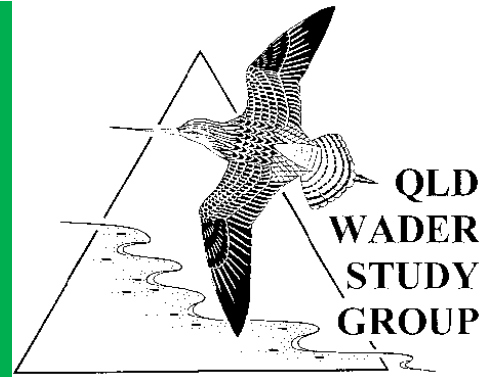


QUEENSLAND WADER



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

Vale David Milton 28 April 1958 – 14 March 2018



It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of David Milton, who died in a tragic home accident.

David was a member of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) as well as Birds Queensland. He was very active within QWSG Committee, becoming the Chairperson for several years.

David's great contribution was through his expertise with data. Through his dealings with the QWSG database he made many important and lasting connections with all levels of government, NGOs and consultants, that only helped his beloved waders. I remember David saying to me that you needed facts, data, reports and results, in order to influence Government. His immaculate handling of our database has shown this to be true over the years. Through this network of contacts David helped to establish an on-going relationship between QWSG and the University of Queensland, in particular the Richard Fuller Laboratory. He was also co-author on several ornithological papers.

However, David was not just into the database, he was also a very willing participant in all of QWSG's activities from organising and participating in surveys along the east coast of Queensland and Gulf of Carpentaria, taking part in ID days, where he quietly would lead newbies through the maze that is non-breeding wader plumage, to helping with flagging and banding waders at many a cannon or mist-netting outing.

David and his beloved partner Sandra did not limit their love of birds just to waders though, I believe that they were trying to see all of the world's wader species. They spent many holidays travelling the world to some extreme and exotic places to fill out their world bird list, 6000+! Waders were not the only target with Sandra was chasing Hornbills, whilst David was after Pittas.

We will all miss David for many different reasons, but mainly for the fact that he was a good man.

David's knowledge of waders and his dedication to their conservation will be sorely missed, but he and his dedication will never be forgotten.

To Sandra, and to her and David's families we send our deepest sympathies and regards.

Great Sandy Strait Survey 19th – 22nd January 2018

Queensland Wader Study Group members rose to the cause yet again to undertake another complete survey of the Great Sandy Strait over the weekend of 20 – 21 January 2018. This was some member's second survey expedition of the summer, after a very successful trip to the Mackay region in November 2017 when almost 22,000 waders were seen. The January 2018 survey in Great Sandy Strait found almost 21,000 waders and the total count of waders was similar to the most recent survey in February 2016. The total count of other coastal birds was much higher than the previous survey (5,109 vs. 863). This increase was due mostly to a higher count of Little Terns on the southern ocean beach of Fraser Is.

Highlights of the survey included higher numbers of Greater Sand-plover and Pacific Golden-plover. These were offset by lower counts of Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew, Lesser Sand-plover and Terek Sandpiper. Some of these reductions in overall count may be due to tidal or seasonal patterns in overall abundance as birds move between roosts and regions preparing for migration. Thus, QWSG may be better to undertake the next complete Great Sandy Strait survey (planned for 2020) later in the non-breeding season, possibly during late February to early March.

The survey was timed to try and coincide the seasonal maxima of Grey-tailed Tattler, Lesser Sand-Plover or Terek Sandpiper, However, at this time of year, tides are well above mean high-water spring tide. Mean high water spring tide is the target tide height for all QWSG counts. The very high tides on the survey weekend made counting more challenging as birds were often forced off the known roosts well before high tide. This probably contributed to a lower Great Sandy Strait count overall as fewer birds were seen at several roosts.

Thanks to a great turn out by local QWSG members, fewer members needed to travel from Brisbane to help with the survey. Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) staff again provided vessel support on two days to survey Fraser Is sites around Moon Pt as well as the central Great Sandy Strait Is. Don and Lesley Bradley surveyed the islands in the northern Great Sandy Strait with their own boat as they have done on many previous surveys. Similarly, Peter Driscoll took on surveying the roosts on the southern Great Sandy Strait islands and remote inlets. He also backed up the next day to survey islands in the northern-central part of the Great Sandy Strait where several new tree roosts for Whimbrel and Grey-tailed Tattler were discovered.

We would also like to thank the following property owners for allowing QWSG access onto their properties to survey the birds. Garnet Bengston (Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay), Lindsay and Noela Titmarsh (Tandora, Maryborough) and Jim and Jane Woods (Woojari, Tinnanbar).

Summary of the wader and other birds counted during the last five surveys of Great Sandy Strait.

Common name	Jan-12	Dec-13	Oct-14	Feb-16	Jan-18
Asian Dowitcher	0	0	0	5	0
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	475	232	147	316	259
Bar-tailed Godwit	19507	12366	13807	10210	9616
Beach Stone-curlew	12	3	6	9	6
Black-fronted Dotterel	1	6	2	2	5
Black-tailed Godwit	16	10	2	14	5
Black-winged Stilt	346	1094	314	178	631
Comb-crested Jacana	18	10	0	0	7
Common Greenshank	245	229	194	162	191
Curlew Sandpiper	189	161	242	100	187
Eastern Curlew	2104	1394	1275	1417	1219
Great Knot	1793	1471	889	2569	2218
Greater Sand Plover	780	53	286	15	808
Grey Plover	123	106	234	54	135
Grey-tailed Tattler	1349	634	1164	1987	1344
Latham's Snipe	2	5	2	1	0
Lesser Sand Plover	1362	529	824	408	291

