

Australia has 76 shorebird species
(36 Migratory 18 Resident 22 Vagrants)

Migratory shorebirds such as these make a round trip of up to 25,000 km each year along The East Asian - Australasian Flyway

Eastern Curlew *60 - 65cm
 Breeds in Eastern Siberia, Northern Mongolia, and Northern Manchuria (our largest Shorebird)
 (*Beak to tail tip)



(1)

Whimbrel 39 - 44cm
 Breeds in Northern or North-Eastern Siberia



(1)

Bar-tailed Godwit 37 - 39cm
 Breeds in Western Alaska



(1)

Grey-tailed Tattler 24 - 27cm
 Breeds in Northern and North-Eastern Siberia



(1)

Double-banded Plover 18- 21cm
 Breeds in New Zealand, staying here from late February till late July



(1)

Red-necked Stint 13 - 16cm
 Breeds in North-Eastern Siberia, (our smallest Shorebird)



(1)

Grey-tailed Tattlers & Terek Sandpipers use Mangroves as tree roosts



(1)

Bar-tailed Godwits prefer to roost on sand (Grey-tailed Tattlers in the right foreground)



Common Greenshank 35cm
 (left rear) Breeds in Northern Siberia

(1)

Terek Sandpiper 23cm
 (right front) Breeds in Northern Siberia

(1)



- *Up to 45,000 individual migratory shorebirds arrive in the Great Sandy Strait in September to depart in late March.*
- *Some non-breeding individuals overwinter here.*
- *24 migratory shorebird species and 10 resident shorebird species have been recorded along the Cooloola Coast.*

Resident shorebirds such as these breed in Australia



(1)

Beach Stone-curlew 55cm



(2)

Pied Oystercatcher 50cm



(2)

Black-fronted Dotterel 18cm



(1)

Red-capped Plover 15cm

3 Migratory & 4 Resident Tern species occur along the Cooloola Coast



(2)

Caspian Tern 48 - 54cm



(2)

Crested Tern 43 - 48cm



(1)

Gull-billed Tern 36 - 42cm



(1)

Common Tern 32 - 37cm

The beautiful images in this brochure were taken during field studies by Dorothy Pashniak (1), Amelia Nielsen (2) For more images & information on our Shorebird visitors & their amazing journey visit -

<http://www.birdingcooloola.org.au/>

Migratory shorebirds travel as much as 25,000 km annually to and from their breeding grounds in the higher latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. Even the smallest birds fly thousands of kilometres without stopping. The longest non-stop flight is made by the Bar-tailed Godwit. It flies from Alaska directly to Australia. When the birds arrive here they are exhausted and must feed and rest without disturbance. For the rest of the summer they must build up enough energy and fat reserves to make the next northern migration. Birds without enough stored fat fail to complete their next migration.

The Cooloola Coast is part of the Great Sandy Strait, which is an internationally important wetland. In 1999 it was listed under the Ramsar Convention – an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands. This is an area of tidal swamps, and intertidal sand and mud flats. The vegetation includes beds of seagrass, mangrove forests, and saltmarsh wetlands. The Great Sandy Strait supports 38 species of shorebirds – including 18 migratory species listed under international migratory bird conservation agreements. The area is also used by other threatened species such as turtles and dugongs

If you want to see shorebirds you will need to walk out on the sand and mud flats. Shorebirds feed close to the edge of the tide where the sand is soft. Norman Point and Inskip Point are both good places to view the birds at low tide. To view the birds on one of their high tide roosts, look on the web site to find times when you can accompany bird counters on their monthly shorebird counts.