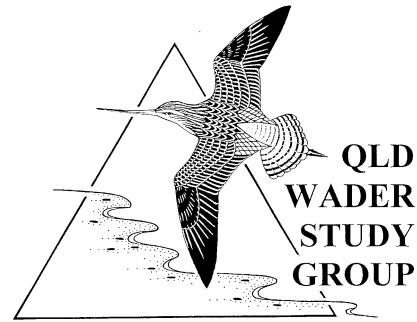


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 44

Winter 2003

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

The Mackay Shorebird Project – April Survey

After the January survey, a second survey of the Mackay region (from Cape Palmerston to Proserpine) was held on the weekend of 12 and 13 of April. This was a joint effort of the Queensland Wader Study Group, the Mackay Conservation Group, the Mackay Bird Observers Club and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Mackay (QPWS).

Counting 40 high tide wader roosts required the following people arriving at the roosts one and a half hours before the high tide, which was at 7.30 am. This involved some very early morning starts. After the high tide survey, a low tide survey was conducted.

Participants

Jon Wren, Dan Schaper, Maureen Cooper, Ian Sutton, Marj Andrews, Del Williams, Maree Cali, Leonie Daws, Joyce Harding, Richard Atkinson, Edna Barker, Tina Ball Paul Hoskins, Michele Burford, Andrew Geering, Faye Griffin, Paul Finn, Sandra Harding, Desley Williams, Ivell Whyte, Tim Holmes, Rosie Holmes, Phil Cross, Linda Cross, Robin Spencer, Marie Burns, David Edwards, Les Thyer, Dawn Thyer, Steve Fisher, Jim Ryman, Derek Ball

This survey looked at the migration of shorebirds (waders) from the wetlands in Australia to the breeding grounds in arctic regions. While the January survey found a population of about 21,000 migratory waders, this survey was focusing on the movement of waders on migration. The wader population at this time was about 7000. It was good to see 10 Beach Stone-Curlews and a Grey-tailed Tattler was found with a blue leg flag, indicating that it had been banded in Japan.

The following numbers suggest that particular species may still have been migrating:

Dudgeon Point – 670 Lesser Sand Plover, 140 Red-necked Stint, 103 Grey-tailed Tattler
Shellgrit Ck – 137 Whimbrel
Seaforth Beach – 200 Red-necked Stint
St Helens – 228 Pied Oystercatcher (resident species)
Nells Beach – 282 Whimbrel
Ince Bay – 140 Sand Plover, 120 Grey-tailed Tattler
Bakers Creek – 174 Whimbrel, 340 Grey-tailed Tattler

From the ultralight, Peter Driscoll observed 280 Whimbrel in one flock in Sandringham Bay (Bakers Creek area).

With each trip, the appearance of wader counters out on the tidal flats and in the freshwater wetlands attracts local attention. It provides opportunities to inform people about the project and to meet local landholders. Access to some wader roosts and freshwater wetlands requires the agreement of the landholders and their support is appreciated.

One more survey in 2003 is planned for the weekend of 11 and 12 October.

There is consideration being given to further work in the Mackay region, which would again seek WWF funding. Ultimately the findings from this project will be presented to the three local governments – Whitsunday, Mackay and Sarina Shire Councils.



The resurfacing of the Empire Point roost by Redland Shire Council has been funded by the National Heritage Trust. QWSG is also signatory to the contract. On Saturday 10 May transplanting began of the samphire and other coastal plants from the roost to a nearby degraded area. Before heavy machinery excavates a section of the roost, the salt tolerant vegetation needs to be saved. All work should be completed before the waders return in September.

Eight people attended the working bee to carry out the transplanting. Three of these were from Redland Shire Council, Councillor Decalie Newton, Daniel Carter and Jenny Davis. There were five QWSG members, Ivell and Jim Whyte, Sandra Harding, David Milton and Joyce Harding. Another Redland Shire worker came with a tank and pump to water the replanted plants at the end of the morning.

Three hours of work produced a wide range of plants settled into an area of bare saltpan. However, there are more plants to be re-established. Another morning's work will be arranged, possibly in late June or early July if there is a suitable tide. Because of the high cost of earth removal a part of the site will still remain higher than was originally planned.

This is a small roost but the growing urbanisation of coastal southeast Queensland is increasing the importance of all remaining roosts in the Moreton Bay.

If you would like to help with this project, and be reminded when the next maintenance day is on, leave your contact details with me:

- (07) xxxx xxxx or
- email; xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au or
- contact any other QWSG committee member.

Joyce Harding

A Fast-Moving Curlew

Pete Collins. 20/03/2003.

