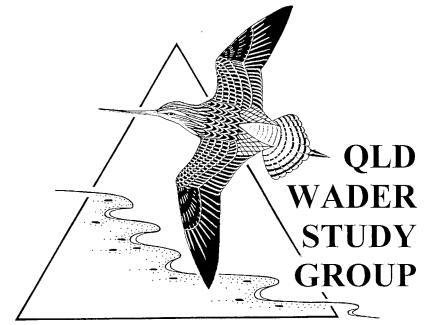


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 35

AUTUMN 2001

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

QWSG Chairperson's Report for 2000 (last year of the millennium!).

The Year 2000 was a quiet year but also a productive one. I was definitely in the back seat this year with several of the committee members taking initiatives and continuing with previous commitments and routine activities. Many of our routine activities have been flourishing.

The course on waders, which QWSG has run now for several years, took on a new look with a change of venue and different, shorter format. It proved very popular and just as useful as ever.

The wader identification days have taken on a significance as a means of not only introducing people to waders but to the Group and have become a part of the fabric of QWSG. After all, we don't have regular meetings and don't have a lot of opportunity to get to know one another. Anyone reading this who doesn't know what we do, will be pleased to learn that we are primarily about gathering good information to improve our understanding of waders and their conservation. Regular meetings for members has never been a priority, which has some disadvantages. Getting together in the field has always been our way of meeting and exchanging ideas.

The lack of cannon netting in recent times has probably detracted somewhat from the cohesiveness of the Group. The identification days are helping to offset this loss. The surveys in the Great Sandy Strait last year and again this year have also helped to renew contacts within the Group.

These voluntary surveys are extremely useful to QNPWS who are responsible for management of waders in the Great Sandy Strait, which is a Ramsar site (wetland of international importance). The AWSG and VWSG have also seen the value recently of intensive wader surveys to supply good information to Governments. In January 2000 the AWSG and South Australian Ornithologists Association jointly surveyed a large part of the South Australian coastline and in the last few months the VWSG mounted a similar exercise in Victoria. QWSG will continue to look for opportunities to mount similar expeditions since our regular count programme is still strongly biased towards Moreton Bay.

The Shorebird Surveys of the Gulf of Carpentaria, which QWSG ran have also been completed and report submitted to the Queensland and Federal Governments. We are hoping that the next step will be appropriate recognition of this area and the declaration of Ramsar status. Special signage is being developed through QWSG on wetland birds for the Carpentaria Shire Council to display at Normanton and Karumba. If you are up that way, look out for it.

The Eastern Curlew tracking studies have also been completed and manuscripts have been submitted for publication to scientific journals. The study by Paul Finn on feeding and local distribution of Eastern Curlews in Moreton Bay is also reaching its final stages and the survey work QWSG assisted with will appear in print soon in "The Stilt".

Our conservation efforts go undaunted. We have just made a submission on the draft State Coastal Management Plan and are participating on a committee to oversee the construction of a purpose built roost site by the Port of Brisbane Corporation.

However, our most significant conservation effort last year was the key role QWSG played in hopefully what will be the final resolution of long standing problems in the Pumicestone Passage over the loss and management of roost sites. With a unique level of understanding and cooperation between developer, State and Local Governments and groups such as ourselves, some very positive things have come about. The developer and consultants have been pro-active in finding solutions and have developed a mutual trust with QWSG. The State Government is pleased that it has helped to find a solution. Many of us we be following this issue with interest over the years to come. Not only will we learn more about how waders adapt to their environment but we should realise how well people from so-called different sides of the "fence" can pull together.

So much remains unsaid, even for what I started off calling a quiet year. I apologise for what I have neglected to acknowledge. Many thanks to all committee members. They are as dedicated as ever. I purposefully didn't mention any names because it has remained a collective effort. However, a warm welcome to Michelle Burford who joined the committee recently and comes well qualified as a marine biologist. Also, special thanks to all members and other people who show such an interest and help with what we do and share our affection for those doyens of the air.

On an even more positive note, a couple of members of our committee have now devised and are running a fascinating course on waders for grade 6 school children. They have developed special teaching aids, have the full cooperation of the school and from all reports have the keen attention of the kids. It must be the way to go!

Peter Driscoll, Chairperson QWSG.

QWSG Treasurer's Annual Report – Sheryl Keates

Statement of Income and Expenditure - Year Ending October 31, 2000

| <u>INCOME</u> | Totals for Year Nov 1 , 1998 to Oct 31, 1999 | Totals for Year Nov 1 , 1999 to Oct 31, 2000 |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Courses | 1,995.00 | 198.00 |
| Donations | 400.00 | 1,097.59 |
| Eastern Curlew Satellite Project | 14,547.00 | |
| Estate N Roberts gift | 32,842.20 | |
| Fundraising Income :- | | |
| Books/reports | 739.50 | 1,222.00 |
| CDs | 122.30 | 80.00 |
| Commission WPSQ books | 36.00 | 28.00 |
| Mugs | 16.00 | |
| Shirts | 466.00 | 1,145.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 208.77 | |
| Gov't contract | | 2,200.00 |
| Gulf Survey Project | 38,778.95 | |
| Interest :- | | |
| Savings | 1,080.43 | 1,428.81 |
| Term Deposit | | 770.38 |
| Membership:- | | |
| Discount | 201.00 | 171.00 |
| Family | 682.00 | 550.00 |
| Single | 1,457.00 | 1,218.00 |
| Miscellaneous income | | 472.40 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 74.98 | 180.00 |
| <u>TOTAL INCOME</u> | <u>\$ 93,647.13</u> | <u>\$ 10,761.18</u> |

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | Totals for Year Nov1 1998 to Oct 31, 1999 | Totals for Year Nov 1 1999 to Oct 31, 2000 |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Bank charges | 65.75 | 45.80 |
| Cannon Netting - operating | | 50.50 |
| Capital expenditure | | 1,255.49 |
| Courses expenses | 291.42 | |
| Eastern Curlew Satellite Project | 30,136.71 | 3,943.55 |
| Fundraising expenses:- | | |
| Books, reports | 374.70 | 180.00 |
| CDs | 165.15 | |
| Shirt costs | 120.00 | 1,320.00 |
| Gov't contract expenses | | 550.00 |
| GST Expenses | | 143.00 |
| Gulf survey expenses | 44,767.73 | 9,911.87 |
| Insurance/rego | 337.45 | 350.92 |
| Membership expenses | 282.68 | 193.17 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 134.74 | 838.12 |
| Newsletter expenses | 1,045.09 | 1,047.12 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 390.84 | 476.74 |
| Running costs | 57.15 | 12.00 |
| Stationery/postage/phone calls | \$230.56 | 512.36 |
| Wader Guide expenses | 19.95 | |
| <u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> | <u>\$ 78,419.92</u> | <u>\$ 20,830.64</u> |

