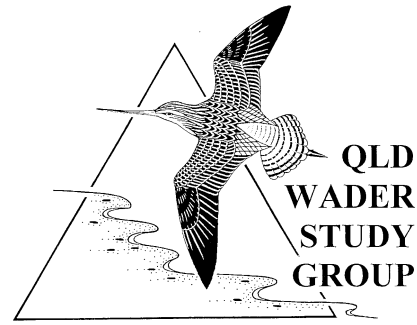


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 41

Spring 2002

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

The Queensland Wader Study Group's Tenth Birthday Edition

Yes it is ten years since the first edition of the Queensland Wader.

Congratulations to all those who have contributed to the newsletter and to those who have collated all the articles over the years. The newsletter has advanced from a collection of photocopied snippets to a computer generated production.

The group has witnessed a growth in the collection of data by members resulting in accurate information on waders being disseminated to government departments. One of the real highlights of the aspect of the group was the successful three year undertaking of the satellite tracking program.

Recent developments have seen education becoming a greater part of the QWSG's activity. The ever popular Wader Course goes from strength to strength, whilst the ID days impart direct help to interested beginners. The Education sub-committee is leading the way with its direct contact with school children plus their own website.

The QWSG has been actively lobbying for roost sites e.g. Manly Boat Harbour, SE Queensland; Kakadu Beach roost site on Bribie Island, SE Queensland; Empire Point, SE Queensland; Port of Brisbane and Pioneer River roost, Mackay, Queensland. Also it has helped maintain some of these areas.

The group has seen many changes over the years but as you will see from some of the first articles much stays the same.

From the Queensland Wader first edition.

WADER SURVEY PROJECT

One project that we'd like as many people as possible to become involved in is the surveying of waders at their high tide roosts. If counts are made simultaneously for a few key species at roosting sites all over Moreton Bay (and eventually, it is hoped, right throughout Queensland) we will be able to make more accurate and informed estimates of the total population size of these wader species and learn which sites certain species favour most. Furthermore, by repeating these counts at various times during the year we will gain valuable information about such things as the birds' schedule of movements and what percentage of each species is migratory and what percentage over-winters in our part of the world. Should you need even more incentive to become active in the survey program, all data collected during the counts will go towards Nature Search 2001.

Initially, it has been decided that the survey should focus upon three key wader species. These are: **Eastern Curlew**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and **Great Knot**. These three were chosen because of their large size and relative ease with which they can be identified, even from a distance. Naturally, if observers are able to reliably identify and count other species at wader roosts then this data would be appreciated too

It is hoped that each person involved in the survey program will be able to participate in a minimum of 4-6 organised wader counts during the year.

Some people may be able to do more counts than this depending on their available time and level of enthusiasm. If so, that extra information would be very valuable. However, be careful not to commit yourselves, too much! Remember we are doing this for fun too! More importantly, doing too many counts or trying to count too many species may compromise your accuracy and invalidate the data you collect

Although it is rather short notice, our first wader survey day will be on Saturday, March 21. It is important that we get the survey program under way soon, given the imminent departure of many of the birds at this time of year. If you are able to participate, please do so because the more information we can collect the better.

Below is a list of all the sites to be surveyed with a contact phone number of the person who will act as local organiser for the count at that site. If you have a favourite area, get in touch with the person listed next to that region and they will fill you in on the details of the day's activities. If it doesn't particularly matter to you where you do your count but you're just keen to help out, ring any number on the list.

It may turn out that the person who has agreed to act as local organiser for a particular site may not be available on one of the official survey days. If so, then it's possible to be a bit flexible. For instance, it would be alright to do the survey the day before or the day after the date chosen for the official count. If this still happens to be inconvenient for the local organiser, someone else may step in and take over that role temporarily.

How you can help now!

1. QWSG -needs to know where the important high tide roosts are (other than those listed in this newsletter!). Please send or phone a brief description of where you see numbers of birds roosting regularly. Include any other-useful information eg. total numbers or estimates ie. 10's 100's 1000's, species (if known). We need your feedback to make our wader project a success!!
2. Commit yourself to some regular monitoring, just one day each two or three months (4-6 days/year). A list of preferred survey dates listed below! Anyone who is able to monitor a site on a more regular basis, please let us know!
3. Tell us about any interesting observations or unusual confirmed sightings so we can tell others through the newsletter.
4. Improve your skills with waders, attend QWSG activities.
5. Circulate this newsletter as widely as possible, we need lots of members.

Coming activities

Sat 21 March Cannon netting at Raby Bay - **SORRY! THIS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

Sat. March 21 **Wader survey day** (Refer to article on Wader Survey Project)

Sat 4 April **Lytton Field Day** - Learn to ID your birds! We'll focus on the target species for monitoring, but also help beginners with basic skills. **When:** Meet at 9.00am **Location.** Along Port Drive, opposite the Sewage Treatment Plant. If the weather is terrible, ie. heavy rain and wind, the activity will be held on Sunday, same time, same place. Ring Dave to confirm at 7.00 am Saturday only if the weather is dubious.

Sun 5 April Cannon netting at Cabbage Tree Creek; meet at 6.30am at mouth of Cabbage Tree Creek. (High tide of 2m at 10.30am)

Sun. April 5 **Wader survey day** (Refer to article on Wader Survey Project)

Sun. May 17 **Wader survey day** (Refer to article on Wader Survey Project)

Membership fees

\$10.00 per person \$7.50 Concession

So much seems familiar, even the membership fees have not changed that much in ten years!

Population trends — a reason for concern?

(Extract from a paper by C.Minton, R.Jessop & P.Collins [The Stilt in Prep.]

The reproductive rate is one of the two fundamental parameters (mortality is the other) governing the population level of a species. In Arctic-breeding waders it is difficult to directly measure reproductive success on the breeding grounds and certainly impractical to do this for a wide range of species simultaneously and for a prolonged period.