Eastern Curlew rocks up in Chung Yu territory.

When you are sitting freezing your buns off and the tide inexorably creeps up to your daks, you begin to wonder why you are doing this. If you have a look at the picture the flags on the bird appear very shiny, which might indicate that they have been put on recently. The only recent catch of Eastern Curlew was made at Corner Inlet on the 27th Feb, and as the people who were present there on the 28th Feb can testify, there were aspersions cast on the sanity of what we were doing. This sighting makes it all worthwhile.

The Eastern Curlew was seen on the 9th of March in Taiwan. It is the earliest sighting of any Australian banded wader on northern migration in the northern hemisphere. The previous earliest were Eastern Curlew between the 12th and the 15th of March.

The date of the sighting is two days later than the average migratory date from Victoria for Eastern Curlew. It seems that this bird flew non-stop to Taiwan a distance of 7,300 kilometres. The weight data that the VWSG has collected indicates that such a flight is distinctly possible.

Next time it is cold and you are wondering why you are where you are, waiting for the birds to land, think of this bird and the network of people who are waiting to see the ones we are catching. It might give you a rosy glow, but there again, it might be that you are sitting too close to the fire or even be that it is 40 degrees in the shade.

From Tattler 35

Globally significant shorebird sites in the NT

Prior to 1990, little information existed on the distribution and abundance of shorebirds around the Northern Territory coast and adjacent wetlands. Information gathered by Ray Chatto, Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, during aerial and ground surveys between 1990 and 2001, has now clearly shown that the coast and coastal wetlands of the NT have globally significant numbers of many species of shorebirds. Over the 12-year survey period Chatto collected about 13 000 records of shorebirds, totalling around 2.1 million birds. Shorebirds were recorded on all parts of the NT coast, nearly all islands and most of the wetlands.

A full report is now available, covering the 12 years of shorebird data collected using helicopters, fix-winged aircraft and on ground surveys. *The distribution and status of shorebirds around the coast and coastal wetlands of the Northern Territory* is available on the Wildlife Commission's web page:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/pwcnt/docs/shorebirds.pdf>

Another report for the same period covers nesting seabirds and includes estimates of over 26 000 nesting Roseate Terns at about 30 island colonies. This represents a significant proportion of the world population of this species.

The report: *The distribution and status of colonial breeding seabirds in the Northern Territory* is also available on the web:

http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/pwcnt/docs/seabirds_without_lats.pdf

A third report on waterbird breeding colonies is available at:

http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/pwcnt/docs/waterbirds_without_lats_Vs2.pdf

For further details contact Ray Chatto:
Ray.Chatto@plmbay.pwcnt.nt.gov.au

From Tattler 35

Stopover Site for Latham's Snipe in Central Queensland

Most of the world population of Latham's Snipe fly from their breeding grounds in Japan to the south east of Australia. Much of their non-breeding region is known, but little is known about their staging areas. A report from Roger Jeansch, Wetlands International, has thrown some light on this.

Preliminary waterbird surveys were conducted by Wetlands International on the Torilla Plain (eastern side of Broad Sound), Central Queensland, on 28-29 March 2003. This work revealed Latham's Snipe, in groups of up to 26 birds, at six of the seven sites investigated. Although the total (43 birds) is well below the 1% threshold for this species, only 0.1% of the Plain was sampled. Habitat occupied by snipe was wet saline grassland and grass-sedge swamp associated with areas of freshwater inflow to the Plain. More extensive surveys at this time of year, in the same location and elsewhere in coastal Central Queensland, may help identify important stop-over sites for northward migration of Latham's Snipe.

From Tattler 35

Plea for Korean and Japanese wetlands

Saemangeum is a huge tidal flat wetland located on South Korea's west coast. The largest land reclamation project in the world will cut off these tidal flats from the sea, killing outright 40,000 hectares of tidal flat, ten times more than were killed six years ago at Japan's Isahaya Bay (April, 1997).

Japan Wetlands Action Network (JAWAN, a national network of about 50 grass-roots groups) continues to oppose the ongoing Isahaya Bay Land Reclamation Project, and so it is natural for us to help raise the cry against the Saemangeum Land Reclamation Project, where a 33 kilometre-long dike nears completion.

JAWAN held a series of symposiums last month to focus on Isahaya, Saemangeum, and Awase Tidal Flat in Okinawa, where another unnecessary landfill project threatens a precious sea grass/tidal flat wetland. One of the outcomes of our meetings was a decision to initiate a letter-writing campaign on Saemangeum.

Although South Korea's new President Roh Moo Hyun has a progressive image, he has declared his support for the Saemangeum Land Reclamation Project. We feel it is time to inform President Roh Moo Hyun that his support for wetland destruction is subject to the international criticism it deserves.

