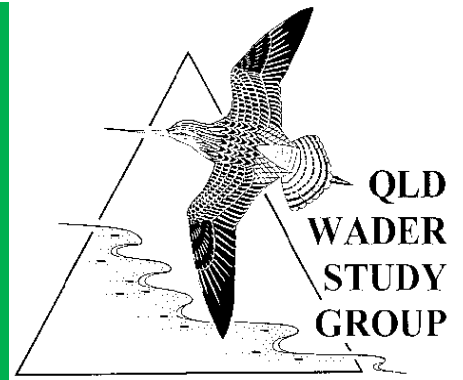


# QUEENSLAND WADER



Issue 126

December 2023, January, February 2024

Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a Division of  
*Queensland Ornithological Society Incorporated*. [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

## Four Full Days in Japan: An exchange visit to Yatsu-higata

The Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG) has been associated with the Wetland Affiliation Agreement between the Brisbane City Council and the Narashino City Council since 1998.

On Wednesday 25 February 1998, Brisbane City Council in Australia and the City of Narashino in Japan both signed the Narashino Affiliation Agreement to protect wetlands in both countries for migratory shorebirds. Both cities support internationally important wetlands, which are registered under the Ramsar Convention and form part of the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network.

The Narashino Affiliation Agreement embraces the idea of 'thinking globally and acting locally', creating awareness in both countries of the importance of wetland conservation and migratory shorebirds.

The agreement has the following goals:

1. To support joint research and the exchange of research in relation to wetland preservation and the protection of migratory shorebirds
2. To support the exchange and reciprocal training of persons involved in wetland protection
3. To support the education of students to increase their awareness and understanding through educational programs of the importance of protecting the natural environment
4. To support the development of domestic and international educational projects for the preservation of wetlands and the protection of migratory shorebirds. To support exchange visits by members of the respective local communities.

The Yatsu Higata Nature Observation Centre (YNOC) and staff at the Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre were chosen represent the two councils as they had very similar directions.

In order to support the exchange of research and information and activities by government and non-government organisations the Japan Wild Bird Association in Chiba Prefecture and Queensland Wader Study Group Queensland were linked to the affiliation.

1. Seek to participate in regular exchange visits and communications to support the agreement's strategies. Preferably in accordance with the following guidelines.

*a. Both cities support voluntary visits by centre staff, volunteers and citizens from groups involved in the agreement. Visits are not mandatory and will depend on funding and support from current administration. In case regular exchange visits are not possible, either city will provide advice to the other party for alternative programs. If visits are not possible, the exchange of information can be facilitated by internet appointments.*

This is a long-winded way to say that QWSG sent me to represent QWSG at the exchange visit this year, but also gives some information about the affiliation.

As the article's title says the exchange took place over four days.

There were representatives from the Boondall Wetlands Environmental staff and volunteers, twelve in all.

## **Day One**

We arrived in Japan at different times but met up at the Yatsu-Higata Nature Observation Centre on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October to start the visit.

To show the importance of the visit the Mayor of Narashino, Taisuke Miyamoto, was to meet us. However, he was called away to another meeting, but quite unexpectedly he made time to meet us all the next day. I have met the Mayor before and this again shows the importance given to the affiliation by the City of Narashino that he has consistently been available for these meetings.

The rest of the morning was an orientation of the centre, an amazing building, followed by a walk to the wetlands and surrounds to bird watch.



A view of the Yatsu-higata wetlands

The afternoon program followed a good Japanese lunch. We had a talk about Yatsu-higata its history and function within the local community. We were all asked to help in the making of Yoshizu, which is the making of a reed screen, though we made a smaller version that was shaped as a picture frame. During this time, we wandered around the centre looking at the various displays and wondering in amazement at the carved bird models, which are to size and to the weight of the bird depicted. Next was a story book session with the Yatsu volunteers reading a story. This was followed by a story written and published by Fiona Leydon about a puzzled Platypus. Fiona had had the book translated in to Japanese and presented several copies to the centre. It was a great hit.

The evening was finished off with a meal provided by the Wild Bird Society of Japan, Chiba district. A great way to finish a great day.

## **Day 2**

The second day started back at the Centre where we were met by the Junior Rangers of YNOC. The rangers enlist from the surrounding area and school. They are taught all aspect of the nature of Yatsu-higata and seem to stay within the group for a long time. Some of the adult volunteers started as rangers! We were divided into groups and then took part in the educational games that the junior ranger get to enjoy.

Once again, a great Japanese lunch.

The afternoon was open to the public and was titled "Forum on Wetland exchange". Four presentations were given, firstly in the speaker's native tongue and then translated. Many thanks to the translators, a marvellous job.

The presentations were:

- Brisbane City Council and the Narashino Agreement by Boondall wetland staff,
- Let's Enjoy wetland exchange by YNOC,
- QWSG: What is it and what does it do? by QWSG,
- Following Grey Tailed Tattlers flagged at Yatsu and Common Kingfisher breeding success at Yatsu by YNOC

Questions and chatting followed.

A free evening was allocated for this night. I know I appreciated the chance to rest.

### Day 3

Day three was a visit to the local elementary school, Yatsu Minami.

Twelve strangers walking into school was disruptive!

We meet with the educational director for the Narashino district and the senior staff of the school.

Next, we were all ushered in to their large auditorium under arches of paper flowers to meet the grade 3 and 4s.

The grade 3s gave a presentation on the foods, places and things to do in Narashino. All the students took part speaking in Japanese and then an English translation by the students.

The Grade 4s gave a presentation on the birds and wildlife that visit their school from Yatsu-higata and an overview of the migratory birds that they saw.

Next was school lunch served in the class room. Very good meal. I was in a classroom where the teacher spoke some English so I asked if there were any questions. The first was "How old are you?" fair enough as I am sure that they do not get to see many 70+ year old. bald, over-weight white men!! After some oohs the questions flowed. On finishing the meal all the students cleaned everything away and wiped down the classroom. No adults telling them what to do.

We said our goodbyes amidst lots of noise, waving and high fives. Lovely children with a sense of the nature close by. The teachers said that our visit had raised the interest in the English lessons.



Looking across Yatsu-higata towards the Yatsu Minami Elementary school and the high-rise buildings around.

The afternoon was a Great Reed Warbler Nest survey. The reed near the centre a breeding area for the Great Reed Bunting and YNOC searches through the reeds to find the nest of the previous year. If they find one they very carefully cut the nest with its supporting reed, out of the reed bed and take precise measurements. One was found this year but appeared to be a nest from previous years. The fun of the day is to watch others get into the waders and push through the reeds without getting too wet.

This evening we had a buffet meal provided by the Narashino City Council. Many thanks to them and they organising during our stay.

## Day 4

The last day, on paper, looked busy. And so, it was. We were to visit three areas:

- Kasai Rinkai Park,
- Ichikawa City Gyotoku Wild Bird Observatory,
- Funabashi Sambanze Seaside Park.

All of these sites have been built on reclaimed land from Tokyo Bay. All have some areas set aside for wildlife, but they are also available for recreation. With limited open spaces they are very popular at the weekends and public holidays.

Kasai Rinkai Park, is located off shore in the Edogawa Ward of Tokyo and opened in 1989. This Marine Park boasts some 212 hectares and stretches 2 kilometres into the Bay. It is a shallow mudflat hence the large area. The Marine area has two artificial beaches totalling about 800 metres in length. The East beach is restricted for wildlife. Over 120 bird species have been recorded and the Park was designated a Ramsar site in October 2018. This site is an important wintering site for migratory birds because large flocks of migratory birds visit here for feeding, resting and roosting. Especially regarding Greater Scaups and Great Crested Grebes, more than 1% of their regional population in Asia visit here.

Next, we moved to Ichikawa City Gyotoku Wild Bird Observatory. The Gyotoku Bird Observatory is a 56-hectare natural habitat for aquatic birds located in Ichikawa, Chiba, Japan. This area is known for its natural habitat and large numbers of waterbirds. The observatory itself is a wonderful building giving views of the wetland area nearby. There are many bush birds to be seen here as well. Attached is a small bird hospital.

The final destination for the day was Funabashi Sambanze Seaside Park. Sanbanze, located at the innermost part of Tokyo Bay, is a tidal flat and Asaumi area of about 1,800 ha. It is a place foraging and resting migratory birds, and many people come to bird watching. This is a large area of mudflats with an extensive beach. We managed to see a few more species and enjoyed the setting sun over the bay. The view of Mt Fuji was covered in clouds.

Exhausted we made our way back to Yatsu-higata. Throughout the day our hosts had been baffled by the lack of traffic and trips that were planned to take 45 minutes ended up being 20 mins. A pleasant surprise for Tokyo!? This meant that we arrived too early for the last meal. However, it gave everyone a chance to sit and recuperate.

The farewell dinner was hosted by YNOC. It was a “pot-luck” buffet so we had an array of different Japanese foods and some drinks too. Speeches were said and goodbyes giving but with the promise to meet again.

Three of us had been to YNOC before and knew the welcome we would be given and warmth that would be shown. I know that the new visitors will only speak of the time that they had and the friendships that they have made.



Some of the participants of the four days.

## So, what does an exchange like this achieve?

It does so many things on so many levels. The exchange of ideas and practical solutions, and ways of doing things means that the education taught at YNOC and Boondall Wetlands can only improve. Ideas from differing cultures can be blended and used to strengthen the messages that can be used by both young and old alike. It is not only the differences that are important but also the similarities. It shows that you are not alone, that there are ways to achieve.

This trip also shows the importance of educating the youth of the East Asian Australasian Flyway. Work that YNOC and Boondall do so well.

