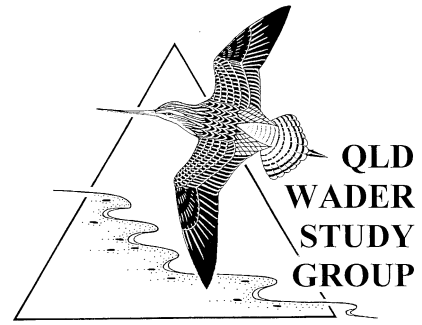


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 40

Winter 2002

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

THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY WADER COLOUR FLAGGING PROGRAM

Under a Flyway wide program small plastic flags have been placed on the legs of waders. Each country or region has been given a colour combination code. At the moment Alaska, Japan South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand are flagging waders.

The program has been hugely successful in tracing the movements of waders, the timing of migrations of different populations, the locations of breeding areas and non-breeding areas, and is clarifying many hitherto unanswerable questions about waders. The new knowledge is feeding directly into our understanding of the conservation needs of waders.

There are estimated about 60,000 waders which are alive today, carrying flags. A massive increased effort is needed everywhere to search for flagged birds, and anybody can do it. There are still huge blanks in the search coverage in many places in the Flyway, and even in large parts of Australia. However in some places people are becoming apathetic to looking for flags, simply because many have been seen before.

The more flags that are reported from one locality the more useful is the data, as it can then be used for calculating such aspects as migration timing, proportions of populations using sites, partial northward migration of immature birds, and much more.

Negative sightings are also of use and this has not hitherto been recognised. For example, the first stop off location for many wader species from southern Australia is still unknown. Negative sightings from the northern coasts of Australia will prove that many do not stop there (which we suspect). Where then is there first stop off in Asia? In many cases we do not know because we receive hardly any reports from SE Asia – does this mean they are not stopping there, or is it simply because they are not being looked for?

Details about the flagging program, the colour combinations used, an electronic reporting form and who to send sightings to are shown on the Australasian Wader Studies Group website at www.tasweb.com.au/awsg/index.htm. You will also now be able to report negative sightings on the form.

A massive effort has gone into flagging the birds. Please can everybody throughout the Flyway also put in a massive effort into finding them again.

Ros Jessop (Chair AWSG)
Jim Wilson (Chair of the AWSG Scientific Committee).

PLEASE REPORT ALL FLAGGED BIRDS SIGHTED IN QUEENSLAND (INCLUDING GREEN FLAGGED) TO PHILLIP CROSS, xx XXXX XXXX ROAD, XXXX XXXX, XXXX XXXX E 4xxx.

PHONE: 07 XXXX XXXX

OR EMAIL XXXX XXXX @ XXXX XXXX.AU

A Collection of Recent E-Mails Indicating the Flagging Activity Around Asia

Email from Paul Leader in Hong Kong dated 2nd May 2002

Just a quick email to let you know that we have been putting leg flags (white over yellow) on the following waders so far this spring:

Pacific Golden Plover	3	Common Greenshank	4
Kentish Plover	1	Wood Sandpiper	2
Greater Sand Plover	3	Red-necked Stint	1
Spotted Redshank	4	Curlew Sandpiper	129
Common Redshank	12	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1
Marsh Sandpiper	23		

Could you please forward this to anyone you know in the flyway that might be out looking at waders so that they can try and look for them.

Many thanks,

Paul Leader

Director, Asia Ecological Consultants Ltd.

127 XXXX XXXX, XXXX XXXX, Yuen Long,

New Territories, Hong Kong.

Tel.: (+852) XXXX XXXX

Fax: XXXX XXXX

<mailto: XXXX XXXX @ XXXX XXXX l.com.hk> XXXX XXXX @ XXXX XXXX.com.

Email from Weiting Liu in Taiwan dated 5th May 2002

Dear Shorebird Pals,

Please help us find our flagged shorebirds!

We put white over blue flags on shorebirds in Taiwan since 1998. Follows are the species and numbers of shorebirds we flagged.

We can easily find our flagged shorebirds now in Taiwan in winter, but NONE of them resighted in any other place of the flyway.

We have many resightings of Australia, Korea and Japan flagged shorebirds each year. We hope you can find our flags.

Kentish Plover	535	Broad-billed Sandpiper	11
Dunlins	378	Marsh Sandpiper	8
Red-necked Stint	191	Painted Snipe	6
Greater Sand Plover	190	Long-toed Stint	6
Lesser Sand Plover	82	Redshank	5
Grey-tailed Tattler	49	Common Snipe	4
Ruddy Turnstone	48	Whimbrel	4
Grey Plover	36	Sanderling	4
Wood Sandpiper	35	Eurasian Curlew	4
Common Sandpiper	34	Great Knot	1
Greenshank	30	Red Knot	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	28	Red-necked Phalarope	1
Terek Sandpiper	23	Black-winged Stilt	1
Golden Plover	18	Oriental Pratincole	1
Curlew Sandpiper	15	Black-crowned Night Heron	3
Little Ringed Plover	12	Little Tern	13

Best wishes,

Weiting
 Wei-Ting Liu
 Taiwan Wader Study Group
 Address: XXXX XXXX Rd,
 XXXX XXXX, 408, Taiwan, R.O.C
 XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX ,
 Taiwan 402, R.O.C.
 Email: XXXX XXXX @ XXXX XXXX.tw
 Phone:886- XXXX XXXX
 Fax:886- XXXX XXXX

Email from David Li in China dated 13th May 2002

Dear colleague,

I am pleased to forward you below the message with regards to the recently banding activities in Dandong coast, China. The banding activities was funded by Environment Australia though the Wetlands International-Oceania for implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory activities was organized by the China Bird Banding Center with technical Shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway: 2001-2005. The banding support from Australia and New Zealand Wader studies Group.

The Dandong coast is located at the China, North Korea border, 39 48°N, 123 40°E. This site has been realized as one of the most important site for the north migratory shorebirds during the survey in 1999 and 2000 by Wetlands International -China.

Best regards,

David Li

Waterbird Conservation Officer (Asia)

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

Dear li

I have some good news to you!

There are 6 species 99 shorebirds banded in Dandong in the end of April.

Among them, 78 are Bar-tailed Godwit, 14 Dunlin, 4 Great Knot, 2 Grey Plover, 1 Whimbrel and 1 Terek Sandpiper. Total about 120,000 shorebirds were recorded.

