



EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP

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EAAFP MoP11 Reporting Template

Dear Partner,

At EAAFP MoP 10 in Hainan, China (2018), the Partnership adopted the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028. The Paper (Decision 1) included the proposed Reporting Template for MoP11. The purpose of the Reporting Template is to assess the achievement of specific actions identified in the [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#).

The “Reporting Questions” are linked to Key Result Areas to enable an assessment of progress with the implementation of each element in the Strategic Plan. Indicators have been provided to facilitate reporting and access our achievements.

The Strategic Plan has the following attributes:

- 5 Objectives (as listed in the Partnership Document),
- 23 Key Result Areas (KRAs),
- 35 Indicators.

The reporting template has headings in three colors: Red (Partnership Objectives), Green (Key Result Areas identified in the Strategic Plan) and Blue (Indicators). The wording of the Objectives, Key Result Areas and Indicators were all accepted at MoP10.

Different Partner Groups, Working Groups, Task Forces, the Technical Sub-Committee and the Secretariat have differing roles and responsibilities. As such, each question identifies the Partner groups that are requested to respond to each question. Please focus on the questions that relate to the Reporting Group you are representing.

While the total number of questions is 53, the number of questions for each Partner Group, and each mechanism of the Partnership, is shown below:

Government	46 Questions (87%)
IGO	30 Questions (57%)
INGO	40 Questions (75%)
Corporate	29 Questions (55%)
Task Forces and Working groups	29 Questions (55%)
Technical sub-Committee	11 Questions (21%)
Secretariat	15 Questions (28%)

This Reporting Template has been sent to the Focal Point of each Partner, the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Working Group and Taskforce, the Chair of the Technical sub-Committee and the Secretariat.

Thank you,

Doug Watkins, Chief Executive, EAAFP Secretariat

The EAAFP Reporting Questions

General Information

1. Name of Reporting Group	Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG)
2. Reporting Group	<input type="checkbox"/> National Governments (Govt) <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) <input type="checkbox"/> International Corporate (Corporate) <input type="checkbox"/> Task Forces and Working Groups (TF/WG) <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Sub-Committee (TsC) <input type="checkbox"/> Secretariat (Sec.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify:)
3-1. Designated EAAFP Focal Point	Name and title : Alison Russell-French OAM Affiliation : AWSG P.O. Box/Street : PO Box 101 Curtin ACT Australia address Postal Code : 2605 E-mail address : alisonrf@iinet.net.au Telephone : +61419 264 702 Website :
3-2. Additional Designated EAAFP Focal Point (<i>Optional</i>)	Name and title : Affiliation : P.O. Box/Street : address Postal Code : E-mail address : Telephone : Website :
3-3. Additional Designated EAAFP Focal Point (<i>Optional</i>)	Name and title : Affiliation : P.O. Box/Street : address Postal Code : E-mail address : Telephone : Website :
4. Report compiler	Name and title : Alison Russell-French OAM Affiliation : AWSG P.O. Box/Street : PO Box 101 Curtin ACT Australia address Postal Code :2605 E-mail address : alisonrf@iinet.net.au Telephone : +61419 264 702 Website :

Reporting on the implementation of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022

*Note: In the Reporting Template the term “Partners” includes Government, IGO, INGO, and Corporate Partners.

Objective 1 Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, with the ultimate goal of establishing a sufficient and efficient network of sites with sustainable management. (FNS page: <https://www.eaaflyway.net/the-flyway/flyway-site-network/>)

- Supplementary information: [EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013](#), [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#)

KRA 1.1 A comprehensive and coherent Flyway Network of Sites is developed for migratory waterbirds, including sites that are not currently Protected Areas.

Indicator 1.1.1 The Flyway Site Network has expanded to include at least 40 additional strategic internationally important sites for migratory waterbird conservation, some of which may not currently be a national Protected Area.

<p>RQ1. (Govt) Do you have a publicly accessible list of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in your country? If yes, please provide the web link or the reference in the below box. If not, would you like assistance from other Partners to develop such a list (please let us know your opinion in the box right below)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information: The 25 Australian flyway Network Sites are listed on the EAAFP Website. Information on Flyway sites and Ramsar sites (where these overlap) will be included on the AWSG website as part of the website update.</p>	

<p>RQ2. (Govt) Have any additional internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds been identified in your country? (for background, see EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013) If yes, please provide details on these sites.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information: <u>Queensland Wader Studies Group (QWSG)</u> Various Gulf of Carpentaria sites have been recognized as ‘critical Flyway Sites’ since 2018 including the Wernadinga Coast which was officially recognized on 16 December, 2020. Queensland Wader Studies Group (QWSG) surveys along with those conducted by a partnership between Birdlife and the Carpentaria Aboriginal Corporation contributed to these designations.</p>	

<p>RQ3. (Non-Government Partners) Have you documented any additional internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in the EAAF (see EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013)? If yes, please provide details on these sites.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information: <u>QWSG</u> The Bowling Green Ramsar site south of Townsville on the Queensland coast was comprehensively surveyed in 2021 and 2022 to provide shorebird abundance and species diversity data to support the designation of this site as international significant for shorebirds. Ref: Bush RA, Coleman JT, Coleman LA, Driscoll PV, and Woodworth BK. 2022. Growing capacity to support migratory shorebird resilience at three of Queensland’s coastal Ramsar sites: A two-year volunteer-led field project. Final report for Queensland Community Sustainability Grant Project CSAT20034. The</p>	

Queensland Wader Study Group, Brisbane, Australia.

RQ4. **(Govt)** Have high priority candidate sites been identified for potential nomination to join the Flyway Site Network?
If yes, please provide details on these sites. If not, would you like assistance from other Partners?

- Yes
 No
 Planned

Additional information:

RQ5. **(Govt)** Have any additional sites been nominated for the Flyway Site Network since MoP10 (December 2018)?
If yes or planned, please provide the names of these sites.

- Yes
 No
 Planned

Additional information:

RQ6. **(INGO, Corporate)** Have you supported Government Partners with their identification of high priority candidate sites for the potential nomination of the new Flyway Site Network?
If yes, please provide details of your support and the associated sites.

- Yes
 No
 Planned

Additional information:

The QWSG has undertaken surveys and provided information on potential sites in Queensland (refer to RQ 2 and 3 above.

RQ7. **(Govt)** How many additional Flyway Network Sites do you anticipate there will be in your country by 2025?

site(s)

Additional information:

KRA 1.2 National and Site Partnerships have been developed to coordinate the implementation of the EAAFP at national and local levels.

Indicator 1.2.1 Guidelines for the establishment and operation of national and site partnerships have been developed and agreed.

Indicator 1.2.2 At least 50% of Government Partners have an active National Partnership and site partnerships have been developed for at least 50% of the Flyway Network sites.

Guidelines on National and Site Partnership will be presented for adoption at MoP11. As such reporting on this KRA will start for MOP12.

KRA 1.3 Flyway Network Sites are valued by the community and sustainably managed.

Indicator 1.3.1 At least 50% of Flyway Network Sites have current management plans that address specific objectives for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats and that are being adequately implemented. Management plans have stakeholder participation and are approved by relevant agencies.

RQ8. **(Govt)** Which Flyway Network Sites (FNS) in your country have a Management Plan and when is it due to be

updated?

Your Response:

Indicator 1.3.2 At least 50% of Flyway Network Sites recognize the Flyway Site Network as a brand for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF.

RQ9. **(Govt, INGO, IGO)** Please provide examples of how the “Flyway Site Network” brand is being recognized.

Your Response:

Included in publicity for projects such as Sanderling tracking in Victoria and SE South Australia.

<https://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/what-we-do/projects/marine-coastal-projects/sanderling-tracking-project/>

Also included with the Oriental Pratincole tracking project in NW Western Australia (Anna Plains).

Indicator 1.3.3 All Partners are using and complying with International standards ([International Finance Cooperation](#) or equivalent) for development within and adjacent to FNS and other internationally important waterbird sites.

RQ10. **(Govt, INGO, IGO)** Have any public consultation processes been implemented when a site of international importance for migratory waterbirds could be adversely impacted by a proposed development?

If yes, please provide brief details on the site/s and if the development was approved.

- Yes
- No
- Planned
- Not known

Additional information:

Queensland

The Proposal by the Walker Corporation to construct a residential and retail complex over part of the Ramsar site at Toondah harbour has been opposed by QWSG. QWSG has provided three technical reports to the Federal Government since 2014, A review of criteria for an EIS to the Federal Government, A response to the draft EIS provided by the Walker Group, and a detailed paper to the Samuels Review of the EPBC Act which uses the Toondah proposal as a case example.

Victoria and South Australia

Offshore wind farms proposals at Discovery Bay, Victoria and the SE of South Australia also could be located in important shorebird areas.

RQ11. **(Govt, INGO, IGO)** Please provide brief details on any sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds that may be adversely impacted by a proposed development and the assessment process that was used or is anticipated to be applied.

Your Response:

Queensland

Wetlands Queensland. Proposal by the Walker Company was referred for consideration under the EPBC Act 1999 by the Commonwealth Government. Significant public outcry and protest about the development proposal and its potential impacts on the wetlands and in particular, the critically endangered Far Easter Curlew. An EIS has been prepared and released for public comment. Responses from QWSG and BirdLife Australia have been submitted on the EIS. Awaiting finalization of comments and governments’ responses to the consultation process and EIS.

Victoria and South Australia

Offshore wind farms proposals at Discovery Bay, Victoria and the SE of South Australia also could be located in important shorebird areas.