The affiliation agreement between Narashino City and the Brisbane City councils with its three levels of partnerships is very strong. I think that the agreement needs to be seen at a higher level here in Brisbane. The way the Narashino council joins in and works to fulfill its side of the agreement is admirable. The two council bodies, Boondall Wetlands and YNOC, show a high degree of participation having displays in their buildings showing the work each does. The WBS of J and the QWSG have undertaken joint banding projects in the past.

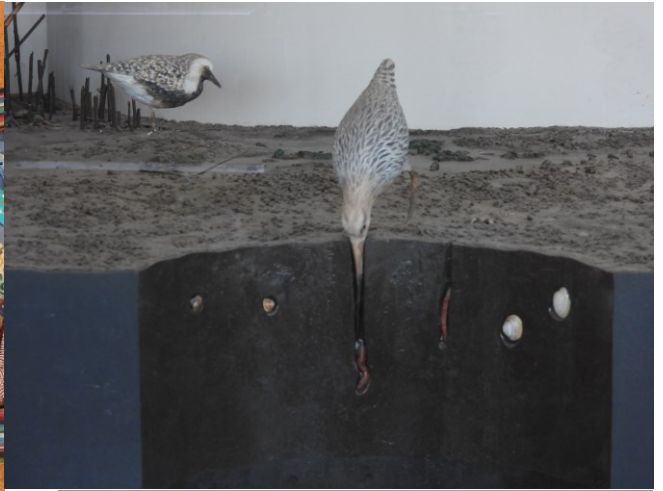
We also saw what can be do to help birds. Even reclaimed land has an important role in the preservation of species. We are so lucky to have the Ramsar site of Moreton Bay. Although pressured by developments and overuse it is a vast area compared with the two Ramsar sites we saw, Yatsu-higata and Kasai Rinkai Park.

For me the most important component of the exchange is the people. A cliché but the truth. We learn from each other. We can share thoughts and ideas, and the dreams for the birds and their wetlands. I think I talk for all who attended that we made a lot of close friends on this trip.

We hope to see the people from YNOC and Narashino council in twelve months' time when it is "our" turn to be hosts. If you feel you can help then keep an ear open for news of the trip.



YNOC's display for the QWSG



A variety of photos showing a couple of birds and the toys for the children to use at Yatsu-higata

## TAGGING 2023, BROOME, AUSTRALIA

Katherine Leung<sup>1</sup>, Bingrun Zhu<sup>1,2</sup>, Tong Mu<sup>3</sup> and Chris Hassell<sup>1,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Global Flyway Network, <sup>2</sup> Beijing Normal University, <sup>3</sup> Princeton University, <sup>4</sup> Australasian Wader Studies Group.

### Acknowledgements

Usually, the acknowledgements section goes at the end of the report.

Here in Broome the work that happens would never happen without the input of the volunteer team and therefore to us it makes sense to put those volunteers front and centre. The team for Tagging 2023 was a mix of volunteer and professionals and here we thank them all.

Adrian Boyle, Charlotte Burgoyne, Dianne Bennett, Franky O'Connor, Helen Macarthur, Ho-bun Yu, Jasmin Pratt, John Curran, Ka-man Or, Kerry Hadley, Marcel Klaassen, Maureen Christie, Maurice O'Connor, Michelle Willie, Mike Dawkins, Mo Verhoeven, Naiwen Zhang, Roz Jessop, Shang-xiao Cai, Teagan Fitzwater, Val Burgess, Yang Wu, and Ziyou Yang all for field work skills, dedication, and a great attitude throughout the hard and hot work.



It's all about teamwork! From setting up keeping cages (top left) and cannon net (top right) before catch, to processing of birds caught (bottom left) and folding up the shade cloth properly with everyone's hands on (bottom right). ©NWA Tagging 2023 Team

We acknowledge the Yawuru People via the offices of Nyamba Buru Yawuru Limited for permission to catch birds on the shores of Roebuck Bay, traditional lands of the Yawuru people, particularly Jason Fong and Dean Matthews.

Thank you to Ben, Jasmin, Lachlan and Olivia of Broome Bird Observatory for hosting us and being continually helpful with all and any requests, these were many and varied and were always met with a smile and a yes.

We thank Adrian, Helen, Kerry and, Maurice for the use of their cars. Maurice and George Swann for equipment loan. Helen and Kerry for supplying cakes, biscuits, fruit, and some meals.

We particularly thank Mike for running the catering.

And, a particular thanks to Roz for taking on the role of 'mentor leader' and being there as a support for Chris and Katherine.

The main funding for the project came from Beijing Normal University and Princeton University.

Further financial support came from Deakin University and the overseas and interstate participants themselves.

The motivation for this project came from the desire of Chris and Drew (Bingrun) to further explore the life history of the *melanuroides* subspecies of the Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. And after discussions with Tong Mu, it was decided this was the perfect opportunity to further Tong's studies on shorebirds use of mudflats. See appendix 1 and 2.



Black-tailed Godwit 2LYYY of the *melanuroides* subspecies is now carrying a GPS transmitter, ready to reveal its life to us. © NWA Tagging 2023 Team

### Field Work

The team gathered in the few days prior to catching commencing. The usual necessities of a big field work operation were conducted during those days, sorting gear, shopping for food, setting up a base camp. In this case outside the BBO Chalet with additional shade erected to attempt to keep the extremely high temperatures at bay! As BBO had a bird watching course on and needed the shadehouse. Our team moved into the shadehouse after the course had finished.



Gathering outside the chalet. © NWA Tagging 2023 Team



Drew making harnesses for his trackers (top); Shang-xiao adjusting the tracker harnesses in the field (bottom left); Shang-xiao and Yang smiling happily with their "plates" of trackers (bottom right). © NWA Tagging 2023



Team

The day before catching started was dedicated to a short practical demonstration of what to do when arriving at a fired net with birds in it. And presentations on the two tagging projects, 'Enhanced surveillance for HPAI Avian Flu', moult and aging of shorebirds and cannon netting and all its myriad safety issues for birds and people.



Various indoor and outdoor talks before the real operations. © NWA Tagging 2023 Team

Due to an early tide the cages and shade for the first catch were set up in the late afternoon of that first day, another way to keep us out of the heat of the middle of the day.



We went out to set net early in the morning before the day "heats up" (left), but seems the mossies think the same (right)! © NWA Tagging 2023 team

Catching birds in Roebuck Bay, while more difficult than it has been in previous years as the birds become more nervous from drones, birds of prey, and changing beach topography, it is still easier than some locations around the world.

However, that is if you are trying to catch 'shorebirds'. Catching a single species, in this case Black-tailed Godwits, is considerably more difficult. We knew this and so our first days were to be dedicated to trying to catch Black-tail Godwit.

**Day 1;** was unsuccessful for Black-tails, we fired on an ebbing tide over a small flock of Pied Stilts but they were too far away and we only got 2 and 2 Silver Gulls. All birds were bled and swabbed for AI. Only the stilts were banded and flagged.

**Day 2;** was unsuccessful for Black-tails but we got 100 small species so at least the Deakin University avian flu team were happy.

**Day 3;** 'OK just one more go for Black-tails'. Nope.

**Day 4;** was 'all in for Black-tails' with a net set of 2 nets side by side way below high tide. High risk high reward. But in this instance just the high risk. We didn't fire as we couldn't get birds in front of the net.



All in for Black-tails at Minton's Straight: Adrian and Kath discussing where to set the net (top left) while Mo and Tong passing equipment down the cliff (top right). The double nets set (bottom). © NWA Tagging 2023 Team

**Day 5;** A day off for the birds and the team. A deep breath.

**Day 6;** Our attention turned to Bar-tails, Great and Red Knot. And finally, success. Tags from Tong's study were deployed on Bar-tails (15), Red Knot (13).

**Day 7;** Another attempt for the three species we were successful with on Day 6. And once again success we had. Tags from Tongs study were deployed on Bar-tails (1), Great Knot (30), Red Knot (16).

**Day 8;** OK it's now or never for the Black-tails. Once we had caught on Day 7 Adrian and Drew had gone off to reccy for Black-tail catching opportunities. The news was 'where they have been all the time'. Well yes, but we haven't been able to get them in front of the net there! Still, that's where they were and so to the east end of Wader Beach we went. To say that Drew and I were nervous would be something of an understatement. But perseverance paid off and we caught 31 of them due to Kath counting very carefully through her scope, and Chris monitoring safety and flying birds. Drew had 30 tags! It was all carefully planned, there's no luck involved! Tagging for this day was Black-tails (29), Bar-tails (2), Great Knot (1).



Tagging of Bar-tail (top left) and Black-tail (top right) Godwits in operation. Tagged Red Knots resting in the keeping cage ready for release (bottom). © NWA Tagging 2023 Team

Overall, it was a huge success. The team’s hard work enabled us to deploy 107 of 110 tags, band, and flag or colour band 681 birds, and bleed and swab 536 birds for AI studies.

In total we had 1,003 birds under the fired nets but due to heat and for bird welfare we released some at the net. All birds were checked for bands and flags and no marked birds were released without their flags recorded.

SPECIES	NEW	RETRAP	Age 1 1st Year of Life	Age 2	Age 2+	Age 3+ 3rd year of life or older	TOTAL
Bar-tailed Godwit	58	12	2	5	0	63	70
Black-tailed Godwit	28	3	0	5	0	26	31
Broad-billed Sandpiper	13	0	1	2	0	10	13
Curlew Sandpiper	98	4	2	3	0	97	102
Greater Sand Plover	12	15	2	1	0	24	27
Great Knot	198	30	1	20	0	207	228
Grey-tailed Tattler	3	0	0	1	0	2	3
Lesser Sand Plover	3	0	0	1	0	2	3
Pied Stilt	2	0	1	0	1	0	2
Red-capped Plover	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Red Knot	45	11	2	4	0	50	56
Red-necked Stint	122	5	16	11	0	100	127
Ruddy Turnstone	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	10	0	0	1	0	9	10
Terek Sandpiper	7	0	0	1	0	6	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>681</b>

BIRDS CAUGHT BUT							

<b>NOT PROCESSED</b>							
Greater Sand Plover	30	0	na	na	na	na	30
Great Knot	120	2	na	na	na	na	120
Red-necked Stint	170	0	na	na	na	na	170
Silver Gull	2	0	na	na	na	na	2
	<b>322</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>322</b>

The tags were deployed over three days.

