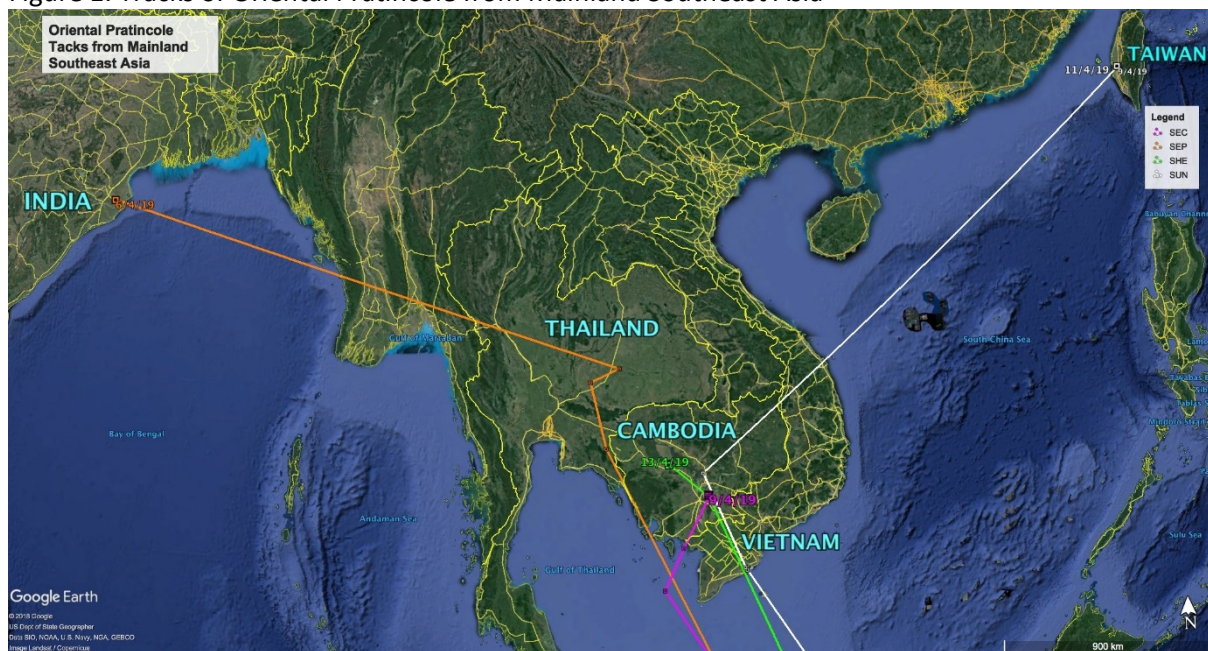


***Oriental Pratincole – Namaste, Susaday and Ni Hao; Greetings from across the flyway*** (by Grace Maglio and Clive Minton)

It is absolutely marvellous the way these satellite tagged Oriental Pratincoles continue to come up with surprises. Having stuck my neck out and suggested that they may have already reached their breeding areas, two birds have made major onward migrations during the past week. One has gone to Taiwan, the site of our only previous overseas record of an Australian marked Oriental Pratincole. The other has gone to India. If this bird remains to breed it will be the first example of an Australian wader breeding in India. SHE and SEC continuing their stay in Cambodia. With two of the four birds using Mainland Southeast Asia as a staging area (SUN 7 days and SEP 11 days approx.), it will be interesting to see future movements of SHE and SEC; which way will they go?

For this special update we have ‘on the ground information’ from friend and colleague Chung-Yu Chiang, Senior Bander, Taiwan Wader Study Group.

**Figure 1: Tracks of Oriental Pratincole from Mainland Southeast Asia**



**Distance from release location 6 April**

Engraved Leg-flag	Distance from 80 Mile Beach release location (approx.)
SUN	4,800km
SEP	5,800km
SHE	4,000km
SEC	3,840km

**SUN** - Why the long road? (with input from Chung-Yu Chiang) - On 5 April, SUN's location was in the Baray District of Cambodia. Around 6 April after approximately 7 days on Mainland Southeast Asia, SUN headed west and although we are unable to determine the route taken, this bird travelled approximately 2,030km east and was located in Taiwan – in rice fields around Ba-Chang River in Tainan City on 9 April and Chiayi County on 10 April.

What makes this flight fascinating is that had SUN taken a more direct route to this area from 80 Mile Beach, Western Australia, it may well have saved itself around 1,000 kilometres of air travel.

