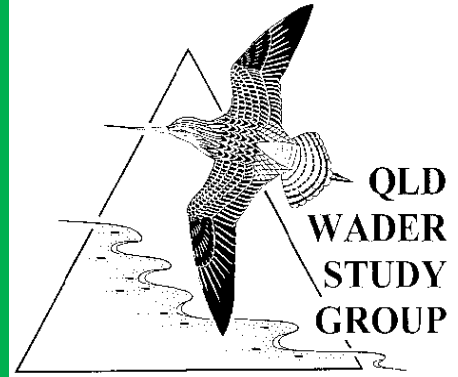


QUEENSLAND WADER



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

Chairperson Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting

12th December 2021 by David Edwards

I am pleased to present this report as Chairperson of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), on behalf of the 2021 QWSG Management Committee.

Here in Queensland, we have been fortunate that Covid 19 has not impacted on our activities to any great extent. But it has been, and will still be, a concern whilst running our activities. So, all in all, it has still has been a busy twelve months.

This Chairperson 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, some under threat, and promote the scientific study and conservation of all Waders. The full reports from Counts, Flagging, Banding, Membership and Education officers will be tabled at this meeting, added to the full minutes of the meeting, as well as being produced in the next issue of Queensland Wader.

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

EDUCATION

The close personal nature of education has meant a truncation to a lot of our activities, particularly those involving young school children.

The start of the year saw QWSG join with Brisbane City Council (BCC) for Nudgee Beach 'Dogs on Leash' Sessions, which were to educate dog owners of their responsibilities when walking their dogs on the beach. The BCC had compliance officers there but only they talked to people and no fines were issued.

Covid-19 has hit the number of wader ID days that were held early in 2021. These days are always popular and give an opportunity for not only the education within the group but also as a 'meet and greet' component that is missing at many of our other activities. The last part of the year saw the ID days up and going again, though with restrictions, but greatly enjoyed by all. Again, many thanks to Sheryl and Arthur Keates, and Linda and Phil Cross for so ably running these days.

We have been able to run two one-day Wader courses late this year. The first training course was held specifically for QWPS Rangers and staff from the Moreton Bay, Great Sandy Strait and Cairns; 16 in total attended. Many thanks to Lewis Lawrence for arranging the rooms and a lunch for the participants.

The second course was for a group from the Sunshine Coast, part of a week end birding visit to Brisbane and surrounds.

The days consisted a presentation on shorebird migration and breeding, plus some conservation issues affecting shorebirds.

After questions and discussions, QWSG Secretary, Peter Rothlisberg, guided participants through a well-structured session giving tips for successful Wader ID. We then visited Manly Boat Harbour to put these ID tips into practice. Many thanks to Sheryl and Arthur Keates for the organisation and help for these two days.

One issue that might arise in the new year will be the participation, in these activities, of QWSG members, who are non-vaccinated against Covid. We will wait to see what the Qld Government's guidelines contain and Birds Queensland's reaction to them might be, then make decisions.

The QWSG Facebook page has been kept up to date by Robert Bush. Robert regularly posts items throughout the year. All are informative, with some managing to reach far around the world, attracting a very large number of hits. Thank you, Robert.

The QWSG arranged for two billboards to be used to highlight the return of Waders to Moreton Bay. The slogan was: "WE ARE BACK look out for us". We saw an increase in hits to our web site front page, which was modified for the campaign. We had many likes on the Facebook page. The overall response from outside our group was a little disappointing. However, we have the advertisement skins, so we can think about running another campaign next year. Being a little pushier with the local media.

This side of the QWSG activities, the education of the general public is a weakness and over the next couple of years, I suggest, we make a concerted effort to raise the profile of Waders and the QWSG throughout Qld.

THE COUNT PROGRAM

Linda Cross again tirelessly organised and managed the count programme in 2021 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. Thanks, Linda.

Thanks, not only to Linda but, to every one of our members who counts, because without you, we would not have been able to contribute as much as we have to shorebird conservation. 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 the QWSG dataset that is held in the highest of esteem.

The QPWS provide personnel and a boat, the Spoonbill, to take QWSG counters to Moreton Is, Peel Is, Goat Is and Toondah Harbour every quarter. This is greatly appreciated, because it makes sure that a full coverage of the Bay is achieved. Many thanks to all involved.

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

Arthur Keates joined the Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN). to survey Avoid Island for waders, filling in a gap in our knowledge.

Our Queensland Government grant enabled us to survey the Bowling Green area south of Townsville. This will be repeated next year, again, enhancing our knowledge of the waders of the east coast of Qld.

One major survey that the QWSG helped with was the Bay Wide Survey run by Healthy Land and Water (HLW). The QWSG joined with HLW, DES, Morton Regional Council and others to cover all the known, and some new, roosting sites of greater Moreton Bay ie from Noosa down to the Tweed. The survey was linked with the QWSG February count program, and was also the National Summer Count.

FLAGGING

Many thanks to Phil Cross for his hard work with the flag sightings, checking and validating them as they come in, plus he gives quarterly reports for the Newsletter. The online entry of flag sightings has made this task a little easier, but it still requires Phil's input to make sure the data recorded is correct. Phil also, notifies those that submit sightings information about the bird. Once again thanks to all of you who send in your sightings, they go a long way in the protection of the waders and their habitat.

BANDING AND GEOLOCATORS

This side of QWSG activities has been quietly active over the last year. The data from trackers, we fitted some years ago, is still coming in and supplying useful and sometimes amazing data. One of the most encouraging results of all this work has been the production of peer reviewed papers in many prestigious magazines. Seeing the hard worked for data accumulated by the QWSG from count surveys, banding and tracking devices, being used, and not just sitting in a computer somewhere, means that there is ratified data and information for all levels of Government to use.

Be warned that, once again 2022 is looking to be a busy time for banding and flagging.

GRANTS

The progress of the QWSG's State government grant has seen the targets required reached and exceeded. The survey of Bowling Green Bay has been successfully completed and the data stored and used. The banding component of the grant has been organised for the start of next year and initial steps have been taken in the education aspects of the grant

QWSG DATA

The QWSG data is still very much in demand and with Peter Driscoll as manager data is released judiciously. The money we receive goes back into more surveys and so more information.

MEMBERSHIP and FINANCES

Brenda Smith and Judith Giles have been efficiently working behind the scenes to make the financial side of the QWSG run smoothly. The occasional hiccup has been sorted out between themselves or with the help of Nahum from Working Plane Designs. As you will see from the Financial Report our finances are not only sound but in good hands.

Our membership is around 300.

THE NEWSLETTER

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 all of the 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. Please contribute we need to hear from you all.

OTHER ACTIVITIESToondah Harbour

The QWSG released a position statement about Toondah Harbour, highlighting the relevant details as to why we were against this development as it stands. Though we are not a politically active group our voice and actions hold a lot of weight.

Healthy Land and Waters (HLW)

We have partnered with HLW, and others to help formulate plans and actions for shorebirds in Greater Moreton Bay. This year has seen the Bay-wide survey completed. From the information raised the hope is to see mapping of all of the roost sites available to State authorities and local councils. Other questions were asked of the counters, so that an ideas and action plans, around disturbance, can be drawn up. This partnership will be extended into next year, and we hope to see exciting results for wader in the next 12 months, both at a practical.

Yatsu Higata Naturalist Observation Centre's (YNOC) Visit

Once again, the headline for this section is Covid-19. In order to maintain contact between the two groups an online get-together was organised by the staff of Boondall Wetlands and Yatsu-Higata Naturalist Observation Centre. A great time was enjoyed by all who were able to attend. The hope is that as soon as possible an exchange can be arranged.

Australasian Shorebird Conference 2021 (ASC21)

The QWSG on behalf of the Australasian Wader Study Group had planned to host their shorebird conference in March 2021, however, Covid-19 interfered and we cancelled the conference. The situation has not improved and, if we go ahead, it is most likely to be in late 2023.

Thank you to every single committee member and those who run the non-committee roles of QWSG. We always underestimate the effort required to make a group like this run effectively. Thank you also, to Steve Prowse and Birds Queensland (BQ) for their collaboration throughout the year. We extend this to Andrew Thelander, the incoming President of BQ.

I am sure I have missed someone or something 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. I hope the 2021 report has shown you how important your support, your counts, and your involvement is in everything to do with Waders.

So, I wish you all a great 2022, good Wader watching and please stay safe.

David Edwards – Chairperson QWSG

12th December 2021

Count Coordinator's Report to Annual General 2021

This year there were less Covid-19 restrictions in Queensland, enabling the count programme to get back to normal.

June was a rest month for the count programme, giving us the opportunity to get 11 counts into the database. Although most sites were counted, several have not been fully covered for the year. The 7 sites in the Tweed Heads area have only been fully counted in July and November and partially counted in January and April due to lack of counters, flooding at sites and Covid restrictions in NSW. Only 1 count was conducted at Gladstone due to no access because of Covid restrictions and just 2 counts for the year were completed on the Gold Coast. Four seasonal counts were conducted for sites in Tin Can Bay, Moreton Island and St. Helena Island.

There have been some changes to counters and sites this year. Virginia Ridgley retired early in the year from counting Queen's Esplanade at Thorneside, but the site continues to be counted by Kristy Murray with help from Barbara Collyer and Wilmot Senaratne. Barbara counts Point Halloran Reserve as well and Wilmot is new to the count programme. Wader species have not been using Point Halloran Reserve for quite some time and this site may possibly be dropped from the count programme in 2022. David and Robbie Leslie relinquished their 4 sites in Maroochydore and offered to help if they are available. Gillie Matthew now counts the Maroochydore sites and has passed over the 4 Caloundra sites she was doing to Judith Coles, who also counts Wickham Point.

Peter Driscoll recruited 2 new counters, Denise and Graham Holder, who started counting 8 sites in the Burdekin River area south of Townsville in July this year. These 8 sites have been added to the count programme and will add much needed data from that region.

Online entries by counters continued to be excellent and required very few amendments.

Monthly counts conducted during 2021 are as follows:

- 792 entered, validated and uploaded to the database
- 100 validated and waiting to be uploaded into the database
- 7 waiting to be validated.

Approximately 77 counts to be entered from counters for the December count.

That will make a total of 976 (just under 50 less than 2020) from the count programme itself.

In addition to the count programme there are:

- 222 miscellaneous counts entered, validated and uploaded to the database
- 27 miscellaneous counts waiting to be validated.

That is 249 additional counts, which bring the total counts for 2021 to 1,225 (20 more than 2020).

Arthur Keates was the most prolific counter with more than 155 entries to the end of November, followed by Penn Lloyd with 132 counts and then Dez Wells with 106 counts.

Manly Harbour was again the most counted site during the year with 77 entries (3 less than last year), and again, Arthur Keates was the reason for 67 of those counts. Oyster Point and Nandeebie Park roosts were the second most counted with 27 entries each, with more than half of them being attributed to Penn Lloyd.

I must thank Peter Driscoll (Data Manager) 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.

Port of Brisbane.

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

I liaised with Brenda Smith (QWSG membership officers), and Penelope Webster 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 2021, we scheduled 12 counts for the year. As I submit this report the December PBPL count will take place shortly after the AGM which will bring the total counts completed by the QWSG team to 10. The Port count scheduled for June was cancelled at the last minute due to shortage of counters coupled with a late afternoon count time. The August count was also cancelled due to Covid restrictions, with PBPL staff working from home. Including today's count, 138 Port counts (13 more than 2020) will be added to the database this year. In addition to the monthly counts conducted for the PBPL there has been 1 additional count for the Artificial Roost. At the request of the PBPL, there has also been 5 counts conducted on the same day at the Lytton Claypan. This has not always been possible to survey in conjunction with the other counts due to the lack of additional people.

