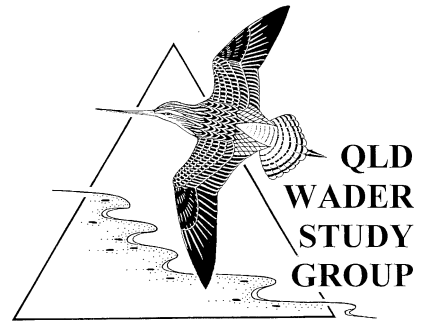


# QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue number 51

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

## GREAT SANDY STRAIT MAPPING PROJECT – JANUARY 2005

The QWSG was contracted to undertake work as part of the Great Sandy Strait (GSS) component of the NHT-funded Shorebird Conservation Project with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to map the roost sites in the Great Sandy Strait, and the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January was chosen to undertake the work.

As part of the contract the group agreed to provide data on the numbers of each species at each roost and to give this data to a GIS consultant who would generate maps that would be used by the four local authorities in the region when they assess planning and development applications.

Our role was also to go and ground truth the exact locations of each roost and define their extent on the maps. The local government planners were to advise which roosts would need careful mapping and these we would need to ensure were accurately mapped with a differential GPS, the other roosts would require new GPS readings or reconfirm existing readings and draw the boundaries on an aerial photograph.

It was very important that we involve all previous and current local counters in mapping the sites for accuracy, so contact was made with people who had been involved during previous surveys in the region a few years ago and asked to assist with the mapping, which included QWSG members, staff from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS), other helpers and local residents.

The number one priority was to map the roost and then, if there was time, conduct a count, which would give us more data on species and numbers in the region. I thought this would certainly keep the participants busy, but Sandra Harding (now known as the General) decided that she would throw another little job into the equation and include a form to record disturbance factors at each site.

My plans were to travel to Hervey Bay on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January to undertake mapping of a number of island sites out in the bay. However, gale force winds and rain prevented this from happening and my departure was delayed until Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>. It was still raining during my travel to Hervey Bay, but the weather conditions were improving and I joined Lesley Bradley at the school on time. Lesley Bradley asked that I give a talk to school children at Torquay State School on that afternoon, on the subject of waders and explaining what our group would be doing on the weekend. The thirty students in class 7KW had plenty of questions for me to answer.

After leaving the school I met with Judy Caughley at Baymap, where we were to be trained in the use of a differential GPS. This was quite interesting and informative, but after much discussion it was decided not to use the differential GPS because there was only one available for us to use and we would not have been able to plot all the 51 known sites during the weekend as we needed to be at every site during the 1.5 hours before and after the high tide mark to establish which section of the site the birds use.

Later that afternoon Judy and I joined Donald & Lesley Bradley at one of their count sites, Point Vernon, to map the first roost of the Great Sandy Strait. The mapping involved defining the area where the birds roosted and taking a GPS reading at the centre and each significant point around the boundary. Each spot where the GPS reading was taken was located on the aerial photograph and with the use of a pin, a hole was made through the photograph. This pinhole was then circled on the back of the photograph and numbered accordingly to correspond with the GPS reading. A separate piece of paper was used to record the site name, site code, photograph number sequence, GPS reading corresponding to the number circled on the back of the aerial photograph, habitat code and any other comments about the site. Once all this information had been recorded a fine point red felt pen was used on the aerial photograph to outline the roost, which was basically joining the dots (pin holes). This alternative to using the differential GPS was certainly much easier, but obviously not as accurate. We were happy with our efforts and headed back to our vehicles as the light was fading.

Arrangements had been made to meet the General, Joyce Harding and Ivell Whyte later that evening. Once they arrived a discussion took place regarding the events of the day, the mapping exercise and making arrangements to meet other counters the following day to map other sites.

Friday morning dawned with improved weather conditions, sunny and a little windy, which was to ease later in the morning. However the humidity was going to be quite high after all the recent rain the area had experienced. We planned an early start meeting Donald and Lesley at 7.15am to map Gables Point Rocks, which was achieved fairly quickly as most of us had our own GPS unit and able to cover more points at once.

From Gables Point Rocks we split and I joined Bob & June Gleeson to map Mathieson Homestead and Mangrove Point south claypan. The rest of the team did Beck and Sea-eagles Road sites before joining John Knight to map Garnett's Lagoons. It was hot tiring work trying to keep up with Bob on the very large claypan in front of Turtle Cove Estate and we had not finished it when part of the other team came looking for us. The claypan mapping was finally finished around 3pm in the afternoon and before we left an irate resident of the new residential development sought us out to vent his anger about the delay in the proposed golf course that the developers had planned to build. The resident was adamant that during his 6 months residence no birds were ever seen on the claypan, which was quickly rebuked by Bob and informing the man that he had been living in the area for many years, and that around 1000 Eastern Curlew had just been seen flying off the site and many other smaller birds were still present while he spoke to us. Nothing we said was going to change his mind, and he left still grumbling.

It was now time for our team to head south and map the roosts at 'Tandora', just north of Maryborough, but there was to be a delay caused by a couple of events that two of the team would rather forget.