Figure 2: SUN - Kampong Tong Province, Cambodia to Taiwan



Figure 3: SUN - tracks in Taiwan

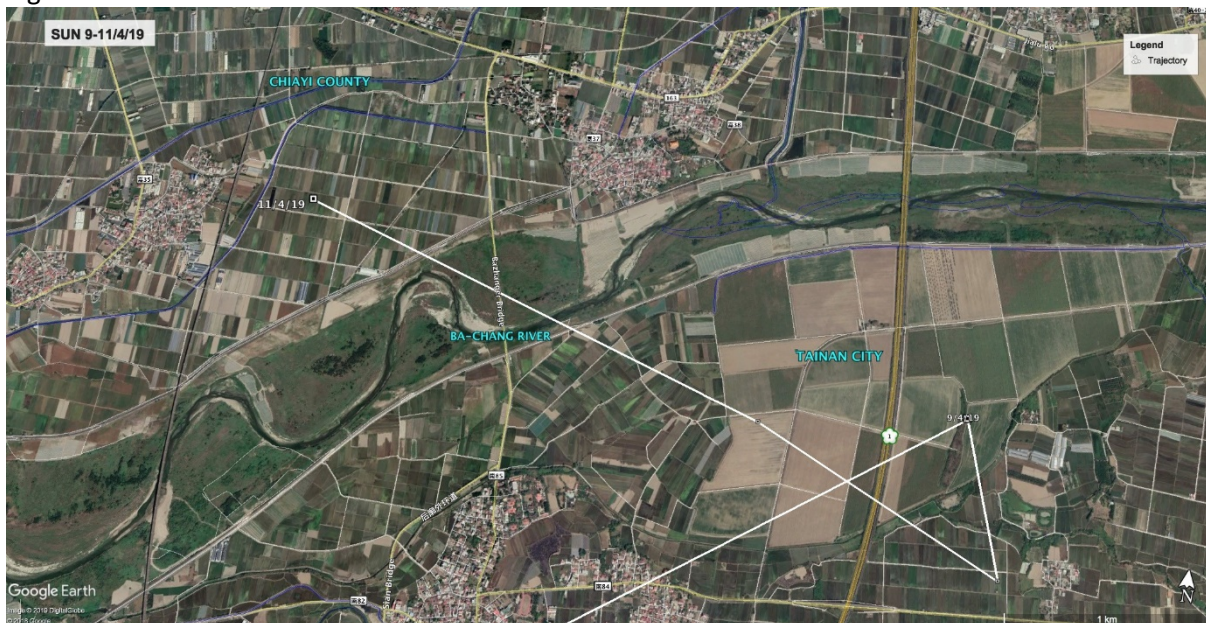






















































Photo 2: SUN - an example of habitat in Chiayi County location (Google Street View)



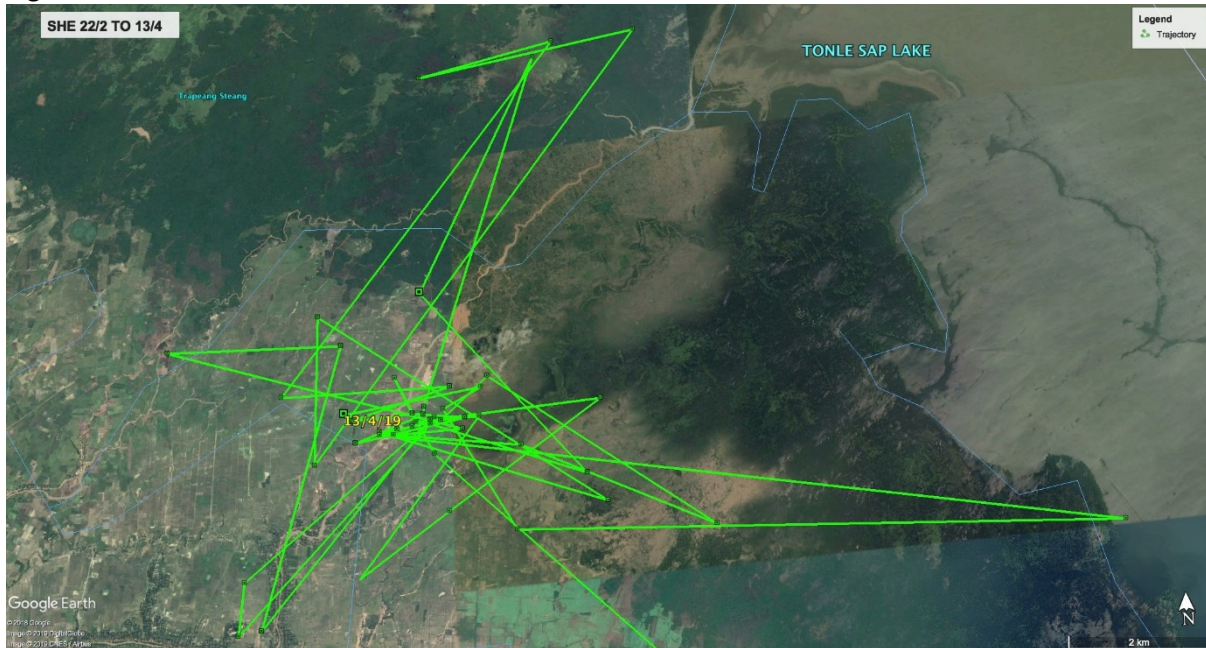
**SEP** - Keep calm and wait until next week - According to the more reliable location data, there has been no change to SEP's movements. However, less accurate data suggests that SEP may be moving west along India's Eastern Coastal Plains. We hope to have more up-to-date information next week.

