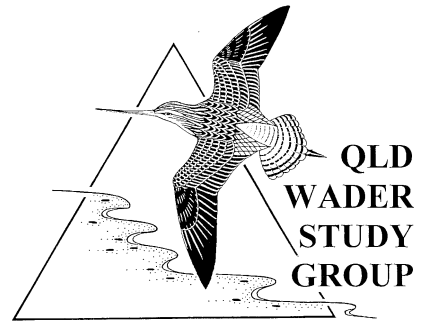


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 46

Summer 2003

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

The Mackay Shorebird Project – October Survey

This project is co-ordinated by the Queensland Wader Study Group, in partnership with the Mackay Conservation Group, and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Mackay and supported by the Mackay Bird Observers Club. Funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and managed by WWF, Australia.

This survey conducted on 11 and 12 October 2003 concluded the surveys supported by the WWF Australia, Shorebird Conservation Project. The opportunity was taken while in Mackay for a few of the QWSG committee and Derek Ball from QPWS to meet with the Mackay City Council. A presentation was given to a number of Council staff on the project and the results so far. Bianca Priest, the WWF Australia, Shorebird Conservation Officer also joined this particular trip. As well as meeting with Mackay City Council, we met with the ICM/Catchment Co-ordinators for Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc and Pioneer Integrated Catchment Management Association Inc. The Co-ordinators were very interested in being involved in further work and training being done in the area.

It was good timing with the Environmental Officer in Mackay City Council having been newly appointed and starting to get environmental issues before the Council and the community. The extra promotion of the events by the Council helped in attracting new people to attend the evening presentation and our poster display was well seen in the Council library. Thank you to Maureen Cooper for setting up the poster for us.

This survey was the first survey to be affected by strong winds. This meant that some important roosts, which need to be visited by boat, were not counted. The wader population for the October survey was 14,751 not as high as in summer but higher than in April.

Records of breeding waders were of interest on this survey. A Pied Oystercatcher chick at the runner stage was found at Proserpine River Sand Spit, a Pied Oystercatcher nest and a Red-capped Plover nest were found at Sand Bay Roost 1, suspected breeding behaviour was observed in Pied Oystercatchers at Dudgeon Point and North bank Bakers Ck. Two Beach Stone-Curlews, well known in Mackay as 'George' and 'Mildred' at Blacks Beach Spit were noted behaving as if they had nest, appearing very agitated with much tail-bobbing and one bird gave a high-pitched single note whistle.

The final report has been produced in draft form for WWF Australia to be finalised by 28 November 2003. It will be provided to the local governments and other stakeholders. A copy of the final report on CD will be available on request for QWSG members.

The table laid out on the next page provides a summary of the roosts and their significance for each of the local government areas.

Summary of the roosts in the Mackay region and their significance for shorebirds.

Intertidal Roost	Known high tide roost sites with high counts	
	300 to 1000	Over 1000
MACKAY	-	-
Pioneer River mouth sth bank	-	X
Pioneer R mouth banks	X	-
Shellgrit Ck entrance	X	-
Shellgrit Ck Mackay	-	X
Bakers Ck mouth	X	-
North bank Bakers Ck	-	X
Blacks Beach	-	-
Blacks Beach Spit	X	-
Bucasia Ck mouth	-	-
Dunrock south bank Sandy Ck	-	-
Dunrock town	-	-
Dunrock South Arm	X	-
Shoal Point	-	-
Finlayson Point Seaforth	X	-
Hodges Lagoon Shoal Pt	-	-
Sand Bank NE McEwans Beach	-	-
McEwans Beach south	X	-
McEwans Beach Swamp	X	-
Habana wharf	-	X
Habana wharf Claypan	-	-
Nells Beach Sand Bay	-	X
Sand Bay Roost 1	X	-
Sand Bay Roost 2	-	-
Sand Bay Roost 3	-	X
Sand Bay Roost 4	-	-
Seaforth Beach Ck mouth	X	-
Seaforth Beach Poinsiana Drive	X	-
St Helens Beach	X	-
St Helens Beach Claypans	-	-
Freshwater wetlands	-	-
Kinchant Dam	X	-
Kinchant Dam Burrow Pits	-	-
Mackay Port Wetland	-	-
SARINA		
Armstrongs Beach	-	X
Armstrongs south point	-	-
Llewellyn Bay Beach	X	-
Cape Creek Beach mouth	-	-
Coconut Ck, Ince Bay	-	-
Hogan's Camp Is	X	-
Ince Bay Roost 6	-	-
Rocky Island, Cape Palmerston	-	X
Dudgeon Pt	-	X
Dudgeon Pt Beach	-	-
Dudgeon Pt Ck mouth	-	-
Dudgeon Pt Claypan	-	-
Dudgeon Pt wetland	-	-
Freshwater wetlands	-	-
Hay Pt Lake Barfield	X	-
Tedlands wetland	-	-
Tedlands Dam 2 N side	X	-
WHITSUNDAY		
Deadmans Ck New Beach	-	X
O'Connell River mouth	X	-
Proserpine River Sand Spit	X	-
Repulse Bay	-	-

The following species are found in internationally-significance numbers (>1% Flyway Population) for this region during the 2003 surveys:- Pied Oystercatcher, Eastern Curlew, Lesser Sand Plover. Greater Sand Plover, Great Knot, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey-tailed Tattler and Sooty Oystercatcher.

There will be follow up funding from WWF for projects in Mackay and new proposals are being developed. The QWSG has found the project to be worthwhile both in terms of gaining an appreciation of the waders in region of the central coast of Queensland and in being able to improve community awareness of waders. As it is important to sustain the interest in waders in the Mackay region, the QWSG will run one further count on the 7 and 8 of February 2004. There has been interest in providing assistance to fund this summer count by officers at the Mackay City Council and by the regional Natural Resource Management group who have been briefed on a possible project.