The team also recorded many birds with colour flag, the total number are about 50. Main species is Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag, yellow flag, white flag, green flag and both green and yellow flag. Other than these, 2 Dunlin with yellow flag, and Grey Plover with white flag.

liyuxiang

The Pleasure of Wader Watching

NOTE To Linda from MACKAY 27/4/02

Hi Linda,

Interesting count this month with Red Knots being recorded at sites, Pioneer River & Shellgrit Creek (not all that common here) and 24 species counted at Shellgrit Creek.

In the past fortnight I've seen a Juvenile Black-necked Stork three times at Pioneer River, but not on count day!! He's unafraid and walks right up to the fishermen and checks out their catch etc.

The male at Shellgrit today caught a whiting that must have weighed nearly one pound. It was great watching them herd the fish up by running & jumping & flapping their large wings and after consuming them, resting with their legs (tarsus) lying along the sand.

Cheers,

Les Thyer.

2002 Yellow Sea Shorebird Survey

The Australasian Wader Studies Group, in conjunction with Wetlands International China, has just completed the seventh consecutive year of training, surveying and shorebird counting activities in China during northward migration. This year we covered the 210km of coastline in Bohai Wan that have not been previously surveyed for shorebirds. The remaining 100km of coastline (Tianjin Municipality) was surveyed in 2000.

The activities were carried out as part of the Asia-Pacific Shorebird Action Plan funded by Environment Australia. Brief count results and observations follow:

NE BOHAI WAN (39d 03m N; 118d 19m E) 24-27 April 2002

Hebei Province coastline from Shi Jiu Tuo (Happy Island) westwards to Hebei/Tianjin border: 61,339 birds of 36 species, including eight species present in internationally important numbers: Black-tailed Godwit (6,471), Eurasian Curlew (2,890), Marsh Sandpiper (4,500), Asian Dowitcher (1,153), Red Knot (9,358), Black-winged Stilt (334), Grey Plover (2,972) and Kentish Plover (1,729).

SW BOHAI WAN (38d 28m N; 117d 40m E) 30 April-1 May 2002

Hebei Province coastline south of Tianjin: 12,298 birds of 24 species including internationally significant numbers of Marsh Sandpiper (1,753) and Pied Avocet (402).

S BOHAI WAN (38d 08m N; 118d 10m E) - 2-9 May 2002

Shandong Province coastline from Hebei Province border eastwards to Huang He National Nature Reserve: 40,861 birds of 30 species including internationally important numbers of seven species Spotted Redshank (802), Marsh Sandpiper (14,183), Curlew Sandpiper (2,512), Black-winged Stilt (1,037), Pied Avocet (436), Grey Plover (3,550) and Kentish Plover (2,886).

OBSERVATIONS

The coastal region of Bohai Wan has very extensive areas of salt pans and fish/shrimp ponds. Due to their very large size, we were only able to survey portions of these (perhaps no more than 25% by area) and species favouring such habitats (e.g. Spotted Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet and Kentish Plover) were significantly under-counted. Most of the mudflat area was adequately surveyed despite significant challenges in finding a way to the coast through the maze of ponds.

Of particular interest in this year's results are the large numbers of Black-tailed Godwit (6,915), Eurasian Curlew (3,232), Marsh Sandpiper (20,436), Asian Dowitcher (1,154), Red Knot (9,369) and Pied Avocet (866) recorded.

This is only the second major concentration of Black-tailed Godwit found during northward migration in the Yellow Sea, the other being at Huang He National Nature Reserve (7,133). The Eurasian Curlew count confirms previous observations that Bohai Wan is the major staging area for this species; it is very likely that the great majority of unidentified curlew (8,074) were Eurasian. Salt pans are of great importance to Marsh Sandpipers, with all but a handful of the birds recorded being found in such habitat. This confirms the observation from last year's survey in Yancheng National Nature Reserve, when almost 7,000 Marsh Sandpipers were counted in salt pans in the north of the Reserve.

The N/NW side of Bohai Wan has the largest concentration of Red Knot found so far in the Yellow Sea on northward migration, with a total 23,646 having been recorded in the 2000 (Tianjin Municipality) and 2002 surveys. As flocks of up to 5,000 have also been recorded at Shi Jiu Tuo (Happy Island) in previous years, it is probable that better coverage of the N/NW Bohai Wan region, both spatially and temporally, would result in the discovery of larger numbers.

N/NW Bohai Wan also supports the highest numbers of Asian Dowitchers counted so far in the Yellow Sea (2,120). Improved coverage would certainly lead to more being found. Observations were also made of breeding Kentish Plover (very numerous), Black-winged Stilt and Pied Avocet.

Papers and notes on the count and breeding observations will be published in *The Stilt* during the next year. A summary of the 2002 count is available in an Excel file (19 KB). Please let me know if you would like to have a copy. I can also provide a marked-up satellite image of Bohai Wan (400 KB) showing the count areas. Let me know if you'd like this also.

Mark Barter, xx XXXX XXXX, XXXX XXXX VIC 3xxx, Australia

Voice/Fax: +61-3- XXXX XXXX

Email: XXXX XXXX @ XXXX XXXX

Feathers track migrants' flight

To: Birding Aus <birding-aus@vicnet.net.au>

Subject: [BIRDING-AUS] Feather Analysis

While the isotopic analysis of feathers would not replace bands for individual bird identification or for visual studies, it could be used to determine the destinations of migratory birds.

<http://www.nature.com/nsu/020204/020204-11.html>

Chemistry reveals birds' differing tastes in Caribbean islands.

08 February 2002

JOHN WHITFIELD

Chemicals in feathers have shown that one migratory bird species splits into two groups that have separate summer and winter homes. Similar analysis could decode other birds' movements and aid their conservation.

Black-throated blue warblers (*Dendroica caerulescens*) that breed in the north-eastern United States winter in the western Caribbean, Dustin Rubenstein of Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire and his colleagues now report. Those that spend the summer in the southern states head for the eastern Caribbean when the weather turns cold.

The finding could explain why the species is in decline in the southern United States. These birds migrate to the most heavily deforested islands in the Caribbean, such as Hispaniola.

"We're not sure why they do this - we never knew to look for it before," Rubenstein says. One possibility, he argues, is that northern birds leave first and fly over their southern counterparts to bag western locations in Jamaica and Cuba. Differences persist because "birds return to the same place year after year", he adds.

"It shows there are very different populations within the one species - nobody's been able to come up with this level of detail before," says ecologist Keith Hobson of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Saskatoon. Similar differences "are probably typical of a vast number of species", he says.

Knowing where animals go will help researchers to work out why they are under threat, and help to focus conservation efforts, Hobson adds. "Rather than just saying 'this bird goes to the tropics', we can concentrate our efforts in a more refined manner, geographically and politically."

