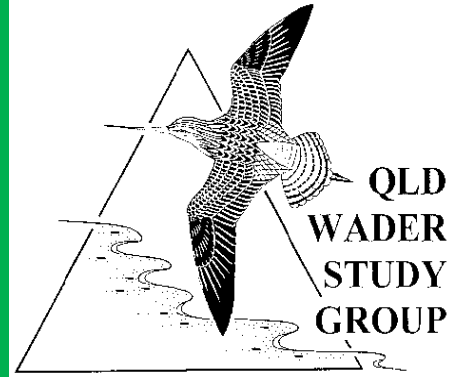


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue 115

March, April, May 2021

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

Chairperson Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting 6th December 2020

I am pleased to present this report as Chairperson of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), on behalf of the 2020 QWSG Management Committee. Usually, I start my report commenting as to how busy this year has been. However, this year has been dominated by COVID-19 and its effects on us all. But it still has been a busy twelve months.

The report will highlight some of the achievements and activities of the QWSG over the past year, as we have continued to promote the protection of wader habitats under threat, and promote the scientific study and conservation of all waders.

The end of this AGM will see Sheryl Keates stand down from the committee. The membership register shows that Sheryl joined the QWSG in March 1995. Sheryl held the position of QWSG Treasurer from 1996 through until 2017, all this time using pen and paper, no MYOB. At the same time, she was maintaining the Membership register. Sheryl, with Arthur, has been a main stay of the ID days and our Education group. Plus attending many of our surveys. So many, many thanks from the whole of the QWSG.

The QWSG Committee has been blessed to have Brenda Smith to take on the Membership Officer role, with Ross McMillan bringing a youthful view to the Committee and reduce the average age of said Committee!

Our collaboration with the Port of Brisbane (PBPL) has also continued this year with the count program continuing and the group continuing to analyse data and provide annual updates and a report for the Port on their shorebird populations. Covid-19 curtailed our visits to the PBPL, but their Environmental Department found a way to make sure the counts continued as soon as possible. We have also discussed maintenance and improvements for the Port's Roost site to be carried out in 2021.

The newsletter, Queensland Wader, has been presented every quarter with the vast majority of the editions now being sent out as an electronic version. Weight restrictions means that the print version is limited to 18 sides which means that it cannot present some content, whilst the electronic copy is virtually unlimited. So, if you still receive the Newsletter in print form consider the electronic version. Once again, many thanks to all contributors, a special thanks to Linda and Phil Cross, who produce content for the Newsletter each quarter and to Arthur Keates for all his articles on flag sightings,

Some of the key activities in 2020, in no particular order of priority are highlighted below:

WEBSITE

The year 2020 has seen the QWSG website updated. The Committee decided to go with Working Planet Design run by Nahum Szumer, and we have been more than happy with the product and service given by Nahum. There has been an overall freshening of the site and the introduction of an online flagging report and membership payment systems. The QWSG also thanks the assistance given by Linda and Phil Cross, Brenda Smith and Peter Driscoll who made sure that the site would be running smoothly.

AUSTRALASIAN SHOREBIRD CONFERENCE 2021 (ASC21)

The QWSG on behalf of the Australasian Wader Study Group had planned to host their conference in March 2021, however, yes you are right, Covid-19 interfered and we have cancelled the conference with a hope to see it progressing in late 2021.

EDUCATION

We were able to run a one-day wader course in the Great Sandy Strait that attracted local Rangers, Parks personnel and the general public. Many thanks to Sheryl and Arthur Keates, and Cecil Espigole for the organisation that they did for the day and of course thanks to the speakers Peter Rothlisberg and myself.

Covid-19 has hit the number of wader ID days that were held in 2020. These days are always popular and give an opportunity for not only the education side of the group but also as a meet and greet component that is missing at many of our other activities, so we are hoping to get these up and going again in the New Year.

Also, the work with the Moreton Bay Environmental Centre educating young school children about shorebirds has been truncated.

THE COUNT PROGRAM

Linda Cross again tirelessly organised and managed the count programme in 2020 with monthly counts across a whole range of sites in Moreton Bay and further afield up and down the Queensland coast. The online data entry continues to make life easier in terms of data entry, but validation is still necessary to make sure the high standard of QWSG data is maintained. Linda is always looking for new counters so if you know anyone, or would like to count your own site please get in touch with her. However, Linda has notified the Committee that she intends to stand down soon, so we are on the look-out for the impossible, a replacement for Linda

Thanks not only to Linda but to every one of our members who counts as without you, we would not have been able to contribute as much as we have to shorebird conservation and please don't underestimate the value of consistently counting a location over long periods of time. Our count program has been responsible for some very influential discussion on shorebird declines and has influenced opinion throughout the flyway as a result of this dataset and is held in the highest of esteem. The Turtle Cove decision is a very notable one for waders.

This year has seen other extensions of the Count Program by way of surveys.

In March two members were lucky enough to go to the eastern shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria to make a follow-up trip. Leaving from Weipa they travelled by boat south to Karumba. The journey entailed visiting the Mitchell, Gilbert and Flinders Rivers to survey the lower reaches of these rivers and the adjacent foreshores. Many thanks to Michele Burford, of Griffith Uni, her fellow scientists and the crew of the 'Eclipse'.

The survey, run by Roger Jaensch and the local rangers to establish an awareness of the waders and their habitat in the Gulf of Carpentaria and its islands was restricted. Stay tuned for future developments.

This year we had our bi-annual visit to Great Sandy Strait for the 2-day survey of the area. It is an interesting time to see the participants fan out north and south of GSS to the many roost sites, then listen to their experiences on return. Many thanks to the counters and organisers.

FLAGGING

Many thanks to Phil Cross for his hard work in entering all the flag sightings that come in, not only that but also giving quarterly reports for the Newsletter. Last year I mentioned that we are looking to improve the observer/user experience further with commitment to providing an online entry of flag sightings, this has been done with the new web site. If there are still any tiny things to improve contact Phil. Once again thanks to all of you who send in your sightings it goes a long way to protect the waders

BANDING AND GEOLOCATORS

This side of QWSG was greatly reduced because of tides and time, plus, of course, Covid-19. However, the data from our trackers is still coming in and supplying useful and sometimes amazing data. Be warned that 2021 is looking to be a busy time for banding and flagging.

QWSG DATA

The QWSG has entered into agreements with DES and Healthy Land and Water to use our data. The data with DES will be entered into Wildnet, so there is no excuse for not knowing about roost sites in Queensland. The data to HLW was to facilitate the running of their grant. The money we receive goes back into more surveys and so more information.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY QWSGYatsu Higata Naturalist Observation Centre's (YNOC) Visit

Once again, the headline for this is Covid-19. To everyone's bitter disappointment the visit by our Japanese friends at Yatsu Higata, had to be postponed. There is a suggested time for their visit next year in October. An online hook-up was arranged for those able to, to have a chat, but it is not the same as the face-to-face contact.

Healthy Land and Waters (HLW)

We have partnered with HLW, and others to help formulate plans and actions for shorebirds in Greater Moreton Bay. The Federal grant that HLW has a lot of potential and we hope to work with them over the next two years.

GRANTS

The QWSG has just received news that it can go ahead with a project linked to a State government grant. The outline of the project is on the first page of the last edition of Queensland Wader, Issue 114.

Thank you to every single committee member and also those who undertake non-committee roles such as Flag co-ordinator Phil Cross and Linda Cross our Count Co-ordinator. Thank you also to Rae Clark and BQ for their collaboration throughout the year. We always underestimate the effort required to make a group like this run effectively.

I am sure I have missed someone in this roundup, so to everyone who has contributed to the group in many different ways, thank you.

Finally, and most importantly, I have to say thank you to all QWSG members for your support and fieldwork over the last 12 months. Without you we achieve nothing and I hope the 2020 report has shown you how important your support, your counts, and your involvement in everything to do with shorebirds really is.

So here is to a great year for you all, good wader watching and please stay safe.

David Edwards – Chairperson QWSG

6th December 2020

Count Coordinator's Report to AGM 6th December 2020

Although this year has been unlike anything any of us could have ever imagined, the lockdown and restrictions for Covid-19 did give some people a chance to catch up on jobs they had been putting off. I took the time to write reports, type a portion of my job descriptions for future proofing and helped trial the new QWSG website that was built in the second half of the year.

Given the restrictions and lockdown, it would come as no surprise that this would influence the Count Programme for this year. Only a total of 21 sites managed to conduct the second scheduled March count and no sites were counted in April. As in 2019, several sites have not been fully covered during 2020 with at least 4 of them positioned in Moreton Bay. In the Great Sandy Strait region, no counts were completed for 3 sites, while further north in Bundaberg only 1 count was completed for the year. Just 2 months of counts (January and February) were conducted for the Gladstone sites which have not been restarted due to Covid-19 restrictions. In Mackay, just 4 counts have been conducted for Shellgrit Creek entrance.

It has been a disappointing year for the count programme this year with 6 people resigning. All of which have been long term counters with the QWSG programme. While I acknowledged the contribution Jim, and Ivell Whyte, Gerry Woodruff and Jill Chamberlain made to the count programme in the newsletter, I neglected to acknowledge Graham and Brenda Smith. I sincerely apologise for that oversight and will ensure I include the necessary acknowledgement in the next newsletter. Even more disappointing is that 2 more counters have mentioned that they would like to step down.

We have recruited 3 new counters, Elliot Leach, Gus Daly and Gillian Matthew. Elliot and Gus have taken on Luggage Point and Gillian is currently counting the Caloundra sites, but may be moved to other sites if I lose the 2 counters previously mentioned.

