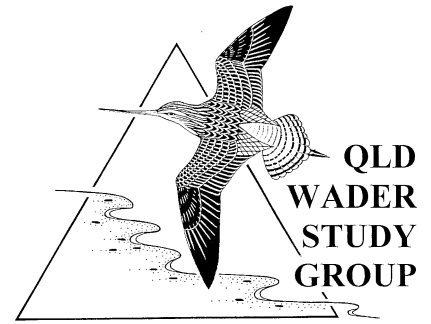


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 19

AUTUMN 1997

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

EASTERN CURLEW TRACKING – EARLY DAYS YET

The background on this joint research project into Eastern Curlew migration, a study that may become one of the most valuable projects in which the QWSG has been involved, was humbly introduced by Peter Driscoll in 'Eastern Curlews carry the load!' page 3 in the Summer 1995/96 newsletter, followed by 'International Tracking of Eastern Curlews' page 19 in the Summer 1996/97 newsletter.

The 'fitting' stage of the project occurred between Thursday 6th and Tuesday 11th February, 1997, when participants descended on Koorinal and Mirrapool, Southern Moreton Island. They came from the QWSG, the Japan Wild Bird Society, the Federal Government's Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, a branch within their Environment Australia Department (formerly ANCA) and the Queensland Government's Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, a branch within the Department of Environment (DoE).

As anticipated, the thousand or so wary and net-wise Eastern Curlew who came to Mirrapool to roost were true to form. In combination with the vagaries of tide heights and winds, it was only after four days of prayers, practice, planning and patience, that the team were finally successful. Due to the uncanny ability of the birds to skilfully avoid the catching areas, nets were only able to be fired on one day, Monday 11th February, and just one net provided the birds from which the selection was made of those who would carry their information-generating cargo.

Of course, as Project Leaders, Peter Driscoll of QWSO and Jeremy Thompson of DoE, will adamantly stress, it's very early days yet, much too soon to forecast any results. However, the experimental project has begun.

A press release issued by the Department of Environment and forwarded to a number of different media sources on 18 February, and a news item from the Wynnum Herald of 26 February follows. On 17 February, 4QR featured the item on the 6:30am news, and Peter Driscoll was interviewed by Andrew Lofthouse in the afternoon. The WPSQ/Queensland Museum Wildlife Australia Autumn 1997 magazine also carries a similar story. For web-surfers, the Japanese have a site: http://www.wnn.jp/wnn-n/migrant/english/2_pro.html.

Full details of the more personal side of being involved in this eventful project are provided in Activity Reports.

From the Editors

Our first newsletter, Number 18, was not without errors and omissions. Apologies first for the omission. In transferring handwritten and shorthand scrawl to text, the paragraph welcoming new Council members disappeared from the AGM report. Rectification follows, with much greater detail than there was time for last edition.

Err.. Err... Errors

The ones you see immediately after the final copy has been sent to the printer, yet you can't resist one last peek at the finished product, despite the fact you know it's too late to change anything anyway:

- The 90 rare 'bat-tailed godwits' roosting on Pelican Island, near Bundaberg quoted on page 9 - surely this new species must be worthy of a twitching expedition?
- The extension of Easter until the 32nd of March should provide more time for watching the migratory waders depart!
- Enough said - you may not have noticed any errors anyway!!!

Copy Deadline Winter - June Edition

The deadline for the next issue is one week prior to the beginning of the publication month, June, i.e. **25 May, 1997** (see page 2 for details).

For those of you who are non-University people, June is examination time, and without the contributions of others, Edition 20 may be very slim. Remember the poem by Piet Hien:

'It's surprising how little we gain

By getting excited and vexed

We're always late- for the previous train

And always on time for the next'

The same applies to forwarding submissions:

If you're a bit late with current text

You're always in time for the next.

(Not to mention the fact that sometimes the deadline is extended for inexplicable reasons, so you still could be in time.)

