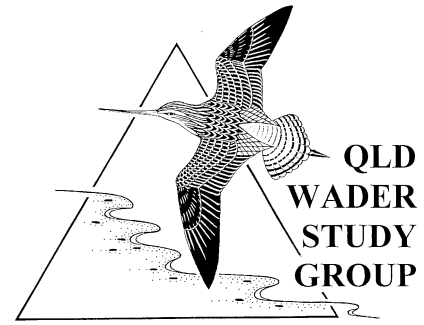


# QUEENSLAND WADER



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

## New Zealand Bird Banding Scheme What to look for.

*More details of the Banding Scheme outlined in Queensland Wader Winter 2004.*

### **PROPOSED BANDING PROGRAMME**

(I) Species

*Bar-tailed Godwit*                      600-900 per year for 3 years

*Red Knot*                                      600-900 per year for 3 years

(II) Localities

Kaipara Harbour                      Manukau Harbour                      Firth of Thames

Farewell Spit                              Motueka Sandspit                      Waimea Inlet

Nelson Haven                              Avon-Heathcote Estuary                      Southland estuaries

(III) Trapping Methods, Types of Trap

*Cannon-nets* at high-tide roosts

*Mist-nets* on tidal flats or ponds

### **Proposed Colour Banding or use of Other Markers**

A scheme using four colour-bands and one leg-flag is proposed. The scheme is based on that used by researchers at the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research for the past six years (see Brochard, C., B. Spaans, J. Prop and T. Piersma. 2002. Use of individual colour-ringing to estimate annual survival in male and female Red Knot *Calidris canutus islandica*: a progress report for 1998-2001. Wader Study Group Bulletin 99: 54-56).

#### **Key components of the scheme are:**

- Each bird receives four colour-bands and one leg-flag as the combination.
- Only four colours are used for colour-banding (**white, yellow, red and blue**).
- The metal band occupies a position not used in the combination, and is not part of the combination.
- The scheme has two colour-bands on each tarsus. The flag can be on either tibia, or in any of three positions on the tarsus (above, below or between the colour-bands). There are therefore eight possible positions for the leg-flag.
- 2048 combinations are possible using this scheme.

**Other features of the scheme are:**

- The leg-flag is white, retaining a New Zealand identity in the event of an incomplete combination being recorded while a bird is on migration outside New Zealand.
- The leg flag draws attention to the banded bird. Bands on free-ranging shorebirds are typically noted only after the flag has been seen (B. Spaans, pers. comm.).
- The use of the leg-flag means that as few colours as possible can be used in the band combination. The colours proposed are those that experience shows are misidentified least often (B. Spaans, pers. comm.). Without the leg-flag in the combination many more colours would have to be used, many of which can be read incorrectly in the field.
- The leg flag means that the scheme does not overlap with any other smaller-scale banding projects in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway that may colour-band knots or godwits.
- Both godwits and knots have been studied for the past 6 years in Europe and West Africa using an equivalent scheme, with no problems. They are still re-sighting birds banded in the first season, and Red Knots have an annual survival rate of 86%, implying little or no impacts on survival.
- The most similar scheme used on migratory shorebirds is that of Guy Morrison in Canada, who uses a white flag and three colour bands (from ten colours). There is virtually no chance of overlap of the species or populations studied in New Zealand and Canada, and in any case the scheme proposed here uses one extra band and a smaller number of colours. Cheri Gratto-Trevor (the North American shorebird banding liaison officer) will enter the system we use on her register to ensure that it is not allocated in duplicate in North America.

**Banding Programme**

The banding scheme proposed will cover two concurrent projects that are closely linked (detailed below):

- (1) Postdoctoral study of Phil Battley on comparative demographics of migratory shorebirds.
- (2) Ornithological Society of New Zealand project on the movements of Arctic-breeding waders within New Zealand.

(1) **Comparative demographics.** The evolution of different migratory strategies in wading birds is expected to be reflected in different seasonal patterns of mortality. What is unknown is whether absolute mortality levels also vary between populations. Comparing demographic characteristics of different subspecies of shorebird that have different migratory strategies will discern the nature of survival trade-offs in these migratory birds. This project aims to compare seasonal and annual mortality patterns in different subspecies of Bar-tailed Godwits and Red Knots around the world.

These issues are of urgent conservation as well as scientific importance. Globally, shorebird populations are declining, but for most populations, current monitoring is insufficient to diagnose causes or predict future trends. Increasingly tight timing along a migration route and physiological costs during migration mean that changes in habitat quality and availability (e.g. reclamation, natural or human-induced food shortage, hunting pressure) put shorebird populations under extreme pressure. The use of only a few, essential, stopover sites means that entire populations or subspecies can be at risk. A recent conference of the International Wader Study Group (September 2003) concluded that there is strong evidence for population declines in many species of wader and stressed the need for internationally coordinated research initiatives into the population biology of migratory waders.

There is thus a real need for detailed demographic monitoring of shorebird populations. While counts are the basic census tool for biologists, they contain errors of unknown magnitude and direction, and do not allow modelling of the causes of population changes or prediction of future numbers. Comparing demographic parameters of different subspecies of bird is the key to understanding both the biology and the conservation status of the populations. Because the underlying biological features of the populations are similar, differences in demographic characteristics can be related to features of their migrations or habitats. Large deviations from the predicted relationships between seasonal and annual mortality would indicate that other factors are impacting on survival; knowledge of the timing, and therefore the location, of the impacts can be used to target conservation efforts. Constructing population models will reveal whether population processes are similar for different populations. This type of monitoring on the non-breeding grounds is critical for managing multi-national species. Given the rates of intertidal reclamation in Asia (China and South Korea have already developed 25% and 40% of their intertidal habitat), ongoing monitoring of key species that winter in New Zealand is required. This project will establish a detailed population monitoring scheme for godwits and knots, and evaluate the effectiveness of current count-based monitoring.