Many non-breeding populations of waterbirds, such as swans and geese, can be scanned in the field to determine the proportion of juveniles. For waders, where the plumage differences between adults and juveniles are less distinct, the best quantitative estimates of breeding success have been obtained by catching samples from flocks on the non-breeding grounds and determining the proportion of juvenile / first year birds in the hand. Whilst there may be potential biases in such data (as in most field data) such information at the very least produces an annual breeding success index for each species. Short and long term changes in this may be helpful in understanding changes in wader population levels determined by systematic annual counts.

A number of interesting facts are apparent.

(a) The Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper "percentage figures" do not correlate closely. In six of the ten year-to-year changes, the direction of change was opposite for the two species. The extreme example was 1997/98 to 1998/99 when Red-necked Stint increased from 7.8% to 32% but Curlew Sandpiper dropped from 21% to 4.1%.

(b) There is no evidence for a strong regular three year cycle of breeding success associated with, for example lemming/predator fluctuation periodicity. The nearest approximation is that 1991, 1995, 1998 and 2001 were apparently the best breeding years for Red-necked Stints compared with adjacent years. However of these only 1991 and 2001 were really good for Curlew Sandpipers.

Overall there is a clear picture that Curlew Sandpipers appear to have fared much less well than Red-necked Stints as far as breeding success is concerned during the last decade. Relative population levels have changed and this is apparent too from the decreasing proportion of Curlew Sandpipers in "small wader" catches made by the Victorian Wader Study Group over the period. In the earlier years of the period the proportion of Curlew Sandpipers in such catches was usually above 20% but in the last two years it has dropped to only 6%.

The effects of these patterns of breeding performance have, not unexpectedly, been apparent in population levels. Curlew Sandpiper numbers in Australia have declined by 70% over the last 20 years. This conclusion was based on an analysis (by Jim Wilson) of the annual austral summer (February) population monitoring counts organised by the Australasian Wader Studies Group (Wilson 2001a and Wilson 2001b).

Red-necked Stint numbers in SE Australia also declined during the period of below average breeding success in the 1990s. However they have now rebounded, to record levels. For example in the eastern half of Corner Inlet - which has the largest Red-necked Stint population of any of the 20-30 sites in Australia which are counted annually — the population averaged 21,465 in the February 2000- 2002 counts (range 19,300-23,675). For the previous 19 years (1981-1999) the February count averaged 9,895 (range 6,300-14,300) (AWSG unpublished data).

Red-necked Stints have also spread extensively into new habitats as a result of the high population levels over the last four years. Flocks of hundreds, sometimes thousands, are now present on ocean beaches where previously the usual occurrence was in the tens. Numbers in all the traditional areas — muddier bays and estuaries — have also increased but not as dramatically as in the previously more marginal Red-necked Stint habitats.

From The Tattler no32

Colour Leg Flagging in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

From The Tattler no32

With the gradual expansion in the number of sites in the Flyway at which waders are colour leg- flagged there has been a corresponding increase in the number of colour flag combinations which can now be seen on waders in the Flyway. It is probably helpful therefore to list those flag colour combinations that are in current use.

There is some variation in the positioning of flags on the legs of waders. In most cases, the colours are on the right leg, but in a few cases, the left leg is used. At present, this is not critical because the leg on which the combination is used is not important in determining its origin. Nevertheless, if possible please report the leg on which the colours are seen in any sighting of a flagged bird.

Most single flag colours are placed on the tibia. In dual flag combinations, the first flag is placed on the tibia and the second flag on the tarsus of the same leg (the metal band being put on the other leg). However, on the medium / large waders both flags are placed above the knee joint on the tibia. This is for greater visibility and to overcome the problem of a lower flag not being seen on a bird standing in shallow water.

A firm categorisation of species in which both flags can be placed on the upper leg (tibia) has not yet been determined. But some experience in the field suggests that it is possible down to, and including, Curlew Sandpiper and similar sized species.

Although the metal band position is not part of the colour flag combination, its location and position should be recorded if possible. One benefit of this is that it clearly indicates that the lower leg (tarsus) of the bird was visible and this therefore makes certain that there was no unseen flag on the tarsus.

At all the banding sites, except New Zealand, a wide range of species has been, or is intended to be, colour flagged. In New Zealand, however, colour flagging is confined to the three main migratory wader species - Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot and Ruddy Turnstone.

Note that in the case of Japan, some of the flags used may be cut to a specific shape to indicate the local region in which birds were marked. Thus, please look out for such flags.

Although the leg flagging process is largely employed on waders, significant numbers of Common, Little and Roseate Terns have also been leg flagged in different parts of Australia with orange, yellow or dark green flags on the tarsus. Additionally some Little Terns have been marked with three leg flags, which enables them to be identified individually (provided the position of the metal band is also noted). As many terns inhabit the same areas as waders, please keep a look out for flagged birds.

Please make every effort to ensure that any flag sighting you make or become aware of is reported to relevant parties. This varies from country to country. Some countries are well organised to collect flag sighting records centrally and pass them on to the relevant flagging organisations in the Flyway. In other cases it may be best to send flag sightings direct to the flagging contact in the country where the bird was flagged if this can be identified (see AWSG website <http://www.iasweb.com.au/awsg/index.htm>. If you have any doubt about where to send a flag sighting then please send it to AWSG Leg Flag Sightings, c/o Clive Minton (who will ensure that it is transmitted to the appropriate persons).

The great success of the wader leg flagging programs is entirely due to the efforts of people throughout the Flyway to go into the field and record details of flagged birds and then to ensure that these are transmitted back to those who originally put the flags on the birds. The data collection rate is some 10-20 times larger than that deriving from the reporting of the numbers of the metal bands of birds.

For the QWSG please contact Mrs Linda Cross at x xxxx xxxx Rd, xxxx xxxx, Qld 4xxx.

The following are the most commonly used colour codes used in the Flyway.

