

Foreword (by Clive Minton)

The last species to join the northward trek were the two Whimbrel – one from 80 Mile Beach and the other from Roebuck Bay, Broome. Both these birds originally had their satellite transmitter attached in February 2017.

In contrast, all four Oriental Pratincoles may now be settled in their breeding areas and may have commenced their 2019 breeding season. We're probably in for a quieter period now in terms of news on this species.

The Little Curlew situation seems to have clarified (rationalised) with only two birds (out of five) apparently now transmitting.

Photo 1: Whimbrel at Roebuck Bay starts migration about mid-late April (by Katherine Leung)



Oriental Pratincole – It's time to focus on the task at hand – Breeding (by Grace Maglio)

After the excitement of the unpredictable and interesting journey this project has treated us to so far, this week has been 'uneventful' overall.

Firstly, there was limited accurate data received, most likely due to the cloudy weather that occurred in most of the regions where the birds are currently situated. Secondly, the birds seem to have stopped migrating. Now this may be 'boring' in comparison to the great flight distances and habitat choices of recent weeks but we are at the most important stage in the Oriental Pratincole's life cycle...Breeding. So, this week while the most reliable location readings were scarce, there is enough information in the data to suggest that all four birds may have reached their chosen breeding grounds.

Figure 1: Tracks of Oriental Pratincole from Mainland Southeast Asia – 28 April 2019

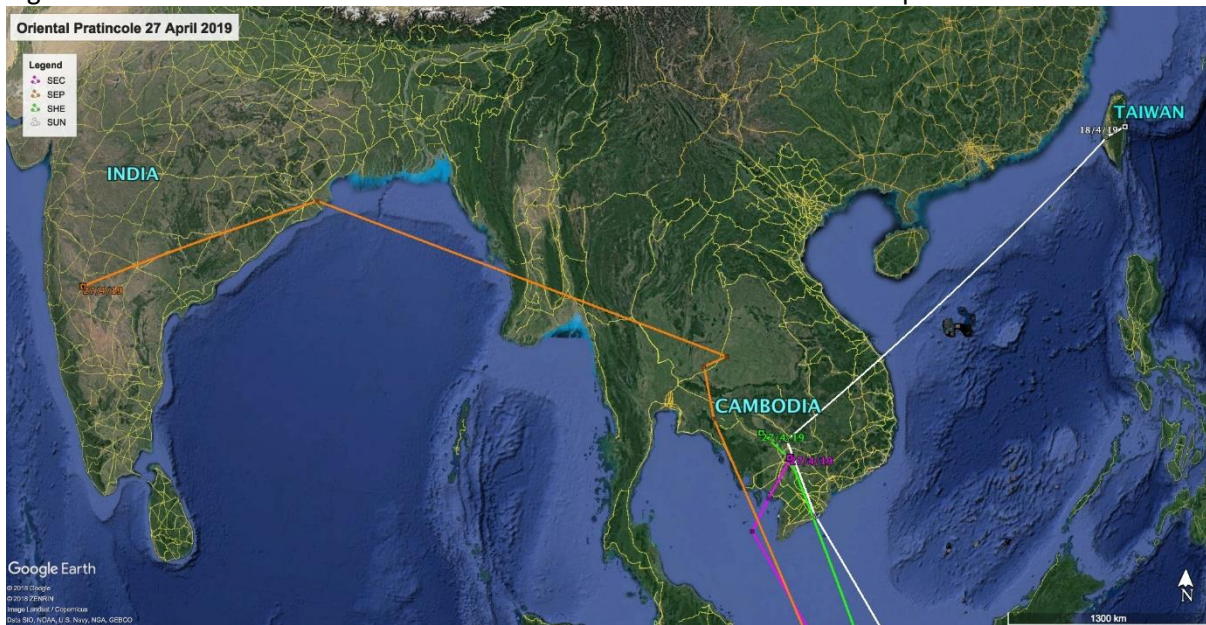
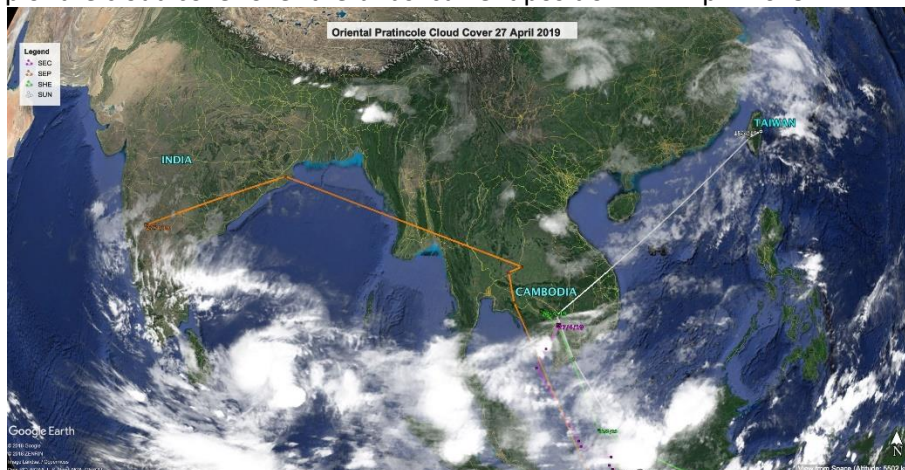


