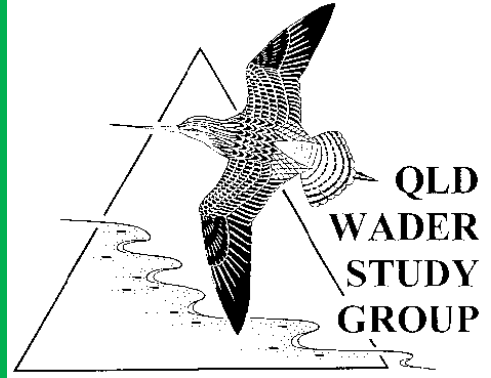


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue 110

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

Vale Dr Clive Dudley Thomas Minton 1934-2019

It is with great sadness that I advise you that Dr Clive Minton was killed in a car crash on 06/11/2019 at Dunkeld in Victoria, Australia. His wife Pat and a family friend were travelling with him and are in hospital in a serious but stable condition. Clive and Pat were returning from a short holiday on Kangaroo Island in South Australia – a place that they had not previously visited in their many travels and they had spent the previous day looking at waders on beaches in SE South Australia.

Clive trained as a metallurgist but is best known for his work with waders. In fact, Clive Minton has been described as a father figure in global wader studies.

His early wader studies were in England with the Wash Wader Ringing Group (founded in 1959). Early catches of waders used rocket nets, but soon the group developed the cannon net – their first catch being in 1967. Clive moved to Australia in 1978 where he introduced cannon netting to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and played key roles in the Victorian Wader Studies Group (formed 1978) and the Australasian Wader Studies Groups (formed 1981), as well as the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

In 1980-81 the Australian Wader Studies Group was formed as a special interest group of the then Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (now BirdLife Australia) and Clive was elected as the inaugural Chair. Clive continued in this role into the 1990s when he convinced the late Mark Barter to take on the role of Chair. Clive continued to be a key Committee member and contributed to the work of the AWSG Committee for 39 years!

Clive has been one of the great movers and shakers of shorebird research and colour flagging in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway and in other flyways over the last many decades. Clive was the key initiator of the North-west Australia Shorebird Expeditions. This field work dramatically increased knowledge of the importance of Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach as key non-breeding habitat of many species of migratory shorebirds. This work has continued annually or biannually for over 35 years and involved many people for Asia and Europe. It provided inspiration to young shorebird conservationists in Australasia and from across the EAA Flyway. It has led to the development of the largest morphometric and movement data set for migratory shorebirds in the EAA Flyway. This work also led to the establishment of Broome Bird Observatory and this continues to be a legacy to the passion Clive had for migratory shorebirds.

Clive's work was recognised by a number of awards, including the BirdLife Australia's John Hobbs Medal for outstanding contributions to ornithology as an amateur, and the Linnaean Society of New York's Eiesenmann Medal for ornithological excellence and encouragement of amateur efforts in ornithology. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for 'services to ornithology, particularly the study of migratory wading birds in Australia.

For those of you who knew Clive you may wish to send a message of condolence and support to Clive's email address – mintons@ozemail.com.au. As you can appreciate, the family is in shock and concentrating on Pat's well-being. Roger Minton, Clive's son, will acknowledge messages when he is able at a later date.

For those of us who knew Clive, his larger than life presence will be greatly missed as he was a most warm and wonderful human being. He will be sorely missed.

Alison Russell-French OAM, Acting Chair AWSG

Report on Visit to Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

On 25 February, 1998, the City of Brisbane and the City of Narashino, Chiba Prefecture, Japan signed a wetlands affiliation agreement relating to Boondall Wetlands in the Ramsar listed Moreton Bay and Yatsu Higata (often referred to as Yatsu Tidal Flat), a Ramsar listed site in Chiba Prefecture.

The agreement includes provision for regular exchange visits in alternate years between city officials and staff as well as volunteers from groups involved in the agreement. This year, we were fortunate to take part in the 4-day exchange visit to the Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre (**YNOC**) with QWSG chairperson, David Edwards accompanied by his wife Tinka. Representing Brisbane City Council (**BCC**) were Natalie Costanzo (accompanied by her daughter Lily), Lisa Hughes, Lisa Turner, Nina Lund, Nina Fitzgerald and Christine Buckius.

Yatsu Higata comprises about 40 ha of unreclaimed land, now about 1.5 km from Tokyo Bay. The tidal flat is connected to Tokyo Bay by the Yatsu and Takase Rivers and so low tide is the best time to scan the tidal flat for shorebirds. Being late September, most migratory shorebirds had passed through Japan with only a few seen during our visit: Common Greenshank (3), Grey-tailed Tattler (1), Common Sandpiper (2), Dunlin (1) and Lesser Sand Plover (c 20).

Each day we were picked up at our hotel by Narashino Council staff and taken to YNOC. On the first day we received a warm welcome by YNOC staff and volunteers. After light refreshments, Tatsuya Shibahara, YNOC's assistant manager, guided us through the centre. YNOC boasts unsurpassed facilities: a small shop selling bird and nature related items, spotting scopes and binoculars set up at the large observation windows overlooking the tidal flat together with field guides and other educational and interpretative material, including carved wooden birds the detail of which needs to be seen to be believed. All of this is complemented by staff and volunteers only too willing to help visitors learn about the birds using the tidal flat. Put simply, the centre is just wonderful or, as we learned to say in Japanese, *subarashi*.

Moving into the lecture room we had an introduction to the environmental education program run by YNOC as onlookers at the last session of the program for a class of about 50 enthusiastic and excited grade 6 students from the Mukoyama elementary school. Earlier in the day, we had seen the students at the water's edge observing and learning about the ecosystem.

After lunch in the Café Oasis at the centre, we were taken to Kasai Rinkai Park, a Ramsar site, to be met by volunteers for bird watching. We walked a short distance to the foreshore where we observed a lone Eurasian Curlew (an uncommon visitor), a juvenile Far Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper (2), Lesser Sand Plover (2), cormorants, egrets, herons and thousands of gulls.

We were taken back to our hotel where we had time for a shower and change of clothes before enjoying a buffet dinner at an elite restaurant at the hotel, compliments of Narashino Council.

On the morning of day 2, we returned to the lecture room for presentations by:

- an officer of the Environmental Policies Section of Narashino Council outlining the council's role in the management of the tidal flat
- Natalie Costanzo giving details of the new information centre under construction at Boondall Wetlands
- a student of the Chiba Institute of Technology (University of Narashino Area) describing studies on the impact of 2 invasive species of clams on the tidal flat
- David Edwards in relation to the conservation of shorebird habitat and population trends for selected species in Queensland, primarily in the Moreton Bay region
- myself giving a summary of the migration link for Grey-tailed Tattler between Queensland and Japan based on leg flag observations in Queensland
- a YNOC staff member presenting data showing the decline of shorebirds at the tidal flat.

For the last presentation, Masa Hasegawa, an exceptional and inspirational young girl of only 16 years, performed her role as translator with composure defying her years. We talked to this impressive conservationist several times over the following days leaving us with no doubt that she can achieve whatever she sets her sights on.

Narashino's Mayor, Taisuke Miyamoto and senior council staff arrived for the formal presentation of a letter to Brisbane's Lord Mayor relating to the wetlands affiliation agreement accepted by Natalie Costanzo, Coordinator - Environment Centres, BCC.

After introduction to the Mayor, we adjourned to the courtyard where David presented the Mayor with a gift from QWSG, a vintage print of Grey Plover. After the obligatory photos, it was time to partake of delicious barbecued sweet potato and sausage and other delights in the park in the YNOC grounds.



QWSG and BCC delegates at the entrance to YNOC with the Mayor of the City of Narashino. Photo: YNOC.

At mid-afternoon we grabbed the optics and cameras for a walk along a section of the walkway around the tidal flat. Even though it was low tide, only Black-winged Stilt and a single Grey-tailed Tattler were seen along with egrets, herons and cormorants.

Before leaving, a pleasant surprise was in store for us. A calligrapher, Yusuke Fukushima, had written the names of migratory shorebirds in Kanji script on high quality paper mounted on a backing sheet. We were asked to pick a sheet placed on the table. Having selected a sheet we turned it over to reveal the English common name of the species with a photo of the bird taken at the tidal flat. A wonderful gesture and an artistic memento for us to treasure.

The day ended with an extensive buffet dinner at a Chinese restaurant on floor 47 of our hotel hosted by YNOC staff and volunteers who were impressed by the relatively proficient use of chopsticks by their visitors.

On arrival at YNOC on day 3, we were shown a disused Great Reed Warbler nest attached to reeds found a week earlier. The task ahead of us was to search a patch of reed beds near the centre. For this we donned full length waders. Struggling to find a way through the high reeds we failed to find a nest. After hosing down our waders, we moved indoors to try our hand at painting carved bird brooches under the watchful eye of several volunteers more accomplished at the art than most of us proved to be.

