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Australian National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat

Primary authors: Joris Driessen¹, Lindall R. Kidd¹, Dan R. Weller²,
Chris Purnell¹, Grainne Maguire¹, Roger Jaensch³, and Sandra M.
LeClair¹



Flooded wetland on agricultural land, Chris Purnell

1 Birdlife Australia, Level 2, Main Building, 54 Wellington Street, Collingwood VIC 3066

2 SMEC Australia, Melbourne, VIC 8012, Australia.

3 Jaensch Ornithology & Conservation, Rangeville QLD 4350, Australia

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Adam Hall, Adrian Boyle, Alanna Smith, Albany Group, Alex Hegarty, Alfred Lau, Alice Bishop, Andrew Dickinson, Anne Bondin, Anne Lee-Steere, Anthony Peterson, Ashley John Anderson, Athena Georgiou, Barrow Island Reserves Officer, Bill Russell, BirdLife Midwest Surveys, Bob Paterson, Bob Peters, Boyd Wykes, Brad Kneebone, Caitlin Griffith, Caitlin Jackson, Camille Caparros, Candice Le Roux, Canning River Residents Environment Protection Assocn, Carolyn Williams, Charlie Jones, Charmaine Claassens, Cheryl Gole, Chris Hassell, Christine Taylor, Claire Greenwell, Clare Forward, Claudia Magana, Cody Oakley, Colin Heap, Colin Steele, Colma Keating, Connie Lee, D. Arrow, Dale Johnson, Daniel Mantle, Daniel Weller, Danny Rogers, David James, David Secomb, David Thornburg, David Wickins, DBCA Jurien Bay, Debbie Ferguson, Denham Conservation DBCA, Desmond Arrow, Diane Ali, Diane Cavanagh, Dianne Carmody, Don Carlson, Drew Wallace, Drew Wassman, Elodie Goldsmith, Erica Anderton Brown, Esperance Bird Observers' Group, Eyre Bird Observatory Surveys, Felicity Kelly, Frank O'Connor, Gail Greville, Geoffrey Taylor, Gillian Richmond, Gina Gregory, Glenn Ehmke, Golo Maurer, Graham Dixon, Grahame Patterson, Grant Griffin, Harry Davis, Heather Adamson, Holly Kirk, Ian Standring, Jack Worcester, Jamie Van Jones, Jan Checker, Jane Byrne, Jane Putland, Jeffery Spencer, Jeffrey Spencer, Jennie Beeson, Jennifer Spry, Jeremy Ringma, Jesz Fleming, Jim Campbell, John Anderson, John D. Blyth, John Graff, John Masters, Joris Driessen, Julie Waters, Kahree Garnaut, Karen Gidley, Kathryn Greenop, Katie White, Keith James, Kelly Rayner, Ken Glasson, Ken J. Read, Kenneth Mills, Kim Kliska, Kim Norris, Kimberly Onton, Lauren Clark, Leeanne Beavis, Lenard Axen, Les G. George, Lindall Kidd, Lisa Bell, Liz Asher, Lorraine Marshall, Lucy Dadour, Lulu Paxton, Madeline Radestock, Marcus Singor, Mark Henryon, Mark Hutchison, Mary Barrett Galu, Matt Prophet, Maxine Peter, Merryn Pryor, Mic Payne, Michael Bamford, Michael Craig, Mike Seinor, Milly Formby, Molly Foulds, Nathan Beerkens, Nathan Yaschenko, Nick Shaw, Nicky Warnecke, Nigel Jackett, Nola McClellan, Pamela Jones, Paul Mincham, Pauline Woolley, Peter St Clair-Baker, Peter Taylor, Peter Wilmot, Phil Snow, Philippa Schmucker, Plaxy Barratt, Richard Chyne, Richard Winterton, Robert Schmidt, Robert Wroth, Robyn Cail, Robyn Devenish, Robyn Pickering, Rosemary Maddox, Sarah Comer, Saul Cowen, Scott Crawley, Scott Thomson, Sebastian Jones, Shirley Cook, Simon Binder, Stella Stewart-Wynne, Stewart Ford, Sue Kalab, Susan Abbotts, Susan Quartermaine, Suzanne Mather, Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group, Tegan Douglas, Timothy Johnson, Tina Smith, Tjaltjraak Rangers, Toni Webster, Trevor Dye, Vicki Stokes, WA Suburban Birds Survey, William M. Betts, and WABCN.

Executive summary

The Australian National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat (the Directory) provides the most comprehensive assessment to date of shorebird areas critical to the survival of migratory shorebirds in Australia. Using 15 years of data from BirdLife Australia's National Shorebird Monitoring Program (2009–2024) and 10 years of data from the Latham's Snipe Project, the Directory identifies 332 sites of national and/or international significance that support at least one of 37 migratory shorebird species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

Sites were assessed against internationally recognised quantitative criteria. For a site to be classed as internationally important, 1% of a species' flyway population had to use that site, and for a site to be considered nationally important, 0.1% of a species' flyway population had to use the site. This rigorous approach identified 104 internationally significant sites and 187 nationally significant sites, with an additional 41 sites used by Latham's Snipe, spanning all states and territories. These habitats include tropical mudflats, temperate estuaries, arid inland wetlands, high-energy ocean beaches, and extensive wetland complexes, each supporting unique shorebird assemblages and facing distinct threats.

The Directory highlights that 24 migratory shorebird species occur at internationally important numbers (1% or more of the flyway population) at one or more Shorebird Areas (SBAs). Some sites support exceptional species richness, while arid inland wetlands, though only intermittently available, play a critical role during flood events.

Despite its breadth, the Directory also highlights significant gaps in survey coverage, especially in northern and inland regions where wetlands are highly variable and often remote. Continued investment in long-term monitoring and improved coverage is essential to ensure the Australian Shorebird Monitoring Program remains robust and effective.

This evidence base provides governments, conservation organisations and land managers with a strategic tool to guide habitat protection, land-use planning, and land management. It also demonstrates the urgent need for coordinated and nationally consistent action to protect shorebird habitats from ongoing threats.

Ultimately, the Directory highlights Australia's vital role in sustaining migratory shorebird populations across the East Asian–Australasian Flyway and provides a framework to prioritise conservation action, support environmental assessments, and strengthen protection of these globally significant species and sites.

Introduction

Migratory shorebirds are wading bird species from several families that undertake regular, cyclical movements across international boundaries. Australia serves as the non-breeding destination for 37 migratory shorebird species that travel along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway (EAAF, Table 1, van Swinderen et al. 2025), arriving during the austral spring and departing in autumn to breed in high latitude regions of the northern hemisphere. One exception is the Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*, which breeds in New Zealand during the austral summer and migrates to Australia for the winter. It is this species group, migratory rather than resident shorebirds, which is the focus of the Directory. In Australia, migratory shorebirds are protected individually, each as a Matter of National Environmental Significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

*Table 1. List of East Asian-Australasian Flyway migratory shorebird species that regularly visit Australia. “IUCN Conservation status” shows the IUCN status per BirdLife International (2024). EPBC Act Status shows the listed threatened species for Australia from the Commonwealth’s Species Profile and Threats Database (SPRAT, (Commonwealth of Australia; Department of the Environment n.d.). **Note that all species in this table are also listed as migratory under the EPBC Act.** Population estimates derived from van Swinderen et al. (2025) unless specified otherwise.*

Species	Scientific name	Flyway population estimate	IUCN conservation status	EPBC Act threatened species status
Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	28,000	NT	VU
Bar-tailed Godwit†	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	375,000	NT	EN/EN ^A
Black-tailed Godwit†	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	230,000	NT	EN
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	45,000	VU	-
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	110,000	LC	EN
Common Redshank†	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	125,000	LC	-
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	190,000	LC	-
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	120,000	VU	CE
Double-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>	25,000	NT	-
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	35,000	EN	CE
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	400,000	EN	VU
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	220,000	LC	VU
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	75,000	VU	VU
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	80,000	LC	-

Species	Scientific name	Flyway population estimate	IUCN conservation status	EPBC Act threatened species status
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	35,000	NT	VU
Little Curlew	<i>Numenius minutus</i>	110,000	LC	-
Little Ringed Plover†	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	150,000	LC	-
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	230,000	LC	-
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	130,000	LC	-
Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	230,000	LC	-
Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	2,880,000	LC	-
Pacific Golden Plover†	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	150,000	LC	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	1,575,000	LC	-
Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	170,000	LC	-
Red Knot†	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	130,000	NT	VU
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	250,000	LC	-
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	600,000	NT	-
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	30,000	NT	VU
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	750 ^c	LC	-
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	30,000	LC	-
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	130,000	VU	VU
Siberian Sand Plover†	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i> / <i>Anarhynchus mongolus</i>	26,000 ^b	EN	EN
Swinhoe's Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i>	40,000	LC	-
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	75,000	LC	VU
Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>	17,500	LC	-
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	90,000	LC	-
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	130,000	LC	-

† These species have two or more recognised subspecies present in the EAAF.

a. Note that the Bar-tailed Godwit subspecies *menzbieri* and *baueri* are both listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act whereas no distinction is made in EPBC for status of the two subspecies of Red Knot.

b. The IUCN Red List and BirdLife Data Zone recognise Siberian Sand Plover comprising only subspecies *mongolus* and *stegmanni*, whereas population *atrifrons* has been assigned to Tibetan Sandplover *C. atrifrons*. Analysis for the flyway population estimate for Siberian Sand Plover (van Swinderen et al. 2025) pre-dated this taxonomic decision, treating all subspecies as part of the then recognised Lesser Sand Plover species complex. These different taxonomic approaches have major implications for 1% thresholds, with the threshold for Siberian Sand Plover at 260 individuals (Wetlands International, 2012) and the (former) Lesser Sand Plover complex in the Australian context amounting to 2,750 individuals when *atrifrons* (principally occurring in South and South-East Asia in the non-breeding period) is included (van Swinderen et al. 2025). The former estimate has been used in the Directory to determine area importance. Depending on the taxonomy followed, Siberian Sand Plover is also referred to as *Anarhynchus mongolus*.

c. Previous estimates for Ruff in Hansen et al. (2016) did not exclusively reflect numbers within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) but included portions of the Central Asian Flyway population. A more recent assessment

(Ministry of the Environment Japan, 2021) estimated the flyway population at 500 – 1,000 birds, which has been adopted by Wetlands International (2025) as ‘best guess’.

Migratory shorebirds are also protected under several international agreements, including bilateral migratory bird agreements between Australia and China (CAMBA), Japan (JAMBA), and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), as well as multilateral frameworks such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS, or Bonn Convention). The East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) further supports conservation efforts through a voluntary, cooperative framework aimed at safeguarding migratory shore- and waterbirds and their habitats across the Flyway. Within Australia, many Wetlands of International Importance listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands provide critical habitat for migratory shorebirds; Ramsar sites are also recognised as Matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act. Collectively, these agreements aim to conserve migratory shorebirds as vital components of ecological systems, to halt population declines, and to address ongoing threats such as habitat loss. As this is a transboundary conservation challenge, effective protection depends on coordinated action both within Australia and across the broader Flyway.

Distribution and habitat in Australia

As the largest landmass in the southern hemisphere at the end of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, Australia supports migratory shorebirds during critical life history stages (non-breeding and migration). With over 35,800 kilometres of mainland coastline and an additional 23,800 kilometres of island coastline, Australia offers areas of extensive feeding and roosting habitat during the non-breeding season for shorebirds that breed in the northern hemisphere. These habitats are critical for rest and foraging, enabling birds to build up the energy reserves required for their return journeys, which can span up to 13,000 kilometres.

Migratory shorebirds in Australia occupy a wide variety of habitats, both coastal and inland. Key coastal habitats include intertidal mudflats, estuaries, sheltered bays, sandy beaches, rocky shorelines, lagoons, and saltmarshes. Inland, they utilise freshwater wetlands, floodplains, seasonal herbaceous wetlands / meadows, and ephemeral lakes. Artificial wetlands, such as salt-fields and sewage treatment ponds, also provide important supplementary habitat. The distribution and type of habitat used varies across regions and is influenced by seasonal conditions.

Intertidal zones along Australia’s coastline generally provide consistent habitat availability, influenced by the daily tidal cycle. However, the extent of these intertidal flats varies geographically; broad expanses several kilometres wide are found in northern Australia, while southern estuaries and bays typically feature smaller intertidal zones. Inland wetlands, on the other hand, offer highly productive but unpredictable habitat. Their availability fluctuates in response to rainfall, and vast inland floodplains may transform from shallow wetlands one year to dry desert the next (Clemens et al. 2016).

During southward migration, migratory shorebirds typically begin arriving at major “staging areas” such as Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach in northern Western Australia, and the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland, by late August. From these key stopover points, many birds disperse across the continent, reaching the southeastern states by September or October.

While large flocks are common at coastal sites, only a few species occur in large numbers inland, with smaller groups and scattered individuals of several species using ephemeral inland wetlands when conditions are favourable.

Migratory shorebirds are often gregarious, forming large mixed-species flocks that can number in the thousands. They may also occur in single-species groups or as solitary individuals. Many migratory species frequently associate with resident shorebirds such as stilts, avocets, oystercatchers, and plovers. As the non-breeding season ends, birds begin returning to major staging sites by March, where they intensively feed to prepare for their northward migration during March and April.

Although migratory shorebird numbers peak during the austral summer, Australia also provides year-round habitat for juvenile and immature birds. Juvenile birds of a range of species, after their initial southward migration, remain in Australia for their first two years before attempting their first return journey north (Clemens et al. 2016). Migratory strategies can vary markedly between species, with for example Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Latham's Snipe effectively vacating the Australian continent at the end of the austral summer. Numerous species also display partial migratory behaviour as individual birds approach maturity, which can greatly influence bird numbers in a given area, particularly in northern Australia.

Shorebird monitoring and survey effort

Long-term shorebird monitoring forms the backbone of conservation efforts for migratory shorebirds in Australia. In Australia, the primary source of continent-wide shorebird monitoring data is the national Australian Shorebird Monitoring Program (ASMP), previously known as Shorebirds 2020 and prior to that as the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) Population Monitoring Program. The program holds decades of count data, originating with the National Wader Count launched in 1981 (and even earlier in some parts of the country, notably Tasmania) by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU). The Population Monitoring Program was coordinated by the AWSG until the mid-2000s after which it expanded further in 2007 with its transition into the Shorebirds 2020 Project—now known as the Australian Shorebird Monitoring Program. This transition led to broader spatial coverage and increased participation by volunteers, particularly along easily accessible sections of the coast (Hansen & Bonney 2022). See Hansen et al. (2019) for an overview of the history behind shorebird monitoring in Australia.

The ASMP is administered by BirdLife Australia, assisted and informed by the AWSG, and largely housed (in raw data form) in the organisation's data platform Birdata. The ASMP functions as an overarching national scheme that many stakeholders contribute monitoring data to, ranging from BirdLife staff, individual volunteers or branches, dedicated shorebird monitoring groups, environmental consultants, and academic and governmental bodies.

The closely affiliated Latham's Snipe Project (Hansen in prep.) runs independently from the ASMP and is focussed on monitoring Latham's Snipe in southeastern Australia. The Latham's Snipe Project has been active since 2014 and has been instrumental in improving understanding of the species' distribution, habitat use and population trends. The Project has extensively contributed to the information captured in the Directory. Many of the project's

target wetlands are outside of the established ASMP network. These sites are treated as a 'special case' in this Directory (see Methods section for more details).

More details on coverage and quality of data in the ASMP (and its predecessors) can be found elsewhere (Gosbell & Clemens 2006; Milton & Driscoll 2006; Wilson et al. 2011, Clemens et al. 2012, 2014, 2016, Hansen & Bonney 2022).

Despite advances in coverage, participation, data capture and management, data gaps remain within both the monitoring network and the *Birddata* database. In particular, some remote wetland systems of the inland are rarely surveyed, despite at times supporting many thousands of migratory shorebirds. Where resources allow, these gaps are periodically reviewed and prioritised for targeted training, recruitment, and survey expansion under the National Shorebird Monitoring Program. Surveys are conducted within designated shorebird areas (SBAs), identified and mapped by BirdLife Australia based on decades of field knowledge. Each SBA generally reflects the non-breeding home range of a group of migratory shorebirds and varies in size (Clemens et al. 2006). Within larger SBAs, smaller count areas are defined, typically aligning with known roosting and foraging sites. These count areas are designed to be surveyed in four hours or less by one or more observers, and ideally all count areas within an SBA are counted simultaneously to minimise the risk of double-counting due to bird movement.

Survey coverage across Australia has varied widely among and within states and territories. In a national summer count, the proportion of count areas counted within an SBA ranged from as little as 2% to full (100%) coverage, with generally lower coverage in winter (Clemens et al. 2016). Southern states have tended to achieve higher levels of coverage than northern regions, largely due to proximity to human population centres and easier access to coastal areas (Clemens et al. 2012). Access challenges, such as mangrove forests, remote coastlines, tidal channels inhabited by crocodiles and limited road infrastructure, make consistent surveying in remote areas difficult. For example, although Western Australia contains the country's largest mapped area of intertidal habitat, it has had the lowest proportion of that habitat surveyed. Similarly, the Northern Territory also has low survey coverage away from population centres, while South Australia and Victoria report much higher proportions of counted habitat.

Population estimates and their role in conservation

Tracking changes in population estimates over time provides crucial insights into the status and trends of migratory shorebird species. In 2025, a team of experts revised the previous population estimates for the 37 migratory shorebird species that regularly occur in Australia (van Swinderen et al. 2025). This revision addressed a *Very High* priority action identified under Objective 4 of the Australian Government's *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* (2015); Action 4e: Complete a review of the conservation status of all migratory shorebirds in Australia. The updated estimates were made possible by the increasing availability of count data across broader spatial and temporal scales within Australia.

Accurate population estimates are fundamental to threshold-based conservation frameworks. These estimates underpin key site designations, including Ramsar listing under Criterion 6 of the *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*, Flyway Network Site status under the *East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership*, and identification of critical habitat under the *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds*. For these designations to be effective and

scientifically robust, it is essential that population estimates are based on the best available and most comprehensive data.