Single Flag Codes

| | |
|--------|---|
| Orange | Victoria, SE. Australia |
| Yellow | N.W. Australia |
| Green | Queensland, N.E. Australia |
| White | Auckland area, North Island, New Zealand [Godwits, Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone only] |
| Blue | Lake Furen, Hokkaido, Northern Japan |

Double Flag Codes

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Orange/Yellow | South Australia |
| Yellow/Orange | SW. of Western Australia [Stints only] |
| White/Green | Nelson area, South Island, New Zealand [Godwit, Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone] |
| Blue/Blue | Lake Komuke, Hokkaido, Northern Japan |
| Blue/White (triangular) | Yatsu Tidal Flat, Tokyo Bay, Central Japan |
| Blue/White | Obitsu Estuary, Tokyo Bay, Central Japan |
| White/Blue | Taiwan |
| White/Orange | Korea |
| White/Yellow | Hong Kong |
| Orange/Green | Yalu Jiang. Northern Yellow Sea. China |

A letter dated Aug 19, received from Em. Professor D (Doug) Kettle from Mt Ommaney.

I enclose \$50 to renew my membership of the Wader Study Group and include a donation. I regret that my days of doing field work in any serious fashion have come to an end but I still enjoy more modest field activity.

I particularly want to thank the group for the excellent work they have done in constructing the hides at Kakadu Beach on Bribie Is. I was there last week and was greatly impressed by the layout and the effort that had gone into planning and executing this much needed roost to replace the destruction of Dux Creek.

Congratulations to those who negotiated and eventually achieved the cooperation of Pacific Harbours in establishing Kakadu Beach. Developers do not readily sacrifice beach front plots on Pumicestone Passage or elsewhere and the group's achievement is a near miracle.

The time of my visit on the afternoon of Friday August 16 the birds present included 5 Pied Oystercatchers, 7 Caspian Terns, 1 Eastern Curlew and about 15-20 Gull-billed and Crested Terns. The last named were closer to the water with their backs to me so I could only separate them when they stood up. While I was observing the sedentary waders a party of about 10 Red-capped Plovers and a large group of 15-20 Double-banded Plovers walked behind them going northwards up the passage parallel to the beach.

***Pluvialis* plover leg flags**

SHOREBIRDERS: Please keep your eyes on *Pluvialis* plover legs during the fall migration and wintering season -- a marked bird may come your way!

Possibilities are: Pacific Golden-Plovers from various sites (Oahu, HI; Johnston Atoll; Nome, AK) ; American Golden-Plovers and Black-bellied Plovers captured on breeding grounds near Nome.

Each bird wears a metal band plus some combination of color-bands. There are a few with flags. It is important to record the exact sequence on each leg, and whether there is a color-band above or below the metal band.

Send observations with as much information as possible to:
Wally Johnson, Dept. of Ecology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717 USA
< xxxx xxxx 5@aol.com >

N.W. Australia Wader and Tern Expedition 2002

A further expedition to study waders and terns in the Roebuck Bay, Broome and 80 Mile Beach (Anna Plains) areas of NW Australia will take place between November 16th and December 14th 2002.

As on previous expeditions, international participation is welcomed. It is intended that the team of 15 - 20 persons will spend about half the time at each location, being based either at Broome Bird Observatory or Anna Plains Station (a one million acre property).

The principle objectives of this visit are;

- To obtain data on the progression of the primary moult on all species/ages of wader. At present we have negligible data in the middle November to early January period to obtain an estimate of the relative breeding success in the 2002 Arctic breeding season for all the main species of wader.
- To catch samples of species which are only present in catchable numbers at that time of year, especially Oriental Pratincole.
- To obtain weight data to further investigate to moon phase/weight relationship apparently present in many species.

The expedition fully covers both a full moon and new moon period.

Peak wader numbers are present in NW Australia in November/December with all the adults and juveniles having arrived. Close to 500,000 waders occur on 80 Mile Beach and up to 150,000 in Roebuck Bay at Broome - of an incredible 48 species. The team size is limited by the cost and availability of 4 wheel drives throughout. Places will be allocated on a "first come first served" basis. Past expedition participants are especially encouraged to come again.

Further details, and to register expressions of interest, or firm bookings, please contact one of the expedition leaders;

Clive Minton, x xxxx xxxx Road, xxxx xxxx, Vic. 3xxx, Australia
Fax/Phone 61-3- xxxx xxxx. E-mail xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx l.com .au

Rosalind Jessop, PO Box xx, xxxx xxxx, xxxx xxxx, Vic 3xxx, Australia
Phone/Fax 61-3-5952-1857. E-mail xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au

Peter Collins RMB xxx, xxxx xxxx , 3xxx, xxxx xxxx, Australia
Fax/Phone 61-3- xxxx xxxx.
E-mail xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx .net.au

Humphrey Sitters, Limosa, xxxx xxxx Lane, xxxx xxxx, Exeter, EX xxxx xxxx
Fax/Phone 44- xxxx xxxx

David Milton & Sandra Harding
xxxx xxxx Rd.,
xxxx xxxx QLD 4xxx
AUSTRALIA
Ph: +61 7 xxxx xxxx

AWSG 2003 Conference

The next AWSG Conference will be held over two days in Canberra in association with the Australasian Ornithological Congress. The exact date and venue have yet to be finalised however it will most likely be early in December.

One day will be dedicated to findings from studies and research into wader populations. The other day will be a workshop on the conservation issues of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, of which Australia and New Zealand are integral parts.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper at the Conference should advise Phil Straw of their intention (including a brief outline) as soon as possible. This will assist us to prepare an initial program

Discovery of the non-breeding area (wintering grounds) of Asian roseate terns.

A visit in early January this year (2002) to the Swain Reefs at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef has discovered where the significant breeding populations of roseate terns from southern Japan and China migrate to during the northern hemisphere winter. The discovery is of special significance as the roseate tern is not presently included in the schedule of species covered under the Japan or China Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA or CAMBA).

