

WPSQ Membership

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Your special interests / skills:

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Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ)

95 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

You can also subscribe online at www.wildlife.org.au

What is the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland?

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Wildlife Queensland or WPSQ) is a community environmental group with a wonderfully diverse membership drawn together by a common interest in wildlife. It was started in 1962 by naturalist David Fleay, poet Judith Wright, artist Kathleen MacArthur and publisher Brian Clouston who decided to act on their concerns about Australia's precious and vanishing natural environment. The society aims to protect all Australian wildlife, through education, consultation and legislation.

Our society is made up of a head office located in Brisbane while branches are spread throughout Queensland. Our head office largely focuses on matters on a regional or state level while branches are mainly focused on activities in their local area. They combine their efforts on issues of importance to all. Projects aim to involve other likeminded groups and individuals throughout the state.

What can a community group do?

Plenty. As individuals, we have unique talents and experiences. As a community group we can learn from each other, pool our talents and be more effective and influential. Working together we can ensure wildlife interests are represented in planning. Just being a member lends your weight to our efforts. Members of our society are drawn from all around Australia as well as from overseas.

Bayside Branch

Bayside Branch hosts monthly meetings with expert guest presenters, conducts workshops, arranges family outings such as spotlighting, bushwalks and bird watching. Each year we participate in fauna surveys and run projects many involving the community. Publishing our monthly newsletter and diary plus the bi-monthly koala news keep members informed on issues and coming events as well as providing information on specific wildlife.

VOLUNTEERS: *As we are a community-based non-profit organisation your help would be welcome in a number of areas. Please contact us to find out more.*

Email: bayside@wildlife.org.au
<http://branches.wildlife.org.au/bayside>



Sharing the Beach



with **Beach
Curlews**



Beach curlew

The Beach curlew or Beach-thick-knee is found throughout its Australian range which extends more or less all round our continental coastline north of latitude 30°. This handsome wader certainly needs friends, as the population appears to be in serious decline.

The bird stands some 54cm tall, with several notable features such as its robust bill, white strip above and below the eye and grey white and brown plumage. It is readily distinguishable from other shore birds and its cousin the Bush Thick-knee (see “Cry of the Curlew” brochure).

Beach Thick-knees prefer foreshore areas, particularly on the less disturbed remote beaches. Beaches are used for both breeding and feeding purposes.

Although these birds were once seen regularly along our beaches they are now rarely seen, subsequently the status of this species is regarded as vulnerable.

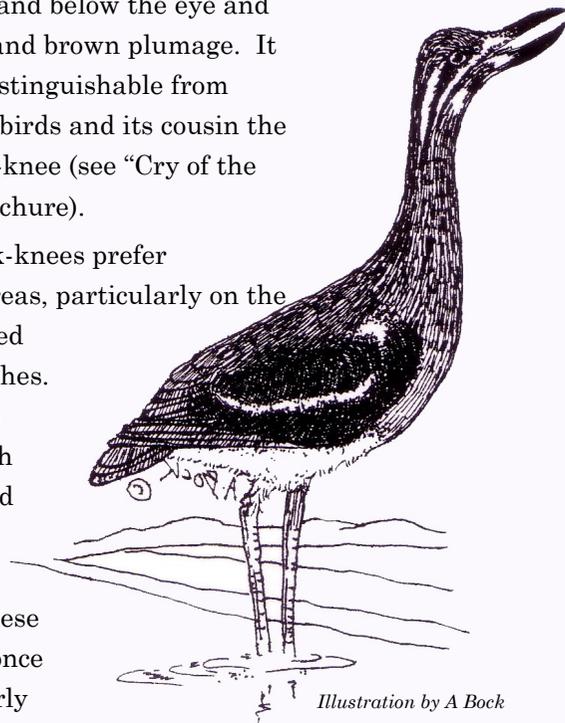


Illustration by A Bock

It is at night that Beach Thick-knees are said to be most active in their foraging for crabs and other crustaceans likely to be found among the litter that invariably accumulates along the line of the high-water mark on beaches, on mud-flats, in rock pools and under mangroves.

This is also the time when these birds give voice to their strange of weer-joo, a call not unlike that of their bush cousin the Bush Thick-knee. By day, however when not busy raising chicks, adult birds appear to be comparatively inactive and may be seen squatting or just standing about loafing, often on one leg!

Threats

Sadly, like so many of our other feathered friends, Beach Thick-knees suffer losses, not only from natural causes but from unnatural causes as well. Increased disturbance, particularly 4WD vehicles on beaches and predation by the infamous four introduced species namely, cats, dogs, foxes and feral pigs.

The restricted habitat preference and the sedentary nature makes finding and



To achieve a comprehensive understanding of these birds in our region we all need to be aware of their requirements and ensure our own behaviour will not impact on their successful breeding. This is particularly important as in any one year the hen only lays a single egg on open ground with virtually no protection other than that afforded by the parents.

How to be a Friend

1. If you live in or visit an area near Beach Thick-knee habitat, please try not to disturb the birds, particularly during the breeding season which is roughly from October to April.
2. If walking along the beach keep your dog under control. It would be best if the animal could be kept on a leash.
3. If driving on any foreshore area keep a good look out for all shore birds nests and always avoid disturbance where possible.

WPSQBB would like to record all sightings of the Beach curlew. You could assist by sending details of sightings to:

WPSQ Bayside Branch
PO Box 427 Capalaba QLD 4157
Or email bayside@wildlife.org.au
Or web branches.wildlife.org.au