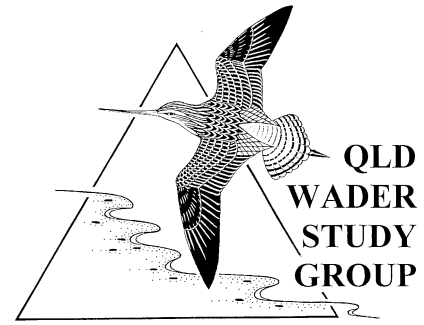


QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 47

Autumn 2004

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

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2003

By Andrew Geering

Another year has flown by, and it has been a successful one for the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG).

The major achievement in my mind has been the Mackay project, funded by the Natural Heritage Trust through the World Wide Fund for Nature. In this project, a team from Brisbane joined a local team from Mackay to do surveys along the Mackay coastline on three occasions in 2003 and a reconnaissance in November 2002. The project had dual purposes of research and extension. Important baseline information on the numbers and species using this part of the coastline has been obtained, and the position of roost sites mapped. On each survey, a wader identification session and a night of lectures were held to educate the general public about waders and provide training to locals who hopefully will continue the work begun in the project. A final report has been written by Sandra Harding and David Milton, and in this report, the conservation status of each roost site has been described, and recommendations for management provided on a number of individually mapped roosts. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will be developing maps of each roost with over 100 waders. I would particularly like to thank Sandra Harding, who led the project, and Linda Cross, David Milton, Maureen Cooper, Derek Ball, and numerous other volunteers for making this project the success it was. Thanks also go to Ivell Whyte for the professionally made poster on the Mackay Project, which was presented at the Australian Shorebird Conference in Canberra in December.

Another major commitment for the QWSG in 2003 was the Port of Brisbane surveys. As many of you know, the Port of Brisbane Corporation (POB) is extending the port facilities by several kilometres into Moreton Bay. The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* was triggered by this development, requiring the POB to develop a shorebird management plan, for which they have enlisted our help to implement. The 'contract' has required us to survey the reclamation ponds at the POB on the same weekends that regular counts are done around the Bay to provide data on habitat uses of the different species. This information will be used to develop a permanent roost site at the POB (the 'Area 5 bird roost'). I must concede that at the beginning of this project, I did not fully appreciate the significance of this work. On some weekends in summer, we have counted up to 10,000 birds, which is about 20% of the total population of waders in Moreton Bay. The numbers of some species have been remarkable – c. 2,500 Lesser Sand Plover in December, c. 500 Pacific Golden Plover in February, and the list goes on. We really cannot afford to ignore this site, otherwise there will be a major gap in our knowledge of the waders in Moreton Bay. We will be continuing this work in 2004, and have representation (David Edwards) on the expert committee planning the permanent roost site. Hopefully we can use our influence to obtain even more habitat for the birds than originally planned. I would like to thank Michele Burford for organising the surveys, and to Wayne Young and his partner Renee for looking after us on the site and throwing the occasional BBQ. I would like to encourage everyone in the Brisbane area to consider helping with this project. It is a remarkable wildlife sight seeing the huge numbers of birds that occur at the Port, and there is always the chance to 'twitch' a rare bird, or see a 'leg-flagged' bird from overseas. Beginners don't worry, there is a species for everyone, and you can progress up the 'scale of difficulty'.

As in previous years, education was an important priority of the QWSG in 2003. A one-day workshop on waders was run at the POB Visitors' Centre in November, with an attendance of 41 people. The format of the workshop was similar to previous years, with David Edwards, Paul Finn and yours truly speaking, but also with the addition of John Olds, who briefly described Moreton Bay Marine Park. The day was a great success, and the overall professionalism of the workshop was greatly enhanced by us being able to use the facilities at the Visitors' Centre. These facilities are provided to us for free, and I thank Brad Kitchen, Environment Manager at the POB, for his generosity. Other than the workshop, the QWSG has again run regular wader identification days, and I thank Linda Cross and David Edwards for organising these. Finally, the QWSG continues to be active at school level, and the Children's Shorebird Website (www.shorebirds.org/home.php) was launched this year. This website is part of the Sister Wetlands Agreement between Boondall Wetlands in Brisbane and the Yatsu Higata (tidelands) in Narashino City, Japan. It is also part of the Children's Shorebird Information Network, for information sharing between students in schools along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Ivell Whyte, along with the webmaster Deane McLennan, deserve considerable praise for their efforts in getting this site up and running.

There are many activities I could mention but don't have time. It has been noted many times that the QWSG has been very fortunate to have such a highly skilled and dedicated committee. Sheryl Keates is meticulous as treasurer, a very important quality for someone doing this job. Margaret Bernard, secretary for the group, has had an unheralded job but I know from first hand that she has put many hours in with banking, typing minutes and other small jobs. David Edwards again has managed to produce four very interesting newsletters, all on time. Linda Cross, count coordinator, has contributed well beyond the normal call of duty and has the marshalling skills of an army general! The database sub-committee, and particularly Judy Caughley, have been quality checking the wader database, and generating some interesting analyses, some of which have appeared in the newsletter. Joyce Harding has also had the largely thankless job of entering the raw data into the database, as well as being our representative on the Natural Resources Management SEQ branch – thank you Joyce. Jill Dening continues to work hard towards conserving wader habitat in the Pumicestone Passage, and modification of the Toorbul roost site to accommodate more birds is the next project.