One new site was added to the website (Cassim Island) to enable 12 counts to be entered for inclusion into the database in relation to the proposed Toondah Harbour development. This site will not be added to the count programme unless someone is keen to cover it.

Point Halloran Private Land site was dropped from the count programme early in the year because the site that was formally a modest area of saltmarsh and open mud flat has now been extensively colonised by young mangroves. Consequently, there is little high tide roost area left and what there is, is now close to a well-used footpath and road, so any waders that may visit the site will be regularly disturbed. Another lost site to add to the list because of mangrove encroachment.

With Covid-19 restrictions in place across the country, participants for the Moreton Island and St. Helena Island surveys are now limited, with those in the vulnerable group not allowed to attend. This has meant that a few of our regular counters have not been on any of the surveys since January, which has given those that do attend a bit more workload. Both islands were surveyed 4 times during the year.

Online entries by counters continued to be excellent and required very few amendments in the first half of the year. However, with the development of the new website and a new entry form to enter counts, there needed to be a few changes that the counters had to navigate. I am sure that time will help address any issues that may arise.

Monthly counts conducted during 2020 are as follows:

- 854 entered, validated and uploaded to the database
- 71 validated and waiting to be uploaded into the database
- 13 waiting to be validated.

Approximately 83 counts to be entered from counters for the December count.

That will make a total of 1,021 (just over 200 less than 2019) from the count programme itself.

In addition to the count programme there are:

- 172 miscellaneous counts entered, validated and uploaded to the database
- 12 miscellaneous counts waiting to be validated.

That is 184 additional counts, which bring the total counts for 2020 to 1,205.

As at the 5 December 2020 there are 36,887 count entries in the database attributed to the count programme, this total does not include counts waiting to be validated and downloaded, and the December counts not yet entered. The count programme total will then be 37,066 approximately. In addition to this total there are 12,400 more entries which were counts conducted outside of the count programme, this brings the total counts in the database to 49,466

Arthur Keates was the most prolific counter with 132 entries to the end of November, followed by Dez Wells with 95 counts and then Robert Bush and Deirdre Chrzescijanski with 70 counts.

Manly Harbour was again the most counted site during the year with 79 entries (38 more than last year), and again, Arthur Keates was the reason for 68 of those counts (37 more than last year). Kakadu Beach roost on Bribie Island was the second most counted with 22 entries, (4 less than last year) with most of them being attributed to Michael Strong.

Peter Driscoll deserves much more credit than he is due for helping Nahum set up the new website halfway through the year. There were numerous issues to address that required Peter's time and devotion. The phone rang hot between Peter, Phil and me for weeks with some frustration and hair pulling before things were finally sorted. After we were happy with the new set up all 3 of us took off for a month and left all members to it!

I must thank Peter for his continued work maintaining the database and answering all my enquiries related to the count programme and the database.

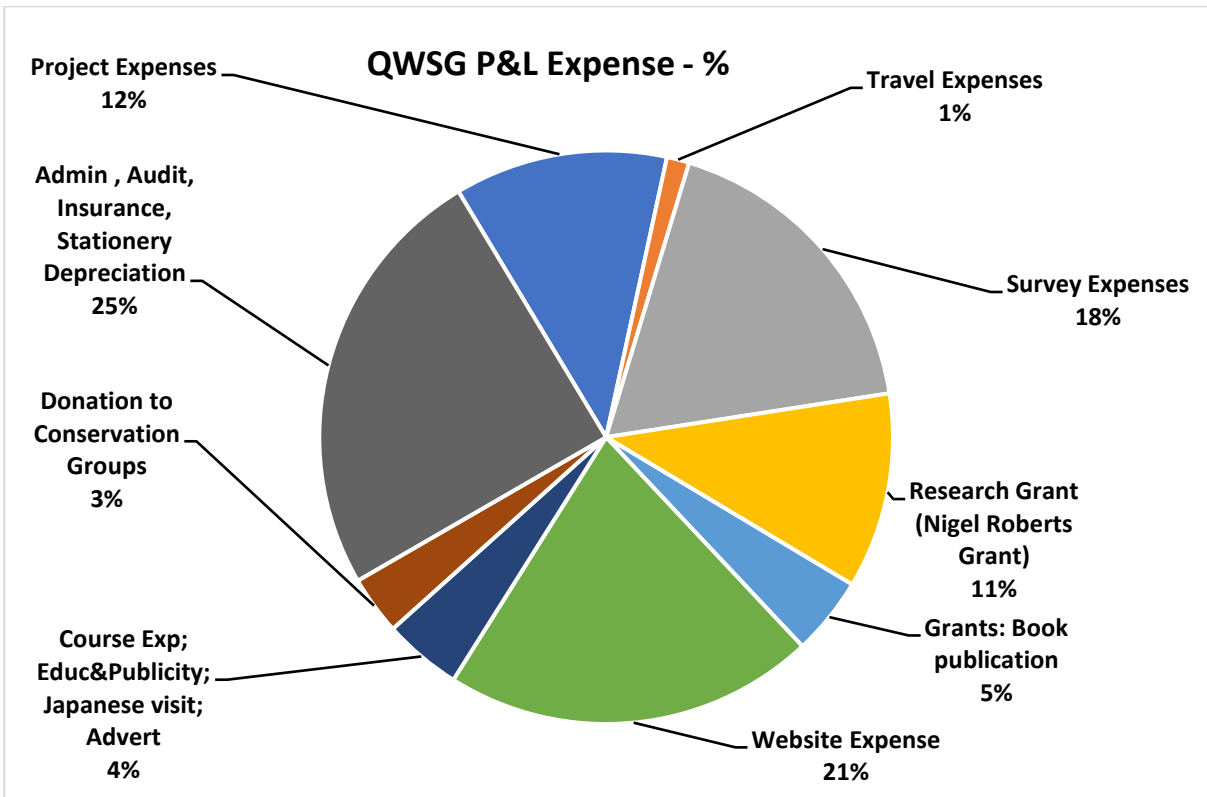
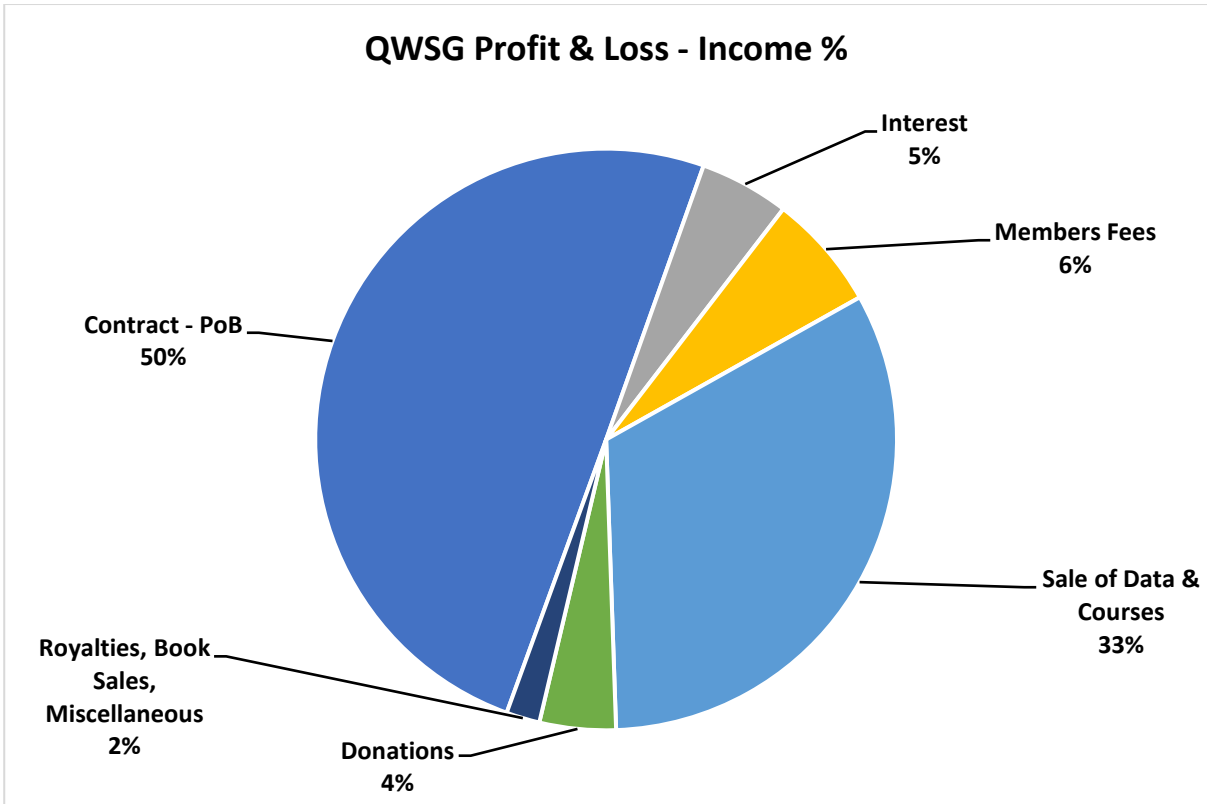
The count programme would not exist if it were not for the dedicated counters and QWSG and myself would like to sincerely thank you for your sterling efforts.

I have continued to strive for punctuality with my articles to David Edwards for the newsletter.

My thanks to the people I have already mentioned for their assistance during the year, and to everyone else from the group (on and off committee), for their commitment to the QWSG.

Linda.

QWSG Financial Report for 2019-2020



Judith Giles, QWSG Treasurer

Port of Brisbane Report

A summary of the QWSG's contracted work with the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd.