Tasmania

A 900MW wind farm on Robbins Island in north-west of Tasmania has been approved on the condition that all turbines be shut down for 5 months each year. The main reason constitutes threats to the critically endangered, Orange-bellied Parrot but the closures will also have benefits to migratory shorebirds that fly across the island when in the area..

KRA 1.4 Where appropriate, Flyway Network Sites are being sustainably used to support subsistence livelihoods of the local community.

Indicator 1.4.1 Where local communities at Flyway Network Sites depend on the natural resources of the site to support subsistence livelihoods, this is occurring without adverse impacts on migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

RQ12. **(Govt, INGO)** In your country, are there examples of local communities at Flyway Network sites that are dependent on the sites natural resources to support subsistence livelihoods?

If yes, please provide details on the site/s and the use of natural resources.

- Yes
- No
- Planned
- Not known

Additional information:

KRA 1.5 Partners and local stakeholders are engaged in responding to activities which may threaten Flyway Network sites.

Indicator 1.5.1 The level of engagement of EAAFP Partners and local communities in responding to threats to Flyway Network Sites is reflected in the number of meetings and events held and the participants attending.

RQ13. **(Govt, INGO, Sec.)** Are you aware of any Flyway Network Sites or other sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds that are currently under threat?

If yes, please provide details.

- Yes
- No
- Planned

Additional information:

KRA 1.6 The EAAFP Sister Site Programme has expanded.

Indicator 1.6.1 At least five new EAAFP Sister Site relationships have been developed.

Guidelines on Sister Site will be presented for adoption at MoP11. As such reporting on this KRA will start for MOP 12.

KRA 1.7 The membership of the EAAFP has expanded to deliver stronger outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Indicator 1.7.1 Membership has increased.

RQ14. **(Sec.)** Please provide a list of new Partners since the last MoP (December 2018).

Your Response:

Objective 2 Enhance communication, education, participation and public awareness (CEPA) of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

KRA 2.1 The achievement of the elements in the EAAFP CEPA Strategy and Action Plan (2019-2024).

Indicator 2.1.1 The CEPA Action Plan has been monitored, reviewed and updated as necessary to inform the EAAFP.

<p>RQ15. (Partners, TF/WG) Does your country/organisation have a CEPA Program addressing migratory waterbirds and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds? If yes, please provide brief details of the program.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information (website links if any): There is currently no CEPA Action Plan operating in Australia. However AWSG and BirdLife Australia are represented on the CEPA Working Group and have been active in the review of the Action Plan 2019-24.</p>	

<p>RQ16. (Partners, TF/WG) Has your country/organisation made use of the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan 2019-2024 when planning and implementing the CEPA activities?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information (any example of how the Action Plan was reflected): <u>BirdLife Australia</u> As a part of the multistakeholder Migratory Shorebird Conservation Action Plan (MS CAP), a CEPA Working group has been established and is working towards a communications plan for Conservation of Migratory Shorebirds and important shorebird sites and habitat in Australia and New Zealand. BirdLife Australia and its affiliates have produced materials in accordance with our CEPA program to educate a range of audiences, raise awareness, and upskill volunteers with general interest in shorebirds and those taking part in National Monitoring Program. Materials include Bird Identification booklets and posters as well as Wing Thing Educational kids’ magazine. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Shorebird Materials-SHARED FOLDER</u> . Birdlife also regularly supports art competitions and other outreach initiatives as well as delivering workshops and events as described below.</p>	

<p>RQ17. (Govt, INGO, Corporate) What CEPA activities have taken place at Flyway Network Sites and with which groups? If applicable (under a Sister Site agreement), please describe what have you done and who have you worked with.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information (list of events and/or news/report links): Not yet actioned</p>	

<p>RQ18. (Partners) Has your country/organisation developed, and/or been implementing awareness-raising programs, particularly at Flyway Network Sites, with the following groups (check all that apply)?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National and local governments <input type="checkbox"/> Education Department/Ministry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site managers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools/students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native/indigenous communities <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
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Additional information (please provide a detailed description of the program(s) including target groups, aims, and major achievements):

Awareness Raising activities:

- **Wing Threads Project – Micro flight pilot Milly (Amelia) Formby** undertook an impressive shorebird flying adventure called **Wing Threads: Flight Around Oz**. Setting off from the shorebird capital, Broome, Western Australia, the flight started in May 2022 and finished in November 2022. The distance of her entire flight was about 20,000 kilometres, similar to the shorebirds’ annual migration. On her way Milly stopped at schools and libraries to share *A Shore bird Flying Adventure* with local communities in over 70 towns.
- **“Shorebird Flying Adventure”** - In 2019, CSIRO Publishing commissioned Milly to capture the message of the shorebirds and her dream to follow them on migration. *A “Shorebird Flying Adventure”* is a 32-page, non-fiction story book aimed at mid-primary students. It is written by acclaimed Australian author, Jackie Kerin and illustrated by Milly Formby. The main character, Microlight Milly, takes the reader on a flying adventure along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway showing them why shorebirds are so awesome.
- **Overwintering Mapping Sanctuary Project** – this project is coordinated by Kate Gorrington-Smith about migratory shore birds that spend a large part of their year on the shores of Australia and NZ. To participate in the project artists from Australia and NZ are asked to respond to the unique nature of their local migratory shorebird habitat and invited to create an intricate and personal map of precious shorebird habitat. To date over 200 artists from around Australia and NZ have joined the project which is expected to continue for at least 3 years. Artists who join the project donate 2 prints from the same edition, one to exhibit in ongoing Overwintering Project Exhibitions and one to sell to raise funds for shorebird conservation. The project donated to AWSG \$10,000 (2019), \$13,000 (2020), \$14,000 (2021) and \$5,000 2022 to date). \$10,000 of the funds were allocated to purchase of satellite trackers for the Oriental Pratincole project. AWSG is immensely grateful to Kate for her great fundraising efforts to assist AWSG research activities.
- **Hunter Estuary Forum** – held in August 2022 – the forum involved the range of local stakeholders and discussed the development of a whole of estuary healthy functioning ecosystem (including the Hunter Estuary Ramsar site) for future generations.
- **Shoalhaven Bird Haven Festival Conference** – a conference that was held for the local community about the status of local birds including shorebirds and included a presentation by AWSG Chair on the EAAFP and collaboration by partners for the protection of migratory waterbirds and their habitat in the Flyway.

RQ19. **(Partners)** Has your country/organisation hosted events for World Migratory Bird Day, World Wetlands Day or other international awareness-raising events since the last MOP (December 2018)?

- Yes
- No
- Planned

Additional information (list of events and any news/report links):

BirdLife Australia

BirdLife Australia’s network and staff have organized or supported numerous events to celebrate and raise awareness for World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) and World Wetlands Day. Examples of this include:

- **Online Workshops and events**
 - For WMBD 2020, BL project Officer Milly Formby presented on Migratory Shorebirds as a part of BirdLife Australia’s ‘Birding from Home’ series during COVID lockdowns (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLphngmnfixZ5ACQKueHgukWvg3W9mHk3t>) as well as taking part in EAAFP WMBD webinar.
 - Lindall Kidd also presented an online workshop in collaboration with the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre and The Overwintering Project <https://maribyronghobsonsbay.starweekly.com.au/news/migratory-bird-celebration/>

- <https://www.facebook.com/harold.bolitho/posts/pfbid021uQKZNXAw15tHSFNw2ZS5jCEk8EDeDsvPGNC1poip3dwGogFai1nycwGixqSDUsl>
- In person workshops, bird walks, ‘Flock Oz’ events, stalls, and other engagement events
 - <https://www.networkbirdlife.org/home/early-birds-catch-the-world-wetlands-day-in-2022-with-mornington-peninsula>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/AdelaidePlainsLibrary/photos/pb.100064487059969.-2207520000./3845397092224374/?type=3>
 - <https://www.networkbirdlife.org/home/a-wonderful-world-migratory-bird-day-on-the-sunny-mornington-peninsula>
- Social media campaigns
 - <https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeAustralia/photos/a.233227400113440/3014885971947555/>
 - <https://www.networkbirdlife.org/home/dont-let-the-sun-set-on-wetlands>
- Campaign action events
 - BL and BLSQ Toondah Harbour Campaign action “Lights in the Mud”
 - <https://fb.watch/imPH7QxAD6/>

Northern Territory

World Curlew Day a community engagement event held in 2018 at Dripstone Cliffs, Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Darwin by Conservation Volunteers Australia, Amanda Lilleyman (representing the Threatened Species Recovery Hub).

BirdLife Top End was established with the main focus on the Migratory Shorebird Program.

RQ20. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Has your organisation/group been engaging the public regularly through any media channels, including social media, to promote the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wetlands they use? If yes, please specify the type of media channels by marking boxes that apply.

- Website of your organization/group
- Newsletter of your organization/group
- Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Weibo, YouTube, and others)
- Contribution to EAAFP eNewsletter
- Other (please specify:)
- No

Additional information (links to media channels of your organization/group, the number of posts, and the number of views):

AWSG produces *Tattler*, a Newsletter for the Asia Pacific Flyways and the Australian Shorebird Monitoring Program and *Stilt*, a journal for the East Asian- Australasian Flyway on research and conservation articles and reports on shorebirds.

Queensland Wader Studies Group - applies a number of media channels to promote shorebird conservation. In 2021 QWSG launched its new website (WWW.waders.org.au). It hosts a successful Social Media Facebook site attaching a weekly national and international audience of between 1000 and 40,000. QWSG members and peak organization receive a quarterly newsletter (available electronically and in paper form) with a focus on citizen science activities. Members of QWSG regularly contribute articles for the press and both national and international shorebird organizations.

