

Oriental Pratincole – All on the go and where they will stop, we really don't know!

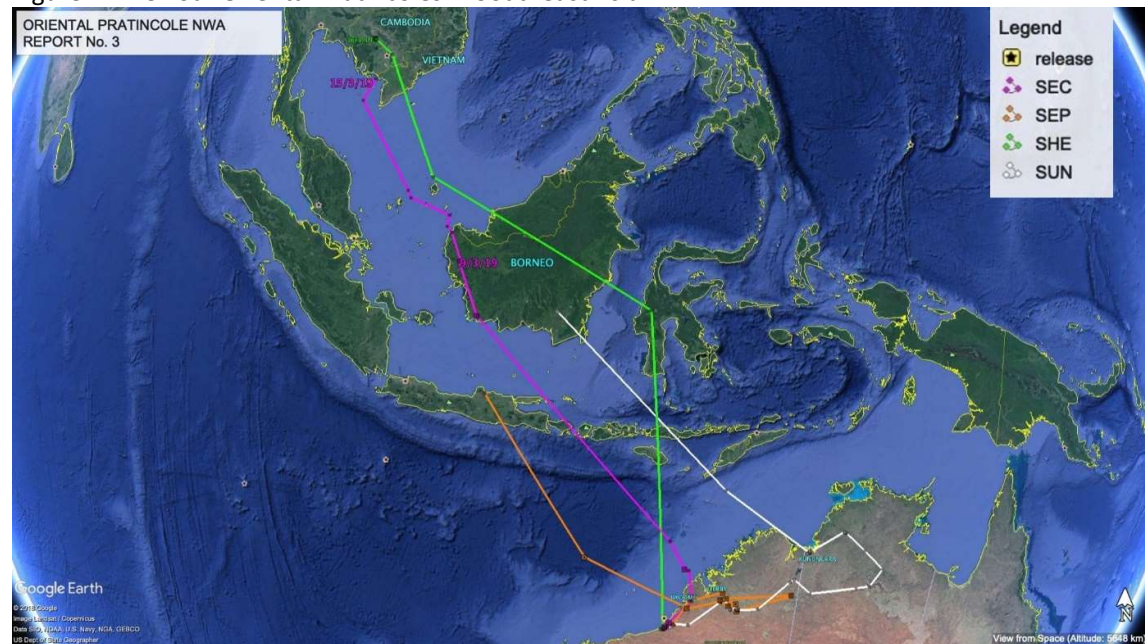
(by Grace Maglio)

With all four birds now in Southeast Asia we find SHE on the floodplains of Tonle Sap Lake and SEP near the city of Pati; the same locations as described last week. SEC and SUN continue their migrations, making flights further north.

Photo 1: Oriental Pratincole ready to release with transmitter (Photo by Tom Clarke)



Figure 1: The Four Oriental Pratincoles in Southeast Asia



Distance from release location 16 March

Engraved Leg-flag	Distance from 80 Mile Beach release location (approx.)
SUN	2,000km
SEP	1,790km
SHE	4,000km
SEC	3,700km

SUN - On 9 March SUN's position was recorded 140km north-east of the Ashmore Islands, approximately 300km off North West Australia's Kimberley Coast. Four days later and another 1,450km northwest, SUN is now located in Central Kalimantan, approximately 5km from the Barito River and 10km from the village of Rantau Kujang, in the Jenamas District of Borneo. This location is approximately 2,000km from the release site at 80 Mile Beach in North West Australia.

