oama, Sano, Oikawa, Mikiya, Genda, Nakaji, Shibahara, Nagai, Satou, Mori, Hatanaka and of course Hit.

Finally, thanks to the QWSG for asking me to represent the group and for the financial help towards the trip.

Count Programme - Linda Cross

Following on from previous newsletters, I have continued recording wader species and numbers in the table below for other count sites within the count programme. In this issue, we cover 2 more sites on Bribie Island, Caboolture River, Deception Bay and Redcliffe. List as per IOC taxonomic order.

♠ Species	KKBC 22 Oct 17	BUCK 01 Oct 17	CABO 21 Oct 17	DBBA 21 Oct 17	DBMN 23 Sep 17	RANS 25 Aug 17	NARD 23 Sep 17
Beach Stone-curlew	2						
Pied Oystercatcher	2						
White-headed Stilt	100	50			242		23
Masked Lapwing	2	1		1		38	35
Red-kneed Dotterel						13	
Pacific Golden Plover				12			
Red-capped Plover	3			44		25	
Black-fronted Dotterel		4		2		12	
Latham's Snipe		5					13
Bar-tailed Godwit	1950		233	4			
Whimbrel			4	61		22	
Far Eastern Curlew	175			24	48	31	
Great Knot	60						
Red Knot	10						
Red-necked Stint	22		80	235		75	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				7		7	

KKBC – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island
 BUCK – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island
 CABO – Caboolture River mouth
 DBBA – Bermuda Avenue, Deception Bay
 DBMN – Deception Bay south.
 RANS – Redcliffe Airport northside
 NARD – Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe

Counter – Michael Strong
 Counter – Dez Wells (see note below)
 Counters – Phil & Linda Cross
 Counters – Phil & Linda Cross
 Counters – Phil & Linda Cross
 Counters – Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright
 Counters – Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright

Although Dez Wells counts Buckley's Hole on Bribie Island every month, sometimes Michael Strong also conducts a count when he can fit it into his busy schedule. The count in the above table was conducted by Michael and had the most wader species during the last couple of months. Buckley's Hole and Nathan Road Wetland are predominately used by many waterbirds with only a handful of wader species.

The southward migration in spring also means the eastern migration for Double-banded Plover and 6 sites recorded the last of the stragglers to leave with 3 at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 20.08.17, 4 at Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay, 8 at Geoff Skinner Reserve East on 26.08.17, 1 at O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay on 26.08.17, 2 at Thangawan Creek, Great Sandy Strait on 27.08.17 and 3 at Manly Harbour on 10.09.17. Thinking that the Manly record would be the last (and quite late) departure for the species, I was quite surprised to see 2 birds recorded on the September count for Shellgrit Creek entrance in Mackay on 22.09.17. The usual counter was away, and the count was conducted by other people, so I questioned the identification of the 2 birds to which I received a photograph. They are non-breeding birds and even more interesting is that the same 2 birds have been recorded still on site during the count on 20.10.17. It will be interesting to see if both birds will stay here for our summer.

Just about all sites within the count programme have now recorded the return of migratory waders on their September and October counts and as most counters are aware, our Alaskan wader counterparts asked if we could record the number of juvenile Bar-tailed Godwits within the flocks, and about a dozen counters took up the challenge to do so. September counts were too early to have juveniles in the flocks, with October being the better month. However, the inclement weather conditions on the count date in October meant that a lot of counters struggled to see and count the birds through the driving rain, let alone look for juveniles, and some counters either forgot to look, or failed to make any comments next to the species total. Following is a table of results for the sites where this exercise was completed. Thank you to the counters who participated.

Site	Date	Number of godwits	Juveniles in flock	%
Manly Harbour	19.09.17	680	0	0
Manly Harbour	27.09.17	c700	1	0.14
Manly Harbor	03.10.17	750	6	0.80
Manly Harbour	05.10.17	780	7	0.89
Toorbul	05.10.17	998	6	0.60
Toorbul	11.10.17	1000	13	1.3
Noosa River Sandbanks	12.10.17	9	1	11
Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost	13.10.17	224	4	1.7
Boonooroo Site 1 – Adair Street	20.10.17	835	80	9.5
Manly Harbour	21.10.17	553	1	0.18
Cairns Esplanade	21.10.17	36	0	0
O'Regan's Creek westside	21.10.17	150	6	4
Luggage Point	22.10.17	133	26	19
Toorbul	24.10.17	1210	55	4.5
Cairns Esplanade	29.10.17	54	1	1.8
Kakadu Beach roost	08.11.17	200	2	1

The southward migration was evident toward the end of August with quite a few species being recorded on roost sites.

