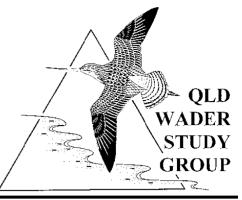
QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue 105

September, October, November 2018

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/

Port of Brisbane Count Results 2017 by Linda Cross

With 15 years of extensive counting now conducted by QWSG for the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL) at the Port of Brisbane complex, there have been significant records going into the database. As with previous years, the counts were conducted the day after the scheduled monthly count set for the QWSG count programme. An additional count conducted in January is not included in the first table but is included in the second table.

The methodology for the counts has continued as before with numbers being listed under the appropriate habitat the birds were observed using: dry open area, wet margin, broken ground and bund wall. The overall count for the complex in 2017 (including the additional January count), was 70,485 waders, 7,145 terns/gulls and 5,554 waterbirds/raptors which do not include the figures for the Visitors Centre Lake (197 waders, 27 terns/gulls and 6,322 waterbirds/raptors). However, these figures of course are not the number of birds using the site at any one time, but the aggregate of the monthly totals. No count was conducted in October due to bad weather creating unstable conditions within the complex.

The following table provides the total migratory and resident waders recorded at the complex over the last 15 years. Note: These figures do not include the additional count in January, or the Visitors Centre Lake.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
									•	No			
2017	8825	12479	7291	2000	2373	1392	2003	2179	4459	count	8187	10697	61885
						No							
2016	5913	6386	6528	2793	4103	count	1532	1356	4581	7544	7969	4911	53616
2015	9132	9233	14299	5618	3380	1737	2089	3352	7460	9994	9653	9953	85900
2014	8701	7673	6520	4809	1075	1022	1513	1839	7007	8145	7329	5567	61200
	No												
2013	count	5897	7377	4312	4553	3989	2709	2934	4089	7793	7331	6506	57490
						No							
2012	6214	6676	6476	1335	1624	count	1098	1267	2862	9461	10029	8389	55431
	No		No									No	
2011	count	10173	count	8108	2112	1552	1236	1488	2004	5430	8738	count	40841
2010	7345	7099	6709	2864	1256	2145	1648	2568	5205	6942	5904	NC	49685
2009	10072	13243	7192	2293	NC	1200	1245	2439	4372	6478	6182	8003	62719
2008	5179	8935	4394	4204	2202	2793	2700	2724	5468	4069	6617	8286	57571
2007	8853	5264	8307	1120	1989	1543	1752	1629	3885	7609	6165	5664	53780
2006	12323	10573	7055	4230	2142	1969	2250	2635	5296	8051	8995	7514	73033
2005	4751	5609	3572	3317	2162	3034	2436	2096	3790	6173	6745	7731	51416
2004	11650	4528	7398	1607	2416	1617	1328	2410	2974	6026	5976	8194	56124
2003	7445	6922	6126	4021	2286	2107	2041	1720	4466	4118	8054	7996	57302

The following table provides the numbers for migratory and resident waders, terns, waterbirds and raptors for the complex and Visitors Centre Lake each month for 2017. **Note: The additional count in January**.

2017	Port	Port Terns/	Port Waterbirds/	Lake	Lake Terns/	Lake Waterbirds/	
Month	Waders	Gulls	Raptors	Waders	Gulls	Raptors	Totals
January 1	8600	2094	175	0	0	246	11115
January 29	8825	1626	150	0	0	296	10897
February	12479	462	267	32	1	281	13522
March	7291	196	296	3	1	250	8037
April	2000	529	658	0	0	485	3672
May	2373	344	725	4	0	523	3969
June	1392	345	1440	3	0	596	3776
July	2003	93	673	2	0	717	3488
August	2179	147	154	10	0	718	3208
September	4459	201	381	133	20	1188	6382
	No						
October	count	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count	No count
November	8187	589	362	6	4	542	9690
December	10697	519	273	4	1	480	11974
Totals	70485	7145	5554	197	27	6322	89730

Overall total wader figures for 2017 were more than 2016, and the second highest (which includes the additional January count figures) since extensive surveys began at the complex.

Comments on individual count sites for 2017 are as follows:

- R3 This is the largest paddock within the complex situated along the riverside and although the site attracted a couple of thousand waders more than last year, it only recorded the highest count twice in 2017. In September 3,307 waders were recorded on site and 3,444 in November, which were 72% and 42% of the total waders recorded on all sites. Grey Plover was recorded on site for 4 months of the year, with the highest count being 38 in both January and November and Curlew Sandpiper numbers were quite high for September (1,655), November (1,955) and December (805). Other interesting counts included 810 Bar-tailed Godwit in January, 424 Rednecked Avocet in August, 44 Red Knot in September, 860 Red-necked Stint in November and 1 Broad-billed Sandpiper in December. The site again attracted the highest counts of terns and gulls for 7 months of the year and some waterbirds were seen on site for most of the year.
- C2 This site continues to be filled for development and bird numbers were again low for most of the year except for 2 much higher counts at the beginning of the year. The second count in January recorded 1,366 waders, of which 1,171 were Red-necked Stint, and the highest count in February produced 1,877 waders, which once again included a high count of 1,519 Red-necked Stint. Red-capped Plover favoured the site for 10 months of the year with the highest count being 64 in March. There were only 2 months when terns/gulls were seen using the site, but no waterbirds were recorded for the whole of the year.
- C3 Wader numbers tripled within this site in 2017 compared to 2016. Only once was the highest count recorded in the paddock for the year with 2,607 waders in January. The site also recorded the second highest count of waders for 5 other months. Lesser Sand Plover favoured the site for 8 months of the year, with 2 high counts of 1,402 in February and 523 In December. Greater Sand Plover was recorded for 6 months of the year, with the highest count for that species of 242 in February. High counts of Red-necked Stint were recorded in January (2,018), February (1,346), March (1,652) and December (992). Other high counts of species include 120 Pied Oystercatcher and 112 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in January and 328 Curlew Sandpiper in July and 865 in December. Other interesting sightings were 60 Red-capped Plover in March and 74 in September and 48 Double-banded Plover in June then dropping to 24 in July. Also, in July 1 Broad-billed Sandpiper was recorded on site.
- **BS1** The first of the bayside paddocks has continued to have very low numbers of waders, with even less than recorded in 2106. The highest count for the year was 129 in November, of which 92 were Red-necked Stint. Red-capped Plover in small numbers continually use the site and was recorded 11 months during the year. No terns, gulls or waterbirds were attracted to the site at all during the year.
- **BS2** Only the first 2 counts in January recorded any significant wader numbers using the site, which were both the second highest counts within the complex for the month. The first count in January attracted 2,583 waders to the site which included 995 Lesser Sand Plover, 402 Pacific Golden Plover and 1,016 Red-necked Stint. The second January count of 2,238 waders included 449 Curlew Sandpiper, 1,145 Lesser Sand Plover and 447 Pacific Golden Plover. This was the favoured site for Pacific Golden Plover within the complex in 2017 and numbers were recorded on 9 out of 12 survey days. Apart from those Pacific Golden Plover totals listed above, other large counts were 263 in February, 178 in September, 145 in November and 350 in December. The rest of the year wader numbers were quite low, and the site also failed to attract terns, gulls or waterbirds.