For more information on line, please visit the Korean Federation of Environmental Movement's English web page on Saemangeum, which includes letters of support sent by the Sierra Club, Wetlands International Asia-Pacific and other groups.

<http://english.kfem.or.kr/hot/hot1.html>

Thank you,
Minoru Kashiwagi, Japan Wetlands Action Network

xxxx xxxx @nifty.ne.jp
Maggie Suzuki, International Liaison, Japan Wetlands Action Network

xxxx xxxx @deluxe.ocn.ne.jp

A Letter-Writing Campaign for Saemangeum

This vast area is very, very important to waders not only in Korea, but also to our waders because they use these areas during their migration to our shores. The QWSG strongly urges its members to help by joining the letter-writing campaign for Saemangeum.

In the past we have seen that International pressure **can** have a marked influence on the decision making of overseas governments and companies.

So please visit the web site <http://english.kfem.or.kr/hot/hot1.html>, write those letters.

If you would like to find out a little more contact Sandra Harding of QWSG at xxxx xxxx @ xxxxxxxx.au

A selection of Eric Zillmann's Nature notes

Compiled by Carl Moller

Eric Zillmann turned eighty last month. A self-taught field naturalist since boyhood, he is an Honorary Master of Applied Science (1994, Central Queensland University), the subject of a Master's thesis (*An Ordinary Man, An Extraordinary Life: Eric Zillmann*. 1994 Lynette Costigan), recipient of an Advance Australia Award (1994), and an Order of Australia Medal (1999), in recognition of his contribution to natural history. Because Eric has lived his entire life in the Bundaberg area, he is able to offer a perspective that few people can match.

The QWSG has an interest in the Great Sandy Straight and undertook a series of wader surveys of the area. This contributed to supporting information for the declaration of the area as the Great Sandy Marine Park (Northern). The following two articles were written more than thirty years apart. When the first article appeared in Wombaliman. Eric was already a very experienced observer of his natural surroundings. When approached recently for permission to reprint the article, he offered opinion about the deterioration of wader habitat in the area in the intervening years. He has written of these thoughts for the benefit of field naturalists who follow him.

"Wombaliman" February 1974

The Waders of Boonooroo

Three days of observations at Boonooroo during October 1973 leads me to believe that Sandy Strait is used by migrating waders as a flyway and feeding ground while en route from northern Asia, to other parts of Australia.

Many species of waders found in Australia during their stay on our shores are represented at Boonooroo.

Obviously my observations in October would only be termed cursory and much more would be learned with more field work in this area. I am sure that a study of this area from September through to December would reveal much interesting information on the various waders in this part of Queensland. Another field day spent at Boonooroo in November left me with the exciting thought here we have an area of immense importance and much to be studied.

As a feeding ground Sandy Strait must be rich indeed to support the numerous species in such large numbers. While the beaches of Boonooroo carry good wader populations throughout the day, the main feeding ground appears to be the tidal flats inside Fraser Island.

Tides inundate feeding grounds and the waders can be observed in hundreds making their way to the Boonooroo area to rest and preen. What an interesting picture one gets even in this very restricted habitat area of Boonooroo alone. If observation of other areas of Sandy Strait give similar recordings to those at Boonooroo then many thousands of waders must be involved in this interesting region for waders.

The variable sized flocks suggests that the waders' numbers fluctuate according to their migrating pattern through this flyway to other places. These are some comments on the birds observed:

Eastern Curlew:	large flocks	Whimbrel:	large flocks
Bar-tailed Godwit:	large flocks	Sand Dotterel:	large flocks
Mongolian Dotterel:	large flocks	Red-capped Dotterel:	large flocks
Black-fronted Dotterel:	few – October	Grey-tailed Tattler:	large flocks
Golden Plover:	plentiful	Grey Plover:	small flocks
Spur-wing Plover:	few pairs	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:	few
Pectoral Sandpiper:	small numbers	Terek Sandpiper:	small numbers
Greenshank:	few pairs	Little Greenshank:	odd birds
Common Knot:	small flocks 30-40	Turnstone:	plentiful
Curlew Sandpiper:	small numbers	Red-necked Stint:	variable flocks
Dunlin: small flocks:	many black belly plumage	Ruff:	2 birds

No doubt further field work will surely turn up some of the less common waders to our shores in the Sandy Straits of Queensland. Many other species not termed waders are also found adjacent to the area and add much interest for anyone wishing to spend a day in this unique and interesting place.