RECONCILIATION:

Cash Book

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bal start of financial year | 56,866.54 | 72,105.75 |
| Add income for year | 93,647.13 | 10,761.18 |
| Subtotal | 150,513.67 | 82,866.93 |
| Add cancelled cheque | 12.00 | 25.40 |
| Subtotal | 150,525.67 | 82,892.33 |
| Less expenditure for year | 78,419.92 | 20,830.64 |
| <u>TOTAL FUNDS IN HAND</u> | <u>\$ 72,105.75</u> | <u>\$ 62,061.69</u> |

| Statement at | Oct 31, 1999 | Oct 31, 2000 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Balance shown: | | |
| Cash Management | 72,328.04 | 21,291.31 |
| Term Deposit | | 40,770.38 |
| Total | 72,328.04 | 62,061.69 |
| Less outstanding cheques | 394.29 | |
| Plus uncredited deposit | 172.00 | |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>\$ 72,105.75</u> | <u>\$ 62,061.69</u> |

| SUMMARY OF COMMITTED FUNDS | 31/10/99 | 31/10/2000 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| E.Curlew Satellite Project | 3,589.75 | - |
| Gulf Survey | 19,545.28 | 9,633.41 |
| Wader Guide (EPA grant) | 4,080.05 | 4,080.05 |
| <u>Total Committed Funds</u> | <u>\$ 27,215.08</u> | <u>\$ 13,713.46</u> |
| Balance to date | 72,093.75 | 62,061.69 |
| Less Committed Funds | 27,215.08 | 13,713.46 |
| <u>Total Uncommitted Funds</u> | <u>\$ 44,878.67</u> | <u>\$ 48,348.23</u> |

COUNT COORDINATOR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16TH JANUARY 2001

Count Programme

The year 2000 appeared busier than the previous year (well it certainly felt that way to me). I am sure others would agree with me.

Four new counters were introduced to the programme during the year. One is doing additional counts at the Toorbul roosts and the other three are counting in the Great Sandy Strait region. The latter 3 were recruited during the group's visits to survey the area. Information from River Heads, Maaroom and three sites at Boonooroo will greatly add to the data we are collecting on the shorebirds of this region. We now have 20,000 counts on the database, which is a great achievement and all past and present counters should be congratulated.

The group committed itself to survey the Great Sandy Strait region, and with the help of Steve Winderlich and Mark Burnham from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services we organised and conducted surveys in the region for Winter (July), Spring (October) 2000, and just completed Summer (January) 2001. Once again, the information obtained from these surveys will be a valuable addition to the groups database. I extend a sincere thanks to everyone who assisted with the surveys.

I also extend a sincere thanks to Joyce Harding and Peter Driscoll for entering the many count sheets from the count programme and GSS surveys.

Unfortunately some high tide roosts are still at risk of development and we will need to work hard on getting them permanently secured. One of the more recent examples is Pioneer River roost in Mackay. The Mackay City Council wants to turn it into a car park for 20,000 to 30,000 people visiting a planned entertainment centre adjoining the roost.

On a happier note, migratory shorebird signs have been made for high tide roosts that were mentioned in the Shorebird Management Plan prepared by Mary Maher and Associates, and hopefully will be put in place shortly. (See article in this newsletter)

Merchandise

Our merchandise has continued to sell well at meetings and outings.

Flag sightings database

We sincerely thank Peter Nichols for setting up the flag sightings database, and as Peter will be taking extended holidays we needed to look for someone to take over the job of entering the leg flag sightings. It was a logical choice that the other half of the Cross family (Phil) should take over this role as most of the sightings already come through to me. I thank Phil for taking over from Peter.

I look forward to another work filled 2001 with the group.

Linda Cross.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined since the last magazine was printed :

Bev Floyd, Lynne Robertson, Denise Wilson

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.

Estimates of shorebird populations in North America

To all who love shorebirds,

The Canadian Wildlife Service has just released its "Estimates of shorebird populations in North America" (Occasional Paper Number 104) authored by R.I.G. (Guy) Morrison (2001) and five other Canadian and American ornithologists. Remember that these numbers are best estimates. NA = North America.

1. Black-bellied Plover:- Global 498,000 with 200,000 in NA.
2. American Golden-Plover:- 150,000+
3. Pacific Golden-Plover:- Global population 125,000 with 16,000 in NA.
4. Snowy Plover:- Global 586,000 with 16,000 in NA.
5. Wilson's Plover:- 6000+
6. Common Ringed Plover:- Global 442,500 with less than 10,000? in NA.
7. Semipalmated Plover:- 150,000
8. Piping Plover:- 5913 with 2110 in Canada.
9. Killdeer:- 1,000,000+ with Canadian population estimate of 366,000. Size of Neotropical population is unknown.
10. Mountain Plover:- 9000 with 10 in Canada.
11. American Oystercatcher:- Global 58,850 with 8850 in NA and 4 in Canada.
12. Black Oystercatcher:- 8900
13. Black-necked Stilt:- Global 850,000+ with 150,000 in NA and 400 in Canada.
14. American Avocet:- 450,000 with 63,000 in Canada.
15. Greater Yellowlegs:- 100,000
16. Lesser Yellowlegs:- 500,000
17. Solitary Sandpiper:- 25,000
18. Willet:- 250,000 with 25,000 in Canada. Eastern nominate subspecies (*semipalmatus*) estimated at 90,000 and western interior subspecies (*inornatus*) at 160,000.
19. Wandering Tattler:- 10,000 with 5,000 in Canada.
20. Spotted Sandpiper:- 150,000
21. Upland Sandpiper:- 350,000 with 10,000 in Canada.
22. Eskimo Curlew:- Less than 50 if the species still survives. "Note: In my opinion, the Eskimo Curlew has been extinct for many years. Last specimen taken in Canada on 29 August 1932 in Labrador. Last photographed (one) in March and April 1962 near Galveston, Texas. Last specimen shot on 4 September 1963 in Barbados, West Indies. No 100% reliable sightings since the 1960s. Recent reports probably are juvenile Whimbrels with short bills or vagrant Little Curlews."
23. Whimbrel:- Global 797,000+ with 57,000 in NA.
24. Bristle-thighed Curlew:- 10,000. This species breeds in Alaska and winters in Oceania.
25. Long-billed Curlew:- 20,000. The Canadian breeding population is probably several thousand birds.
26. Hudsonian Godwit:- 50,000 with about 10,000 migrating through James Bay.
27. Bar-tailed Godwit:- Global 1,345,000 with 100,000 in NA.
28. Marbled Godwit:- 171,500. The Canadian breeding population is about 103,000 with the small James Bay population estimated at 1000 to 2000 birds.
29. Ruddy Turnstone:- Global 449,000 with 235,000 in NA.
30. Black Turnstone:- 80,000
31. Surfbird:- 70,000
32. Red Knot:- Global 1,290,000 with 400,000 in NA.
33. Sanderling:- Global 643,000 with 300,000 in NA.
34. Semipalmated Sandpiper:- 3,500,000
35. Western Sandpiper:- 3,500,000
36. Least Sandpiper:- 600,000
37. White-rumped Sandpiper:- 400,000
38. Baird's Sandpiper:- 300,000
39. Pectoral Sandpiper:- 400,000
40. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:- Global 166,000 with about 1000 using the NA Pacific coast south of Alaska.
41. Purple Sandpiper:- Global 65,000 with 15,000 in Canada.
42. Rock Sandpiper:- Global 200,000 with 150,000 in NA including 1000+ wintering in British Columbia.
43. Dunlin:- Global 3,934,000 with 1,525,000 in NA.
44. Stilt Sandpiper:- 200,000
45. Buff-breasted Sandpiper:- 15,000
46. Short-billed Dowitcher:- 320,000. Three well-marked subspecies with estimates of 110,000 for eastern nominate *griseus*, interior *hendersoni* about 60,000, and western *caurinus* about 150,000.
47. Long-billed Dowitcher:- 500,000

