

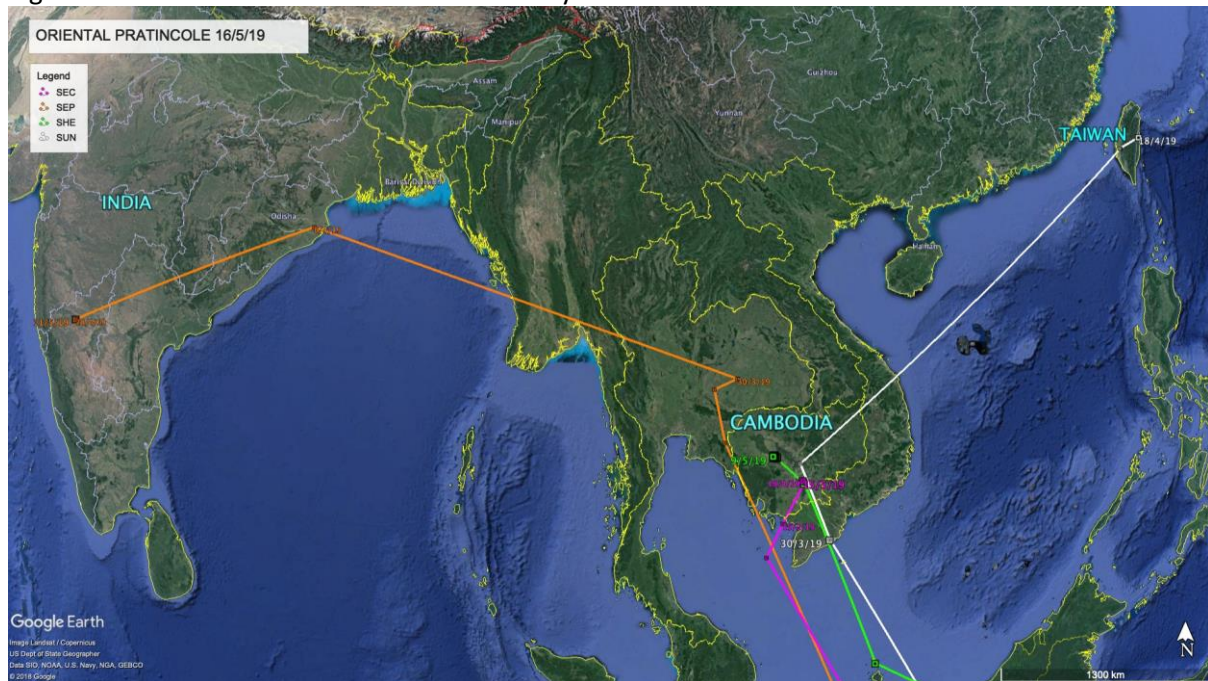
Oriental Pratincole – Collaboration and Teamwork (by Grace Maglio)

“Unity is strength.... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved”

This week, while waiting for location readings there was considerable ‘behind the scenes’ work mainly involving lots of emails to and from colleagues in India and Taiwan. The outcome of this extra effort resulted in amazing news from India and while the weather in Taiwan looked promising for a number of days, it seems the rains have hit again, hindering quality data.

All birds are still believed to be in their chosen breeding locations with continued local movements and it is likely that all these birds are involved in breeding activity.

Figure 1: Tracks of Oriental Pratincole – 16 May 2019



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

SUN - “The sun will come out tomorrow” – won’t it?? (with input from Chung-Yu Chiang) - The weather had finally cleared and, oh so slowly, the data transmissions were returning, and then, just as it looked like quality data was on its way, the weather turned once again. Although we are yet to receive accurate location data, the information we did receive does suggest that SUN remains Hualien County and somewhere near the Shoufeng and Hualien Rivers.