Other Bird Species from Boonooroo – Oct and Nov 1973

Pelican	Lewin Honeyeater	Spangled Drongo
Koel	Olive Oriole	Southern Figbird
Peewee	Pied Butcherbird	Black-backed Magpie
Crow	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Little Cuckoo-shrike
Kookaburra	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Grey Thrush
Willy Wagtail	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Rufous Whistler
Cicadabird	Sacred Kingfisher	Dollarbird
Rainbow Bird	Tree Martin	Blue-faced Honeyeater
Little Friarbird	Noisy Friarbird	Peaceful Dove
Bar-shouldered Dove	Crested Pigeon	Indian Turtle-dove
Mistletoebird	Yellow-tailed Thornbill	King Parrot
Pale-headed Rosella	Rainbow Lorikeet	Mangrove Honeyeater
Mangrove Kingfisher	Brown Honeyeater	Little Wattlebird
Welcome Swallow	Pipet	Tailor Bird
Kestrel	Osprey	Red-backed Sea-eagle
Whistling Eagle	White-breasted Sea-eagle	Gull-billed Tern
Black Cormorant	Pied Cormorant	Little Pied Cormorant
Swamp Pheasant	Caspian Tern	Crested Tern
Little Tern		

Post Script

On January 26th – Australia Day – notwithstanding flood rains etc the Editor accompanied Eric Zillman to Boonooroo to investigate the waders when there was no migration in progress. The number of birds present was indicative of the wealth of this area as a vital wader habitat. Although the weather put a damper on observations Eric did add another wader to his earlier lists with the sighting of a Greater Knot. Eric still believes this area to be “Fantastic” for waders.

How Things Have Changed“**E. Eric Zillmann, May, 2003**

Over thirty years have passed since my days observing the migratory waders east of Maryborough, Queensland. Boonooroo, the place where most of my wader observations took place is now a residential area and holiday venue, and growing.

My first reaction on seeing this sandflat was what a great environment it was to observe migratory waders. This samphire and couch sandflat, with not a mangrove in sight, was to me a wonderland for the waders to rest and roost during high tide. I planned my visits prior to the turning tide – watching the waders streaming across Sandy Strait to this marvellous resting place. Thousands of birds would arrive to blanket the sandflat in special spots of their choosing.

Back in those early years an old unseaworthy boat was stranded and sitting in the midst of where the birds roosted. My habit was to use the old boat as a lookout point from which I could observe the waders at close quarters. The birds took little notice of me sitting there – many birds a couple of metres from my position on the old boat. Sometimes a tern would settle on the end of the boat. I recall hundreds of sand plovers gathering a short distance from the bulk of the waders.

Today the sandflat is fringed along the shoreline by tall mangroves. A low-growing form of mangrove is reclaiming the sandflat increasingly each year and I fear that it will perhaps bring about the eventual loss of this marvellous wader roosting habitat. It fills me with sadness.

Nowadays people have more leisure time to recharge their batteries. We now have so many wonderful field guides to help identify flora and fauna, and wildlife in general. What better pastime can there be, with so much to learn? Nothing could have given me greater pleasure.

I can only reiterate – how things have changed in thirty plus years.

Editor's note: I did not change the names used by Eric thirty years ago, so it will give you a challenge translating to today's terminology. The editor mentioned in the main article is not me.

Kakadu Beach Wader Roost officially opened

Was it an omen? At the first click of the photographic session, prior to the official opening of the Kakadu Beach artificial roost on Bribie Island, a flock of a hundred Eastern Curlew flew in to land, joining eleven curlew already on the roost.

Only an hour later, the Hon Dean Wells, Minister for the Environment, declared the roost open, noting that the birds couldn't wait until he had performed his official duty. He added that as he was driven through the Kakadu Beach development to the roost, he was truly astounded to be given fine detail about the migration biology of shorebirds by people whose area of expertise was not in shorebirds but in land development. Mr Wells was clearly impressed, congratulating all parties involved at a formal lunch provided by Pacific Harbour.

From its tense beginnings grew a strong partnership between Pacific Harbour and the QWSG. The partnership has stood the test of time well beyond the point where obligation to each other ended.

Newer QWSG members may not be familiar with the events which led to the April 18, 2003, opening of the roost. During the 1990s, Pacific Harbour construction site became the most critical wader roost in the Pumicestone Passage, but was destined for destruction to make way for a residential canal development. Following representations by QWSG, both parties convened a workshop to find a solution to the impasse which had developed. Beachfront land within the development was allocated for an artificial roost, and elaborate planning made it the centrepiece of the upmarket housing precinct. After the new roost was built, the old roost was to be destroyed gradually, so as to cause the least disturbance to waders. It took some years for the planning process and subsequent construction. During this period the partnership was rewarded with the Prime Minister's Award for Community Business Partnerships for Queensland for 2001. The partnership was also a finalist in the Housing Industry Association Greensmart Awards for 2002. Other participants in the process were the Environmental Protection Agency, Caboolture Shire Council, Dept Primary Industries (Fisheries) and Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association.



