QUEENSLAND WADER

QLD WADER STUDY GROUP

Issue number 30 **SUMMER 2000**

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

Who is responsible for wader roost sites? - Can we afford to loose Manly Boat Harbour?

The Queensland Wader Study Group has been monitoring wader roost sites in Moreton Bay for almost 10 years and over this time has seen the gradual decline in sites available for waders to roost at over the high tide. Moreton Bay is an important wintering area for at least 43 species of waders, of a population of more than 50,000 wintering and staging waders, a significant percentage of the Flyway population. The need to protect waders and their wetland habitats is recognised by international conventions which bring to the attention of the countries in the Flyway the threats and conservation needs of waders. In heavily populated areas, loss of roost sites and disturbance is a major concern. Significant loss of coastal freshwater wetlands has already occurred. In Moreton Bay sites including Raby Bay, Dux Creek, Manly Boat Harbour, Mirapool, Dynah Island and Fisherman Islands have either been lost or are facing considerable threats. Moreton Bay, which was declared a Ramsar site in 1994 under the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Wetlands, requires a management approach that will protect those wetland values that warranted its listing under Ramsar.

The coastal foreshore areas are in demand from all sections of the community and so are subject to more immediate threats. Waders will use areas opportunistically and there needs to be as much flexibility in the sites available to waders as possible. The land to be used by waders comes under different owners and administrators, however all land owners and users of coastal foreshores need to use and manage these sites in a manner which takes into account the wetland values. The Manly Boat Harbour roost site utilises reclaimed land behind the bund walls. This area is the responsibility of the Port of Brisbane Corporation (PoBC). In this situation the Port needs to find a location to dump the dredge spoil from dredging the boat channels in the harbour. The Port while having a responsibility to enable lessees to maintain the channels also has a responsibility to protect the wetland values of Moreton Bay.

Replacement of roost sites is not a preferred option given the expense and increased chance of further threats. An optimal mainland roost site needs to have at least a 150 metre deep landward buffer of undeveloped, undisturbed ground. These areas may once have been saltmarsh or freshwater wetlands. Ideally roost sites should be totally protected from any disturbance, be greater than 30 metres in diameter and be of elevation close to the maximum (king) high tide level. There are also other considerations when the site is an artificial site as in Manly Boat Harbour. The need to retain roost sites in heavily populated areas increases the challenge to manage the site so that roosting waders can still be appreciated and monitored by people without creating undue disturbance.

A letter from the office of the Hon. Rod Welford MLA, Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources, dated 16th November 1999, has provided the following advice:

(Continued on page 3).

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About *QUEENSLAND WADER*

Queensland Wader is a quarterly publication of the Queensland Wader Study Group. Contributions should be addressed to David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011 or E-mail to: gouldian@ozemail.com.au. Computerised contributions should be in IBM Word, ASCII or Rich Text.

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Return to: Mrs Sheryl Keates, The QWSG Treasurer, 5 Stanmere St, Carindale, Brisbane, Qld 4152.

(continued from Page 1)

"The EPA has advised the PoBC that any works undertaken at the site must be conducted in a manner that causes minimal impact on the waders and ensures their continued use of the site.

The EPA has been working closely with representatives of the Queensland Wader Study Group to ensure that the proposed works have minimal impact on waders and that public access and ongoing disturbance to the roost site are managed appropriately in the future. The PoBC has advised that public consultation regarding the preferred dredging option will be conducted with community groups in the near future."

How will the Port of Brisbane Corporation meet the challenge? If you want to write to the Port and the Queensland Government to encourage them to meet their obligations under the Ramsar Convention you can write to:

Port of Brisbane Corporation
Locked Mail Bag 1818
Wynnum QLD 4178

The Honourable Peter Beattie MLA
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 185
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002

By Sandra Harding

COLOR-FLAGGED BAR-TAILED GODWITS.

By E-mail.
Subject: COLOR-FLAGGED BAR-TAILED GODWITS.
Date: Friday, 17 September 1999.

From 4-10 September, Bob Gill and Brian McCaffery observed staging bar-tailed godwits in western Alaska on the southern Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Earlier aerial surveys (Gill and McCaffery 1999, Wader Study Group Bulletin 88:49-54) indicated that the delta supported thousands of godwits, and we were not disappointed on our recent trip. We estimated at least 9,000 along the 10 km stretch of coastline where we worked.

By following foraging flocks, as well as working high tide roosts, we had a chance to scan many thousands of legs for colour flags. We made dozens of observations of colour-flagged godwits during our week in the field, including at least 28 different individuals. We still need to contact banders in Australia and New Zealand to confirm their colour-flagging protocols, but our preliminary conclusions indicate that we observed 12 individuals from south-eastern Australia (orange flag), 8 from north-eastern Australia (green flag), and 8 from New Zealand (white flag). A proposed link to wintering grounds in New Zealand and possibly eastern Australia had heretofore been based on reports of only three marked birds obtained during the previous 45 years.

This information confirms that the Alaska breeding population of about 150,000 birds is distinct from those breeding elsewhere in Asia and that Alaskan birds winter in both eastern Australia and New Zealand. Further, our failure to see any birds that were marked on non-breeding areas in north-western Australia (over 5,000 marked to date) supports the idea of the East Asian-Australasian flyway having at least two distinct populations of godwits, which are segregated from each other during almost their entire annual cycles.

Posted on behalf of Robert Gill, replies to Robert_Gill@usgs.gov

Curlew Sandpiper – 19 years late

There have been a few Australian-banded Curlew Sandpipers recovered overseas over the years. However one of these, banded at Stockton, New South Wales by Bill Lane on 12 November 1977, was recovered dead (probably 'hunted') on 6 December 1979. The band was placed in the drawer of 'one old scientific worker' and only surfaced when his desk was been cleaned up and handed to the Bird Banding Centre of China in November 1998. This is possibly the longest record for the time between recovery and reporting so far! (*Source: Corella 23 (2)*).

Australasian waders in Alaska

Follow-up taken from the Tattler Issue 21 on the above E-mail

Over 50,000 Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica baueri*) stage on the coast of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YKD) in western Alaska. The non-breeding destinations of these birds have been surmised from a mere handful of records. For example, birds banded in Alaska on St. George Island in the Bering Sea and on the Seward Peninsula, have been detected in New Zealand, and one banded at Kgun Lake on the YKD, was recaptured in Queensland. To improve our understanding of Bar-tailed Godwit migration through the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, we visited the vicinity of Tern Mountain on the south-west coast of the YKD to search for colour-flagged godwits during the peak of fall staging.

Our base camp (60°02' N, 164°30' W) was located about 1 km from the Bering Sea, 9 km SW of the village of Chefornak. Our study area included 10 km of shoreline, along which mudflats extended seaward >3 km from the edge of the vegetated intertidal zone. Previous aerial surveys indicated that this stretch of coastline regularly supports several thousand Bar-tailed Godwits during the peak of migration in early September.

