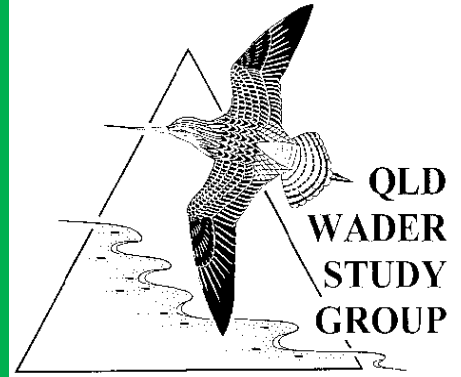


QUEENSLAND WADER



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

Summary of PPT Studies Undertaken by Queensland Wader Study Group.

Queensland Wader Study Group (**QWSG**) has for many years fitted leg flags to shorebirds to understand aspects of their migration between Australia and their northern Hemisphere breeding grounds. From plain flags allowing us to look at movement patterns we then moved to engraved leg flags which allowed us to look at return rates and fidelity to non-breeding and those migration staging sites at which birdwatchers were present.

However, this still didn't help us with locating the breeding grounds and identifying important staging sites they used on migration that were in remote locations.

Geolocators helped a little with this and QWSG used these on Grey-tailed Tattlers to successfully track their migration to and from their breeding grounds in Kamchatka (Coleman et al 2018). However, these proved difficult to use as the birds had to be recaptured to retrieve the data from the device which was very resource intensive and resulted in only a few retrievals.

More recently the technology involved in using satellite tracking has improved dramatically with some devices now only weighing 2 grammes allowing this technology to be used on a wide range of species with minimal impact. QWSG have taken full advantage of this technology and gained insights into a wide range of species, the results of which are summarised in this article.

Transmitters have been put on Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Far Eastern Curlew, Pacific Golden-plover and Whimbrel providing new insights into the migration of these species and their local movements in Moreton Bay, which is important in understanding our own local impacts on these declining species.

The first species tracked were Whimbrel and Far-Eastern Curlew with Whimbrel banded in 2017 and 2019 (six individuals) and Curlew in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (eight in total). These were collaborative projects with partners elsewhere in the flyway, the Whimbrel in partnership with Fudan University in China and the curlew a collaboration with Charles Darwin University, University of Queensland, Deakin University, and many other collaborating organisations and volunteer groups.

One of the Whimbrel fitted with a transmitter is still transmitting four years later with the bird performing an almost identical migration each year. **DBC**, fitted with a transmitter in 2017 at Wellington Point again migrated to Kamchatka in Russia to breed, a return trip of approximately 20,000km.



The results of this work were published in 2020, highlighting a range of migration strategies in this species (Kuang et al 2020).

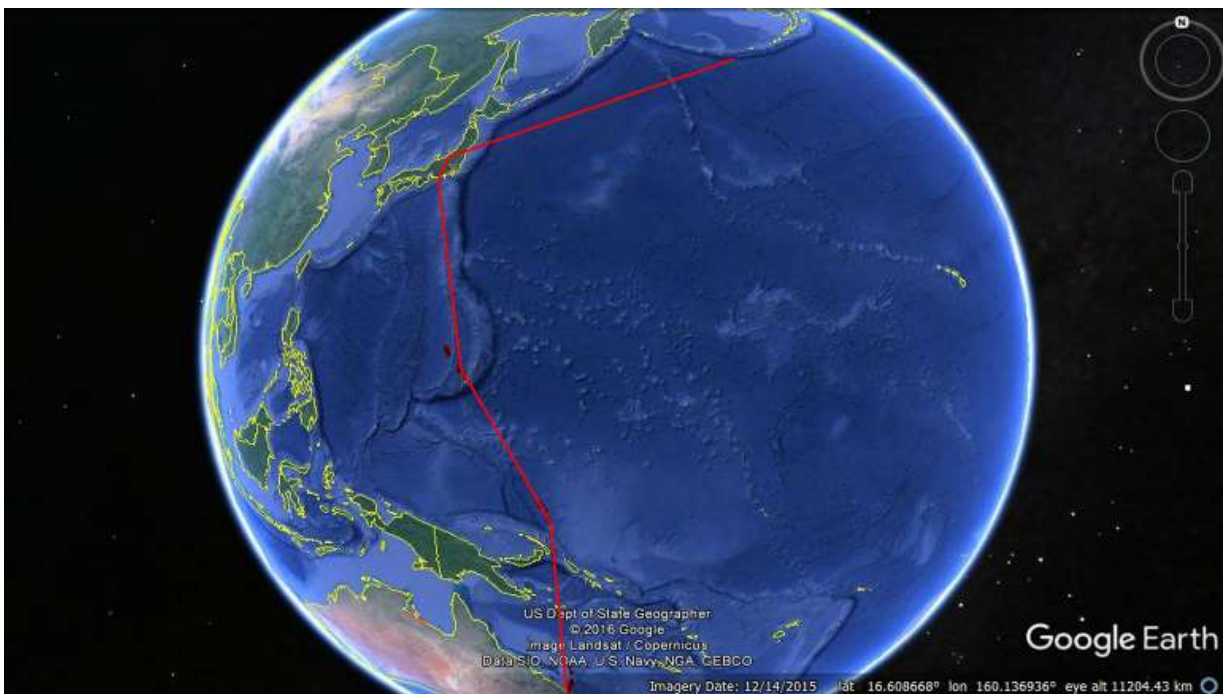
Our Far Eastern Curlew don't fly quite as far and breeding in Northern China and Southern Russia. They are one of the earliest shorebirds to leave Australia and one of the earliest to return and travel north to their breeding grounds. One of our most well-known tracked Curlews is **AAD**, leg flagged and fitted with a transmitter at Toorbul in November 2017. She has provided four complete migration tracks now, giving incredible insights into her migration approach, staging areas and breeding grounds. Along with several other birds providing similar data we know have very good insights into this species with the results being prepared for publication. This collaborative projects also provided evidence of migrating curlew using the new World Heritage Area at Getbol in South Korea and this data was part of the information used to achieve that protection status for the site. So, this type of data is extremely powerful in conservation. AAD's migration track for 2021 is shown below.



Despite doing an almost identical route in 2018 and 2019, **AAD** experienced difficulties in 2020 when she was impacted by bad weather on her southward migration. She was displaced as far west as Borneo but still managed to correct her migration and make her way back to Toorbul, albeit a few weeks later than usual. However, the data from tracking provides insights into the issues these birds do experience on migration. One has to question how many events of that nature a bird can handle and with weather models predicting increasingly unstable weather this type of event is a cause for concern. Her track in 2020 is shown below for comparison.