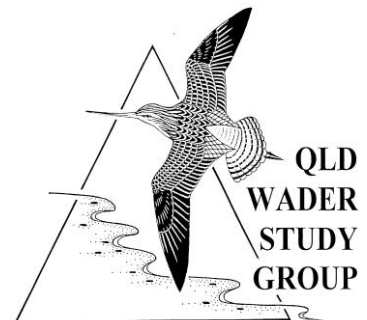


Some of the Brisbane Group at Mackay



Working in the fieldor beachor mud!

BY Sandra Harding QWSG



High tide Roost Sites for Waders – Wellington Point

Tucked in behind the mangroves in Wellington Pt on Brisbane's southside are three important high tide roost sites for migratory waders and other water-loving birds. As Wellington Pt has metamorphosed over the last few decades from a farming area and holiday spot on the outskirts of town to a city suburb like any other, so the waders of this area are under increasing pressure from disturbance. We have been observing and counting waders at high tide at two sites, Acacia St and Geoff Skinner Reserve in Wellington Pt for the last 3 years, although records go back as far as the mid 1990s.

We're some of the lucky counters that have our site just 10 minutes walk from our house, and when the weather is good, we are greeted by the subtle beauty of the salt flats, and a reasonably high diversity (up to 20 species over the season) and abundance of waders.

Acacia St is our most impacted site with the high tide roost in a small beach (less than 50 m long) within Waterloo Bay right next to suburban back gardens. The most dominant species at that site by far is Bar-tailed Godwit, with summer averages of between 150 and 250 birds. There is also a smattering of Grey-tailed Tattler, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Pied Oystercatcher and Great Knot.

It surprises us that the birds keep coming back to this site given the disturbance from dogs, boats, jet skis and people, in general, that often lift the birds. Hopefully the recent placement of signs by the Qld Parks and Wildlife Service warning people about the penalties of disturbing the birds will help to reduce the disturbance. When the birds are disturbed, they often head across the road to our other high-tide roost site, Geoff Skinner Reserve. This, of course, makes counting our other site somewhat tricky as it is hard to be sure that we're not counting the same birds twice, particularly the Bar-tailed Godwits.

Geoff Skinner Reserve is a surprisingly large salt flat (ca. 2.5km²) tucked away on the edge of Moreton Bay with a mangrove fringe on three sides and farmland on the fourth. Most of the time it is a pretty desolate place with dry, crusty mud and small patches of salt tolerate samphire and marine couch. However, during the highest tides of the year or after a heavy downpour, the plants turn green, benthic algae covers the mud flats and ponds fill with small animal life. Gumboots are a must as the mud is very sticky and slippery. The Reserve is also something of a graveyard for old cars, and plastic and glassware deposited at the highest tides or blown in by the wind. The waders visit the site irrespective of how wet it is, and it is impossible to predict where on the mudflat they will be at any given day. So we get lots of exercise tramping around in the mud looking for birds.

This site is a favourite for Red-necked Stint and on a hot summer's day, with lots of heat haze, the birds blend in so well with the mud that they are impossible to see until you just about step on them. When we first started counting this site from two vantage points and were unfamiliar with just how cryptic the stints can be, we were only finding them in tens; but since we now walk the entire perimeter of the mudflats, we now typically see 100 to 200 on average during the summer months. The site is also a favourite for Eastern Curlew with 240 birds on average present during each count in the summer months. Fortunately these large birds are a lot easier to see.

We can always rely on seeing Pacific Golden Plover (average 14 birds in summer) and Whimbrel (Mean = 45) although they often hide in the marine couch blending in so well that our numbers are likely to be underestimates. We usually also see a few Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (6), Great Knot (4), Red-capped Plover and Greenshank (11). On rare occasions we see Lesser Sand Plover, the Common Sandpiper and in the winter months the Double-banded Plover visiting from New Zealand.

New housing developments are encroaching on the farmland adjacent to the reserve so the pressures from people and their pets is likely to increase. Hopefully management actions such as signage and fencing can ensure that this site remains an important one for waders for years to come.

Our thanks to Linda Cross, Joyce Harding and Judy Caughley for all the data entry, checking, retrieval and summarization.

Michele Burford & Peter Rothlisberg

QWSG - Goals & Achievements 2003

1. Completion of the Mackay Project
2. One year of counts at Port of Brisbane completed
3. Significant Signage at various places to inform the public and protect waders
4. Removal of excess surface material from Empire Point roost resulting in a major increase of waders roosting
5. Continuing of monthly counts at roost sites
6. Count data entered into data base
7. Data Committee bringing together data for analysis
8. The "BOOK" reaching it's final stage
9. Commencement of a study to determine whereabouts & condition of waders at Brisbane Airport
10. Another successful wader course undertaken
11. Meeting with Birds Australia to discuss Queensland mapping for Flyway Network
12. Talk by Mark Barter on the dangers of habitat destruction in the Yellow Sea
13. Completion of school education programme
14. Arrangements made for additional trip to Mackay for survey work in 2004
15. Contact with Wild Bird Society of Japan maintained
16. Upgrading of QWSG brochures & magnets for distribution
17. Completion of Kakadu Beach roost and hide in co-operation with land developers
18. Construction of Web site in progress
19. Newsletter continuing to enlighten and entertain
20. Library updated and catalogued

Arranged by Joyce Harding

Hot News from Alaska

We've just had our annual email from Bob Gill and Brian McCaffery in Alaska detailing the flag sightings they've made on BTG during the last half of Aug and 1st week of Sept. on the coast of SW Alaska. It is here that the flocks of BTG which breed all over Alaska collect before embarking on their 10,000km non-stop flight across the Pacific to N Australia and N New Zealand.