Several thousand Bar-tailed Godwits were present within the study area throughout the week. For example, on 9 September, we censused the entire 10-km shoreline, and found about 9,000 godwits. Despite the large number of birds present, the percentage of individuals for which we were able to determine complete band combinations was probably relatively small. Many birds were not effectively observed during our flock scans. Roosting birds frequently stood on just one leg, and foraging birds regularly fed in waters deep enough to cover the tarsometatarsus and, at least occasionally, the tibiotarsus. Scanning efficiency was also quite variable, ranging from 100% for flocks comprising only a few dozen birds, to <30% for the larger flocks (up to 6,500) where birds beyond the nearest tier were either only partially visible or completely obscured by closer flock mates.

These difficulties notwithstanding, we made 89 observations of banded birds, including 69 observations of colour-marked birds. By evaluating information on band type (metal, simple band or flag), band colour, sex, plumage pattern, location, and time of observation, we were able to identify a minimum of 34 different Bar-tailed Godwits during the week at Tern Mountain. This total included 14 with orange flags, 10 with green flags, and 10 with either white flags (8) or white bands (2).
Based on the colour-flagging schemes for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, these birds were apparently banded in south-east Australia, north-east Australia, and New Zealand, respectively.

Several researchers have hypothesised that Bar-tailed Godwits in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway actually consist of two separate populations. North-west Australia apparently hosts the Siberia-breeding race *menzbieri*, while eastern Australia and New Zealand support primarily the Alaska breeding race *baueri*. Our recent observations on the YKD support this hypothesis. All 34 colour-flagged godwits seen were from either eastern Australia or New Zealand. Like spring migrants in Japan, flagged individuals from south-eastern Australia, Queensland, and New Zealand were all found, not only at the same site, but in the same flocks. Despite the fact that nearly twice as many Bar-tailed Godwits have been colour-flagged in north-west Australia than in all of eastern Australia and New Zealand combined, we detected no colour flags from the former region. This strongly suggests that the Alaska-breeding population is spatially segregated from the members of *menzbieri* on the breeding grounds, fall staging grounds, and non-breeding grounds. Whether the two races follow different spring pathways, as has been recently hypothesised by Adrian Riegen in New Zealand, remains to be determined conclusively.

Our observations of colour-flagged individuals represent about 2.5%, 2.0%, and 0.6% of all Bar-tailed Godwits colour-flagged in south-east Australia, New Zealand, and Queensland, respectively. These results provide weak supporting data for the hypothesis that godwits in south-east Australia and New Zealand are exclusively *baueri*, while the godwit population in Queensland is a mix of *baueri* and some other form. Because three times as many godwits have been colour-flagged in Queensland than in either south-east Australia or New Zealand, we might have expected to find more green-flagged birds among the flocks we observed if: a) Queensland birds were all *baueri*, and, b) birds from various non-breeding populations do not exhibit preferences for specific sites on the YKD staging grounds. The fact that we failed to find Queensland birds in the same proportions as birds from the other sites suggests that some godwits from north-east Australia may breed and stage outside of Alaska. The relative proportion of colour-flagged birds from the various southern sites resighted by us at Tern Mountain, however, may have simply been a function of limited sampling. The hypothesis that Queensland birds comprise a mixed-race population could be more effectively tested on the staging grounds by simultaneously searching at a number of sites along the YKD coastline or Alaska Peninsula during fall migration. The hypothesis would be substantially supported if the proportion of green-flagged birds remained low relative to those from the other two sites.

Proportion of juveniles. We observed a very small proportion of HY birds among those staging in the study area. We recorded age data for 208, 1218, 1185, and 1527 birds on 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th September, respectively. The percentages of HY birds in these daily samples were 0.00, 1.31, 8.52, and 0.13. Overall, HY birds comprised only 2.83% of our samples (although between-day samples were probably not independent). Such low numbers of juveniles could have been the result of a wide-spread reproductive failure across much of the breeding range of *baueri*. Alternatively, the low proportion of juveniles could have been the result of age class segregation in time and/or space along the YKD coast. North of our study area, on the central YKD, there is no evidence for temporal segregation of the age classes once juveniles arrive on the coast in late July; few data exist for evaluating this hypothesis on the south YKD. In terms of spatial segregation, we regularly observed juveniles clumped near the edges of roosting flocks; whether a parallel phenomenon occurs at larger spatial scales (ie., certain areas of the coast are used preferentially by different age classes) remains to be seen.

Conclusions. Our relatively limited effort to resight colour-flagged birds on the YKD dramatically increased the number of Bar-tailed Godwit records linking the Alaskan staging grounds with non-breeding areas in eastern Australia and New Zealand. Resighting efforts in subsequent seasons should include field work at multiple sites in order to determine if Bar-tailed Godwits staging in south-west Alaska exhibit same degree of spatial segregation based on non-breeding site and/or age.

Acknowledgments: We thank Tom Ratledge of Yukon Aviation, as well as U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service pilots Paul Liedberg and George Walters, for providing safe and efficient transportation to and from our study site. Chris Harwood, Tina Moran, and Mike Wege helped with logistical preparations. Finally, we thank Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager Mike Rearden for his support of and commitment to this project.

Brian J. McCaffery, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. brian_mccaffery@fws.gov
Robert E. Gill Jr, US Geological Survey, Alaska Biological Science Center. Robert_Gill@usgs.gov

[Due to space restrictions this paper has shortened. For further information and references contact the authors, Ed]

Another link to Alaska

A Wandering Tattler banded by us (Tomkovich, Dementiev, & Gill) on 14 July this year at our Lake Clark, Alaska, study site was seen on August 28th by Reggie David at Waiakea Pond in Hilo, Hawaii. Any sighting like this is exciting, but considering it was one of only 13 birds marked this year and one of only 43 marked during the three-year study is pretty remarkable.

It remains a large ocean out there with tattlers distributed throughout and along both shores, but to our knowledge this establishes the first link between a Wandering Tattler's breeding site and its non-breeding or stopover site following a migration. So to all of our wader-watching colleagues in the Australasian corner of the Pacific, we encourage you to look at tattler legs.

Please contact us at:
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(tel: 907-786-3514; fax: 907-786-3636) e-mail: robert_gill@usgs.gov; or:

Pavel Tomkovich, Zoological Museum, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
e-mail tomkovich@1.zoomus.bio.msu.ru.

Robert Gill

Stop press!

A second bird, banded on 24 May 1999, was been seen on the island of Hawaii on 19th September by Arleone Dibben. It resides at Kona Village Resort, a posh vacation spot in Kona that goes for about $800 a day. Evidently it shares the resort's 200 metres of beach with a Pacific Golden Plover and it has become quite accustomed to people, for example, it sleeps on beach towels and chairs, walks among sunbathers, and eats food thrown to it by guests. Pretty disgusting if you ask me. Hardly the bird I am familiar with in the wilds of Alaska.

