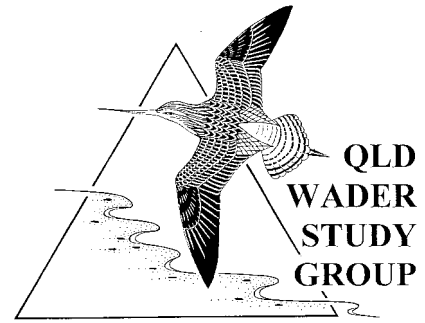


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 017

SPRING 1996

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

Time running out for Fujimae

The Environmental Assessment Report for the planned landfill at Fujimae Tidal Flats in Nagoya Japan was publicly released on July 24. The action release given below gives a summary of concerns about the Report raised by the Save Fujimae Association.

Introduction

Fujimae tidal flats in Nagoya, Japan, is an internationally important wetland area that hosts hundreds of species of migratory birds as well as countless other organisms. It is the only tidal flat left in Ise bay. All other flats have long since been filled in and developed by large industrial concerns. For ten years, the Save Fujimae Association has been waging a campaign to preserve this last little sanctuary. The powers that be in the City of Nagoya have been trying to site a landfill there but have been thwarted by citizen pressure. However, with the release of this Report, the end may not be far away. Without a huge outcry from the public, this project could get the usual rubber stamp and Fujimae will be no more. It is very important for you in the international community to make your voice heard on this issue. Please take 15 minutes or so and fire off a letter to the City of Nagoya.

Assessment Process Problems

- A) The Japanese Government has been holding hearings on reforming the EA report system. They want to bring the system up to international standards and allow for more citizen input. Under the current system the EA is done after plans are already set. This Report is obviously of the old school. it does not follow the trends of the times.
- B) In fact, the City of Nagoya and the Health and Welfare Ministry have "guidance outlines" that suggest that research, forecasts and estimation of the effects of the project be done prior to final plan approval. An EA must consider natural, social and cultural aspects of a plan and must ensure the project will preserve the environment and prevent pollution. Most of these points are either totally ignored in the plan or presented in such a way that all conclusions come to the same thing: the plan will have only a minor impact on the environment.
- C) Examples of procedural problems:
 - 1) Probably the most glaring problem is that alternative plans have not been considered even though the "guidance outlines" require it. With no alternatives, there is only one choice - the planned project as it is!!!! Environmental preservation targets have been vaguely set
 - 2) Clear indications of the effects of the project have been avoided
 - 3) Data has been underestimated, untested assumptions are rampant using unproven estimations of the future, the project has been deemed to comply with environmental standards
 - 4) Massive amounts of data are listed, but few conclusions are reached – one suspects the data is a smokescreen – makes it look scientific

5) The capacity of the planned landfill has been increased 1.5 times the size of the original plan without changing the surface area of the project. This was announced after the assessment. The Report provides no explanation or reason for this change, which was made without due process and makes a mockery of the assessment.

General Problems

A) The Loss of tidal flats caused by the landfill is not fairly valued. The bottom line of this project is that the Fujimae tidal flats would be destroyed, plain and simple. It would be a direct result of the project. There is no shortage of evidence of the surety of this happening, yet it is not addressed in the report.

B) Japan is a signatory to the Ramsar Treaty. Although Fujimae is not on the Ramsar list, citizens have actively petitioned the Government to consider it. It meets the standards to be considered as a Ramsar site. This is not addressed.

C) The value of tidal flats as a refuge for humans, especially in a big city, is not addressed. The role of such a site in fostering an understanding of nature in children and the soothing effect on the soul of man is not considered.

Specific Problems

A) Contribution and importance as feeding grounds for migratory birds.

The City considers in its plans only the exact area of the project and not the surrounding habitat that is part of the ecosystem. Thus, they came up with a figure saying that there is only a "one per cent utilization rate" of the site by migratory birds. That is because of their faulty research and desire to use only selected data.