<b>TAGS DEPLOYED</b>				
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>16/10/2022</b>	<b>17/10/2022</b>	<b>18/10/2022</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	
Bar-tailed Godwit	15	1	2	<b>18</b>
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	29	<b>29</b>
Great Knot	0	30	1	<b>31</b>
Red Knot	13	16	0	<b>29</b>
				<b>107</b>



The AI surveillance team (left). Roz with one of the Pied Stilt (right). © NWA Tagging 2023 Team

### Scanning

On the day off and after catching had finished some dedicated scanning for flags and bands was undertaken. Over 390 colour-banded birds from the GFN long-term study were logged and 1,020 Broome ELF's and 26 of birds marked away from Broome representing birds from Chongming Dongtan (Shanghai), Taiwan, Hong Kong, Bohai Bay, Kamchatka, and South Australia.

### Tibetan Sand Plover

On day 2 we caught a total of 13 sand plovers, 11 Greater Sand Plovers and 2 Lesser Sand Plovers.

The Lesser Sand Plover has always been a complicated species with different 'groups' and different subspecies proposed, accepted and rejected over the years. It is now generally accepted that Lesser Sand Plover (sometimes called Mongolian Plover) is 2 distinct species, Siberian Sand-Plover and Tibetan Sand-Plover. Siberian is the one that is commonly recorded, generally in small numbers, here in Broome. Tibetan has never been reliably recorded here. Until now. On October 12 Adrian was banding the sand plovers and called Chris over.

The conversation went something like this.

**Adrian** – Holding the bird up for Chris to see. I just banded this as a lesser.

**Chris** – umm I think in the field I might go past that as a greater.

**Ady** – well it's clearly not a greater.

**Chris** – well it's clearly not a Siberian. Pause!

**Both** – Well, it's a Tibetan then!

They showed the bird to Kath, who is familiar with them, and she looked and said quite casually 'yeah that's a Tibetan'.

We look images and extra measurements. Subsequently Nigel Jackett has done some analysis of the measurements, and it seems very likely it is indeed a Tibetan Sand-Plover. But they are not easy to pin-down. We will need to submit the record to Birds Australia Rarities Committee. If needed, we have a blood sample so that will tell us once and for all. It's expensive to get that done though so we will decide on that in due course.



Siberian Sand-Plover vs Tibetan Sand-Plover (left). Confusing? Just look for the flag "SK" in the field (right). © NWA Tagging 2023 Team

**This research was carried out with authorisation from:**

The Western Australian Government Department of Primary Industries and Resources, Wildlife Animal Ethics Committee, Permit number: WAEC 23-08-52.

The Western Australian Government Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Regulation 25, license # FO25000260-4.

The Western Australian Government Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Section 40, license # TFA 2020-0011-3.

The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme, Banding Authority Class A, Endorsement Mist - and Cannon – nets. C Hassell # 2184 and K Leung # 3284.

9 other participants held A class licenses and 14 held C class licenses.

This was a collaborative project between the Australasian Wader Studies Group, Beijing Normal University, Global Flyway Network, and Princeton University.



Base camp at Quarry Beach, 16 Oct 23.



Moving the gazebo in the strong breeze (left); Lesser Sand Plovers paparazzi (right).



Chefs Mo and Drew at the barbecue (left); Tong trying to “connect” with the tagged Knots. © NWA Tagging 2023 Team

## Further Reading

**Mu, T., S. Cai, H. B. Peng, C. J. Hassell, A. Boyle, Z. Zhang, T. Piersma, and D. S. Wilcove. 2022.**

Evaluating staging habitat quality to advance the conservation of a declining migratory shorebird, Red Knot *Calidris canutus*. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 59:2084-2093.

**Mu, T., and D. S. Wilcove. 2020.**

Upper tidal flats are disproportionately important for the conservation of migratory shorebirds. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 287:20200278.

**Zhu, B.R., Verkuil, Y.I., Conklin, J.R., Yang, A., Lei, W., Alves, J.A., Hassell, C.J., Dorofeev, D., Zhang, Z. & Piersma, T., 2021a.**

Discovery of a morphologically and genetically distinct population of Black-tailed Godwits in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. *Ibis* 163: 448-462.

**Zhu, B.R., Verhoeven, M.A., Loonstra, A.J., Sanchez-Aguilar, L., Hassell, C.J., Leung, K.K., Lei, W., Zhang, Z. & Piersma, T., 2021b.**

Identification of breeding grounds and annual routines of the newly discovered *bohaili* subspecies of Black-tailed Godwits. *Emu-Austral Ornithology*, 121(4), pp.292-302.

**Zhu, B.R., Verhoeven, M.A., Saragoni, N.V., Zhang, Z. & Piersma, T., 2022.**

Current breeding distributions and predicted range shifts under climate change in two subspecies of Black-tailed Godwits in Asia. *Global Change Biology* 28: 5416-5426.

**Zhu, B.R., Verhoeven, M.A., Hassell, C.J., Leung, K.K., Dorofeev, D., Ma, Q., Eiamampai, K., Coleman, J.T., Tserenbat, U., Purev-Ochir, G. & Li, D., 2023.**

Predicting the non-breeding distributions of the two Asian subspecies of Black-tailed Godwit using morphological information. *Avian Research* 14: 100069.

## Editor's Note

*Many thanks for permission to use this article in full. Wonderful work!*

## In-flight Collision of Shorebirds by Arthur Keates

On 9 December, 2023, at the Manly Boat Harbour roost I observed an in-flight collision of shorebirds. Birds have been reported colliding with a variety of structures, including buildings, power lines and towers, wind turbines as well as vehicles and aircraft (Buchanan).

I had finished counting the shorebirds resulting in a total count of just over 2,000 birds made up of 21 species (17 migratory and 4 resident) ranging in size from the Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) to the Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*).

One hour 20 minutes after the peak of the high tide, almost the entire flock suddenly took to the air on a course taking them directly over me. The reason for the sudden explosion of birds was not apparent although it is likely an unseen raptor was the cause.

To my astonishment, about 20 birds collided as they started to gain altitude, reaching less than 10 m in height. The birds involved in the collision, Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) and Grey-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*), tumbled into the shallow water in front of me and for <10 seconds paddled to stay afloat, eventually managing to take to the air.

I was able to photograph some of the birds as they struggled to take off in the water, the last to fly off being a godwit that looked more stunned than the others.



Weather conditions were ideal, a fine sunny morning with only a gentle south-easterly breeze and so poor visibility was not the cause of the collision. I speculate that in the mayhem, a single bird not in sync with the others in the tight mixed species flock of <2,000 birds may well be the reason for the mishap.

Apart from 2 Far Eastern Curlew, none of the migratory species returned to the site. On previous occasions, I have witnessed shorebirds not returning to this site after a raptor, particularly a Peregrine Falcon, has passed overhead leading me to think a raptor was the cause of the commotion.

### Reference:

Buchanan Joseph B, Collisions and in-flight Calamities involving shorebirds in Western Washington, Washington Birds 11:22-27 (2011).



## Watch Out, Shorebirds About!

NSW Department of Planning and Environment - 8 September 2023

Watch your step because threatened shorebirds are nesting a little early this year on Port Stephens' sandy shores.



Little tern chicks (*Sternula albifrons*)

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Threatened Species Officer Katherine Howard said pied oystercatcher eggs have already been found at Port Stephens, which is a key breeding area.

'Endangered pied oystercatchers and little terns lay eggs in shallow scraped-out nests on beaches and sandy shores,' Ms Howard said. 'There are only around 450 nesting pairs of little terns in New South Wales, with the breeding population declining 2.6% each year from 2001 to 2020.'

'There are even fewer pied oystercatchers, which seems surprising as they are a distinctive shorebird and regularly seen, but there are less than 200 breeding pairs in New South Wales.'

'We need to share the shore with these beautiful birds and give them the space they need to raise their families. 'Shorebird eggs and chicks camouflage so well against the sand they are almost invisible and very easy to inadvertently step on or drive over.'

NPWS and its partners protect threatened beach-nesting birds by managing predators and preventing disturbance or accidental crushing by beach users, vehicles and dogs.

People are asked to keep away from nesting areas marked by signs or fences, always follow the local beach driving rules and only take dogs to designated dog beaches.

'Chicks don't necessarily stay within marked nesting areas, so we can reduce the risk of accidentally stepping on a chick by keeping to the wet sand,' she said.

Shorebirds nest on sandy beaches right along the NSW coastline, including Corrie Island Nature Reserve, Winda Woppa peninsula in Hawks Nest and the Worimi Conservation Lands.

Nest sites may be fenced or signed, while parts of some beaches, such as Corrie Island's, will be entirely closed to visitors during the breeding months from August to March, to allow these birds space and peace to raise their families.

Visitors are reminded that dogs are not allowed in any NPWS parks, including Corrie Island Nature Reserve.