Ramsar1999 Resolution VII.23 on boundary definitions and compensation

Australia brought the issue of providing a more precise definition of Ramsar site boundaries for sites that are poorly delineated on nomination to the conference. NGOs and partner organisations were concerned that it could open the way for contracting parties to inappropriately excise areas from their Ramsar sites. A number of interventions from AWA, WWF, Green Korea United, Birdlife and the World Heritage Commission highlighted the depth of concern. The final resolution provides that Australia will prepare two case studies for the development of an approach to the revision of Ramsar site boundaries in cases other than the urgent national interest. The two sites will be Coongie Lakes and Port Phillip Bay (Western shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites.

The redefinition of Ramsar site boundaries could well have repercussions for the definition of new sites when proposed. Significantly, many wader roosts around Moreton Bay were not included in the Ramsar site, as they are above high tide and not within the marine park.

The additional text below was not added. It is up to AWA members to ensure that these principles are adhered to in the review of site boundaries at Port Phillip Bay and Coongie Lakes, so that the case studies presented to COP8 provide a clear example on the implementation of these principles.

> *14. Calls upon Australia, when reconsidering the definition of the sites chosen, to carry out a full environmental, economic, and social impact assessment which takes into consideration the full range of functions, services and benefits provided by the site concerned and to ensure that:*
>
> *-no area of wetland is excised;*
> *-no wetland function, benefits and values are materially diminished;*
> *-proposed changes maintain or enhance the ecological character of these Ramsar sites;*
> *-proposed changes are submitted to full public consultation; and*
> *-proposed changes are subject to the same legal procedure as the original listing.*

News from Australian Wetlands Alliance (AWA) Newsletter July 1999.

AWA Action to COP8 - Ramsar Conference of Parties to be held in Spain

- Carefully track the progress of implementation of Resolution 23 and the development of proposal to COP8 regarding 'urgent national interest'.
- Participate in the development of *focal points* for technical (Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Resolution 2) and education (Outreach Program, Resolution 9) information networks. The resolution requires Contracting Parties to nominate, by 31/12/99, suitable Government and non-government focal points for communication, education and public awareness. The resolution also calls upon Contracting Parties to establish National Wetland CEPA (communication, education and public awareness) Action Plans by 31/12/2000.
- Flag NGO concerns regarding contentious proposals to the Ramsar Bureau in the run up to the COP, and if major concerns exist, suggest that they be ascribed to a technical session.
- At Ramsar 6, Brisbane, NGOs were provided with a training session on "How to be effective at a COP" by a member of WWF - Australia. In the lead up to COP8 similar guidelines for NGOs would greatly assist participation during COP.

News from Australian Wetlands Alliance (AWA) Newsletter July 1999.

Comment for Newsletter

Satellite tracking of Eastern Curlews: A comment.

The recent article titled "The Satellite Tracking Eastern Curlews from Australia on Northward Migration" by Peter Driscoll (Queensland Wader: No 29 Spring 1999) is fascinating. The technology is incredible and the findings almost unbelievable, to the point where perhaps some caution should be exercised.

The flight paths of these and other waders between Australia and their nesting grounds is so well documented and understood that international political agreements (RAMSAR) have been reached to protect the birds, their feeding grounds and nesting areas. This level of understanding came about from old technologies (museum specimens in the days of Dom Serventy and bands and leg flags in more recent times). So what has this new study using new technology taught us. It certainly provides further proof of what was already "known". How much proof is needed to dot every 'i' and cross every 't' for science? and at what cost to the birds (as opposed to science)?

Of the eight birds monitored from Westernport, not one went to the northern hemisphere. Is this true of all Eastern Curlews that depart Westernport? Were these eight birds a representative sample of the Westernport population of Eastern Curlews? Similarly of the birds from Moreton Bay, only two out of five reached the northern hemisphere. Are we to conclude that only 40% of Eastern Curlews from Moreton Bay actually leave Australia? How does this compare with summer and winter counts? These are the sort of statistical problems that scientists have to deal with when they only have small samples of large populations.

The flight paths/journeys of these satellite tracked birds could only be described as erratic. They flew huge distances at incredible speeds in all directions for no apparent reason. Assuming that the tracking was accurate, the findings are incredible and pose many questions. How did they sustain their energy reserves? Were their erratic journeys influenced by the satellite tracking apparatus? Driscoll says "the design of the backpack has been developed over several years, but to some degree still seems to hinder the flight of the birds". Although Eastern Curlews might be able to carry a 28 g backpack with ease and recaptured birds with backpacks have been in good condition, perhaps the electronic transmitters in the backpacks interfere with the birds' abilities to navigate ie the imposed treatments (devices) are determining the outcome of the experiments (observations). Studies have shown that birds use a variety of "systems" for navigation including detection of electro-magnetic fields. It is not hard to imagine that a battery powered electronic signalling device capable of transmitting via satellites in space could effect the navigation systems of birds. (A mobile phone placed near a GPS will send a boat or a plane on autopilot completely off course). It could be concluded from the observations that satellite tracking devices caused Eastern Curlews from Westernport to fail completely in their attempts to migrate to their nesting grounds.

An even broader question is the ethics of using such tracking devices (or leg bands and flags, for that matter) for studying bird behaviour. For such studies, identification systems are necessary, but how many more birds do we need to band, or fit with transmitters? Ethically, the answer is the smallest number possible in the least number of peer reviewed trials, and the information gained must be significant to the present state of knowledge. Sadly (for the birds as opposed to the scientists and their assistants) bird banding/tracking does stress the creatures being studied. Some even die in the process of being caught and/or handled. (Until Clive Minton reported deaths from cannon netting, people claimed there were none. Minton was accused of poor technique until others owned up that they too were killing some birds, more in fact than Minton). Bird banding/tracking/cannon netting is a weekend hobby/sport/hunting substitute for some participants (rather than a scientific exercise). When compared to mist netting, the rigours of cannon netting (on the participants) add to the glamour of "the sport" and the subsequent discussions of the day. Although this is not the case in these studies, we all need to be vigilant as "science" is still a shield for many unsavoury practices against animals eg taking whales by Japanese "scientists".

In summary and without sounding like the devil's advocate, it seems (to me) that until it can be shown that satellite tracking devices have no effect on the behaviour of these birds (or other animals), such experiments should be stopped. The results from such experiments are equivocal and therefore confusing and the costs are too great in terms of animal suffering.

Tim Thornton
Burrum River 07 4129 0609.

Reply to the previous letter from Peter Driscoll author of the original article.

I would like to reply to the letter from Tim Thornton where he commented on the satellite tracking of Eastern Curlews. I am closely involved with the project and Tim's letter refers to the article I wrote on the project for the Queensland Wader. I thank Tim for his interest, especially his concern for the birds, but I feel a few things need to be clarified.

The article was a summary statement of movements of the birds this year. It was written to inform people of one aspect of the work, especially those who have given so much of their own time to the project. There is a lot that is not said about the results, the technology, the project background and duration, and the permits required including ethical clearances.

Detailed reporting of the work, including interpretation of the results, will be submitted to scientific journals where its significance will be judged. I believe the work is of importance both to science and to conservation. It has aroused considerable interest worldwide, even in relation to research on the highly threatened Slender-billed Curlew.