It is important to note that the most recent *Revision of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Population Estimates for 37 Listed Migratory Shorebird Species* (van Swinderen et al. 2025) differs substantially from previous assessments (Bamford et al. 2008; Hansen et al. 2016) for a number of species. As a result, these population estimates are not all directly comparable across reports. Many of the 2025 estimates are higher than previous figures, reflecting both improved data availability and recovery of some shorebird populations. **It is therefore critical to emphasise that differences between the 2025 population estimates and earlier figures should not be interpreted as wholesale evidence of population increase or decline.**

Identifying important habitat for migratory shorebirds

The revised Flyway population estimates—reflecting the total number of individuals of each species across the East Asian–Australasian Flyway—combined with data on spatial habitat use and shorebird numbers within Australia, provide the foundation for identifying and ranking the continent’s most important sites for migratory shorebirds. The *National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat* represents a logical progression in the implementation of the *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* (2015), where it is listed as a *High* priority action under Objective 2 (Action 2b: Update a directory of important habitat for migratory shorebirds).

Under the EPBC Act, the concept of ‘important habitat’ is central to assessing potential impacts on migratory species, as outlined in *EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines—Matters of National Environmental Significance* (2009). Within the Act, important habitat includes both nationally and internationally significant sites. The global standard for identifying internationally important wetlands, including those that are important shorebird habitat, is based on criteria adopted under the *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*. Additional guidance for identifying important habitat and conducting surveys is provided in *EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21—Industry Guidelines for Avoiding, Assessing and Mitigating Impacts on EPBC Act Listed Migratory Shorebird Species* (2017) and reiterated in the revised *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* (2015).

According to the Wildlife Conservation Plan and Policy Statement 3.21, a site is considered **internationally important** in Australia for migratory shorebirds if it regularly supports:

- 1.0% of the Flyway population of a single species or subspecies of waterbird¹; or
- a total of at least 20,000 waterbirds.

A site qualifies as **nationally important** if it regularly supports:

- 0.1% of the Flyway population of a single migratory shorebird species (or 18 birds in case of Latham’s Snipe); or

¹ The Ramsar Convention and EAAF Partnership operate at the international level and address waterbirds, of which migratory shorebirds are a subset.

- 2,000 migratory shorebirds; or
- 15 migratory shorebird species.

The *National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat* identifies all shorebird areas in the existing national site monitoring network, as well as sites from the Latham's Snipe Project that, based on the best available data (including data not collected as part of the ASMP, where appropriate), meet one or more of these criteria, using threshold values derived from the revised Flyway population estimates (van Swinderen et al. 2025). Where population estimates were expressed as a range the mid-value was used to determine 1% thresholds, reflecting a moderately conservative approach to the uncertainty around such estimates. Note that regularity of importance is however not defined – any area exceeding an importance threshold at least once during the Directory's timeframe is included on that basis in the report.

Earlier efforts to assess site importance (e.g. Watkins 1993; Bamford et al. 2008) focused solely on international significance, identifying 118 internationally important sites. Since then, continued monitoring through BirdLife Australia's National Shorebird Monitoring Program (referred to as ASMP throughout this report), has made it possible to undertake Action 2b of the Wildlife Conservation Plan—updating and expanding the national directory of important migratory shorebird habitats (Weller et al. 2020).

Methods

Definitions

The following definitions underpin the terminology used throughout the Directory.

Shorebird Area (SBA): an established monitoring area under the national migratory shorebird monitoring program, part of a wider site network of 530 such areas (at the time of writing) or part of the site network of the Latham's Snipe Project. Each SBA generally reflects the non-breeding home range of a group of migratory shorebird species and varies in size (Clemens et al. 2006). As such it forms an ecologically coherent unit from a shorebird perspective. Users of the Directory need to consider that there are areas outside the formal SBA network that can support important numbers of shorebirds, but which are not currently considered formal SBAs due to remoteness or other reasons, and especially for inland regions where use by large numbers of migratory shorebirds is episodic. The Directory is therefore not to be utilised as an exhaustive overview of all important shorebird sites across the continent, nor does it consider resident shorebirds or waterbirds.

Count Area: an established count area within a wider SBA or part of the site network of the Latham's Snipe Project, and which is the focal point of a survey event. Count areas typically align with known (high tide) roosting and foraging sites. A single SBA can consist of many count areas, together providing an indication of species presence and abundance at a given point in time. The entire monitoring network currently consists of nearly 3,000 count areas.

Key Biodiversity Area (KBA): an international framework developed to identify places critical for the persistence of biodiversity. KBAs do not confer any legal status or regulatory protection under Australian law.

Study time frame: metrics provided in this Directory are derived from counts within the time period September 2009 to August 2024, spanning 15 years. Although this timeframe does not exactly match the 2012-2022 period upon which the flyway population estimates (van Swinderen et al. 2025) were based, it was considered that a small difference in start date was not of major concern in the context of a group of mostly long-lived shorebird species. In addition, the authors were aware of several datasets collected in 2009-2012 at important remote areas in northern Australia which have not been surveyed since and for which inclusion was considered essential. The previous Directory (Weller et al. 2020) was based on the period 2005-2018.

Seasonality: seasons were defined as austral summer (September-April) and winter (May-August). To better reflect the annual ecological cycle of migratory shorebird populations in Australia, the definition of 'summer' is not based on calendar years but instead on the 'shorebird' season, with counts from September to December allocated (or forward dated) to the following year value. For example, if a particular SBA is of national importance for a particular species with a peak count originating from November 2022, the Directory reports that as 'summer 2023'. The sole exception to this definition is Double-banded Plover (winter: February-August), which arrives late in the austral summer and stays throughout winter before returning to New Zealand. The species does not reside in meaningful numbers in Australia outside this period.

Although a dual-season definition is admittedly coarse in the context of the entire continent as well as species-specific migratory periods (north- and southbound), it is considered those drawbacks are offset by its capacity to robustly capture year-round importance of shorebird areas. Throughout the report, where available, species and shorebird area importance is therefore expressed in both summer and winter terms. The previous Directory (Weller et al. 2020) defined the summer season as November to February for all species (excepting Double-banded Plover, May – August) and did not consider seasonality further.

Species taxonomy: Any metrics contained in this report relate solely to the species level, subspecies were not considered. Shorebird species taxonomy follows the current Working List of Australian Birds (WLAB version 4.3) with one exception. The IUCN Red List and BirdLife Data Zone recognise Siberian Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus* or *Anarynychus mongolus* according to current IOC taxonomy) comprising only subspecies *mongolus* and *stegmanni*, whereas population *atrifrons* has been assigned to Tibetan Sand Plover *C. atrifrons*. Work on the flyway population estimate of Siberian Sand Plover (van Swinderen et al. 2025) pre-dated this taxonomic change, treating all subspecies into the then recognised Lesser Sand Plover single species complex. These different taxonomic approaches have major implications for 1% thresholds, with the threshold for Siberian Sand Plover at 260 individuals (Wetlands International, 2012) and the (former) Lesser Sand Plover complex in the Australian context amounting to 2,750 individuals when *atrifrons* is included (van Swinderen et al. 2025). The Directory uses Siberian Sand Plover and its associated estimate throughout to determine SBA importance.

Species abundance: updated flyway population estimates for migratory shorebirds were produced by van Swinderen et al. (2025) based on Australian Shorebird Monitoring Program (ASMP) data from 2012 to 2022 and using the approach set out by Hansen et al. (2016). These estimates have been used to calculate species-specific importance levels for each shorebird area (international threshold: 1% of the flyway population; national threshold: 0.1% of the flyway population; excepting Latham's Snipe, with a lower threshold of 18 birds reflecting national importance, per EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21, Commonwealth of Australia 2017), Ruff (see rationale in Table 1) and Siberian Sand Plover (see rationale in Table 1 and Species Taxonomy definition). Estimates were applied rigorously, regardless of how closely a particular species count approached a threshold. Other monitoring data or incidental observations (collected outside of the ASMP or the Latham's Snipe Project) only counted towards a shorebird area's species importance metric if these were considered reliable records based on expert review.

Shorebird aggregation: the maximum total number of migratory shorebirds of any species in a given shorebird area supported during a single survey event in a season. Established importance thresholds of 20,000 and 2,000 birds were used to represent international and national importance respectively. It was considered more ecologically sound to define overall abundance as a total number at a single (seasonal) point in time, rather than summing species maxima from across multiple survey events during a season. The former better reflects an area's supporting capacity for a given shorebird population size compared to the latter and is in line with Ramsar Criteria 5 and 6. Where appropriate, records of migratory shorebirds not identified to species level were included in calculating aggregation metrics. Other monitoring data or incidental records (collected outside of the ASMP or the Latham's Snipe Project) were

only allocated to a shorebird area's aggregation metric if these were considered reliable records based on expert review.

Species diversity: the maximum number of different species a given shorebird area supported in a single season. Unlike abundance, species diversity was calculated across a season as it better reflects an area's capacity to support an array of species as site conditions undergo seasonal change, as opposed to the maximum recorded at a single (seasonal) point in time which is subject to a mixture of chance, detectability and species-specific seasonal phenology. An established national threshold of 15 species (per EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21, Commonwealth of Australia, 2017) was used to capture this metric. No such official equivalent exists on an international scale. Other monitoring data or incidental records (collected outside of the ASMP or the Latham's Snipe Project) counted towards a shorebird area's diversity metric where applicable.

Data sources

Core data

While the ASMP and the Latham's Snipe Project underpin this Directory, the following sources embedded within or affiliated with the former scheme require highlighting due to their outsized importance for long-term shorebird monitoring in Australia:

- Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG); long-term monitoring of a large number of shorebird areas in Queensland since the mid-90s;
- MYSMA (Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia) counts; monitoring of key shorebird areas in NW Western Australia, specifically Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck Bay;
- Melbourne Water/Arthur Rylah Institute; monitoring of key shorebird areas, specifically the Western Treatment Plant, Point Wilson and Avalon in Victoria;
- Victorian Wader Study Group (VWSG); monitoring of Ruddy Turnstone populations on King Island, Tasmania;
- Shorebird surveys in the Northern Territory; dedicated aerial and ground surveys of a range of difficult to access shorebird areas in the NT between 2010-2012 (derived from Chatto 2012), BirdLife Top End (extensive monitoring of shorebird areas around Darwin), the Crocodile Islands Rangers (monitoring of the Key Biodiversity Area Milingimbi Islands shorebird area) and long-term monitoring of key SBAs in the far east of the state (Barden, P. *in prep*);
- Friends of Shorebirds SE: monitoring of key shorebird areas in southeast South Australia;
- Hunter Bird Observers Club: monitoring of key shorebird areas in northern NSW;
- Geelong Field Naturalists Club: monitoring of key shorebird areas in central coastal Victoria; and
- BirdLife Tasmania; monitoring of key shorebird areas across Tasmania since the 1970s.

The separately run Latham's Snipe Project (2014-present) is a single-species monitoring program which focusses on Latham's Snipe at freshwater wetlands across southeast Australia, aiming for a tri-seasonal survey effort at core wetlands between September and January each

year. Many of the project's target wetlands are outside of the established ASMP network. These sites are treated as a 'special SBA case' in this Directory.

Where appropriate these and other sources from within the ASMP, as well as a number of external sources, are individually referenced throughout the report to highlight the origins of specific monitoring datasets.

Other data / incidental records

Important 'other' bird records within the ASMP's site network

Other monitoring programs (e.g. waterbird surveys) administered by BirdLife Australia (BirdLife Australia, 2025) as well as eBird data (eBird, 2025) were queried for surveys with nationally or internationally significant records of migratory shorebirds within the study's timeframe that had been recorded at an ASMP shorebird area. The former record type (within a shorebird area, not part of structured monitoring) were treated as other or incidental records when establishing an area's importance.

Important 'other' bird records outside the ASMP's site network

The above data sources are also used to identify records of importance outside the established site network. These are visualised at the end of each state chapter, using species-specific maps displaying frequency of annual occurrence of importance captured at a 50x50km grid resolution. This type of observation is crucial in highlighting that important shorebird concentrations do occur away from the site network, and that due diligence in relation to environmental assessments should not be limited to the SBAs listed in this Directory. For the purposes of this report, they are treated separately as they are not currently monitored following standardised protocols as per sites within the network. BirdLife Australia intend to undertake an audit of these locations and consider each individually as potential SBA candidates to join the national site network.

Analysis

For the purpose of this Directory, observation data collected in each individual count area needs to be aggregated to give the total number of birds of a species or an aggregation observed in the entire shorebird area at a particular moment in time (a survey event). In most cases, it is these aggregated count data that were used in subsequent calculations. The various steps to get from raw data to highly aggregated data capturing shorebird area importance are detailed in the following Analysis sections.

As outlined above (see Definitions section), ASMP data as well as other (incidental) records relating to shorebird areas recorded between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2024 were extracted from the Birddata platform. Data were system-vetted, manually spot-vetted and checked for anomalies, with any (historic) duplicates omitted from the dataset as well.

The majority of shorebird areas are routinely surveyed in their entirety within a single day, with most being counted at least biannually (mid-summer and mid-winter). A smaller subset of shorebird areas is counted tri-annually or monthly (particularly in SE Queensland) or in a few cases over a number of days due to the extreme scale of the areas involved (e.g. Eighty Mile Beach, WA). Survey events (i.e. which survey effort over which count areas together form a

count of the wider shorebird area at a monthly scale) were defined on the basis of these known site-specific survey effort protocols. Each SBA has a unique ID used by BirdLife Australia. Site names are based on historic records of shorebird areas, the largest scale of site for surveys managed by BirdLife Australia, within which there may be more than one count area. The mapped extents of SBAs and count areas therein are intended to guide shorebird data collection; site boundaries vary in their accuracy and do not represent management or land tenure boundaries.

Site-specific knowledge was also used to ensure only official shorebird surveys (as undertaken by dedicated groups / observers) were included. A small number of counts not collected through the structured national monitoring program were excluded from analysis. Species maxima were calculated at the survey event level. In case of multiple events per month, the highest species maximum was taken forward. In those instances where multiple official surveys were regularly undertaken in quick succession on the same day (e.g. on the rising tide and the high tide), the maximum count for each species across those surveys was used.

A small subset of shorebird areas known to hold important numbers of shorebirds are subject to a particularly high survey frequency (e.g. southeast Queensland) – i.e. multiple times per month, but with effort at times unevenly spread across roosts. To avoid overestimating bird numbers in those instances due to birds moving between roosts in proximity to one another, the daily maximum sum of all count areas was calculated for each month instead.

Having aggregated data to species-specific monthly values for each shorebird area (ranging from 1 to 12 depending on survey frequency) for all years with available data (ranging from 1 to 15 years, in line with the Directory's timeframe), seasonality was associated with each count value (see Section: Definitions). At this point a species list was created based on the unique combination of species, season and shorebird area. Separately, for each combination of species, shorebird area, season and year the maximum monthly value was selected. Separate calculations were also undertaken for shorebird aggregation and species diversity metrics (as defined in the Definitions section).

Combining the main species-specific dataset with the site- and season-specific list allowed for zero-filling of count values for those combinations of site, season and year where a survey was undertaken but where a given species was not recorded on that occasion, but where it was known to occur seasonally based on the whole timeseries. In other words, zero counts thus derived reflect actual site and seasonal occurrence patterns for a given species rather than a long list of all theoretically possible combinations. Any remaining seasonal gaps in the 15-year timeframe could thus be defined as actual missing surveys, as well as providing a complete overview of seasonal effort over time. Including these three metrics in the aggregated dataset provides crucial context for interpretation of site importance and the regularity of importance.

This final dataset formed the basis for the Directory metrics, allowing calculation of a species-specific peak count for each shorebird area over the entire timeframe as well as the number of seasons (inter)national thresholds were exceeded. These were combined with the results for shorebird aggregations and species diversity. Lastly, any relevant other / incidental records were introduced into the dataset to provide as comprehensive a picture as possible.

All processing and calculations were undertaken using the data processing software package R version 4.4.3 (R Core Team, 2025).

Site accounts

Site accounts have been included for all shorebird areas that exceeded an importance threshold for at least one criteria (out of species abundance, aggregation or diversity) on at least one occasion within the Directory's timeframe.

Overlap with existing site classifications

Many of the mapped SBAs in the ASMP network have already been identified as sites of importance for their environmental values via a range of national and international mechanisms, including:

- **The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** (Ramsar) - International treaty focused on the conservation of important wetland habitats. As of November 2022, Australia has 67 wetlands that are listed under the Convention;
- **Australian Government's Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia** - First compiled in 1993, the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia identifies nationally important wetlands with detailed descriptions of the site and the flora and fauna that depend on them (Australian Wetlands Database, DCCEEW);
- **Flyway Network Site** - Voluntary, non-binding, collaborative project facilitated by the EAAFP, designating sites that form part of a network of important sites along the Flyway. Currently, 156 of the 900 internationally important sites in the Flyway are included in the Network. Australia has 25 Flyway Network Sites.

Wetland habitat classification

The criteria for determining nationally important wetlands in Australia, and hence their eligibility for inclusion in the Directory, are those agreed to by the ANZECC Wetlands Network in 1994. It is based on that used by the Ramsar Convention in describing Wetlands of International Importance but was modified slightly to suit the Australian situation in describing wetlands of national importance.

Application of the criteria to individual wetland sites involves a degree of subjectivity. Not only may certain aspects of a site's significance be interpreted differently by different investigators, but information gaps often exist, which make it difficult to judge whether a site meets a particular criterion.

Adoption of a bioregional approach to listing sites in the Directory is seen as one way of reducing the difficulty in applying the criterion relating to a system's uniqueness or representativeness. The Natural Resource Policies and Programs Committee in 2008 agreed to adopt the Australian Drainage Divisions system, along with the Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia for marine ecosystems, as the best fit national regionalisation approach for aquatic ecosystems.