Figure 5: SEP's last accurate location reading.



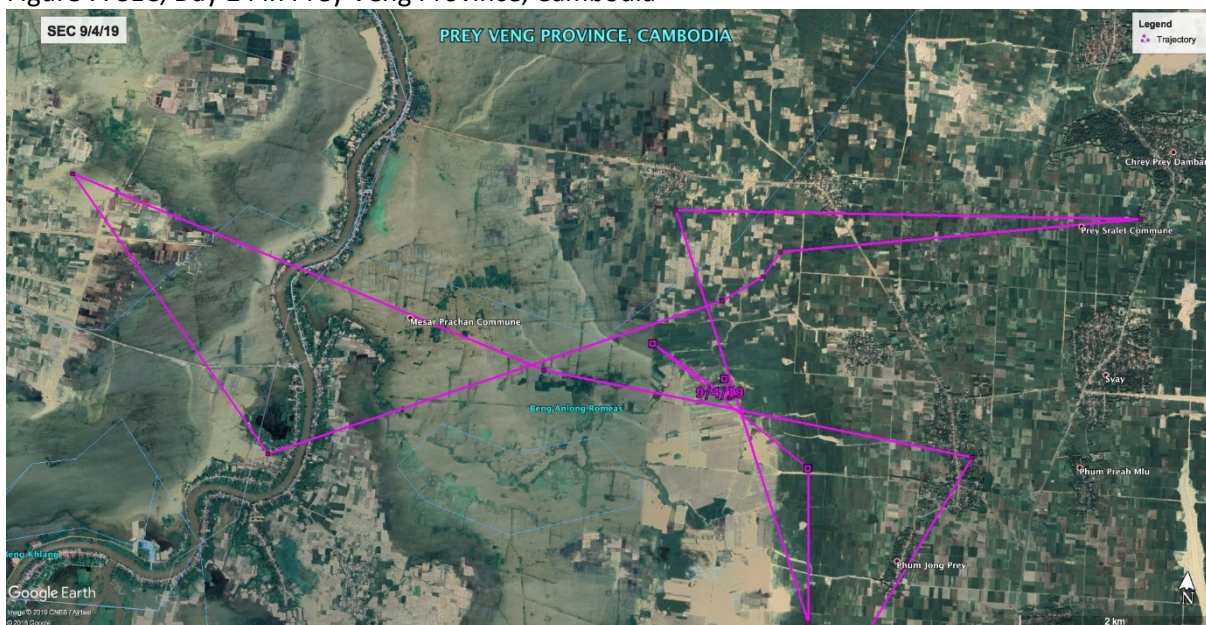
**SHE** - The waiting is the hardest part - Seven weeks on and it is still difficult to determine whether SHE's movements are an indication of potential breeding/nesting or normal foraging/roosting behaviour. So, the question remains: will SHE find the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve suitable for breeding or is SHE exploiting the resources in this area to ensure peak body condition for breeding in another part of the Flyway?

Figure 6: SHE's Cambodian wetland home



**SEC** – Patience is a virtue - Accurate data, once again has been scarce this week but less accurate data suggests SEC continues to inhabit Prey Veng Province, Cambodia, now for 24 days. With breeding season for these birds occurring from around April to June, we expect some progress/movements in the near future.

Figure 7: SEC, Day 24 in Prey Veng Province, Cambodia



***Little Curlew – A stop-over*** (by Inka Veltheim)

Little Curlew LL has moved about 90 km east on Seram Island, Maluku province. The others (LS and LU) are still getting ready for migration at Anna Plains and we expect them to migrate any day now.

Figure 8: Movement of LL on Seram Island



Photo 3: Little Curlews should now be gaining more weight compare to when this photograph was taken in Feb (by Pat Macwhirter)



***Whimbrel – Still Counting down*** (by Katherine Leung)

No movement yet for Whimbrel KU and LA, we are still holding our breaths.

Photo 4: Whimbrel KU might now be as fat as this photo taken in Apr 2017, ready for its long flight to China (by Grace Maglio)