I am stepping down from the position of Chairperson of the QWSG, and am sure that David Milton, who is taking over, will do a fine job. More or less the same committee has been in place for five or six years now. I appeal to the general membership, and especially to those in the general Brisbane area, to consider joining the committee. You can join the committee at any time, and even minor contributions would be greatly appreciated. With an increasing number of jobs falling on a dwindling number of people, it is important for us to prioritise our activities. I believe the time has come for us to review the work we do and redefine our objectives, which will then allow us to better plan our activities.

Andrew Geering
Past Chairperson

COUNT CO-ORDINATORS REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20TH DECEMBER 2003

Unfortunately the count programme has again suffered from my lack of full commitment during the past year. This was mainly due to my seasonal paid employment work, which saw me working a longer period than the two previous years. Other factors such as the numerous hours spent on the Mackay Survey Project and monthly counts at the Port of Brisbane also contributed to the decreased time available for my normal role as count co-ordinator. For this I apologise to members and committee and thank them for their patience and understanding during the year.

The programme lost a couple of regular counters in Moreton Bay during 2003, but thankfully additional counters were found to replace most of them. The Townsville area lost its counter at the end of 2002 and no counts have been done for all of this year. One or two members are still having a break from counts and hopefully will rejoin the programme in 2004. There are still a few count sites that are currently not being counted because we do not have any new counters and an effort will be made next year to find counters and get the sites back into the count programme.

Although the Mackay Survey Project has been very successful recording the waders of the region, it has been disappointing with regard to interest from the local community to take up the counts. One resident from Seaforth has already started counting in her area and it is hoped that we can encourage one or two more to also join when we next visit in February 2004 and hold an introduction/instruction morning on how to conduct a wader count.

There are a number of people that I would like to thank.

Judy Caughley for her assistance helping me file a backlog of mud maps for some count sites, for retyping instructions for doing a wader count and feeding me information from the database that I request.

David Edwards for his patience and keeping cool when I was constantly late getting my articles to him for the newsletters.

Joyce Harding, also for her patience when I constantly kept her waiting for count sheets to process. A special thanks too, for her dedication to the many long hours she spends entering the data.

Finally, thank you to the rest of the committee and members for their patience, particularly when I did not reply to the many emails for quite some time.

I finish my report by saying that I had indicated that this would be my last year as the count co-ordinator. Well, it would appear that nobody has stepped forward to take up this challenging role and looks like I might have to continue in the position into 2004. However, I should make it clear that my paid employment will come first and members and committee should be aware that if I am again the count co-ordinator, I cannot promise to give full commitment to the position and every effort should be made to seek someone who would have the time and willing to take on the position by 2005.

Linda Cross.

Editor's Report for 2003

Once again I have been greatly helped with the production of "Queensland Wader" by many people. The Newsletter is only as good as the articles received and every quarter members have provided me with excellent copy.

The format has not changed since I became Editor, I have not found any need to change the layout, but would like to introduce more pictures in the future. However, they would be in black and white and eat up a lot of space both on the page and if the need to electronically move data around arose. With more and more access to digital pictures maybe we should include pictures of interesting species etc.

I have to give a personal thanks to Linda Cross for her articles "Wader Watch" and "Count Programme" that arrive on time and in full. Also thanks need to be recorded to Jim Whyte and his staff who every quarter fold, insert and label each Newsletter that goes out. The Queensland Wader Study Group is so luck to have so many people who work quietly behind the scenes.

I will add the Web Site report to my editor's report. Unfortunately there is not much to say, the site has been static for twelve months. However, I have become active again and hope to have a revamped site up in the next three months. I realise that the site needs to be kept more up to date and will be attempting to do this in the new year.

DWR Edwards QWSG Editor

Mackay Shorebird Project Final Report

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 is available on request for QWSG members.

Please Email Sandra Harding at:

pitta@gil.com.au

Use in the subject line - QWSG Mackay Report

Canberra conference success

The fourth AWSG Conference, held in Canberra on 13-15 December, was a huge success with the largest attendance and the most varied program to date. The conference was organized

along the lines of the first AWSG Conference in Brisbane in 1996 with delegates from several countries in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in attendance. The countries included Russia, Alaska, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Philippines, New Zealand and Australia. All these representatives, along with Flyway Site managers from each state in Australia (except Victoria), attended a site managers' meeting on the evening of 15 December. This was followed by the EAAF Shorebird Working Group Meeting on 16 & 17 December (see report elsewhere in this newsletter).

The Australasian Shorebird -Conference. was held in association with, and immediately following, the Australasian Ornithological

Conference (ASC). This was designed to avoid crowded parallel sessions that would have resulted from combining the ASC with the AOC. The ASC largely comprised invited speakers who covered many of the conservation and research issues relating to endemic and migratory shorebirds. All their papers will appear as proceedings in the early part of 2004 and will be part of the special publications series of the International Wader Study Group and Wetlands International. As such, the proceedings will be sent to all members of the International Wader Study Group as well as delegates who attended the ASC. The proceedings will be printed and also made available on CD.

More details about the outcomes of the Conference and workshops sessions will appear in the next issue of The Tattler.

The conference convener, Phil Straw, wishes to thank members of the AWSG Committee and Wetlands International for helping to make the Conference a success. A keen and enthusiastic audience made the hard slog very worthwhile - thank you all.

The challenge of the next Australasian Shorebird Conference will be taken on by the New Zealanders in 2005 and will be convened by the New Zealand Wader Studies Groups and the Ornithological Society of New Zealand. Many people have already indicated their intention to attend.