The wetland classification system used in the Directory identifies 40 different wetland types in three categories:

- A. Marine and Coastal Zone wetlands
- B. Inland wetlands
- C. Human-made wetlands

Interpretation

To aid interpretation each listed SBA contains two separate tables: a site account and a site importance table. The site account table provides details of existing site and habitat classifications including site status (e.g. Ramsar, Key Biodiversity Area, etc.), location, number of count areas and seasonal survey effort undertaken (distinguished between austral summer and winter, see Definitions section) with a maximum value of 15 seasons (ASMP) or 11 seasons (Latham's Snipe Project sites).

Site importance tables contain important shorebird data (across species abundance, shorebird aggregation and diversity), outlining the season and year in which the peak count was recorded, the relevant thresholds, the number of times (inter)national thresholds were exceeded and the associated monitoring data sources.

Examples of both table for a fictitious SBA 'X' are provided in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 2. Example site account table for a fictitious site account for SBA X

Ramsar Site	Ramsar site name and number (where overlap with SBA exists)
Directory of Important Wetlands	Important wetland name and number (where overlap with SBA exists)
Wetland type	Important wetland habitat type (e.g. A1, A4, A5, A7), if any
Flyway Network Site	Flyway Network Site name (if any)
Key Biodiversity Area	Key Biodiversity Area name (e.g. Lord Howe Island KBA)
Geographical Coordinates	SBA centroid in lat/lon (e.g. -31.53026, 159.06319)
Area	Approximate surface area in hectares
No. of count areas	Number of count area units that together form monitoring focus for whole of SBA
Seasonal effort	Number of seasons with survey effort out of 15 available years (2010-2024), distinguished between summer and winter. (e.g. Summer: 12 / Winter: 4)

Table 3. Example site importance table: Importance of fictitious SBA X for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2021	20,000 / 2,000	23,000	3	5	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2014	3,750 / 375	3,500*	0	4	ASMP; Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	500	3	3	ASMP; "other source"
Species diversity	Summer	2022	NA / 15	19	NA	13	ASMP

As shown in Table 3, in this case SBA 'X' qualifies as important at least once during the Directory's 15 year focal period for three separate criteria across four entries: species abundance (Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone), shorebird aggregation and species diversity. Peak counts occurred predominantly in the summer season (Ruddy Turnstone, aggregation, diversity) and in winter for Bar-tailed Godwit. In the case of Ruddy Turnstone, the peak count was recorded in the summer of 2021. Here summer is to be interpreted as anywhere between September 2020 and April 2021 due to process of 'forward-dating' of Sep-Dec months (see Methods section).

Columns 'Int' and 'Nat' respectively capture the number of times international and national thresholds were exceeded for an entry. Each such occurrence is allocated a value of 1. Note that each single value of 1 in the 'Int' column is automatically given a corresponding value in the 'Nat' column. For entries where the latter total value is higher than the former (total 'Nat' greater than total 'Int' value) it follows that the difference between both values reflects the number of seasons where only the national threshold was exceeded. Table 3 shows that shorebird aggregation qualified for international importance during three summer seasons (>20,000 birds) and that it only qualified for national importance in two further summer seasons (>2,000 birds, but fewer than 20,000 birds).

In contrast, SBA 'X' supported internationally important numbers of Ruddy Turnstone during three separate summer seasons (column 'Int'), and thus automatically exceeded national importance on those occasions (value of 3 in column 'Nat'). From Table 3 it is thus clear that national importance was not reached on its own in any other seasons.

National importance was also exceeded for Bar-tailed Godwit (4 seasons), but the species' international threshold was not reached, whereas species diversity exceeded the national threshold (13 seasons), noting there is no internationally defined/agreed criteria for diversity.

Peak counts are derived from established monitoring data unless marked with an asterisk (*), in which case the peak was derived from an incidental record (i.e. a record collected outside the ASMP or the Latham's Snipe Project). In this case the peak count for Bar-tailed Godwit relates to such incidentals, although SBA 'X' is otherwise monitored reasonably well during winter (4 out of 15 possible seasons, see 'Seasonal effort' in Site Account - Table 2).

Column 'Source' indicates the data sources on which the SBA's metrics are based. In this case data was predominantly derived from the national monitoring program (ASMP), though for Ruddy Turnstone an additional source of monitoring data was utilised (sources are specified as required throughout). Origin of incidental records (such as for the Bar-tailed Godwit peak count) are not further specified but are almost exclusively derived from Birddata and eBird (BirdLife Australia, 2025; eBird 2025).

Note that special SBAs from the Latham's Snipe Project are listed in a single tabulated overview at the end of each state chapter, without detailed information at the site level (such detail is currently in development). All other information provided is however in line with the example provided in Table 3.

Species accounts

Species accounts have been included for all 28 migratory shorebird species that regularly visit Australia and exceeded an importance threshold on at least one occasion within the Directory's timeframe. Each species account includes information on relevant federal listings, and a short description of the species' distribution. Information on species ecology and distribution was primarily drawn from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Species Profile and Threats (SPRAT) Database and the BirdLife International Data Zone.

Interpretation

For each account, listed information includes the peak count for each shorebird area, its associated season and year and the number of seasons (out of 15 available in the 15-year time frame) the species met or exceeded the international and national population threshold at each shorebird area. To improve interpretation of importance and regularity of importance a 'seasonal effort' metric, capturing the number of seasons (out of 15 available) that a given shorebird area was surveyed is also included. It is important to note that this approach differs from Weller et al. (2020), where the total number of threshold-exceeding surveys were used rather than a seasonal metric. The values in the columns 'Int' and 'Nat' are to be interpreted in the same way as described in Site Accounts).

Table 4 provides a worked example of a species account table for a fictitious migratory shorebird:

Table 4. Example table for a species account

SBA's supporting important numbers of fictitious shorebird (International threshold: 200; National threshold: 20)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
SBA A	NT	Summer	2012	290	3	9	11
SBA B	WA	Summer	2017	191	0	10	15
SBA C	WA	Summer	2019	127*	0	7	12
SBA G	NT	Summer	2020	49	0	2	3
SBA N	WA	Winter	2023	31*	0	2	NA

In this case, five SBA's across two states qualified for a level of importance at least once in the 15-year focal period of the Directory. Peak counts occurred predominantly in the summer season (SBA's A to G) and in winter at SBA N. A single SBA exceeded international importance during three separate summer seasons (SBA A, column 'Int'), with its peak count recorded in the summer of 2012 (summer is to be interpreted as anywhere between September 2011 and April 2012 due to process of 'forward-dating' of Sep-Dec months, see Methods section).

SBA A was also nationally important during 9 seasons, but this value includes those where counts exceeded the international threshold – the SBA was therefore solely nationally important during a total of six seasons (difference between columns 'Int' and 'Nat').

Peak counts are derived from established monitoring data unless marked with an asterisk (*), in which case the peak was derived from an incidental record (i.e. a record collected outside the ASMP). In this case peak counts for SBA's C and N relate to such incidentals, although SBA C is otherwise monitored well (12 out of 15 possible seasons, column 'Seasonal effort'), whereas SBA N has not been monitored in the Directory's focal period and values are based solely on incidental records, which is reflected by the NA value in the effort column.

For clarity and to minimise repetition in these tables the population importance thresholds are captured in the associated table captions throughout the species accounts.

Site accounts

For each state and territory, areas identified as being of international or national importance are listed, along with details of the species for which each area is significant. For each species, the highest recorded count is provided, whether the count meets criteria for international or national importance, and the published source of the record (see the Site accounts – interpretation section under Methods for more detail). A mapped overview of important areas is also included for each state and territory. Site account descriptions are based on publicly available information from state, territory, and Commonwealth government sources. Most accounts draw from the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, available at www.environment.gov.au.

Supplementary information was also sourced online from the NSW Environment and Heritage Department (www.environment.nsw.gov.au), the ACT Government Open Data Portal (www.data.act.gov.au), Victoria's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (www.water.vic.gov.au), the NT government's Library and Archives portal (www.territorystories.nt.gov.au), South Australia's Department for Environment and Water (www.environment.sa.gov.au), Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (www.nre.tas.gov.au) and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (www.dbca.wa.gov.au).

Australian Capital Territory

Geography and habitat

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is Australia's only jurisdiction without a coastline and therefore lacks intertidal shorebird habitat. The nearby Jervis Bay Territory (JBT), administered by the Commonwealth but not part of the ACT, contains coastal wetland habitat around Jervis Bay, St Georges Basin, and the open coast near Sussex Inlet.

Situated in the upper Murrumbidgee River catchment of the Murray–Darling Basin, the ACT's northern region comprises elevated tablelands (500–600 m), with scattered hills up to 800 m. Lake Burley Griffin, formed by damming the Molonglo River, includes the Jerrabomberra Wetlands at its shallow upstream end. These wetlands feature permanent and seasonal floodplain depressions, shallow channels, and exposed mudflats in summer, offering key habitat for Latham's Snipe. Vegetation includes grasses, reeds, and herbs. Mulligan's Flat in the northeast provides additional snipe habitat in marshes around small dams. These freshwater systems often dry down during summer. The southern ACT is mountainous, with few small bogs or marshes in valleys.

Important sites

The Jerrabomberra Wetlands is the ACT's most significant site for migratory shorebirds and has national importance for Latham's Snipe. The wetland system is regularly surveyed and supports the highest known concentrations of this species within the Territory. The habitat is partly natural but has been modified by past land use—tree clearing and the establishment of permanent water sources have arguably enhanced its value for snipe. Mulligan's Flat also offers supplementary habitat, though its use is more intermittent. Several smaller wetlands in the territory have been identified as of national importance through the Latham's Snipe Project.

Pressures and threats

While overall threats to shorebirds in the ACT are relatively low, some pressures remain. Jerrabomberra Wetlands is managed as a conservation reserve that is open to public visitation. Recreational use may pose minor disturbance risks, but formal walking tracks, bird hides, and interpretive signage are in place to help minimise human-wildlife interaction.

Urban development is a potential threat to smaller wetland areas, particularly as Canberra continues to expand. However, wetland construction is occasionally incorporated into new developments, which can offset some losses. Much of the ACT remains under conservation management, offering a level of protection not always available in more intensively developed regions.

State of knowledge

While the ACT supports a relatively small number of migratory shorebird species and individuals, the Jerrabomberra Wetlands has been the focus of detailed local study. Shorebird enthusiasts and community scientists have contributed substantially to the understanding of Latham's Snipe in the region through regular surveys and targeted research (Hansen in prep). This sustained monitoring effort has improved knowledge of seasonal usage patterns and

habitat preferences for the species and ensures that the site's significance is recognised at the national level.

Figure 1. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in the Australian Capital Territory

(blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

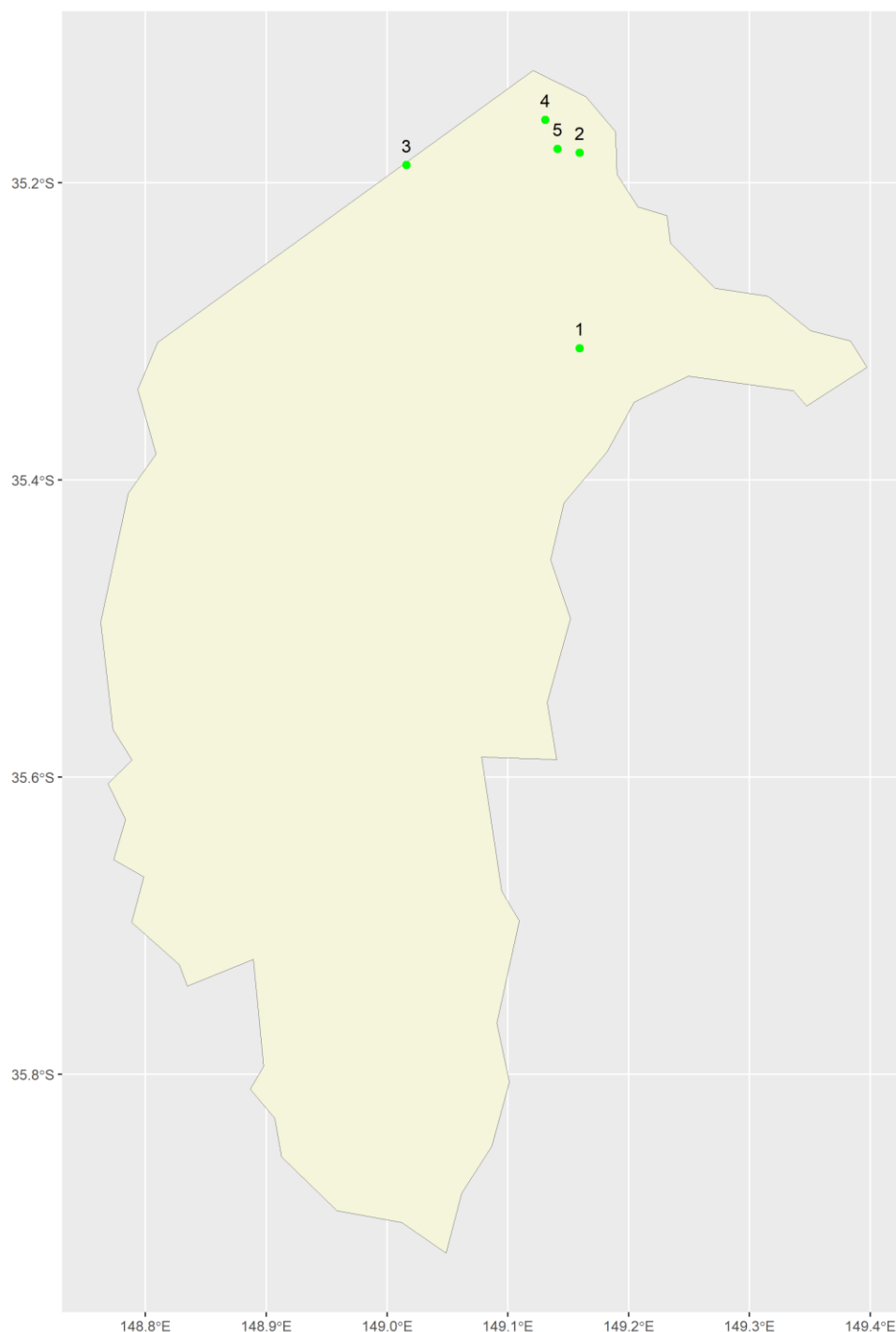


Table 5. List of map IDs for shorebird habitat in the Australian Capital Territory

SBA	Map ID
Horse Park Drive wetlands, Forde	5
Horse Park wetlands, Jacka	4
Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve	1

SBA	Map ID
Mulligans Flat	2
West Belconnen Ponds	3

Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve

Table 6. Site account for Jerrabomberra Wetlands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	ACT011 Jerrabomberra Wetlands
Wetland type	B4, C6, B10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	South West Slopes of NSW
Geographical Coordinates	-35.31122, 149.15927
Area	248 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: NA

General site description

Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve is located on the Molonglo River floodplain, 4 kilometres from Canberra, and includes part of the floodplain influenced by artificially high-water levels due to the creation of Lake Burley Griffin. The reserve supports a wide diversity of habitats, including deep open water, reed beds, marshlands and inundated grasslands. The reserve is adjacent to the Fyshwick Sewerage Ponds and Canturf turf farm. Sections of the northern reserve contain shallow channels and grassland, which are used for low intensity cattle grazing and provide muddy substrates for foraging wading birds. The reserve, sewerage ponds and turf farm provide refuge during dry periods and are nationally significant for Latham's Snipe. They also support other migratory birds from both inland Australia and the Northern Hemisphere.

Table 7. Importance of SBA Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 35	146	0	9	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP

Mulligans Flat

Table 8. Site account for Mulligans Flat SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C2
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	South West Slopes of NSW
Geographical Coordinates	-35.17917, 149.15972
Area	109 hectares

No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary is situated within the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve. The Sanctuary is owned by the ACT Government and managed by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. The reserve contains one of the most significant areas of the critically endangered Yellow Box–Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland in Australia and consists of dams created for earlier farming practices. One of these is named ‘Big Dam’ and is surrounded by freshwater marsh and herb lands. The reserve contains several water impoundments along a natural swale which lead into an ephemeral creek line at the site’s southern boundary. Latham’s Snipe occur here in significant numbers over spring and summer.

Table 9. Importance of SBA Mulligans Flat for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham’s Snipe	Summer	2013	350 / 18	18*	0	1	Incidental*

Special SBA cases: Latham’s Snipe Project

This section provides an overview of special SBA cases of importance derived from the Latham’s Snipe Project where these sites fall outside the established ASMP site network in the ACT.

Table 10. Importance of special SBA cases in the ACT for Latham’s Snipe (International threshold: 350; National threshold: 18)

Site name	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort	Source
West Belconnen Ponds	Summer	2019	28	0	2	9	Latham’s Snipe Project
Horse Park wetlands, Jacka	Summer	2019	21	0	1	3	Latham’s Snipe Project
Horse Park Drive wetlands, Forde	Summer	2023	19	0	1	8	Latham’s Snipe Project

External Territories

Geography and habitat

Australia's external territories are scattered across the Indian, Pacific, and Southern Oceans, encompassing a range of isolated island groups with varied shorebird habitats. In the Indian Ocean, Ashmore Reef and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands consist of low-lying reef islands fringed by coral reefs, sandy beaches, lagoons, and intertidal flats—providing critical foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds. In the Tasman Sea, Lord Howe Island features a mix of coral reefs, lagoons, beaches, sand dunes, and coastal vegetation, set against a backdrop of rainforest and cloud forest. Seagrass beds and sandy shores offer suitable habitat for coastal shorebirds. Norfolk Island, in the Pacific Ocean, has a rugged coastline with low cliffs, sandy beaches, and grassy margins. While parts of the island have been heavily modified, it retains areas that provide suitable habitat for several migratory species.

Important sites

Four external territories are currently recognised as important for migratory shorebirds: Ashmore Reef, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Lord Howe Island, and Norfolk Island. These sites likely serve primarily as stopover locations for shorebirds during migration, particularly for smaller-bodied species with limited flight ranges. They may also support small numbers of non-breeding individuals throughout the non-breeding season. Due to their remoteness and relatively undisturbed conditions, these islands can serve as important resting and refuelling points in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. The reef-associated habitats of Ashmore and Cocos (Keeling) are especially significant given the scarcity of suitable habitat across much of the central Indian Ocean.