**Specific objectives of the project are to:**

1. Determine survival rates of sub-adult and juvenile godwits and knots throughout the year in New Zealand.
2. Determine survival rates of adult godwits and knots during the non-breeding season and during the migration + breeding periods.
3. Compare seasonal and annual survival rates of four subspecies of knot that winter in Europe, West Africa, New Zealand and South America, and of three subspecies of godwit that winter in Europe, West Africa and New Zealand.
4. Determine rates of local movement (within New Zealand) of godwits and knots within and between seasons.
5. Estimate local population sizes of godwits and knots using mark-resighting methods and evaluate current monitoring procedures.

Birds will be individually marked, enabling visual identification without the need to recapture individuals. The re-sighting of a colour-marked bird is equivalent to recapture in analysis packages, but has a recovery rate 20-50 times greater. Survival and population size estimates will be made using mark-recapture methodologies, which have undergone rapid developments over the past ten years. Primary monitoring (re-sighting effort) will be conducted at the Firth of Thames. Secondary surveying of other sites will monitor within- and between-season emigration that is otherwise indistinguishable from apparent mortality. Community involvement through the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and the New Zealand Wader Study Group will enable a wider search for colour-marked birds (also through project 2 below). Large-scale surveys in mid-summer will be undertaken, especially in northern New Zealand. Multi-strata models (monitoring more than one location) will be used if movement between sites is high. In 2005, attempts will be made to re-sight individually-marked birds in Alaska after breeding and subsequently in New Zealand. From this we can make the first direct estimates of the mortality associated with southward migration.

Analysis will predominantly use the mark-recapture Program MARK. This programme is flexible, versatile, user-friendly and incorporates the most recent theoretical and computational developments in survival analyses. Additional data from past metal-ringing of the study species in the Auckland region (by the New Zealand Wader Study Group) will be built into models that combine the two sources of information of recaptures and re-sightings.

The age-ratio in visual scans or cannon-net catches (based on moult details, primarily the presence of retained juvenile wing coverts and timing of primary moult) will be used to estimate productivity in each year. Intensive monitoring of godwits and knots before migration will be used to determine whether differences in apparent condition (moult status, abdominal profile [a visual index of fat deposition] and timing of migration for individuals) relate to individual migration dates and subsequent return rates.

**(2) Movement of waders within New Zealand.** The Ornithological Society of New Zealand is currently preparing a research bid for a Department of Conservation brief (or northern hemisphere waders, it is not entirely clear whether individual birds, or flocks, use a network of estuaries while in New Zealand or simply confine themselves to just one or a few sites in close proximity. Interpreting community and population change at any specific estuary requires understanding of this pattern of habitat use, and conservation management responses will differ accordingly. A colour-banding study on Bar-tailed Godwits and Red Knots is planned as part of this project. Birds will be individually marked over either two or three years at a number of sites around New Zealand. Intensive monitoring effort around New Zealand will be used to relocate marked individuals around the country, and the discreteness of local populations within and between seasons assessed from re-sighting data.

Biometric and handling procedures will be identical for projects 1 and 2, so data will be interchangeable. The overall scheme is therefore better managed as a single unit rather than as two completely separate applications. These projects will represent the largest individual colour-marking studies ever undertaken on migratory Arctic waders in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The marking scheme proposed is felt to be the most suitable system for marking such large numbers of birds, and we are unaware of any direct conflicts with existing marking schemes in the Flyway. We expect these projects to become the benchmark for future studies of the demographics and movements of waders in New Zealand and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

**PLEASE REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS OF THESE BANDINGS TO LINDA CROSS**

**Shorebird expeditions in China in 2004**

The Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) aims to ensure the future of waders and their habitats in Australia and to do this requires wader studies to occur not only in Australia but also in the rest of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Expeditions undertaken in Australia to band and colour flag waders have helped to discover the routes and staging areas in the flyway used by waders while on migration. The AWSG has actively sought to expand expeditions to include visits to Asia.

This year AWSG members participated in fieldwork in China during the northward migration. A recent report from China follows.

This report gives details of the final banding results from the Chinese activities at Chongming Island in the Yangtze estuary near Shanghai and Yalu Jiang near Dandong, in the Yellow Sea during this northward migration.

Overall, the Chongming Island team caught about 1600 waders in just over two weeks (30<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> April). There were 21 recaptures of Australian-banded birds, 17 from North-West Australia and four from Victoria. The North-West Australia birds were 12 Great Knot and five Bar-tailed Godwits. It was interesting that the Bar-tailed Godwits were caught later than Great Knot, corresponding to their different departure dates from Broome (late March for Great Knot, early April for Bar-tailed Godwit). The four birds from Victoria were four different species - Grey Plover, Great Knot, Red Knot and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Many of the above birds were of known age when banded and therefore we now know their specific age. Two of the recoveries were of Great Knot just two years old, which is an unexpectedly early age for them to have migrated north. Several more were three years old, including the Red Knot from Victoria. This is a more normal age for northward migration to start. The Chinese have recorded the weight at capture of all of the above birds. In all cases the weight was below that recorded when the birds were banded in Australia. In one case, the weight was 30% lower. As almost all these birds had been banded outside the migration season and were therefore close to their 'fat-free' weight it seems that most of the birds captured in China were probably migrants, which had just arrived there, some having eaten into their muscle and other reserves having presumably consumed all their pre-migratory fat deposits.

The Chinese have been putting leg flags on all new birds caught. Therefore, on and after the return southward migration we should be looking very strongly for white over black double leg-flagged waders.

Banding activities have now ceased at Chongming, apparently because they ran out of money to pay the ex-hunters who were catching the birds for them, in clap-nets. However, it was obviously a very productive exercise.

Fieldwork activities in China transferred to the northern end of the Yellow Sea, where AWSG members, Peter Collins and David Melville (led by Director Chu Guozhong, Director of the National Bird Banding Center of China) were present until the end of April.