Consider:

- 1) They ignored contrary data from a local wild bird protection group that they had contracted with
- 2) They refused to look at the mass of research compiled by the Save Fujimae Association
- 3) They conducted their all-day behaviour pattern study outside of the peak season for migrants
- 4) They concluded that birds avoid the planned dump site for feeding which is contrary to all other studies. In fact, other studies show that the site is the most important site for at least two species - Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin, which favour the gently sloped part of the western strand line.
- 5) All other areas used as staging areas and cover are ignored. Because the tide moves in and out rather quickly, the actual time of feeding is short, but very intensive. The Report ignores such considerations.
- 6) Using the "percent of utilization" rubric, the report simply counts birds. It makes no consideration of different bird species, season, tide, phase of the moon, etc. It fails to take into account the many ways in which each habitat is used and why. It just counts birds. This is not a scientific way to evaluate an ecosystem.
- 7) Even though the plan has been scaled down to 46.5 ha., they fail to consider the effects of the sea wall and the fact that birds will stay away from areas of intensive use, so that an invisible barrier will also be present. The City fails to even show the actual location of construction.

B) Biological Productivity and Water Purification

1) The Report describes the specie names of all kinds of organisms found in the area. It even includes some data on the amount of water purified. However, it concludes that the amount of food for some birds and the amount of pollutants purified is minimal. The data to back this up is of dubious merit. Also, the report concludes that because of this data it can be surmised that the flats are not an important feeding ground and that the birds rely on places other than Fujimae for their sustenance. Thus, the Report concludes, the impact of the proposed project is minimal. The Report totally ignores the evolutionary process that has created the balanced ecosystem at Fujimae and have inadequately estimated the water purification role of the flats. The Report fails to provide any convincing scientific evidence to support the conclusions.

2) The Report also concludes that the possible impact on fry and plankton is minimal since they move with water masses. This contradicts recent discoveries about the importance of tidal flats, shallow waters and closed bodies of water. It appears that no study was done to back up this conclusion. This is a grave omission since these organisms are what attract some species such as cormorants, grebes and egrets to the tidal flats.

C) Cultural and Aesthetic Values

1) The report makes no mention of the value of Fujimae to the human inhabitants of the area. Thousands of people use the area for bird-watching, nature observation and environmental education. There is no other place in the Nagoya area where people can go to experience the wonders of a tidal flat. There is no amount of money that can replace such a place. This loss is not considered at all in the Report.

2) Japan is an island nation and thus the connection of the people with the sea is very strong. Tidal flats have fed countless generations of humans with their bounty and are a graphic symbol of the interplay of land and sea in the life of Japanese. This kind of thinking is completely absent from the Report.

3) Not only does it ignore the importance to Japanese culture, but also the importance of the relation the tidal flats play in linking places across the globe. Birds that fly from the far north to the far south and back rely on this small resting place. The elimination of a rest stop here can affect ecosystems in many other countries.

4) For people who regularly use the Wild Bird Observatory across the Shonai River, development of the landfill would be ruinous. Not only would it be like watching someone you love be tortured, it would greatly reduce the value of the Observatory itself.

5) The government knows the project will be ghastly. In photos in the Report, optical tricks are employed to create the illusion that the project is actually quite small and will leave a lot of open area. However, the shots are done with wide angle lenses that make things up close large, but make the horizon stretch far away.

D) Pollution

1) Air Pollution

i) The Report says that air pollution will not exceed target values, but in the case of NO₂, it uses the more lenient national standards and not the City's own more stringent standard. It also allows for increased levels of pollution. This contradicts City policies to promote cleaner air.

ii) The method of assessing the pollution caused by garbage delivery vehicles is unscientific and grossly underestimates the impact. It also fails to take into consideration the traffic from two other planned waste facilities in the district that are linked to the Fujimae project. Real pollution will be at least triple the Report's estimates.

2) Water Pollution.

The estimation of water pollution included in the report is so poor that it brings into question the objectivity and scientific integrity of the whole Report.

i) It is proven beyond a doubt that tidal flats assimilate and recycle polluting nutrients. However, the Report did no study to determine this. Not only this, but their model analysis is based only on written references and specifically excludes algae which is a major organism in driving this function of tidal flats.

ii) The Report mentions that water quality in the bay will be improved by new sewage treatment plants now being planned. This has no bearing on the landfill plan other than to possibly justify the destruction of a natural purifier by offering up a man-made one.

iii) The report does not mention the problems of pollution from direct seepage of pollutants from the garbage pit. This problem has been well documented in places such as Tokyo Bay and San Francisco Bay.

iv) The Report also fails to analyse the impacts and costs of treating waste water from the site. Water that is displaced by garbage will receive preliminary treatment at Fujimae and then be sent to municipal sewage treatment plants.

