

## How to get involved

We aim to survey at least 150 key shorebird sites annually in order to detect population trends. The main counting effort occurs in summer from November to February when migratory bird numbers are at their peak. Other counts are held during winter, and at some sites monthly counts are conducted. We rely on dedicated volunteers to collect this valuable data. If you'd like to volunteer, contact the Shorebirds 2020 team at Birds Australia.

## [www.shorebirds.org.au](http://www.shorebirds.org.au)

The Shorebirds 2020 website features a Shorebird Counting Toolkit with all the resources needed to get involved in Shorebirds 2020 counting efforts, learn more about shorebirds, and how to identify and count them. The website also contains lots of other resources to guide interested groups in planning their own shorebird conservation projects.



## Workshops

Shorebird ID workshops are carried out around the country by the Shorebirds 2020 team. These offer a great introduction to shorebird counting, as well as the opportunity to meet other shorebird enthusiasts in your area.



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



This project is supported by Birds Australia and the Australasian Wader Study Group, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

*This page: Banded Stilts © Glenn Ehmke  
Cover image: Black-tailed Godwit © Chris Tzaros*

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# Shorebirds 2020

## National Shorebird Monitoring Program



## Shorebirds 2020

Shorebird monitoring has been carried out at key sites around Australia since 1981. Shorebirds 2020 was initiated in 2007 to reinvigorate and coordinate national shorebird monitoring.



Left: Shorebird counters © Lainie Berry

Right: Black-tailed Godwit roosting with Grey-tailed Tattlers © Danny Rogers

Shorebird count data are used to document changes in population numbers, identify important shorebird areas such as Ramsar sites, and assess the impacts of human activities on shorebirds.

## What are Shorebirds?

Shorebirds belong to the order *Charadriiformes*, and there are 210 species worldwide. Shorebirds are mostly found near intertidal habitats or inland wetlands. They usually feed in shallow water, or by probing with their bills in saturated mud or sand.



Three migratory shorebirds: (from left) Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint and Curlew Sandpiper © Glenn Ehmke

Thirty-eight species migrate annually from their northern hemisphere breeding grounds to Australia, and a further 18 species reside in Australia year-round.

## Migratory Shorebirds - the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

Each year over 5 million shorebirds fly from their breeding grounds in the northern tundra, usually stopping over to refuel at staging grounds in the Yellow Sea, before continuing on to Australia and New Zealand. Here they spend the summer resting and feeding on the rich resources at tidal mudflats and wetlands to build up energy reserves for the return flight north.



Left: Bar-tailed Godwit nesting in the Arctic tundra © Jan van de Kam

Centre: Great Knot feeding at Saemangeum, South Korea © Jan van de Kam

Right: Eastern Curlew at Roebuck Bay, Broome, Australia © Danny Rogers



In 2007 scientists fitted satellite transmitters to individual birds to track their journeys. One Bar-tailed Godwit famously made an incredible 9 day non-stop flight 11,600 km flight from Alaska to New Zealand!

## Threats & Declines in the Flyway

Large-scale coastal reclamation projects in the Yellow Sea are destroying critical stopover sites within the East Asian-Australasian flyway. Migratory shorebirds that rely on these sites for refuelling, such as the Great Knot, have declined significantly in numbers.



Left: Shorebirds at Saemangeum in South Korea © Ken Gosbell

Right: Saemangeum reclaimed area © Ken Gosbell

Within Australia, valuable feeding areas for migratory shorebirds are being lost to coastal development, increased human disturbance and the drying of inland wetlands. Beach-nesting resident species are suffering from increasing levels of disturbance by people, dogs and vehicles on beaches.



Left: Beach-nesting resident - Hooded Plover © Glenn Ehmke

Right: Vehicles on beaches threaten beach-nesting shorebirds © Grainne Maguire

In order to reverse declines and effectively conserve shorebirds and their habitats, we need to monitor their populations and identify threats that may be causing declines.