Common name	Jan-12	Dec-13	Oct-14	Feb-16	Jan-18
Marsh Sandpiper	5	51	10	25	58
Masked Lapwing	92	78	53	80	78
Pacific Golden Plover	234	191	134	196	373
Red Knot	211	23	180	56	4
Red-capped Plover	461	491	82	308	379
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	75	14	0	4
Red-necked Avocet	97	1	0	0	0
Red-necked Stint	1807	1344	2102	1294	1503
Ruddy Turnstone	24	3	10	34	1
Sanderling	0	10	18	0	24
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	244	322	179	84	104
Sooty Oystercatcher	9	6	2	11	0
Terek Sandpiper	638	224	136	631	147
Wandering Tattler	6	0	0	2	6
Whimbrel	821	938	1321	831	1196
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	2	0
TOTAL WADERS	32971	22060	23629	21001	20799
Australasian Darter	12	2	0		1
Australasian Grebe	20	68	4	2	10
Australasian Shoveler	0	0	8		1
Australian Pelican	7	192	104	100	103
Australian White Ibis	26	81	33	62	53
Australian Wood Duck	0	11	18	0	38
Baillon's Crake	0	0	0	0	1
Black Swan	122	2	112	3	67
Black-necked Stork	2	1	23	1	0
Brahminy Kite	9	9	12	2	2
Brolga	2	2	0	2	0
Buff-banded Rail	0	1	0	0	1
Caspian Tern	89	126	64	87	110
Cattle Egret	54	15	2	25	58
Chestnut Teal	4	22	0	1	0
Common Tern	2751	1000	140	7	3
Crested Tern	273	41	250	134	347
Dusky Moorhen	34	8	0	9	0
Eastern Great Egret	4	4	3	10	9
Eastern Osprey	14	11	13	11	8
Eastern Reef Egret	3	8	3	3	12
Eurasian Coot	6	103	1	0	17
Glossy Ibis	0	15	8	0	31
Great Cormorant	0	3	0	0	0
Grey Teal	22	164	41	36	94

Common name	Jan-12	Dec-13	Oct-14	Feb-16	Jan-18
Gull-billed Tern	700	1150	856	8	748
Hardhead	0	33	0	0	22
Hoary-headed Grebe	0	0	0	0	1
Intermediate Egret	1	4	1	7	2
Lesser Crested Tern	0	1	0	0	1
Little Black Cormorant	60	34	24	2	15
Little Egret	65	26	113	54	37
Little Pied Cormorant	15	15	3	7	9
Little Tern	1137	7053	808	81	2488
Pacific Black Duck	105	153	24	22	30
Pied Cormorant	26	65	257	51	490
Purple Swamphen	121	77	0	8	9
Royal Spoonbill	6	42	92	16	61
Silver Gull	351	175	45	84	134
Straw-necked Ibis	0	12	6	0	38
Striated Heron	6	5	1	2	5
Whiskered Tern	0	94	87	0	0
Whistling Kite	10	16	13	6	3
White-bellied Sea-eagle	2	12	13	2	14
White-faced Heron	47	51	68	18	35
White-necked Heron	0	1	0	0	1
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	0	2	0	0	0
TOTAL OTHER SPECIES	6106	10910	3250	863	5109

Survey participants: Linda and Phil Cross, Sandra Harding, David Milton, Arthur and Sheryl Keates, Peter Driscoll, Kristy Currie, Amelia Selles, John Bell, Peter Tierney, Bill Price, Cecile Espigole, Don and Lesley Bradley, John Schwarzrock (DES), Sam Miles (DES), Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao, Dez Wells, Robert Bush, Brad Woodworth, Bill and Avis Gauld, Frank Ekin, John Knight, Marilyn Sweetnam, Jane Barnes, Marilyn Jacobs.

Shorebird Migration Departures - Autumn 2018

by Arthur Keates

In Queensland Wader, Issue 96, I reported on migration watch over a period of about 3 weeks in March-April 2016.

While scanning for leg flags and doing shorebird counts in early March 2018, I noted the advanced breeding plumage of many migratory species, particularly male Bar-tailed Godwit. As well as looking resplendent, it was apparent the birds were reaching the peak of their physical condition in preparation for the long arduous flight to the breeding grounds.

As the end of March neared, I consulted the tide times. Sheryl and I decided to check out the mudflats and sea grass beds at Lota on 28 March on an incoming tide. We arrived on site 3.5 hours before the 2.04m high tide at 19:40. The weather was fine with favourable wind conditions, a 37kph south-easterly.

Within minutes of arrival and setting up our scopes, our attention was drawn to a distant line-up of godwits. We had only just started to watch them when 18 birds lifted into the air, rose to about 30m, circled and then returned to the mudflat to the same place from where they took off. Sensing migration, we concentrated on these birds observing their behaviour as they formed a distinct flock while other shorebirds fed nearby.

Consistent with pre-migration behaviour, the birds bathed, preened those ever-important flight feathers, stretched their wings, some had a drink and generally just stood around facing into the wind. We counted between 22 and 24 birds, mostly female, the males brightly coloured and at least 3 birds fitted with green engraved leg flags.

We heard only a little bit of chattering until at 16:30 the flock took to the air. It was clear from the moment of take-off that they were setting off on migration. We counted 24 birds as the chattering intensified and they rose steadily, flew a short distance in the direction of St Helena Island then veered north and continued to rise, spreading out in a long line which probably formed a V-formation visible from a different perspective. We followed them for as long as we could until they disappeared high into the distance. They were off.



Flock of Bar-tailed Godwit minutes before departing on migration. Photo: A Keates

In mid-April, there were still good numbers of some species around Moreton Bay showing advanced breeding plumage, particularly Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser and Greater Sand Plovers and Grey-tailed Tattler. With more migration departures imminent, Melissa Whitby and I spent a rewarding couple of hours at Manly Boat Harbour on 22 April. The weather was fine with an ideal 11 to 18kph SSE wind. Here's a summary of our observations.

At 15:35, a flock of about 20 Grey-tailed Tattler lifted and started to fly in a northerly direction. When reaching a height of about 20m, they circled and returned. For whatever reason, the birds decided something wasn't quite right to leave just yet.

Only 5 minutes later, 8 Bar-tailed Godwit took to the air, immediately and purposely heading in a northerly direction gradually rising and disappearing from view. There was certainly no hesitation by these birds, it was time to leave. Given favourable conditions, their next stop is likely to have been somewhere in the Yellow Sea region.

At 15:50, a flock of 9 chattering Ruddy Turnstone took off, circling overhead 2 or 3 times, as they gained height. Having decided the time was right to leave, they set off on the same flight path as the godwits in a very even straight line, no doubt forming a V-formation. Based on observations of Queensland flagged turnstones, these birds would likely to have set course for South Korea or Japan.

It was another 40 minutes before a small flock of sand plovers and Grey-tailed Tattler caught our attention as they clearly were going through their pre-migration routine; a lot of chattering, wing-stretching and some wing-flapping, sometimes lifting slightly off the ground. As we counted and scanned the flock, we were able to read the green engraved leg flag fitted to a Greater Sand Plover and also noted, but were unable to read, the green engraved leg flags fitted to at least 2 of the Lesser Sand Plover. Before we were able take a photograph of the birds, the sand plovers and 10 Grey-tailed Tattler took to the air. Within seconds, the tattlers peeled off from the sand plovers to form a separate flock slightly more landward than the sand plovers. Both flocks, like the previous departures, gradually gained height as they headed off in a northerly direction. The bunched flock of sand plovers took some time to organise themselves into a more efficient formation to reach their first destination, perhaps a staging site in Taiwan, mainland China or Japan where Queensland flagged sand plovers have been recorded on northern migration. The tattlers would likely to have aimed to make first landfall in Japan based on the many observations of tattlers on northern migration on the islands of Japan.