Attendance by QWSG members has been disappointing, with between 10 and 12 volunteers most months. January and April saw 14 in attendance and February and July were exceptions with 16 in attendance, which helped get the count done quicker. It is hoped that the banding group will not hold banding days on the day of the PBPL counts in the new year. Although there have been a few new people requesting to be involved in the PBPL counts during the year, after attending once or twice, we have not managed to retain them.

Excluding the December count to take place today, the highest wader count for the year was November, with a total of 10,028 being counted for the whole of the complex. An additional 1,097 waders were counted at Lytton Claypan, bringing the total wader count for the Port sites to 11,125.

Special thanks 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 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 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.

At the last AGM I informed the group that I wished to step down from the role of Count Co-ordinator and offering to work with my replacement. Regrettably, nobody has stepped forward to replace me. I wish to inform the group that I will continue in a caretaker role until someone (hopefully soon) can be found. In the meantime, I will look at ways I can reduce my workload.

Linda.

QWSG Education report for AGM Dec 12th 2021

Wader Identification Days for 2021

Arthur and I lead 4 wader ID days at Manly on 20 Mar, 26 Sep, 10 Oct and 28 Nov, while Linda & Phil Cross lead 4 wader ID days at Toorbul on 21 Sep, 26 Sep, 25 Nov as well as Kakadu Beach, Bribie Is on 6 Nov. The number of ID days were reduced because of Covid restrictions.

QWSG Shorebird Educ in partnership with MBEEC for Grade 3 students at the Port of Brisbane

The last excursions were 27 & 28 Feb 2020, after which Covid-19 restrictions stopped us, especially as most of us were in the 'high risk' age category. Most of our volunteers have had their second jab with many due for their booster early 2022. Anyway, let's see how the new 'Covid normal' goes in 2022.

Nudgee Beach 'Dogs on Leash' Sessions

David Edwards, Arthur Keates and I attended the first of 4 sessions at Nudgee Beach on 31 Jan 2021. Most of the dog owners had been to Nudgee Beach when staff from the Environmental Centres had been there, so they knew the rules had reverted to Dogs on Leash. Of course, there is always one or two owners who plead ignorant and let their dogs run completely out of control. The two BCC compliance staff at each session, warned owners, but no fines were issued.

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. "Poseidon's Palace Menu" was a 5-course meal of '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.

I attended the last of 4 sessions at Nudgee Beach on 28 Feb, when I talked with the compliance officers, beach goers and dog owners about the amazing migration routes of these frequent fliers. Thanks to science, we are able to track shorebirds to broaden our understanding of migration.

"Introduction to Shorebirds" courses

1. Tina Raveneau, Senior Community Environment Officer, Fraser Coast Regional Council, (who said she attended our "excellent Great Sandy Strait (GSS) wader workshop in Feb 2020"), wanted another workshop as a community activity during Feb 2021 to celebrate World Wetlands Day, the 50th Anniversary of Ramsar and promote the values of the GSS Ramsar site. She wanted to target new people, not just those already "converted". She kindly offered to pay for fuel and our time. Alas, her email was sent to the incorrect address for our secretary, which meant there wasn't enough time to organise it.
NB Next World Wetlands Day will be 2 Feb 2022.
2. Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corp (QYAC) requested a wader course for 20-30 rangers on Minjerribah Ganaba (North Stradbroke Is) in Feb 2021. They kindly offered us the use of their training centre, water taxi tickets and use of a vehicle while on the island. Once again, due to Covid restrictions, this was cancelled. However, I am hopeful that a course will go ahead in 2022.
3. In July last year, Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre (BWEC) volunteers expressed a keen interest in learning about migratory shorebirds - Identification, Current Research and what they could do to contribute towards the conservation of shorebirds. Once again, Covid prevented this course. Hopefully, we will be able to conduct a course in 2022.
4. A wader course was conducted for 16 QPWS rangers on 27 Oct 2021 at their office at Trafalgar St Manly, followed by a field trip to Manly high tide roost. No fee was charged because QPWS take QWSG counters to Moreton Is, Peel Is, Goat Is and Toondah Harbour on the Spoonbill quarterly. Thanks to David & Peter for their presentation and help with the field trip.
5. On 27 Nov 2021, a wader course for 14 Birdlife Southern Qld (BLSQ) members with Ken Cross as leader, was held at Manly. After a healthy BYO lunch during registrations, the course started at 12:30 pm. David Edwards presented "Migration & Breeding and Conservation" before a break, followed by Peter Rothlisberg's "Identification". We moved to the Manly roost to see many of the species mentioned in the presentations. Thanks to David & Peter for their time and expertise.

Best wishes to all for 2022

Sheryl Keates

Leg Flag Database Report – Phil Cross

The Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), leg flag database now has well in excess of 45,000 records, slightly fewer leg flag re-sightings were added this year compared to the previous year.

Green Leg flags.

Once again, the vast majority of the re-sightings were of green coloured flags, 94% of the total additional entries compared to the 95% recorded in the preceding twelve months.

Green flags seen in other states.

One record, a Pied Oystercatcher reported from Iluka Bay in NSW.

Green flags seen overseas.

We received 231 reports of green flags recorded at overseas locations, that quantity is more than double the number reported during 2020.

New Zealand supplied almost half of the overseas sighted green flagged birds, a total of 113 were reported from the 'land of the long white cloud', some of these were seen prior to 2021 but were not reported to QWSG until this year.

South Korea had a total of 54 re-sightings, 51 of which came from one location (Aphae Island South).

Japan accounted for 29 sightings.

Russia recorded 25 sightings of green flagged birds, 24 of which were in one area.

A quantity of 10 records from China completes this section of the data.

Overseas flagged birds reported as being seen in Queensland.

The number of overseas flagged birds seen in Queensland and reported during 2021 totalled 175, which is a 17% decrease on the total added to the database in 2020. They were flagged in the following countries.

Japan

Japan had a total of 58 flag sightings added to the database during the last 12 months a similar quantity compared to the previous year. Of those records, 37 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 14 times throughout the year, this year being the fifth 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 this year. A total of 84 records were added to the database during 2021. Great Knot black over white 'AA1' was reported on 7 occasions and Great Knot black over white 'J62' accounted for 27 records. This is the seventh year that 'J62' has spent the non-breeding season in Moreton Bay.

Russia

Sightings of birds from Russia with black over yellow flags totalled 6 for the year.

New Zealand

The total of birds with a single white flag in the database was increased by quantity 26 reports this year. We also added 1 record of a bird with a red flag which was fitted in New Zealand.

Taiwan

Waders flagged in Taiwan were sighted and reported on 41 occasions during 2021. One bird in particular, (Lesser Sand Plover 'A08') was recorded 7 times during the last year.

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

In 2021 a total of 78 sightings of waders with an orange flag were added to the database, most of these reports were of birds with a plain orange flag whilst 28 had an engraved flag. A quantity of 9 records of Caspian Tern with an engraved flag were also added to the database.

South Australia

A Sanderling with an engraved (BDX) orange flag on the right tibia and a plain yellow flag on the right tarsus was sighted at Inskip Point in November 2020, this record is the second for this flag combination on this species to be added to the database.

New South Wales.

There were only 6 reports for engraved yellow flagged Pied Oystercatcher seen in Queensland during the year.

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

Banding Report for 2021

QWSG was fortunate enough to win a Queensland Government Community Action Grant to assist, among other things, with transmitter work to better understand the migration of Bar-tailed Godwit and Far Eastern Curlew. Most of the work throughout the year was focused on attempting to catch these species, where possible, to attach the six devices provided by the funding. In addition, Charles Darwin University provided another 5 devices which have been used as part of this initiative.

Nine banding attempts were made in 2021, in January (2), February (3), May (1), October (2) and December (1). Locations visited were Port of Brisbane, Manly roost and Geoff Skinner Wetlands with a total of 183 birds caught of 15 species (Table 1). In addition, 7 Platform Terminal Transmitters (PTTs) were fitted to Bar-tailed Godwit, with the remaining 4 devices planned for deployment on Great Sandy in January 2022. Some earlier devices fitted are also still transmitting with 2 Far Eastern Curlew and 1 Whimbrel contributing to the dataset this year, these devices now into their 5th year and providing valuable comparative data between years.

Species	Banded	Recaptured	Total	PTT
Australian Tern	2		2	
Bar-tailed Godwit	35	3	38	7
Bush Stone-curlew	37	5	42	
Curlew Sandpiper	6		6	
Great Knot	2		2	
Greater Sand Plover	1		1	
Grey-tailed Tattler	25	1	26	
Lesser Sand Plover	27	3	30	
Pacific Golden Plover	9	3	12	
Pied Oystercatcher	4	1	5	
Pied Stilt	1		1	
Red-necked Stint	8		8	
Ruddy Turnstone	3		3	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	6		6	
Whimbrel	1		1	
TOTAL	167	16	183	7

The results of the PTT work were published in the last QWSG Newsletter so will not be presented here other than to say we had successful complete migration tracks for Whimbrel, nesting in Northern Russia, Bar-tailed Godwit, nesting in Alaska and Far Eastern Curlew nesting in northern China and southern Russia.

Our collaboration with Charles Darwin University, Deakin University, Fudan University and University of Queensland on tracking work, in particular Whimbrel and Far Eastern Curlew continued and resulted in a number of published papers with more in varying stages of preparation, all providing novel insights into the migratory behaviour of these species. A further paper analysing the results of a long-term study by QWSG members into the Bush Stone Curlews of Coochiemudlo was also published this year and the references to these papers are shown below: -

Galtbalt B., Lilleyman A., Coleman J.T., Cheng C., Ma Z., Rogers D.I., Woodworth B.K., Fuller R.A., Garnett S.T. and Klaasen M. (2021).

Far eastern curlew and whimbrel prefer flying low - wind support and good visibility appear only secondary factors in determining migratory flight altitude. *Movement Ecology*. 2021 Jun 13;9(1):32. doi: 10.1186/s40462-021-00267-5

Coleman J.T., Macdonald S., McMillan R. (2021).

Survival, Movements and Breeding Success of Bush Stone-curlews *Burhinus grallarius* in the Moreton Bay region, Queensland. **The Sunbird** 49:1 pp 48-61.

Morrison ZN, Lilleyman A, Fuller RA, Bush R, Coleman JT, Garnett ST, Gerasimov YN, Jessop R, Ma Z, Maglio G, Minton CDT, Syroechkovskiy E, Woodworth BK. 2021.

Differential population trends align with migratory connectivity in an endangered shorebird. **Conserv. Sci Pract.** doi:10.1111/csp2.594

Thanks to every volunteer who contributed to QWSG's shorebird banding program during 2021 and to Phil Cross for capturing all of the leg flag data, which will be reported on separately. Finally, thanks to the many leg flag recorders who without their efforts the data set collected would be far less valuable.

Jon Coleman 12/12/2021

Please check it out this interesting Link.

Robert Bush has been working with Andrew Hunter from Birdlife producing an article about Moreton Bay as an important Ramsar site, it also promotes some of the work of the QWSG.

The Flyway Network posted the article and the link is here should you wish to share. <https://www.eaaflyway.net/importance-of-moreton-bay-to-far-eastern-curlew/>

It is part of the push to involve international players in the Toondah Harbour Campaign.