Unusual sightings include 1 Asian Dowitcher at Manly Harbour on 21.10.17 and 2 Asian Dowitcher at the Port of Brisbane artificial roost on 13.10.07. Kedron Brook Wetlands recorded 1 Common Sandpiper on 22.10.17. Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay recorded 2 Sanderling on 22.09.17 and Finlayson's Point north of Mackay recorded 1 Sanderling on 25.08.17. Although Sooty Oystercatcher are not unusual, they are much less common, so seeing a record of 9 on the Wickham Point count sheet on 23.09.17 was very special, particularly when most sightings are only of 1 or 2 birds.

Nathan Road Wetland at Redcliffe drew many bird watchers to the site in early to mid-September during drought conditions in parts of Queensland and New South Wales when a variety of crakes, rails and other species turned up on site (see "Not waders but of interest anyway" section). Included in the variety of species for the site were 20 Latham's Snipe recorded on 19.09.17, of which 13 were still on site during the 23 September count. Other Latham's Snipe records came from Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island (5) on 01.10.17, Garnett's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay (1) on 26.08.17 and (2) on 23.09.17, Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve (1) on 26.08.17 and (1) on 23.09.17.

October is the best month to observe Red Knot passing on their southward migration, and although records came from 19 sites, the numbers were quite low. Osprey House/Dohle's Rocks recorded the highest total of 466 on 19.10.17, followed by Luggage Point with 206 on 22.10.17, Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve with 122 on 21.10.17

and Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet next with 105 on 21.10.17. A total of 4 sites recorded numbers in the region of 50 birds, but the other 11 sites were much lower.

Only 5 count sites have so far recorded Grey Plover after their southward migration, with the earliest arrival of 6 at Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay on 23.08.17 and 11 at Boonooroo site 1 on 25.08.17, which increased to 17 on 20.10.17. At Thangawan Creek, Great Sandy Strait 11 were recorded on 23.09.17, while the Port of Brisbane had 7 on 24.09.17 and 1 at Manly Harbour on 07.09.17 (still present on 10.09.17).

Common Greenshank have been observed at 20 sites from Wellington Point through to Yeppoon. The highest count was 19 at Geoff Skinner Reserve West on 23.09.17, followed by 14 at Thangawan Creek, Great Sandy Strait on 23.09.17, 14 at Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet on 21.10.17, 12 at Comber's Paddock, Boonooroo on 20.10.17 and 12 at Manly Harbour on 03.10.17. All other sites recorded numbers in single digits.

Many years ago, the best site to view Black-tailed Godwit was in Deception Bay, but this species now favours sites a little further south near Pine River. A total of 307 were recorded at Pine River Wetland Reserve on 21.10.17, while nearby Osprey House/Dohle's Rocks site counted 104 on a low tide feeding count on 19.09.17 and Pine River northside site recorded 89 on 20.10.17. It is probably likely that the birds are using all 3 sites during high and low tides. Other sites recording this species in low numbers are Cairns Esplanade, Maaroom, Boonooroo site 1, Toorbul, Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet and Manly Harbour.

Although the Port of Brisbane is a favoured site for Curlew Sandpiper with 1,705 recorded on 24.09.17 a further 12 sites also recorded them during August, September and October. Manly Harbour was the next highest count with 255 on 21.10.17, followed by Luggage Point with 151 on 22.10.17 and Maaroom with 106 on 21.10.17.

The largest migratory wader, Far Eastern Curlew were counted at 24 sites from the Gold Coast through to Mackay. Counts more than 300 birds were recorded at 4 sites with the highest being 387 at Geoff Skinner Reserve West on 23.09.17, 375 at Geoff Skinner Reserve East on 21.10.17, 354 at Toorbul on 09.09.17 and 316 at Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island on 23.10.17. At Boonooroo site 1 & 2 combined, the total count was 261 birds on 25.08.17, followed by King Street mudflat, Thornlands with 227 birds on 25.09.17 and Lytton No.1 claypan with 218 on 21.10.17. Maaroom recorded 106 on 26.08.17 and the total for Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island was 104 on 24.09.17. All other sites recorded totals of 14 to 76 birds.

Terek Sandpiper is a species that is becoming harder to find and only 4 sites in the count programme recorded them during the last 3 months. Manly Harbour had the highest count with 31 on 21.10.17, followed by Cairns Esplanade with 7 on 21.10.17, then Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay with 4 on 20.10.17 and finally Maaroom, with 4 on 23.09.17.

Beach Stone-curlew were recorded at 6 sites from Moreton Island through to Yeppoon. Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island had 3 birds on 24.09.17 & 05.11.17, Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island had 2 birds on 23.10.17, Reeder's Point, Moreton Island had 1 bird on 23.10.17, Maroochy River Goat Island had 1 bird on 22.09.17 and O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay and Kinka Beach sandbar, Yeppoon both had 1 bird each on 21.10.17.