I liaised with Gordana Pozvek and (later in the year) Brenda Smith (QWSG membership officers), and Jessica Rudd from the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL), to keep the Port counter/induction list up to date, and then ensured Peter Rothlisberg was kept informed accordingly before the email notification was sent.

In 2020 we scheduled 13 counts for the year. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions only 9 counts were completed by the QWSG team. The Port counts scheduled for early March, April and May were cancelled and the second scheduled count in late March was collated from 2 counts conducted by Arthur and Sheryl Keates (the artificial roost and the claypan) and photographs taken by Penelope Webster from the (PBPL) of birds in some of the ponds within the reclamation area. Arthur and I then viewed the photographs and entered the species and numbers for each site. It is quite possible that some birds in ponds may have been missed. Two sites (the lake and railway loop) were not surveyed. Including today's count, 125 Port counts (29 less than 2019) will be added to the database this year. In addition to the monthly count conducted for the PBPL there have been an additional 3 counts for the Artificial Roost

Attendance by QWSG members has been good, with between 11 and 14 volunteers most months. January and November were exceptions with 19 and 16 respectively in attendance, which helped get the count done quicker. The highest wader count was recorded in November, with a total of 6,666 being counted for the whole of the complex, which was just under 1,000 less birds than the same month in 2019 but two and a half thousand birds less than the highest count of 9,029 in December 2019.

Thank you to Peter Rothlisberg and other members who arrived an hour earlier each month to conduct the Lake count prior to the scheduled count times.

I would like to thank Craig Wilson, Michael Linde, Jessica Rudd and Penelope Webster from the PBPL for looking after us during the counts.

Additional thanks to Peter Rothlisberg for organising the emails and allocating sites, Gordana Pozvek and Brenda Smith for liaising with me on memberships, and finally a big thank you to the counters who turn up each month to conduct the count.

In closing, after having given it a lot of thought, I would like to advise the QWSG committee that I want to step down from the role of Count Co-ordinator. Having been in this position for over 20 years I think it is time to hand the job to someone younger who could probably put some new life into the programme. Obviously, I am not about to down tools and walk away right now. Ideally, I would work with the new person for as long as it takes (hopefully a year) to ensure there is a smooth transition from one to the other.

Linda Cross.

LEG FLAG DATABASE REPORT TO QWSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 6th DECEMBER 2020

The Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), leg flag database currently consists of 40,907 records. More than 5,000 leg flag re-sightings were added in the last twelve months.

Green Leg flags.

Just over 95% of the re-sightings added to the database since the last annual report consisted of green coloured flags, all of these were recorded in Queensland.

Green flags seen overseas.

There was an increase in the quantity of green flags recorded at overseas locations, compared to the previous year. A total of 109 reported which is 19 more than last year's quantity of 90.

South Korea had a total of 86 re-sightings, 75 of which came from one location (Aphae Island South). Japan accounted for 16 sightings, New Zealand supplied 5 sightings, we received 1 record from Yalu Jiang in China and a record of a Ruddy Turnstone at Vladivostok in Russia.

Overseas flagged birds reported as being seen in Queensland.

The number of overseas flagged birds seen in Queensland and reported during 2020 totalled 211, which is a 15% increase on the total added to the database in 2019. They were flagged in the following countries.

Japan

Japan had a total of 61 flag sightings added to the database during the last 12 months a decline of 33% compared to the previous year. Of those records, 41 were ELF and all carried blue engraved over white flag combination fitted at Torinoumi, Watari, Miyagi, the rest of the records were of plain blue flags which were fitted in Hokkaido.

Grey-tailed Tattler blue '568' over white flag was recorded 15 times throughout the year, this year being the fourth year in a row that it has stayed in Moreton Bay during our summer.

China

Waders flagged in China were reported more often than birds from other countries. A total of 81 records were added to the database during 2020, 44 of these carried an engraved leg flag (ELF). Great Knot black over white 'AA1' was reported on 13 occasions and Great Knot black over white 'J62' accounted for 11 records. This is the sixth year that 'J62' has spent the non-breeding season in Moreton Bay.

Russia

Sightings of flagged birds from Russian totalled 4 for the year, which is considerably less than the Quantity recorded in 2019, 3 of these waders carried an ELF.

New Zealand

New Zealand flagged birds were reported on 42 occasions in 2020 compared with only 14 records in 2019. A total of 24 had an ELF fitted but 5 of these could not be read by the observer. The other 18 sightings were of waders with a flag and multiple bands fitted.

Taiwan

Waders flagged in Taiwan were sighted and reported on 23 occasions during 2020, all carried engraved leg flags. One bird in particular (Lesser Sand Plover 'A08') was recorded 13 times during the last year.

Interstate leg flags seen in Queensland.**Victoria.**

In 2020 a total of 52 sightings of waders with an orange flag were added to the database, which was lower than the 85 reported in 2019. Most of these waders carried a plain orange flag whilst 21 had an engraved flag.

South Australia

A Sanderling with an engraved orange flag on the right tibia and a plain yellow flag on the right tarsus was sighted at Inskip Point in October, this is the ninth record in the database for this flag combination and the first for this species.

New South Wales.

There were 21 reports for engraved yellow flagged Pied Oystercatcher, 10 of which were of flag 'K3' at Manly roost between early February and early April 2020.

Western Australia.

Only two sightings this year, of two different birds, one plain flag and one unread ELF, one at Maaroom and one at Thorneside.

I would like to commend Peter Driscoll for all the many hours of work he has spent establishing the on-line leg flag reporting feature on the QWSG website and making the necessary adjustments to improve the system in response to the users' feedback.

In closing I would like to sincerely thank all the people who have taken the time to record and report all leg flag sightings. Please continue your good work of looking for more leg flags and reporting them to the QWSG.
Phil Cross

Shorebird Education Report for AGM 6th Dec 2020

On 17 Feb 2020, QWSG conducted a shorebird course at Maaroom, Great Sandy Strait for 34 participants ranging from Gin Gin to the northern suburbs of Brisbane, with most from the Hervey Bay area. Four local QWSG counters joined the course while another came to help with the field trip.

Participants included 4 Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers; 1 indigenous ranger from Gidarill Development Corp Bundaberg; QPWS rangers; Dept Environment & Science (DES); Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC); Mary River Turtles rep; Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC), Birds Qld (BQ); QWSG, Hervey Bay Birdwatchers, Wildlife Preservation Society Qld (WPSQ); and Gympie Field Naturalists.

Thanks to David Edwards and Peter Rothlisberg who presented the course sessions and helped with the field trip at Maaroom high tide roost. (For the full report see Issue 111, Mar, Apr, May).

QWSG continued our partnership with Moreton Bay Environment Education Centre (MBEEC) with 2 field trips to the Port of Brisbane bird hides for grade 3 students at the end of February. After which Covid-19 intervened.

As QWSG is a part of Birds Qld, we are required to follow Covid-safe practices for activities, including wader ID days and shorebird education.

Under BQ's rules, apart from sanitation and social distancing, equipment is not to be shared and is to be regularly sanitised, as necessary. As it would be difficult to sanitise telescopes for use with children, a decision was made not to avail our volunteers (most of us in the vulnerable category) with the education program "Birds and Beaches, Dogs and Leashes".

QWSG has been approached by Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) North Stradbroke Is., to conduct a shorebird course for QYAC Rangers at Dunwich. Now that key committee members are back from Cape York, we will be able to discuss our options for the course.

Ken Cross from Birdlife Southern Qld (BLSQ) asked about a shorebird course for birders from the Sunshine Coast area. He would like to hire a bus to bring c20 birders to Brisbane to attend the course on Saturday 27 Nov 2021 and stay overnight to allow time for birding around Brisbane on the Sunday. Of course, this will be a tentative booking but hopefully, a vaccine for Covid-19 will allow us to safely conduct the course.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who have helped bring shorebird education to students and adults. A special thanks to Arthur who is always there to help in so many ways.