Opening Ceremony



Birds at Kakadu Beach

In March, 2002, the new roost was completed, and about 400 birds began using it immediately on their northward migration. During the summer of 2002/03, the roost was used regularly by around 2000 migratory shorebirds. And yet the Eastern Curlew were reluctant to come whilst remnants of the old roost remain available. We are now optimistic that Eastern Curlew will overcome their natural resistance to change, and accept it as a regular roost. It is one of only two roosts in the Pumicestone Passage which provide roosting above the highest tides. The other roost is 30km away in Caloundra.

Pacific Harbour took a considerable risk in featuring a bird roost as the centrepiece of its expensive community development. Hindsight now shows that not only does such a feature not devalue land, but adds considerably to its value. Sales have been very strong. Our next step is to transfer the "ownership" of the roost to the people who are building substantial waterfront homes nearby. This will involve several education sessions over an extended period.

One pleasing result of our work is a solid network of people in government with newly-acquired knowledge of shorebird needs, as we expand our horizons into wider roost management in the Pumicestone Passage. We will keep you informed as plans develop.

Jill Dening

Count Programme by Linda Cross

Due to a number of factors (workload/Mackay surveys and holidays) I have run out of time to put an article together on the count programme for this edition. This should leave lots of space for those other articles people have done?

I would just like to point out that only a handful of people responded to my request in the previous newsletter, which I have repeated below, regarding counter instructions. **I would appreciate hearing from the rest of the counters with your next shipment of count sheets. Thank you.**

In an effort to make the count co-ordinator and data entry roles easier, I would like to ensure that **every** counter is completing their count sheets correctly as per the 'Instruction to counters' information sheets. **Could all counters please check their files and advise if you have a copy of the instructions.** The information is on two sheets of paper, which has back-to-back information on. At the top of the first page it starts with the following: -

QLD WADER STUDY GROUP (as per Australasian Wader Studies Group) the 'as per' has been crossed out and 'based on' has been handwritten above it.

When you send your next count sheet/s to me please advise if you have them, or not. I will send copies to those who need them.

There are a number of inconsistencies from one count sheet to another and it is very important that we rectify them.

Happy counting.
Linda Cross.

Port of Brisbane Counts

Just a reminder that we will be continuing counting every month until the end of the year. Anyone wishing to join us please contact Michele Burford on 3822 3759 (Home) 3826 7236 (Work) or email her at m.burford@griffith.edu.au.

Calendar and Timetable for Port of Brisbane Visits

Sun 18th May	Sun 15th June
Sun 13th July	Sun 31st Aug
Sun 28th Sep	Sun 26th Oct
Sun 23rd Nov	Sun 14th Dec

An award for QWSG and Pacific Harbour

The Queensland Wader Study Group was presented with a framed award as a finalist in the Housing Industry Association 2002 GreenSmart Awards for its partnership with QM Properties (Pacific Harbour).

This was in recognition of the building of the Kakadu Beach artificial wader roost on Bribie Island, South East Queensland.

Membership Fees: Increase

The QWSG annual membership fees have been raised to \$15:00 for normal members, \$25:00 for families and \$10:00 for students and pensioners. This increase will commence on 1st July 2003.

The price rise was unanimously accepted by those present at the special general meeting and the proxies received.

WADER WATCH *Linda and Phil Cross, Joyce Harding*

Leg Flag Banding Legend (colour = where banded)

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

There are more leg flag sightings detailed in the Wader ID Day report included in this newsletter.

Please note that a few entries are older dates. These were received from AWSG since the last newsletter was done. Some of the sightings are sent direct to AWSG and not copied to us. If observers copy details to us we can place them in our newsletter earlier.