48. Common Snipe:- Global 26,750,000 with 2,000,000 in NA.
 49. American Woodcock:- 5,000,000 with 1,000,000 in Canada.
 50. Wilson's Phalarope:- 1,500,000 with 680,000 in Canada.
 51. Red-necked Phalarope:- Global 4,000,000 with 2,500,000 in NA.
 52. Red Phalarope:- 1,000,000

Four Additional Species:

1. Grey-tailed Tattler:- Confirmed breeding record for Alaska.
2. Red-necked Stint:- A few dozen breed in Alaska.
3. Curlew Sandpiper:- A few dozen breed in Alaska.
4. Ruff:- A few dozen breed in Alaska.

This 64 page report (Occasional Paper Number 104) is available from: Publications,
 Canadian Wildlife Service
 Environment Canada
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3
 (819) 997-1095 (819) 997-2756 (fax)
 cws-scf@ec.gc.ca
<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca>

Happy shorebirding,
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Foreword from Natural Heritage Summer 2001

In one of the driest continents on earth, the Federal Government is making a vital commitment to helping people who are taking care of our water.

Both at home and overseas, the Government is acting at all levels on issues that affect this precious resource, from leading the international policy debate, to providing funding for local Waterwatch groups.

Of course, in a country better known for its glorious beaches, inland waterways and wetlands don't get a lot of publicity. This issue of the Journal gives us a glimpse of the wealth of our waterways, and how Australians are conserving and restoring them with help from the Natural Heritage Trust.

Australia is leading an international effort to develop a permanent, comprehensive, multilateral framework for cooperation on migratory waterbird conservation in the Asia-Pacific region, by asking our Asian and Pacific neighbours to join with us in acting to protect the migratory waterbirds whose flight paths unite our nations.

As well, Australia is strongly committed to supporting wetland conservation and management at the international level under the Ramsar Convention and is actively supporting developing countries in our region to undertake conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources.

Australia's lead role is demonstrated by our active participation in the 7th Conference of Parties to the Convention where, with the agreement of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, Australia became the Oceania representative on the Ramsar Standing Committee for the next triennium, and an Australian was subsequently elected as the chair.

On 15 June 1999 Delmar Blasco, Secretary General of the Ramsar Bureau wrote of this appointment: "...the newly elected Standing Committee asked Australia to take on this important role, in recognition, I believe, of the leadership your country has shown to the Convention over many years." Mr Blasco also took the opportunity to congratulate Australia on the establishment of the New National Centre for Tropical Wetlands Research in Darwin.

Through the Natural Heritage Trust, the Federal Government is supporting community groups taking part in programs like Rivercare, Waterwatch, Fisheries Action, Murray-Darling 2001, and the National Wetlands Program, all of whom are contributing to a viable future for our inland waterways, and some of whom we are able to introduce to you through this issue of Natural Heritage.

While projects improving our waterways are an important feature of the

Trust, we urge community groups to get their applications in for any type of environmental or natural resource management project prior to 23 February 2001 to be eligible for funding under the 2001-2002 round.

This foreword was signed by Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment and Heritage and Warren Truss, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Great Sandy Strait Surveys by Linda Cross

Since my last report on the July 2000 survey in the great sandy strait region we have conducted two more in collaboration with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). The October (spring) 2000 and January (summer) 2001 surveys were conducted with the help of Queensland Wader Study members, QPWS staff, Birds Queensland (BQ) members and other helpers.

October's Survey

High tide roost counts took place on 21st of October, with a few low tide scan counts done on 21st and 22nd. Peter Driscoll was unavailable to conduct aerial counts for the survey. Weather conditions were again favourable for viewing and counting the waders.

Only 17 sites were counted, which is considerably less than some previous surveys. This along with other factors detailed below would certainly contribute to the low numbers. There were reports from six sites that the birds were unsettled (particularly the godwits), the raptors being one of the main causes. The continual disturbance resulted in the total bird count at four sites, and godwit numbers at one site being under estimated.

As with the July 2000 survey the Poona and Kauri Creek roosts could not be located and this also contributed to the count being under estimated. Bob James and Karyll Butler spent 5 hours the following day locating the Kauri Creek roost and correcting our outdated forestry map. Having found the roost Bob & Karyll were earmarked to count it on the next survey.