For lunch we were treated to a traditional bento containing rice, fish, a variety of pickled and pre-cooked vegetables in a box with compartments. After lunch the BCC delegates took centre stage in the main hall of the centre with samples of Aussie bush tucker for visitors to taste. For the younger visitors, paints and brushes were provided for them to try their hand at painting boomerangs to replicate an indigenous creation. In the lecture room, a group discussion on the wetlands affiliation agreement followed with assessment of achievements and ideas on the future direction and ways to improve the sister wetlands relationship.

On returning to our hotel, we had the evening free.

The final day started with our participation in a clean-up event of a section of reeds on the tidal flat opposite the centre. Wearing rubber boots provided by YNOC, we were joined by a large contingent of YNOC staff and volunteers as well as members of the public.

After lunch at the Café Oasis, we joined in the afternoon session with Junior Rangers. We were divided into 4 groups for the afternoon's activities which included counting the species of birds seen from the centre. In Australia, we have crabs that use an empty seashell for protection; known here as hermit crabs. During one of the other activities, we learned that in Japan crabs doing this are aptly called hotel or rental crabs. At the end of the session, each of us was given a report card with our score. It is encouraging to see so many youngsters involved in the program run by YNOC.

As the day neared the end, we were taken to the hotel to clean up and return to the centre for a farewell party hosted by the YNOC staff and volunteers. We arrived at the centre to be greeted by our gracious hosts, each of whom provided traditional home cooked food amounting to a feast. As we sipped on sake, beer, juice or soft drink and sampled the delicious fare, we chatted with our hosts. The evening ended with a few short words from both sides and more exchanges of gifts, including the presentation by David of a vintage print of Pacific Golden Plover to Kazuki Arai, General Manager, YNOC. A very enjoyable evening on which to end the visit.



YNOC General Manager Kazuki Arai and Public Relations Manager Fumiko Oyama with QWSG's gift to YNOC.
Photo A Keates

We thank all those involved in planning and organising the exchange visit, particularly Lisa Hughes, BCC's Environment Centres Project Coordinator and YNOC's Public Relations Manager, Fumiko Oyama. For their hospitality, to the Narashino Council staff and all the friendly YNOC staff and volunteers (too many to name), arigatōgozaimashita (thank you very much). Our visit was truly memorable and, through the new and renewed friendships, has contributed to strengthening the sister wetlands relationship.

Links between Gulf rivers, coastal productivity & migratory shorebirds

Project update, September 2019
Michele Burford, Griffith University

This research on the Flinders, Gilbert and Mitchell Rivers in the Gulf of Carpentaria is supporting water planning, fisheries management and shorebird conservation through increasing our understanding of the links between river flows, estuaries and ecosystem assets such as migratory shorebirds, prawns and fishes. Our work to date has sampled prawns, water and sediment from multiple sites in the three rivers. Analysis has shown that prawns are ultimately pushed out into the prawn fishery when the river flows during the wet season. The productivity of estuarine mudflats has also been examined. This is because mudflats provide an important food source for prawns, shorebirds and other aquatic animals. The final year of work will involve field and laboratory work, as well as lots of data analysis. At the end of the projects we will have a greater understanding of these systems respond to flow and how water development may impact on environmental and economic assets

What's new?

The extensive flooding of the Flinders River in February 2019 gave us a great opportunity to sample the river during this one-in-50-year flood event. We chartered a helicopter so that we could sample the river's flood plume at the peak of flooding.

- We sampled all three rivers – Flinders, Gilbert and Mitchell – in March 2019 as freshwater flows were decreasing. We spent two weeks collecting samples to analyse for water quality and macrobenthos – animals like worms and crustaceans that shorebirds and prawns feed on.
- The macrobenthos collected from three sampling trips to the Flinders, Mitchell and Gilbert Rivers have been analysed. We found that the density of these animals in the Flinders River system is greater than other studied Australian systems. Flooding reduced the densities of macrobenthos, and therefore on the food availability for migratory shorebirds and banana prawns.
- The Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) conducted shorebird surveys at the same time as our sampling in the Gulf rivers. They found shorebird sites, e.g. the mouth of the Gilbert River, that had not previously been characterised.

- We have estimated the number of juvenile banana prawns in each estuary by combining data on the densities of prawns from our sampling in November 2016 and 2017 with our measured area of available prawn habitat. We found large variations in the number of juvenile prawns in each estuary from year-to-year, which is likely related to variation in river flows and how many prawn larvae immigrate into the estuary.
- We've developed a model that links historical data on annual prawn catches with flows down the three Gulf rivers in this study. This will help us understand how future changes to river flows are likely to affect the Gulf's prawn fishery.
- Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries collected water and barramundi otolith (ear bone) samples from the Flinders and Gilbert Rivers. This is being used to compare the chemistry of the water samples with the microchemistry of the otoliths to help us understand how barramundi use river habitats and how changes to river flows might affect this.
- We have mapped the extent of wetlands in the Gilbert River using remote sensing to determine the productivity hotspots in the landscape.
- We also travelled to Karumba in October to meet fishers and discuss the costs of barramundi harvesting. Our environmental economists are using this information to understand how changes in river flows might affect the profitability of the Gulf's barramundi fishery.
- Our collaborators from the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC) have been counting shorebirds in the Flinders River on multiple occasions, including March 2019. They found lower numbers of birds than previously, likely linked to poor food availability as a result of the floods in February 2019. These surveys will provide rigorous and valuable data on shorebird numbers to complement the QWSG surveys.
- In late August 2019, Hub researchers joined CLCAC to undertake a joint survey of shorebirds at high tide roost sites on the Flinders River.
- We've been presenting our progress to the project's stakeholders. In February 2019 we delivered presentations to the North Queensland Agricultural Projects State Agency Committee in Cairns and at the Hub's research forum in Canberra. In August we briefed the Hub's steering committee during their visit to Karumba and Normanton.

What's next?

- Our last sampling trip to collect data on shorebird food resources will be in December 2019. The significant rainfall in the rivers' catchments this year gives us an opportunity to track how macrobenthos respond to the changes in salinity and nutrients in the estuaries as floodwaters recede, and how this influences shorebird numbers.
- We are mapping the area of mudflat available to banana prawns in estuaries to complement our measurements of mangrove area.
- We're continuing to map hotspots of primary productivity on the floodplains. The method that has been developed for the Mitchell River as part of a project to assess the river's environmental water needs will be extended to the Flinders and Gilbert Rivers.
- As our data collection phase finishes, our focus will shift to sample analysis and data interpretation.
- We're developing conceptual models of how variation in river flows affects estuary productivity to assist in our communications with stakeholders. • We'll continue to meet with stakeholders and share our research findings.

Project summary

The river catchments of the Gulf of Carpentaria support many ecological assets of high value that are likely to be threatened by intensive water resource development and climate change. Of particular conservation concern are the migratory shorebirds that are present in vast numbers along the Gulf of Carpentaria's south-east coastline, especially from September to April. This project is aiming to quantify the importance of a range of river flows to flood-driven aquatic production from both an environmental and economic perspective. The research is: (1) examining the relative contribution of major southern Gulf of Carpentaria rivers to floodplain and coastal productivity and the key species that depend on that flow, and (2) predicting the consequences of changes in flow regimes on flood-driven subsidies in the Flinders, Gilbert and Mitchell Rivers so that we can better understand other potential risks associated with these changes. This will provide key information needed for prioritising rivers for development as part of future water planning.

Further information Contact project leader, Michele Burford at - m.burford@griffith.edu.au

The project page can be found on the Hub website, along with the project start-up factsheet
This research is due for completion in September 2020.