Pressures and threats

Sea-level rise represents a major long-term threat to these low-lying reef islands, particularly in the Indian Ocean territories, where even modest changes in sea level can reduce available shorebird habitat. Invasive species, especially rats, pose another significant threat, particularly on islands where ground-nesting or roosting birds are vulnerable. Although not yet widespread across all territories, the introduction or spread of invasive predators—accidental or otherwise—could have severe consequences for nesting and roosting shorebirds. Habitat degradation due to human activity is minimal in most areas but may occur locally, especially near settlements or in areas frequented by visitors.

State of knowledge

Research and monitoring across Australia's external territories remain limited, with most information derived from targeted surveys, occasional Commonwealth-funded studies, and in particular observations by visiting ornithologists and birders. Ashmore Reef, as a Commonwealth Marine Reserve, has received focused attention and some dedicated survey effort. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands have also been subject to periodic monitoring. However, for Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, shorebird data is patchier and generally incidental to broader biodiversity studies. Overall, population data remains sparse, and the functional importance of these sites for different shorebird species—particularly in terms of frequency and duration of use—is not yet well understood. Improved survey coverage and long-term monitoring are

needed to better assess the conservation value of these remote and scattered sites within the flyway network.

Figure 2. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in the External Territories

(blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

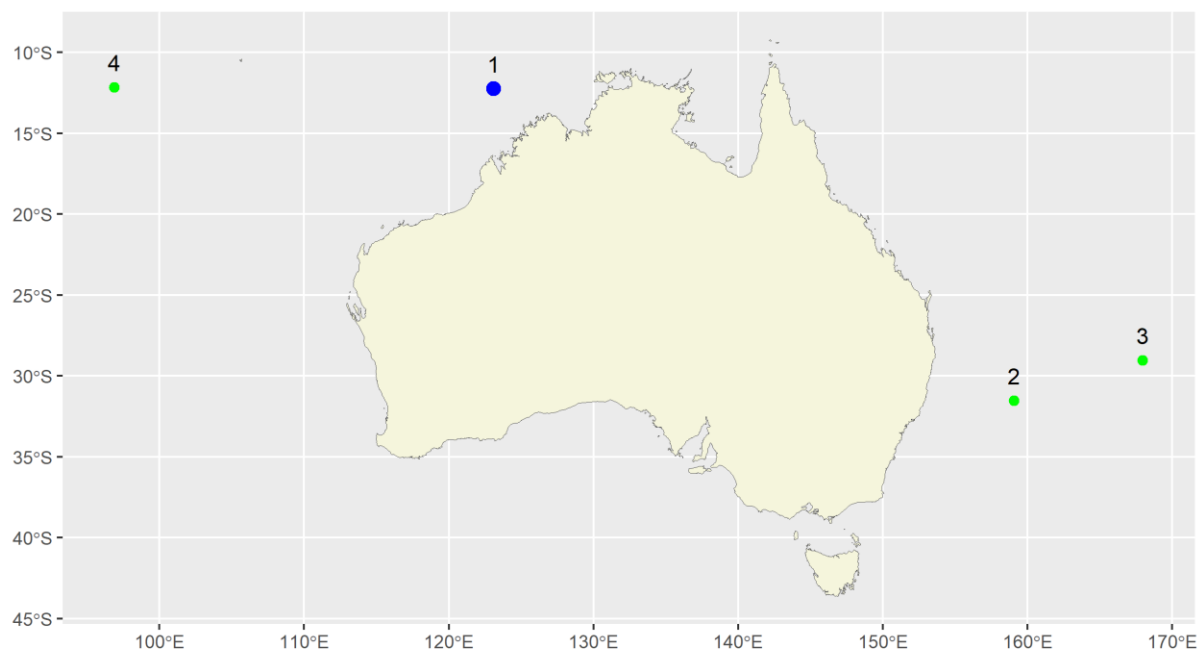


Table 11. List of map IDs for shorebird habitat in external territories

SBA	Map ID
Ashmore Reef	1
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	4
Lord Howe Island	2
Norfolk Island	3

Ashmore Reef

Table 12. Site account for Ashmore Reef SBA

Ramsar Site	Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve (Ramsar site 58)
Directory of Important Wetlands	EXT001 Ashmore Reef
Wetland type	A2, A3, A7, A5, A4
Flyway Network Site	Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve (EAAF132)
Key Biodiversity Area	Ashmore Reef
Geographical Coordinates	-12.24047, 123.09331
Area	58,347 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Ashmore Reef is located in the northeastern Indian Ocean and is one of only three emergent oceanic reefs in the region. It comprises three low-lying vegetated islets surrounded by extensive intertidal reef platforms, sand flats, and subtidal reefs. Strong tidal flows continually reshape the landscape, shifting unconsolidated sand and altering the form of sand cays and fans along the reef's margins. Freshwater lenses form in the sandy substrates of the islets during the monsoon season. These dynamic intertidal habitats provide important foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 13. Importance of SBA Ashmore Reef for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2014	3,750 / 375	3,500*	0	4	Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2021	300 / 30	1,052*	10	11	Incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2016	800 / 80	1,043*	3	8	Incidental*
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2024	1,400 / 140	955*	0	7	Incidental*
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2016	6,000 / 600	914*	0	1	Incidental*
Great Knot	Winter	2017	4,000 / 400	856*	0	4	Incidental*
Sanderling	Winter	2016	300 / 30	740*	7	10	Incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2010	800 / 80	550*	0	1	Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	535*	1	1	Incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2010	900 / 90	400*	0	1	Incidental*
Grey Plover	Winter	2024	750 / 75	387*	0	5	Incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2018	1,200 / 120	340*	0	4	Incidental*
Common Greenshank	Winter	2019	1,100 / 110	325*	0	7	Incidental*
Pacific Golden Plover	Winter	2014	1,500 / 150	260*	0	2	Incidental*
Whimbrel	Winter	2010	900 / 90	240*	0	5	Incidental*
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2010	1,400 / 140	170*	0	1	Incidental*
Terek Sandpiper	Winter	2017	750 / 75	115*	0	1	Incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2010	300 / 30	50*	0	1	Incidental*

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Table 14. Site account for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands SBA

Ramsar Site	Pulu Keeling National Park (Site Number: 46)
Directory of Important Wetlands	EXT006 Pulu Keeling National Park
Wetland type	A2, A5, A4, A3
Flyway Network Site	Pulu Keeling National Park (EAAF136)
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.15127, 96.86909
Area	14,791 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands are a group of 27 coral islands forming two atolls located 2,900 kilometres northwest of Perth in the Indian Ocean. The Ramsar-listed shorebird area includes North Keeling Island, which is almost continuous around a shallow lagoon that drains almost completely at low tide. A reef crest encircles most of the island, with beaches of varying composition: a broad, sandy and highly mobile beach to the north, steep shingle to the south, and a series of shingle berms to the east. At low tide, exposed beaches 5–15 metres wide fringe the island. As one of the few island groups in the region free from introduced rats and largely unaffected by feral animals, the area offers relatively undisturbed habitat that supports migratory shorebirds.

Table 15. Importance of SBA Cocos (Keeling) Islands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2024	300 / 30	45*	0	4	Incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2011	300 / 30	40*	0	1	Incidental*

Lord Howe Island

Table 16. Site account for Lord Howe Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A4, A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lord Howe Island KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-31.53026, 159.06319
Area	1,209 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Lord Howe island is located northeast off the coast of Sydney. The crescent-shaped island has a landscape of mountains, cliffs, hills and offshore islands. Closed forest is the most extensive vegetation type, covering over half of the main island and extending from the lowlands to the mountain tops. The remaining natural vegetation cover consists of scrubs, herbfields, grasslands and the vegetation of exposed cliff and littoral terrains. Coastal habitats include calcarenite and coral boulder beach, coral sand beach and dune, cliffs and basalt boulder beaches. Areas of reef and sand flats are exposed during low tide.

Table 17. Importance of SBA Lord Howe Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2018	1,500 / 150	292*	0	4	Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2014	300 / 30	290*	0	12	Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2014	300 / 30	36*	0	1	Incidental*
Wandering Tattler	Summer	2018	100 / 10	10*	0	1	Incidental*

Norfolk Island

Table 18. Site account for Norfolk Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Norfolk Island
Geographical Coordinates	-29.03261, 167.95251
Area	4,201 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

Norfolk Island is a small island in the South Pacific Ocean with a coastline made up of sandy beaches, rocky shores, and coastal cliffs. Much of the island is now covered by farmland, orchards, and developed areas, while remnants of the original rainforest and palm and vine forest are largely restricted to the 650-hectare Norfolk Island National Park. Coastal habitats around the island support migratory shorebirds, offering roosting and foraging areas along the beaches and rocky shorelines.

Table 19. Importance of SBA Norfolk Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2013	1,500 / 150	256*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2012	300 / 30	38*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*

New South Wales

Geography and habitat

New South Wales (NSW) has the shortest coastline of any Australian state or major territory, extending just over 2,100 kilometres, excluding offshore islands. Despite its relatively short coast, NSW supports diverse and widespread shorebird habitat, both along its temperate Pacific Ocean shoreline and across its vast inland floodplains. While lacking the extensive tidal mudflats of northern Australia, the state provides critical habitat for many migratory shorebird species, particularly within riverine estuaries and ephemeral inland wetlands.

The NSW coastline is characterised by a repeating pattern of rocky headlands, sandy beaches, inlets and river estuaries. Although large intertidal mudflats are absent, tidal wetlands associated with river systems — such as the Shoalhaven, Hunter, Karuah, Manning, Clarence, Richmond, and Georges Rivers — offer valuable shorebird foraging and roosting habitat. These estuaries often connect to shallow coastal lakes behind dune systems, such as Fullerton Cove in the Hunter Estuary and Wooloweyah Lagoon in the Clarence Estuary. Small areas of mangroves fringe many of these estuarine systems, particularly in more sheltered locations. Tidal ranges are moderate, reaching about two metres around Sydney and the Hunter coast, and decreasing slightly along the northern and southern coastal zones.

Extreme rainfall events, often triggered by East Coast Lows, can cause widespread flooding in coastal catchments, especially on the north coast. Such events create temporary wetlands in coastal pastures and swamps, which may support a range of shorebird species. In addition to these ephemeral habitats, permanent coastal swamps fringed by sedgeland, heath or low forest provide breeding and feeding habitat for freshwater-associated species like Latham's Snipe. Other common coastal shorebird habitats include rock platforms, beaches, estuarine mud and sandflats, and intertidal mangrove margins.

Inland from the coast, NSW contains extensive wetland systems that support large numbers of migratory shorebirds under suitable conditions. The Great Dividing Range gives way to a plateau with shallow lakes such as Lake George and Lake Bathurst in the southeast, and Lake Goran and Little Llangothlin Lagoon in the northeast. Further west, the rivers of the Murray–Darling Basin form expansive floodplains containing complex wetland mosaics of channels, marshes, and shallow basins. Major systems include the Gwydir and Macquarie Marshes, both of which rely on infrequent major floods to create optimal conditions for waterbirds and shorebirds. Other important wetlands include Fivebough Swamp and areas around the Lachlan–Murrumbidgee confluence, while Menindee Lakes can support extensive shallow foraging habitat when water levels are favourable.

Inland wetlands vary widely in vegetation and structure, ranging from open claypans and saline basins with sparse cover to more vegetated sites dominated by lignum, reeds, sedges, or short herbaceous growth like nardoo. These habitats provide rich feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds, especially after rainfall or managed inundation. Many inland lakes are largely unvegetated or support only low grass cover, enabling access to prey in shallow water or exposed substrate.

Important sites

Six internationally important SBAs are identified in this Directory for NSW, with most located along the coast. The Hunter Region remains the state's most significant site for migratory shorebirds, supporting internationally significant numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Far Eastern Curlew, and nationally significant numbers of at least eight other species. The Hunter Estuary includes both intertidal and freshwater habitats, such as Hexham Swamp, a partly tidal wetland formerly listed as a separate site. Nearby Port Stephens supports internationally important numbers of Far Eastern Curlew and is monitored through regular surveys. Other internationally important sites for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper include Maitland Wetlands, Lake Macquarie, Belmore Swamp, and Fivebough Swamp in the Riverina.

Inland shorebird numbers fluctuate dramatically depending on rainfall and flooding. While recent surveys have identified only one NSW site with more than 6,000 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (Hunter Estuary), historical counts (pre-2010) were significantly higher — with e.g. records of 37,000 birds at Lake Cawndilla in Menindee Lakes (Bamford et al. 2008). These changes may reflect differences in wetland availability, survey coverage, and population declines observed across the Flyway (van Swinderen et al. 2025). Latham's Snipe and Far Eastern Curlew are other key species for which NSW supports important numbers. However, the state supports fewer large migratory shorebirds overall than northern Australia, and grassland specialists like Little Curlew are rarely observed. Calidris sandpipers other than Sharp-tailed Sandpiper are generally poorly represented, with few nationally significant sites for species like Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper or Sanderling.

Pressures and threats

NSW has the highest population of any Australian state. This brings intense pressure to coastal wetlands from urban development, port expansion, recreation, and disturbance by people, vehicles, and dogs. While extensive areas of tidal flats and saltmarsh have been lost, especially around Sydney and Newcastle, considerable conservation efforts have been made — including restoration works and the creation of artificial roosts, such as the one at Stockton Bridge in the Hunter Estuary.

In agricultural regions, inland wetland habitat has been degraded by water extraction, flow regulation, and land-use intensification. Large areas have been drained, cultivated, or repurposed for irrigation storage. Environmental flows have been delivered to some key sites, including the Gwydir and Macquarie Marshes, and Fivebough Swamp, supporting habitat persistence in a regulated landscape. Nonetheless, habitat loss and hydrological change remain significant challenges to shorebird conservation across NSW.

State of knowledge

Regular monitoring of migratory shorebirds in New South Wales has been carried out for many years by groups such as the Hunter Bird Observers Club (HBOC) and Hastings Birdwatchers. Sites like the Hunter Estuary, Botany Bay and Port Stephens are well monitored. However, even historically well-monitored sites have seen declines in coverage, largely due to the relocation of trained volunteers and the ageing of the core volunteer base. Inland wetlands—especially those in the Darling River catchment—continue to be poorly and inconsistently monitored, despite

their importance during wet years. In periods of high rainfall and widespread flooding, these ephemeral wetlands can support exceptionally large numbers of species such as Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, often exceeding international significance thresholds. Reinvigorating monitoring efforts across NSW would likely lead to the identification of additional significant sites for this and other species.

Figure 3. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in New South Wales

(blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

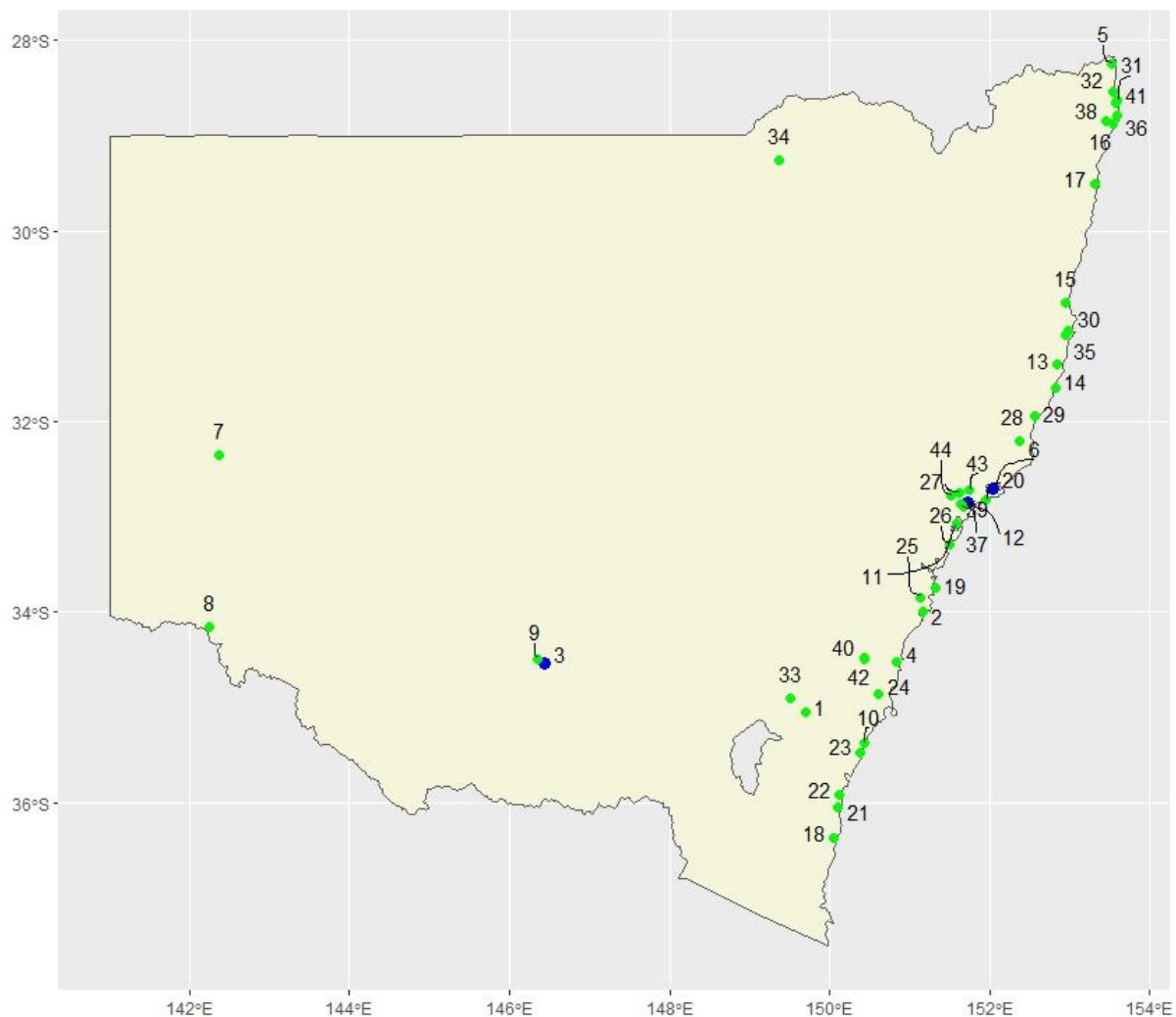


Table 20. List of map IDs for shorebird habitat in New South Wales

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Belmore Swamp	35	Long Reef	19
Botany Bay	2	Macleay River Estuary	30
Sea Peace Flats, Byron	41	Maitland Wetlands	27
Bowral Botanic Garden	40	Manning River Estuary	29
Bowral Street Reserve	42	Menindee Lakes	7
Branch Creek, Gap Road, Alstonville	38	Moruya	22
Brunswick River Estuary	32	Nambucca River	15
BulBul Cres / Kekul St wetlands	37	Parramatta River	25