The seven-day visit was organised by Paul O'Neill of Central Region and included a team of five researchers aboard the marine parks vessel 'Tamaru'. Although part of the long-term monitoring program for seabird populations on the Great Barrier Reef, the trip had an additional aim of investigating why so many non-breeding roseate terns inhabit the Swain Reefs in both winter and summer. Visits to the area in the previous three years were made during July to count, band and attach green leg flags to roseate terns. Data from three hundred birds marked during those visits indicate that the six thousand birds present during the winter months are predominantly local birds. These birds breed in the Australian spring / summer on islands of the southern Great Barrier Reef such as Wilson, Wreck, Lady Elliot and Masthead Islands.

The visit in January showed much larger numbers of roseate terns present, with approximately 25,000 counted on just six small coral cays. About 1,150 of these birds were caught using a small cannon net, banded and fitted with white leg flags. Amazingly 19 of these birds carried Japanese leg bands and another had been banded in Taiwan. This is a record total number of foreign-banded birds to be captured in Australia in such a short time. It is overwhelming evidence that the Swain Reefs is the core non-breeding area for roseate terns which breed in Japan and China, and possibly for others breeding elsewhere in the northern hemisphere.

The Japanese bird-banding scheme has banded about 3,000 adult roseate terns and 5,000 chicks at the breeding colonies in Okinawa over the past twenty-five years. The only previous distant recovery from this population was from the Philippines during the month of May – a bird probably on migration. There had been no previous recoveries indicating their destination during the northern hemisphere winter.

Two of the birds captured in January were banded on Minna Island near Okinawa in Japan in July 1988, making them 13 years and five months old. The youngest birds were banded only two years ago. No adolescent birds were observed, indicating that young birds in their first year of life over-winter somewhere a bit closer to home. Other than these first year birds, it is apparent that the whole Asian population of roseate terns fly to the Swain Reefs for their annual vacation! Mr Kiyooki Ozaki, who is the director of the Bird Migration Research Centre at the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology in Japan, personally banded most of the birds that were recaptured. The oldest birds he has recaptured at the Japanese breeding sites are over 17 years old.

The birds caught in January on the Swain Reefs consisted of birds from three different populations. They were separable by plumage and especially by moult characteristics. Sixty-three percent of the birds were Japanese type / northern hemisphere birds, 1.5% were local breeding birds and the remaining 35.5% were of unknown origin. The state of primary moult and body plumage of this 'unknown' section of the population suggests they are autumn/early winter breeders, and most likely from breeding colonies further north in Queensland, the Gulf of Carpentaria and/or the Northern Territory. It is hoped to confirm this with observations of our white colour-flagged birds at their breeding sites in the near future.

Anna Lashko of James Cook University also took blood samples for DNA analysis. These samples came from each of the three populations present in January and also from the earlier July samples. This work should ultimately assist in the identification of the breeding origin of the different components of the population.

To crown a most successful and enjoyable field expedition, the team observed a ruddy turnstone on one of the coral cays carrying coloured leg flags from South Korea. The Great Barrier Reef truly is a haven for northern hemisphere tourists and avian visitors!

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 – 25.5.02
 1 Eastern Curlew with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 22.6.02
 3 Eastern Curlew with green flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 11.8.02
 1 Ruddy Turnstone with green flag – St. Helena Island – Andrew Geering – 16.2.02

Interstate & overseas green leg flag sightings

Many of the sightings below date back to 2000. Unfortunately the information is only received from Japan yearly, or in this case, every second year.

- 1 Black-tailed Godwit with green flag – Kum River, Republic of Korea – Tim Allison – 11.5.02
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Sone Shinden, Kokura-Minami-Ku, Japan – Masafumi Takeshita – 22.4.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Arao Beach, Arao-Shi, Kumamoto, Kyushu, Japan – Takatsune Nagai – 4.5.00
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Sone Estuary and Tidal Flat, Kitakyushu, Fukuoke, Japan – Shigeru Yamamoto – 6.4.01
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with green flag – Sosan, Korea – Kim Hyun-tae – 11.5.01
 1 Great Knot with green flag – Okku, Mangyeong, Republic of Korea (South Korea) – Nial Moores – 23.8.02
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Offshore Sugiyama, Toyohashi, Aichi, Japan – Eriko Fujjoka – 5.5.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Yatsu Nature Observatory – 10.8.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Tadashi Nozaki – 14.8.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Tsutomu Ishikawa – 15.8.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Harutaka Takubo – 15.8.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Yatsu Nature Observatory – 16,23,24,25,26 and 27.8.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Tsutomu Ishikawa – 27.8.00
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Wakana Takubo – 24.7.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Wakana Takubo – 11.8.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Tsutomu Ishikawa – 14.8.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Shiokawa Tidal Flat, Atsumi, Aichi, Japan – Minoru Itami – 14.8.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Saori Yamakoshi – 16.8.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Wakana Takubo – 17.8.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Shiokawa Tidal Flat, Atsumi, Aichi, Japan – Eriko Fujjoka – 23.8.01
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler with green flag – Yatsu Tidal Flat, Narashino-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo Bay, Japan – Hitoshi Akutsu – 4.8.02

Other wader leg flag sightings

- 1 Eastern Curlew with orange flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 11.8.02
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with orange flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 22.6.02
 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper with orange flag – Blue Lagoon 2, Newhaven Reserve, Northern Territory – Bob & June Gleeson et al – 12.5.02
 2 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper with orange flag – Blue Lagoon 2, Newhaven Reserve, Northern Territory – Bob & June Gleeson et al – 13.5.02
 1 Red Knot with orange flag – Toorbul – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil & Linda Cross – 28.7.02
 1 Red Knot with orange flag – Nudgee Beach – Arthur & Sheryl Keates – 17.8.02

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 1 Pied Oystercatcher with white and metal bands – Moreton Island – Lyndal & Dennis Coutts – 16.6.02
 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Trevor Ford – 30.7.02
 1 Caspian Tern with metal band – Amity Point, North Stradbroke Island – Martin Waugh – 11.8.02

Interesting sightings

Immediately after the last issue of Qld Wader reached the members I was contacted about not listing an interesting sighting under this section. Trevor Ford reminded me about the Laughing Gull that he sighted at Bribie Island on 1st April. This bird was a second year bird going into breeding plumage. The bird stayed in the area of Bongaree Jetty and Buckley's Hole for about 10 days and was ticked by many birdwatchers (some coming from Victoria and South Australia).