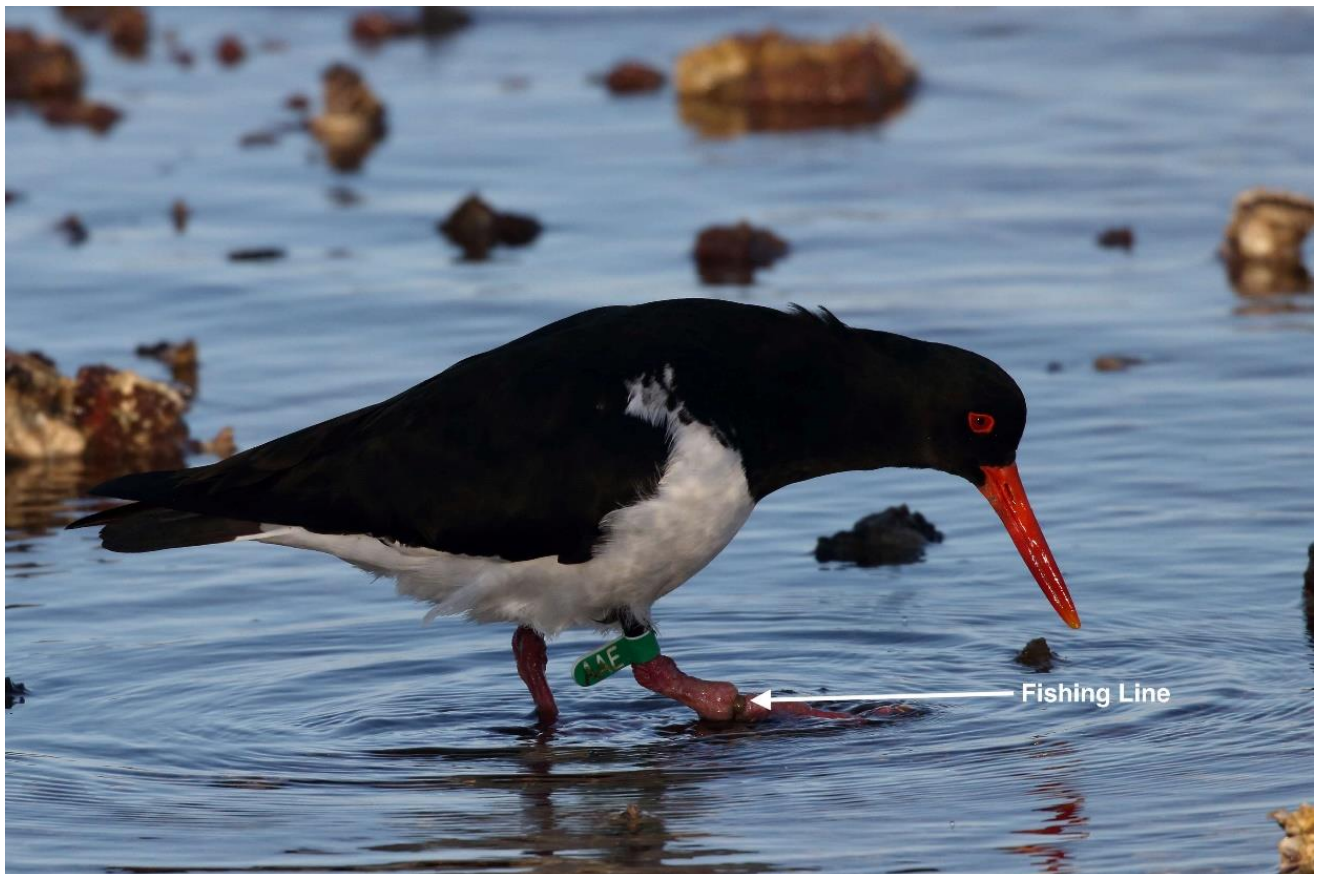
This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program.

Pied Oystercatcher Breeding - Good News and Bad News

by Arthur Keates

In issue 106 of Queensland Wader, I reported on the successful breeding of a pair of Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*) at Manly Boat Harbour. The pair had each been fitted with an engraved leg flag: the male, **AAE**, was originally banded on 21 June 2008 (aged 2+) and the female, **AML**, was banded on 25 June 2017 (aged 2+).

On 6 August, 2019, I observed the pair nesting at the Manly Boat Harbour roost. On 15 August, in an ominous sign, I noted the female was apparently destroying the nest. As it transpires, the male was observed that day with fishing line wrapped tightly around a leg, yet another victim of the scourge of discarded fishing gear.



Pied Oystercatcher AAE at Wynnum foreshore 15 August 2019. Photo: Gaynor Robson

Subsequently, the male was observed feeding along the foreshore at Wynnum but never with the female at the Manly roost. On 4 October, the female was observed nesting at the roost with another male, one that has no leg flag fitted. The next day, the former partner, **AAE**, was photographed at the Wynnum foreshore missing its foot and tarsus directly below the fishing line still attached to its leg. Just over a week later, a video of an injured Pied Oystercatcher feeding at the foreshore was taken. The bird filmed is almost certainly **AAE**.

On 19 October, during a count of the roost, the female was seen with a very young chick no more than a few days old. A week later, both parents were seen at the roost with the chick.

It is reported that Pied Oystercatchers are "Monogamous, mainly long term, possibly lifelong. Bond rarely broken unless one bird killed or injured; recorded re-pairing after partner killed" (Higgins and Davies 1993). Further, "Formation of bonds may be rapid; male whose partner was killed during incubation paired with female from non-breeding flock and laying occurred no more than 18 days after death of original female" (Higgins and Davies 1993).

In the circumstances, it seems reasonable to conclude the re-pairing of the female and subsequent breeding with another male is a result of the injury to the female's former partner.

Reference: Higgins, P.J., & S.J.J.F. Davies. (Eds) 1993: *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds. Volume 2: Raptors to Lapwings*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Subject: Snipe Survey results from Sept 21

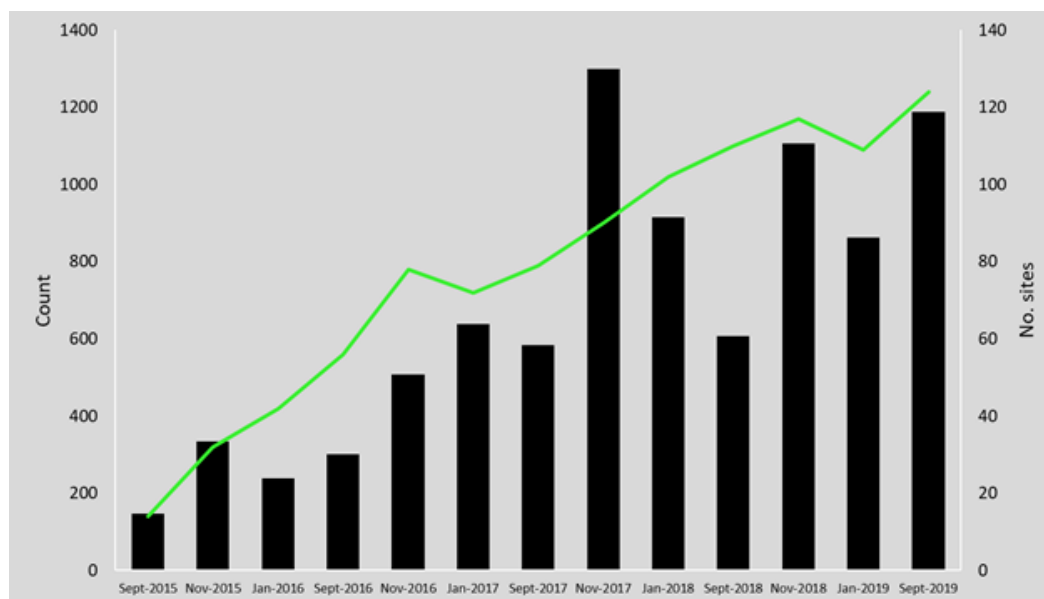
From: Birgita Hansen

Date: 24 October 2019 at 2:06:56 pm AEST

Firstly can I congratulate those of you who got out and surveyed for the September 21 count. We had some absolutely marvellous results. We were also very fortunate to have quite a few new sites added in various parts of the country. Thanks in particular to April for helping spread the word in QLD, but also to the folk in Princetown, Venus Bay, Alstonville, Penshurst, Creswick, Maryborough (QLD), and several new Melbourne counters.

We had the most unusual September survey of any year since monitoring began in 2014-2015. I put this down to the very dry conditions inland, especially in NSW, and the load of rain in southern areas, particularly SW Victoria and SE South Australia. I'm guessing that snipe have overflowed these dry regions and come south earlier than normal.

The total count of snipe was 1188, which is absolutely unprecedented for this time of the year. That biggest totals were from Fox Lakes in Robe (147), Evelyn Drive in Sale (115), BARC wetlands in Bairnsdale (50), Begola wetlands in Ocean Grove (65), Smithton, nth TAS (51), Peterborough (76), Powling Street (50), Venus Bay (87), and Silverleaves, Phillip Island (80). Quite a few extra birds were picked up as a result of the new sites, although the total number of sites didn't increase much from the previous year – see graph below (black bars total count, green line number of sites). There were also a handful of sites, particularly in SA, that I haven't heard any word about. So not sure if there were counted or not.



State totals

ACT 38, VIC 773, TAS 84, SA 147, NSW 118, QLD 28

So I'd just like to express my gratitude once again to everyone who helped out to achieve such a fantastic count. We may see numbers increase in November and drop off again in January. It will depend on what the weather does and therefore, where the snipe go.

Cheers, Dr Birgita Hansen, Research Fellow, Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation

Global heating: geese shift migration stop-off northwards

September 10, 2019

Barnacle geese are shifting their migratory patterns northward in response to global heating, new research has found, in a stark indication of how wildlife is being affected by the changes in climate.

