

All aboard!

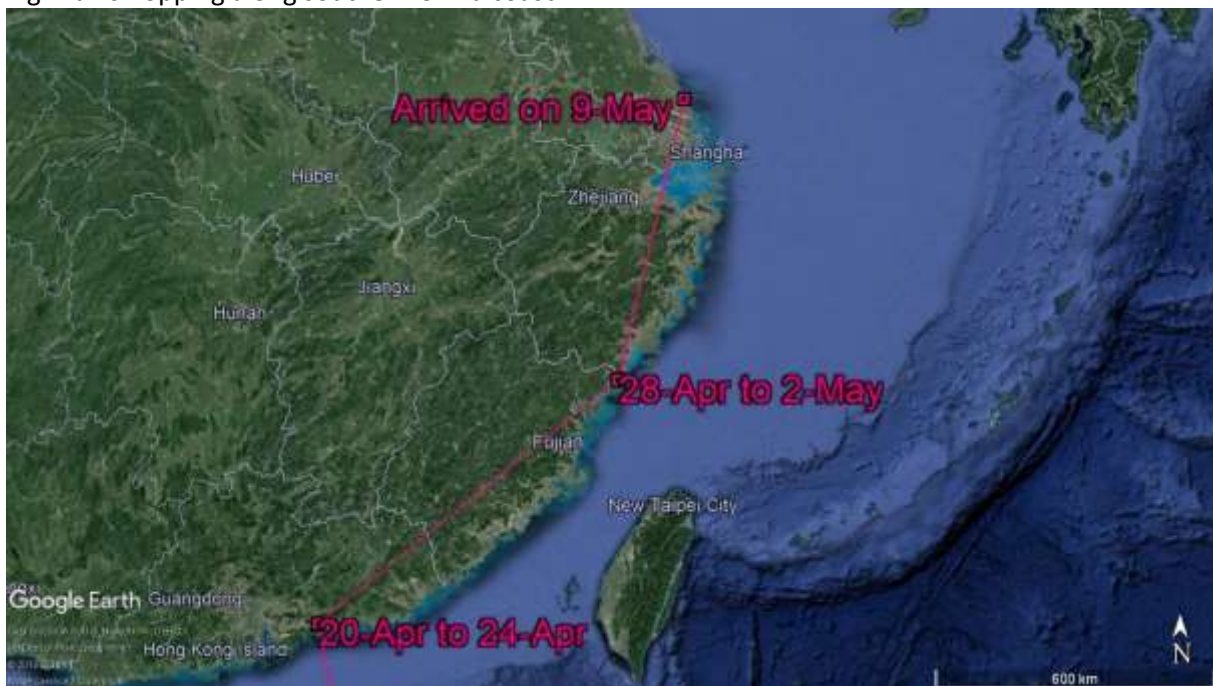
At the beginning of this week it was exciting to see all our eight satellite tagged shorebirds from North-west Australia have made it to the northern hemisphere. They are now all at their 1st/2nd stop-over site fueling up and preparing to make their next leg of the journey.

Satellite tagged Whimbrel 2017:

All three Whimbrels have now landed in southern China.

The first departing Whimbrel JX made its first landing at Guangdong Province on 20-Apr-18 (5-7 days after it departed from Broome). It then applied a “hopping” strategy, making short stops for 4 days each in Guangdong and Zhejiang Province and now staying in mudflat at southern Jiangsu Province.

Fig 1: JX’s hopping along southern China coast



Second Whimbrel KU departed about 10 days after JX. KU was our “home runner” who made it all the way to the breeding ground and back to Australia last season. This year KU departs 5 days later than last year on 22-Apr-18. Similar to previous years it made a direct long-haul flight to reach southern China as its first stop. However, this time it landed in Guangdong Province rather than Fujian Province where it first stop-over last year.

Table 1: A comparison of KU’s first flight in 2017 and 2018

| | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Departure date | 17-Apr | 22-Apr |
| Distance travelled in first flight | 4,814km | 4,610km |
| First landing location | Xinghua Bay, Fujian Province | Shantou, Guangdong Province |
| Arrival date | 23-Apr | 26-Apr |
| Average speed | 33.4km/h | 48.0km/h |

However, KU didn’t stay for long in its first landing location. Four days later on 30-Apr-18, it migrated north again for 350km and stopped precisely at Xinghua Bay, Fujian Province, the site where it used as its first stop-over site in 2017!