BS3 – As in 2016, this site continued to attract waders the most, with the highest counts being recorded 7 months of the year. The site also had the highest wader count of 3,995 for the year in February, which was 32% of the total wader count for the whole of the complex. Curlew Sandpiper was observed on site for 10 of the surveys. Some exceptional numbers of this critically endangered species were recorded starting on the first January count of 2,273 and 2,339 in February, followed by high over-wintering counts of 190 in July and 607 in August before dropping to 266 in November and finally increasing to 672 in December. The nomadic resident, Red-necked Avocet used this site for 6 months during the year starting with 185 in March, 1,095 in April, 814 in May, 612 in June, 471 in July before finally dropping to 21 in November. The less common, but easily overlooked Broad-billed Sandpiper was counted on site in February (24), November (69) and December (26). Other high counts included 560 Bar-tailed Godwit in January and 212 Great Knot in February. There were 3 high counts of Red-necked Stint, 1,060 in January. 1,071 in February and 698 in November. In April 26 Far Eastern Curlew and 4 Whimbrel were recorded on site, which are unusual within the reclamation area, and during the winter months the site hosted Grey Plover, 4 in June, 3 in July and 5 in August. The site was also attractive to terns, gulls and waterbirds for the year and recorded the largest count of terns and gulls for both January and December.

BS4 – This bayside site continued to attract some waders during all months of the year, with totals in the low hundreds except for February when 1,359 waders were recorded. Pied Oystercatcher was recorded during 11 of the surveys, with the highest count being 123 during the first January count. Unlike 2016, Grey-tailed Tattler only used the site 5 times. However, the totals were reasonably high with 237 during the first January count, increasing to 572 on the second January count, and peaking at 929 in February and 536 in December. Ruddy Turnstone was recorded on 4 of the surveys with totals of 142 during the first January survey, dropping to 79 during the second January survey, before increasing again to 142 in February and a lower count of 24 in December. Other interesting records were 4 Red-necked Avocet in April and 31 in May, along with 34 Far Eastern Curlew also in the same month. In March 1 Marsh Sandpiper was recorded, which is a very uncommon species at any of the complex sites and the only record of this species for the whole year.

FPE Outer — There was a drop-in wader numbers using this site compared to 2016, and counts were in the hundreds, except for March, when 1,543 were recorded. This site and the adjoining BS4 site tend to attract 3 of the same species (Pied Oystercatcher, Grey-tailed Tattler and Ruddy Turnstone), that move between both sites. Pied Oystercatcher was recorded during 9 surveys with the highest total being 120 in February before dropping to 60 in March, and much lower numbers for the other months. Still the favoured site for Ruddy Turnstone, there were records for 8 of the surveys with high totals of 53 on the first January survey, 49 in March, 26 in November while other counts were below 20. Although Grey-tailed Tattler was recorded for 6 months of the year, numbers were much lower than those recorded in BS4 with the highest counts being 367 in February, 597 in March and 240 in December. There were some high counts of other species, which included 167 Great Knot in February, 724 Red-necked Stint in March, 511 Curlew Sandpiper in May and 235 Lesser Sand Plover in December. Other interesting species that were seen during the year were, 3 Grey Plover and 1 Red Knot in February, 35 Broad-billed Sandpiper and 41 Greater Sand Plover in March and 78 Double-banded Plover in May. The only record of Sooty Oystercatcher since early in 2016 was 2 birds in March and the first single record of a Wandering Tattler since 2015 was recorded in November. Most unusual within the reclamation area was 1 Red-kneed Dotterel observed during the June survey.

PLDE (Lucinda Drive drain east) – This long drain area that was constructed along the southern end of the reclamation area is not intended as wader habitat and did not attract any waders. A handful of other waterbirds (pelican, darter, heron, cormorant and duck species), were recorded using the area at various times of the year.

PBAR (Artificial Roost) – Wader species at this roost were half the number recorded for 2016, with the highest count being 275 in December. Although wader numbers were low, 18 species were recorded throughout the year. The roost site continues to be favoured by Black-fronted Dotterel that were counted 9 months during year with 2 on site most of the time, although January and March saw an increase of 1 with the addition of a chick. Other species favouring this site include Common Greenshank that were observed on site for 7 months, with the highest count of 5 in December, and Pied Stilt using the site for 5 months with the highest count being 194 in August. Less common sightings included 2 Red Knot in September, 29 Red-necked Avocet in November and 3 Black-tailed Godwit in December. This roost had the second highest count of waterbirds 10 months of year as many birds continued to frequent the site.

FICP (Claypan) – Outside the reclamation area this very large site held a few hundred waders for the first 3 months and numbers in double figures for 5 other months. However, in March the site recorded the highest count of waders with 2,608 which included 888 Bar-tailed Godwit, 161 Pied Stilt, 356 Curlew Sandpiper, 86 Pacific Golden Plover, 636 Red-necked Stint and 156 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. The November count of waders on site was the second highest count, which included 1,453 Bar-tailed Godwit, 113 Pied Stilt and 613 Red-necked Stint. The site was still attractive to waders the following month in December giving another highest count of 3,145 of which 2,473 were Red-necked Stint along with 346 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and 241 Curlew Sandpiper.

Far Eastern Curlew was recorded during 6 surveys, but numbers were quite low except for the first count in January with 131 and the November count producing 115. Whimbrel was also observed during 6 surveys in low numbers except for March when 245 were seen. Interesting sightings include 2 Black-fronted Dotterel in May and 3 Double-banded Plover in June.

FIVC (Visitors Centre Lake) – For 9 months of the year a few waders (mainly Masked Lapwing and Pied Stilt), were observed at this site. However, in September during dry conditions, and with the water level low within the lake, 118 Pied Stilt, 4 Black-fronted Dotterel and 9 Red-kneed Dotterel were recorded. As would be expected, the lake produced the highest count of waterbirds for 11 surveys, with the highest count being 1,188 in September, which again was probably due to drought conditions attracting more birds. Black Swan was recorded every month of the year, with the highest total being 83 in January, which were less than the number of birds in 2106. One of the Black Swan seen in June had a red engraved band "**AJH**" on it, having been banded in south-east Queensland. Royal Spoonbill was recorded 10 months of the year with May, June, July, August and September producing the higher counts of 211, 196, 218, 166 and 175 respectively. Breeding records were recorded for Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Pacific Black Duck, and possibly the first record for Magpie Goose with 1 nesting in the reeds in December. Other interesting sightings appear further down in this article.

Leg flag sightings: There were 12 green leg-flagged birds seen during the counts, but because these birds have been flagged by our group in Moreton Bay, and have not travelled any significant distance from the banding site, they have not been included. Other leg-flagged and banded birds seen at the complex are as follows:

January Blue over green flag on a Red-necked Stint (flagged Mongolia). The first (and only) record in

QWSG's database of a bird flagged in Mongolia.

February Black over engraved white flag 'J74' on a Great Knot (flagged Chong-ming Dao, Shanghai, China)

and a plain orange flag on a Red Knot (flagged Victoria).

July Orange engraved flag on a Caspian Tern (flagged Victoria).

August Blue over yellow cut flag on a Curlew Sandpiper (flagged Cangzhou, China)

November Blue over white engraved flag on a Lesser Sand Plover (flagged Torinoumi, Miyagi-ken, Japan),

and an orange engraved flag on 2 Curlew Sandpipers (flagged Victoria).

Breeding records:

Black-fronted Plover – 1 chick (possibly 2) in PBAR in January.

Red-capped Plover – 1 young in C3 in July, 2 nests and 2 chicks in BS1 in August, 1 juvenile in R3 in November and 2 chicks in BS4 in December.

Pied Oystercatcher – pair possibly nesting in R3 in August.

Some other interesting sightings (not waders) during the counts were: **1**st **January** 1,925 Little Tern in BS3 – 3 Pacific Reef Heron in BS4.

29th **January** 403 Silver Gull in C2 – 819 Little Tern in BS3 – 1 Brown Goshawk over PBAR. **February** 2 White-winged Tern in FPE Outer – 2 Australasian Shoveler in the Lake.

March 72 Caspian Tern in R3 – 33 Little Egret in FICP.