In their spring journey from the UK to their breeding grounds on Svalbard, one population of the geese has been forsaking a traditional feeding stop in Norway's Helgeland, south of the Arctic circle, in favour of a stop further north in Vesterålen, far into the Arctic circle.



The effects of the change appear to have been mostly benign for the barnacle goose – although there is a new threat from polar bears. Photograph: Miguel Willis/National Geographic/Miguel Willis

The move has happened as spring has come earlier to the region. Over the period studied, from 1975 to 2017, the onset of grass growth in Vesterålen has come sooner by about half a day each year, making a big difference in the availability of food for the birds.

Significantly, younger birds have been quicker to make the switch. The study follows other research which has found bird species migrating earlier, land-based wildlife moving their habitats, and fish shifting polewards in response to climate change.

This is the first to show migratory animals learning new routes, with individuals changing from old migration routes that they learned earlier in life in favour of the new routes, which are then transmitted to others – for instance, by offspring following their parents.

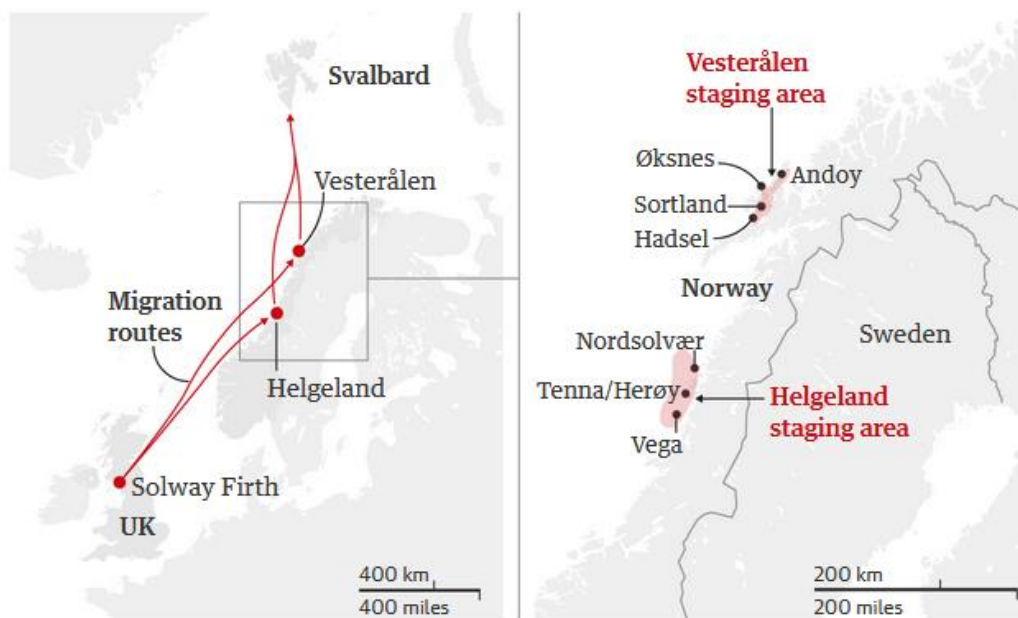
The study, published in *Global Change Biology*, analysed 45 years of observations by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, the University of St Andrews in Scotland, the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, BirdLife Norway and the British Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust.

In the case of these geese, the effects of the change appear to have been mostly benign, as the amount of digestible biomass available for them increased and the population studied roughly doubled in size in the past quarter century. However, the shift has opened them up to an unexpected new danger from climate change: predation from polar bears, which have started to rely on eating bird eggs now that the ice floes from which they used to hunt seals are disappearing.

"[The geese] have an amazing capacity to react to climate change, and actually adjusted very fast," said Thomas Oudman, of the school of biology at St Andrews, co-author of the study. "This was only possible because alternative feeding areas have become available, also because of climate change."

For many other species, this might not be the case, [so] climate change might threaten their existence. Other migratory animals, particularly less social ones, may be less capable of finding and colonising newly available areas."

Barnacle geese use staging areas in Norway during their spring migration to Svalbard



Guardian graphic. Source: Global Change Biology

Many other birds, for instance, have few or no viable alternative areas to visit, he noted, or may find it harder to transmit new routes to offspring.

"There are many bird [species] that appear to be in trouble," he told the Guardian. "That's why we are trying to find out how birds develop their migratory behaviour, and how changes come about. We have found a clue in geese, showing that they can change routes during their life, especially young geese."

But this change is probably speeded up by the fact that geese travel in groups. This points at the possibility that individually migrating birds are generally more vulnerable to climate change, especially those that rely on very specific feeding areas, such as many shorebirds that rely on intertidal areas."

This article was first published by The Guardian on 2 September 2019.

Shearwater Crisis

(Not directly related to Waders but it could so easily be.)

Short-tailed Shearwaters are among our most punctual birds. Each spring, their arrival back at their breeding grounds off the southern coast of Australia is usually as regular as clockwork, often arriving on the same date each year, but not this year. When they didn't turn up at the usual time, seabird watchers grew concerned. And when they finally did turn up, their numbers appeared to be well down on what was expected. Clearly, something has gone very wrong.

What happened?

These long-distance migrants arrive back in Australian waters after flying from their wintering grounds in the North Pacific, and it's in the North Pacific that their problems appear to have started.

Shearwater migration follows the seasonal blooms of oceanic productivity across the Pacific. They breed on islands in the Southern Ocean during our summer, when there is lots of 'seafood' available, and when the seasons change, they head north to spend our winter in the Bering Strait and Chukchi Sea off north-western Alaska, in the northernmost waters of the Pacific Ocean, when krill and other marine food is abundant there.

For the fifth consecutive year, the sea surface temperatures off Alaska have been unusually warm, which has led to a dire shortage of the shearwaters' marine prey, resulting in thousands of dead shearwaters being washed ashore along Alaska's beaches. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they died of starvation.

It wasn't a single event, though; instead it was a series of catastrophic die-offs. Starting in late June, these die-offs continued along different sections of the Alaskan coast, occurring progressively further south, through into August. Numerous shearwaters also washed up on Russia's Chukotka Peninsula as well. Although many thousands of birds were found dead and dying on the beach, this is likely the tip of the iceberg.

To undertake their long-distance migration, shearwaters must first find enough food to gain enough energy for their long-distance flight, as they don't feed while they're on migration.

And that's the problem. The birds were already starving when it was time to fly south. Of those birds that survived long enough to begin their southward migration, many are likely to have been too weak to cope with any adverse weather they encountered along the way. Many are likely to have died en route. No wonder the numbers of shearwaters arriving here were well down this year.

This episode is the latest in a series of such catastrophes that have afflicted Short-tailed Shearwaters in the last decade or so, when a series of similar wrecks were recorded in Australia; and in 2013, a starvation event off Alaska like the one this year was followed immediately by a similar one here, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of shearwaters.

The Short-tailed Shearwater is Australia's most common seabirds, but, after so many die-offs, for how long?

Count Programme - Linda Cross

On behalf of the QWSG I would like to take this opportunity to thank all counters and their helpers for continuing to monitor the waders during 2019, and thank everyone who reported leg flag sightings to Phil. I look forward to your association with QWSG in the New Year. Best wishes to you and your families for Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2020.

All counters should have received the count dates for 2020 and their relevant tide chart. If you have not received it, please let me know. The scheduled count dates appear at the end of this newsletter. I apologise for the number of afternoon counts, but this was done to avoid some of the king tides early in the mornings. Please note that the National Summer Count will be Saturday 18 January 2020. If you are unable to do the count, please contact me.

Arthur Keates recorded juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit at 2 sites in Moreton Bay and Jun Matsui recorded juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit at Cairns Esplanade, which appear in the table below. The proportion of juvenile to adults reported for 2019 are much higher than 2018 records.

Site	Date	Bar-tailed Godwit flock size	Juveniles in flock	% of juveniles
Manly Harbour	04.10.19	810	10	1.2
Manly Harbour	10.10.19	720	12	1.6
Port of Brisbane complex	15.10.19	67	7	10.4
Manly Harbour	19.10.19	38	11	29
Manly Harbour	22.10.19	555	60	11
Cairns Esplanade	26.10.19	46	18	39
Manly Harbour	26.10.19	885	47	5.3
Port of Brisbane complex	05.11.19	430	20	4.6

Other additional records for juvenile species were reported by Arthur Keates and Robert Bush, which appear in the table below.

Site	Date	Species	Number of birds	Juveniles in flock	% of juveniles
Manly Harbour	04.10.19	Grey-tailed Tattler	780	5	0.6
Port of Brisbane complex	15.10.19	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	11	1	9
St. Helena Island	30.10.19	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	144	15	10.4

From 3 August through to 18 October Double-banded Plover were recorded at 9 sites, but in low numbers. The last record in Moreton Bay was 2 birds at King Street Thornlands on 02.09.19, while O'Regan's Creek Westside in Hervey Bay recorded 7 birds on 01.09.19, with 4 birds still on site on 18.10.19. This is a late record for this species on our shores.