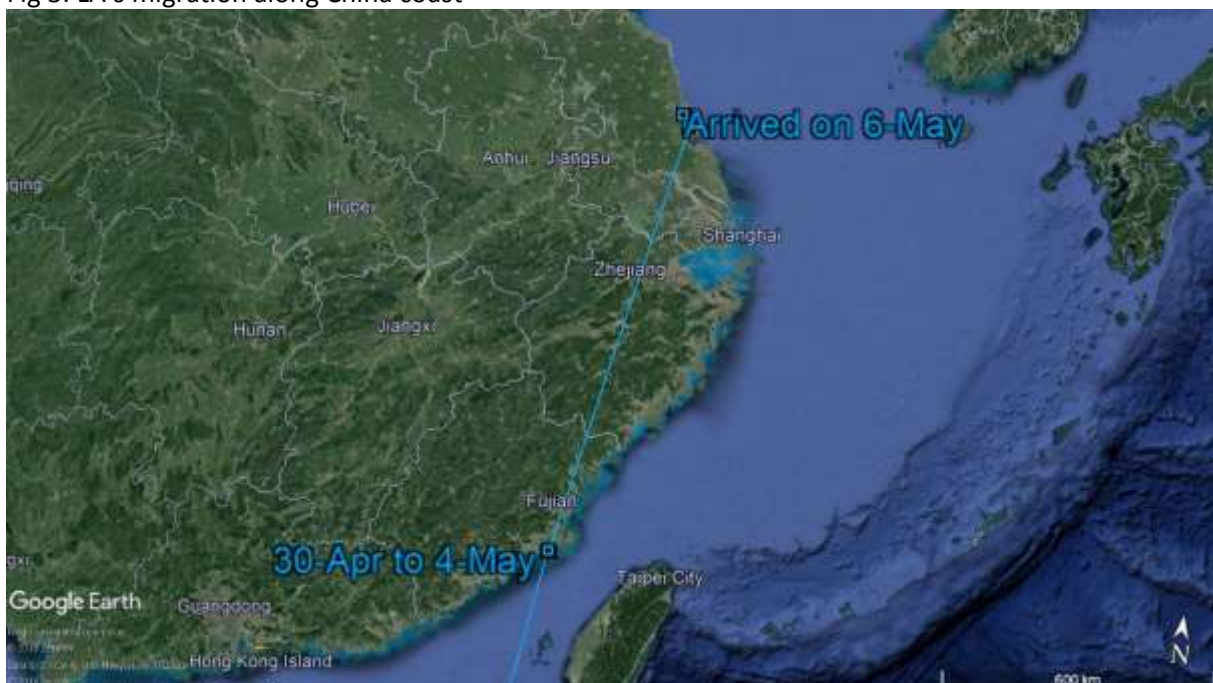
On 26-Apr morning before KU landed on China, it's flight direction was drifted to the east for nearly 700km. This detour might have costed KU to landed in Guangdong Province rather than its "planned" location in Fujian Province. It would be really interesting to see if KU will use the same stop-over sites as last season as it migrates further on!

Fig 2: KU's migration track to southern China.



After spending the non-breeding season in Eighty Mile Beach in its first and second year of life, Whimbrel LA makes the first northward migration in its life this year. It departs Australia rather late on 24-Apr-18 and make a direct flight of 4,980km to landed in Fujian Province. The area which LA stop-over is in the same bay, just 25km south to the area where KU has been using. How does LA know that site is suitable for Whimbrel?! Four days later, LA moved on to reach Jiangsu Province and has been using both mudflat and aquaculture ponds area.