Black box

Banding is the traditional way to track bird movements, but the chances of recapturing a ringed bird are pretty slim. Satellite tags are expensive and too heavy to attach to small birds.

But every animal is a chemical album of its travels. Variations in geology and climate give each place a chemical signature. These signatures mark plants, and pass up the food chain into insects, birds and beyond.

So feathers can be the black box of bird flight.

Black-throated blue warblers replace their feathers on their breeding grounds, just before heading south. Plucking feathers at this point allowed Rubenstein's team to map the proportions of different forms of carbon and hydrogen in birds' migratory plumage to their nest sites.

This meant that later, when the researchers caught warblers in the Caribbean, they could tell where the birds had come from.

References

Rubenstein, D. R. et al. Linking breeding and wintering ranges of a migratory songbird using stable isotopes. *Science*, 295, 1062 - 1065 (2002).

Wader Watching in New Zealand

by Arthur and Sheryl Keates

In early February, we set out on a birdwatching trip in New Zealand. Although not renowned for its avian fauna, NZ does have 3 species of endemic waders on the north and south islands, NZ Dotterel, Wrybill and the endangered Black Stilt.

For planning our trip, we found "Birds of New Zealand Locality Guide" by Stuart Chambers invaluable. "The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand" by Barrie Heather and Hugh Robertson was acceptable. In this article, we have used the Australian names because most readers will be familiar with them but in the list have included the New Zealand name in brackets.

We started our trip in Auckland and within a couple of hours of arriving, we sought out the Mangere Sewage Treatment Plant. Unfortunately, we were to find the plant is not open to visitors while reconstruction works are carried out. However, we still managed to see our first NZ Dotterel and Wrybill, albeit from quite a distance.

Three of NZ's major coastal wetlands with large concentrations of waders are found at, or within an hour or so drive from, Auckland. Kaipara Harbour lies to the north, Manukau Harbour to the south and the Firth of Thames to the south-east. While the harbours have vast expanses of intertidal flats, most is inaccessible or difficult to access.

We chose to go to South Kaipara Head, about 60km north of the Australasian Gannett Colony at Murawai Beach. As well as waders, there was the outside chance of seeing Fairy Tern, an endangered species in NZ with a population of only about 30. Low tide at Waionui Lagoon and Papakanui Spit exposes a significant area of mudflats and provided us with good views of feeding waders but no sign of the tern. Here, we recorded Pied Oystercatcher, Variable Oystercatcher, Double-banded Plover, New Zealand Dotterel, Red Knot, Wrybill and Bar-tailed Godwit. Most of the godwits and knots were in advanced breeding plumage.

The Firth of Thames, with its shell banks, extensive mudflats, grass flats and mangroves, is internationally important habitat for up to 25 000 birds, most of which are waders. The tidal flats of the Firth are estimated to cover 8 500ha. In 1990, the area was declared a Ramsar site. It is an important link in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and, in 1996, was designated a site on the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Site Network which was developed as a response to increased threats to wader habitat in the flyway.

Our itinerary limited us to 2 high tide visits to what is known as the Old Limeworks, the Stilt Ponds and the Shellbanks near the Miranda Shorebird Centre, managed by the Miranda Naturalist's Trust. The centre has excellent displays and a shop stocking educational material, T-shirts and gifts. Also, accommodation is available for up to 24 people in bunkrooms and units.

For further information, check out the web site at <http://www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz>. The on-site manager, Keith Woodley, is very helpful and is able to give up to date information on sightings.

At Miranda, we recorded Pied Oystercatcher (2,000c), Black-winged Stilt, Double-banded Plover, New Zealand Dotterel, Red Knot (2,500c), Wrybill (1,200c), Ruddy Turnstone, Terek Sandpiper (1), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (4), Red-necked Stint (2), Bar-tailed Godwit, 4,000c, Grey-tailed Tattler (1). In addition to the waders, White-fronted Tern and Black-billed Gull were present.

Incredibly, among the thousands of waders, we saw a Bar-tailed Godwit sporting one of QWSG's own green leg flags. In addition, we observed Red Knots with orange (SE Aust), yellow (NW Aust) and white (NZ) leg flags, and a Bar-tailed Godwit and a Ruddy Turnstone with a white leg flag. Furthermore, we noted several Wrybills with a variety of combinations of coloured leg bands.

Manawatu Estuary, Foxton Beach is about 120 km north of downtown Wellington on highway 1. At high tide here, we recorded Pied and Variable Oystercatchers, Black-winged Stilt, Double-banded Plover (20c), Pacific Golden Plover (11), Red Knot (300c), Wrybill (11), Terek Sandpiper (1), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (2), Red-necked Stint (3), Bar-tailed Godwit, (300c, including 1 with orange leg flag). In addition to the waders, we saw Little Tern (1) as well as White-fronted and Caspian Terns.

After success on the north island, we visited the south island. Time did not permit us to go to another Ramsar site, Farewell Spit on the north-west coast of the south island where Eastern Curlew was a possibility.

Instead, our priority was Black Stilt, one of the rarest waders in the world. Its breeding is confined to the braided shingle riverbeds of the Mackenzie Basin, Inland Canterbury. The decline of Black Stilts has been put down to predation by introduced mammals, habitat loss and hybridisation with Black-winged Stilts. The main predators are feral cats and ferrets. Habitat has been lost to hydroelectric development, drainage of swamps and the spread of introduced plants like willows and lupins.

The future of the Black Stilt depends, to a large extent, on a captive breeding programme run by the Department of Conservation at Twizel. So far, captive birds have successfully bred and been reintroduced into the wild.

On one of the few fine days of our trip, we had immediate success when we stopped at the Ahuriri River, near Omarama, about 26km south of the captive breeding centre. Incredibly, within minutes of setting out along the braided riverbed, we saw 5 Black Stilts feeding along the relatively fast flowing river. Four of the birds were banded, an encouraging sign that the captive breeding program is having some success. Other birds of interest along the river were Doubled-banded Plover (3), Black-fronted and Caspian Terns.

Lake Ellesmere, just to the south of Christchurch, is worth a visit. An accurate count of waders around the lakes edges would be extremely difficult if not impossible. The lake is accessible from Embankment Rd. Here we were surprised to spot a rare Asian migrant to New Zealand, an Oriental Pratincole in full breeding plumage. It was fascinating watching it feeding on the ground by crouching in the low vegetation and creeping up on insects. We later learned that this bird had been 'twitched' by many NZ birders. Waders observed were Black-winged Stilt, Doubled-banded Plover (300c), Red Knot (3), Curlew Sandpiper (1), Wrybill (50c), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (30c) and Bar-tailed Godwit.

