

Beach - Bush - Birds**Migratory shorebirds**

Migratory birds have been visiting our shoreline for possibly hundreds of years. Long Reef beach and Aquatic Reserve rock platform is rich in marine life which birds feed on. They travel 11,000 kilometres from the Arctic, via the Asian mainland arriving in September and October. They return north to their siberian breeding grounds in April and May. Some like the Double-banded Plover only fly from New Zealand.

Migratory Birds seen on Long Reef include:

Bar-tailed Godwit

Double - banded Plover (Visits during winter - breeds in New Zealand)

Eastern Golden Plover

Grey - tailed Tattler

Red - necked Stint (Visits during winter)

Ruddy Turnstone

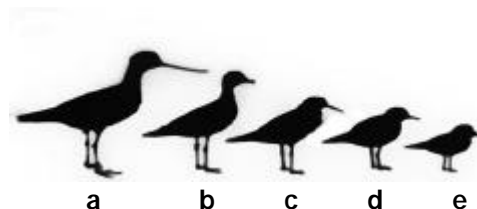
Local Australian shorebirds seen are Caspian Terns, Eastern Reef Egret, Pied and Great (Black) Cormorants, Silver Gull, Sooty Oystercatcher, White-faced Heron and the occasional Sea Eagle.



Shearwater



Golden Plover

**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 - size 15cm.

What you can do

During March and April most birds are preparing for their migration back north to their breeding grounds in Alaska and Siberia. Disturbing birds is more serious than you think, particularly close to their migration when the birds are racing against time to put on enough extra body fat to keep them alive during their long flight.

Do not Disturb - "THE POINT" rock outcrop Long Reef - avoid visiting March through April.

Example: Shearwaters are often found washed up on our beaches dead each year as they reach the end of their long migration south and are not able to cope with storms or lack of food. Experts put it down to exhausted birds falling into the sea and dying before completing the flight.