### **Leg-flag sightings at Yalu Jiang 14 to 22 April, 2004**

Country of flagging	Number of birds seen	Species	Locations
<i>Australia</i>	49	Bar-tailed Godwit	28 Victoria + 21 NW Australia
	11	Great Knot	All NW Australia
	3	Eastern Curlew	2 Victoria + 1 NW Australia
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>		
<i>New Zealand</i>	17	Bar-tailed Godwit	16 North Island + 1 South Island
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>		
<i>China</i>	11	Bar-tailed Godwit	2 Chongming Island + 9 Yalu Jiang (all from 2002)
	1	Great Knot	1 Chongming Island
	2	Grey Plover	2 Yalu Jiang (one from 2002)
	2	Dunlin	2 Yalu Jiang (probably from 2004)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>		

The total catch of waders for four nights was:

- Grey Plover - 5
- Dunlin – 46
- Kentish Plover – 3
- Lesser Sand Plover - 1
- Bar-tailed Godwit - 1

Interesting sightings:

- 3 first-summer Spoon-billed Sandpipers showing no trace of breeding plumage
- 5 Spotted Greenshanks

While the fieldwork held challenges for those involved with unfavourable weather at times, the AWSG is very pleased with work this year in China. An international program of research and conservation will be an important focus for future activities by the AWSG.

## Contacting QWSG Members

An email list of QWSG members has been formed to allow information to be sent via email directly to members.

The information sent to members will be about waders and wetlands in Queensland and the Flyway. For example, the QWSG is a member organization of the Australian Wetland Alliance (AWA) and has received the electronic newsletter of the AWA – *NGO Wetlands Update June 2004*. It is efficient for organizations to produce newsletters in an electronic format. This file is in **pdf** format which means it is read by Adobe Acrobat Reader. The file is 374 KB and easily sent by email.

**If you have not been already been emailed about this and wish to be on the list, please contact Joyce: Email: [pallara@powerup.com.au](mailto:pallara@powerup.com.au)**

Also for news about happenings in the Flyway please read *The Tattler - Newsletter for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway*. It is produced quarterly and is available online at the AWSG Website: <http://www.tasweb.com.au/aws/index.htm>

## **Editor's Note: We need you help!**

We have printed an extra section at the end of Queensland Wader so that you can help us with two matters and then remove it from the main body of the newsletter:

### **QWSG 5 Year Plan**

The Queensland Wader Study Group committee has arrived at a table of activities that we have considered as possibilities for the Queensland Wader Study Group to undertake in the future. The committee then undertook a ranking of the projects identified. We would now like to ask you, the members, to tell us what you think should be our priorities. We want to hear what you think we should or could be doing with the current and proposed activities and projects. Please have your say and tell us where you think the QWSG should be putting our efforts. Check out the last pages of this issue.

### **QWSG Wader Course**

The second matter that we need your help with is to publicise this year's Wader Course. It will be taking place at 9:00am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2004, and will be held at the Port of Brisbane Corporation Visitors' Centre. Topics to be covered will be Wader Identification, Wader Migration, Wader Feeding and Moreton Bay Marine Park and the Port of Brisbane's conservation efforts. A single page has been added to the extra portion at the end of the Newsletter. Can you photocopy this flyer and distribute it in your area or amongst your friends

## Poor Breeding Shorebird Season in the Canadian Arctic

*This news is via Brad Andres of the American flyways.*

Very few southbound juvenile shorebirds from the arctic are currently migrating through southern Ontario indicating a failed nesting season for many northern species. For example, at Townsend Sewage Lagoons near Lake Erie on 8 August, Kevin McLaughlin saw 400-500 adult Semipalmated Sandpipers and only one juvenile. He saw only 5-6 juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs among 200-300 adults and had few juvenile Least Sandpipers. Juveniles of all these species should be common by now. This spring and summer have been exceptionally cold, wet and windy in much of northern Canada from James Bay to the High Arctic Islands.

Here are reports from six biologists and birders, five of whom were in the north this summer.

### 1. Ken Ross, waterfowl and shorebird biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service:

"It looks to me that there has been a general failure of breeding shorebirds from the Hudson Bay Lowlands north. Certainly goose productivity was well down along the Hudson Bay coast where it was still winter in late May. And I have heard that the Arctic was even worse. Ken Abraham was telling me that shorebirds appeared to be migrating earlier than usual in the James Bay area, probably reflecting a large proportion of failed breeders."

**2. Ken Abraham, biologist and research scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR),** studies waterfowl and shorebirds around James Bay and Hudson Bay: He reports, "Strong indications that the extremely late year spring (May/June) and cold/wet summer (June-July) was indeed a poor year for breeding shorebirds. My student Linh Nguyen had a fair number of Semipalmated Plover nests this year, but a ragged nesting season with very high egg predation, really asynchronous timing and changes in nest density among areas, compared to his two previous summers.

While banding 12-23 July we witnessed increasing numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers, a few Ruddy Turnstones, hundreds of both species of yellowlegs and a very early massing of Marbled Godwits (in my experience). We had Marbled Godwits in flocks alone and mixed with Hudsonian Godwits at several locations from the extreme south end of James Bay (Hannah Bay) up to Lake River and including Akimiski Island (largest island in James Bay). I suspect that Marbled Godwit, in particular, had a poor year, but possibly so did Hudsonian Godwit."

Note: isolated James Bay population of Marbled Godwits is probably about 3000 birds.