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

New Council Members

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new Members, elected at the 1996 AGM:

- *Sheryl Keates, Treasurer:* Sheryl is regularly seen at any activity where a willing hand is required, and, with a background in the ANZ Bank, (surely it's similar to the QWSG Treasury) Sheryl was an obvious choice for Treasurer. As well, there's the added bonus of acquiring husband Arthur, a Council Member since 1995, to share the load. Sheryl's motto of '*If you can't beat him - join him*' resulted in their joint membership to QOSI in 1992. Arthur's desire to relieve the frustration of trying to identify the easily seen, but notoriously difficult to identify, grey bodies strung out along the shoreline, led to the purchase of a telescope, attendance at a Wader Course and membership of the QWSG in 1994. The Scope and knowledge of species increased their pleasure of studying the Wader's easily observed behaviour and feeding patterns, as opposed to the well camouflaged and flighty habits of bush birds. Arthur and Sheryl now have two Scopes, have assisted the Count program by filling in at such salubrious places as Luggage Point and the North Pine River, when regular counters were not available, and now have their own site at Wellington Point. Sheryl is also involved in her local Bushcare Group and Arthur supports their avid birdwatching activities by being a 'mild mannered' Parliamentary Counsel during business hours.

- *Nigel Roberts, Council Member:* Nigel began helping Peter prior to the formation of the QWSG, as work experience towards his Bachelor of Science in Australian Environmental Studies from Griffith University. He finished his degree in 1994, had a break overseas, then started work with the

Environmental Management Branch of the Brisbane City Council. He recommenced his involvement with QWSG over the last 12 months and joined as a fully fledged financial member. He's now given up his job, planning to shortly commence a Research Masters on the feeding ecology and movements on and off roost sites of the Eastern Curlew, bringing a professional level to his involvement.

- *Stuart Pell, Council Member:* Stuart came to Brisbane from Canberra in 1995. A long term member of the Canberra Ornithologists Group, with qualifications in Animal Science and Wildlife Ecology, Stuart immediately joined the QOSI and gave a presentation on his work with Common Mynahs. Then he met Peter - and was quickly snavelled into joining the OWSG. In company with Wayne Lawlor and Diana O'Connor, he spent a lot of 1995 involved in the 'Queensland Wader Survey' for the Queensland Department of Environment, including planning, undertaking 5 weeks of field work from Bowen to Cairns, and report writing. He also has a banders licence, an asset on cannon netting days. Such a background led other members to quickly nominate Stuart to join the Council. Officially, Stuart has a PhD in Thermodynamics, an M Sc in Animal Science and a Grad. Dip. in Wildlife Management Survey and Ecology.

Returning Councillor

Welcome back to Sandra Harding, who returned from overseas recently. She has just taken up a new position as a Senior Planning Officer with the Coastal Management Section of the Department of Environment, working on State and Regional Plans for the Queensland coast, having previously been employed with the Department of Housing and Local Government. Birds and conservation seem to have been a part of her life for a very long time - she became a member of QOSI in 1986, was involved with the formation of QWSG in 1992, and has always been a member. She has regularly been Conservation Officer for the QOSI, the QWSO and the AWSG, and she still retains her position with the very time-consuming Australian Group. Since 1993, she has been a representative on the Queensland Department of Environment's Duck and Quail Advisory Committee, a position she has had to relinquish due to 'conflict of interest', being an employee of the same Department. Greg Miller, the QOSI and OWSG Conservation Officer, will be the proxy until a permanent replacement is arranged. Sandra has a Bachelor of Science in Australian Environmental Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning, and a Masters in Built Environment (City and Regional Planning). Is it any wonder Sandra is always nominated to be a Council Member?

Count Co-ordinators

A very big welcome to Phil and Linda Cross, who have offered / volunteered / been coerced into taking over the Count Co-ordinator role. Accompanying them on count day around their variety of habitats is a lesson in dedication, exactitude and fortitude. (It was also what encouraged the Editors, who were about to stand in for them during their absence next count day, to purchase an additional telescope.) Linda has the most amazing ability to spot and identify a well-camouflaged species, and Phil is particularly precise in recording accurate details. They have very kindly prepared their own details, which are presented in the 'Count Programme' section.

Committee Member Profiles

So as not to embarrass merely the new and returning Council Members, profiles of all members will appear in future editions. Don't let this deter anybody from becoming involved with committee assistance - it's merely a way to highlight the diverse range of talents and personalities the executive and membership of QWSG possesses.

There could be money in it.