Mapping the sites at 'Tandora' was finished around 5:30pm and after re-fuelling the vehicles at Maryborough everyone headed south arriving at Poona Palms Caravan Park just on dark. The hot shower and air-conditioned unit were welcomed by all before the arrival of four more of the survey group from Brisbane. My sincere thanks to Margaret Bernard and Ivell Whyte for preparing all the paperwork and equipment for the mapping and counting next day, while I completed the paperwork on the days mapping before we all eventually got to bed around midnight.

Saturday morning was another fine day, but again humid as teams came and went at different times after receiving instructions on how to conduct the mapping and collect the relevant tools and paperwork for the job. Some teams managed to arrive at their sites and map it before the waders came it to roost and then continue with a count, but my team was late leaving because I had to ensure everyone was instructed and gone before we left. This meant that my team arrived at Boonooroo to find the birds already on site and the tide coming in pushing them further into shore. This was not a bad thing to happen because it gave us the chance to confirm exactly the extent of the area the birds were using to roost. The count completed we adjourned for lunch on the beach front at Tuan while we waited for the tide to drop.

We had just finished lunch when Sandra Harding arrived at the boat ramp after completing the mapping in the Inskip Point area and as some of our team needed to get back to Brisbane Sandra offered to help Phil and myself map the sites at Boonooroo. During the mapping a couple of local residents approached us voicing their concern that an article in their local paper suggested the beach would be closed to the public if the proposed marine park for the Great Sandy Strait went ahead. Phil did an excellent job reassuring them that this was not so and spent some time educating them about waders while Sandra and I continued taking readings. We finished much later than the other teams arriving back at Poona around 5:30pm.

By Sunday lunchtime all of the teams had left for home, while Sandra, Ivell and Joyce remained to accompany Steve Winderlich on his boat to map some of the islands in the central part of the GSS before heading home later that day.

Of the 51 sites identified in the GSS by the QWSG, 34 were successfully mapped, and counts completed at 25 of them. I have included a table of all the surveys we have conducted in the region showing the species counts and numbers of the waders. The fact that a number of sites were not counted is the probable cause for the lower counts compared with other January surveys. What is interesting is the larger numbers of Great Knot, Red-necked Stints and Sand Plovers, which would suggest northward migration, was taking place for these species.

The exercise in mapping the roosts was interesting and successful and has now given rise to the thought that all roosts in our database should be afforded the same process. My sincere thanks to everyone involved in this project, without you it would not have been such a success. Special thanks to Steve Winderlich for supplying his own time and boat for the whole weekend of the surveys.

Linda Cross

### **Participants:**

**QWSG:** Jan Bedwell, John Bell, Margaret Bernard, Donald & Lesley Bradley, Michele Burford, Judy Caughley, Jill Chamberlain, Linda & Phil Cross, Jill Denning, Paul Finn, Andrew Geering, Bob & June Gleeson, Joyce Harding, Sandra Harding, Bob James, John Knight, Shirley Rooke, Peter Rothlisberg and Ivell Whyte.

**EPA/QPWS:** Bill Alston, Stephen Barry, Linda Behrendorff, Shakya Jemison, Anne O'Dea, Peter Tierney and Steve Winderlich.

**BAYMAP:** Scott Kay

**Other helpers:** Karryll Butler, Gladys Carman, Glen Hastie, Judith Hewett, Rob Kernot, Melinda Laidlaw, Amelia & Kelvin Nielsen, Sean Norman, Peter Royale and Aaron Winderlich.

### **A table of all the surveys conducted in the region showing the species counts and numbers of the waders**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>Jan 2005</b>	<b>Jan 2002</b>	<b>Nov 2001</b>	<b>July 2001</b>	<b>Jan 2001</b>	<b>Oct 2000</b>	<b>July 2000</b>
Latham's Snipe		5					
Black-tailed Godwit	43		2				
Bar-tailed Godwit	8869	12991	14227	3164	17575	11066	2818
Whimbrel	396	2728	404	405	1699	418	201
Eastern Curlew	2279	4994	2032	1969	3678	1355	1035
Marsh Sandpiper	50	88	63		14	28	4
Common Greenshank	186	650	209	34	443	342	2
Terek Sandpiper	130	36	142	14	195	45	8
Common Sandpiper					1		
Grey-tailed Tattler	696	1260	739	2232	1086	161	286
Ruddy Turnstone	14	16	14	12	6	25	10
Asian Dowitcher							
Great Knot	2094	845	1081	585	1131	1648	67
Red Knot	4	24	122	6	9	126	22
Sanderling					9		
Red-necked Stint	2774	1081	1300	49	1533	416	107
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	102	73	89		82	22	
Curlew Sandpiper	291	155	202	11	127	219	9
Comb-crested Jacana	3						
Beach Stone-curlew		1	1	4			2
Pied Oystercatcher	287	340	170	227	471	145	225