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.

Port of Brisbane Count Results – 2003

The QWSG, as a group, has completed its first year of thorough monthly counts of the waders and waterbirds at the Port of Brisbane (PoB). Although counts at the Port have been recorded previously on the QWSG database, these were done by a limited number of people. With such a large number of birds to count, over an extensive area, it was not possible to achieve an accurate count; so estimations were used for some flocks. This changed when the group was contracted to undertake the counts on a monthly basis and it was a decision of the committee to involve many more people in an endeavour to get as accurate a count as possible on the number of waders using the Port grounds.

Counts were conducted the day before, or after the scheduled monthly count day set down for the QWSG count programme and every effort was made to have sufficient counters and scribes to cover each of the sites within the Port authority. A code number identifies each site within the area and bird counts were recorded separately for each site.

When counting bird numbers we were required to identify which type of habitat the birds were using and record that information on the count sheets. The habitats headings were: Dry Open Area, Wet Margin, Broken Ground and Bund Wall. This information will be used so that the preferred habitat requirements of each species could be ascertained and incorporated in to the wader roost site that will be built in the future.

From the very first count we conducted in January 2003 it was plain to see that we had our work cut out for us and we would require more than just the committee members to do it. Thankfully members of QWSG and Birds Queensland answered our request for assistance.

Details of sites within the POB reclamation area.

S1 reclamation site is a 21 hectare reclamation site that is mainly dry open sand area with one very small pond on it and not holding many waders during most of year, but during the last two counts of 2003 earthworks have created an additional three larger ponds attracting more waders. In November 882 Curlew Sandpipers were recorded using it.

S2 reclamation site is 18 hectare in size and has some dry open area (mainly mud), some water, bund walls and broken ground. This site somehow gained a second name as 'Linda's pond', probably because Linda always counted it along with others. Counting this site always took the longest because of the species variety and numbers using it, plus the difficulty counting them in the broken ground area. Andy Eacott spent the whole time of his visit counting 537 Pacific Golden Plovers in March and Andrew Geering had the tally counter working overtime in December going through 2413 Lesser Sand Plovers, which particularly favour this site. Other species recorded using the site in large numbers include 1865 Red-necked Stint in January and 1873 of the same species in December. In excess of 1383 Curlew Sandpiper were counted at the site in February and a large total of 61 Ruddy Turnstones were seen in February.

S3A reclamation site is an 18 hectare reclamation site, which is basically water, bund walls and broken ground. In March 1188 Red-necked Stints used the site and in June (326) and July (357) Red-necked Avocets were recorded. Chestnut Teal also used this site, with a record of 316 in October.

S3B reclamation site is a smaller 10 hectare reclamation site along side of S3A. It has water, bund walls and broken ground. This is the favoured site for Pied Oystercatcher with the highest total of 116 counted in February and Grey-tailed Tattler were often recorded here too. Counters recorded the highest totals all year of Great Knot (400) and Red Knot (355) in September, the latter during the southward migration. Red-necked Avocets also used this site and 375 were recorded in August and September. In the later part of the year the site had silted up and was split into two sites.

J. Paddocks are a 10 hectare reclamation site with a large amount of sand at the northern end and open ground at the southern end, which sometimes was wet and a small amount of broken ground. Red-necked Stints were regular users of the site with 684 in April and 571 in September. Two very young Double-banded Plover were seen at this site in May

Area 5 site of around 10 hectare was mainly water with bund walls before an island was built in the middle during September 2003. Used by some waders (967 Red-necked Stint in February), but mainly supporting more waterbirds, particularly Chestnut Teal and Cormorants. Chestnut Teal numbers peaked in November with up to 328. The PoB will construct a new wader roost at this site during the next year or two.

Claypan is as the name suggests, a claypan of approximately 25 hectares, back along the road towards the visitors centre, with samphire, mangroves and always has some water on it at high tide. This is the area the majority of the Eastern Curlew and Whimbrel used.

Visitors Centre site is a lake in front of the visitors centre, which has a water surface covering 4 hectares and an island towards one end of the lake making a total of 5 hectares in size for the site. As one would expect from a lake environment, numerous waterbirds and the occasional wader. All Latham's Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Black-fronted Dotterel and Red-kneed Dotterel records came from this site.

Twenty-five flagged birds were seen as follows: -

February – 1 Orange flag, Red-necked Stint

March – 1 Orange flag, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. 2 Green flags, Lesser Sand Plover and Ruddy Turnstone

August – 1 Orange flag, Red-necked Stint

September – 2 Orange flag, Red-necked Stint and Lesser Sand Plover. 3 Green flags, Bar-tailed Godwit (3)

October – 3 Green flags, Lesser Sand Plover (2), Bar-tailed Godwit (1)

November – 2 Orange flags, Curlew Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint. 6 Green Flags,

Grey-tailed Tattler (3), Lesser Sand Plover (2), Curlew Sandpiper (1)

December – 1 Blue flag, Grey-tailed Tattler. 3 Green flags, Great Knot (1) and Grey-tailed Tattler (2)

Breeding records of Red-capped Plover species were recorded at S1 in May (1chick), J Paddocks in August (1 chick) and S3B in October (2 chicks)

Some other interesting sightings during the counts were:-

January – 747 Little Tern S2. 470 Silver Gull J Paddocks. 5 Pink-eared Duck Area 5. 262 Black Swan, 27 Whiskered Tern and 1 Buff-banded Rail Visitors Centre.