Some other interesting records extracted from counts below:

- 278 Whimbrel – Toorbul – 09.09.17
- 265 Whimbrel – Geoff Skinner Reserve West – 21.10.17
- 2,960 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island – 23.10.17
- 2,900 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 08.10.17
- 2,735 Bar-tailed Godwit – Geoff Skinner Reserve West – 21.10.17
- 505 White-headed Stilt (30% juvenile) – Luggage Point – 24.09.17
- 484 Red-necked Avocet – Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet – 21.10.17
- 178 Pacific Golden Plover – Port of Brisbane – 24.09.17
- 168 Pacific Golden Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 20.10.17
- 8 Marsh Sandpiper – Bundaberg Port – 28.10.17
- 680 Great Knot – Maaroom – 21.10.17
- 720 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – 05.10.17
- 27 Ruddy Turnstone – Manly Harbour – 21.08.17
- 434 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 21.10.17
- 278 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet – 21.10.17
- 210 Greater Sand Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 20.10.17
- 212 Lesser Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane – 24.09.17
- 185 Red-capped Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 20.10.17
- 154 Red-capped Plover – O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay – 23.09.17
- 1,154 Red-necked Stint – Geoff Skinner Reserve East & West combined – 21.10.17
- 1,059 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane – 24.09.17

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to include all articles in the paper version of the newsletter as there is a page limit for posting, so "Interesting wader sightings" and "Not waders but of interest anyway" sections may not appear. However, if you have an email address please ask for the electronic version, which has all the articles that could not be included in the paper version.

Breeding records – It is great to see so many records.

Beach Stone-curlew – a pair nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 24.09.17 and still nesting on 05.11.17.

Bush Stone-curlew – 2 young (1 recently fledged) at Luggage Point on 22.10.17.

White-headed Stilt – 2 nesting and 8 chicks at Bundaberg Port on 28.10.17, maybe nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 05.11.17 and bird on nest with 3 eggs at Schuster Park Tallebudgera on 16.11.17.

Pied Oystercatcher – pair with nest, 2 eggs and 1 hatchling at Maroochy River Goat Island on 16.08.17, 1 bird on nest at Manly Harbour on 26.08.17, pair with a chick at Maroochy River Goat Island on 30.08.17, pair possibly nesting at Manly Harbour on 05.09.17, nesting at Port of Brisbane artificial roost on 13.10.17, pair nesting at Reeder's Point, Moreton Island on 23.10.17, a pair with a chick a few days old at sandbank off Amity Point on 23.10.17 and 1 young approximately 6 weeks old with adult bird sporting engraved yellow flag (H1) at Mariners Drive East, Tweed Heads on 04.11.17.

Masked Lapwing – 2 chicks at Bundaberg Port on 27.08.17, 4 chicks at Queensland Aluminium, Gladstone on 21.09.17, 1 juvenile at Boonooroo site 3 on 20.10.17, 1-day old chick at King Street mudflat, Thornlands on 20.10.17, 4 chicks at Luggage Point on 22.10.17, nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 22.10.17.

Red-capped Plover – pair possibly nesting at Manly Harbour on 05.09.17, 2 pair possibly nesting at Manly Harbour on 19.09.17, 2 juvenile at Queensland Aluminium, Gladstone on 21.09.17, pair reacting as if had a nest at Pine River northside on 22.09.17, 2 pair nesting at Many Harbour on 03.10.17, nest with 2 eggs at Noosa River Bribie Island on 22.10.17, nesting and distraction display at sandbank off Amity Point on 23.10.17 and nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 05.11.17.

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

Snail mail: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Qld 4510 Phone: 07 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 xxxxxxx@xxxxx.com Please contact Phil or myself for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Interesting wader sightings

3 Wandering Tattler – Wickham Point – 20.10.17
 3 Comb-crested Jacana – Ewan Maddock Dam – 22.10.17
 3 Bush Stone-curlew – West Geoff Skinner Reserve – 26.08.17
 28 Black-fronted Dotterel – Bundaberg Port – 27.08.17
 21 Red-kneed Dotterel – Bundaberg Port – 24.09.17
 21 Red-kneed Dotterel – George Bishop Causeway Toorbul – 23.09.17
 20 Red-kneed Dotterel – Garnett's Lagoon, No. 1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 23.09.17
 420 White-headed Stilt – Manly Harbour – 26.08.17
 5 Marsh Sandpiper – Maaroom – 23.09.17
 255 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 21.10.17

Not waders but of interest anyway

7 Australian Spotted Crake – Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe – 19.09.17
 6 Spotless Crake – Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe – 19.09.17
 4 Spotless Crake – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 01.10.17
 20+ Baillon's Crake – Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe – 19.09.17
 2 Baillon's Crake – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 01.10.17
 1 Lewin's Rail – Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe – 19.09.17
 2 Lewin's Rail (heard) – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 02.09.17 & 22.10.17
 7 Buff-banded Rail – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 01.10.17
 4 Buff-banded Rail – Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe – 19.09.17