Protection and monitoring of beach-nesting birds in Port Stephens is delivered by the NSW Government's Saving our Species program, NPWS, Biodiversity Conservation Division, MidCoast Council and volunteers from the Myall Koala and Environment Group. It is supported by Hunter Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

**Feathered facts**

- Endangered little terns migrate thousands of kilometres from eastern Asia to lay their eggs on Australian beaches every summer, usually arriving on NSW beaches between September and November.
- At less than 25cm long, they are the smallest terns in New South Wales.
- They have 'black caps' over white feathers with pale-grey wings.
- Pied oystercatchers are distinctive, black-and-white shorebirds with pink legs and red beaks. Almost always seen in pairs, they live in Australia year-round, and usually start nesting in August or September.
- 'Oystercatcher' is bit of a misnomer, as this species eats many other invertebrates, as well as oysters and other bivalve molluscs.
- Eggs of beach-nesting birds are speckled and blotched to provide camouflage but are still at risk of predators both on the ground and from the air. Predators of shorebird eggs include foxes, dogs, dingoes, ravens, silver gulls, and goannas.
- Beach-nesting birds lay their eggs in shallow scrapes in the sand, often on estuary entrance bars up and down the coast.

**Four steps to help keep shorebirds safe**

- Look out for bird nesting signs or fenced-off nesting areas on the beach, stay well clear of these areas and give the parent birds plenty of space.
- Walk dogs only on designated dog-friendly beaches and always keep them on a leash over summer.
- Drive only on designated vehicle beaches, stay out of nesting areas and follow all local beach-driving rules.
- Chicks are mobile and don't necessarily stay within fenced nesting areas. Stick to the wet sand to avoid accidentally stepping on a chick.

**How to: help our shorebird population**

From Bundaberg Now – November 2023



Pied oystercatcher at Dr Mays Island. Photo: Greg O'Neill.

Council offers a range of tips and advice to help protect the shorebird population which uses the region's coastline to feed, roost and breed.

The region is visited by 42 species of migratory shorebirds between 1 September and 30 April annually and is home to a further 18 species of shorebirds that live year-round and breed during the summer.

Migratory birds fly extraordinary distances from their breeding grounds and often arrive on the region's shores in poor condition.

Both migratory and resident shorebirds are vulnerable to disturbance and predation, especially during breeding when the eggs and chicks are camouflaged among beach debris.

**What can you do to protect shorebird population?**

- Learn to identify shorebirds and recognise their nests
- Don't approach feeding or nesting shorebirds
- Walk by the water's edge if you suspect nesting shorebirds
- Don't allow your dog to chase shorebirds
- Keep off the dunes
- Only drive on designated beaches. Drive below the most recent high tide and aim to drive within 2 hours of low tide
- Keep your pets secured at night to avoid them roaming the beach
- Remove all rubbish, including fish scraps to avoid attracting predators such as foxes and gulls that prey on shorebird chicks and eggs

Dr Mays Island in the Elliott River is a declared shorebird roosting and feeding area and is closed to the public from 1 September to 30 April each year.

Visitors and domestic animals are to remain outside the designated area of Dr Mays Island during this time.

## Students Embrace Shorebird Protection

From Bundaberg Now – November 2023

The next generation of nature lovers is embracing shorebird protection with enthusiasm at Elliott Heads State School's BundaWanDi Rangers Club. The club, made up of 25 students from grades one to six meets regularly to learn about Indigenous culture, the reef and the environment and to tend the school's garden.

Elliott Heads State School Year three teacher Tanya Daly runs the BundiWanDi Rangers Club and said the students became interested in shorebird protection after attending a Bundaberg Regional Council dune care program earlier in the year.

"Since we had Council come and speak to the children about the shorebirds landing at Dr Mays Island, we have taken on board how we can help the community know about it," Tanya said. "A lot of the children frequent the Elliott Heads beach and know about Dr Mays Island so we just wanted to make them aware as well that it is a protected area and why we need to protect the area with the shorebirds."

The students made artworks about shorebird protection for the school's Science Together stall to celebrate 20 years of the Reef Guardian School program.

Year six students Koda and Kayden are the BundaWanDi Ranger captains and said they liked learning about culture and the environment through their participation in the club. "We've learnt that there are many, many species of shorebirds and that they are very important to us and the ecosystem around our water and our waterways down here at Elliott Heads," Koda said. Kayden hopes to become a marine biologist when he is older and put together an informative presentation on shorebirds for the club. "I like going down to the beach and observing wildlife, there's a lot of beautiful things you can see out in the ocean now or near it," he said. "My favourite is the bar-tailed godwit."



The BundaWanDi Rangers Club is run by Elliott Heads State School's Tricia Little and Tanya Daly.

The Bundaberg Region is visited by 42 species of migratory shorebirds between 1 September and 30 April annually and is home to a further 18 species of shorebirds that live year-round and breed during the summer. Migratory birds fly extraordinary distances from their breeding grounds and often arrive on our shores in poor condition.

To protect the roosting shorebirds which travel extraordinary distances each year to rest on the region's coastline, Dr Mays Island at the mouth of the Elliott River is closed to the public from 1 September to 30 April each year.

#### Seasonal closure of Dr Mays Island

Both migratory and resident shorebirds on the region's coast are vulnerable to disturbance and predation, especially during breeding when the eggs and chicks are camouflaged among beach debris.

Dr Mays Island, located in the mouth of the Elliott River, is a declared shorebird roosting and feeding area that is closed to the public from 1 September to 30 April each year.

Due to changes in the tidal flow, Dr Mays Island is no longer cut off by water at high tide, placing the resting shorebirds at greater risk of disturbance from humans and animals.

Visitors to the beach are not permitted to enter the restricted area during the closure period and are required to keep dogs on a leash to prevent them straying into the restricted area.

Signs are placed in various points around the area to inform visitors of the closure.

Residents can learn more about Dr Mays Island and how to protect shorebirds here.

Divisional representative Councillor Tanya McLoughlin said it was fantastic to see the community do its part to help protect the shorebirds of the Bundaberg Region whether it be local school children raising awareness or residents volunteering for the dune care event. "It is great that the students are getting involved, particularly at a young age," Cr McLoughlin said.

#### Shorebird research

Among the visiting species is the critically endangered eastern curlew, which was the subject of recent University of Queensland (UQ) research into the effect of drones on shorebird populations.

UQ School of the Environment PhD candidate Joshua Wilson found that the eastern curlew was easily startled by drones flying overhead even as high as 120 metres above.

"This then had a domino effect on nearby species, which would also become startled and fly away in response to the eastern curlew's reaction," he said.

The researchers cautioned that if birds are regularly interrupted during the breeding and feeding season, they find it difficult to obtain the strength they need to survive.

## Count Programme by Linda Cross

We welcome 4 counters to the count programme. All 4 have been stand-in counters for sites in the Great Sandy Strait. It was remiss of me not to mention Alice and Frank Ekin earlier, who have been counting Garnet's Lagoons Susan River since August 2022 while John Knight recuperated after surgery, and they are still counting the site. They may well become the permanent counters for the sites. Anne De Bleser and Corinne Carpentier have been counting the Boonooroo sites since September 2023 while Cecile Espigole has been travelling. We hope that all 4 of them can continue to contribute to the count programme for a long time to come.

Records for Double-banded Plover on our shores before departing to their home ground in New Zealand came from 8 sites in August and September. All but 2 of the sites recorded numbers in single digits but 34 were counted at the Port of Brisbane on 06.08.23 and 20 at Wave Break Sand Island on the Gold Coast on 15.08.23. The last known sighting was of a single bird at Kakadu Beach Bribie Island on 03.09.23.

Far Eastern Curlew were the first of the migratory waders to return on the southward migration, arriving during the first week of August and recorded at 31 sites. Some of the highest counts were from Toorbul (280) on 05.08.23, Port of Brisbane (276) on 06.08.23, Maaroom (156) on 05.08.23 and Geoff Skinner Reserve (141) on 05.08.23. The September counts produced some higher counts from Toorbul (470) on 17.09.23, Boonooroo (384) on 16.09.23 and Port of Brisbane complex (383) on 17.09.23. In October even higher counts were recorded from Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (467) on 29.10.23, Port of Brisbane complex (363) on 15.10.23 and Oyster Point (239) on 22.10.23.

Sightings for Red Knot came from 9 sites during September and October with the highest count recorded at Maaroom (100) on 16.09.23 and 14.10.23. The next highest counts were from Port of Brisbane complex (74) on 17.09.23, Manly Harbour (66) on 28.09.23 and Queens Esplanade (39) on 16.10.23. Toorbul recorded (15) on 17.09.23 and Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (11) on 24.09.23. Counts for the remaining sites were in single digits.

After the adult migratory birds arrive during the southward migration some counters then start to check the flocks in October for returning juvenile birds which gives an indication on how successful they have been on the breeding grounds. The easiest species to do this exercise with is Bar-tailed Godwit as one can clearly see the white spotting on the backs of the juvenile birds.

In the table below are counts for juvenile birds from 3 species of migratory waders within flocks.

Site	Date	Migratory Species	Flock size	Juveniles in flock
Manly Harbour	04.10.2023	Eurasian Whimbrel	78	1
Manly Harbour	06.10.2023	Eurasian Whimbrel	91	1
Manly Harbour	17.10.2023	Eurasian Whimbrel	102	1
Geoff Skinner Reserve	29.10.2023	Eurasian Whimbrel	43	2
Queens Esplanade Thorneside	02.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	142	1
Manly Harbour	04.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	1590	8
Manly Harbour	06.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	1380	21
Manly Harbour	07.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	980	24
Queens Esplanade Thorneside	09.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	68	3
Manly Harbour	10.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	430	18
Manly Harbour	12.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	910	18
Queens Esplanade Thorneside	16.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	83	>6
Manly Harbour	17.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	1995	68 (likely more)
Manly Harbour	20.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	1970	<81
Manly Harbour	21.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	804	84
Oyster Point	22.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	170	32
Queens Esplanade Thorneside	24.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	74	7
Manly Harbour	25.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	650	52
Manly Harbour	26.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	1263	>40
Geoff Skinner Reserve	29.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	5	4
Oyster Point	31.10.2023	Bar-tailed Godwit	224	18
Manly Harbour	20.10.2023	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	105	1

As reported in the previous issue of Queensland Wader, Pied Stilt are still being recorded in good numbers and were reported from 44 sites during the last few months from southern Moreton Bay to Cairns. Highest counts came from Toorbul (993) on 05.08.23 and (723) on 02.09.23 followed by Port of Brisbane complex (575) on 06.08.23 and Maaroom (520) on 05.08.23. Other high counts included Kedron Brook Wetlands (316) on 17.09.23, Manly Harbour (298) on 02.09.23, Port of Brisbane complex (298) on 17.09.23, Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (267) on 08.10.23, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (230) on 05.08.23 and Luggage Point (223) on 17.09.23. Juvenile/immature birds were recorded at 7 of those sites and records submitted for this resident wader by some counters appear in the table below.