Four different coloured leg flags were sighted during the survey: -

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit seen with a white flag on right tibia (banded in New Zealand), seen by Andrew Geering, Margaret Bernard and Tim Thornton at Puthoo Creek, Fraser Island (21/10/00)
- 1 Red Knot with yellow flag on upper right leg (banded in Western Australia), seen by Andy Eacott and Phil Cross at Maaroom (21/10/00)
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag on upper right leg (banded in Victoria), seen by Suellen Redenbach at Adair St., Boonooroo (21/10/00) –
- 1 Great Knot with green flag on upper right leg (banded Moreton Bay, Qld) seen by Andy Eacott and Phil Cross at Tuan (21/10/00)
- 1 Red Knot with yellow flag on upper right leg seen by Ivell & Jim Whyte. (Probably same bird as 21/10/00) at Maaroom (22.10.00)

Other interesting sightings were: -

A Red-capped Plover juvenile was recorded at Mathiesen Homestead and a chick of the same species was recorded at the Cooloola roost.

1100 Great Knot at Mathiesen Homestead

105 Grey Plover at Inskip Point

January's Survey

In an effort to cover more sites for this survey a larger team of volunteers, and an additional boat were recruited for the job. A king tide a few days before the survey had the organiser, (myself) and Peter Driscoll somewhat concerned that the birds would be pushed well back from the roosts and we would be unable to locate them. After discussions with Peter an aerial reconnaissance on the day prior to the count was crucial to establish any new locations the birds might use. As suspected, Peter found birds in locations not normally seen and far more scattered. The tide had pushed them much further back in places that ground troops would not be able to access.

The wader identification day held on Saturday at Boonooroo saw the group chasing birds in an effort to see them. As the higher than normal tide pushed them off the Adair Street roost we moved to Boonooroo Point. This proved to be a good choice as a local property owner let us assemble under a large shady fig tree to escape the midday sun, where we had wonderful close views of a Beach-stone Curlew with other waders.

We awoke on Sunday 14th January to another perfect weather day for the count. Fingers were crossed hoping that the wind would not get too strong adding to the higher tide. Luck was on our side, and the eight-

inch drop on the tide from the previous day meant that hopefully most of the birds should be at the roosts. Peter was up in the air again in the ultra-light and in contact with some of the ground troops, who with the aid of UHF radios, could be directed to locations where the birds could be found.

A total of 30 sites were counted (13 more than the previous one). Thanks to Steve Winderlich and Mark Burnham from QPWS for locating and mapping the Poona Creek roost prior to the survey, which added to the count. The count from Kauri and Poona Creek roosts totaled 3045 waders. The count of these two sites missed on the previous two surveys would have accounted for a significant number of birds.

Although Eastern Curlew numbers appear low they will be boosted when we look at the figures from the aerial counts for the birds not located at the roosts.

Only one flagged bird was seen during the survey.

1 Great Knot with an orange leg flag, on upper right leg (banded in Victoria) seen by Arthur Keates at Mathiesen Homestead (14.1.01) –

Other interesting sightings: -

A Red-capped Plover nest with 3 eggs and 3 immature of the same species seen at the Cooloola roost.

5000 Bar-tailed Godwit at Moon Point North (Meereenyor Creek), Fraser Island

658 Eastern Curlew at Thangawan Creek (Lakins)

102 Common Greenshank at Poona Creek

984 Red-necked Stint at Thangawan Creek (Lakins)

1000 Lesser Sand Plover at Adair Street, Boonooroo

381 Red-capped Plover at Thangawan Creek (Lakins)

100 Terek Sandpiper at Toowoora Creek, Stewart Island

1 Common Sandpiper at Moon Creek, Fraser Island

8 Sanderling at Coongul Creek, Fraser Island

My sincere thanks to everyone for their assistance.

The participants for one, or both of the surveys listed below (I apologise for any omissions).

QWSG Members :- Jan Bedwell, John Bell, Margaret Bernard, Donald Bradley, Lesley Bradley, Jill Chamberlain, David Connolly, Dorothy Cosandy, Linda Cross, Phil Cross, Jill Denning, Barbara Dickson, Andy Eacott, David Edwards, Peter Driscoll, Paul Finn, Andrew Geering, Joyce Harding, Sandra Harding, Bob James, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, John Knight, David Milton, Suellen Redenbach, Tim Siggs, Tim Thornton, Ivell Whyte, Jim Whyte

QPWS staff :- Bill Alston, Kelly Biles, Mark Burnham, Sonia Fardell, Michael Ford, Col Lawton, Rod Hobson, Anne O'Dea, Ivan Thrash, Peter Tierney, Steve Winderlich

BQ Members :- Alex Bisgrove, Rob Kernot, Rob Stogdale

Other helpers :- Jim Adams, Ann Aitchison-Jones, Gary Brooks, Karyll Butler, Glen Hastie, Amelia Nielsen, Kelvin Nielsen, David Parks, Lynne Robertson, Shirley Rooke, Sol Thornton

Table of the results for the five surveys carried out so far.

| Species | Jan 2001 | Oct 2000 | July 2000 | Nov 1997 | Feb 1995 |
|------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Black-tailed Godwit | | | | 8 | 3 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 16525 | 11066 | 2818 | 13294 | 13359 |
| Whimbrel | 817 | 418 | 201 | 1227 | 1819 |
| Eastern Curlew | 2420 | 1355 | 1035 | 5259 | 4059 |
| Marsh Sandpiper | 14 | 28 | 4 | 55 | 25 |
| Common Greenshank | 313 | 342 | 2 | 363 | 432 |
| Terek Sandpiper | 195 | 45 | 8 | 576 | 234 |
| Common Sandpiper | 1 | | | | |
| Grey-tailed Tattler | 561 | 161 | 286 | 3036 | 1832 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 6 | 25 | 10 | 34 | 22 |
| Asian Dowitcher | | | | | 2 |
| Great Knot | 1131 | 1648 | 67 | 722 | 1522 |
| Red Knot | 9 | 126 | 22 | 67 | 269 |
| Sanderling | 9 | | | | |
| Red-necked Stint | 1533 | 416 | 107 | 1328 | 2298 |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 82 | 22 | | 161 | 109 |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 127 | 219 | 9 | 205 | 479 |
| Beach Stone-curlew | | | 2 | 3 | 3 |

| Species | Jan 2001 | Oct 2000 | July 2000 | Nov 1997 | Feb 1995 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pied Oystercatcher | 471 | 145 | 225 | 105 | 366 |
| Sooty Oystercatcher | 3 | | 1 | | |
| Black-winged Stilt | 18 | 53 | 207 | 53 | 234 |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 71 | 17 | 23 | 36 | 75 |
| Grey Plover | 67 | 208 | 5 | 67 | 222 |
| Red-capped Plover | 668 | 73 | 279 | 137 | 735 |
| Double-banded Plover | | | 41 | | 6 |
| Lesser Sand Plover | 1965 | 475 | 89 | 734 | 1630 |
| Greater Sand Plover | 5 | 57 | 12 | 323 | 280 |
| Black-fronted Dotterel | | 3 | 12 | | 2 |
| Red-kneed Dotterel | | 2 | | | |
| Masked Lapwing | 40 | 33 | 45 | 11 | 37 |
| | | | | | |
| Total migratory waders | 25851 | 16628 | 4739 | 27495 | 28671 |
| Total resident waders | 1200 | 309 | 771 | 315 | 1377 |
| Total waders | 27051 | 16937 | 5510 | 27810 | 30048 |
| | | | | | |
| Total migratory species | 19 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 19 |
| Total resident species | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| Total species | 24 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 25 |
| | | | | | |
| Unidentified Small Wader | | 200 | | | |
| Unidentified Medium Wader | 101 | | | | |
| Unidentified Large Wader | 600+ | | | | |