Figure 2: SUN fly by Ashmore Islands, Indian Ocean to Central Kalimantan

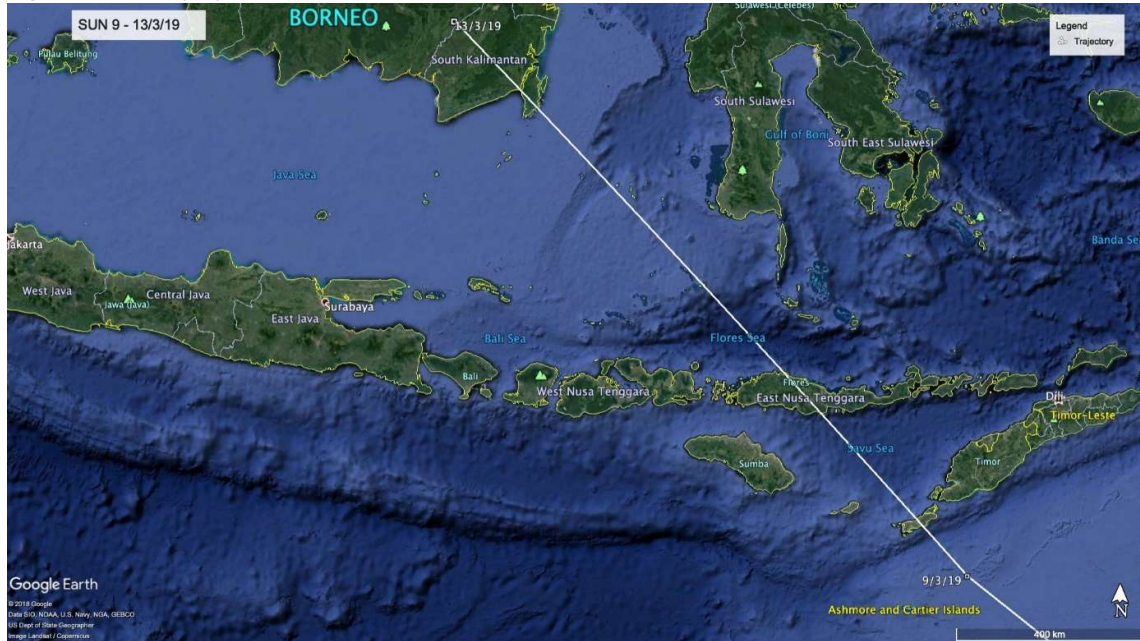


Figure 3: SUN's Central Kalimantan stopover



SEP - SEP has not moved since our last report and remains in the moderately populated Pati Regency in Central Java, Indonesia. This bird seems to be using agricultural land surrounded by many villages in the area.

Figure 4: SEP Remains in the Pati Regency, Central Java



SHE – Three weeks have passed since SHE first began migration. In our last report, SHE had settled in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, Cambodia where it still remains. The latest location shows this bird in the Roniem Forest, containing habitat which includes open grasslands.

Figure 5: SHE at Tonle Sap Lake Biosphere Reserve



SEC – After departing Broome, SEC remained in the West Kalimantan Region, Borneo, for approximately 11 days. Around 12 March there was a brief stopover at Pulau Serasan, (Serasan Island) - part of the southern group of Islands making up the Natuna Regency, Indonesia. Between 14 and 15 March, SEC travelled a distance of approximately 850km to its latest location 23km off the coast of the Vietnam-Cambodian border, approximately 3,700km from the release site at 80 Mile Beach in North West Australia.