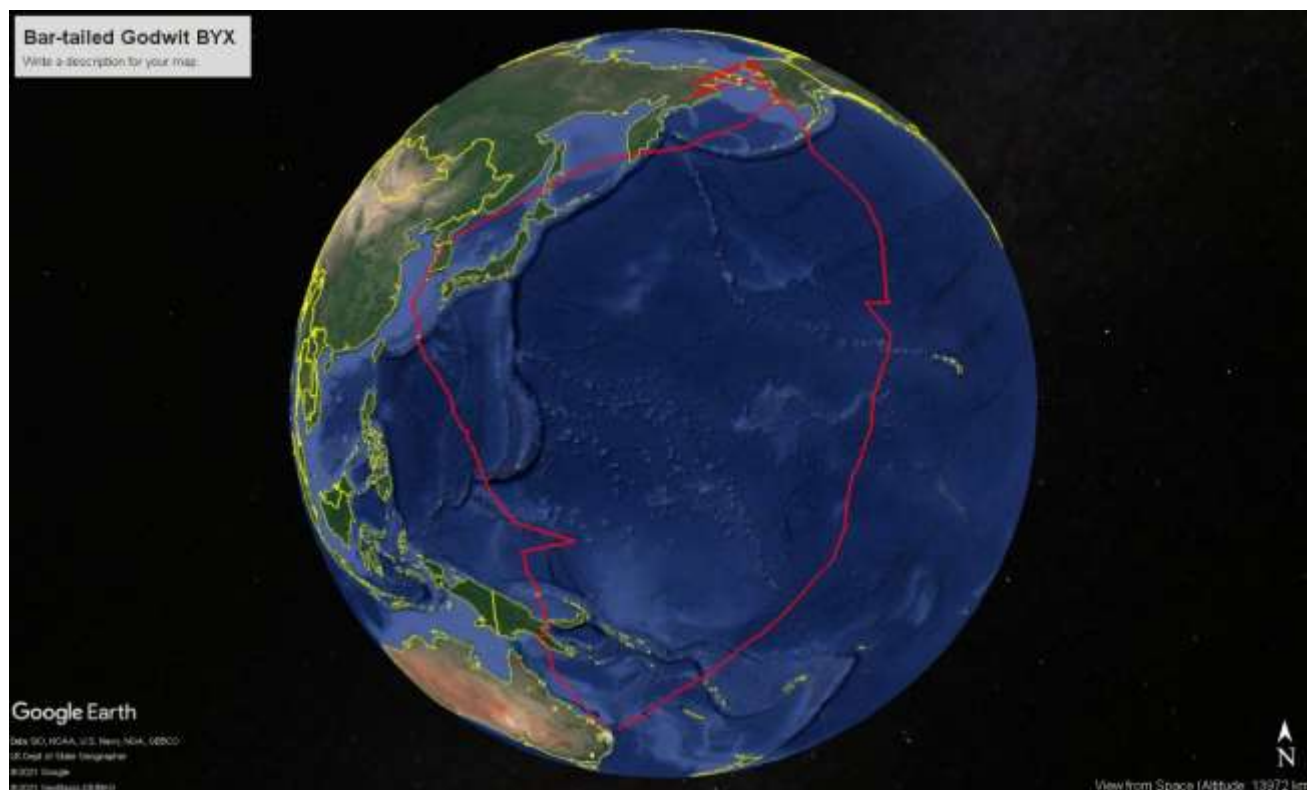


Pacific Golden Plover is another species we knew virtually nothing about and had very few resightings of them away from Moreton Bay. We suspected they bred in Alaska but really didn't know and had no idea of their migratory route. We now do from the results of four birds we tracked in 2017 with one bird reaching Alaska. We also learned that the species relies heavily on Rice paddies on its staging grounds in Japan which explains why we get so few sightings on migration (Coleman and Bush 2020). The northward migration track of the Pacific Golden Plover that made it to Alaska is shown below.



However, for migration, the best has been saved for last. To date QWSG have fitted transmitters to ten Bar-tailed Godwits of which three have made it to their breeding grounds in northern Alaska. One of these birds, **BYX** was fitted with a transmitter at Lytton Claypan near the Port of Brisbane on the 21st February 2021 and has provided us with our first full migration track for a Brisbane tracked godwit and the results have been remarkable.

The northward journey involved reaching South Korea in nine days, spending a month there preparing for the next leg of the journey and then flying direct to Alaska where the bird bred in the far north. On the 4th September, **BYX** left Alaska and headed south flying for 10 days over the Ocean on a direct flight to Brisbane, 10,700km nonstop, one of the most remarkable feats of migration imaginable. This track is shown below and again this, and the other three birds have provided insights into the migration, and the threats faced by these birds we could never have anticipated even a few short years ago.



So, our migratory shorebirds truly span the globe in their migration and are heavily reliant on their staging grounds in the Yellow Sea and Japan as they migrate northwards. But one of the most interesting insights for us has actually been the local movements of these birds and the insights into the way these birds use Moreton Bay when they're with us. Their use of feeding and roosting sites and the relationships between these in their lives are far more complex than we'd realised using flag resightings and this information has significant implications on the way we perceive and use Moreton Bay and the impacts of that and other local threats on our shorebirds.

Jon Coleman October 2021

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Feathered friends: how colourful park murals are raising awareness of our special annual visitors

SUNSHINE COAST NEWS 18 NOVEMBER 2021



Artist Steven Bordonaro completed a mural at Keith Hill Park, Bells Creek.

Two new murals have been completed to help raise awareness of a special group of annual international tourists. Migratory shorebirds flock to the Sunshine Coast each year, travelling thousands of kilometres to escape winter in the northern hemisphere.

To spread the word on the importance of protecting these birds, Caloundra artist Steven Bordonaro painted a mural at Keith Hill Park on The Esplanade, Bells Creek, which was funded by Sunshine Coast Division 2 Councillor Terry Landsberg. Sunshine Coast artist David Houghton painted a mural at North Shore Road, Mudjimba, which was funded through the Environment Levy.



Sunshine Coast artist David Houghton painted a mural at North Shore Road.

The murals showcase a mix of migratory shorebirds that call the region home each summer and resident shorebirds residents and tourists can see all-year round.

Environment and Liveability Portfolio Councillor Maria Suarez said the Shorebird Conservation Action Plan guided council's contribution to the world-wide conservation efforts to protect these amazing birds.

"To better understand which shorebirds and how many of them visit and live on the Sunshine Coast, council undertook surveys last summer, building on long-term data collected by the Queensland Wader Study Group," she said. "The surveys discovered a new high-tide roost and provided a baseline to monitor and compare against in future years. This summer, we'll continue our shorebird monitoring with regular surveys and awareness campaigns to encourage Sunshine Coast locals to share our coast with these fascinating birds. Council has also released a shorebird video series via Facebook which highlights the importance of supporting the birds."



The completed Bells Creek Mural.

Cr Landsberg said the birds were flying in to visit the shores of Pumicestone Passage and Maroochy River after travelling more than 10,000km from Siberia and Alaska.

"While visiting the Sunshine Coast, migratory shorebirds must more than double their body weight to store essential energy for their long journey back and spend most of their time feeding on our local mudflats and sandbanks," he said.

Division 8 Councillor Jason O'Pray encouraged residents and visitors to share our coast with the shorebirds. "Any disturbance while feeding or resting can cause them to fly off and waste precious energy," he said. Our waterways in the Pumicestone Passage and Maroochy River are enjoyed by many – and there is space for all of us, including the shorebirds, if we are considerate of other users."



The North Shore Road mural.

Shorebirds are the world's most-threatened species of birds. Beachgoers can help to share our coast with the shorebirds by:

- observing from a distance using binoculars
- choosing a location away from the birds for your activities
- keeping dogs under control
- taking your rubbish home.

The North Shore Mural includes: Whimbrel (migratory), Great Knot (migratory, critically endangered), Greater Sandplover (migratory, vulnerable), Grey-tailed Tattler (migratory) and Red-capped Plover (resident shorebird).

The Bells Creek Mural includes: Pied Stilt (resident shorebird), Double-banded Plover (migratory), Curlew Sandpiper (migratory, critically endangered), Red-necked Stint (migratory), Australian Pelican (resident waterbird) and Royal Spoonbill (resident waterbird).

Visit the [council website](#) and follow the council's social media for more information including the best locations to view the birds.

Irreplaceable: Barr Al Hikman, Arabian Peninsula Shorebird haven

Barr Al Hikman in Oman is a vital rest stop for more than half a million birds, boasting some of the highest shorebird densities of any intertidal mudflat. The formal protection of this site would therefore secure a crucial, truly irreplaceable, hub for migratory birds.



Great Knots (Endangered) and Bar-tailed Godwits (Near Threatened) feed here © Jens Eriksen
By Enas Al Sarahneh

Barr Al Hikman is a wetland paradise of outstanding importance for migratory birds along the West Asian–East African Flyway.