If this type of technology is further developed, there will be the opportunity of needing to interfere with far fewer individual birds than at present in order to gain the knowledge needed to manage wader populations worldwide. We are not fully informed. Since its inception, the project has had as a basic concern the need to minimise impact on individual birds.

There are a few particular comments I would also like to make. Flight paths of the birds have never been erratic, in fact they have been a testimony to the navigational skill of the birds and to the importance of particular sites as habitat. The manner in which the birds can adjust their migration strategies in the light of poor flight performance, lets say induced by the backpacks, gives no hint of impaired navigation skills.

It is hard to imagine how wildlife research involving animal capture can have no ill effects. What we seek is a net benefit to populations at minimal cost to individuals. That has been a basis of this project and all other work by the Queensland Wader Study Group. Satellite tracking will be judged in due course in a range of forums on this basis.

I constantly examine my motives for wildlife research and assess the value of what is done, as I know others do. It is hard for any of us, including our critics, not to take a personal perspective, but hopefully we can be as informed as possible.

Peter Driscoll

SHOC & AWSG Conference 2000

Following the highly successful Australasian Wader Studies Group conference on Phillip Island in June, there will be another wader conference in Australia in July 2000. This will take place in connection with the SHOC (Southern Hemisphere Ornithological Conference) which is to be held from 27th June to 2nd July at Griffith University, Brisbane. On 1st July there will be a symposium on waders held within SHOC followed by an AWSG whole day conference at the same venue on 2nd July. The theme on both days will be 'Linking the hemispheres - long distance wader migration'.

So far the AWSG has eight speakers lined up. They will cover case histories of long distance wader migration, including Red Knots through the Americas, migration of Bar-tailed Godwits from New Zealand and Australia to Russia and Alaska, and Great Knots between Australia and Russia. The results of the Eastern Curlew satellite-tracking project will be reported. One talk will review the physiological changes in waders prior to migration. Another will report on timing of departure from NW Australia, including the influence of weather on departures. We hope further speakers will be added to the program. The AWSG has approached several others who could talk on topics such as the conservation implications of long distance migration, and the influence of winds on migration.

Enquires about the wader conference should be sent to: j.wilson@dynamite.com.au

COUNT PROGRAMME

Linda Cross

I start this article with an apology to Keith Fisher and Paul Fisk, two of our counters from Cairns. There has been some confusion regarding who counted which site, resulting in incorrect sighting information. All sightings at the Cairns Airport site are from Keith who has been counting at that site for over 5 years and Paul has been responsible for the counts at Cairns Esplanade, with the occasional one being done by Keith and his wife Lindsay or Dawn Magarry. Grahame Finnigan covers Barron River.

We warmly welcome to the count programme Barb Dickson counting Wickham Point Caloundra and Dezmond Wells counting the Townsville area. We look forward to a long relationship with you both.

In late September Phil and myself along with Arthur & Sheryl Keates spent the weekend at Tin Can Bay with the purpose of joining the Gympie Field Naturalists during their wader count of the area. It was about a year ago that I persuaded Kelvin Nielsen and John Cummings to consider counting this area for QWSG and it was a pleasure to meet the rest of the group and help them with some of finer details on wader identification. The day before our meet with the group the four of us popped up to Boonooroo (a great wader site in the Great Sandy Strait) and did a long over due count of one of the three sites in the area. One of the highlights was seeing 42 Grey Plover close together, most with some breeding plumage evident. Such a wonderful site and in desperate need of a counter.

Over the last couple of months there has been a large number of interesting sightings (not all waders) and I wish I could have recorded each one in the wader watch section but unfortunately there just isn't enough room for them all. Wader numbers and species look very healthy at most of the sites with the prime sites such as Dux Creek, Fisherman Island, Manly Boat Harbour and Toorbul holding quite a variety of species.

Beach Stone-curlew sightings have been such a pleasure to read with quite a number of different sites recording their presence since the last newsletter. 3 at Cairns Esplanade see by Paul Fisk,
1 at Lucinda seen by Alex Appleman, 2 at Dungness seen by Alex Appleman, 5 at Cluden Flats seen by Rosemary Payet, 4 at Cairns Airport seen by Keith Fisher, 1 at Kerosene Inlet seen by Ian Watson, 1 at Dux Creek seen by Trevor Ford, 2 at Boyne Beach seen by A & J Ruddell, 3 at Great Keppel Island seen by Russell Watson, 1 at Maroochy River North Shore seen by Jan Bedwell and 1 again at this site seen by Jan Bedwell & Shirley Rooke, 1 at Dalrymple Point and 1 at Doughty Creek seen by Jon Wren, 1 at Tweed River (lagoon) seen by Edward Kleiber, All sightings occurred between 1.5.99 and 17.11.99 Birds were seen at some sites on more that one occasion. Keith Fisher reported 1 bird sitting on an egg on 19.9.99 with the chick hatching on 15.10.99. Unfortunately it was predated upon and 25 days later (17.11.99) the Curlew was observed sitting on another egg. Russell Watson reports 1 nest with one egg on 12.11.99 and has since informed me that the day the chick started to hatch the tide came in above the nest site and was not able to get out of the egg in time. He is hopeful that they will start nesting again.

Sooty Oystercatchers reported from the following sites. Up to 3 at Dalrymple Point seen by Jon Wren on a number of occasions, 1 at Pioneer River seen by Les Thyer, 1 at Boyne Island seen by A & J Ruddell, up to 5 at Dux Creek seen by Trevor Ford on a number of occasions, 3 at Point Vernon seen by D & L Bradley, 2 at Great Keppel Island seen by Russell Watson, 1 at Maroochy River seen by Jan Bedwell, 3 at Seaforth seen by A & J Ruddell and 2 at the same site seen by Jan Bedwell. Reported dates of sightings from 5.4.99 to 12.11.99.

Breeding notes of sedentary waders are as follows. 3 Red-caped Plover chicks and 2 Black-fronted Dotterel chicks at Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher 26.9.99, 4 Red-capped Plover chicks at Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates 31.7.99, 2 on 4.9.99 and 1 on 13.11.99, 3 Black-fronted Dotterel chicks at Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher 17.11.99, 2 Pied Oystercatcher chicks just hatched and 1 more egg at Cabbage Tree Creek – Ivell & Jim Whyte 10.10.99, 2 Pied Oystercatcher chicks at Cairns Esplanade – Keith & Lindsay Fisher 29.10.99, 2 Pied Oystercatcher chicks at Scarborough – Phil & Linda Cross 23.10.99, possible nesters, Pied Oystercatcher at Donnybrook – Jill Dening and Barb Dickson 13.11.99, nesting activity of Black-winged Stilt at Dux Creek – Lois MacRae and Frank Bigg 13.11.99, 6 Red-capped Plover chicks at Great Keppel Island – Russell Watson 12.11.99 and Red-capped Plover nest with 2 eggs at Pioneer River - Maureen Cooper, Tess Brickhill and Alan Brown 13.11.99. A number of Masked Lapwing and Bush Stone-curlew breeding notes were reported.