- 2 Beach-stone Curlew (uncommon at this site) – Amity Point, North Stradbroke Island – Martin Waugh – 22.6.02
 6 Beach-stone Curlew – Midge Point, North Mackay – Col Collins 1.7.02
 1 Asian Dowitcher – Inskip Point, Tin Can Bay – Bob Cook (via Russ Lamb) – 4.7.02
 684 Great Knot (large number for winter count) – Ross River, Townsville – Dez Wells – 10.6.02
 216 Red-capped Plover (large number for winter count) – Ross River, Townsville – Dez Wells – 10.6.02

Not waders but of interest anyway

- 8 Wandering Whistling Duck – Trutes Wetland, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson – 14.5.02 (still at site on 14.7.02)
 23 Wandering Whistling Duck – Kingscliff Sewage Plant, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson – 5.8.02
 6 Wandering Whistling Duck – Kinka Beach, Yeppoon – John Thomson – 11.8.02
 1 Freckled Duck – Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 22.6.02
 7 Pink-eared Duck – Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – John Knight 15.6.02
 10 Australasian Shoveler – Tin Can Bay Sewage Works – John Cummings – 22.6.02
 8 Australasian Shoveler – Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 14.6.02 (still at site on 11.8.02)
 472 Chestnut Teal – Luggage Point – Greg Nye & Paul Finn – 22.6.02
 2 Radjah Shelduck – Kinka Beach, Yeppoon – John Thomson – 23.6.02
 1 Great-crested Grebe – Banora Point Sewage Plant, Tweed Heads – Scott Holland & David Scott (via Ian Watson) – 16 to 19.6.0
Great-crested Grebe – Cairns Esplanade – via Keith Fisher – up to 4 recorded during July 02
 1 Great Crested Grebe – Bells Creek, Caloundra – Jill Chamberlain – 21.7.02
 170 Black Swan – Toorbul – Jean Corney – 11.8.02
 4 Glossy Ibis – Luggage Point – Greg Nye & Paul Finn – 13.4.02
 2 Glossy Ibis – Kinka Beach, Yeppoon – John Thomson – 23.6.02
 9 Glossy Ibis – Garnet's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 11.8.02
 390 Brolga – Cleveland Road Mudflats, Townsville area – Dez Wells – 25.6.02
 13 Lesser Crested Tern – St. Helena Island – Andrew Geering – 25.5.02
 66 Lesser Crested Tern – Ross River, Townsville – Dez Wells – 10.6.02
 133 White-winged Black Tern – Luggage Point – Greg Nye & Paul Finn – 25.5.02
 1 Black Kite – Luggage Point – Greg Nye & Paul Finn – 25.5.02
 2 Little Eagle – Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 15.6.02
 1 Spotted Harrier – Fisherman's Island – Trevor Ford – 21.7.02
 1 Barn Owl – In tree close to Tweed Shopping Mall, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson – 12.7.02 (in same tree as reported on 9.4.02)
 1 Bustard – (near Bird Hide, Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 17.7.02

Count Programme by Linda Cross

By the time you receive this newsletter the wader count numbers at count sites should be increasing with the return of the breeding birds from the northern hemisphere. Early reports have already starting to come in about the return of some species. Ian Watson recorded one Latham's Snipe at Banora Point Sewage Plant, Tweed Heads on 14th August, and John Knight has recorded two of the same species at Garnet's Lagoons on 21st August.

Double-banded Plover was recorded at nine count sites during the last couple of months with many reported to be in breeding plumage on the last count. Jim and Ivell Whyte counted 45 at Geoff Skinner Reserve East on 22nd June and Martin Waugh had 42 at Amity Point on 11th August.

Red-necked Avocet, which is usually only recorded at two or three sites, have been seen at six count sites during the June and August counts. The largest number being 178 at Deception Bay Mangrove count site reported by Phil and myself on 22nd June.

Some species sightings (particularly water birds) being reported are a possible indicator of an inland drought. Red-kneed Dotterel has been recorded at seven count sites since May, with some being reported as a first record at their count site. Greg Nye and Paul Finn had the highest count, with 26 at Luggage Point on 22nd June. Some counters don't ever recall seeing such large number of Black Swan in Pumicestone Passage. Great-crested Grebe has been observed in estuarine waters of Caloundra and on the Cairns Esplanade. Large counts of Chestnut Teal at more count sites than normal (some seen on the beach), along with a variety of ducks normally associated further inland. Probably the most unusual sighting would be an Australian Bustard close to the bird hide, which is positioned right next to the waters of the Great Sandy Strait at Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay!

If, as the weather experts inform us, we are going to experience more drought conditions through until next year, I would remind everyone to keep their eyes wide open for any of those rarer species of waders that could turn up under these conditions.

As you are aware, I have been supplying count site data from the count programme and incorporating it into this section of the newsletter. During this time I have endeavoured to include every counter listed with the count programme by recording the information from at least one of their count sites. If I have omitted anyone it was not intentional and I sincerely apologise in advance. If, by any chance I have missed you, please let me know.

I would also like to advise everyone that I am currently back in paid employment until some time in November and ask for your patience and understanding (particularly during the next 6 weeks) regarding my role as count co-ordinator. I apologise in advance for delays replying to any requests you might have.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, our visit with some of the counters continues.