This year they made a record no of 100 flag sightings. They covered 2 different sites for the 1st time, one for a 3 week period and 1 for just 4 days. Overall they saw 79 orange flagged Godwits from Victoria, 15 white flagged from North Island, New Zealand, 2 green flagged birds from Queensland. A white over green bird from South Island New Zealand, a green over orange flagged bird from China, a white over orange flagged bird from S Korea. As usual there were no yellow flagged birds from NWA because those birds breed in Yakutia in Central northern Siberia. Because of the regular observation of flocks at the same location it is very probable that some duplicate sightings of the same bird were made.

The max number of individual sightings made in a single day were 17 at 1 location and 14 at the other location. My guess is that probably 40-70 individual birds were actually involved but it is impossible to know accurately. The very high no of orange flagged birds is a reflection of our considerable catching success on this species in the 4 years prior to last summer. Many were banded as immature birds but have now reached an age when they have joined the adult breeding population visiting each year. But the proportion of orange flagged BTG has probably been at its highest ever level during the last year.

Given that we only had our 1st sighting of a flagged Godwit reported from Alaska 4 years ago I think there is an amazing volume of new data is something VWSG members and others would probably like to know about while it is hot news.

Best wishes
Clive

From an E-mail

"Samboilbae for Saemangeum"

-Korean form of protest

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you will know the Appeal against the suspension of work on the Saemangeum Reclamation was due to be heard on October 31st. The hearing went ahead, and according to representatives from the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), Korea's largest environmental NGO, the "expert witnesses" called by the pro-reclamation Ministry of Agriculture and Farming (MAF) added very little to the arguments that have already been set out. The current feeling is that a final decision on Saemangeum's future will now not be made before the beginning of next year at the earliest.

Rather than sit back and wait while the decision is made we feel that the extra time should be used to move the campaign to publicise the importance of this huge wetland to new highs. WBKEnglish, with the full support and backing of KFEM, are proposing an event called "*Samboilbae for Saemangeum*" - timed to coincide with World Wetlands Day on February 04, 2004.

The *samboilbae* is a uniquely Korean form of protest (see <http://www.wbkenglish.com/samboilbae.asp> or <http://www.wbkenglish.com/korprot.asp>) where participants perform a ritualised march, taking three steps and then a deep, kneeling bow where the forehead is touched to the ground. It is slow, quite arduous, a little painful (for those of us with ageing knees at least!) - but is also great fun and will be a deeply moving experience. Our plan is to help co-ordinate as many people as possible to perform the *samboilbae* at as many wetlands worldwide as possible.

The potential effect of a "mass" *samboilbae* is very great indeed:

- 1) Making this a "Korean" event will draw attention to Saemangeum (and the wetlands of the Yellow Sea and surrounding region), and show huge support for the Korean people - effectively negating any argument that international opposition to Saemangeum is really just "anti-Korean" sentiment.
- 2) It will make the event very interesting to the media - both inside Korea and overseas. With KFEM's help the resulting publicity will put further pressure on pro-reclamation Ministries within the Korean Government, and keep the issue and "the final decision" very alive.
- 3) The event can also be used to highlight the threats facing wetlands worldwide - and attention will be drawn to wetlands and activists wherever it is performed.

There is not much time left to organise "*Samboilbae for Saemangeum*" (who could have guessed that saving Saemangeum would still be a valid cause at the end of 2003?), so we plan to make taking part as easy as possible. We will set up a section on the WBKEnglish website which explains the concept, performance, and historical significance of the *samboilbae*, post updates as the campaign develops, and co-ordinate the publicity for the event. Of course many of you may have already planned events for World Wetlands Day, but it would be fairly easy to incorporate a *samboilbae* of perhaps 30 (or more) people into the day. To simplify things still further we don't intend to ask participants to arrange sponsorship or anything similar - just to take part and get publicity.

We do of course need help - regional co-ordinators and volunteers, participants, benefactors, etc. We need organisations and webmasters to promote "*Samboilbae for Saemangeum*". We will be sending out press-releases and we need to these to be placed in as many media as possible. Our first press-release will go out at the end of next week, and hopefully we will be able to include a list of organisations offering support or individuals willing to take part.

Destroying Saemangeum will threaten thousands upon thousands of migratory waterbirds and could cause the extinction of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. We at WBKEnglish will do whatever we can to ensure that the huge and critically-important wetlands at Saemangeum don't simply disappear quietly - **please help us...**

Thankyou.

Charlie and Nial Moores, Kim SuKyung,
www.wbkenglish.com
wbkenglish@aol.com

Global Conservation - a need for a global approach

At the recent International Wader Study Group Conference at Cadiz, Spain, shorebird experts from round the world found that the majority of populations of waders of known population trend are in decline all around the world - a matter of international conservation concern. Of populations with known trends, 48% are declining, in contrast to just 16% that are increasing: thus three times as many populations are in decline as are increasing. The reasons for these declines are diverse and poorly understood. Overall, the East Atlantic Flyway appears in the healthiest state: only a little over one-third (37%) of populations are decreasing.

There are enormous human population pressures in East Asia and Australasia, a region that contains over a third of the world's human population as well as some of the world's fastest growing economics. This has major direct consequences for the waders of this region: over 80% of wetlands in east and south-east Asia are classified as threatened, with over half under serious threat. Of inter-tidal wetlands in South Korea, 43% have been destroyed by land-claim (with more underway), as also have 37% of inter-tidal wetlands on China's coastline.

Asia is also the region holding the highest number of wader populations, and the highest proportion for which we lack information on numbers and trends of populations. Asia and Oceania between them hold 32 Globally Threatened species, which is 58% of the entire world's Globally Threatened wader, species.

Of the 12 globally threatened species on the East Asia - Australasian flyway, one is possibly extinct, six are in active decline and the status of the remaining five is unknown. None are recovering their status. The development of non-binding international mechanisms for conservation and monitoring is a welcome step forward, although there are huge challenges to secure the conservation of wetlands of global significance to waders so as to reverse the current negative trends in wader populations. This is especially so given the socioeconomic pressures within the region.