1 Barn Owl (sitting in grass just above rocks) – Wickham Point – 23.09.17
 3 Black Bittern (heard) – Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown – 21.10.17
 1 Hoary-headed Grebe – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 01.10.17
 1 Black Kite – Trute's Bay, Tweed Heads – 27.10.17
 1 Black-necked Stork – Cairns Esplanade – 25.08.17
 4 Great Cormorant – Bundaberg Port – 27.08.17
 4 Great Cormorant – Ewan Maddock Dam – 22.10.17
 595 Pied Cormorant – sandbank off Amity Point – 23.10.17
 1 Eastern Reef Egret – Oyster Point – 25.09.17
 34 Lesser Crested Tern – sandbank off Amity Point – 23.10.17
 14 Lesser Crested Tern – O'Regan's Creek, Hervey Bay – 26.08.17
 111 Royal Spoonbill – Comber's Paddock, Boonooroo – 25.08.17
 334 Silver Gull – Cairns Esplanade – 24.09.17
 210 Silver Gull – Lillies Island, Tweed Heads – 14.08.17
 1,300 Gull-billed Tern – Garnett's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay – 26.08.17
 1 Brown Falcon – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 02.09.17
 1 Brown Falcon – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 21.10.17
 2 Brown Goshawk – Bundaberg Port – 27.08.17 & 24.09.17
 1 Australian Hobby – Cairns Esplanade – 21.10.17
 1 Swamp Harrier – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 22.10.17
 113 Australia Pelican – Bundaberg Port – 24.09.17
 105 Australian Pelican – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 23.10.17
 7 Plumed Whistling Duck – Bundaberg Port – 28.10.17
 94 White-winged Black Tern – Garnett's Lagoon No.1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 21.10.17
 168 Whiskered Tern – Luggage Point – 22.10.17 & 149 on 24.09.17
 Whiskered Tern were also recorded at 11 other sites, but in much lower numbers.

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.** xxxxxxx@xxxxxx.com

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 seen in QLD

Since the last newsletter 1219 sightings of green flags in Moreton Bay & Environs and 2 at Cairns were added to the database. The species recorded and the number of observations were as follows. Pied Oystercatcher 34, Bar-tailed Godwit 437, Curlew Sandpiper 38, Eastern Curlew 21, Great Knot 90, Greater Sand Plover 1, Grey Plover 4, Grey-tailed Tattler 340, Lesser Sand Plover 25, Pacific Golden Plover 28, Red Knot 1, Red-capped Plover 3, Red-necked Stint 61, Ruddy Turnstone 48, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 14, Whimbrel 60 and White-headed Stilt 16.

They were sighted by Chris Barnes, Sarah Beavis, Jimmy Choi, Rob Clemens, Tony Cotter, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Kristy Currie, Graham Donaldson, David Edwards, Paul Fisk, Geoff Fowles, Matteo Grilli, Mary Hynes, Carol Iles, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Rob Kernot, Mike Lewis, Linda Lewis, Paul Marty, Paul Maxwell, Steve Popple, Peter Rothlisberg, Michael Strong, Nicola Udy, Dez Wells, Melissa Whitby, Rex Whitehead and Jeremy Wynne.

Arthur Keates was an observer on 609 occasions (50% of the sightings), Tony Cotter was the observer on 198 occasions (16%); between them they reported 2 out of every 3 leg flag 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 – AAA, AAB, AAH, AAM, ABR, ACA, ACB, ACK, ACL, ACX, ACY, ADA, ADB, ADC, ADH, ADX, ADZ, AEA, AEN, AES, AEU, AEV, AHA, AHC, AHE, AHH, AHL, AHM, AHS, AHT, AJD, AJE, AJL, AJN, AJJ, AJY, AKB, AKD, AKE, AKS, AKT, AKV, AKY, ALM, ALZ, AMH, AMK, AML, ANH, APJ, APP, APU, ARJ, ARN, AR, ASH, ASJ, ASR, ASX, ASZ, ATB, ATD, AVA, AVB, AVC, AVK, AVP, AVW, AVX, AVZ, AWC, AX, AXU, AXZ, AYB, AYC, AYD, AYK, AYN, AYP, AYS, AYV, AYW, AZA, AZB, AZT, AZZ, BBA, BBD, BBJ, BBK, BBL, BBM, BBN, BBP, BBR, BBS, BBV, BBX, BBY, BC, BCE, BCX, BCZ, BEB, BJS, BKK, BKL, BKM, BKS, BNH, BNK, BNP, BNU, BPB, BPC, BPD, BPH, BPK, BPU, BPV, BRC, BRP, BSD, BTA, BTF, BTP, BTP, BTY, BTZ, BUK, CAB, CAC, CAD, CAH, CAL, CAS, CAT, CAU, CAV, CAY, CAZ, CBA, CBB, CBC, CBD, CBF, CBJ, CBK, CBN, CBP, CBT, CBX, CBY, CBZ, CCA, CCC, CCD, CCF, CCJ, CCL, CJA, CJC, CJD, CJF, CJH, CJJ, CJK, CJL, CJM, CJN, CN, CPT, CS, CU, CX, EC, FZ, HL, HP, HR, HU, JA, JB, JE, JH, JJ, JP, JX, KM, KR, PA, PC, PD, PJ, PR & RN.