Report on Great Sandy Marine Park Shorebird Banding Expedition: January 21st to 23rd 2022



Image: Bar-tailed Godwit 074-46001, leg flag HNA, banded as an Adult Female on 21st January 2022 at O'Regan's Creek, Toogoom near Hervey Bay, Queensland and ready for release,

REPORT PREPARED BY JONATHAN T. COLEMAN & ROBERT A. BUSH ON BEHALF OF THE QUEENSLAND WADER STUDY GROUP (QWSG).

Introduction

In 2021 the Queensland Wader Study Group were successful recipients of a Queensland State Community Sustainability Action Grant to investigate shorebirds numbers, movements and interconnectivity between the Bowling Green, Great Sandy and Moreton Bay Ramsar sites. The funding provided was to assist with aerial surveys and ground counts of shorebirds in Bowling Green NQ, and catching, leg flagging and satellite tracking of shorebirds in both Great Sandy and Moreton Bay Marine Parks.

This provisional report provides an update on the planned expedition to Great Sandy Ramsar site to conduct shorebird banding and fit platform terminal transmitters to birds for monitoring of local movements. A prior visit to survey potential catching sites was made in early 2021 but catching was delayed as a result of Covid restrictions. Further surveys were conducted using volunteers from the QWSG counter network in January 2021 and the expedition was scheduled for Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd inclusive with catching proposed at three key shorebird locations during this time.

Locations visited and outcomes

Three locations were visited on this expedition; O'Regan's Creek at Toogoom, Maaroom and Boonooroo, all long term and well monitored high tide shorebird roost sites in the area. Figure 1 shows the locations of these sites in relation to Maryborough. In total 136 shorebirds were caught and leg flagged over the three days.

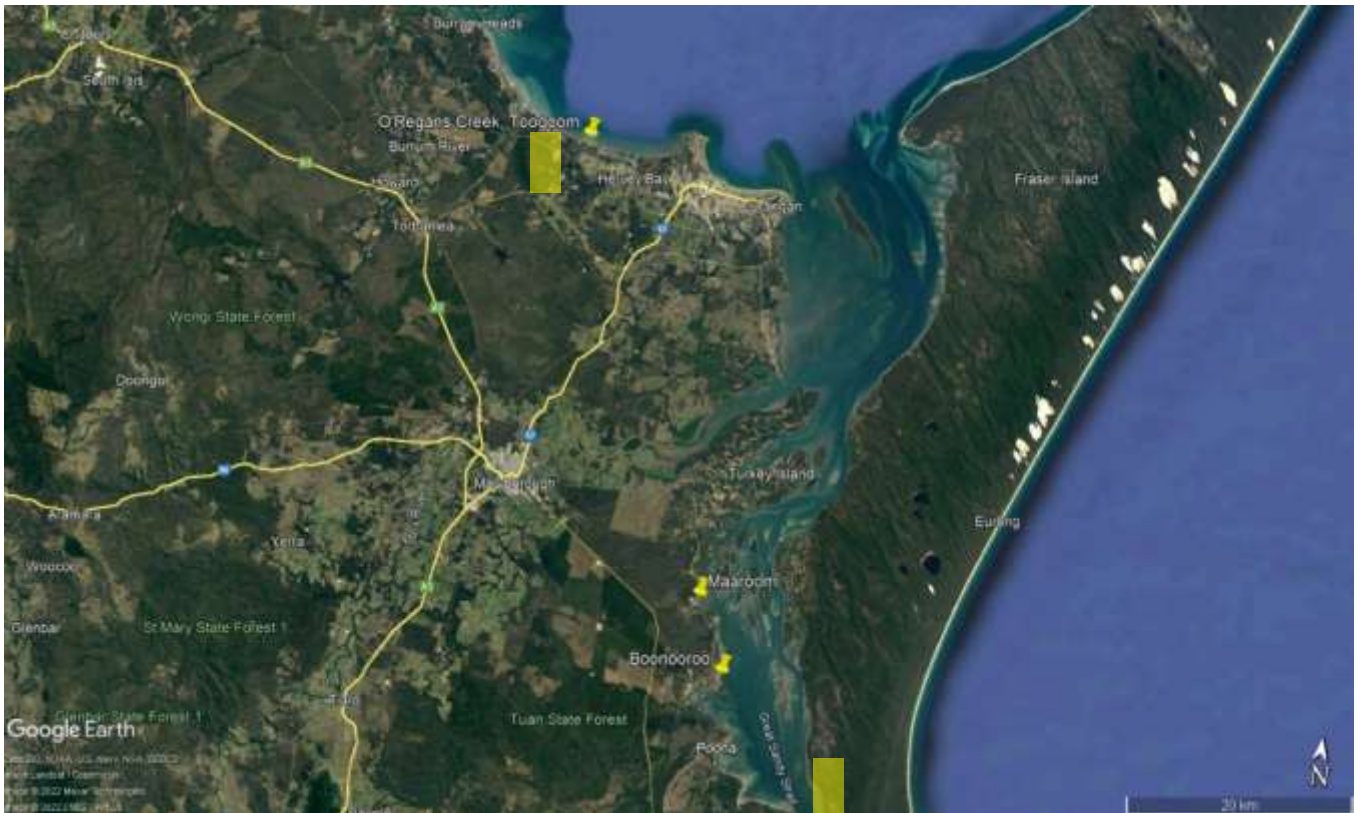


Figure 1: Catching Locations 21st January to 23rd January 2022 (the three sites are shown as yellow pins)



Setting Cannon Nets at O'Regan's Creek



Roosting Shorebirds at O'Regan's Creek



Low tide at O'Regan's Creek with mudflats exposed



Three-hour post High Tide at O'Regan's Creek

O'Regan's Creek, Toogoom: 21st January 2022

This location was sampled on Friday 21st January with nets set at the high tide roost site near to the mouth of O'Regan's Creek. High tide was 3.7m at 11:04 and a catch was made at 09:30 with 90 birds of a range of species caught (Table 1). The site is a sandy beach, to the west of Hervey Bay with extensive exposed flats at low tide on which birds feed.

Species Caught	Number caught and banded
Australian Tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>)	2
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	29 (1 PTT fitted)
Great Knot (<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>)	41
Greater Sandplover (<i>Charadrius leschenaulti</i>)	14
Lesser Sandplover (<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>)	2
Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)	1
Pied Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>)	1

Table 1: Shorebirds caught and banded at the O'Regan's Creek Shorebird Roost

In addition to leg flagging, one Bar-tailed Godwit was fitted with a PTT to allow ongoing monitoring of foraging range and roost sites used by the individual.

Boonooroo: 22nd January 2022



Setting nets at Boonooroo



Shorebirds coming into roost at Boonooroo



Low tide at Boonooroo



High Tide at Boonooroo

This location was sampled on Saturday 22nd January with nets set at the high tide roost site at the end of Adair Street. High tide was 2.1m at 12:18 with a catch made at 10:00. Due to excessive disturbance by a local dog chasing shorebirds on the beach, the catch was disappointingly small with only 46 birds captured (Table 2).

Species Caught	Number caught and banded
Greater Sandplover (<i>Charadrius leschenaulti</i>)	28
Lesser Sandplover (<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>)	12
Red-necked Stint (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)	6

Table 2: Shorebirds caught and banded at the Boonooroo Shorebird Roost

The site is a mixture of sand banks, exposed mud and shingle interspersed with areas of mangroves accommodating both feeding birds and several high tide roost locations.

Maaroom: 23rd January 2022

An attempt to sample this location was made on Sunday 23rd January with nets set at the roost site ahead of a 3.2m tide at 13:08. Unfortunately, poor weather as birds were arriving meant the majority of the anticipated 2,500 birds did not arrive at the roost. A mixed flock of shorebirds landed at the roost site but did not settle and left well before high tide presumably for a site more sheltered from the strong winds. A return visit this season will be made to sample this site and attach additional PTTs.



Setting nets at Maaroom



Birds coming to roost at Maaroom



Low tide at Maaroom

Approaching High tide at Maaroom

Early Leg Flag Resightings and Transmitter Movements.

In the first few days since the banding was completed there have already been 15 reports of leg flagged individual birds back at the O'Regan's Creek roost site and one record of a Greater Sandplover from that site at Urangan, some 15km East the following day.

In addition, figure 2 shows the satellite tracking of Bar-tailed Godwit HND, fitted with a PTT on Friday 21st January with all movements to 25th January presented. The mapped movement plots show quite extensive movement along the Fraser coast. As more data is collected this information will be subject to statistical verification but does give an indication for the first time how Bar-tailed Godwits use the roosting and feeding sites in the Great Sandy region



Figure 2: Satellite positions (filtered) for Bar-tailed Godwit HND from 21st to 14th February 2022.

Attendees

The expedition was attended by 27 individuals over the course of the weekend. Those included QWSG volunteers from Brisbane and the local area, representatives from the University of Queensland and Newcastle University, licensed bird banders from Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory and a film crew from Flyway Productions who recorded the activities for inclusion in an international documentary that is being produced to highlight conservation initiatives aimed at arresting shorebird declines worldwide.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge the support of the Queensland State Government through the award of a Queensland State Community Sustainability Action Grant which has made these initial visits to Great Sandy Marine Park possible. They also provided the relevant permits to conduct field work and funding for PTTs. Queensland Wader Study Group supplied the leg flags and most of the volunteers with the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme providing the bands used in this research.

Finally, without the volunteers, who came from the local community, from Brisbane and some from Canberra and Newcastle, fieldwork of this nature would be impossible so we acknowledge their time most of all. In particular, Cecile Espigole and Will Price who conducted a lot of the early surveys to find where birds were ahead of the weekend, for this we are grateful.

Next Steps

The financial support for this survey has not only allowed full assessments of the locations used for catching in this expedition, but has also helped set in place a template for future ongoing integrated shorebird monitoring, similar to that in Moreton Bay, which will continue for the foreseeable future. The enthusiasm shown by local birdwatchers and shorebird counters will ensure the success of this program.

With no catch conducted at Maaroom a further visit to this site is being scheduled for February in the hope of a successful catch. Planning will then commence for further visits commencing in the 2022/2023 shorebird season.

How We're Saving Wader Wonderlands from Destruction across the World

Birdlife 10 November 2021



Many birds – particularly shorebirds – depend on coastal wetlands during migration, but these essential habitats face a panoply of threats that BirdLife International is determined to address'

Imagine driving a car on a long-distance road trip. Your fuel tank starts full, but then runs low. No worries: you'll refill at the next available gas station. Chugging towards those much-needed pumps, however, you find the station is closed. You must eke out the remaining fuel for another few hours. And if the tank runs dry, your journey is over.

Welcome to the life of a Far Eastern Curlew (Endangered), the world's largest shorebird. The survival of this leggy, dramatically long-billed migratory marvel depends on an unbroken chain of wetland 'service stations' lining the coasts of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway – yet it increasingly encounters concrete wastelands where food-rich mudflats used to be. Its population has crashed by 81% in three decades.

To the untrained human eye – or that of an entrepreneurial developer – habitats such as tidal mudflats and salt marshes may seem featureless, devoid of life and ripe for reclamation. To millions of waterbirds worldwide, however, they are vital feeding stations – filled with energy-packed molluscs and worms, plus essential fatty acids – that power perilous migrations.

“Coastal wetlands are essential for birds to rest and refuel before continuing their gruelling, long-distance marathon,” explains Barend van Gernerden (BirdLife's Global Flyways Programme Co-ordinator).

