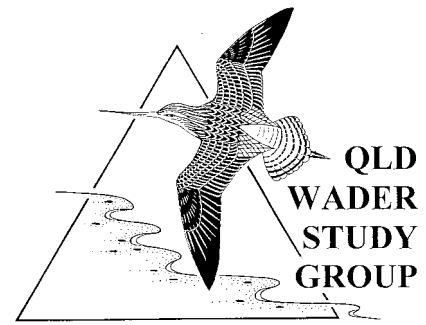


# QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 24

WINTER: JUNE 1998

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

## EMPIRE POINT COASTCARE PROJECT

THE SIGN SAYS IT ALL – Under the project leadership of Peter Driscoll, with support from Redland Shire Council, particularly Adrian Caneris, our Coastcare funded project to construct a roost site at Empire Point, Redland Shire, Southern Moreton Bay, is actually happening.

Details of location and history were provided in QW23 page 6.

The finalisation of the project will depend upon vagaries such as the weather and geological factors such as the presence of acid sulphate soil, however all the planning and permits are now behind us.

It's early days yet for the roost itself, and, as with any project involving wildlife, only time will tell how well it will be received by those who it is intended to assist.

Wording from Sign at the Work Site

### **NOTIFICATION OF WORKS CONSTRUCTION OF A WADER(SHOREBIRD) ROOSTING AREA**

A unique project to enhance the use of local tidal flats by waders will be undertaken over a two-week period beginning 13<sup>th</sup> July 1998 at Empire Point.

The site is a disused loading area on the outer fringe of the mangroves. It was once used by Qld Cement and Lime (QCL) to load mined coral from barges. A brief process of reshaping the contours at the site will create an 80m wide open pad surrounded by a tidal moat to offer security for the birds to sit (roost) at high tide. Areas such as these are in short supply as a result of widespread development of the foreshores in Moreton Bay. This is an attempt to recreate natural conditions suitable for the birds.

The project has been developed by the Queensland Wader Study Group and Redland Shire Council and has wide ranging support from government and non-government organisations. A small area of young mangroves will be removed as a part of the construction process.

**THE WORKS ARE AUTHORISED UNDER QLD DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES PERMIT  
NO.97SODB2540**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT REDLAND SHIRE COUNCIL CONSERVATION UNIT  
OR QLD WADER STUDY GROUP**

All correspondence to: The Chairperson,

**CHAIRPERSON:**

Peter Driscoll

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Sheryl Keates

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**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:**

Leanne Bowden &amp; G Miller

**COUNT COORDINATORS:**

Linda &amp; Phil Cross

**COUNT DATA ENTRY**

Natasha Taylor

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**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Annual subscription rates:

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Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward Application to:

Mrs S. Keates, The Treasurer, Queensland Wader Study Group

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Contributions should be addressed to The Editors, Queensland Wader, E-mail:

Computerised contributions should be in IBM Word or Wordperfect.

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

Advertising rates are \$15.00 for one quarter column and \$20.00 for a third of a column. -

**From the Editors - Leanne Bowden and Greg Miller**

**Copy Deadline Summer - September Edition**

The deadline for the next issue is one week prior to the beginning of the publication month, August, i.e. 24 August, 1998 (see page 2 for details).

Thank you for your patience. Please accept our apologies for the lateness of this newsletter - due to a variety of technological, educational and personal reasons!!

**NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE**; - Leanne Bowden.

**Committee Meetings**

Meetings were held on Tuesday 17 March and 25 May with 14 members in attendance.

Items discussed:

- Projects - Results of Eastern Curlew & Gulf work. Proposed book. Involvement in Coastcare Projects for other groups - Boondall Wetlands; Tinchy Tamba; Quandamooka; AMCS Moreton Bay Branch.
- Finance - Application for funding for computer.
- Conservation - Empire Point
- Forward Plans - Nigel's estate; Griffith University Postgraduate student project "Identification of feeding habitats and food organisms - Eastern Curlew"; Equipment Storage The next meeting will be held in July.

## Other Meetings and Events

Attended by members on behalf of QWSG:

- Moreton Bay Alliance Meeting 23 May - Joyce & Sandra Harding
- Launch of 1998 Waterways Management Plan, May – Leanne Bowden & Greg Miller.
- Brisbane School for Seniors 27 May - Andrew Geering addressed approx 20 people over 70 yrs of age on Waders of Queensland.
- Oceans Policy Public Consultation evening – Leanne Bowden, Joyce & Sandra Harding, Greg Miller.
- Royal Society of Qld "Wild Discoveries in the Great South East" 13 June - Peter Driscoll presented a talk "The long and the short haul - unravelling flights of the Eastern Curlew".
- Brisbane City Council 20 July - Discussions on Nudgee Beach Benthic Fauna Decline and its effect on waders, and including data on the first red tide on Nudgee Beach. - Greg Miller

## Publicity

25 May - Greg Miller appeared on 5.30 Report talking about the decline of waders on Nudgee Beach. Signage for Boondall Wetlands and Tinchy Tamba. Ivell Whyte has produced illustrations of waders for the Brisbane City Council birdhides.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last list was printed in the Autumn March 1998 newsletter?

Mrs Wendy ARMSTRONG, Mr Burnard COLLINS, Mr Rodney.DUFFY, Mr Robert FORSYTH,  
Ms Louise HARDMAN, Ms Fiona MANSON, Mr Ian SCHOFIELD, Mr John THOMSON,  
Mr Brian VENABLES, Mr Russell WATSON

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.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENTPOLICY-1998 - Greg Miller

*Peter Beattie became Premier of Queensland on 26 June 1998, with Rod Welford, the member for Everton, becoming Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources.*

The Government's pre-election Environmental Policy included four papers. These are The Environment Policy, Focus on Green Power, Plan for Conserving Biological Diversity and The Coastal Management Plan. These are concise papers of 12, 5, 12 and 11 pages respectively. This article will not review the overall thrust of these environmental policies but will select aspects of these policies that may affect wader birds and wader bird habitat significantly, both beneficially and adversely.

Wader bird habitat is predominantly within the littoral zone and therefore subject to disturbance at two levels:

- by human visitation and coastal alterations,
- by the detrimental effects of human alterations to the catchment processes with typically decreased water flows and increased nutrients, toxins and mobilisations of sediments. These downflows commonly deposit within the littoral zone and therefore accumulate incrementally. This affects the invertebrates that wader birds predate in two ways:
  - increased sediments prevent light penetration which decreases the photosynthetic organisms that form the food resources of some of the invertebrates;
  - accumulated toxins and excessive nutrients provide less than optimum habitat for these organisms and therefore these populations decrease and lessen food availability for waders.

While reviewing these policy initiatives please consider each within the frame work of maintaining wader habitat, decreasing human disturbance, improving water catchment practices and providing, in legislation, the mechanism to enable increased protection and monitoring procedures.

## The Environmental Policy

The Queensland government has a major role to play in establishing, demonstrating and encouraging Ecologically Sustainable Development through environmental best practice.

The public has a 'right to know' about the state of the environment and an opportunity to participate in achieving ecological sustainable solutions to the challenges affecting the quality of our living environment.

This paper introduces a Clean Water Strategy that includes an expanded Waterwatch program and will implement and enforce the Water EEP standards ensuring tough fines for breaches. It aims to improve the integration of Lands-use and integrated Catchment Management strategies to protect Queensland's water quality in rural and coastal areas from agricultural run-off and other non-point sources of pollution'.

## Focus on Green Power

- expresses concerns about global warming (and possible sea level rise) and offers incentives to reduce fossil fuel derived electricity.
- Aims to decrease pollution by encouraging use of renewable energy sources and the application of energy efficient technologies.

## Plan for Conserving Biological Diversity

- Requires the formulation of a State Conservation Strategy and Bioregional Conservation Plan to guide conservation efforts and improve the sustainability of land use.
- Plans to expand the Fraser Island World Heritage Area to include the whole Great Sandy Region, including Coolooloa National Park.
- Plans to give legislative effect to the Great Sandy Region Management Plan with the ultimate aim of bringing the World Heritage area under the planning control of one government agency (which agency is not mentioned).
- The Community Nature Conservation Plan encourages off-park initiatives and may be an area where wader roosts on private property can, with the owners agreement, benefit from protection offered by this scheme. Note that this document does not indicate if the nature conservation covenant stays on the land or ceases when ownership transfers.
- The Threatened Species and Ecosystems Unit is seen 'as a central coordination agency, facilitating a comprehensive strategy for the protection and recovery of threatened species and ecosystems.'
- A long term aim is to increase the National Park estate to 5%.

## Coastal Management Plan

This paper discusses the need for stricter control on coastal planning and development because of the damage inflicted by earlier constructions, stating that this 'will safeguard the environmental values of our coastal strip and wetlands for the future'.

- Two developments that will not be proceeded with are,
  - the Rainbow Harbour (Thomatis Ck) north of Cairns and
  - the East Trinity project, which "is not part of the FNQ2020 plan and any DCP allowing for development in the area will not be approved".
- Proposes to complete assessments under the Ramsar Convention for Great Sandy Strait, Newry Island (north of Mackay) and the southern Gulf region.
- Also planned is to implement effective management plans for all Ramsar wetlands.
- The Gulf Region declared a marine park.
- The South-East Queensland Regional Coastal Management Plan will be promptly finalised and this includes Moreton Bay.

This article is a brief summary of those sections of the current government's environmental policy that obviously concentrate on wader concerns. It does not attempt to explore the full scope of these policy documents. These are policy documents and do not contain timelines, however NGOs will be anxious to establish timetables to turn these policies into enacted legislation. The QWSG expects to act in close liaison with government departments and other NGOs to develop a fuller recognition of the state's biological diversity during the completion of the steps required to maintain ecological sustainability.

## **THREE YEARS OF WADER STUDIES IN THE SOUTH-EAST GULF OF CARPENTARIA** - Peter Driscoll

The south-east Gulf of Carpentaria is one of the three most important areas for waders in Australia with an estimated, non-breeding population of around 200,000 birds. It is also an important staging site for waders entering and leaving Australia.

The Gulf is in a particularly remote area of northern Australia and presents significant logistical challenges to wader studies. Vehicle access to the coastline is limited and is normally impossible during the monsoon period from January to April. Studies to date have relied heavily on the use of light planes, helicopters and boats.

The region is known to be internationally important for 19 species of wader and is particularly noteworthy for Great Knot (estimated population of 66,000), Black-tailed Godwit (51,000) and Red-necked Stint (40,000). Very large numbers of Red Knot (79,100) have been recorded on southward migration, presumably on their way to south-east Australia and New Zealand, and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on northward migration from south-east Australia. The Gulf almost certainly plays an important role in the migration strategies of other species migrating to and from southern Australia.

Whilst information of a general nature is available on the distribution and abundance of waders in the Gulf, there is only a limited understanding of habitat usage during the year and of the numbers and distribution of the different species using the Gulf during migration. This is particularly so during the wet season when birds are preparing for northward migration and when the region is acting as a staging site for birds from further south. More detailed information will be very useful for the development of habitat management plans.

The objectives of the three-year study are to:

1. Improve knowledge of the distribution of important roosting and feeding areas, and the ways in which they are used;
2. Obtain information, at the species level, on abundance and distribution and how these change during the migration period.

The first year of the study from early March to mid-April 1998, involved a team of four people and focused on developing solutions to logistical problems and obtaining preliminary data on distribution, abundance and timing of migration. A variety of equipment, including Ultralight plane, helicopter, all-terrain vehicle and boat have been trialled. Considerable time was spent on the ground at a number of individual roost sites.

The next two years of the study should involve a larger team and expanded activities, including banding studies and radio telemetry. The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service has been involved in preliminary banding efforts and the Century Pasmenco Project have helped financially by contributing to the purchase of an all-terrain vehicle.

The problems associated with working in the Gulf were immediately apparent with more than one metre of rain falling in the study area in the days immediately before the team arrived. The whole region was declared a disaster area due to extensive flooding which cut-off road access to the Karumba base camp for some weeks. Nonetheless, the team commenced work having flown in by light plane. The Ultralight proved itself to be very useful for locating roosting and feeding waders and for undertaking aerial counts.

The recently gathered field data are yet to be fully assessed but there is considerable disparity with results from "work in the 1980s. The intensive work being undertaken is well overdue and over the next few years will serve to accurately survey an area of vital importance to waders.

Funding for the three-year study has been made available through a Natural Heritage Trust grant to the Qld Dept of Environment from Environment Australia. QWSG has been contracted to undertake the work and is being assisted by AWSG.

Attendees in the March Survey: Peter Driscoll, Mark Barter, Jim Wilson, Brian Venables.

## EASTERN CURLEW SATELLITE TRACKING.

A flurry of excitement occurred at the end of March 1998, following receipt of news that one of the Eastern Curlews fitted with a satellite transmitter at Moreton Is/and on 31 January 1998 had arrived in Japan.

News of the event was quickly relayed by e-mail, followed up by fax and hard copies of the articles which appeared in two Japanese newspapers. These have been translated for us by Shoko Thompson. Sadly, there is no mention of the involvement of the Queensland Wader Study Group.

QW23 carried a photograph of an Eastern Curlew just fitted with a transmitter leaving Moreton Bay, Queensland on 31 January. Here it is in southern Japan on 21 March, the leg flag and aerial prominent. This photograph was taken and contributed by Mr Hiromu Sora, President of the Tokushima Branch of the Wild Bird Society of Japan. It was forwarded by Maki Koyama of the Wildlife Protection Division of Japan's Environment Agency in Chiyoda-ku Tokyo.

### Tokushima Shimbun 24 March 1998 -Translated by Shoko Thompson

#### 50 DAY JOURNEY ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN

#### An Eastern Curlew fitted with a transmitter on its back flew from East Australia to the mouth of the Yoshino River

A member of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokushima Prefecture Branch, found a migratory bird, Eastern Curlew at the mouth of the Yoshino River in Tokushima City on 21 March, 1998. It was fitted with a satellite transmitter in order to investigate its migration route. Two days later, the Research Center at the Wild Bird Society of Japan revealed it is one of nine birds which were released on 30 January, 1998 in Australia. It is the first time that a migratory bird with a transmitter has been spotted in Japan.

Mr Tadashi Kasai (55 yrs), a member of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokushima Prefecture Branch, who works for a company in Showa-machi, Tokushima City, found the Eastern Curlew feeding at tidal flats at 9:45 am on 21 March, 1998. This bird had a transmitter with antenna (5.5 by 1.8 centimetres, about 20 grams weight) and green flag on its right leg. Mr Hirofumi Tanaka (37 yrs), a member of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokushima Prefecture Branch, who works as public servant in Sakano-machi, Komatushima City, videotaped the bird at about 4:30 pm on 22 March, 1998.

The Eastern Curlew with a transmitter was released at Moreton Island in East Queensland, Australia, by the investigation research institute contracted with the Environment Agency, and the Australian Government.

According to data from satellite which received signals sent from the transmitter, it was revealed that the Eastern Curlew was detected: at 12:30 am (Japan time) on 8 March, 1998, off the shore of Papua New Guinea, at 5:00 am on 10 March, 1998, at Oki Daito Jima, at 4:00 am on 21 March, 1998, at the mouth of the Yoshino River.

They speculate the bird flew offshore from Papua New Guinea to Oki Daito Jima over a distance of approx 3050 kilometres in approx 55 hours.

Even on 14 March, 1998, the Eastern Curlew was spotted at the tidal flats in Yoshino River. It has got a green flag which shows it came from Australia.

The Research Center of the Wild Bird Society of Japan announced, "This is very important data in order to elucidate Eastern Curlew's migration route and it has a very high possibility that the mouth of Yoshino River is the major point of their migration route."

The Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokushima Prefecture Branch Manager says, "The mouth of the Yoshino River is internationally very important point in terms of the Eastern Curlew's migration route."

## Asahi Shimbun 24 March 1998 -Translated by Shoko Thompson

### MIGRATORY BIRD WITH TRANSMITTER ARRIVED

#### An Eastern Curlew flew into tidal flats at Tokushima non-stop over the South Pacific Ocean

A migratory bird, an Eastern Curlew with a satellite transmitter was spotted at tidal flats at the mouth of the Yoshino River in Tokushima City. This bird was released in Australia by the Environment Agency in order to investigate its migration route. A member of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokushima Prefecture Branch, succeeded to videotape it on 23 March, 1998. It was the first time that an Eastern Curlew with a transmitter has flown to that place. According to data analysis, a new migration route over the South Pacific Ocean straight to Japan has been discovered separate to the usual route via the Philippines.

The Eastern Curlew is a very rare species and is recorded in the Environment Agency's "Red Data Book". Their breeding grounds are in the Kamuchakka Peninsula and wet lands in North East Siberia. They migrate between their breeding grounds and Australia. They arrive in Japan in spring and autumn as a relay point. The Wild Bird Society of Japan was contracted from the Environment Agency to put transmitters on nine Eastern Curlews at the end of January at Moreton Island, East Australia.

One of those birds was spotted in the Yoshino River. According to data transmitted by its electronic transmitters, this Eastern Curlew had flown across the Pacific Ocean without stopping in the Philippines or Taiwan.

It also revealed that the bird kept flying from North Papua New Guinea to nearby Minami Daito Jima with a distance of 3050 km, in about 53 hours. A member of the Tokushima Prefecture Branch, the Wild Bird Society of Japan, said "I marvelled at its E physical strength"

## DREDGING UP THE FUTURE?

### The Northern Gold Coast Beach Protection Strategy (NGCBPS) – Greg Miller

#### Background

This project arose from beach erosion problems affecting the multi-million-dollar tourist industry and the recreational and scenic values of the northern section of the Gold Coast's 52 kilometre stretch of high energy (therefore dynamic) beach. Erosion problems would be manifest; even if the dune system had been maintained intact, however removal of this reservoir of sand to enable beach front construction has exacerbated the problem. Some sections of the beach, such as Narrowneck, were depleted of dunes before the development began.

The Narrowneck region was one of these erosion prone sections, although of little concern until the highway construction in 1923. Protection of this asset from erosion was enhanced by the construction of a wooden seawall. This wall has been exposed after several erosion events such as the 1967 cyclones and threatened by the May 1996 storms. The Master Plan 1997 calls for erosion protection from a 1 in 100 years storm together with allowance for sea height rise.

#### Solution

The Gold Coast Council adopted a three staged solution to the Narrowneck problem that offered additional benefits (and costs):

- Widen the Northcliffe to Narrowneck beach to form a 1 in 100-year storm buffer & increase public space.
- Improve surfing conditions at Narrowneck by constructing a submerged reef immediately offshore Narrowneck. The reef will be formed by sand filled geotextile containers. This should stabilise the beaches, increase tourism and enable high quality surfing competitions.
- Construct a continuous seawall to protect private and public beachfront assets during extreme erosion events.

This solution requires the seafront area to be nourished by large quantities of sand replenishment. The origins of these quantities of sand is the Southport Broadwater, and this is the basis of the QWSG interest in this project.

## Broadwater Dredging

### Physical Effects

The sand required for this project will be dredged and pumped from sites within the Southport Broadwater. An initial extraction of at least 1.5 million cubic metres will be removed followed by an annual requirement of at least 60,000 cubic metres. The sand will be obtained by submerged dredging of channels.

Dredging will modify the hydraulic regime by deepening these channels, resulting in increased volumes of tidal flow. Within sections that have not been enlarged the tidal current speed will increase to facilitate the larger volume of tidal flows within the same cross sections and time periods. Increased tidal flow velocities and volumes may detrimentally affect the channel walls causing erosion and decreased tidal flat surface area.

### Biological Effects

Dredging will cause some sediment plumes. The amount of sediment mobilisation that forms these plumes, will depend on the type of dredging and ameliorating actions taken 'to contain the outflow of disturbed particles. Historically these outflows result in localised.

- **increased turbidity** - less sunlight penetration, therefore lower production within some species (particularly photosynthetic food species),
- **decreased biologically available oxygen** - decrease in some species and overall decrease in other species viability,
- **remobilisation of toxins:**
  - heavy metals*; these may detrimentally bio-accumulate within the higher trophic level predators (ie waders),
  - poisons*; poison kill various links in the bio-web,
  - herbicides*; destruction of photosynthetic organism that form the basis of higher-level species food sources,
  - pesticides*; kill invertebrates that form the food source of waders.

Please note that the **increased turbidity** is the result of technical details of dredge practices and can be controlled. The decreased **biologically available oxygen** will extend beyond the dredging zone.

**Remobilisation of toxins** will decrease the food resources available to high trophic level predators such as waders. This is because the silt now contained within the sand substrate acts as a sink for various anthropogenic introduced contaminants and nutrients.

### Impact on Waders

#### Short term factors:

The actual operation of the dredging equipment may disturb the waders. Remobilised silt and contaminants may decrease wader food resources.

#### Long term factors:

The future hydraulic regime of the Southport Broadwater may erode the sandbanks that form wader feeding areas and thereby decrease the wader population within this area.

As this project is now a reality the QWSG should continue to monitor the Broadwater wader populations and also note any erosion of the wader feeding areas.

## Moreton Bay Alliance Meeting – 23 May ,1998 - Joyce Harding

*This meeting was attended by Sandra and Joyce Harding representing Queens/and Wader Study Group*

A presentation was given by a public relations officer on the Brisbane River & Moreton Bay Wastewater Management Study. There was much discussion on the "vision" but as yet, little evidence of "action". Scientific studies have been made to plot patterns of pollution throughout the bay which will have significance for regulating future sewage inputs. Reports are available for comment until June 30.

A letter from the Australian Marine Conservation Society (Moreton Bay branch) to the (then) Minister for Environment (Hon. Brian Littleproud MLA) on the Moreton Bay Zoning Plan was tabled.

The letter raised concerns that the Zoning plan was approved without adequate community consultation, was frequently ambiguous and difficult to interpret.



A concept document, Coastal Vigil, "Adopt – a - Wetland", Moreton Bay Alert Program was presented. "Coastal Vigil" is a Coastcare funded component of the "Adopt-a-Wetland" project, aimed at promoting a community 'eyes & ears' approach to enforcement of the rules for protecting the environment. The aim is to publish contact details of the various agencies that deal with different activities in the bay i.e. a number to call if sighting stranded marine animals, discharge from boats, dumping into waterways, environmental damage to mangroves, concerns on noxious weeds, feral animals etc. The completed document will contain steps to be taken when recognising an inappropriate activity.

Contact was made with a representative of the Quandamooka Land Council Coastcare group who are implementing training programmes for indigenous people as rangers in various aspects of nature protection. We invited them to attend our wader ID days whenever possible.

Concern was expressed over a report that the Port of Brisbane would extend a further two kilometres into the bay.

The draft Oceans Policy has now been released and is available for public comment. The draft Policy has set out the key principles for conservation and use of our ocean resources. 1998 being the international Year of the Ocean it seems appropriate that we look at the health of the ocean from a wader's point of view and do what we can to clean up the ocean foreshores.

These are a few of the matters raised by groups in the Moreton Bay Alliance. At present the Alliance consists of over thirty environment groups with a wide range of interests and programmes.

## LIBRARY NEWS – Dave Stewart

### **NOT SO MUCH NEWS - BUT A PLEA FOR HELP - VOLUNTEER REQUIRED**

When completing QWSG membership forms, many people have indicated that they are willing to assist with clerical work and computer work. Your chance has arrived! A donation of wader-related articles has been received by the QWSG library, and requires to be correctly referenced and entered on an Access 97 database. Training will be provided as to how to reference and enter the data.

You would need to either own your own IBM PC or you are welcome to join me at Indooroopilly to undertake the work there. If it's your own PC, you will need to run Microsoft Word, Excel or Access from Windows 95 onwards.

I eagerly await your inundation of offers.

## COUNT PROGRAMME - Phil and Linda Cross

It's hard to believe that half the year has gone already. It only seemed like yesterday that we did the national summer count and here we are just completing the winter count.

**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SENT YOUR SUMMER COUNT SHEETS PLEASE ENSURE YOU SEND THEM IMMEDIATELY WITH THE WINTER ONES.**

**All sheets have to be processed and the information sent to AWSG for inclusion into the Stilt. WE NEED THEM NOW!!**

By now the number of waders would have reduced at your sites making it a little easier counting.

We note that the largest group of one species still to leave was 642 Grey-tailed Tattler recorded at Manly Boat Harbour on 25-4-98. Double-banded Plover have been recorded at Dux Creek since February, and 2 recorded during an outing at Toorbul on 18-3-98. A few were also seen at Manly Boat Harbour during the Wader ID day on 28-3-98.

On 14-3-98 we recorded the very first leg flag during our count at Deception Bay Fisheries Research Station. It was a green leg flag on a Great Knot. It's only taken us 5 years to spot one! If you see a bird with a coloured flag, please report it. Record bird species, where seen, date seen and colour of flag in the note column. The note column is there for you to record as much information as possible and needs to be used more often.

Which brings us to the importance of filling in your count sheet correctly. Just about all the boxes on the sheet SHOULD be filled in with the exception of Acc and Site. The Count disrupted and Total coverage boxes will only need to be used as per information in Counter Instructions.

*If you do not have a copy of the Counter Instructions, please let us know and we will send you one.*

We are all guilty of mistakes but it would be a huge help, time and money wise, if you could ensure you have completed the boxes before you send off your sheet. The boxes forgotten most often are wind direction and speed, tide and sometimes the start and finish times, (try to use the 24 hour clock). These are all important and should not be overlooked.

Use the notes section next to each bird to record behaviour or breeding information. Extra birds and notes can be made on the bottom of the form, and the reverse if needed. Quite a number of counters put a lot of information on their sheets which is very useful data, particularly additional information in relation to behaviour, and changes to the site.

You all have a great role in this organisation and are doing a wonderful job. We thank you in advance for helping make our work that bit easier.

STOP PRESS!!  
IT FINALLY HAPPENED.  
WE HAVE NO STANDBY COUNTERS LEFT.  
ALL HAVE BEEN DESPATCHED TO COVER OTHER COUNTSITES.  
NOW MORE THAN EVER WE NEED TO HEAR  
FROM THOSE PEOPLE INTERESTED IN COUNTING.  
THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN ABOUT THE BIRDS  
AND TO BE ABLE TO READILY IDENTIFY THEM  
IS TO GO ON A COUNT.  
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF WE GIVE YOU A CALL AND COAX YOU INTO IT!!

Happy counting.  
Phil and Linda Cross

### **Distribution of count data? one method - Peter Driscoll**

It is an ongoing concern of the QWSG committee that people doing high tide roost counts have adequate feedback of the results of their work. It has been a few years since we distributed back to the counters their results from the database. We are very conscious of how long it has been, especially as the counting has been proceeding at the same or even greater intensity since then. At present there is a very large quantity of information, which we plan to distribute back to the counters in an appropriate form.

The problem for those of us involved in coordinating, processing and maintaining the count programme is one of time. It is a very big chore and an even bigger one when we need to give you, the counters, some feedback of your results. Gradually our system of handling the data has improved and recently I have worked out a computer based technique of displaying results in a digestible form using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

We would like to make this spreadsheet available to people who can use it. You will need some knowledge of the use of Microsoft Excel (version 5 or later) and preferably have an email address. We can't guarantee when we will respond to any requests but will do our best. It is also preferably that you make your requests through Linda Cross, rather than directly to me. The output will be a direct data dump from the database which you, as a reasonably competent user of Microsoft Excel, will be able to select and display for whatever site and species you want information for.

That is, you do the selecting and printing of what you want to look at. This approach has many advantages for us. It is relatively simple; it doesn't require vast quantities of paper production and takes the onus off us of sieving through the data.

The disadvantages are the data will not have undergone final vetting for errors, it will lack all the notations, tide heights and other miscellaneous information that is recorded on the data sheets (this information is on the database but not easily reproduced in the spreadsheet form).

The conditions are, you will have to specify which sites you want data for, that is by using the four-letter site code used on the count sheet and for what period you want it. We would also be loathe to pass out data for sites other than those you are counting without good reason and/or permission from the person(s) who have counted that site.

It is also a trial, so don't count on smooth sailing or continued commitment by us to this approach if we find there are serious draw backs. Let Linda know if you are interested. It is also not our intention to offer only this means of feedback to the counters. However, at present it is the only offer that we have time for and could consider making.

Our apologies but we do our best and QWSG appreciates the great effort being made by everyone counting feeding and roosting birds. Let me assure you your data is being used to further our objectives and help the birds.

## WADER WATCH - Linda Cross, Peter Driscoll, Joyce Harding

Leg Flag Banding 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 - Queensland**

1 Eastern Curlew with transmitter - Ivan Fien at Caboolture River Mouth on 14-4-98

1 Bar-tailed Godwit - Ivan Fien at Caboolture River mouth on 25-5-98

4 Bar-tailed Godwit - Ivell Whyte Cabbage Tree Creek on 4-4-98

37 Bar-tailed Godwit - Ivell Whyte, Jill Chamberlain, Martin Waugh, Jill Dening, Sheryl Keates at Cabbage Tree Creek, Bell's Creek Caloundra, Amity Point, Toorbul and Manly Boat Harbour, between 17-1-98 and 16-5-98.

8 Great Knot - Ivell Whyte, Linda Cross, Chris Smith at Cabbage Tree Creek, Deception Bay Fisheries Research, Toorbul and Manly Boat Harbour, between 17-1-98 and 4-4-98.

3 Grey-tailed Tattler - Arthur Keates, Olwyn Crimp and Jean Corney at Lytton, Fisherman Island and Sandstone Point, between 13-3-98 and 30-3-98.

3 Greater Sand Plover - Olwyn Crimp and Linda Cross at Fisherman Island and Manly Boat Harbour on 13-3-98 and 28-3-98.

5 Lesser Sand Plover - Olwyn Crimp, Jill Dening and Linda Cross at Manly Boat Harbour, Fisherman island and Toorbul, between 13-3-98 and 4-4-98.

1 Eastern Curlew - Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 29-3-98.

1 Ruddy Turnstone - Andrew Geering at St. Helena Island on 14-3-98.

1 Curlew Sandpiper - during Wader ID at Manly Boat Harbour on 28-3-98.

### **Green Leg Flag Sightings - Beyond Queensland**

1 Bar-tailed Godwit - Phil Straw at Hen & Chicken Island, Drummoyne Sydney NSW on 11-1-98

1 Bar-tailed Godwit - Colin Hill at Yarrs, Lake Ellesmere, New Zealand on 18 & 24-11-97

1 Great Knot - D Thorpe at Shoalhaven Heads NSW on 22-3-98 --\_--\_ f

1 Great Knot with green leg flag - Peter Collins and Roz Jessop at Mankyung Estuary South Korea (35°53' N, 126° 40' E) on 13 May 98

1 Bar-tailed Godwit - Peter Collins at Asan Bay South Korea (36°55'N, 126° 48'E) on 16 May 98

1 Bar-tailed Godwit - Peter Collins at Kangwa island South Korea (37° 34'N, 126° 23'E) on 19 May 98

1 Red Knot with green leg flag on right tibia at Miranda Firth of Thames NZ seen by S & J Rowe on 3/1/97

- 1 Red Knot at Maitaitai Firth of Thames NZ seen by Tony Habraken on 14/3/97
- 1 Red Knot at Miranda Firth of Thames NZ seen by Tony Habraken on 19/10/97
- 4 Red Knot at Kidd's Manukau NZ seen by Tony Habraken on 28/2/98
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit at Matarangi Coromandel NZ seen by B. Woolley on 30/1/97
- 1 Ruddy Turnstone at Papora South Kalpare NZ seen by D. Melville et al on 6/1/97
- 2 Red Knot at Manuwatu Estuary Manuwatu NZ seen by I Saville on 2/12/97 r

### **Other Leg Flag Sightings and Banded Birds**

- Ruddy Turnstone - 1 with blue leg flag seen by Ivell Whyte at Cabbage Tree Creek on 14-2-98 & again 14-3-98.
- Grey-tailed Tattler - 1 with blue leg flag seen by Edward Kleiber at Tweed River Entrance between, 14-2-98 and 17-3-98; and 1 with blue leg flag seen by group during Wader ID at Manly Boat Harbour on 28-3-98.
- Caspian Tern - 1 with metal band seen by Edward Kleiber at Tweed River Entrance on 12-3-98; 1 with metal band seen by Edward Kleiber at Tony's Island Tweed Heads on 7-3-98 and 18-4-98; 2 with metal band seen by Bob James at Toorbul on 4-4-98.
- Crested Tern - 1 with metal band seen by Edward Kleiber at Tweed River Entrance on 30-3-98.
- Silver Gull - 1 with metal band and 1 with blue band on left leg and metal band on right leg seen by Edward Kleiber at Tweed River Entrance, between 15-2-98 and 23-3-98.

### **Interesting sightings**

- Possible immature Hooded Plover - Don Cameron at Northern end of Bribie Island on 18 & 19 May
- 34 Red-kneed Dotterel - David Edwards at Pine Rivers northside on 25-4-98
- 57 Red-kneed Dotterel - David Edwards at Pine Rivers northside on 24-5-98
- 13 Red-kneed Dotterel - Andrew Geering at St Helena Island Homestead on 23-5-98
- 36 Black-fronted Plover - Phil & Linda Cross at Bermuda Ave Deception Bay on 24-5-98
- 3 Broad-billed Sandpiper recorded by Frank Bigg and Trevor Ford at Dux Creek Bribie Island on 14-3-98; 3 also recorded by group during Bush Birds and Waders outing at Toorbul on 18-3-98
- 1 Asian Dowitcher seen by Owen and Deb McNamara at Point Halloran on 3-4-98 and 3 Asian Dowitchers seen by Jim Tyson at Wellington Point on 31-3-98.

### **Not Waders - but of interest anyway**

- 909 Chestnut Teal and 160 White-winged Tern - Greg Nye at Luggage Point on 25-4-98
- 33 Glossy Ibis and 2 Pick-eared Duck - Greg Nye at Luggage Point on 24-5-98
- 300+ Chestnut Teal - David Edwards at Pine River northside on 25-4-98

## NORTHERN NEWS

### NORTH OF THE EQUATOR - JAPANESE WETLANDS - Greg Miller

QW23 included a request for members to complete a form for the "Save Sanbanze" wetland campaign network, supporting the importance of this Tokyo Bay tidal flat for migratory shorebirds on the East Asian Australasian Flyway. QWSG responded to the 'Save Sanbanze' request with just over 300 signatures forwarded to Mr Ohama. Some members signatures arrived from as far afield as North Carolina (USA), while over a quarter originated from a conscientious member in Maryborough (Qld.).

I recently received a letter from Mr Kumiko Ushino (Save Tidal flats of Chiba Association) responding on behalf of Mr Ohama who thanks all those who returned signatures. The letter also includes the news that

*"I believe that your back up will change developer's mind. I say 'thank you' once again".*

Kumiko Ushino (together with his wife) attended Ramsar 1996 and have fond memories of Brisbane. He enclosed a photograph taken on Moreton Island of his wife, Leanne Bowden and myself during the conference. Not only did this photograph remind me of this visit to Moreton Island with some of the conference delegates but also of how much conservation of this migratory pathway may depend on just a few active members.

On behalf of the QWSG Committee I also thank all who responded to Mr Ohama's request.  
P.S. The stamp on Mr Oshino's letter was a painting of a Little Ringed Plover.

## EASTERN NEWS

*Thanks Adrian. After the last edition, we received a short note from Adrian Riegen, Editor of the New Zealand Wader Study Group's newsletter, together with a copy of their April 1998 edition. Not only does Adrian "keep up to date with wader happenings in Queensland", but he arranges to put our Queensland Wader on display in the Miranda Shorebird Centre on the north island for others to know what's happening here.*

### **Trans-Tasman Travellers**

On 29 November 1997 the NZWSG caught 246 birds at Jordan's which included 162 new Red Knot and 9 retraps, and 75 Bar-tailed Godwit. Three of the Knot had been banded in Australia.

An exercise in trans-Tasman rapid communication ensued, with cell phones being used to call to Auckland, phone to Clive Minton in Melbourne, and faxed information returning. In 20 minutes, the netter-s had details of the birds whilst they were still processing the catch.

The three birds had been banded in Victoria by the VWSG, two of them only six weeks early on 18 October 1997. On that same day the VNSG caught one of the NZ Knots. As one would expect in any trans-Tasman clash, the score is very much in New Zealand's favour, with 21 Victorian birds caught in New Zealand, to one New Zealand bird caught in Victoria.

Adrian writes that this continues to show quite strongly the movement of birds from Victoria to New Zealand. At least 14 of the 21 were banded as first or second year birds in Victoria. From this it appears many young birds spend their first winter in Victoria before moving onto New Zealand. Then as adults they continue to return directly to New Zealand.

### **NEW ZEALAND WADER STUDY GROUP**

Information on the New Zealand Wader Study Group can be obtained from:  
Adrian Riegen

## WORLDS OLDEST CURLEW SANDPIPER

The Victorian Wader Study Group (VWSG) has caught the oldest known Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* in the world. The VWSG retrapped on 24 February '98, at Corner inlet, Victoria, a bird which was originally banded as an adult on 28 December '79. This makes the bird at least 19 years and 8 months old, the oldest-known wader in the world and the oldest-known wader caught in Australia.

Curlew Sandpipers make some of the longest migratory journeys in the world, travelling some 24,000 kilometres a year on return journeys from their non-breeding areas (ie. the Victorian coast) and their breeding grounds on the arctic tundra of northern Russia. This bird, weighing only about 60 grams, would have made such a return journey at least 17 and a half times, and have covered a minimum lifetime distance of well over 400,000 kilometres – the distance of the Moon from the Earth.

Both the bird and the old band were in fine condition when released to fly northwards for yet another breeding season.

Provided by Joyce Harding.

Reprinted from Galah, the in-house newsletter of Birds Australia. No 23: 16 Mar 1998.

## COMING CONFERENCES

### The Next Flyway Conference - 2000 or 2001? |

The conference entitled "Shorebird Conservation in the Asia- Pacific Region" held in Brisbane in March 1996 was huge success, largely due to the effort put into organising the conference and the number and diversity of speakers from so many countries. The conference has highlighted the need for more work to be carried out within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) and the importance of the establishment of the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network.

The AWSG Committee has committed itself to supporting the second EAAF Conference. The location and date has not been fixed but it will be in 2000 or 2001 in one of the EAAF countries.

Any Suggestions?

Please pass your ideas to Phil Straw at AWSG

### AWSG Seminar June 1999

An AWSG National Wader Seminar and Workshop will be held 11-13 June 1999 (Queens Birthday Weekend). The venue will be at Phillip Island, Victoria.

This event will enable the AWSG to focus on urgent national issues, including the need for more research and conservation. Papers are invited on current research as well as conservation issues, in particular disturbance and habitat loss.

#### **Friday 11 June:**

18.00; Registration and Poster Paper Presentations

19.00; Welcome Address informal drinks and dinner

#### **Saturday 12 June:**

09.00 - 13.30; Presentation of papers

10.30 - 11.00; Morning tea

11.00 - 12.00; Presentation of papers

12.00 - 13.00; Lunch

13.00 - 15.00; Presentation of papers

15.00 - 15.30; Afternoon tea

15.30 - 16.30; Presentation of papers

17.00; Visit Penguin Parade/free time

20.00; Formal Dinner, Regional speakers

#### **Sunday 13 June:**

09.00 - 10.30; Workshops - 'Priorities for wader research and conservation'.

10.30 - 11.00; Morning Tea

11.00 - 12.30, Report from workshops

12.30 - 13.30; Lunch

13.30 - 15.00; Open forum - Australia's role in the Flyway.

#### **Monday 14 June:**

Excursions will be arranged to local wader roost sites and other birding sites of interest, depending on demand.

Abstracts of oral papers or posters should be sent, as soon as possible, as hard copy and on disc to Dr Rosalind Jessop. Alternatively, material may be sent by e-mail for consideration. Full papers must be available four weeks prior to the Seminar. They will be included in a special publication soon after the Seminar. Although the main theme will be 'Wader Research and Conservation in Australia, papers from other Flyway countries will be considered. Papers will be limited to 20 minutes including questions. Details of venue, accommodation and field outings will appear in the next issue of The Tattler.

Registration fees are \$85 (\$100 if paid after 31 January 1999), which includes lunches and teas. The cost of formal dinner is \$23. Payment should be sent to Dr Rosalind Jessop.

Application forms will be included with the next issue of The Tattler, also available from the above address.

## SHOC 2000 Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the second Southern Hemisphere Ornithological Congress (SHOC) will be held in the week of June 27, 2000 at Griffith University in Brisbane. The General Organising Committee consists of local Brisbane representatives David Rounsevell and Carla Catterall and Birds Australia Research Committee members- Richard Loyn, Mike Clarke, Stephen Ambrose & Lee Astheimer. The conference will contain a mix of plenary speakers, thematic symposia, contributed papers and poster sessions. Registration prices and other measures will encourage strong participation by post-graduate students. You will receive notification of the address for the conference web site later this winter through the bard server and/or the Birds Australia's Research List.

SHOC 2000 will also be announced at the International Ornithological Congress in Durban, SA in August. As this information becomes available to you, please make efforts to inform your international colleagues working in the southern hemisphere about this meeting--as we will certainly be doing as well.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite early suggestions for symposia. Please note that a symposium suggestion should be accompanied by the necessary willingness and expertise to chair (or co-chair) the session.

Symposia chairpersons will be asked to invite speakers, inform them of symposia guidelines, receive and edit their abstracts and chair the session. Please send early expressions of interest to Dr. L. Astheimer before May 25th for consideration at our next planning meeting. There will be a second, more general call for suggestions for symposia topics later this year.

We'll look forward to hearing from you.  
The Organising Committee  
SHOC  
Birds Australia

## PORT OF BRISBANE - DRAFT LAND USE STRATEGY

QWSG has received the following letter from the Port of Brisbane Corporation:

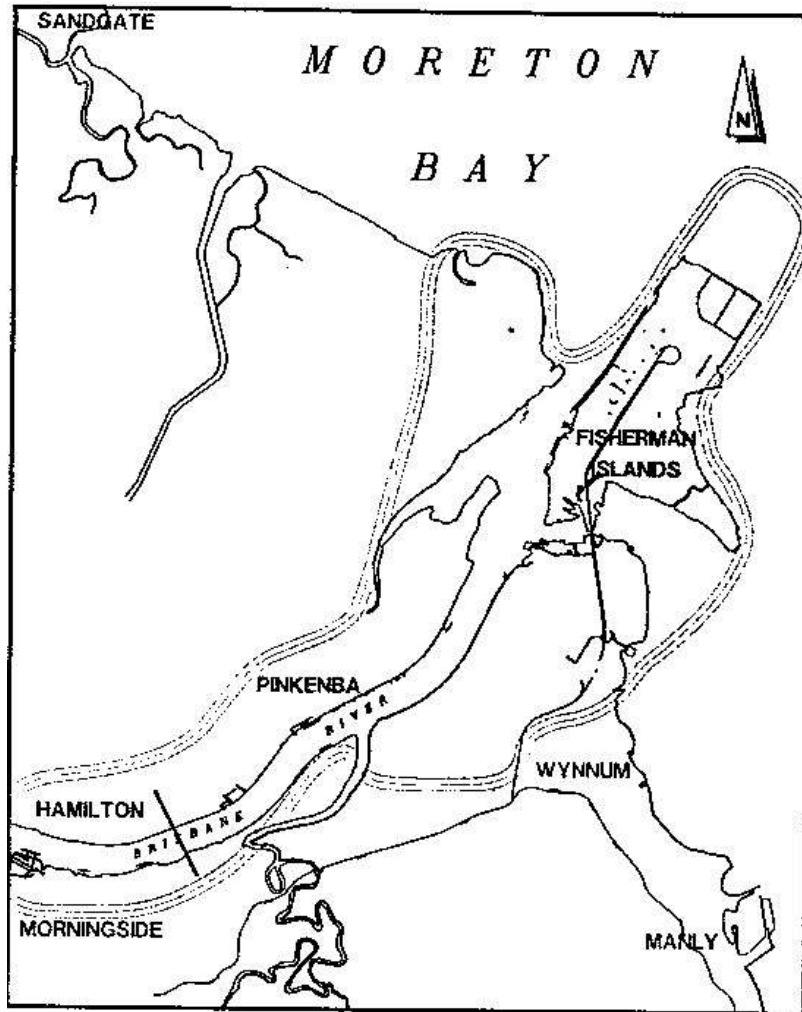
"The Port of Brisbane Corporation (PBC) is in the process of preparing a draft Land Use Strategy in response to the Integrated Planning Act, 1997. The purpose of the Land Use Strategy is to provide direction to our future planning for port-related development between Hamilton and Moreton Bay.

The Corporation is currently embarking on a consultation process to seek community input. To date input has been gained from a number of sources including the information telephone line, reference group members 'talk to a planner' sessions and feedback from residents who have received information bulletins distributed throughout the local community.

In addition to these, PBC is offering to present the draft Land Use Strategy to stakeholder groups who share a particular interest in the development of the Port.

Please accept this letter as an invitation for Planners at PBC to present the draft Land Use Strategy at one of your regular meetings. This will give your members an opportunity to have a better "one on one" chance to understand the Land Use Strategy. If you would like to take up the offer, please contact Caitlin Cameron (Strategy and Planning Officer) to arrange a convenient time for the port planners to present to your members.

Should you have any questions, regarding the draft Land Use Strategy please call



This map has been reproduced from a POB Information Bulletin. Any questions relating to the Land Use Strategy can be directed to the Community Info-Line on (07) 3258 4706 "from Monday – Friday between 9am and 4pm.

The strategy is available on the Web at: <http://www.port-of-brisbane.qld.gov.au/draftlandhtm>  
 Further information can be obtained by writing to the Port at: Reply Paid, Port of Brisbane Corporation

A briefing has been arranged for all QWSG members  
 on Tuesday 4th August at 6:30 pm  
 at the Port Office on Fisherman Islands

**HEALTHY WATERWAYS**

The Brisbane River Management Group (BRMG) and the Brisbane River & Moreton Bay Wastewater Management Study (BR&MBWMS) have released the 1998 Waterways Management Plan - "A proposed framework for the management of the waterways of the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay Catchment". They are inviting feedback.

If you would like a copy of the Waterways Plan in order to comment, contact details are:  
 Waterways Management Plan Requests,  
 Brisbane River Management Group Secretariat  
 PO Box, BRISBANE Q. 4002  
 Phone:  
 E-mail: [brmg@env.qld.gov.au](mailto:brmg@env.qld.gov.au)



## ACTIVITY REPORTS

### Bush Birds & Wader Id Outing -Toorbul - Wednesday 18 March 1998 -Linda Cross '

14 people turned up for the morning visit to Elimbah Creek with a further four arriving at the Toorbul wader roost later in the morning. The weather was warm, humid and dry with a pleasant sea breeze while we checked out the waders. Most species of a total of 68 species were seen and 4 heard.

Waders seen were:

1500 Bar-tailed Godwit, 150 Whimbrel, 250 Eastern Curlew, 4 Marsh Sandpiper, 52 Common Greenshank, 10 Terek Sandpiper, 320 Grey-tailed Tattler, 5 Ruddy Turnstone, 100 Great Knot. 150 waders had birds in breeding plumage.

My thanks to Jean Corney, Tim Siggs, and Trevor Ford for helping other members identify the waders. A special thank you to Trevor for counting all of the waders!

Red-necked Stint, 3 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 60 Curlew Sandpiper, 3 Broad-billed Sandpiper, 4 Pied Oystercatcher, 97 Black-winged Stilt (includes 3 juveniles). 1 Grey Plover, 10 Red-capped Plover, 2 Double-banded Plover, 100 Lesser Sand Plover, 5 Greater Sand Plover, 17 Masked Lapwing.

### Wader Id Day - Manly - Saturday 28 March 1998 - Linda & Phil Cross

37 people turned up to view waders and trial the many telescopes and binoculars that were on display by York Optical. The previous days of high seas caused by ex-cyclone Yali and the 2.5m high on the day had filled the 3 pools where the waders roost. Some of the keen birdwatchers got their shoes wet going through water that was pushed through the rock wall and was pouring into the middle pool. Once again, we did not get number counts of each individual species as our time was taken up helping the many people who are still having trouble identifying the birds. Bird numbers were high with quite a lot in breeding plumage. The Pacific Golden Plovers in breeding plumage were stunning and stood out above the rest.

Green leg flags were spotted on 3 Lesser Sand Plover, 1 Greater Sand Plover, 1 Great Knot, 1 Bar-tailed Godwit, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, and a blue leg flag was seen on a Grey-tailed Tattler.

28 species were seen, including the following waders:

Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone. Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Double-banded Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Greater Sand Plover

### Bush Birds 85 Wader Outing - Toorbul - Wednesday 1 April 1998 - Linda Cross I

Only three people joined me for the bush birds on this outing visiting Elimbah and Ningi Creeks before heading on down to the Toorbul roost where our numbers doubled, making eight birdo's keen to check the waders. The weather was dry but humid at the beginning of the outing with some cloud cover coming over while we watched the waders. There was some extensive discussion taking place between Harry and Wid over identification of a Greater or Lesser Sand Plover, while Dorothy just wanted to know what she was looking at!

A total of 74 species seen and 8 heard (c = circa).

Waders seen were:

c 306 Bar-tailed Godwit, 51 Whimbrel, 36 Eastern Curlew, 1 Marsh Sandpiper, 11 Common Greenshank, 10 Terek Sandpiper, c 250 Grey-tailed Tattler, 6 Ruddy Turnstone, c 280 Great Knot, 42 Red-necked Stint, 23 Curlew Sandpiper 1 Pied Oystercatcher, 42 Black-winged Stilt, 1 Grey Plover, 1 Red-capped Plover, 2 Double-banded Plover, c 150 Lesser Sand Plover, 1 Greater Sand Plover, 5 Masked Lapwing.

### Wader Id Day - Toorbul - Saturday 16 May 1998 - Linda - Phil Cross&

With heavy rain falling the night prior to the outing and continuing during the morning I was not surprised that the phone ran hot from 7am. Most enquirers were assured that the weather bureau would get it right for once and that the rain would clear before lunch. Well, it did just that. Blue skies and sunshine greeted the hardy ones who arrived at the Toorbul roost as arranged. Sixteen people in all turned up to view a somewhat smaller group of waders than we had seen during previous visits.

Of interest was a couple of Great Knot, Grey-tailed Tattler and Bar-tailed Godwit with some breeding plumage evident. One of the Godwits had almost full breeding plumage while another was observed with a green leg flag.

Three fisherpersons were in the water south of the roost and another two arrived positioning themselves right in the middle of the roost! There is a definite need to approach all levels of governments for signage at important sites for migratory birds to stop this sort of disturbance continuing.

Thankfully we had counted the birds before they flew off and found most of them, except the Eastern Curlews, a little further north of the roost site which allowed us to continue observing them. An immature Black-necked Stork was sighted along the beach between the two sites.

A short stop at Bishops Marsh added a couple more species to the list a total of 47 birds were seen of which 11 were waders:

67 Bar-tailed Godwit, 10 Whimbrel, 69 Eastern Curlew, 2 Terek Sandpiper, 59 Grey-tailed Tattler, 3 Ruddy Turnstone, 19 Great Knot, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Pied Oystercatcher, 25 Black-winged Stilt at Toorbul with many more at Bishops Marsh, 2 Masked Lapwing.

### **Planned Cannon Netting 26 April and 21 June 1998**

Didn't happen!!

### **Cannon Netting Moreton Island Weekend 23,24 May 1998**

Did happen - but the nets weren't fired. As this was also a Count weekend, the only 2 QWSG attendees were Peter Driscoll and Karen Welsh. The rest of the team were students from Lismore University, who had hoped to gain experience for their banding licences.

### **Wader Identification Afternoon 30 May 1998 - Leanne Bowden**

Despite this event being advertised by the Brisbane City Council as part of their Wetland activities leading up to World Environment Day, the group of approximately two dozen consisted mainly of members. The few novices who were there had no end of helpers! Unlike our few previous visits to this location, the weather was fine calm and warm. This also enabled some memorable viewings of several cuttlefish, changing colours in the clear and calm waters behind us.

Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Double-banded Plover, Masked Lapwing,

### **AMCS Moreton Bay Branch - Lytton Wader ID Event, following tree-planting 14 June 1998 - Leanne Bowden**

Seven QWSG members assisted the AMCS Moreton Bay Branch with their Adopt-a-Wetland Coastcare project, by identifying birds in the area for participants in their tree-planting event at the reconvered dump site at Lytton.

Amongst the birds identified were 3 species of Waders: the Red-capped Plover, Black Winged Stilt, and an early departed Red-necked Avocet.

QWSG is a special interest group of the Queensland Ornithological Society 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

## ACTIVITIES - 1998

Monthly Meetings      **QOSI** - 7.45pm Queensland Museum Brisbane  
 1st Thursday each month except January.  
 Entry via Dinosaur Garden in Grey Street. Doors open between 7.30 and 8.00pm.

### Wader Counts (general monitoring)

Sat 15 Aug              High Tide of 2.02m at 3.41pm  
 Sat 12 Sep              High Tide of 2.09m at 2.10pm  
 Sat 10 Oct               High Tide of 2.28m at 12.51pm  
 Sat 21 Nov               High Tide of 2.28m at 10.41am  
 Sat 19 Dec               High Tide of 2.35m at 9.49am  
Contact:               Phil & Linda Cross. Completed count forms should be returned to Mr and Mrs Cross

### Cannon Netting

Sat 24 October          Fisherman Island or Dynah island. High Tide at 11:35am of 2.13 m  
 Sun 22 November      Fisherman Island or Dynah Island. High Tide at 11:16am of 2.25  
 Sun 6 December        Moreton island - High Tide at 11:26am of 2.55 m  
                                  Plan to spend the weekend 4th - 6th December.  
Contact:               Peter Driscoll three days in advance to confirm time and place.  
                                  For weekend trips, please confirm at least one week in advance. As well as listed  
                                  activities, netting outings are mounted "opportunistically" when it appears there may  
                                  be a good chance of success.

### Other Activities

Tues 4 August            Briefing by Port of Brisbane Corporation on draft Land Use Strategy in response to  
                                  the Integrated Planning Act, 1997. See details on Page 16 6:30 pm at the Port Office  
                                  on Fisherman Islands  
                                  Contact: Caitlin Cameron (Strategy and Planning Officer)

Sat 9 August              Wader Identification Morning  
                                  9.00am - Manly Boat Harbour. High Tide of 1.96m at 10.15am.  
                                  Meet at car park east of Royal Qld Yacht Clubhouse. UBD Map 164 A6  
                                  Contact: Arthur and Sheryl Keates

25,26 & 27 Sept          Brisbane River Festival - events not yet defined.  
 3 & 4 October            Keep a lookout for wetland, coastal and riverine related activities.  
                                  There may be a need for "helpers"

Sun 4 October            Wader Identification Morning  
                                  7.00am - Manly Boat Harbour. High Tide of 2.02m at 8.04am.  
                                  Meet at car park east of Royal Qld Yacht Clubhouse. UBD Map 164 A6  
                                  Contact: Arthur and Sheryl Keates