Figure 2: SUN - Last accurate reading 18/4/19, approximate location Hualien County, Taiwan.
Note the location of 2018 breeding location recorded by Chung-Yu Chiang



SEP - One little bird, many conservation possibilities - What a week! In a prime example of collaboration and teamwork. SEP, 'one little bird', ignited the interest and excitement of many people around the world as we watched its migration from North West Australia to Mainland Southeast Asia and then to India. These very movements had the power to connect people and show how working together can drive the protection of a species and ultimately ecosystems.

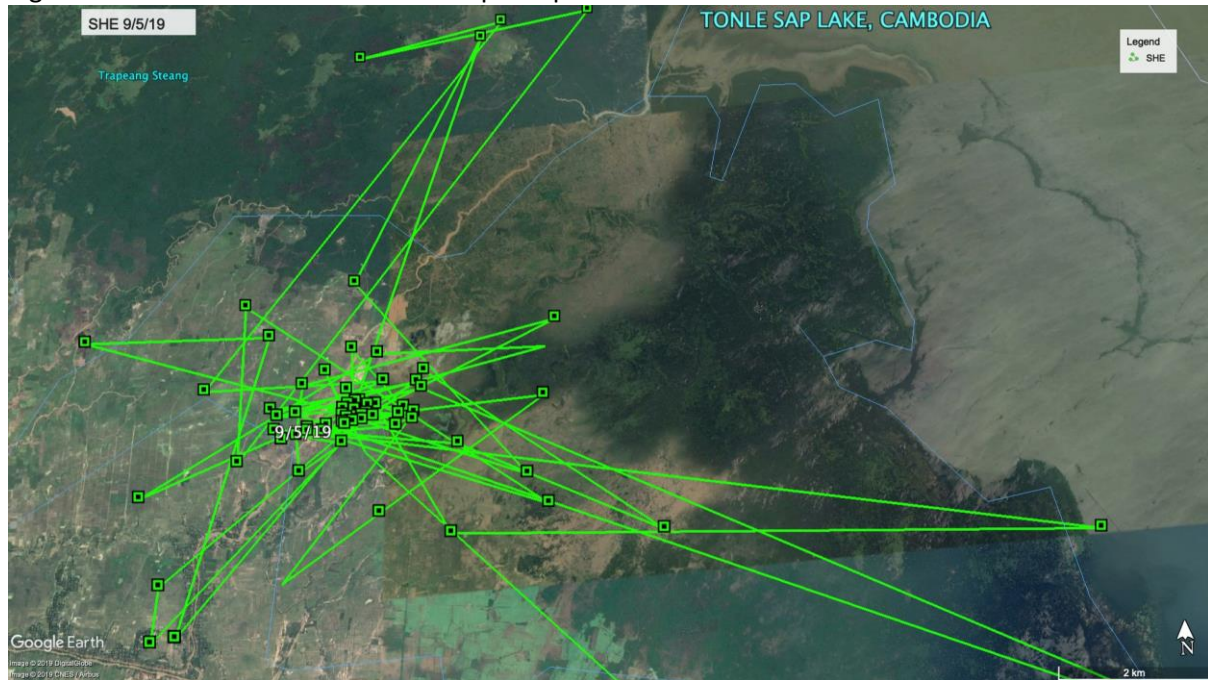
In brief, after reading about SEP's migration to India, a group of around eight individuals lead by Subbu Subramanya travelled to Bagalkot District, Karnataka on a three-day monitoring expedition. Their mission was to survey the flora and fauna of this area. The hope was to sight SEP during this three-day expedition and that is exactly what happened!