Home to millions

This is true along each of the eight major migratory bird flyways identified worldwide, which for millennia have connected boreal breeding grounds with southern hemisphere wintering quarters. The numbers of birds involved emphasise their importance. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway serves an astounding 50 million migratory waterbirds, including Far Eastern Curlew and Great Knot (Endangered), at 900 internationally important wetlands across 22 countries.

In the Americas, up to 1.3 million migratory shorebirds gather in Suriname and the Bay of Panama, as do 1.1 million in Alaska's Copper River Delta. Despite a 68% decline from 1982–2005, perhaps two million Semipalmated Sandpipers (Near Threatened) – three-quarters of the world total – assemble in Canada's Bay of Fundy, drawn by seasonally high densities of crustaceans that fuel a 3,000-km non-stop flight to South America.

The world's largest tidal mudflats, Europe's Wadden Sea, nourish 12 million migratory waterbirds, including almost all the world's 'dark-bellied' Brent Geese. On Ukraine's Black Sea coast, Sivash provides the key stopover point for Broad-billed Sandpiper: almost one-third of its western population may pause there. Research into the body fat levels of this stripy-headed wader suggests that southbound autumn migrants take migration to the wire, building up just enough fat to travel 1,300 km non-stop from Poland's Baltic coast to Sivash. For its strategy to succeed, Broad-billed Sandpipers rely on Sivash's brackish lagoons and mudflats remaining intact. Should they – or other wetland stopovers – be destroyed or become degraded, the waders risk death.



Lack of Horseshoe Crab eggs at Delaware Bay, USA has caused a 75% slump in *rufa* Red Knots in the past 15 years © Gregory Breese, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Nowhere to go

The tragic case of Great Knot exemplifies what happens when things go wrong. In the 2000s, the Republic of Korea reclaimed 400 km² of Yellow Sea mudflats at Saemangeum by building the world's longest seawall. Ninety thousand exhausted migrants arrived where the estuary should have been – but found neither habitat nor food. Unable to refuel, they died in transit. Removing this food-rich stopover for migrating Great Knot reduced the species' global population by 20–30%. In 2010, Great Knot was catapulted from Least Concern to Vulnerable, then up listed to Endangered in 2015.

One eighth of the world population of the closely-related Red Knot (Near Threatened) uses the same flyway, so these birds run a similar gauntlet. But it is the subspecies *rufa*, journeying along the eastern seaboard of the Americas from the Arctic to Tierra del Fuego, that has most dramatically suffered unintended consequences of human enterprise. Its population has slumped by 75% in 15 years because of problems at a single site, Delaware Bay (USA). Unlike Saemangeum, its habitat remains intact – but there is no longer enough food. Red Knots have long timed their spring arrival to feast on Horseshoe Crab eggs. But the crabs have been so overharvested that the food source has expired. With insufficient energy to fly the final 3,000 km to Canadian breeding grounds, it was game over.

“Coastal wetlands,” van Gernerden emphasises, “are a lifeline for hundreds of species that migrate through them every year.” But as the two species of knot demonstrate, this lifeline is fraying. The tension between avian need and human greed renders coastal wetlands, according to van Gernerden, “one of the world's most threatened habitats, devastated by pollution, disturbance, drainage and development projects – and disappearing or being degraded worldwide.” Things will worsen with climate change: modelling suggests that a 2°C rise would impact four out of five US sample sites, destroying 20–70% of their intertidal habitat. Vanishing habitat.

Globally, one sixth of mudflats (more than 20,000 km²) disappeared from 1984 to 2016. In the Yellow Sea, up to 65% of intertidal habitats has been lost in 50 years, vast muddy expanses reclaimed for agriculture, aquaculture or infrastructure. The difficulties many migratory birds face in completing annual migrations, van Gernerden says, are “leading to population collapses, pushing a suite of species towards extinction”. Moreover, this tragedy affects not just birds, but people too, given the importance of coastal wetlands in sequestering carbon and reducing flood risk through buffering wave energy.

Accordingly, coastal wetlands need urgent, intensive attention. “BirdLife is working with local communities across the world to protect and restore unique habitats,” van Gernerden explains. “The voices of local users help show how valuable healthy coastal wetlands are.”

Examples from the BirdLife Partnership are wide-ranging. The Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BirdLife Partner), with support from BirdLife Species Champion Zeiss, is working with local conservation groups to protect working wetlands important for shorebirds such as Spotted Greenshank (Endangered). Audubon (BirdLife in the USA) has restored tidal marshland at San Pablo Bay, California, helping migratory shorebirds such as Willet as well as Black Rail (Endangered). BirdLife Cyprus has removed invasive reeds and created new pools to restore Akrotiri Marsh, a key breeding site for the migratory Ferruginous Duck (Near Threatened). Having worked on 70-plus coastal habitat creation projects in the UK, RSPB (BirdLife Partner) has consolidated its experience into a ‘sustainable shores’ action plan now being brought to a wider audience.

Tropical mangrove forests often shelter open coastal wetland habitats and guard communities against rising sea levels, so receive ample BirdLife attention. In Nigeria, BirdLife is funding a local women's charity to promote mangrove agroforestry, thereby sustaining livelihoods and stabilising the coast. In Mexico, Pronatura (BirdLife Partner) has worked with villagers for 15 years to restore mangroves. Similar BirdLife initiatives have protected mangroves, and thereby helped both birds and people, in the Caribbean, Panama, Palau and Samoa.

Protecting wetlands globally

Site-based conservation is key, clearly, but BirdLife goes further. “We are also working with governments and businesses to ensure development projects are located out of harm's way,” van Gernerden says. Again, examples are numerous. In Montenegro, CZIP (BirdLife Partner) successfully blocked construction at Ulcini Salina, persuading the government to protect nationally important salt pans instead. In Turkey, Doğa (BirdLife Partner) launched a successful legal challenge against construction of a ‘mega-bridge’ at Izmir Bay, where a tenth of the world population of Greater Flamingo comes to breed. SPEA (BirdLife Partner) is fighting the Portuguese government's decision to construct an airport on the Tagus Estuary, winter home to 70,000 Black-tailed Godwits (Near Threatened).



BANCA (BirdLife in Myanmar) is helping local people to develop more sustainable fishing practices to protect the Gulf of Mottama © BANCA

In the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, BirdLife Partner Nature Society (Singapore) secured formal Government protection of mudflats and mangroves at Kranji-Mandai, thereby helping migratory Chinese Egrets (Vulnerable). In 2020, years of effort by BANCA (BirdLife in Myanmar) successfully quadrupled the protected area of mudflats in the Gulf of Mottama to 1,610 km². Alongside restoring habitat at Geum Estuary, the Republic of Korea's most important wetland following the destruction of Saemangeum and a migratory haven for 5,000 Far Eastern Curlew, the BirdLife Partnership helped South Korean authorities secure the tidal flats' designation as a World Heritage Site earlier this year. "BirdLife has been extremely influential in guiding governments to take action," van Gernerden underlines.

This is all great news, but the chain of sites that forms a flyway is only ever as strong as its weakest link. "The loss of a wetland in one country directly affects the number of birds in other nations," van Gernerden explains. Sadly, the spectre of development looms over wetlands worldwide. Two particularly worrying current examples come from opposite ends of the planet. Canada's Fraser River Delta, the vital final northbound stopover for most of the world's Western Sandpipers, is threatened by a proposed massive expansion of a freight terminal. In Australia, meanwhile, 3,000 wintering Far Eastern Curlews are imperilled by plans for a marina and apartment complex at Moreton Bay.

In both developments, BirdLife Partners are on the case. "Through pooling the experience, capacity and influence of our global Partnership," van Gernerden says, "we are uniting countries along all the world's major migration routes, ensuring birds have a linked chain of safe havens throughout their journeys." The world's coastal wetlands and their migratory waders – whether leggy and long-billed or otherwise equipped – need BirdLife's help. And that means yours too.

ONE SIXTH of mudflats have disappeared globally from 1984 to 2016!

The Overlooked Southeast Asian Wetlands in need of Urgent Action

BirdLife 1 NOVEMBER 2021



Mudflats drained, mangroves cut down... unless we act fast, some of Southeast Asia's most vital shorebird havens could soon be lost forever. A new BirdLife study sheds light on key sites that had fallen through the knowledge gaps.

Every year, over 200 species of waterbird take off from their breeding grounds across the tundra, marshes and frozen forests of northern Asia, bound to spend the winter in the balmy climates of Australia and New Zealand. Along the way, the diverse flocks converge upon the coastal wetlands of Southeast Asia to refuel on the shoreline's bountiful worms and molluscs. These vital habitats form the heart of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway – one of the world's major bird migration flight paths. Protecting these sites is therefore a conservation priority – but what has been achieved so far?

A new paper published in the journal *Oryx*, written by BirdLife and several of our national Partners, sheds light on the scale of the challenge – not least, the large gaps in basic ecological knowledge of shorebirds in the region, including where the most important sites are found. These knowledge gaps have impeded efforts to protect the most important wetlands for threatened species.

Even when important sites have been identified, action has not necessarily been taken. For instance, while 180 Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) across Southeast Asia contain coastal wetlands, only a small number are actually legally protected. Meanwhile, several potentially important sites for migratory waterbirds remain to be studied, and ongoing research such as satellite tracking has uncovered areas of wetland that hold threatened species, but which are entirely undocumented.



Malaysia's Penang Coast – as yet unprotected – is a vital habitat for the Great Knot (Endangered)
© Nelson Khor

“Few – if any – of the most important sites for shorebirds – the Philippines’ Manila Bay, Vietnam’s Mekong Delta or Peninsular Malaysia’s Penang coast – are protected areas at the moment. Many of these sites are today immediately imperilled by development and may be lost in a few years if nothing is done,” said Ding Li Yong, BirdLife’s regional coordinator for migratory species conservation, and a co-author of the paper.

Coastal development and land reclamation are currently the most concerning threats, the authors noted. “Here in Malaysia, our research has identified the northern coast of mainland Penang State to be exceptionally important to shorebirds, including the Spotted Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer* – Endangered),” says Chin-Aik Yeap, conservation manager at the Malaysian Nature Society (BirdLife Partner), and a co-author of the paper. “However, the proposed coastal aquaculture project planned here will threaten large parts of this Important Bird & Biodiversity Area, as mangroves will be cut down.”

Nonetheless, the authors conclude that there are excellent grassroot models for migratory waterbird conservation in Southeast Asia. One of these is the Pak Thale Nature Reserve, an initiative led by the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BirdLife Partner) to establish a protected area for threatened shorebirds such as the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* (Critically Endangered). Under this initiative, traditional salt pans – an important roosting and feeding habitat for shorebirds – are preserved and carefully managed. Meanwhile, while local people and the government are brought together to create conservation groups and sustainable livelihoods.



The careful management of traditional salt pans in Pak Thale Nature Reserve, Thailand, supports a thriving variety of shorebirds © Ayuwat Jearwattananok

While there is considerable potential to protect Southeast Asian wetlands, there is a fast-narrowing window of opportunity to mobilise conservation resources and scale up action. The recently announced Regional Flyway Initiative, led by the Asian Development Bank in collaboration with BirdLife and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, will hopefully mobilise resources at the scale needed to secure our shared coastal wetlands and the livelihoods of people who depend on them.

“The Asian Development Bank’s Regional Flyway Initiative offers us a critical lifeline to secure these wetlands. But we need to act fast, in the next few years, if possible,” says Gary Allport, BirdLife’s senior technical advisor.