Best wishes for 2021
Sheryl Keates

QWSG Banding Report for 2020

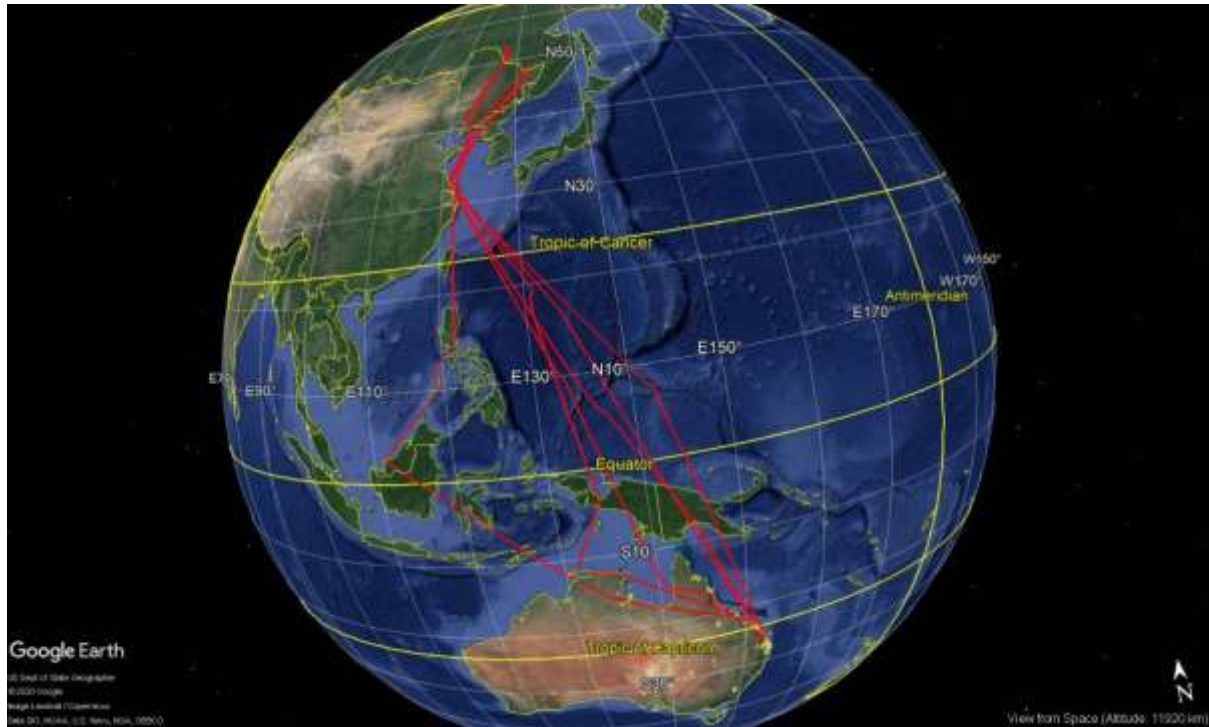
2020 was a quieter year for shorebird catching with many Queensland flagged migratory birds already present in the flyway. Two catches at Manly were conducted in winter targeting resident and over wintering birds. These resulted in c250 birds caught, including a significant number of Stilt. Numbers for these two catches and other incidental catches through the year are shown in the following table. Other birds were caught at Cairns (Whimbrel) and on the Moreton Bay islands and adjacent mainland areas (Bush Stone-curlew).

Species	New	Recapture	Total
Bar-tailed Godwit	51	1	52
Bush Stone-curlew	7	0	7
Double-banded Plover	1	0	1
Far Eastern Curlew	1	0	1
Great Knot	2	0	2
Grey-tailed Tattler	45	0	45
Pied Oystercatcher	2	0	2
Pied Stilt	44	2	46
Red-capped Plover	1	0	1
Red-necked Stint	7	0	7
Ruddy Turnstone	6	0	6
Terek Sandpiper	1	0	1
Whimbrel	3	0	3

Satellite Transmitters on 3 Curlew and 3 Whimbrel are still operational providing a third year of local and migratory movements. The Whimbrel migrated as normal, but our 3 Curlew were displaced by weather on southward migration, one bird over 4,000km off course. All three birds were able to course correct and get back to Queensland. (See map below)

A further 6 transmitters are arriving in December for use on Curlew and godwit as part of the recent successful grant application. This will also see us flagging at Great Sandy Bay as well as in Moreton Bay for the next 2-3 years to compare the two sites and the interactions between them.

The results of our Pacific Golden Plover tracking were published in Stilt this year and the results of our collaborative research with Fudan University on Whimbrel migration were published in the Journal of Avian Research. Several papers concerning our collaborative research into the migration and local movements of Far Eastern Curlew are currently in preparation.



Thanks to everyone who has helped with catching and equipment preparation and maintenance. Thanks also go to Phil for maintaining the leg flag database for another year.

Jon Coleman
December 2020

Avoid Island Shorebird Surveys Report

The Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) recently approached QWSG with a view to conducting shorebird surveys on Avoid Island which it manages as a covenanted Nature Refuge. The island, situated at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef in the Percy Group about 18 km from the nearest mainland and 125 km SSE of Mackay. The island is only about 1.9 km (from north to south) at its longest point and 600 m (from east to west) at its widest point.

The island's beaches provide nesting habitat for a significant population of Flatback Turtles (*Natator depressus*). In late November, while QTFN staff conducted field work, volunteers from the Mackay and District Turtle Watch monitored turtle nesting on the island and I undertook shorebird surveys. Over the 5 days on the island, I carried out 8 high tide and low tide surveys of shorebirds on all sandy beaches, mangrove communities and rocky outcrops on the island. From the first survey it was apparent the island did not provide a great deal of suitable shorebird habitat.

My surveys resulted in only 12 species of shorebird, 7 migratory and 5 resident, as follows (the bracketed number is the highest count of the species):

- Bush Stone-curlew (4)
- Beach Stone-curlew (2)
- Pacific Golden Plover (4)
- Red-capped Plover (4)
- Lesser Sand Plover (8)
- Bar-tailed Godwit (7)
- Whimbrel (27)
- Far Eastern Curlew (2)
- Grey-tailed Tattler (22)
- Ruddy Turnstone (4).

Prior to my arrival on the island, Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers were also observed but evaded my counts. Interestingly, no seabirds were observed apart from a lone Australian (Gull-billed) Tern and a lone Caspian Tern. Count data has been added to QWSG's database and provided to QTFN.

New Life Members of the Queensland Wader Study Group

The Committee of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), on behalf of the membership of the QWSG, is pleased to announce five new Life members of the QWSG. We cannot express our gratitude for all the work they have done, and are still doing for the group.

All have been on the QWSG Committee for many years taking on jobs that have made the QWSG the respected group that it is.

Their work has often been behind the scenes, but has always been greatly appreciated.

Without their help the QWSG would be a poorer place.

Linda Cross

In recognition of the outstanding contributions, she has made towards achieving the objectives of QWSG, particularly her leadership and dedication in many QWSG positions. Her behind the scene work, plus her sharing of knowledge through field work and presentations has been greatly appreciated by all members of the Queensland Wader Study Group.

Phil Cross

In recognition of the outstanding contributions, he has made towards achieving the objectives of QWSG, particularly his leadership and dedication to the QWSG. We also recognise his work enhancing the flagging program, and his field work, plus his sharing of knowledge through personal interactions particularly at ID days.

Sandra Harding

In recognition of the outstanding contributions, she has made towards achieving the objectives of QWSG, in particular her presentations and representations to local government. Also, her generation of papers and studies related to waders and their habitat within Queensland has been greatly appreciated by the QWSG. Sandra has attended most of the surveys and studies run over the last twenty years.

Arthur Keates

In recognition of the outstanding contributions, he has made towards achieving the objectives of QWSG, particularly his leadership and dedication in many QWSG positions. His dedication to field work, in particular "flag reading" is second to none. His quiet explanation of legal aspects has been invaluable, as has his sharing of wader knowledge.

Sheryl Keates

In recognition of the outstanding contributions, she has made towards achieving the objectives of QWSG, particularly her leadership and dedication in many QWSG positions. Also, her many hours of field work, plus her sharing of knowledge through the many education programs to both young and old alike.



Linda Cross

Phil Cross

David Edwards

Arthur Keates

Sheryl Keates

Welcome South-East Gulf of Carpentaria: (Leichhardt-Gore) (Wernadinga coast) in Australia as new Flyway Network Site

POSTED ON DECEMBER 16, 2020 CATEGORIES: [ALL NEWS](#)

On 16th December, 2020, the EAAFP and its Partners welcome the new Flyway Network Site (EAAF 149), South-East Gulf of Carpentaria: Leichhardt River to Gore Point (Wernadinga coast) in Australia. Located on the northern coast of [Australia](#), the site covers Queensland state waters and a narrow seaward strip of the Wernadinga pastoral lease. Its boundary starts from Leichhardt River sea-mouth, which is adjacent to the north-eastern corner of Finucane Island National Park, and extends towards the southeast to the northern edge of the channel of the sea-mouth of Disaster Inlet. The Flyway Network Site has traditional connections as it lies in the country of the Kukatj People who are Indigenous Australians.

The Leichhardt-Gore Flyway Network Site comprises wide and undisturbed intertidal flats, mangrove forest, tidal creeks, salt marsh (bare salt flats), beaches and island-bars of shell fragments and sand, in the vicinity to a major river estuary. With its diverse habitats, the site supports up to 13,000 (more usually 5,000 to 8,000) of at least 22 waterbird species, which mostly use the site's three high-tide roosting sites. Key species of the site include seven Australian threatened species, for example, Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* (Endangered) and Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus*. Internationally significant numbers of Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (Endangered), as well as Red Knot *Calidris canutus* and Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultia*.

The South-East Gulf of Carpentaria is internationally important to migratory waterbirds in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. The Leichhardt-Gore Wernadinga coast is the third Flyway Network Site (FNS) in the South East Gulf of Carpentaria, after the designation of EAAF 120, Karumba Smithburne (Delta Downs) FNS in 2014 and EAAF 125 Nijinda Durlga (Tarrant) in 2016.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.eaaflyway.net/australia/>



© Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation



Roosting godwits, knots etc, Roost C1. © Roger Jaensch and Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation



Distant flock of knots flying, Roost C3. © Roger Jaensch and Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation



Aerial view of Roost C1 at Gore Point. © Roger Jaensch and Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation



Aerial view of Roost C2. © Roger Jaensch and Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Third Gulf property now part of Flyway Site Network

Issued: 16 December 2020

One of Queensland's most important migratory shorebird areas, the South-East Gulf of Carpentaria, has been recognised as an important migratory shorebird stop on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Department of Environment and Science Manager for Wetlands Mike Ronan said the Wernadinga Coast site had been internationally recognised as a critical flyway site by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (the Partnership), and an important mechanism in the global effort to protect migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Formal designation of the site was made on December 16, 2020 by the Partnership. A certificate of designation will be presented to all proponents.

The Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People, represented by Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC) together with the leaseholder of the site, AJM Pastoral, proposed the site in the South-East Gulf of Carpentaria from Leichhardt River to Gore Point 'Wernadinga Coast' to be included in the Flyway Network. The site is located on the traditional country of the Kukatj People.