**3. Don Sutherland, zoologist with the Natural Heritage Information Centre of the OMNR,** reported: "My guess is that there was widespread nest failure of shorebirds and many other arctic-subarctic bird species in eastern Canada. When we arrived at the Pen Islands (Ontario/Manitoba border of Hudson Bay) on June 23<sup>rd</sup> things really hadn't started yet. There was still substantial ice on many of the larger lakes, large snowdrifts in the lee of ridges and spruce copses, hardly a hint of plant growth anywhere, and several inches of water on the wet tundra. Many of the local species including the common shorebird species (Stilt Sandpiper, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Short-billed Dowitcher, Hudsonian Godwit, Whimbrel, Red-necked Phalarope, American Golden-Plover) were displaying, but weren't behaving as though they had initiated nests. After a few days we started flushing more birds from scrapes and partial clutches and by the time we departed on July 7<sup>th</sup> there were even some clutches starting to hatch (e.g., Least Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper). More telling though were the large flocks of shorebirds present throughout the period. These were either failed breeders or birds which had just opted not to try. Among these were substantial mixed flocks of Hudsonian Godwits and Short-billed Dowitchers (which breed more commonly in the taiga-tundra transition) and large mixed species aggregations including large numbers of Stilt Sandpipers (150 in one flock). Many of these flocks were concentrated in ponds along the coast, but were also present six or more kilometres inland.

Also of interest was the near absence of both Semipalmated Plover and Semipalmated Sandpiper. These should have been present and not uncommon (as they have been in other years) on the gravel ridges bordering wet tundra near the coast, but we saw very few of either and found no nests. Other species which typically breed further inland (e.g., both yellowlegs and Bonaparte's Gulls) were also loafing in ponds near the coast. Waterfowl also had a poor time of it. Large numbers of scaup of both species just hanging around and no evidence of breeding even by Long-tailed Ducks which were just sitting in pairs on ponds. There was a total failure of the Snow Goose colony and near total failure of locally breeding Canada Geese. This phenomenon wasn't restricted to the Ontario coast as Churchill apparently was a bust as were other places in the eastern Canadian Arctic. Just one of those years!"

**4. Farther north, Jim Richards of Orono, Ontario, spent 27 June - 13 July at Cambridge Bay on Victoria Island in Nunavut Territory.** He reported, "That overall numbers of birds present at the end of June was down by at least 60%. Of those there only a small percentage were actually nesting. In past years species such as Semipalmated Sandpipers were usually found at a rate of 4-6 nests per day with normal walking. This year I found one nest in 16 days! Needless to say, it was very cold, very wet and very windy."

**5. Glenn Coady of Toronto, Ontario, was atlassing in the Hudson Bay Lowlands** and was in contact with other groups in the north: He summarized, "Discussing shorebird nesting success with all the Ontario Hudson Bay atlas groups, Mark Peck's experience on Southampton Island in Nunavut, Jim Richards' experience at Cambridge Bay in Nunavut, as well as one of my birding friends who was at Churchill this summer, it would appear very few shorebirds were able to successfully breed in the frigid conditions across the arctic this summer. Many didn't even attempt to nest, and a lot of those that did likely failed in the horrific windstorms. Jim Richards told me that areas he covered at Cambridge Bay that normally would have resulted in sightings of 70 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 30 Baird's Sandpipers per day, proved this summer to be lucky to find more than one or two birds. He found only one Semipalmated Sandpiper nest the entire trip, and it only had a clutch of two eggs. The fact that it also was a poor year for small mammals (and Canada Geese and Snow Geese failed en masse too) in much of the arctic meant what few shorebirds that were going to nest successfully probably encountered heavier than normal predation from foxes, jaegers, gulls and owls."

6. Alvaro Jaramillo of California on 6 August reported: "Juvenile shorebirds are down here already, but not the main push. It seems like a lot of the north was suffering from very bad weather. Alaska was very cold and rainy this season, I hope I am wrong and you begin to see a ton of juvenile shorebirds, but my guess is that it will be a weak year for them."

I hope that birders will report the numbers and age ratios of southbound arctic shorebirds during August, September and October. This will give us better information on the nesting success of northern shorebirds in 2004.

Happy shorebirding, Ron Pittaway, Ontario Field Ornithologists Minden and Toronto ON  
E-mail: jeanironsympatico.ca

## Alaska -Australia migration

We've just had our annual email from Bob Gill and Brian McCaffery in Alaska, detailing the flag sightings they've made of Bar-tailed Godwit (BTG) on the coast of SW Alaska during the last half of August and first week of September. It is here that the flocks of BTG which breed all over Alaska collect before embarking on their 10,000'km non-stop flight across the Pacific to northern Australia and northern New Zealand. This year they made a record number of 100 flag sightings. They covered 2 different sites for the first time, one for a 3-week period and one for just 4 days. Overall they saw 79 orange-flagged Godwits from Victoria, 15 white-flagged from North Island of New Zealand and two green-flagged birds from Queensland. This year for the first time, a white over green-flagged bird from South Island, New Zealand was seen, as were a green over orange- flagged bird from China and a white over orange-flagged bird from South Korea. As usual there were no yellow-flagged birds from Northwest Australia because those birds breed in Yakutia in central northern Siberia. Because of the regular observations of flocks at the same location it is very probable that some duplicate sighting of the same bird were made. The maximum number of individual sightings made in a single day was 17 at one 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 number of orange-flagged birds is a reflection of our considerable catching success of this species in the four 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. The proportion of orange-flagged BTG has probably been at its highest ever level during the last year.

The greatest significance is the continued complete absence of yellow-flagged birds from Northwest Australia, even though more Bar tailed Godwits have been flagged there than in all the other locations added together.

It certainly seems that Northwest Australian Bar-tailed Godwits go exclusively to the Yakutia Region of northern Siberia to breed. A greater proportion of the birds seen in 2003, compared with previous years, carried orange flags.

This is a result of the particularly successful catching of Bar-tailed Godwits in the 1999 to 2002 period by the Victorian Wader Study Group, those birds having now matured and graduated into the breeding population. Conversely, with no new flagging of waders in Queensland in the last five years, green flagged Bar-tailed Godwits are gradually disappearing from the population.