Also recorded in the table are 2 reports for Red-necked Avocet juveniles in flocks. This species was in much reduced numbers with records coming from 8 sites. The highest count reported came from a newly registered site (Coolum Parade Wetlands Newport) where 120 were counted on 15.09.23 followed by the Port of Brisbane complex with 91 recorded on 06.08.23.

Site	Date	Resident Species	Flock size	Juveniles in flock
Maaroom	05.08.2023	Pied Stilt	520	50%
Maaroom	02.09.2023	Pied Stilt	450	50%
Point Vernon Hervey Bary	03.09.2023	Pied Stilt	56	26
Godwin Beach	03.09.2023	Pied Stilt	235	Majority juveniles
Boonooroo	16.09.2023	Pied Stilt	42	19
Buckley's Hole Bribie Island	08.10.2023	Pied Stilt	267	Many juveniles
Point Vernon Hervey Bay	14.10.2023	Pied Stilt	8	1
Port of Brisbane	15.10.2023	Pied Stilt	143	25
Oyster Point	22.10.2023	Pied Stilt	25	16
Maaroom	05.08.2023	Red-necked Avocet	4	1
Port of Brisbane	15.10.2023	Red-necked Avocet	13	4

Thanks to the following counters for taking the time to check and record juvenile birds: John Bell, Donald and Lesley Bradley, Linda Cross, Arthur Keates, Penn Lloyd and Michael Strong.

There were only 4 reports for Grey Plover during August, September and October from 3 sites. Peter's Island north bank west Burdekin River in the Townsville region recorded (15) on 02.08.23, Boonooroo (14) on 02.09.23 and (17) on 16.09.23 and Port of Brisbane complex (2) on 17.09.23.

Common Sandpiper have been reported from 3 sites, Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (2) on 16.09.23, Cairns Esplanade (2 – rare on the esplanade) on 14.10.22 and Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (1) on 19.09.23.

The counter for Maaroom (John Bell) reported 3 interesting species during the count on 16.09.23. A single Pacific Golden Plover and Ruddy Turnstone (both being only the seventh sighting for the site since counting began in 1994). The Ruddy Turnstone sighting was last recorded in November 1996. The other species was Sanderling (8) which is the first record for the site.

**Some interesting migratory sightings** extracted from the last 3 months of counts appear below. Additional extracts (resident) can be found in the "Interesting wader sightings" section of the newsletter. Order as per IOC species list.

Pacific Golden Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (320) on 15.10.23 and (145) on 17.09.23 and Manly Harbour (94) on 26.10.23

Lesser Sand Plover: Port of Brisbane complex (666) on 15.10.23 and Geoff Skinner Reserve (278) on 14.10.23

Greater Sand Plover: O'Regan's Creek Hervey Bay (27) on 15.10.23 and Port of Brisbane (18) on 15.10.23

Eurasian Whimbrel: Toorbul (221) on 15.10.23, Port of Brisbane complex (169) on 17.09.23 and Lytton Claypan No.1 (139) on 15.0.23

Bar-tailed Godwit: Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (c 2,100) on 29.10.23, Manly Harbour (1,995) on 17.10.23 and Maaroom ((c 1,500) on 14.10.23

Black-tailed Godwit: Dohle's Rocks Road Pond (65) on 16.09.23 and Manly Harbour (31) on 20.10.23

Ruddy Turnstone: Manly Harbour (78) on 26.10.23

Great Knot: Maaroom (c1,000) on 14.10.23, Port of Brisbane complex (319) on 15.10.23, Burdekin River Delta mangroves Townsville region (290) on 02.08.23 and Cairns Esplanade (250) on 14.10.23

Broad-billed Sandpiper: Manly Harbour (8) on 21.10.23 and 26.10.23

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: Port of Brisbane complex (503) on 15.10.23 and Manly Harbour (246) on 21.10.23

Curlew Sandpiper: Port of Brisbane complex (2,029) on 15.10.23 and 861 on 17.09.23 and Manly Harbour (420) on 04.10.23

Red-necked Stint: Port of Brisbane complex (793) on 15.10.23 and Manly Harbour (440) on 17.10.23

Latham's Snipe: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (5) on 16.09.23, Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (5) on 08.10.23 and Dohle's Rocks Road Pond (1) on 16.09.23

Terek Sandpiper: Burdekin River Delta mangroves Townsville region (81) on 02.08.23, Manly Harbour (43 on 20.10.23 and Maaroom (33) on 16.09.23

Grey-tailed Tattler: Manly Harbour (490) on 26.10.23

Marsh Sandpiper: Boonooroo (16) on 20.10.23, Maaroom (14) on 14.10.23 and Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (10) on 14.10.23

Common Greenshank: Geoff Skinner Reserve (15) on 29.10.23, Bishop's Marsh (11 – uncommon at site) on 17.09.23, Boonooroo (8) on 20.10.23 and Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon on 14.10.23.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to include all articles in the paper version of the newsletter as there is a page limit for posting, so "Interesting wader sightings" and "Not waders but of interest anyway" sections may not appear. However, if you have an email address, please ask for the electronic version, which has all the articles that could not be included in the paper version. The electronic version is also in colour.

### **Breeding records:**

Beach Stone-curlew: Adult pair with newly hatched chick at nest, only a few days old at Noosa River mouth sandbanks on 04.10.23. Pair nesting at Kakadu Beach Bribie Island on 02.10.23 with report that chick hatched on 05.11.23.

Pied Oystercatcher: Adult pair with very young bird at Manly Harbour on 21.10.23. Adults with 2 chicks at Kakadu Beach Bribie Island on 02.10.23 and 2 newly hatched chicks and 2 juveniles with adult birds on 29.10.23

Pied Stilt: Numerous juveniles (see table earlier in this article) and 3 very young birds at Buckley's Hole on 08.10.23, which would suggest that the 3 young birds may have been part of local breeding rather than part of birds breeding in inland Australia.

Masked Lapwing: Pair of adults with 2 chicks at Toorbul on 15.10.23 and a pair with 3 chicks on 03.11.23. Adults with 2 chicks at Kakadu Beach Bribie Island on 02.10.23. Adults with 2 chicks about 2 weeks old at Maaroom on 16.09.23 (reported as fully grown on 14.10.23).

Red-capped Plover: Pair nesting at Manly Harbour on 26.10.23. Adults with 2 young and a nest with 1 egg at Noosa River mouth sandbanks on 21.08.23.

I have selected the count dates for 2024 (which appear at the end of this newsletter). If you have not received the schedule and tide chart for your site via email by the time you receive this newsletter, please contact me. Unfortunately, the weekend tides are not very favourable, and I have struggled to make selections. Please ensure you read my explanation that was included with the email.

We would like to remind members that the counter for Tweed Heads (Erina Forrest) is looking for anyone in the Gold Coast/Tweed Heads area that would be willing to help her conduct the counts. Please contact Erina by email at [erina.forrest@gmail.com](mailto:erina.forrest@gmail.com)

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: [xenus69@bigpond.com](mailto:xenus69@bigpond.com)

Snail mail: 40 Thompson Road, Bellmere. Qld 4510 Phone: 07 5495 2758 Mobile: 0490 080 340

A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. Please note that you can now enter flagged and banded sightings on the new website. If you prefer, you can email sightings to Jon Coleman (email address [legflags@waders.org.au](mailto:legflags@waders.org.au) . You can also contact Jon, Phil or I for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

Happy counting.

Linda Cross.

### Interesting resident wader sightings

Beach Stone-curlew: Barron River Cairns (3) on 19.09.23, Wave Break Sand Island Gold Coast (2) on 15.08.23, Maroochy River Goat Island (2) on 07.08.23, Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (2) on 06.08.23, Cairns Esplanade (1) on 14.10.23 and Burdekin River 1 Townsville region (1) on 02.08.23  
Other records from Noosa River mouth sandbanks and Kakadu Beach Bribie Island are noted in the count programme article.