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Byron	31	Port Stephens	6
Camden Haven	14	Richmond River Estuary	16
Clarence River Estuary	17	Rose Lagoon	33
Cliftleigh Meadows Park	44	Shoalhaven Estuary	24
Fivebough Swamp	3	Tuckerbil Swamp	9
Gol Gol	8	Tuggerah Lakes	26
Gwydir Wetlands	34	Tuross	21
Hastings River	13	Tweed Estuary	5
Hunter Estuary	12	Ulladulla	10
Irrawang swamp	43	Wallaga Lake	18
Lake Ainsworth	36	Wallis Lake	28
Lake Bathurst	1	Wallsend (& Bunnings) wetlands	39
Lake Illawarra	4	Willinga and Merroo Lakes	23
Lake Macquarie	11	Worimi Conservation Lands	20

Belmore Swamp

Table 21. Site account for Belmore Swamp SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW035 Swan Pool / Belmore Swamp
Wetland type	A12, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Hastings/Macleay Key Biodiversity Area
Geographical Coordinates	-31.0955, 152.94934
Area	1,744 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Belmore Swamp is located kilometres north of Sydney in northern New South Wales and forms part of the lower Macleay River floodplain, alongside Verges Swamp. The shorebird area includes extensive floodplain wetlands made up of fresh meadows, seasonal fresh swamps, and reed swamps. These habitats form a gradient from shallow, temporarily inundated meadows to deeper, more permanent reed swamps. During flood events, the wetlands expand across the floodplain, and as they recede and dry out, they provide important foraging habitat for shorebirds such as Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Table 22. Importance of SBA Belmore Swamp for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	2,000*	1	2	Incidental*

Botany Bay

Table 23. Site account for Botany Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	Towra Point Nature Reserve (Site Number: 23)
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW073 Botany Wetlands
Wetland type	B, E, F, G, H, I, J, K
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.99478, 151.16155
Area	7,147 hectares
No. of count areas	17
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

Botany Bay is a large estuarine embayment in metropolitan Sydney, New South Wales, receiving freshwater input from the Georges and Cooks rivers. The bay spans 8 kilometres at its widest point and is bordered by the La Perouse and Kurnell peninsulas. Much of the surrounding area is heavily urbanised, with key infrastructure such as Sydney International Airport and an oil refinery on its shores, alongside remnant natural areas including several nature reserves. The Botany Bay Shorebird Area encompasses 17 count areas, including sites within the Botany Wetlands complex and the Towra Point Nature Reserve Ramsar site. Towra Point, located on the northern side of the Kurnell Peninsula, is the largest estuarine wetland of its kind in the Sydney Basin. It includes spits, bars, mudflats, dunes, and beaches, supporting migratory shorebirds that roost in saltmarsh and forage along the intertidal shoreline of the bay.

Table 24. Importance of SBA Botany Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	3,750 / 375	403	0	3	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	219	0	15	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2010	350 / 35	99	0	12	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	50*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	33*	0	3	ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2012	NA / 15	15	NA	1	ASMP

Brunswick River Estuary

Table 25. Site account for Brunswick River Estuary

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, B8, B9
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-28.537766, 153.541525
Area	635 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA

General site description

The Brunswick River is located 800 kilometres north of Sydney with the shorebird area centred around the river estuary and consisting of four count areas: the main arm, which includes the Brunswick River and Kings Creek, both of which have their headwaters to the west of Mullumbimby and flow east to the ocean at Brunswick Heads, the north arm (known as Marshalls Creek), the south arm (known as Simpsons Creek) and an area of ephemeral floodplain wetland known as Vallances Road. The estuary drains a catchment area of some 228 square kilometres and has a waterway area of 2.2 kilometres² extending from the ocean entrance at Brunswick Heads, upstream to the limits of tidal fluctuation.

Table 26. Importance of SBA Brunswick River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2015	350 / 18	25	0	2	ASMP

Byron

Table 27. Site account for Byron SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A10, B8, B9, C1, C10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-28.639851, 153.596908
Area	293 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: NA

General site description

Byron SBA is located on the far-north coast of NSW and consists of three count areas; Belongil Beach and Estuary, West Byron Wetlands and Tallow Creek estuary and beach. Several of these areas fall within the Byron Bay Sanctuary Zone which includes the Byron Bay embayment; approximately 3.6 kilometres of Tyagarah Beach at Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay; offshore waters of Tyagarah Beach; Julian Rocks; Cape Byron; and a transect east of Cape Byron to the outer boundary of the Marine Park. The intertidal and nearshore subtidal habitats within the Byron Bay Sanctuary Zone are dominated by soft sediment habitats, with relatively small areas of intertidal and subtidal reef.

The Byron Wetlands are constructed wetlands and form part of the 100-hectare Byron Integrated Management Reserve which includes the Byron Bay Sewage Treatment Plant, as well as surrounding wetland ecosystems. Intertidal areas routinely support Double-banded Plover and a variety of other migratory shorebird species due to the diversity of habitats available in the area. However, it is only Latham's Snipe that have been recorded in significant numbers in the 15 years.

Table 28. Importance of SBA Byron for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2013	350 / 18	30	0	3	ASMP

Camden Haven

Table 29. Site account for Camden Haven SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW029 Crowdy Bay National Park
Wetland type	A12, A4, A11, A9, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-31.64381, 152.81939
Area	3,200 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Camden Haven is located on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, north of Sydney. The shorebird area includes three count areas across the Camden Haven River estuary: Watson Taylors Lake, Queens Lake, and Gogleys Lagoon. Watson Taylors Lake is a shallow estuarine lake with a maximum depth of 1.3 metres. The estuary is surrounded by extensive freshwater wetlands, including Harrington Lagoon, Crowdy Lagoon, Great Swamp, Blackfellows Bog, Dirty Corner Swamp, and associated wetland areas. Intertidal habitats near the estuary mouth support a range of migratory shorebirds, with Far Eastern Curlew regularly recorded in significant numbers in recent years.

Table 30. Importance of SBA Camden Haven for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2010	350 / 35	35*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Clarence River Estuary

Table 31. Site account for Clarence River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW028 Clarence River Estuary NSW039 Wooloweyah Lagoon
Wetland type	A2, A6, A8, A9, A10, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-29.49877, 153.3206
Area	7,015 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: 9

General site description

The Clarence River Estuary, located north of Sydney, is one of the largest coastal river systems in New South Wales. The estuary includes several large alluvial islands that divide the main river flow into north and south arms, along with extensive off-stream areas such as Wooloweyah Lagoon. The towns of Yamba and Iluka lie on the southern and northern shorelines, respectively. The estuary supports significant mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and saltmarsh habitats. Wooloweyah Lagoon is a tidal lagoon connected to the Clarence River via Oyster, Micalo, and Palmers Channels, though an embankment prevents tidal flooding. Old prawn farming ponds remain on Micalo Island within the estuary. The diverse intertidal and wetland habitats provide important resources for migratory shorebirds.

Table 32. Importance of SBA Clarence River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2015	350 / 35	96	0	6	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2010	350 / 35	50	0	1	ASMP

Fivebough Swamp

Table 33. Site account for Fivebough Swamp SBA

Ramsar Site	Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps (Site Number: 62)
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW115 Fivebough Swamp
Wetland type	B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps
Geographical Coordinates	-34.53094, 146.43163
Area	377 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: NA

General site description

Fivebough Swamp is located within the township of Leeton in the Riverina district of New South Wales. It occupies a shallow depression bordered on the eastern side by a low lunette dune of

saline clay sediments. The wetland comprises a series of ponds in the central-west, originally constructed for effluent treatment, which hold water year-round. Surrounding areas flood seasonally, forming extensive mudflats as water levels recede. Northern and far western sections are higher and inundate only after heavy rainfall. Historically fed by natural drainage from the Corbie, Merungle Hill and Brobenah Range areas, the site now receives environmental water deliveries. The wetland provides varied freshwater and ephemeral habitat supporting important shorebird foraging and roosting areas.

Table 34. Importance of SBA Fivebough Swamp for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	2,800	2	5	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2014	20,000 / 2,000	2,800	0	2	ASMP

Gol Gol

Table 35. Site account for Gol Gol SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B8, B12
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.15746, 142.25472
Area	1,465 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Gol Gol shorebird area, located 8 kilometres northeast of Mildura in southwestern New South Wales, comprises the large freshwater ephemeral wetlands of Lake Gol Gol and Gol Gol Swamp. Historically, the wetlands received floodwaters from the Murray River via Gol Gol Creek, but flow control structures disconnected the wetlands from the river.. The wetlands face challenges from prolonged dry periods and groundwater salinity linked to the Mildura weir pool. The area is home to river red gums and black box, which grow beside rivers and on floodplains across the northern region, providing important habitat for birds.

Table 36. Importance of SBA Gol Gol for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,300 / 130	300*	0	1	Incidental*

Gwydir Wetlands

Table 37. Site account for Gwydir Wetlands SBA

Ramsar Site	Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses (Site Number: 50)
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW008 Gwydir Wetlands
Wetland type	B2, B3, B4, B6, B14
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-29.2485, 149.3179
Area	5,321 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The extensive Gwydir Wetlands lie on the lower Gwydir River in north-western NSW. The area consists of an inland delta which creates a patchwork of flood dependent wetlands. These wetlands are renowned for the large flocks of waterbirds that congregate to breed when large floods flow down the river. In addition, the surrounding floodplain wetlands, including the Mallowa Creek wetlands, are important feeding grounds for breeding waterbirds.

Table 38. Importance of SBA Gwydir Wetlands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2015	350 / 18	20*	0	1	Incidental

Hastings River

Table 39. Site account for Hastings River SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW032 Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve
Wetland type	A10, A11, A4, A9, A6, A8, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Hastings Macleay
Geographical Coordinates	-31.40136, 152.84681
Area	2,503 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Hastings River shorebird area on the north coast of New South Wales encompasses the Hastings River estuary and mouth near Port Macquarie, including key sites like Limeburners Creek and Woregore Nature Reserves. Pelican Island, within the river mouth, features sandy beach habitat and is bordered by tidal mudflats, channels, and mangroves, making it a significant shorebird roost. Limeburners Creek supports a range of largely intact wetland habitats including wet heath, sedgeland, and forested swamp. This mosaic of natural wetland environments offers vital foraging and roosting habitat for a variety of migratory shorebirds.

Table 40. Importance of SBA Hastings River for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2012	1,500 / 150	151	0	1	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	62	0	7	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2012	250 / 25	32	0	1	ASMP

Hunter Estuary

Table 41. Site account for Hunter Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	Hunter Estuary Wetlands (Site Number: 24)
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW138 Hexham Swamp NSW089 Shortland Wetlands Centre NSW080 Kooragang Nature Reserve
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, C8, A10, A11, A9, A12
Flyway Network Site	Hunter Estuary Ramsar Site (EAAF010)
Key Biodiversity Area	Hunter Estuary KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.85611, 151.72646
Area	10,291 hectares
No. of count areas	40
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Hunter Estuary lies around the lower reaches of the Hunter River in coastal New South Wales, encompassing both the north and south channels, Fullerton Cove, Kooragang Island, and associated wetlands. This barrier estuary system formed from sediment deposits between inner and outer coastal barrier sands. Key wetlands include Hexham Swamp, a brackish system formerly influenced by tidal flows, now reliant on rainfall and controlled water releases. Shortland Wetlands Centre features semi-permanent freshwater ponds within estuarine sediments. Fullerton Cove is a large shallow embayment with extensive mudflats exposed at low tide, fringed by mangroves and saltmarsh. The estuary offers a diverse range of habitats for shorebirds, including mudflats, sandy beaches, rock walls, and open water areas.

Table 42. Importance of SBA Hunter Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	8,316	0	11	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	6,408	7	14	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2010	3,750 / 375	1,091	0	15	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	1,000*	0	11	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP; incidental*
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2014	1,500 / 150	522	0	15	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2020	1,300 / 130	519*	0	1	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2010	350 / 35	387	1	15	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,200 / 120	252	0	9	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 35	205	0	6	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2017	1,100 / 110	196*	0	5	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2010	350 / 35	148	0	12	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	60	0	1	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2022	300 / 30	50*	0	1	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2012	NA / 15	16	NA	10	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP

Lake Ainsworth

Table 43. Site account for Lake Ainsworth SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-28.78342, 153.59127
Area	55 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Lake Ainsworth shorebird area, located on the north coast of NSW just north of Lennox Head, is dominated by a freshwater lake fringed by dense tea tree vegetation. This area also encompasses the adjacent oceanic sandy beach, which forms the southern section of Seven Mile Beach. Together, these habitats provide important feeding and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds and other coastal bird species, supporting their survival along the eastern seaboard.

Table 44. Importance of SBA Lake Ainsworth for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2014	1,500 / 150	206*	0	1	Incidental*

Lake Bathurst

Table 45. Site account for Lake Bathurst SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW066 Lake Bathurst
Wetland type	B6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Bathurst KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-35.04566, 149.70221
Area	2,028 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Bathurst is a sizeable, shallow freshwater lake situated in the southern tablelands, just east of the Mulwaree River within the Nepean-Hawkesbury catchment. With a maximum depth of around seven metres, it collects local runoff and acts as an internal basin. The lake features sandy bottoms and clear, low-salinity water. Vegetation includes dense stands of rushes in wetter zones, submerged aquatic plants in deeper areas, and a fringe of pasture and weed species along the shoreline. This wetland serves as an essential refuge for waterbirds during dry periods inland and supports important habitat for a range of migratory shorebirds.

Table 46. Importance of SBA Lake Bathurst for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,300 / 130	800*	0	3	Incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2021	250 / 25	32*	0	1	Incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2012	350 / 18	20*	0	1	Incidental*

Lake Illawarra

Table 47. Site account for Lake Illawarra SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW081 Lake Illawarra
Wetland type	A10, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.52145, 150.84248
Area	3,854 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: 10

General site description

Lake Illawarra, located south of Wollongong on the Illawarra coastal plain, is an estuarine lagoon featuring a dynamic entrance channel shaped by shifting sands and strong ocean waves. The lake receives freshwater from four main tributaries, including Macquarie Rivulet and Mullet

Creek, entering from the west. It consists mainly of shallow estuarine waters influenced by tides. The shorebird area also includes the adjacent oceanic sandy beaches flanking the estuary entrance, providing important habitat for a variety of shorebird species.

Table 48. Importance of SBA Lake Illawarra for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	150	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2015	250 / 25	51*	0	12	ASMP; incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2010	350 / 18	26	0	1	ASMP

Lake Macquarie

Table 49. Site account for Lake Macquarie SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.07703, 151.58969
Area	11,629 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Macquarie is located on the New South Wales coast and comprises a chain of 17 permanent and semi-permanent shallow wetlands within a low-lying coastal landscape. The area includes eutrophic freshwater lagoons on coastal dunes, palustrine lagoons of moderate depth, and intermittently inundated wetlands receiving runoff from surrounding residential and urban development. Habitat types range from vegetated sand dunes and barrier systems to freshwater wetlands with high plant diversity and habitat interspersed. Despite periods of drought, rainfall typically exceeds evaporation, maintaining high soil moisture and runoff that supports stream and wetland formation. These wetlands provide important foraging and roosting habitat for shorebirds in a rapidly urbanising environment.

Table 50. Importance of SBA Lake Macquarie for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2024	20,000 / 2,000	2,552	0	1	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	2,500	1	1	ASMP

Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 18	25	0	1	Latham's Snipe Project
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Long Reef

Table 51. Site account for Long Reef SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.74274, 151.31726
Area	39 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

Long Reef Aquatic Reserve is located on Sydney's Northern Beaches, spans around 70 hectares from the rocky shore to about 100 metres offshore. Established as the oldest aquatic reserve in New South Wales, it protects the diverse intertidal rocky platforms of Long Reef headland, preserving marine invertebrates and subtidal plants and animals. The site supports a rich array of marine life, with surf-exposed ledges and sheltered boulder habitats hosting shellfish, crabs, seaweed, sea squirts, and other invertebrates. These productive habitats provide vital foraging grounds for migratory shorebirds, which feed on crustaceans, marine worms, and small fish in the shallows.

Table 52. Importance of SBA Long Reef for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2024	300 / 30	40	0	1	ASMP

Macleay River Estuary

Table 53. Site account for Macleay River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW028 Clybucca Creek Estuary NSW035 Swam Pool / Belmore Swamp
Wetland type	A2, A6, A9, A8, A7, A12, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Hastings Macleay
Geographical Coordinates	-31.04307, 152.98532
Area	7,941 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Macleay River Estuary shorebird area lies on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, north of Kempsey, and extends from the Macleay River mouth at Trial Bay south through the Macleay and Clybucca Creek floodplains to Swan Pool near Smithtown. The area supports a mosaic of estuarine and floodplain wetlands, including mangroves, saltmarsh, seagrass beds, fresh meadows, seasonal freshwater swamps, and reed swamps. These diverse wetland habitats provide important foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds. Intertidal mudflats and channels support feeding, while freshwater swamps and reedbeds offer shelter and seasonal resources across a range of inundation conditions.