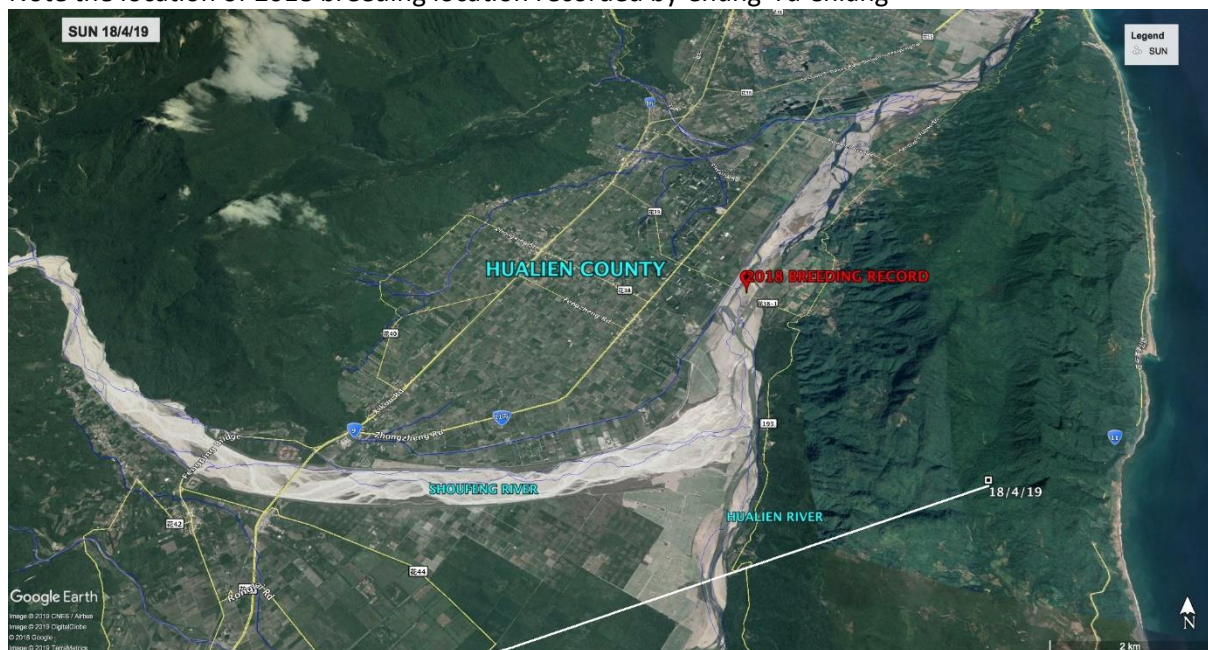
Figure 2: Map of the cloud cover over the birds' current position – 27 April 2019



Distance from release location 28 April	
Engraved Leg-flag	Distance from 80 Mile Beach release location (approx.)
SUN	4,800km
SEP	6,350km
SHE	4,000km
SEC	3,840km

SUN - Early days yet - With only inaccurate location data available this week we continue to assume that SUN is most likely situated on the dry riverbeds somewhere along the Shoufeng and Hualien Rivers, where breeding attempts have occurred in previous years. We hope that more information will be made available within the next week or so.

Figure 3: SUN - 28/4/19, approximate location Hualien County, Taiwan.
Note the location of 2018 breeding location recorded by Chung-Yu Chiang