It is well known for its biodiversity, with enormous numbers of invertebrates hidden in the sediments, offering good food resources for the hundreds of thousands of migratory waterbirds that depend on this coastal oasis as they pass over the Arabian Peninsula during their travels. Indeed, in 2017 a team from Wetlands International found more than half a million birds wintering in Barr Al-Hikman, and recorded a total of 63 waterbird species at the site in 2017-2019. Overall, the shorebird density on the intertidal mudflats of Barr Al Hikman is among the highest recorded globally, making it one of the most important coastal wetlands in the world.

One of the species that relies on this wetland is the Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (Near Threatened), which migrates a staggering 6000 kilometres from its breeding grounds on the Siberian tundra to Bar Al Hikman every winter to take advantage of the habitat's exceptional food availability. After replenishing its energy, this intrepid wader continues its journey another 6000 kilometres to South Africa.

Barr Al Hikman is a rocky limestone peninsula of 900 square kilometres, with the longest natural sand bar in the Middle East.

The most important habitats are extended gravel plains, coastal and inland sabkha (a mixture of sand, mud, and salt), intertidal mudflats and shallow lagoons, which are connected to sea bays and straits. Abundant populations of fish within the bay and straits attract whales and dolphins, while no less than four threatened species of sea turtle nest on its shores. It is also home to outlandish invertebrates such as the Red-eyed Rock Crab *Eriphia sebana*, which lives within massive tangles of interwoven calcareous tubes made by colonial tube worms. It feeds on smaller crabs and snails, to which end it has evolved massive claws with molar-like "teeth" that can crack thick shells.



The Red-eyed Rock Crab's formidable claws have evolved to crush snails © Damsea / Shutterstock

The wetland has been identified by BirdLife as an Important Bird & Biodiversity Area, and is also a Key Biodiversity Area. Moreover, the site qualifies as internationally important wetland under the criteria of the Ramsar Convention, as it regularly supports more than 20,000 waterbirds or at least 1% of a waterbird species' population. Recent surveys show that Barr Al Hikman meets these criteria for no fewer than 21 species.

An estimated 35% of all wetlands globally have been lost since the 1970s, leading to increased risk of extinction for many species. Coastal wetlands in many parts of the Arabian Peninsula are under pressure. Studies show that human activities are increasingly leading to degradation and loss of important sites in the region. Species like the Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* are already Endangered due to reclamation of other wetland stopover sites elsewhere on their journey. The formal protection of this site would therefore secure a crucial, truly irreplaceable, hub for migratory birds at the centre of West Asian–East African Flyway.



Barr Al Hikman contains the longest natural sand bar in the Middle East © Tariq Barwani

Can birdwatching really improve our mental health? The science says yes

By Jessica Law 5 Oct 2021 Birdlife

We all know that spending time in nature is enjoyable, but now there's increasing evidence that wildlife – and birds in particular – have a profound positive impact on our mental wellbeing. We delve into the latest discoveries from the fields of biology, economics and psychology.



Excited birdwatchers enjoy an ecotourism trip in Colombia © Tom Clynes

Over the past 18 months, everyone I know turned to nature in some way to cope with the pandemic. My friend went to the lake every day to feed the geese. My parents put up a bird feeder in the garden and watched the avian antics from inside the house. I liked to go and see the kestrels soaring overhead at my local nature reserve. Through the various worries, tragedies and restrictions that we endured, nature provided us with much-needed solace and diversion.

Birding is undoubtedly a pleasant experience – joyful, picturesque, some might even say restorative – but as anyone who has ever suffered anxiety or depression knows, pleasant things are not necessarily enough to alleviate long-term mood disorders. So, can birds and nature really benefit our mental health?

There's increasing scientific evidence that they can – especially for people living in built-up areas. A 2017 study published in *BIOSCIENCE* measured different nature characteristics in urban neighbourhoods, and found that vegetation cover and afternoon bird abundance were positively associated with a lower prevalence of depression, anxiety, and stress. The findings were so clear that researchers could actually put a number on the minimum amount of vegetation cover needed to reduce each mental health issue: 20% for depression, 30% for anxiety, and 20% for stress.

Zooming in on birds, a 2020 study published in *ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS* put a literal price on bird biodiversity. The study used information from the 2012 European Quality of Life Survey to compare the satisfaction levels of more than 26,000 adults with the diversity of birds found around their homes, towns and cities. The results showed a clear correlation between happiness and the number of bird species. In fact, birds were found to be just as important for human wellbeing as financial security. According to their calculations, being near 14 additional bird species provided as much satisfaction as earning an extra \$150 a month.

There's no way of knowing whether it was the birds themselves that caused this phenomenal effect, or just their species richness, which tends to be higher around natural features such as forests, rivers and lakes. However, there are numerous arguments in birds' favour. Birds are some of the most visible (and audible) members of the animal world, and are much more likely to make their presence known to us in our everyday lives, reminding us that there's more to life than urban drudgery.

There's even evidence that birdsong can boost our attention span and helps us recover from stress. A 2013 study published in the *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY* interviewed twenty participants and found that birdsong was the type of natural sound they most often associated with stress recovery and attention restoration. Interviewees recounted that birdsong reminded them of relaxing natural landscapes as a whole, and was also pleasant and melodious to listen to in itself.

It may seem strange to present the beauty and inspiration of nature in such a scientific – some might say soulless – way. How can you put a price on the swoosh of turtle-dove's wing, or write a prescription for a dose of dawn chorus? But the truth is that such statistics are more important now than ever. The United Nations estimates that 54% of the world's population lives in urban areas, and that proportion is rising all the time. More and more of us are living our lives separate from nature – but thanks to studies like these, planners have concrete evidence that green spaces really do matter.

Not only this, but the march of human development is gathering pace, in the face of environmental collapse. Showing governments and businesses that prioritising the environment has measurable economic and health benefits will help them make decisions that could save the planet.

On a more individual note, it's also a reminder to ourselves that being around nature isn't a frivolous pastime or unimportant hobby. It's something that could vastly improve our health and wellbeing. So, take that hike you were planning, visit your local nature reserve, or even just go on a lunchtime walk in your nearby park. If you need an excuse, 8-10 October this year is Global Bird Weekend, where birders across the world will be venturing out to record every bird they see in their area. Join us in observing the wonders of the migration season, in the knowledge that it'll do you the world of good.

QPWS Staff Shorebird Training Course 27th October 2021

by Arthur and Sheryl Keates

This training course was held specifically for staff from the Moreton Bay, Great Sandy Strait and Cairns; 16 in total.

QWSG Chairperson, David Edwards, opened the proceedings explaining which species are regarded as a shorebird followed by an informative presentation on shorebird migration and breeding, finishing up on the conservation issues affecting shorebirds. After questions and discussions, QWSG stalwart and Secretary, Peter Rothlisberg, guided participants through a well-structured session giving tips on what to look for in identifying some of the most common species of shorebirds in south-east Queensland.

After a break for lunch, participants gathered at the Manly Boat Harbour high tide roost to test their newfound knowledge.

Several Black-tailed Godwit among the large flock of Bar-tailed Godwit provided a good comparison of those species. Unusually, the Greater Sand Plover outnumbered the Lesser Sand Plover. Unfortunately, no Far Eastern Curlew were present to compare with the Eurasian Whimbrel.

During his presentation on migration, David mentioned the use of geolocators to track the migratory route of some species. At the roost, most participants were able to see a Grey-tailed Tattler fitted with geocator in late 2012 by QWSG's banding team at the roost. A Victorian flagged Great Knot was also seen by participants.

The following species of shorebirds were observed at the roost site:

Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing Lesser Sand Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Whimbrel, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Great Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper.



Photo of participants at roost.