AWSG/BirdLife Australia websites promote and raise awareness about conservation of migratory shorebirds and BirdLife Australia conducts regular fund-raising appeals for shorebirds.

VWSG produces the VWSG Bulletin, a Journal of the VWSG. The bulletin is usually published on the date of the Annual General Meeting and contains reports and cumulative records of fieldwork of the Victorian Wader Study

Group with articles, field notes and other material. Line illustrations are reproduced from the Australasian Wader Studies Group journal, "Stilt" with permission of the editor unless otherwise indicated.

Highlights from the Victorian Wader Studies Group Twitter account (Michelle Wille) - Twitter remains a great way for the VWSG to share the work we do with the community. We share a variety of content, all limited to 280 characters. You are welcome to follow our account on Twitter @vwsg_web. To highlight our capture program, the account shares short snippets from expeditions and catches including the King Island expedition, South Australia expedition, Cannon net training day, and many other catches. Despite not being able to attend the NW Australia expedition, we shared tweet from expedition member Amanda Lilleyman. The scientific community are very active on Twitter, so we are delighted to be able to share and promote the scientific studies we contribute to, both as journal article but also conference presentations

RQ21. **(Govt, INGO, TF/WG)** Has there been any training or capacity building delivered to stakeholders involved in the conservation of migratory birds and wetlands?
If yes, please specify the audience/participants by marking the boxes that apply.

- Site managers
- Government officers
- Educators
- Citizen
- Other (please specify: ...Community and Indigenous Rangers.....)
- No

Additional information (please provide the number of events and participants, and describe any materials or other resources about the capacity building):

BirdLife Australia

BirdLife Australia regularly deliver workshops and field training session to a variety of stakeholders on Migratory Shorebird Ecology and Identification, and Bird Survey Techniques. As an estimate, we have undertaken at least 5-10 events per year between 2018 and 2022, with participant numbers ranging from small groups (5) to large in person workshops (25-30), and online workshops attracting between 50-100 participants. Coastal and wetland communities across the country have been engaged and upskilled to foster an interest in local conservation efforts while recruiting volunteers for the National Shorebird Monitoring Program and supporting the dedicated efforts of existing volunteers.

Additionally, Migratory Shorebird and Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) teams at BirdLife have engaged traditional owners and indigenous groups towards collection of shorebird data in a series of workshops held in NT/QLD. Training workshops have also been successfully conducted in Esperance (WA) with the Tjaaltrjaak Rangers who were awarded the 2020 BirdLife Indigenous Ranger Grant. On ground training supports their aim of identifying and monitoring waterbirds, including shorebirds, to contribute to the management of regional wetlands.

During the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person events were restricted, online migratory shorebird workshops were delivered with great success- with many participants giving extremely positive feedback and signing up for updates on the National Shorebird Monitoring program. In 2022 BirdLife ran a two-day training course for the Corner Inlet Flyway site that included a range of skills critical to effective and targeted monitoring such as shorebird ID, leg flag reading, nest finding, plant ID, prints/tracks ID, use of GPS units and Birdata.

BirdLife Australia and its affiliates have developed materials towards training and in accordance with our CEPA program to educate a range of audiences, raise awareness, and upskill volunteers with general interest in shorebirds and those taking part in National Monitoring Program. Materials include Bird Identification booklets

and posters as well as Wing Thing Educational kids' magazine.  **Shorebird Materials-SHARED FOLDER** .

Furthermore, Birdlife Australia implements Site Action Plans (SAPs) for priority internationally and nationally significant habitat for migratory shorebirds where funding has been secured for implementation in Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales. These action plans are produced in collaboration with land managers and communities to identify threats and key management needs for migratory shorebirds at specific sites.

Darwin, Northern Territory

A Farewell to Shorebirds community engagement event held at East Point Darwin in 2018 to raise community awareness about migratory shorebirds.

In 2019, Workshops were held at the Australasian Ornithological Conference in Darwin on Best practice methods and advances for tagging birds for research (focus on shorebirds) and Managing waterbirds in artificial environments conducted by Grace Maglio and Amanda Lilleyman with support from the Australasian Wader Studies Group; Micha Jackson, Amanda Lilleyman, Phil Vivian (Darwin Port).

In 2019, shorebird monitoring and identification training was conducted with community participants at Lee Point beach, Casuarina Coastal Reserve with volunteers by Northern Territory Field Naturalists' Club, BirdLife Top End

In 2019-21, Community Care of shorebirds in the Casuarina Coastal Reserve – received a grant of \$20,000 from the Communities Environment Program to install educational signage in the Casuarina Coastal Reserve, hold community engagement events, and create an educational book called Living with Migratory Shorebirds at Lee Point book. Luke Gosling, Member for Solomon, attended the community event and spoke about the value of the reserve and the biodiversity within it. <https://www.dccew.gov.au/sites/default/files/env/pages/496b5eca-25b3-444f-a766-ff36b0316b41/files/cep-approved-project-list.pdf> Page 53

<https://planinc.org.au/resouces/272-living-with-migratory-shorebirds-at-lee-point.html>

https://planinc.org.au/images/documents/Living_with_Migratory_Shorebirds_at_Lee_Pointcompressed.pdf.

(BirdLife Top End Planning Action Network NT)

2021 – a Birddata workshop was conducted to train volunteers in the use of birddata as a data collection app to be used on shorebird surveys. (BirdLife Top End) and a Farewell Shorebirds event was held Lee Point, Casuarina Coastal Reserve. (BirdLife Top End, Planning Action Network NT, Friends of Lee Point).

Victoria

VWSG has run training days at least twice annually and AWSG has trained local indigenous rangers that attended annual Field Expeditions to NWA. In January 2023, training in cannon-netting was conducted.

RQ22. (Govt, INGO, TF/WG) Please add below if your country/organisation has any other information regarding CEPA to report.

Your Response:

Objective 3 Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.

KRA 3.1 National monitoring systems to assess the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats are established, maintained and further enhanced.

Indicator 3.1.1 A standardized monitoring methodology for migratory waterbirds and their habitat is developed and used in nationally coordinated monitoring programmes.

<p>RQ23. (Govt) Is there a program in your country to monitor migratory waterbird numbers? If yes, please provide details on the program, the role of volunteer counters and the monitoring efforts since MoP10 (December 2018).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information</p> <p>.....</p>	

<p>RQ24. (INGO) In what countries is your organisation involved in migratory waterbird and/or site monitoring (select all that apply)? Please provide details on the monitoring program(s) and monitoring efforts since MoP10 (December 2018).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Australia <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesia <input type="checkbox"/> Japan <input type="checkbox"/> Philippines <input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Korea <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic People's Republic of Korea <input type="checkbox"/> Russia <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore <input type="checkbox"/> United States of America	<input type="checkbox"/> Cambodia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladesh <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand <input type="checkbox"/> Mongolia <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand <input type="checkbox"/> Malaysia <input type="checkbox"/> Myanmar <input type="checkbox"/> Viet Nam <input type="checkbox"/> None
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Additional information:

Joint AWSG and WA Government project - Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia (MYSMA): 2022 update.
 The Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia project (MYMSA) is an Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) shorebird count project in North-western Australia, led by Chris Hassell and Danny Rogers and carried out by a 9-person team including both contractors and volunteers. In 2004, MYSMA started to carry out an annual winter count (late June to early July) and two annual summer counts (November to early December). Each survey involves 5 days fieldwork plus a day of travel. In 2018, after consultation with the main funders, the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), we reduced the program to one winter count and one summer count each year, following an analysis by Rogers et al. (2020) that demonstrated that the reduced program would bring costs down by ~40% with little impact on our capacity to detect change. The report by Rogers et al. (2020) provides much additional information on shorebird monitoring in North-western Australia; it is available online at https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0035/489644/ARI-Technical-Report-313-Review-of-long-term-shorebird-monitoring-in-north-Western-Australia.pdf

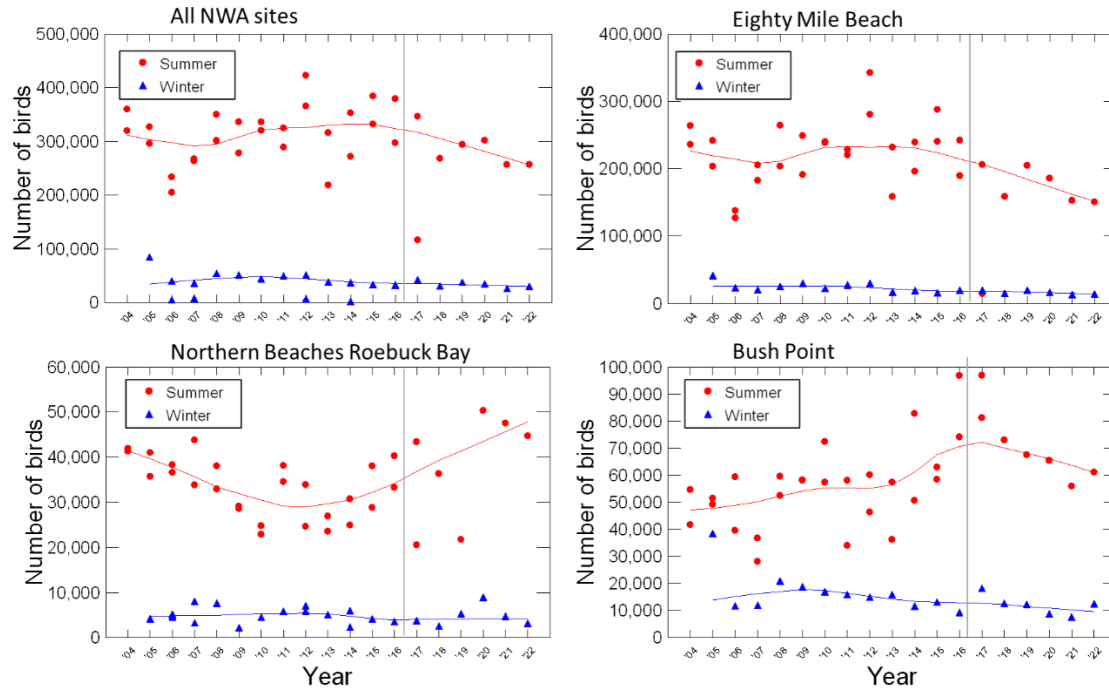
The North West Australian study site, comprising all of Roebuck Bay and the northern 80 km of Eighty Mile Beach, is the premier non-breeding region for shorebirds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway, both in terms of diversity and absolute numbers. Monitoring shorebirds in this region is a vital ‘barometer’ of the health of shorebird populations in the East Asian Australasian Flyway and provides important data relevant to shorebird conservation in the region.