Green leg flag sightings

4 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 1.3.03

1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton et al – 29.3.03

1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton & Sandra Harding – 5.4.03

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 18.12.02

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 24.12.02

3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 18.2.03

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton *et al* – 1.3.03

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 2.3.03

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 21.3.03

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 20.3.03

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 29.3.03

1 Great Knot – Deception Bay – Gavin Goodyear – 5.1.02

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 18.12.02

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 2.3.03

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 20.3.03

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Amity Point – Martin Waugh 29.3.03

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 15.4.03

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda Firth of Thames, Sth Auckland, New Zealand – Will Perry – 29.12.02

2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Clifton Bay, Auckland, New Zealand – Tony Habraken – 12.3.03

1 Great Knot – Han-Pao, Changhua County Taiwan – Chung-Yu Chiang – 14.4.03

Orange leg flag sightings

1 Eastern Curlew – Mathieson Homestead, Hervey Bay – John Knight & Sally Sheldon – 25.4.03

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 24.12.02

1 Great Knot – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Ivan Fien – 6.3.03

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 5.4.03

1 Red Knot – Inskip Point – John Cummings – 2.11.02

1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 20.3.03

1 Red Knot – Toorbul – Esther Townsend – 28.3.03

Japanese (Blue) leg flag sightings

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia -Boonooroo – Unknown observer – 8.9.98 (flagged Lake Furen, Hokkaido)

3 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia and metal band right tibia – Boonooroo – Chris Barnes – 8.11.01 (flagged Lake Furen, Hokkaido)

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia and metal band right tibia – Cairns Esplanade – Robin Spencer – 21.9.02 (flagged Lake Furen Hokkaido)

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 2.3.03 (flagged Lake Furen, Hokkaido)

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – blue flag left tibia – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 29.3.03 (flagged Lake Furen, Hokkaido)

Other wader leg flag sightings

4 Red Knot – white flag – Karumba Point – Adrian Riegen – 16.4.99

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag immediately above an orange flag – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 1.3.03 (flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China during 24 to 28 April 2002)

1 Greater Sand Plover – white flag left tibia and blue flag left tarsus – Bushland Beach, Townsville – Peter Driscoll – 1.3.03 (flagged Taipei, Taiwan)

1 Curlew Sandpiper – white flag right tibia, yellow flag and metal band right tarsus – Sweers Island, Gulf of Carpentaria – Paul O'Neill – 21.11.02 (flagged Mai Po Marshes, Hong Kong)

1 Great Knot with white flag on left tibia and orange flag on left tarsus – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 21.3.03 (flagged Korean Peninsula)

1 Great Knot with white flag on left tibia and orange flag on left tarsus – Toorbul – Jill Dening – 4.4.03 (most likely the same bird as above)

I have included all tern flag sightings in this newsletter because there was space due to the fact that a count program article has not appeared.

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

1 Pied Oystercatcher – metal band – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 29.3.03

1 Caspian Tern – white band right tarsus – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 29.9.03

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Toorbul – Terry Dillon – 20.3.03 (probably the same bird as seen on 9.4.03)

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Toorbul – Mark Ponniah – 9.4.03 (flagged Clonmel Island, near Port Albert, Corner Inset, Victoria)

1 Common Tern – metal band left tarsus and orange flag right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 6.3.03

2 Common Tern – metal band left tarsus and orange flag right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 14.3.03

2 Common Tern – metal band left tarsus and orange flag right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 20.3.03

1 Little Tern – red/yellow flags left tarsus and black flag/metal band right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 6.3.03

1 Little Tern – black flag/metal band left tarsus and white/white flags right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 6.3.03

1 Little Tern – green/black flags left tarsus and pale green flag/metal band right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 20.3.03

1 Little Tern – white flag/metal band left tarsus and green/pale green flags right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 20.3.03

1 Little Tern – black/blue flags left tarsus and blue flag/metal band right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 3.4.03

1 Little Tern – metal band right tarsus – Caloundra Sandbanks – Jill Dening – 3.4.03

Interesting sightings and Not waders but of interest anyway

Most of the information for these two sections of the Wader Watch is taken from your count sheets. As I have a backlog of count sheets to check I am unable to record details for this and the count program sections. My apologies.

Linda Cross.

Some Quick Notes from the QWSG Committee Meeting May 2003

- Discussion about the next field trip to Mackay
- The timing of the QWSG Course
- A listing of our Library holdings given by Joyce Harding
- Discussion on long term protection of high tide roost sites
- New maintenance day for Empire point roost site
- Talk on spread of mangroves on to roost sites and possibilities for the future tackling of this problem

ID Day Reports

LYTTON WADER ID DAY REPORT 22ND FEBRUARY 2003

The miserable weather and a Birds Queensland outing kept people away from this ID day. However, two hardy souls joined four committee members for an enjoyable session.

Though the weather was very grey and showery, the rain stayed away for the duration, the big plus was that the roof was on the bird hide that the council has built at Lytton giving us a dry area to set up our scopes.

The six of us then scanned the site and our visitors had very personal instruction, whilst the committee members could have time just looking at the waders.

As we were leaving a third guest arrived so we returned for a quick, in depth instruction. Whilst a description was given down one scope the next one was lined up. Very intense. As we left the rain came down.