April 120 Gull-billed Tern, 131 Chestnut Teal & 1 Nankeen Kestrel in BS1 – 191 Greater Crested Tern

and 1 Pacific Reef Egret in FPE Outer - 214 Chestnut Teal and 118 Little Pied Cormorant in

PBAR – 5 Plumed Whistling Duck (1st record) in the Lake.

May 287 Chestnut Teal in PBAR – 23 Great Egret and 3 Plumed Whistling Duck in the Lake.

June 2 Lesser Crested Tern in R3 – 146 Chestnut Teal in BS3 – 755 Little Black Cormorant in FPE

Outer – 1 Buff-banded Rail, 159 Chestnut Teal, 30 Great Egret and 23 Little Egret in PBAR – 101 Chestnut Teal and 42 White-faced Heron in FICP – 83 Dusky Moorhen (includes 3 chicks) in the

Lake.

July 33 Black Swan, 52 Grey Teal and 98 Chestnut Teal in R3 – 152 Eurasian Coot and 129 Hardhead

in the Lake – 1 Spotted Harrier (1st record) over reclamation area.

August 1 Swamp Harrier over PBAR – 79 Australian White Ibis and 173 Hardhead in the Lake.

September 14 Whiskered Tern in R3 – 220 Chestnut Teal in PBAR – 3 Whiskered Tern in FICP – 4 Whiskered

Tern, 178 Chestnut Teal, 185 Grey Teal, 162 Pacific Black Duck and 2 Pink-eared Duck in the

Lake.

November 10 Common Tern in BS3 – 4 Whiskered Tern in FICP – 2 Whiskered Tern in the Lake.

December 4 White-winged Tern and 1 Whiskered Tern in R3.

A table showing wader species and numbers at the complex during 2017 (except for the Visitors Centre Lake), has been included. Many other waterbirds were also recorded using the sites; however, lack of space in the newsletter does not allow their inclusion.

Port of Brisbane Waders	01 Jan	29 Jan	26 Feb	26 Mar	30 Apr	28 May	25 Jun	23 Jul	27 Aug	24 Sep	C	19 Nov	17 Dec
Bush Stone-curlew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	0	0
Pied Oystercatcher	129	145	138	90	52	54	17	5	14	21	0	14	19
Sooty Oystercatcher	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Pied Stilt	5	6	37	175	226	161	189	165	218	166	С	149	76
Red-necked Avocet	0	0	0	185	1099	845	635	471	424	185	0	50	1
Pacific Golden Plover	411	464	319	125	0	14	0	4	0	180	U	178	399
Grey Plover	38	0	3	2	0	0	4	3	5	7	N	33	14
Red-capped Plover	64	160	90	148	98	50	87	110	94	151	Т	134	78
Double-banded Plover	0	0	0	0	0	78	82	24	0	0		0	0
Lesser Sand Plover	996	1442	1804	567	6	0	0	0	36	212	D	566	1123
Greater Sand Plover	74	69	287	86	1	0	0	0	0	45	U	19	103
Black-fronted Dotterel	3	0	0	3	2	4	2	2	0	1	Е	2	1
Red-kneed Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		0	0
Masked Lapwing	3	8	5	4	8	7	10	1	2	7	Т	2	6
Latham's Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	3
Bar-tailed Godwit	906	608	485	892	107	100	106	247	43	537	R	1529	620
Whimbrel	16	38	17	246	11	1	0	0	0	13	Α	39	14
Far Eastern Curlew	3	133	61	2	33	34	22	48	0	2	ı	117	13
Terek Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	0	0
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Grey-tailed Tattler	279	572	1296	603	45	68	55	0	0	1		21	778
Wandering Tattler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0
Common Greenshank	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6		2	5
Marsh Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	213	95	157	49	0	18	19	0	0	0		26	37
Asian Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Great Knot	200	111	379	77	0	0	0	0	0	92		70	378
Red Knot	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	57		4	3
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Red-necked Stint	2644	3980	4666	3235	230	405	154	283	558	1062		2719	3902
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	171	254	304	262	6	0	1	1	1	9		157	434
Curlew Sandpiper	2443	727	2404	420	76	534	8	638	784	1705		2285	2607
Broad-billed Sandpiper	0	0	24	35	0	0	0	1	0	0		69	27
Unidentified wader	0	12	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	56
Total Wader Species	19	18	20	25	15	15	16	15	11	20		24	24
Total Wader Numbers	8600	8825	12479	7291	2000	2373	1392	2003	2179	4459		8187	10697

QWSG would like to sincerely thank the PBPL for their ongoing support to the group and supplying their staff and vehicles during the counts. Craig Wilson, Environmental Manager for the PBPL, Michael Linde, Senior Environmental Advisor, Nadene Perry, Environmental Advisor and Jessica Rudd Environmental Coordinator shared the role in looking after our welfare and needs during the counts.

We must also sincerely thank the following committed regular counters and other members for helping us obtain the results for the PBPL and the QWSG database in 2017. Without people like these this would not have been possible. My apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list.

Robert Bush, Deirdre Chrzescijanski, Rae Clark, Rob Clemens, Jon Coleman, Ken Cowell, Kristy Murray (Currie), Linda Cross, Phil Cross, David Edwards, Sandra Harding, Paul Hinds, Micha Jackson, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Penn Lloyd, David Milton, Gordana Pozvek, Peter Rothlisberg, Floss Wainwright and Melissa Whitby.

The contract with PBPL continues throughout 2018 and as most of the regular counters are now retired and taking off on extended holidays, we need a bigger support group to help spread the workload, particularly during the spring and summer months. As the PBPL insurance only covers their employees you will need to be either a QWSG or BQ member to attend these counts, so their liability insurance will cover you. Please also note that these counts are not recreational outings, but we are always looking for committed counters to join our team. Please contact Peter Rothlisberg or myself if you would like to participate. The dates and meeting times for the counts are listed at the back of this newsletter.

Peter Rothlisberg Linda Cross

Wetland Exchange with Brisbane City Celebrated 20th Anniversary!!

The below is a copy from the home page of Narashino City. Japanese page is translated from Japanese to English by using Geogle translation software and proper nouns, etc. are corrected by Hit.

On February 25, 1998, Narashino City signed an "Agreement on Conservation of Wetlands" with Brisbane City, Queensland, Australia, to promote exchange through wetlands.

This exchange aims not only for information exchange and learning support, but also for the purpose of the visiting team visiting each other wetlands and touching the local people and the natural environment of foreign countries, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

About wetland

In Narashino City there is Yatsu Higata, Brisbane City has Boondall wetland. Both are Ramsar sites registered wetlands and participate in the " East Asian Australaisian Shorebirds Reserve Network ".

Wetlands in both cities vary in size and nature, but they are both important wetlands for migratory birds.

A monument

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of wetland exchanges in Narashino City, we set up Narashino City & Brisbane City Wetland Exchange 20th Anniversary Monument and unveiled this year's "Yatsu Hlgata Day Fiesta Ceremony (June 9)".

This monument is set up in the Yatsu Higata Park (in front of the Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Center), facing the direction of Brisbane city.

Please visit when you visit Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Center or Yatsu Higata Park.



Narashino City & Brisbane City Wetland Exchange 20th Anniversary Memorial



Monument unveiled (at Yatsu Higata day's festival ceremony)

Memorial magazine

In addition, Narashino City created and issued a magazine commemorating the 20th anniversary of Narashino City & Brisbane Marshland Exchange that summarized the exchange up to now.

This exchange was able to reach the 20th anniversary through cooperation of many people including volunteers. In the memorial magazine, I will introduce the record of exchange up to now with many photos, so please have a look.

https://www.city.narashino.lg.jp/joho/keikaku/toshikankyo/narashino-city_2508_.files/kinennshihyoushi.pdf https://www.city.narashino.lg.jp/joho/keikaku/toshikankyo/narashino-city_2508_.files/kinennshinaiyou.pdf

This page is in charge of the Environment Policy Division Narashino City.