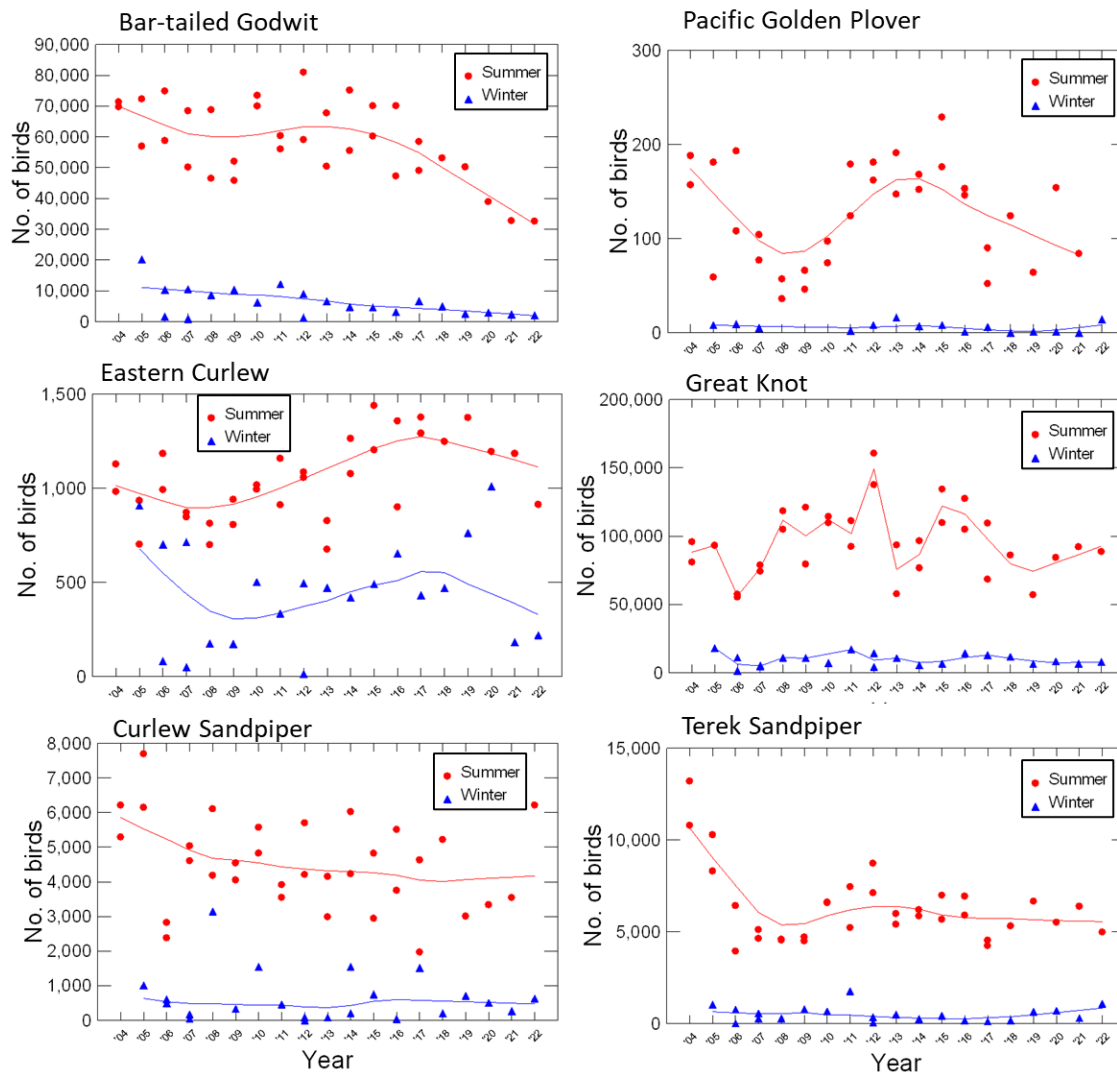
In summer, MYSMA counts involve counting between 200,000 and 350,000 shorebirds (also gulls and terns) during high tides that seem all too brief! For this reason, the counts are planned carefully, and undertaken in consistent tide conditions by a team of very experienced counters and scribes. In recent years, the counts have been funded by DBCA, an arrangement we hope to maintain long into the future.

The 2022 surveys (in June and early December) went smoothly. The plots below present examples of the data collected by this survey program. Shorebirds are monitored at three separate sites: A 60 km stretch of Eighty Mile Beach, northern Roebuck Bay, and Bush Point. All three sites have been of major importance to shorebirds throughout our survey period. Encouragingly, the overall number of shorebirds has remained reasonably consistent at all three sites since 2004 (Figure 1). Trends have differed between species. The most worrying long-term declines have been in Bar-tailed Godwit, *ssp menzbieri* (Figure 2) On the other hand, the threatened Eastern

Curlew (declining in most of its range) has shown little decline in north-western Australia and may even be increasing slightly; and declines in Curlew Sandpiper and Terek Sandpiper in the 2000's seem to have stabilised. Several species have shown periods of both decline and increase, including the Pacific Golden Plover and Great Knot.

The information obtained in MYSMA surveys provides valuable insights into the trends of shorebirds in our flyway. It is also used to inform local site management, including control of roost disturbance and identification of key areas that are accorded high conservation status in marine park zoning.





National Shorebird Monitoring Program

BirdLife Australia/AWSG shore bird monitoring. Counts are held nationally by Bird Life Australia as part of the National Shorebird Monitoring Program

Between Jan 2017 and Jan 2022, National Shorebird Monitoring Volunteers have undertaken (approximately) 13,025 surveys in 266 Shorebird Areas (1094 count areas), spending 16,780 hours counting (based on recorded survey duration, not adjusted for surveys with more than one observer- this would be more like 28,180 hours).

With the parliamentary enquiry into meeting Ramsar obligations in Victoria BirdLife have collaborated to establish a number of intensive and targeted monitoring projects in some Ramsar/flyway sites in Vic e.g. Corner Inlet, Corangamite Lakes, Disco Bay – and this has meant we have built greater networks in these areas and connected with land managers in order to feed our data directly into health assessments of the Ramsar sites and establish robust, long term data for population trend threats, and habitat use.

See also previous comments on workshops, training, and engagement activities- such as the recent ‘Birds and Bickies’ project undertaken in collaboration with CoastCare Victoria to engage local communities, recruit and upskill volunteers.

Queensland

Since 1992 QWSG has undertaken monthly counts of key roost sites along the Queensland Coast and this has continued from 2018. In addition specific counts have been undertaken in the southeastern corner of the Gulf of Carpentaria and for the first-time shorebird surveys have been undertaken on the eastern side of The Gulf of Carpentaria. In 2019 a bi-annual survey was undertaken of the Great Sandy Ramsar site and in 2021 and 2022 comprehensive surveys were undertaken at the Bowling Green Ramsar site.

Data from these monthly and other specific site surveys is shared under data sharing agreements with the Queensland State Government through the Wildnet Portal and with Birdlife Australia shorebird data base for use nationally and internationally. Flag sighting at shared with the Birdmark Portal.

Victoria

Victorian Wader Study Group has monitoring programs conducted annually in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. The Sanderling tracking project (Killarney Beach and Discovery Bay in Victoria) deployed trackers in December 2022 and the birds will be tracked over Summer. In October 2022, the SE SA and SW Victoria Expedition targeted Turnstone and Sanderling for arrival weights and deployed 50 engraved leg flags on Red-necked Stint. A joint FOSSE (Friends of Shorebirds South East SA) and VWSG caught and banded 122 Sanderling in Discovery Bay Cross Border region in Victoria and SA.

King Island Tasmania – a 13 -project by VWSG of deployment and retrieval of geolocators on Ruddy Turnstone on King Island to develop a good understanding of migration tracks of Turnstone and some other species.

Western Australia

The North-West WA shorebird and tern monitoring program is one of AWSG's major monitoring, banding and tracking projects conducted in one of Australia's premier shorebird Flyway sites. Due to COVID restrictions imposed, the project was not conducted in 2020 but was conducted in February 2021 on a very limited basis with only local people participating. A small team participated with limited catch numbers and no Oriental Pratincole caught. The expedition to NW WA was also conducted in late November 2022 but a report has not yet been produced on the expedition.