Sooty Oystercatcher	3				3		1
Black-winged Stilt	54	144	297	501	38	53	207
Red-necked Avocet				7			
Pacific Golden Plover	24	209	274	20	71	17	23
Grey Plover	91	74	165	15	67	208	5
Red-capped Plover	210	298	116	257	668	73	279
Double-banded Plover				46			41
Lesser Sand Plover	2345	1593	1401	181	1965	475	89
Greater Sand Plover	414	25	45	1	5	57	12
Black-fronted Dotterel	1			12		3	12
Red-kneed Dotterel			8			2	
Masked Lapwing	40	51	36	37	40	33	45
<b>Total migratory waders</b>	<b>20805</b>	<b>27793</b>	<b>23211</b>	<b>8764</b>	<b>31774</b>	<b>16628</b>	<b>4739</b>
<b>Total resident waders</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>1220</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>771</b>
<b>Total waders</b>	<b>21400</b>	<b>28627</b>	<b>23839</b>	<b>9809</b>	<b>32994</b>	<b>16937</b>	<b>5510</b>
<b>Total migratory species</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total resident species</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total species</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
Unidentified Small Wader	3	1	300	20	200	200	
Unidentified Medium Wader		295			1096		
Unidentified Large Wader		650	400		782		
Total roost sites counted	25	30	27	32	33	18	29
Aerial count conducted	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

## Engraved Leg-flags

**To all wader banders and flaggers, flag-sighting coordinators, and regular flag-observers.**

**Original from Clive Minton**

Dear All,

This note is to advise you of a new development in relation to the leg-flagging of waders. During the recent non-breeding season, individually engraved leg-flags have been placed on some waders in North-west and South-east Australia.

The main purpose of using engraved leg-flags is to enable individual birds to be recognised in the field without the need to catch them. This study is similar to that of Phil Battley in New Zealand, except that he uses a combination of colour bands, flags, and the metal band to identify an individual. The sightings of surviving birds will greatly increase the amount of information available for survival/mortality rate calculations. Demographic studies are vital to understanding population changes.

Most data on birds with engraved leg-flags will come from re-sightings in the non-breeding areas where they were originally marked. Alice Ewing will be commencing a PhD study in June this year on survival rates of migratory waders. She will be responsible for much of the re-sighting effort in North-west Australia. However, it is likely that some of these birds will also be seen on migration; hence this circular. Experience has shown that engraved flags can be read in the field with a telescope at distances up to 80-100m.

There is no change from current practice in the colour of the leg-flag, or the position it is placed on the bird (usually the right tibia). At present, only two digit codes are used. The inscriptions may be any of the range of combinations shown below. The same inscription is engraved on both sides of the leg-flag.

**A1 - Z9**

**1A - 9Z**

**00 - 99**

**AA - ZZ**

At Roebuck Bay, Broome, in North-west Australia, yellow flags with black inscriptions have been used. The species which have so far been marked in this way are (in brackets: number flagged):

Great Knot (368)	Black-tailed Godwit (50)
Bar-tailed Godwit (128)	Red Knot (24)
Grey-tailed Tattler (125)	Ruddy Turnstone (23)
Greater Sand Plover (119)	Common Greenshank (5)
Terek Sandpiper (108)	Asian Dowitcher (1)

(Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, and Grey Plover were also on the target list, but we couldn't catch any!)

In Victoria and South Australia, about 150 Ruddy Turnstones have so far been marked with black inscriptions on the orange flag. In Victoria, this is the only flag placed on the bird, but in South Australia, it is the upper flag of an orange/yellow flag combination.

The placing of engraved flags on the above species at these two locations will continue on all birds caught in the future.

A picture of a Terek Sandpiper which has just been fitted with an engraved leg-flag at Broome is attached (photo by Chris Sanderson). A picture of a Great Knot with an engraved flag, taken on the saltmarsh at Chongming Dao in the Yangtze estuary in China, is also attached (photo by Adrian Boyle).

Would anyone sighting any of these individually-marked birds please report them in the usual way (to the Australian flag-sighting co-ordinators, at [mintons@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mintons@ozemail.com.au) or by the on-line form on the Australasian Wader Studies Group webpage: <http://www.tasweb.com.au/awsq/index.htm> ).

We apologise for the lateness of this circular. Some of the birds on northward migration will have reached you before this does! We would be grateful if you could please widely publicise the news that some waders now carry individual engraved codes on their leg-flags, and that reports of sightings of these will be extremely valuable.

Many thanks.  
Best wishes,  
Clive Minton, Alice Ewing, and Heather Gibbs.  
**AWSG Leg-flag Database Team**



Terek Sandpiper in the hand



Great Knot in the Field

## Consultation on the Brisbane Foreshore Parkland Redevelopment Project

A meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2005 to discuss this project to improve Brisbane's foreshores for public use. Brisbane City Council proposes to invest \$24 million in the enhancement of Brisbane's foreshores at Wynnum/Manly and Sandgate/Shorncliffe. The meeting was attended by Trevor Carter EPA, Sarah Parker-Webb EPA, Mathew Johnston DPIF, Lisa Grannum BCC, Katharina Nieberler-Walker BCC, Ian Smith EPA, Alison O'Gorman EPA, Ivell Whyte QWSG, Dawn Beck QWSG, Joyce Harding QWSG.

Brisbane City Council, the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries are aware of the need to protect coastal environments when enhancing the shores of Moreton Bay. As a Ramsar site, the 'wise use' principal applies to the management of foreshores.

Though Brisbane City Council is aware of shorebirds and their habitat, discussions such as this highlight the lack of general public awareness of issues relating to shorebirds.