Fig 3: LA's migration along China coast



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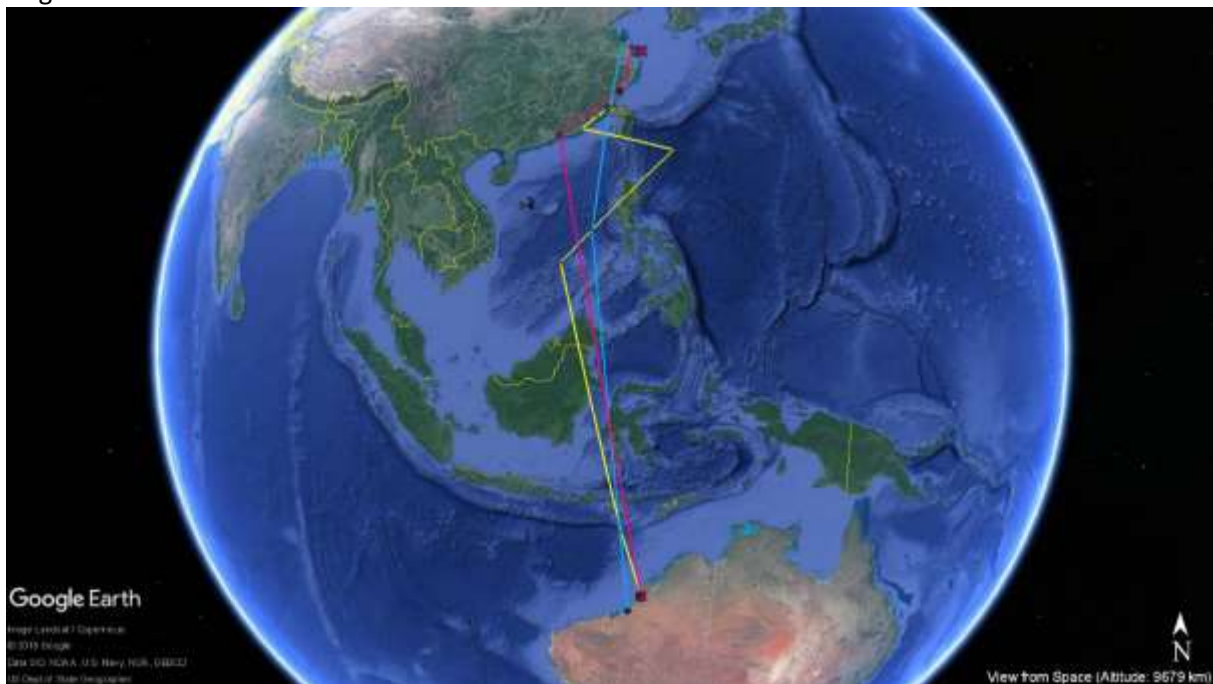
Despite its late departure, LA is now the northern-most Whimbrel among the three. Will it also be the first bird to reach breeding ground?

Fig 4: JX, KU and LA's current location along the China coast



As of 10-May-18:

Migration tracks of our Whimbrels:



Migration summary on our Whimbrels

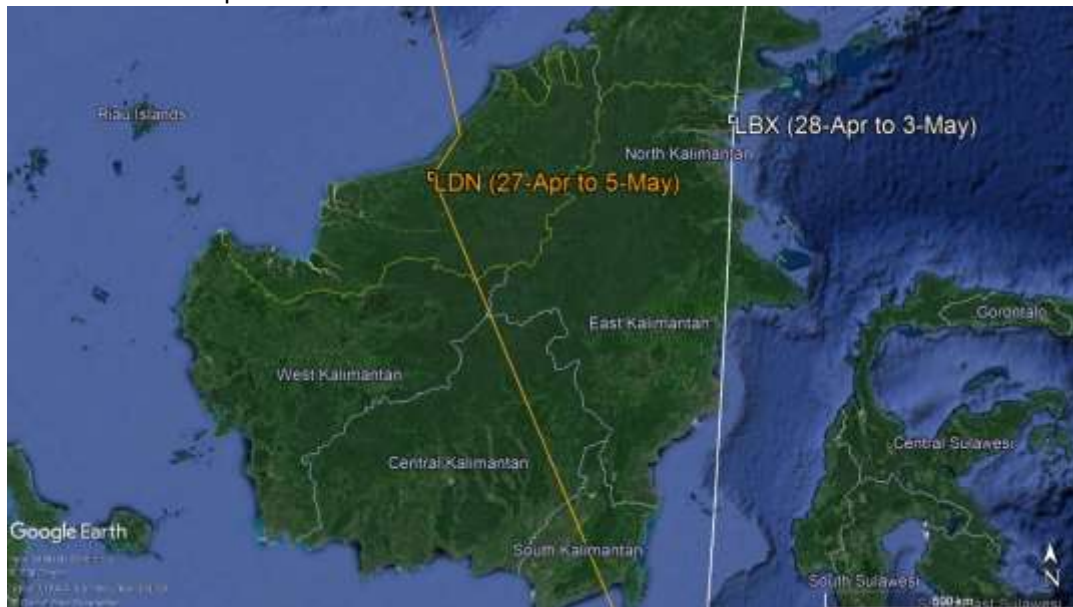
| Leg Flag (track colour) | No. of days since transmitter deployment | No. of days since departing Australia | Distance travelled |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| LA (blue) | 452 days | 16 days | 5,869 km |
| KU (yellow) | 440 days | 18 days | 4,962 km |
| JX (pink) | 411 days | 27 days | 5,885 km |