THE NEXT SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED ON 22nd JULY. IF YOU HAVE ASSISTED ON ANY OF THE PREVIOUS SURVEYS I WOULD VALUE IT AGAIN. PLEASE MARK YOU CALENDARS NOW.

COUNT PROGRAMME

Before I start this article I have two apologies to make. The first apology is forgetting to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in the last newsletter, and although somewhat late now, I extend my best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2001. The second apology is to those counters who have not received the brochure "Shorebird Migration Use of Leg Flags in the Flyway", as mentioned in the previous newsletter. There is a supply shortage, which I hope will be corrected soon.

I am sure most of you have wondered what bird species and numbers other counters get at their countsites. Well, I am about to give you some answers. I will make it a regular feature in this section of the newsletter from now on. Due to lack of space in the newsletter, only wader species will be listed. Details are taken from the National Summer Count sheets (January 2001). Cairns Airport was counted on 7.2.01; Bushland Beach on 23.1.01 and the other four counted on 21.1.01.

| SPECIES | CAIR | BUSH | GSMA | PRNS | LYTT | MAHA |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Black-tailed Godwit | | 6 | | 145 | 133 | 4 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 4 | 70 | 900 | 452 | 385 | 561 |
| Whimbrel | 20 | 25 | | 128 | 46 | 102 |
| Eastern Curlew | 56 | 40 | 70 | 89 | 28 | 59 |
| Marsh Sandpiper | 7 | | | 7 | 14 | |
| Common Greenshank | 25 | | | 48 | 5 | 16 |
| Terek Sandpiper | | | | | 21 | |
| Common Sandpiper | 1 | | | | | |
| Grey-tailed Tattler | 2 | 23 | | | 550 | 165 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | 2 | | | | 29 |
| Great Knot | | 3365 | 400 | 27 | 18 | 78 |
| Red-necked Stint | 139 | 12 | | | | 156 |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 141 | | | 82 | 4 | 12 |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 89 | | 30 | 245 | 117 | 57 |
| Broad-billed Sandpiper | 1 | | | | | |

| SPECIES | CAIR | BUSH | GSMA | PRNS | LYTT | MAHA |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bush-stone Curlew | 2 | | | | | |
| Beach-stone Curlew | 8 | | | | | |
| Pied Oystercatcher | | 14 | 18 | | 103 | |
| Black-winged Stilt | | 2 | | 174 | 48 | |
| Pacific Golden Plover | 18 | | | | 4 | 34 |
| Red-capped Plover | 7 | 25 | 3 | 2 | | 18 |
| Lesser Sand Plover | 55 | 87 | | | | 203 |
| Greater Sand Plover | 43 | 299 | | | | |
| Black-fronted Plover | 5 | | | | | |
| Masked Lapwing | 7 | | 6 | 11 | 5 | 2 |

| | |
|------|---|
| CAIR | Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher |
| BUSH | Bushland Beach, Mt Low (Townsville Region) – Dezmond Wells |
| GSMA | Maaroom (Great Sandy Strait Region) – John Bell (Helper, Glen Hastie) |
| PRNS | Pine River Northside – David Edwards |
| LYTT | Lytton – David Connolly |
| MAHA | Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates |

Notes on some of the less common waders usually reported in this section are as follows: -

Beach-stone Curlew – As per previous reports on this wader, numerous sightings at the usual roosts. The presence of 2 at Kerosene Inlet, Tweed River Entrance have kept Edward Kleiber, Ian Watson, Mathew Angus and Marian Williams busy recording numerous sightings of them for a number of months now. They are all keeping their fingers crossed that the pair may start to breed. Keeping the disturbance down will be a major factor. Russell Watson and Paul O'Neill think the chick on Great Keppel Island has died from exposure as most of the Whitsunday chicks did.

Sooty Oystercatcher – Again, as per previous reports, numerous sightings at the usual roosts. John Knight was particularly pleased that one decided to re-visit the Mathieson Homestead roost (not a roost you would normally expect to find a Sooty), on 5.1.01, when he was in company with Sally Sheldon, Dawn Miles and Dumell McDonald.

Breeding records for:

Beach-stone Curlew - Les Thyer and Desley Williams reported a sub adult with 2 adults at Pioneer River Roost on 22.1.01, which would suggest the pair might have bred in the area.

Red-capped Plover – Juveniles and chicks reported from Mathieson Homestead, Caloundra Bar and Clinton Ash Ponds on 1.11.00, 16.11.00, 10.12.00 and 1.1.01, reported from John Knight, Jill Denning and Judith Ruddell.

Pied Oystercatcher – Nest with 2 eggs at Terranora Broadwater, Tweed Heads on 8.11.00 and one pair with 2 eggs and one pair with 2 chicks at the same site on 11.12.00, and one pair with 2 eggs on small island Lower Tweed Estuary 29.11.00. All sightings from Edward Kleiber.

Sooty Oystercatcher - Edward Kleiber reported 2 Adults and one juvenile at Tweed River Entrance on 22.1.01. Edward thinks that possibly the pair bred on Cook Island.

Black-winged Stilt – One pair breeding at Tweed Heads Sewage works on 11.12.00 from Edward Kleiber and a pair with four fluffy chicks at Lake Dyer on 6.1.01 seen by Phil & Linda Cross and Arthur & Sheryl Keates.

Our Editor asked to hear your opinions about the newsletter. As far as I am aware we only received one reply. This is YOUR newsletter and we value your opinions on the content that you would like in it. I will be particularly interested in what you have to say about the usual articles I place in it. Thank you.

Happy counting.
Linda Cross.