Count Programme by Linda Cross

The southward wader migration appeared to start early this year with Far Eastern Curlew being the first to return in the middle of August and recorded at 19 sites. Some of the higher counts (all recorded on 14.08.21) were Toorbul (320) West Geoff Skinner Reserve (194) Boonooroo section 1 and 3 combined (158) and Lytton Claypan (97). A tally for this species recorded at sites on 14 August (and a day or 2 either side) was 884. An additional 176 birds were counted at 4 sites in the Burdekin River area on 22.08.21, bringing the total August count for this species to 1,060 birds.

As some of the early southward migrants were arriving, a few remaining cross Tasman visitors (Double-banded Plover) were recorded at 7 sites. They were last recorded between 11 and 16 August 2021. In the table below are the records for those sightings.

Site	Date	Quantity
Maroochy River – north shore	11.08.21	2
Noosa River mouth sandbanks	12.08.21	2
O'Reagans Ck, W side Hervey Bay	14.08.21	2
King Street Mudflat Thornlands	14.08.21	6
Redcliffe Airport north side	14.08.21	6
East Geoff Skinner Reserve	14.08.21	19
Kakadu Beach Bribie Island	16.08.21	4

While records in the database show Grey Plover returning in October and November, the numbers at the sites where they occur are low. Boonooroo section 1 recorded 10 on 14.08.21 and only 8 were seen there on the 11.09.21. The Port of Brisbane complex has recorded only 1 bird on 24.10.21. Burdekin River sites now included in the count programme have recorded a combined total of 35 on 20.09.21. I look forward to reporting better numbers in the next issue of the newsletter.

The return of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper from the last week of August have been recorded at 26 count sites along the Queensland coast from Cooktown to southern Moreton Bay. The count from 13 sites in September produced a total of 559 birds increasing to 2,684 birds from 17 sites in October. The Port of Brisbane complex recorded the highest bird count of 1,105 on 24.10.21, followed by 559 from Peters Island north bank west in the Burdekin area on 20.10.21 and 420 at Manly Harbour on 23.10.21. Numbers more than 100 birds came from Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (139) on 25.10.21 and Cairns Esplanade (110) on 23.10.21.

In the table below are records for juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit recorded by Phil and Linda Cross, Arthur Keates, and Penn Lloyd. This exercise helps determine the breeding success of the birds on the breeding grounds.

Site	Date	Bar-tailed Godwit flock size	Juveniles in flock
Manly Harbour	26.09.21	960	2
Manly Harbour	05.10.21	985	2
Manly Harbour	10.10.21	1100	14
Oyster Point	16.10.21	282	<4
Manly Harbour	18.10.21	880	<10
Caboolture River mouth	22.10.21	304	10
Manly Harbour	21.10.21	495	<6
Manly Harbour	28.10.21	485	14
Manly Harbour	29.10.21	675	16
Oyster Point	02.11.21	424	5
Oyster Point	03.11.21	404	16
Manly Harbour	04.11.21	1210	28
East Geoff Skinner Reserve	05.11.21	434	8
Kakadu Beach Bribie Island	06.11.21	c1050	8

In addition to the juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit records, Arthur Keates also recorded the following juveniles:

Site	Date	Species	Flock size	Juveniles in flock
Manly Harbour	05.10.21	Grey-tailed Tattler	485	1
Manly Harbour	10.10.21	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	170	1
Manly Harbour	12.10.21	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	192	2
Manly Harbour	18.10.21	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	310	<4
Manly Harbour	21.10.21	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	265	<2
Manly Harbour	21.10.21	Grey-tailed Tattler	590	3
Manly Harbour	28.10.21	Grey-tailed Tattler	585	1

There has been a flurry of people visiting Geoff Skinner Reserve at Wellington Point since Michael Daley and Terence Alexander found a Semipalmated Plover on the 31st October 2021. Numerous people have seen the bird in the first few days after the sighting as the claypan was drying out. However, since then there have been very high tides and the bird has been elusive and more difficult to find.

Another interesting sighting came from Gregory Road Hay's Inlet count site on 14.08.21 where 2 Banded Lapwing were recorded and photographed.



Photograph by Michael Daley



Photograph by Andy Jensen

After reporting in the last newsletter that resident Pied Stilt had returned to many coastal count sites in good numbers during May, June and July, extracts from counts for the last 3 months (August, September, October) show numbers have declined considerably which would suggest the species has gone inland again. The last high counts came from Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (232) and Lytton Claypan (168) both on 14.08.21 and Kedron Brook Wetlands (125) on 15.08.21. The highest count in October produced 89 at Kedron Brook Wetlands, while other count sites recorded much lower numbers.

Although Red-necked Avocet numbers have increased since reporting them in the last newsletter, they have only been recorded at 4 sites (Maaroom, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet, Lytton Claypan and Port of Brisbane complex). The highest counts were at Port of Brisbane complex (896) on 24.10.21, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (c650) on 14.08.21 and Lytton Claypan (184) on 11.09.21.

Ducks, cormorants and waterbirds continue to be in low numbers.

A few extracts from counts appear below. Additional extracts (migratory and resident) can be found in the "Interesting wader sightings" section of the newsletter. Order as per IOC species list July 2021.

Pacific Golden Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (206) on 24.10.21, Caboolture River mouth (78) on 22.10.21

Lesser Sand Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (525) on 24.10.21

Greater Sand Plover: Burdekin River 1 (1,660) on 20.10.21

Eurasian Whimbrel: Toorbul (259) on 11.09.21, Goat Island SE (210) on 22.10.21, Lytton Claypan (202) on 23.10.21, Peters Island north bank west, Burdekin River area (200) on 20.09.21

Far Eastern Curlew: East Geoff Skinner Reserve (415) on 23.10.21, Boonooro section 1 (402) on 11.09.21, Toorbul (396) on 23.10.21, Port of Brisbane complex 340 on 24.10.21, Lytton Claypan (306) on 11.09.21

Bar-tailed Godwit: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island. (2,560) on 25.10.21, West Geoff Skinner Reserve (2,307) on 23.10.21, Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island (2,100) on 22.10.21

Black-tailed Godwit: Dohle's Rock's Road Pond (131) on 23.10.21, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (76) on 11.09.21, Manly Harbour (28) on 21.10.21, Lytton Claypan (25) on 14.08.21 and Reeder's Point Moreton Island (8 – uncommon on Moreton Island) on 22.10.21

Ruddy Turnstone: Port of Brisbane complex (62) on 24.10.21, Manly Harbour (58) on 04.11.21

Great Knot: Peter's Island north bank west Burdekin River area (1,250) on 20.10.21, Maaroom (450) on 23.10.21, Port of Brisbane complex (301) on 24.10.21 and Cairns Esplanade (236) on 23.10.21

Red Knot: Peters Island north west bank Burdekin area (237) on 20.09.21 and Manly Harbour (81) on 28.09.21

Broad-billed Sandpiper: Manly Harbour (1) on 25.09.21 and 05.10.21, Port of Brisbane complex (1) on 24.10.21

Curlew Sandpiper: Port of Brisbane complex (2,227) on 24.10.21 and (458) on 12.09.21

Red-necked Stint: Port of Brisbane complex (1,492) on 24.10.21, Burdekin River 1 (1,300) on 20.10.21, East and West Geoff Skinner combined (986) on 23.10.21

Latham's Snipe: Garnett's Lagoon 1- Susan River (3) on 11.09.21, Nathan Road Redcliffe (2) on 11.09.21 and Dohle's Rock's Road Pond (2) on 23.10.21 and Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (1) on 17.10.21
Terek Sandpiper: Burdekin River Delta mangroves (250) on 20.10.21, Peters Island north bank west Burdekin River area (100) on 20.10.21 and Burdekin River 4 (50) on 20.10.21
Common Sandpiper: Dohle's Rock's Road Pond (1) on 23.10.21
Wandering Tattler: Port of Brisbane complex (1) on 12.09.21, Point Vernon (1) on 11.09.21
Grey-tailed Tattler: Manly Harbour (641) on 04.11.21, Port of Brisbane complex (561) on 24.10.21
Marsh Sandpiper: Maaroom (36) on 23.10.21, Dohle's Rock's Road Pond (22) on 23.10.21
Common Greenshank: Peters Island north bank west Burdekin River area (22) on 20.09.21, Manly Harbour (17) on 04.11.21, West Geoff Skinner Reserve (16) on 23.10.21

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to include all articles in the paper version of the newsletter as there is a page limit for posting, so "Interesting wader sightings" and "Not waders but of interest anyway" sections may not appear. However, if you have an email address, please ask for the electronic version, which has all the articles that could not be included in the paper version. The electronic version is also in colour.