Spotted Greenshank: on the Upturn

BirdLife - 12 NOVEMBER 2021



Spotted by BirdLife in Thailand: an exciting new project that aims to turn around the declines of one of the world's rarest – and most intriguing – shorebirds

It's the legs that first catch the eye. They're yellower than the name Spotted Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* might imply and an ideal length for loping through invertebrate-rich shallows in the upper Gulf of Thailand, on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Then its distinctively unusual upturned bill comes into view. BirdLife is now seeking to improve the future of this intriguing wader, through a Preventing Extinctions project supported by optics manufacturer Zeiss.

Spotted Greenshank is a worthy focus as it numbers "among the world's most threatened shorebirds," says Ding Li Yong, BirdLife's Flyways Co-ordinator for Asia. Classified as Endangered, perhaps fewer than 1,500 remain. Worse, its population decline is ongoing, driven principally by habitat loss and degradation at unprotected sites. Such threats are especially worrisome given that Spotted Greenshank's tightly confined distribution offers little safety net: it breeds solely in a small area neighbouring Russia's remote coast where, fascinatingly, it builds its own nests (a unique behaviour among shorebirds) in larch trees.

After using a small number of staging posts on their migration southwards, all the world's Spotted Greenshanks winter exclusively in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia. But even here the room for conservation manoeuvre is limited: "In winter, most of the known population appears largely concentrated in Thailand and Malaysia," Yong explains. Specifically, "the varied wetlands of the inner Gulf of Thailand form the world's most important wintering area," says Thattaya Bidayabha of Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST – BirdLife Partner). These may hold one-third of all Spotted Greenshanks, with two vital sites – Pak Thale Nature Reserve salt pans and Laem Phak Bia mudflats – hosting upwards of 100 individuals.

This pair of locations provides the fulcrum of a new BCST-led project, supported by BirdLife Asia. Building on five years of shorebird conservation efforts, including establishing a private nature reserve, BCST's Khwankhao Sinhaseni explains that the organisation envisions "significantly strengthening local interest and engagement in Spotted Greenshank conservation in particular, plus shorebird conservation more widely." This matters, Bidayabha adds, because "much of its habitat here remains unprotected."

A key, if challenging, aim involves forming new local conservation groups at one or more coastal wetlands. "They can be our guards," Sinhaseni says, "to protect greenshanks and address threats they face," such as illegal hunting using mist-nets. BCST will complement this by raising community awareness of the importance of 'working wetlands', such as salt pans, that benefit people and shorebirds alike. Plans include educational camps for children, a national shorebird photography competition and developing community-based enterprises such as selling salt-based spa products.

"We want local communities to be more aware of migratory shorebirds that connect us to other parts of Asia and need better protection," Sinhaseni says. Overall, she concludes, BCST aspires to "build long-term collaborations, even extending beyond the project's lifetime."



Spotted: the species' unusual nesting behaviour photographed in 2019 in Russia © Philipp Maleko

BCST also aims to address knowledge gaps in greenshank distribution and ecology that impede its conservation in Southeast Asia. Even despite BCST's recent extensive surveys, Bidayabha explains, "we know that wintering sites remain to be discovered along the Gulf of Thailand," so a key objective involves tracking them all down.

Doing so will inform "a model for habitat management that helps greenshanks and other globally threatened waterbirds," Sinhaseni explains. Beneficiaries will include the handful of Spoon-billed Sandpipers *Calidris pygmaea* (Critically Endangered) that winter here, plus large congregations of Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (Endangered) and Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* (Near Threatened), and smaller numbers of Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* (Endangered), Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* (Vulnerable) and Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* (Near Threatened).



BCST researchers conducting surveys at Pak Thale © BCST

Meanwhile, by “strengthening the conservation of Southeast Asia’s coastal wetlands,” Yong says, project activities will also help deliver monitoring, conservation, capacity-building and outreach priorities in BirdLife’s East Asian-Australasian Flyway Conservation Strategy.

Such a raft of anticipated benefits understandably caught the attention of Zeiss, which has previously supported BirdLife work on Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* (Endangered) in Morocco. “We are delighted to become a BirdLife Species Champion for Spotted Greenshank,” says Petra Kregelius-Schmidt, Zeiss. “Spotted Greenshank is another great example of a threatened migratory bird that needs urgent help, so we are pleased to support BirdLife’s vital research and conservation action to help protect it on its wintering grounds.”

On the muddy fringes of the Gulf of Thailand then, a classic BirdLife project is unfurling: one that focuses on a globally threatened bird, is led by a BirdLife Partner, supported by a committed Species Champion, underpinned by exciting field research, and is fully engaged with local communities as part of site-based conservation. The Spotted Greenshank’s fortunes, like its beak, are on the upturn.

\$3 Billion Wetland Conservation Project Launched for Birds, Nature & People

BirdLife - 14 OCTOBER 2021



Today, BirdLife announced an ambitious new collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership to protect wetlands along one of the world’s major bird migration routes.

Every year, some 50 million waterbirds of over 200 different species migrate to the opposite end of the earth, travelling along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway – one of the world’s eight major bird migration superhighways. Stretching from Siberia and Alaska to Australia and New Zealand, the flyway connects a chain of coastal wetlands spanning 20+ countries, providing vital habitats where shorebirds can stop to feed, rest and refuel before continuing on the next leg of their journey.

But these habitats don’t just benefit migratory birds. As well as hosting a thriving variety of other plants and animals, they also absorb vast amounts of carbon, helping to fight climate change. For the 200 million people that live in and around them, these wetlands are a lifeline. Every year, they protect the coast from the impacts of flooding, sea level rise and storm surges, and provide food, employment and recreation.

In the face of ongoing land reclamation, urbanisation and pollution, it is essential that these vital habitats and the services they provide are preserved – and this is a challenge that BirdLife is uniquely placed to tackle. With our globe-spanning Partnership structure, we have decades of experience linking together conservation organisations along flyways, working alongside local communities to develop solutions, and embedding nature conservation into a country’s government and economic frameworks.

Today, we have the historic opportunity to scale up our ongoing work thanks to the launch of the Regional Flyways Initiative: a partnership between the Asian Development Bank, BirdLife and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership to secure at least \$3 billion for wetlands conservation along this flyway. The initiative was launched at the Convention on Biological Diversity's Conference of the Parties in Kunming, China, where the world's nations are developing a new global framework to protect nature. It is the perfect example of the kind of all-encompassing approach needed in the coming decades.

"As we rebuild from the pandemic, we must seize the opportunity to secure a green, resilient, and inclusive future," says Masatsugu Asakawa, president of the Asian Development Bank. "Our Flyway-wide approach is a great example of how we can do this through strong international cooperation. The Asian Development Bank is proud to lead on efforts like this, with a blended approach that brings together effective public and private finance."



Local people also benefit from coastal wetlands, for example by earning a living through traditional clam-sifting
© Seocheon County

So, what will this look like? Initially, the initiative aims to focus on protecting 50 priority coastal wetlands along the flyway. Conservation and habitat restoration activities will be funded using an innovative blended financial model that will mobilise investments from multiple private foundations, government bodies and regional development banks, making sure nature is integrated into the financial structures of the region. The project will actively involve local communities in all stages of design and execution, making special efforts to include women, indigenous people, and youth.

A pilot project in Yancheng Wetlands, China shows the scale of success that can be achieved by this approach. When the Jiangsu Yancheng Wetlands Protection Project began, more than half of the wetlands had been destroyed or degraded by human threats such as urbanisation, pollution, poaching and invasive species. With financing from the Asian Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility, the project supported the protection and management of two nature reserves and two forest farms, and provided sustainable employment opportunities for over 2,900 people in the area, including nature-friendly farming, fishing and ecotourism. 45 square kilometres of wetlands were restored, allowing waterbird populations to skyrocket by 365% in the Rare Bird Nature Reserve core zone. Building on foundations laid by this project, in 2019 the Yancheng Wetlands were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage natural site in July 2019.

With this exciting new opportunity, the future is looking a lot brighter – and not for just for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Patricia Zurita, BirdLife's CEO, says: "With the planet at a tipping point from the biodiversity and climate emergencies, this type of innovative, integrated, large-scale and broad approach is commensurate to the challenges... the conservation and financial framework we are establishing in this initiative will be scaled up and capable of being applied to the planet's other important flyways."

"With the planet at a tipping point from the biodiversity and climate emergencies, this type of innovative, integrated, large-scale and broad approach is commensurate to the challenges... the conservation and financial framework we are establishing in this initiative will be scaled up and capable of being applied to the planet's other important flyways."

Patricia Zurita, BirdLife's CEO

Korean Shorebird Havens get World Heritage Status

Ding Li Yong, Flyways Coordinator, BirdLife Asia

BirdLife - 29 NOVEMBER 2021



Marking their vital importance to waterbirds and 'outstanding universal value', four key tidal mudflats in Korea have now been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site – the culmination of a huge conservation effort for recognition at the highest level.

Not far from the bustling city of Seochon, at the mouth of the Geum estuary in South Korea, is the relatively flat island of Yubu. Except for a small, hilly, wooded area, Yubu is surrounded by vast expanses of tidal flats. Each year, several thousand Eurasian Oystercatchers of the distinctive eastern form *osculans* congregate in a staggering spectacle on Yubu's shore – perhaps more than at any other wetland in eastern Asia.

Crossing to the mainland at Seochon, the ebbing of the tide exposes intertidal flats that stretch as far as the eye can see into the Yellow Sea (or West Sea as it is known in Korea). These support a sizeable percentage of the populations of two threatened shorebirds, Far Eastern Curlew and Great Knot (both Endangered), as well as a small but steady stream in migration times of two even rarer waders, Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Critically Endangered) and Spotted Greenshank (Endangered).

The estuary of the Geum River in Seochon county, including Yubu island, is one of four coastal wetlands inscribed in July this year by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Property. These sites also include well-known Suncheon Bay on the south coast, which hosts almost a third of the world population of Hooded Crane (Vulnerable), and the mudflats of Gochang and the Shinan archipelago.

The prestige that comes with UNESCO status not only embodies outstanding importance of a site for biodiversity, but also provides some of the best guarantees for good management and protection. UNESCO inscription of these four wetlands therefore marks an extremely significant milestone in the conservation of the critically important intertidal wetlands of the Yellow Sea, and confirms what the conservation community has been advocating for – that these wetlands are important at the international level.



The distinctive *osculans* form of Eurasian Oystercatcher is present in great numbers © Seocheon County

Tragic loss

Not that long ago, the wetlands of the Yellow Sea were far from secure. In 2006, South Korea took the controversial decision to dam and reclaim a vast area of estuarine intertidal flats at Saemangeum, about 20 km south of Yubu, to boost its ailing economy. At the time, Saemangeum was recognised as the top site in Korea for migratory shorebirds – it hosted almost 95,000 Great Knot, among hundreds of thousands of other waterbirds.

The tragic loss of Saemangeum displaced large numbers of migratory waterbirds and is believed to have hastened the decline of the Great Knot in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Elsewhere in South Korea and in China's provinces on the Yellow Sea, coastal wetlands were also increasingly being lost to aquaculture, development and the rapid expansion of infrastructure amid the region's economic boom.



A bittersweet image: Great Knots feeding at the former Saemangeum mudflats, now destroyed © GRID-Arendal / Flickr

More than 30 per cent of South Korea's intertidal flats were estimated to have disappeared between the 1980s and 2000s. And as more and more of Korea's wetlands gave way to reclamation in the years of rapid economic growth, it became increasingly critical to preserve what remained of these coastal hotspots around the Yellow Sea.