The first vagrant migratory wader has arrived on Queensland shores (Asian Dowitcher), recorded by Jun Matsui at Cairns Esplanade on 26.10.19

With the southward migration now complete there were several large counts for many species, but I have only detailed some of them below due to lack of space.

Far Eastern Curlew have been recorded at 23 sites during the last 3 months with hundreds counted at many sites. Some of the higher totals include 498 at Toorbul on 28.09.19 – 408 at Geoff Skinner Reserve West on 19.10.19 – 338 at the Port of Brisbane complex on 04.08.19 and 316 at Mirapool Beach on Moreton Island on 01.11.19.

Whimbrel records came from 8 sites with only 2 sites recording less than a hundred birds. High counts came from Toorbul with 283 on 28.09.19 – Goat Island in Moreton Bay with 244 on 01.11.19 and Lytton No. 1 claypan with 129 on 18.10.19.

Bar-tailed Godwit have been reported at 15 sites throughout August, September and October with most totals being in excess of a couple of hundred. Higher totals include 2,480 at sandbank off Amity Point on 01.11.19 – 2,200 at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 31.10.19 – 1,290 at Maaroom on 19.10.19 and 987 at Geoff Skinner Reserve West on 19.10.19.

In lesser numbers, and fewer sites, Black-tailed Godwit have been recorded at 12 sites (mainly in single digits), but there were 5 sites with 10 or more birds, which include 192 at Pine River Wetlands Reserve on 28.09.19 – 77 at Lytton on 22.10.19 – 19 at Manly Harbour on 19.10.19 – 17 at Maaroom on 19.10.19 and 10 at Deception Bay south on 18.10.19.

Only 2 sites recorded Latham's Snipe with Garnet's Lagoons No. 1 and No. 2 combined in Hervey Bay hosting 5 birds it total on 29.08.19 which increased to 16 birds on 28.09.19 before dropping to 7 birds on 19.10.19. Nathan Road, Redcliffe was the other site, which recorded 3 birds on 19.10.19.

Pacific Golden Plover have been reported from 18 count sites during the last 3 months, with the highest count of 494 coming from the Port of Brisbane complex on 20.10.19 followed by 135 at Shellgrit Creek Entrance, Mackay on 21.10.19. Most other counts were double digits while a few were in single digits.

In total, 16 sites recorded Common Greenshank during August, September and October. Most sites recorded totals in single digits, but 6 sites records were as follows. Geoff Skinner Reserve West recorded 29 on 19.10.19 – 15 at Shellgrit Creek Entrance, Mackay on 21.10.19 – 15 at Acacia Street, Wellington Point on 06.10.19 – 12 at Garnet's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay on 19.10.19 – 11 at Deception Bay South on 28.09.19 and 10 at site 3 in Boonooroo, Great Sandy Strait on 18.10.19.

Pied Stilt were probably the most recorded species appearing at 21 sites in the count programme during the last 3 months. Except for 1 site, numbers were in the hundreds with the highest count being 1,052 for Toorbul and Toorbul Sandfly Bay combined on 31.08.19 followed by 417 at Deception Bay South on 18.10.19, then 410 at Lytton on 10.10.19. Other sites recorded in excess of 300 birds each.

Red Knot were observed and recorded at 19 count sites on their southward migration to southern states and across the Tasman. However, there have not been any large counts for the species with 10 sites recording less than 20 birds and 5 sites recording less than 50 birds. The highest count came from Manly Harbour with 68 birds seen on 04.10.19 followed by 61 birds at O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay on 18.10.19, then 60 birds at Maaroom on 29.09.19, and lastly 54 birds at Pine River Wetlands Reserve on 28.09.19. It is quite possible that our count dates did not match up with the arrival of the species.

A total of 19 sites recorded Sharp-tailed Sandpiper during August, September and October. High counts were as follows: At the Port of Brisbane complex 722 birds on 20.10.19 – Cairns Esplanade 556 birds on 12.10.19 – Manly Harbour 512 birds on 10.10.19 and Lytton No. 1 Claypan 240 birds on 18.10.19.

Some more extracts from counts are listed below. Additional wader counts can be found in the "Interesting wader sightings" section which may not appear in the paper version of the newsletter due to lack of space.

54 Grey Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 29.09.19
49 Grey Plover – site no. 2 Boonooroo, Great Sandy Strait – 18.10.19
490 Red-necked Avocet – Port of Brisbane complex – 20.10.19

135 Red-necked Avocet – Trute's Bay, Tweed Heads – 03.11.19
51 Marsh Sandpiper – Maaroom – 19.10.19
23 Marsh Sandpiper – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 and No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 19.10.19
23 Marsh Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 10.10.19
920 Great Knot – Maaroom – 29.09.19
890 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – 10.10.19
187 Grey-tailed Tattler – Toorbul – 31.08.19
22 Ruddy Turnstone – Geoff Skinner Reserve East – 19.10.19
22 Ruddy Turnstone – Manly Harbour – 10.10.19
66 Terek Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 26.10.19
26 Terek Sandpiper – Acacia Street, Wellington Point – 06.10.19
20 Terek Sandpiper – Maaroom – 29.09.19
29 Red-kneed Dotterel – Garnett's Lagoon No. 1 and No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 19.10.19
4 Sanderling – sandbank off Amity Point – 01.11.19
1,663 Curlew Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane complex – 29.09.19
120 Greater Sand Plover – O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay – 18.10.19
565 Lesser Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane complex – 20.10.19
291 Lesser Sand Plover – Geoff Skinner Reserve East – 19.10.19
208 Red-capped Plover – Queensland Aluminium Limited (ashpond), Gladstone – 27.09.19
200+ Red-capped Plover – O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay – 28.09.19
11 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane complex – 18.10.19
4 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 22.10.19
1,389 Red-necked Stint – Port of Brisbane complex – 29.09.19
814 Red-necked Stint – Geoff Skinner Reserve East and West combined – 19.10.10
510 Red-necked Stint – Manly Harbour – 28.09.19
485 Red-necked Stint – Shellgrit Creek Entrance, Mackay – 21.10.19
391 Red-necked Stint – Cairns Esplanade – 12.10.19

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

Breeding records:

Beach Stone-curlew – nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 15.09.19 – pair exhibiting nesting behaviour along Pumicestone Passage on 13.09.19.

Pied Oystercatcher – 1 chick at Manly Harbour on 26.10.19 – pair copulating at the Artificial Roost at the Port of Brisbane complex on 16.10.19 – 1 chick at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 15.09.19 – nest with 2 eggs at Noosa River Sandbanks on 03.09.19.

Pied Stilt – 2 pairs nesting at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 03.11.19 – 2 chicks (about a day or 2 old), at Minnippi Wetland on 13.10.19 – 3 chicks and nest with 3 eggs at Minnippi Wetland on 06.10.19.

Masked Lapwing – nesting at Manly Harbour on 31.10.19 – nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 31.10.19 – 3 chicks at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 15.09.19, but down to 2 chicks on 29.09.19 – 3 young at Maaroom on 29.09.19 – 3 chicks Toorbul on 28.09.19 – nesting, plus 1 chick at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 22.09.19 – 2 chicks Acacia Street, Wellington Point on 03.08.19

Black-fronted Dotterel – 3 eggs at Queensland Aluminium Limited (entrance mudflats), Gladstone on 17.10.19.

Red-capped Plover – 1 chick (1 to 3 days old), at Reeder's Point, Moreton Island on 01.11.19 – 1 chick (1 to 3 days old), at Manly Harbour on 19.10.19 – 1 bird on a nest at Thornlands Road, Thornlands on 19.10.19 – 1 chick at Queensland Aluminium Limited (ashpond), Gladstone on 17.10.19 – 6 chicks at Queensland Aluminium Limited (ashpond), Gladstone on 01.08.19.

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 phillipcross50@gmail.com Please contact Phil or myself for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Happy counting. Linda Cross.

Interesting wader sightings

- 92 Pied Oystercatcher – Dunwich – 24.08.19
- 6 Sooty Oystercatcher – Wickham Point – 31.08.19
- 2 Sooty Oystercatcher – Tweed River Entrance, Tweed Heads – 03.11.19
- 1 Sooty Oystercatcher – Maroochy River Sand Bar – 0.10.19
- 6 Comb-crested Jacana – Garnet's Lagoon No. 2, Hervey Bay – 29.08.19
- 24 Black-fronted Dotterel – Queensland Aluminium Limited (ashpond), Gladstone – 01.08.19
- 9 Red-necked Avocet – Queensland Aluminium Limited (settling pond), Gladstone – 17.10.19
- 3 Beach Stone-curlew – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 01.11.19
- 2 Beach Stone-curlew – Noosa River Sandbar, Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island, Cairns Esplanade and Thangawan Creek near Boonooroo Great Sandy Strait – during August, September, October and early November 2019.
- 1 Beach Stone-curlew – Point Vernon Hervey Bay, Kinka Beach Yeppoon and Maroochy River Goat Island – during September and October 2019.