Pied Oystercatcher: Dunwich North Stradbroke (76) on 05.08.23

Sooty Oystercatcher: Wickham Point (3) on 10.10.23, Maroochy River north shore (2) on 07.08.23, Port of Brisbane (2) on 06.08.23, Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (1) on 20.08.23 and Boonooroo (1) on 02.09.23

Red-kneed Dotterel: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (11) on 16.09.23 and Kedron Brook Wetlands (5) on 17.09.23

Red-capped Plover: O'Regan's Creek Hervey Bay (234) on 15.10.23, Gregory Road Hay's Inlet (73) on 05.08.23 and Port of Brisbane complex (72) on 15.10.23

Black-fronted Dotterel: Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (26) on 06.10.23, Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (17) on 16.09.23, Port of Brisbane complex (8) on 15.10.23, Redcliffe Airport north side (8) on 05.08.23 and Cairns Esplanade (8) on 04.08.23

Comb-crested Jacana: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (12) on 16.09.23 and Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (6) on 05.08.23

### Not waders but of interest anyway

Magpie Goose: Port of Brisbane complex (479) on 17.09.23

Pink-eared Duck: Dohle's Rocks Rd Pond (18) on 05.08.23

Australasian Shoveler: Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (1 – male) on 24.09.23 and 08.10.23

Pacific Black Duck: Port of Brisbane complex (334) on 17.09.23

Grey Teal: Port of Brisbane complex (861) on 15.10.23 and (522) on 17.09.23, Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (338) on 19.09.23 and Cairns Esplanade (9 – rare on the Esplanade) on 14.10.23

Chestnut Teal: Port of Brisbane complex (640) on 15.10.23 and (616) on 06.08.23, Luggage Point (450) on 15.10.23

Wonga Pigeon: O'Regan's Creek Hervey Bay (1 in the mangroves) on 16.09.23

Buff-banded Rail: Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (4) on 16.09.23 and Kakadu Beach Bribie Island (3) on 24.09.23

Spotless Crane: Buckley's Hole Bribie Island (3) on 24.09.23 and Kinka Wetlands Yeppoon (1) on 16.09.23

Silver Gull: Cairns Esplanade (295) on 14.10.23

Australian Tern: Coolum Parade Wetlands Newport (195) on 14.10.23

Greater Crested Tern: Pelican Waters Lamerough Creek (3,000) on 30.08.23

Lesser Crested Tern: O'Regan's Creek Hervey Bay (18) on 16.09.23 and Point Vernon Hervey Bay (7) on 03.09.23

Little Tern: O'Regan's Creek Hervey Bay (200) on 15.10.23 and Manly Harbour (146) on 17.10.23

Whiskered Tern: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (7) on 14.10.23 and Luggage Point (6) on 15.10.23

Black-necked Stork: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (3 – includes 1 juvenile) on 16.09.23

Australasian Darter: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (21) on 16.09.23

Australian Pied Cormorant: Queensland Aluminium Limited Gladstone (106 – 100 of them nesting) on 11.08.23

Great Cormorant: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (13) on 14.10.23

Glossy Ibis: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (12) on 16.09.23 and Bishop's Marsh Toorbul (1) on 05.08.23

Royal Spoonbill: Port of Brisbane complex (265) on 06.08.23

Yellow-billed Spoonbill: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River Hervey Bay (2) on 14.10.23

Black Bittern: Endeavour River claypan Cooktown (3) on 27.10.23

White-faced Heron: Nandeebie Park Cleveland (103) on 05.08.23

Australian Pelican: Garnet's Lagoons Susan River (154) on 14.10.23

Black-shouldered Kite: Port of Brisbane complex (1 – uncommon at site) on 06.08.23

Grey Goshawk: Cairns Esplanade (1) on 04.08.23

Brown Goshawk: Port of Brisbane complex (2) on 15.10.23, Luggage Point (1) on 15.10.23 and Manly Harbour (1) on 14.10.23

Black Kite: Godwin Beach (1) on 03.09.23

## Wader ID Days

All participants **MUST REGISTER** with the leaders in case ANY of these outings are cancelled. Please supply name, phone number and email address. This will enable the leaders to contact you if the outing is cancelled.

BQ has relaxed the need for its Covid-19 safety practices, but importantly, you **SHOULD NOT** attend the outing if you are feeling unwell.

### Wader ID Days - Manly Boat Harbour

#### **Saturday 3 February 2024**

Meeting time 1445

#### **Saturday 17 February 2024**

Meeting time 1515

#### **Sunday 3 March 2024**

Meeting time 1400

#### **Saturday 16 March**

Meeting time 1345

Meeting place: At the end of Davenport Dr, on the southern boundary of the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron Clubhouse.

To register for an outing, please send a text message to the leaders.

Under the conditions of the access agreement for the roost, participants must wear enclosed footwear and are responsible for their own health and safety, including:

- wearing protective clothing at all times (eg. hat, enclosed footwear, sunglasses) and using sunscreen
- drinking water to avoid dehydration
- using insect repellent if necessary
- telling a leader about any health issues that may affect taking part in the field trip
- if feeling unwell, or concerned about someone else being unwell, immediately telling a group leader or another participant
- immediately telling a group leader or another participant about any injury suffered (including a slip, trip, fall and snake bite) or hazard that may cause injury to someone.

Anyone who does not comply with these conditions will not be allowed to enter the site or asked to leave.

The gate will be locked after we enter the site and late arrivals will not be able to enter.

Participation in this field trip is strictly limited to those whose registration with the leaders is confirmed by the leaders.

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates 0490 951 661.



**Wader ID days Toorbul****Thursday 1 February at Toorbul**

2.05m high tide at 13:15 (half an hour later at Toorbul – 13:45). Meeting time 11:30 onwards.

**Thursday 29 February at Toorbul**

2.10m high tide at 12:04 (half an hour later at Toorbul – 12:34). Meeting time 11:00 onwards.

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane to the Donnybrook/Toorbul exit. 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.

Bring water, food and a chair. 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 us if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758. Linda's mobile: 0490 080 340

**Wader ID Day Kakadu Beach roost Bribie Island****Saturday 13 January 2024**

2.72m high tide at 11:03. Meeting time 09:00 onwards.

**Saturday 10 February 2024**

2.76m high tide at 10:00. Meeting time 08:00 onwards.

**Tuesday 12 March 2024**

2.55m high tide at 10:59. Meeting time 09:00 onwards

Take the Bruce Highway north from Brisbane and take the Bribie Island exit. Continue on this road to Bribie Island and follow the signs to Banksia Beach. When you arrive at the T-junction at Banksia Beach turn left and after a short distance turn right into the car park for the roost. A bird hide is positioned at both ends of the roost.

Bring morning tea and a chair. 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 us if you have any questions. Phil & Linda Cross 5495 2758. Linda's mobile: 0490 080 340

## ID Day Reports

### Manly Boat Harbour Shorebird Roost Report 22 October 2023

The strong winds leading up to this outing continued as a strong NNE resulted in less than favourable views as the roosting shorebirds hunkered down. However, with persistence, participants had reasonable views of 18 species of migratory shorebirds and 2 resident species.

Of most interest, good numbers of juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit (c 40 in a flock of c 600) were observed indicating the species has had a good breeding season.

The presence of Black tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits allowed observers to compare the respective diagnostic features of these species. While Great and Red Knots and Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers were also observed, comparison of the species was difficult in the windy conditions.

Although no overseas banded birds were found, green leg flags on several species fitted in south-east Queensland by QWSG's banding team were seen.

The following species were observed at the roost:

Australian Pelican, Little Black Cormorant, Little Pied Cormorant, Pied Stilt, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Silver Gull, Australian Tern, Caspian Tern and Little Tern.

by Arthur Keates

### Toorbul Wader ID Day Report 3rd November 2023

A total of 18 attendees joined us at the main Toorbul roost for this ID session. Weather conditions were fine, dry, calm and slightly humid.

Far Eastern Curlew were stretched out in front of the mangroves and a large congregation of other waders were at the roost. In total, 10 (7 migratory and 3 resident) wader species were viewed at the roost. Unusually, there were 2 extra species (Grey-tailed Tattler and Common Greenshank) within the flock that we rarely get to see during ID sessions at this roost and several Red Knot in partial breeding plumage making for a more interesting event.

We had been enjoying viewing the birds for around 40 minutes before something unknown frightened the flock and the godwits and knots left heading across the passage to Kakadu roost on Bribie Island. As we followed the flock flying across the passage, we could see that there were many waders already spread out along the roost. Counts for all species (except for the godwits) were completed before the disturbance. With mainly stilts and oystercatchers left at Toorbul, and after discussion with the group, about half of us headed to Bribie Island to continue viewing the birds.

At Kakadu it was clear that the flock was much larger than seen at Toorbul and it was unusual to see so many species intermingled. Here we added 2 more wader species (Beach Stone-curlew and Red-capped Plover) but unusually sand plover and stint were missing.

#### Birds seen at the main Toorbul roost and environs:

55 Black Swan at the roost (many more in the passage) 2 Maned Duck, 1 Pacific Black Duck, 9 Grey Teal, 2 Spotted Dove, 1 Peaceful Dove, 5 Pied Oystercatcher, 62 Pied Stilt (includes 38 juveniles in the flock), 5 Masked Lapwing (2 adults and 3 young) Bar-tailed Godwit, 32 Eurasian Whimbrel, 142 Far Eastern Curlew, 1 Common Greenshank, >28 Great Knot, 6 Red Knot, 4 Grey-Tailed Tattler, 1 Silver Gull, 2 Caspian Tern, 1 Australasian Darter F/O, 7 Australian White Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, 1 Little Egret, 1 Australian Pelican, 1 Swamp Harrier F/O, 2 Whistling Kite, 1 Brahminy Kite and 1 White-bellied Sea Eagle.

F/O – flying over. (H) – heard.

#### Birds seen at Kakadu Beach roost and environs:

4 Chestnut Teal, 1 Crested Pigeon, 1 Buff-banded Rail, 2 Beach Stone-curlew (1 on nest) 4 Pied Oystercatcher, 132 Pied Stilt, 2 Masked Lapwing, 3 Red-capped Plover, > 400 Far Eastern Curlew, > 900 Bar-tailed Godwit, 36 Great Knot, 3 Red Knot, 21 Silver Gull, 9 Australian Tern, 5 Caspian Tern, 3 Greater Crested Tern, 1 Australian Pied Cormorant, 2 Striated Heron, 1 Eastern Osprey and 3 White-bellied Sea Eagle.

Note: The Beach Stone-curlew egg hatched early the following morning (4 November 2023).