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD ROOSTING SIGNS



A number of years ago some counters will remember joining Greg Miller at a meeting in Brisbane to list their count sites and record all forms of disturbance factors. That was the beginning of a Management Plan for Migratory Shorebird Roost and Feeding Sites, which was later completed and prepared by Peter Nichols and Mary Maher & Associates for the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency.

The good news is that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have made Migratory Shorebird Roosting Site signs that are ready for placement. Sites within the Moreton Bay Marine Park recorded in the report with the most disturbance are currently being investigated by QPWS in order to place the signs in the most advantageous position. The signs measure 25cm x 40cm on a 2 metre high aluminium pole.

“Everything comes to those who wait”, so the saying goes. It is gratifying to have something-positive come from our work.

Wetlands and Birds Korea

The Korean Wetlands Alliance was recently officially reorganised into a new (and better!) group and is now known as "Wetlands and Birds Korea". Based mainly in Masan and Pusan cities in the south-east, it is a small NGO working entirely on wetland and bird conservation issues, not only in South Korea, but throughout the Yellow Sea region. The group's work is focussed especially on wetland environmental education, popularising birding-based eco-tourism, assisting with wetland enhancement projects, bird surveys and publication of associated materials. Members work in support of local communities and educators, other NGOs and researchers, as well as good government conservation initiatives.

If staff are available, we also try to help answer the enquiries of visiting birders and wetland specialists increasingly hard work, as more and more people are realising South Korea is a great birding destination, with most of the best species concentrated at wetlands (Baikal Teal, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Relict Gulf etc).

As our home-page is still under construction though it should be open very soon at <http://www.wetlandbird.or.kr> We would like to ask anybody interested in receiving information updates from South Korea to mail (along with a message of support for the group and its aims if possible) to their contact details at wetlandfriends@hotmail.com.

Taken from Oriental Bird Club web page: www.orientalbirdclub.or.kr

| |
|---|
| WADER WATCH <i>Linda and Phil Cross, Peter Driscoll, Joyce Harding</i> |
|---|

Leg Flag Banding Legend (colour = where banded)

- Green n Brisbane/Queensland,
- Orange = Victoria,
- Yellow = Northern Western Australia,
- White = New Zealand (some species banded in New South Wales),
- Blue = Japan.

Green leg flag sightings

- 2 Eastern Curlew with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 2 Eastern Curlew with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.11.00
 3 Eastern Curlew with green flag (one with satellite transmitter) – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00
 3 Eastern Curlew with green flag (one with satellite transmitter) – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 21.1.01
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 21.10.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 3.11.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 4.11.00
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.11.00
 3 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Woody Point – Alex Bisgrove & Rob Stogdale – 5.12.00
 3 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 10.12.00
 4 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Nudgee Beach – Linda & Phil Cross & Arthur Keates 10.12.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 2.1.01
 3 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 4.1.01
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Nudgee Beach Hide – Greg Nye – 10.2.01
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 21.10.00
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.11.00
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00
 4 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 2.1.01
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 3.1.01
 2 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 4.1.01
 3 Great Knot with green flag – Fred Armbrust – Humpybong Yacht Club area, Redcliffe Peninsular – 21.1.01
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Mathiesen Homestead (GSS) – Bob & June Gleeson – 13.2.01
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Lytton – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 17.2.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.11.00
 2 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 21.1.01
 5 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Lytton – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 17.2.01
 1 Ruddy Turnstone with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 1 Ruddy Turnstone with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.11.00
 1 Ruddy Turnstone with green flag – St Helena Island – Andrew Geering – 28.1.01
 1 Greater Sand Plover with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 2 Greater Sand Plover with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.11.00
 1 Greater Sand Plover with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00
 3 Lesser Sand Plover with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 3 Lesser Sand Plover with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.11.00
 1 Lesser Sand Plover with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00
 1 Curlew Sandpiper with green flag – Lytton – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 17.2.01

Interstate green leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Nome, Alaska (on the breeding grounds) – Ted Swem – 7.8.00
 1 with green flag – Lake Illawarra Entrance, NSW – Chris Presland – 13.1.01
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Comerang Island (Near Nowra) NSW – Edwin Vella – 27.12.00

- 1 Lesser Sand Plover with green flag – Lake Checkiba, Ballina, NSW – Doug Davidson & Edward Kleiber – 28.10.00
 1 Lesser Sand Plover with green flag – Lake Checkiba, Ballina, NSW – Tweed Valley Bird Observers Group – 12.11.00

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 21.10.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00
 1 Great Knot with metal band – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 25.11.00
 1 Great Knot with orange flag – Mathiesen Homestead (GSS) – Arthur Keates – 14.1.01
 1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 21.10.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur Keates 11.11.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 4.1.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with metal band– Lytton – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 17.2.01
 1 Red-necked Stint with orange flag – Fisherman Islands – Peter Driscoll – 20.11.00
 1 Pied Oystercatcher with metal band – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates & Ivell Whyte – 11.11.00
 1 Pied Oystercatcher with metal band – Mathiesen Homestead, GSS – John Knight – 3.12.00
 2 Pied Oystercatcher with metal band – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00
 2 Pied Oystercatcher with metal band – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 21.1.01
 1 Pied Oystercatcher with metal band – Maaroom (GSS) – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 21.1.01
 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag and metal band – Tweed River Entrance – Edward Kleiber – 23.10.00
 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag and metal band – Tweed River Entrance – Edward Kleiber – 27.10.00
 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag and metal band – Tweed River Entrance – Edward Kleiber – 29.10.00
 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag and metal band – Tweed River Entrance – Edward Kleiber – 2.11.00
 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag and metal band – Tweed River Entrance – Edward Kleiber – 8.2.01
 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag – Tweed River Entrance – Mathew Angus – 9.11.00
 1 Crested Tern with metal band – Flat Rock, North of Ballina, NSW – Edward Kleiber & Mathew Angus – 12.11.00
 1 Common Tern with orange flag and metal band – Hastings Point Lookout, NSW – Edward Kleiber and Mathew Angus – 2.11.00
 1 Common Tern with orange flag and metal band – Flat Rock, North of Ballina, NSW – Edward Kleiber & Mathew Angus – 12.11.00
 1 Common Tern with orange flag and metal band – Flat Rock, North of Ballina, NSW – Edward Kleiber – 23.11.00
 2 Common Tern with orange flag – Caloundra Bar – Jill Dening – 30.11.00
 1 Common Tern with orange flag – Caloundra Sandbank 1 – Jill Dening – 18.1.01
 1 Common Tern with orange flag and metal band – Flat Rock, North of Ballina, NSW – Arthur & Sheryl Keates and David Edwards – 27.1.01
 1 Little Tern with metal band – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 10.12.00