Heart of the flyway

Straddling the eastern coast of China and the Korean Peninsula, the Yellow Sea is, after all, the beating heart of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Many of the waterbirds migrating along the flyway depend on these critical wetlands to recuperate in one way or another, including virtually every threatened shorebird using this flyway.

Sitting on the north-eastern fringe of the Yellow Sea, South Korea's wetlands form an integral part of this coastal ecosystem. Although not as well-known as some of the sites in China, these ecosystems are nevertheless comparable in importance for migratory birds as many of China's sites, and ecologically they complement the Chinese wetlands.

In addition to being a vital staging ground for millions of waterbirds, South Korea's Yellow Sea coast is also where several threatened species breed, notably the Black-faced Spoonbill (Endangered), Chinese Egret and Saunders's Gull (both Vulnerable). Not to be forgotten is the population of Spotted Seal, designated by the Korean government as a Natural Monument by its Cultural Heritage Administration.

In 2015, the South Korean government made a bid for UNESCO recognition of several Yellow Sea wetland sites. The Korean World Heritage Promotion Team, led by Dr Moon Kyong-O, worked tirelessly to consult international stakeholders and lobby for support for the nominated sites. The team reached out to experts around the world, including BirdLife International, as well as our colleagues working in the Wadden Sea in western Europe – a UNESCO 'coast-scape' which parallels the Korean nomination in many ways.

The battle to protect

The road towards World Heritage Site inscription was not without setbacks. The nomination and consultation process raised many issues with the way wetland sites were to be managed and zoned, as well as questions on what made them outstanding for biodiversity at the international level. The coronavirus pandemic threw another spanner in the works, causing many conversations to be delayed. However, as the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee loomed, the international community and Korean stakeholders were quickly galvanised into action.

The Korean World Heritage Promotion team convened a technical panel of experts to look into the biological value of the four nominated sites, especially their migratory birds, in order to demonstrate to the World Heritage Committee how the site would meet its criteria for outstanding universal value. Meanwhile, members of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) were leading consultations with stakeholders and co-ordinating work to mobilise experts, bureaucrats, conservationists and local officials.

BirdLife International quickly got to work to assess data and how they met international criteria. The BirdLife Secretariat also worked hard with the EAAFP to mobilise the international conservation community for support. In total, 78 signatories were brought together, including representatives of no fewer than 33 BirdLife Partners.

The World Heritage inscription of the four South Korean sites as 'Getbol, Korean tidal flats' in July 2021 is a critical milestone in the work to protect these globally important wetlands. Beyond this, Getbol is also a matter of pride for South Korea, being its second natural property inscribed beside well-known Jeju Island. South Korea's President Moon Jae-In noted that this proud moment did not happen overnight and was a result of the "wisdom and sacrifice" of many people and "desperate protection" – a testament to the work of the conservation community.



Dunlin (foreground), Great Knot (centre) and Bar-tailed Godwits (background) roost and feed in huge numbers on Korea's tidal mudflats © Getbol World Heritage Promotion Team

Work goes on

However, the inscription of Getbol is only the beginning of a wider, encouraging effort by the three countries to secure the Yellow Sea's wetlands. China is building momentum on its work to nominate more than 14 new wetland sites on its coast for World Heritage status. "The Korean Getbol inscription complements the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I) World Heritage Site listed in 2019," said Doug Watkins, Chief Executive of EAAFP. "It will strengthen international collaboration, particularly in the vision of transboundary joint efforts with China and DPR Korea, to conserve the wetlands of the Yellow Sea region, an irreplaceable migration hub for migratory waterbirds shared by the 22 countries in the Flyway."

While celebrating this success, South Korea is now moving to the second phase of its nomination of World Heritage sites, which in time will expand the protected wetland estate in the country, including the vast mudflats around Ganghwa.

Efforts for wetland and biodiversity conservation are also gathering momentum in North Korea, which joined the Ramsar Convention just two years ago, and is now stepping up efforts to document its migratory waterbirds and strengthen protection of its wetlands. A series of World Heritage Sites of critical wetlands surrounding the entire Yellow Sea appears to be an increasing possibility, mirroring similar efforts in Europe's Wadden Sea.

Given the global importance of the wetlands in the Yellow Sea, it is critical now that this momentum for strengthening protection of these valuable intertidal flats is not lost. Above all, there is a rare window of opportunity for the three countries to work together to secure the future of a shared heritage of wetlands, migratory birds and the many ecosystem services that come alongside these fantastic habitats.

Count Programme by Linda Cross

King tides a few days before the count weekend, strong swells from ex-tropical cyclone Seth and extreme weather conditions along the Queensland coast producing unprecedented rainfalls in the south-east, and the spread of Omicron variant of Covid-19, did not fare well for the National Summer count on the weekend of 8 and 9 January 2022.

Regrettably, 43 sites were not counted due to the weather conditions and Covid restrictions. Of the 66 sites that were counted, most were completed on the day (8 January) or within a day or two of the actual count day. Burdekin River sites which were added to the count programme in the latter half of 2021 are counted by boat and could not be completed until 18 January due to unfavourable tide conditions on the actual count day. Noosa River, also surveyed by boat, was not completed until 24 January.

The 2022 National Summer count produced a total of 22,753 waders from 66 count sites.

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

Species	FNQ	CQ	GSS	SC	NMB	CMB	SMB	GC/TH	Totals 2022	Totals 2021
Bush Stone-curlew	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		1	1
Beach Stone-curlew	-	-	-	4	2	-	-		6	15
Pied Oystercatcher	187	2	1	9	19	196	191		605	855
Sooty Oystercatcher	-	-	2	3	1	1	-		7	10
Pied Stilt	38	6	-	3	172	52	63		334	487
Red-necked Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	4	-		4	65
Masked Lapwing	8	4	-	5	77	29	33		156	172
Red-kneed Dotterel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Pacific Golden Plover	13	57	18	59	3	380	36		566	977
Grey Plover	108	-	-	-	-	28	-		136	68
Red-capped Plover	6	7	17	27	55	265	70	NO	447	720
Lesser Sand Plover	152	25	26	-	104	801	157		1265	2130
Greater Sand Plover	36	5	150	-	-	53	10	C	254	415
Black-fronted Dotterel	-	1	-	-	2	4	-	O	7	6
Comb-crested Jacana	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	U	3	2
Eurasian Whimbrel	81	49	8	178	1	225	184	N	726	1138
Far Eastern Curlew	165	14	12	13	69	177	822	T	1272	2136
Bar-tailed Godwit	461	9	42	26	2100	1245	2294	S	6177	12172
Black-tailed Godwit	5	-	-	-	-	424	63		492	336
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	60	55		115	303
Great Knot	3337	-	75	-	218	312	120		4062	1379
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	4	3	-		7	21
Broad-billed Sandpiper	6	-	-	-	-	11	-		17	10

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	32	-	-	-	43	724	102		901	658
Curlew Sandpiper	49	-	6	-	-	1005	179		1239	1520
Red-necked Stint	126	10	89	-	326	1436	369		2356	5091
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	89
Latham's Snipe	-	-	-	-	24	-	-		24	2
Terek Sandpiper	324	-	-	-	-	-	39		363	81
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1	-
Wandering Tattler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	2
Grey-tailed Tattler	16	-	1	-	36	263	756		1072	1636
Marsh Sandpiper	2	-	-	-	2	34	27		65	42
Common Greenshank	13	-	-	-	1	13	45		72	145
Nordmann's Greenshank	1			-	-	-	-		1	-
Oriental Pratincole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	1
Unidentified Sand Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	8
Unidentified small wader	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	26
Unidentified med wader	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	1
Total Wader Species	23	13	13	10	21	26	20		32	33
Total Wader Numbers	5167	190	447	327	3261	7746	5615		22753	32720

In the table below are the regional counts for 2021 National Summer count for comparison.

Regional counts for 2021

National Summer Count	FNQ	CQ	GSS	SC	NMB	CMB	SMB	GC/TH	Totals 2021
Total Wader Numbers	103	270	7209	436	7231	10051	7333	87	32720

FNQ – Far North Queensland – Cairns and Cooktown and new sites in the Burdekin River area (9 sites).

No counts for 3 sites in the Burdekin River area.

CQ – Central Queensland –Yeppoon (3 sites). No counts for Bundaberg, Gladstone or Mackay.

GSS – Great Sandy Strait – Hervey Bay (3 sites). No counts for Tin Can Bay, Boonooroo or Maaroom.

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

NMB – North Moreton Bay – Redcliffe, Deception Bay, Bribie Island and Toorbul (19 sites). No counts for Moreton Island.

CMB – Central Moreton Bay – Port of Brisbane, Luggage Point, Kedron Brook and Pine River (13 sites). No counts for St. Helena Island and 2 other sites in Pine River area.

SMB – Southern Moreton Bay – Victoria Point, Thornlands, Cleveland, North Stradbroke Island, Wellington Point, Thorneside, Manly and Lytton (15 sites). No counts for 2 sites in the southern section.

GC/TH – Gold Coast and Tweed Heads NSW. No sites counted.

Not being able to count waders at major roosting sites on Moreton Island, St. Helena Island, Boonooroo and Maaroom have certainly been a contributing factor in the low overall count and are reflected in the total numbers.

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 counts for 13 species have been adjusted in South Moreton Bay (SMB) to reflect movement between the Port of Brisbane, Lytton No. 1 Claypan, Thorneside, Wellington Point, Cleveland, Thornlands and Victoria Point. It is important for all counters to be counting at the same time on the same day which would save having to adjust figures to reflect movement of waders between sites and to avoid double counting.

In the table, 22 migratory (1 less than last year) and 10 resident species (same as last year) were recorded during the summer count. Migratory waders accounted for 93% (same as last year) of the count. Of those, 29% were Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot count was 29% and Red-necked Stint was 11%. Resident wader numbers were 7% (same as last year) of the count with Pied Oystercatcher accounting for 38%, Red-capped Plover 28% and Pied Stilt 21% of the resident wader total. Central Moreton Bay sites recorded 34% of the total summer count followed by south Moreton Bay with 25% and Far North Queensland with nearly 23%.

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

Site	Date	Bar-tailed Godwit flock size	Juveniles in flock
Caboolture River mouth	19.11.21	105	4
Manly Harbour	16.11.21	454	<8
Manly Harbour	18.11.21	1241	>24
Port of Brisbane (BS4 pond)	21.11.21	35	2
Manly Harbour	24.11.21	194	12
Kakadu Beach Bribie Island	25.11.21	1505	6
Manly Harbour	27.11.21	1900	>20
Manly Harbour	29.11.21	1810	24

In addition to the juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit records, Arthur Keates, Andy Jensen, Kath Shurcliffe and Dave Houghton also recorded the following juveniles:

Site	Date	Species	Flock size	Juveniles in flock
Manly Harbour	16.11.21	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	124	>4
Manly Harbour	18.11.21	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	137	>5
Dohle's Rocks Road Pond	20.11.21	Pectoral Sandpiper	2	1 (or 1st winter)
Manly Harbour	29.11.21	Curlew Sandpiper	215	.4
Manly Harbour	29.11.21	Great Knot	112	>6
Manly Harbour	29.11.21	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	75	<2
Endeavour River Cooktown	05.12.21	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	26	7

The vagrant Nordmann's Greenshank that visited Cairns in early in 2021, and then disappeared in May the same year, has returned to the Cairns Esplanade. It was photographed by Paula Bowler on 16 December 2021 and confirmed by Adrian Walsh (who initially found it early 2021) on 19 December. The bird is still happily feeding along the Cairns Esplanade and was recorded on the National Summer count day (8 January).