Table 54. Importance of SBA Macleay River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,300 / 130	421*	0	3	Incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2021	250 / 25	34*	0	3	Incidental*

Maitland Wetlands

Table 55. Site account for Maitland Wetlands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.7447, 151.62769
Area	307 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Situated east of Maitland, NSW, this area includes around 2,400 hectares of floodplain wetlands and the 72-hectare Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works, located about 10 km north-east of the Maitland, NSW. The now decommissioned treatment works features a series of ponds with varying water levels, including permanent ponds, a sludge pond that occasionally dries, and a larger ephemeral wetland managed under a wetting and drying regime. Surrounding the treatment works are privately owned ephemeral wetlands that fill after heavy rain or receive water from the treatment ponds. Together, these wetlands provide important freshwater habitat for shorebirds, particularly during periods of drought when alternative habitats are scarce.

Table 56. Importance of SBA Maitland Wetlands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	2,460*	1	4	Incidental*

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2019	350 / 18	54*	0	2	Incidental*

Manning River Estuary

Table 57. Site account for Manning River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-31.94012, 152.56071
Area	3,019 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 13

General site description

The Manning River Estuary shorebird area is situated on the north coast plains of New South Wales, northeast of Taree. The Manning River splits into two branches, forming separate estuaries at Harrington and Old Bar. Both estuaries feature expansive sandbars, intertidal mudflats, and a network of tidal channels around islands such as Cabbage Tree Island. These areas are fringed by saltmarsh and mangrove vegetation, providing valuable foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds. The mix of sheltered intertidal zones and dynamic estuarine features supports a range of shorebird species throughout the year.

Table 58. Importance of SBA Manning River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2018	1,500 / 150	210*	0	4	Hastings Birdwatchers; ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2011	250 / 25	123*	0	14	Hastings Birdwatchers; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	100*	0	9	Hastings Birdwatchers; ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2023	300 / 30	43	0	1	Hastings Birdwatchers; ASMP

Menindee Lakes

Table 59. Site account for Menindee Lakes SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW010 Menindee Lakes
Wetland type	B2, B4, B5, C1, B13, B14, B6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Menindee Lakes KBA

Geographical Coordinates	-32.34935, 142.36331
Area	43,430 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Menindee Lake system, located around 90 kilometres southeast of Broken Hill in western New South Wales, was historically a series of ephemeral lakes filled by Darling River flows and local rainfall. Following construction of the Menindee Lakes Water Scheme in the late 1960s, the system was transformed into a series of regulated storage lakes. Key components include Lake Wetherell, which captures Darling River flows and channels water into Lakes Malta, Balaka, Bijiji, Tandure, Pamamaroo, Menindee, and Cawndilla, with further connections to Lakes Speculation and Spectacles. Regulators manage releases back into the Darling River or into the Great Darling Anabranch. While the hydrology is now largely controlled, the lakes still provide important wetland habitat when inundated, supporting large numbers of waterbirds. The surrounding landscape is dominated by inland floodplain shrublands, with the wetlands periodically supporting aquatic vegetation and rich birdlife, particularly following high rainfall or managed water releases.

Table 60. Importance of SBA Menindee Lakes for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	250*	0	1	Incidental*

Moruya

Table 61. Site account for Moruya SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW119 Moruya River Estuary Saltmarshes
Wetland type	A6, A7, A8, A9, A10.
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Ulladulla-Merimbula KBA.
Geographical Coordinates	-35.91004, 150.12133
Area	642 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

The Moruya shorebird area lies between the town of Moruya and the Tasman Sea on the south coast of New South Wales, southeast of Canberra. It includes all intertidal habitats of the Moruya River Estuary downstream of the Moruya town bridge on the Pacific Highway. The estuary features a large tidal inlet—Malabar Creek—on the northern bank and three smaller inlets to the south. Rock wall modifications around the river mouth and lower estuary have altered tidal flow and influence within some of these inlets and adjacent saltmarshes. Shorebird

habitat is concentrated on intertidal flats within the lower river channel and especially within the inlets, which support saltmarsh dominated by samphire, rushes, and scattered mangroves. These intertidal areas flood regularly with high tides up to approximately two metres, providing important foraging grounds for a range of shorebird species.

Table 62. Importance of SBA Moruya for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2020	350 / 35	35*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Nambucca River

Table 63. Site account for Nambucca River SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A8, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-30.754, 152.9502
Area	1,747 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: 3

General site description

The Nambucca River shorebird area is located on the north coast of New South Wales and centres on the Nambucca River estuary at Nambucca Heads. The estuary features prominent sand bars at the river mouth and three low-lying islands surrounded by tidal mudflats, mangroves, and saltmarsh. To the south, the shorebird area includes an oceanic sandy beach adjacent to the estuary entrance. The mouth and lower reaches of Warrell Creek, which flows into the estuary from the west, support extensive tidal mudflats, mangroves, and patches of coastal shrubland and littoral rainforest. These habitats provide important foraging and roosting areas for shorebirds, particularly during low tide when intertidal flats are exposed.

Table 64. Importance of SBA Nambucca River for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2013	250 / 25	30	0	2	ASMP

Parramatta River

Table 65. Site account for Parramatta River SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW071 Bicentennial Park NSW085 Newington Wetlands
Wetland type	A6, A7, A8, B11, B1

Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.844, 151.1405
Area	2,145 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: NA

General site description

The Parramatta River shorebird area is located in Greater Sydney and spans the middle to upper reaches of the Parramatta River, extending westward from the Sydney Harbour Bridge to the suburb of Rosehill. It includes numerous bays and inlets, with key shorebird habitat concentrated in the Sydney Olympic Park and Newington areas. Here, the Bicentennial Park and Newington Wetlands form the largest remaining intertidal wetlands on the river. Bicentennial Park encompasses brackish to freshwater ponds, tidal flats, and creek floodplains, fed by precipitation, Powells Creek, and tidal inflows. The Newington Wetlands support mangrove woodland and saltmarsh habitats surrounding shallow saline and brackish ponds. These areas are vital feeding and roosting grounds for migratory shorebirds and function as nursery habitats for juvenile fish.

Table 66. Importance of SBA Parramatta River for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	138	0	1	ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2020	350 / 18	30	0	2	Latham's Snipe Project

Port Hacking

Table 67. Site account for Port Hacking SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A5, A6, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.0755, 151.11289
Area	1,221 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 8, Winter: 7

General site description

Port Hacking is a large, branching estuary situated south of Sydney, fed by the Hacking River and several smaller creeks. The estuary features two dynamic sand bodies: a marine sand deposit near the entrance and a riverine delta upstream. Substantial mud and sand flats are

exposed at low tide, particularly in the upper estuary where depths vary across the marine delta. The area supports seagrass beds, mangroves, and saltmarsh, providing important habitat for shorebirds and other estuarine fauna. The estuary's water quality is generally high due to minimal industrial or agricultural runoff. The southern shoreline adjoins Royal National Park, offering a largely undisturbed natural setting.

Table 68. Importance of SBA Port Hacking for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2023	250 / 25	44	0	4	ASMP

Port Stephens

Table 69. Site account for Port Stephens SBA

Ramsar Site	Myall Lakes
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW034 Port Stephens Estuary NSW178 Salt Ash Air Weapons Range
Wetland type	A2, A6, A9, A8, A7, B13, B14, B10, B9, B4,
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.70043, 152.04774
Area	17,241 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 10

General site description

Port Stephens is located on the New South Wales coast, north of Sydney. It features an extensive estuarine system with a diverse range of wetland habitats important for shorebirds. These include over 2,700 hectares of mangroves, 1,000 hectares of seagrass beds, and more than 1,400 hectares of saltmarsh. Coastal dune systems in the area support a sequence of vegetation from coastal scrub to swamp forests and floodplain forest. Between the outer barrier dunes and inland terrestrial dunes, freshwater swamps provide additional habitat diversity. The area is also heavily used for recreational activities such as boating and fishing, which coexist alongside its environmental values.

Table 70. Importance of SBA Port Stephens for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2010	3,750 / 375	876	0	10	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	450*	2	15	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2012	350 / 35	350*	1	5	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2016	900 / 90	301	0	13	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2012	250 / 25	37	0	7	Hunter Bird Observers Club; ASMP

Richmond River Estuary

Table 71. Site account for Richmond River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-28.873, 153.54234
Area	2,990 hectares
No. of count areas	9
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Richmond River Estuary shorebird area lies on the far north coast of NSW, centred around the river mouth at Ballina. It encompasses tidal sand bars, extensive mudflats, and mangrove and saltmarsh habitats, particularly within the Richmond River Nature Reserve and the lower reaches of North and Emigrant Creeks. The area also includes oceanic sandy beaches stretching north to Flat Rock and south along South Ballina Beach. Seagrass beds, mangroves, and saltmarshes throughout the estuary provide critical habitat for shorebirds and serve as important nursery grounds for fish and other aquatic species. These habitats also contribute to maintaining water quality through natural filtration processes.

Table 72. Importance of SBA Richmond River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	700*	0	5	ASMP; incidental*
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2013	1,500 / 150	496	0	12	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,200 / 120	192	0	2	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2021	250 / 25	108	0	15	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2010	800 / 80	99	0	3	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2017	900 / 90	91	0	1	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2015	350 / 35	76	0	10	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2012	300 / 30	51	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	50*	0	7	ASMP; incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2018	350 / 35	45	0	1	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2017	NA / 15	19	NA	14	ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Wandering Tattler	Summer	2016	100 / 10	14*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Rose Lagoon

Table 73. Site account for Rose Lagoon SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.89583, 149.51083
Area	150 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: NA

General site description

Rose Lagoon, also referred to as Tarago Lagoon, is a large ephemeral wetland in Wollongorang, NSW. Situated on the southern side of the Federal Highway, the wetland is approximately 210 kilometres southwest of Sydney. The seasonal nature of the wetland results in sporadic usage by waterbirds. In years of sufficient rainfall, the lagoon supports expansive areas of freshwater marsh with dense vegetative cover which provides ideal conditions for Latham's Snipe.

Table 74. Importance of SBA Rose Lagoon for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2014	350 / 18	33*	0	3	Latham's Snipe Project; incidental*

Shoalhaven Estuary

Table 75. Site account for Shoalhaven Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW088 Shoalhaven/Crookhaven Estuary NSW094 Wollumboola Lake
Wetland type	A2, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Wollumboola
Geographical Coordinates	-34.86165, 150.61163
Area	4,239 hectares
No. of count areas	17
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Shoalhaven Estuary shorebird area is located on the south coast of NSW and includes the estuarine junction of the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven Rivers, along with Wollumboola Lake to the south. The estuary contains Comerong Island Nature Reserve, Kurrajong Island, and Apple Tree Orchard Island, all fringed by extensive mangroves, saltmarsh, and seagrass beds that are regularly inundated by tides. Comerong Island features the most extensive sand island in the estuary and supports littoral rainforest, the largest remaining example on the NSW south coast. The islands are joined by mudflats at low tide, creating expansive intertidal habitat.

Wollumboola Lake is a large, intermittently open brackish lake with surrounding sedgeland, saltmarsh, casuarina forest, and teatree scrub, and supports seagrass within the lakebed. The diversity and extent of tidal flats, saltmarsh, and shallow wetlands across both systems provide ideal foraging and roosting conditions for migratory shorebirds.

Table 76. Importance of SBA Shoalhaven Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2021	6,000 / 600	2,000*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	1,000*	0	4	ASMP; incidental*
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	3,750 / 375	710	0	10	ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2016	1,500 / 150	510	0	10	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2024	250 / 25	235*	0	15	ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2017	350 / 35	230	0	15	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2023	350 / 35	88*	0	4	ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2013	260 / 26	39	0	1	ASMP

Tuckerbil Swamp

Table 77. Site account for Tuckerbil Swamp SBA

Ramsar Site	Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps (Site Number: 62)
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW054 Tuckerbil Swamp
Wetland type	B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps
Geographical Coordinates	-34.48655, 146.35463
Area	491 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: NA

General site description

Tuckerbil Swamp is located northwest of Leeton in the Riverina district of NSW, in a shallow depression on the eastern margin of the Riverine Plain. It is bordered by a sandhill on the

southeast and features extensive saline flats dominated by samphire across the southern and central areas. Dead trees, cumbungi, and couch grass occur around the swamp edges. The main water sources are rainfall, stormwater runoff from surrounding farmland, and some irrigation and environmental flows. The swamp typically dries out in summer, and some groundwater discharge may occur via evaporation. The combination of shallow water, saline flats, and open mudflats creates productive foraging grounds for migratory shorebirds, especially during periods of inundation.

Table 78. Importance of SBA Tuckerbil Swamp for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	200	0	1	ASMP

Tuggerah Lakes

Table 79. Site account for Tuggerah Lakes SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW141 Tuggerah Lakes
Wetland type	A5, A6, A9, A8, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Tuggerah
Geographical Coordinates	-33.2896, 151.50141
Area	8,263 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: NA

General site description

Tuggerah Lakes, located on the central coast of NSW south of Newcastle, includes Tuggerah Lake, Budgewoi Lake, and two coastal reef platforms south of the lake mouth. The estuarine system receives freshwater from Tumby, Ourimbah, and Wyong Creeks, with salinity varying depending on rainfall and tidal exchange, which is limited to about one kilometre inland. Teribah Island near the entrance supports tidal mudflats and saltmarsh, while additional shorebird habitat occurs at Tuggerah Bay and near Budgewoi Point, where extensive intertidal flats and saltmarsh provide important roosting and foraging areas. These habitats support migratory shorebirds by offering sheltered feeding grounds and high-tide roosts across a range of salinity conditions.

Table 80. Importance of SBA Tuggerah Lakes for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	200*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Tuross

Table 81. Site account for Tuross SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW123 Tuross River Estuary
Wetland type	A6, A9, A10, A12
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Ulladulla - Merimbula KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-36.04717, 150.10816
Area	2,406 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: 2

General site description

The Tuross River Estuary and Coila Lake, located on the south coast of New South Wales, form a complex system of lakes and channels behind a coastal sand barrier. The Tuross River estuary includes saltmarshes, mangroves, and seagrass beds, while Coila Lake is an intermittently open saline lagoon with a small catchment and limited ocean connectivity. These varied estuarine and lagoon habitats provide important intertidal and shallow foraging areas that support a range of migratory shorebirds.

Table 82. Importance of SBA Tuross for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2012	350 / 35	43*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	36	0	1	ASMP

Tweed Estuary

Table 83. Site account for Tweed Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW110 Stotts Island Nature Reserve NSW111 Ukerebagh Island Nature Reserve
Wetland type	A6, A9, A7, A12
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-28.24365, 153.52668
Area	1,966 hectares
No. of count areas	14
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA

General site description

The Tweed Estuary on the far north coast of NSW encompasses the Tweed River Estuary, Terranora Creek Estuary, Cobaki Creek wetlands, oceanic beaches, and sewage treatment plants near Tweed Heads and Kingscliff. Key habitats include the Ukerebagh Nature Reserve, which supports littoral rainforest, swamp forest, mangroves, open forest, and saltmarsh, alongside extensive seagrass beds in Ukerebagh Passage. Several islands within the estuaries feature tidal mudflats, saltmarsh, and mangroves. This diverse mix of saline wetlands, intertidal flats, and seagrass beds provides essential feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 84. Importance of SBA Tweed Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2012	350 / 35	72	0	3	ASMP

Ulladulla

Table 85. Site account for Ulladulla SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, B5, B13
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Ulladulla Merimbula
Geographical Coordinates	-35.37275, 150.43582
Area	511 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: 5

General site description

The Ulladulla shorebird area on the south coast of NSW centres on Burrill Lake and includes Burrill Lake, Bada Crescent Dam, Racecourse Beach, and Wilford Lane Wetlands. Key shorebird habitats consist of large sand bars and tidal mudflats along Stony Creek between Burrill Lake and the ocean, alongside the sandy oceanic Racecourse Beach and freshwater wetlands at Wilford Lane featuring semi-permanent lakes with mudflats and marsh vegetation. These varied intertidal and freshwater habitats provide important feeding and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds in the region.

Table 86. Importance of SBA Ulladulla for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	132	0	1	ASMP

Wallaga Lake

Table 87. Site account for Wallaga Lake SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-36.36681, 150.05857
Area	969 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: 3

General site description

Wallaga Lake is a permanently open estuary on the south coast of New South Wales, featuring extensive intertidal sandflats, shallow deltas, and saltmarsh habitat. The lake is fed by a large catchment dominated by forested and rural land and includes forested islands within its boundaries. Sandflats near the lake entrance are exposed at low tide, while upper reaches support saltmarsh and deltaic habitats. Extensive eelgrass beds suggest high aquatic productivity and potential fish nursery habitat. The lake and adjacent coastal areas provide key breeding and foraging habitat for shorebirds, including Little Tern, Hooded Plover, and Pied Oystercatcher.

Table 88. Importance of SBA Wallaga Lake for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	37*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Wallis Lake

Table 89. Site account for Wallis Lake SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW038 Wallis Lake and adjacent estuarine wetlands
Wetland type	A2, A6, A9, A8, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Ulladulla - Merimbula KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.243152, 152.474436
Area	13,704 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Wallis Lake is a wave-dominated coastal barrier lake that extends from its entrance to the sea at Forster-Tuncurry, for approximately 18 kilometres south to Charlotte Bay, Pacific Palms. The lagoon is fed fresh water from Wallingat, Cooloongolook and the Wang Wauk Rivers. The majority of the lagoon is less than 3 metres deep. The most prominent habitat consists of a coastal estuarine lake and associated habitats of seagrass and macrophyte beds, intertidal sand and mud flats, rocky habitats, sponge gardens and coffee rocks. Mangroves and saltmarsh

border a large part of the lake and cabbage trees and littoral rainforest line parts of the shoreline.