ACTION*ACTION*ACTION*ACTION

Please Send your comments to:
Department of Environmental Assessment
Nagoya City
Nagoya City Hall
3-1-1 Sannomaru Naka Nagoya, 460-08 Japan
Fax: 81-52-972-4105

Please also send a copy of your comments to:
Save Fujimae Association
2-212 Yashirodai Meito Nagoya, 465 Japan
Phone: 81-52-777-2326
Fax; 31-52-777-2395

QWSG CONTACTS

All correspondence to: The Chairperson QWSG.

CHAIRPERSON:

Peter Driscoll

TREASURER:

Gary Harch

SECRETARY:

Fiona Johnson

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Andrew Geering and Margaret Bernard

COUNT COORDINATORS:

Ivell & Jim Whyte

CONSERVATION OFFICER:

Sandra Harding

LIBRARIAN: Greg Nye

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Leanne Bowden

Eddie Hegerl

Kees Hulsman

Arthur Keats

Greg Miller

Stuart Pell

Karen Welsh

PUBLICITY OFFICER Diana O'Connor

WADER WATCH

by Natasha Taylor

SPRING! - time for growth, procreation and the return of the waders. We have received information from the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme reporting numerous sightings of green leg flagged birds in Japan over the last year, details are given below.

Leg-flag Colour Legend (colour = where banded)

Green = Brisbane/Queensland

Orange = Victoria

Yellow = Northern Western Australia

White = New Zealand (some species banded in New South Wales)

Blue = Japan

Green Leg-flag Sightings in Australia

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by Arthur Keates at Fishermans Island 30-03-96.
- 1 Great Knot seen by Jim and Ivell Whyte at Cabbage Tree Creek mouth 20-04-96
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by Edward Kleiber at Tonys' Sand bar, Tweed Heads 29-04-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by Edward Kleiber at Tweed River entrance 2-05-96, 3-05-96 and 7-05-96.
- 3 Bar-tailed Godwits seen by Jim and Ivell Whyte at Cabbage Tree Creek mouth 5-05-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by Edward Kleiber at Tony's Sand Bar, Tweed Heads 10-05-96, 12-05-96, 24-05-96, 2-06-96, 7-06-96, 8-06-96, 10-06-96, 12-06-96, 23-06-96 and 24-06-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by Arthur and Sheryl Keates at Thornside 18-05-96.
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwits seen by Jim and Ivell Whyte at Cabbage Tree Creek mouth 1-06-96.
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwits seen by Jim and Ivell Whyte at Cabbage Tree Creek mouth 29-06-96.

Green Leg-flag Sightings in Japan

Note the regularity of the live bird sightings over the 2 years.

- 1 Eastern Curlew seen by TBMRC (The Bird Migration Research Centre) at Nanko Park, 12-03-95.
- 1 Eastern Curlew seen by TBMRC at Daimyojin River, 1-04-95.
- 1 Eastern Curlew seen by TBMRC at Hayatsue River, 2-04-95
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Sone Shinden, 17-04-95.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Shimotomita, 22-04-95.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Yodo River, 9-05-95.
- 1 Whimbrel seen by TBMRC at Shigenobu River, 4-05-95.
- 1 Great Knot seen by TBMRC at Daimyojin River, 9-05-95.
- 1 Great Knot seen by TBMRC at Shonai River, 17-10-95.
- 1 Eastern Curlew seen by TBMRC at Moriye Bay, 17-03-96.
- 1 Red Knot seen by TBMRC at Yone, 11-04-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Yoclo River, 14-04-96.
- 3 Bar-tailed Godwits seen by TBMRC at Sone Shinden, 17-04-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Hama-Koshien, 21-04-96.
- 1 Eastern Curlew seen by TBMRC at Daimyojin River, 21-04-96.
- 1 Eastern Curlew seen by TBMRC at Daimyojin River, 23-04-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Ooshima Beach, 25-04-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Yatsu tidal flat, 5-05-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Mike Fisher's Point, 6-05-96.
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler seen by TBMRC at Umemori Bridge, 6-05-96.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen by TBMRC at Yatsu tidal flat, 11-05-96.
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler seen by TBMRC at Umemori Bridge, 25-05-96. 7