Commonly held views still exist that:

- a low tide mudflat should be improved with sand,
- a coastal saltpan should be turned into a playing field,
- a sandbar is an ideal stopover for boats and jetskis.

At different tides, times and weather conditions the Brisbane foreshores are used by waders for feeding and roosting. Some birds stay for the winter while most migrate in summer to breed in the northern hemisphere. It is important to look carefully at planned "improvements" to foreshores to make sure that birds and other wildlife are not disregarded. The "Parklands Plan" was released late February and is available for viewing in most libraries and Customer Services Centres.

## HOW LONG DO SHOREBIRDS LIVE?

Listed below is a table detailing all known longevity records pertaining to all species of shorebirds (waders) banded in the UK since 1959. The British-ringed records have been extracted from *Ringing and Migration* annual ringing reports. Similar species found in other parts of the world could be expected to have a similar life span.

Species	Band/ring No. & time since banded		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	SS76382	36yr	2m
Ringed Plover	BV85945	19yr	8m
Eurasian Golden Plover	2072773	12yr	1m
Grey Plover	DR33258	25yr	1m
Lapwing	DS30355	21yr	1m
Red Knot	CK68568	24yr	0m
Sanderling	BB52147	17yr	7m
Little Stint	76042X	6yr	4m
Curlew Sandpiper	NB15296	12yr	11m
Purple Sandpiper	CV58657	13yr	11m
Dunlin	BX31762	18yr	8m
Ruff	CC91720	9yr	0m
Common Snipe	CH86465	17yr	11m
Black-tailed Godwit	EF90838	23yr	5m
Bar-tailed Godwit	DS28165	30yr	3m
Whimbrel	EH49697	16yr	1m
Eurasian Curlew	3101164	29yr	9m
Spotted Redshank	DR28508	7yr	5m
Redshank	DR10814	19yr	10m
Greenshank	DR70162	16yr	0m
Common Sandpiper	BV45510	12yr	0m
Ruddy Turnstone	CC88754	19yr	2m

### Details of Wash Wader Ringing Group longevity records

<i>Oystercatcher</i>	SS76382	2nd Summer	<i>Snettisham</i>	29/06/68	Controlled	<i>Wainfleet</i>	04/09/04
<i>Ringed Plover</i>	BV85945	Adult	<i>Heacham</i>	31/08/80	Controlled	<i>Snettisham</i>	20/05/00
<i>Golden Plover</i>	DN77939	Adult	<i>Terrington</i>	24/07/97	Shot	<i>Sutton Bridge</i>	14/12/03
<i>Grey Plover</i>	DR33258	2nd Summer	<i>Terrington</i>	13/07/79	Controlled	<i>Terrington</i>	09/08/04
<i>Knot</i>	CK68568	Adult	<i>N.Wootton</i>	27/08/68	Controlled	<i>Friskney</i>	01/09/92
<i>Sanderling</i>	BB52147	Adult	<i>Snettisham</i>	18/07/70	Controlled	<i>Heacham</i>	21/02/88
<i>Purple Sandpiper</i>	BV89291	Adult	<i>Heacham</i>	16/04/88	Controlled	<i>Hunstanton</i>	08/04/00
<i>Dunlin</i>	BX31762	1st Winter	<i>N.Wootton</i>	02/09/73	Controlled	<i>Scotland</i>	18/05/92
<i>Ruff</i>	CE33211	1st Winter	<i>Wolferton</i>	22/08/78	Controlled	<i>Senegal</i>	20/02/85
<i>Bar-Tailed Godwit</i>	DS28165	Adult	<i>Snettisham</i>	29/08/68	Controlled	<i>Heacham</i>	06/12/98
<i>Curlew</i>	FS29511	2nd Summer	<i>Wolferton</i>	06/05/73	Dead	<i>Heacham</i>	14/12/95
<i>Spotted Redshank</i>	DR28508	2nd Summer	<i>Terrington</i>	27/07/75	Dead	<i>Morocco</i>	12/01/83
<i>Redshank</i>	P10010	Adult	<i>Terrington</i>	18/08/59	Controlled	<i>Terrington</i>	27/08/76
	DN20546	Adult	<i>Terrington</i>	11/08/87	Controlled	<i>Terrington</i>	29/08/04
<i>Greenshank</i>	DR96000	Adult	<i>Wolferton</i>	22/08/82	Controlled	<i>Denmark</i>	10/08/88
<i>Turnstone</i>	CC88754	Adult	<i>Terrington</i>	28/08/72	Controlled	<i>Heacham</i>	22/11/91

SPECIES LISTED IN *ITALICS* REFER TO HOLDERS OF THE NATIONAL RECORD

It is noteworthy that, for some of the species that we catch regularly, the longevity records are still being beaten fairly frequently - pointing to the fact that, for these species, expected maximum life spans have not yet been established. This was particularly true of Oystercatchers since, it seems, a good number of birds still survive since increased numbers were ringed following the advent of rocket/canon-netting in 1967; birds between 25 and 30 years old continue to be caught or recovered fairly regularly, and we may expect the 36 years record to be extended.