We had been privileged to see 4 species set off on their northern migration; simply spine-tingling stuff.

Huge Boost to the East Asian Australasian Flyway: China to Halt Coastal Land Reclamation

Every year millions of shorebirds migrate from the southern hemisphere, many from as far as Australia and New Zealand, to the Arctic to breed and back again. Nearly all are dependent on the food-rich intertidal mudflats of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion (the east coast of China and the west coasts of North and South Korea) as stopover sites during these epic journeys, as can be seen in this visualisation of migration patterns.

It's worth taking a moment to try to comprehend the endurance and resilience required by these birds, many of which are small enough to fit in the palm of a human hand. One population of Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) winters in New Zealand and flies, via the Yellow Sea, to Alaska and then, after raising its young, makes an 11,000 km nonstop return journey. The energy requirement for this flight is equivalent to that of a human running at 70 kilometres an hour, continuously, for more than seven days. Along the way, these birds burn up huge stores of fat, more than 50 percent of their body weight, that they gain before they set off, and they even shrink their digestive organs.



The East Asian Australasian Flyway, showing the importance of the Yellow Sea.

Sadly, the number of Bar-tailed Godwits successfully reaching New Zealand each autumn has more than halved, from around 155,000 in the mid-1990s to just 70,000 today. The Bar-tailed Godwit is just one of more than 30 species of shorebird that relies on the tidal mudflats of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion. The populations of most are in sharp decline, none more so than the charismatic but 'Critically Endangered' Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*).

So, what is the reason for the decline? Scientists, including Prof Theunis Piersma and his team, have uncovered evidence for what many birders and conservationists have long suspected – that a major cause of the decline is the reclamation of tidal mudflats along the Yellow Sea. They've shown that birds using the Yellow Sea twice per year – for their spring and autumn migrations – are declining at a faster rate than those using the Yellow Sea only once. It's a 'smoking gun'.

Around 70% of the intertidal mudflats in this region have disappeared and much of the remaining 30% is under threat. If the current trajectory continues, the Yellow Sea will become a global epicentre for extinction. However, in January, the Chinese government announced that it will halt all 'business-related' land reclamation along its coast. This is a massive boost to the tens of millions of migratory shorebirds along the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) that depend on the intertidal mudflats of China's east coast, including species on the brink of extinction, such as the 'Critically Endangered' Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) and the 'Endangered' Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*).



Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*). The population of this unique shorebird has plummeted to around 200 pairs, the cause of which is thought to be the loss of its stopover sites and wintering grounds along the Chinese coast. Photo copyright Chen Tengyi of local NGO, "Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China."

Two English-language articles reporting the change in policy were published in the Chinese media, one on Xinhua, China's largest news agency, and one in The China Daily. Significantly, the latter was posted on the website of the State Council, China's 'Cabinet', indicating the high level of support for the new policy.

The articles reported on a 17 January 2018 press conference held by Lin Shanqing, Deputy Director of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA). Lin outlined several elements of the new policy:

First, the government plans to "nationalise reclaimed land with no structures built on it and will halt reclamation projects that have yet to be opened and are against national policies."

Second, all structures built on illegally reclaimed land and that have "seriously damaged the marine environment" will be demolished.

Third, "the central government will stop approving property development plans based on land reclamation and will prohibit all reclamation activities unless they pertain to national key infrastructure, public welfare or national defence".

Finally, and perhaps most significantly in terms of the future of China's east coast, "local authorities will no longer have the power to approve reclamation projects".

Gu Wu, head of SOA's National Marine Inspection Office, said that

"in the past, land reclamation, to a certain extent, helped to boost economic development by mitigating the land shortage in coastal regions and providing space for public infrastructure and industry parks. However, illegal and irregular reclamation activities caused a number of problems to marine ecosystems and lawful businesses" and that "those effects have become a major public concern, so the administration decided that reclamation would be closely looked at in its annual inspection last year."

The press conference on January 17th was preceded by two media articles criticising coastal provinces for their mismanagement of land reclamation projects, revealed by SOA's 2017 inspections. Hebei Province (home to well-known birding sites such as Beidaihe, Nanpu and Happy Island) was admonished because "tourism, aquaculture and shipbuilding had all been allowed in a national nature reserve in Changli County."

And Jiangsu (home to Rudong and Taozini) and Liaoning (home to Dandong and Dalian) were subject to finger-pointing in this article.

In Jiangsu Province:

- "a total of 14 projects, involving 81.29 hectares of reclaimed land", had been wrongly approved since 2012;
- A large amount of reclaimed land remains deserted, with only 21.28 percent of reclaimed land actually developed;
- Developers of 184 land reclamation projects had not obtained government approval before they started building their projects; and

- The province was failing to effectively protect nature reserves. Fish farming had been operating in about 9,955 hectares of sea waters around a national wetland reserve in Jiangsu, where such commercial operations should have been banned.

And in Liaoning Province, the SOA found that:

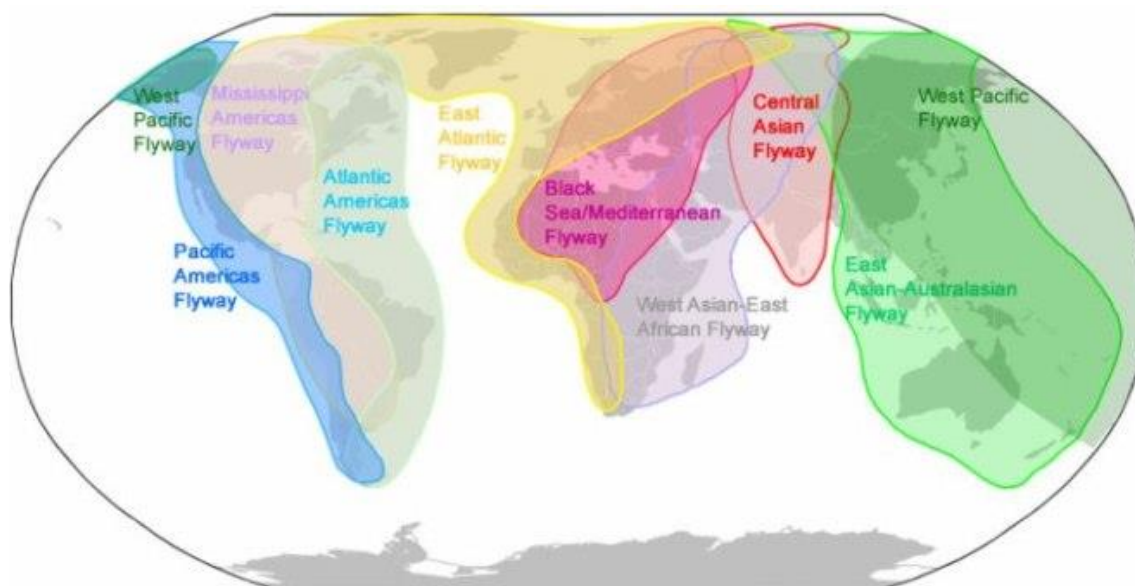
- The provincial government was failing to effectively supervise land reclamation projects and control pollutants from being discharged into the sea;
- Although the provincial government fined polluters and violators of reclamation regulations, more than half of the fines had not been collected;
- Among 211 waste water drains into the sea registered by the provincial environment authorities, 68 were not approved through legal procedure and some of the drains have not been carefully monitored.