Apart from waders, there were thousands of Black Swan and ducks, a couple of hundred Canada Goose and 6 Royal Spoonbill.

Near the aluminium smelter on the shores of Awarua Bay, just to the south of Invercargill, we were fortunate to see one of the endangered Stewart Island subspecies of the New Zealand Dotterel. Other birds in the vicinity were Pied and Variable Oystercatchers, Doubled-banded Plover, Ruddy Turnstone and Bar-tailed Godwit.

Finally, we should mention our most southerly sighting of migratory waders was a flock of 10 Bar-tailed Godwit flying in a south-westerly direction over the township of Oban, presumably flying between their feeding grounds and a high tide roost.

Overall, we found birdwatching in NZ very dull in comparison to the abundant bird life here in Australia. However, we were well pleased with ourselves seeing all the endemic species on our wish list. For the wader enthusiast, a visit to the Firth of Thames and Miranda Shorebird Centre is a must.

During our trip, we recorded the following species of wader-

South Island Pied Oystercatcher (Pied Oystercatcher)	Curlew Sandpiper
Variable Oystercatcher	Wrybill
Masked Lapwing (Spur-winged Plover)	Ruddy Turnstone (Turnstone)
Black-winged Stilt (Pied Stilt)	Terek Sandpiper
Black Stilt	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Double-banded Plover (Banded Dotterel)	Red-necked Stint
New Zealand Dotterel	Bar-tailed Godwit
Pacific Golden Plover	Grey-tailed Tattler (Siberian Tattler)
Red Knot (Lesser Knot)	Oriental Pratincole

Curlew Sandpiper in South Africa

In case you have not heard on the grapevine we have had a most exciting flag sighting - a yellow flagged (Broome) Curlew Sandpiper at Langebaan Lagoon, West Cape, South Africa. It was seen well, twice, during the last week of March. This is of course the first example of one of our birds accidentally getting into the African Flyway. I think the Curlew Sandpiper we had recovered in southern India about 20 years ago was

also an example of a bird switching to another Flyway. It is more credible that this should happen in Curlew Sandpiper than other species because the breeding areas of Curlew Sandpipers from all the Flyways overlap considerably in northern Siberia.

Artificial Roost at Empire Point

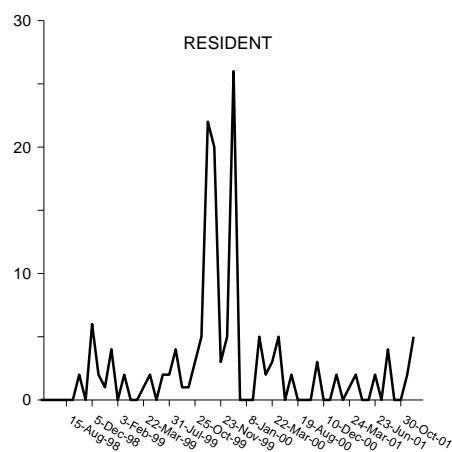
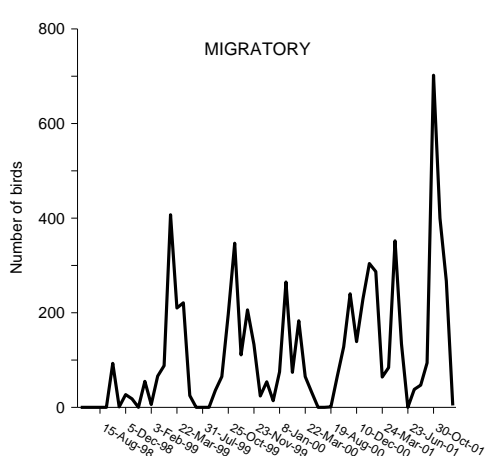
This is the first of a new series of articles planned to explore the QWSG count data on waders of Queensland. We plan to present data from the QWSG count program and provide summaries of the extensive counts by the group over the last 10 years. The first article is about the artificial roost at Empire Point, Ormiston. This roost came about due to the efforts of QWSG and was intended to provide an alternative roost site for the large numbers of waders (> 2,000) using the partly-developed Stage 3 of the Civic Projects canal estate in Raby Bay, Cleveland. The process that led to the construction of the roost started in 1994, when the QWSG made a submission to the developers and Redland Shire Council for an artificial roost site on an island off the proposed canal estate. This was to replace the large open basin that the birds used on the eastern end of the final stage (Stage 3) of the canal estate. The council refused this proposal and in 1996, QWSG was granted a Coastcare grant for a roost at Empire Point, which was directly across Raby Bay, about 1.5km west of the roost on the development. Council agreed to this proposal and assisted with the roost construction.

The Empire Point artificial roost site consisted of a claypan with two banks separated by a channel. To provide security for the roosting birds, a moat was dug around the claypan and the soil was used to raise the height of the roost above spring high tides. The roost was finally completed in August 1998 and officially opened by the Redland Shire Mayor in December 1998. The final roost covers approximately 100m x 75m and slopes eastwards towards Raby Bay. It is separated at high tide from the surrounding claypan by the moat. This is filled by tidal water from the existing channel, which is about 150m long. The roost is screened from Raby Bay by mangroves and this may have reduced its use as waders like roosting on open areas where they have extensive views of predators.

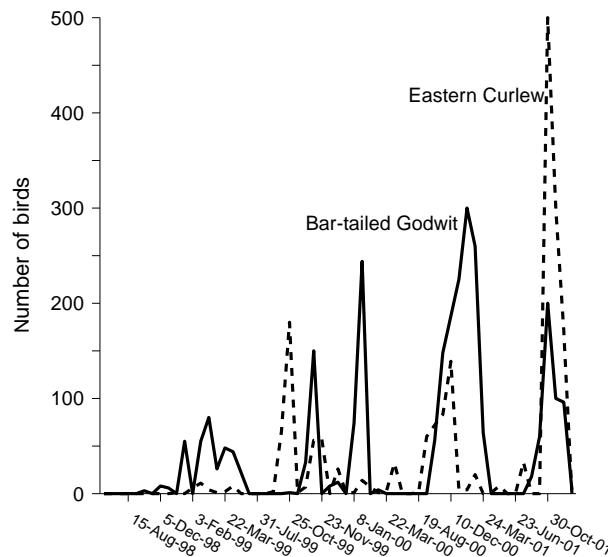
After construction, the roost has been monitored regularly and I have analysed the counts up until late 2001. The counts show that it took about two months before birds started using the site and the first count of birds on the roost was in October 1998. At that time, there were 90 Whimbrel and three Bar-tailed Godwits recorded. The figure below shows that the numbers of migratory birds using the site took several months to build up. Peak numbers reached about 200-300 in February-March 1999 and the number counted on the roost appears to be stable since then, except for an increase in late 2001 when over 700 birds were counted.