Not waders but of interest anyway

- 1 Brown Booby – Bundaberg Port – 03.08.19
- 2 Black Falcon (unusual close to the coast) – Kinka Wetlands, Yeppoon – 03.08.19
- 1 Black Kite – Geoff Skinner Reserve West – 28.09.19
- 1 White-bellied Sea-Eagle chick in nest – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 04.08.19
- 3 Cotton Pygmy Goose – Ewan Maddock Dam – 22.10.19
- 1 Great Crested Grebe – Ewan Maddock Dam – 22.10.19
- 1 Spotless Crake – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – 01.09.19
- 880 Pied Cormorant – sandbank off Amity Point – 01.11.19
- 17 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Garnet's Lagoon No.1 and No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 19.10.19
- 252 Royal Spoonbill – Port of Brisbane complex (lake) – 20.10.19
- 245 Royal Spoonbill – Comber's Paddock, Boonooroo, Great Sandy Strait – 18.10.19
- 8 Radjah Shelduck – Kinka Beach, Yeppoon – 28.09.19
- 6 Pink-eared Duck – Port of Brisbane complex (lake) – 29.09.19
- 2 Australasian Shoveler – Nathan Road, Redcliffe – 19.10.19
- 499 Grey Teal – Port of Brisbane complex – 20.10.19
- 480 Grey Teal – Garnett's Lagoon No. 1 and No. 2 combined, Hervey Bay – 19.10.19
- 236 Pacific Black Duck – Port of Brisbane complex (lake) – 29.09.19
- 5 White-necked Heron – Garnet's Lagoon No. 2, Hervey Bay – 28.08.19 and 28.09.19
- 109 White-faced Heron – Geoff Skinner Reserve East – 19.10.19
- 2 Pacific Reef Egret – Wickham Point – 31.08.19
- 1 Black-necked Stork (female- unusual at site) – O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay – 01.09.19
- 38 Glossy Ibis – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1 and No.2 combined, Hervey Bay – 19.10.19
- 1 Glossy Ibis – Dohle's Rocks Road Pond – 03.08.19
- 144 Australian White Ibis – Port of Brisbane complex – 04.08.19
- 111 Whiskered Tern – Port of Brisbane complex – 20.10.19
- 68 Lesser Crested Tern – sandbank off Amity Point – 02.08.19
- 430 Little Tern – Port of Brisbane complex – 20.10.19
- 310 Australian Tern (*Gelochelidon macrotarsa*) – Reeder's Point, Moreton Island – 02.08.19 (previously Gull-billed Tern).
- 1 Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica* subspecies *affinis*) – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 22.09.19, and 1 at Buckley's Hole sandbar – 29.09.19
- 2,084 Greater Crested Tern – Noosa River Sandbanks – 03.09.19
- 1 Common Tern – Toorbul – 28.09.19
- 1 Common Tern – Sandbank No. 1 Caloundra – 30.08.19
- 354 Silver Gull – Cairns Esplanade – 26.10.19

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. phillipcros50@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

During the last three months the migratory waders have returned to Queensland, so flag sightings have increased from a quantity of 270 green flag sightings in the previous quarter up to 972 being added to the database this period. This quantity includes 4 plain flags and 28 unread engraved flags. A total of 18 different species with a flag were recorded:

Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Greater Sand Plover, Grey-tailed Tattler, Lesser Sand Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Ruddy Turnstone, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper and Whimbrel.

Thank you to the observers who reported these sightings - John Bell, Robert Bush, Vicki Campbell, Rae Clark, Jon Coleman, Barbara Collyer, Tony Cotter, Phil Cross, Jill Denning, Cecile Espigole, Mat Gilfedder, Mary Hynes, Bob James, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Helen Leonard, Penn Lloyd, Gillie Matthew, Jun Matsui, Neale Maynard, Gordana Pozvek, Will Price, Peter Rothlisberg, Ross Smith, Michael Strong, Dez Wells, Melissa Whitby and Brad Woodworth.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen INTERSTATE**Bar-tailed Godwit**

BVF on flag – 10.10.2019 – North Creek Ballina NSW – John Lawson

GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS**Great Knot**

BRD on flag – 18.4.2019 – Hsia-Pu Lian County Taiwan – C. C. Liu

Curlew Sandpiper

ATB on flag – 4.5.2019 – Hsia-Pu Lian County Taiwan – Kuo-Ling Hsueh

Engraved flag unread – 14.8.2019 – Wanggong Changhua County Taiwan – Chung-Yu Chiang

Red-necked Stint

VT on flag – 11.5.2019 – Bei-men Tainan City Taiwan – S. C. Huang

XZ on flag – 29.8.2019 – Bei-men Tainan City Taiwan – S. C. Huang

2P on flag – 31.7.2019 – Han-Pao Changhua County Taiwan – Taiwan Wader Study Group

YELLOW (WA) leg flag sightings seen in Qld**Red Knot**

Plain yellow flag – 1.9.2019 – Thorneside Queens Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Great Knot

Plain yellow flag – 10.10.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Cecile Espigole, Will Price

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

CHH on flag – 22.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

CVH on flag – 28.9.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Cecile Espigole, Will Price, Marilyn Connell

CVR on flag – 4.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

CWS on flag – 10.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

CWT on flag – 4.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

HAD on flag – 7.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – John Lowry

HEE on flag – 12.10.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Cecile Espigole, Will Price, Arthur Keates, John Bell

HJM on flag – 28.9.2019 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

HJU on flag – 12.10.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Arthur Keates, Will Price, John Bell

HUL on flag – 27.9.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Cecile Espigole, Will Price

HUL on flag – 4.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

HUL on flag – 6.10.2019 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter, Brad Woodworth

HUL on flag – 10.10.2019 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates

HUL on flag – 13.10.2019 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter

HUM on flag – 6.10.2019 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard

HUT on flag – 4.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

HUT on flag – 5.10.2019 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter

HVC on flag – 28.9.2019 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

HVP on flag – 10 & 12.10.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Cecile Espigole, Will Price

HVY on flag – 10.10.2019 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates

MJM on flag – 28.9.2019 – Toorbul – Dez Wells

YP on flag – 28.9.19 – Thorneside Queens Esplanade – Tony Cotter

YP on flag – 29.9.19 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter

YP on flag – 4.10.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 YP on flag – 5.10.19 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Engraved flag unread – 6.10.19 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard
 Engraved flag unread – 13.10.19 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Engraved flag unread – 14.10.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Engraved flag unread – 16.10.19 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard
 Plain flag – 3.9.19 – Noosa River Mouth – Jill Denning
 Plain flag – 27.9.19 – Boonooroo Kougari Street - Cecile Espigole, Will Price
 Plain flag – 28.9.19 – Maaroom Great Sandy - Cecile Espigole, Will Price
 Plain flag 2 birds – 29.9.19 - Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong
 Plain flag – 6.10.19 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard
 Plain flag 2 birds – 13.10.19 - Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong

Curlew Sandpiper

Engraved flag unread – 20.10.19 – Port of Brisbane – David Edwards

Far Eastern Curlew

Plain flag – 19.10.19 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Peter Rothlisberg

Great Knot

Plain flag – 10.11.19 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Red Knot

Plain flag – 4 & 5.9.19 – Thorneside Queens Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 29.9.19 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 4.10.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Engraved flag unread – 12.10.19 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Arthur Keates

Whimbrel

Plain flag – 3.9.19 – Noosa River Mouth – Jill Denning

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

Plain flags – 14.10.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flags – 20.10.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates, Melissa Whitby
 Plain flags – 9.11.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Great Knot

J62 on white flag – 7.9.19 – Thorneside Queens Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 J62 on white flag – 12.9.19 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 J62 on white flag – 10.10.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J74 on white flag – 2.11.19 – Port of Brisbane – Jon Coleman
 L75 on white flag – 2.11.19 - Port of Brisbane – Jon Coleman
 Plain flags – 28.9.19 – Maaroom Great Sandy - Cecile Espigole, Will Price
 Plain flags – 28.9.19 – Thangawan Creek Great Sandy - Cecile Espigole, Will Price, Marilyn Connell
 Plain flags – 12.10.19 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Arthur Keates, Will Price, John Bell
 Plain flags – 27.10.19 – Beach North Bakers Creek Mackay – Brad Woodworth