SOA's announcement of the new policy on land reclamation came as something of a (very welcome) surprise to the conservation community. However, those with experience of working in China will know that policy development often works in this way. The process of policy formulation is opaque and when a new policy is announced it is not uncommon for the announcement to be the first information to emerge from the government that a policy review is taking place.

Of course, announcing a new policy is one thing; implementation is another. China's record on implementing environmental regulations is not the best, as can be seen in the violations of existing regulations in Hebei, Liaoning and Jiangsu. It remains to be seen whether this policy will be enforced with the rigour required to ensure the integrity of the remaining intertidal mudflats. Nevertheless, at this stage, there is no reason to think that implementation will not happen. In fact, I am optimistic; the new policy is consistent with President Xi's focus on building an ecological civilisation, as he emphasised at the 19th Communist Party Congress and it is in line with the recent strengthening of environmental regulations, including the Environmental Protection Law.

Halting land reclamation along China's coast is a necessary but not sufficient step to slow the decline in populations of shorebirds of the East Asian Australasian Flyway. The priority will now be to ensure protection for, and effective management of, the key sites for migratory shorebirds. This is what organisations such as the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership, BirdLife International, the Paulson Institute and local NGOs will be focusing on over the next months and years.

Transforming the fortunes of the world's most threatened flyway will only be possible if there is cooperation between all of the countries along the route – from Russia in the north to Australia and New Zealand in the south. China's role in the East Asian Australasian Flyway is key and could set an example for countries hosting the world's other major flyways, including the Atlantic and Pacific Flyways which also face threats, such as pollution and habitat loss associated with the drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



Main Flyways of Migratory Birds – based on commons.wikimedia.org

While there is a huge amount still to do to ensure the future of migratory shorebirds in East Asia, China's announcement could be the turning point for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the many other species dependent on the intertidal mudflats of the Yellow Sea coast. At this stage, it would be churlish to say anything other than "Well done, China"!

Observations of Queensland Flagged Pied Oystercatcher

by Arthur Keates

The Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*, a non-migratory species, is well known to shorebird enthusiasts. Who could not be enthralled by the loud piping displays performed by these gregarious birds?

At mid-March 2018, QWSG's leg flag database had 1032 records of observations of Pied Oystercatchers banded and fitted with a green leg flag, either a plain leg flag (PLF) or an engraved leg flag (ELF). Of these records, 63 relate to PLFs and the rest relate to ELFs.

Since June 2007, 81 individuals have been fitted with an ELF including 4 birds that were fitted with a new flag when recaptured. Only 4 birds fitted with an ELF have not been observed after banding. Further, other than the 3 birds banded in the Gladstone area, only 3 have been observed outside of the Moreton Bay area although observations of some birds show there has been some seasonal movement around the bay.

Coincidentally, **A6**, a female, and **A8**, a male, were banded at Manly on 11 September 2010 and both have been observed in northern NSW after a year in which they were observed in Moreton Bay, not far from the banding site. **A6** was observed in Moreton Bay until late May 2011 sometime after which it moved to Iluka where it was first observed in October of that year. It has been observed 6 times since then, the last in early March 2017. Similarly, **A8** was observed in Moreton Bay until early July and then observed at Ballina in late November and quite possibly, **A8** was the bird reported there in late September when the observer was unable to read the engraved letters on the leg flag. Six observations of **A8** have been reported since then, the last in mid-March 2017.

One of the 2 birds banded at Horseshoe Bay, South Stradbroke Is, **C6**, moved north after banding in 2010, having been observed as far north as the Port of Brisbane complex, the last observation of it was at Pt O'Halloran in late April 2016.

However, of all the ELFs observed, the most peripatetic bird is **D3**. An adult aged 2+ when banded at Manly on 3 April 2011, **D3** has only been observed 6 times, the first 3 being at the banding site and nearby in Moreton Bay. After the observation of it on 12 March 2012, it was next observed in the Great Sandy Strait on 7 October 2012. At some time in the next 16 months, it moved south, being observed at the Port of Brisbane complex on 16 February 2014. **D3** was not reported until an observation back in the Great Sandy Strait on 13 January 2018.

In contrast to the movements of **A6**, **A8**, **C6** and **D3**, the vast majority of reports of the 65 birds banded at Manly relate to observations within only a few kilometres of the banding site. At least 7 individuals moved to known breeding locations, notably Reeders Pt, Moreton Is and St Helena Is and possibly also beaches on Bribie Is and North Stradbroke Is.

Even more settled have been the 9 birds banded at Toorbul. All observations of these birds have been at Toorbul, not even at Bribie Is, only 2.5 km away on the other side of Pumicestone Passage. Observations of 2 of these birds, **AAT**, a male, and **AAU** a female, appears to indicate they are a pair. Both aged 3+ when banded on 22 December 2013, they have been observed together at Toorbul about 40 times.

Pied Oystercatchers can be long lived; a number are known to have exceeded 20 years of age, with some even reaching 30 years while there are recent reports of 2 individuals in Tasmania reaching 32+ and 34+ years.

Several of the birds fitted with an ELF were at least 9 years old when last observed. The oldest known birds fitted with an ELF are **AAD**, **AAE**, and **ABM**, all being at least 11 years old when last observed. Each of them has been recaptured and fitted with a replacement flag.