This count comprised 500 Eastern Curlew and 200 Bar-tailed Godwit. These two species and Grey-tailed Tattler form over 87% of all the migratory waders counted. The most common species was Bar-tailed Godwit and they represent over 36% of the waders. The least common were Marsh Sandpiper and Red Knot when one bird of each species was seen once. In all, 11 migratory and six resident species of wader have been recorded on the roost. The figure shows that the resident species are much less abundant than migratory species, but include a single sighting of one Beach Stone-curlew. This is a species classified as "Vulnerable" in Queensland.

The data so far suggests that the roost has not replaced the former roost at Raby Bay and the species composition is quite different. The Raby Bay site had up to 1000 Lesser Sand-Plovers and they have not been recorded at Empire Point yet. Instead, the counts of migratory waders shows a consistent pattern of two peaks during each summer period (September-November and February-March). Migratory waders do not appear to use the roost during winter or mid-summer. This may be because the birds using the roost are migrating individuals; as birds that spend their summer in Moreton Bay have their established roost sites. This suggestion is supported by the wide fluctuations in the numbers and timing of counts of each species. If you visit Empire Point over a few months, the species you see can vary completely between visits.



The figure below shows the pattern of counts of Bar-tailed Godwits and Eastern Curlew and you can see that Eastern Curlew seem to use the roost mostly in October-November and for short periods. Bar-tailed Godwits also show a similar pattern of sharply varying numbers, but the timing varies from that of Eastern Curlew.



You can see from the data that the artificial roost at Empire Point is being used by a wide range of species, but in relatively low numbers compared with those found on their former roost at Raby Bay. So, while it has not replaced the Raby Bay roost, it has proved useful as a roost and should be maintained. This is why the QWSG holds maintenance days at Empire Point to clear the colonising mangroves and other plants that threaten the value of the roost. As to why the birds move on and off the site in such a regular pattern, we can only speculate. Factors that probably have the greatest influence include disturbance and migration.

David Milton

Mackay has been selected!

Mackay has been selected as one of the sites to be funded through the WWF Shorebird Conservation Project. The other sites are Roebuck Bay (WA), Gulf St Vincent (SA), Boullanger Bay/Robbins Passage (Tas) and Western Port (Vic).

At this stage the QWSG will be sending a proposal to the Shorebird Conservation Officer in WWF and responding to a questionnaire prepared by WWF. The questionnaire asks about the threats to shorebirds and shorebird habitat in and around Mackay and what conservation action can be made to protect or manage the Mackay area. The results of the questionnaires will be used to prepare recommendations within a draft site action plan.

Discussions held with the Shorebird Conservation Officer, indicate support for the QWSG to hold an expedition to Mackay for the purposes of obtaining baseline data on the waders. Developing thorough knowledge of the wader populations in the area will help to ensure that on ground conservation actions are effective.

Sandra Harding

The WSG Annual Meeting

The WSG Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday and Sunday 5-6 October in Jurata (northern Poland).

Workshops: "3rd Workshop on the Project TRINGA GLAREOLA 2000" and "Declining populations" will be held on Monday 7 October.

Details and registration forms:
<http://free.ngo.pl/kuling>
 Choose English version (British flag)
 Wlodek Meissner

WADER WATCH - Linda and Phil Cross, Peter Driscoll, Joyce Harding

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

- 1 Eastern Curlew with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 13.4.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Bob James, Karyll Butler et al – 2.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Scarborough Harbour Breakwater – Gavin Goodyear – 3.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Scarborough Harbour Breakwater – Gavin Goodyear – 7.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 9.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 11.3.02
- 3 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 16.3.02
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 16.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – QWSG Wader ID Day – 17.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 18.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 23.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Clontarf Boat Ramp – Gavin Goodyear – 24.3.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Toorbul – Denis Stanbridge – 25.3.02
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 26.3.02
- 1 Great Knot with green flag – Boonooroo – David Edwards & Linda Cross – 3.3.02
- 2 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 4.3.02
- 5 Great Knot with green flag – Nudgee Beach – Ivell Whyte – 5.3.02
- 1 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Phil Cross & Rob Kernot – 16.3.02
- 1 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – QWSG Wader ID Day – 17.3.02
- 2 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 18.3.02
- 1 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Linda Cross, Greg Carter & Don Cameron – 19.3.02
- 1 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 23.3.02
- 1 Great Knot with green flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 25.3.02
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Lytton – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 11.3.02
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 16.3.02
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 16.3.02
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 13.4.02
- 1 Lesser Sand Plover with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 16.3.02

Interstate & overseas green leg flag sightings

- 1 Black-tailed Godwit with green flag – Kum River, Republic of Korea – Tim Allison – 11.5.02
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Mankyung Estuary, Kunsan City, Republic of Korea – Ken Gosbell *et al* – 10.5.01
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Sosan, Republic of Korea – Kim Hyun-tae – 11.5.01
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag (part breeding male) – Tern Mountain, Village of Chefornek, Yukon Delta, Alaska, USA – Daniel Ruthrauff – 6.9.01
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag (non-breeding female) – Tern Mountain, Village of Chefornek, Yukon Delta, Alaska, USA – Fred Broerman – 6 & 7.9.01
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Farewell Spit, Bay Flat, Near Nelson, New Zealand – Phil Battley – 25.2.02
- 1 Great Knot with green flag – Mankyung Estuary, Kunsan City, Republic of Korea – Ken Gosbell *et al* – 10.5.01

Other wader leg flag sightings

- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Deception Bay – Gavin Goodyear – 8.9.01
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 4.3.02
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue and white flags – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 5.3.02
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Toorbul – Phil Cross & Rob Kernot – 16.3.02
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Deception Bay – Gavin Goodyear – 17.3.02
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue and white flags – Toorbul – Linda Cross, Greg Carter & Don Cameron – 19.3.02
- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Godwin Beach – Gavin Goodyear – 6.4.02

- 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Deception Bay – Gavin Goodyear – 6.4.02
1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Sandstone Point – Jean Corney – 14.4.02
1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag – Toorbul – Arthur Keates & Phil Cross – 20.4.02
1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – Bob James, Karyll Butler et al – 2.3.02
1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 4, 5 & 6.3.02
1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – QWSG Wader ID Day – 17.3.02
1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge & David Redhead – 18.3.02
1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 23.3.02
1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – Jean Corney – 13.4.02
1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – Linda Cross – 1.5.02
2 Sanderling with orange flag – Mirapool, Moreton Island – Ivell Whyte & John Olds – 12.4.02