Five members, Garth Innes, Arthur and Sheryl Keates, Leanne Bowden and Greg Miller, attended the Brisbane City Council's Community Grants Seminar at the City Hall on Monday 24 February. Whilst the focus of the Grants on offer were Brisbane City Council oriented, there was information on State and Federal Grants as well, such as the Brisbane River Management Group and the Natural Heritage Trust. The Lord Mayor, Cr Jim Soorley, stressed partnership with the community, two way streets, a new niche of environmental grants in this year's budget, and that he was 'a sucker for a good idea'. He thanked volunteers for giving their time, energy and resources to ensure that activities occurred to preserve, protect and enhance the liveability of the City.

Anyone with a good idea, and a wish to write a grant application, please contact the Treasurer.

Committee Meetings

A 2 hour meeting was held on 27 January with 16 committee and 3 QWSG members in attendance. Items discussed included:

- financial matters related to the Eastern Curlew Tracking project, Dynah Island and Empire Point roost site projects, , boat motors, Coastcare, Gaming Commission and other funding;
- newsletter matters - agreement to the Object of the Group; membership renewal date on labels; cessation of newsletter provision for non-financial members, inclusion of phone numbers for all executive members, and addresses for correspondence;
- activities - postponement of Great Sandy Strait and Fen Survey on Fraser Island; additional field days for new members to gain identification skills; logistics of Moreton Island Curlew project, World Wetlands Day and Clean Up Australia Day;
- Equipment / boat storage following Gary's departure;
- Naming of the QWSG boat to 'Wader Go'.

The next meeting will be held in April.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following people who have joined since the last list was printed in the Summer 1995/97 newsletter.-

David Edwards, Gary Fisher, Melanie Kee, Alain Perron

Many thanks 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.

JAMBA AND CAMBA CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

Tokyo, Japan: 24-28 February, 1997

Leanne Bowden

The Ninth Consultative meeting of signatories to the Japan - Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA) and the Third meeting of the China - Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA) were held consecutively in Tokyo, Japan between 24-28 February, 1997.

Official Australian government statements related to the recommendations issuing from this international conference have not yet been released, however further information will be provided in the next newsletter.

The Australian Delegation of four included two representatives from Environment Australia; Mark Barter, Chair of the Australasian Wader Studies Group, - who will no doubt prepare information for inclusion in "The Tattler"; and Mr Jon Womersley, Director, Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Queensland who represented the States/Territories as the current Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Environment Consultative Committee (ANZECC) Standing Committee on Conservation.

In his report, Mr Womersley states that the conservation of migratory water birds (of which 'waders' are one of the taxonomic orders concerned) requires both in country and international action to ensure that threats to the survival of these long distance travellers are minimised. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, *The Brisbane Initiative* establishing the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network, the Japan - China Migratory Bird Agreement (JCMB) JAMBA and CAMBA all support this aim.

Members will be pleased to know that information on the joint satellite tracking work on the Eastern Curlew was presented to delegates by Japan within the Special Interest Species Research Agenda item. Members of the Wild Bird Society expressed particular appreciation for the help and assistance they received from Peter Driscoll and Jeremy Thompson during their field work on Moreton Island.

Topics presented by Australia included reports on the Little Tern, Latham's Snipe, Great Knot and Red-necked Stint. Changes to the list of Special Interest species and to the list of migratory birds annexed to the agreements were also discussed.

The proposal for adoption of a standardised Colour Flagging Protocol, as discussed by Doug Watkins, and workshopped at the 'Shorebird Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region Conference' held in Brisbane in March 1996, was also on the agenda, along with the East Asian- Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network launched at the Ramsar Convention, and an Asia-Pacific Wetland Manager's Training Program.

The possibility of 'Twinning' the Shorebird Reserves of Brisbane's Boondall and Tinchi Tamba Wetlands, and Narashino City's Yatsu Tidal Flat was raised. Those of you who attended the Shorebird Conference will no doubt remember seeing the memorable slides of Yatsu shown by Tobai Sadayosi, representing the World Wide Fund for Nature - Japan. Yatsu is a substantially modified rectangular 'wetland' in the midst of total development, a freeway crossing one corner, yet still a staging site for waders. The Deputy Mayor of Brisbane paid an official visit there in 1996. At a recent presentation to BCC Environment Branch staff and other interested parties, he was obviously very impressed with the local government's involvement - a large bird hide and interpretive display at the site; information and details of the birds who visit displayed at the nearby railway station - and seemed keen for Brisbane to support and recognise their achievements.