Curlew Sandpiper – ABP, ACK, ACS, AHH, AJB, AJR, AJS, AUB, AYB, AYF, AYH, AYP, AYS & AZY.

Eastern Curlew – AAC, AHA, AHC, AHD, AR, CA & CB.

Great Knot – AAP, AAV, ADC, AEE, AEL, AEV, AEX, AHM, AJH, AJM, AJN, AJS, AJW, ALH, ALS, ALT, ALU, AMJ, ATK, ATT, ATX, AUA, AYU, AYV, BAP, BBH, BBP, BBT, BBX, BBZ, BCE, BEE, BEJ, BEL, BEN, BEP, BER, BET, BEU, BEV, BEW, BEX, BEZ, BHA, BLA, BRD, CNS & NA.

Greater Sand Plover – CCB.

Grey Plover – JT.

Grey-Tailed Tattler – AAC, AAH, AAK, AAR, ABD, ACD, ACE, ACH, ACJ, ACK, ACW, ACY, ADH, ADL, ADZ, AEY, AHJ, AKJ, AKK, AKR, AKV, AKX, AMA, AMB, ANN, ANT, APJ, APS, APY, AR, ARC, ARD, ARH, ARJ, ARW, ARY, ASE, ASN, AST, ASY, ASZ, ATC, ATD, ATE, ATH, ATJ, ATL, ATN, ATS, ATW, AUA, AUD, AUK, AUN, AUS, AUT, AUY, AUZ, AVC, AVJ, AVN, AWL, AWV, AWW, AWX, AWY, AWZ, AXB, AXD, AXE, AXR, AYA, AYK, AZL, AZP, AZT, AZU, AZX, AZY, BAJ, BAL, BAM, BDB, BDJ, BDL, BDN, BHE, BSN, BSP, BST, BXB, BXD, BXF, BXH, BXJ, BXL, BXP, BXS, BXT, DAD, HN, JC, JD, JK, JN, JX, JY, LM, LN, RT & RU.

Lesser Sand Plover – AET, AUD, AUH, AUU, AUY, AUZ, AVH, AYT, AYV, BUF & BUH.

Pacific Golden Plover – AVV, BHK, BSC, BSH & BSJ.

Pied Oystercatcher – AAE, AAK, AAT, AAU, ABC, ABL, ABM, AML & EX.

Red Knot – unread engraved flag

Red-capped Plover – CP & F4.

Red-necked Stint – 2A, 2M, 2P, 3C, 3L, 3U, 3V, 4F, 4S, 4U, 4Y, 4Z, 5A, 5B, 5D, 5F, 5Z, 6A, 6C, 6P, 6V, 7B, 8B, 8N, 8Y, 8Z, CB, D4, H2, P6, SA, UB, V2, VL, VS, X2, X5, Z2, ZY, & ZZ.

Ruddy Turnstone – ABY, AJB, AKW, APJ, ATA, ATB, ATC, ATD, ATF, ATH, ATP, ATT, ATU, ATV, ATX, ATY, AUD, AUH & HE.

Whimbrel – BXJ, BXN, BXS, BXX, BYF, BYH, BYP, BYT, BYU, CJV, CJY, CJZ, CKA, CKC, CT, DAD, DAF, DAJ, DAK, DAM, DAN, DAT, DAY, DJA, DJD, DJF, DJJ, DJM, DJN, DJS, FV, FX, UE & UP.

White-headed Stilt – AAX, AAZ, BB, BDP, BZC, EA & KC.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen INTERSTATE

None

GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS

In Japan

Grey-tailed Tattler

AKJ on flag - 25.8.2017 – Akkeshi, Hokkaido – Yuki Yoshida

AZZ on flag - 25.8.2017 – Akkeshi, Hokkaido – Yuki Yoshida

BBD on flag - 12.4.2013 – Koromozaki, Isshiki-cho, Nishio-shi, Aichi-ken – Nobuo Takahashi

In China**Great Knot**

BEH on flag - 26.8.2017 – Tiaozini, Dongtai County, Jiangsu – David Qian

ORANGE (Victoria) leg flag sightings seen in QLD.**Bar-tailed Godwit**

9Y on flag – 3.10.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 AJJ on flag – 5 & 11.10.2017 – Toorbul – Linda & Phil Cross
 ANH on flag – 23.9.2017 – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells
 ANH on flag – 24.10.2017 – Toorbul – Linda & Phil Cross
 CJA on flag – 8.9.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 CKV on flag – 8.10.2017 – Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong
 CNP on flag – 11.10.2017 – Toorbul – Linda Cross
 CPS on flag – 5.10.2017 – Toorbul – Linda Cross
 CWC on flag – 23.9.2017 – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells
 DN on flag – 19.9.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – on 6 occasions at various sites