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with metal band – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 11.3.02
1 Pied Oystercatcher with metal band – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 11.3.02
1 Grey-tailed Tattler with metal band – Lytton – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 11.3.02
1 Pied Oystercatcher with metal band – Clontarf Boat Ramp – Gavin Goodyear – 24.3.02
1 Caspian Tern with metal band – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 10.4.02
1 Caspian Tern with orange flag & metal band – Toorbul – Gavin Goodyear – 23.3.02
1 Caspian Tern with orange flag & metal band, and 1 with metal band – Buckley's Hole area, Bribie Island – Phil & Linda Cross – 6.4.02
1 Caspian Tern with orange flag & metal band, and 1 with metal band – Toorbul – Linda Cross – 1.5.02
1 Common Tern with orange flag & metal band – Sandbank 1 Caloundra – Jill Dening – 23.1.02
1 Common Tern with orange flag & metal band – Sandbank 1 Caloundra – Jill Dening – 31.1.02
1 Common Tern with orange flag & metal band – Sandbank 1 Caloundra – Jill Dening – 21.2.02
2 Common Tern with orange flag & metal band – Sandbank 1 Caloundra – Barb Dickson *et al* – 10.3.02
1 Little Tern with 2 green flags, 1 pale green flag & metal band – Sandbank 1 Caloundra – Jill Dening – 31.1.02
1 Little Tern with metal band – Caloundra Sandbank – Jill Dening – 31.1.02
1 Little Tern with yellow, red & green flags & metal band – Sandbank 1 Caloundra – Jill Dening – 21.2.02
1 Little Tern with 3 blue flags & metal band – Toorbul – Jill Chamberlain et al – 2.3.02
1 Little Tern with blue, white & light green flags & metal band – Scarborough Harbour – Gavin Goodyear – 3.3.02
1 Little Tern with metal band – Sandbank 1 Caloundra – Barb Dickson, David Edwards et al – 10.3.02

Interesting sightings

- 6 Latham's Snipe – Tin Can Bay Sewage Works – John Cummings & Jan Olley – 16.2.02
387 Pacific Golden Plover – Shellgrit Creek, Mackay – Les & Dawn Thyer – 12.3.02
1 Beach Stone-curlew – Point Vernon, Hervey Bay – Donald & Lesley Bradley – 16.3.02 (1st record for this site)
1 Sanderling – Point Vernon, Hervey Bay – Donald & Lesley Bradley – 16.3.02 (1st record for this site)
1 Asian Dowitcher – Lytton – David Connolly – 16.3.02
2 Long-toed Stint (Unconfirmed) – Garnets Lagoons, Hervey Bay – John Knight, Ivor Davies & Nigel Marvin – 16.3.02
8 Broad-billed Sandpipers – Garnets Lagoons, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 31.3.02
97 Common Greenshank – Poverty Creek behind Mission Point, Bribie Island – Jill Dening – 13.4.02
27 Red-kneed Dotterel – Cleveland Bay Purification Plant, Townsville region – Dez Wells – 28.4.02
28 Black-fronted Dotterel – Cleveland Bay Purification Plant, Townsville region – Dez Wells – 28.4.02

Not waders but of interest anyway

- 1 Baillons Crane – Garnets Lagoons, Hervey Bay – Hervey Bay Birdwatchers – 20.2.02
3 Bush Hen – Tin Can Bay Sewage Works – John Cummings & Andrew Collins – 16.3.02
1 Black Falcon – Mt St John Purification Plant, Townsville region – Dez Wells – 17.3.02
1 Square-tailed Kite – Garnets Lagoons, Hervey Bay – Hervey Bay Birdwatchers – 20.3.02
1 Barn Owl – In tree close to Tweed Shopping Mall, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson – 9.4.02
1 Hoary-headed Grebe – Cleveland Bay Purification Plant, Townsville region – Dez Wells – 28.4.02
1 Hoary-headed Grebe – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – Trevor Ford – 21 & 22.5.02
10+ Black Kite – Pine Rivers Refuse Tip – Tom Tarrant – 28.4.02
4 Black Kite – Ningi – Trevor & Kym Ford – 28.4.02
20+ Black Kite – Caboolture Refuse Tip – Trevor Ford – 14.5.02
20 - 30 Black Kite – Caloundra Refuse Tip – Tim Siggs – 22.5.02

Other leg flag sightings (not appearing in the wader watch list) are detailed in the outing reports in this newsletter.

Count Programme by Linda Cross

DON'T FORGET THE NATIONAL WINTER COUNT SET DOWN FOR 22ND JUNE. PLEASE SEND YOUR COUNTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE SURVEY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO DO YOUR COUNT PLEASE CONTACT ME.

The keen wader watcher wanting to catch up with that New Zealand winter visitor to our shores (Double-banded Plover) will be interested in the following records I obtained from the count sheets.

1 – Tony's Island Tweed Heads – 15.3.02 (now 9 as at 15.4.02)

4 – Manly Boat Harbour – 16.3.02 (now 26 as at 13.4.02)

1 – Toorbul – 4.4.02

22 – Maroochy River North Shore – 12.4.02

5 – Sandbank 2 Caloundra – 12.4.02

4 – Cooloola Roost – 13.4.02

3 – Caboolture River Mouth – 13.4.02

Some also recorded at the new wader roost (Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island) during, and since its completion.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, I will continue telling you about our meeting with some of the north Queensland counters during our holidays last November.

After leaving Cairns we travelled down to Townsville and arranged to meet Dezmond Wells. Dez counts a number of sites in the Townsville region and sometimes his partner Carla Picone joins him. Unfortunately we did not meet Carla, as she was unable to join us on the day.

We met Dez around 10am and travelled north to look at Bushland Beach site, which is quite an extensive sandy beach used by the waders for feeding and roosting. Then we took a quick look at Ross River Dam (not a count site). From here we headed south to the Ross River Mouth and Cleveland Bay sites. Weather conditions were fine, hot and humid, making the walk through to the sand tracks thirsty work. During the walk Dez told us about some of his escapades during previous counts at these sites (not unlike a couple of other stories I recently heard from another counter). This area is a major feeding and roosting site for numerous wader species. There are a number of sandbars running from the mouth of the Ross River through to Cleveland Bay. On this day there were good numbers of Eastern Curlew, along with other waders, using these sandbars. We did manage to give Dez a quick look at a Red Knot before it flew off with other waders. I'm glad Dez was driving his own vehicle on the return trip when he decided to make his own track through the scrub!