**By Clive Minton**

Origin	Flag Colour	Tern Mountain	Egegik Bay	Total
		16/8/03 to 7/9/03	2-5/9/03	
Victoria	Orange	62	12	74
North Island, NZ	White	8	7	15
S.E. Queensland	Green	1	1	2
South Island, NZ	White / Green	1	0	1
N. Yellow Sea China	Green / Orange	1	0	1
South Korea	White / Orange	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>94</b>

## **Minister for Environment and Heritage versus Greentree**

In July 2003 a judgement was made in the Federal Court of Australia in Sydney, pursuant to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) in the following terms:

The respondents (Ronald Greentree and others) restrain from land clearing, ploughing or cropping activities inside and up to 40 metres outside of the declared Ramsar Wetlands known as Gwydir Wetlands. Also no activities or works are to occur either side of the watercourse on the property known as "Windella" upstream of and within the declared Ramsar Wetlands or to alter the flow regime of waters into and out of the declared Ramsar Wetlands known as Gwydir Wetlands.

This was as a result of an inspection by an officer of Environment Australia who found that at some time between October 2002 and the latest inspection, 99 per cent of the area of the Gwydir Wetlands on the Windella property has been ploughed under.

Following hearings, a judgment was made in June 2004. Mr Greentree and Auen Grain Pty Ltd were found to have contravened the EPBC Act by taking action on the Windella Ramsar site that has had a significant impact on the ecological character of the site. Each is liable to a civil penalty imposed under the EPBC Act. The Minister for the Environment and Heritage also established a basis for remediation orders.

Chris McGrath, Barrister has made the following observations about the case:

"This decision represents a milestone for federal environmental law in Australia. While the federal government won the constitutional power to directly regulate land management issues in the States in the 1983 Tasmanian dam dispute, this is the first court case where it has used its constitutional powers to directly regulate private land management in a State.

The case is significant in terms of the operation of the EPBC Act, particularly regarding the application of the existing lawful use provisions in sections 43A and 43B. It is only the second civil action by the Minister under the EPBC Act. The case is also remarkable politically because the federal environment Minister acted despite the traditional and quite deeply ingrained reluctance in Australian governments to enforce environmental laws against farmers."

The Minister is now seeking a remediation order and a pecuniary penalty (ie a fine) for contravening a civil penalty provision and a decision has not yet been made whether to commence criminal proceedings under the EPBC Act. A hearing is proposed for September to decide the civil penalty that will be imposed on Mr Greentree. Following this decision, there is the option of an appeal.

For further information on the case refer to:

[http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/federal\\_ct/2003/857.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/federal_ct/2003/857.html) and  
[http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/federal\\_ct/2004/741.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/federal_ct/2004/741.html)



## SALTMARSH, CLAYPANS and MANGROVES

The *Draft Shorebird Management Strategy-Moreton Bay* prepared last year by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service identified four management strategies, including protecting shorebird habitat and critical shorebird sites. However, over the last 10 years I have seen significant changes to shorebird feeding and roosting habitat. Shorebirds feed on intertidal mudflats at low tide and roost just above water level at high tide. Therefore both of these habitats need conserving (Lawler, 1994). There is evidence that in southern Moreton Bay both of these habitats are changing.

Changes to the tidal flow resulting from the stabilisation of the ocean outlet by the Gold Coast Seaway is causing lower low tides and higher high tides (EHMP, 2004). This has affected mangroves, seagrass and saltmarsh. In particular, mangroves are increasing due to this change of tidal flow. Many mudflats are now exposed longer between high tides allowing mangroves the opportunity to colonize exposed banks. These banks would previously have been a feeding habitat for waders. Rising sea levels from the seaway modification and global warming have enabled coastal mangroves to spread further inland. Sediments from land clearing, agriculture and towns are also factors in changing mud banks and altering saltmarsh and claypans, encouraging mangrove expansion.

Saltmarsh and claypans are areas that provide shorebirds with the high tide roosts so necessary to them. An increase of mangroves into these areas must intrude upon this important wader refuge. Though there are changes occurring between saltmarsh and claypans there has been no evidence of recovery of saltmarsh-claypan areas to offset the increase of mangroves (Hyland & Butler, 1988). Increased silt loads and nutrient levels have allowed mangroves to be doubled in area in some New South Wales estuaries. In 70% of estuaries surveyed in NSW, 30% saltmarsh loss to mangrove incursion has been observed (Saintilan, 2003). A recent study in Queensland has suggested that mangroves have increased along runnels formed on saltmarsh for mosquito control. (Breitfuss, et al. 2001).

Saltmarsh and mangrove provide breeding and nursery grounds for aquatic organisms such as crustaceans and fish. They also provide feeding and roosting grounds for migratory waders (Harty, 2004). Saltmarsh-claypan ecosystems are more likely to be damaged than mangroves by the development of coastal infrastructure. This is because they are more easily reclaimed for development such as for the residential estates in the southern bay around the mouth of the Coomera River.

Hyland & Butler (1988) raised concerns that there had been no natural increase in saltmarsh – claypan nor has there been any attempt to restore this habitat. As development of the coastal foreshores continues it is doubtful if this situation has improved. In south-east Australia, Saintilan & Williams (1999) have found that landward expansion of mangroves into saltmarsh environments over the last five decades is established as a widespread trend.

State and local planners should have regard to these changes occurring to the foreshores of Moreton Bay. Saltmarsh - claypans are not being appropriately protected. They are important ecosystems that filter storm water runoff as well as provide roosting habitat for waders. Saltmarsh - claypan ecosystems need protection from the many changes that are occurring including mangrove expansion.

**Joyce Harding**

### **References**

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## Ramsar Forum: Australia -- Forum on Wetland Obligations and Incentives

Greetings, Forum members. Here is news of any upcoming meeting in Australia. Best regards, Dwight Peck.

The Wetlands Innovation Series: - Innovations, Obligations and Incentives  
Tuesday 21st September 2004

The Wetlands Centre, Shortland, New South Wales

The Wetlands Centre Australia is launching The Wetland Innovation Series through a National Forum Titled Innovations, Obligations and Incentives, the Forum will be held on Tuesday 21st September 2004 at The Wetlands Centre, 10 minutes from Newcastle in the lower Hunter Valley.