The Conference concluded that:

1. Waders, with their range of specialised feeding and migration ecologies, are sensitive indicators of change in their environments. Knowledge of the status of wader populations can provide important information on the wider environment, including those caused by climate change as well as from habitat loss, and degradation of habitat quality as well as those caused by climate change.
2. The task of ensuring the favourable conservation status of waders is inseparable from that of ensuring the conservation and wise use of their wetland and other habitats. Regrettably however, the loss and degradation of wetlands and other habitats continues apace all around the world. This is the underlying cause of the poor conservation status of so many species.
3. Loss and degradation of habitat has many causes. It also has many consequences for waders including those of an ecological, reproductive and genetic nature.
4. The consequences of the intensification of agriculture remain major adverse factors affecting the status of waders not only in western Europe, with its long-established agricultural landscapes, but also in other regions such as eastern Europe and central Asia where natural steppe landscapes have now been replaced by arable and other agricultural forms of cultivation. In North and South America, loss of natural habitats to agriculture is also of significant concern.

The importance of staging sites for long-distance migrants

5. Long-distant migrant waders are highly dependent on the continued existence, in good condition, of a few key staging areas - essential 'stepping stones' to more northerly breeding areas. The importance of maintaining the ecological character of these cannot be stressed too highly. What happens on staging areas such as the Wadden Sea in Europe, Delaware Bay in North America, the Yellow Sea in East Asia and the Banc d'Arguin in Africa, seems to control much of the rest of the annual cycle - and survival - of these waders.
6. Declining food resources and reduced suitability of staging sites have major implications for the survival and reproduction of these migrants. 'Virtual habitat loss' can occur in these areas as a consequence of poor management such as that which arises from unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, disturbance and other local perturbations. This leads to damage to the ecological character of these wetlands with major consequences for their ability to continue to support shorebirds.

7. The conference heard of major conservation issues facing three coastal wetlands of critical importance to migratory waders.

- The completion of the 33km seawall at Saemangeum in South Korea will destroy 40,100ha of tidal-flat and shallows - an estuarine system which on present knowledge is the most important shorebird site in the whole of the Yellow Sea, supporting internationally important numbers of at least 17 species of waders (including several globally threatened species). The Yellow Sea is itself by far the most important staging area on the East Asian Australasian Flyway, hosting at least 2 million waders of 36 species during northward migration. At least 25,000 people also depend economically on this wetland system, for fishing and shell fishing.
- Delaware Bay is a critically important spring staging area in eastern North America. Over-exploitation by humans of food resources used by waders may now be affecting the ability of waders using this site to reach their arctic breeding areas and to breed there successfully. This appears to be leading to drastic population declines in some of the species, especially Red Knots *Calidris canutus rufa*.

In the Dutch part of the international Wadden Sea, there is now compelling scientific evidence to indicate that unsustainably high levels of industrial shell fishing have led to redistribution of birds from the high quality feeding areas. Declines of the bio-geographic populations of long-distance migrant waders heavily dependent on the Wadden Sea have occurred and are continuing.

Monitoring and research

8. There is urgent need for more and better population monitoring. In the first instance and as a minimum, there is an urgent need to establish adequately funded national monitoring programmes. Given the consensus of world leaders to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010, it is appropriate and indeed necessary that governments provide funding for national waterbird monitoring schemes, through which they will be able to establish whether their own target is being met. The International Waterbird Census coordinated by Wetlands International offers an effective framework within which such monitoring can be organised.

Guide to conservation actions

9. It was suggested that development of internationally coordinated programmes to routinely assess wader productivity and survival would aid more focussed and cost-effective conservation responses to information derived from count programmes.

10. WSG should continue to review the status of waders worldwide with the aim of continuing to provide technical advice to international conventions and others as to those (types of) populations that should receive major attention with respect to their conservation, monitoring and research.

11. There is an immediate need for the WSG to establish an internationally coordinated process to collate appropriate data for fourth edition of Wetlands International's Waterbird Population Estimates (to be submitted to the ninth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention in 2005).

From "Tattler no. 37 October 2003"

Have You Arrival Dates for Bar-tails?

Everyone,

I received an email from Adrian Riegen in NZ asking the following:-

"Do you know if anyone has been monitoring the arrival of Bar-tailed Godwits this spring. We are keen to know what dates they arrive in relation to what dates they depart Alaska. We had good known departures from Alaska all of the first week of Sept and we had our first arrivals each day of the second week strong evidence of the direct flight route. So if anyone on Queensland can help I'd like to hear from them please."

You can contact Adrian at this Email address:
riegen@xtra.co.nz

Forwarded by Linda Cross

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.

Green leg flag sightings

- 1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding et al – 30.8.03
- 1 Eastern Curlew – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 26.9.03
- 2 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton et al – 27.9.03
- 2 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Barry & Joanna Morgan et al – 25.10.03
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 26.9.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells & Esther Townsend – 26.9.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 27.9.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Barry & Joanna Morgan et al – 27.9.03
- 3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Fisherman Island – Andrew Geering & Linda Cross – 28.9.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Sandbank No 1 Caloundra – Jill Dening – 18.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 24.10.03
- 4 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 25.10.03
- 4 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pine Rivers Northside – David Edwards – 25.10.03
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding & David Milton et al – 25.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells – 25.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Fisherman Island – Phil & Linda Cross & Jeanette Keating – 26.10.03
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells – 30.8.03
- 3 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Phil & Linda Cross & Dez Wells – 14.9.03
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells & Esther Townsend – 26.9.03
- 2 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – Phil & Linda Cross & Jeanette Keating – 26.10.03
- 1 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – David Edwards et al – 1.11.03