On the other hand it is particularly noticeable that the longevity record for a Wash-ringed Redshank has remained at 17yr 0m since 1976; The first to achieve this was P10010; a bird originally caught in the group's first-ever catch on 18/08/59, and only the 10<sup>th</sup> bird ringed by the WWRG! The second to make it to 17 years was just 9 days older than the first when it was controlled in 2004. P10010 held the national longevity record from 1976 until it was beaten elsewhere by an 18yr 5m old recovery in 1993 with the record then being extended to 19yr 10m in 1995. Such long-standing records would point to the assumption we have established the normal maximum life expectancy for Redshank; any living over 17 years being exceptional. This also looks to be the case for Red Knot (24yr 0m), Sanderling (17yr 7m), Dunlin (18yr 8m) and Ruddy Turnstone (19yr 2m), all of which have longevity records that have not changed for ten years or more, despite significant numbers being caught in the 1960s and 1970s

## Biggest number ever of departing Bar-tailed Godwits

- *From:* "Ricki Coughlan"
- *Date:* Fri, 8 Apr 2005 19:24:48 +1000

Up here on Roebuck Bay, Broome, we are currently experiencing the magic of the annual migration of waders, most of whom will end up in northern Asia and Siberia, some well inside the arctic circle, where they will breed before returning for some Aussie sunshine and tucker sometime around September. Their first stop is generally around the region of the Yellow Sea. Being 6,000 kilometers away, this journey usually takes 3 or 4 days flying between 60 and 75 km/h, in which time these fantastic birds will neither eat, sleep nor place a foot on the earth.

On Wednesday night, we experienced the largest known departures of Bar-tailed Godwits in one evening, when around 9,200 birds departed from Roebuck Bay. Departing flocks ranged from an enormous 3,500 individuals, down to around 200 or so. These incredible birds gather on the mudflats in huge and very vocal flocks and, when enough have heeded the call and joined their travelling partners, they collectively launch up to test the air. After circling the bay once or twice, these beautiful birds gain considerable height, all the while summing up conditions before forming massive lines of sometimes up to 300 or more birds. These lines gradually take on the classic huge "V" formations and begin to move off northward.

If you are at all a lover of nature, there is no way that you wont get goose-bumps and shed a tear before such magnificence. Having shared the bay for many months almost totally alone with these incredible birds, I find their departure to be a somewhat sad event too and I am already looking forward to welcoming my friends back in September.

Ricki, Broome Bird Observatory WA

## Biggest number ever of departing Bar-tailed Godwits correction

- *From:* "Ricki Coughlan"
- *Date:* Sat, 9 Apr 2005 05:58:35 +1000

It appears that I was in need of a little sleep when I put this posting together. The migratory waders will, in a manner of sorts sleep.

During high tides, many of these species actually do put significant portions of their brain to sleep as they roost along shorelines. However, they generally keep some parts quite conscious, in order to spot predators or respond to the movements of those birds around them that do - hence the occasional false alarm. During migration flights these birds employ similar modes of sleep and thus do spend considerable periods with various parts of their minds in sleep mode. (many Sydney motorists will be familiar with a function in human beings too!)

This of course is just one of many adaptations which selective forces have bestowed upon the migratory waders in order for them to achieve their journeys and all are equally amazing.

Ricki Broome 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 – Colin Reid – 19.02.05
- 1 Eastern Curlew – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton – 27.02.05
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pine Rivers Wetlands Reserve – Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell – 06.02.05
- 2 Bar-tailed Godwit – Fisherman Island – David Edwards & Ken Cowell – 26.02.05
- 3 Bar-tailed Godwit – Fisherman Island – Andrew Geering & Dawn Beck – 26.02.05
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Nudgee Beach – Caitlyn Peterson, Ken Cowell & Ivell Whyte – 03.03.05
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Pine Rivers Wetlands Reserve – Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell – 06.03.05
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Fisherman Island – David Edwards & Phil Cross – 12.03.05
- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Manly Boat Harbour – Colin Reid – 23.03.05
- 2 Grey-tailed Tattler – Fisherman Island – David Edwards & Floss Wainwright – 12.03.05
- 1 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – David Edwards & Ken Cowell – 12.03.05
- 1 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – Colin Reid – 23.03.05
- 1 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – Linda Cross & Dawn Beck – 10.04.05

### **Interstate & overseas Green leg flag sightings**

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Farewell Spit, Nelson, South Island, New Zealand – Rob Schuckard – 11.03.05
- 1 Great Knot – Chung-Yu Chiang, Hanpou, Changwha County, Taiwan, China

### **Orange Leg Flag Sightings**

- 1 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 13.03.05
- 2 Lesser Sand Plover – Fisherman Island – David Edwards & Floss Wainwright – 26.02.05

### **Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings**

- 1 Ruddy Turnstone with blue flag on upper left leg and metal band upper right leg – Bacchi Cay, Swain's Reef, N E of Gladstone – Paul O'Neill & Kiyo Ozaki et al – 10.01.04 (This bird was flagged at Lake Furen, Hokkaido, Japan)