(F/O – Flying over, H - Heard).

By Linda Cross.

## Wader Watch by Jon Coleman

Welcome to wader watch. For the period August to 31st October 2023. Over this period a total of 847 records were received with the breakdown of those records shown below. The information reflects large numbers of birds returning from the northern hemisphere with many birds returning to Moreton Bay, along with a number of passage birds and foreign flagged birds.

### Green Leg Flag sightings seen in QLD

A total of 779 records of green flagged shorebirds were recorded during this period, many of these birds returning from the northern hemisphere.

### Green Leg Flag Sightings seen Interstate

Pied Oystercatcher

ALX – 01/09/2023, Woody Head, NSW: per ABBBS

APC – 13/07/2023, Lennox Head, NSW: per ABBBS

### Green Leg Flag Sightings seen Overseas

Bar-tailed Godwit

EC- 23/04/2023, Aphae Island, SOUTH KOREA: Seok-yi Kim

FDJ- 19/09/2023, Miranda, NEW ZEALAND: Tansy Bliss

HNK- 23-26/05/2023, St George Island, Alaska, USA: per AWSG

Greater Sandplover

FFJ – 20/08/2023, Tiaozini, Jiangsu, CHINA: Wenjie Xue

### Orange Leg Flag sightings seen in QLD

Bar-tailed Godwit

HVD – 13/09/2023, Wynnum Esplanade: Tony Cotter

YP – 28/09/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

YP – 30/09/2023, Lota Esplanade: Arthur Keates

YP – 02/10/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: Arthur Keates

YP – 06/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

### – 24/09/2023, Oyster Point: Jill Denning

Plain – 02/10/2023, Lota Esplanade: Tony Cotter

Plain – 07/10/2023, Moreton Island: Deborah Teys

CNP – 30/09/2023, Kakadu Beach: Terry Burgess

HBV – 06/10/2023, Oyster Point: Jill Denning

HBV – 08/10/2023, Oyster Point: Jill Denning

HCV – 15/10/2023, Lota Esplanade: Tony Cotter

Great Knot

Plain – 20/09/2023, Lota Esplanade: Tony Cotter

Plain – 28/09/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Plain – 30/09/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Plain – 06/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Plain – 15/10/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: Tony Cotter

Plain – 16/10/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: Arthur Keates

Plain – 20/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Plain – 21/10/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: Tony Cotter

## – 04/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Curlew Sandpiper

KHM - 06/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

KHM - 21/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

KHM - 25/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

KHM - 26/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Red-necked Stint

BML – 07/10/2023, Moreton Island: Deborah Teys

### Yellow Flagged Pied Oystercatchers from NSW

S7 – 31/10/2023, Oyster Point: Arthur Keates

**OVERSEAS FLAGGED BIRDS SEEN IN QLD****White over blue (Taiwan) leg flag sightings**

Curlew Sandpiper

6T – 04/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

6T – 20/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

6T – 21/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

6T – 25/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

6T – 26/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Terek Sandpiper

**Black over white or white over black (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings**

Great Knot

AA1 – 12/10/2023, Lota Esplanade: Tony Cotter

AA1 – 14/10/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: Tony Cotter

AA1 – 26/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

### – 15/10/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: Tony Cotter

J62 – 21/10/2023, Thorneside Esplanade: Tony Cotter

J62 – 21/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

J62 – 22/10/2023, West Geoff Skinner: Tony Cotter

J62 – 25/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

J62 – 26/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Curlew Sandpiper

Plain – 26/10/2023, Manly Harbour, Arthur Keates

Lesser Sandplover

Plain – 03/10/2023, Gables Point, Hervey Bay: Frank Ekin

**Blue over White and Blue (Japan) leg flag sightings**

Grey-tailed Tattler

Plain- 16/09/2023, Cairns Esplanade: Hidetoshi Kudo

T57 – 26/10/2023, Cairns Esplanade: Adrian Walsh

K95 - 19/10/2023, Cairns Esplanade: Adrian Walsh

Plain – 26/10/2023, Manly Harbour: Arthur Keates

Bar-tailed Godwit

Plain – 09/09/2023, Wunjunga: Wes Graffin

**White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**

Bar-tailed Godwit

white over white left tarsus, right tarsus Blue/Pink, right tibia metal – 28/09/2023, Lota Esplanade: Tony Cotter

white over white left tarsus, right tarsus Blue/Pink, right tibia metal – 07/10/2023, Lota Esplanade: Tony Cotter

Yellow over Red left tarsus, metal left tibia, right tarsus white over Red, right tibia green over white flag, Kakadu Beach: Mary Hynes

**Not a leg flag but of Interest**

On 27th October Penn Lloyd managed to read the metal band on a Pied Oystercatcher that had no leg flag. Amazingly this bird had been banded by Peter Driscoll at Nudgee Beach on 14th May 1995 making this bird over 28 years old.

The following people and organisations contributed the data used in this report with apologies for any inadvertent omission.

Adrian Reigan, Adrian Walsh, Anne De Bleser, Arthur Keates, Finley Johansen, Deborah Teys, Doug McVicar, Dr Peter Rothlisberg, Frank & Alice Ekin, Hidetoshi Kudo, Jack Worcester, Jacky Overington, Jill Denning, John Bell, Jun Matsui, Katie Hail-Jares, Kim Oliver, Linda Cross, Lucy Coleman, Mary Barram, Mary Hynes, Penn Lloyd, Rob Quinan, Sharon Holt, Tansy Bliss, Terry Burgess, Tony Cotter, Tony Habraken, Wayne Matthews, Wes Graffin, Zoe Farris.

Every record received is incredibly valuable so thank you to everyone who contributed their sightings. Please remember if your submitting sightings to use our web site and enter your records there as we can process them online, they're easy to enter and far easier to manage through that way. The web site is [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au) and click on the Report a Banded/ Leg Flagged Bird link on the home page. When completing a report only record what you see and don't assume anything in terms of which leg the flag is on, or any other details, we'll work with what you provide.

## Tibetan Sand-plover recorded again in Western Australia

A Tibetan sand plover was recorded for Roebuck Bay, Broome, Western Australian on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Here is the link to eBird: [Wader Beach \(Roebuck Bay\), Broome, WA, AU - eBird Hotspot](#) . The notes attached for the sighting are: "Bird banded a few days ago with yellow ELF SK. Measurement intermediate between Mongolian and Greater; in view, finer beak than Greater, but longer and stronger than Mongolian. Pending molecular confirmation."

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 there is another record for this species with the following notes and pic:

- One banded with 25% breeding plumage. Possibly a female as mask behind eye brownish.
- Limited white to forehead forming two small patches and none reaching base of bill. White also showed black flecking.
- Pale orange breast band without dark border. Orange around head and neck also pale orange.
- Bill long and slender without prominent nail or gonys. Bill nail/gonys 40-50% of exposed bill length.
- Upperparts medium brown though with pale fringing. Noticeably paler than the other bird trapped which I suspect could have been ssp. *stegmanni*.



James Kernnerly © Macaulay Library

### Description of Tibetan Sand plover from Birds of the World

Medium-sized plover with a pale throat, brown back, and white belly. Breeding adults have a black mask and a bright orange chest and neck; males average brighter than females. Non-breeding and immature birds are brownish above and white below, with a variable white forehead and eyebrow.

Compare with slightly larger Greater Sand-Plover; Tibetan is proportionally smaller-headed and darker-legged, and its shorter bill has a slight bulge at the tip. Smaller Kentish Plover can be similar in non-breeding plumage; Tibetan is taller and longer-legged, without Kentish's strong white neck band. Very difficult to distinguish from Siberian Sand-Plover, especially nonbreeding and immature birds, though identification can often be presumed by range.

In breeding plumage, note the more extensive black mask of Tibetan, typically lacking the white spot on the forehead of Siberian. In nonbreeding plumage, look for a generally broken breast band and clean white flanks in Tibetan. In areas of overlap many birds best left unidentified.

Breeds on margins of high-elevation lakes and rivers in China and Mongolia; winters on coastal mudflats, beaches, and inland lakes from Africa to Indonesia.

### Description of Tibetan Sand plover from Wikipedia

The Tibetan sand plover (*Charadrius atrifrons*) is a small wader in the plover family of birds, breeds in Pamir Mountains, Tian Shan, Tibetan Plateau and south Mongolia, winters in east and south Africa, south, east and southeast Asia.

It was previously considered conspecific with the Siberian (lesser) sand plover, and includes three subspecies: *C.a. atrifrons*, breeds in Tibet, *C.a. pamirensis* breeds in Pamir Mountains, and *C.a. schaeferi*, breeds in Qinghai.

A study published in 2022 proposed that the "mongolus" group of lesser sand plover is the sister group of greater sand plover, and "atrifrons" group is the sister group of them also. So, a taxonomic split of lesser sand plover was needed. The authors suggested new scientific and common English name for them:

Siberian sand plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), *C.m. mongolus* and *C.m. stegmanni*;

Tibetan sand plover (*Charadrius atrifrons*), *C.a. atrifrons*, *C.a. pamirensis* and *C.a. schaeferi*;

Desert sand plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*), currently greater sand plover.

IOC accepted the split and renaming of the lesser sand plover in 2023, erecting the Tibetan sand plover as a full species.

## Leucistic Pied Oystercatcher.



Noelene Roberts, Nelson, NZ, spent a day in Cairns, and saw and photographed, about 1.30pm on the 6th Nov., an unusually coloured oystercatcher. I thought that your group might be interested; have attached the photos; not cropped, just resized.

This bird was in BirdLife's Photographic Competition Shortlisted in Birds in the Landscape.