Breeding records:

Beach Stone-curlew: Noosa River mouth sandbanks (nest with 2 eggs) on 11.10.21.
Pied Oystercatcher: Manly Harbour, Toorbul north, Noosa River mouth sandbanks, St. Helena Island south east, St Helena Island north and Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (pairs nesting and nests with eggs recorded) between 11.08.21 and 09.11.21. Manly Harbour (adult with 1 chick) on 22.08.21 and 26.08.21.
Pied Stilt: Kakadu Beach Bribie Is, Dohle's Rock's Road Pond, Manly Harbour, Kedron Brook Wetlands (mating and nests; numerous at Manly Harbour. recorded) between 08.09.21 and 04.11.21. Manly Harbour (1-2-day old chick) on 19.09.21 and (juveniles recorded) on 11.08.21, 22.08.21 and 28.10.21
Masked Lapwing: Manly Harbour, Manly Lota Esplanade, Toorbul north, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island and Maaroom (nests and eggs recorded) between 14.08.21 and 25.10.21. Queens Esplanade Thornside (4 young) on 14.08.21, Maaroom (3 chicks 3 weeks old) on 11.09.21, Toorbul (3 chicks) on 11.09.21, Manly Lota Esplanade (2 young birds) on 11.09.21, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (newly hatched chicks) on 25.10.21
Red-capped Plover: Garnett's Lagoon 2 - Susan River, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island and Manly Harbour (mating and nests recorded) between 14.08.21 and 04.11.21. Manly Harbour (adults with 2 chicks 2 days old) on 06.09.21, Manly Harbour (adult with 1-2-day old chick) on 19.09.21 and 21.10.21

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 Phil Cross (email address phillipcross50@gmail.com). Please contact Phil or me for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Happy counting.
 Linda Cross.

Interesting Sightings

Interesting resident wader sightings – as per IOC species list July 2021

Bush Stone-curlew: Seaforth township (54) on 15.10.21
Beach Stone-curlew: Maroochy River Goat Island and sandbar (4) on 11.08.21, Cairns Esplanade (3) on 24.08.21, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (3) on 25.10.21, Buckley's Hole sandbar Bribie Island (2) on 23.10.21 and Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island (2) on 22.10.21. Single birds have also been reported at Burdekin River 5, Shellgrit Creek entrance, Gables Point Rocks Hervey Bay, Sandbank No. 1 Caloundra, Reeder's Point Moreton Island, St. Helena Island homestead during the last 3 months.
Pied Oystercatcher: Oyster Point (98) on 16.10.21 and Port of Brisbane complex (77) on 24.10.21

Sooty Oystercatcher: Wickham Point (4) on 08.09.21 and 19.10.21, Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (2) on 15.08.21, St. Helena Island pier (1) on 09.11.21, Shellgrit Creek entrance Mackay (1) on 11.10.21 and Kinka Beach sandbar Yeppoon (1) on 14.08.21

Masked Lapwing: Garnett's Lagoon 1 and 2 - Susan River combined (52) on 14.08.21

Red-kneed Dotterel: Garnett's Lagoon 1 and 2 - Susan River combined (31) on 23.10.21

Red-capped Plover: Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (64) on 11.09.21, Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve (56) on 14.08.21, Port of Brisbane complex (56) on 12.09.21 and Luggage Point (50) on 12.09.21

Black-fronted Dotterel: King Street mudflat Thornlands (20) on 14.08.21, Bishop's Marsh (17) on 11.09.21. Also recorded at 13 other sites in single digits.

Comb-crested Jacana: Nathan Road Redcliffe (4) on 14.08.21 and (2) on 11.09.21, Golf Links Road wetland Mackay (3) on 11.10.21

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

Magpie Goose: Mac's Truck Stop near Sarina (1,000) on 10.10.21 and Port of Brisbane complex (104) on 24.10.21

Plumed Whistling Duck: Maaroom (4) on 23.10.21. Unusual at site

Raja Shelduck: Nathan Road Redcliffe (1) on 14.08.21

Maned Duck: Garnett's Lagoon 1 and 2 - Susan River combined (68) on 11.09.21

Grey Teal: Garnett's Lagoon 1 and 2 - Susan River combined (328) on 11.09.21

Chestnut Teal: Redcliffe Airport north side (127) on 11.09.21

Hardhead: Garnett's Lagoon 1 and 2 - Susan River combined (590) on 11.09.21

Lewin's Rail: Lytton Claypan (1) on 14.08.21

Buff-banded Rail: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (5) on 17.10.21

Spotless Crane: Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (2) on 17.10.21

White-browed Crane: Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (1) on 17.10.21

Brolga: Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (13) on 14.08.21, Garnett's Lagoon 2 - Susan River (2) on 11.09.21

Black Noddy: O'Reagan's Creek, Hervey Bay W side (1 live bird and large numbers of dead birds washed up on the beach) on 23.10.21

Silver Gull: Cairns Esplanade (227) on 24.09.21, Port of Brisbane complex (224) on 24.10.21

Gull-billed Tern: Toorbul (2) on 14.08.21

Australian Tern: Maaroom (214) on 14.08.21, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (192) on 16.08.21

Caspian Tern: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (52) on 16.08.21. Includes numerous juveniles.

Greater Crested Tern: Noosa River mouth sandbanks (1,110) on 13.09.21, Maroochy River sandbar (1,100) on 14.09.21

Lesser Crested Tern: Burdekin River 1 (78) on 20.10.21, Manly Harbour (33) on 06.09.21, O'Reagan's Creek. Hervey Bay W side (19) on 11.09.21

Little Tern: Port of Brisbane complex (672) on 24.10.21, Burdekin River 1 (350) on 20.10.21

Common Tern: Maroochy River sand bar (40) on 14.09.21

Whiskered Tern: Garnett's Lagoon 1 - Susan River (40) on 23.10.21

Black-necked Stork: Nathan Road Redcliffe (1) on 14.08.21, Garnett's Lagoon 1 and 2 - Susan River combined (3) on 11.09.21

Australian Pied Cormorant: Amity Point sandbank (890) on 22.10.21

Glossy Ibis: Nathan Road Redcliffe (14) on 14.08.21, Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (12) on 14.08.21

Yellow-billed Spoonbill: Garnett's Lagoon 1 - Susan River (7) on 14.08.21

Black Bittern: Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (1) on 04.11.21

Eastern Cattle Egret: Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve (1) on 23.10.21. Unusual at site

White-necked Heron: Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (1) on 14.08.21

Pied Heron: Barron River (1) on 16.08.21. Very unusual. Hung around for a few days.

Brown Goshawk: Dohle's Rock's Road Pond (1) on 23.10.21

Spotted Harrier: Nathan Road Redcliffe (1) on 11.09.21, Port of Brisbane complex (1) on 24.10.21

Australian Hobby: Garnett's Lagoon 1 - Susan River (1) on 11.09.21

Brown Falcon: Oyster Point (1) on 17.10.21

Peregrine Falcon: Gregory Road. Hays Inlet (2) on 11.09.21

Wader Watch by Phil Cross

You can report your leg flag sightings on to the QWSG website now, there is a tab to 'report a banded / leg flag sighting' on the main page, you may have to scroll down the page to find it.