From the items discussed, it can be seen that the involvement of QWSG members plays an important role in supporting Government initiatives and international action for the protection of waders and their habitats.

It is gratifying to see the results of our voluntary work, such as hosting and involvement in last years Shorebird Conservation Conference and the provision of physical labour for the Curlew Tracking project, reach the forum of an international inter-government conference.

JAMBA, the agreement between the Governments of Australia and Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Danger of Extinction and Their Environment came into force on 30 April, 1981, and CAMBA with the People's Republic of China came into force on 1 September 1988. The Agreement provides for co-operation to protect birds which migrate between the two countries concerned, and their environments. Joint research and data exchange is encouraged (e.g. the Curlew Tracking programme which is the highlight of this issue), as is the establishment of sanctuaries and other facilities for the management of migratory species, the control of the taking and trade in those species, and the prevention of damage to the habitats of scheduled birds. JAMBA has additional annexures which cover birds in danger of extinction.

PONDED PASTURE – THE GOOD AND THE BAD

Andrew Geering

Like many agricultural practices, the arguments for and against ponded pastures are very complex, and involve many economic and environmental considerations. The Ponded Pastures Steering Committee, a body consisting of representatives from government, industry and community groups, released a discussion paper on ponded pastures in 1996, with the purpose of receiving a broad spectrum of opinions on the merits of this practice in order for the State Government to develop a policy statement. I responded on behalf of the Queensland Wader Study Group outlining my opinions on the impact of the practice on waders. I will briefly describe some of the major issues in the following paragraphs. Most of my discussion is based on the Discussion Paper- prepared by the Steering Committee.

The fundamental principle of all ponded pasture systems is the impoundment of run-off water during the wet season using artificial banks, followed by the establishment of pasture (usually exotic) in the shallow ponds created. The impounded water remains well into the dry season, allowing pasture growth at a time when non-irrigated pastures have died. Three types of ponded pastures have been identified:

- (i) ponds located in inland ecosystems which are not directly connected to other waterways or marine ecosystems;

- (ii) ponds which have some direct connection to waterways or marine ecosystems (eg on flood plain or across intermittent streams); and
- (iii) (iii) ponds located in marine or estuarine ecosystems.

The benefits to pastoralists are many. The most obvious benefit is that the period of high productivity of the land is extended, allowing greater flexibility in stocking and greater ability to fatten stock at off-peak times when markets are stronger. Disruption of water run-off reduces erosion. The ponds act as a nutrient sink, which perhaps reduces eutrophication of inland waterways. The provision of high protein pastures during the dry season decreases the farmers reliance on food supplements such as molasses and urea. Pondered pastures also provide some insurance against drought. On the environmental side, pondered pastures increase the area of ephemeral wetlands, which probably benefits some waterfowl and waders such as Magpie Geese and Little Curlew.

From the above discussion, all may sound rosy with pondered pastures. This is not the case. There are also many environmental problems. One of the main problems is the potential weediness of the grass species used in pondered pastures. Several species have already become agricultural and environmental weeds. Para grass (*Brachiaria mutica*) has become a serious weed of sugarcane, and has already invaded several conservation parks (eg Eubenangee National Park). In some respects, the 'horse has already bolted', as several species used in pondered pasture are already naturalised, and are spreading unaided by humans. However, there are many more species from around the world which have potential for use in pondered pastures and may be imported.

One must also temper the argument of the expansion of wetlands by ponding pastures, with the fact that these new wetlands have very limited biodiversity, and if pondered pastures are developed at the expense of natural ephemeral wetlands, then the absolute increase in wetland area may not be beneficial to waders and waterbirds overall.

My greatest concern is the third type of pondered pasture, which occurs on tidally affected marine plains. In this practice, banks are built with the dual purpose of collecting fresh water and preventing encroachment of salt water. Put simply, this practice is a form of land reclamation, affecting mud-flats, salt pans and mangrove areas. Tidal movement of water is restricted, pastures established, nutrient flow altered, and soil compacted and eroded through cattle grazing. It could be expected that habitat within and surrounding pondered pastures would be severely altered to the detriment of waders that normally feed on the marine plains. Thus far, the Broudsound area has most been affected by pondered pastures, with 6,500 ha of marine plains having been pondered. However, since 1991, a moratorium has existed on the construction of impoundments below highest astronomical tide.