A couple of unusual sightings drew my attention. Ivan Fien reported 3 Double-banded Plover at his Caboolture River Mouth site on 9.10.99, which is quite late in the season for this species. Trevor Ford

left leg and metal band on upper right leg seen by Arthur & Sheryl Keates at Lytton on 14.11.99 and 1 with blue flag on left tibia seen by Keith Fisher at Cairns Airport on 21.11.99

Greater Sand Plover – 1 with orange flag seen by Arthur & Sheryl Keates and David Edwards at Manly Boat Harbour on 18.9.99 and 16.10.99 and 1 with orange flag on upper right leg seen during the Wader Course field trip at Manly Boat Harbour on 24.10.99

Pied Oystercatcher – 1 with metal band seen by Andrew Geering at St Helena Island on 31.7.99 and 1 with pink band and metal band seen by Arthur Keates and David Edwards at Manly Boat Harbour on 4.9.99

Caspian Tern – 1 with white band on lower left leg seen by Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 30.8.99, 1 with metal band seen by Arthur & Sheryl Keates at Manly Boat Harbour on 12.9.99 and 1 with metal band seen by Arthur & Sheryl Keates and David Edwards at Manly Boat Harbour on 18.9.99

Crested Tern – 1 with blue band on lower right leg and 1 with metal band on lower left leg seen by Edward Kleiber at Hastings Point on 15.8.99

Little Tern – 1 with metal band on lower left leg seen by Arthur Keates at Manly Boat Harbour on 20.11.99

Interesting sightings

1 Double-banded Plover – Ted Post & Gordon Christie at Wonga Beach (100km north of Cairns) on 27.3.99

501 Red-necked Avocet (includes 13 juveniles) – Phil & Linda Cross at Deception Bay on 14.8.99 (a record for this site)

2 Banded Lapwing – Michael Jeffery at Brigalow Research Station on 12.7.99

13 Banded Lapwing – David Edwards and Arthur & Sheryl Keates at Lockyer Waters on 2.10.99

37 Black-fronted Dotterel – Phil & Linda Cross at Deception Bay on 14.8.99

4 Common Sandpiper – Keith Fisher at Cairns Airport on 21.8.99

4 Common Sandpiper – Jon Wren at Dalrymple Point Bowen on 11.9.99

12 Red-kneed Dotterel – David Edwards at Pine Rivers North Side on 31.7.99

42 Grey Plover – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil and Linda Cross at Boonooroo on 25.9.99

980 Eastern Curlew – Frank Bigg at Dux Creek on 10.10.99

2 Sanderling – Martin Waugh at Amity Point on 12.10.99

3 Little Curlew (2 Adults, 1 Juvenile) – Arthur & Sheryl Keates and David Edwards at Manly Boat Harbour on 16.10.99

3 Oriental Plover – John Hadley at Lake Clarendon on 26.9.99

320 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Arthur & Sheryl Keates at Lytton on 14.11.99

Not waders, but of interest anyway

1 Australian Spotted Crake – Arthur & Sheryl Keates at Lytton on 14.8.99

1 Buff-banded Rail – Andrew Geering at St Helena Island on 31.7.99

1 Buff-banded Rail – Keith & Lindsay Fisher at Cairns Esplanade on 29.10.99

72 Lesser Crested Tern – Rosemary Payet at Toolakea Beach on 23.7.99

1 Reef Egret (Dark Phase) – Arthur & Sheryl Keates at Manly Boat Harbour on 28.8.99, 12.9.99, 10.10.99 and 20.11.99 (Unusual sighting at this site)

1 Australian Gannet (Immature) – During Wader ID at Manly Boat Harbour on 28.8.99

4 Radjah Shelduck – John Thomson & Rob Macfarlane at Kinka Beach area on 11.9.99

1 Brown Booby & 1 Australian Gannet (flying by) – Fred Armbrust at Scarborough /Redcliffe area on 31.7.99

5000 Little Tern & 142 Common Tern – Jill Chamberlain at Sandbank No 2 Caloundra on 15.11.99

Errata

Did anyone spot my mistake in the last newsletter? Listed in the above category I had Banded Plover. Not only did I get the name wrong, but also I said it was not a wader!

Linda Cross

BEACH STONE-CURLEWS -SOME GOOD NEWS!!!

By Russell Watson

After reading "In A Brief Status Report" (QW No.25), and "On The Way Out", (QW No.26), no one can deny that the future of the Beach Stone-Curlew looks a little bleak. However, in amongst the "Doom and Gloom" there is a "Little Ray of Sunshine!" and that is centred here on the Capricorn Coast, Central Queensland.

Having lived in this area for the last 12 years, I have known about and observed several pairs of the Beach Stone-Curlews. As the Great Keppel Island Resort Ranger I have taken particular interest in the

one pair of birds on the Island. Since the Summer of 94/95, this pair has raised three chicks to adulthood, two of which are still occasionally seen on the Island.

Last summer however, was been the most despairing, yet enlightening of all. The pair first nested in late September/early October 1998, above the King High Tide Mark, (KHTM), on the mudflats and under some immature paperbark trees. They even had some help from a pair of Pied Oystercatchers, that were nesting less than 30 metres away, in keeping intruders from straying too close! Unfortunately after weeks of observations, the egg was missing and there was no sign of a chick! - only a very satisfied looking Sand Goanna!

Disappointing to say the least! However, two weeks later another nest and egg were located, approximately 800 metres from the first nest site! Again the nest seemed high up but this time underneath a dead and fallen Wattle. My initial elation was heightened after consultation with the Rockhampton EPA, as a second breeding attempt was an unknown factor.

Once again observations were kept up and photos were taken. However with much consternation and dismay, there had been a slight 'engineering error" and the nest was actually below the KHTM. Over a period of three to four days it was inundated and the egg shifted by about three to four metres. After the tides had gone down, observations realised that the egg had been abandoned and after three days the EPA suggested that the egg be collected and sent to them. They ascertained that the chick was only about one week from being hatched.

The pair was sighted on and off over the next three weeks with my hopes of their success being dashed after this second failed attempt and no obvious activity during this time. Then - quite unexpectedly in mid January 1999, another nest site and egg were found midway between nests #1 and #2!!

This time the egg appeared to be just above the KHTM but in an area that would be surrounded on three sides and an embankment on the fourth. Things were looking good! Surely it would be a case of third time lucky!! During the next week of observations the tide crept higher and higher but even at its highest point there was still some space to spare. The next big test would be at the end of January when the KHT's would be another 20 to 30 centimetres higher. The next 14 days seemed a long time to wait!!

Then on the 28th January, (3 days before the biggest tide), to my sheer delight and relief!! A newborn chick was found approximately 5 to 10 metres from the nest site!! Judging by its size, it was probably no more than two to three days old. At last some success!