Satellite tagged Grey-tailed Tattler 2018:

Between 25-Apr and 2-May, the five satellite tagged Grey-tailed Tattlers at Eighty Mile Beach have also started their migration.

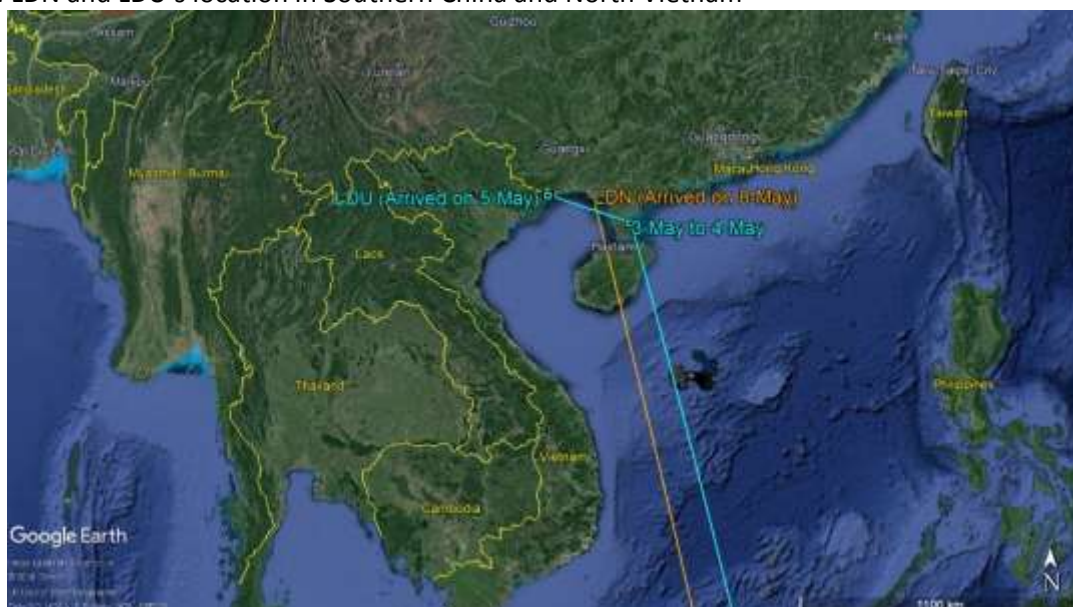
LBX and LDN were the first two to depart on 25-Apr evening. Rather than making a direct long-haul flight to the Northern hemisphere, they both decided to make a stop in Borneo. LBX stopped for 5 days at the east coast of Borneo in North Kalimantan, a site which was also popular for Great Knot and Red Knot as per previous satellite tracking data. LDN landed on the west coast of Borneo on the Malaysian side near the town Bintulu and stayed for 8 days.