Figure 3: SEP - local tracks in Heggur Village, Bagalkot District, India (Also resighting location 13/5/19)



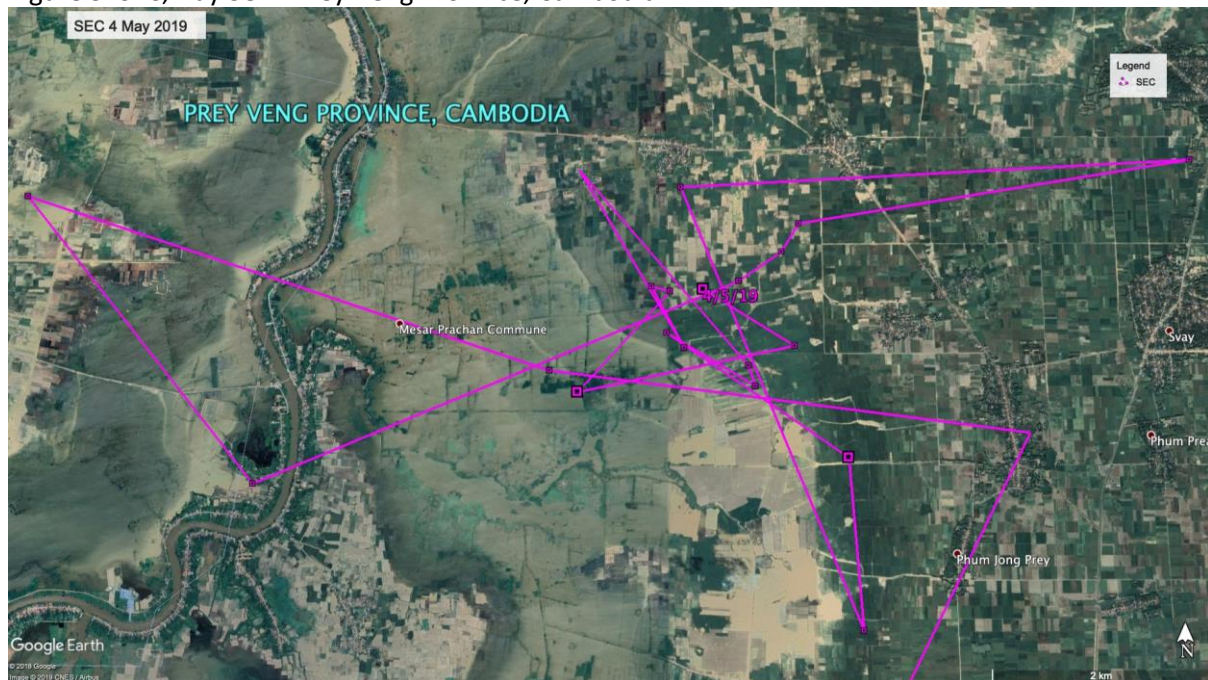
SHE - How long will SHE stay? - After eleven weeks in the one location, and what we believe are clear signs of breeding behaviour, the next question (or two) may well be; after the chicks fledge, what will be SHE's next move? Will the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve remain 'home' until it is time to return to the Coastal Plains of Eighty Mile Beach or will SHE surprise us all with her next move?

Figure 4: SHE - 11 weeks in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve



SEC – Just wait a SEC - Forty kilometres from Phnom Penh, in Prey Veng Province is where SEC has spent the last 58 days. SEC is probably breeding but we continue to wait for a more quality location data, which will help decide with more confidence.

Figure 5: SEC, Day 58 in Prey Veng Province, Cambodia



Little Curlew – One step at a time (by Inka Veltheim, with input from Katherine Leung)

Little Curlew LU is still in Yancheng Nature Reserve. On 7 May it moved towards the coast and now utilise aquaculture pond in the buffer zone instead. The area is mariculture ponds for shells, shrimps, crabs and clamworms are carried out.

Figure 6: Track of Little Curlew LU in Yancheng Nature Reserve



Photo 1: Drained aquaculture pond in buffer zone of Yancheng Nature Reserve (by Katherine Leung, Jan-2019)



LS continued to fly north on 10 May. Signal indicate it was still migrating on 12 May, approaching Wenzhou in Zhejiang province.