March – 3 Wandering Whistling Duck Visitors Centre.

June – 128 Little Pied Cormorant Area 5. 186 Royal Spoonbill Visitors Centre.

July – Swamp Harrier over S2.

August – 182 Little Black Cormorant Visitors Centre.

September – 2 Australasian Shoveler S3A.

November – 1 Brown Falcon over S2. 1 Whiskered Tern Visitors Centre.

December – 8 Whiskered Tern S1. 392 Little Tern S2.

Figures on the wader species (in taxonomic order) and numbers using the PoB each month area included with this article. Many other waterbirds were also recorded using the sites, however, lack of space in the newsletter does not allow the printing of them.

A special thanks to Wayne Young and his colleagues from the PoB for sacrificing their weekends to transport and assist the group cover the sites and thanks again to Wayne and his wife Renee for the enjoyable barbeques they put on for us after some of the counts.

Thanks also to the following people who gave up their time to help complete these counts during 2003. My apologies if I have omitted anyone from the list.

Matthew Angus, Dawn Beck, Margaret Bernard, Michele Burford, Judy Caughley, Lyn & Phil Cole, Linda & Phil Cross, Jean & Peter Crow, Fern Dorricott, Andy Eacott, David Edwards, Ben Garnett, Andrew Geering, Paul Grimshaw, Joyce Harding, Sandra Harding, Paul Hoskins, Jeanette & Keating, Warren Lee Long, David Milton, Dawn Muir, Ralf Reeger, Peter Rothlisberg, Brian Ryan, Andrew Silcocks Cameron & Margaret Slack, Brian Tynan, Marion Williams, Jim & Ivell Whyte, Meredith Woodland, Renee & Wayne Young

We have contracted with the PoB to continue counting in 2004 and still require people to assist us each month. If you are interested please see further details in this newsletter.

Linda Cross.

Relaunch of Empire Point Roost 21/2/04

The construction of the roost at Empire Point has been on QWSG's agenda for a long time. The idea was first mooted in the early 1990s when the Raby Bay canal estate and development neared completion, this causing the destruction of the wader roosts there. It was hoped that by improving the existing site at Empire Point, the waders would be encouraged to stay in the area. Grey-tailed tattlers were the original predominant waders roosting at the site.

The digging of the moat and construction of the roost was completed in 1998 and opened by the Mayor, the late Councillor Eddie Santagiuliana. As excess soil could not be removed from the site at that time, the level of the resulting roost proved to be too high. With further consultation, more funding and the work and good will of Redland Shire Council the surface level has been lowered and shaped more to the waders liking. Good numbers of Eastern curlew and Bar-tailed godwit have now been recorded roosting on the site.

The roost was again opened and reintroduced to local residents with a morning sausage sizzle on Saturday 21st February. The Mayor, Councillor Don Seccombe spoke on the involvement and dedication of the many people who have worked to change an old depot of Queensland Cement and Lime Co to a habitat suitable for migratory waders. Councillor Decalie Newton also spoke on the need for community involvement. Adrian Caneris entertained us all, telling the history of the roost's construction in the soft mud and of the work and persistence of Peter Driscoll in keeping the whole enterprise on track. Adrian has been involved with the roost from its very beginning.

John Olds of Marine Parks has had signs erected to advise the public that shorebirds are protected in Moreton Bay. An excellent display depicting the roost, past & present was shown by Indigiscapes, Redland Shire Council. The welcome sausage sizzle was supplied by Ormiston School and was enjoyed by both the interested local residents, and the guides from QWSG and QOSI. We are grateful for the incredible amount of work has been done over the years by Dan Carter, Jenny Davis and their colleagues in the Redland Shire Environment Section to advance this project.

During the morning members of the Queensland Wader Study Group provided information with a Power Point presentation, a poster display and some telescopes to view the waders on the roost at high tide. We were enjoying the flock of birds on the roost when a small launch entered the moat, putting the birds up. The new signs erected by Marine Parks will warn boat drivers that shorebirds are protected and must not be disturbed. Most of the waders flew on to the mud flat near the roost, which was still covered by the tide. Total numbers counted were:

- 1 Red Knot
- 25 Great Knots
- 2 Curlew Sandpipers and
- 492 Bar-tailed Godwits.
- 1 Red-capped Plover with a half grown chick was seen on the mudflat.

We thank all of the people who have helped over the years to make this roost possible and also those who have helped to make this relaunching a success. With this continuing understanding and help, Empire Point will reach it's full potential as a safe haven for the waders of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway that spend the summer in Moreton Bay.



By Joyce Harding QWSG

Significant Bird Event

By Jim Downey - Birds Australia CEO

Arguably one of the most extraordinary events associated with migratory waders in Australia in recent years is occurring right now in North Western Australia. Last Saturday and Sunday the 7 & 8 February 2004, Members of Birds Australia (BA) and our special interest group the Australasian Wader Studies Group lead by Dr Clive Minton (BA Fellow) counted between 2.4 and 2.8 MILLION Oriental Pratincoles at 80 mile beach (Anna Plains station). The previous estimate of the total Australian population of this bird was 60,000!!!

An extract of Clive's email of Monday 9 Feb advising us of this remarkable event is reproduced here :

When we arrived here on February 2nd it was immediately apparent that an unusual situation existed. For the last 100km of the journey the bush on either side of the main highway was alive with feeding Oriental Pratincoles. In the late afternoon vast clouds (smokes) of birds could be seen swirling around over many parts of the plains and these gradually descended towards dusk to roost for the night in quite dense patches all over the agricultural grasslands of the plain. Next day their daily pattern became apparent. From dawn birds fed extensively all over the grassland of the station and further inland amongst the bush at least as far back as the Great Northern Highway.