### **The Forum will focus on:**

- Interpretation and update on all significant legislation and reforms affecting development adjacent to wetlands in NSW.
- Providing central access to cutting-edge approaches for managing activities in wetland catchments, including planning and policy-making; urban design; assessment and prioritisation; incentives and tools.
- The Wetland Innovation Series is designed to challenge current thinking and practice. It will provide direct access to up-to-date knowledge, tools and technology, and key players and specialists in the field of wetland management from across Australia.

### **Who should attend:**

- The Forum is targeted at individuals and organisations that manage or potentially impact upon wetlands, including:
- Local government officers - Planners, Engineers, DA Assessors, Compliance Officers, Environmental Managers and Ecologists; State and Federal agency Natural Resource Managers and Wetland Specialists; Development industry representatives involved in subdivisions and developments within wetland catchments.
- Wetland neighbours and those who have a special interest in wetlands.

### **What participants will receive:**

- A clear understanding of current legislation, reforms and statutory obligations of organisations and individuals managing or impacting on wetlands.
- Detailed information on some of the newest and most innovative tools and approaches to wetland management available.
- Direct contact with leading wetland management researchers and practitioners so that innovations may be tailored to meet individual needs and interests.
- A CD-rom of the proceedings containing a range of innovative wetland management research, information and tools.
- Networking and partnerships amongst government, community and industry representatives who have an interest in managing development in wetland catchments and wetland management itself.

The brochure attached: ([http://ramsar.org/australia\\_hunter\\_innovation.pdf](http://ramsar.org/australia_hunter_innovation.pdf)) provides detailed information on the Forum and a registration form to attend.

Alternatively, log onto the website: [www.wetlands.org.au/forum.htm](http://www.wetlands.org.au/forum.htm)

For further information about the Forum, please contact Kylie Yeend, Hunter Ramsar Project Officer, on (02) 4951 6466.

PLEASE HELP THE COMMITTEE

## 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 – 24.7.04  
3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Scarborough to Clontarf – Alex Bisgrove & Rob Stogdale – 7.2.04  
4 Great Knot – Scarborough to Clontarf – Rob & Alex Stogdale – 7.2.04

### **Orange leg flag sightings**

- 1 Eastern Curlew – Fisherman Island Claypan – Jim & Ivell Whyte – 25.7.04  
1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding & David Milton – 24.7.04  
1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 3.4.04  
1 Red-necked Stint – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross – 6.6.04

### **Other wader leg flag sightings**

- 1 Red-necked Stint – white flag upper left leg and orange flag lower left leg – Fisherman Island – Peter Rothlisberg & David Edwards – 6.6.04 ( This bird was flagged in Korea )

### **Other leg flag sightings and banded birds**

- 1 Caspian Tern – orange flag lower right leg and metal band lower left leg – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 2.5.04  
1 Caspian Tern – orange flag lower right leg - Fisherman Island – Linda Cross – 6.6.04  
1 Caspian Tern – metal band lower right leg – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 24.7.04  
1 Caspian Tern – metal band lower left leg – Toorbul Sandfly Bay – Dez Wells – 24.7.04

### **Interesting sightings**

- 583 Australian Pratincole – Karumba Plains, NQ – Joyce Harding – 4.5.04  
472 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 3.4.04  
12 Red-kneed Dotterel – Pine Rivers Northside – David Edwards – 24.7.04  
7 Red-kneed Dotterel – Pine Rivers Northside – David Edwards – 16.5.04  
4 Red-kneed Dotterel – Lytton – David Connolly – 16.5.04  
1 Red-kneed Dotterel – Deception Bay Mangrove – Phil Cross – 16.5.04  
16 Black-fronted Dotterel – Deception Bay Mangrove – Phil Cross – 16.5.04  
14 Black-fronted Dotterel – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 3.4.04  
14 Black-fronted Dotterel – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 19.5.04  
1 Black-fronted Dotterel – Caboolture River Mouth (unusual at this site) – Ivan & Joyce Fien – 24.7.04  
1 Common Sandpiper – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 1.4.04  
3 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 11.1.04  
2 Broad-billed Sandpiper – Kakadu Beach roost – Michael Strong – 2.4.04 & 25.5.04  
9 Sanderling – Sandy Point – Paul O'Neill – 9.3.04  
5 Sanderling – Salt Works, Bowen – Jon Wren – 26.12.03  
35 Comb-crested Jacana – Garnet's Lagoons – John Knight – 16.5.04

### **Not waders but of interest anyway**

- 27 Brolga – Kinka Beach & Creek – John Thomson & Rob MacFarlane – 16.5.04  
1 Black-necked Stork – Kinka Beach & Creek – John Thomson – 25.7.04  
3 Brown Booby – Kinka Beach & Creek – John Thomson – 25.7.04  
3 Eastern Reef Egret (2 White phase & 1 Grey phase) – Wickham Point – Barb Dickson – 16.5.04  
226 Chestnut Teal – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 3.4.04  
114 Chestnut Teal – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell – 24.7.04  
6 Chestnut Teal ducklings – The Crescent, Toorbul – Esther Townsend – 16.5.04  
4 Chestnut Teal ducklings – Deception Bay Mangrove – Phil Cross – 16.5.04  
4 Rajah Shelduck – Kinka Beach & Creek – John Thomson – 25.7.04

- 8 Wandering Whistling Duck ducklings – Tweed Heads Sewage Works – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 2.5.04
- 36 Wandering Whistling Duck – Garnet's Lagoons – John Knight – 16.5.04
- 33 Wandering Whistling Duck – Kingscliff Sewage Plant – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 5.6.04
- 1 Cotton Pygmy Goose – Garnet's Lagoons – John Knight – 16.5.04
- 6 Australasian Shoveler – Garnet's Lagoons – John Knight – 19.6.04
- 2 Swamp Harrier – Bishop's Marsh – Dez Wells – 23.5.04
- 1 Swamp Harrier – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 3.4.04 & 23.5.05
- 1 Brown Falcon – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 3.4.04 & 23.5.05 & 24.7.04
- 4 Glossy Ibis – Bishop's Marsh – Dez Wells – 23.5.04
- 3 Glossy Ibis – Garnet's Lagoons – John Knight – 19.6.04

## Count Programme by Linda Cross

We would like to welcome Floss Wainwright and Ken Cowell to the count programme. I met Floss during 'Bird Week' at Fraser Island in May this year and she told me that they had spent a number of years in Tasmania participating in wader surveys and asked if we had a similar programme in Queensland. So, never letting a chance go by I immediately invited them to join us at the Port of Brisbane monthly counts, and when they saw the list of vacant sites in the last newsletter they offered to cover Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve, doing their first count in July for the National Winter count. We are very happy that they decided to move back to Queensland, where the QWSG will benefit.