Victorian Leg Flag Observations in Queensland

By Arthur Keates, QWSG

For the period 1992 to mid-March 2018, the Queensland Wader Study Group's (QWSG) leg flag database has just over 1,147 reports of observations in Queensland of Victorian flagged shorebirds of 15 species, as follows:

No. of
Observations
1
14
12
1
37
3
485
3
1
53
61
17
246
113
5

Of course, the number of observations of species correlates with the abundance of the species, its migration route and the number of birds banded. Further, the number of observations would include multiple observations of some individuals. Nevertheless, not surprisingly, Bar-tailed Godwit and Red Knot account for over two-thirds of the total observations. Before taking a closer look at observations of those species, it is worth a brief look at other often reported species.

Since 1978, the Victorian Wader Study Group (VWSG) has fitted 379 leg flags to Great Knot, most of them during the 1980s and 1990s; the species has become less common and only a few birds have been banded there in recent years.

All of the Great Knot observed in Queensland since 1998 have been fitted with a plain leg flag (PLF): 3 in the Gulf of Carpentaria, 1 each at Cairns and Gladstone, 12 in the Great Sandy Strait and the rest in Moreton Bay. Of the observations in Moreton Bay, 91 were of birds observed at roosts in Pumicestone Passage at Toorbul and Bribie Is, 77 apparently on southern migration.

On the other hand, 2 birds were observed at Toorbul in early January 2003, followed by observations there of an individual later that month in partial breeding plumage and an observation on 18 May of an individual in breeding plumage. These observations were quite possibly of the same individual, indicating it stayed in the area during the austral winter. Further, it is highly likely some individuals use the area in consecutive years.

Having regard to the close proximity of the Pumicestone Passage roosts, the dates of observations, the number of birds observed at the same time at a roost and the observers' comments relating to the birds' breeding plumage, we know no more than 2 or 3 individuals used the area as a stop-over on migration in some years, including recent years. On 29 September 2009, 3 individuals were observed together at the Toorbul roost and a fourth individual (with the leg flag on the tarsus) was seen at the roost 5 days earlier, making the highest known number of individuals passing through the area in any year.

In most years since 1992, reports have been made of observations of Red-necked Stint fitted with a PLF. All but 28 of the 64 observations were made on southern migration. The sites for the reports are widespread: the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cairns, Mt Isa, Bowen, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Gladstone, the Great Sandy Strait, Lockyer Valley and several sites in Moreton Bay.

Only 3 reports of an engraved leg flag (ELF) fitted to a Curlew Sandpiper have been made:

- one in each of August and September 2015, for different individuals observed in the Gladstone area;
- an individual at Manly Boat Harbour on 24 January 2017, less than a month after being banded at Werribee Treatment Plant, Victoria; an unexpected movement by a juvenile.

All of the other reports are of observations of PLFs in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cairns, Bundaberg, Gladstone, the Great Sandy Strait and Moreton Bay, the majority on southern migration.

The 269 reports of Victorian flagged Red Knot since 1992 are made up of observations of 18 ELFs and 251 PLFs at sites in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cooktown, Mackay, Gladstone, the Great Sandy Strait, the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay. Of the ELF reports, 3 relate to unread flags while the rest relate to 9 individuals as follows:

- 3 individuals (D9, S7 and 40) in the Gulf of Carpentaria in March-April 2013
- 2 reports of an individual (B9) in the Great Sandy Strait on 30 September and 1 October 2014
- 2 reports of an individual (**1C**) in Moreton Bay between 12 and 25 September 2014, and 3 reports of the same individual in Moreton Bay between 16 and 21 September 2017
- a report of an individual (1S) in the Gladstone area on 30 September 2015
- a report of an individual (3Z) in the Great Sandy Strait on 24 September 2016
- 4 reports of an individual (1N) in Moreton Bay between 9 and 22 October 2016
- a report of an individual (45) in Moreton Bay on 20 October 2017.

These observations, and count data, show SE Queensland is predominantly used as a stop-over by Red Knot on southern migration with very small numbers staying for the austral summer or northern migration and this is confirmed by nearly 200 PLF reports. However, the following PLF reports indicate some Victorian flagged birds stayed in SE Queensland or passed through on northern migration:

- 9 reports, quite possibly of the same individual, at Toorbul between 2 March and 1 May 2002 (the last report stating the bird had some breeding plumage)
- 8 reports, quite possibly of the same individual, at Pumicestone Passage roosts between 11 January and 28 March 2003
- a report of 2 individuals at Toorbul on 6 February 2006
- a report of an individual at a Moreton Bay site on 11 February 2006
- a report of an individual at Bribie Island on 12 March 2006
- a report of an individual in the Great Sandy Strait on 22 March 2007
- a report of an individual at Bribie Island on 6 February 2011
- a report of an individual at the Port of Brisbane on 26 February 2017.

So far as the Gulf of Carpentaria is concerned, it is known Red Knot occur there in internationally important numbers, thousands passing through the area on southern and northern migration, to or from Victoria or New Zealand. In addition to the ELF reports for the area, PLF reports for the area cover both migrations (21 northern and 16 southern), although the reports are likely to include multiple observations of some individuals.

Turning to the most reported species, the Bar-tailed Godwit, Victorian leg flagged birds have been observed at Cairns, Bowen, Mackay, Bundaberg, Gladstone, the Great Sandy Strait, Fraser Is, the Gold Coast, South Stradbroke Is and Moreton Bay. Notably, there are no reports of observations in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The reports relate to observations of 149 ELFs for 61 known individuals (11 of the reports were unread or unconfirmed by the observer), the remainder relate to PLFs.

Victorian Bar-tailed Godwit predominantly pass through Queensland on southern migration as evidenced by the vast majority of just over 350 observations of PLFs. However, observations during January to April indicate a small number pass through on northern migration. Further, observations from mid-May to mid-July of at least 8 individuals since 2000 indicate some stayed in SE Queensland for the austral winter.

The following observations of ELFs at various sites in Moreton Bay appear to show the migration of Bar-tailed Godwit through Queensland on southern migration:

ELF	Banding Date	Age at Banding	Observation Dates
D9	23/6/2009	1	2014 - 7 and 9 October
			2015 - 5, 7, 15 and 17 October
9P	10/2/2010	2+	2013 - 12 October
			2014 - 9 October
			2015 - 14 October
ANH	25/1/2012	2+	2013 - 9 and 22 June, 27 July, 25 and 29 August and
			12, 21 and 26 September
			2014 - 27 September and 1, 3 and 15 October
			2017 – 23 September and 24 October
ADU	11/2/2012	2+	2012 - 1 October
			2013 - 12 October
			2014 - 27 September
CKV	11/2/2014	2+	2014 - 26 September and 6, 7 and 9 October
			2015 - 14, 17, 19 and 21 September
			2016 - 20, 22 and 24 September
-			2017 – 8 October



Victorian flagged Bar-tailed Godwit CKV at Manly Harbour, 19 September 2015. Photo: A Keates

Indeed, observations of both **9P** and **CKV** at Shoal Inlet Entrance (south side), Robertson's Beach, Victoria on 13 November 2016 confirm the return to Victoria of those birds for the austral summer. Incidentally, **9P** was first observed on 17 April 2011, on northern migration at Jeju Is. South Korea.

The presence of **ANH** in Moreton Bay in June 2014 may be because of a failed or partial migration or it could even have overwintered in the Bay that year although, because it would have been at least 3 years old, one would expect it to have attempted migration. Similarly, Bar-tailed Godwit **ADY** was observed at Maaroom, in the Great Sandy Strait, on 14 June, 12 July and 14 August 2014.