The Oriental Pratincole project has produced his designed to produce information about the migration tracks of Oriental Pratincole and the first results of the project produced unexpected migration to India. A pilot project supported by the Rangelands NRM and BirdLife Australia – Key Biodiversity Areas program to report incidental sightings throughout northern Australia started in January 2023 targeting pastoralists and other landowners.

AWSG/GFN Resighting

In NWA, predominately Roebuck Bay and the Anna plains Sanctuary Zone of 80 Mile Beach, the resighting component of the AWSG capture and marking programme is carried out by C Hassell and a local AWSG/Broome volunteer K Hadley. C Hassell collects data for AWSG while working for Global Flyway Network (GFN) during GFN field work and he collates the data in the AWSG database as a volunteer.

About 12,000 resightings have been added to the 2 databases every year since 2018, building up a truly valuable resource hopefully for exploration from students and researchers in the coming years. The capture and resightings of birds are both integral parts of the AWSG monitoring research in NWA.

In addition to the resightings from NWA, GFN spend 2 months in the northern Yellow Sea at Bohai Bay collecting data. This is primarily to collect GFN data but in the course of this about 4,000 resightings are made of which about 1,000 are for marking projects throughout the EAAF and CAF. These numbers have dipped since the Covid pandemic.

Northern Territory

Shorebird monitoring is conducted across a range of high-tide roost sites in the Darwin region. Sporadic from 1980 to early 2000s. From 2000s to 2009, semi-regular surveys. From 2011 to present, regular surveys. From 2018- present, surveys and reporting by BirdLife Top End. All data stored in <https://birddata.birdlife.org.au/home>.

In 2018, Shorebird catching expedition as part of Far Eastern Curlew research project at Lee Point, Casuarina Coastal Reserve and East Arm Wharf. Australasian Wader Studies Group volunteers, Charles Darwin University staff and students, local community volunteers, Parks and Wildlife staff.

Larrakia Nation Land and Sea Rangers conduct monthly monitoring of shorebirds in Darwin Harbour and Gunn Point (Larrakia Nation Land and Sea Rangers and Amanda Lilleyman).

In 2019, Larrakia Nation Land and Sea Rangers become the Guardians for the Shoal Bay Key Biodiversity Area and named the winners of the Indigenous Grant for Bird Research award for their shorebird monitoring project from BirdLife Australia.

Exmouth Gulf (WA)

A new shorebird monitoring program conducted jointly by AWSG and BirdLife Australia for Exmouth Gulf in WA is commencing in February 2023

Indicator 3.1.2 All country partners have nationally-coordinated monitoring programs in place.

KRA 3.2 Conservation status reviews for waterbird populations are produced and updated to set and adapt priorities for action.

Indicator 3.2.1 Data describing waterbird population estimates, trends and distributions are available to the Partnership.

RQ25. **(Govt, INGO, TF/WG, Sec.)** Please report briefly on data management in relation to migratory waterbird population estimates, trends and distributions.

Your Response:

Birdmark database

A major initiative undertaken by Deakin University involved the development of Birdmark, a database that encompasses into one database the banding, leg-flag and tracked data on shorebirds collected over many by AWSG, VWWSG and QWSG. Birdmark also includes resightings information.

Counts are held nationally by Bird Life Australia as part of the National Shorebird Monitoring Program; this data is “shared” by downloads to state government conservation agencies. Analysis is carried out under contract with funds from the Commonwealth.

VWWSG and AWSG have a combined dataset that contributes to the analysis of survival. This data is shared with the Commonwealth.

QWSG provides data from its monthly and other specific site surveys through data sharing agreements with the Queensland State Government through the Wildnet Portal and with Birdlife Australia shorebird data base for use nationally and internationally. Flag sighting at shared with the Birdmark Portal.

Indicator 3.2.2 Two updates of waterbird population estimates have been produced and published.

RQ26. **(Partners, TF/WG, Sec.)** Please report on your contribution to the migratory waterbird Conservation Status Review.

Your Response:

KRA 3.3 Updated list of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds for conservation management and prioritization.

Indicator 3.3.1 An updated list of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds for conservation management and prioritization will be maintained by the Partnership.

RQ27. **(Partners, Monitoring TF, Sec.)** If you are aware of significant new information on internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, please provide brief details.

Your Response:

KRA 3.4 A stronger understanding is developed on the anticipated impacts of climate change on waterbirds and their habitats and this is informing planning and site management.

Indicator 3.4.1 Improved knowledge about threats, including climate change impacts, on waterbirds and their habitats is shared and appropriate action taken where possible.

RQ28. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG)** Please provide details on key research on climate change impacts on migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the EAAF, published since MoP 10 (December 2018).

Your Response (please provide the web links if available online or reference for relevant publications):

Far-Eastern Curlew Project in Darwin Harbour

Strategic planning for the Far Eastern Curlew project – Prof. Stephen Garnett and Prof. Richard Fuller (Charles Darwin University and the University of Queensland) received funding from the Threatened Species Recovery Hub (National Environment Science Program) and additional funding from Darwin Port to conduct research on understanding the ecological requirements of Far Eastern Curlew in Darwin Harbour alongside coastal development. Employed Amanda Lilleyman to manage project.

<https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/projects/strategic-planning-for-the-far-eastern-curlew>

Community Conservation of the Far Eastern Curlew project - Conservation Volunteers Australia received funding from the Threatened Species Recovery Fund for a project on the Far Eastern Curlew across Australia. The project had a Darwin component and focused on weed control, marine debris removal, monitoring, and community engagement events.

Timing on Migration

The VWSG and AWSG are collecting data on timing of migration in a number of species, also taking morphometric information. These data have shown that some species are migrating at least two days earlier and that body size has decreased over the last 10 years.

VWSG papers and presentations of interest: (Access at vwsg.org.au)

Choi, C.-Y., H.-B. Peng, P. He, X.-T. Ren, S. Zhang, M. V. Jackson, X. Gan, Y. Chen, Y. Jia, M. Christie, T. Flaherty, K.-S. K. Leung, C. Yy, N. J. Murray, T. Piersma, R. A. Fuller, and Z. Ma. 2019. Where to draw the line? Using movement data to inform protected area design and conserve mobile species. *Biological Conservation* 234:64-71.

C. Minton, R. Atkinson, K. Leung and R. Patrick. 2018. VWSG King Island trip (17-26 March 2018). *Stilt* 72: 56-61.

C. Minton, R. Jessop, C. Hassell, R. Patrick, R. Atkinson and I. Marks. 2018. Wader breeding success in the 2017 Arctic Summer, based on juvenile ratios of birds which spend the non-breeding season in Australia. *Stilt* 72: 62-65.

C. Minton, R. Jessop, C. Hassell, R. Patrick, R. Atkinson and I. Marks. 2018. Wader breeding success in the 2018 Arctic Summer, based on juvenile ratios of birds which spend the non-breeding season in Australia. *Stilt* in press.

Wille M, Eden J-S, Shi M, Klaassen M, Hurt AC, Holmes EC. Virus–virus interactions and host ecology are associated with RNA virome structure in wild birds. *Mol Ecol*. 2018; 27:5263–5278. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.14918>.

Clemens, R., Rogers, D., Minton, C., Rogers, K., Hansen, B., Choi Chi-Yeung & Fuller R., 2021; Favourable inland wetland conditions increase apparent survival of migratory shorebirds in Australia. *Emu - Austral Ornithology* 121, 211-222.

Hansen, B., & Bonney, P. 2022. Learning from successful long-term citizen science programs. *Pacific Conservation Biology*. doi:10.1071/PC21065

Hansen, Birgita D., Rogers, Danny I., Watkins, Doug, Weller, Dan R., Clemens, Robert S., Newman, Mike, Woehler, Eric J., Mundkur, Taej, and Fuller, Richard A. 2022. Generating population estimates for migratory shorebird species in the world’s largest flyway. *Ibis* 164 (3) 735-749. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.13042>

Hansen, B. D., Szabo, J. K., Fuller, R. A., Clemens, R. S., Rogers, D. I., & Milton, D. A. 2021. Insights from long-term shorebird monitoring for tracking change in ecological character of Australasian Ramsar sites. *Biological Conservation*, 260, 109189.

Jessop, R. Bush, R, Patrick, R, Atkinson, R, Christie, M & I. Marks. 2020 Wader breeding success in the 2019 arctic summer, based on juvenile ratios of birds which spend the non-breeding season in Australia. – *Stilt* 73 106-.108.

Smith, B., Waudby, H., Alberthsen, C., & Hampton, J. 2022. Wildlife Research in Australia. CSIRO. (Contributor to chapter on Wildlife capture methods, Wildlife marking methods, Research methods for birds).

McQueen, A., Klaassen, K. Tattersall, Atkinson, R., Jessop, R., Hassell, C. & Christie. M. 2022. Thermal adaptation best explains Bergmann’s and Allen’s Rules across ecologically diverse shorebirds. *Nature Communications*. VWSG papers and presentations of interest:

Clemens et al, 2021: in press; Favorable inland wetland conditions increase apparent survival of migratory shorebirds in Australia. *Austral Ornithology*

Minton, C & Jessop, R. & Hassell, C. & Patrick, R & Atkinson, R & I. Marks. 2020. Wader breeding success in the 2018 arctic summer, based on juvenile ratios of birds which spend the non-breeding season in Australia. *Stilt* 73 87-89.

Jessop, R. Bush, R, Patrick, R, Atkinson, R, Christie, M & I. Marks. 2020 Wader breeding success in the 2019 arctic summer, based on juvenile ratios of birds which spend the non-breeding season in Australia. – *Stilt* 73 106-.108.

