

DISCOVER LONG REEF

Migratory Shorebirds

Migratory birds have been visiting our shores for thousands of years. Migratory birds 'move house' every few months to where the climatic, feeding and breeding conditions suit them best. They can travel up to 11,000 kilometers from the Arctic, via the Asian mainland, although some like the Double-banded Plover only travel across the Tasman Sea from New Zealand. They arrive on Australian shores around September/October, returning north to their Siberian breeding grounds in April and May. Long Reef Beach and Aquatic Reserve is a perfect stop over for these birds because of its rich marine life and protected surroundings.

Migratory birds seen on Long Reef include:

- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Double-banded Plover
- Eastern Golden Plover
- Grey-tailed Tattler
- Red-necked Stint
- Ruddy Turnstone

Local Australian shorebirds seen are Caspian Terns, Eastern Reef Egret, Pied and Great (Black) Cormorants, Silver gull, Sooty Oystercatcher, White-faced Heron and the occasional Sea Eagle.

During March and April most birds are preparing for their migration back North to their breeding grounds in Alaska and Siberia. They are racing against time to gain extra body fat to keep them alive during their long flight.



Golden Plover

What YOU Can Do

- Do Not Disturb - be mindful of the birds need to feed and stay well away from individuals on the rock platform, or avoid visiting in March and April
- Protect Biodiversity on the rock platform – make sure you do not disturb plants or animals living on the rock platform
- Take your Rubbish with you – many birds die each year from swallowed plastic bags or strangled by fishing line left behind by careless people

For further information contact Reefcare on 9401 4500 or visit www.ozemail.com.au/~surfcity

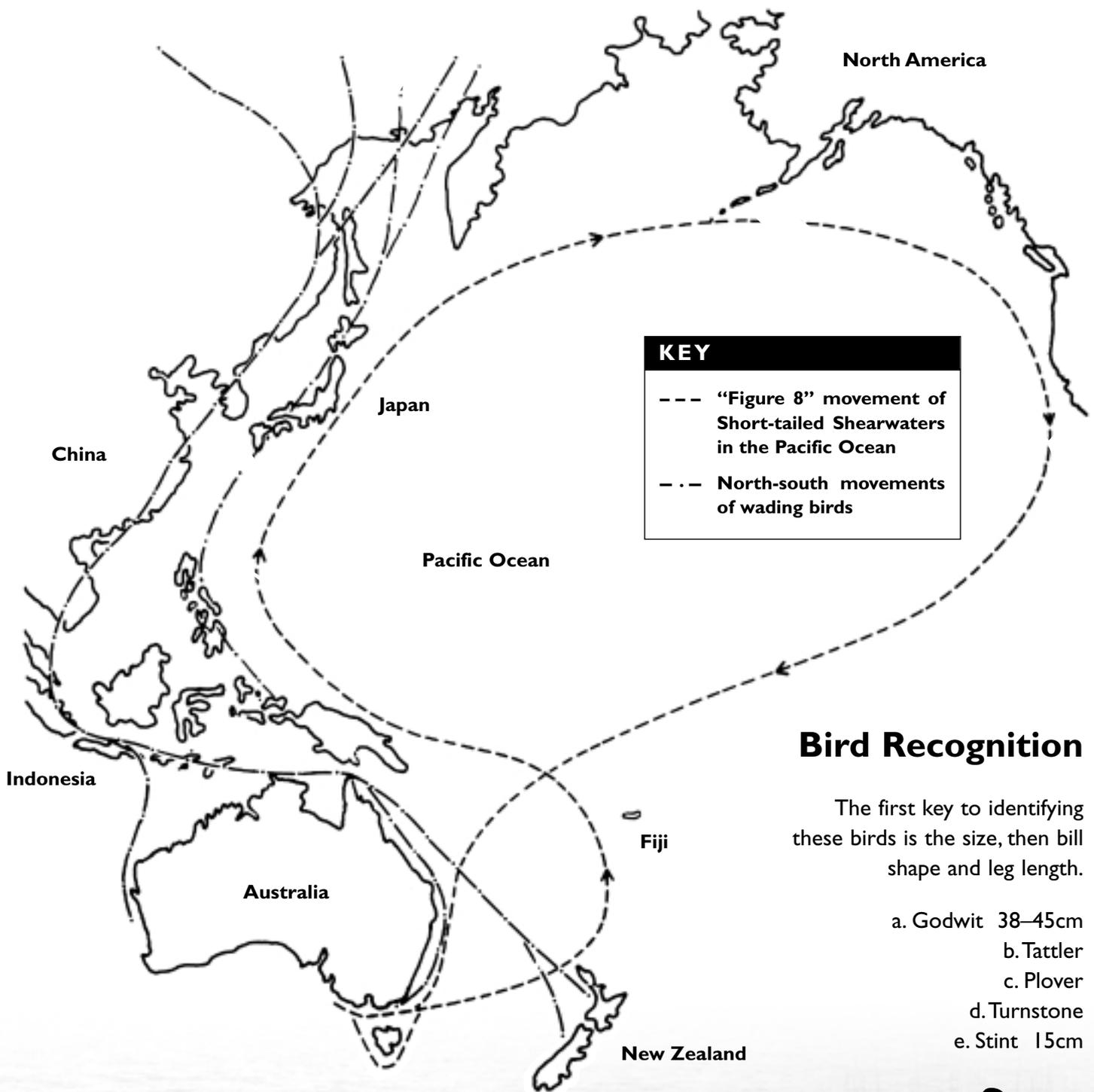
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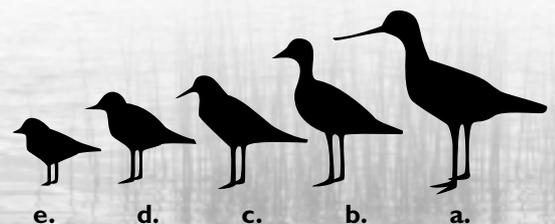
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Bird Recognition

The first key to identifying these birds is the size, then bill shape and leg length.

- a. Godwit 38–45cm
- b. Tattler
- c. Plover
- d. Turnstone
- e. Stint 15cm



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Shorebird Protection

International

A number of migratory wader bird species that utilize the Long Reef Aquatic Reserve are listed under the China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement 1986 (CAMBA). The agreement requires respective governments to protect these birds and their environments.

Environmental

The Long Reef rock platform has been protected as an Aquatic Reserve by NSW Fisheries and Warringah Council since 1980. With the exception of fin-fish, you cannot collect or harm any marine plants or animals. This includes the collection of empty shells and dead plants or animals because they provide important habitat or food for living invertebrates. Fin-fish are allowed to be taken by line or spear but you must bring your own bait – and remember bag limits apply to most species.

Birdwatch – Migratory Wader Birds

Reefcare volunteers regularly monitor bird numbers on Long Reef Aquatic Reserve. They recognise the urgent need to raise community awareness about shorebirds to protect their habitat needs.



Shearwater

 **NO DOGS ALLOWED ON AQUATIC RESERVE ROCK PLATFORM**

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