Table 90. Importance of SBA Wallis Lake for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2021	350 / 18	19*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Willinga and Meroo Lakes

Table 91. Site account for Willinga and Meroo Lakes SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NSW174 Termeil Lake Wetland Complex NSW175 Meroo Lake Wetland Complex
Wetland type	A6, A10, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Ulladulla - Merimbula KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-35.48283, 150.38387
Area	326 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: NA

General site description

Willinga Lake is a small coastal lagoon near Bawley Point, south of Sydney, with a rarely open ocean entrance. The lake and nearby estuaries Meroo and Termiel Lakes feature saltmarsh, saltwater sedgeland, mangrove forest, and shallow muddy pools in their upper reaches. Surrounded largely by Meroo National Park and subject to limited human disturbance, these lagoons provide sheltered intertidal habitats that support feeding and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 92. Importance of SBA Willinga and Meroo Lakes for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2011	350 / 35	156	0	1	ASMP

Worimi Conservation Lands

Table 93. Site account for Worimi Conservation Lands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.8167, 151.94579
Area	4,161 hectares

No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 14

General site description

The Worimi Conservation Lands shorebird area is a 28 km stretch of sandy beach, dunes, and swales forming the outer barrier of the Stockton Bight Barrier System, north of Sydney. The site includes internationally recognised active dune systems. Shallow, periodically inundated swales provide important refuge habitat for shorebirds, particularly during periods of high disturbance on the main beach. Despite high recreational use, the site's dynamic dune-swale system offers valuable foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 94. Importance of SBA Worimi Conservation Lands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2024	250 / 25	182	0	14	ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2021	1,500 / 150	155	0	2	ASMP

Special SBA cases: Latham's Snipe Project

This section provides an overview of special SBA cases of importance derived from the Latham's Snipe Project where these sites fall outside the established ASMP site network in New South Wales.

Table 95. Importance of special SBA cases in New South Wales for Latham's Snipe (International threshold: 350; National threshold: 18)

Site name	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
BulBul Cres / Kekul St wetlands	Summer	2023	126	0	5	6
Branch Creek, Gap Road, Alstonville	Summer	2020	125	0	6	6
Wallsend (& Bunnings) wetlands	Summer	2021	53	0	1	6
Bowral Botanic Garden	Summer	2022	50	0	6	9
Sea Peace Flats, Byron	Summer	2022	45	0	3	7
Bowral Street Reserve	Summer	2021	33	0	1	5
Irrawang swamp	Summer	2019	24	0	2	6
Cliftleigh Meadows Park	Summer	2022	24	0	1	2

Areas of importance outside the SBA network

Available data indicates four shorebird species occurring in important numbers outside the SBA network in the state, apparently regularly so in a number of areas (Figure) for Latham's Snipe (several coastal and inland wetlands areas) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (numerous inland wetland areas). Double-banded Plover and Ruddy Turnstone amount only to a few locations. These areas will be subject to further review in terms of potential inclusion in the national SBA network.

Figure 4. Frequency of annual occurrence of important species-specific shorebird numbers outside the SBA network in New South Wales between 2009-2024, displayed at a 50x50km grid resolution.



Northern Territory

Geography and Habitat

The Northern Territory has Australia's third-longest coastline, comprising approximately 5,400 km of mainland coast and 5,500 km of island coastline. This extensive shoreline includes a wide variety of shorebird habitats, from broad intertidal flats and estuaries to seasonal inland wetlands and saline lakes.

Along the north coast, from Arnhem Land to the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, diverse coastal habitats dominate. In Arnhem Land, shallow embayments such as those at Milingimbi and Nhulunbuy provide important intertidal feeding and roosting areas for shorebirds. The coast westward from Van Diemen Gulf through Darwin to Hyland and Chambers Bays supports extensive tidal flats, estuaries, and mudflats. While some floodplain regions, such as those along the Daly, Adelaide, and South Alligator Rivers, are densely vegetated and often less suitable for shorebirds, seasonal drying opens up valuable foraging areas.

In the north-west, small coastal swamps and drying freshwater lakes provide habitat for species that prefer non-saline environments. The far western coastline near the Victoria and Keep Rivers features broad estuaries, extensive intertidal flats, and inland salt flats, with sparse beaches and limited high-tide roosts. However, adjoining coastal plains support seasonal swamps and shallow lakes with patchy vegetation that can host significant numbers of shorebirds.

On the eastern Gulf of Carpentaria coast, key sites include Blue Mud Bay and the Roper River estuary. Farther southeast, from the Roper to the Limmen and McArthur Rivers, intertidal flats and salt pans offer further habitat, though these areas are less well studied. Habitat in the eastern NT resembles that of the drier far west, differing from the wetter Top End.

Coastal shorebird habitats across the NT include intertidal mudflats, sandflats, seagrass beds, mangroves, and saltmarshes. These environments are seasonally expanded by monsoonal rains and king tides, which inundate inland and coastal salt flats.

Inland, the NT's unregulated, monsoon-fed rivers (notably the Daly, Victoria, and Roper) support vast networks of ephemeral wetlands. Seasonal or episodic flooding creates habitat across the Barkly Tableland and beyond, with major wetland systems including Lake Woods, Lake Sylvester, and Tarrabool Lake. These areas can support large numbers of migratory species such as Little Curlew and Oriental Pratincole, particularly during midday loafing and watering periods.

Farther south in the semi-arid and arid zones, episodic wetting of saline playas such as Lakes Amadeus, Lewis, and the Karinga Creek lakes can briefly create habitat for migratory shorebirds following exceptional rainfall events, although surveys following these events are rare.. Sewage treatment ponds in inland towns also provide reliable freshwater habitat for some species.

Important Sites

The North Darwin Area stands out for its international importance, combining around 50 kilometres of accessible coastline with diverse intertidal habitats that support multiple

migratory species. In Kakadu National Park, the known significance of floodplain areas has expanded with the identification of Field Island as a critical high-tide roost. In Arnhem Land, Mililingimbi has been established as internationally important through the dedicated work of the Crocodile Islands Indigenous Rangers, supported by BirdLife Australia.

Despite the vast extent of inland wetland habitat, only one inland (non-tidal) site is currently listed as internationally important—largely reflecting limited survey coverage over the past decade. Overall, the number of shorebirds documented in this edition of the Directory is likely to underrepresent true abundance in the Territory due to the sparse and irregular survey effort, especially in remote areas.

The north-western coast of the Northern Territory, one of the first Australian landfalls for southward-migrating shorebirds from Asia, plays a key role in the annual migration cycle. This is clearly seen in the arrival of Little Curlew flocks in short-grass areas around Darwin in September, followed by their appearance on drying floodplains and lakes farther west and east. As the wet season begins in November-December and vegetation becomes dense or waterlogged, these birds disperse—apparently to inland areas like the Barkly Tableland or other parts of northern Australia. However, direct evidence of these movements remains limited.

Like other parts of northern Australia, the NT coast likely serves as a critical staging area for birds migrating to and from south-eastern Australia and beyond, as well as a non-breeding refuge for individuals that do not return to the Northern Hemisphere during the austral winter. Without targeted funding for large-scale surveys of remote inland wetlands—especially during episodic periods when suitable habitat becomes available—much of this habitat’s significance may remain undocumented.

Species common across northern Queensland and Western Australia are also well represented in the NT, though some, such as Curlew Sandpiper, appear to be less prominent. Historically, the Northern Territory supported the largest concentrations of Little Curlew in Australia, but current patterns of abundance and distribution for the species remain poorly understood.

Pressures and Threats

With a low population density, the Northern Territory is the least populated jurisdiction in Australia. Coastal urbanisation and industrial development are largely limited to the Darwin region and a few mining centres, though the scale of development—particularly around Darwin Harbour—has increased. Localised human disturbance to roosting and feeding shorebirds is an issue in the Darwin area.

At broader landscape scales, agricultural expansion in the north-west Top End has raised concerns about altered sediment and water quality affecting downstream coastal habitats. On coastal floodplains, changes in vegetation—driven by the removal of water buffalo, the spread of invasive shrubs like *Mimosa pigra*, and salinisation from altered drainage and tidal regimes—have likely modified habitats formerly used by migratory shorebirds.

The grassland conditions that support large flocks of Little Curlew arriving in the Top End each September-October remain poorly understood. Limited knowledge of their inland movements hampers efforts to assess habitat needs, despite concerns given the precarious status of closely related species in the Northern Hemisphere.

Inland lake systems are subject to long-term pastoral grazing, though the effects of this land use on shorebird habitat remain unclear. The highly variable nature of inland wetland availability makes it difficult to detect or assess impacts over time.

Elsewhere, mining activity affects the McArthur River system near the Gulf of Carpentaria, and aquaculture developments are proposed for parts of the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf. In contrast, arid-zone lakes in the south of the Territory remain largely free from direct pressures on shorebird habitat.

State of Knowledge

Early survey efforts in the Northern Territory focused on accessible areas, particularly around Darwin and the Kakadu National Park floodplains (e.g. Bamford 1990). Comprehensive survey coverage only began in the 1990s, when NT Government wildlife officers conducted a series of aerial and ground-based surveys across the entire coastline and many offshore islands (Chatto 2003).

Since then, changing research priorities and limited funding have shifted focus away from broad-scale surveys in remote areas toward more intensive monitoring at fewer sites, often near population centres. Nevertheless, renewed effort from the NT Government, Indigenous Ranger Groups, and BirdLife Top End has led to the recognition of additional important sites.

Figure 5. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in the Northern Territory (blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

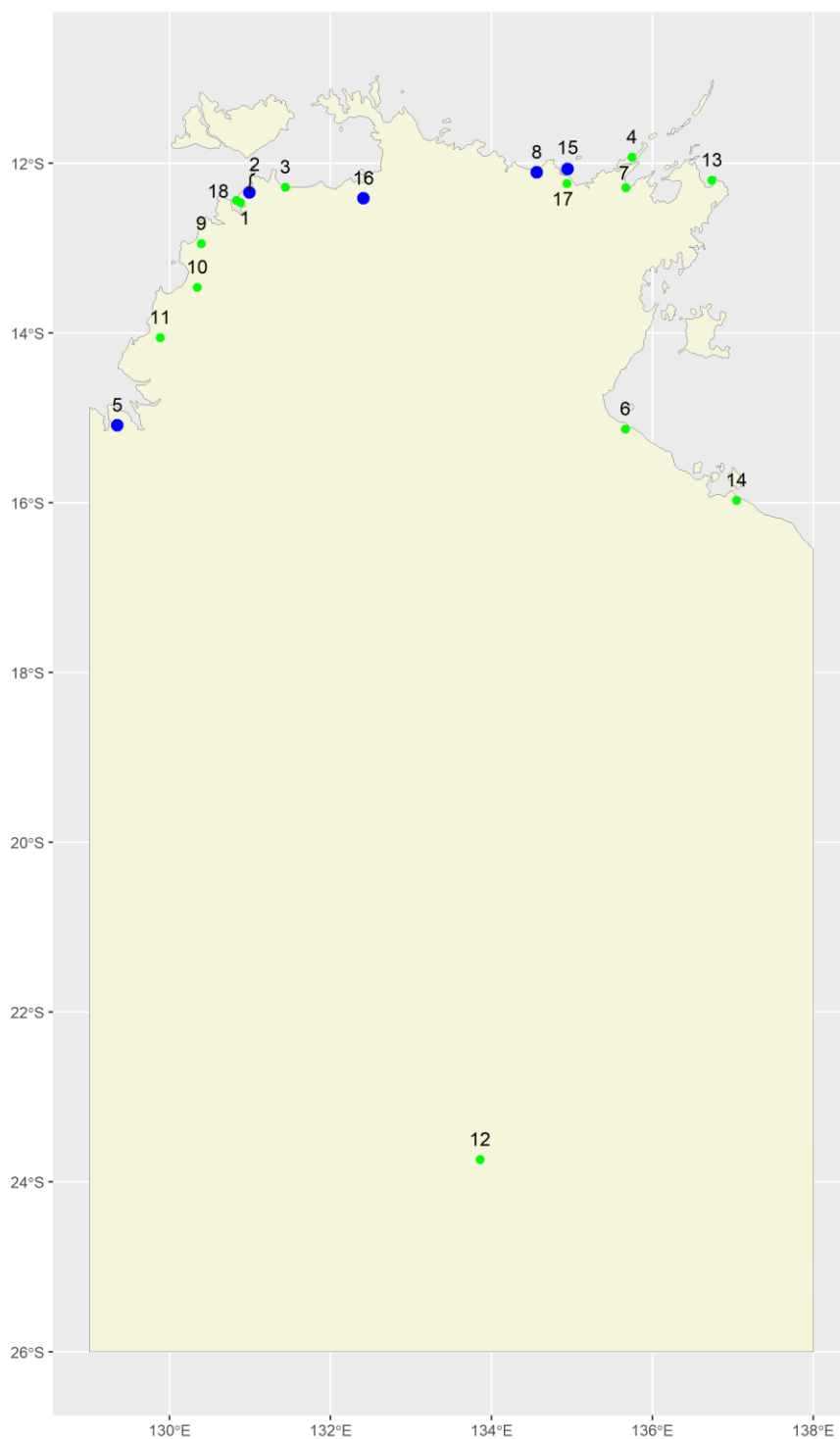


Table 96. List of map IDs for shorebird habitat in the Northern Territory

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Alice Springs Sewage Treatment Plant	12	Hyland Bay & Moyle Floodplain	11
Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains	10	Kakadu National Park	16
Boucaut Bay	8	Legune	5
Buckingham Bay	7	Limmen River mouth	6

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Chambers Bay	3	Milingimbi coast	15
Darwin Central	18	Nhulunbuy	13
Darwin Harbour	1	North Darwin	2
Elcho Island	4	Port McArthur and Borroloola	14
Fog Bay	9	Ramingining Plains	17

Alice Springs Sewage Treatment Plant

Table 97. Site account for Alice Springs Sewage Treatment Plant SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-23.73744, 133.85513
Area	75 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: NA

General site description

The Alice Springs Sewage Treatment Plant, located 5 km south of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory, consists of permanent freshwater basins that provide reliable feeding and roosting habitat in an otherwise arid region. The site is protected from human disturbance due to restricted access, making it an important refuge for migratory shorebirds.

Table 98. Importance of SBA Alice Springs Sewage Treatment Plant for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	250*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains

Table 99. Site account for Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-13.46456, 130.33987
Area	257,740 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

The Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds Floodplains comprises over 2500 square kilometres of seasonally inundated wetlands. The floodplains are characterised by mixed grassland and sedgeland habitats with patches of paperback forests throughout, and limited mangroves along the Daly River estuary. During wetter years, floodwaters exceed one metre in depth, while in drier years the area remains relatively well-drained but still receives substantial inflow. This expansive wetland system provides critical dry season refuge for waterbirds and supports large numbers of migratory shorebirds during stopovers, offering extensive foraging habitat across the floodplain.

Table 100. Importance of SBA Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	13,944	0	3	Chatto (2012)
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	1,868	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Little Curlew	Summer	2020	1,100 / 110	1,200*	1	1	Chatto (2012); incidental*
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	3,750 / 375	639	0	2	Chatto (2012)
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2011	750 / 75	272	0	2	Chatto (2012)

Boucaut Bay

Table 101. Site account for Boucaut Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.10765, 134.56028
Area	53,312 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Boucaut Bay is a remote coastal site in northern Arnhem Land, bordered by mangroves and beaches and backed by extensive intertidal mudflats, saline flats, and mangrove-lined channels. These features connect to seasonally flooded plains of the Blyth and Cadell Rivers, which support sedgelands and grasslands, while tidal flats and estuaries are fringed by samphire and narrow mangrove bands. The bay is a major stop-over and non-breeding site for migratory shorebirds, regularly supporting over 20,000 individuals, and provides important dry-season refuge for waterbirds and wet-season breeding habitat for colonial nesting species.

Table 102. Importance of SBA Boucaut Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	25,806	2	2	Chatto (2012)
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	7,501	2	2	Chatto (2012)
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	2,300 / 230	1,797	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	1,548	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2011	1,400 / 140	1,315	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	3,750 / 375	1,045	0	2	Chatto (2012)
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2012	750 / 75	105	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	64	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2011	260 / 26	39	0	1	Chatto (2012)

Buckingham Bay

Table 103. Site account for Buckingham Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.29072, 135.66622
Area	31,364 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Buckingham Bay is a remote, seasonally inundated coastal floodplain dominated by extensive intertidal mud and sand flats with scattered mangroves along the lower Buckingham River. The site includes a mosaic of wetland types, including coastal and alluvial floodplains, bare saline flats, and mangrove-lined estuarine zones. These habitats support large congregations of waterbirds and provide important foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds within a relatively undisturbed landscape.

Table 104. Importance of SBA Buckingham Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	6,600	0	2	Chatto (2012)

Chambers Bay

Table 105. Site account for Chambers Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.28236, 131.43732
Area	37,351 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Chamber Bay is a 90 km stretch of coastline dominated by tidal flats and lies at the end of the extensive Adelaide and Mary River coastal floodplains. The area also includes large patches of mangroves, grassy sand dunes, and modified coastal fringe where earthen barriers were constructed to reduce tidal flow and saltwater intrusion. Past degradation from feral Water Buffalo has been reduced through population control. The broad coastal flats provide important foraging habitat and regularly supports large numbers of migratory shorebirds during their non-breeding season.

Table 106. Importance of SBA Chambers Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	24,965	1	2	ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	2,300 / 230	3,002	1	2	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	1,598	1	1	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,200 / 120	407	0	1	ASMP
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	155	0	1	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2011	800 / 80	102	0	1	ASMP

Darwin Central

Table 107 Site account for Darwin Central SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.44009, 130.82498
Area	1,100 hectares
No. of count areas	1

Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA
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General site description

Darwin Harbour is a large, indented embayment on the north coast of the Northern Territory, with three main arms—East, Middle, and West—and extensive tidal mudflats and mangrove systems. The Elizabeth and Darwin Rivers drain into the harbour, and its shoreline is dominated by largely intact mangroves, representing over 5% of the Territory's total mangrove area. The harbour also features estuarine and freshwater environments, with adjacent savanna woodlands and patches of monsoon rainforest. It supports one of the most diverse coastal ecosystems in the Asia-Pacific and provides extensive foraging and roosting habitat for shorebirds during low tide.