Minton, C, Atkinson, R, Leung, K. & Patrick. I. 2020 VWSG King Island visit report 22-31 March 2019. 73: 101-105.

Lisovski, S., Gosbell, Minton, C. & Klaassen, M. 2020. Migration strategy as an indicator of resilience to change in two shorebird species with contrasting population trajectories’, *published* on line by the *Journal of Animal Ecology* at <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1365-2656.13393>. Simeon has prepared a short introductory video to the paper at https://www.dropbox.com/s/6kvza5vn7m9atqu/lisovski_et_al_2020_v2.mp4?dl=0

Minton, C & Jessop, R. & Hassell, C. & Patrick, R & Atkinson, R & I. Marks. 2020. Wader breeding success in the 2018 arctic summer, based on juvenile ratios of birds which spend the non-breeding season in Australia. *Stilt* 73 87-89.

Minton, C, Atkinson, R, Leung, K. & Patrick. I. 2020 VWSG King Island visit report 22-31 March 2019.

73: 101-105.

Lisovski, S., Gosbell, Minton, C. & Klaassen, M. 2020. Migration strategy as an indicator of resilience to change in two shorebird species with contrasting population trajectories', *published* on line by Journal of Animal Ecology at <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1365-2656.13393>. Simeon has prepared a short introductory video to the paper at https://www.dropbox.com/s/6kvza5vn7m9atqu/lisovski_et_al_2020_v2.mp4?dl=0

Conferences:

Society for Conservation Biology Twitter Conference #scbmelb20 (30-31 July 2020)

Michelle Wille - @vwsg_web - Forty years of citizen science monitoring reveals insights to the extraordinary lives of waders.

Through 40 years of cannon netting, banding and recently use of geolocators, the VWSG has revealed insights into the lives of waders. Specifically, habitat use, migration strategies longevity and survival, which all contribute to advancing wader science and conservation.

International Shorebird Twitter Conference

VWSG- Forty years of citizen science monitoring reveals insights into the extraordinary lives of waders

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1314135994887671809.html>

Uncovering virus diversity and potential disease pressure on shorebirds -Michelle Wille - <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1314113311466692609.html>

Shorebirds like to stay low - wind support appears secondary factor in migratory flight altitude - Batbayar Galtbalt - <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1314138423117012992.html>

1st East Asian Australasian Flyway Shorebird Science Meeting November 3-5, 2020 (web conference)

Ken Gosbell, Victorian Wader Study Group: Insights from 10 years of geolocator studies in Australia with particular reference to changing migratory behaviour of Ruddy Turnstone

Marcel Klaassen, Deakin University: Survival of long-distance migrants evaluated from 40 years of Australian banding data

Victorian Wader Study Group Bulletins.

Available at <https://vwsg.org.au/resources/bulletins/>

National Latham's Snipe Project

The Latham's Snipe Project is in its ninth year, having commenced in south-west Victoria in 2014 with local surveying of a range of urban and non-urban sites. The project expanded nationally in the following 2 years and there are now over 300 monitoring sites surveyed three times a year throughout eastern Australia. This monitoring has revealed large fluctuations in population sizes depending on rainfall and climate in each year. It has also identified over 60 sites that meet the Australian Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* threshold for nationally important habitat (18 birds). The majority of these sites occur in urban areas and have no formal protection. It is likely the lack of protection of Latham's Snipe habitat and the continued loss of wetlands in Australia (especially in urban areas), combined with population declines detected in Japan in previous years, that the species may face a conservation crisis in the near future. The IUCN listing was amended to Near Threatened in 2022.

The Latham's Snipe Project has also included a movement research program, aimed at determining migration routes and key stopover sites, as well as understanding local patterns of movement of non-breeding birds in Australia. A combination of light-level geolocators, VHF radio tracking and satellite tagging has revealed direct over-ocean flights between Japan and Australia. Some birds used the Papua New Guinean highlands as a staging site on northward migration, and some use lowland area for stopover on southward migration. The Wild Bird Society of Japan has also

been tagging snipe in Hokkaido and has successfully obtained 5 full migration tracks. The terminus locations used by tagged snipe in Australia were highly variable, with some individuals using urban areas (e.g. western Sydney) and others using rural (agricultural), coastal and alpine areas. Key staging sites located in Australia from combined tagging data included Cape York Peninsula, Gwydir wetlands (northern NSW), intensive production areas of the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan regions in NSW, and the Queensland central coast. A new PhD project commenced in the ACT in 2022 aimed at obtaining a greater understanding of local movement patterns and habitat use by the species. The Latham's Snipe Project is run by Dr Birgita Hansen.

KRA 3.5 Collaborative research programs are established to provide effective support for conservation and sustainable management efforts, particularly the sustainable use of resources for local livelihoods benefits.

Indicator 3.5.1 Research programs on improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes have increased.

RQ29. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG)** Please provide brief information on areas of research programs since the last MoP (2018) about improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes at internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

Your Response:

QWSG has long standing research collaborations with the Fuller Lab at the University of Queensland. AWSG and Deakin University have been active in the development of an integrated database encompassing banding, leg-flagging, tracking and resighting data.

Indicator 3.5.2 Knowledge generated is being applied in at least 50% of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

RQ30. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG)** Please give examples of how knowledge generated through research programs on improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes is being applied at internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

Your Response:

Northern Territory

**“Operation Knot” – Parks and Wildlife rangers ran a specific patrol campaign in March 2020 to patrol Lee Point beach and ensure that beach users were compliant with dog regulations and zonage. Local Member for Casuarina, the Hon. Lauren Moss posted a video announcing the campaign. (Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin City Council) https://m.facebook.com/laurenmosstnt/videos/511111422928042/?_rdr
Pets in Parks <https://m.facebook.com/ParksandWildlifeNT/photos/a.313195945407342/2918807891512788/>**

In 2020, a Migratory shorebird identification and survey techniques workshop with BirdLife Australia was conducted for the community and for the Larrakia Nation Land and Sea Rangers. *Amanda Lilleyman and Lindall Kidd, BirdLife Australia).

In 2020, the Friends of Lee Point community group established – the group has focus on protecting shorebirds and their habitat in the Casuarina Coastal Reserve. Friends of Lee Point. A Welcome back Shorebirds community engagement event was held at Lee Point, Casuarina Coastal Reserve. (BirdLife Top End, Planning Action Network NT, Friends of Lee Point).

Australasian Shorebird Conference (ASC) – October 2022

The theme for the ASC was “Global Strategies Local Actions” in the EAAF and the Conference program looked at what has been happening since the 11th Australasian Shorebird Conference was held in Hobart in 2018. There were 5 key themes for the Conference: EAAF site network, Conservation and monitoring, Pollution and Disturbance Impacts, Shorebird Movements, and Communication for shorebird outcomes.

Theme 1: EAAF site network – The Keynote speaker was Dr Brad Woodworth presenting *Local matters – conserving shorebirds during rapid global change* and 10 other speakers addressed the theme:

- Jon Coleman - The importance of and interconnectivity between protected Australian East Coast RAMSAR sites and adjacent unprotected areas for declining migratory shorebirds.
- Ziyou Yang - Coastal wetlands in Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, China: probably the most important site globally for the Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*)
- Batrisyia Teepol - Key wintering site for Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot and other migratory shorebirds in Malaysian Borneo.
- Andrew Hunter - Drawing a line in the mud: the campaign to save globally important wetlands and shorebird habitat at Toondah Harbour within Moreton Bay, Queensland.
- Richard Carew - Toondah Harbour real estate scheme – a brazen plan to breach the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Chris Hassell: The Luannan Coast: from despair to a Wetland Park.
- Tong Mu - Evaluating staging habitat quality to advance the conservation of declining migratory shorebirds.
- Jennifer George - Strengthening the international network for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
- Jimmy Choi - Opportunities in conserving coastal wetlands in China and along the flyway.
- Bingrun Zhu - Predicting the non-breeding distributions of the two Asian subspecies of Black-tailed Godwit.

Theme 2: Conservation and monitoring – the Keynote speaker was Dr Grainne Maguire presenting *A bottom-up approach to conserving threatened shorebirds: how localised actions achieve recovery targets* and 5 other presenters addressed the theme:

- Mattea Taylor: Patterns of change in shorebird abundance and diversity in the Hunter Estuary across time and space.
- Christophe Tourenq: The Saving our Species (SoS) program in NSW: a state-supported tool for the conservation of shorebirds and their habitat.
- Francis Commercon: Trust, Reciprocity, and Network Structure: A Hypothesis about the Social Components of Flyway-Scale Shorebird Population Estimation.
- Liz Gould: Delivering cumulative benefits for Moreton Bay's migratory shorebirds.
- Joshua Wilson: Drone-Induced Shorebird Disturbance

Theme 3: Pollution and Disturbance Impacts – the Keynote speaker was Dr Micha Jackson about *What's in a wetland? The tricky but important task of assessing habitat quality at non-breeding sites in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway*. 5 other speakers also addressed this topic:

- Lewis Lawrence: Firework event management in Moreton Bay Marine Park.
- Stacey Rod: Reducing dog disturbance to wildlife in the Avon Heathcote estuary, NZ.
- Michelle Wille: Diversity of avian influenza virus in Australian waders and their role in long distance virus introductions.
- Tobias Ross: Do things get worse with age? Bioaccumulation dynamics of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in a long-lived, long-distant migrant.
- Silvia Ban: Bird flu and the future risk to Australian wild birds.