Mr Ronan said the Wernadinga Coast was the third such site in the South-East Gulf of Carpentaria to be recognised.

"The South-East Gulf of Carpentaria is recognised as one of the most important migratory shorebird areas in Australia," Mr Ronan said.

"The Wernadinga Coast site supports up to 13,000 migratory shorebirds of at least 22 species, including seven Australian threatened species, as well as internationally important numbers of species such as great knot, red knot and greater sand-plover.

"The site incorporates approximately 7080 hectares of wetland including land of the Wernadinga pastoral lease, intertidal areas and marine waters."

The Queensland Government supports the Partnership through cooperating with and enabling Traditional Owners and landholders to nominate important sites to the Flyway Site Network.

The nomination is based on shorebird count data collected by CLCAC's Normanton Rangers with support from ornithologist Roger Jaensch and older data collected by the Queensland Wader Study Group – a citizen science group dedicated to the conservation of shorebirds and their habitat.

Nomination of the site will principally increase recognition of the South-East Gulf of Carpentaria's importance for shorebird conservation in Queensland. While a designation of a site to the Flyway Site Network has no statutory effect, its inclusion provides recognition for the site's values and creates opportunities for partnerships and sponsorships to improve management.

Mr Ronan said the flyway was essential for flocks of shorebirds that take to the skies annually to start a migration from as far away as the Arctic to Australia and New Zealand, and back again, in a cycle of breeding, chick rearing, travel, feeding and living in perpetual summer.

Unlike previous Flyway Site designations in Queensland, the three Gulf sites are not in public tenure and demonstrate the desire and capacity of Traditional Owner groups to protect wildlife in their country.

Acting CLCAC Normanton Ranger Coordinator and Kukatj man, Hayden Tyrrell, said the site is an important step towards protecting shorebird species and their habitat.

"We've lost so many animals in the past 250 years, and we're still losing them today. We want to protect these species for the future and the next generation, before another piece of our culture disappears," Mr Tyrrel said.

"We're helping these shorebirds in their fight to survive another thousand, two thousand years, and into the future, and as time passes, we'll know we've done the right thing by mother nature."

View more information on the [East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and Flyway Site Network\(external link\)](#).

Nudgee Beach Public Education (Dog on Leash)
 1st Session 3:30 to 5:30 pm Sunday 31 January 2021

Brisbane City Council Environment Centre’s Community Engagement Officer, Corin Gilbert, and Cerae Mitchell from Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre, as well as 2 Brisbane City Council (BCC) Compliance Officers attended with David Edwards, Arthur and Sheryl Keates from QWSG.

We were surprised at the response from the first couple returning with 2 dogs on leash. They said they keep their dogs on leash, as they do not like to see out of control dogs running on the beach.

The 2 Compliance Officers walked a long way in their gum boots, as those who know Nudgee Beach at low tide, it is a huge area, and they would not be walking in a straight line. The Officers talked to dog owners about reverting to ‘dogs on leash’ at Nudgee Beach, but no fines were given.

A dinner table with white linen, white china, wine glasses and food covers were set up on the exposed sandy mud near the boat ramp, with the tide receding. As you can see from the attached 5 course “Poseidon’s Palace Menu”, the fare was ‘seafood fit for shorebirds’ to enable them to build up their fat supplies for their amazing migration journeys to the breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere.



It was certainly an innovative idea, but I do not think many people understood that it was about. Sheryl Keates, QWSG Education

Count Programme by Linda Cross

The 2021 National Summer count was conducted during a hot weekend in south-east Queensland and with higher tides than we would normally choose but choices were limited. Most counts were completed within a day or two of the actual count days. Unfortunately, only 2 sites in Tweed Heads were counted before the other 5 were rained out. In total 85 sites were counted. Of these 50 sites were counted on the count day (16 January) and most other counts were surveyed on the day before, or within 2 days of the actual count day.

Cooktown count took place on 12 January, St. Helena Island on 21, Gold Coast on 25 and Noosa River on 29. respectively. Regrettably, 15 sites were not counted. The 2020 National Summer count produced a total of 34,537 waders from 93 count sites. Thank you everyone for entering and sending your counts early so that I was able to extract the relevant information for the results of the count.

In the table below are the results for the National Summer count. Species listed as per IOC checklist January 2021. Also included in the last column are the totals for the 2020 count for comparison.

Species	FNQ	CQ	GSS	SC	NMB	CMB	SMB	GC/T H	Totals 2021	Totals 2020
Bush Stone-curlew	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	4
Beach Stone-curlew	-	-	3	8	2	2	-	-	15	13
Pied Oystercatcher	4	2	130	18	307	194	192	8	855	674
Sooty Oystercatcher	-	-	3	3	-	4	-	-	10	17
Pied Stilt	-	52	44	8	50	243	90	-	487	3155
Red-necked Avocet	-	1	-	-	-	64	-	-	65	347
Masked Lapwing	-	7	35	5	37	70	13	5	172	267
Red-kneed Dotterel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Pacific Golden Plover	2	-	129	187	64	546	47	2	977	663
Grey Plover	-	-	13	-	18	37	-	-	68	91
Red-capped Plover	-	39	285	34	91	227	44	-	720	724
Lesser Sand Plover	4	17	495	1	89	1020	504	-	2130	1292
Greater Sand Plover	1	-	270	-	57	32	55	-	415	60
Black-fronted Dotterel	-	1	2	-	2	-	1	-	6	6
Comb-crested Jacana	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Eurasian Whimbrel	4	40	20	60	280	397	336	1	1138	1277
Far Eastern Curlew	10	12	442	23	507	196	897	49	2136	1903
Bar-tailed Godwit	53	9	3664	73	4412	963	2976	22	12172	12724
Black-tailed Godwit	6	-	4	-	-	297	29	-	336	403
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	1	-	2	248	52	-	303	96
Great Knot	4	-	744	2	198	307	124	-	1379	973
Red Knot	-	-	10	-	9	-	2	-	21	28
Broad-billed Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	-	10	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	-	11	56	-	13	525	53	-	658	1401
Curlew Sandpiper	-	4	16	-	73	1074	353	-	1520	1706
Red-necked Stint	3	71	790	-	855	2334	1038	-	5091	4433
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	88	1	-	-	89	21
Latham's Snipe	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	11
Terek Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	80	-	81	109
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wandering Tattler	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Grey-tailed Tattler	2	-	12	11	41	1167	403	-	1636	1949
Marsh Sandpiper	-	-	19	-	-	22	1	-	42	51
Common Greenshank	2	2	19	-	35	50	37	-	145	108
Oriental Pratincole	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Unidentified Sand Plover	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
Unidentified small wader	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	26	-
Unidentified med wader	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total Wader Species	13	12	26	15	23	26	23	6	33	33
Total Wader Numbers	103	270	7209	436	7231	10051	7333	87	32720	34537

FNQ – Far North Queensland – Cairns and Cooktown (3 sites).

CQ – Central Queensland – Bundaberg and Yeppoon (4 sites). (No counts for Gladstone or Mackay)

GSS – Great Sandy Strait – Tin Can Bay, Boonooroo, Maaroom and Hervey Bay (12 sites).

SC – Sunshine Coast – Caloundra, Maroochy River and Noosa River (10 sites).

NMB – North Moreton Bay – Moreton Island, Redcliffe, Deception Bay, Bribie Island and Toorbul (24 sites).

CMB – Central Moreton Bay – Port of Brisbane, St. Helena Island, Luggage Point, Kedron Brook and Pine River (13 sites).

SMB – Southern Moreton Bay – Victoria Point, Thornlands, Cleveland, North Stradbroke Island, Wellington Point, Thorneside, Manly and Lytton (16 sites).

GC/TH – Gold Coast and Tweed Heads NSW (3 sites).

It should be noted that there are 14 sub sites within the Port of Brisbane complex, but recorded as 1 site for the table. The total count for Bar-tailed Godwit has been adjusted in North Moreton Bay (NMB) to reflect movement between the Toorbul and Kakadu Beach roost on Bribie Island and the total counts for 9 species has been adjusted in Central Moreton Bay (CMB) to reflect movement from St. Helena Island and the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd sites.

In the table, 23 migratory (3 more than last year) and 10 resident species (1 more than last year) were recorded during the summer count. Migratory waders accounted for 93% of the count. Of those, 40% were Bar-tailed Godwit and the Red-necked Stint count was nearly 17%. Resident wader numbers were 7% of the count with Pied Oystercatcher accounting for 36%, Red-capped Plover 31% and Pied Stilt 21% of the resident wader total. Central Moreton Bay sites recorded 30% of the total summer count followed by north and south Moreton Bay and Great Sandy Strait all with 22% each.

It was remiss of me that late last year I neglected to acknowledge the stepping down of 2 counters from the count programme. Graham and Brenda Smith informed me that they were ceasing counts at a low tide feeding site in the Pine River (Osprey House/Dohle's Rock) towards the end of 2020. They started counting the site in February 2008 and the last count was completed in February 2020 contributing 128 counts for that site. Both Graham and Brenda have also been involved with counts at the Port of Brisbane, Great Sandy Strait and Mackay surveys. Currently Brenda has taken on the QWSG membership officer role, is on the committee and along with Graham, is heavily involved with the banding group.

