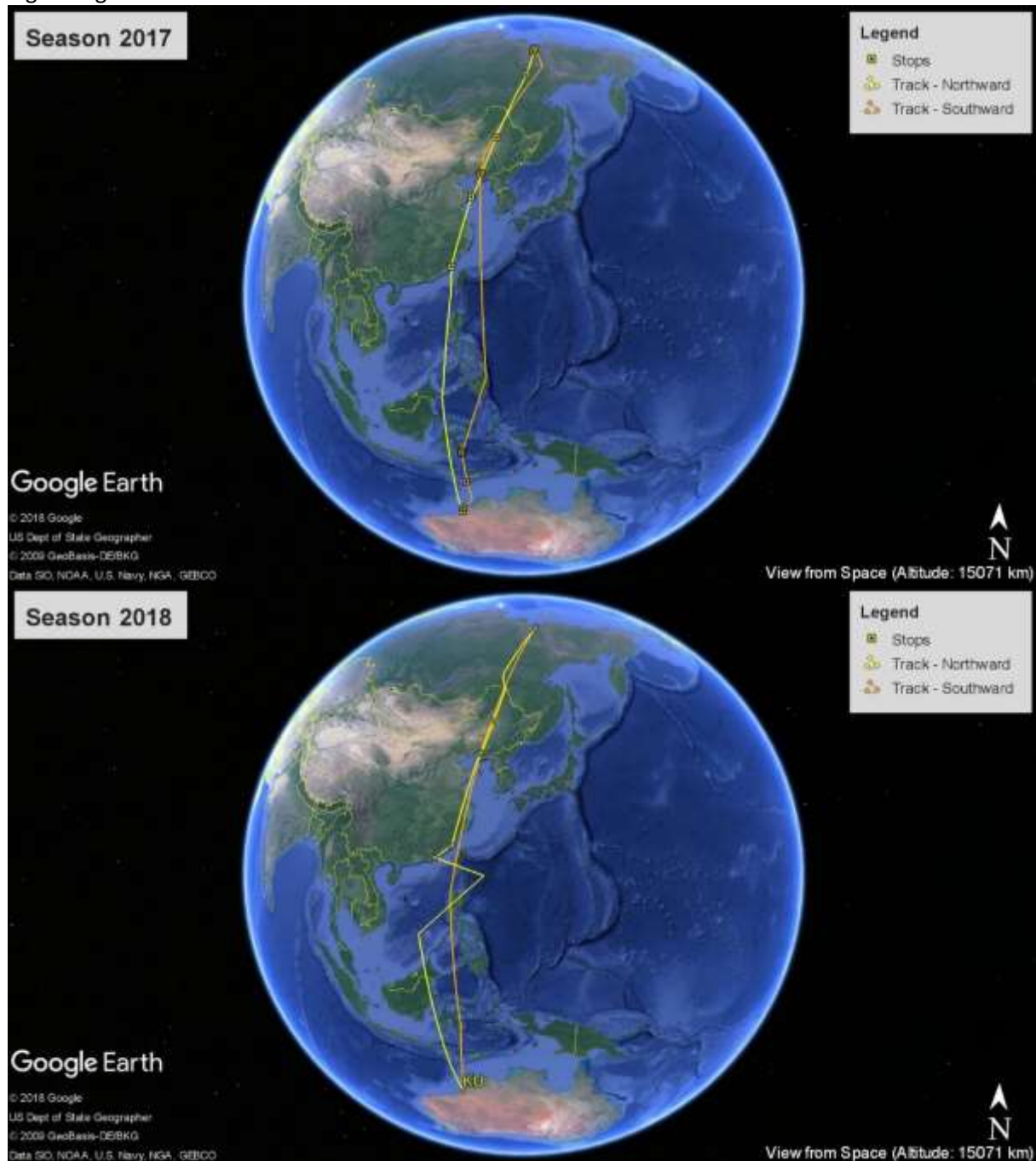


Home run!

Amazing news! KU just made it home to Roebuck Bay, Broome yesterday morning! A continuous 6.5 days flight of 6,522km at around 42km/h directly from the Yellow Sea to Broome! Arrival date is 1.5 month earlier compare to 2017.

Fig 1: Migration track of KU in 2017 and 2018



Unlike season 2017, KU skipped its stops at Sulawesi in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Dampier Peninsular. Thinking on the positive side, it might mean that KU has decided it had reserved enough energy from the Yellow Sea for it to make a direct flight, or, from a negative side, would it mean the stop-over sites may not be as attractive as previous year?

Taking a closer look at the track, it does appear that KU might have slow down near Sulawesi, and as it reached Dampier Peninsular at 5am on 2-Oct, it flew along the coast until reaching Broome at 8am.

Fig 2: KU's migration track as it was approaching Broome



Table 1: A comparison of KU's migration in 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018
Departure date from Australia	17-Apr	22-Apr
Arrival date at S. China	23-Apr	26-Apr
No. of days in S. China	11 (Fujian)	4 (Guangdong) + 7 (Fujian)
Departure date from S. China	4-May	9 May
Arrival date at Liaoning	8-May	13-May
No. of days in Liaoning	11	6
Departure date from Liaoning	19-May	19-May
Arrival date at Breeding Ground	7-Jun	1-Jun
No. of days at Breeding Ground	40 (nest) + 14 (136km S of nest)	62
Departure date from Breeding	2-Aug	2-Aug
Arrival date at Yellow Sea	6-Aug	4-Aug
No. of days at Yellow Sea	49	52
Departure date from Yellow Sea	24-Sep	25-Sep
Arrival date at S. Asia	30-Sep	
No. of days in S. Asia	21 (Sulawesi) + 2 (Timor-Leste)	
Departure date from S. Asia	25-Oct	
Arrival date at Australia	29-Oct (Dampier Peninsular)	2-Oct
Arrival date at Roebuck Bay	15-Nov	
Total no. of days away from Aus.	195	163
Distance of travel	19921km	20052km

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