Figure 7: Tracks of Little Curlew LS

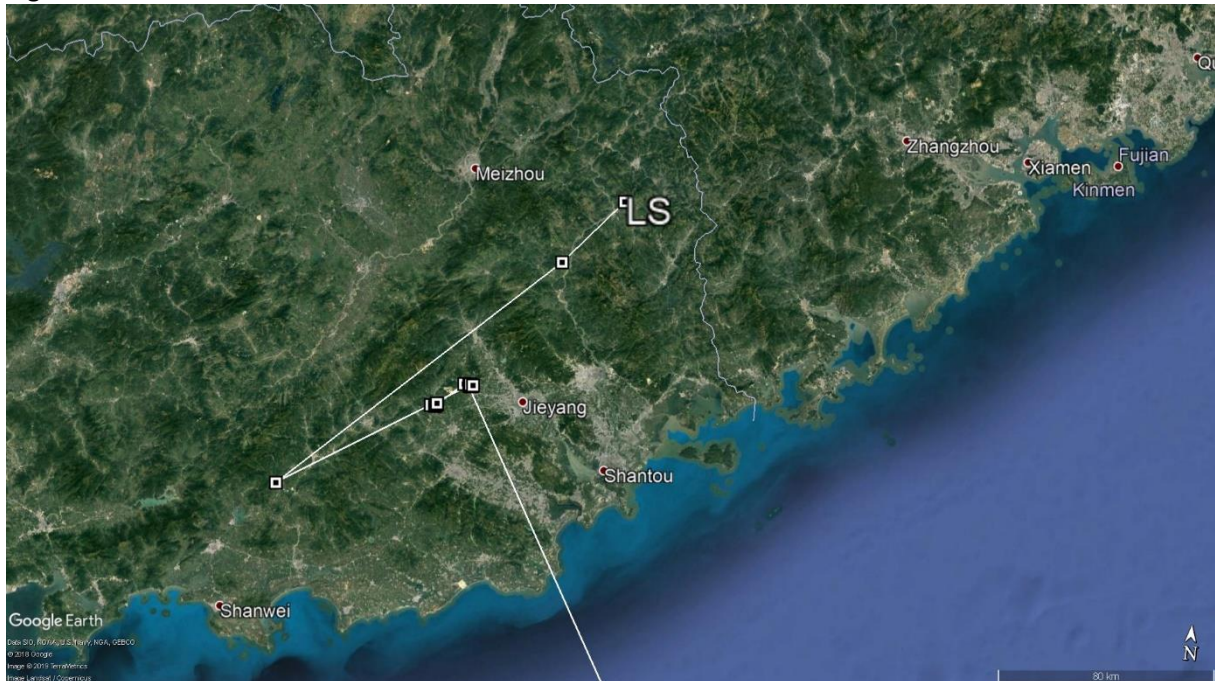
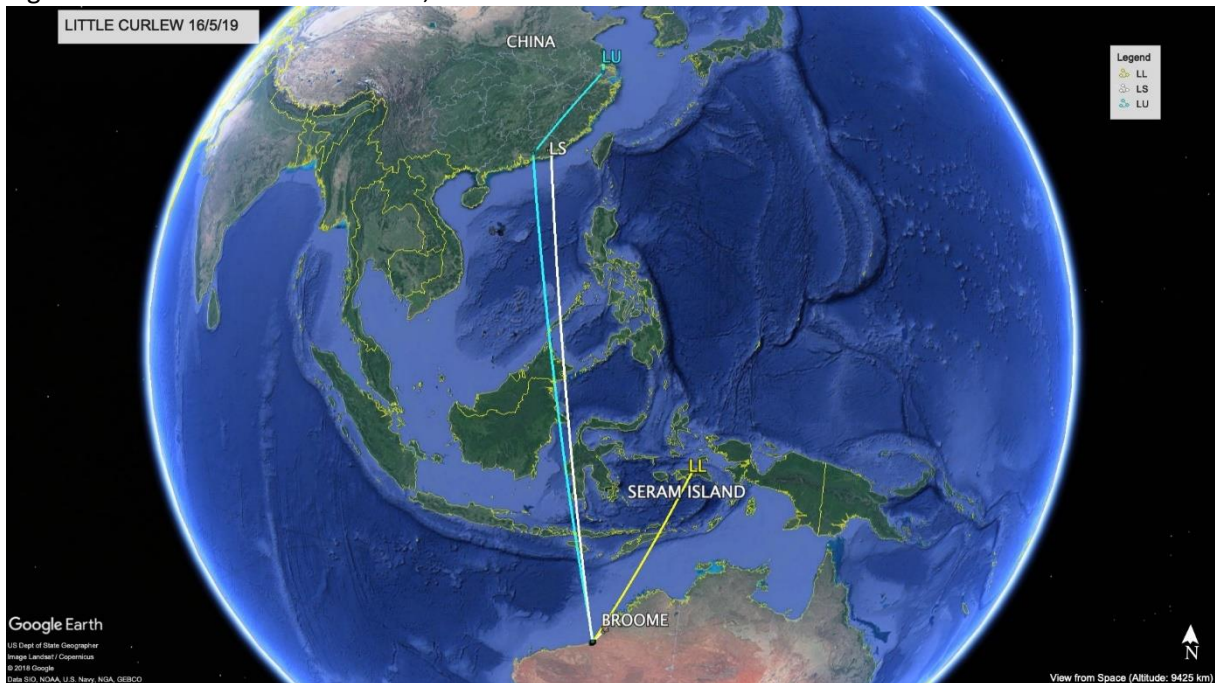