We had scheduled the summer wader survey of the Great Sandy Strait for January this year and, as with some previous surveys we have done for Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS), we included public education as a part of the work. Previous education evenings had been held in Boonooroo and it was decided that under the Booral Wetland Project, that we were also assisting QPWS with, we would try to cover both ends of the strait. So an education/slide night was advertised for an evening in Hervey Bay. I saw this as an opportunity to spend a couple of days in Hervey Bay meeting some of the counters in the area and visiting the count sites prior to heading down to Boonooroo for the survey day. The intention was also to do some counts in the area under the Booral Wetland Project. I invited Joyce Harding to join me. Joyce is a QWSG committee member and is responsible for entering all the counts and information from count sheets onto disc prior to sending to Peter Driscoll, making his job a little easier when loading onto the database.

Our journey up to Hervey Bay was very pleasant arriving early afternoon on Thursday at Donald and Lesley Bradley's house in Point Vernon. Donald and Lesley had very kindly offered us accommodation during our stay. Donald and Lesley's count site is at Point Vernon. After settling in and having a chat the plan was to head off to Mathieson Homestead count site. High tide was just after 7pm so we knew we had plenty of time to get there before the high. As we stepped out the house to get into car we saw three or four flocks of small waders fly past heading to the point, so we decided to check them out. I was surprised at just how close the point was to the house, which is certainly a bonus for Donald and Lesley on count days.

A minute or so later we stood on the ridge looking down on the rocks, which is where the waders roosted. We counted 750 Lesser Sand Plover, 150 Greater Sand Plover, 600 Red-necked Stint and a handful of other waders, which consisted of 3 Whimbrel, 4 Ruddy Turnstone, 2 Sooty Oystercatcher and a lone Pacific Golden Plover.

A lesson in how to identify Lesser and Greater Sand Plover was welcomed by Donald and by the time we left the site he was confident that he could tell them apart.

We headed off to Mathieson Homestead, which is situated on private property south of Urangan close to River Heads, arriving about an hour before the high. On arrival we met Edith Wright, one of the owners of the property, and her daughter, who were out giving the dogs a walk. After introducing ourselves we headed to the roost. Here the Hervey Bay Birdwatchers have built a very impressive bird hide, which has a covered roof, helping shield observers from the elements of nature. From the hide you look across the strait and can see the roofs of the buildings at Kingfisher Bay Resort on Fraser Island.

There was a fairly strong northerly wind blowing creating humid conditions, but as it came across the water it helped cool us down. Time to conduct another count. Only four species of waders were present at the roost, but two species were in quite significant numbers. The Eastern Curlew count was 251 and 70 Common Greenshank. Also present were 34 Pied Oystercatcher and 2 Masked Lapwing.

The evening was spent in the much-welcomed air-conditioned house of Donald and Lesley enjoying a lovely meal Lesley had prepared for us. A nice drop of red wine was consumed with the meal to celebrate Joyce's birthday.

Friday dawned with the expectation of another warm humid day with strong northerly winds. It was an early start setting off for Mathieson Homestead in time for an 8 am high. Today we would be meeting some of the members of the Hervey Bay Birdwatchers. John Knight conducts most of the counts at this count site and a number of members assist him on occasions.

After introductions we started to count the waders. There were four additional species at the roost compared with the previous evening, 185 Bar-tailed Godwit, 5 Whimbrel, 12 Great Knot and 3 Red-capped Plover. The other three species counts was higher, 315 Eastern Curlew, 73 Common Greenshank and 47 Pied Oystercatcher. We had just about completed the count when a Peregrine Falcon came over and disturbed the birds. After helping sort out the waders for some of the members we headed off in search of other roost sites.

Just south of Mathieson Homestead is a very large claypan that is a king tide roost. Most of the time very few waders are observed using this claypan, but on very high and king tides it is crucial for them (particularly Eastern Curlew). We did however count 31 Red-capped Plover using the site. The Oyster Cove development that is growing next to this roost has already seen a portion of the claypan filled in, so regular monitoring of this site must continue to ensure the waders are protected.

We continued travelling south along the coastline looking for other potential roost sites but none were found. As we reached the top of the ridge before having a look at River Heads a large expanse of water could be seen down in a paddock. I commented to Joyce that it would be worth investigating, however, on the return trip there was no suitable spot alongside the road to stop and get the scope out to view the area.

We found ourselves back at Mathieson Homestead for lunch and more wader watching. This time we did a wader count on the outgoing tide to compare species using the mud flats as opposed to the roost. Additional species picked up this time were 148 Terek Sandpiper that flew in from the south, which had probably been roosting in the mangroves south of the roost. Also counted were 44 Red-necked Stint that had not been observed using the roost. Red-capped Plover numbers increased to 48, Great Knot to 30 and Eastern Curlew to 346. As the weather was again warm and humid we headed back to base at Point Vernon to cool off and ready ourselves for the evening.

The four of us joined Steve Winderlich and Anne O'Dea (both QPWS) for dinner at a Thai restaurant, before heading off to set up the hall for the education/slide night. Donald collected Peter Driscoll from the airport and joined us at the hall. (The details of the evening have been reported under the Great Sandy Strait Survey in issue 39).

The next morning we were all up bright and early. Peter to get the plane up and the rest of us to do some more survey work and look at count sites. The northerly winds were extremely gusty and we had difficulty hearing what Peter was trying to tell us over the radio. He was trying to tell us about the wetland he was looking at from the air, but we eventually figured out that he was talking about the one that Joyce and I had spotted the previous day. After discussions with Lesley about the site we decided to leave it up to her to find out who owned it and make contact.

We finally headed off to investigate two count sites south of Urangan. The first count site (Beck Road), we only found 11 Pied Oystercatcher. What we also found were property fence posts out below the high tide mark. The next count site (Sea Eagles Road), only one Whimbrel and one Common Greenshank could be seen.