On the other hand, the following observations in Moreton Bay of Bar-tailed Godwit **CHH** (aged 1 when banded on 11 February 2014) together with its site faithfulness in Moreton Bay and the lack of observations in the Bay in the austral summer, tend to indicate both northern and southern migration through SE Queensland:

- 2015 -14 and 24 February, 20 March and 18 April
- 2015 21 September, 14, 21, 22, 24, 27 and 28 October and 11 November
- 2016 22 March
- 2017 19 January
- 2017 15 December.

Although there are no observations of **CHH** in Victoria to establish its return there, it was observed at Kaipara Harbour, Auckland, New Zealand on 14 November 2016. That observation, together with the observations in Moreton Bay in January 2017, show its use of SE Queensland as a stopover site on northern migration, at least in that year.

I thank those who have reported their observations and Phil Cross for his diligence in maintaining QWSG's leg flag database. Also, I thank Clive Minton and Joris Driessen for providing banding and observation data.

Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre (MBEEC), QWSG and Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd

Program for Year 3 students – Bird and Beaches, Dogs and Leashes prompts students as Junior Ornithologists to consider their responsibilities to protect other forms of life that share the environment. A real like geographical inquiry on the foreshore and at the artificial roost at the Port encourages students to think creatively about how they can take an active role in protecting the shorebirds and the environment of Moreton Bay.

Program and Learning Intentions – Birds and Beaches, Dogs and Leashes –

In the role of ornithologists, students will:

- Identify birds in the field using binoculars and ID charts
- Investigate threats to migratory and resident shorebirds
- Analyse the magnitude of the journeys undertaken by migratory shorebirds
- Explore the habitat requirements of migratory shorebirds if they are to survive in Moreton Bay, in their breeding grounds and on their migratory journey
- Recommend an action that can be taken by themselves or the community to help care for the shorebirds of Moreton Bay

Table 1. Combined data for schools depicting school numbers, number of class groups and student numbers by program offered collaboratively by Port of Brisbane, QWSG and MBEEC.

Program: Birds and Beaches; Dogs and Leashes

		2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Sc	hools	3	5	6	9
Number Students	of	266	439	721	977

MBEEC recently won the Sustainable Education Award for developing a science education program that allows students to engage in scientific research and build an appreciation for South East Queensland's waterways.

Sheryl Keates

The Tale of 2 Curlew Sandpipers (a short note to the members of VWSG.)

While the records in this note will be very useful to help ascertain the accuracy of the data from the geo (assuming you lot catch it again!), this note is not intended as a scientific document.

You may work that out as you read it!

For Marcel; the birds were recorded within 100m of 39 06 13.85N 118 14 44.61E (Google earth), that's the science out the way.

Yesterday evening the Global Flyway Network (GFN) Team 2018 (Adrian Boyle (scanner), Matt Slaymaker (scanner) and Chris Hassell (bloke sitting on a stool with a notebook) were out scanning the salt ponds bordering the Luannan Coast mudflats, where they have been studying Red Knots for the past 10 years in conjunction with Beijing Normal and Fudan Universities.



Adrian and Matt make sure we are seeing what we believe.

In one pond we found 840 Red Knot, 42 Curlew Sandpipers, Pied Avocets, Black-winged Stilts and Kentish Plovers with tiny chicks. Not an unusual suite of species for a salt pond here at this time of year.

We set to scanning the Red Knots for colourbands from the GFN project and any other marked birds (cos we are nice like that).

The birds were in shallow water, which made life a bit frustrating, but we got plenty of data on Red Knots.

Then, our attention turned to the Curlew Sandpipers and we spotted an orange flag, no big deal.

The flag was an ELF, still no big deal.

The bird also had a geo... a bit interesting.

Hold on, there's another, 'are you sure?', 'yeah'.

Sneak closer.

'Mine ends in a D, it's J something D'.

'Mine ends in an E, it's J something E'.

Sneak closer.

'Mine's JDD'.

'Mine's JDE'.

Get out of here!

Sneak closer.

'100% I have JDD'

'100% I have JDE'

So, there's 90,000 (give or take) Curlew Sandpipers in the EAAF, and there were 42 in this salt pond 9,000km (give or take) from where the birds were banded.

And if you see birds together away from the non-breeding or breeding grounds it's 'coincidence' as they don't 'stay together'.

Then this sighting is some coincidence.

GFN Team 2018

http://globalflywaynetwork.com.au/

Count Programme - Linda Cross

Sadly, I must report the tragic passing of another member, Paul Hinds. A member for about a year, Paul showed great enthusiasm for shorebirds as does his partner, Gordana Pozvek. Both Paul and Gordana joined the team of counters at the Port of Brisbane complex each month, more recently started to help on monthly counts at Lytton sites and made regular visits to coastal areas to find, record and report leg flag sightings. Paul was also passionate about the environment and was heavily involved in bush care groups. We extend our deepest sympathy to Gordana, her family and Paul's family.

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 some more southside sites in Moreton Bay. As species numbers and quantities have been low during the winter months, I have selected last summer count dates to reflect the maximum number of species recorded at the site. List as per IOC taxonomic order.

Species	THQE	ACAC	EAGS	WEGS	PTHP	PTHR
	16 Dec 17	16 Dec 17	17feb 18	17 Feb 18	13 Jan 18	17 Feb 18
Pied Oystercatcher		2	33			
Pied Stilt	2	24		33		
Masked Lapwing	2	1			2	14
Pacific Golden Plover			7			18
Red-capped Plover			15			
Double-banded Plover			1			
Greater Sand Plover			4			
Bar-tailed Godwit	68	156		860		
Whimbrel	4	119	44	23		
Far Eastern Curlew	2	1	693	2		2
Common Greenshank	1	12		34		

Ruddy Turnstone		11		
Great Knot	3		4	
Red-necked Stint		330	485	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	7		4	
Curlew Sandpiper		20	38	

THQE – Queen's Esplanade Thorneside

ACAC – Acacia Street Wellington Point

EAGS – Geoff Skinner Reserve East

WEGS – Geoff Skinner Reserve West

PTHP – Point Halloran Private Land

PTHR - Point Halloran Reserve

Counters- Kristy Murray & Virginia Ridgley

Counter - Nicola Udy

Counters – Peter Rothlisberg & Michele Burford Counters – Peter Rothlisberg & Michele Burford

Counters - Robert & Barbara Collyer

Counters - Robert & Barbara Collyer

Both Point Halloran Private Land and the Reserve are classed as king tide roosts, which are only used by waders during the very high or king tide and is reflected in the low number of species and quantity.

Most Double-banded Plover that have frequented our shores during the winter months are now in full (or advanced), breeding plumage ready to return across the Tasman to breed in New Zealand. They have been recorded at 18 sites from Moreton Island, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Tin Can Bay, Boonooroo area, Hervey Bay, Yeppoon and Mackay. The highest count was 116 birds at the Sandbank off Amity Point on 16.07.18, followed by 55 at the Port of Brisbane complex on 13.05.18. At Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay, 45 were recorded on 13.06.18 and 41 at Reeder's Point, Moreton Island on 16.07.18. King Street mudflat at Thornlands recorded 34 of the species on 16.06.18 and 31 were recorded at Manly Harbour on 26.06.18. Between 10 and 20 birds were recorded at a further 6 sites and the other 6 sites recorded numbers in single figures.

During the last 3 months Manly Harbour has played host to 7 Red Knot, of which, one has been in near full breeding plumage, 3 with advanced breeding plumage, 1 with a trace of breeding plumage and 1 in non-breeding plumage. Maaroom also recorded 5 of the same species in early May, but no details are known.

The July counts have indicated southward migration has already started, with some species being recorded at sites for the first time since summer. The first notable species is Far Eastern Curlew, which is usually the earliest to arrive back from the breeding grounds. More than a dozen sites have recorded larger numbers during the July count, with the highest total of 119 birds at Toorbul on 14.07.18.