Fig 5: LBX and LDN's stop-over at Borneo



LDN then moved on migrating north to reach Guangxi Province in China on 8-May-18 and is currently just less than 140km from the forth departing Tattler LDU. LDU departed Australia on 28-Apr-18 evening and made a direct 5-day flight to reach Leizhou Peninsular in Guangdong Province. After stopping for a day, it flew west and crossed the China-Vietnam boarder.

Fig 6: LDN and LDU's location in Southern China and North Vietnam



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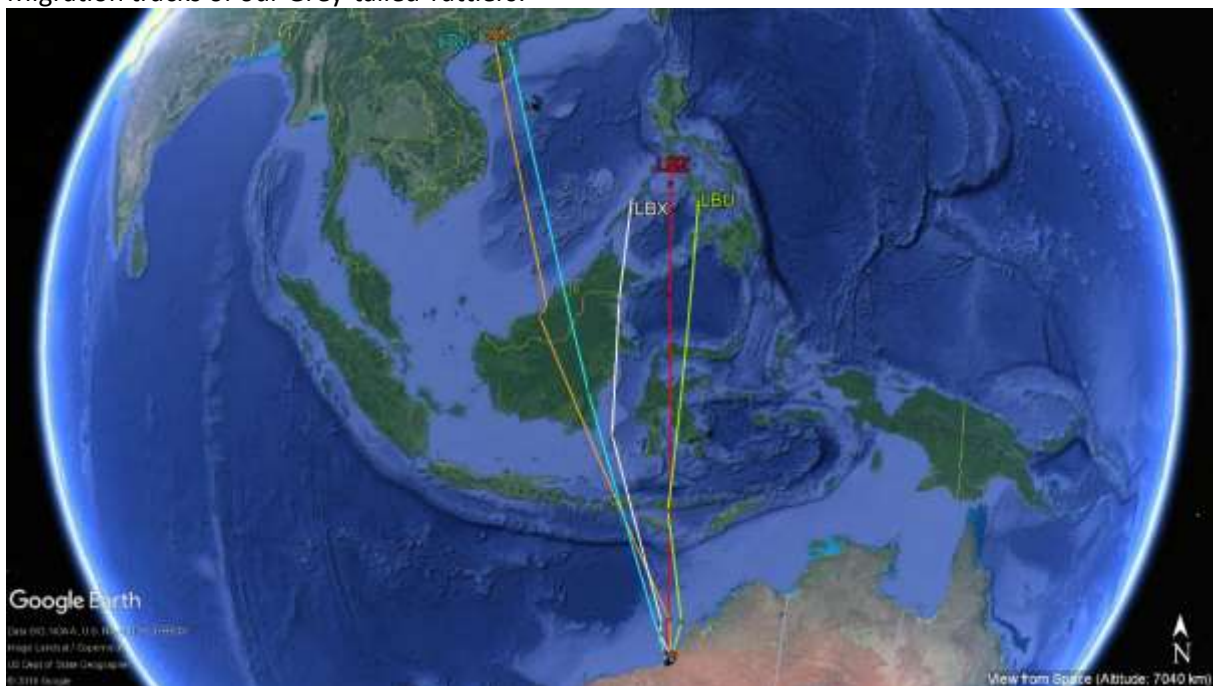
Similar to LDU, the remaining two Tattlers, LBZ and LBU also made a direct flight to their first stop-over site in the Philippines. They departed 26-Apr-18 and 2-May-18 respectively and spent 3-4 days flight over 3,200km to reach the Philippines. They were joined by LBX after its stop-over in east Borneo.

Fig 7: Location of LBZ, LBU and LBX in the Philippines



As of 10-May-18:

Migration tracks of our Grey-tailed Tattlers:



AWSG Satellite Transmitter Project 2018 UPDATES ~ #2

Migration summary on our Grey-tailed Tattlers

| Leg Flag (track colour) | No. of days since transmitter deployment | No. of days since departing Australia | Distance travelled |
|----------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| LBU (green) | 83 days | 8 days | 3,290 km |
| LBX (white) | | 15 days | 3,324 km |
| LBZ (red) | | 14 days | 3,497 km |
| LDN (orange) | | 15 days | 4,789 km |
| LDU (blue) | | 12 days | 4,874 km |

Katherine Leung
10 May 2018