Figure 8: Tracks of Little Curlews LS, LU and LL

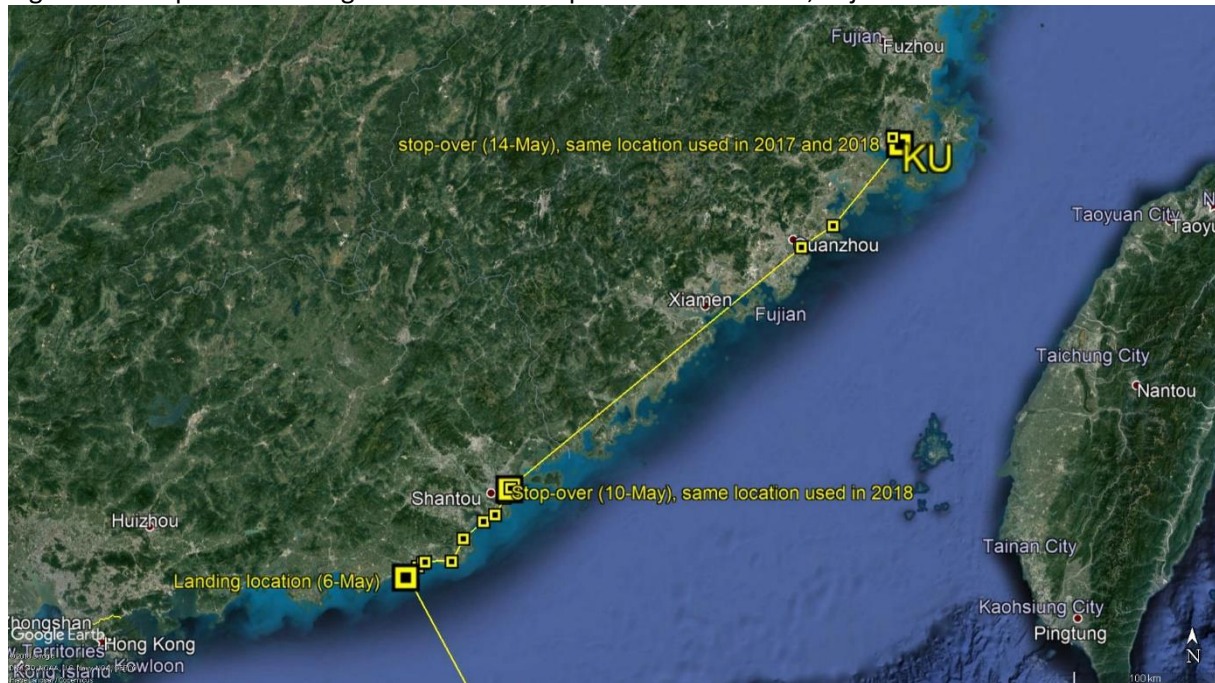


Whimbrel – On the same track (by Katherine Leung)