It was disappointing to hear that John Thomson will be handing over the job of monthly counting at the two sites in Kinka Beach, Yeppoon. John has covered them both for many years and has done an excellent job along with helpers Rob MacFarlane and Maree Burke. Our best wishes to you John for a continued long and healthy retirement, although John has advised that he will still be available to assist when needed. Robert Black will take over the role of surveying the sites along with Lorelle Campbell and the continuing support of Rob and Maree. We welcome you into the count programme and are sure you will find it enjoyable and rewarding.

The following Brisbane area sites are still available, but many other sites also need to be counted along the Queensland coastline. We are waiting for your call.

Luggage Point, Brisbane	Nandebie Park, Cleveland
Sandstone Point (opposite Bribie Island)	Donnybrook (north of Toorbul)

Most **Double-banded Plover** recorded during the last couple of surveys have been in breeding plumage and by the time you receive this newsletter they probably will have left our shores for their home ground in New Zealand.

- 179 at Geoff Skinner Reserve on 16.5.04 and 15 on 24.7.04
- 52 at Amity Point, North Stradbroke Island on 24.7.04
- 45 at Fisherman Island on 15.5.04 – 56 on 6.6.04 and 62 on 25.7.04
- 38 at King Street, Thornside on 16.5.04
- 32 at Caboolture River Mouth on 24.7.04
- 17 at North Shore, Maroochy River on 14.5.04 and 10 on 23.7.04
- 13 at Tony's Island, Tweed Heads on 16.7.04
- 12 at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 24.7.04
- 9 at Manly Boat Harbour on 24.7.04
- 5 at Sandbank No 2, Caloundra on 15.5.04 and 2 on 24.7.04
- 3 at Bermuda Avenue, Deception Bay on 16.5.04

Fewer sightings recorded on count sheets of **Beach Stone-curlew** since the last newsletter, they appear below: -

- 2 Beach Stone-curlew – Sandy Point (north of Yeppoon) – Paul O'Neill & Andrew McDougall – 6.2.04
- 2 Beach Stone-curlew – Seaforth Beach creek mouth – Peggy Harding – 17/18/19.2.04
- 4 Beach Stone-curlew – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 18.3.04
- 1 Beach Stone-curlew – Finlayson Point (north of Mackay) – Peggy Harding – 5.3.04 & 28.4.04
- 3 Beach Stone-curlew – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 1.4.04
- 3 Beach Stone-curlew – Finlayson Point – Peggy Harding – 29.4.04
- 1 Beach Stone-curlew – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – Michael Strong – 2.5.04
- 1 Beach Stone-curlew – Kakadu Beach roost – Frank Bigg – 16.5.04 (at site for last 3 or 4 days)
- 2 Beach Stone-curlew – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 10.6.04
- 1 Beach Stone-curlew – Amity Point, North Stradbroke Island – Martin Waugh – 24.7.04

The other shy and vulnerable **Stone curlew (Bush)** has also been recorded at three sites and I have listed them below as a matter of interest.

3 Bush Stone-curlew – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 18.3.04  
 2 Bush Stone-curlew – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 1.4.04  
 13 Bush Stone-curlew – Seaforth township – Peggy Harding – 4.5.04  
 7 Bush Stone-curlew – Pioneer River – Les & Dawn Thyer – 14.5.04  
 14 Bush Stone-curlew – Pioneer River – Les & Dawn Thyer – 30.7.04  
 25+ Bush Stone-curlew – Seaforth township – Peggy Harding – 6.7.04

Only breeding records of waders are for **Masked Lapwing**, which are also included in this article.

1 Masked Lapwing chicks – Seaforth beach (Poinciana Drive) – Peggy Harding – 8.5.04  
 4 Masked Lapwing chicks – Marroom – John Bell & Glen Hastie – 16.5.04  
 2 Masked Lapwing chicks – Cairns Esplanade – Keith Fisher – 23.7.04

The **National Winter Count** has just been completed and most of you have sent in your count sheet, however, there are a few of you still holding on to them and I advise that I will be contacting you very soon regarding their non arrival in my letterbox.

Our new counter for Yeppoon, Robert Black, informs me that their local bird group observed five Latham's Snipe in the Rockhampton area on 19.8.04 and Trevor Ford reports seeing one Latham's Snipe at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 15.8.04, which increased to five birds on 18.8.04. Trevor also reported seeing five of the same species at a lagoon in the Woodford area. These are early records for the southern migration, so I suggest you all clean your binoculars and telescopes in readiness for the arrival of the rest of the waders. Please check for leg flags when viewing the birds, particularly ones sporting other colours than (green) Queensland.

As I am currently in paid employment I would like to offer my apologies in advance for my tardiness in replying to emails or letters over the next few months during a very busy time at work.

Happy counting.  
 Linda Cross.

## The Importance of Summer and Winter Counts

Every month QWSG members count waders at our particular roost sites in Queensland so we can regularly monitor wader numbers. Over time with sufficient data, we hope to get a picture of migratory wader population trends in our region, so all your counts are important.

But, twice a year QWSG members count waders as part of a national count programme. These are our **Summer** and **Winter** counts. This data becomes part of the Australian database of the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG). AWSG needs this data soon after the count so that it can be incorporated with counts from all states.