Great Knot

Plain flag – on 11 various occasions – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – on 3 occasions – Toorbul – Linda Cross, David Edwards, Mary Hynes
 Plain flag – on 2 occasions – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 16.11.2017 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

Red Knot

1C on flag – 16.9.2017 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Matteo Grilli
 1C on flag – 16 & 21.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 45 on flag – 20.10.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates, Linda Lewis
 Plain flag – on 2 occasions – Toorbul – Linda Cross, Steve Popple
 Plain flag – on 7 occasions – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter, Arthur Keates, Melissa Whitby
 Plain flag – on 7 various occasions – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Kristy Currie

OVERSEAS FLAGGED birds seen in QLD**Black over white or white over black (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings****Great Knot**

V60 on white flag – 10.9.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – Ed Pierce
 U54 on white flag – 9.9.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry
 U54 on white flag – 10.9.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – Ed Pierce
 U54 on white flag – 1.10.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry
 C75 on white flag – 21.10.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry
 T77 on white flag - 1.10.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry
 Engraved flag unread – 1.10.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry
 V74 on white flag – 14.10.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry
 J62 on white flag – 8, 10 & 13.9.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J62 on white flag – 16.9.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates, Melissa Whitby
 J62 on white flag – 19 & 29.9.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J74 on white flag – 8.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 T54 on white flag – 12.9.2017 – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui
 U04 on white flag – 12.9.2017 – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui
 U04 on white flag – 25.10.2017 – Cairns Esplanade – Deborah Metters
 1 plain flags – 5.9.2017 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

Red Knot

JH on white flag – 5.9.2017 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 KJ on white flag – 27.9.2017 – Toorbul – Wayne Kroll
 1 plain flags – 8 & 11.11.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 1 plain flags – 21.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates

Green over Blue (Jiangsu, China) leg flag sightings**Lesser Sand Plover**

1 plain flags left tibia – 28.10.2017 – Manly Harbour – Jon Coleman

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

E19 on blue flag – 16, 24 & 30.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 E19 on blue flag – 1.10.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 E19 on blue flag – 28.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 E19 on blue flag – 19 & 29.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates

Blue over Yellow angle cut (Cangzhou, China) leg flag sightings**Curlew Sandpiper**

1 plain flags right tibia – 27.8.2017 – Port of Brisbane – Nadine Perry, Linda Cross, Phil Cross

Black over Yellow (Kamchatka Russia) leg flag sightings**Great Knot**

L2 on yellow flag – 4.11.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

Red Knot

Lime green band R tibia (no flag) – 20.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates, Linda Lewis
 Lime green band R tibia (no flag) – 16.11.2017 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**Bar-tailed Godwit**

BJE on flag – 19 & 29.9.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 BJE on flag – 2.10.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter, Arthur Keates

Great Knot

1 plain flag – 5.9.2017 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

Red Knot

1 plain flag – 26.8.2017 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
 1 plain flag – 9.9.2017 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates
 1 plain flag – 19.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 CHE on flag – 16.9.2017 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Matteo Grilli
 CHE on flag – 5.10.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 EHD on flag – 28.9.2017 – Thorneside – Arthur Keates
 EHD on flag – 3.10.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 BRU on flag – 30.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Matteo Grilli
 BRU on flag – 3.10.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 ARZ on flag – 5.10.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 BBW on flag – 30.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 1 engraved flag unsure of letters – 20.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates, Linda Lewis
 White flag R tibia, yellow & blue bands L tarsus, 2 yellow bands R tarsus – 7, 8 & 10.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates,
 11.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates, Melissa Whitby
 9 & 10.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Red (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**Bar-tailed Godwit**

Red flag L tibia, white band L tarsus, yellow & white bands R tarsus – 27.9.2017 – Gatakers Bay Point
 Vernon – Cecile Espigole, William Price
 Red flag L tarsus, blue & red bands L tarsus, yellow & blue bands R tarsus, geolocator L tibia – 11 &
 24.10.2017 – Toorbul – Linda & Phil Cross

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

1 plain flag - 9.9.2017 – Toorbul - Arthur Keates
 1 plain flag - 27.9.2017 – Manly - Arthur Keates
 1 plain flag - 6.10.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 1 plain flag – 20 & 24.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 1 plain flag – 1 & 22.10.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 1 plain flag – 11.11.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Blue over White (Japanese) leg flag sightings**Bar-tailed Godwit**

C2 on blue flag – 13.10.2017 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates, Kathy Clark
 C2 on blue flag – 20.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates

Grey-tailed Tattler

191 on blue flag – 29.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 191 on blue flag – 30.9.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 191 on blue flag – 3.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 315 on blue flag – 10, 13 & 27.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 315 on blue flag – 13.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 568 on blue flag – 21.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates
 568 on blue flag – 16 & 25.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates, Melissa Whitby
 568 on blue flag – 27 & 29.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 568 on blue flag – 10 & 13.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 568 on blue flag – 3, 5 & 20.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 667 on blue flag – 3, 5 & 10.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 Engraved flag unread – 21.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates
 Engraved flag unread – 25.9.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates
 Engraved flag unread – 5 & 10.10.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates

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.