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, New Zealand – Nigel Milius – 15.3.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Egegik Bay, Alaska, USA – Daniel Ruthrauff – 2.9.003
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Tern Mountain, Village of Shefornak, Yukon delta, USA – Sarah Connors - 5.9.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Golden Bay, South Island, New Zealand – Peter Field – 11.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Farewell Spit, Gobi, near Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Peter Field – 11.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, New Zealand – David Lawrie – 19.10.03
- 1 Great Knot – Okku Mangyeong, South Korea – Nial Moores – 28.8.03
- 1 Greater Sand Plover – South Beach, Ballina, NSW – Bo Totterman – 14.2.03

Orange leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding & David Milton et al – 27.9.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 4.10.03 & 16.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Maaroom – John Bell & Inge Brandt – 5.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight & Elaine Lyons – 13.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight, S & M Norman & E Lyons – 14.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wright's Creek, Bribie Island – Kerry & Ted Davenport – 17.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Wright's Creek, Bribie Island – Phil & Linda Cross at al – 19.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Linda Cross & Ivell Whyte – 20.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mathieson Homestead – Bob & June Gleeson et al – 29.10.03
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Lytton – David Edwards et al – 1.11.03
- 1 Great Knot – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 14.8.03
- 1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Phil & Linda Cross & Dez Wells – 14.9.03
- 1 Great Knot – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 27.9.03 & 4.10.03
- 1 Great Knot – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight et al – 13 & 14.10.03
- 1 Great knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells – 25.10.03

- 1 Great Knot – Mathieson Homestead – Bob & June Gleeson et al – 29.10.03
 2 Red Knot – Deception Bay – Phil Cross – 30.8.03
 1 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – Andrew Geering & Linda Cross – 28.9.03
 1 Curlew Sandpiper – Manly Boat Harbour – Barry & Joanna Morgan et al – 27.9.03
 1 Curlew Sandpiper – Deception Bay – Phil & Linda Cross – 25.10.03
 1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross – 31.8.03
 1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – David Edwards & Joyce Harding – 28.9.03

Japanese (Blue) leg flag sightings

- 1 Curlew Sandpiper with blue flag right tarsus - Toorbul – Carole Green – 26.10.03

Other wader leg flag sightings

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit - green flag immediately above orange flag right tarsus – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight, Elaine Lyons, Sean & Maureen Norman – 13 & 14.10.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit - green flag immediately above orange flag right tarsus – Lytton roost during field trip for Wader Course – David Edwards et al – 1.11.03
 (The green over orange flagged Godwit above was flagged in Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve, Liaoning Province, China during 24 to 28 April 2002. This is probably the same bird that was recorded at Manly Boat Harbour from November 2002 to March 2003)
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit - white flag right tibia and metal band left tarsus – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 4.10.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit - white flag right tibia – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight, Elaine Lyons, Sean & Maureen Norman – 13 & 14.10.03
 1 Great Knot – white flag left tibia and orange flag left tarsus – Toorbul 1 km North – Dez Wells – 30.8.03 (flagged Korean Peninsula sometime since 1998)
 1 Great Knot – white flag left tibia and orange flag left tarsus – Toorbul 1km North – Phil & Linda Cross & Dez Wells – 14.9.03 (probably the same bird as above)
 1 Red Knot – white flag right tibia and metal band left tarsus – Toorbul 1km North – Phil & Linda Cross & Dez Wells – 14.9.03
 1 Red Knot – white flag right tibia – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells & Esther Townsend – 26.9.03
 1 Red Knot – yellow flag right tibia – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding, David Milton, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 25.10.03

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 6.7.03
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag left tarsus and band right tibia – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 3.9.03
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus – Toorbul 1km North – Phil & Linda Cross & Dez Wells – 14.9.03
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding et al – 27.9.03
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Linda Cross – 20.10.03
 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag right tarsus – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – Esther Townsend – 2.11.03
 1 Silver Gull – black band right tarsus – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 20.9.03

Interesting sightings

- 1 Wandering Tattler – Snapper Rocks, Coolangatta – Marion Williams – 22.8.03
 21 Red-kneed Dotterel – Pine Rivers Northside – David Edwards – 30.8.03
 22 Red-kneed Dotterel – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 27.9.03
 2 Common Sandpiper – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 28.9.03
 2 Common Sandpiper – Saltworks, Bowen – Jon Wren & Desley Williams – 3.11.03
 1 Common Sandpiper – Tim Thornton – Cherwell River – 10.9.03
 1 Common Sandpiper – Tim Thornton – Burrum River – 22.9.03
 1 Little Curlew – Nells Beach, Mackay (during Mackay survey) – David Edwards & Paul Finn – 12.10.03
 7 Grey Plover – Toorbul 1km North – Dez & Carla Wells – 30.8.03
 14 Grey Plover – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 26.9.03
 2 Pacific Golden Plover (first record at this site) – Deception Bay Mangrove roost – Phil & Linda Cross – 25.10.03
 6 Grey-tailed Tattler (first time seen at site) – Pine Rivers Northside – David Edwards – 25.10.03
 1 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – Keith Fisher – 25.10.03
 52 Marsh Sandpiper – Maaroom – John Bell, Glen Hastie & Inge Brandt – 26.10.03
 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (rare at this site) – Caboolture River Mouth – Ivan Fien – 27.9.03
 372 Red-necked Avocets – Deception Bay – Linda Cross – 11.10.03
 113 Red-necked Avocets – Young Avenue, Kinka Beach – John Thomson – 30.8.03

4 tiny Red-kneed Dotterel chicks – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 30.8.03

3 five-day-old Black-winged Stilt chicks – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 30.8.03

Not waders but of interest anyway

We wish to advise that the following two sightings below listed in issue No. 45 of Queensland Wader had the sites recorded incorrectly. They are listed again under the correct count sites. Our apologies for the errors.