The chick was only actually seen twice over the next two weeks as observations were kept up by either on foot or by canoe, but the reactions of the parents were very indicative that the chick was still there. However, that really did not stop me worrying when I couldn't see it! Then on the 14th February the chick was sighted again and also over the next few days. During this time the three birds shifted across a small tidal channel and into an area of dead mangrove trees, bordered by thick grass and then Wattle scrub. Talk about looking for a needle in a haystack!

Once again the only thing from keeping me from chewing my nails to the bone was the behaviour of the parents! This cat and mouse behaviour continued for over two weeks until the 1st March when I finally got another close up view of the chick as it was hiding amongst some dead mangrove trees and roots. Their camouflage still amazes me!! The chick was starting to get it's juvenile plumage with some down just starting to fall away. Over the next month, as the chick came into its juvenile plumage, it began to get active and feed with its parents.

Various sightings found it out in the middle of the mudflats and quickly running for cover as all three birds were approached. The parents were still very protective during this stage and usually ran off in different directions, trying to take the attention away from the chick. By mid April our young one was nearly in full plumage albeit a bit paler! It was still being sighted with either one or both of its parents but was becoming bolder and not heading straight for cover. By the end of September our young bird was in full adult plumage with the only distinguishing mark being discoloured wing panels. It was however, still in close contact with the parents and never being more than about 200 to 400 metres away. So, for this summer it looks like another success story for Great Keppel Island.

Once again, no one can deny that the plight of the Beach Stone-Curlew seems to be in a bad way, but it is nice to know that in at least in one small area things look a bit brighter for it and the other111 species of birds that call Great Keppel Island home!!

KAKI / BLACK STILT FACT SHEET

Supplied by the New Zealand Department of Conservation / Te Papa Atawhai

For 1st September to 31st August 1999

The following information is summary only of the status of the wild and captive Kaki / Black Stilt population. The figures quoted are intended only as a general guide for public information. The wild population includes captive-reared birds released from the aviary at 9 and 3 months of age.

Wild Population

Adults

Females		
Died in the last year		5
Long term missing		1
Therefore alive		min 9, max 10.
Males		
Died in the last year		5
Long term missing		4
Therefore alive:		min 26, max 30.
Unknown Sex		
Died in the last year		1
Long term missing		1
Therefore alive:		min 2, max 3.
Total minimum adults known alive		37.
Sub-adults – minimum known alive		6.
Total minimum wild population		**43**
Breeding pairs in wild		**4 pairs.**

Captive Population

Adults		19
Females	9	
Males	10	
Sub-adults		17
Total captive population		**36**
Breeding pairs in captivity		**6 pairs.**
Hybrid birds in Captivity (nodes G –I)		11

Mark Sanders who works very closely with the Black Stilts needs some help in finding some leg bands. Mark wishes to find any source for C-size (3.5mm internal diameter) 1½ wrap around colour bands. If you are able to help you can contact Mark by E-mail : msanders@doc.govt.nz.

Wetlands in Japan 1999 The Tides of Change

A video, "Wetlands in Japan 1999 - The Tides of Change" produced by Iwa pro Katsutoshi Iwanaga and presented by the Japan Wetlands Action Group was released at Ramsar at Costa Rica.

Impressive (sometimes in the most depressive manner) the video shows the status of wetlands in Japan. In particular, the "guillotining" of Isahaya Bay by huge steel plates driven into the seabed was a technological knee-in-the-groin for conservationists trying to prevent further loss of tidal flats. It is available for US $40. For further information contact 'Japan Wetland Action Network, Yoshino ITO 6-4-2 Wakagidai, Fukuma-cho Munakata-gun Fukuoka, Japan 811-3221'. Email: godot@sannet.ne.jp

Protocol for Wader Leg Flags

History

At the 5th Conference of the Parties to Ramsar Convention held in Kushiro in 1993 it was recognised that habitats for shorebirds in East Asia were rapidly being lost. This is particularly important for migratory shorebirds because they need a chain of wetlands to rest and feed at during migration. To find out more about these important "staging" sites, researchers have commenced a program to mark shorebirds with small coloured leg flags.

AUSTRALIA

Brisbane Area:

Right Leg	Tibia: Green Flag	Tarsus: None
Left Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: Metal Band

North-West Australia:

Right Leg	Tibia: Yellow Flag	Tarsus: Metal Band
Left Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: None

South-West Australia:

Right Leg	Tibia: Yellow Flag	Tarsus: Orange Flag
Left Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: Metal Band

South-East Australia:

Right Leg	Tibia: Orange Flag	Tarsus: Metal Band
Left Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: None

South Australia:

Right Leg	Tibia: Orange Flag	Tarsus: Yellow Flag
Left Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: Metal Band

NEW ZEALAND

North Island:

Right Leg	Tibia: White Flag	Tarsus: None
Left Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: Metal Band

JAPAN

Hokkaido [Lake Komuke, Monbetsu, Hokkaido]:

Right Leg	Tibia: Blue Flag	Tarsus: Blue Flag
Left Leg	Tibia: Metal Band	Tarsus: None

Hokkaido [Lake Furen, Nemuro, Hokkaido]:

Right Leg	Tibia: Metal Band	Tarsus: None
Left Leg	Tibia: Blue Flag	Tarsus: None

Tokyo Bay [Obitsu Estuary, Kisarazu, Chiba]:

Right Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: Metal Band
Left Leg	Tibia: Blue Flag	Tarsus: White Flag

Tokyo Bay [Yatsu tidal flats, Narashino, Chiba]:

Right Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: Blue Flag (clipped)
Left Leg	Tibia: Metal Band	Tarsus: White Flag (clipped)

KOREA

Tong Jing Estuary, Chollapuk-do:

Right Leg	Tibia: White Flag	Tarsus: Orange Flag
Left Leg	Tibia: Metal Band	Tarsus: None

TAIWAN

Kuantu wetland, Taipei, Tatu Estuary, Changhwa:

Right Leg	Tibia: Metal Band	Tarsus: None
Left Leg	Tibia: White Flag	Tarsus: Blue Flag

USA

Alaska:

Right Leg	Tibia: None	Tarsus: None
Left Leg	Tibia: Metal Band	Tarsus: None

Watch for the leg flags

For the purpose of conservation, researchers began attaching colour flags to the legs of shorebirds in addition to metal rings with numbers in banding programs since 1991. The colour scheme of these flags indicates the locations of where birds were caught. The total number of birds flagged reached over 80,000 by 1998. These flags should be readily visible with binoculars or telescopes even from a distance. Now, even without catching birds, we can keep track of them, and any observer can contribute to information. With the improved system, data on migration has increased by 5 to 20 times. Let Linda Cross, our count co-ordinator, know of any flags you see.

Letter about Dux Creek sent by QWSG – Your Help Required

The Chief Executive Officer
Caboolture Shire Council
Box 159
Caboolture Qld 4510

Re: Dux Creek Material Change of Use Application – Residential and Marina Development.
Lot 186 on CG839070 Parish of Woorim. Applicant: Hegira Limited.

The Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) objects to the above application and the reasons for our objections are set out below.

