

Shorebirds of Byron Shire

- ▶ Amazing Journeys
- ▶ Special Habitats

Amazing Journey

During summer, migratory shorebirds join resident shorebirds to roost, rest and feed in local estuaries.

Many migratory shorebirds travel up to 25,000 km each year between their Arctic breeding grounds and Australia. They are unable to land on the sea and can fly for up to 9,000 km without stopping. During the flight, they can lose up to 50% of their body weight.

These birds rely on their time here to replenish their energy supplies, which have been pushed to the limit. They need to rest and feed to prepare their bodies for the next journey to their breeding grounds. Please enjoy their presence from a distance and avoid disturbing them.



→ East Asian-Australasian Flyway

→ Ruddy Turnstone flyway

In an amazing flight, a Ruddy Turnstone was tracked on a round trip covering 27,000 km in 8 months. This included an 11,200 km flight from Alaska to Australia, stopping only once at the Gilbert Islands.

What is a Shorebird?

Shorebirds are birds that have long legs relative to body size and commonly feed by wading in shallow water. Most have long necks and bills and all belong to the scientific order of Charadriiformes. Seventy-six species of shorebirds have been recorded in Australia: 36 are migratory, 18 resident and 22 are vagrant species. Twenty-two migratory and eight resident shorebird species may be observed in coastal and wetland areas of Byron Shire.

Shorebird Habitat

Shorebirds in Australia have three basic habitat requirements. They need foraging areas where they can feed to satisfy their daily energy requirements, roosting areas where they can rest at high tide, and nesting areas where resident shorebirds can nest and raise chicks.

The beaches, wetlands, and estuaries of the **Brunswick River, Belongil and Tallow Creeks** provide ideal habitat for shorebirds. At low tide they feed on exposed mudflats in the estuaries, or along the beach shoreline and at high tide they seek places to roost and rest undisturbed. Local shorebirds build well-camouflaged nests on the ground using sandy beaches, rocky shores, grassy areas or wetlands. **Many of these birds are threatened. Help conserve their habitat.**



www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au



www.birdlife.org.au



www.wetlandcare.com.au



www.tweedbirdobservers.wordpress.com



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Victorian Wader Study Group: Map
Byron Bird Buddies: Photos by Reid Waters,
Ross Hollands, Adam Gosling
WWF-Australia: Illustrations by Jeff Davies



Shorebirds of Byron Shire



How can you help ?

A single disturbance can put shorebirds to flight. Each disturbance can affect their ability to fly the long journey to breed.

1 Observe shorebirds from a distance

2 Keep dogs on a leash away from the birds

3 Do not walk through resting birds

4 Stay well clear of any nests you see

Local Shorebirds



Black-fronted Dotterel (17cm)



Red-capped Plover (15cm)



Pied Oystercatcher (46cm) *



Comb-crested Jacana (21cm)



Masked Lapwing (34cm)



Sooty Oystercatcher (46cm) *

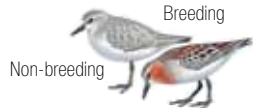


Beach Stone-curlew (55cm) *



Black-winged Stilt (37cm)

Visiting Shorebirds Breed in Siberia, Alaska and the Arctic



Red-necked Stint (14cm)



Double-banded Plover (19cm)
Breeds in New Zealand



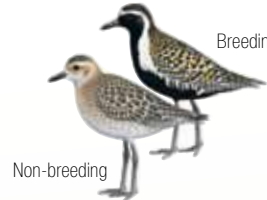
Lesser Sand Plover (19cm) *



Curlew Sandpiper (20cm)



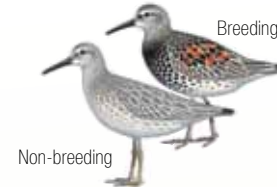
Latham's Snipe (31cm)



Pacific Golden Plover (25cm)



Sanderling (21cm) *



Great Knot (27cm) *



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (20cm)



Greater Sand Plover (21cm) *



Ruddy Turnstone (23cm)



Wandering Tattler (25cm)



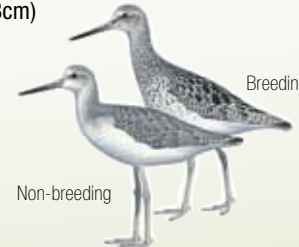
Whimbrel (42cm)



Eastern Curlew (63cm) *



Red Knot (24cm)



Common Greenshank (33cm)



Grey-tailed Tattler (25cm)



Bar-tailed Godwit (42cm)

* Threatened species