Other banded birds and interesting sightings

- 1 Red-necked Stint with an orange leg-flag seen by C. Barnes at Maroom 23-09-95.
- 8 Swinhoe's Snipe seen by Glenn Holmes at Tinaroo Park, Atherton Tablelands 10-02-96 and 11-02-96.
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with a blue leg-flag seen by C. Barnes, B. Russell & P. Tierney at Boonooroo 20-04-96.
- 1 Great Knot with an orange leg-flag seen by C. Barnes, B. Russell and P. Tierney at Maroom 20-04-96.
- 1 Pied Oystercatcher with metal leg band seen by Arthur and Sheryl Keates at St Helena Island 30-06-96.

Thank you to the counters as always - if you have any questions or thoughts ring Ivell. We value any input from you. Happy counting. (P.S. monthly counts are just around the corner).

WHAT QWSG VOLUNTEERS CAN DO TO HELP

We wish to encourage members to contribute to the newsletter at any time. Articles can be hand written, typed, on disc or whatever way is convenient. Just send your articles to 28 Peppertree Street, Sinnamon Park Q4073. Some suggestions include: information on count sites, interesting wader sightings, conservation issues.

Help is always needed in many ways. The count program is co-ordinated by Ivell and Jim Whyte and Peter Driscoll. Regular counts are undertaken at sites all around Moreton Bay, normally once a month. Stand-by counters are sometimes required, so if you are interested in helping but don't wish to do it every month, contact a committee member and the information will be passed on. The count program provides very valuable information on wader populations and is a very high priority for the QWSG. If you are interested in wader identification, counters are willing to pass on their knowledge and it is a good way to learn quickly, so that you can join the count program too.

Don't be shy to join the cannon netting trips. Just look in the newsletter for dates and times and confirm with coordinator, Peter Driscoll. Continual maintenance of cannon netting equipment is required. For example, at present, the boat trailer is falling apart from rust and needs to be repainted. A day will be set aside soon, for this job to be completed.

The next six months is going to be a very busy period for many members and there are many things to get involved in, so if you have the spare time, we would love to see some new faces.

TRIP REPORTS

Amity Point, North Stradbroke Island by Sheryl Keates

Cannon netting for Saturday, April 20, was set down for Amity Point, North Stradbroke Island. After making contact with Peter Driscoll a few days before, I learned that the target species was the Grey-tailed Tattler, a late leaving migratory wader. Moreton Island became the favoured site because of the large number of tattlers on the southern end of the Island.

Early on Friday, April 19, I set off with Peter for a recce of the sites to see where the birds were roosting and to help him set the nets accordingly. Having loaded some gear onto the Marine Parks boat, the Spoonbill, and refuelled QWSG's Trojan, we set off from Cleveland just after 8.30 am. I was delighted to see an albino Silver Gull on the water to farewell us. My first encounter with this bird was on the way to cannon net at Amity Point last June.

With almost a cloudless sky and a reasonably flat sea we arrived at Amity Point around high tide at 9.30 am. Our bird count included 50 Little Egrets, 3 Eastern Curlews, 160 Grey-tailed Tattlers, 50 Pied Oystercatchers, 1 Australian Pelican, 10 Bar-tailed Godwits, 7 Crested Terns, 12 Caspian Terns and 12 Gull-billed Terns.

The Spoonbill had delivered our gear to Koorringal as arranged. Although there were some waders at Reeders Pt, they were frightened off by a beach buggy and a three-wheeled bike. Peter counted birds at the sandhills a little further north while I kept an eye on the gear.

The logistics of cannon netting at Moreton Island would not have been easy so Peter decided Amity Point would be a better option. With the tide still fairly high, we loaded the gear before counting birds at Day's Gutter. With no wind and the water like a mill pond, the sandflies were out in force.

Many Pied Cormorants flew off to fish while we were counting the terns, including some Lesser Crested, as well as Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Pied Oystercatcher, Great Knot, Grey-tailed Tattler, Curlew Sandpiper (many in breeding plumage), Greenshank and Silver Gull.