1 Baillon's Crane – Garnett's Lagoons, Hervey Bay – John Knight – 18.1.03

80 Australian Pelican – Bell's Creek, Caloundra – Jill Chamberlain – 12.6.03

1 Hoary-headed Grebe – Kingscliff Sewage Plant – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 16.8.03

1 Great-crested Grebe – Kingscliff Sewage Plant – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 4.10.03

2 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Bishop's Marsh – Esther Townsend – 29.8.03

78 Wandering Whistling Duck – Kingscliff Sewage Plant – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 4.10.03

2 Chestnut Teal (first time seen at site) – Maaroom – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 28.9.03

95 Whiskered Tern – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 4.10.03

52 Whiskered Tern – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 17.10.03

1 Whiskered Tern (first time seen at site) – Maaroom – John Bell, Glen Hastie & Inge Brandt – 26.10.03

7 White-winged Black Tern – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Frank Bigg & Michael Willis – 25.10.03

1 Brown Falcon – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 14.6.03

2 Black-tailed Native Hen – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 18.7.03

Count Programme by Linda Cross

We wish to update details on count sites and would like all counters to please record any major changes on their sites. Please include any comments in the notes section of the count sheet. If you run out of room turn over and use the back of the form. We would also like to update the latitude and longitude of all the sites using WGS 84. If you have a GPS, or can borrow one, please also supply us with this information.

Something we have not done for quite some time is to welcome new counters to the count programme. During the surveys in Mackay, Joyce Harding (our data enterer) recruited one of the locals at Seaforth. We welcome Peggy Harding (no relation to Joyce) into the programme and hope she will have many pleasant hours surveying Seaforth and Finlayson's Point for waders. The latter being particularly good for Sooty Oystercatchers.

We also welcome Michael Willis, who has joined Frank Bigg counting Kakadu Beach roost on Bribie Island. A good variety of wader species visit this roost and I am sure Michael will find it very rewarding.

As reported in the previous newsletter, Lois MacRae took a break from the count programme to spend more time with her husband Ian. We sadly report that Ian lost his long battle with his illness early in September and will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathy is conveyed to Lois and her family.

My request for counters to consider looking for very high and king tide roosts did not go unheard. Esther Townsend decided to explore the Toorbul area in March this year, and although she found eleven other sites, the only significant finds were 34 Common Greenshank at the small pond on the western side of the Esplanade between the Toorbul roost and Sandfly Bay roost and 21 Pacific Golden Plover along with 20 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper roosting behind The Crescent at the northern end of the Esplanade.

It is a very different story in Hervey Bay, where Bob & June Gleeson have also taken up my request to do some counts during the king tides. They have conducted 10 counts at Mangrove Point South Claypan, which is just south of the Mathieson Homestead site. This large claypan is positioned directly in front of the Oyster Cove development at River Heads.

This site is classed as a critical king tide roost for many wader species in the area and regularly supports a large number of Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwits. Up to thirteen species of waders have been recorded using this roost during the very high tides. Extracts of some of the larger counts appear below: -

894 Eastern Curlew on 18.1.03

451 Whimbrel on 13.1.01

1400 Bar-tailed Godwit on 26.10.03

200 Red-capped Plover on 18.1.03

Some of these sites are large claypans that are normally dry and devoid of waders until the much higher tides. Not surprisingly the everyday person and local councils usually see it as a dry wasteland that supports nothing and is therefore likely to be subject to development.

The information collected during these higher and king tides is very important and identifies the sites for what they are and should be preserved and protected for the future of the birds.

I hope more of you will consider looking for, or counting those sites that are critical for the waders during the bigger tides. There are some very high tides for the first three months of 2004, which would be suitable for anyone wishing to do so.

The monthly count programme for the whole of 2004 has been listed in this issue for your interest. **The National Summer Count will take place in January.** Please remember to mark all the dates in your new calendar at the beginning of the year.

The last records of Double-banded Plovers on our shores before their return to New Zealand are as follows: -

Tony's Island Tweed Heads – 2 on 22.8.03	Maroochy River Northshore – 3 on 30.8.03
Fisherman Island – 4 on 31.8.03	Geoff Skinner Reserve – 8 on 30.8.03

Red Knot numbers during the southern migration appear to be small during October counts, with the best totals appearing at the six sites listed below. With November counts still to come in as I type this article, we can only hope that there will be an improvement in the numbers.

Toorbul 96 on 26.9.03	Manly Boat Harbour 18 on 27.9.03
Deception Bay 13 on 11.10.03	Pine Rivers Northside 5 on 25.10.03
Thornlands 79 on 25.10.03	Fisherman Island 63 on 26.10.03

Other significant counts of individual species during southern migration have been: -

528 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Toorbul 1 Km North – 25.10.03
 225 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Saltworks, Bowen – 3.10.03
 180 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – 25.10.03
 930 Eastern Curlew – Mathieson Homestead – 20.9.03
 483 Eastern Curlew – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – 14.9.03
 430 Eastern Curlew – Pioneer River – 27.10.03
 364 Eastern Curlew – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – 29.8.03
 311 Eastern Curlew – Thornlands – 30.8.03
 254 Whimbrel – Toorbul – 14.9.03
 256 Pacific Golden Plover – Shellgrit Creek – 27.10.03

Both Phil & I would like to take this opportunity to thank all counters for their continued support to the programme. Thanks also to those people who sent leg flag details during the year. A very special thanks to Joyce Harding for the many hours she spent recording all the details from count sheets to the database. We wish every one of you and your families a merry Christmas and happy, healthy and peaceful 2004.

Happy counting.
 Linda Cross.