The tide was quite high and up to the edge of the grasses. A property owner here had erected a large weld mesh fence out into the ocean and also two long concrete jetties for four boats to use. All without council permission! Thankfully, according to Lesley, the council did not let the business proceed. However, the structures still stand.

It was here we said goodbye to Donald and Lesley and headed on down to visit Tandora before continuing onto Boonooroo.

Joyce, Peter and myself sincerely thank Donald and Lesley for their hospitality and for being such wonderful hosts. Thanks to John Knight, the Hervey Bay Birdwatchers and the Wright family for our visits to Mathieson Homestead.

The report about our visit to the unknown wetland mentioned in this report will appear in the next issue. Stay tuned.

Happy counting.
Linda.

Some Quick Notes from the QWSG Committee Meeting June 2002

Database sub-committee

- data now in PC format, access to data in future discussion

Mackay WWF project

trip to Mackay for QWSG possibly in November, suggestion for summer count to be in January

Wader course

Next course is on 12th October

Kakadu Beach Update

- Artificial roost completed at migration period; numbers of birds now less than due to migration. Dogs and people are now using area

QOSI management committee

- requested report from QWSG; will send copies of minutes

Some Quick Notes from the QWSG Committee Meeting August 2002

Public Liability Insurance

Discussion on insurance review received from Birds Queensland (BQ).

Wader Course

Set for Saturday, 12 October (not

Book sub-committee report

Lytton Bird Roost

Attended meeting with BCC representatives? Bird hide will be made out of recycled plastic, have wheelchair access, location will be on ridge, overlooking roost site.

Kakadu Beach

Proposed that a \$250 donation be made from QWSG to Pacific Harbour towards bench seats in bird hide at Kakadu Beach **Web site**

Web site to be set up as soon as possible

WADER ID DAYS for 2002

Sunday 27th October at Toorbul.

High tide at Brisbane Bar is 13:05 hours (13:45 hours for Toorbul) 2.04m. Meet at usual place 11:45am (in time for lunch).

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 xxxx xxxx

ID Day Reports

My apologies for the report on this campout and the Toorbul Wader ID Day appearing in this edition instead of the previous one, but they were prepared during the time I was having computer problems and I neglected to include them.

BOONOROO CAMPOUT REPORT 2-3 MARCH

After giving a PowerPoint presentation on Shorebirds at Tin Can Bay on Friday evening, David Edwards and I arrived at Boonooroo on Saturday morning in time to organise the 33 attendees to assemble at the Adair Street roost for high tide. Among the attendees were 5 day visitors that included the Manager of Kingfisher Bay Resort on Fraser Island, and 2 of its rangers, who had travelled down with members of the Hervey Bay Birdwatchers.

Very high tides for the weekend helped push the birds in close to the shoreline, making wader identification easier. As the birds were pushed off the Adair Street roost we assembled under the large shady fig tree on private property at Boonooroo Point to continue viewing the waders.

We returned to the caravan park for lunch and to set up camp but were hampered by a storm that came over. Unfortunately the weather did not improve, with showers, heavy at times, causing birding activities to cease for the rest of the day.

John & Lyla Hansen's caravan became a mini movie theatre for the afternoon, with several sittings to watch a video of the birds seen during the Inskip Point campout held two weeks previously. In the evening some of the camp attendees travelled to Poona to watch the PowerPoint presentation given by the QWSG for the Poona Flora and Fauna group and interested locals.

Showers continued overnight and on Sunday, but this did not deter the group from visiting a few sites on the morning before assembling once again at the private property at Boonooroo Point for more wader watching. Thankfully the showers held off while we enjoyed the close views of the waders. Those members who stayed until the very end saw the Grey Plovers, which were not seen on Saturday.

A Great Knot was observed with a green flag (banded in Moreton Bay). Bird species were lower than previous campouts at this venue due to the weather conditions.

Species seen and heard (H) as follows: -

10 Australian Wood Duck, 4 Pacific Black Duck, 4 Little Pied Cormorant, 1 Pied Cormorant, 1 Australian Pelican, 2 White-faced Heron, 3 Little Egret, 2 Great Egret, 7 Australian White Ibis, 12 Straw-necked Ibis, 142 Royal Spoonbill, 1 Osprey, 3 Whistling Kite, 2 Brahminy Kite, 2 White-bellied Sea-Eagle, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Buff-banded Rail, c1200 Bar-tailed Godwit, 5 Whimbrel, 79 Eastern Curlew, 25 Common Greenshank, c130 Terek Sandpiper, 34 Grey-tailed Tattler, 18 Ruddy Turnstone, c400 Great Knot, 15 Red Knot, c100 Red-necked Stint, c50 Curlew Sandpiper, 6 Pied Oystercatcher, c50 Black-winged Stilt, 7 Pacific Golden Plover, 37 Grey Plover, 4 Red-capped Plover, c500 Lesser Sand Plover, c45 Greater Sand Plover, c40 Masked Lapwing, 19 Silver Gull, 12 Gull-billed Tern, 8 Caspian Tern, 4 Crested Tern, 30 Little Tern, c50 Crested Pigeon, c50 Peaceful Dove, 35 Bar-shouldered Dove, 6 Galah, c60 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, c100 Rainbow Lorikeet, c20 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, 4 Little Lorikeet, 3 Pale-headed Rosella, 2 Common Koel, 1 Pheasant Coucal (H), 4 Laughing Kookaburra, 4 Sacred Kingfisher, 2 Collared Kingfisher (H), 2 Dollarbird, 12 Red-backed Fairy-wren, 5 Striated Pardalote, 15 Noisy Friarbird, 20 Blue-faced Honeyeater, 30 Noisy Miner, 10 Mangrove Honeyeater, 6 White-throated Honeyeater, 10 Brown Honeyeater, 2 White-cheeked Honeyeater, 1 Rufous Whistler (H), 2 Grey Shrike-thrush,

5 Leaden Flycatcher, 2 Restless Flycatcher, 11 Magpie Lark (1 male bird nest building), 4 Willie Wagtail, c10 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, 1 Cicadabird (H), 8 Figbird, 2 Grey Butcherbird, 3 Pied Butcherbird, 15 Australian Magpie, 25 Torresian Crow, 1 Double-barred Finch, 2 Red-browed Finch, 5 Mistletoebird (H), 20 Welcome Swallow and 2 Common Starling.