Regrettably, I report that another counter is retiring, and 2 others are relinquishing their count sites. Virginia Ridgely commenced counting in October 2005 covering a constructed roost at Empire Point before adding Queens Esplanade Thorneside to her monthly count schedule in May 2006. Empire Point counts stopped in April 2011, but Virginia has continued with the Thorneside count and the national summer count in January 2021 was her last count. Virginia's contribution to the database has been 179 counts. Since July 2015 Kristy Murray has been assisting Virginia with the counts and it is hoped that she will continue to count the site from now on.

David and Robbie Leslie have been monitoring 4 sites in the Maroochy River on the Sunshine Coast since April 2011 and the national summer count in January 2021 was their last count together contributing 415 counts to the database. Robbie has assisted the new counter (Gillian Matthew) for the February 2021 count and both David and Robbie have said they will be standby counters for the sites.

We would like to sincerely thank Graham, Brenda, Virginia, David and Robbie for their years of support to the count programme and the many contributions that they made allowing QWSG to have the most extensive database on waders in Australia.

I previously reported that Gillian had taken over the Caloundra sites but as the Maroochy sites are in her area, she has decided to cover these sites from now on. The Caloundra sites have been handed over to (Judith Coles) who is already a counter within the programme covering Wickham Point. Wickham Point is a high tide roost site, while Caloundra sites are best counted at low tide. Both Gillian and Judith have worked together to ensure there is a smooth transition in readiness for the February 2021 count. We would like to thank both Gillian and Judith for taking on these large sites in Maroochy and Caloundra and hope that we can acquire some additional help from other QWSG members.

The Cairns Esplanade has become a bit of a hotspot since the beginning of the year, and it is not because it is a Covid-19 hotspot or due to the hot humid conditions the far north experience during summer. It is all because new QWSG member Adrian Walsh found and identified a Nordmann's Greenshank early on the morning of 1 January 2021. Cairns Esplanade is now playing host to many birdwatchers from around Australia wanting to see the first Queensland record of this highly endangered species with a world population of around 1,000 individuals. Adrian has kindly provided 2 photographs (below) that he took to include in this article.



The photograph left includes both Common and Nordmann's Greenshank. The Common is on the left. The Nordmann's is a smaller bird and has a thicker bill that is two-toned. There are other diagnostic features that you can read about in your wader guides.

Observers have likened the feeding habits of the bird to that of a Terek Sandpiper as it crouches low and darts around the mudflats catching crabs, as seen in the photograph below.

Other vagrant birds of interest include an Oriental Pratincole at Garnet's Lagoon in Hervey Bay on 16 January 2021 and recorded by John Knight and Frank and Alice Ekin. Comments were also made that the bird had some breeding plumage evident and that it was quite nervous and unsettled. On 7 November 2020 at the same site, John, Frank and Alice recorded 2 Pectoral Sandpiper and a single bird of the same species was recorded at the site on 6 December 2020.



In the table below are the remaining records for juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit that Arthur Keates and Phil and Linda Cross have reported since the last newsletter.

Site	Date	Bar-tailed Godwit flock size	Juveniles in flock	% of juveniles
Manly Harbour	06.11.20	286	<7	2%
Port of Brisbane complex (R3)	08.11.20	640	14	2%
Port of Brisbane complex (PBAR)	08.11.20	435	4	1%

Extracts from counts for migratory species appear below. Additional extracts (migratory and resident) can be found in the "Interesting wader sightings" section of the newsletter.

- Pacific Golden Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (546) on 17.01.21
- Grey Plover: Boonaroo Site 1 and 3 combined (130) on 05.12.20, Port of Brisbane complex (37) on 17.01.21
- Lesser Sand Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (2,053) on 06.12.20, Geoff Skinner Reserve East (493) on 16.01.21
- Greater Sand Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (305) on 06.12.20, O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay (250) on 16.01.21, Kinka Beach, Yeppoon (57) on 05.12.20
- Eurasian Whimbrel: Toorbul (275) on 07.11.20. Geoff Skinner Reserve on 16.01.21
- Far Eastern Curlew: Geoff Skinner Reserve East (653) on 16.01.21, George Bishop Causeway, Toorbul (435) on 07.11.20, Dead Tree Beach, Moreton Island (346) on 15.01.21

Bar-tailed Godwit: Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island (approximately 2,200) on 20.12.20, Manly Harbour (1,544) on 28.12.20, Dead Tree Beach, Moreton Island (1,520) on 15.01.21, Toorbul (1,496) on 16.01.21, Maaroom (1,360) on 07.11.20, Cooloola, Tin Can Bay (1,210) on 16.01.21

Black-tailed Godwit: Pine River Wetland Reserve (297) on 16.01.21, Deception Bay south (190) on 07.11.20

Ruddy Turnstone: Port of Brisbane complex (248) on 17.01.21, Manly Harbour (72) on 12.01.21, St. Helena Island North (62) on 12.01.21

Great Knot: Boonooroo Site 1 (432) on 16.01.21, Maaroom (410) on 05.12.20, Port of Brisbane complex (406) on 06.12.20

Red Knot: Maaroom (40) on 07.11.20, O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay (19) on 07.11.20

Broad-billed Sandpiper: Manly Harbour (16) on 25.01.21, Port of Brisbane complex (7) on 06.12.20

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: Port of Brisbane complex (337) on 17.01.21, Manly Harbour (240) on 11.12.20

Curlew Sandpiper: Port of Brisbane complex (1,991) on 06.12.20, Manly Harbour (310) on 07.01.21

Red-necked Stint: Port of Brisbane complex (1,296) on 06.12.20, Geoff Skinner Reserve East (809) on 16.01.21, Luggage Point (762) on 17.01.21

Sanderling: Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island (88) on 15.01.21, Noosa River Sandbank (1) on 04.12.20, Port of Brisbane complex (1) on 17.01.21

Latham's Snipe: Garnet's Lagoons No.1, Hervey Bay (6) on 06.12.20

Terek Sandpiper: Maaroom (200) on 05.12.20, Manly Harbour (118) on 28.01.21,

Grey-tailed Tattler: Port of Brisbane complex (1,167) on 17.01.21, Manly Harbour (670) on 11.12.20

Wandering Tattler: Wickham Point (2) on 07.11.20

Marsh Sandpiper: Maaroom (63) on 05.12.20, Garnet's Lagoon No.1 and No.2 combined, Hervey Bay (19) on 16.01.21, Dohle's Rocks Road Pond (17) on 15.12.20

Common Greenshank: Port of Brisbane complex (37) on 17.01.21, Geoff Skinner Reserve West (24) on 16.01.21.

Breeding records:

Beach Stone-curlew: Noosa River Sandbanks (1 juvenile) with adults on 29.01.21 (the bird was seen in early December but not during the count. Recorded out on banks with adults during January count. This is the first successful breeding of this species at Noosa in over 15 years).

Pied Oystercatcher: Buckley's Hole Sandbar (1 juvenile with adults) on 06.12.20. Tweed River Entrance (1 juvenile with an adult) on 18.01.21. Manly Harbour (1 immature) on 19.01.21.

Masked Lapwing: Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island (2 juveniles) on 22.11.20. Maaroom (bird sitting on a nest with 4 eggs) on 05.12.20.

Pied Stilt: Ewan Maddock Dam (several sitting, maybe nesting) on 13.11.20. Port of Brisbane complex (2 juveniles) on 23.12.20. Kakadu Beach Roost, Bribie Island (bird collecting nest material near previous nest – 1 egg) on 04.01.21. Dohle's Rocks Road Pond, Pine River (3 young chicks) on 05.12.20. Kinka Wetland, Yeppoon (4 birds sitting on nests) on 16.01.21. Manly Harbour (numerous nests and young recorded) in November, December 2020 and January 2021.

Black-fronted Dotterel: Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island (1 juvenile) on 22.11.20 and recorded again on 06.12.20.

Red-capped Plover: Noosa River Sandbanks (1 runner) on 04.12.20. Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island (2 juveniles) on 04.01.21. Lytton No. 1 Claypan (1 runner) on 16.01.21. Bundaberg Port (1 chick and 2 eggs) on 17.01.21. Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island (1 chick and juveniles) on 31.01.21.

We would like to remind members that the new counter for Tweed Heads (Erina Forrest) is looking for anyone in the Gold Coast/Tweed Heads area that would be willing to help her conduct the counts. Please contact Erina by email at erina.forrest@gmail.com

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: xenus69@bigpond.com

Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 5495 2758 Mobile: 0490 080 340

A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. Please note that you can now enter flagged and banded sightings on the new website. If you prefer, you can still email sightings to his email address phillipcross50@gmail.com Please contact Phil or myself for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Happy counting.
Linda Cross.

Interesting Sightings

Interesting wader sightings – as per IOC species list January 2021

Stilts and Avocets (along with some waterbirds) have been notably absent, or in low numbers across sites during the last couple of months which is possibly due to them breeding in outback Australia.