With all the gear it was a slow trip back to Amity Point before unloading and having lunch. We were joined by Lynette and Peter Riley who had had come over on the Dawn Treader and were anchored near the spit. Lynette and Peter had done one of the wader study courses through QUT. By 5 pm we had two nets set and hoped the high tide would not reach them later that night.

We had planned to sleep at Peter's house at Koorringal but decided to sleep on the beach at Amity Point so we could keep an eye on the nets and gear.

After burgers from the Food Van and a clean-up, we settled down on the beach using the tent to keep us warm. With the tide receding, Peter moved the boat and the anchor further out at 1:15 am.

We started work at 5 am. We had to carry the gear out to the spit as the boat was grounded. We had the third net almost set by the time Arthur arrived on the 5.30 am barge from Cleveland with Peter Nichols and Diana O'Connor to help out.

Later in the morning five people arrived on the Spoonbill. We erected our multi-purpose tent as a bird hide. In contrast to the previous day, the wind was increasing with very strong gusts of 20+ knots. With time running out with the receding tide and after much twinkling and jiggling to make sure birds were not in any danger, we fired one of the nets at about 11:15 am. As usual, it was a mad dash with shade cloth to cover the birds and to erect holding cages.

With the birds safely extracted from the net, we had a quick lunch before processing the birds. Our capture included 20 Grey-tailed Tattlers which are now wearing our trademark green leg-flags. Of particular interest, 1 of the tattlers was a recapture, which I later found out was caught here on May 4, 1992. At that time, it was recorded as being a 1st year bird moulting into breeding plumage. The other birds caught were 6 Gull-billed Terns, 2 Lesser Crested Terns, 36 Crested Terns, 5 Caspian Terns and some Silver Gulls which we released. Given the terns tendency to give handlers a nasty nip, no one was disappointed when 2 Caspian Terns and about 12 Crested Terns escaped when the strong winds blew over the holding cages.

The Marine Parks people kindly took some of the gear back on the Spoonbill when they returned at 2 pm leaving us to process the remaining birds. After processing the birds and packing up, Peter headed off to Koorlingal while we had ample time to drive back to Dunwich to catch the 5 pm barge to Cleveland.

QWSG/RGSQ Internet Day,
Stradbroke Island, Saturday 20 July 1996
by Leanne Bowden and Greg Miller

An "inter" group "net" activity between the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ), "netscape" Amity Point, resulted in a very rewarding day for both groups.

It provided the QWSG with some willing helpers, and enabled RGSQ members to broaden their knowledge of the wonders of waders and the scientific methods used to collect data.

Impressions of the day were wide and varied, dependent on which group a member belonged to and how initiated they were into cannon netting procedures. Some comments overheard surrounded suspense of waiting to fire, the dedication of the QWSG members, the cost of equipment, the diligence and care taken by those responsible as to when to fire the nets, the wonders of actually handling a creature from the wild, astonishment at how such small birds can fly so far, disappointment at the effect humans have on the creatures and their habitats, curiosity at the methods used to obtain and record the data, the incredible differences in weight, bill and wing length within birds of the same species, the thrill of setting a bird free.

For some, the day was extremely long, for others it was shorter, packed with spurts of activity and interest.

The fact that Amity Spit would be submerged on the Friday night high tide meant that the nets could not be laid the night before. As a result, well before dawn, QWSG 'waderholic' Peter Driscoll sneaked his quiet Lada and trailer past sleeping QWSG members and friends, Leanne Bowden, Greg Miller, Nigel Roberts and Melanie, to decide the best strategic position to set the three nets and to position the equipment ready to be laid out.

Throughout a spectacular dawn, the laying out process began. More members arrived as the day began: Ian Gynther, Arthur and Sheryl Keates, Raelee Mackay, Diana O'Connor and Ivell Whyte from the QWSG: Heather Beulke, John Irvine, Christine Kimber, Ron Lipinkas, Bob, Joyce and Craig Newell, Leo Scanlan and Lillian Woods from the QWSG.

A hide was erected, members were encouraged to stay behind it so as not to frighten the birds, instructions were given as to who carries what and runs where, binoculars and telescope aimed and the rubber ducky launched.