Red Knot

Plain flags – 9.11.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Blue over yellow (Bohai Bay, China) leg flag sightingsCurlew Sandpiper

Plain flags – 29.9.19 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates
 Plain flags – 7.11.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Black over yellow (Kamchatka, Russia) leg flag sightingsRed-necked Stint

Plain flags – 8.9.19 – Machans Beach, Cairns – Jun Matsui
 Plain flags – 13.9.19 – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui
 Plain flags – 21.9.19 – Cairns Esplanade – Hidetoshi Kudo

Red Knot

Plain flags – 19.10.19 – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Vicki Campbell, Ross Smith

Blue over white (Japanese) leg flag sightingsBar-tailed Godwit

C2 on blue flag – 22.10.2019 - Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 C2 on blue flag – 26.10.2019 - Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates, Jon Coleman
 Engraved flag unread – 5, 14 & 19.10.19 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Engraved flag unread – 19.11.19 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Grey-tailed Tattler

- 568 on blue flag – 4.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- 568 on blue flag – 26.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates, Jon Coleman
- 568 on blue flag – 7.11.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- 569 on blue flag – 7.10.2019 – Lytton Roost – Tony Cotter
- 569 on blue flag – 7.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Red-necked Stint

- Plain flags – 28.9.19 – Cairns Esplanade – Hidetoshi Kudo

Blue (Japanese - flagged in Hokkaido) leg flag sightings

- Plain blue flag – 19.10.19 & 9.11.2019 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

White over blue (Taiwan) leg flag sightings

- L49 on white flag – 9.9.2019 – Machans Beach Cairns – Jun Matsui

White or Red (New Zealand) leg flag sightingsBar-tailed Godwit

- BEZ on flag – 7 & 9.11.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- White flag right tarsus, white band left tarsus, yellow over yellow bands right tarsus – 4.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- Red flag left tibia, blue over red bands right tarsus - 12.10.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Arthur Keates, John Bell, Will Price

Red Knot

- A19 on flag – 28.9.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Cecile Espigole, Will Price
- ECX on flag - 20.10.2019 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
- Plain white flag – 4.9.2019 – Thorneside Queens Esplanade – Tony Cotter
- Plain white flag – 27.9.2019 – Maaroom Great Sandy – Cecile Espigole, Will Price
- Plain white flag right tibia, yellow over blue band left tarsus, yellow over white band right tarsus – 4 & 5.9.2019 – Thorneside Queens Esplanade – Tony Cotter
- Plain white flag right tarsus, yellow or white flag left tarsus, red over yellow band right tarsus – 6.10.2019 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates, Tony Cotter

AlaskaPacific Golden Plover

- No flag (blue over green band only on right tibia) – 5, 6, 9 & 10.11.2019 – Pilot Station Burnett Heads – Chris Barnes

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.

- C5 on flag – 1.11.2019 – Reeders Point Moreton Island – Ken Cowell, Brad Woodworth
- S4 on flag – 1.11.2019 – Reeders Point Moreton Island – Ken Cowell, Brad Woodworth

Caspian Tern Orange flag (Victoria)

- Plain flag – 16.8.2019 – Inskip Point Rainbow Beach – Cecile Espigole
- Plain flag – 1.9.2019 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates
- UO on flag – 1 & 28.9.2019 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells
- E6 on flag – 28.9.2019 – Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells
- T3 on flag – 28.9.2019 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
- H(2nd letter unread) - 28.9.2019 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
- Orange over yellow flag – 1.9.2019 - Buckley's Hole Sandbar Bribie – Dez Wells

Wader ID Day Reports

Toorbul Wader Id Day Report 21 September 2019

Linda Cross.

There were a few clouds and a gentle to moderate breeze from the east as 12 of us assembled at the main Toorbul roost to view the waders.

After having joined another group at the same site a week prior to this identification session (14 September), and recording a reasonable variety of species, we were optimistic about this outing. However, 3 species (Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper), seen the previous week did not show, reducing the potential species to view.

It was good to see the large group of Far Eastern Curlew strung out along the foreshore with around the same number recorded as the previous week. In total 7 migratory and 3 resident species were observed at the roost.



Far Eastern Curlew with black antenna protruding from the middle of the back. Also note metal band on left tarsus (lower leg). Photograph by Linda Cross

No overseas flagged birds were observed, but many green flags were seen on 4 species of waders (Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Great Knot), but not recorded. Some people got to see the antenna of the satellite transmitter attached to a Far Eastern Curlew with engraved leg flag (AAD).

No Black-tailed Godwit were observed in the much lower numbers of Bar-tailed Godwit that normally visit this roost, but thankfully we did have a few Red Knot within the group of Great Knot to explain the difference between them. Everyone got to see the lone Sharp-tailed Sandpiper hiding among the group of knots and a single Common Greenshank was also observed. A Little Corella dropped onto the roost close by and was seen feeding on something in the salt couch.

A count was conducted at the roost site and added to the QWSG database. Other birds listed below without a quantity were observed along the esplanade, but not counted (F/O – fly over).

Black Swan in the passage, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, 1 White-faced Heron F/O, 3 Australian Pelican, 1 Eastern Osprey F/O, 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle F/O, 4 Pied Oystercatcher, 163 Pied Stilt, 2 Masked Lapwing, 142 Bar-tailed Godwit, 174 Whimbrel, 336 Far Eastern Curlew, 1 Common Greenshank, 60 Great Knot, 4 Red Knot, 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 1 Silver Gull, 13 Australian Tern and 2 Caspian Tern.

Bishop's Marsh appeared to be completely dry, so we did not stop to survey the site.

Manly Shorebird Roost Report 5 October 2019

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

A very strong southerly wind turning to a south-easterly with gusts of up to 33 kph resulted in far from ideal viewing conditions for observers. Our large group's presence caused very little disturbance as many of the birds stayed hunkered down during their vital resting period.

With southern migration of the northern hemisphere-breeding species well under way, 16 species of migratory shorebird and 3 species of resident shorebird were observed. The majority of the shorebirds was made up of Bar-tailed Godwit (>800) and Grey-tailed Tattler (<800). Many of the Pacific Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit showed remnant traces of breeding plumage while a handful of juvenile godwits were noted.

The presence of Black tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, and Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, allowed observers to compare the respective diagnostic features of these sometimes hard to distinguish species. However, distant views did not provide the opportunity to compare Great and Red Knots, most of which stayed hidden among the godwits.

A pair of Pied Oystercatchers nesting on the island remained vigilant the whole time and a Red-capped Plover feigning injury indicated it too was nesting.

Several species fitted with leg flags were seen, including:

- a Grey-tailed Tattler with an engraved blue flag above a white flag (banded at Tori-No-Umi, Watari-cho, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan)
- at least 2 Bar-tailed Godwit with an orange engraved leg flag (banded in Victoria)
- several species with green engraved leg flags (banded in south-east Queensland).

The following species were seen at the roost site:

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

Wader ID Days

WADER ID DAYS - MANLY HARBOUR WADER ROOST

Sunday 1 December 2019

2.28 m high tide at 12:40. Meeting time 13:00.

Saturday 4 January 2020

1.87 m high tide at 15:57. Meeting time 15:45.

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

Under the conditions of the access agreement for the wader roost, 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.

Wader ID days Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island

Sunday 12 January 2020

2.66m high tide at 10:47. Meeting time 09.00 onwards.

Sunday 9 February 2020

2.69m high tide at 09.45 am. Meeting time 08.45 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 5495 2758 if you have any questions. Linda's mobile: 0490 080 340

Wader ID days Toorbul

Saturday 1 February 2020 at Toorbul

1.93m high tide at 14:31. Meeting time 13.00.

Saturday 29 February 2020 at Toorbul

2.00m high tide at 13:10. Meeting time 11:30.

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 5495 2758. Linda's mobile: 0490 0800 340

Shorebird Education for Students Help needed!

In 2014 QWSG, in partnership with Moreton Bay Environment Centre (MBEEC), began providing help with shorebird education for Grade 3 students during the non-breeding season (Feb, Mar, Apr and Sep, Oct and Nov), depending on how many bookings MBEEC receive from schools.

Students visit the MBEEC at 162 Stradbroke Ave, Wynnum, where they learn about habitat, food, migration, threats etc. They also visit the foreshore to see the shorebirds feeding – different food for different bills and threats including disturbance. After lunch at the centre, the students arrive by bus at the Port of Brisbane artificial roost (UBD 144 N9) at approx. 12:45 pm.

There are usually 55 students who are divided into half for the first bird hide and half for the second hide. At each hide the group is divided again, with the half inside with binoculars (provided by MBEEC), while the other half are outside, observing the habitat, pollution, threats etc.

MBEEC provide all students with a clip board, pencil and worksheet with photos of 6 birds – Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Red-necked Stint and Little/Intermediate or Great Egret (NB Old names are used to avoid constant changes).