Port of Brisbane Counts

There is a strong possibility that QWSG will continue counts at the PoB in 2004. As with 2003 the counts will probably be conducted the day after our normal count day. Wader numbers at the POB are high and species are spread out in a number of reclamation sites. Large numbers of waders meant some of the counters spent the whole time counting just one site, so it would be really great if other members joined us during these counts. If you can only identify one or two species, or would just like to help us by scribing, we would love to hear from you. Even if you can only offer assistance once or twice it would be much appreciated. In return you will be given the chance to see the variety of waders the PoB has to offer.

Anyone wishing to join us please contact Michele Burford on 3822 3759 (Home) 3875 6723 (Work) or email her at m.burford@griffith.edu.au

WADER ID DAYS for 2004

Saturday 13th March 2004 at Toorbul

High tide at 1.66m at 14:03 hours (40 mins later for Toorbul). Meeting time will be 1:00pm.

Saturday 27th March 2004 at Toorbul

High tide at 1.56m at 13:03 hours (40 mins later for Toorbul). Meeting time will be noon.

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.

Remember to bring water and food as it is the middle of the day. It is a good idea to have a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Most importantly bring your binoculars or telescopes. Hopefully we can provide the answers to all your questions.

Please contact either Phil & Linda Cross 07 5495 2758 or David Edwards 07 3262 2017 if you have any question

Unfortunately the tide height and tide times are not conducive to good wader watching so we have had to restrict ID days to just these two dates, so make the most of them.

WADER ID REPORT

TOORBUL WADER ID DAY REPORT 14 SEPTEMBER 2003

During my three-day stay in hospital prior to this outing I was phoning committee members to ask for their assistance. Thankfully I was discharged the day before and just had to get down to Toorbul for the returning waders.

We arrived a little late at the main Toorbul roost for the meeting time, but other helpers had already set up scopes and were helping people with the identification of the birds. A total of 44 people turned up to welcome back some of the migratory waders.

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

The birds were very skittish and lifted a number of times, which had us chasing them to the other two roosts along the Esplanade. Quite noticeable was the lack of smaller waders, which were probably using the Kakadu Beach roost on Bribie Island.

The following leg flagged birds were observed at the Toorbul 1km North roost at 1410 hours: -

- 1 Great Knot with white flag left tibia and orange flag left tarsus (banded in Korean Peninsula).
- 1 Great Knot with orange flag right tibia (banded in Victoria).
- 3 Great Knot with green flag right tibia (banded in Moreton Bay).
- 1 Red Knot with white flag right tibia and metal band left tarsus (banded in New Zealand).
- 1 Red Knot with metal band left tarsus.
- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag right tarsus and metal band left tarsus.

Species seen at and around the three Toorbul roosts: -

2 Australian Brush-turkey, 41 Black Swan, 10 Australian Wood Duck (includes 8 ducklings), 10 Chestnut Teal, 1 Little Pied Cormorant, 1 Little Black Cormorant, 3 Australian Pelican, 20 White-faced Heron, 8 Little Egret, 1 Great Egret, 1 Striated Heron, 6 Australian White Ibis, 2 Straw-necked Ibis, 10 Royal Spoonbill, 1 Osprey, 1 Whistling Kite, 1 Brahminy Kite, 1 White-bellied Sea-Eagle, 23 Black-tailed Godwit, 200+ Bar-tailed Godwit, 254 Whimbrel, 483 Eastern Curlew, 22 Common Greenshank, 58 Grey-tailed Tattler, 245 Great Knot,

49 Red Knot, 1 Red-necked Stint, 9 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 10 Curlew Sandpiper, 5 Pied Oystercatcher, 50 Black-winged Stilt, 2 Masked Lapwing, 4 Silver Gull, 51 Gull-billed Tern, 7 Caspian Tern, 3 Galah, 4 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Southern Boobook (dead, assumed road kill), 1 Sacred Kingfisher, (H) Collared Kingfisher, 5 Rainbow Bee-eater, 1 Striated Pardalote, 1 Mangrove Gerygone, 1 White-throated Gerygone, 1 Little Wattlebird, 2 Striped Honeyeater, 5 Blue-faced Honeyeater, 6 Noisy Miner, 4 Mangrove Honeyeater, Magpie-lark, (H) Willie Wagtail, 4 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, 2 Torresian Crow and 2 Common Myna.

Bishop's Marsh was dry and only the following species were observed in the paddock: -

Straw-necked Ibis, (H) Common Koel, Masked Lapwing and Richard's Pipit.

Linda Cross.

Please note: - A pair of white sandals size 9 were left by a tree near the Bar-b-que at the main Toorbul roost. If anyone wishes to claim them they can be collected from me.

QWSG 2003 Wader Workshop Report

QWSG's one-day introductory workshop on the waders of Australia and Moreton Bay this year was held at the Port of Brisbane Visitors Centre at Fisherman Islands.

The workshop attracted 41 participants from a variety of backgrounds attended this years course to learn more about the waders of Moreton Bay. Positive feedback indicates participants found the workshop interesting, well structured and informative.

The format of the workshop was similar to that of last year which had proved most popular. The workshop started with a general introduction by Dr Andrew Geering, QWSG chairperson, followed by a welcome by Brad Kitchen, Environment Manager, Port of Brisbane Corporation.

After giving an overview of waders, QWSG newsletter editor David Edwards talked about the waders of south-east Queensland, with particular emphasis on their identification. Andrew followed this up with an interesting talk about migration and breeding of waders, a fascinating subject and one which elicited several questions from participants. QWSG committee member Paul Finn presented some detailed information about the feeding ecology and life of the Eastern Curlew, based on studies in Moreton Bay. John Old from National Parks give a talk on the Moreton Bay Strategic Plan presenting an outline of the importance given to waders and their protection by National Parks.

Once again an enjoyable lunch in the Eco Café that overlooks the lake at the centre, provided a distraction as participants tried to see some of the birds talked about at the course.

Participants and QWSG members went to the Port of Brisbane construction area at Fisherman Island. Though it was very windy good views were had of Red-necked Avocet, Red-necked Stint, Sand Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Curlew Sandpiper and Pied Oystercatcher before heading off to the high tide roost site at Lytton.