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 17 MARCH

A total of 48 members and guests, some coming from Toowoomba and the Gold Coast, assembled at the Toorbul roost. The Brisbane/Gold Coast branch of BOCA also had scheduled their outing at the site for the day and 10 of their members were in attendance.

Weather conditions were fine, dry and sunny, with a light northeast wind. The tide height was perfect for allowing 16 species of waders to roost at the site for the whole period of the high tide.

Breeding plumage was evident (well advanced in some) in most species present. A lot of time was spent finding the 2 Broad-billed Sandpipers in the flock of waders and ensuring everyone had a look at them.

The following leg flagged birds were observed: -

- 1 Red Knot with an orange flag (banded in Victoria) on the upper right leg.
- 1 Great Knot with a green flag (banded in Moreton Bay) on the upper right leg.
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit with a green flag (banded in Moreton Bay) on the upper right leg.

No individual species counts were done as most QWSG committee and members had their hands full helping people identify the birds.

Species seen at Toorbul roost: -

Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Great Egret, Striated Heron, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Osprey, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Lesser Sand Plover, Great Sand Plover, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Little Tern, Spotted Turtle-Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Laughing Kookaburra and Grey Butcherbird.

A total of 8 Marsh Sandpipers were seen at Bishops Marsh

SAD NEWS

The QWSG was saddened to hear that Bev Durrant past away on 18th June. Bev was one of a team of two counting the Toorbul sites until a couple of years ago, when ill health forced her to relinquish the job. Bev had counted the Toorbul sites since the inception of the QWSG count programme.

Bev was also an active member of the Birds of Pumicestone Passage and Surrounds (BOPPAS) group organising the outings and trips for many years, and was joint editor of the book 'Birds of Bribie Island, Pumicestone Passage and Environs'.

We were also sorry to hear that Bill Wright, (property owner of Mathieson Homestead) past away on 22nd August. Bill, along with his wife Edith have been very cooperative and helpful to our organisation for many years during our survey work in the Great Sandy Strait, and have been very supportive of the Hervey Bay Birdwatchers.

We extend our sincere sympathy to both families.

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".

Regular membership is required. Contacts: Peter Crow, President (07) xxxx xxxx; Linda 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.

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
- \$15:00 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 March 2002 was printed :

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

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:

| | | | |
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| Peter Driscoll | (07) xxxx xxxx | Jill Dening | (07) xxxx xxxx |
| Paul Finn | (07) xxxx xxxx | Joyce Harding | (07) xxxx xxxx |
| 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,
28 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 November 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 @ xxxx xxxx.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.

PRINTED BY: Mr Bob Durrington of J.R. Durrington & Sons Pty Ltd.

The QWSG Wader Course: Introduction to Waders Australia and Moreton Bay

This workshop offers a unique opportunity to learn about a special group of birds, waders. These birds are magnificent athletes, flying up to 25,000 km every year. They range from tiny 24-gram birds to the world's largest wader, the Eastern Curlew, weighing in at over 1 kilogram. Moreton Bay, on Brisbane's doorstep, is an internationally significant area for waders, but most people are oblivious to their presence.

Seventeen resident and 36 migrant species of wader occur in Australia; in total, about 3 million birds. They feed on the shorelines of coastal and inland wetlands of Australia. The majority breed in the higher latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere in places like Siberia and Alaska, and travel the East Asian/Australasian flyway twice a year on migration. From September to April, a large number of species can be found in Moreton Bay, and we have an ideal opportunity to study these species. They face increasing pressures from burgeoning human populations and habitat destruction throughout the flyway.

During this one-day workshop you will be introduced to these fascinating birds through specific topics that include:

- Definition of waders and habitat;
- Field identification;
- Factors affecting local and regional distribution;
- Importance of Moreton Bay;
- The East Asian/Australasian Flyway;
- Threats to waders and their habitat;
- National and International conservation agreements.

The field trip will give you the opportunity to have a 'hands on' chance to identify many of the species mentioned in the lectures with experienced wader-watchers.

THE COURSE CONSISTS OF A MORNING OF LECTURES AND AN AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP

COST: \$33:00 Cheques payable to the Queensland Wader Study Group
To confirm your registration, post your payment to Mrs. Sheryl Keates, 5 Stanmere Street, Carindale, QLD 4152:

LECTURES: SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER, 2002, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm,
 at the Port of Brisbane Corporation Visitors' Centre, Whimbrel Street, Fisherman Islands (UBD map 144, H15;
<http://www.portbris.com.au/visitorscentre/>).
 Morning tea and lunch included.

FIELD TRIP: SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER, 2002, 2:00 to 4:30 pm, at ROOST SITE (TO BE ADVISED)

Please note that the field site is exposed – remember to bring a hat, sunscreen and water bottle.

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER 2002.

ENQUIRIES: Andrew Geering: 07 xxxx xxxx (Home)
 07 xxxx xxxx (Work)
 email: xxxx xxxx @xxxx xxxx.com.au

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ENROLMENT FORM

Cot payable to Queensland Wader Study Group.
 Post to: Mrs. Sheryl Keates, xx xxxx xxxx Street, xxxx xxxx, QLD 4xxx

Title: First Name: Last Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Organisation (if applicable):

Phone:

E-Mail Address:



Activities 2002

WADER COUNT DATES (general monitoring) for 2002

- 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 w e \$12; Family \$22; Student/Pensioner \$9)

Title.....

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:.....

Post to: QWSG Treasurer, xx xxxx xxxx Street, xxxx xxxx, Qld 4xxx

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group