After a well needed cool drink and lunch we headed further south to Cleveland Road Mudflats site, which is next to the Bruce Highway. These are a number of claypans that in summer (wet season) are covered in varying amounts of fresh rain water and can be mixed with saltwater during king tides. On this day all the claypans were dry and no waders were observed. We did however see Brolgas and experience the size of the site.

We finally headed to the last site, which is reached through Cungulla and Cape Bowling Green National Park. The site is situated at the mouth of Black Soil Creek and is used by a variety of waders. As we drove along the beach a concerned question went out from me in relation to the tide time. I was assured that the tide was going out, so we pressed on. Dez was particularly looking forward to the information we could give him on how to identify Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers that frequented the site, which he had always listed as Lesser because he was unable to clearly separate them. The birds didn't help us much by crouching down in the vehicular tyre tracks left in the soft sand, but we decided that the majority of them were Greater.

Before we headed off we decided to check out the area where Dez records one of the rarer shorebirds during most visits to this site. A quick look among the sand dunes dotted with Casuarina trees revealed two Beach Stone-curlew. It was wonderful to see the two of them just standing looking at us. Thankfully the site is fairly undisturbed, which will increase their chance of survival.

With that great finish to the day we headed back along the beach. We had a few chuckles when Phil commented to Dez that some of the tyre tracks we had left in the sand coming to the site had now gone, while others were disappearing as the waves washed over them!

I have to admire Dez for his dedication to the count programme. The furthest north he travels is 62 kms to count Balgal Beach. The furthest south is 70 kms to count Black Soil Creek. For the summer and winter national counts he surveys eight southern sites over one weekend and the five northern sites the following weekend.

We would like to sincerely thank Dez for sharing the day with us. We certainly learnt a lot about the sites, particularly in relation to their size, the species using them, and some of the problems associated with the counts. Our visit with the Hervey Bay counters will be in the next issue.

Finally, I continue with some of the other count site data. All sites were counted on, or either side of count date (16th March) except for Mirapool, which was counted on 27th January.

MIPO Mirapool, Moreton Island – Peter Driscoll
MIPP Point Perrebinpa, Macleay Island – Meryl Dobe
EMPO Empire Point – Rod Edwards
SDPT Sandy Point, Rockhampton region – Paul O’Neill (Russell Watson also helps)
KILC Leekes Creek, Great Keppel Island – Russell Watson
ZR26 Young Avenue, Kinka Beach, Yeppoon – John Thomson (helpers Rob MacFarlane and Maree Burke)

SPECIES	MIPO	MIPP	EMPO	SDPT	KILC	ZR26
Latham’ Snipe						
Black-tailed Godwit						
Bar-tailed Godwit	2480	50	100	38		
Whimbrel		97	2	149	10	
Eastern Curlew	1013	12		67		
Marsh Sandpiper				4		15
Common Greenshank						5
Terek Sandpiper				109		
Common Sandpiper						
Grey-tailed Tattler						
Wandering Tattler						
Ruddy Turnstone				3		
Great Knot	10					
Red Knot						
Sanderling	50			2		
Red-necked Stint	75			335		100
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper						13
Curlew Sandpiper	15					
Broad-billed Sandpiper						
Bush Stone-curlew						
Beach Stone-curlew					2	
Pied Oystercatcher	3			6	5	
Sooty Oystercatcher						
Black-winged Stilt						179
Pacific Golden Plover	5					
Grey Plover	15					
Red-capped Plover	4			119	2	
Lesser Sand Plover				599		
Greater Sand Plover	6			78		
Black-fronted Dotterel						
Red-kneed Dotterel						4
Masked Lapwing	2					12

Empire Point had a lot of disturbance on this count day.
Happy counting.
By Linda Cross

Introducing Australia's Newest Ramsar Site: Edithvale- Seaford Wetlands, Victoria

Location:

Melbourne, Victoria (the Edithvale Wetlands are in the City of Kingston and the Seaford Wetlands are in the City of Frankston).

Area:

Edithvale Wetlands: 103 hectares

Seaford Wetlands: 158 hectares

Management:

Melbourne Water is the management authority with jurisdictional responsibility for conservation purposes over all of the Edithvale Wetlands and the wetland areas of the Seaford Wetlands. The Frankston City Council is responsible for some of the dryland areas of the Seaford Wetlands.

Description:

The Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands sit in an urban setting in one of Australia's biggest cities. Although a wetland site in the middle of urban Melbourne, their values have been rated as being of international significance and they were designated to the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention in August 2001. They are the last remaining representative examples of the Carrum Carrum Swamp, a large southern Australian freshwater wetland, which was extensively drained in the late nineteenth century.

The Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands comprise two separate wetlands. The Edithvale Wetlands cover an area of 103 hectares and the Seaford wetlands 158 hectares. They are situated approximately nine kilometres apart and both wetlands lie within Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs.

The Wetlands are in close proximity to the Port Phillip Bay and Bellarine Peninsular Ramsar site creating an important link for migratory and other wetland birds and providing further protection for their important habitat. They also contribute to protecting the water quality of Port Phillip Bay by retaining and naturally 'treating' stormwater and other surface run-off at limited cost.

The site is significant for the diversity of migratory shorebirds it supports. Over 190 bird species have been recorded at the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands, including 25 international migratory birds. The Wetlands regularly support more than one per cent of the East Asian-Australasian flyway population of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (about 3000 birds) and also the Australasian Bittern, which is listed as Vulnerable by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

With over 41 significant plant species recorded at the site, the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands also provide a rich habitat for a range of native wildlife, including frogs, reptiles, fish and invertebrate populations.

The wetlands are also important as a demonstration and research site to show how disturbed systems can retain significance through careful management. Their functions as a wetland are multi purpose, ranging from biodiversity conservation to improving water quality.

The local community is also very actively involved with the wetlands. The Management Plan for the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands was written with extensive community consultation. The wetlands are the focus of Friends of Edithvale - Seaford Wetlands Inc, a very active, locally based community group that is involved in a range of both management and interpretation activities, including the construction of a bird hide. On-ground works being undertaken as part of the Management Plan include water quality monitoring, management of weed species, fire management, fencing and identification and protection of cultural sites.

The Natural Heritage Trust's National Wetlands Program provided \$5900 in 1997/1998 to the Victorian Government to prepare the Ramsar nomination for the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands.

For more information on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, please check Environment Australia's web site at:

<http://www.ea.gov.au/water/wetlands/>

or free-call 1800 XXXX XXXX.

Some Quick Notes from the QWSG Committee Meeting April 2002

-
- Greg Carter, Mandy Heales and John Olds (QPWS) unveiled the new shorebird signs that were developed jointly by QWSG and QPWS. Signs are aluminium infused with ink.
- 5 national sites have been selected by WWF for shorebird conservation projects. On the recommendation of the QWSG, the Mackay region has been nominated as one of these sites.
- Wader book discussed at length – progressing well now.
- PowerPoint presentation – distribution is restricted due to ongoing copyright problems. To be reviewed at a later date.
- A sub-committee has been formed to develop QWSG's wader database.
- The possibility of a web site for our own use is to be investigated.
- Next wader course – 12th Oct 2002. Details yet to be decided.
- Maintenance of the Empire Point artificial roost: Redlands Shire says it is the responsibility of Marine Parks and the Department of Primary Industries. This problem to be discussed with the relevant parties.
- Redlands Shire Council has proposed to build a walking trail from Cleveland to Victoria Point. QWSG is seeking input into the planning process to ensure that project does not adversely affect adjoining coastal area.

David Edwards

ID Day Reports

Lytton-Fisherman Islands Wader Identification Day 14 April 2002

On a warm sunny morning, QWSG and Birds Qld members were joined at the Lytton roost by members of Osprey House Environment Centre, National Parks Association and Conservation Volunteers of Australia.

The number of species and birds was not high, many of them having already departed for their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere. With 51 observers looking down on them and numerous spotting scopes pointed at them, the largest flock of mostly Bar-tailed Godwit and Whimbrel moved further from our observation point. The distance, as well as the fact we were looking into the sun, made observation difficult, particularly the Grey-tailed Tattler and Curlew Sandpiper among the dead mangroves. Several Black-tailed Godwit, some in near full breeding plumage, were present and provided observers with a comparison with Bar-tailed Godwit.

The following species were recorded at the Lytton roost:

Chestnut Teal, White-faced Heron, Great Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Red-kneed Dotterel, Silver Gull and Gull-billed Tern.

Many of the group continued on to Fisherman Islands where the following species were recorded:

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Great Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Black-shouldered Kite, Whistling Kite, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Nankeen Kestrel, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull and Caspian Tern.

Sheryl & Arthur Keates

WADER ID DAYS for 2002

Sunday 22nd September 2002 at Toorbul

We will meet at 09:00am for a 1.95m high at 10:33am.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul turn-off near the Big Fish. Leave the Highway 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.

Contact 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: Peter Crow, President (07) XXXX XXXX; Rod Cox, Secretary (07) XXXX XXXX; Treasurer, Rhelmae Hebbard (07) XXXX XXXX

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.

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 xxxx xxxx or E-mail at xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au

Postage is not included in the prices quoted.

Polo Neck Shirts

\$30:00 Bottle Green, Maroon, Jade, Navy, Royal Blue, Cream.

T-shirts

\$22:00 Avocet design short sleeve. Limited stock

Books

\$19:80 Shorebird Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

\$24:00 Simpson & Day Field Guide (2000 print)

\$14:00 Birds of Bribie Island, Pumicestone Passage and Environs

\$14:00 Wildflowers of Bribie Island

\$15:00 Kingfishers and Kookaburras by David Hollands

\$ 3:30 A Guide to Waders of Moreton Bay

\$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.

Our QWSG logo Polo Shirt stock is very low and we are looking at purchasing more stock in the New Year. A number of members missed out on the size and colour of their choice when we obtained the last stock and asked that we advise them when new stock was to be ordered so they could choose the one they wanted. Here is your chance to get the colour you want in your size by placing an order in advance.

At this point in time we envisage continuing with the colours we had previously: - Bottle Green, Jade, Navy, Royal Blue, Maroon, Grey Marle and Cream. However, if you have a favourite colour that we did not have there is a possibility that we can get it for you. Sizes varied from small through to XXXL in the last stock, but larger sizes were available.

If you are interested in placing an order, or wish to discuss the matter further please contact me by phone or email.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Petrus Heyligers, Fiackra Kearney, Wayne Kelliher, Richard McGuier,
Ralf Regeer, John Mahoney, Martin Havlicek, Pauline Brennan,
Colin Reid, Ken McKeown, Michael Whitcomb, Phyllis Heck.

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.

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE QWSG

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	Andrew Geering	(07) xxxx xxxx
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Sheryl Keates	(07) xxxx xxxx
<u>MINUTE SECRETARY:</u>	Margaret Bernard	(07) xxxx xxxx

<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</u>	David Edwards	(07) xxxx xxxx
<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross	(07) xxxx xxxx

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lindsay Agnew	(07) xxxx xxxx	Michelle Burford	(07) xxxx xxxx
Peter Driscoll	(07) xxxx xxxx	Jill Dening	(07) xxxx xxxx
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Sandra Harding	(07) xxxx xxxx	Arthur Keates	(07) xxxx xxxx
David Milton	(07) xxxx xxxx	Ivell Whyte	(07) xxxx xxxx

CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
Xx xxxx xxxx Street,
xxxx xxxx, Q 4xxx

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription rates:
Single: \$12:00
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Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward application to:

Mrs Sheryl Keates,
QWSG Treasurer,
Xx xxxx xxxx St,
xxxx xxxx, xxxx xxxx
Qld 4xxx.

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 28th 2002

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, x xxxx xxxx Street, xxxx xxxx, Qld 4xxx
or E-mail to: xxxx xxxx @o xxxx xxxx.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.

Advertising Rates are \$20:00 for one quarter page and \$25:00 for a third of a page.

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Activities 2002

WADER COUNT DATES (general monitoring) for 2002

- Sat 22nd June High Tide of 1.92m at 06:59am **NATIONAL WINTER COUNT**
- NO COUNT JULY**
- Sun 11th August High Tide of 1.95m at 11:23am
- Sun 8th September High Tide of 2.07m at 10:18am
- Sun 6th October High Tide of 2.14m at 09:13am
- Sat 9th November High Tide of 2.29m at 12:46pm
- Sun 8th December High Tide of 2.34m at 12:24pm

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 xxxx xxxx or at xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au
Completed count forms should be returned as soon as possible to:
Mrs L Cross at x xxxx xxxx Rd, xxxx xxxx, Qld 4xxx.

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!



MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

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

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

Address:.....

Membership: \$.....

..... Postcode:.....

Donation: \$.....

Payment enclosed: \$.....

Phone: (Home) (Work)

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:.....

Post to: QWSG Treasurer, xx xxxx xxxx Street, xxxx xxxx, Qld 4xxx
Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group