As the day heated up (the weather was relatively settled and calm and sunny throughout) the birds gradually moved down to the coast where they collected in huge aggregations on the upper mud flats and as the tide rose on the sandy beaches.

We have obviously been speculating as to why such a huge number of birds is present here now but has never previously been recorded. The previous most similar situation was in January 2000 when a minimum of 50,000 Oriental Pratincoles were observed on Anna Plains Station. However, in that year there was extensive water on the agricultural pastureland and birds were therefore not needing to adjourn to the beach during the heat of the day. No extensive surveys or wider population estimates were attempted or possible at that time. It would appear that in 2004 conditions have been absolutely perfect to attract the maximum number of Oriental Pratincoles to feed in the area of farmland adjacent to 80 Mile Beach and that weather and habitat conditions have been the optimum to force them to use the beach during the day where they could be observed and counted. Nevertheless it is still quite a staggering increase of previous estimates of the population of this species and one which would be difficult to believe by anyone who had not seen this phenomenal sight of beaches densely covered with pratincoles a kilometre or so wide for stretches tens of kilometres long.

Jim Downey
Chief Executive Officer
Birds Australia
Ph (03) 9882 2622

Birds Australia - Winner Banksia Award 2003, Eureka Prize 2003, Whitley Medal 2003

Pratincoles on the beaches of Eighty Mile Beach WA



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 this newsletter.

Green leg flag sightings

- 1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton, Sandra Harding et al – 22.11.03
 1 Eastern Curlew – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 22.11.03 & again on 23.11.03
 1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil & Linda Cross – 30.12.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 25.10.03
 3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 11.11.03 & 2 birds on 12.11.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Acacia St, Wellington Point – Michele Burford & Peter Rothlisberg – 22.11.03
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 22.11.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 22.11.03 & 3 birds on 23.11.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dennis Stanbridge – 29.11.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 29.11.03
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 30.11.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 30.11.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 10.12.03
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells – 13.12.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pine Rivers Northside – David Edwards – 13.12.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul 1km North – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil & Linda Cross – 29.12.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells – 30.12.03
 5 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 30.12.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil & Linda Cross – 30.12.03
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross et al – 10.1.04
 3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Fisherman Island – David Edwards et al – 10.1.04
 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – Laurel Allsop, Marion Williams & Frank Bigg – 18.1.04
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – David Edwards, Phil & Linda Cross – 26.1.04
 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 7.2.04
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 25.10.03
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 22.11.03
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dennis Stanbridge – 29.11.03
 3 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 29.11.03
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 30.11.03
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells – 13.12.03
 3 Great Knot – Pine Rivers Northside – David Edwards – 13.12.03
 1 Great Knot – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross et al – 14.12.03
 1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil & Linda Cross – 29.12.03
 3 Great Knot – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells – 30.12.03
 4 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 30.12.03
 1 Great Knot – Deception Bay Mangrove roost – Phil & Linda Cross – 11.1.04
 1 Great Knot – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – David Edwards, Phil & Linda Cross – 26.1.04
 1 Great Knot – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – Laurel Allsop, Marion Williams & Frank Bigg – 18.1.04
 1 Red Knot – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells – 30.12.03
 3 Grey-tailed Tattler – Fisherman Island – David Edwards et al – 23.11.03
 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Fisherman Island – David Edwards et al – 14.12.03
 1 Grey-tailed Tattler – Foreshore adjacent to Brisbane airport – Ivan Fien – 2.2.2004
 2 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross & Ralf Reeger – 23.11.03
 1 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross et al – 10.1.04
 1 Curlew Sandpiper – Fisherman Island – Sandra Harding & Phil Cross – 23.11.03

Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings

Adrian Riegen reports the capture of a green flagged Red Knot at Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, New Zealand on 12.1.04. Details in brief:

Banded: 17.10.1993 by Qld Wader Study Group

At: Dux Creek, Bribie Island Latitude: 27 03s; Longitude: 153 08E

Age: 1+

The time between banding and recovery is 10 years 2 months 26 days

The bird had moved a distance of 2365 kms.

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, New Zealand – Keith Woodley – 28.11.02

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Miranda, Firth of Thames, South Auckland, New Zealand – Nigel Milius – 15.3.03

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Egegik Bay, Alaska, United States of America – Daniel Ruthrauff – 2.9.03

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Tern Mountain, Cheforak, Yukon Delta, United States of America – Sarah Connors – 5.9.03

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Taporu Wildlife Refuge, South Kaipara Harbour, New Zealand – G. Grant & M. Twyman – 26.10.03

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Karaka Manukau Harbour, South Auckland, New Zealand – D. Lawrie & T. Crocker – 23.11.03

Orange leg flag sightings

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 1.11.03

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 10.10.03

1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 29.11.03

1 Great Knot – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 30.11.03

1 Great Knot – Toorbul 1km North – Dennis Stanbridge – 10.12.03

1 Great Knot – Deception Bay Mangrove roost – Phil & Linda Cross – 13.12.03

1 Great Knot – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells – 30.12.03

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Fisherman Island – Sandra Harding & Phil Cross – 23.11.03

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Pine Rivers Northside – David Edwards – 13.12.03