A big thank you to all of the contributors to the website, the last 2 months has produced more than 100 reports of interstate and overseas flagged birds seen in Qld, they are all listed below.

The highlight in this period was the sighting of a Red Knot which was flagged in Darwin in 2015, it carries a yellow engraved flag over a blue flag, this is the first record of this combination in the database.

Another feature was two sightings of a Bar-tailed Godwit with a green flag above a probable engraved orange flag, this bird was flagged in Yalu Jiang China, it has been 3 years since the last time this combination was reported in Qld.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen in QLD

A quantity of 1200 green flag sightings have been added to the database since the last newsletter.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen INTERSTATE

Nil

GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS

Nil

ORANGE (Victoria) leg flag sightings seen in QLD.

Bar-tailed Godwit

HYV on flag – 11.9.21 – Maaroom – Cecile Espigole
 CSL on flag – 11.9.21 – Maaroom – Cecile Espigole
 Plain flag - 11.9.21 – Maaroom – Cecile Espigole
 CNP on flag – 21.9.21 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al
 CPS on flag – 21.9.21 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al
 ML on flag - 25.9.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 CLE on flag - 25.9.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 YP on flag - 25.9.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 YP on flag – 26, 28 & 29.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 CLE on flag – 26, 28 & 29.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 CNP on flag – 22.9.21 – Toorbul – Wayne Matthews & Jeremiah Abberdan
 YP on flag – 3 & 5.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 6V on flag – 24.10.21 – Kakadu Beach – Terry Burgess
 Plain flag – 4 & 10.10.21 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 17.10.21 – Lytton Claypan # 1 – Tony Cotter
 ZT on flag – 10.10.21 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard
 Engraved flag unread – 10.10.21 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard
 Engraved flag unread – 26.10.21 – Toorbul – Wendy & Patrick Shanley

Red Knot

Plain flag – 13.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 20.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag - 25.9.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag - 13.10.21 – Maaroom – Jack Worcester

Great Knot

Plain flag – 19, 25 & 26.9.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 28.9.21 – Thorneside – Wilmot Senaratne
 Plain flag – 20, 24 & 25.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 3.10.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 3, 10 & 23.10.21 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 5, 12, 18 & 21.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Australian Tern

Plain flag – 10.10.21 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard

YELLOW over BLUE leg flag sightings (Northern Territory)

Red Knot

KN on yellow flag – 28.9.21 – Thorneside – Wilmot Seranratne
 KN on yellow flag – 3.10.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter & Arthur Keates
 KN on yellow flag – 4.10.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
 KN on yellow flag – 5.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates



Photo by Guy Pardey

OVERSEAS FLAGGED birds seen in QLD**BLACK over WHITE (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings**Curlew Sandpiper

- Plain Flags & blue flag right upper – 20 & 28.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- Plain Flags & blue flag right upper – 3, 12 & 21.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- Plain Flags & blue flag right upper – 4.11.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- Plain Flags - 23.10.21 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Great Knot

- J62 on white flag – 19 & 25.9.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
- J62 on white flag – 24.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- J62 on white flag – 4 & 10.10.21 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Tony Cotter
- Plain flags – 13.10.21 – Maaroom – Jack Worcester
- Plain flags – 7.11.21 – Boonooroo – Terry Burgess
- Engraved white flag unread – 13.10.21 – Maaroom – Jack Worcester

Red Knot

- AP on white flag – 24.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- PN on white flag – 10.10.21 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard

GREEN over ORANGE (Yalu Jiang, China) leg flag sightingsBar-tailed Godwit

- Engraved orange flag unread – 23.9.21 – Brisbane Airport – Penn Lloyd
- Engraved orange flag unread – 27.9.21 – Sandgate – Guy Pardey



Photo by Wilmot Senaratne

BLUE over YELLOW (Bohai Bay, China) leg flag sightingsRed Knot

- E18 on yellow flag - 13.10.21 – Maaroom – Jack Worcester

WHITE over BLUE (Taiwan, China) leg flag sightingsTerek Sandpiper

- 588 on white flag – 8.11.21 – Maaroom – Terry Burgess

Curlew Sandpiper

- Engraved flag unread – 20.9.21 – Burdekin River mouth – Denise & Graham Holder
- 6T on white flag – 28.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Tom Tarrant
- 6T on white flag – 3, 9, & 23.10.21 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
- 6T on white flag – 5, 12, 18, 21 & 28.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Lesser Sand Plover

- Engraved flag unread – 8.9.21 – Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong

BLUE (Hokkaido, Japan) leg flag sightingsGrey-tailed Tattler

- Plain flag – 24.9.21 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
- Plain flag – 5, 10, 17, 18 & 29.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
- Plain flag – 23.10.21 – Manly Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter

BLUE & WHITE (Torinoumi Japan) leg flag sightingsGrey-tailed Tattler

- 568 on blue flag – 25.9.21 – Thorneside – Tony Cotter
- 568 on blue flag – 28.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Tom Tarrant

568 on blue flag – 18.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 56? on blue flag – 5.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Engraved blue flag unread – 21.10.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Great Knot

Plain flags – 23.10.21 – O'Regans Creek Hervey Bay – Marilyn Sweetnam

WHITE (New Zealand) leg flag sightingsBar-tailed Godwit

ZAY on flag – 11.9.21 – Toorbul – Dez Wells
 ZAY on flag – 21.9.21 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al
 ZAY on flag – 21.9.21 – Toorbul – Arthur Keates et al
 BJE on flag – 24 & 29.9.21 – Wynnum Esplanade – Arthur Keates
 BJE on flag – 2.10.21 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 ZXA on flag – 4 & 13.10.21 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Tony Cotter
 ZVV on flag – 14.9.21 – Toorbul – Guy Pardey
 Engraved flag unread – 19 & 20.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 Engraved flag unread – 10.10.21 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Tony Cotter
 Plain flag – 13.10.21 – Maaroom – Jack Worcester

Red Knot

CMZ on flag – 19.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 DYR on flag – 28.9.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Tom Tarrant

RED (New Zealand) leg flag sightingsBar-tailed Godwit

Plain Red flag & yellow over white bands – 9.10.21 – Toorbul – Helen Leonard

BLACK over YELLOW (Kamchatka, Russia) leg flag sightingsGreat Knot

APN on yellow flag – 13.10.21 – Maaroom – Jack Worcester

Wader ID Days**Shorebird ID Days - Manly Boat Harbour**

Sunday 23 January - meeting time 13:00

Sunday 13 February - meeting time 07:30

Meeting place: At the end of Davenport Dr, on the southern boundary of the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron Clubhouse.

The gate will be locked after we enter the site and late arrivals will not be able to enter.

Anyone who does not comply with the conditions below will not be allowed to enter the site or asked to leave.

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates 0490 951 661.

TENTATIVE ID DAYS – PLEASE CHECK THE QWSG WEBSITE OR LEADERS FOR CONFIRMATION**Wader ID Day Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island**

Sunday 30 January 2022 2.55m high tide at 08:10. Meeting time 07:00 onwards.

Wednesday 2 March 2022 2.62m high at 09:30. Meeting time 08:00 onwards

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane and take the Bribie Island exit. Continue on this road to Bribie Island and follow the signs to Banksia Beach. When you arrive at the T-junction at Banksia Beach turn left and after a short distance turn right into the car park for the roost. A bird hide is positioned at both ends of the roost.

We are hoping that the king tide will help produce a variety of birds onto this roost as the large tide may push the waders off other roosts. Anyone who does not comply with the conditions below will be asked to leave.

Please contact Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758 if you have any questions. Linda's mobile: 0490 080 340

Wader ID days Toorbul

Tuesday 22 February 2022 at Toorbul 2.10m high tide at 13:39. Meeting time 12 noon

Monday 7 March 2022 at Toorbul 2.07m high tide at 12:53. Meeting time 11:15

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul exit. 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 2kms); we will be on the left. Bring water, food and a chair.

