

Reunion on the way home

Last but not least our last Whimbrel KU decided to move south after staying at the Yellow Sea for 50 days! And even more interesting it decided to join KS in South East Sulawesi!

Very similar to KS on its southward migration, KU departed Yingkou in Liaoning Province at night on 24-Sep and flew continuously for 6 days to arrive at South East Sulawesi. This 6-day flight covered a distance of 5,072km with an average speed of 35.2km/h.

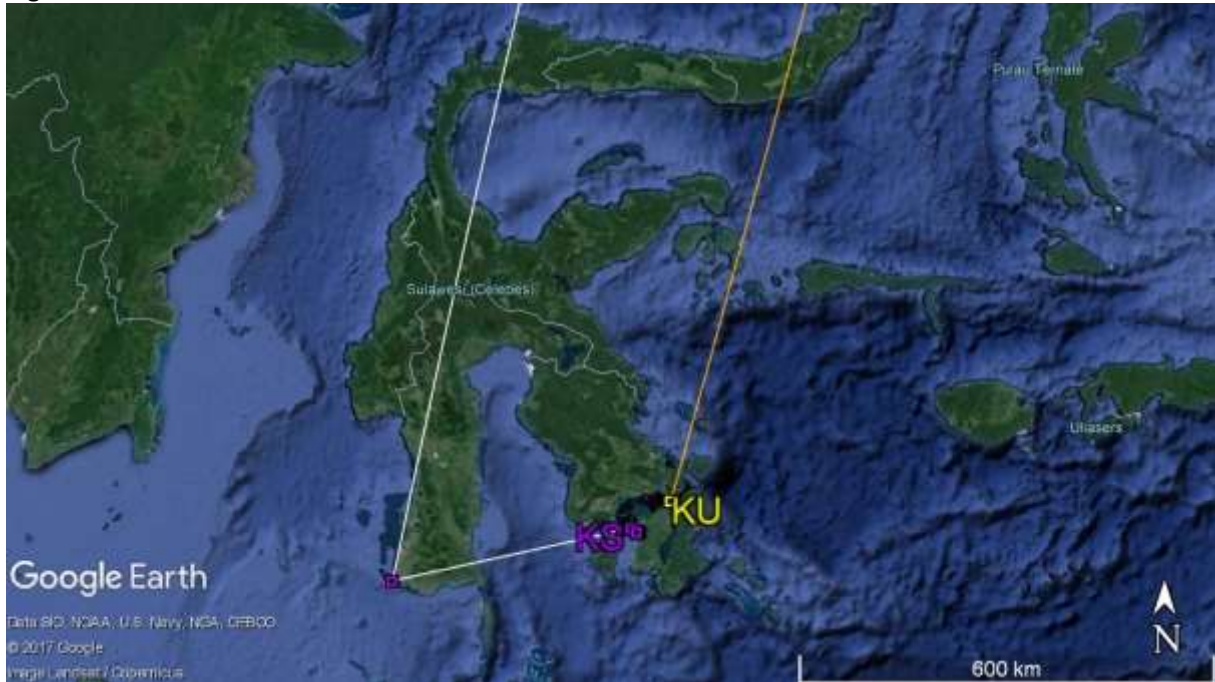
Fig 1: KU's southward migration from Yellow Sea to Sulawesi



To a surprise, KU joined KS to stop-over at South-east Sulawesi, they are only 60km apart from each other at the moment! It is amazing to see these 2 birds once again utilizing similar stop-over site. Earlier this year during the northward migration, these two birds reunion at the Yellow Sea in Panjin, Liaoning Province, sharing similar paddy field habitats just 50km apart from each other. Four and a half month later after successful breeding in Siberia, they reunion again in Sulawesi!

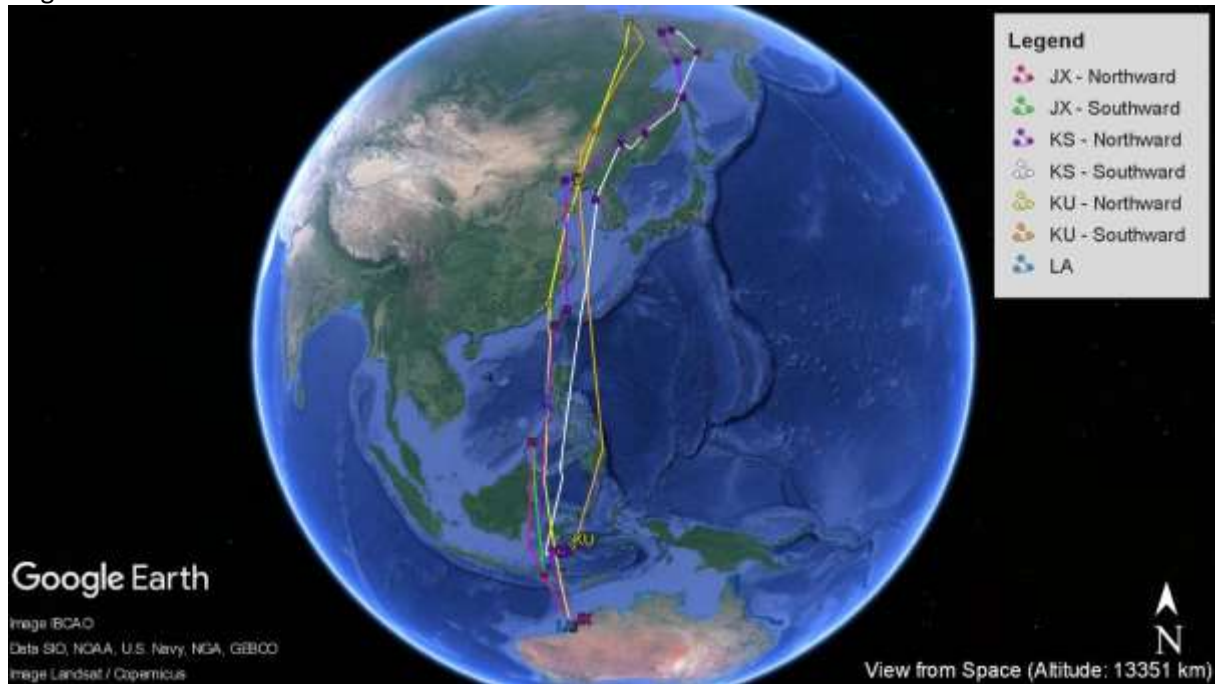
We'll now wait and see if they will depart on similar days to head back home.

Fig 2: Location of KS and KU in South East Sulawesi



As of 1 October 2017:

Migration tracks of our Whimbrels:



Migration summary on our Whimbrels

Leg Flag (track colour: N - S)	No. of days since deployment	No. of days since departing Australia	Distance travelled
LA (blue)	231 days	0 days	0 km
KS (purple - white)	219 days	168 days	19,631 km
KU (yellow - orange)	219 days	167 days	18,348 km
JX (pink - green)	190 days	164 days	6,124 km

Katherine Leung
1 October 2017