The QWSG with a current membership of 200 is a special interest group within the Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated (Birds Queensland) whose members total in excess of 500. Our organisation has been monitoring wader roost sites along the Queensland coast for almost 10 years and over this time has seen the gradual decline in sites available for waders to roost at high tide. Moreton Bay is an important wintering area for at least 43 species of waders, of a population of more than 50,000 wintering and staging waders, a significant percentage of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway population. The need to protect waders and their wetland habitats is recognised by international conventions which bring to the attention of the countries in the Flyway the threats and conservation needs of waders. In heavily populated areas, loss of roost sites and disturbance is a major concern.

The coastal foreshore areas are in demand from all sections of the community and so are subject to more immediate threats. Waders will use areas opportunistically and there needs to be as much flexibility in the sites available to waders as possible. The land to be used by waders comes under different owners and administrators, however all land owners and users of coastal foreshores need to use and manage these sites in the manner which takes into account the wetland values.

The Dux Creek roost site has been monitored on a regular basis since 21 March 1992 and provides valuable data about the wader populations in Moreton Bay. The site supports 32 different species of waders and 31 species of other waterbirds. It provides a critical roost for waders from a wide feeding area. Security of this roost would provide an important site for the ongoing monitoring of waders in the Flyway.

Australia is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention, the Convention of wetlands, and Moreton Bay was listed as a Ramsar Site in 1994. To administer obligations under the Ramsar Convention, Local Government needs to share in this responsibility. The listing of Moreton Bay as a Ramsar site highlights the significance of this area to the world and identifies it as a focus for the implementation of 'wise use' of wetlands.

In Moreton Bay the loss of wader roost sites now threatens the ecological values of the Bay. Management of Moreton Bay to retain its rank in the top few wader sites in Queensland, requires all managers of the Bay to act to ensure the conservation of critical habitats. In this case the protection of Dux Creek wader roost by Caboolture Shire Council. Wetland protection in Moreton Bay needs an integrated approach to management.

Replacement of roost sites is not an option in the Marine Park given the expense and increased chance of further threats. An optimal mainland roost site needs to have at least a 150 metre deep landward buffer of undeveloped, undisturbed ground. These areas may once have been saltmarsh or freshwater wetlands. Ideally roost sites should be totally protected from any disturbance, be greater than 30 metres in diameter and be of elevation close to the maximum (king) high tide level. There are also other considerations when the site is an artificial site as in Dux Creek. The suitability of Dux Creek as a high tide roost is demonstrated by its use and the fidelity of waders to their roost will ensure this continues.

In objecting to this residential and marina development of Dux Creek we would like Council to take this opportunity to secure the wader roost in place of the development and this could be a showpiece of wetland conservation for the Caboolture Shire.

The QWSG would welcome further discussion on this development in relation to the waders and waterbirds.

Yours truly,
On behalf of The Queensland Wader Study Group.
Please turn over for more

We would ask members of the QWSG to do the following: -
Write as soon as possible on this matter in particulr to Rob Noble, Chief Executive Officer Caboolture Shire Council.
Please make sure that you include at the beginning the relevant information about the site: -
Re: Dux Creek Material Change of Use Application – Residential and Marina Development
Lot 186 on CG839070 Parish of Woorim. Applicant: Hegira Limited

We would like you to please mention in their letter that **"the developer must prove that no wader species, nor any species abundance, will be lost in the Pumicestone Passage as a result of the destruction of the Dux Creek roost"**

You may also like to say that the developer should consider setting aside an area for the waders to roost. Such a showpiece would be a great attraction for visitors who are into Eco-tourism, as well as locals.

It would be appropriate to cc your letter to the following: -

Senator The Honourable Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601

The Honourable Rod Welford, Minister for the Environment and Heritage
Level 13
Mineral House, 41 George Street, Brisbane 4000

The Honourable Terry McInroth (David don't think this is spelt right?? Can you check please)?
Minister Communications and Information, Local Government and Planning
P O Box 187 Albert Street, Brisbane 4002

The Honourable Bill Feldman (State Member for Caboolture)
P O Box 1540
Caboolture 4510

The Honourable Mal Brough
P O Box 1883
110 Morayfield Road
Caboolture 4510

Could you also consider giving your own councillors a copy of your letter, because this will enlighten them as to the problems that can arise from the development of the shoreline, saltmarshes and wetlands.

Ed: You might remember that around 1,000 Curlews were counted at this site during this year, and that the total world population is about 30,000!!

WADER IDENTIFICATION DAY REPORTS

Manly - Wader Identification Day
28 August 1999

Despite overnight rain and an overcast start to the day, 35 people took part in the wader identification morning at Manly Boat Harbour.

Observers had good views of 33 species of waders, waterbirds and raptors. Unfortunately, no Double-banded Plovers were seen, their stay in Moreton Bay probably at an end for another year. Other species usually seen at the roost site but missing from our morning's outing were Eastern Curlew and Whimbrel. On the other hand, some species made a welcome return to the bay, notably Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser Sand Plover and Greater Sand Plover. Some of these birds had traces of breeding plumage.

Towards the end of the morning, most people saw one of the two Grey-tailed Tattlers sporting a green leg flag. The surprise sighting of the morning was the immature Australasian Gannet, spotted by QOSI and QWSG member Wendy Wilesmith, as it flew past the roost site.

Species recorded were-

Black Swan, Australasian Gannet, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Eastern Reef Egret, Little Egret, Great Egret, Australian White Ibis, Brahminy Kite, Osprey (nesting), Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Caspian Tern, Lesser Crested Tern, Crested Tern and Little Tern.

Sheryl & Arthur Keates
Linda & Phil Cross

Manly - Wader Identification

6 November 1999

About 18 people, mostly QOSI or QWSG members, enjoyed the wader identification day at Manly Boat Harbour.

The early thin cloud cover gave us perfect light conditions as we started at 7:35 am before the northerly breeze gained in strength. We finished at 10:30 am having recorded 27 species of waders, cormorants, terns and raptors, a total of approximately 1469 birds.

The high water level in each of the 3 lagoons no doubt contributed to the bird numbers being down slightly. Three species were sighted with green leg flags, an Eastern Curlew (also with a satellite transmitter), 2 Lesser Sand Plovers and 2 Great Knots.

The 27 species recorded were-

Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Brahminy Kite, Osprey, Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Great Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Crested Tern, Little Tern.

Sheryl & Arthur Keates

Wader ID Days

Sat 25th March at Toorbul: Meet at 12 noon (or earlier if you wish) for a 1.82m high at 12.35pm Brisbane Bar (40 minutes later at Toorbul). Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul turn-off near the Big Fish. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue on this road to Toorbul. Turn right at the T-junction then first left and then right, which brings you onto the Esplanade. Follow this road to the end (approximately 2 kms), we will be on the left.

Sun 16th April at Manly Boat Harbour: Meet by 7.00am at the end of the road east of the Royal Queensland Yacht Clubhouse, Manly, for a high tide of 2.29m at 7.53am. UBD map 164 A6.

These days are a great way to learn in the field, so if you are beginning or are in need of a refresher now that the waders are coming back, come along with sunscreen, insect repellent, plus some food and drink, and a telescope if you have one. Please ring Linda on 07 5495 2758 or Sheryl on 07 3398 4898, if you have any queries.

Copy Deadline for Summer Edition

The deadline for the next issue is the 26th February 2000.
Contributions should be addressed to David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011 or E-mail to gouldian@ozemail.com.au Computerised contributions should be in IBM Word, ASCII or Rich Text. *** Note change of E-mail address. ***

ACTIVITIES - 2000

Wader Counts (general monitoring)

Contact: Linda Cross on 07 5495 2758 or at *xenus@big.net.au*
Completed count forms should be returned as soon as possible to:
Mrs L Cross at 40 Thompson Rd, Bellmere, Qld 4510.

WADER COUNTS DATES (general monitoring) FOR 1999

Sat 11th December High Tide of 2.27m at 11:27am

WADER COUNTS DATES (general monitoring) FOR ALL OF 2000

Sat 8th January	High Tide of 2.36m at 10.36am
Sat 5th February	High Tide of 2.38m at 09.41am (NATIONAL SUMMER COUNT)
Sat 4th March	High Tide of 2.30m at 08.37am
Sun 2nd April	High Tide of 2.24m at 08.00am
Sat 6th May	High Tide of 2.01m at 10.55am
Sat 3rd June	High Tide of 1.97m at 09.51am (NATIONAL WINTER COUNT)
NO COUNT IN JULY	
Sat 19th August	High Tide of 1.89m at 12.00noon
Sat 16th September	High Tide of 2.04m at 11.00am
Sun 15th October	High Tide of 2.23m at 10.41am
Sat 11th November	High Tide of 2.26m at 08.58am
Sun 10th December	High Tide of 2.38m at 08.36am

Counters in the regions of Mackay and the North please choose a date as close as possible to the ones listed above with a tide high enough to push as many waders as possible into their respective roosts.

Cannon Netting

Sunday 9th January Venue: To be advised

Contact: Peter Driscoll 07 3289 0237 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. You will need to bring food and water, plus sun-screen and insect repellent.

BOONOOROO CAMPOUT – 11 & 12 MARCH

This will be a joint QOSI/QWSG campout to Boonooroo (approximately 260 km north of Brisbane), which is up in the Great Sandy Strait and a great spot for waders.

We will be staying at the Boonooroo Caravan Park in Oak Street (a 3 star Qld Q-Park), which has water frontage, inground pool and excellent facilities: powered and unpowered sites; on site caravans for hire; general store (including hot food), fuel and LP Gas, bait & tackle, EFTPOS, showers and toilets (disabled amenities) and the Bowls Club is situated nearby.

A group booking has already been made for unpowered sites, but if you want a powered site or an on-site caravan you will need to contact the owners Terry & Odette O'Neill on Ph: 4129 8211 or Fax: 4129 8003 to arrange that.

We will be checking out the waders at the roosts on Saturday and Sunday. The best time for viewing is an hour either side of the high tides, which are as follows: Saturday 2.6m high at 1252 hours, Sunday 2.39 high at 1345 hours. Highlights of our last visit in September 99 was seeing 42 Grey Plover together at the roost.

Don't forget your telescopes and **BRING THE HEAVY ARMOUR (INSECT REPELLENT) FOR THE SANDFLIES,** they can be bad at times.

Directions: Travel north on the Bruce Highway until you reach Gympie, turn right on to the Tin Can Bay Road, after approximately 44km turn left onto the Poona/Maryborough Road. Follow this road for 40km then at the 'T' junction, turn right and 7 kms later you will arrive at Boonooroo. The Caravan Park is on the right hand side.

Cost: Unpowered site $10 per couple per night, powered site **off** the waterfront $12 per couple, powered site **on** the waterfront $14 per couple, then $3 each extra person for all three. On-site caravan $25 per night for 2 people, then $3 each extra adult. (There are 3 caravans with sleeping capacity for 4).

Leader/s: Phil and Linda Cross Phone: 07 5495 2758
Peter Crow Phone: 07 3398 5118

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2000

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Tues 11th January 2000, the venue is to be Royal Geographical Society Hall, Brookes St, Fortitude Valley at 6:30 pm. All members of QWSG are cordially invited to attend this meeting. We hope to have other activities at this meeting, not just the AGM, so please come along and meet the Committee and other QWSG members.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last magazine was printed :
Neil Fordyce and Janet White, Debby Muller, Colin Palmer, Vince and Rhelmae Hebbard,
Dr Gertrude Behan, Barbara Dixon, Franziska Speck, Peter and Jean Crow,
Terry Reis, Shirley Rooke.

Seven of the above new members join us after taking part in our Waders Course.
Many thanks too to those who have included a donation with their renewal or membership fee. This is greatly appreciated as such donations make on-going work possible.

Other Conservation Activities of Interest

QWSG is a special interest group of the 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. Contacts: Dawn Muir, President (07) 3870 8076;
Sheena Gillman, Secretary (07) 3372 4089; Treasurer, Lyal Grundy (07) 3355 1050

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.

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee: .....
Position: .....
Name of Proposer: .....
Name of Seconder: .....
(Note: Nominees, proposers and seconders must have current QWSG membership).
I accept the nomination for the position on the management committee of the Queensland Wader Study Group as indicated.
Signature of Nominee:..... Date:.....

(Please post to: Mrs S. Keates, Treasurer QWSG, 5, Stanmere Street, Carindale, Qld 4152)

QWSG MERDCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG Merchandise, items may be purchased at QOSI meeting held 1st Thursday of the month at the Queensland Museum **OR**....
Contact Linda Cross on 07 5495 2758 or E-mail at *xenus@big.net.au*
Postage is not included in the prices quoted.

Polo Neck Shirts	**$30:00**	Bottle Green, Maroon, Jade, Navy, Royal Blue, Cream, Snow Marl.
T-shirts	**$22:00**	Avocet design short sleeve.
	$25:00	Avocet design long sleeve (limited stock).
Books	**$25:00**	Shorebird Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region.
	$ 7:50	Wader Roost Construction in Moreton Bay.
	$20:00	Simpson & Day Field Guide to the Birds of Australia.
	$14:00	A Birdwatcher's Guide to Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture Shire. Wildlife Preservation Society of Caboolture.
CD	**$20:00**	Bird calls of the Broome region (Includes 42 Wader Species).

QUEENSLAND WADER STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER
Issue Number 30 – Summer 2000

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SURFACE MAIL	POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

If not delivered please return to:
5 Stanmere Street, Carindale, Qld 4152

Your membership is paid up to 1/08/00
Mr/s Phil & Linda CROSS
40 Thompson Road
BELLMERE CABOOLTURE QLD 4510

OBJECT OF THE QUEENSLAND WADER STUDY GROUP

To promote and participate in the study and conservation of waders and their habitat and to influence government policy and public opinion for the well-being of waders