1 Curlew Sandpiper – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross et al – 10.1.04

2 Red-necked Stint – Caboolture River Mouth – Ivan Fien – 22.11.03

1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross & Ralf Reeger – 23.11.03

1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – David Edwards et al – 10.1.04

1 Red-necked Stint – Deception Bay Bermuda Avenue – Phil & Linda Cross – 11.1.04

Japanese (Blue) leg flag sightings

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – left upper – Fisherman Island – David Edwards et al – 14.12.03

1 Grey-tailed Tattler – right upper – Fisherman Island – David Edwards et al – 10.1.04

Other wader leg flag sightings

1 Eastern Curlew – yellow flag over black flag upper left – Mathieson Homestead – Bob Gleeson – 30.11.03.

This is the first Queensland record of a bird flagged in Kamchatka Peninsula, Russian Federation

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – white flag upper right – Toorbul – Dennis Stanbridge – 10.10.03

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag upper right – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton, Sandra Harding, Barry & Joanna Morgan – 22.11.03

1 Bar-tailed Godwit – green flag over orange flag upper right – Manly Boat Harbour – Barry & Joanna Morgan and Dawn Beck – 11.1.04

1 Great Knot – white flag upper left, orange flag lower left and metal band lower right – Toorbul – Phil & Linda Cross – 30.11.03

1 Great Knot – white flag upper left and orange flag lower left – Toorbul 1km North – Dez Wells – 13.12.03

1 Great Knot – white flag upper left and orange flag lower left – Kakadu Beach Bribie Island – David Edwards, Phil & Linda Cross – 26.1.04

1 Lesser Sand Plover – white flag upper left, blue flag lower left and metal band upper right – Alan Gilanders – 1.12.03

Other leg flag sightings and banded birds

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag lower right – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton, Sandra Harding et al – 22.11.03

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag lower right and metal band lower left – Buckley's Hole Bribie Island – Laurel Allsop, Marion Williams and Frank Bigg – 17.1.04

1 Caspian Tern – orange flag lower right and metal band lower left – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – Esther Townsend – 26.1.04

Interesting sightings

- 1182 Eastern Curlew – Mangrove Point, River Heads – Bob & June Gleeson et al – 25.11.03
 2385 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Frank Bigg, Lois MacRae & Michael Willis – 7.2.04
 400 Whimbrel – Toorbul – Esther Townsend – 21.11.03
 22 Grey Plover – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 22.11.03
 3 Grey Plover – Kakadu Beach, Bribie Island – Frank Bigg, Lois MacRae & Michael Willis – 22.11.03
 5 Latham's Snipe – Tin Can Bay Sewage Works – John Cummings – 22.11.03
 110 Common Greenshank – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight – 15.12.03
 130 Marsh Sandpiper – Marroom – John Bell – 23.11.03
 2 Common Sandpiper – Caboolture River Mouth – Ivan Fien – 13.12.03
 5 Sanderling – Amity Point – Martin Waugh – 22.1.03
 3 Sanderling – Sandy Point, Yeppoon area – Paul O'Neill – 8.9.03
 1 Double-banded Plover – Cooloola roost, Tin Can Bay – John Cummings – 22.11.03 (most unusual, possibly over wintering)

Not waders but of interest anyway

- 1 Cotton Pygmy Goose – Garnett's Lagoons – Bob & June Gleeson – 26.10.03
 62 Wandering Whistling Duck – Kingscliff Sewage Plant – Ian Watson – 2.12.03
 2 Australasian Shoveler – Bishop's Marsh – Arthur & Sheryl Keates, Phil & Linda Cross – 29.12.04
 1 Spotless Crake – Cobaki Retirement Village, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson – 20.10.03 & 10.1.04
 18 Glossy Ibis – Garnett's Lagoons – Robert & Rosina Franklin, Sean Norman et al – 25.11.03
 68 Whiskered Tern – Garnett's Lagoons – Sean Norman, Robert & Rosina Franklin et al – 25.11.03
 12 Little Tern (6 breeding pairs forming scrapes or sitting on nests) – Sandy Point, Yeppoon area – Paul O'Neill – 8.9.03
 880 Common Tern – Maroochy River – Shirley Rooke et al – 9.1.04
 1 Grey Goshawk – Cobaki Retirement Village, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson – 17.9.03
 1 Wedge-tailed Eagle – Cobaki Retirement Village, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 10.1.04
 1 Australian Hobby – Kingscliff Sewage Plant, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 26.1.04

FISHERMAN ISLAND – PORT OF BRISBANE COUNTS

As mentioned in the article appearing in this newsletter regarding the 2003 counts, we need as many helpers as possible to ensure we continue to do as accurate a job as possible. It is not a requirement that you attend every monthly count. It would be preferable if you have a telescope (but it is not a prerequisite) to joining the team. A good knowledge of a variety of waders (the harder ones can be left to the experienced counters) would be a distinct advantage. We also require people to scribe for us if you find counting a little daunting. Because this area is a construction site please wear closed, strong shoes or boots. It is also open so water, a hat and sunscreen are a very good idea if not essential.

The counts are conducted on the day before or after the QWSG monthly count. The date and times for the POB counts appear below.

If you are interested please contact Michele Burford on 3822 3759 (Home), 3826 7236 (Work), or email her at Michele.Burford@csiro.au If you are unable to contact Michele, please get in touch with me and I will pass on your name to Michele. Linda Cross.