Interesting sightings

- 9 Sooty Oystercatcher – Wickham Point, Caloundra – Barbara Dickson – 30.9.00
 4 Common Sandpiper – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 10.11.00
 3 Common Sandpiper – Great Keppel Island – Russell Watson – 10.11.00
 1 Common Sandpiper – Bowen Saltworks – Jon Wren – 27.1.01
 102 Pacific Golden Plover – Maroochy River North Shore – Jan Bedwell – 8.12.00
 50 Marsh Sandpiper – Maaroom – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 12.12.00
 120 Common Greenshank – Mathiesen Homestead – John Knight – 4.11.00
 3365 Great Knot – Bushland Beach, Mt Low – Dezmund Wells – 23.1.01
 5 Latham's Snipe – Tin Can Bay Sewage Works – John & Barbara Cummings – 11.11.00
 4 Latham's Snipe – Tugan Sewage Works – Ian Watson – 17.1.01
 4 Painted Snipe (2 Adults & 2 juveniles) – Lake Dyer, Lockyer Valley – Trevor Ford and Mike & Linda Lewis – 15.1.01 (Probably bred at this site)

More interesting sightings from Cairns Airport can be seen in the count programme article.

Not waders but of interest anyway

- 11000 Common Tern – Caloundra Sandbank 1 – Jill Dening 25.1.01
 5000 Common Tern – Caloundra Sandbank 2 – Jill Dening & Barbara Dickson – 7.12.00
 1500 Little Tern – Caloundra Sandbank 2 – Jill Dening & Barbara Dickson – 7.12.00
 674 White-winged Black Tern – Caloundra Sandbank 1 – Barbara Dickson & Jill Chamberlain – 13.12.00

- 104 Wandering Whistling Duck – Cleveland Road Mudflats, Cape Bowling Green NP – Dezmound Wells – 21.1.01
 43 Glossy Ibis – Cleveland Road Mudflats, Cape Bowling Green NP – Dezmound Wells – 4.1.01
 4 Great-billed Heron – Cleveland Road Mudflats, Cape Bowling Green NP – Dezmound Wells – 26.8.00
 131 Brolgas – Cleveland Road Mudflats, Cape Bowling Green NP – Dezmound Wells – 26.8.00
 3 Black-necked Stork (1 Adult female & 2 immatures) – Bishops Marsh – Linda Cross & Trevor Ford – 12.2.01
 7 Radjah Shelduck chicks - John Thomson - Yeppoon Golf Club - 21.1.01

Recording flags/bands on waders.

- Species: Record bird species
 Colour: Record the colour and type (colour flag / colour band / metal band)
 Position: Record the position of all flags and bands as follows: -
 Right Tibia (Upper) / Tarsus (Lower)
 Left Tibia / Tarsus
 Location: Record area where bird was seen
 Sitecode: Record sitecode (if known). This relates to high tide roosts.
 Co-ordinates: Supply latitude and longitude. Where possible take GPS readings
 Region: Recorded by QWSG
 Date & Time:
 Observer: Name and address of observer/s
 Other species: Record other species the bird is associated with
 Comments: Any other comments, particularly plumage (breeding plumage/ non-breeding Plumage / in-between)

Please forward all sightings to Phil and Linda Cross 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere, Caboolture Qld 4510. Phone: (07) 5495 2758 Email: xenus@big.net.au.

As Editor I have repeated this section from the last newsletter as a reminder for what is required when reporting flag/band sightings. If we report the details it will make it so much easier for the recorders, the information will be in a useful form, plus you will not get that phone call from Linda! Been there , done that!

MORETON BAY ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

On Saturday February 17th, as a representative of QWSG, I attended a meeting of the Moreton Bay Environmental Alliance (MBEA). MBEA was formed at the 1996 Ramsar Convention meeting in Brisbane to create an information network of environmental organisations concerned about events affecting Moreton Bay. Representatives of Australian Marine Conservation Society (Moreton Bay Branch), Moreton Island Protection Committee, Bayside Wildlife Preservation Society, Rivermouth Action Group, Sunfish and Queensland Conservation Committee are among those who regularly attend to exchange ideas and information and discuss policies and possible actions.

At the meeting, a range of matters were discussed including Manly Boat harbour, Brisbane Port Development Impacts, Brisbane River including abattoir pollution in the Bremer River, Coastcare, Moreton Bay Islands, Stradbroke Island mining proposals, Moreton Island Management Plan and Aquaculture & Acid Sulphate Soil problems at Little Rocky Point, Gold Coast.

It was reported that Marine Parks in the EPA is seeking support from environmental groups for a grant proposal to Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) for funding for the employment of a migratory wader officer to concentrate on wader problems in the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

At first glance many of the concerns discussed at the meeting may not seem relevant to the study and protection of migratory waders but the wellbeing of Queensland waders depends on the condition and health of Moreton Bay. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway's viability also depends on it's many component parts and Moreton Bay is a significant one of these parts.

Joyce Harding

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

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All correspondence to:
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Fahey Road,
Mt Glorious, Qld 4520

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Treasurer as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

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Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward application to:

Mrs Sheryl Keates,
QWSG Treasurer,
5 Stanmere St,
Carindale, Brisbane
Qld 4152.

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. Only one further newsletter will be sent after expiry of your subscription.

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is May 30th 2001

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011
or E-mail to: gouldian@ozemail.com.au

Computerised contributions should be in IBM Word, ASCII or Rich Text.

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

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Wader ID Days Reports

Manly - Wader Identification Day – 25th February 2001

Forty people attended the first wader identification day for 2001 held at the Manly roost on Sunday 25 February, some travelling from the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, Boonah, Tamborine Mountain and Ipswich.

The water level in the 3 lagoons was not as high as it had been recently following the rain and king tides. The weather was fine and sunny, the temperature rising to a rather hot 30 degrees although a cooling south-easterly breeze picked up towards the end of our outing.

Observers enjoyed very good views of 21 species of mostly waders and terns. Three species were sighted with green leg flags, Eastern Curlew, Great Knot and Lesser Sand Plover as well as a Pied Oystercatcher with a metal band.