With the high tide came the suspense of waiting for the precise moment to fire, and recognition of the trouble those responsible take to ensure that firing only occurs when there is absolutely no possibility of danger for the birds.

The end result was that all three nets were fired, a rather unusual occurrence. All members now know that waders are placid whereas terns are not, with only a few hardy souls willing to risk handling a squawking bird with a very snappy bill. As well, it was interesting to note the vast differences in size of the godwits, which ranged from very mini to very maxi.

Every member present shared the chores of removing and transporting the birds from net to holding cage to processing to release; and disassembling, carrying, cleaning and packing the equipment.

In all, 85 birds were processed, including 61 Bar-tailed Godwits, 3 having escaped from the holding cage; 2 Eastern Curlews; 4 Red-capped Plovers; 13 Double Banded Plovers, of which 3 were re-captures (all banded by the QWSG at Amity Point, June 1994); 2 Gull-billed Terns, and 3 Crested Terns of which 1 was a recapture (banded by the QWSG at Amity Point, April 1996).

The willingness of all who participated in helping with the workload was greatly appreciated.

Cannon Netting at Cabbage Tree Creek (1 September 1996)

by Olwyn Crimp

Arriving at the boat ramp at 6:00 am, I was met by other intrepid cannon netters. Peter Driscoll. Edward Kleiber (who counts the Tweed River for QWSG), Ivell Whyte (who counts this site), Glenn Collis, Nigel Roberts, Melanie, Cathy and Mark (a photography student from the College of Art who was taking photos of everything for posterity and for his photography portfolio).

With several trips in a very overloaded inflatable, we ferried all the gear and people across the 10 metres of Cabbage Tree Creek and then we had to lug all the gear across the tidal flats the 500 metres or so to the set-up area. It was at this point that I seriously questioned my sanity (why wasn't I asleep in bed or curled up with a good book and a cup of coffee).

We set up two nets along the sand spit and a bird hide in the mangroves on the western end and then sat back to wait. Within 10 minutes the first of the waders arrived - a flock of Black-winged Stilts followed by around 300 Bar-tailed Godwits, Black-tailed Godwits, Red Knot, Great Knot and Curlew Sandpipers. Unfortunately, because of the strong winds - gusting at least 30 knots, they didn't settle in the catching area, but between us and the nets. The flock was very nervous and lifted off many times, only to circle and resettle outside the catching area. They seemed to want to get out of the wind as much as we did.

Peter decided to "twinkle" them and proceeded to move towards the flock on hands, knees and belly. Gradually they were moved eastward into the catch area and the signal was given to fire the cannons on the large net. The net fired further than Peter had anticipated and had caught more birds than could be easily managed with many in the water. Everyone scrambled to the net and the edge was lifted out of the water to prevent the birds from being drowned. Shade cloth was placed over the birds to calm them.

For the firing we were joined by Dave Stewart, Natasha Taylor (and little Zoe), Gary Harch, Tony Cotter and his three children.

All haste was made to get the birds out of the net and into holding pens - but even with the many hands available, it still took around an hour and a half to disentangle all the birds. Picking the net up and carrying it up the beach resulted in severe entanglement of many of the birds. Unfortunately, there were eight fatalities.

All the Bar-tailed Godwits were released immediately after removal from the net. Only one retrap was penned for measurement and weighing. When it was realised, we had too many birds to handle with the available resources, many of the Great Knot were set free and not retained for flagging. Twenty four Black-tailed Godwits were banded and measurements taken. For many of us, it was our first chance to see a Black-tailed Godwit up close. More than 200 birds were banded in all, mostly Red and Great Knots, but also about 10 Curlew Sandpipers.

Most of the birds were still in breeding plumage and it is likely that many were early arrivals from the north, stopping over in Moreton Bay for "refuelling" on their way back to over-wintering grounds further south. It was noted when handling and weighing the birds, that most were thin as a result of their long journey south. Ivell had noted earlier that, when counting the birds, the previous day, they had appeared to be in a hurry to feed.

All the flagged birds, except for two, flew away within minutes of being released. Some were a little shaky initially but seemed to recover quickly and flew out over the tidal flats. The two injured birds, one Bar-tailed Godwit suffering from capture myopathy and one Great Knot which couldn't fly, were taken back for treatment and will hopefully recover and be released.