Banded on 24 Nov 2007, **AJ**, now **AAD**, was seen several times before its recapture on 21 April 2012 when the new ELF was fitted. Similarly, **AY**, originally banded on 4 May 2008, was seen several times at the Manly roost before its recapture there on 13 February 2017 and fitted with new ELF **ABM**. Recaptured the same day as **AJ**, **AZ** was aged 2+ when banded on 21 June 2008 and fitted with a new ELF, **AAE**. One of the most reported (all in the Wynnum-Manly area), **AAE**, a male, and its mate **AML**, attempted to breed at the Manly roost in August 2016 and 2017. In 2016, the pair was observed with 2 young although from the lack of subsequent observations of the young, it is likely that neither survived. Sadly, the pair was again unsuccessful in 2017 because the nest was flooded before incubation.



Male Pied Oystercatcher AAE is alert while its mate AML sits nearby on a nest. Photo: A Keates

In summary, the observations of ELF's confirm this species shows long-term fidelity to their territories and, at least in the case of 2 pairs mentioned, to their partners. Apart from some seasonal movement the species is not prone to wander far. Exceptions to this are rare, as shown by the individuals observed in northern NSW and of the nomadic **D3**.

I thank those who have reported their observations and Phil Cross for his many hours of work maintaining QWSG's leg flag database.

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 move to the southside of the Brisbane River and Stradbroke Island. Count dates are different to reflect the maximum number of species recorded at the site. List as per IOC taxonomic order.

Species	LYN1 13 Jan 18	LYTT 13 Jan 18	KIAN 17 Feb 18	MAHA 17 Mar 18	DUNW 11 Feb 8
Pied Oystercatcher				77	38
Sooty Oystercatcher				1	
Pied Stilt		64	152	60	
Red-necked Avocet				1	
Masked Lapwing	2		4	2	
Red-kneed Dotterel			5		
Pacific Golden Plover				92	
Grey Plover				1	
Red-capped Plover	16			16	
Double-banded Plover				1	
Lesser Sand Plover				197	
Greater Sand Plover				50	
Black-fronted Dotterel			6		
Bar-tailed Godwit				633	
Whimbrel	1			87	
Far Eastern Curlew	160				3
Marsh Sandpiper			3		
Common Greenshank		5		10	
Grey-tailed Tattler				139	
Terek Sandpiper				45	
Ruddy Turnstone				25	
Great Knot				84	
Red-necked Stint	640			315	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	24	46	60	
Curlew Sandpiper	72	1		44	

LYN1 – Lytton No.1 Claypan	Counters– Arthur & Sheryl Keates
LYTT – Lytton	Counters – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
KIAN – Kianawah Road Wetland	Counters – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
MAHA – Manly Harbour	Counter – Sandra Harding
DUNW – Dunwich, North Stradbroke 1mile	Counters – Mary Barram & Sue Ellen Carew

As all counters know, QWSG is still coming to terms with the tragic loss of David Milton (Database Manager) in March. I am sure everyone will understand that it will take some time to find enough people to fill all the jobs David did and ask for your patience during the period it will take to address all his work.

I would like to remind all counters the **National Winter Count** is scheduled for Saturday 14 July and how important it is to try to conduct the count on that day (or either side of that day).

As you will note in the table above, arrivals of Double-banded Plover from across the Tasman have already landed on our shores for the winter months. The first record was 1 bird at East Geoff Skinner Reserve on 17.02.18, and the next record came from Manly Harbour with 12 birds on 10.03.18. In total, a further 11 sites from Moreton Island, Moreton Bay and Hervey Bay have recorded this species during the counts in March and April. The highest count of 73 came from Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island on 17.04.18, followed by 24 birds at Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay, 13 at the Port of Brisbane complex on 15.04.18 and 10 at Thangawan Creek, north of Boonooroo on 14.04.18. Other records were counts in single figures.

Rare and uncommon species extracted from counts include:

- 2 Long-toed Stint and 1 Pectoral Sandpiper at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 29.01.18
- 1 Common Sandpiper at Queensland Aluminium settling pond, Gladstone on 16.02.18
- 7 Sooty Oystercatcher at Wickham Point on 14.04.18
- 2 Wandering Tattler at Wickham Point on 16.02.18
- 16 Sanderling at Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island on 17.04.18
- 19 Broad-billed Sandpiper at Manly Harbour on 07.04.18

Under "Interesting wader sightings" in issue number 103 of the Queensland Wader newsletter, I listed 3 records of unusually high numbers of Red Knot at 3 sites during December 2017 and January 2018. Since then I have taken note of sightings of this species at sites because birds are generally observed in Queensland on southward migration before heading south and across the Tasman to New Zealand. During the summer months, there are usually just 1 or 2 birds seen at roosts and invariably we don't see the species until the following spring's southern migration. However, I have been intrigued at the sightings recorded on some counts during northward migration time. A total of 7 sites in Moreton Bay and 5 sites in the Great Sandy Strait have observed birds in advanced breeding plumage and 1 bird (sub-species *piersma*), at Manly Harbour has been photographed in full breeding plumage. The claypan at the Port of Brisbane complex recorded the highest count of 73 on 18.03.18, followed by 27 at No.1 site at Boonooroo on 16.03.18. Pine River Northside recorded 13 birds (75% in breeding plumage), while all other sites records were in single digits, with some mentioning the advanced breeding plumage in the comments section. This influx of birds leads me, and others, to speculate unfavourable weather conditions resulted in birds on northern migration from southern parts of Australia and New Zealand being forced to stopover in Queensland.

It is surprising to see Curlew Sandpiper, a critically endangered species, was recorded at 17 sites over the summer months. The species is mostly attracted to the Port of Brisbane complex, the highest count being 747 in April followed by 393 in March. Manly Harbour and Maaroom recorded numbers more than 100 birds during the April count and Pine River Wetland Reserve recorded a few less in March. Pine River Northside and West Geoff Skinner Reserve recorded less than 50 birds, while at other sites numbers were in single digits.