For this reason it is important that counters forward their count sheets to Linda, our Count Coordinator as soon as possible after the count day. We also need to put the data in our own count database. It is also important to advise Linda even if you cannot, or did not do a count.

Please keep this in mind when the next **Summer** count comes along in January or February next year (2005) and so please post your count sheets without delay.

Joyce Harding and Linda Cross

## Some news about shorebirds northern migration some of these birds use observation point at Rhyll

### Some news from Dandong (China/Korea border)

15/04/2004

This afternoon (14 April) was our first chance to get into the field. A 4.8m tide pushed the birds close to the seawall and bright sun allowed good viewing conditions. We estimate 40-50,000 birds - mostly Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Dunlin with a good scattering of other things (2 first summer Relict Gulls was nice for those with minds broader than waders).

Flags were:

- BAR-TAILED GODWIT  
 WHITE: 6 (New Zealand)  
 ORANGE: 7 (Vitoria)  
 YELLOW: 4 (NW Australia, Broome, 80 Mile Beach)  
 GREEN/ORANGE: 2 (Dandong, China)
- EASTERN CURLEW  
 ORANGE: 1 (Victoria)

There will be more tomorrow.....

One of the Chongming Dao banders has just arrived here - they did a total of 1600 birds and have now run out of money to pay the catchers!

### News from Yalu Jiang

16/04/2004

Another eventful afternoon at Yalu Jiang. It was quite hazy but the wind was not too strong and the incoming tide pushed a pile of birds up to the seawall (and over into ponds in some areas).

Pete saw ~1500 Bar tailed Godwits dropping in out of the haze from on high - apparently migrants arriving.

Today's flag sightings (provisional as part of the team in unavailable at present due to a very pleasant dinner party!):

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT

WHITE (North Island NZ): 8

ORANGE (Victoria): 8

YELLOW (Broome/80 mile beach): 5

GREEN/ORANGE (Yalu Jiang 2002): 2

One of the NZ godwits was an individually colour banded bird from Phil Battley's study.

#### GREAT KNOT

YELLOW: 2

Yellow band: 1

Pete says its cold but David was in NZ national costume today(minus the black woolly singlet) and even went for a paddle.

Missed one interesting record from the last message - there was at least one Bar tailed Godwit which had been banded in Chongming Dao, Shangahai - most probably in their recent catching exercise. It is perhaps not surprising that Shanghai birds stage in the Yellow Sea before heading into the arctic, but this is the first evidence that they do so. It will be interesting to look at their weight data.

Cheers

David and Pete

Dr Rosalind Jessop, Senior Biologist  
 Phillip Island Nature Park  
 PO Box 97  
 Cowes. 3922, Victoria, Australia.

## WADER ID DAYS for 2004

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at Toorbul**

High tide at 12:58 hours (as it is 40 mins later for Toorbul). Meeting time will be at 11:00.

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

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at Lytton**

High 2.27m at Lytton. Meeting time will be 09:00. Bring water and maybe bring lunch or something to eat. Meet in the car park for a prompt start.

To get to Lytton, drive east along Lytton Rd following the signs to the Port of Brisbane, follow Pritchard St from the turn off to Fort Lytton National Park, turn left into Wynnum North Rd, continue to the end of the road and park in the car park. Or through Wynnum to Wynnum North road and hence to the car park. UBD 143 F11.

Contact David Edwards 07 3262 2017

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.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

Robert BLACK, Alf & Elizabeth BODEN,  
Ken GOSBELL, Eddie HEGERL,  
Roy & Patrice HOSE,

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.

## Birds Queensland -- BIRD WEEK

Remember that our parent body, Birds Queensland, is having a bird Week in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council. There are many activities already organised with many more to come. So if you can attend one of the events, or publicise the Bird Week or better still put your hand up as a volunteer.

The WADER ID Day that we have organised for Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at Lytton is your contribution the this exciting week of activities.

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

#### MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE QWSG

<u>CHAIRPERSON:</u>	David Milton	(07) 3390 2179	
<u>TREASURER:</u>	Sheryl Keates	(08) 8948 1794	or <a href="mailto:tattlers@tpg.com.au">tattlers@tpg.com.au</a>
<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	Phil Cross	(07) 5495 2758
Peter Driscoll	TBA	Jill Dening	(07) 5494 0994
Paul Finn	(07) 3349 3162	Andrew Geering	(07) 3376 1241
Joyce Harding	(07) 3372 1424	Sandra Harding	(07) 3390 2179
Peter Rothlisberg	(07) 3822 3759	Ivell Whyte	(07) 3802 0757

#### CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence to:  
The QWSG Chairperson,  
336 Prout Rd.,  
**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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Annual subscription rates:  
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Receipt will be forwarded with next edition of Queensland Wader.

Forward application to:  
QWSG Treasurer,  
PO Box 958  
**NIGHTCLIFF**  
NT 0814

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

**Copy Deadline** for the next issue of Queensland Wader is November 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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

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## Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Birds Queensland 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

1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## FISHERMAN ISLAND – PORT OF BRISBANE COUNTS

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

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.

If you are interested please contact Michele Burford on 3822 3759 (Home), 3826 7236 (Work), or email her at Michele.Burford@csiro.au

### **POB COUNTS – 2004**

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2.09m at 12:36 Meet	10:45
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.30m at 11:36 Meet	09:45
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.49m at 10:37 Meet	08:45
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.06m at 15:37 Meet	13:45 (1.45pm)

**The birds are coming back!!**



**Activities 2004**

**Monthly Count Programme**

**High Tides – Count Programme – 2004**

**No count in June**

- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Sep 2.10m at 11:52
- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2.30m at 10:52
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2.44m at 09:51
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.20m at 14:42

**WADER ID DAYS for 2004**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at Toorbul

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at Lytton

**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:.....  
..... 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, PO Box 958, NIGHTCLIFF, NT 0814**

Cheques to be made out to: Queensland Wader Study Group