Because of the large number of birds caught and flagged, it was almost dark before the processing of them was finished. We then hurriedly pack up all the gear and hauled it back across the "vast" expanse of tidal flat fantasising all the way about hot showers, hot coffee and for some a "treat" of fish and chips for dinner.

ACTIVITIES

For netting activities, please confirm with Peter Driscoll three days in advance for confirmation of time and place. In the case of weekend trips please confirm at least one week in advance. For the wader counts, please ring Ivell Whyte, the count co-ordinator. All completed count forms must be returned to Ivell.

As well as the activities listed, we will mount netting outings "opportunistically" when it seems there is a good chance of SUCCESS.

Seabird trips 1996 (on behalf of SOSSA)

The Southern Ocean Seabird Study Association (SOSSA) in conjunction with Seaworld do day trips off the Gold Coast to observe seabirds. The boat leaves from Seaworld at a cost of \$50 per person. The trips are monthly. Please contact Paul Walbridge if you are interested.

Wader Counts (general monitoring)

Sat. 26th Oct.	High of 2.30 m at 9:06 am.
Sat. 23rd Nov.	High of 2.28 m at 8:04 am.
Sun. 15th Dec.	High of 2.42 m at 1 pm.
Sat. 11th Jan. 1997	High of? m at ?
Weekend of 8-9th Feb	Likely AWSG summer count. (This weekend or the following likely dates but seek confirmation in next newsletter)

Cannon Netting

Sun 24 th Nov	Fisherman Island or St Helena Island - High of 2.35 m at 8:48 am.
Sat 28 th Dec	Site to be determined- High of 2.32 m at 11:31 am.
Jan/Feb	Opportunistic netting with regard to radio tracking studies and trip to Great Sandy Straits.

Water for Life Festival

Sun 20th Oct.	8.00 am to 1.00 pm, Orleigh Park, West End. Organised to increase awareness for the need for clean water. Displays, attractions, food, etc.
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Annual General Meeting and Birdlife survey of Schultz Canal and surrounds

Sat. 9th Nov	AGM and BBQ Lunch, noon at Nudgee Beach Environment Centre (on the left as you enter Nudgee Beach township). This follows a morning survey for birds using canoes and boats to access the area between Boondall Wetlands and the Airport. We need participants in the survey so please register your interest with Fiona Johnson.
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Special wader survey of Southern Moreton Bay

Sat & Sun. 16-17th Nov Plans are being made by QWSG, the Dept of Environment and Australian Marine Conservation Society for a general survey of wader sites in Southern Moreton Bay from Peel Island to the Broadwater. For many years now we have lacked good information on this area and this survey is long overdue. We will use a number of boats and if you are interested please register your name with Peter Driscoll. You will be able to participate for all or part of the weekend. We are also interested in those people willing to make use of their own boats.

Xmas Party Boat Cruise to visit Indooroopilly Island Flying Fox Colony

Sun 8th Dec 5 to 9pm **BOOK EARLY!** For a mere \$15 you can have a wonderful experience with members of many other environment groups including QWSG (WPSQ, MIPC, Men of the Trees, QCC, Friends of the Hut, AMCS, Brisbane Bushwalkers etc). For another \$3.50 you get an on-board sausage sizzle (vego alternative on offer). Do not BYO (licensed premises). The boat holds only 200 people so book now with Helen Younghusband on 3300 9697. Boat leaves from Mowbray Park to Indooroopilly Island and returns past South Bank and Kangaroo Point cliffs.

Australia Day weekend survey of the Great Sandy Strait

26th Jan 1997 In conjunction with the Australian Marine Conservation Society, QWSG is planning an intensive survey for waders feeding on the western side of the Great Sandy Strait in the neighbouring of some newly discovered, unusual wetland formations on Fraser Island and Cooloola. This is a chance to participate in some particularly interesting and useful work. There will also be an opportunity for cannon netting somewhere other than Moreton Bay. Please register your interest with Peter Driscoll.

Course on Waders

March 1997 There are plans for a course on waders similar to those already held by QWSG. Keep in touch and let others know of the dates: evenings of the 11th and 18th March with a field day on the 15th or 22nd March. Enquires to Diana O'Connor.