Taken by Ivell Whyte 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Toomullah Beach

## 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, Andrew Thelander [president@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Secretary, Janette Thurley [secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:secretary@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Treasurer, Wayne Lock [treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au)

The BQ AGM takes place this month so some details may change

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Shantala Brisbane, Jennifer Curry, Antoinette Drennan

Sundhareson Elango, Caroline Evans, Maria Fletcher, Brandon Hewitt

Finley Johannessen, Louie Johannessen, Peter Johannessen and Jane Ilsley

Helen Leonard, Kittani Morrison, Jonathan Rihan, Emily Scott

Lynne Sheehan, Jennifer Waithman, Joshua Wilson - *re-joined*, Bruce Wonka

**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!**

## Changes proposed to the Queensland Wader Study Group rules to be voted on at the QWSG 2023 AGM.

The present CQWSG Committee is proposing changes that affect the election of casual vacancies to Committee and to reflect the use of Count Data. At present the committee can only fill a casual vacancy the change will allow to add members to the committee. The new rule (18) is to clarify usage regarding data entered into the QWSG database.

There are five changes listed below, some changes reflect the insertion and the effects of these changes to other rules.

### CURRENT RULES relating to committee membership

7.2 The committee consists of:

- (a) the following office bearer positions:
  - (i) chairperson;
  - (ii) treasurer;
  - (iii) secretary; and
- (b) other members elected by members of QWSG.

11.5 The committee may appoint a member to fill a casual vacancy.

### Change 1 Amendment of rule 7.2

Rule 7.2(b)

omit, insert

(b) other members elected by members or appointed by the committee under rule 11.5.

### CURRENT RULE 9.4 (in part)

9.4 For subrule 9.3, a member is taken to be present at a committee meeting if the member:

### Change 2 Amendment of rule 9.4

omit

subrule

insert

rule

### Change 3 Replacement of rule 11.5

Rule 11.5

omit, insert

11.5 The committee may appoint a member:

- (a) to fill a casual vacancy in the office of a committee member (whether an office bearer position or otherwise); or
- (b) to be a committee member in addition to the members elected at an annual general meeting.

11.6 However, the committee must not appoint a member under rule 11.5 if the resolution for the member's nomination to a position as a committee member was not passed at the immediately preceding annual general meeting.

### Change 4 Renumber rules 18 and 19

Rules 18 and 19

renumber as rules 19 and 20.

### Change 5 Insertion of new rule 18

After rule 17

insert

### 18 Count data

18.1 When a member conducts a count of birds and the count data is entered in QWSG's count database:

- (a) the intellectual property rights in the data vest in QWSG; and
- (b) QWSG may deal with the data as it considers appropriate for achieving its objectives.

18.2 However, rule 18.1:

- (a) applies subject to an agreement to the contrary; and

Example for paragraph (a):

QWSG contracts with a government agency to conduct counts of a Ramsar site.

- (b) does not prevent the member who conducted a count from publishing or otherwise using the data (with or without modification).

18.3 To remove doubt, this rule applies to all count data entered in the database regardless of when the data is entered.

**Chairperson Note re: AGM and New Committee Members**

It is coming up to that time of year for the AGM and leading up to this period the Committee is looking to find out who wishes to stay or leave. As ever we are hoping to get new blood on to the Committee.

I sound as if I am continually repeating myself but, we are finding that we are an ever-aging group and have a concern about the future running of our group. It is not just the Committee that is giving us concern but the running of the various events that the group arranges is in jeopardy.

There are three major arms to the QWSG 1) Counts 2) Education and 3) Banding. At the moment counts and banding are very strong while the education section needs more drive. However, the position of Count Coordinator NEEDS to be filled / covered. Linda has done an amazing job over many years and needs to stand down. If this were to happen with no one to take over one of the core elements of QWSG would cease to exist!!!

Please consider joining us either on the committee or as a helper with counts, ID Days, educational talks, write articles for the Newsletter or even attend meetings as a QWSG Rep.

It might seem to be a daunting prospect to join a group of people who have been working together for a long time. We would really like to see some new faces with new ideas and experiences. You are not expected to be thrown in at the deep end but can learn on the job.

If you are interested, please contact one of the Committee to see what is involved in being part of the Committee. All are welcome.

In anticipation David Edwards, Chairperson QWSG

**Notice of the QWSG’s AGM for 2022**

The 2023 QWSG AGM will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 at 8:30am for a 9:00am start at Swan Lake Parking Area at the Port of Brisbane, on Lucinda Way.

If the weather is bad, we will make arrangements for another time or a Zoom meeting

Please email the chairperson if you are coming along, plus let me know if you require a nomination form for a committee position. [chairperson@waders.org.au](mailto:chairperson@waders.org.au) or [secretary@waders.org.au](mailto:secretary@waders.org.au)

**NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON QWSG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Name of Nominee: .....

Position: .....

Name of Proposer: .....

Name of Secunder: .....

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

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



## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER

The Official Quarterly Publication of Queensland Wader Study Group

Website [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>

### MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG

CHAIRPERSON:	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017	<a href="mailto:chairperson@waders.org.au">chairperson@waders.org.au</a>
TREASURER	Judith Giles	0428 545 801	<a href="mailto:treasurer@waders.org.au">treasurer@waders.org.au</a>
SECRETARY:	Peter Rothlisberg	(07) 3822 3759	<a href="mailto:secretary@waders.org.au">secretary@waders.org.au</a>

### QWSG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robert Bush	0404 805 558	Dierdre Chrzescijanski	0439749149
Jon Coleman	0467 785 682	Peter Driscoll	0418 212 627
Paul Finn	0480 177 792	Andy Jensen	0404 348638

**Note that QWSG AGM takes place after the issuing of this Newsletter so some details may change.**

COUNT COORDINATOR:	Linda Cross	07 5495 2758	Email	<a href="mailto:counts@waders.org.au">counts@waders.org.au</a>
LEG FLAG COORDINATOR	Jon Coleman	0467 785 682	Email	<a href="mailto:legflags@waders.org.au">legflags@waders.org.au</a>
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Brenda Smith		Email	<a href="mailto:membership@waders.org.au">membership@waders.org.au</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	David Edwards	(07) 3262 2017	Email	<a href="mailto:gouldian6@bigpond.com">gouldian6@bigpond.com</a>

BQ PRESIDENT      Andrew Thelander      Email [president@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)

CORRESPONDENCE    All correspondence to:  
                                  The QWSG Secretary,  
                                  PO Box 3138,  
                                  SOUTH BRISBANE,  
                                  QLD 4101.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please notify the Membership Secretary as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS      Annual subscription rates:  
                                  Single: \$15:00  
                                  Student/Pensioner: \$10:00  
                                  Family: \$25:00  
                                  A receipt will be forwarded if required.

Forward application to:  
                                  Membership Secretary or      QWSG Treasurer,  
                                  PO Box 3138,  
                                  SOUTH BRISBANE,  
                                  QLD 4101.

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, and only one further newsletter will be sent after expiry of your subscription.

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Contributions should be addressed to:

David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011  
 or E-mail to: [gouldian6@bigpond.com](mailto:gouldian6@bigpond.com)

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

PRINTED BY: PrintCorp Pty Ltd.  
[admin@printcorp.net.au](mailto:admin@printcorp.net.au)



# Count Activities – 2023-24

## QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2023-24

Sat 9 Dec	2.06m at 06:55				
Sat 27 Jan	2.45m at 10:41	Nat Summer Count	Sat 27 Jul	2.04m at 14:18	
Sat 24 Feb	2.42m at 09:43		Sat 24 Aug	2.19m at 12:58	
Sat 23 Mar	2.32m at 08:37		Sat 21 Sep	2.38m at 11:46	
Sat 20 Apr	2.18m at 07:17		Sat 5 Oct	2.19m at 10:48	
Sat 25 May	1.82m at 10:20		Sat 9 Nov	2.17m at 15:14	
Sat 29 Jun	1.99m at 15:51	Natl Winter Count	Sat 7 Dec	2.33m at 13:45	

Counters Rockhampton and north – please select a date as close as possible to the count programme Sat day with suitable tides to enable you to complete your counts.

## Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2023-24

Sun 10 Dec	2.22m at 07:38	Meet 06:10			
Sun 28 Jan	2.42m at 11:11	Meet 10:00	<b>Nat Sum Count</b>	Sun 28 Jul	2.07m at 15:23 Meet 14:00
Sun 25 Feb	2.41m at 10:13	Meet 09:00		Sun 25 Aug	2.16m at 13:52 Meet 12:50
Sun 24 Mar	2.32m at 09:09	Meet 08:00		Sun 22 Sep	2.34m at 12:34 Meet 11:30
Sun 21 Apr	2.19m at 07:54	Meet 06:55		Sun 6 Oct	2.18m at 11:22 Meet 10:20
Sun 26 May	1.77m at 11:04	Meet 10:00		Sun 10 Nov	2.21m at 16:22 Meet 15:00
Sun 30 Jun	2.12m at 16:59	Meet 15:00	<b>Nat Win Count</b>	Sun 8 Dec	2.28m at 14:41 Meet 13:40

## MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

A reminder to members: please check to see if your renewal is due and please let the Treasurer know if you change your contact details.

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

Title:..... First name: ..... Surname: .....

Address:..... Membership: \$.....

..... Postcode:..... Donation: \$.....

Payment enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require a receipt? Yes / No

Phone: (Home) ..... (Work) ..... (Mobile).....

Email .....

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 :.....)

You will receive your newsletter (colour version) by E-mail.....

Signature ..... Date:.....

Please email this form to: [membership@waders.org.au](mailto:membership@waders.org.au)

Direct funds transfer to:

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia)

Account number: 08305297

OR

Please post this form to: QWSG Membership Secretary

PO Box 3138,

SOUTH BRISBANE,

QLD 4101.

**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!**