Theme 4: Shorebird Movements – the 4 speakers addressing this theme were:

- Paul Finn: Habitat Selection of Eastern Curlews (*Numenius madagascariensis*) on their intertidal feeding grounds in Moreton Bay, Southeast Queensland.
- Satoe Kasahara: Migration routes and habitat of the Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* breeding in Central and Northern areas in Japan.
- Luke Eberhart-Hertel: Insights from the first tag deployments on migrant Banded Dotterels at the southern extent of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.
- Birgita Hansen: Latham's Snipe migration insights seven years on.

Theme 5: Communication for Shorebird Conservation Outcomes – the Keynote Speaker was Anthony Albrecht who presented *The Arts in Action – Working towards the integration of artistic work into conservation communication strategy*. 4 speakers addressed this theme:

- Robert Bush: What is a Bar-Tailed Godwit Doing in the Middle of a School STEM Curriculum? Putting shorebirds into the curriculum through resourcing teachers and students.

- **Tommy Wilson: Indigenous Shorebird Conservation Efforts in the Lower Gulf of Carpentaria - Where Cultural Knowledge Meets Western Science Methodology**
- **Dr Taej Mundkur: What does the EAAF Conservation Status Review tell us about our migratory shorebirds**

Papers from the ASC will be produced in AWSG journal *Stilt*.

VWSG Presentations to Conferences

Australasian Shorebird Conference Hobart 2018

- **Assessing the shorebird habitat on King Island using a range of information sources** Margaret Bennett, BirdLife Tasmania, King Island

King Island, on the extreme western edge of Bass Strait, is near to the southernmost extent of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. Overall, a decrease in migratory and resident shorebirds has occurred on the island; however, this can be difficult to quantify as the records, post-settlement in 1888, are highly variable. Some initial counts were made c.1970 and then from 1980 on, but there are significant gaps in the available data. To identify the role of the island's habitats are a reason for the observed decreases, I sought information from long term residents, local industry involved with kelp harvesting and PWS rangers. An assessment of the information indicates that the island's various shorebird foraging habitats are unlikely to be responsible for the observed decreases on the island. However, there are several local threats involving humans and feral animals that require more management and control to minimise their effects on the remaining shorebird populations.

- **Insights from geolocator studies in Australia, 2009 – 2017** Ken Gosbell¹, Clive Minton¹, Simeon Lisovski², Maureen Christie³, Chris Hassell⁴, Marcel Klaassen⁵ ¹ Victorian Wader Study Group, Australasian Wader Studies Group ² Victorian Wader Study Group and Swiss Ornithological Institute ³ Victorian Wader Study Group, FoSSE, Carpenter Rocks, SA ⁴ Global Flyway Network, Broome, WA ⁵ Centre for Integrative Ecology, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University

Australia was one of the first countries to utilise light-level geolocators for tracking the movements of migratory shorebirds. Since 2009, we have deployed these instruments on a range of species at nonbreeding locations around the country. This extensive program has gathered a wealth of information on the movements of nine of Australia's long-distance migratory species. The migratory tracks obtained, including an increasing number of multi-year tracks, allowed us to detail routes and strategies used along the East-Asian Australasian Flyway. Critically, this information has contributed to understanding the relative importance of stopover sites along the flyway - fundamental to developing conservation strategies. More recent studies have enabled assessment of breeding locations and incubation strategies, many of which were unknown given the remote, low density breeding sites used by these species. These insights have informed conservation measures flyway-wide and on a local scale. Recognising the constraints of light-level geolocators we go on to discuss the possible future use of light-level geolocation.

- **Ruddy Turnstones in times of change** Marcel Klaassen, Bethany Hoyer, Jamie Willey, Ken Gosbell, Margaret Bennett, Meijuan Zhao, Michelle Wille, Penny Johns, Rob Patrick, Robyn Atkinson, Simeon Lisovski, Veerle Jaspers and Clive Minton

A range of global change processes are impacting migratory shorebirds. Starting 2006, Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) spending the non-breeding season on King island, Tasmania, have been studied intensively by the Victorian Wader Study Group, with support from various international research institutes. Using banding, biometric, blood, cloacal and oropharyngeal swab, and geolocator data, we evaluate the potential threats that rapid Arctic climate change, habitat destruction, pollution and exposure to novel diseases pose to Ruddy Turnstones. The bottom line is that these threats are real and do impact the turnstones in a myriad of ways. However, at the population level the King Island Ruddy Turnstones are apparently still hanging on and are (not yet) being overstretched. At least in part, this result may be due to rapid evolutionary change.

Migration phenology and stopover site use of SE Australian Ruddy Turnstones – a multi-population assessment using a network analysis approach

Meijuan Zhao, Robyn Atkinson, Margaret Bennett, Maureen Christie, Ken Gosbell, Penny Johns, Marcel Klaassen, Simeon Lisovski, Clive Minton, Rob Patrick and Bethany Hoyer

Identification of the chain of stopover sites along the migration route and the migratory timing are important to

evaluate the constraints migrants face and to guide their conservation. We obtained Australasian Shorebird Conference, Hobart Tasmania, October 2018. Page 19 individual tracks of Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) from three non-breeding (i.e. wintering) populations in south-east Australia. From which, we evaluated the interconnectedness of the chain of stopover sites along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway using network analysis and built a comprehensive understanding of these populations' migratory timing, for both pre- and post-breeding migration separately. We identified a chain of key stopover sites of which the importance of some had previously been underestimated. Notably the southern East Asian coast (mainly along the Taiwan and Fujian coast) connects a high number of other stopovers during pre-breeding migration, indicating that habitat loss at this site would pose a high site constraint for migration. The synchronisation in space and timing use was more pronounced during pre-compared to post-breeding migration, indicating Ruddy Turnstones are under higher time constraint on their way towards the breeding grounds. Although mixed at the breeding grounds and staying there over a similar time period, the three wintering populations significantly differed in migration timing and stopover site use. Our study thus emphasizes that even at relatively small spatial scales (here in terms of distances between nonbreeding populations) patterns of migratory connectivity may exist, with each population exhibiting unique migration patterns, potentially requiring different conservation efforts. Such conservation efforts targeting endangered non-breeding and stopover sites should notably be considered for sites used during migration towards the breeding grounds since little tolerance in alternative timing and site use is allowed during this period.

Australasian Ornithological Congress Darwin July 2019

Carry-over effects of non-breeding and migration conditions on breeding success in Ruddy Turnstones
Gosbell, K, Minton, C, Klaassen, M, Lisovski, S. Victorian Wader Study Group. ken@gosbell.id.au

A range of global change processes are impacting migratory shorebirds. Along the East Asian Australasian Flyway, habitat destruction and deterioration are considered important factors in many shorebird population's demise. How conditions along the migratory flyway impact breeding and recruitment has been much addressed but thus far poorly quantified. We use a collection of more than 50 full-year geolocator registrations of Arctic-breeding Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) spending the non-breeding season on King island, Tasmania, to evaluate the carry-over effects of non-breeding and migratory conditions on breeding success. Geolocators not only provide movement information, but may also provide information on incubation and brooding behaviour, the light-registering geolocator being covered during incubation and brooding bouts. Using geolocator derived incubation and brooding information as a proxy for breeding success we will present correlates of non-breeding and migratory behaviour with breeding success.

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Factors affecting RNA virus diversity in wild birds
Wille, M, Shi, M, Eden, J-S, Klaassen, M, Hurt, A, Holmes E.
WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Melbourne, VIC 3000.

- Michelle.wille@influenzacentre.org

One in ten bird species can be found in Australia, yet we have little understanding of the accompanying diversity of

parasites, microbes or viruses in these animals. Furthermore, we know little of the factors that drive the large scale ecological patterns of these microbes. We used bulk RNA sequencing to reveal the viral communities of Anseriformes (ducks) and Charadriiformes (shorebirds) in two ecotypes in Australia. In this study we revealed the presences of 27 RNA virus genomes, 18 of which represent novel viral species. The viruses identified included a previously described gammacoronavirus and influenza A viruses. Additionally, we identified novel virus species from the families Astroviridae, Caliciviridae, Reoviridae, Rhabdoviridae, Picobirnaviridae, and Picornaviridae. We noted differences in virome structure that reflected underlying differences in location and influenza A infection status. Red-necked Avocets (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*) from Australia's arid interior possessed the greatest viral diversity and abundance, markedly higher than individuals sampled in temperate Australia. In Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) and dabbling ducks (*Anas* spp.) viral abundance and diversity was higher and more similar in hosts that were positive for influenza A infection compared to those that were negative for this virus, despite samples being collected on the same day and from the same location. This study highlights the extent and diversity of RNA viruses in wild birds, and lays the foundation for understanding the factors that determine virome structure in wild populations.

VWSG_website - Forty years of citizen science monitoring reveals insights to the extraordinary lives of waders

Through 40 years of cannon netting, banding and recently use of geolocators, the VWSG has revealed insights into the lives of waders. Specifically, habitat use, migration strategies longevity and survival, which all contribute to advancing wader science and conservation.

International Shorebird Twitter Conference

VWSG- Forty years of citizen science monitoring reveals insights into the extraordinary lives of waders
<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1314135994887671809.html>

Uncovering virus diversity and potential disease pressure on shorebirds -Michelle Wille - <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1314113311466692609.html>

Shorebirds like to stay low - wind support appears secondary factor in migratory flight altitude - Batbayar Galtbalt -<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1314138423117012992.html>

1st East Asian Australasian Flyway Shorebird Science Meeting November 3-5, 2020 (web conference)

Ken Gosbell, Victorian Wader Study Group: Insights from 10 years of geocator studies in Australia with particular reference to changing migratory behaviour of Ruddy Turnstone

Marcel Klaassen, Deakin University: Survival of long-distance migrants evaluated from 40 years of Australian banding data.