POB COUNTS – 2004

Sunday 7 th Mar	2.45m at 09:56	Meet	08:15
Sunday 4 th Apr	2.36m at 08:44	Meet	07:55
Saturday 15 th May	2.07m at 06:46	Meet	06:00
Saturday 5 th Jun	1.76m at 11:00	Meet	09:10
Sunday 25 th Jul	1.86m at 15:21	Meet	13:30 (1.30pm)
Saturday 21 st Aug	1.91m at 12:56	Meet	11:15
Sunday 19 th Sep	2.09m at 12:36	Meet	10:45
Sunday 17 th Oct	2.30m at 11:36	Meet	09:45
Sunday 14 th Nov	2.49m at 10:37	Meet	08:45
Sunday 19 th Dec	2.06m at 15:37	Meet	13:45 (1.45pm)

Count Programme by Linda Cross

This will be a very short article in this issue due to the results on the Port of Brisbane counts for 2003 and the February Survey in Mackay, taking up quite a few pages.

I would again like to remind counters that 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.

One lone Double-banded Plover was recorded at Fisherman Island during the counts on 4th February. This is a surprising early record.

High numbers of Eastern Curlew (in excess of 500) have been recorded at Thornlands, South Stradbroke Island, Geoff Skinner Reserve East, Toorbul, Mangrove Point and Mathieson Homestead at River Heads during late November and December.

A record of 326 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was recorded at Cairns Esplanade on 22.11.03 and 325 of the same species were recorded at Toorbul on the same day.

Another high count of Terek Sandpipers has been recorded at Mathieson Homestead on 11.1.04 and Garnett's Lagoons continues to entice the rare waders such as Little Curlew, Painted Snipe and Broad-billed Sandpiper. Photographs of all 3 species have been received confirming the records.

Records of Broad-billed Sandpiper have increased this summer with counts of 5 at Kakadu Beach Bribie Island on 26.1.04, 4 at Garnett's Lagoons on 15.12.03, 3 at Cairns Esplanade on 22.11.03, 2 at Amity Point on 7.2.03 and 1 at Deception Bay on 11.1.04.

The shy Beach Stone-curlew has been spotted at Maroochy River (2) on 6.2.04, Stradbroke Island (1) on 6.2.04, Gable Point Rocks Hervey Bay (1) on 2.2.04, Cairns Airport (1) on 20.12.03 and the Mackay survey recorded (7) in the region on 7 & 8 February 04.

Interesting sightings from your count sheets have been extensive since the last newsletter and it was difficult to choose which ones should appear in the Wader Watch section of this newsletter. I would love to print them all, however, the limited space does not allow me to do so and I have had to condense some of the sightings. I also apologise if some of them have not appeared. It is one part of this job that I really like when your sheets arrive and I read some the records.

Happy counting. Linda Cross.

SE Qld Roosts - Shorebird Management

LYTTON ROOST 2004

At the request of the local community, Brisbane City Council is putting in place a revegetation plan for the North Wynnum Park at Lytton. The aim is to improve the park by developing a wetland and creating a green corridor between Wynnum and Port of Brisbane. A keen group of workers from local groups with BCC staff spent the morning of Saturday 24th January planting 300 sedges, shrubs and trees at the wetland site. The pathway in the park has been upgraded and improvements have also been made by BCC to the bird-hide. This hide is a great place to see waders at high tides when a wide range of shorebird species are present. Both Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits are among those often recorded.

As Whyte Island roost has now been overtaken by development an increase of bird numbers at Lytton roost is likely. When the completion of Port of Brisbane takes effect, Lytton roost will be of even greater importance for waders in this region. Large numbers of stint, sandpipers and plovers now use the ponds that are slowly being filled to construct the port. Port of Brisbane has incorporated a roost site into their overall development plan but, as a large number of waders use the area, there will be a lot of birds to accommodate. Many may choose to roost at Lytton even though mangroves separate it from the bay. Possible changes in tidal flow and water depth could alter the viability of the roost for waders. Consideration should be given for the development of a shorebird management plan for Lytton Roost.

Joyce Harding

Letter for Newsletter

I urge you to write to the addresses below to make complaints and request action if you witness shorebirds being disturbed by dogs, especially on "off leash areas" in the Brisbane City Council area. As you are no doubt aware, shorebirds are preparing for their long migration flights at this time of year. They need to be able to feed and rest without unnecessary disturbance to build their fat reserves to the maximum, otherwise they may not be able to sustain their incredible long journeys to breed in the northern hemisphere. We are very lucky to have these important international visitors on our doorstep but they need your help, especially with increasing numbers of people and dogs.

Apparently the BCC has a budget to police disturbance by dogs but they need your help to locate the problem areas. Signage has been erected in "off leash areas" in an attempt to educate the public. If the rules are ignored then fines need to be imposed. The more people that report the problems, the more chance we have of changing the situation for the benefit of the shorebirds. Please Cc letter to your local Councillor.

Thank you for your support.