S5 on flag – 1.7.2017 – Dunwich North Stradbroke – Mary Barram
 H1 on flag – 4.11.2017 – The Isle East Tweed Heads – Laurel Allsopp

Caspian Tern Orange flag (Victoria)

K9 on flag - 26.8.2017 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
 47 on flag – 26.8.2017 – Toorbul - Dez Wells
 47 on flag – 4.9.2017 – Toorbul - Dez Wells
 U8 on flag - 9.9.2017 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates, Linda Cross, Phil Cross
 K9 on flag - 9.9.2017 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates, Linda Cross, Phil Cross
 U8 on flag - 10.9.2017 – Toorbul – Steve Popple
 V3 on flag - 21.10.2017 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
 E5 on flag - 22.10.2017 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Dez Wells
 U0 on flag - 22.10.2017 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Dez Wells
 U8 on flag - 22.10.2017 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Dez Wells
 V3 on flag - 22.10.2017 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Dez Wells
 E6 on flag, left tarsus - 22.10.2017 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar – Dez Wells
 K9 on flag - 16.11.2017 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

Wader ID Day Reports**Toorbul Wader Report 9th 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.

Manly Shorebird Roost Report 8th October 2017

By Arthur & Sheryl Keates

A fine day with light cloud cover and a gentle north-easterly breeze keeping the temperature down, provided comfortable viewing conditions, although the heat haze towards the end of the outing detracted from the views of some birds.

Despite the optics of the 24 people attending this outing being trained in their direction, the birds were quite settled, our group's presence not causing any disturbance to their vital resting period.

With southern migration of the northern hemisphere-breeding species well under way, 15 species of migratory shorebird and 4 species of resident shorebird were observed. The majority of the estimated total of 2,500 shorebirds was made up of Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey-tailed Tattler and Red-necked Stint. Several Bar-tailed Godwit showed remnant traces of breeding plumage, while a handful of juveniles were noted. The presence of Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, Great and Red Knots and Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers allowed observers to compare the respective diagnostic features of these sometimes hard to distinguish species. Of the species usually seen at the roost, Pacific Golden Plover was the only species not recorded. Two pairs of Red-Capped Plover had a prolonged stand-off; one pair having at least 3 runners of probably no more than 2 days old, no doubt the reason for their aggressive behaviour.

Birds of several species banded in south-east Queensland and fitted with a green leg flag were observed. However, no overseas flagged birds were observed and only one Great Knot fitted with a plain orange leg flag (having been banded in Victoria) was picked out among the flock.

The following species were seen at the roost site:

Little Pied Cormorant, Great Egret, Little Egret, Australian Pelican, Pied Oystercatcher, White-headed Stilt, Red-necked Avocet, Red-capped Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Silver Gull and Gull-billed, Caspian and Greater Crested Terns.

Toorbul Wader Report 11th 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 December at Manly Harbour

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

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

QWSG has 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

Saturday 6th January at Toorbul 2018

2.51 m high tide at 13:20 (1.20 p.m.) at Toorbul. Meeting time 09:30 onwards.

The meeting time has been selected hours before the peak of the tide to ensure we get to view the waders before the very high tide pushes them off the roost.

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 on 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.

Saturday 11th February at Manly Harbour 2018

2.13 m high tide at 06:50. Meeting time 06:45

See details above

Saturday 24th March at Manly Harbour 2018

1.74 m high tide at 14:36 (2.36 p.m.) Meeting time 14:00 (2.00 p.m.)

See details above

GREAT SANDY STRAIT SURVEY

20th – 21st January 2018

Following the great success of the recent QWSG survey of the Mackay coast on 4th– 5th November, I have just had confirmation of Queensland National Parks Service vessel logistical support for our planned wader survey in the Great Sandy Strait on weekend of 20th – 21st January 2018. This will be almost two years since the last survey in February 2016. The timing has been chosen to maximise the counts of some of the species in greater abundance in the early part of the year such as Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, Terek Sandpipers and Grey-tailed Tattler.

All members are invited to join the survey by registering your interest and availability with David Milton (Ph: 0xxx xxx xxx)

QWSG will reimburse fuel costs of participants on receipt and will provide accommodation.