Despite some deviations at the early stage of northward migration, Whimbrel KU and LA continue to show high site fidelity to their major stop-over sites along China coast as per previous year(s).

Over the past week, KU gradually “hopped” along the coast of Guangdong Province towards its familiar stop-over site for the past 2 years in Putian, Fujian Province. A brief stop-over was made at an estuary near Shantou city on 10 May, which was the landing location of KU in 2018, before it moved on to arrive Putian on 14 May.

Fig 9: KU’s stop-over and migration track to stop-over site in Putian, Fujian Province



LA spent 5 days on Kinmen island before hopping back to estuary on mainland Fujian on 11-May. David Chang from Taiwan Wader Study Group was disappointed to miss LA during its stay in Kinmen, but fascinated by the diversity of habitats it has utilised, including sandy beach, mudflat and even drainage channels. Many thanks David for his effort to search for LA!

Photo 2: Drainage channel at south-east corner of Kinmen Island where LA utilized (by David Chang)



LA soon continued heading north to arrive the same stop-over site in Panjin, Liaoning Province on 15 May. May is the time when transplanting of rice seedlings are carried out at the extensive rice paddies in Panjin. Shallow water levels in these rice paddies provide feeding opportunities for shorebirds. On some of the rice paddies in Panjin, farmers also raise crabs as an eco-friendly way to control pest instead of applying pesticide. No wonder the area is attractive to Whimbrels.