The following leg flagged birds were observed at the Lytton roost: -

3 Bar-tailed Godwits with green flags (banded in Moreton Bay) on upper right leg

Species seen at and around the Lytton roost: -

Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Great Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Red-necked Avocet, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Crested Pigeon, Mangrove Honeyeater (H), Superb Blue Fairy-wren, Golden-headed Cisticola, Welcome Swallow, Tawny Grassbird, Mangrove Gerygone (H), Magpie Lark Torresian Crow and Common Starling.
David Edwards

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 23 MARCH 2003

At this time of year when some of the waders are showing advanced breeding plumage it was no surprise to find a large group of people already assembled at the Toorbul roost when we arrived.

The Brisbane Bird Observers Club had also decided to hold their outing at the site (like last year), so the number of people was increased further. A total of 54 members and guests signed in for this wader identification day. Among the group were 10 travellers from the Toowoomba Bird Club, 2 from the Ibis Bird Observers, and 2 from the Caboolture Bird Observers and an overseas visitor from the UK

Weather conditions were ideal for checking out the waders, fine, dry and sunny, with light winds.

As with the February wader id day, twenty species of waders were again present at the main Toorbul roost for the whole of the high tide and many of the waders had extensive breeding plumage.

Individual species counts were not conducted. Two Black-tailed Godwits was an unusual sighting, as this species is rarely recorded at the Toorbul sites. A lone Broad-billed Sandpiper in the large group of mixed species had many of the visitors searching long and hard to see it. As with the previous wader id day here in February, those who stayed with the leaders until the end had excellent views of this bird.

The following leg flagged birds were observed at the Toorbul roost: -

1 Red Knot with orange flag (banded in Victoria) on upper right leg.

1 Great Knot with orange flag (banded in Victoria) on the upper right leg.

2 Bar-tailed Godwit with a green flag (banded in Moreton Bay) on the upper right leg.

1 Grey-tailed Tattler with blue flag (banded in Obitsu Estuary, Tokyo Bay, Japan) on the upper left leg, a white flag on lower left leg and a metal band on lower right leg.

1 Little Tern with red over black flag on left leg and red flag over metal band on right leg (flagged in NSW 1998).

Species seen at and around the main Toorbul roost: -

Black Swan, Pacific Black Duck, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Grey Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Great Sand Plover, Masked Lapwing, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Little Tern, Sacred Kingfisher, Mangrove Honeyeater, Torresian Crow and Common Starling.

Species seen at Bishops Marsh: -

Pacific Black Duck, Little Pied Cormorant, 2 White-necked Heron, Great Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, 2 Brolga, Black-winged Stilt, Masked Lapwing and Common Myna.

Linda Cross.

WADER ID DAYS for 2003

Saturday 14th September 2003 at Toorbul

High tide at 1.98m at 11:33 hours (40 mins later for Toorbul). Meeting time will be 10:00. Bring lunch and your field guides to get you back into the swing for the new season

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul turn-off near the Big Fish. Turn off here and head east over the highway overpass. Continue on this road to Toorbul. Turn right at the T-junction then first left and then right, which brings you onto the Esplanade. Follow this road to the end (approximately 2kms), we will be on the left. Phil & Linda Cross 07 xxxx xxxx or David Edwards 07 xxxx xxxx

Other dates suitable in Sept, Oct and Nov are all taken up with wader counts, POB counts, Mackay trip, and Wader Course, so make the most of this ID Day.

The QWSG Wader Course Saturday 1st November 2003



INTRODUCTION TO WADERS **(SHOREBIRDS)** **AUSTRALIA AND MORETON BAY**

During this course 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;
- Energetics and physiology of migration;
- 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.

Please make a note in your diary and let you friends know.

The details of the course will be in the next issue of Queensland Wader.

VACANCIES for COUNTERS

We currently have a number of vacancies in our count programme section. An ability to identify most waders seen in Queensland would be an advantage, but not necessary, as your skills will improve during the course of the job.

You will need to have suitable clothing for outdoor exposure, gum boots or dive boots (just for those sites that might be a bit muddy underfoot), binoculars, a telescope would be preferable, but not necessary for some sites and willing to accept a challenge (they all look the same at first).

In return we offer the applicants generous amounts of fresh air and enjoyment during the period of employment (unpaid). Lots of friendship and on board training are available from our large team of skilled and experienced workers.

Some of the Moreton Bay site vacancies are as follows: -

Bray's Lagoon, Kallangur	Point Halloran Reserve
Peel Island	Mirapool, Moreton Island
Pine Rivers Wetlands Reserve	Reeders Point, Moreton Island
Macleay Island	Sandhill, Moreton Island

Other sites available along the Queensland coast include the following: -

A few sites on the Gold Coast.