The next highest total of 81 birds came from a combined count of 3 sites during the Moreton Island count day on 16.07.18 and a lower number of 37 birds were recorded at Thangawan Creek, Boonooroo area on 14.07.18. Other sites recorded the species in lower numbers.

A variety of other species have been noted on July count sheets with comments regarding traces of breeding plumage and of interest was 117 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 12 Black-tailed Godwit and 1 Asian Dowitcher (which was nearly taken by an attacking Brown Falcon), reported at Luggage Point on 15.07.18.

In the "Not waders but of interest anyway" section of the electronic newsletter there are some unusual species records, and particularly large counts of waterbirds, which is probably due to drought conditions in parts of Queensland and New South Wales. This is also evident in the large widespread records of resident waders reported during the last 3 months, which are listed below.

Red-necked Avocet were recorded at 15 sites from Tweed Heads to Yeppoon with the highest count being 755 at the Port of Brisbane complex on 13.05.18, followed by 340 at Luggage Point on 15.07.18.

Pied Stilt (Black-winged Stilt) were recorded at 34 sites (mostly in the hundreds), from Tweed Heads to Mackay. Redcliffe Airport Northside recorded the most with 506 on 16.06.18, while Luggage Point recorded 423 on 15.07.18 and 410 counted at Maaroom on 14.07.18.

Red-kneed Dotterel were widespread and recorded at 20 sites from Moreton Bay to Cooktown. The highest count was 120 at Kinka Beach Wetlands, Yeppoon on 16.06.18, closely followed by 101 at Redcliffe Airport Northside on 14.07.18.

Black-fronted Dotterel were also widespread and recorded at 28 sites from Moreton Bay to Cooktown. Thangawan Creek Boonooroo area had the highest count of 25 on 14.07.18, followed by Entrance mudflat site Queensland Aluminium in Gladstone with 23 birds on 13.07.18 and 21 birds at Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 & No. 2 combined in Hervey Bay on 16.06.18.

Red-capped Plover were recorded at 22 sites from Moreton Bay to Mackay. The Port of Brisbane complex recorded the highest count of 258 on 16.07.18, and 81 were recorded at Redcliffe Airport Northside on 14.05.18.

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

- 2 Broad-billed Sandpiper Reeder's Point, Moreton Island 16.07.18
- 1 Sanderling Sandbank off Amity Point 16.07.18
- 3 Common Sandpiper Godwin Beach 10.06.18 (most unusual in winter)
- 450 Bar-tailed Godwit Maaroom 12.05.18
- 410 Bar-tailed Godwit (5 with remnant breeding plumage) Manly Harbour 31.07.18
- 103 Pied Oystercatcher Sandbank, Toondah Harbour 16.07.18
- 11 Grey Plover (included 8 first year birds) Day's Gutter, Moreton Island 16.07.18
- 37 Pacific Golden Plover Manly Harbour 14.07.18

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9 Common Greenshank - Maaroom - 14.07.18
105 Great Knot - Maaroom - 14.07.18
32 Ruddy Turnstone (2 males in near full breeding plumage) - Many Harbour - 28.05.18
292 Grey-tailed Tattler - Manly Harbour - 01.05.18
2 Terek Sandpiper - Manly Harbour - 12.05.18
8 Greater Sand Plover – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 16.07.18
42 Less Sand Plover - O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay - 12.05.18
6 Marsh Sandpiper - Pine Rivers Wetlands - 12.05.18
48 Whimbrel - Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay - 17.07.18
60 Curlew Sandpiper - Port of Brisbane complex - 17.06.18
518 Red-necked Stint - Port of Brisbane complex - 16.07.18
399 Red-necked Stint - Geoff Skinner Reserve East - 14.07.18
24 Comb-crested Jacana - Garnet's Lagoons No. 1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay - 14.07.18
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Breeding records:

Pied Oystercatcher - Adult with 2 chicks and an additional nest with eggs at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 07.08.18. Active nest with eggs at Noosa River sandbanks on 06.08.18.

Masked Lapwing – nest with eggs at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 07.08.18.

Red-capped Plover – nest with eggs at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 07.08.18 and active nest with eggs at Noosa River sandbanks on 06.08.18.

The new Database Manager is Peter Driscoll. Many of you will already know Peter (or have heard his name), as Peter was one of the founding members of our group. Peter set up the count programme and was also the original keeper of our database until he moved to Townsville in 2002, which is when he handed over the keeping of it to David Milton. Ironically, it has come full circle and ended back in Peter's lap (so to speak). Peter is responsible for getting me involved in the count programme, and where I have already had many years working with Peter during my time as the Count Co-ordinator. I look forward to our working relationship once more.

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: xenus69@bigpond.com

Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 5495 2758

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

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2 Beach Stone-curlew - Kinka Beach, Yeepoon - 14.07.18
155 Red-necked Avocet - Tweed Heads entrance, New South Wales - 06.17.18
133 Red-necked Avocet - Lytton No. 1 claypan - 16.07.18
2 Sooty Oystercatcher - Port of Brisbane complex - 16.07.18
1 Sooty Oystercatcher - Tweed River entrance, New South Wales - 06.07.18
1 Sooty Oystercatcher – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 12.05.18
62 Pied Oystercatcher - Dunwich, North Stradbroke 1 mile - 10.06.18
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Not waders but of interest anyway 1 Black Falcon – Bundaberg Port – 13.05.18

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1 Eastern Grass Owl - Kedron Brook Wetlands - 16.06.18 and 14.07.18
1 Australian Spotted Crake – Bundaberg Port – 15.07.18
1 Australian Spotted Crake - Kedron Brook Wetlands - 12.05.18
3 Hoary-headed Grebe - Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island - 12.05.18 (2 recorded on 15.07.18 and 1 still on
        site 29.07.18)
918 Grey Teal - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 12.05.18
211 Magpie Goose – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 16.06.18 (only 2nd time in the hundreds at site)
15 Pink-eared Duck - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 16.06.18
7 Raja Shelduck - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 12.05.18
25 Australasian Shoveler - Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay - 14.07.18
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12 Australasian Shoveler - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 12.05.18

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57 Wandering Whistling Duck - Garnet's Lagoon No.2, Hervey Bay - 12.05.18
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473 Chestnut Teal - Nathan Road Wetlands, Redcliffe - 16.06.18

555 Australian White Ibis - Bells Creek, Caloundra - 17.06.18

155 Straw-necked Ibis - Garnet's Lagoon No. 2, Hervey Bay - 16.06.18

46 Glossy Ibis - Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon - 12.05.18.

Other records for this species at Nathan Road Wetlands Redcliffe, Garnet's Lagoons Hervey Bay, Bundaberg Port and Osprey House/Dohle's Rocks.

12 White-necked Heron – Bundaberg Port – 13.05.18.

Other records (in single figures), for this species at Nathan Road Wetlands Redcliffe, Bishop's Marsh Toorbul, Buckley's Hole Bribie Island, Comber's Paddock Boonooroo, Garnet's Lagoons Hervey Bay and Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon, during June and July.

73 White-faced Heron - East Geoff Skinner Reserve - 14.07.18

11 Pacific Reef Heron (11 white, 1 grey) - Goat Island, Moreton Bay - 16.07.18

1 Yellow-billed Spoonbill recorded at Pine River Wetland Reserve, Garnet's Lagoon No.2 Hervey Bay, Bundaberg Port and Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon during May and June.