Fig 10: LA's migration track to Panjin, Liaoning Province

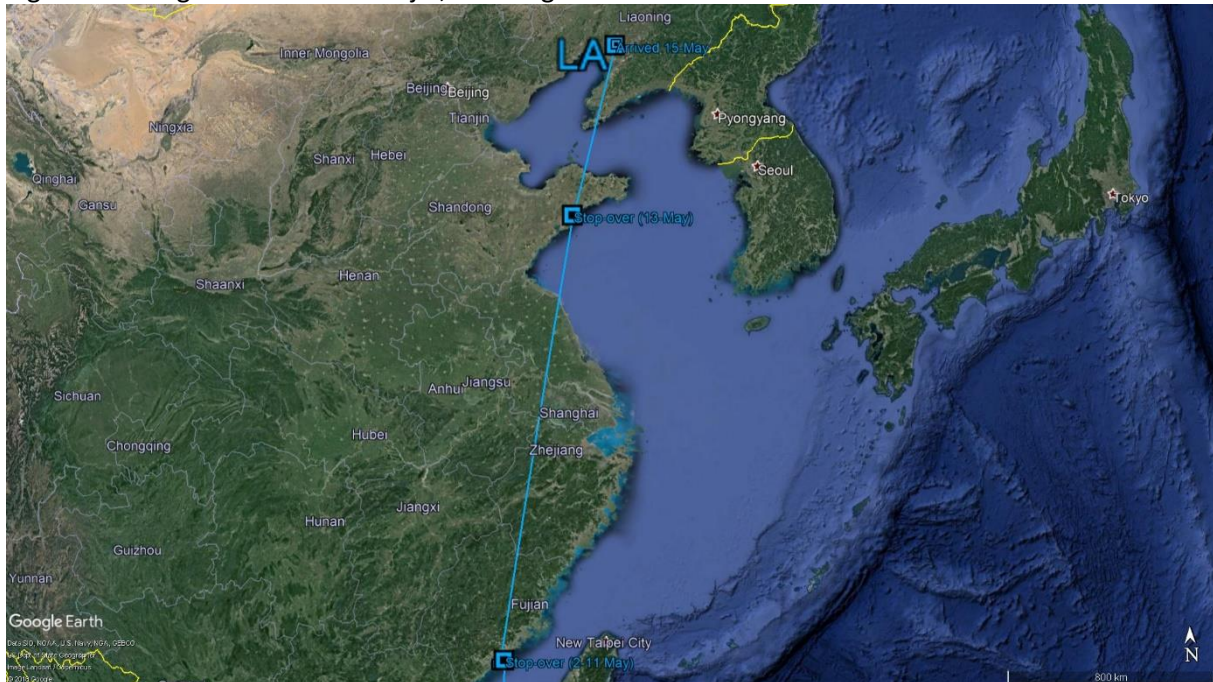
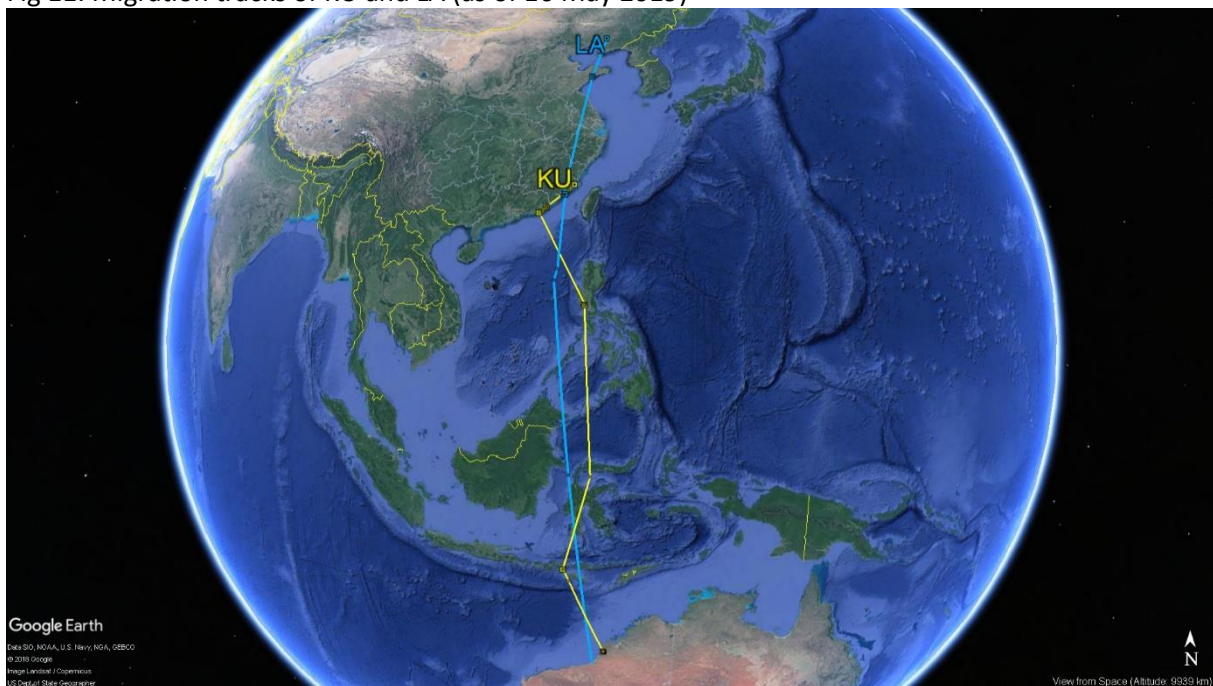


Fig 11: Migration tracks of KU and LA (as of 16 May 2019)



Migration summary of Whimbrels (as of 16 May 2019):

Leg Flag (track colour)	No. of days since transmitter deployment	No. of days since departing Australia (2019)	Distance travelled (2019)
KU (yellow)	811 days	21 days	5,189 km
LA (blue)	823 days	20 days	6,761 km