- Bush Stone-curlew: Reeder's Point, Moreton Island (1) on 15.01.21
 Beach Stone-curlew: Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island (4) on 13.12.20, Sandbank No.1 Caloundra (3) on 19.01.21, Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay (2) on 18.01.21, Maroochy River Goat Island (2) on 16.01.21, St. Helena Island Homestead (2) on 21.01.21. Other records for a single bird from Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay on 16.11.20 and Boonooroo Site 3 on 16.01.21
 Pied Oystercatcher: Port of Brisbane complex (161) on 17.01.21, Sandbank, Toondah Harbour (128) on 15.01.21
 Sooty Oystercatcher: Port of Brisbane complex (3) on 17.01.21, Wickham Point (3) on 07.11.20, O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay (2) on 16.01.21, Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay (1) on 18.01.21
 Pied Stilt: Kedron Brook Wetland (102) on 17.01.21, Trute's Bay, Tweed Heads, NSW (63) on 06.12.20
 Red-necked Avocet: Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet (64) on 16.01.21, Trute's Bay, Tweed Heads, NSW (48) on 07.11.20 and (16) on 06.12.20, Kinka Wetland, Yeppoon (1) on 16.01.21, Manly Harbour (1 immature) on 15.12.20
 Masked Lapwing: Kedron Brook Wetland (19) on 17.01.21, Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay (17) on 16.01.21
 Red-kneed Dotterel: Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe (2) on 05.12.20
 Pacific Golden Plover: Maaroom (1) on 05.12.20. First record for site by the counter
 Grey Plover – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay (3) on 07.11.20 (unusual at this site)
 Red-capped Plover: O'Regan's Creek Westside, Hervey Bay (244) on 16.01.2. Kinka Beach, Yeppoon (113) on 05.12.20, Pine River Wetland Reserve (71) on 16.01.21
 Lesser Sand Plover: Boonooroo Site 1, Hervey Bay (320) on 16.01.21, Geoff Skinner Reserve East (311) on 05.12.20
 Black-fronted Dotterel: Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe (4) on 05.12.20, Cairns Esplanade (4) on 14.11.20, Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island (3) on 22.11.20
 Comb-crested Jacana: Garnet's Lagoons No.2, Hervey Bay (3) on 07.11.20
 Latham's Snipe: Dohle's Rocks Road Pond (2) on 05.12.20, Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island (2) on 22.11.20, Nathan Road Wetland (2) on 07.11.20
 Great Knot: Cairns Esplanade (280) on 03.10.20
 Common Greenshank: Boonooroo Site 3 (18) on 05.12.20, Deception Bay south (17) on 16.01.21

Not waders but of interest anyway – as per IOC species list January 2021

Please note: Gull-billed Tern is now called Australian Tern. The old name of Gull-billed Tern now relates to the race affinis. Errata. My apologies for advising in the last newsletter that Pied Cormorant is now called Australian Pied Cormorant. It is still listed as Pied Cormorant.

- Magpie Goose: Port of Brisbane complex (268) on 06.12.20
 Wandering Whistling Duck: Garnet's Lagoon No. 2, Hervey Bay (25) on 06.12.20
 Black Swan: Toorbul (117) on 16.01.21
 Grey Teal: Garnet's Lagoon No.1 and No.2 combined, Hervey Bay (579) on 06.12.20
 Black-necked Stork: Kinka Wetland, Yeppoon (1) on 16.01.21
 Glossy Ibis: Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe (9) on 18.01.21
 Royal Spoonbill: Garnet's Lagoon No.1 and No.2 combined, Hervey Bay (155) on 06.12.20
 Yellow-billed Spoonbill: Garnet's Lagoon No.1 (8) on 07.11.20
 Black Bittern: Endeavour River Claypan, Cooktown (2) on 12.01.21
 Pacific Reef Heron: Manly Harbour (1) on 06.11.20 and (1) on 12.11.20, Wickham Point (1) on 07.11.20, Noosa River Sand Banks (1 – unusual in the estuary) on 29.01.21
 Australian Pelican: Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay (230) on 06.12.20
 Australasian Gannet: Toorbul (1 immature sitting in the roost- unusual) on 16.01.21
 Buff-banded Rail: Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island (1 chick) on 20.12.20, (6 – includes 4 newly hatched chicks) on 17.01.21, (10 – includes 2 adults – 1 with 3 chicks and 1 with 5 chicks) on 31.01.21.
 Spotless Crake: Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island (4) on 22.11.20
 Black Noddy: Gables Point Rocks, Hervey Bay (1) on 05.12.20
 Silver Gull: Port of Brisbane complex (342) on 06.12.20
 Gull-billed Tern: Godwin Beach (1) on 27.12.20
 Lesser Crested Tern: Sandbank off Amity Point (4) on 15.01.21
 Little Tern: Port of Brisbane complex (931) on 06.12.20
 Black-naped Tern: Gables Point Rocks, Hervey Bay (316) on 05.12.20
 Common Tern: Maroochy River Estuary (3,000) on 16.01.21
 Whiskered Tern: Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay (8) on 16.01.21
 White-winged Tern: Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island (8) on 06.12.20
 Brown Falcon: Endeavour River Claypan, Cooktown (1) on 12.01.21

Wader Watch Phil Cross

The updated QWSG website now has a tab to 'report a banded / leg flag sighting' on the main page, you may have to scroll down the page to find it.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen in QLD

A quantity of 4 plain flags, 14 misread, 30 unread and 1759 engraved flags have been added to the database since the last newsletter.

A total of 17 different species with a flag were recorded - Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Eurasian Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Greater Sand Plover, Grey-tailed Tattler, Lesser Sand Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Red-necked Stint, Ruddy Turnstone, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Terek Sandpiper.

Thank you to the observers who reported these sightings –

Chris Barnes, Wendy Bauer, Frank Burch, Terry Burgess, Robert Bush, Bill Carr, Kathy Clark, Tony Cotter, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Ana DeJoux, David Edwards, Hans Erken, Brandon Hewitt, Marten Hulzebosch, Arthur Keates, Helen Leonard, Penn Lloyd, Roland Odsey, Maggie Overend, Gary Quirk, Peter Rothlisberg, Georgia Sneesby, Michael Strong, Chris Walker, Dez Wells, and Melissa Whitby.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen INTERSTATE

Nil

GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS

Nil

YELLOW (WA) leg flag sightings seen in Qld

Nil

ORANGE (Victoria) leg flag sightings seen in QLD.

Bar-tailed Godwit

CPS on flag – 19.9.20 – Toorbul – Terry Burgess
CWC on flag – 24.9.20 – Toorbul – Maggie Overend
CWC on flag – 28.9.20 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard
HCY on flag – 23.10.20 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Tony Cotter
ZT on flag – 8 & 11.10.20 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard
Plain flag – 8.10.20 -Toorbul – Helen Leonard

Great Knot

Plain flag – 1.11.20 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
Plain flag – 14 & 15.11.20 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
Plain flag – 14 & 28.11.20 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
Plain flag – 12.11.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
Plain flag – 8 & 11.12.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
Plain flag – 7.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates
Plain flag – 22, 25 & 28.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
Plain flag – 18.1.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
Plain flag – 20.1.21 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
Plain flag – 12 & 19.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Curlew Sandpiper

Engraved flag unread & Geolocator– 8.11.20 – Port of Brisbane – Linda & Phil Cross

ORANGE above YELLOW (South Australia) leg flag sightings seen in QLD.

Sanderling

BDX on flag – 19.11.20 – Inskip Point Great Sandy – Gary Quirk

Great Knot

Plain flags? – 11.12.20 – Maaroom – Mick Barker
Plain flags? – 4.1.21 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

OVERSEAS FLAGGED birds seen in QLD

BLACK over WHITE (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings

Great Knot

AA1 on flag – 3.1.21 – Wynnum Esplanade - Tony Cotter
AA1 on flag – 22, 25 & 26.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

J62 on flag – 12.11.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J62 on flag – 15.11.20 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 J62 on flag – 25.11.20 – Thorneside – Kathy Clark & Wendy Bauer
 J62 on flag – 28.11.20 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 J62 on flag – 6.12.20 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 J62 on flag – 8 & 11.12.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J62 on flag – 26.12.20 – Thorneside – Daniel Townend
 J62 on flag – 28.12.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 J62 on flag – 2.1.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 J62 on flag – 3.1.21 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 J62 on flag – 6.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J62 on flag – 7.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Barbara Collyer
 J62 on flag – 22.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 2.12.20 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 Plain flag (2 birds) – 10.12.20 – Maaroom – Mick Barker
 Plain flag – 4.1.21 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 Engraved flag unread – 17.1.21 – Port of Brisbane – Jon Coleman & Arthur Keates

Curlew Sandpiper

Plain flags L tibia (also blue flag on R tibia) – 31.10.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flags L tibia (also blue flag on R tibia) – 6 & 12.11.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flags L tibia (also blue flag on R tibia) – 21.11.20 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 Plain flags L tibia (also blue flag on R tibia) – 8.12.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flags L tib (also blue flag on R tibia) – 22, 25 & 26.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Terek Sandpiper

Plain flags L tibia (also blue flag on right tibia) – 2.12.20 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 Plain flags L tibia (also blue flag on right tibia) – 4.1.21 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 Plain flags R tibia – 2.12.20 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 Plain flags R tibia – 4.1.21 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

Red Knot

Engraved flag unread – 1.10.20 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard

BLUE over YELLOW (Bohai Bay, China) leg flag sightings**Red Knot**

Plain flags – 8.11.20 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur & Sheryl Keates

WHITE over YELLOW (Hong Kong, China) leg flag sightings**Curlew Sandpiper**

LA on flag – 26.8.20 – Cairns Esplanade – Norton Gill

WHITE over BLUE (Taiwan, China) leg flag sightings**Curlew Sandpiper**

6T on flag – 3.11.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 6T on flag – 14.11.20 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 6T on flag – 5.12.20 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 6T on flag – 15.12.20 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 6T on flag – 20.12.20 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Tony Cotter
 6T on flag – 28.12.20 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 6T on flag – 7.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Barbara Collyer, Arthur & Sheryl Keates
 6T on flag – 20.1.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 6T on flag – 23.1.21 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Michael Daley

Lesser Sand Plover

A08 on flag – 4 & 17.1.21 – Kakadu Beach Bribie – Michael Strong
 A08 on flag – 16.1.21 – Kakadu Beach Bribie – Terry Burgess
 Engraved flag unread – 16.10.20 – Sandy Point Corio Bay – Mick Barker
 Engraved flag unread – 1.1.21 – Kakadu Beach Bribie – Michael Strong