Most participants will stay in shared cabins at Poona Palms Caravan Park. So pack your scope and join us for a friendly weekend of wader counts in Great Sandy Strait.

David Milton

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER www.waders.org.au

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

Note that there is an AGM after this newsletter is delivered so there may be some changes to the info below.

MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	David Edwards	chairperson@waders.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

COMMITTEE:

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.

<u>BQ PRESIDENT</u>	Rae Clark	Email president@birdsqueensland.org.au
---------------------	-----------	--

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx,
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,
QLD 4011

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,
xxxxxxxxxxxx,
xxxxxxxxxxxx,
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 **February 18th 2017**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxQLD 4011
or E-mail to:

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.

Advertising Rates are \$20:00 for one-quarter page and \$25:00 for a third of a page.

PRINTED BY: Mr Bob Durrington of J.R. Durrington & Sons Pty Ltd.
admin@jrdsons.com.au

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

secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au

treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au

Monthly Meetings Birds Queensland

1st Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.

Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton.

Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

A new BQ committee will be formed in early December, but position emails will be the same

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.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Ms Megan ADAMS, Ms Alana BAKER, Mr/Ms Kevin BATES & Andrea LIE, Mr/s John & Zara BOSHIER,
 Ms Rebecca BRACKEN, Mr Zack DAVIS, Ms Wendy DEPTULA, Ms Louise DUFF, Dr/Mrs Donald & Suzanne,
 Emerald & Heath GAYDON, Ms Gill FORDER, Mr Eduardo GALLO-CAJIAO, Ms Judy GLANVILLE,
 Ms Maggie GRUNDLER, Ms Jennifer GURSANSCKY, Mr Noah HUNT, Mr Matthew MARSH,
 Ms Roberta McMULLEN, Mr Chays OGSTON, Ms/Mr Gordana & Paul POZVEK, Mr David REDHEAD,
 Ms Nicole RICHARDSON, Mr Ben SCHUSTER, Mr Michael VOYZEY, Mr/s John & Clare WALLACE,
 Mr Joe WELKLIN, Mr Brad WOODWORTH

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.

Notice of 2017 AGM of QWSG

The 2017 AGM will be held on Sunday the 17th Dec 2017 at 11:00 am at Boxhead Park, The Esplanade - Lota.

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

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee:

Position:

Name of Proposer:

Name of Seconder:

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

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



Count Activities – 2017 - 2018

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2017 - 2018

Sat 16 th Dec	2.32m at 08:25		
Sat 13 th Jan	2.20m at 07:20	National Summer Count	Sat 17 th Feb 2.43m at 10:37
Sat 17 th Mar	2.39m at 09:35		Sat 14 th Apr 2.29m at 08:22
Sat 12 th May	2.16m at 06:55		Sat 16 th Jun 1.93m at 11:24
Sat 14 th Jul	1.97m at 10:21	National Winter Count	Sat 11 th Aug 1.97m at 09:17
Sat 15 th Sep	2.03m at 13:30		Sat 13 th Oct 2.21m at 12:12
Sat 10 th Nov	2.37m at 11:07		Sat 8 th Dec 2.44m at 10:09

Normally we have a rest month (either June or July) depending on the tides, but this year there are suitable tides for both months. July will be the National Winter Count. If you can do a count in June as well, that would be much appreciated.

Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2017 - 2018

Sun 17 th Dec	2.37m at 09:30	Meet 07:40		
Sun 14 th Jan	2.29m at 08:03	Meet 06:40	Nat Summer Count	Sun 18 th Feb 2.40m at 11:09 Meet 09:20
Sun 18 th Mar	2.38m at 10:09	Meet 08:20		Sun 15 th Apr 2.31m at 09:00 Meet 07:10
Sun 13 th May	2.19m at 07:41	Meet 06:50		Sun 17 th Jun 1.88m at 12:19 Meet 10:30
Sun 15 th Jul	1.97m at 11:13	Meet 09:25	Nat Winter Count	Sun 12 th Aug 2.02m at 10:08 Meet 08:20
Sun 16 th Sep	1.96m at 14:24	Meet 12:35		Sun 14 th Oct 2.12m at 12:52 Meet 11:00
Sun 11 th Nov	2.30m at 11:43	Meet 09:55		Sun 9 th Dec 2.41m at 10:45 Meet 08:55

The Port of Brisbane is a work site and we are doing the survey for the Port and ourselves. Unfortunately we cannot accept people who turn up on the day for a bird watching day.

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

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

Payment enclosed: \$.....

Do you require a receipt? Yes / No

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

Email Fax.....

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

Are you a member of Birds Queensland?

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

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

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

Signature Date:.....

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

Direct funds transfer to:

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140

Account number: 08305297

or

Please post this form to: QWSG Treasurer,xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx QLD 4152.

Cheques to be made out to: Qld Wader Study Group