The other vagrant (Semipalmated Sandpiper) that has attracted the attention of many birdwatchers since October 2021, is still being seen and recorded at Geoff Skinner Reserve in Wellington Point. However, depending on the height of the tide, the bird is also moving between other roost sites in southern Moreton Bay.

Other vagrants to our shores include 2 Pectoral Sandpiper at Dohle's Rocks Road Pond on 20.11.21 and 2 Asian Dowitcher at Mullins Creek Great Sandy Strait on and prior to 25.11.21

After reporting in the last newsletter, the low numbers for Grey Plover recorded at sites during the southward migration, I was keen to check the November and December counts. Boonooroo section 1 has recorded 25 of the species on 19.11.21, the Port of Brisbane complex count was 35 on 21.11.21 and Burdekin River 1 count was 65 on 22.11.21 increasing to 86 on 18.01.22. Both Boonooroo and the Port of Brisbane complex numbers for this species have declined during my time as count co-ordinator.

There have been a few counters commenting about breeding plumage for some species during the January count which will no doubt be more evident during the February and March counts. Please feel free to make those notes in the comments field alongside each species you count. I would also like to remind counters that Double-banded Plover could be arriving as I type this article, so please make a special effort to look through the smaller waders during your count.

Stilts, avocets, ducks, cormorants and waterbirds continue to be in low numbers along the coast which is almost certainly due to good rainfall in outback Queensland and inland Australia.

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 (378) on 09.01.22, Manly Harbour (131) on 20.11.21, Deception Bay claypan (112) on 11.12.21
 Lesser Sand Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (1,032) on 21.11.21 and (801) on 09.01.22
 Greater Sand Plover: O'Regan Creek Hervey Bay westside (150) on 09.01.22 and (115) on 20.11.21
 Eurasian Whimbrel: Toorbul (246) on 11.12.21, Lytton Claypan (203) on 11.12.21, Geoff Skinner Reserve (184) on 20.11.21
 Far Eastern Curlew: Boonooroo section 1 (698) on 11.12.21, Geoff Skinner Reserve (557) on 08.01.22, Lytton Claypan (366) on 12.12.21, Toorbul George Bishop Causeway (278) on 21.11.21
 Bar-tailed Godwit: Manly Harbour (2,280) on 03.01.22, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (2,100) on 09.01.22
 Black-tailed Godwit: Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve (424) on 08.01.22, Manly Harbour (63) on 31.01.22, Cairns Esplanade (16) on 11.12.21, Peter's Island north bank west Burdekin River area (10) on 22.11.21
 Ruddy Turnstone: Manly Harbour (72) on 14.01.22, Port of Brisbane complex (60) on 09.01.22
 Great Knot: Burdekin River 1 (2,890) on 18.01.22, Peter's Island north bank west Burdekin River area (1,820) on 22.11.21, Port of Brisbane complex (407) on 12.12.21, Maaroom (390) on 20.11.21
 Red Knot: Peters Island north west bank Burdekin area (200) on 22.11.21
 Broad-billed Sandpiper: Manly Harbour (11) on 23.01.22, Port of Brisbane complex (11) on 09.01.22, Burdekin River 5 (6) on 18.01.22
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: Port of Brisbane complex (1,678) on 21.11.21, Lytton No. 1 claypan (474) on 21.11.21
 Curlew Sandpiper: Port of Brisbane complex (1,847) on 21.11.21 and (996) on 09.01.22
 Red-necked Stint: Port of Brisbane complex (2,513) on 21.11.21, Geoff Skinner Reserve (1,748) on 11.12.21
 Latham's Snipe: Nathan Road Redcliffe (23) on 08.01.22 and (18) on 11.12.21
 Terek Sandpiper: Burdekin River Delta mangroves (500) on 22.11.21 and (320) on 18.01.22. Manly Harbour (84) on 16.12.21
 Common Sandpiper: Burdekin River 5 (5) on 01.01.22, Endeavour River mouth Cooktown (2) on 11.11.21, Port of Brisbane complex (1) on 09.01.22, Dohle's Rock's Road Pond (1) on 20.11.21
 Wandering Tattler: Wickham Point (1) on 18.11.21 and 03.12.21
 Grey-tailed Tattler: Port of Brisbane complex (1,013) on 21.11.21, Manly Harbour (802) on 03.01.22, Cassim Island (575) on 01.12.21
 Marsh Sandpiper: Maaroom (54) on 11.12.21, Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve (50) on 11.12.21
 Common Greenshank: West Geoff Skinner Reserve (26) on 08.01.22, Manly Harbour (23) on 14.01.22.

Breeding records:

Beach Stone-curlew: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (breeding behaviour) on 12.11.21.

Pied Oystercatcher: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (1 juvenile) on 05.12.21. Manly Harbour (possibly nesting) on 24.11.21 and (3 Immature) on 14.01.22 and 23.01.22.

Pied Stilt: Lytton No.1 claypan (1 chick <7 days old) on 08.01.22. Port of Brisbane complex (6 young on 21.11.21). Kianawah Road Wetland (5 juvenile) on 20.11.21. Manly Harbour (up to 2 dozen nests recorded) between 16.11.21 and 31.01.22 and (9 chicks and numerous juvenile) between 16.11.21 and 31.01.22.

Masked Lapwing: Maaroom (nest with 3 eggs) on 11.12.21. Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (2 chicks) on 05.12.21. Manly Harbour (possibly nesting) on 24.11.21.

Red-capped Plover: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (several juvenile) on 16.01.22. Manly Harbour (a pair of adults with 1 runner and a pair nesting) on 16.12.21, (4 immatures and 2 runners) on 09.12.21, (3 pair of adults each with 2 runners each) on 24.11.21, (1 chick) on 20.11.21 and (a pair of adults with 1 runner) on 18.11.21. Noosa River mouth sandbanks (2 nests with 2 eggs in each) on 09.12.21. Port of Brisbane complex (2 immatures) on 21.11.21.

We would like to remind members that the 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 email sightings to Jon Coleman (email address legflags@waders.org.au). You can also contact Jon, 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

Beach Stone-curlew: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (3) on 21.11.21, Noosa River mouth sandbanks (2) on 24.01.22, Maroochy River sand bar (2) on 07.01.22, Sandbank No. 1 Caloundra (2) 18.11.21
 Pied Oystercatcher: Port of Brisbane complex (184) on 09.01.22, Burdekin River 4 (148) on 01.01.22, Manly Harbour (139) on 31.01.22
 Sooty Oystercatcher: Wickham Point (3) on 09.01.22, Manly Harbour (2) on 25.01.22, Gable's Point Rocks Hervey Bay (2) on 08.01.22 and single birds recorded at Kakadu Beach Bribie Island, Port of Brisbane complex, Scarborough to Clontarf and Toorbul during December 2021 and January 2022
 Pied Stilt: Kedron Brook Wetlands (145) on 09.01.22
 Red-necked Avocet: Lytton No.1 claypan (596) on 20.11.21, Luggage Point (244) on 21.11.21 and Trustes Bay Tweed Heads (91) on 13.11.21
 Masked Lapwing: Redcliffe Airport north side (83) on 11.12.21, Nathan Rd Redcliffe (54) on 11.12.21
 Red-kneed Dotterel: Luggage Point (1) on 12.12.21, Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (1) on 11.12.21
 Red-capped Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (125) on 21.11.21, O'Regan Ck Hervey Bay westside (121) on 11.12.21, Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve (120) on 08.01.22, Luggage Point (60) on 12.12.21
 Black-fronted Dotterel: Kedron Brook Wetlands (4) on 12.12.21, Kianawah Road Wetland (4) on 11.12.21, Dohle's Rocks Road Pond (4) on 20.11.21
 Comb-crested Jacana: Nathan Road Redcliffe (1) and Nathan Road east Redcliffe (1) on 08.01.22 and Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (1) on 08.01.22

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

Magpie Goose: Port of Brisbane complex (107) on 21.11.21
 Wandering Whistling Duck: Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin (176) on 08.01.22
 Black Swan: Pelican Waters Lamerough Ck (116) on 09.01.22
 Pink-eared Duck: Nathan Road Redcliffe (1) on 08.01.22
 Pacific Black Duck: Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin (110) on 08.01.22
 Buff-banded Rail: Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (5 – 2 adults and 3 chicks) on 14.11.21, Luggage Point (3) on 12.12.21
 Spotless Crake: Luggage Point (2 heard in separate locations) on 09.01.22
 White-browed Crake: Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (2 heard) on 05.12.21
 Silver Gull: Port of Brisbane complex (720) on 12.12.21, Cairns Esplanade (205) on 11.12.21
 Australian Tern: Garnet's Lagoon 1 Susan River (214) on 21.11.21
 Lesser Crested Tern: Burdekin River 1 (9) on 18.01.21, Barron River (5) on 08.01.22
 Little Tern: Port of Brisbane complex (837) on 09.01.22, Burdekin River 1 (500) on 22.11.21
 Common Tern: Noosa River mouth sandbanks (1,503) on 09.12.21, Maroochy River sandbar (1,050) on 10.12.21
 White-winged Tern: Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve (15) on 08.01.22
 Black-necked Stork: Bishop's Marsh Toorbul (2 – male and female) on 08.01.22, Wunjunga Wetlands Burdekin (2) on 08.01.22, Toorbul George Bishop Causeway (1) on 08.01.22
 Little Black Cormorant: Noosa River mouth sandbanks (158) on 09.11.21, Ukerebagh Passage Tweed Heads (124) on 11.11.21, Deception Bay south (45 – usually large number for site) 20.11.21
 Great Cormorant: Port of Brisbane complex (32) on 12.12.21, Scarborough to Clontarf (5) on 07.01.22
 Australian White Ibis: Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (200) on 11.12.21
 Glossy Ibis: Nathan Road Redcliffe (18) on 11.12.21
 Pied Heron: Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (3 – 1 adult and 2 immature) on 11.01.22.
 Pacific Reef Heron: Port of Brisbane complex (3) on 09.01.22
 Australian Pelican: Endeavour River mouth Cooktown (1 – unusual to see pelicans here) on 11.11.21
 Wedge-tailed Eagle: Garnet's Lagoon 1 Susan River (3) on 11.12.21
 Australian Hobby: Manly Harbour (1) on 28.11.21
 Peregrine Falcon: Luggage Point (1 calidus – migratory spp. Known as northern or tundra type from northern hemisphere) on 09.01.22. To be submitted to BARC.

Although not normally associated with our wader counts, Gillie Matthew reported 85 Little Corella on the beach at Maroochy River north shore on 26.11.21. A most unusual sighting Gillie said.

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.

This will be the last wader watch article from myself, after more than 20 years of being involved with the leg flag re-sighting database side of QWSG operations, I have handed over those responsibilities to Dr Jon Coleman. Jon will now cover the whole spectrum of the leg flag procedure from catching through to recording of the re-sightings.

At this point in time there are close to 46,000 leg flag sightings recorded in the database, about 40,000 of which I have typed in on a computer keyboard, surprisingly my fingers do not seem to be any shorter than when I started!

I sincerely thank all of the people who have sent sightings in and ask them to keep up the good work.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen in QLD

A quantity of 685 green flag sightings have been added to the database since the last newsletter.

GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS

Bar-tailed Godwit

BVJ on flag – 5.12.21 – Kidds Karaka Manukau Harbour Auckland NZ – Tony Habraken
 FJK on flag – 11.11.21 – Miranda Firth of Thames N Z – Tansy Bliss
 FPU on flag – 13.11.21 – Tasman Bay Nelson Haven South Island N Z – Scott Butcher
 FPU on flag – 17.11.21 - Tasman Bay Nelson Haven South Island N Z – Peter Field
 FAN on flag – 8.1.22 – Catlins Lake South Island N Z – Peter Field

ORANGE (Victoria) leg flag sightings seen in QLD.

Great Knot

DBT on flag – 31.12.21 – Port of Brisbane – Penn Lloyd
 Plain flag – 15.11.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 Plain flag – 24.11.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 14.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Sheryl Keates
 Plain flag – 16.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain flag – 18.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 Plain flag – 7.1.22 – Thorneside – Arthur Keates & Frank Burch
 Plain flag – 10.1.22 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

OVERSEAS FLAGGED birds seen in QLD

BLACK over WHITE (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings

Curlew Sandpiper

Plain Flags & blue flag right upper – 15.11.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 Plain Flags & blue flag right upper – 24.11.21 & 18.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby

Great Knot

AA1 on white flag – 16.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 AA1 on white flag – 18.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 AA1 on white flag – 25.12.21 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 AA1 on white flag – 9.1.22 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter
 J62 on white flag – 16.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 J62 on white flag – 18.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby
 J62 on white flag – 10.1.22 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates
 T77 on white flag – 1.1.22 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry
 Plain flags – 28.11.21 – Mullens Creek Park Cooloola – Cecile Espigole

Terek Sandpiper

Plain flags – 3.12.21 – Maroom – Terry & Audrey Burgess

GREEN over BLUE (Jiangsu, China) leg flag sightings

Red-necked Stint

Plain flags – 14.11.21 – Barron River Cairns – Tim Gale

WHITE over BLUE (Taiwan, China) leg flag sightings

Terek Sandpiper

588 on white flag – 7.12.21 – Maaroom – Terry & Audrey Burgess

Curlew Sandpiper

6T on white flag – 9.1.22 – Geoff Skinner Reserve – Penn Lloyd

Lesser Sand Plover

A08 on flag – 21.11.21 – Port of Brisbane – Penn Lloyd

A08 on flag – 24.11.21 – Kakadu Beach – Terry Burgess

A08 on flag – 25.11.21 – Kakadu Beach – Linda & Phil Cross

A08 on flag – 5.12.21 – Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong

A08 on flag – 19.12.21 – Port of Brisbane – Penn Lloyd

A08 on flag – 26.12.21 – Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong

A08 on flag – 24.11.21 – Kakadu Beach – Terry & Audrey Burgess

BLUE (Hokkaido, Japan) leg flag sightings

Grey-tailed Tattler

Plain flag – 16.12.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Plain flag – 31.12.21 – Port of Brisbane – Penn Lloyd

Plain flag – 10.1.22 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

BLUE & WHITE (Torinoumi Japan) leg flag sightings

Grey-tailed Tattler

568 on blue flag – 10.1.22 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

H06 on blue flag – 10.1.22 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Engraved blue flag unread – 28.11.21 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Sheryl Keates

Engraved blue flag unread – 31.12.21 – Port of Brisbane – Penn Lloyd

Bar-tailed Godwit

C2 on blue flag – 25.12.21 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

C2 on blue flag – 10.1.22 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

Red-necked Stint

K95 on blue flag – 21.11.21 – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui

Pied Oystercatcher Yellow leg flag (2 digit) sightings

The following sightings of yellow flagged oystercatchers are not birds flagged in the northwest of 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.

Flagged in NSW

H1 on yellow flag – 11.11.21 – Tweed Entrance – Kathy Wilk

Wader ID Days

Wader ID days Toorbul

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

Wednesday 23 March 2022 at Toorbul 1.92m high tide at 13:20 Meeting time 12 noon

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

Wader ID Day Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island

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

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 25th November 2021

The Caboolture area only received a few showers in the 24 hours prior to this outing but with over a hundred milliliters of rain falling in Brisbane over the same period, it was no surprise to receive a couple of cancellations from prospective attendees. It was going to be a relatively quiet ID session with just 2 attendees registered for the day.

On our approach to Toorbul, a helicopter spraying for mosquitos was observed and we were fearful that birds would not be present at the Toorbul roost. Our fears proved to be correct. There were just 8 birds on the roost (2 Black Swan, 2 Pied Oystercatcher and 4 Australian Pelican). Weather conditions were dry, overcast, 91% humidity and a moderate wind from the north.

Other birds seen along the Toorbul Esplanade and the roost environs included 3 Pied Oystercatcher, 6, Masked Lapwing, numerous Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill and 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle (F/O).

We could see across the passage that there were a lot of birds on Kakadu Beach roost, so after 25 minutes had passed and consulting with the 2 attendees, we all decided to head over to Bribie Island to view the birds there.

The 4 of us arrived at Kakadu together just after 13:00 hours and after setting up in the northern bird hide the rain set in. At first it was light rain but then became moderate, continuing until just before we left at 15:00 hours.

An adult Buff-banded Rail with a droopy wing, came into the bird hide looking for food, and the other adult with 3 fluffy chicks came close to the hide feeding.

Among the flock of waders, a Lesser Sand Plover was sporting a white engraved flag (A08) over a blue flag on left tibia. This bird was banded in Wang-Gong, Chang-Hua County, Taiwan.

Birds seen at Kakadu roost and environs:

5 Buff-banded Rail (2 adults and 3 chicks), 3 Pied Oystercatcher, 5 Red-capped Plover, 23 Lesser Sand Plover, 41 Far Eastern Curlew, 1505 Bar-tailed Godwit (undercount and includes 6 juvenile), 27 Great Knot, 17 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 17 Red-necked Stint and 8 Silver Gull.

My thanks to Scott Pascoe for recording the numbers for the day.
Linda Cross.

Manly Boat Harbour Shorebird Roost Report 23 January 2022

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

Observers had good views of 17 species of migratory shorebirds and 4 species of resident shorebirds. While the species diversity was high, some species were present in small numbers, especially Red Knot (1), Red-necked Stint (4) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (6), while Far Eastern Curlew was absent. Eleven Broad-billed Sandpiper feeding busily provided the highlight of the day.

With migration to the breeding grounds nearing, several male Bar-tailed Godwit showed traces of breeding plumage and a Greater Sand Plover in near full breeding plumage stood out among a tight mixed flock. Of the resident species, several Pied Stilt were observed sitting on nests on the island and among the Pied Oystercatcher were 3 immature birds.

Most observers were able to see 2 Grey-tailed Tattler fitted with leg flags in Japan and a Great Knot and a Curlew Sandpiper sporting leg flags fitted at Chongming Is, China. 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:

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

Kakadu Beach Bribie Island Wader ID Report 30th January 2022

After advising the 3 other members who registered to join us for this outing that the start time would be delayed, we arrived with 1 member pulling into the carpark behind us and the other 2 were already waiting in the northern bird hide. Also in the bird hide was Michael Strong, who is the QWSG counter for the site, and he was conducting a bird count.

As it was a very high tide (2.56m) the birds were pushed up along the roost and spread out along the shoreline. Weather conditions were fine and dry with a south-east breeze, which saw the birds facing into the wind with their backs to the northern bird hide.

It was pleasing to see a single Sooty Oystercatcher roosting with the Pied Oystercatcher. A large flock of Bar-tailed Godwit was scanned many times for Black-tailed Godwit, but none could be found. Luckily, there were 2 Red Knot hiding with the Great Knot within the godwit flock, so diagnostic features could be explained to 2 of the attendees, along with 3 smaller wader species to challenge them.

Several green leg flags (banded in south-east Queensland) were observed (mostly on godwits) but only a few were recorded. The group observed 6 migratory, and 5 resident wader species.

Our thanks to Michael for conducting a count, with numbers recorded below:

1 Pacific Black Duck, 6 Chestnut Teal, 3 Buff-banded Rail, 1 Beach Stone-curlew, 20 Pied Oystercatcher, 1 Sooty Oystercatcher, 4 Masked Lapwing, 20 Red-capped Plover, 40 Lesser Sand Plover, 2 Far Eastern Curlew, c1,980 Bar-tailed Godwit, 172 Great Knot, 2 Red Knot, 28 Red-necked Stint, 84 Silver Gull, 3 Greater Crested Tern (includes 1 immature), 1 Little Pied Cormorant, 3 Australian Pied Cormorant, 2 Australian White Ibis, 2 Striated Heron (includes 1 juvenile), 2 Great Egret and 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle (juvenile F/O in the passage).

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

Linda Cross.

Manly Boat Harbour Shorebird Roost Report 13th February 2022

by Arthur Keates

The strong southerly wind and the morning sun were challenging factors in observing the 17 species of migratory shorebirds and 4 species of resident shorebirds. While the species diversity was high, some species were present in small numbers and no Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were seen. Two Broad-billed Sandpiper feeding busily with Curlew Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint enabled observers to compare the species.

With migration to the breeding grounds nearing, several male Bar-tailed Godwit and many of the Great Knot showed well advanced breeding plumage and even some Grey-tailed Tattler (one of the last species to migrate to the breeding grounds) showed traces of breeding plumage. In contrast, the Red Knot were all in non-breeding plumage. A Red-capped Plover chick of only 1-2 days old was seen adventurously running around under the watchful eye of the parents.

Although no overseas banded birds were found, green leg flags on several species fitted in south-east Queensland by QWSG's banding team were seen.

The following species were observed at the roost:

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

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



Birds Queensland

Separate membership is required.

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

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:
 Libby Anstis, Scott Barnes, Lucas, Ross, Kathryn and Ellena Bird
 Amanda Burns, Phoebe Donaldson, Tristan Howard Amelia Jensen,
 Andrew Jensen, Ana de Joux, Daniel Jones, Georgia Marler
 Gary Sands, Sandy Scarborough, Trevor Scott
 Samid Suliman, Kye Turnbull, Louise Williams

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!

This might be lost at the end of the newsletter, but please check it out.

Robert Bush has been working with Andrew Hunter from Birdlife to produce an article about Moreton Bay as an important Ramsar site, it also promotes some of the work of the QWSG.

The Flyway Network posted the article and the link is here should you wish to share. <https://www.eaaflyway.net/importance-of-moreton-bay-to-far-eastern-curlew/>

It is part of the push now to involve international players in the Toondah Harbour Campaign

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

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017	chairperson@waders.org.au
<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	Deirdre Chrzescjanski	
Jon Coleman	(07) 3299 2780	Peter Driscoll	0418 212 627
Paul Finn	0480 177 792	Andy Jensen	
Ross McMillan		Brad Woodworth	

<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 Andrew Thelander 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 **May 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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Count Activities – 2022

QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2022

Sat 5 Mar	2.39m at 11:21	
Sat 2 Apr	2.30m at 10:15	
Sat 30 Apr	2.16m at 09:07	Labour Day long weekend
Sat 28 May	2.01m at 07:55	

NO COUNT IN JUNE

Sat 16 Jul	1.90m at 11:31	National Winter Count
Sat 13 Aug	1.97m at 10:26	
Sat 10 Sep	2.03m at 09:24	
Sat 8 Oct	2.07m at 08:21	
Sat 5 Nov	2.06m at 07:15	
Sat 10 Dec	2.41m at 10:46	

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

Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2022

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	***** To be Confirmed
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	

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!