Figure 6: SEC flight from West Kalimantan region to the coast of Vietnam

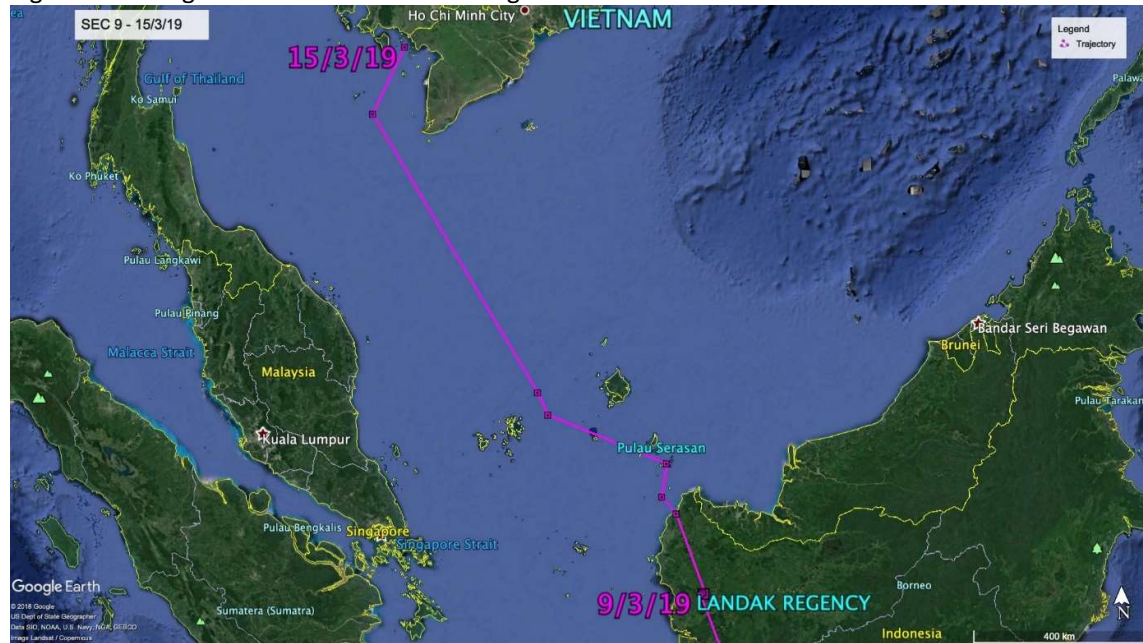
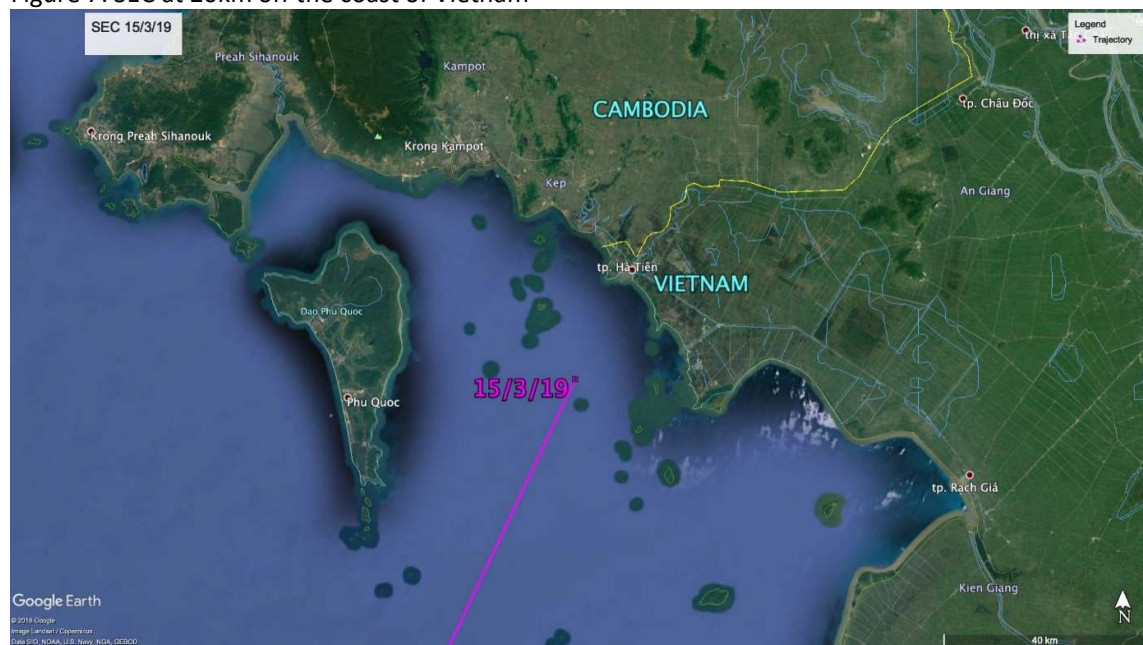


Figure 7: SEC at 20km off the coast of Vietnam



Little Curlew – Slight movement (by Inka Veltheim)

During the past week, four of the Little Curlews have mostly continued to roam around the grazed grassland of Anna Plains Station in the same area. However, on 17 March, LS moved northwards approximately 200km to the grazed grasslands at Roebuck Plains, near Broome. This is probably the first step in its northward migration.

The fifth transmitter LK is confirmed as not now being on a live bird. It is still transmitting indicating that it may have been shed and be now lying on the ground with its solar panel facing upwards.

Figure 8: LS's movement to Roebuck Plains



Photo 2: Roebuck Plains Station (Photo by Katherine Leung)



Whimbrel (by Katherine Leung) – There is still a month to go until the anticipated departure date. Both KU and LA remain at their marking locations, Roebuck Bay and 80 Mile Beach respectively.