Terek Sandpiper

588 on flag – 2.12.20 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes
 588 on flag – 4.1.21 – Maaroom – Chris Barnes

BLACK over YELLOW (Kamchatka, Russia) leg flag sightings**Red-necked Stint**

Plain flags – 4.1.21 – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – Michael Strong

WHITE (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**Bar-tailed Godwit**

ASE on flag – 20.10.20 -Geoff Skinner Reserve – Tony Cotter

ZBZ on flag – 1.10.20 -Toorbul – Helen Leonard
ZPD on flag – 24.9.20 – Toorbul – Maggie Overend
ZRW on flag – 7.9.20 – Toorbul - Helen Leonard
ZRW on flag – 11.9.20 – Toorbul – Maggie Overend
Engraved flag unread – 10.9.20 – Helen Leonard
Engraved flag unread – 2.10.20 – Maggie Overend
Engraved flag unread – 8.11.20 – Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Pied Oystercatcher Yellow leg flag (2 digit) sightings

The following sightings of yellow flagged oystercatchers are not birds flagged in North West Western Australia, as per the flagging protocol. They are another project being run from Victoria and New South Wales. Birds flagged in Victoria will have a yellow flag on the right tibia and inscribed with two digits. New South Wales birds will have the yellow flag on the left tibia and inscribed with two digits.

J4 – 12.11.20 – Bribie Island Eastern Beach – Natalie Sands

Wader ID Days

Due to Covid-19 we have not had any ID days since earlier this year. Under the restrictions and plans that are in place by BQ and QWSG it is making things a little difficult for us to hold any ID days. The requirements to socially distance and the viewing of waders does require the use of a telescope which a lot of people do not own. Under the current plan we are NOT allowed to share equipment with other people. Not being able to view the waders through other people's telescopes will probably be somewhat frustrating for those with only binoculars given the distance to the birds.

If guidelines change in the future and we can safely return to holding ID days, notifications will be advertised in the newsletter and on the QWSG website (www.waders.org.au). We encourage you to keep checking the newsletters and website so that you can attend the ID days in the future.

We acknowledge that the places we now enjoy have been nurtured by Australia's First Peoples for tens of thousands of years. We believe the spiritual, cultural and physical consciousness gained through this custodianship is vital to maintaining the future of our region.

Vale Ken Rogers

Some of you may have known of Ken's statistical modelling of shorebird data, work that advanced the study of shorebirds considerably in the last 30 years. Roz Jessop thought some of you might like to read Danny's commentary on his father's contribution which was mostly in the background over several decades.

My father, Ken Rogers, died in his sleep on 18th February. He was 81.

Dad made a very substantial contribution to Australian shorebird studies over the years. He was a regular participant in the VWSG field program in the 1980s (along with the rest of the Rogers family). From 2003 to 2006 he was editor of *Stilt*, his period at the helm culminating in *Stilt 50*, a bumper edition (325 pages) which provided a broad (and sobering) overview of shorebird status throughout the flyway. It is still a very useful publication, and it played a role in the increasing emphasis on international shorebird conservation by the AWSG.

Dad's greatest contribution was less visible. He was a statistical modeller in his working life, and he brought these skills to the Australasian shorebird scene at a time when shorebirds were not a focus of Australian academia. Analysing and publishing the already enormous datasets of the AWSG fell on the shoulders of amateurs, and it was a serious challenge in those days. Dad's ability to design and carry out rigorous analyses made a huge difference. Moreover, he was very generous with his time, and great fun to work with. He wrote or co-authored quite a lot of papers in the 1990s and 2000s. There were many more papers in which Dad's work was done behind the scenes, helping others to get their work to publication standard.

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Birds Queensland Inc. whose object is:
 "To promote the scientific study and conservation of birds by all means possible, with particular reference to the birds of Queensland".

Separate membership is required.

Contacts: President, Stephen Prowse president@birdsqueensland.org.au
 Secretary, Janette Thurley secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au
 Treasurer, Wayne Lock treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au

Monthly Meetings Birds Queensland

1st Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.

Merthyr Road Uniting Church, 52 Merthyr Road, New Farm.

Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

Please check to see what Government restrictions apply and visit the BQ website for up-to-date information

Dog Disturbance on Shorelines

When people see dogs chasing or disturbing shorebirds,
 Phone the BCC Call Centre 07 3403 8888 and request a RAPID RESPONSE TEAM be sent.
 Add the number to your mobile

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Kaya BARRY, Samuel CHAPMAN, Joseph DOUGLAS, Trish GRAHAM,
 Joshua HILL, Roxanne IVES, Tim KASTELLE and Nancy PACHARD,
 Sharron KRAUSE, Nick KYRITSIS, Bob and Barbara LAMB, Pascale LIN,
 Stephen MacDONALD, Roland ODSEY, Campbell PAINE, Jane POWELL,
 Strahinia PETROVIC, Cheryl and Graham PONTER, Jacqueline and Zelco PERSIC,
 Mabelle RINALDIS, Harry ROSNELL, Tatsuo SATO,
 Sally SHELDON and Martin CASHARD, Andrew SIDES and Mary McHUGH,
 Debra SORENSEN and Robert HAMWOOD, David STEWART,
 Daniel, Graham and Peta TOWNEND, Nina TSILIKAS and Giles DAUBENEY,
 Miguel VICENTE, Jett WALCOTT, Adrian WALSH,
 Jimmy WHEELER, Jack WORCESTER,

A reminder to members, please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address. If you do please make sure that it does allow delivery and not send downloads to spam.

Many thanks too to those who have included a donation with their renewal or membership fee. This is greatly appreciated as such donations make on-going work possible.

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of Queensland Wader Study Group

Website www.waders.org.au

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

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<u>TREASURER</u>	Judith Giles	0409 062 310	treasurer@waders.org.au
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	(07) 3822 3759	secretary@waders.org.au
<u>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</u>	Brenda Smith		membership@waders.org.au
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017	gouldian6@bigpond.com

QWSG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robert Bush	0404 805 558	Jon Coleman	(07) 3299 2780
Peter Driscoll	0418 212 627	Paul Finn	0480 177 792
Ross McMillan		Brad Woodworth	0439 577 551

<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email	counts@waders.org.au
<u>LEG FLAG COORDINATOR</u>	Phil Cross	07 5495 2758	Email	legflags@waders.org.au

BQ PRESIDENT Stephen Prowse Email president@birdsqueensland.org.au

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
54, Elliott Street,
CLAYFIELD,
QLD 4011

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please notify the Membership Secretary as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Annual subscription rates:
Single: \$15:00
Student/Pensioner: \$10:00
Family: \$25:00
A receipt will be forwarded if required.

Forward application to:
Membership Secretary or QWSG Treasurer,
PO Box 3138,
SOUTH BRISBANE,
QLD 4101.

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

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **May 14th, 2021**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011
or E-mail to: gouldian6@bigpond.com

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

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admin@jrdsons.com.au



Count Activities – 2021

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2021

Sat 13 th Mar	2.43m at 09:45	Sat 14 th Aug	2.00m at 13:44
Sat 10 th Apr	2.31m at 08:37	Sat 11 th Sep	2.17m at 12:32
Sat 8 th May	2.16m at 07:20	Sat 23 rd Oct	2.27m at 10:57
NO COUNT IN JUNE		Sat 20 th Nov	2.38m at 10:00
Sat 17 th Jul	1.92m at 15:12	Sat 11 th Dec	2.15m at 15:25

National Winter Count

Counters Rockhampton and north – please select a date as close as possible to the count programme day with suitable tides to enable you to complete your counts.

Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2021

Please note meeting times may change at the last minute depending on the number of attendees on the day.

Sun 14 th Mar	2.38m at 10:16	Meet	09:00	Sun 15 th Aug	2.02m at 14:46	Meet	13:25
Sun 11 th Apr	2.27m at 09:12	Meet	07:50	Sun 12 th Sep	2.15m at 13:24	Meet	12:05
Sun 9 th May	2.13m at 07:59	Meet	06:45	Sun 24 th Oct	2.24m at 11:30	Meet	10:10
Sat 19 th Jun*	1.97m at 16:52	Meet	15:30	Sun 21 st Nov	2.37m at 10:33	Meet	09:10
Sun 18 th Jul	2.03m at 16:24	Meet	15:00	Sun 12 th Dec	2.05m at 16:23	Meet	15:00

National Winter Count

* Change of count day to be confirmed.

Because of the ever-present worry of Covid please check to see what Government restrictions apply

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

A reminder to members: please check to see if your renewal is due and please let the Treasurer know if you change your contact details.

I / We wish to join / renew: (Single: \$15; Family: \$25; Student/Pensioner: \$10)

Title:..... First name: Surname:

Address:..... Membership: \$.....

..... Postcode:..... Donation: \$.....

Payment enclosed: \$ _____

Do you require a receipt? Yes / No

Phone: (Home) (Work) (Mobile).....

Email

How did you hear about QWSG?.....

Are you a member of Birds Queensland?

What activities do you wish to participate in? (Please circle)

WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL,
OTHER (specify :.....)

You will receive your newsletter (colour version) by E-mail.....

Signature Date:.....

Please email this form to: membership@waders.org.au

Direct funds transfer to: **OR Please post this form to:** QWSG Membership Secretary

Qld Wader Study Group

PO Box 3138,

BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia)

SOUTH BRISBANE,

Account number: 08305297

QLD 4101.

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!