I hope I have conveyed in a balanced manner the many issues relating to pondered pastures. Research currently being done on pondered pastures includes

- i) the effects of pondage systems on barramundi,
- ii) the weediness potential of the exotic grass *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*,
- iii) the impact of pondered pastures on sediment trapping and nutrient recycling, and
- iv) the effects of pondered pastures on waterbird communities in central Queensland.

We await the results of this research. We also eagerly await new policy statements from the Queensland State Government.

MESSAGES from FRIENDS

JAPAN, FUJIMAE - Mika Shinkai

Andrew Geering received the following Internet message from Mika Shinkai, a member of the 'Save Fujimae Association' Fujimae is a Tidal Flat in the south west corner of Nagoya City, which accommodates one of the largest populations of migratory birds of any tidal flat in Japan.

'Unfortunately, I have to give you a disappointing news on Fujimae. Nagoya city decided, after a long examination by panel members of 60 opinion letters which came from Japan and abroad, that regarding

a Fujimae garbage dump project an environmental impact assessment was conducted properly and the supposed environmental impact of the project would be small, according to today's TV news.

This is really an embarrassing decision which just neglected the value of migratory birds and a tidal flat. Tsuji-san is going to request Nagoya city to have a public hearing to be explained reasons of this decision.

I personally is still optimistic thinking that the fate of Fujimae has not been decided yet regardless of today's Nagoya city's decision because now Nagoya mayor Nishio is resigning and Nagoya city will have a mayor election in may. Two of the three candidates are promising to save Fujimae tidal flat, and the rest one, a present city hall officer, is promising to continue Nishio mayor's policies. Unfortunately the last one is most powerful being, supported by most of local legislators, but situation is not determined yet.

On the occasion of Wetland Symposium held in Nagoya last September, an officer of Environmental Agency of Japan told publicly that conventional environmental impact assessment conducted by local governments were defective and needed be replaced by new procedures which would soon be established by Environmental Agency of Japan.

Now I believe what everybody need is to have time to watch migratory birds. Seeing birds would appeal more strongly than any words.

Best wishes.,

Japan - "Millions of Thanks" - Yozo Tsukamoto

Peter Driscoll received a very heart warming message from Yozo Tsukamoto, Vice- President of the Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ), on 17 February.

Dear Dr Driscoll,

What an exciting and productive field work QWSO, WBSJ, and other Australian experts have done together on Moreton Island! First of all, I thank you indeed for everything you have extended to us during our short stay in Australia as well as in the course of PTT and other research discussions through the countless e-mails for the last few months. I am sure your careful preparation and charming personality must have led our field work truly successful.

Ueta-san and I are very appreciative for the fieldwork by the enthusiastic QWSG members. They are a group of wonderful people and we tremendously enjoyed working and living together. Next time you get in touch with them; please make sure to send our best regards to them again

As we are all aware, only the initial work has been done....

Looking forward to receiving good data in due course,
Sincerely yours.

The Parish of St Paul's Roma The Ven Gary Harch

B.A. B. Surv. Archdeacon of the West

The vagaries of the Queensland climate have been shown again in

Western Queensland, with a number of areas going from 5 years of drought to flood. So what's the news about waders? Well I haven't seen one yet, partly because it has been too wet to get out to some of the better places. Oh for the luxury of the mangroves, sand, and green legflaps. In the meantime I hone my skills on Birds of Prey for the Bird of Prey watch. Lots of travelling in my work out here.

In the Roma area there were large rains to the North, causing the local creek, the Bungil, to flood the town. As a result most of the

waterholes, dams etc are full and there is birdlife everywhere you travel. I've come at a perfect time to see what happens in our ephemeral wetlands and talk to people about what they know; and differences between now and in the drought.

In the wider SW Qld area some landowners have set aside some of their land as natural reserves so I hope to make some contacts and maybe establish regular reporting of birds and wetland conditions. Later in the year I'll be at Currawinya and do some further investigation on the waders that use that large wetlands
Keep Roma in mind as a place to visit or as a stopping place to somewhere else.