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

- 1 Grey Plover with white flag lower left leg – Fisherman Island – Andrew Geering, Wayne Young & Dawn Beck – 26.02.05 (This bird was flagged on the Korean Peninsula, but has lost the orange flag, as have a number of other birds)
- 3 Terek Sandpiper with white flag upper left leg and blue flag lower left leg – Manly Boat Harbour – Colin Reid – 20.02.05 (These birds were flagged in Taipei-Kaohsiung, Taiwan, China)
- 2 Great Sand Plover with white and blue flags upper left leg – Johnstone River, Innisfail – John McLean – 22 & 27.02.05 and 04.03.05
- 1 Great Sand Plover with white and blue flags upper left leg – Johnstone River, Innisfail – John McLean – 28.03.05, 19.04.05 and 05.05.05

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

- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag lower right leg and metal band lower left leg – Fisherman Island – Andrew Geering & Dawn Beck – 26.02.05
- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag upper right leg and metal band lower right – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell – 06.03.05
- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag lower right leg – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – Dez Wells – 12.03.05
- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag lower right leg and metal band lower left leg – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – Dez Wells – 12.03.05
- 2 Caspian Tern with orange flag lower right leg – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 13.03.05
- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag lower right leg and metal band lower left leg – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 13.03.05
- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag lower right leg and metal band lower left leg – Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island – Dez Wells & Greg Nye – 09.04.05

- 1 Caspian Tern with orange flag lower right leg – Toorbul 1km North – Esther Townsend – 10.04.05  
1 Caspian Tern with orange flag lower right leg and metal band lower left leg – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve  
 – Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell – 07.05.05  
1 Little Tern – with blue flag upper left leg – Toorbul – Dez Wells – 13.03.05

### **Interesting sightings**

**Please note these sightings are not authenticated records.**

\* = to be submitted to BQ RAC \*\* = to be submitted to BARC

- 720 Grey-tailed Tattlers – Manly Boat Harbour – David Milton et al – 09.04.05  
1020 Grey-tailed Tattlers – Mathieson Homestead – John Knight & Dummell McDonald – 11.03.05  
145 Red-capped Plover – Garnett's Lagoon – John Knight – 11.03.05  
950 Lesser Sand Plover – Pioneer River Mackay – Les Thyer – 09.03.05  
720 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve – Ken Cowell & Floss Wainwright – 27.02.05  
192 Black-tailed Godwit – Deception Bay Mangrove – Phil & Linda Cross – 27.02.05  
39 Ruddy Turnstone – Manly Boat Harbour – Sandra Harding et al – 27.02.05  
810 Eastern Curlew – Mirrapool, Moreton Island – QWSG count – 25.02.05  
4 Little Curlew – Garnett's Lagoons – John Knight – 20.02.05  
1 Common Sandpiper (1<sup>st</sup> record) – Cobaki Retirement Village Wetland – Ian Watson & Eddie Kleiber –  
 13.04.05  
11 Bush Stone-curlew – Pioneer River, Mackay – Les Thyer – 07.04.05  
3075 Great Knot – Ross River Mouth – Peter Driscoll – 13.03.05  
51 Red-kneed Dotterel – Pine Rivers North – David Edwards – 09-04-05

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

- 1 Black-tailed Native Hen – The Crescent, Toorbul – Esther Townsend – 09.05.05  
1 Grey Goshawk (1<sup>st</sup> record) – Trutes Wetlands, Tweed Heads – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 06.05.05  
1 Brown Falcon – Kedron Brook Wetlands – Dez Wells – 09.04.05  
12 Plumed Whistling Duck – Hodges Lagoon, Mackay – Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell – 05.04.05  
3 Brolga (2 adults & 1 chick) – Hodges Lagoon, Mackay – Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell – 05.04.05  
8 Radjah Shelduck – Mackay Port Authority Wetland – Floss Wainwright & Ken Cowell – 03.04.05  
2 Black-necked Stork (1 adult & 1 juvenile) – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 13.03.05  
10 Wandering Whistling Duck (2 adults & 8 ducklings) – Cairns Airport – Keith Fisher – 13.03.05  
19 Wandering Whistling Duck (including ducklings) – Kingscliff Sewerage Plant – Ian Watson & Matthew  
 Angus – 11.02.05  
3510 White-winged Black Tern – Maroochy River – Jill Dening & Barb Dickson – 25.03.05  
7670 Common Tern – Maroochy River – Jill Dening & Barb Dickson – 25.03.05  
1820 Little Tern – Maroochy River – Jill Dening & Barb Dickson – 25.03.05  
1 Collared Sparrowhawk – Kingscliff Sewerage Plant – Ian Watson & Matthew Angus – 02.03.05  
4 Eastern Reef Egret (2 white & 2 grey) – Wickham Point – Barb Dickson – 27.02.05  
1239 Pied Cormorant – Days Gutter, Moreton Island – QWSG count – 25.02.02

## Count Programme by Linda Cross

I am quickly putting together this article before we head off to New Zealand for a couple of weeks holiday, where we hope it will not be too wet to enjoy the birding.

It has been a different matter here in southeast Queensland during recent months with very dry conditions prior to some good rainfalls in the second week of May. The arrival of a Black-tailed Native Hen at a site in The Crescent at Toorbul on 09.05.05 recorded by Esther Townsend is possibly due to the drier conditions of central and western Queensland. This might also be the case for Red-necked Avocets, which have turned up in much bigger numbers than previously recorded, with 646 at Deception Bay on 07.05.05, which is the highest total since beginning our counts at this site ten years ago. The count at Fisherman Island on 08.05.05 recorded 521 of the same species.