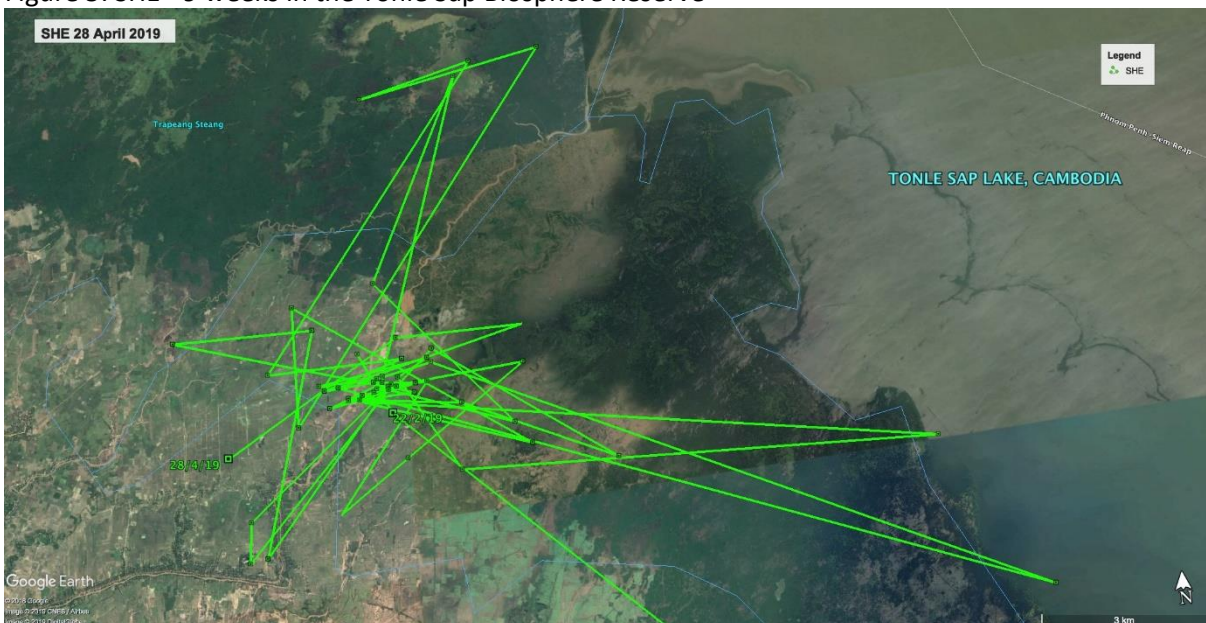
SEP - River view - After last weeks long awaited data to confirm SEP's location in South West India in the state of Karnataka, SEP seems to be making short local movements on the banks of the Krishna River, within the boundary of Heggur Village, Bagalkot District, Karnataka.

Figure 4: Short local movements SEP Heggur Village, Bagalkot District, India



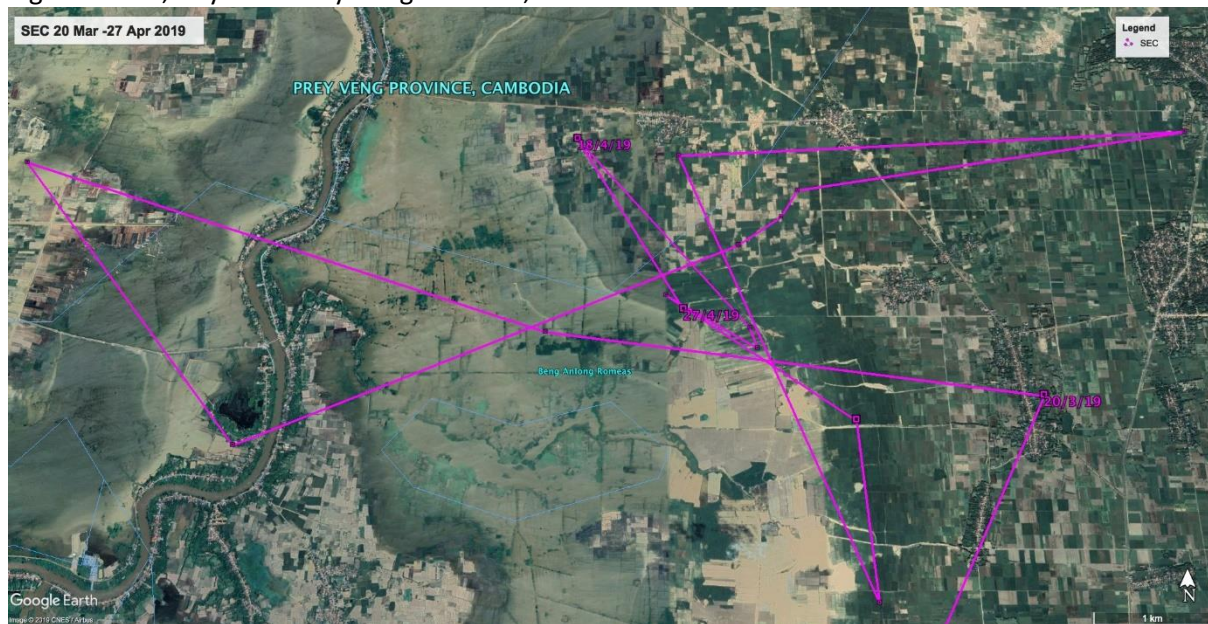
SHE - Lakeside living – raising chicks?? - Nine weeks in the Tonle Sap Biosphere and SHE continues with short local movements further reinforcing our belief that SHE is breeding in this area.

Figure 5: SHE - 9 weeks in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve



SEC – So where’s a good place to nest? - Day 40 and SEC is still in Prey Veng Province and it seems its movements may be becoming even more localised. Another week or so of data will hopefully help paint a better picture.