Species recorded were:-

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

Interestingly, there were no Black-tailed Godwit or Red Knot recorded during our count of the site the previous day. Also, the number of Bar-tailed Godwits was considerably lower than the 794 recorded during the count. Despite all attempts a Greater Sand Plover was not found among the 140+ Lesser Sand Plovers. As expected for this time of year, several birds of most species were showing strong traces of breeding plumage.

A special thanks to Brad Kitchen of the Port of Brisbane Corporation for making his time available to let us in to the site.

Arthur & Sheryl Keates

WADER ID DAYS for 2001

Saturday 31st March 2001 at Toorbul.

Meet at 12 noon (or earlier if you wish) for a 1.67m high at 1:35pm Brisbane Bar (40 minutes later at Toorbul). Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul turn-off near the Big Fish. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue on this road to Toorbul. Turn right at the T-junction then first left and then right, which brings you onto the Esplanade. Follow this road to the end (approximately 2kms), we will be on the left. Phil & Linda Cross 07 5495 2758

Other Conservation Activities of Interest



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

Separate membership is required. Contacts: Dawn Muir, President (07) 3870 8076; Sheena Gillman, Secretary (07) 3372 4089; Treasurer, Rhelmae Hebbard (07) 5464 5343

Monthly Meetings

Birds Queensland - 7.45pm Queensland Museum Brisbane
1st Thursday each month except January.

Entry via Dinosaur Garden in Grey Street. Doors open between 7.30 and 8.00pm.

BOONOROO:CAMPOUT – 10 & 11 MARCH 2001

After the success of the joint QOSI/QWSG campout at Boonooroo last year it was decided that we should visit the area again in 2001. Boonooroo is located (approximately 260km north of Brisbane), which is up in the Great Sandy Strait and a great spot for waders.

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

A group booking has already been made for unpowered sites, but if you want a powered site or an on-site caravan you will need to contact the owners Terry & Odette O'Neill on Ph: 4129 8211 -Fax: 4129 8003 or email: boonoorocaravanpark@bigpond.com to arrange that. There is also accommodation available at Maaroom Caravan Park, which is only 10 minutes (12km) north of Boonooroo. To make a booking and enquire about facilities contact the owners Alan and Rita Barnett on Ph: 4129 8222

We will be checking out the waders at the roosts on Saturday and Sunday. The best time for viewing is an hour either side of the high tides, however, the tides are quite high during this weekend so we may have to arrive at the roosts earlier, or view them on the outgoing tide. Tide times and height are:- Saturday 3.49m high at 10:03 hours, Sunday 3.36 high at 10:43 hours. Don't forget your telescopes and **BRING THE HEAVY ARMOUR (INSECT REPELLENT) FOR THE SANDFLIES**, they can be bad at times.

Directions: Travel north on the Bruce Highway until you reach Gympie, turn right on to the Tin Can Bay Road, after approximately 44km turn left onto the Poona/Maryborough Road. Follow this road for 40km then at the 'T' junction, turn right and 7kms later you will arrive at Boonooroo. The Caravan Park is on the right hand side. For Maaroom, turn left at the 'T' junction and travel less than a kilometre before turning right to Maaroom, which is approximately 4 kilometres.

Boonooroo Cost: Unpowered site \$11 per couple per night, powered site off the waterfront \$13.50 per couple, on the waterfront (some powered) \$15.50 per couple, then \$3.50 each extra person for all three. On-site caravan \$27.50 per night for 2 people, then \$3.50 each extra adult. (There are 2 caravans with sleeping capacity for 4).

Maaroom Cost: On-site caravan \$24.50 per night for 2 people, then \$7 each extra adult. (There are 8 to 10 caravans). Fully self-contained cabins are also available (sleep 4) \$40 per night for 2 people, then \$7 each extra adult.

Leaders: Phil & Linda Cross 07 5495 2758

QWSG MERDCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG Merchandise, items may be purchased at QOSI meetings held 1st Thursday of the month at the Queensland Museum **OR....**

Contact Linda Cross on 07 5495 2758 or E-mail at xenus@big.net.au

Postage is not included in the prices quoted.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Polo Neck Shirts | \$30:00 | Bottle Green, Maroon, Jade, Navy, Royal Blue, Cream, Snow Marl. |
| T-shirts | \$22:00 | Avocet design short sleeve. Limited stock |
| Books | \$19:80 | Shorebird Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region. |
| | \$12:50 | Wader Roost Construction in Moreton Bay. |
| | \$24.00 | Simpson & Day Field Guide (2000 print) |
| | \$14.00 | Birds of Bribie Island, Pumicestone Passage and Environs |
| | \$14.00 | Wildflowers of Bribie Island |
| | \$14:00 | A Birdwatcher's Guide to Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture Shire. Wildlife Preservation Society of Caboolture. |
| CD | \$22:00 | Bird calls of the Broome region (includes 42 Wader Species). |
| Cloth Badges | \$8.00 | We now have the new white cloth badges, made to same design that appears on our Polo Shirts. They can be sewn onto your cap, hat, jacket, jumper & bag if you are interested please contact Linda. |



Activities 2001

Wader Counts (general monitoring)

WADER COUNT DATES (general monitoring) FOR 2001

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sat 24 th March | High Tide of 2.26m at 09:17am | |
| Sat 21 st April | High Tide of 2.15m at 08:03am | |
| NO COUNT IN MAY | | |
| Sat 23 rd June | High Tide of 1.82m at 10:44am | National Winter Count |
| NO COUNT IN JULY | | |
| Sun 19 th August | High Tide of 1.90m at 09:32am | |
| Sat 22 nd September | High Tide of 2.09m at 13:05pm | |
| Sat 20 th October | High Tide of 2.27m at 11:52am | |
| Sun 18 th November | High Tide of 2.34m at 11:28am | |
| Sun 16 th December | High Tide of 2.42m at 10:29am | |

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

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

Cannon Netting

There are no scheduled cannon netting days planned for the next three months but netting outings are mounted "opportunistically" when it appears there may be a good chance of success, so the regulars will be warned and they will contact those who have shown interest in the past. If a date is arranged you will need to bring food and water, plus sun-screen and insect repellent.



MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

I/We wish to join/renew: (Single \$12; Family \$22; Student/Pensioner \$9)

Title.....Name:.....

Address:..... Membership: \$.....
 Postcode:..... Donation: \$.....
 Phone: (Home) (Work) Payment enclosed: _____
 Fax / e-mail:
 TOTAL \$.....

How did you hear about QWSG
 What activities do you wish to participate in? WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA
 COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL, OTHER (specify.....)

SIGNATURE: DATE:.....