Call me on ph/fax 076 22 4623 or e-mail Gary.:Harch@bi_qpond.com'

The 'Introduction to Waders (Shorebirds) in Australia and Moreton Bay' course held on 11, 16 and 18 March was a great success. More than 30 people attended, and 2 of the new members listed in this newsletter were attendees of the course. A book was provided for comments on the content and to find out how attendees heard about the Course. For most, the field trip proved very enjoyable, and excellent to be with people who know their birds. Many felt they learnt a lot, and only a few found the lectures too long, too technical, and therefore a bit daunting and boring for beginners. A couple thought it a little expensive. Eleven attendees heard about the Course through QOSI, 6 from the radio, 5 from a flyer in the Department of Environment, 2 from other groups newsletters, 2 from the Wynnum Herald and 1 directly from a member.

MANY THANKS TO ALL THE MEMBERS INVOLVED: THE ORGANISER, SPEAKERS, TABLE SITTERS and SUPPER SERVERS.

The Things you Read in the Newspaper

,Edward Kleiber, member and regular counter of the Tweed estuary area has kindly provided the following news item from an English newspaper about 2 years ago. He and fellow counter, Ian Watson, had a good laugh at what 'mild mannered, law abiding bird watchers will transform into, just to see a 'rare' wader.

IS it a bird? Is It a plane? No, It's a twitcher speed- ing up the A9. So keen are birdwatch- ers to catch a glimpse of the latest rare sighting that scores of them have been booked by police. The binocular- wielding drivers put officers in a flap as they rushed to a remote beach In North-East Scotland. In all, 90 carloads of twitchers were stopped. At the root of all the trouble is the grey-tailed

By David Hamilton

tattler, last seen In Britain in the Eighties. The bird, which breeds in Siberia and winters In Australia and the Eastern Pacific, is 10,000 miles off-course.

Twitcher Marcus Law- son drove 640 miles In nine-and-a-half hours from his home in Becken- ham, Kent, to- join the 1,000 enthusiasts camped out on the east beach at

Burghead on the Moray Firth. "Any twitcher worth his salt would say a sighting of the grey-winged tattler is well worth a speeding fine," he said. And Lee Evans, who covers 70,000 miles a year, was pulled up three times as he drove from his home in Little Chalfont, Bucks. 'Fortunately, we were let off with warnings," he said. A police spokesman 'advised' that 'officers were patrol ling the A9 "as normal".

FLYING THE QWSG COLOURS

Some may have thought the February general meeting of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Brisbane Branch, was in fact a QWSG meeting, when three of their Executive members arrived in QWSG T-shirts - President Ken Jones looked sporty in Jade, Guest Speaker and Council Member, Greg Miller was environmentally inclined in green, whilst Council Delegate Garth Innes was appropriately attired in Royal Blue.

Well done boys!!

If you've attended something, somewhere, where QWSG was noticeably represented, please let us know, so everyone can be aware of where our message is being spread.

COUNT PROGRAMME Phil and Lindcz Cross

As reported in the Summer 96/97 issue, Ivell and Jim Whyte have stepped down. We take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new Count Co-ordinators for the Queensland Wader Study Group.

We joined the Queensland Ornithological Society Inc. in April 1991, after becoming involved in the Australian Museum ABC Bird Count. As members of OOSI, we have participated in the annual bird count for the last four years, and have volunteered as leaders for some bird outings.

After some encouragement from Peter Driscoll, we became involved in the wader count programme and did our first count in March 1993. A short time later we joined QWSG and have been actively involved in the counts ever since. Initially we counted only one site, but in our endeavour to find more high tide roosts we now have three sites to cover.

Some of our aims are:

to increase the number of counters and sites, giving a more comprehensive coverage of the number of waders in Queensland;

meet members and visit their count sites, further increasing our knowledge of wader habitats. This will also aid us in advising stand-in counters who are not familiar with the site. We strongly urge all counters to write an article describing their count site as requested in the previous newsletter.

With the help of QWSG committee and members, organise more wader identification days which will hopefully increase the number of people wanting to be involved in the count

programme.