There are not as many sightings of **Double-banded Plover** to date, and they only appear to be at seven sites, which are listed below.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 at Deception Bay – 27.02.05       | 3 at Noosa River Sand Banks – 11.03.05 |
| 7 at Sandbanks Caloundra – 15.03.05 | 3 at Maroochy River – 25.03.05         |

33 at Geoff Skinner Reserve – 09.04.05  
 6 at Fisherman Island – 10.04.05  
 64 at Geoff Skinner Reserve – 07.05.05  
 1 at Fisherman Island – 08.05.05

1 at Point Halloran Reserve – 09.04.05  
 8 at Sandbanks 1 & 2 Caloundra – 07.05.05  
 7 at Point Halloran Reserve – 07.05.05

Some other counts of interest have been extracted from count sheets and appear below.

#### **Bar-tailed Godwit**

2714 at Reeders Point on 25.02.02

2023 at Mangrove Point south claypan on 11.03.05

#### **Pacific Golden Plover**

78 at Noosa River Sandbanks on 15.02.05  
 221 at Fisherman Island on 26.02.05  
 107 at Maroochy River Northshore on 11.03.05  
 83 at Sandbanks 1 & 2, Caloundra on 09.04.05

134 at Shellgrit Creek Mackay on 25.02.05  
 115 at Caboolture River Mouth on 27.02.05  
 70 at Point Halloran Reserve on 13.03.05

#### **Terek Sandpiper**

1020 at Mathieson Homestead on 26.02.05

340 at Manly Boat Harbour on 09.04.05

#### **Beach Stone-curlew**

2 at Reeders Point, Moreton Island on 25.02.05  
 2 at Maroochy River, Goat Island on 25.03.05  
 3 at Seaforth Beach, Mackay area on 08.04.05

2 at Pioneer River, Mackay on 09.03.05  
 3 at Pioneer River, Mackay on 07.04.05  
 5 at Cairns Airport on 09.04.05

#### **Sooty Oystercatcher**

2 at Tweed River Entrance on 18.12.04  
 2 at Pioneer River, Mackay on 25.02.05  
 3 at Pioneer River, Mackay on 09.03.05  
 12 at Finlayson Point, Mackay area on 11.03.05  
 3 at Tweed River Entrance on 18.03.05  
 3 at Seaforth Beach, Mackay area on 08.04.05  
 3 at Kerosene Inlet on 13.04.05

7 at Wickham Point on 18.12.04 & 27.02.05  
 4 at Point Vernon, Hervey Bay on 27.02.05  
 8 at Seaforth Beach, Mackay area on 11.03.05  
 2 at Bowen on 15.03.05  
 5 at Finlayson Point, Mackay area on 08.04.05  
 6 at Wickham Point on 09.04.05  
 4 at Tweed River Entrance on 22.04.05

#### **Wandering Tattler**

5 at Wickham Point on 27.02.05

4 at Wickham Point on 09.04.05

#### **Red-kneed Dotterel**

7 at Garnett's Lagoons on 11.03.05  
 6 at Garnett's Lagoons on 09.04.05  
 3 at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 07.05.05

7 at Buckley's Hole, Bribie Island on 03.04.05  
 9 at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 09.04.05  
 6 at Fisherman Island claypan on 08.05.05

#### **Breeding records**

Masked Lapwing (one on nest) – Cobaki Retirement Village Wetland – 03.05.05  
 Black-winged Stilt (a number of adults with chicks) – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 27.02.05  
 Black-fronted Dotterel – 1 sitting on 2 eggs – Cairns Airport – 13.11.04

Rod Edwards currently counts Empire Point for the count programme, but would like to take a break due to family and business commitments, so we are in need of someone to take over this count site. Interested parties can contact me direct.

Happy counting.  
 Linda Cross.

## Banding Record

A Caspian tern was found on the beach (near Lawrence near the mouth of the Clarence River, not Ballina, I am now advised) about a month ago now. It was thin, weak and extremely lice ridden. Despite the best efforts of WIRES carers it died four days later. It was ABBBS banded No. 082-43604, which makes it southern Victorian banded in 1982 and at 22 years after banding, makes it the oldest banded CATN return in Australia (the previous oldest was 16 years with only 3 over 10 years). The specimen was sent to the Australian Museum for study and archiving.

## RARE AND VAGRANT BIRD SIGHTINGS

It is possible that most members are not aware that the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) is a special interest group of the Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated (QOSI), also known as Birds Queensland (BQ). Although we have a separate committee and are self-funded, the group is still accountable to QOSI/BQ, our accounts are audited as part of QOSI/BQ and our minutes are given to the QOSI/BQ committee.

It is for the above reason that the QWSG should also conform to the way QOSI/BQ process the sightings records that they receive. There is a list of rare Queensland birds and all reported sightings of any species on that list should be referred to the Birds Queensland Records Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC) for consideration. Any records of new bird species for Queensland should also be submitted to this body for appraisal. Species in bold text and marked with asterisks are on the Review List for Birds Australia Records Committee (BARC). Reported sightings of these species or of any new Australian birds will automatically be forwarded to the national committee for appraisal.