Some other interesting records extracted from counts below (see also "Interesting wader sightings):

- 693 Far Eastern Curlew – East Geoff Skinner Reserve – 17.02.18
- 531 Far Eastern Curlew – Toorbul – 17.02.18
- 650 Whimbrel – Dead Tree Beach, Moreton Island – 17.04.18
- 3,172 Bar-tailed Godwit – Cooloola, Tin Can Bay – 18.03.18
- 143 Black-tailed Godwit – Pine River Wetland Reserve – 17.03.18
- 215 Pied Oystercatcher – Port of Brisbane complex – 18.02.18
- 78 Grey Plover – No.1 site Boonooroo – 16.02.18
- 380 Pacific Golden Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 18.02.18
- 322 Pacific Golden Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 16.03.18
- 34 Common Greenshank – West Geoff Skinner Reserve – 17.02.18
- 31 Common Greenshank – No. 2 site Boonooroo – 16.03.18
- 793 Pied Stilt – Luggage Point – 18.02.18
- 768 Pied Stilt – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 15.04.18

422 Red-necked Avocet – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 18.03.18
 27 Marsh Sandpiper – Pine River Northside – 16.03.18
 527 Great Knot – St. Helen's Beach, north of Mackay – 28.03.18
 510 Great Knot – Maaroom – 17.02.18
 12 Comb-crested Jacana – Garnet's Lagoons No. 1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 14.04.18
 37 Ruddy Turnstone – Manly Harbour – 14.04.18
 78 Terek Sandpiper – Maaroom – 25.03.18
 73 Terek Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 07.04.18
 1,080 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – 26.04.18
 596 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Luggage Point – 18.02.18
 495 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.04.18
 1,300 Lesser Sand Plover – Cooloola, Tin Can Bay – 18.03.18
 745 Curlew Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.04.18
 222 Red-capped Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.04.18
 160 Red-capped Plover – Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflat, Gladstone – 16.03.18
 1,566 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane complex – 15.07.18
 1,220 Red-necked Stint – Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island – 17.04.18

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. The electronic version is also in colour.

Breeding records:

Beach Stone-curlew – 1 half grown youngster recorded with 4 adults at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 18.02.18.

Pied Stilt – 1 on a nest, 3 chicks, 2 juveniles and many immatures at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 31.01.18 – 3 nests and 12 juveniles at Bundaberg Port on 18.02.18.

Red-capped Plover – 2 young at Bundaberg Port on 18.03.18 – 23 juveniles at Queensland Aluminium Ashpond, Gladstone on 16.02.18 and 4 juveniles at the same site on 13.04.18
 2 nests at St. Helen's Beach, north of Mackay on 28.03.18.

Website – QWSG has engaged a company to fix issues counters have been experiencing when loading counts onto the website. It is hoped that the flaws and additional inclusions will be done during the weekend of 19 and 20 May. We thank you for your patience at this time.

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

Snail mail Phone

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 myself for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Happy counting.

Linda Cross.

Interesting wader sightings

4 Beach Stone-curlew – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 17.04.18
 3 Latham's Snipe – Nathan Road, Redcliffe – 17.02.18
 448 Pied Stilt – Kianawah Road Wetland – 14.04.08
 391 Pied Stilt – Redcliffe Airport Northside – 17.02.18
 215 Greater Sand Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 16.03.18
 815 Red-necked Stint – East & West Geoff Skinner Reserve combined – 17.02.18
 695 Red-necked Stint – Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet – 17.03.18
 450 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul – 15.04.18
 6 Grey-tailed Tattler – Base Street, Victoria Point – 14.04.18 (1st record since counts started)
 338 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Redcliffe Airport Northside – 17.02.18
 5 Comb-crested Jacana – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 14.04.18
 110 Red-capped Plover – East Geoff Skinner Reserve – 14.04.18
 32 Red-kneed Dotterel – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 29.01.18
 10 Black-fronted Dotterel at 3 sites – Kianawah Road Wetland on 14.04.18 – Queensland Aluminium settling pond, Gladstone on 16.03.18 – Kedron Brook Wetlands on 29.01.18

Not waders but of interest anyway

- 1 Black Bittern – Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflat, Gladstone – 16.02.18
- 1 Australian Spotted Crake – Bundaberg Port – 15.04.18
- 1 Lewin's Rail – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 15.04.18
- 4 Buff-banded Rail – Bundaberg Port – 15.04.18
- 8 Brolga (1 on nest) – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 17.03.18
- 9 Australasian Shoveler – Garnet's Lagoons No. 1, Hervey Bay – 17.02.18
- 6 Australasian Shoveler – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 17.03.18
- 65 Wandering Whistling Duck – Garnet's Lagoons No.1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 17.03.18
- 541 Chestnut Teal – Luggage Point – 15.04.18
- 318 Grey Teal – Bundaberg Port 15.04.18
- 7 Magpie Goose – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 29.04.18
- 1,818 Common Tern – Noosa River sandbanks – 07.03.18
- 130 White-winged Tern – Maroochy River North Shore – 16.02.18
- 705 Little Tern – Port of Brisbane complex – 18.02.18
- 6 Whiskered Tern – Luggage Point – 18.02.18
- 5 Lesser-crested Tern – O'Regan's creek westside, Hervey Bay – 17.03.18
- 5 Pacific Reef Heron (grey) – Goat Island, Moreton Bay – 17.04.18
- 39 Great Egret – Deception Bay South – 14.04.18
- 33 Intermediate Egret – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 17.03.18
- 241 Cattle Egret – Garnet's Lagoons No. 1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 14.04.18
- 32 Glossy Ibis – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 14.04.18
- 23 Glossy Ibis – Nathan Road Redcliffe, - 17.03.18
- 1 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflat, Gladstone – 16.02.18
- 3 Pacific Heron – Pine River Wetland Reserve – 14.04.18
- 15 Australasian Darter – Garnet's Lagoon No.1 & No.2 combined, Hervey Bay – 17.03.18
- 60 Australasian Grebe – Queensland Aluminium settling pond, Gladstone – 16.03.18
- 1,710 Pied Cormorant – Sandbank off Amity Point – 17.04.18
- 116 Black Swan – Garnet's Lagoons No. 1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 14.04.18
- 124 Purple Swamphen – Garnet's Lagoons No. 1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 14.04.18
- 117 Straw-necked Ibis – Garnet's Lagoons No.1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 17.02.18
- 112 Australian White Ibis – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 15.04.18
- Black-necked Stork – recorded at 7 sites with 2 birds (adults), at Maroochy River Northshore in March, and 1 bird at Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown, Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflat, Gladstone and Cooloola, Tin Can Bay in March. Other sites recording 1 bird in April include Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown, Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon and Deception Bay South. The sighting at Deception Bay South site was the first record of this species since March 2003.

WADER WATCH - Phil Cross

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

Can we also please ask people to carefully check which leg the flag is on. If you are not sure, or just see the colour, and do not know which leg it is, please do not make it up. We do record the sighting on the database, even if we do not know which leg it was on. Recording information that you have not seen, or do not know creates extra work for Phil and other people who this information goes to. We would appreciate your cooperation on this issue.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen in QLD

A quantity of 8 plain flags together with 56 unread engraved flags, 70 misread flags and 1625 engraved flags have been added to the database since the last newsletter. The species recorded and the number of observations were as follows. Bar-tailed Godwit 414, Curlew Sandpiper 28, Double-banded Plover 7, Eastern Curlew 4, Great Knot 69, Greater Sand Plover 40, Grey Plover 5, Grey-tailed Tattler 407, Lesser Sand Plover 358, Pacific Golden Plover 43, Pied Oystercatcher 76, Pied Stilt 12, Red-capped Plover 2, Red-necked Stint 157, Ruddy Turnstone 69, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 15, Terek Sandpiper 9 and Whimbrel 44.