Sheryl Keates
Treasurer QWSG

Send Letter to:

The Lord Mayor (Tim Quinn)
Brisbane City Hall
King George Square
Adelaide Street, Brisbane
Queensland, Australia, 4000
Phone: 61 7 3403 8888
Fax: 61 7 3403 9930
Email: LORDMAYOR@brisbane.qld.gov.au

CC letter to :

Doug Yuille
Environment & Policy Adviser
Lord Mayor's Office
Brisbane City Council
GPO BOX 2287
Brisbane QLD 4001
Email: LMEV@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Councillor Helen Abrahams
Urban Management Committee Chairperson
Brisbane City Council
Fairfield Gardens
180 Fairfield Road
Fairfield 4103
Phone: 07 3403 8605
Fax: 07 3403 8607
Email: duttonpark.ward@ecn.net.au

Alan Barton
Principal Program Officer
Environment & Parks
Brisbane City Council
GPO BOX 1434
Brisbane QLD 4001
Email: ppocln@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Red Knot decline

A number of migratory shorebird species have declined in Australia over past 30 years or so. There are suspicions that most of these declines have been caused by impacts in the flyway rather than on their Arctic breeding grounds or their over-wintering areas in Australia and New Zealand. As reported in the previous edition of *The Tattler* these trends have been detected world-wide. Some researchers suggest that in at least one case it is clearly the result of over-harvesting of a critical food supply at a major stopover site. Though this is not in 'our' Flyway parallels may apply

The over-harvesting of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay has led to the decline-and may quickly lead to the extinction--of the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) in the Americas. The Red Knot population on the bay has plummeted this year to 16,255, less than half that of last year.

"This year seems to be the beginning of the great drop-off," said Larry Niles, chief of the state's endangered and non-game species program. "We believe the Red Knot is like the Passenger Pigeon-you see a lot of them, and then you see none. There is a scientific model predicting extinction by 2010. After this year's decline," he said, "the timetable may be accelerated".

If the birds disappear, so may the \$34 million spent annually by birders who travel to Cape May and Cumberland Counties to observe the migration of shorebirds dependent on horseshoe crab eggs, according to the New Jersey Audubon Society. The numbers of Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Sandpipers have also dwindled, but not as dramatically as those of Red Knot.

In April, both New Jersey and Delaware imposed emergency regulations, cutting the horseshoe crab harvest in half, to 150,000 on each side of the bay, and banning fishing in May and June(the birds' migration season). New Jersey's regulations still stand, but Delaware's were struck down in court last

month after a group of four fishermen challenged them on procedural grounds. Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife is working to draft permanent regulations, but fishermen are free to collect the crabs off the state's beaches this year.

"Crabbers from both sides of the river are rushing to take advantage of Delaware's predicament," said Tim Dillingham of the American Littoral Society. "I've heard reports of crabs spilling out of overloaded pickup trucks onto the highway."

The horseshoe crabs, Which date to prehistoric times and are actually a member of the spider family, are eagerly sought by eel and conch fishermen, who use them as bait, and by the biomedical industry, which uses them to screen for toxins in drugs and medical equipment.

Representatives for the fishermen dispute the legitimacy of the ban and of the research behind it. "The regulators' science is not sound-the bird people are pulling the wool over their eyes," said Tim Willard, the Delaware attorney who challenged the rules in court.

But the group of international scientists that studies the birds during the winter in South America and in the summer in the Arctic have urged officials in both states this year to abandon harvesting quotas and to declare a moratorium. The scientists contend that since horseshoe crabs do not reach sexual maturity for nine years, the population needs to be given time to recover.

"Only one factor that affects the birds has changed while their population has dropped, and that's the availability of crabs here," said Clive Minton, a researcher from Australia. "The only way to reverse it is a moratorium for at least five years, allowing the crabs to breed." 06/16/03

Singapore Using Leg Flags

Singapore commenced colour flagging at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in August 2003, following participation in the North-west Expedition by James Gan and Khrisna. Singapore colours are Green above White. To report sightings of colour leg flags please send details to Linda Cross on 07 5495 2758

QWSG CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of
Queensland Wader Study Group

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Burbank
QLD 4156

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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Members are reminded their membership expires on the date shown on the newsletter address label, and the membership joining/renewal form is now on the back page. Note that your subscription will fall due twelve (12) months after date of joining the QWSG or date of renewal. Only one further newsletter will be sent after expiry of your subscription.

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is May 18th 2004

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.

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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

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

Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton.

Arrive after 7.15pm for a 7:40pm start.

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 (through Birds Queensland)

\$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.

Shorebird Information Network Website

Find the new Children's Shorebird Information Network Website at: www.shorebirds.org/home.php developed in 2003 as part of the Sister Wetlands Agreement between Boondall Wetlands (Brisbane) and Yatsu Higata (Narashino City, Japan). This website was funded by a grant from Brisbane City Council and is run by senior school students in the Information Technology Department of Earnshaw State College, but will also help in sharing between school students along the whole East Asian-Australasian Flyway

Sister Sites

A potential Sister Site relationship is developing through the liaisons between indigenous peoples at the Firth of Thames, New Zealand and the Yukon Delta Alaska. These groups have begun to share cultural information and stories on shorebirds that fly between the 2 sites. If successful, this could develop into a formal sister site partnership and the basis for cooperation on shorebird conservation.



Activities 2004

Monthly Count Programme

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.

Sat 6 th Mar	2.42m at 09:20	
Sun 21 st Mar	2.34m at 09:55	Additional count for migration movement
Sat 3 rd Apr	2.31m at 08:04	
Sun 16 th May	2.03m at 07:30	
No count in June		
Sat 24 th Jul	1.80m at 14:15	National Winter Count
Sun 22 nd Aug	1.92m at 13:47	
Sat 18 th Sep	2.10m at 11:52	
Sat 16 th Oct	2.30m at 10:52	
Sat 13 th Nov	2.44m at 09:51	
Sat 18 th 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..... First name:Surname Name:.....

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

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

TOTAL \$.....

How did you hear about QWSG

What activities do you wish to participate in? (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