239 Royal Spoonbill - Port of Brisbane (Lake) - 17.06.18

320 Silver Gull - Bundaberg Port - 13.05.18

514 Purple Swamphen – Garnet's Lagoons No.1 & No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 16.06.17 (411 still on site 14.07.18)

180 Black Swan - Bells Creek, Caloundra - 12.07.18

1,630 Little Black Cormorant – Port of Brisbane complex – 13.05.18

273 Gull-billed Tern - Maaroom - 12.05.18

1 Gull-billed Tern (affinis) - Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island - 15.07.18

11 Lesser-crested Tern - Sandbank off Amity Point - 16.07.18

9 Lesser-crested Tern – O'Regan's creek westside, Hervey Bay – 14.07.18.

Other records for this species (in lower numbers), at Manly Harbour, Gables Point Rocks Hervey Bay, sandbank Toondah Harbour and Point Vernon Hervey Bay,

2 Australasian Gannet - off Wickham Point - 17.06.18

1 Australasian Gannet - off Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island - 17.06.18

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

An additional 378 engraved flag sightings have been added to the database since the last newsletter. The species recorded and the number of observations were as follows: Bar-tailed Godwit 167, Black-tailed Godwit 1, Double-banded Plover 13, Eastern Curlew 4, Great Knot 29, Grey-tailed Tattler 1, Pacific Golden Plover 7, Pied Oystercatcher 74, Pied Stilt 22, Red-capped Plover 3, Ruddy Turnstone 1 and Whimbrel 56.

The observers were Tony Cotter, Paul Hinds, Renate Hottmann-Schaefer, Arthur Keates, Steve McBride, Lynda Pickstone, Gordana Pozvek, Peter Rothlisberg, Ged Tranter, Dez Wells, Melissa Whitby and Roger Winsen.

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 – ACB, ACT, ACZ, ADC, AEJ, AEL, AEN, AES, AEV, AHA, AHS, AHV, AKB, AKD, AKX, AKY, ALA, ALM, ALN, AML, ARA, ARN, ASX, ATD, AUU, AUV, AUW, AUZ, AVK, AVM, AVZ, AXB, AXD, AXH, AYC, AYD, AYN, AYT, AYV, AYW, AZC, BBK, BBL, BBM, BBN, BBR, BBX, BCK, BCR, BCS, BCT, BCU, BCV, BCX, BDH, BDJ, BDT, BHC, BHK, BHM, BHN, BHP, BHR, BHS, BHT, BHU, BHV, BHW, BHX, BHY, BLA, BNL, BNP, BNS, BPC, BPD, BPU, BPV, BUS, BUV, BZA, CAC, CAH, CAS, CAT, CAV, CAY, CBA, CBB, CBN, CBP, CCA, CCD, CCJ, CCL, CCP, CCU, CCX, CJA, CJB, CJC, CJF, CJH, CJJ, CJK, CJN, CJP, DBF, DBJ, JE & quantity 6 unread.

Black-tailed Godwit - ANY.

Double-banded Plover – AVJ, AZA, AZD & 1 unread.

Eastern Curlew - AAD, AAJ & quantity 1 unread ELF & 1 plain flag.

Great Knot – AED, AEK, AEU, AEV, AJA, ALM, ALN, ATH, ATM, ATR, AUA, AVA, AWE, AZC, BBT, BBX, BBZ, BCY, BER, BEV, BEX, BEZ, BLA & 3 unread.

Grey-Tailed Tattler – AEY.

Pacific Golden Plover - BUX, BUT, BUU, BVA, BVN.

Pied Oystercatcher – AAA, AAE, AAK, AAT, AAU, AAY, ABC, ABE, ABM, ABN, ABP, ABR, AML, B6, C4 and FX

Pied Stilt - AAS, AAZ, ABD, BDB, BDP, BEH, BEP, BZC, EA, BB, KC & quantity 1 unread.

Red-capped Plover – JH.

Ruddy Turnstone - ATB.

Whimbrel – BXB, BXC, BXD, BXF, BXN, BXS, BXU, BXX, BYA, BYB, BYF, BYJ, BYL, BYT, CJV, CJY, CKC, DAC, DAF, DAH, DAM, DAN, DAV, DAY, DBL, DBP, DBS, DBU, DBV, DBY, DCC, DCF, DJA, DJB, DJD, DJF, DJH, DJN, DJS & quantity 4 unread.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS

In Japan

Grey-tailed Tattler

ADS on flag - 6.4.2018 – Tama River Estuary Tokyo – Kunihiko Kojima ATP on flag – 27.4.2018 – Sohara-cho Matsusaka Mie-ken - Yoko Tanaka

BXF on flag – 7.5.2018 – Sohara-cho Matsusaka Mie-ken – Toshiaki Karatsu

KZ on flag – 7.5.2018 – Zaimokuza Kamakura Kanagawa – Hideo Ike

ASU on flag - 9.5.2018 - Kongo River Mouth Matsusaka - Kazumi Miyagoe

AXB on flag - 9.5.2018 - Kongo River Mouth Matsusaka - Kazumi Miyagoe

DH on flag – 9.5.2018 – Kongo River Mouth Matsusaka – Kazumi Miyagoe

BPC on flag - 10.5.2018 - Shinoharag Katori Chiba - Yoshiya Odaya

AMB on flag - 11.5.2018 - Hamura weir Tokyo - Tsukasa Yaita

ADS on flag – 13.5.2018 – Hinoki Fuji Shizuoka – Yasushi Oowase

ATE on flag - 15.5.2018 - Kongo River Mouth Matsusaka - Kazumi Miyagoe

APY on flag – 22.5.2018 – Ikawazu Tidal Flat Tahara Aichi – Hiroyasu Ito

In China

Bar-tailed Godwit

BRK on flag - 22.4.2015 - Yalu Jiang - Tan Kun

ALH on flag - 28.4.2015 - Yalu Jiang - Tan Kun

AZB on flag - 10.5.2015 - Yalu Jiang - Tan Kun

Great Knot

ADA on flag - 14.7.2018 - Tiaozini Dongtai - Mr Zhanghua

In Taiwan

Curlew Sandpiper

ACA on flag – (no location details yet) – 24.7.2018 – Jimmy Choi

In South Korea

Bar-tailed Godwit

ADX on flag - 29.4.2017 - Songdo Incheon - Spike Millington

AX on flag – 15 & 17.4.2018 – Mokpo Namhang Tidal Flat – Andreas Kim

BNP on flag – 21.4.2018 – Namdanghang-ro Seobu-myeon Hongseong Chungcheonnam – Shin Hwan Kim

The following were all sighted at Aphae Island (South) by Andreas Kim

BCV on flag - 2.4.2018

CBA on flag - 3.4.2018

ATA on flag - 7.4.2018

PR on flag - 7, 19, 22, 25, 27 & 29.4.2018

PR on flag - 1, 13, 15, 18.5.2018

ACX on flag - 11.4.2018

AVB on flag - 7, 13, 15, 16 & 29.4 & 18.5.2018

BHR on flag - 13.4.2018

BSD on flag - 13 & 25.4.2018

CDC on flag - 13 & 19.4.2018

DM on flag - 13.4.2018

EC on flag - 13, 16, 22, 25, 27 & 29.4.2018

EC on flag - 1, 5, 13, 18 & 21.5.2018

BTF on flag – 15, 16 & 19.4.2018 AYD on flag – 16.4 & 15.5.2018 DCA on flag – 16.4.2018 Engraved flag unread – 11.4.2018

Great Knot

BAV on flag – 15.4.2018 – Maehiang-ri Hwasung Kiongkido – Choi Sungyu BBK on flag - 15.4.2018 – Maehiang-ri Hwasung Kiongkido – Choi Sungyu

Ruddy Turnstone

EY on flag - 24, 25.4 & 2.5.2018 - Mokpo Namhang Tidal Flat - Andreas Kim

ORANGE (Victoria) leg flag sightings seen in QLD.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Plain flag – 31.10.2017 – Redcliffe Airport north side – Ged Tranter