Two volunteers with telescopes are required for each hide. Volunteers from QWSG, BQ and BLSQ help the students look at the birds through telescopes, particularly to find the 6 birds on their sheets. The students are required to tally the number of each species listed, describe what the birds are doing and why they are doing it. If time permits, students can draw other shorebirds and waterbirds present on the back of their sheets. Then the group inside swaps places with the group outside.

During the day, students are encouraged to write any questions on paper for the volunteers to answer, before the students return to their school. Hopefully the students will tell their parents, other family members and friends about the special birds they learned about and what they can do to help the birds' survival and ensure that the shorebirds continue to visit during our summer and migrate to breed in the Northern Hemisphere during their summer.

Thanks go to MBEEC who give us the chance to educate students about shorebirds. We would not be able to reach so many students otherwise. Last, but not least, thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to help. Without you, we would not be able to do this.

If anyone is interested in helping by volunteering between 12:45 pm – 2:15 pm during the summer months, please contact me 2tattlers@gmail.com Ph: 3843 1874.
Sheryl Keates

Surveys! Surveys! – Calling all Counters

QWSG committee have decided to once again undertake surveys of both Mackay and the Great Sandy Strait. All **Surveys! Surveys! – Calling all counters**

QWSG committee have decided to once again undertake a survey of the Great Sandy Strait. All members and interested wader counters are welcome to participate in the survey.

The proposed dates are as follows:
Great Sandy Strait survey: 22 – 23 February 2020.

Interested participants please contact Peter Driscoll or Linda Cross for details.
Peter Driscoll – email: pdwaes@gmail.com or phone: 0418 212 627.
Linda – email: xenus69@bigpond.com or phone: 54952758 Mobile: 0490 080 340

Accommodation and transport costs during both surveys will be provided by QWSG. We need counters to undertake each survey efficiently, but always appreciate more counters if interested. Participants do not need to be experienced and are most welcome. They will be partnered with experienced counters, although final numbers may be limited by funds and resources to transport and accommodate people.

For the GSS survey, vehicle fuel costs travelling to and from the survey will also be reimbursed.

Chairperson's Comment: This is a great way to expand your knowledge of wader field work and to get to know other members of QWSG.

QWSG Wader Course for Great Sandy Strait

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. The Great Sandy Strait 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, many species can be found in the Great Sandy Strait where you have an ideal opportunity to study these species. They face increasing pressures from burgeoning human populations and habitat destruction throughout the flyway.

During this half day course, you will be introduced to these fascinating birds through specific topics that include:
What are waders?

Migration and breeding

Conservation

Identification

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 with telescopes.

QWSG WADER COURSE (GSS) consists of lectures from 1pm – 3pm + Afternoon Field Trip 17th Feb 2020

COST: \$25.00 To confirm your registration; please transfer your fee using the details below. If you require a receipt, please email treasurer@waders.org.au

LUNCH: Please BYO lunch as there is no shop at Maaroom. Tea & Coffee will be available.

REGISTRATION; Monday, 17 February 2020, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm at the Maaroom Ratepayers and Progress Association Hall, 85 Granville Rd Maaroom. (1st building on right)

LECTURES: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

FIELD TRIP: Monday, 17 February 2020, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at Maaroom High Tide Roost.

Please note that the field site is exposed – remember to bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and water bottle.

CLOSING DATE: Please enrol by Monday, 10 February 2020.

ENQUIRIES: secretary@waders.com.au OR Sheryl Keates 2tattlers@gmail.com

Website: www.waders.org.au/queensland-wader-study-group-news

ENROLMENT FORM (email to treasurer@waders.org.au)

INTRODUCTION TO WADERS (SHOREBIRDS) IN AUSTRALIA AND GREAT SANDY STRAIT

Course Fee: \$25.00.

Pay by direct transfer to Qld Wader Study Group BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia) 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:

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Katherine Aburrow, Edward Attard, Julia Bland, Cedric Carkeet, Hazel Carr, Robyn Combes, Olwyn Crimp, Kenneth Cross, Detlef Davies, Joey Di Liberto, Ian Edmonstone, Craig Gibson, Veronique Gineste, Sarah Hare & Karl Schottler, Victoria Hartley-Cox, Chloe Hockey, Emma Karsten, Raymond Kellman & Kathryn Schulze-Kellman, Ron Kelly, Joe Legget, Craig Lucas, Suzi Lucas, Jaime McConachie, Eva Plaganyi-Lloyd, Colleen Poje, Nicole Richardson, Arlene Rutherford, Douglas Smith, Dylan Stover, Ian (Tom) Tarrant.

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.

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

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 a bit of a clique. However, this is probably because we find it hard to get new members on board.

We would really like to see some new faces with new ideas and experiences. You are not expected to be thrown in at the deep end, but can learn on the job.

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

Notice of 2019 AGM of QWSG

The 2019 AGM will be held on Sunday 15th Dec 2019 at 3:00 pm at George Clayton / Dreveren Park
 The Esplanade, Manly. More simply "the park opposite (Bart's Place), The Esplanade, Lota." UBD 163 R10

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 CONTACTS**QUEENSLAND WADER**

The Official Quarterly Publication of Queensland Wader Study Group

Website www.waders.org.auFacebook <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>**MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG**

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017	chairperson@waders.org.au
<u>TREASURER</u>	Judith Giles	0409 062 310	treasurer@waders.org.au
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	(07) 3822 3759	secretary@waders.org.au
<u>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</u>	Gordana Pozvek	0418 712 578	membership@waders.org.au
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017	gouldian@ozemail.com.au

QWSG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robert Bush	0404 805 558	Jon Coleman	(07) 3299 2780
Paul Finn	(07) 3219 4219	Sandra Harding	(07) 3390 2179
Sheryl Keates	(07) 3843 1874	Wayne Lock	0428 736 357
Andrew Moss	(07) 3206 4534	Brad Woodworth	0439 577 551

<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email xenus69@bigpond.com
<u>LEG FLAG COORDINATOR</u>	Phil Cross	07 5495 2758	Email phillipcross50@gmail.com

<u>BQ PRESIDENT</u>	Rae Clark	Email president@birdsqueensland.org.au
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CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
54, Elliott Street,
CLAYFIELD,
QLD 4011

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please notify the Membership Secretary 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:
Membership Secretary or QWSG Treasurer,
PO Box 3138,
SOUTH BRISBANE,
QLD 4101.

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

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **November 18th 2019**

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.

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

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admin@jrdsons.com.au



Count Activities – 2019 - 2020

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2019 / 2020

Sat 18 th Jan	2.05m at 15:43	National Summer Count
Sat 15 th Feb	2.06m at 14:13	
Sat 14 th Mar	2.09m at 12:59	
Sat 28 th Mar	2.02m at 11:37	**Alternative to Easter count date**
Sat 11 th Apr	2.10m at 11:51	** Easter – can do it on 28 March instead**
Sat 9 th May	2.07m at 10:44	
Sat 6 th Jun	1.98m at 09:38	National Winter Count
Sat 25 th Jul	1.94m at 13:03	
Sat 22 nd Aug	2.10m at 11:55	
Sat 19 th Sep	2.27m at 10:49	
Sat 17 th Oct	2.39m at 09:44	
Sat 7 th Nov	2.12m at 13:47	
Sat 5 th Dec	2.32m at 12:39	

****Easter** If you cannot do the count on the Easter weekend please conduct the count on the alternative date of 28 March instead. You can of course do both if you are keen.**

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.

Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2019 / 2020

Sun 15 th Dec	2.52m at 11:43 Meet	09:55	
Sun 19 th Jan	1.92m at 16:49 Meet	15:00	National Summer Count
Sun 16 th Feb	1.86m at 15:14 Meet	13:25	
Sun 15 th Mar	1.86m at 13:49 Meet	12:00	
Sun 29 th Mar	1.90m at 12:09 Meet	10:20	**Optional second count**
Sun 12 th Apr	1.90m at 12:37 Meet	10:45	
Sun 10 th May	1.92m at 11:30 Meet	09:40	
Sun 7 th Jun	1.89m at 10:26 Meet	08:35	National Winter Count
Sun 26 th Jul	1.95m at 13:59 Meet	12:10	
Sun 23 rd Aug	2.11m at 12:45 Meet	10:55	
Sun 20 th Sep	2.30m at 11:36 Meet	09:45	
Sun 18 th Oct	2.46m at 10:30 Meet	08:40	
Sun 8 th Nov	2.11m at 14:52 Meet	13:00	
Sun 6 th Dec	2.28m at 13:28 Meet	11:50	

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).....

EmailFax.....

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:

OR

Please post this form to: QWSG Membership Secretary

Qld Wader Study Group

PO Box 3138,

BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia)

SOUTH BRISBANE,

Account number: 08305297

QLD 4101.