They were sighted by Margaret Baker, Tony Baker, Sarah Beavis, Ian Brown, Jill Brown, Michele Burford, Rae Clark, Rob Collyer, Tony Cotter, Rod Cox, Ken Cowell, Phil Cross, Kristy Currie, Graham Donaldson, David Edwards, Richard Fuller, Christian Gante, Matteo Grilli, Paul Hinds, Renate Hottmann-Schaefer, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Sue Lee, Athol Klieve, Penn Lloyd, Wayne Matthews, Gordana Pozvek, Peter Rothlisberg, Gavin Ruffell, Darren Smallwood, Michael Strong, Chris Walker, Melissa Whitby and Floss Wainwright.

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, ACA, ACJ, ACK, ACR, ACX, ADK, ADX, ADY, AEJ, AEM, AEN, AES, AHA, AHM, AJB, AJE, AJL, AJN, AJS, AJV, AJW, AKA, AKD, AKE, AKH, AKU, ALM, ALN, ALP, AMH, APH, APP, APU, APV, ARA, ARN, AR, ASL, ASX, ATD, AUN, AUS, AUV, AUW, AUZ, AVA, AVB, AVX, AVZ, AWE, AXD, AXH, AX, AYB, AYD, AYJ, AYK, AYN, AYR, AYU, AYX, AYY, AYZ, AZB, AZM, AZT, AZU, BAJ, BBK, BBL, BBP, BBY, BCA, BCC, BCE, BCN, BCP, BCS, BCT, BCV, BCW, BCZ, BDC, BDE, BDH, BDJ, BDL, BDM, BDT, BDX, BDY, BEB, BES, BEV, BHB, BHC, BHJ, BHK, BHN, BHP, BHR, BHS, BHU, BHZ, BJZ, BKK, BKP, BKR, BKS, BLA, BNC, BNP, BNS, BPC, BPH, BPP, BPS, BPU, BPV, BP, BRL, BRN, BRP, BRU, BTB, BTF, BTH, BTJ, BTZ, BUA, BUJ, BUS, BUT, BUU, BUV, BUX, BUY, BZA, BZH, BZK, BZL, CAB, CAC, CAJ, CAK, CAL, CAS, CAT, CAU, CAZ, CBA, CBB, CBC, CBL, CBX, CCF, CCJ, CCK, CCL, CCN, CCP, CCT, CCV, CCX, CJC, CJD, CJP, CPL, CS, CU, CX, DBF, DBJ, DBK, DCV, DCX, DDA, DDB, DDD, DN, EC, EL, HL, HP, HR, HU, JA, JB, JE, JJ, JN, JX, KM, KN, PA, PD, PE, PJ, PP, PR, RL, RM, RR & quantity 31 unread.

Curlew Sandpiper – AAE, AAN, AAP, ABH, ABV, AJS, AJW, ANL, ATB, ATC, AUB, AVF, AXA, AYC, AYD, AYP, AYS, AZV, AZX, and quantity 5 unread.

Double-banded Plover – AVJ and 3 unread.

Eastern Curlew – AR & quantity 3 plain flag.

Great Knot – AAP, ADC, AEE, AEH, AEK, AEL, AEV, AJH, AJK, AJN, ALN, ALS, ALU, ATN, ATP, ATY, AVY, AWE, AYY, BAZ, BCW, BCY, BEH, BEJ, BEL, BEU, BEV, BEW, BHS, BNS, BRD, BRP, BTH, BTT, CMJ, CMS, CNS & 10 unread.

Greater Sand Plover – APS, CAC, CAD, CAF, CCB, CSB, CVB, CVF, CVH, CVJ & 3 unread.

Grey Plover – JT.

Grey-Tailed Tattler – AAC, AAK, AAR, ABC, ABD, ACA, ACE, ACH, ACJ, ACK, ACT, ACW, ACX, ADH, ADJ, ADL, ADM, ADV, ADX, AHD, AKJ, AKP, AKS, AKV, AKZ, AK, AMA, AMB, ANN, ANT, APD, APJ, APS, APU, APW, APY, ARH, ARS, ARW, ARY, ASA, ASE, ASH, ASL, ASN, AST, ASU, ASZ, ATC, ATD, ATE, ATL, ATS, ATT, AUA, AUK, AUN, AUP, AUS, AUT, AUX, AUZ, AVA, AVC, AVJ, AVN, AWA, AWR, AWU, AWW, AWX, AWZ, AXB, AXD, AXE, AXH, AXP, AXR, AXU, AXV, AXX, AYA, AYD, AYS, AZJ, AZL, AZP, AZU, AZX, AZY, AZZ, BAD, BAJ, BAL, BAM, BDC, BDH, BDJ, BDL, BDM, BDN, BDP, BHE, BHH, BHJ, BPY, BPZ, BSN, BSP, BSS, BST, BT, BXD, BXH, BXJ, BXP, BXT, DAD, EN, HK, HL, HY, JD, JL, JN, JX, JY, JZ, KM, KZ, LN, RU & quantity 27 unread.

Lesser Sand Plover – ABJ, ACX, AEJ, AEK, AEL, AEM, AEN, AEP, AER, AES, AET, AEU, AEW, AEX, AEY, AEZ, AJT, AJZ, AKX, ALK, ALR, ALT, ALU, AMA, AMB, AMC, AMD, AME, AMH, AML, AMM, ANP, APS, AST, AUC, AUD, AUF, AUH, AUL, AUS, AUT, AUU, AUX, AUY, AUZ, AVA, AVC, AVK, AVL, AVN, AVP, AVS, AVT, AVV, AVX, AVY, AVZ, AXB, AXC, AXD, AXF, AXH, AXJ, AXK, AXL, AXN, AXP, AXS, AXT, AXU, AXV, AXX, AXY, AXZ, AYT, AYV, AYX, AYY, AYZ, AZD, AZT, BAA, BAZ, BNA, BUA, BUB, BUD, BUF, BUH, BUK, BUL, CVD, HZ & quantity 15 unread.

Pacific Golden Plover – AVV, BHK, BHM, BHN, BSB, BSC, BSD, BSH, BSJ, BSK & quantity 4 unread.

Pied Oystercatcher – AAA, AAD, AAE, AAK, AAT, AAU, AAX, AAY, ABC, ABE, ABL, ABM, ABN, ABP, ABR, AML, B6, C4, D3, H7, J4, EX, quantity 2 unread & 1 plain flag.