OVERSEAS FLAGGED birds seen in QLD

White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings Red Knot

DDD on flag - 31.10.2017 - Redcliffe Airport north side - Ged Tranter

Blue over White (Japanese) leg flag sightings Grey-tailed Tattler

566 on blue flag - 15.4.2018 - Toorbul Roost - Dez Wells

Caspian Tern Orange flag (Victoria)

UO on flag - 14.1.2018 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells
U8 on flag - 18.3.2018 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells
U8 on flag - 15.4.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells
K9 on flag – 15.4.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells
37 on flag – 15.4.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells
47 on flag – 15.4.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells
37 on flag – 12.5.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells
X8 on flag – 8.6.2018 – Bowen Pier – Chris Barnes
J4 on flag – 15.6.2018 – Caboolture River Mouth – Phil Cross
37 on flag – 16.6.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells
47 on flag – 16.6.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells
47 on flag – 14.7.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells
V3 on flag – 20.7.2018 – Pine Rivers Reserve – Ged Tranter/

Orange flag unread - 14.7.2018 - Caboolture River Mouth - Phil Cross

Wader ID Day Reports

Manly Shorebird Roost Report 24 June 2018

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Participants who attended the Queensland Ornithological Conference the day before joined us in this outing to the shorebird roost on a fine sunny morning, although quite cool because of the sneaky south-westerly breeze.

As expected at this time of year, the number of birds was low but the diversity of species was quite good. Most of the observers had good views of 3 species of resident shorebird and 12 species of migratory shorebird although only 1 individual of some species was observed.

Some species were showing advanced breeding plumage, notably a Pacific Golden Plover and, a species not commonly seen in south-east Queensland on northern migration, Red Knot. At least 23 Double-banded Plover (or as one of the participants from across the ditch would call them, Banded Dotterel) were observed, some moulting into breeding plumage.

The only disturbance to the roosting birds was caused by the fly over of a White-bellied Sea-eagle. An Australasian Gannet also flew by.

The following species were observed:

Grey Teal, Australasian Gannet, Australian White Ibis, Little Pied Cormorant, Royal Spoonbill, Australian Pelican, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Double-banded Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Silver Gull and Gull-billed, Caspian, Greater Crested and Lesser Crested Terns.

Manly Shorebird Roost Report 4 August 2018

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

On a delightful winter's day, with the temperature reaching 25 degrees under a clear blue sky, observation conditions were good with a gentle north-easterly breeze.

The diversity of species was good: 4 species of resident shorebird and 10 species of migratory shorebird recorded. At least 20 Double-banded Plover were present, most of them resplendent in well advanced breeding plumage just before their return migration to New Zealand. Also, in near full breeding plumage were 2 Pacific Golden Plover while several Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot and Great Knot had remnant breeding plumage.

Green engraved leg flags were recorded on 4 species: Pied Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Double-banded Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. An Eastern Osprey and Brahminy Kite flew passed the roost while the following species were seen at the roost:

Grey Teal, Little Pied Cormorant, Eastern Great Egret, Australian Pelican, Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Red-capped Plover, Double-Banded Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Far Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Common Greenshank (heard) Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Silver Gull and Gull-billed, Caspian, Greater Crested and Lesser Crested Terns

Wader ID Days 2018

WADER ID DAYS - MANLY HARBOUR WADER ROOST

Saturday 29 September 2018

2.16 m high tide at 12:08. Meeting time 12:15.

Sunday 28 October 2018

2.35 m high tide at 11:53. Meeting time 12:00.

Saturday 1 December 2018

2.20 m high tide at 16:33. Meeting time 16:00.

Meeting Place: At the end of Davenport Drive on the southern boundary of the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron Clubhouse.

QWSG has an access agreement for the wader roost. Under the conditions of the agreement, participants must wear enclosed footwear and will be required to sign a form acknowledging responsibility for their own health and safety, including:

- wearing protective clothing at all times (eg. hat, sunglasses) and using sunscreen
- drinking water to avoid dehydration
- using insect repellant 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.

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.

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.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Mr Bill ALCORN, Ms Kate ALDRIDGE, Ms Libby ANSTIS, Mr Graham ARMSTRONG, Mr Louis BACKSTROM,
Mr Mick BARKER & Ms Christine BARRY, Ms Elizabeth BUCKBY, Mrs Marcela CASTRO, Ms Alison COLVIN,
Clancy HALL, Ms Esther HORTON, Mrs Julianne de LANGE, Ms Jane MORTON COLBERT, Mr Andrew
MOSS, Tida NOU, Mr Gerald POWER, Ms Belinda & Mr William RAFTON & LOWE, Ms Andrea SCHAFER,
Mr/Mrs Barbara & Oscar WILKINSON, Mr Roger WINSEN

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 2018 AGM of QWSG

The 2018 AGM will be held on Sunday 9th Dec 2018 at 1:00 pm at Boxhead Park, Lota/Manly.

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.

QWSG Wader Course INTRODUCTION TO WADERS (SHOREBIRDS) IN AUSTRALIA AND MORETON BAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COST: \$60.00. To confirm your registration; please transfer your fee using the details below.

Receipts will be issued on receipt of fee. Places are limited so register soon.

REGISTRATION; Saturday 15 December 2018, from 8:30 am

at the Manly NPRSR Office, 34 Trafalgar Street Manly 4179

LECTURES: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, morning tea and buffet lunch included.

FIELD TRIP: Saturday 15 December 2018, 2:00 to 4:00 pm, at Manly Harbour Roost

Please note that the field site is exposed – remember to bring a hat, sunscreen and water bottle. A condition of entry is wearing closed shoes for the field visit.

CLOSING DATE: Please enrol by Monday 10 December 2018. Remember places are limited.

ENQUIRIES: secretary@waders.com.au

Website: www.waders.org.au/queensland-wader-study-group-news email: 2tattlers@gmail.com

ENROLMENT FORM (email to treasurer@waders.org.au)
INTRODUCTION TO WADERS (SHOREBIRDS) IN AUSTRALIA AND MORETON BAY

Course Fee: \$60.00 pay by direct transfer to Qld Wader Study Group BSB: 313 140 Account Number: 08305297. Please use "Surname as the identifier" for the EFT.

Title:First Name:	Last Name:
Address:	
	Email Address:
	Phone Number:
Do you require a vegetarian or other special lunch?	Please specify

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of Queensland Wader Study Group

Website <u>www.waders.org.au</u>

https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/

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

The QWSG Chairperson,

54, Elliott Street, CLAYFIELD, QLD 4011

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

<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u> Annual subscription rates:

Single: \$15:00

Student/Pensioner: \$10:00

Family: \$25:00

A receipt will be forwarded if required.

Forward application to:

QWSG Treasurer, 309 Edelsten Road, JIMBOOMBA QLD 4280

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

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

Contributions should be addressed to:

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

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

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

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Count Activities - 2018

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2018

Sat 15th Sep 2.03m at 13:30 Sat 13th Oct 2.21m at 12:12 Sat 10th Nov 2.37m at 11:07 Sat 8th Dec 2.44m at 10:09

Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2018

Sun 16th Sep 1.96m at 14:24 Meet 12:35 Sun 14th Oct 2.12m at 12:52 Meet 11:00 Sun 11th Nov 2.30m at 11:43 Meet 09:55 Sun 9th 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:						
Address: Membership: \$ Postcode: Donation: \$						
Payment enclosed: \$ Do you require a receipt? Yes / N	lo	(Mobile)				
Email		Fax				
Are you a member of Birds Queensland?						
	•	rsion) by E-mail?				
Signature		Date:				
Please email this form to: member Direct funds transfer to: Qld Wader Study Group BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia) Account number: 08305297 or	oership@waders.o	<u>rg.au</u>				
Please post this form to: QWS	SG Treasurer PO	Box 3138, SOUTH BRISBANE, QLD 4101				

Cheques to be made out to: Qld Wader Study Group