QWSG members, pointed out distinguishing features of the species present to participants. As is usual at the Lytton site, we were able to compare the Eastern Curlew with the Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit with Black-tailed Godwit. There were Common Greenshank roosting there, but no Marsh Sandpiper to compare to. As usual the Grey-tailed Tattler presented themselves in the dead mangroves showing their camouflage plumage to advantage.

We also thank the Port of Brisbane for the use of their facilities and equipment, plus access to the bund areas of the construction areas.

Thanks to all for their dedication and help in making the day such a success.

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) 3376 1241
<u>VICE CHAIRPERSON</u>	David Milton	(07) 3390 2179
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Sheryl Keates	(08) 8948 1794
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Margaret Bernard	(07) 3376 1241
<u>NEWSLETTER EDITOR.</u>	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017
<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross	(07) 5495 2758

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Michele Burford	(07) 3822 3759	Judy Caughley	(07) 5492 6050
Peter Driscoll	TBA	Jill Dening	(07) 5494 0994
Paul Finn	(07) 3349 3162	Joyce Harding	(07) 3372 1424
Sandra Harding	(07) 3390 2179	Ivell Whyte	(07) 3802 0757

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence to:
The QWSG Chairperson,
28 Peppertee Street,
Sinnamon Park,
Q 4073

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,
12 / 296 Casuarina Drive
Nightcliff
NT 0810

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 **February 18th 2003**

Contributions should be addressed to:

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

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

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

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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) 3398 5118; Secretary, Rod Cox (07) 3398 8775; Treasurer, Les Taylor (07) 3878 1381.

Monthly Meetings

Birds Queensland - 7.45pm Queensland Museum Brisbane

1st Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.

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 5495 2758 or E-mail at xenus@big.net.au

Postage is not included in the prices quoted.

Polo Neck Shirts

\$30:00 Limited stock.

Books

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

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

\$24:00 Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds

\$14:00 A Birdwatcher's Guide to Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture Shire. Wildlife Preservation Society of Caboolture.

No longer in stock:

Birds of Bribie Island, Pumicestone Passage and Environs
Wildflowers of Bribie Island

However, they can be obtained from BIEPA by contacting Kathleen Catalan on 07 3408 7338

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 :

J M Norman, Janet Tarbit, Belinda Thomson
John Bagshaw, Danny Rogers, Peter Kyne
Jonathan Wills, Christopher Wills, Carol Nothcote

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.

FISHERMAN ISLAND – PORT OF BRISBANE COUNTS

Calendar and Timetable for Port of Brisbane Visits

2003

Sun 14th Dec 2003

2004

It is likely that the visits to the Port of Brisbane will be on the same weekends as the monthly counts. However, the details have not been finalised as yet, and as the next Newsletter will not be issued until March if you are interested in joining us could you please contact Michele Burford on 3822 3759 (Home) 3875 6723 (Work) or email her at m.burford@griffith.edu.au

AGM of the QWSG

When Saturday 20th December 2003.
Time 11:30am for a prompt start
Where The Bar-B-Que area at Fortitude Street, Nudgee Beach
As you enter the Nudgee Beach turn right half way down the main street into Fortitude Street. This takes you towards the Bay. You will see the Covered Bar-b-que areas on your right hand side. Look for us at one of these areas.

Please ring Editor on 07 3262 2017 if you need any further directions

The AGM will be followed by a Picnic / Barbeque get-together and end-of-year break up. It will be self catering so bring your own food and drinks, remember hats, sunscreen and insect repellent. May be throw in a chair just in case all the seating is taken up!
All welcome.

NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Name of Nominee:

Position:

Name of Proposer:

Name of Secunder:

(Note: Nominees, proposers and seconders must have current QWSG membership).

I accept the nomination for the position on the management committee of the Queensland Wader Study Group as indicated.

Signature of Nominee:

Date:

Nomination forms should be received 7days before the AGM.

(Please post to: Mr Andrew Geering,
Chair QWSG,
28 Peppertee Street,
Sinnamon Park, Q 4073



Activities 2003

Monthly Count Programme

Count Programme – 2003

Sat 13th December 2003 High Tide of 2.25m at 12.13am

High Tides – Count Programme – 2004

Please note – tide heights for the first three months counts are high (like last year). It is **very important** that you get into your sites **well** before the peak to ensure you get a full count of the waders before they are pushed off the roost (particularly so for the national summer count). If you are unsure about the time you should be at your site please contact me for advice.

We have very little information on sites that birds are using during very high or king tides. So if the birds were pushed off the roost before, or at the peak, it would be a good exercise to try to track where they go. Identifying king tide roosts would add valuable information to our data on waders.

Please also note that we have two counts for march. We would like to repeat this exercise, which will give us more information on site preference and wader numbers during the northward migration.

- Sun 11th Jan 2.37m at 11:55 **National Summer Count**
- Sat 7th Feb 2.45m at 10:23
- Sat 6th Mar 2.42m at 09:20
- Sun 21st Mar 2.34m at 09:55 Additional count for migration movement
- Sat 3rd Apr 2.31m at 08:04
- Sun 16th May 2.03m at 07:30
- No count in June
- Sat 24th Jul 1.80m at 14:15 **National Winter Count**
- Sun 22nd Aug 1.92m at 13:47
- Sat 18th Sep 2.10m at 11:52
- Sat 16th Oct 2.30m at 10:52
- Sat 13th Nov 2.44m at 09:51
- Sat 18th Dec 2.20m at 14:42

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:.....

Membership: \$.....
Donation: \$.....
Payment enclosed: \$.....

Phone: (Home) (Work)
Fax / e-mail:

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, 12 / 296 Casuarina Drive, Nightcliff, NT 0810

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group