KRA 3.6 Best practice guidelines for waterbird and habitat conservation programs, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge, are developed and made available.

Indicator 3.6.1 Best practice guidelines are available on the EAAFP website.

RQ31. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG)** Please provide brief details on the development and application of best practice guidelines for waterbird and habitat conservation, including the application of traditional knowledge, published/made available since MoP10 (December 2018)?

Your Response:

Coastal high tide shorebird habitat management guidelines

Coastal high tide shorebird habitat management guidelines were developed 2021 by Micha Jackson & Philip Straw EAAFP SWG Member/AWSG EAAFP Liaison Officer, translated into seven EAA Flyway languages by the Australasian Wader Studies Group, and are available on the EAAFP website.

RQ32. (Sec.) What are the best practice guidelines that are available on the EAAFP website?

Your Response:

See response to RQ31.

Objective 4 Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.

KRA 4.1 EAAFP promotes the use of the range of available training tools and provides assistance to address challenges at Flyway Network Sites.

Indicator 4.1.1 All Partners and Secretariat have mechanisms for capacity building in place to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, tools and experience.

RQ33. (Sec.) Please provide updates on identifying/developing internet-based approaches for capacity building for migratory waterbird conservation.

Your Response:

RQ34. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Have you been involved in identifying/developing capacity building materials and opportunities?

If yes, please provide some details.

Yes

No

Planned

Additional information:

Refer EAAFP Shorebird Working Group Reporting Template RQ29

BirdLife Australia workshops. VWSG and AWSG members contributed.

RQ35. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Have you implemented activities to share skills building, tools and experience?

If yes, please provide some details.

Yes

No

Planned

Additional information:

QWSG regularly provides training days for prospective citizen scientists to gain shorebird monitoring skills. The QWSG also provides training in the capturing, banding, flagging and attachment of PTTs to advance a pool of skilled volunteers at local sites.

BirdLife Australia workshops. VWSG and AWSG members contributed.

RQ36. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Please provide feedback on the use you have made of capacity building materials and activities for migratory waterbirds and the management of their habitat?

Your Response:

Indicator 4.1.2 Partners and the Secretariat include capacity building assessment in project proposals.

RQ37. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Have you considered a training needs assessment in projects you have developed, funded, and/or implemented since MoP10 (December 2018)?

If yes, please provide some additional information.

Yes

No

Not applicable

Planned

Additional information:

Indicator 4.1.3 The EAAFP online technical training manual for Flyway Site management is supported and used by at least 50% of Flyway Site Managers.

RQ38. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Have you used the EAAFP online technical training materials for Flyway Site management? Please provide some additional information on the usefulness of materials.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information:	

KRA 4.2 Capacity of Partner Focal Points and site managers to pursue the EAAFP objectives has increased.

Indicator 4.2.1 The EAAFP implementation manual for Focal Points is produced and distributed, providing a set of resource materials for EAAFP implementation and awareness.

Indicator 4.2.2 At least one meeting of Partner Focal Points, including site managers, is held per annum.

RQ39. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Have you been able to participate in any Meetings of Partner Focal Points? If yes, have any new collaborations with other Partners been developed from the meeting/s? Please provide details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information:	

Indicator 4.2.3 All Partner Focal Points are submitting their Partner reports prior to each MoP.

RQ40. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Have you been able to prepare your Partner report for the MoP? Have you found any difficulties in producing your report?
Your Response: More time would be helpful. Difficult in Australia over the Christmas/New Year period which is a holiday period.

KRA 4.3 Corporates with operations impacting on migratory waterbirds are engaged in delivering better outcomes for the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats.

Indicator 4.3.1 An increased number of internationally important sites and programmes, in which Corporates are contributing to positive outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

RQ41. (Partners, TF/WG) Please provide details you have on corporate engagement at internationally important sites and in programs to develop positive outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
Your Response:

Objective 5 Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.

KRA 5.1 Partners are actively collaborating to develop approaches to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF across national boundaries.

Indicator 5.1.1 At least 50% of Partners are collaborating across national boundaries initiatives for the conservation

of migratory waterbirds, particularly for threatened migratory waterbirds.

RQ42. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Please provide brief details on your transboundary involvement in international collaborative initiatives for threatened migratory waterbirds.

Your Response:

Covid travel restrictions have meant little on groundwork. These tasks e.g. Yellow Sea, Bohai Bay monitoring have been transferred to locals that have previously participated.

RQ43. **(Partners, TF/WG)** What do you consider to be the key innovative and/or improved approaches to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats since MoP10 (December 2018)?

Your Response:

Population estimates. Ongoing surveys and monitoring of shorebirds. Awareness-raising about the importance of conserving shorebirds especially in threatened important wetlands/Flyway sites such as Toondah Wetlands through community engagement). Community awareness raising and engagement broadly eg. Wing Threads. Surveys in China. NW WA Expedition. New Exmouth Gulf monitoring project. VWSG, QWSG, and SE SA ongoing surveys. Ongoing research and publication of research. Database management and maintenance.

KRA 5.2 Threatened migratory waterbirds are protected from threats and populations are stable or increasing.

Indicator 5.2.1 The Partnership, with leadership from IUCN, BirdLife International & Wetlands International, is updating and maintaining a list of threatened migratory waterbird populations and encouraging Government Partners to protect these threatened populations under national legislation.

RQ44. **(INGO, TF/WG, Sec.)** Please provide information on the development of a list of threatened migratory waterbird populations in the EAAF in which you have been involved.

Your Response:

RQ45. **(Govt)** Which populations of threatened migratory waterbirds are protected under legislation in your country?

Your Response:

RQ46. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Has your organization been involved in taking actions to reduce direct threats to migratory waterbirds?
If yes, please provide some examples.

- Yes
 No
 Planned

Additional information:

QWSG is a member of the Toondah Alliance, a collection of organizations working to stop development over parts of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site.

QWSG regularly engages with NGOs, local councils and state governments on issues that threaten the conservation of habitat at important areas for shorebirds along the Queensland coast, particularly threats potentially caused by development applications, disturbance, mangrove encroachment over saltmarsh and mudflats and other related threats.

AWSG and VWSG also make representations to governments regarding threats to key shorebird habitat.

Indicator 5.2.2 Single Species Action Plans are developed and implemented for threatened migratory waterbird species in the EAAF.

RQ47. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Please outline the contribution you have made to the development and implementation of Threatened Species Action Plans.

Your Response:

BirdLife Australia

BirdLife Australia continues to contribute to the international Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Far Eastern Curlew. Including the production of a report exploring the value of floating roosts for improving curlew roosting sites, which involved assessing sites across a range of threats, working out a decision-making tree for when to use floating roosts, and providing hands on advice for installing and monitoring floating roosts. This was funded by the Australian Government.

Indicator 5.2.3 Populations of threatened migratory waterbirds are either stable or increasing.

RQ48. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Has your organization been involved in any program(s) to assess changes in the status of populations of threatened waterbirds?

Yes

No

Planned

If yes, please provide details.

Additional information:

The EAAF population estimates are undergoing a new revision, funded by the Australian Government and being conducted by Prof. Rich Fuller and Lena Van Swinderen at UQ. This revision uses the same method for updating numbers as implemented during the previous revision conducted by Hansen and colleagues (Hansen et al. 2022 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ibi.13042>), namely, the use of expert-adjusted spatial extrapolations of direct counts of shorebirds from key monitoring sites in the flyway. The method replicates the approach applied to coastal count data, but does not attempt to repeat the analyses of inland count data from Australia. The additional method of estimating population sizes from the breeding range and density was also not implemented in this revision. The time window for analyses was the same as the previous revision, using data from the 5 years leading up to 2021/2022. For sites lacking sufficient temporal replication in those 5 years, the analysis window was extended to 10 years. The project is in its final stages and the new estimates are expected to be available in the first half of 2023.

QWSG provides data on shorebird populations to the Department of Environment in Queensland to assist in the protection of important sites.

KRA 5.3 Regional Action Plans are developed and implemented for priority geographic regions of the EAAF.

Indicator 5.3.1 Development and implementation of Regional Action Plans for geographical regions with common critical threats in the EAAF.

RQ49. **(Partners, TF/WG)** What has been your involvement in the development and implementation of Regional Action Plans?

Your Response:

QWSG has attended workshops on the early stages in the development of regional plans.

KRA 5.4 Measures to reduce and, as far as possible eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds are developed and implemented.

Indicator 5.4.1 All Government Partners have mechanisms in place to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds.

RQ50. **(Govt, TF on Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds)** What mechanisms are in place to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds?

Your Response:

KRA 5.5 The conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is mainstreamed into national legislation and/or policy instruments including adaptation to the impacts of climate changes.

Indicator 5.5.1 All Government Partners have relevant national legislation and/or policy instruments include provisions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

RQ51. **(Govt)** In your country, what are the current key national legislation and policy instruments that have provisions that cover the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

Your Response:

KRA 5.6 The conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is integrated into relevant multilateral and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms.

Indicator 5.6.1 Relevant environmental agreements recognise the EAAFP as an effective regional framework to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

RQ52. **(Govt)** In your country, what are the current multilateral regional and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms that include provisions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

Your Response:

RQ53. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Please provide any suggestions you have on how existing multilateral regional and bilateral agreements, and other regional mechanisms, could be strengthened to deliver better outcomes for migratory waterbirds.

Your Response: