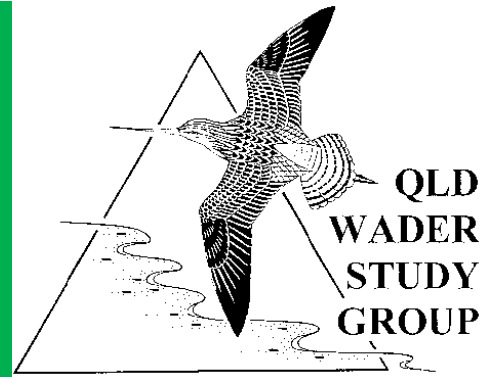


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue 105

December 2018, January, February 2019

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/>

25th Anniversary of Moreton Bay Ramsar Listing

by Arthur Keates

To mark the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the listing of Moreton Bay as a Ramsar wetland on 22 October 2018, a community celebration was held at GJ Walter Park, Cleveland on Saturday 20 October.

Along with several community groups, BirdLife Australia and QWSG had poster displays, booklets and brochures available for people attending the event. Many people took advantage of the spotting scopes set up to view the migratory shorebirds, including the critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew, feeding along the exposed mudflats as the tide receded.

Judith Hoyle and Rob Clemens representing BirdLife Australia and Robert Bush representing QWSG, spoke about the importance of Moreton Bay to migratory shorebirds and the threatening processes they face. The central theme to their talks, and of other speakers, was the universal concern about the proposed Toondah Harbour "development" to claim up to 40 ha of this part of Moreton Bay. The central philosophy of the Ramsar convention is the wise use of wetlands, that is the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. As this proposal will have a negative impact on the shorebirds' feeding habitat, it is inconsistent with Australia's obligations as a contracting party to the Ramsar convention.

Thanks go to Robert Bush, Gordana Pozvek, Paul Marty and Sheryl Keates for their involvement helping make it a productive day.



QWSG member Robert Bush speaking at the event

25th Anniversary of listing Moreton Bay as a Ramsar Site and 20th Anniversary of the Affiliation Agreement between the City of Narashino, Japan and City of Brisbane, Australia.

by Sheryl Keates

Moreton Bay was designated as a Ramsar Site on 22 October 1993, making it the 25th Anniversary this year. We celebrated the anniversary with 13 Japanese visitors from the Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre (YNOC), Narashino City, Japan, who celebrated their 25th Anniversary on 10 June this year.

The Cities of Narashino and Brisbane have been combining efforts to protect migratory shorebirds and their habitats by engaging students and the community through shared for the conservation of the Yatsu-Higata Tidal Flat, Narashino and Boondall Wetlands, Brisbane, Moreton Bay. The Ramsar sites are both located in the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Flyway. Both cities have signed affiliation and education agreements for conservation of the wetlands and for the protection of migratory shorebirds that fly between these wetlands. These agreements between the cities have highlighted the importance of shorebird protection through international understanding and cooperation. Both cities have embraced the idea of “thinking globally and acting locally”.

As part of the continued agreement, the YNOC delegation visited Brisbane in early October. The visitors included the General Manager, Kazuki Arao, his wife Shouko and their 5-year-old son Kazumi, as well as staff, volunteers and Yatsu-higata Youth who work at the YNOC.

By way of background, the Yatsu tidal flats comprise a 40ha site which was once on the shore of Tokyo Bay before massive reclamation work, is now 2 km inland. The tidal flats are enclosed by concrete walls and tidal exchange with Tokyo Bay occurs through artificial canals. Despite this, the site is a Ramsar site and remains a significant staging point for thousands of migratory shorebirds from Eastern Australia, particularly Moreton Bay.

Mon 1 Oct – Two of the group, Emi and Mikiya Oikawa arrived to stay with Phil and Linda Cross until the rest of the inbound group arrived on 4 and 5 Oct. While staying with Phil and Linda, Emi and Mikiya visited Bribie Island, Maleny, Sheep Station Creek and Toorbul. Emi and Mikiya had visited Brisbane as part of the last wetland exchange in 2016.

Thu 4 Oct – Hit Akutsu arrived from Japan via Cairns. Hit was met at the airport and taken to the Maddison Tower Mill Hotel near the city. This was Hit's 14th visit to Brisbane.

Fri 5 Oct – Shota Sawamoto arrived from Japan via Cairns and was met at the airport by Phil and Linda Cross and Emi and Mikiya Oikawa, and then transported to Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre (BWEC). The remainder of the visitors, Fumiko Oyama, Tadamasa Nakamura, Rumiko Ureshino, Yuka Hatayama, Chihiro Kawai, Miko Takayama, Kazuki Arao, General Manager of YNOC, his wife Shoko and their 5-year old son Kazumi were picked up from the airport soon after and taken to BWEC. Here the last of the inbound group were reunited with the earlier arrivals. After lunch, knowledge sharing presentations were made in English/Japanese. A bushcare session on useful plants was next on the agenda before visitors were taken to the Maddison Hotel Tower Mill where they would spend the next 4 nights.

Sat 6 Oct – An early 5 am pick up for Mikiya Oikawa, Fumiko Oyama, Shota Sawamoto, and Yuka Hatayama by Qld Wader Study Group (QWSG) Chairperson, David Edwards to go mist-netting. At a more reasonable time of 8 am, those remaining were driven to Nudgee Beach for a guided walk by Russel and Chris with David Fitzgibbon translating. Next was a bird identification session at Nudgee Beach with BWEC and QWSG. Everyone went to Nudgee Beach Environment Education Centre (NBEEC) to take part in papermaking using weeds like Mile-a-Minute that had been cleared from Boondall Wetlands.

After an enjoyable buffet lunch provided by NBEEC, the afternoon Forum – “Ramsar” commenced. Amelia Selles, Principal Project Officer in the Wetlands Team, Qld Gov; David Edwards and Kazuki Arao, General Manager of YNOC gave presentations that were translated.

After changing clothes for the official dinner at the Full Moon Hotel at Sandgate, a detour was made to the launch of *The Flock* Art at Nudgee Beach. This year, the 20th anniversary of the Brisbane-Narashino Wetland Affiliation Agreement was celebrated with two Brisbane-based artists Claire Tracey and Annique Goldenberg, creating a temporary artwork, *The Flock*. This sculpture made from recycled plastic bottles, represents a flock of birds in flight over the wetlands.



The flock at Rose Bay, Manly

Our visitors were given a mini version of one of the birds of *The Flock* to take back to Japan and another was given to Councillor David McLaughlin who launched *The Flock* art. The bottles formed into aerodynamic wing shapes, and moved in harmony with the wind and waves, as well as a gentle glow at night. Other sites for *The Flock* were at Sandgate and Manly for 2 weeks until 20 Oct.

About 25 guests attended the official dinner at the Full Moon Hotel at Sandgate. Guests had a chance to speak with friends and visitors as well as to exchange gifts. 'Transit Lounge' by Peta Boyce. The Print given to YNOC by QWSG (See page 17)

Sun 7 Oct – Around 7:45 am our visitors arrived at the Manly roost to see shorebirds. We had hoped to show all our Japanese visitors, especially Hit Akutsu, a Double-banded Plover (from New Zealand) in breeding plumage but it was not to be ☹. With a strong wind blowing, it must have been sheltering out of our sight. Ironically, the next day was fine and sunny, and of course the Double-banded Plover was there in all its glory!!! Some of our visitors were lucky to see a Grey-tailed Tattler which had been flagged in Miyagi prefecture Japan.

From Manly we went to the Port of Brisbane with time spent viewing the birds at the lake and at the artificial roost. Our visitors enjoyed the Anzac biscuits lovingly made by David Edwards's wife Marie, and fresh mango, strawberries and grapes provided by Linda and Sheryl.

Craig Wilson, Environment Manager and Michael Linde, Senior Environmental Adviser of Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd, kindly provided pizzas for lunch on the top floor café with 180° views of the Port, Moreton Bay and the wetlands. After lunch the visitors were taken to the Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens for a walk in the gardens. Fish and chips were on the menu for an early dinner at Downfall Ck Bush-land Centre, before a spotlight walk.

Mon 8 Oct – The visitors were picked up from their hotel and driven to NBEEC for a mudflat activity, before leaving late morning for Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary to see Australian icons such as koala, kangaroo, platypus, wombat, Tasmanian devil, as well as many birds including Emu. It was back to the hotel to change to meet the Lord Mayor at City Hall at 4 pm.

Natalie Costanzo, coordinator of the Environmental Centres invited our visitors, her colleagues and members of QWSG, NBEEC and DCBC to a "potluck" dinner at her place by the Brisbane River. Invitees were asked to bring a selection of food to share with our visitors. After which, they were taken back to their hotel for the last time.

Tues 9 Oct – The visitors and their luggage were picked up and driven to the airport. Hit and Shota were taken to the domestic terminal for their flight to Cairns. All the others were taken to the international airport for their return flight to Japan.

A special thanks to all the BCC Environmental Centre staff who worked as a well-oiled team with many tasks performed behind the activities to ensure the visit was a great success. Thanks also to all who helped in a variety of ways during the preceding months, the activities and the transporting of everyone. It was a pleasure to be involved in this very successful visit. Well done!

Pied Oystercatcher Breeding at Manly Harbour

by Arthur Keates

An article on the observations of leg flagged Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*) in issue 104 of Queensland Wader mentioned the attempted breeding of a pair at Manly Harbour roost. To recap, **AAE**, a male, was originally banded on 21 June 2008 and its mate, **AML**, was banded just over 9 years later. The pair attempted to breed at the 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 clear neither survived. Sadly, the pair was again unsuccessful in 2017 because the nest was flooded before incubation.

In May through to early August 2018, observations of the pair at the Manly roost and feeding along the Wynnum-Manly foreshore indicated there was a strong bond between them. As well as staying closely together, their behaviour at the roost was strongly territorial. A Pied Oystercatcher that landed on the island received an immediate and aggressive response: loud high-pitched calls and threatening behaviour described as piping and carpal flexure (Higgins and Davies 1993). I also observed the pair attacking conspecifics in flight near their territory. Interestingly however, the pair showed no aggression towards a Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*), tolerating its presence on at least 5 occasions in April-June when the 3 birds were observed roosting together on the island.

In early August, I began to suspect the pair were nesting and on 14 August I observed the male sitting on a nest while the female patrolled the water's edge nearby. On 19 August, the pair briefly left the nest unattended revealing 2 eggs, the usual size of a clutch for the species. Over the next 16 days, I observed the pair 8 times, each bird incubating the eggs. Once I observed the pair changing over incubating duties. During the observations, over a 2-hour period the incubating bird occasionally left the nest for no more than 3 minutes, remaining in close vicinity to the nest. The only other occasion I observed the incubating bird leave the nest was when both birds harassed a White-bellied Sea-eagle flying over the roost.



Male Pied Oystercatcher AAE on the nest and insets showing (L to R) eggs, 5 day old chicks, 16 day old chicks and 7 week old juvenile. Photos: A Keates

While the birds aggressively chased intruders, on 5 September, I too became subject to their aggression. Alerted to my presence, the birds each gave a sharp repeated “pic” call followed by “pic pic pic picoo”. As I approached closer, both birds took to the air from the island swooping down and flying directly at me giving the familiar loud and repeated “peepapeep”. After retreating, the male returned to the island where I noticed it crouched with its wings spread, indicating it was sheltering a chick or chicks. Three days later, this was confirmed when I saw the male sheltering 2 chicks in the showery weather. On the same day, 6 conspecifics landed on the other end of the island only to be quickly chased by the female in a piping and carpal flexure display.

On 14 visits to the site over the next 3 weeks, I observed the chicks only 4 times but from the alarm calls given by the parents I was sure the chicks had hidden in the vegetation in response to the parents’ calls. On 13 October, during the regular monthly count, both parents were observed with 2 near fully grown youngsters, taking on juvenile plumage. On 22 October, at 7 weeks old, the juveniles were seen feeding with firstly the male parent and then the female parent.

After the breeding failures of previous years, the birds have succeeded in rearing 2 offspring, a case of third time lucky.

Reference:

Higgins, P.J., & S.J.J.F. Davies. (Eds) 1993: *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds. Volume 3: Snipe to Pigeons*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Fraser Coast Flying to the Rescue of Migratory Shorebirds

Much is happening on the Fraser Coast at the moment in relation to migratory shorebirds. Back in January we contacted the Councillor with the Environment portfolio at Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC) to alert him to the disturbance by dogs and people at O'Regan Creek West at Toogoom, one of the shorebird roosts that is the most visited by the general public on the Fraser Coast due to its accessibility. We asked for better protection of that site with 1) more signage; 2) change of the dogs off-leash times; and 3) temporary beach closures.

First, not much seemed to happen but we kept at it with a total of 212 emails exchanged to date in Cecile's FCRC Shorebird Inbox! and things have started moving slowly but surely since April:

1. We organised a site visit at O'Regan Creek with Environment portfolio Councillor and Executive Manager Open Space & Environment at the end of March;
2. FCRC budgeted some money in April to undertake a review of dog off-leash times on beaches during the 2018-19 financial year and to change the Local Law accordingly;
3. We delivered a 45-minute presentation to FCRC Councillors and the Executive team at the beginning of July on *Shorebirds on the Fraser Coast and the issue of disturbance by dogs and people*;
4. We received a very encouraging email from the CEO informing us that he had asked his team to provide a report to Council on what actions should be taken to preserve migratory shorebirds;
5. We were consulted and we organised another site visit for the design and installation of a new sign at O'Regan Creek (see picture herein) about 50m before the roost which includes a QR code to the QWSG website;
6. On 26 September FCRC voted a motion to introduce a Local Law that would make it illegal for people to deliberately disturb migratory shorebirds on the Fraser Coast;
7. We organised another 2 site visits with our scopes at the beginning of October with Mayor, CEO, Councillors and members of the Executive team for them to see the shorebirds in reality and what the situation is on the beach; bird numbers were a bit low but we think that they got the idea when a fisherman walked through the roost and disturbed the birds just when we were there; others turned around with their dogs on leash just at the new sign (yay... success!);
8. The Council media team filmed during a site visit to create a short educational video on shorebirds on the Fraser Coast.

As you can see, the scope of our original request has gone beyond O'Regan Creek roost which is exactly what we wanted: showing O'Regan Creek as an example and the protection being applied to all migratory shorebird roosts accessible to the public. Hopefully, Gatakers Bay, the Gabbles at Point Vernon, Maaroom and Boonooroo roosts will be next with new signage. Information distributed at FCRC stalls at local events is also on the agenda, as are presentations in schools. If you would like to take part in shorebird activities on the Fraser Coast, please let us know, we are looking for volunteers to monitor sites before and after the installation of future signs.

This is not the result of our own work only! The recruitment of a new Environment Technical Officer at FCRC who is very dedicated and has an extensive knowledge of environmental laws certainly had a lot to do with it.



Cecile Espigole and Will Price with the Signage

Photo by Belinda Rafton

The Fraser Coast Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland has sent numerous letters to our Council about shorebirds over the years. The FCRC Environmental Advisory Group have had the topic of dog-off leash on beaches on their agenda for several months. We know that other QWSG counters have also contacted our Council on the issue of disturbance of shorebirds and members of the public had their letters published in the local media. The Birdwatchers of Hervey Bay group also log their sightings on the Council's website on a weekly basis. Even the Maryborough Printmakers group is involved and will have an exhibition on shorebirds in November at Gatakers ArtSpace as part of the *Overwintering Project - Mapping Sanctuary*.

Also acting behind the scene to fight against the Colton Coal Mine at Aldershot which effluent waters would be discharged in the Mary and Susan rivers and pollute the Great Sandy Strait and greatly affect our shorebirds and other marine life are: Lock the Gate Alliance, Greater Mary Association, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, Protect the Bush Alliance, Birdlife Southern Queensland, Birds Queensland, and Fraser Island Defenders Organisation.

It is hard work to write letters and to try to get officials interested in yet another topic that needs fixing but the satisfaction we are getting as the situation for migratory shorebirds is starting to improve is immense and well worth the effort.

By Will Price and Cecile Espigole

Global pattern of nest predation is disrupted by climate change in shorebirds

Vojtěch Kubelka, Miroslav Šálek, Pavel Tomkovich, Zsolt Végvári, Robert P. Freckleton, Tamás Székely

Science: 09 Nov 2018:Vol. 362, Issue 6415, pp. 680-683

No longer a safe haven

Many biological patterns have a latitudinal component. One long-recognized pattern is that predation rates are higher at lower latitudes. This may explain why many migratory birds travel thousands of miles from the tropics to the poles to breed. Looking across thousands of records, Kubelka *et al.* found that climate change seems to have altered this fundamental pattern. In shorebirds, at least, predation rates on nests are now higher in the Arctic than in the tropics.

Abstract

Ongoing climate change is thought to disrupt trophic relationships, with consequences for complex interspecific interactions, yet the effects of climate change on species interactions are poorly understood, and such effects have not been documented at a global scale. Using a single database of 38,191 nests from 237 populations, we found that shorebirds have experienced a worldwide increase in nest predation over the past 70 years. Historically, there existed a latitudinal gradient in nest predation, with the highest rates in the tropics; however, this pattern has been recently reversed in the Northern Hemisphere, most notably in the Arctic. This increased nest predation is consistent with climate-induced shifts in predator-prey relationships.

Count Programme - Linda Cross

Sadly, I must report the passing of another 2 counters. Ivan Fien, who passed away on 17 September, was the counter for Caboolture River Mouth until 2012. Ivan (sometimes with the help of his wife Joyce), counted the site for 16 years and contributed 155 counts to the database from November 1996 to December 2012. Marilyn Jacobs who passed away on 14 October, counted waders in the Tweed Heads area, before moving to Hervey Bay where she continued to count waders. In Hervey Bay, Marilyn assisted with counts (and conducted counts while other counters were away), at O'Regan's Creek sites at Dundowran from April 2009 through to May 2018. Marilyn also counted during the QWSG surveys conducted in the Great Sand Straits over several years. We extend our deepest sympathy to both families and friends of Ivan and Marilyn.

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 further south in Moreton Bay. List as per IOC taxonomic order.

Species	OYPO 12 Oct 18	NAPK Sep/Oct 18	THLD 17 Sep 18	KSMF 12 Oct 18	BSVP 15 Sep 18
Pied Stilt	57		42	42	71
Masked Lapwing		Nil	5		
Pacific Golden Plover		Waders		82	
Red-capped Plover				5	
Bar-tailed Godwit	127		95		19
Whimbrel				2	
Far Eastern Curlew			1	171	32
Common Greenshank				1	
Red Knot				7	
Red-necked Stint				47	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				15	

OYPO – Oyster Point, Cleveland
 NAPK – Nandeebie Park, Cleveland
 THLD – Thornlands Road, Thornlands
 KSMF – King Street, Thornlands
 BSVP – Base Street, Victoria Point (staging roost)

Counters– Robert Bush & Deirdre Chrzescijanski
 Counters – Robert Bush & Deirdre Chrzescijanski
 Counters – Robert Bush & Deirdre Chrzescijanski
 Counters – Robert Bush & Deirdre Chrzescijanski
 Counters – Gary & Vicki Cox

Double-banded Plover have now left our shores and returned across the Tasman to breed. While most of the species departed at the end of August, there were a couple of stragglers hanging around. At East Geoff Skinner Reserve the last 3 birds were recorded on 16.09.18 and 1 was recorded at the Port of Brisbane Claypan on the same date. At Manly Harbour 2 birds hung around until 02.09.18, but there was one stubborn little fella that refused to go, and it was still being recorded in October, with the last sighting on 13.10.18.

Although the southward migration for adult birds is probably already over, as I type, there are still some juveniles to arrive. The table below details the number of juvenile Bar-tailed Godwits in flocks at some sites.

Site	Date	Number of Bar-tailed Godwits	Juveniles in flock	%
Toorbul Sandfly Bay	03.10.18	c300	0	0
Manly Harbour	04.10.18	880	0	0
Port of Brisbane complex	11.10.18	320	2	0.006
Port of Brisbane complex	12.10.18	330	2	0.006
Caboolture River Mouth	12.10.18	231	1	0.004
Manly Harbour	13.10.18	891	1	0.001
Manly Harbour	17.10.18	700	4	0.005
Manly Harbour	25.10.18	1170	>8	0.007
Sandbank off Amity Point	26.10.18	1640	<20	0.012
Buckley's Hole sandbar Bribie Is	28.10.18	130	1	0.007
Port of Brisbane complex	01.11.18	235	2	0.008
Port of Brisbane complex	02.11.18	247	3	0.012

The only other juvenile records extracted from counts include a solitary juvenile Grey-tailed Tattler at the Port of Brisbane complex on 12.10.18, >10 juvenile in a flock of 268 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Manly Harbour on 25.10.18 and 1 juvenile Pacific Golden Plover with an adult at the Port of Brisbane complex on 02.11.18.

Extracts from counts for August to October, include the following rarer species:

- 2 Painted Snipe at Garnet's Lagoon No. 2 at Hervey Bay on 18.09.18
- 1 Asian Dowitcher at the Port of Brisbane complex on 12.10.18 and again on 01 and 02.11.18.
- 1 Asian Dowitcher at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 02.11.18.
- 1 Sanderling at Redcliffe Airport Northside on 14.09.18.
- 1 Wood Sandpiper at Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 in Hervey Bay on 13.10.18.
- 1 Common Sandpiper at Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 in Hervey Bay on 18.09.18.
- 1 Common Sandpiper at Queensland Aluminium Limited Ashpond, Gladstone on 12.10.18.



Australian Painted Snipe

Photo by John Knight at Garnet's Lagoon
No. 2 in Hervey Bay on 18.09.18

Far Eastern Curlew were the first to arrive back on our shores and recorded at 51 sites from Tweed Heads to Cairns from 10 August onwards. The highest count of 488 birds came from Lytton No.1 claypan on 15.09.18. West Geoff Skinner Reserve recorded 240 on 16.09.18, followed by 235 at Cooloola on 16.09.18. At Toorbul 198 Toorbul were recorded on 26.09.18, closely followed by 197 at Reeder's Point Moreton Island on 26.10.18 and 195 were reported at Boonooroo on 14.09.18.

Another early migratory species to arrive back is Latham's Snipe, which was recorded at 3 sites. Garnet's Lagoon No.1 in Hervey Bay recorded a total of 8 birds on 11.08.18, and Nathan Road Wetlands at Kippa-ring recorded 7 on 11.08.18. The only other site recording the bird was Kedron Brook Wetlands with 2 counted on 19.09.18.

Increased Whimbrel numbers were recorded at 50 sites from Tweed Heads to Cairns from the later part of August, but not in very large numbers. The highest count of 175 birds came from Goat Island during the Moreton Island surveys on 26.10.18, and a slightly lower figure of 169 at Toorbul on 10.09.18.

Increasing numbers of adult Bar-tailed Godwit were being seen from mid to late August and were recorded at 52 sites from Tweed Heads to Cairns. Reeder's Point on Moreton Island recorded the highest count of 2,690 birds on 26.10.18, followed by 2,438 at Cooloola on 16.09.18 and in excess of 2,000 birds were reported at Maaroom on 13.10.18. Other large counts came from Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island, with 1,820 birds on 28.10.18 followed by 1,771 at West Geoff Skinner Reserve on 14.10.18.

The less common Black-tailed Godwit started to arrive back mid to late August and were reported at 9 sites. The largest concentration of this species is in the Pine River area, where 321 birds roosted at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 13.10.18. All other sites recorded the species in single digits.

Only 2 sites had records for Grey Plover. At site number 1 in Boonooroo, 26 birds were reported on 11.10.18 and at the Port of Brisbane complex 13 were recorded on 16.09.18.

From the middle of September Curlew Sandpiper were being recorded at 12 sites from Moreton Bay to Cairns, but in small numbers. The exception is the Port of Brisbane complex, which appears to be the favoured site for this species and recorded in quite high numbers in the past. A total of 1,924 were counted within the complex on 16.09.18, which was quite a high number so early during the southward migration.

Given that the last scheduled count date was early October, extracts for quantities for some migratory wader species are quite low. Some reasonable quantities may have been available from the counts at the Port of Brisbane complex, however, the count for October was cancelled due to heavy rain. I have listed below some extracts from the count programme counts for other species.

110 Pacific Golden Plover – Shellgrit Creek Entrance, Mackay – 16.09.18
110 Pacific Golden Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 16.09.18
17 Common Greenshank – West Geoff Skinner Reserve – 14.10.18
13 Common Greenshank – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – 13.10.18
694 Great Knot – Maaroom – 15.09.18
750 Red Knot – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – 13.10.18
400 Red Knot – Maaroom – 26.09.18
15 Marsh Sandpiper – Garnet's Lagoon No.1 & No.2 combined, Hervey Bay – 13.10.18
10 Marsh Sandpiper – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – 13.10.18
18 Ruddy Turnstone – Manly Harbour – 16.08.18
268 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 25.10.18
230 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – 13.10.18
570 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – 25.10.18
74 Terek Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 25.10.18
85 Greater Sand Plover – O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay – 13.10.18
115 Less Sand Plover – Shellgrit Creek Entrance, Mackay – 24.10.18
1,268 Red-necked Stint – East and West Geoff Skinner Reserve combined – 14.10.18
1,222 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane complex – 16.09.18

See also "Interesting wader sightings", where I have recorded high counts for resident waders.

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.

The Count Programme dates have been selected and appear at the end of this newsletter. All counters will receive an email for those dates, and your relevant area tide chart. Please contact me if you do not receive them.

We would like to thank all counters for their continued commitment to the Count Programme and helping the QWSG database become the most extensive database on waders in Australia. The names of count sites and counters has been appearing in the newsletters for a while now, but some counters have people who have conducted their count while they were away, and other people have accompanied counters during the counts (some on a regular basis), and I think it is only fitting that we acknowledge these people for their help during the past year.

They include:

Mathew Angus, Richard Atkinson, Tony and Marge Baker, Mick Barker, Chris Barnes, Jane Barnes, Chris Bell, John Bloomfield, Linda Brannian, Allen Briggs, Christine Bull, Debbie Callum, Jan Capel, Judy Caughley, Rob Clemens, Chris Coates, Barry & Lesley Deacon, Coryn Dennett, Bar Dickson, Frank and Alice Ekin, Barry Ellis, Paul Fisk, Gill Forder, Julian Foster, Wendy Gaisford, Bill and Avis Gauld, Geoff Gettons, Diane Goodwillie, Jamie Hankinson, Hazel Hanrahan, Cheryl Hannant, Nikolas Haass, Eddie Hegerl, Christine Heiser, Faye Hill, Leonie Huijser, Kay Humphrey, Marilyn Jacobs, Steve Kerr, Russ Lamb, Frank Lawler, Helen Manning, Victoria Marr, Gillian Matthew, Paul Maxwell, Russ McDonald, Bill Moorhead, Andrew Moss, Jan Nargar, Katya Ovsyanikova, Gordana Pozvek, Ruby Rosenfield, Arlene Rutherford, Sally Sheldon, Ross Smith, Jason Stanyer, Diane Tarte, Miriam Thornywork, Judy Turner, Anja Urban, Melissa Whitby, Kathy Wilk, Brad Woodworth and Ted Wnorowski

Sites where they have assisted include:

Cairns Esplanade, Shellgrit Creek Entrance Mackay, Kinka Beach sites Yeppoon, Queensland Aluminium Limited sites Gladstone, Bundaberg Port, O'Regan's Creek Westside Hervey Bay, Garnet's Lagoons Hervey Bay, Marrroom, Noosa River Sandbanks, Maroochy River sites, Wickham Point, Bribie Island sites, Deception Bay, Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve, Lytton sites, Kianawah Road Wetland, Manly Harbour, Base Street Victoria Point, Point Halloran Reserve, East and West Geoff Skinner Reserve, Acacia Street Wellington Point and Tweed Heads sites.

Unfortunately, as I type this last piece of my article, the QWSG website is down, and I cannot check online entries to confirm I have listed all helpers. My sincere apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list.

There are a few people who do not have (or help) at a count site, but when they visit a registered count site, they have conducted counts and sent them to me for entry into the database. These people are Sarah Beavis, Rob Kernot, Gillian Matthew, and Rae Clark.

Breeding records:

It has been very pleasing to see the number of breeding records for some species recorded on counts for the last few months. Pied Oystercatchers have done particularly well, with 6 records of chicks, and Red-capped Plovers have done exceptionally well at Manly Harbour and Queensland Aluminium Limited at Gladstone.

Beach Stone-curlew – nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 07.10.18, and still sitting on 02.11.18 (although may have newly hatched chick as very protective of site and chasing off other waders).

Pied Oystercatcher – 1 chick at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 12.08.18 (reported as half grown on 16.09.18), 2 chicks at Manly Harbour on 08.09.18 (report of 1 nearly full grown on 13.10.18), 2 chicks at Queensland Aluminium Limited Ashpond Gladstone on 13.09.18, 2 chicks at Maroochy River Goat Island on 17.09.18, 3 chicks at 1 km North Toorbul on 13.10.18, nest at Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island on 15.10.18 (nest went underwater on 28.10.18 during high tide), 2 chicks at Port of Brisbane complex on 16.10.18 (still on site on 02.11.18), and nest with 1 egg at Mirapool Beach Moreton Island on 26.10.18.



Photo by Dez Wells – 3 chicks at Toorbul on 13.10.18



Photo by Arthur Keates – 1 of the 2 chicks at the Port of Brisbane complex on 02.11.18

Pied Stilt – a bird possibly sitting on nest at Port of Brisbane complex on 02.11.18.

Masked Lapwing – nest with 4 eggs at Maaroom on 11.08.18, 2 chicks at Manly Harbour on 08.09.18, bird sitting on nest at site No.2 Boonooroo on 14.09.18, nest with 2 eggs at Maaroom on 15.09.18, 1 chick at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 16.09.18, nest with 4 eggs at Maaroom on 26.09.18 and birds defending area of grass (suggesting maybe chicks), at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 28.10.18.

Red-capped Plover – pair with 2 runners at Manly Harbour on 25.08.18, 3 pair nesting at Manly Harbour on 02.09.18, 2 pairs with 1 runner each at Manly Harbour on 08.09.18, 2 chicks at Manly Harbour on 15.09.18, pair nesting at Manly Harbour on 04.10.18, pair with 1 runner at Manly Harbour on 25.10.18, at least 8 juvenile at Queensland Aluminium Limited Ashpond Gladstone on 12.10.18 and 2 pairs each with 1 runner at Mirapool Beach Moreton Island on 26.10.18.

Interesting wader sightings

5 Sooty Oystercatcher – Wickham Point – 12.08.18
 34 Comb-crested Jacana – Garnet's Lagoon No.1 and No.2 combined, Hervey Bay – 11.08.18
 4 Beach Stone-curlew – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 02.11.18 & 12.08.18.
 3 Beach Stone-curlew – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 26.10.18. Other records of 1 bird reported from Cairns Esplanade, O'Regan's Creek Westside Hervey Bay, Noosa River Sandbanks and Mirapool Lagoon Moreton Island during August and October.
 255 Red-capped Plover – Shellgrit Creek Entrance, Mackay – 24.10.18
 892 Pied Stilt – Maaroom – 15.09.18
 583 Pied Stilt – Luggage Point – 12.08.18
 381 Red-necked Avocet – Port of Brisbane complex – 16.09.18
 246 Red-necked Avocet – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 12.08.18
 237 Red-necked Avocet – Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet – 14.10.18
 240 Red-kneed Dotterel – Lytton No.1 claypan – 11.08.18
 78 Red-kneed Dotterel – Redcliffe Airport Northside – 11.08.18

Not waders but of interest anyway

1 Australian Spotted Crake – Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay – 13.10.18
 1 Australasian Bittern – Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay – 11.08.18
 6 Baillon's Crake – Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay – 13.10.18
 1 Spotless Crake at each of the following sites – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 Hervey Bay, Buckley's Hole Bribie Island and the Port of Brisbane complex during August and September.
 2 Black-necked Stork (adult & juvenile) – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 30.09.18 & 07.10.18
 2 Brolga (1 sitting on nest) – Garnet's Lagoon No.2, Hervey Bay – 13.10.18
 1 Square-tailed Kite (1st for site) – Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet – 15.09.18
 9 Raja Shelduck – Kinka Beach, Yeppoon – 13.10.18
 315 Magpie Goose (came in to roost at dusk) – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 19.09.18
 1 Eastern Grass Owl – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 24.10.18
 1 Hoary-headed Grebe – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 12.08.18
 46 Glossy Ibis – Nathan Road Wetlands, Kippa-ring – 14.09.18
 16 White-necked Heron – Garnet's Lagoon No.2, Hervey Bay – 11.08.18
 4 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay – 13.10.18
 3 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Bundaberg Port – 12.08.18
 349 Silver Gull – Cairns Esplanade – 13.10.18
 3 Gull-billed Tern (affinis) – Toorbul – 11.08.18
 22 White-winged Black Tern – Garnet's Lagoons No.1 and No.2 combined, Hervey Bay – 18.09.18
 96 Whiskered Tern – Port of Brisbane complex – 02.11.18. Other records for this species (<28), at Bundaberg Port, Ewan Maddock Dam, Garnet's Lagoons Hervey Bay, Kedron Brook Wetlands, Manly Harbour, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet and Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve.
 180 Little Tern – Manly Harbour – 25.10.18
 898 Crested Tern – Noosa River Sandbanks – 16.08.18
 28 Lesser-crested Tern – Manly Harbour – 16.08.18.
 16 Lesser-crested Tern – O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay – 11.08.18
 1,271 Pied Cormorant – Sandbank off Amity Point – 26.10.18
 550 Little Black Cormorant (in flight) – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – 11.08.18
 3 Great Cormorant – Noosa River Sandbanks – 18.07.18
 2 Cotton Pygmy Goose – Ewan Maddock Dam – 12.08.18
 2 Great-crested Grebe – Ewan Maddock Dam – 23.09.18
 2 White-bellied Sea-Eagle (1 on a nest) – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 09.09.18
 461 Chestnut Teal – Port of Brisbane complex – 16.09.18
 326 Grey Teal – Bundaberg Port – 12.08.18
 210 Hardhead – Port of Brisbane complex – 16.09.18

All counters please note the times of counts for the next year.

Normally we have a rest month (either June or July) depending on the tides, but this year there are suitable tides for both months. June will be the National Winter Count. Obviously, the Winter Count is more important, but if you can do a count in July as well, that would be very much appreciated. However, the July count is optional. I will be sending a reminder email to all counters.

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

Snail mail: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Qld 4510 Phone: 07 xxxx xxxx

A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. Please also note that flag sightings emailed to Phil should be sent to his new email address Please contact Phil or myself for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

We would like to wish all counters, helpers and their families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Errata Queensland Wader Issue 104**Great Sandy Strait Survey 19 – 22 January 2018**

We would like to apologise for the omission of Alice Ekin as one of the survey participants at the Great Sand Strait survey.

Happy counting.

Linda Cross.

WADER WATCH - Phil Cross

Can everyone please remember to use the 'Leg Flag Observation Report' form? Please email leg flag sightings to Phil on his email address. phillipcross50@gmail.com

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

GREEN leg flag sightings seen in QLD

A quantity of 3 plain flags together with 6 misread, 6 unread and 485 engraved green flag sightings have been added to the database since the last newsletter. A total of 14 different species recorded and the number of observations were as follows. Bar-tailed Godwit 211, Curlew Sandpiper 26, Eastern Curlew 3, Great Knot 10, Greater Sand Plover 10, Grey-tailed Tattler 135, Lesser Sand Plover 21, Pacific Golden Plover 10, Pied Oystercatcher 18, Pied Stilt 5, Red-necked Stint 21, Ruddy Turnstone 9, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 10 and Whimbrel 11.

The observers were Chris Barnes, Arthur Carew, Rae Clark, Tony Cotter, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Penn Lloyd, Andrew Lowe, Wayne Matthews, Deb Merton, Zachary Robba, Peter Rothlisberg, Michael Strong, Dez Wells and Brad Woodworth.

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, AAK, AAM, ADX, ADY, AHT, AJJ, AKA, AKV, ALU, AMH, AMK, AND, APP, ASC, ATB, AUN, AUT, AUZ, AVA, AVB, AVC, AXA, AYN, AZB, BAW, BAX, BBD, BBM, BBP, BCS, BCT, BDH, BDJ, BDS, BDW, BDX, BDY, BDZ, BHB, BHH, BHS, BJA, BKK, BKL, BKP, BKU, BKV, BKW, BLA, BPD, BPS, BPZ, BRL, BRP, BTA, BTD, BTF, BTV, BTZ, BUS, BVC, BZA, BZD, BZK, BZL, CAF, CAK, CAY, CBA, CBS, CBT, CBZ, CCD, CCJ, CCN, CCV, CCY, CJA, CJB, CJC, CJN, CS, CU, CX, DAA, DBB, DBF, DBJ, DCV, DCX, DCY, DDA, DDB, DDD, DL, EL, FZ, HL, HR, JA, JB, JE, JH, JJ, KM, PA, PD, PE, PP, PR, RL, RM & quantity 9 unread.

Curlew Sandpiper – AAM, ABV, ABZ, ACT, AHM, AJK, AJL, ANJ, ANU, APD, ATB, ATC, AUB, AVF, AXA, AYB, AYP, AYS, AZV, BAC & BDZ.

Eastern Curlew – AHA, AR & quantity 1 unread ELF.

Great Knot – AAP, AJH, BCK, BET, BRD & BRU.

Greater Sand Plover – CAC, CAF, CCB, CCC, CVB & CVJ.

Grey-Tailed Tattler – AAC, AAK, ABD, ACD, ACE, ACH, ACK, ACX, ACY, ADZ, AKC, AKJ, AKR, AKV, AMA, AMB, ANN, ANT, APY, AR, ARD, ARH, ARJ, ARL, ARW, ARY, ASE, ASL, AST, ASU, ASZ, ATA, ATC, ATD, ATE, ATL, AUA, AUK, AUN, AUS, AUT, AUY, AUZ, AVC, AVN, AWU, AWV, AWW, AWZ, AXE, AYA, AZP, BAD, BAJ, BAL, BAM, BDJ, BDN, BHE, BPY, BPZ, BSN, BSP, BSS, BST, BT, BXD, BXH, BXJ, BXL, BXP, BXS, DAD, EN, HK, JU, JX, JZ, KM, KV, LN & quantity 1 unread ELF.

Lesser Sand Plover – AER, ALR, AMA, AMC, AME, AVP, AVT, AXU, AXV, AXY, AXZ, AYZ, AZD, BUD, BUH, BUL & CVD.

Pacific Golden Plover – BHK, BHN, BSB, BSC & BSJ.

Pied Oystercatcher – AAE, AAK, AML, A6, and EX.

Pied Stilt – ABC, BEH, BEP, BEZ.

Red-necked Stint – 2P, 3B, 4H, 5L, 7D, 7L, 7P, 8H, 8L, D4, M3, N3, VS, X5, Z2, Z6, ZZ & 1 unread ELF.

Ruddy Turnstone – ABY, ACZ, ATK, ATN, ATT, AUH & CSA.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – AAP, AKB, CCD, CTB, CTM & CVK.

Whimbrel – ABT, BXX, BYH, BYP, DAH, DAM, DAV, DBP, DCJ & FV.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen INTERSTATE

None

GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS

Bar-tailed Godwit

AEW on flag – 8.10.2017 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 AHH on flag – 28.1.2016 – Omaha N Z – J. Kotlarz
 AHY on flag – 19.2.2015 – Ohiwa Harbour N Z - Tim Bernard
 AJN on flag – 29.11.2015 – Miranda North Island N Z - Tony Habraken
 AJN on flag – 28.12.2015 – Miranda North Island N Z - Tony Habraken
 AKE on flag – 7.11.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Tony Habraken
 AKE on flag – 27.1.2018 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Tony Habraken
 ALB on flag – 1.6.2015 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 ALB on flag – 31.10.2015 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 ALB on flag – 19.11.2017 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Andries Berghuis
 AMJ on flag – 28.11.2015 – Waller Island – Tony Habraken
 AVY on flag – 27.12.2014 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 AVY on flag – 19.3.2017 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 AVY on flag – 19.11.2017 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Andries Berghuis
 DM on flag – 14.1.2018 - Clifton Beach Whitford Auckland – Tony Habraken
 EP on flag – 13.10.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Ian Southey
 EP on flag – 7 & 8.11.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Tony Habraken
 EP on flag – 26.11.2017 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Tony Habraken
 EP on flag – 27.1.2018 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Tony Habraken
 FX on flag – 28.9.2015 - Clifton Beach Whitford Auckland – Tony Habraken
 FX on flag – 6 & 8.2.2017 - Clifton Beach Whitford Auckland – Tony Habraken
 FX on flag – 17.10.2017 - Clifton Beach Whitford Auckland – Tony Habraken
 FX on flag – 28.2.2018 - Clifton Beach Whitford Auckland – Tony Habraken
 JC on flag – 13.9.2015 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 JC on flag – 27.9.2015 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 7 & 28.9.2014 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 1.1.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 4.1.2015 – Miranda North Island N Z - Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 27.2.2015 – Mangere Manukau Harbour – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 29.11.2015 – Miranda North Island N Z - Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 19.12.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 16.1.2016 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 3.10.2016 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 18.12.2016 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 8.2.2017 – Clifton Beach Whitford Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 4.3.2017 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

Red Knot

ABE on flag – 19.12.2015 – Big Sand Island Kaipara Auckland – Tony Habraken
 ABJ on flag – 26.12.2014 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 ABJ on flag – 13.3.2016 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 ABJ on flag – 5.11.2017 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 ANB on flag – 30.9.2018 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 28.11.2015 – Waller Island NZ – Tony Habraken
 Engraved flag unread – 13.3.2016 – Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland – Tony Habraken

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

Plain flag – 13.10.2018 – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells
 CNP on flag – 13.10.2018 – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells
 CUV on flag – 13.10.2018 – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells
 CHH on flag – 22.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 28.10.2018 – Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong

Curlew Sandpiper

HBU on flag – 16 & 22.9.2018 – Bundaberg Port Swamp – Chris Barnes

Great Knot

BXW on flag – 17.10.2018 – Brisbane Airport Claypan – Penn Lloyd
 Plain flag – 30.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 1.11.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 6.11.2018 – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Sue Lee

Red Knot

45 on flag – 11.10.2018 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates
 45 on flag – 16.10.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 45 on flag – 27.10.2018 – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 45 on flag – 28.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 13, 15, 16 & 19.10.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 13.10.2018 – O'Reagans Creek Harvey Bay – Marilyn Sweetnam
 Plain flag – 30.10.2018 – 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 – 20.10.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 J62 on white flag – 28 & 30.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flags – 1.11.2018 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

Red Knot

Plain flags – 30.11 & 1.12.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Wayne Matthews
 Plain flags – 4.10.2018 – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Tony Cotter

Yellow over White (Sakhalin Island Russia) leg flag sightings**Red Knot**

Plain flags – 15.10.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

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

Yellow band over White flag over yellow band left tarsus, blue over blue band right tarsus (5YYBB) – 9.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 BMC on flag – 12.10.2018 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates & Rae Clark
 ZYW on flag – 13.10.2018 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
 Yellow over yellow band left tarsus, yellow band over White flag over yellow band right tarsus, geolocator right tibia (6YYYY) – 20.10.2018 – GJ Walter Park Cleveland – Arthur Keates

Red Knot

White flag right tibia, yellow over blue band left tarsus, yellow over white band right tarsus (2YBYW) – 16 & 17.9.2018 - Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 White flag right tibia, yellow over yellow band left tarsus, yellow over red band right tarsus (2YYYYR) – 16.9.2018 - Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 AVH on flag – 9.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 AVH on flag – 10.10.2018 – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Arthur Keates
 AVH on flag – 13 & 16.10.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Red over yellow band left tarsus, White flag over red band over yellow band right tarsus (4RYRY) - 13 & 15.10.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 CHE on flag on left tibia – 15.10.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 CHE on flag on left tibia – 28.10.2018 – Queens Esplanade Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 CHE on flag on left tibia – 30.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings**Grey-tailed Tattler**

Plain flag – 27.10.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 30.10 & 1.11.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

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

C2 on blue flag – 1.11.2018 – Port of Brisbane - Arthur Keates & Sue Lee

Grey-tailed Tattler

667 on blue flag – 9, 22 & 30.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

315 on blue flag – 17 & 30.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

568 on blue flag – 17 & 30.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

568 on blue flag – 1.11.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Engraved flag unread – 13.10.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Lesser Sand Plover

Engraved flag unread – 13.10.2018 – O'Reagans Creek Harvey Bay – Marilyn Sweetnam

Pied Oystercatcher Yellow leg flag (2 digit) sightings

The following sightings of yellow flagged oystercatchers are not birds flagged in North West Western Australia, as per the flagging protocol. They are another project being run from Victoria and New South Wales. Birds flagged in Victoria will have a yellow flag on the right tibia and inscribed with two digits. New South Wales birds will have the yellow flag on the left tibia and inscribed with two digits.

C3 on flag – 26.10.2018 – Reeders Point Moreton Island – Arthur Keates

Caspian Tern Orange flag (Victoria)

37 on flag – 11.8.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells

47 on flag – 11.8.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells

E6 on flag - 9.9.2018 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells

U8 on flag - 9.9.2018 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells

U0 on flag - 9.9.2018 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells

T3 on flag – 16.9.2018 – Toorbul Roost – Dez Wells

U0 on flag - 15.10.2018 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells

K9 on flag – 15.10.2018 – Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong

Wader ID Days 2018**Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island - UBD Map 52 J5**

High tide at 11.17 am with a height of 2.77m. Meeting time 09.30am onwards.

We are hoping that the king tide will help produce a variety of birds onto this roost as the large tide may push the waders off other roosts.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane and take the Bribie Island exit. Continue on this road to Bribie Island and follow the signs to Banksia Beach. When you arrive at the T-junction at Banksia Beach turn left and after a short distance turn right into the car park for the roost. A bird hide is positioned at both ends of the roost.

Bring morning tea (and lunch for those keen wader enthusiasts), and a chair. It is a good idea to have a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Most importantly bring your binoculars or telescopes. Hopefully we can provide the answers to all your questions.

Please contact Phil & Linda Cross 07 xxxx xxxx if you have any questions. Linda's mobile: 0xxx xxx xxx

Sunday 27th January 2019 Manly Harbour Wader Roost

2.15 m high tide at 14:23. Meeting time 14:00.

Sunday 24th February 2019 Manly Harbour Wader Roost

2.22 m high tide at 13:04. Meeting time 13:00.

Meeting Place: At the end of Davenport Dr 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 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.

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 07 xxxx xxxx or 0xxx xxx xxx.

Tuesday 12th March 2019 at Toorbul

High tide at 12.47pm (plus 30 minutes later for Toorbul 1:17pm), with a height of 1.96m. Meeting time 11.45am.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul exit. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue on this road to Toorbul. Turn right at the T-junction then first left and then right, which brings you onto the Esplanade. Follow this road to the end (approximately 2kms); we will be on the left.

Bring water, food and a chair. It is a good idea to have a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Most importantly bring your binoculars or telescopes. Hopefully we can provide the answers to all your questions.

Please contact any of the following people if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross 07 xxxx xxxx.

Linda's mobile: 0xxx xxx xxx

Wader ID Day Reports

Manly Shorebird Roost Report 29th September 2018

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

It is an understatement to say that the strong north-easterly wind made for less than ideal conditions for both observers and the birds. However, persistence paid off for the observers, most having reasonable views of 3 species of resident shorebird and 17 species of migratory shorebird.

Undoubtedly, the highlight and surprise finding of the outing was a lone Double-banded Plover, unmistakable in full breeding plumage. The unfavourable winds may have delayed its return to the New Zealand's south island. The sight of about 100 Far Eastern Curlew was special too as was watching 2 three-week old Pied Oystercatcher chicks with their protective parents. We hope this year the adults will successfully rear the chicks, having failed in the 2 previous years.

Birds of several species were showing remnant breeding plumage, notably Pacific Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Red Knot. A juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper feeding in the shallows showed observers what an attractive bird it is.

Although birds of several species fitted with a Queensland green engraved leg flag were observed only one was able to be read in the windy conditions. No overseas or interstate flagged birds were observed.

The following species were observed at the roost:

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

"Our Shared Heritage: Arctic breeding birds in the Yellow Sea" - a Cornell production

From: Roz Jessop <xxxxxxx@xxxx.com>

Date: 4 November 2018 at 5:48:21 pm AEST

new video "Our Shared Heritage: Arctic breeding birds in the Yellow Sea" - a Cornell production

Please find a new video entitled: "Our Shared Heritage: Arctic breeding birds in the Yellow Sea" that is posted on CAFF's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/8HLPgy3hvCk> Thanks goes to the Cornell's Lab of Ornithology and the many other funders and participants.

The video focuses on work by the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative's (AMBI) relative to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. As you may recall, AMBI is an initiative under the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, which is one of 6 working groups within the Arctic Council. AMBI focuses on conservation issues that affect key Arctic breeding species by galvanizing Observer countries (i.e., countries that want to participate in the Arctic Council but that do not have land mass in the Arctic) to take action to address these conservation issues outside of the Arctic.

Enjoy....

Richard Lancot, PhD, Shorebird Coordinator, Alaska Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99503



'Transit Lounge' by Peta Boyce. The Print given to YNOC by QWSG (See page 2)

Chairperson Note re AGM and New Committee Members

It is coming up to that time of year for the AGM, and leading up to this period the Committee is looking to find out who wishes to stay or leave. As ever we are hoping to get new blood on to the Committee.

It might seem to be a daunting prospect to join a group of people who have been working together for a long time. We all seem to know each other far too well and form a bit of a clique, but rest assured you will be made welcome and be led gently to understand the workings of the Committee. You are not expected to be thrown in at the deep end, but if you have a skill, we would be most grateful of any help or can learn on the job

We would really like to see some new faces with new ideas, talents and experiences.

If you are interested please contact one of the Committee to see what is involved in being part of the Committee. All are welcome.

In anticipation David Edwards, Chairperson QWSG

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:

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 George Clayton/Drevesen Park, The Esplanade Lota/Manly. (Opposite Bart's Place Café).

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

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee:

Position:

Name of Proposer:

Name of Secunder:

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

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

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 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 9:00 am
At the Manly NPRSR Office, 34 Trafalgar Street, Manly, 4179
- LECTURES:** 9:45 am to 2:15 pm, morning tea and buffet lunch included.
- FIELD TRIP:** Saturday 15 December 2018, 2:45 to 5:00 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:

Organisation (if applicable):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 www.waders.org.au

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

MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	David Edwards	chairperson@waders.org.au
<u>TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP</u>	Rachelle Harding	membership@waders.org.au
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	secretary@waders.org.au
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	gouldian@ozemail.com.au
<u>COMMITTEE</u>		
	Robert Bush	
	Paul Finn	
	Sandra Harding	
	Brad Woodworth	
	Jon Coleman	
	Andrew Geering	
	Sheryl Keates	

COUNT COORDINATOR: Linda Cross

LEG FLAG COORDINATOR Phil Cross

BQ PRESIDENT Rae Clark Email president@birdsqueensland.org.au

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
xxxxxxxxxxxxx,
xxxxxxxxxxxxx,
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,
xxxxxxxxxxxxx,
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
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 2018**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 xxxxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxx,
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.

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

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



Count Activities – 2018 - 19

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2018 - 19

Sat 8 th Dec	2.44m at 10:09		Sat 12th Jan	2.16m at 13:15	National Summer Count
Sat 9th Feb	2.26m at 12:07		Sat 9th Mar	2.28m at 11:08	
Sat 6th Apr	2.24m at 10:08		Sat 4th May	2.15m at 09:01	
Sat 1st Jun	2.04m at 07:44	National Winter Count	Sat 6th Jul	1.90m at 12:17	
Sat 3rd Aug	2.01m at 11:12		Sat 31st Aug	2.10m at 10:07	
Sat 28th Sep	2.16m at 09:02		Sat 19th Oct	2.15m at 12:50	
Sat 16th Nov	2.35m at 11:52		Sat 14th Dec	2.53m at 10:59	

Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2018 - 19

Sun 9 th Dec	2.41m at 10:45	Meet 08:55	Sun 13th Jan	2.06m at 13:57	Meet 12:10
			National Summer Count		
Sun 10th Feb	2.16m at 12:40	Meet 10:50	Sun 10th Mar	2.19m at 11:39	Meet 09:50
Sun 7th Apr	2.17m at 10:39	Meet 08:50	Sun 5th May	2.11m at 09:37	Meet 07:50
Sun 2nd Jun	2.02m at 08:27	Meet 07:10 Nat Winter Count	Sun 7th Jul	1.89m at 13:12	Meet 11:20
Sun 4th Aug	2.03m at 12:02	Meet 10:10	Sun 1st Sep	2.16m at 10:55	Meet 09:05
Sun 29th Sep	2.26m at 09:49	Meet 08:00	Sun 20th Oct	2.11m at 13:44	Meet 11:55
Sun 17th Nov	2.31m at 12:38	Meet 10:50 S	Sun 15th Dec	2.52m at 11:43	Meet 09:55

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