Anyone who does not comply with the conditions below will be asked to leave.

Please contact Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758 if you have any questions. Linda's mobile: 0490 080 340

To register for an outing, please send a text message to the leaders stating your name and email address. The leaders will, in accordance with BQ's COVID-19 safety practices, keep an attendance register of participants including these details for tracing purposes. Participants will be required to sign the attendance register acknowledging they have read, and agree to comply with, the COVID-19 safe practices outlined in BQ's website: <https://www.birdsqueensland.org.au/covid-19.php>

In addition to the COVID-19 safety practices, under the conditions of the access agreement for the roost, participants must wear enclosed footwear and will be required to sign a form acknowledging responsibility for their own health and safety, including:

- wearing protective clothing at all times (eg. hat, enclosed footwear, sunglasses) and using sunscreen
- drinking water to avoid dehydration
- using insect repellent if necessary
- telling a leader about any health issues that may affect taking part in the field trip
- if feeling unwell, or concerned about someone else being unwell, immediately telling a group leader or another participant
- immediately telling a group leader or another participant about any injury suffered (including a slip, trip, fall and snake bite) or hazard that may cause injury to someone.

Participation in this field trip is strictly limited to those whose registration with the leaders is confirmed by the leaders.

PLEASE NOTE: As the outings are subject to any restrictions applying in relation to COVID-19, please confirm attendance with the leaders the day before the outing.

You must register with the leaders for the outing supplying name, phone number and email address. This will enable the leaders to contact you if the outing is cancelled and the leaders will, in accordance with BQ's COVID-19 safety practices, keep an attendance register of participants including these details for tracing purposes. Participants will be required to sign the attendance register acknowledging they have read, and agree to comply with, the COVID-19 safe practices outlined in BQ's website:

<https://www.birdsqueensland.org.au/covid-19.php>

Wader ID Day Reports

Toorbul Wader ID Day Report 21st September 2021

By Linda Cross.

A total of 8 other attendees joined Phill and I at the main Toorbul roost to view the waders during this identification session. Weather conditions were cool and dry with a gentle wind from the north, north-east that became much stronger towards the end of the viewing.

When we arrived, many Far Eastern Curlew were stretched out along the foreshore by the picnic table. Included in the flock was a female bird with engraved leg flag AAD and a satellite transmitter. AAD was flagged and fitted with the transmitter at Toorbul in November 2017. Transmitters usually only transmit for around 1 year but the one fitted to AAD has been transmitting for 4 years, recording each trip she has done to and from the breeding grounds, arriving back at Toorbul each year since 2017.

A larger group of birds were at the main roost itself which included 6 migratory and 2 resident species of waders amongst the flock. Although the species diversity continues to be low for this site, it is the best roost to view the birds without the use of a telescope.

Moreton Bay Regional Council have placed additional signs at the main roost to help protect waders.



Photo of AAD – Arthur Keates



Photo of sign at Toorbul roost

Flag sightings included 2 white engraved leg flags (ZAY and ZYW) on Bar-tailed Godwit which were flagged in New Zealand and an orange engraved leg flag (CNP) on another Bar-tailed Godwit which was flagged in Victoria. A total of 28 engraved green leg flags were seen and recorded on 4 species of waders (Eurasian Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Great Knot), all being flagged in south-east Queensland.

No count was conducted, however, counts for some species are supplied.

Birds seen at Toorbul: (F/O – fly over):

Black Swan on the roost, Pied Oystercatcher, 5 Masked Lapwing (including 3 chicks), Eurasian Whimbrel, 156 Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, 3 Red Knot, 3 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Silver Gull, Australian Tern, Caspian Tern, 1 Little Pied Cormorant (F/O), 1 Australian White Ibis, 1 White-faced Heron (F/O), 1 Little Egret and Australian Pelican.

Toorbul Wader ID Day Report 26th October 2021

By Linda Cross.

When we arrived at the parking area along the foreshore, there were a few keen birdwatchers already assembled at the main roost prior to the meeting time and others (including some who had not registered) followed soon afterwards, making a total of 16 in attendance. It was warm, sunny and a little humid as we started to view the large flock of waders.

Far Eastern Curlew were once again stretched out along the foreshore between the picnic table and the main roost as they were during the ID session held here in September. Not sharing telescopes made it a little difficult to ensure everyone had good views of the birds but people did succeed in getting reasonable views. Bar-tailed Godwit was the predominate species at the roost but no Black-tailed Godwit could be found to show those in attendance the difference between the 2 species. We found 4 Red Knot among the Great Knot in the flock and a surprisingly large number of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were present and relatively easy to see.

A White-bellied Sea Eagle put the birds up once but they resettled. However, sometime later something unknown to us caused all the birds (an unusual exception the Far-Eastern Curlew) to take flight across the passage and settled at Kakadu roost on Bribie Island. As the birds did not come back, we adjourned for lunch and as there was a storm approaching, most attendees decided to leave.

In total 7 migratory and 2 resident wader species were amongst the flock. Although the species diversity continues to be low for this site, it is the best roost to view the birds without the use of a telescope.

A Bar-tailed Godwit was observed with an orange leg flag (banded in Victoria) and numerous birds were seen with green leg flags; all being banded in south-east Queensland.

No count was conducted, however, counts for some species are supplied.

Birds seen at the Toorbul roost and environs: (F/O – fly over):

12 Plumed Whistling Duck, 1 Black Swan, 7 Maned Duck, 1 Pied Oystercatcher, 2, Masked Lapwing, 26 Eurasian Whimbrel, 69 Far Eastern Curlew, c500 Bar-tailed Godwit (count from photographs),

29 Great Knot, 4 Red Knot, c50 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 3 Common Greenshank, 1 Silver Gull, 5 Australian Tern, 1 Caspian Tern, 1 Little Pied Cormorant (F/O), 2 Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, 1 Striated Heron, Intermediate Egret, 3 Australian Pelican, 1 Eastern Osprey (F/O), 1 Whistling Kite (F/O), 1 Brahminy Kite (F/O) and 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle (F/O).

Manly Boat Harbour Shorebird Roost Reports 26th September 2021

by Arthur Keates

With southern migration from the breeding grounds well under way, the spring outings to this critical high tide roost site provided observers with good views of well over 2,000 birds in total made up of a good variety of migratory and resident shorebird species.

26 September

The large flock of godwits included 2 juveniles on their first migration to the non-breeding grounds. Several birds had remnant breeding plumage, notably Pacific Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, both species of knots and even a few Grey-tailed Tattler. Of the resident species, several Pied Stilt were observed sitting on nests while other adults were observed with chicks.

Two Bar-tailed Godwit sporting orange leg flags, engraved YP and CLE, having been fitted in Victoria were observed. Interestingly, godwit YP has been observed in Moreton Bay on southern migration in 2019 and 2020. YP was banded on 17 February 2019, aged 2+, off Mann's Beach, Corner Inlet. Leg flags were also observed on several species banded in south-east Queensland by QWSG's banding team.

The large flock of godwits included a noticeable increase in juveniles since the previous outing, a Grey-tailed Tattler and a very attractively plumaged Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Of the resident species, a pair of Pied Oystercatcher and several Pied Stilt were observed sitting on nests.

Apart from the species fitted with leg flags in south-east Queensland, only a Grey-tailed Tattler banded at Lake Furen, Hokkaido, Japan was observed by some.

The following species were observed at the roost on each outing unless stated otherwise:

Chestnut Teal (Oct only), Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Greater Sand Plover (Oct only), Eurasian Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Broad-billed Sandpiper (Oct only), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Marsh Sandpiper (Oct only), Common Greenshank, Silver Gull, Australian Tern, Caspian Tern, Greater Crested Tern and Little Tern (Oct only) and Australian Pelican.



Juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit (left). Photo: A Keates.

Manly Boat Harbour Shorebird Roost Report 10th October 2021

Fortunately for observers, the predicted showers did not eventuate at the roost site and despite the cloud cover and gusty SE wind, observers had good views of 15 species of migratory shorebirds and 4 species of resident shorebirds, an estimated total of well over 2,000 birds.

With southern migration from the breeding grounds well under way, several birds had some remnant breeding plumage, notably Bar-tailed Godwit, both species of knots and even a few Grey-tailed Tattler. The large flock of godwits included 2 juveniles on their first migration to the non-breeding grounds. Of the resident species, several Pied Stilt were observed sitting on nests while 3 adults were observed with chicks of not more than 3-4 days old.

Most observers were able to see 2 Bar-tailed Godwit sporting orange leg flags, engraved YP and CLE, having been fitted in Victoria. Interestingly, godwit YP has been observed in Moreton Bay on southern migration in 2019 and 2020. YP was banded on 17 February 2019, aged 2+, off Mann's Beach, Corner Inlet. Leg flags were also observed on several species banded in south-east Queensland by QWSG's banding team.

The following species were observed at the roost:

Australian Pelican, Pied Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Silver Gull, Australian Tern, Caspian Tern and Greater Crested Tern.

Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island ID Day Report 6th November 2021

Linda Cross.

The last wader ID session held at this roost was 21 months ago (February 2020) and like today, conducted during a very high tide. As we arrived in the carpark some waders could be seen flying out into the passage due to being disturbed by a jet ski. The operator of the jet ski was ferrying people back and forth to the shoreline where they were dropped off onto the roost. One of our members responded by trying to approach them (without disturbing more birds) but they took off before he could chastise them. In total (including us) there were 17 in attendance. Weather conditions were fine and dry with a few clouds and a gentle easterly breeze.

With a large 2.56m high tide that was already noticeably high as we crossed the Bribie Island bridge, the birds did not disappoint us and arrived in flocks from across the passage soon after the group assembled in the northern hide.

We were unable to find any Black-tailed Godwit among the large flock of godwits and with only a few Great Knot mingled within the godwit flock, our search for any Red Knot was fruitless. We did however have some smaller waders to challenge the group and there was a lone Curlew Sandpiper amongst them.

As the large flock of waders were positioned at the southern end of the roost, most people headed down to the other bird hide and got closer views of the birds. A Masked Lapwing was nesting, and 2 chicks were running around on the roost. One of the adult Masked Lapwing became very defensive and chased the other waders several times during our observations.

Several green leg flags (banded in south-east Queensland) were observed (mostly on godwits) but only a couple were recorded. The group observed 7 migratory, and 4 resident wader species. A count was conducted, (although the Bar-tailed Godwit and Great Knot count may have been undercounted) and added to the QWSG database.

Birds seen: (F/O – Flying over) (H – heard).

3 Buff-banded Rail, 2 Beach Stone-curlew, 1 Pied Oystercatcher, 5 Masked Lapwing (includes 1 adult on nest and 2 chicks), 3 Red-capped Plover, 20 Lesser Sand Plover, 49 Far Eastern Curlew, c1050 Bar-tailed Godwit (includes 8 juvenile), c20 Great Knot, 56 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, 19 Red-necked Stint, 7 Silver Gull, 19 Australian Tern, 2 Caspian Tern, 1 Greater Crested Tern, 2 Striated Heron (includes 1 juvenile), 1 White-faced Heron, 1 Eastern Osprey (F/O) and 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle (F/O).

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



Birds Queensland

Separate membership is required.

Contacts: President, Stephen Prowse
Secretary, Janette Thurley
Treasurer, Wayne Lock

president@birdsqueensland.org.au
secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au
treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au

The Birds Queensland AGM takes place after the Qld Wader goes to press, so please check these details on the BQ website. Position emails stay the same.

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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QWSG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Secretary,
PO Box 3138,
SOUTH BRISBANE,
QLD 4101.

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 **February 14th, 2022**

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, Birds Queensland nor Queensland Ornithology Society Inc.

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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Colin Scobie, Kate Tunstill, Russel Woodford, Toni Canard, Judith Brukmann, Caleb Breuer
 John Cummings, Roslyn and Russ Johnson, Joshua Wilson, Lindi Hall, Alice Bakker
 Cheryl Christensen, Greg, Vicki, Johanna & Callum Longman, Sally Thompson, Paul Sheehy
 Meagan, Matthew, Rory & Emmanuel van Gent, Anne Love and Andrew Taylor, Lynette English
 John Truman, Maryellen Edwards-Burgett, Wendy Powe, Holly Hunter, Karen Gillow,
 Tate Cottom, Richard Ravell

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!

Chairperson Note re: AGM and New Committee Members

It is coming up to that time of year for the AGM and leading up to this period the Committee is looking to find out who wishes to stay or leave. As ever we are hoping to get new blood on to the Committee.

We are finding that we are an ever aging and have a concern about the future running of our group. As a note of alarm, I feel that the Group's activities could be very much reduced in 2 years or even have to disband. Alarmist but could happen with out new members on the Committee!

It might seem to be a daunting prospect to join a group of people who have been working together for a long time. We would really like to see some new faces with new ideas and experiences. You are not expected to be thrown in at the deep end but can learn on the job.

If you are interested, please contact one of the Committee to see what is involved in being part of the Committee. All are welcome.

In anticipation David Edwards, Chairperson QWSG

Notice of the QWSG's AGM for 2021

The 2021 QWSG AGM will be held on Sunday 12th Dec 2021 at 2:00 pm at Swan Lake Parking Area at the Port of Brisbane, on Lucinda Way.

If a Covid Lock down is called we will make arrangements for a Zoom meeting to take place instead.

Please email the chairperson if you are coming along, plus let me know if you require a nomination form for a committee position. chairperson@waders.org.au or secretary@waders.org.au

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.



Count Activities – 2021/22

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2021/22

Sat 11 th Dec	2.15m at 15:25		
Sat 8 Jan	2.27m at 13:48	National Summer Count	Sat 16 Jul 1.90m at 11:31
Sat 5 Feb	2.38m at 12:30		National Winter Count
Sat 5 Mar	2.39m at 11:21		Sat 13 Aug 1.97m at 10:26
Sat 2 Apr	2.30m at 10:15		Sat 10 Sep 2.03m at 09:24
Sat 30 Apr	2.16m at 09:07	Labour Day long weekend	Sat 8 Oct 2.07m at 08:21
Sat 28 May	2.01m at 07:55		Sat 5 Nov 2.06m at 07:15
NO COUNT IN JUNE			Sat 10 Dec 2.41m at 10:46

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 2021/22

Sun 12 th Dec	2.05m at 16:23	Meet	15:00	
Sun 9 Jan	2.10m at 14:32	Meet	13:00	National Summer Count
Sun 6 Feb	2.20m at 13:04	Meet	11:40	
Sun 6 Mar	2.24m at 11:52	Meet	10:30	
Sun 3 Apr	2.19m at 10:45	Meet	09:25	
Sun 1 May	2.08m at 09:40	Meet	08:20	Labour Day long weekend
Sun 29 May	1.94m at 08:33	Meet	07:15	
Sun 12 Jun	2.06m at 07:11	Meet	06:50	*****
Sun 17 Jul	1.90m at 12:22	Meet	11:00	National Winter Count
Sun 14 Aug	2.01m at 11:12	Meet	09:50	
Sun 11 Sep	2.11m at 10:06	Meet	08:45	
Sun 9 Oct	2.18m at 09:03	Meet	07:40	
Sun 6 Nov	2.20m at 08:00	Meet	06:40	
Sun 11 Dec	2.36m at 11:21	Meet	10:00	

***** 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!