Pied Stilt – AAU, AAZ, BDB, BDP, BZC, EA, KC, KH & quantity 1 unread.

Red-capped Plover – CP & JH.

Red-necked Stint – 2A, 2B, 2L, 2P, 2S, 2Y, 2Z, 3F, 3J, 3K, 3L, 3S, 3U, 3V, 3X, 3Z, 4F, 4H, 4J, 4L, 4P, 4S, 4T, 4Y, 4Z, 5B, 5D, 5F, 5Z, 6A, 6C, 6D, 6F, 6H, 6V, 6Y, 7B, 7H, 7P, 7U, 7V, 7X, 7Y, 8B, 8C, 8L, 8N, 8S, 8T, 8V, 8Y, 8Z, AK, AUH, AU, AV, BN, BT, BU, C5, F7, J2, K3, KT, N2, N5, P6, S9, SJ, TD, TU, UK, UZ, VL, VS, X2, X5, Z6, Z9, ZH, ZZ, quantity 6 unread & 2 plain flags.

Ruddy Turnstone – ABY, AKW, AKX, APJ, ATA, ATB, ATC, ATD, ATF, ATH, ATJ, ATK, ATL, ATN, ATP, ATT, ATV, ATZ, AUC, AUD, AUF, AUH, AYH, CSA, HE & quantity 5 unread.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – ABV, AJS, ALL, AUX, CAA, CCD, CTM, CVK & quantity 1 unread.

Terek Sandpiper – HD & quantity 6 unread.

Whimbrel – ABT, BXF, BXK, BXX, BYK, BYT, CT, DAB, DAN, DAY, DBL, DBP, DBU, DBY, DBZ, DCB, DCD, DJA, DJF, DJH, DJM, DJN, FV, FX, UE, UF, UH, UP & quantity 8 unread.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS

In Japan

Grey-tailed Tattler

BWN on flag - 24.5.2017 – Miwatari River Estuary Ozucho Matsusaka – Hiroyuki Kimura

AEL on flag - 24.5.2017 – Daijyu-garami Higashiyoga Saga – Kazuhisa Onoe

ORANGE (Victoria) leg flag sightings seen in QLD.

Great Knot

All with Plain flag

14.11.2017 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Wayne Matthews

15.2.2018 – Thorneside – Arthur Keates

17.3.2018 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 29.3.2018 – Thorneside – Arthur Keates
 March 2018 - on 5 occasions – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates et al
 2.4.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

OVERSEAS FLAGGED birds seen in QLD

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

Great Knot

J62 on white flag – 21.2 & 14.11.2017 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Wayne Matthews
 J62 on white flag – 23, 24 & 30.1.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates et al
 J62 on white flag – 28.3.2018 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Arthur Keates et al
 J62 on white flag – 29.3.2018 – Thorneside – Graham Donaldson
 X61 on white flag – 4.4.2018 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 X61 on white flag – 7.4.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates et al
 Plain flag – 27.3.2018 – Sandgate Tenth Avenue – Renate Hottmann-Schaefer

Green over Blue (Jiangsu, China) leg flag sightings

Lesser Sand Plover

plain flags left tibia – 30.3.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 plain flags left tibia – 7.4.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings

Grey-tailed Tattler

plain flag – 15.2.2018 – Thorneside – Arthur Keates
 plain flag – 19.2.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 plain flag - 24.2.2018 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 plain flag – 3.3.2018 – Manly Harbour – Tony Cotter
 plain flag – 10, 11 & 24.3.2018 – Lytton Roost – Tony Cotter
 plain flag – 22.3.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Gordana Pozvek & Paul Hinds
 plain flag – 23, 25 & 26.3.2018 – Manly Harbour - Arthur Keates
 plain flag – 28.3.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
 plain flag – 2 & 6.4.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Gordana Pozvek & Paul Hinds
 plain flag – 4, 8, 14, 15 & 25.4.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 plain flag – 5, 8 & 26.4.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 plain flag – 7.4.2018 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 plain flag – 22.4.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter, Gordana Pozvek & Paul Hinds
 plain flag – 24.4.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade - Arthur Keates

Lesser Sand Plover

Plain flag – 14.2.2018 – Wellington Point – Tony Cotter

Blue over White (Japanese) leg flag sightings

Grey-tailed Tattler

191, 315, 568, and 667 on blue flag sighted by Tony Cotter Arthur & Sheryl Keates Athol Klieve,
 Gordana Pozvek, and Paul Hinds on several occasions in February, March and April 2018
 Engraved blue flag unread – 14.2.2018 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
 13 Engraved blue flags sighted

White over Blue (Taiwan) leg flag sightings

Greater Sand Plover

Plain flags – 18.3.2018 – Black River Mouth Townsville – Ed Pierce

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 other projects 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 – 7.4.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
C4 on flag – 7.5.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Caspian Tern Orange flag (Victoria)

E6 on flag - 15.4.2018 – Kakadu Beach Bribie – Michael Strong
UO on flag - 15.4.2018 – Kakadu Beach Bribie – Michael Strong
K9 on flag – 20.3.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Rod Cox & Linda Sulakatku
 Orange flag unread – 18.1.2018 – Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong

Wader ID Days 2018

Shorebird Outing - Saturday 4 August 2018 at Manly Harbour

1.88 m high tide at 14:41. Meeting time 14:30 at the end of Davenport Dr, on the southern boundary of the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron Clubhouse.

The specific object of this outing to the shorebird roost at Manly Harbour is to look for Double-banded Plover at a time when most of them will be in advanced breeding plumage just before their return migration to New Zealand. Of course, overwintering birds of other species will also be present.

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

- wearing protective clothing at all times (eg. hat, shoes, sunglasses) and using sunscreen
- drinking water to avoid dehydration
- using insect repellent if necessary
- telling a 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 3843 1874 or 0490951661.

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.
 Brunswick Room, Merthyr Road Uniting Church, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm.
 Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

Dog Disturbance on Shorelines

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

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of Queensland Wader Study Group

Website www.waders.org.au

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

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The QWSG Chairperson,
54, Elliott Street,
CLAYFIELD,
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,
PO Box 3138,
SOUTH BRISBANE,
QLD 4101

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

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **August 18th 2018**

Contributions should be addressed to:

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

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

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

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Count Activities – 2018

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2018

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 Jun	1.88m at 12:19	Meet 10:30	
Sun 15 th Jul	1.97m at 11:13	Meet 09:25	National 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 (Bank Australia)

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