**Unfortunately there is insufficient room in the newsletter to print the list or 'Rare bird report form', but a copy can be sent electronically, or by post. People can also down load rare bird report forms for both BQ RAC and BARC from the net or they can request them via the mail. Go to:**

<http://users.bigpond.net.au/palliser/barc/review-list.htm>

**If you have problems with downloads, or require the form and list please contact the following people:**

<b>Linda Cross</b>	email: <a href="mailto:xenus@big.net.au">xenus@big.net.au</a>	phone: 5495 2758
<b>David Edwards</b>	email: <a href="mailto:Gouldian@ozemail.com.au">Gouldian@ozemail.com.au</a>	phone: 3262 2017

Any rare birds recorded in QWSG newsletters from now on under the 'Interesting Sightings' section of Wader Watch will have the following above it:

***Please note these sightings are not authenticated records***

\* = to be submitted to BQ RAC                      \*\* = to be submitted to BARC

*Example:*

\* Ruff\*                      \*\* Dunlin\*\*

Linda Cross  
Count Co-ordinator  
on behalf of QWSG Committee.

*Editor's Note: I have run this again as I feel that it is important that we all understand the significance of the QWSG's information and it's accuracy to the other groups.*

## Saemangeum Reclamation Project

Good news from South Korea (Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005). A Court in Seoul has ruled that the Saemangeum Reclamation Project must be halted immediately for a full re-evaluation. The ruling was based on the fact that there is no longer a clear "end-use" for the land to be reclaimed. This is illegal under the Public Waters Act. The Court clearly recognized the immense and irreversible damage that would be done to the tidal-flat system by the reclamation.

For more information on the project go to  
<http://www.birdskorea.org/saemref.asp>  
for recent court opinions and government responses, go to  
<http://www.birdskorea.org/saemrf.asp#latnews>

This information is from Wetlands International – South Asia  
[www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/waterbirdstrategy](http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/waterbirdstrategy)

## Errors And Omissions In The Last Issue Of The Queensland Wader (No 51)

There is a number of errors and omissions in the last issue (No 51) of the Queensland Wader, which appear below:

Page 6 – “Future for Amity Count Site”. We neglected to acknowledge the author of the article, which was Martin Waugh.

Page 8 – “Port of Brisbane Corporation Count Results – 2004”. Paragraph seven, **S3B** site. 1523 Pacific Golden Plover should read 1523 Lesser Sand Plover.

Page 9 – “Port of Brisbane Corporation Count Results – 2004”. Acknowledgement list of counters that helped during the year. Dan Pedersen (Seawall Alliance) should read Dan Pedersen (WBM Oceanics).

Page 10 – “Spreadsheet Table”. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper that appears under unidentified wader should be removed.

Page 17 – “Count Programme – Beach Stone-curlew”. 1 at Muralag Beach, Bowen, should be removed as this sighting was on Tiwi Island and not Queensland.

Page 19 – “Lytton Roost Wader ID Day Report 16 January 2005”. Paragraph three, Black-necked Stint chicks, should read Black-necked Stilt chicks. Next paragraph under birds seen, Black-necked Stilt was omitted.

*Sorry about all these changes I must have been having an off day. David Edwards, Editor*

## WADER ID DAYS for Sept 2005

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September at Toorbul**

High tide at 13:37 hours (plus 40 mins later for Toorbul). Meeting time will be at 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.

Although this date might be early in the season this is a good time to see the Red Knot as they move through South East Queensland for Victoria and New Zealand. We hope to see some of the other birds in their changing plumage.

Check the next Newsletter for upcoming ID Days.

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

## New Zealand Conference

If you are planning to visit New Zealand for the Australasian Shorebird Conference the web site is now in operation. <http://osnz.org.nz/conference.htm>

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

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#### CORRESPONDENCE

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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.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription rates:  
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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 **Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 2005**

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 7:45pm start.

## QWSG MERDCHANDISE

Should you wish to purchase any of the QWSG Merchandise, items may be purchased at BQ Inc meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at the Royal Geographical Society Rooms **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

### No longer in stock:

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

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

### No longer in stock:

A Birdwatcher's Guide to Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture Shire.

However, can be obtained from WPSQ Caboolture branch by contacting Brian & Eileen Rigden on 07 5496 6644

### 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.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who have joined recently :

Laurel ALLSOP

Lyn FARRELL

David HANNAH

Judith HEWETT & Gladys CARMAN

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.



**Activities 2005**

**High Tides – Monthly Count Programme – 2005**

**Count Programme – 2005**

No count in June

- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Jul 1.90m at 11:45 **National Winter Count**
- Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 2.00m at 10:37
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Sep 2.08m at 09:32
- Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2.16m at 12:33
- Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2.22m at 12:06
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.34m at 11:08

Please send completed count sheets to Linda Cross, 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere, Qld. 4510

**Port of Brisbane Count Dates – 2005**

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	1.81m at 08:05	Meet 07:00
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	1.86m at 10:54	Meet 09:00
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1.93m at 09:50	Meet 08:00
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	1.96m at 08:46	Meet 07:00
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	2.04m at 13:18	Meet 11:30
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.31m at 11:28	Meet 09:40
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.39m at 10:31	Meet 08:40

**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 .....

Are you a member of Birds Queensland?.....

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