Figure 6: SEC, Day 40 in Prey Veng Province, Cambodia



Little Curlew – Landing (by Inka Veltheim)

Little Curlew LS has reached the coast of China, having flown non-stop from Australia, similarly to LU. These individuals are about 170 km apart, and LS is near Mianlin, in an agricultural area adjacent to a river.

Figure 7: LS's landing on Mainland China



LU has moved 35 km north-east and is in proximity to the Quixiang River and appears to be also using agricultural fields. Poor accuracy fixes from 28 April suggest this individual is continuing on its northward migration, about a week after its first stop over.

Figure 8: LU's movement near Quixiang River



Figure 9: Migration tracks of LU, LL and LS



Whimbrel – Airborne! (by Katherine Leung)

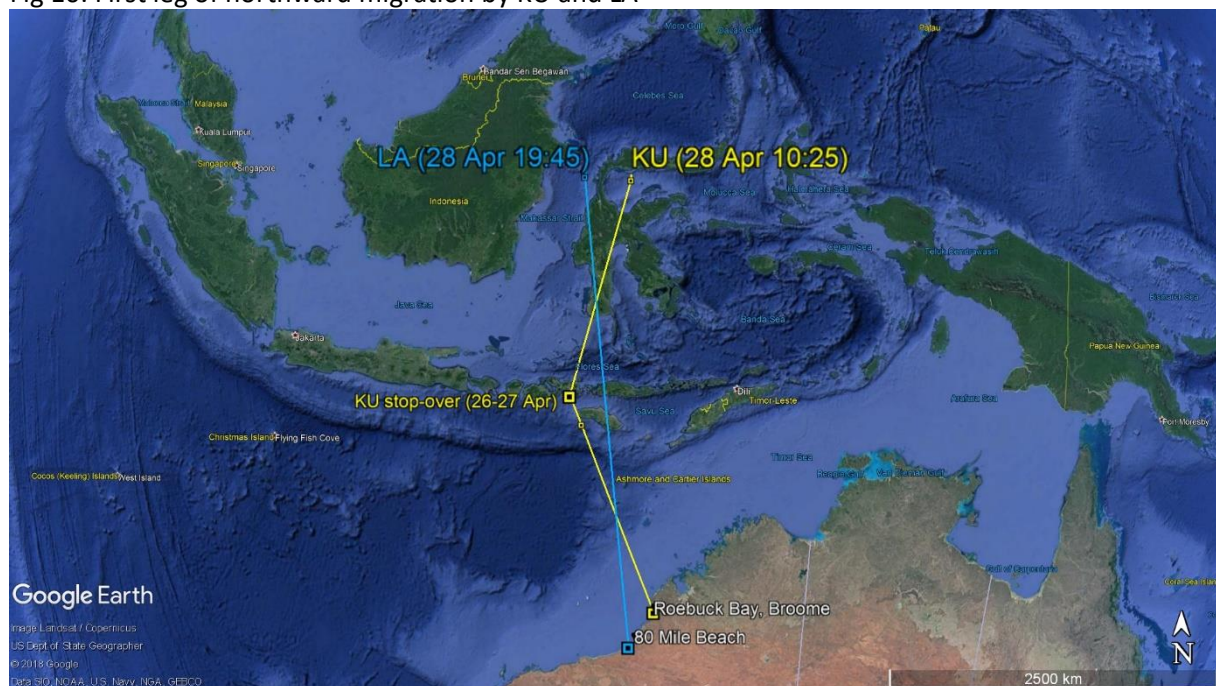
Finally, Whimbrel migration is on!

Whimbrel KU departed from Broome on 25 April (3 days later than previous year) after spending 205 days for the non-breeding season in Australia. KU made a change from previous two years northward migration by making a stop-over for one day at the coast of Sumbawa Island in Indonesia, about 400km east of Bali. KU made this 1,082km flight in less than a day time, with minimum speed of 47km/h. On 27 April, it started again to migrate another 1,004km to pass the equator at Central Sulawesi on 28 April morning in similar speed.

LA left Eighty Mile Beach a day later on 26 April (2 days late compare to previous year) after spending 201 days within a 10km section of Eighty Mile Beach at 40-50km south of Anna Plains Station entrance. Within 2 days it has already travelled 2,272km, crossing the equator with minimum speed of 45km/h on 28 Apr evening.

We are looking forward to see whether they will make their landing on Mainland China at the same location as previous year(s).

Fig 10: First leg of northward migration by KU and LA



Migration summary of Whimbrels (as of 29 April 2019):

Leg Flag (track colour)	No. of days since transmitter deployment	No. of days since departing Australia (2019)	Distance travelled (2019)
KU (yellow)	794 days	4 days	2,086 km
LA (blue)	806 days	3 days	2,272 km