Boonooroo and others in the Great Sandy Strait.

Numerous sites in the Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville regions.

We also have sites in the Lockyer Valley waiting for that keen enthusiastic person to come along.

Perhaps you have found your own little piece of coastline or dam that the waders like to roost on. If so, we would love to hear from you, as we are always happy to add another site to the database.

Please contact Linda Cross on xxxx xxxx or email her at xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au

Editor's Note: I have re-run this article because we do need more helpers to spread the load. Also Linda will be standing down as Count Coordinator at the end of Dec 2003. The counters will have to be well organised because we will not have Linda bullying asking us to send our forms in correctly filled out, (I'm sure we all have filled out Banded Stilts rather than Black-winged Stilts, only to receive a phone call).

If anyone is interested in the Count Coordinator's role please contact Linda, who will be only too glad to explain the position to you.

Fourth AWSG Conference — Call for papers

The fourth AWSG Conference will be held at the Australian National University in Canberra from 12th to 14th December, in association with the Australasian Ornithological Congress (11-13th December).

The first day (Sunday) will be a combination of invited and selected papers covering research on shorebirds with a focus on Australia and New Zealand and the Flyway. The second day (Monday) will examine issues relating to shorebird conservation in Australia and within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. This arrangement allows access to staff in state and federal government agencies concerned with Flyway issues who may not be available over the weekend.

It is intended to produce a set of proceedings after the AWSG in order to make information available to a wider audience. Preference will, therefore, be given to speakers able to provide papers for inclusion in the proceedings. Research students are particularly welcome and efforts are being taken to secure some funding to assist those who may not otherwise be able to attend.

Expressions of interest should be sent to;

Phil Straw. AWSG Conference Convener

(contact details PO Box xxx, xxxx xxxx DC, xxxx xxxx, NSW 2xxx.

E-mail xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au

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: President, Peter Crow (07) xxxx xxxx; Secretary, Rod Cox (07) xxxx xxxx; Treasurer, Les Taylor (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 bottle green 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 recently :

Judy Coles QPWS Gladstone Terry Dillon
Sarah Jacob Les and Mary Cooper RG Black
Stepen Brand Annette and Peter O'Reilly
Patricia Falcon-Green Fay Griffen

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>VICE CHAIRPERSON</u>	David Milton	(07) xxxx xxxx
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Sheryl Keates	TBA
<u>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	TBA	Jill Dening	(07) xxxx xxxx
Paul Finn	(07) xxxx xxxx	Joyce Harding	(07) xxxx xxxx
Sandra Harding	(07) xxxx xxxx	Ivell Whyte	(07) xxxx xxxx

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
x 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: \$15:00
Student/Pensioner: \$10:00
Family \$25:00

Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward application to:
QWSG Treasurer,
x xxxx xxxx Street,
xxxx xxxx,
Q 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 August 18th 2003

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, The QWSG Editor, 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.



Activities 2003

Monthly Count Program

- Sat 17th May High Tide of 1.98m at 10.06am
- Sat 14th June High Tide of 1.87m at 08.59am **NATIONAL WINTER COUNT**
- NO COUNT IN JULY**
- Sat 30th August High Tide of 2.01m at 11.16am
- Sat 27th September High Tide of 2.16m at 10.14am
- Sat 25th October High Tide of 2.25m at 09.08am
- Sat 22nd November High Tide of 2.25m at 08.00am
- Sat 13th December High Tide of 2.25m at 12.13am

FISHERMAN ISLAND – PORT OF BRISBANE COUNTS

Calendar and Timetable for Port of Brisbane Visits

- Sun 18th May Sun 15th June
- Sun 13th July Sun 31st Aug
- Sun 28th Sep Sun 26th Oct
- Sun 23rd Nov Sun 14th Dec

Just a reminder that we will be continuing counting every month until the end of the year. Anyone wishing to join us please contact Michele Burford on xxxx xxxx (Home) xxxx xxxx (Work) or email her at xxxx xxxx @ xxxx xxxx.au.

PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!



MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

I / We wish to join/renew: (Single \$15; Family \$25; Student/Pensioner \$10)

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

Address:.....

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

Phone: (Home) (Work)

Fax / e-mail:

Membership: \$.....

Donation: \$.....

Payment enclosed: \$.....

TOTAL \$.....

How did you hear about QWSG

What activities do you wish to participate in? (Please circle)

WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL, OTHER (specify.....)

SIGNATURE:

DATE:.....

Post to: QWSG Treasurer, x xxxx xxxx Street, xxxx xxxx, Q 4xxx

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group