

MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Threatened wanderers of our wetlands and beaches



We thank Jeff Davies for providing artwork of the birds.

SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION

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| 1 BAR-TAILED GODWIT 42cm | 14 MARSH SANDPIPER 24cm |
| 2 BLACK-TAILED GODWIT 39cm | 15 ORIENTAL PLOVER 25cm |
| 3 BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER 17cm | 16 ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE 24cm |
| 4 COMMON GREENSHANK 33cm | 17 PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER 25cm |
| 5 COMMON SANDPIPER 20cm | 18 PECTORAL SANDPIPER 21cm |
| 6 CURLEW SANDPIPER 20cm | 19 RED KNOT 24cm |
| 7 FAR EASTERN CURLEW 63cm | 20 RED-NECKED STINT 15cm |
| 8 GREAT KNOT 27cm | 21 RUDDY TURNSTONE 23cm |
| 9 GREATER SAND PLOVER 21cm | 22 SANDERLING 21cm |
| 10 GREY PLOVER 29cm | 23 SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER 20cm |
| 11 GREY-TAILED TATTLER 25cm | 24 TEREK SANDPIPER 23cm |
| 12 LESSER SAND PLOVER 19cm | 25 WHIMBREL 42cm |
| 13 LITTLE CURLEW 29cm | 26 WOOD SANDPIPER 21cm |

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Every summer, Australia's beaches, mudflats and inland wetlands are enriched by a very special tribe of travellers: the *migratory shorebirds*. To escape the freezing northern winter each year, 36 species of shorebirds fly over 10,000 kilometres to Australia from the Arctic breeding grounds.

When they arrive here they join a band of 18 beautiful *resident shorebirds*, all of which breed on our shores and wetlands. With their long legs and uniquely shaped bills, shorebirds are perfectly adapted to feast on the worms, shellfish and crabs they find hidden in the sand and mud.

Sadly our migratory shorebirds are in serious trouble. Many have been added to the Red List of Threatened Species in the last ten years because the places where they feed and roost are disappearing, BirdLife Australia is working to keep them safe, and you can help!

- ▶ When you walk, play or go fishing on the beach, stay away from birds. Pay attention to signs marking important areas.
- ▶ Often BirdLife volunteers and other groups will also put signs to help you use the beach without disturbing the birds.
- ▶ Keep beaches and wetlands for people and birds - do not drive on them.
- ▶ Keep dogs on leash unless permitted.
- ▶ Become a shorebird-watcher and join our Australian Shorebird Monitoring activities.
- ▶ Make your voice count for shorebird conservation as a member of BirdLife Australia.

If you would like to learn more about our Australian Shorebird Monitoring

Please visit

www.birdlife.org.au/shorebirds
(or contact your local branch)



THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY

Every year more than 10 million shorebirds travel back and forth along migration routes of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (dark blue grey) flying between their Arctic breeding grounds (yellow) and their Australasian holiday homes (red ochre).

On this journey they rely on a small number of highly threatened rest areas, such as the Yellow Sea. Without these resting places the birds cannot continue on their long journey.

BirdLife Australia is working to give shorebirds a safe haven, both in Australia and overseas.



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