Table 108. Importance of SBA Darwin Central for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	258	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2018	300 / 30	30*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Darwin Harbour

Table 109. Site account for Darwin Harbour SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NT029 Port Darwin
Wetland type	A1, A6, A2, A9, A3, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.46257, 130.87623
Area	1,661 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: 11

General site description

The Darwin Harbour shorebird area lies east of central Darwin and includes Charles Darwin National Park, Frances Bay, and the East Arm Wharf. The site features large irregular bays bordered by extensive mangrove forests that provide coastal protection and ecological functions. East Arm Wharf is an artificial site made up of dredge spoil ponds, which shorebirds use for roosting. Intertidal and permanent mudflats dominate the foreshore and wharf areas, offering essential foraging habitat. These diverse coastal habitats support migratory shorebirds by providing abundant food resources and roosting areas close to feeding grounds.

Table 110. Importance of SBA Darwin Harbour for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2021	1,400 / 140	440	0	5	ASMP

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	338	0	4	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2017	900 / 90	337	0	5	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	292	0	6	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2022	800 / 80	230	0	3	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2021	800 / 80	195	0	6	ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2020	750 / 75	166	0	2	ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Winter	2020	750 / 75	148	0	5	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2019	350 / 35	61	0	4	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2020	15 / NA	17	NA	3	ASMP

Elcho Island

Table 111. Site account for Elcho Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-11.92934, 135.7464
Area	31,289 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Elcho Island is a large island off the coast of Arnhem Land, approximately 60 kilometres long, with diverse coastal habitats supporting shorebird use. The eastern shoreline features intertidal mudflats and extensive mangrove forests, while the western coast is characterised by sandy beaches and fringing reefs. Inland, the island includes creeks and patches of rainforest, with bright red cliffs bordering parts of the coast. This range of habitats provides important foraging and roosting areas for shorebirds.

Table 112. Importance of SBA Elcho Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	8,784	0	2	Chatto (2012)
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	4,201	1	2	Chatto (2012)
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	3,750 / 375	2,002	0	2	Chatto (2012)
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	2,300 / 230	500	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2012	1,400 / 140	499	0	2	Chatto (2012)
Red Knot	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	302	0	1	Chatto (2012)

Fog Bay

Table 113. Site account for Fog Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.94604, 130.39397
Area	87,557 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

Fog Bay is a curved coastal embayment in the Northern Territory that includes extensive intertidal mudflats, sandy beaches, grassy dunes, and adjacent floodplains. The northern shoreline is dominated by beaches and dune systems, while the southern section transitions into wide intertidal flats backed by mangroves. These mudflats gradually merge into the Finniss River coastal floodplain, which includes seasonally inundated grassland and sedgeland, as well as extensive paperbark swamps. The bay and its surrounding habitats regularly support large numbers of migratory shorebirds during the non-breeding season.

Table 114. Importance of SBA Fog Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	16,614	0	3	Chatto (2012)
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	2,300 / 230	2,811	1	1	Chatto (2012)
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	1,500	0	2	Chatto (2012)
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	3,750 / 375	1,103	0	2	Chatto (2012)
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2024	750 / 75	450*	0	1	Chatto (2012); incidental*
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2024	1,400 / 140	280*	0	1	Chatto (2012); incidental*
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2024	450 / 45	117*	0	1	Chatto (2012); incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2012	260 / 26	101	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2011	800 / 80	98	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	68	0	1	Chatto (2012)
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	39	0	1	Chatto (2012)

Hyland Bay & Moyle Floodplain

Table 115. Site account for Hyland Bay & Moyle Floodplain SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NT027 Moyle Floodplain and Hyland Bay System
Wetland type	B4, A7, B1, A9, B10, B14, A6, B2
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Hyland Bay and Moyle Floodplain
Geographical Coordinates	-14.05633, 129.88141
Area	103,477 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Hyland Bay and Moyle Floodplain shorebird area is located southwest of Darwin and encompasses the Moyle River, its floodplain, Hyland Bay, and the adjacent coastline from Tree Point to Cape Dombey. The landscape includes a seasonal floodplain with sinuous channels, sumplands, extensive mudflats, and a mix of grassland, sedgeland, paperbark swamp, and mangroves. These varied wetland and coastal habitats provide critical feeding and roosting grounds for migratory shorebirds, including significant numbers of Little Curlew.

Table 116. Importance of SBA Hyland Bay and Moyle Floodplain for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Little Curlew	Summer	2017	1,100 / 110	300*	0	1	Chatto (2012); incidental*

Kakadu National Park

Table 117. Site account for Kakadu National Park SBA

Ramsar Site	Kakadu National Park (Site Number: 2)
Directory of Important Wetlands	NT017 Kakadu National Park
Wetland type	A1, C1, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, B1, B2, B3, B9, B10, B14, B17, A2
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Kakadu Savanna
Geographical Coordinates	-12.41498, 132.40819
Area	271,414 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

The Kakadu National Park shorebird area is located on the Van Diemen Gulf coastline east of Darwin. The shorebird area includes the largescale floodplains of the South, East and West Alligator rivers, Pocock's and Middle Beaches, and the beaches and lagoons on Field Island, which is just off the coast, near the South Alligator River mouth. The shorebird area is characterised by megascale floodplains with sinuous channel, and extensive mudflats. The seasonal floodplain displays mixed closed grassland/sedgeland and is fringed by scattered

patches of paperbark swamp, and mangroves along the lower river areas. The surrounding areas support open-forest, woodland and low open-woodland over grassland. The beach environments are narrow sand strips and wide intertidal mudflats. Available habitat areas are generally poorly surveyed for shorebirds. Most significant observations in the past decade have come from a handful of BirdLife Australia visits in conjunction with the Kakadu Bird Week and Parks Australia staff. Historically, Kakadu National Park floodplains have supported tens of thousands of Little Curlew, but these areas are not routinely surveyed and there is no recent data for this species in the region. Most of the shorebird count data from recent years comes from only five survey areas, including Field Island which can support over 10,000 roosting shorebirds at certain times of year.

Table 118. Importance of SBA Kakadu National Park for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	12,415	0	2	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2016	6,000 / 600	2,307	0	2	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	1,829	1	2	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2016	4,000 / 400	1,539	0	1	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2016	260 / 26	1,390	2	2	ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2016	750 / 75	1,191	1	2	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	1,096	0	1	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	917	1	1	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	3,750 / 375	474	0	1	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2016	1,100 / 110	469	0	1	ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	2,300 / 230	350*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,200 / 120	255	0	1	ASMP
Little Curlew	Summer	2018	1,100 / 110	200*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Grey Plover	Summer	2016	750 / 75	174	0	2	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2016	350 / 35	163	0	1	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2016	900 / 90	151	0	1	ASMP
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,300 / 130	150*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Red Knot	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	132	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2016	300 / 30	47	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2016	15 / NA	22	NA	2	ASMP

Legune

Table 119. Site account for Legune SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NT030 Legune Wetlands
Wetland type	A8, A7, A5, A9; B4, B6, B1, B14, B2, B10; C1, C2.
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Legune (Joseph Bonaparte Bay)

Geographical Coordinates	-15.08802, 129.34749
Area	144,605 hectares
No. of count areas	8
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: 3

General site description

The Legune wetlands complex, located between the Victoria and Keep River estuaries south of Darwin, encompasses a wide array of wetland habitats including intertidal mud and sand flats, saltflats, freshwater lakes and swamps, estuaries, and seasonally inundated floodplains. Coastal areas feature samphire-sedge marshes and bare saltflats that are periodically inundated by tides up to 10 metres high or by monsoonal rains. Inland, shallow swamps support grass-sedge and legume thicket vegetation, while persistent channels host aquatic plants. The diverse hydrology, enhanced by Forsyth Dam and embankments retaining water through the dry season, supports both freshwater and saltwater-dependent shorebirds. Intertidal flats and tidal creeks offer prime feeding habitat, while wetland margins and grass plains provide key foraging and loafing sites, particularly for Little Curlews and Oriental Pratincoles during the dry season, making the area highly valuable for migratory shorebirds.

Table 120. Importance of SBA Legune for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	8,581	0	3	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Little Curlew	Summer	2018	1,100 / 110	4,380	3	3	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2015	20,000 / 2,000	2,752	0	2	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	1,952	1	4	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	1,951	1	2	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Little Curlew	Winter	2018	1,100 / 110	1,520	1	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2016	6,000 / 600	1,113	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2015	6,000 / 600	1,020	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Marsh Sandpiper	Winter	2015	1,300 / 130	815	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	2,300 / 230	773	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	3,750 / 375	756	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	660	0	2	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Oriental Plover	Summer	2018	2,300 / 230	586	0	2	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Whimbrel	Summer	2016	900 / 90	572	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2015	1,300 / 130	562	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2016	260 / 26	439	2	2	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2018	750 / 75	271	0	2	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Oriental Plover	Winter	2015	2,300 / 230	231	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2015	800 / 80	211	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2018	1,200 / 120	181	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2018	300 / 30	181	0	2	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Sanderling	Summer	2018	300 / 30	154	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	141	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Whimbrel	Winter	2015	900 / 90	112	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2015	300 / 30	97	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	60	0	2	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	450 / 45	45	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2015	350 / 35	41	0	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Species diversity	Summer	2016	15 / NA	27	NA	A	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)
Species diversity	Winter	2015	15 / NA	17	NA	1	Project Sea Dragon EIS (2018)

Limmen River mouth

Table 121. Site account for Limmen River mouth SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NT007 Limmen Bight (Port Roper) Tidal Wetlands System
Wetland type	A7, A8, A2, A6, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Limmen Bight
Geographical Coordinates	-15.129813, 135.662672
Area	24,680 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: NA

General site description

The Limmen River mouth SBA forms part of a much wider coastal tidal flats and multiple large rivers which all discharge in the Limmen Bight. The area consists of tidal mudflats, estuaries and saline coastal flats, as well as seagrass beds. The area at large, including the SBA, is known

to be major stop-over site for migratory shorebirds, and one of the most important coastal sites in the Northern Territory in terms of shorebird numbers.

Table 122. Importance of SBA Limmen River mouth for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2013	20,000 / 2,000	5,952	0	6	Barden P. (in prep)
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2013	6,000 / 600	2,688	0	2	Barden P. (in prep)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	2,042	1	4	Barden P. (in prep)
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	1,821	0	8	Barden P. (in prep)
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2015	2,300 / 230	1,250	0	9	Barden P. (in prep)
Red Knot	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	1,189	0	3	Barden P. (in prep)
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2012	800 / 80	358	0	7	Barden P. (in prep)
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,200 / 120	209	0	4	Barden P. (in prep)
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	177	0	2	Barden P. (in prep)
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	450 / 45	135	0	6	Barden P. (in prep)
Asian Dowitcher	Summer	2020	280 / 28	49	0	2	Barden P. (in prep)
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	38	0	1	Barden P. (in prep)
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	20	0	9	Barden P. (in prep)

Milingimbi coast

Table 123. Site account for Milingimbi coast SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A6, A9, A3, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Milingimbi Island
Geographical Coordinates	-12.0696, 134.94414
Area	37,021 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 8, Winter: NA

General site description

The Milingimbi Coast shorebird area, centred on the Crocodile Island group off the north coast of Arnhem Land, includes a stretch of coastline from Cape Stewart to the Glyde River mouth and islands extending out to Murrunga. The mainland features seasonal floodplains dominated by chenopod low shrubland and samphire, while the islands are fringed by intertidal mudflats, sandy beaches, and mangrove-lined creeks. These diverse coastal and estuarine habitats

support a range of foraging and roosting options for migratory shorebirds, with recent monitoring led by the Crocodile Islands Ranger team.

Table 124. Importance of SBA Milingimbi coast for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	28,653	1	6	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Great Knot	Summer	2016	4,000 / 400	4,504	2	6	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2016	260 / 26	4,406	3	5	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2016	6,000 / 600	4,104	0	2	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2016	750 / 75	2,945	1	2	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	2,930	1	4	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	2,376	1	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	3,750 / 375	1,433	0	4	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	1,070	0	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,200 / 120	863	0	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	2,300 / 230	668	0	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Red Knot	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	666	0	2	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Common Greenshank	Summer	2016	1,100 / 110	608	0	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Grey Plover	Summer	2016	750 / 75	506	0	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Whimbrel	Summer	2016	900 / 90	466	0	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2016	300 / 30	446	1	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2016	350 / 35	306	0	3	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2016	1,500 / 150	203	0	1	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)
Species diversity	Summer	2016	15 / NA	20	NA	3	Crocodile Islands Rangers; ASMP; Chatto (2012)

Nhulunbuy

Table 125. Site account for Nhulunbuy SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A3, A6, A7, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.201041, 136.735039
Area	2,213 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

Nhulunbuy is situated on the Gove Peninsula on the northeast coast of Arnhem Land, approximately 1000 kilometres east of Darwin in the Northern Territory. This shorebird area stretches along the coastline of the Gove peninsula from the creek entrance on the north side of Melville Bay, around Inverell Bay, to the beach east of Cape Wirawaoi. The area is characterised by intertidal mud and sand flats along sandy beaches which are interrupted by creek entrances lined with mangrove closed-forest habitat.

Table 126. Importance of SBA Milingimbi coast for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2017	260 / 26	26	0	2	ASMP; incidental

North Darwin

Table 127. Site account for North Darwin SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A6, A2, A9, A3, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Shoal Bay

Geographical Coordinates	-12.34626, 130.99231
Area	5,675 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The North Darwin shorebird area extends along the Beagle Gulf coastline from East Point to Gunn Point, encompassing intertidal mud and sand flats, sandy beaches, and mangrove-lined creek channels. Despite its proximity to Darwin's urban centre, this area supports high shorebird numbers due to its diverse and high-quality habitats, which provide varied foraging and roosting options that accommodate species-specific needs and help buffer against disturbance.

Table 128. Importance of SBA North Darwin for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	14,297	0	2	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2015	4,000 / 400	13,230	14	15	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2022	20,000 / 2,000	3,187	0	2	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2010	1,400 / 140	3,165	10	15	ASMP
Great Knot	Winter	2022	4,000 / 400	2,281	0	8	ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2023	2,300 / 230	1,800*	0	10	ASMP; incidental*
Red Knot	Summer	2017	1,300 / 130	1,782	1	15	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2015	1,400 / 140	1,105	0	15	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2011	800 / 80	800*	1	11	ASMP; incidental*
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2021	6,000 / 600	629	0	1	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2020	3,750 / 375	600*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Red Knot	Winter	2023	1,300 / 130	500*	0	4	ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2014	260 / 26	362	1	15	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2019	300 / 30	307	1	15	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2012	900 / 90	282	0	13	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2023	260 / 26	250*	0	7	ASMP; incidental*
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2020	750 / 75	230	0	8	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2011	750 / 75	201	0	4	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	166	0	15	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2020	800 / 80	126	0	10	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2022	350 / 35	105	0	13	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2015	350 / 35	90	0	9	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2020	300 / 30	60	0	5	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2020	300 / 30	52	0	4	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2010	NA / 15	24	NA	15	ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Species diversity	Winter	2022	NA / 15	18	NA	11	ASMP

Port McArthur and Borroloola

Table 129. Site account for Port McArthur and Borroloola SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NT008 Port McArthur Tidal Wetland System
Wetland type	A2, A9, B5, A6, A7, A8, A1
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Port McArthur Tidal Wetland System
Geographical Coordinates	-15.800064, 136.79484
Area	199,000 hectares
No. of count areas	20
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

The Port McArthur and Borroloola SBA is located on the southwest coastline of the Gulf of Carpentaria approximately 1,000 kilometres southeast of Darwin. The SBA includes the coastline around the mouth of the McArthur River, from Mule Creek in the west, to Murrenginya Island in the east, and includes the Pellew group of islands just off the coast. The area is characterised by a mega-scale irregular embayment (Port McArthur and central area) with straight coast extending 16 kilometres west and east. The area includes intertidal mudflats up to 5 kilometres wide (which is widest near river mouths), backed by expansive coastal floodplain across its extent, which is traversed by 15 sinuous tidal channels and numerous mangrove-lined islands. There are substantial areas of intertidal mangrove swamp, mainly in the north of the McArthur Delta and near Pelican Spit, and elsewhere narrowly fringing the mainland coast and island bays. Scattered chenopod low shrubland (samphire) occurs on the coastal flats. There are also extensive areas of supratidal claypan, which only receive tidal inundation on spring tides on rare occasions. The site is a major migration staging and over-wintering area for many species of migratory shorebirds, as evidenced by annual monitoring between 2010-2020 through combined ground and aerial counts (Barden, P. in prep).

Table 130. Importance of SBA Port McArthur and Borroloola for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	28,449	5	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	15,361	6	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	11,139	7	10	Barden P. (in prep)
Red Knot	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	7,876	3	6	Barden P. (in prep)
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,200 / 120	6,248	9	11	Barden P. (in prep)

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2017	450 / 45	4,605	8	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	2,300 / 230	3,222	1	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2015	260 / 26	3,177	11	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	2,580	0	8	Barden P. (in prep)
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	2,247	3	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Common Greenshank	Summer	2015	1,100 / 110	1,356	1	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2011	800 / 80	998	2	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2010	1,400 / 140	991	0	5	Barden P. (in prep)
Whimbrel	Summer	2015	900 / 90	869	0	11	Barden P. (in prep)
Asian Dowitcher	Summer	2012	280 / 28	268	0	9	Barden P. (in prep)
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2016	350 / 35	88	0	5	Barden P. (in prep)
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2013	300 / 30	62	0	2	Barden P. (in prep)
Species diversity	Summer	2010	NA / 15	21	NA	11	Barden P. (in prep)

Ramingining Plains

Table 131. Site account for Ramingining Plains SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NT021 Arafura Swamp
Wetland type	B10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.24084, 134.93486
Area	14,196 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Ramingining lies on the edge of the Arafura Wetlands in Central Arnhem Land, where seasonally inundated coastal floodplains expand to approximately 750 km² during peak flooding. The floodplain and grassland habitats along the road to the Millingimbi barge landing offer ideal foraging conditions for Little Curlew, Oriental Plover, and both Pratincole species. Though currently under-surveyed, these habitats are likely important for migratory shorebirds and may reveal additional significant sites with more regular monitoring.

Table 132. Importance of SBA Ramifying Plains for migratory shorebirds

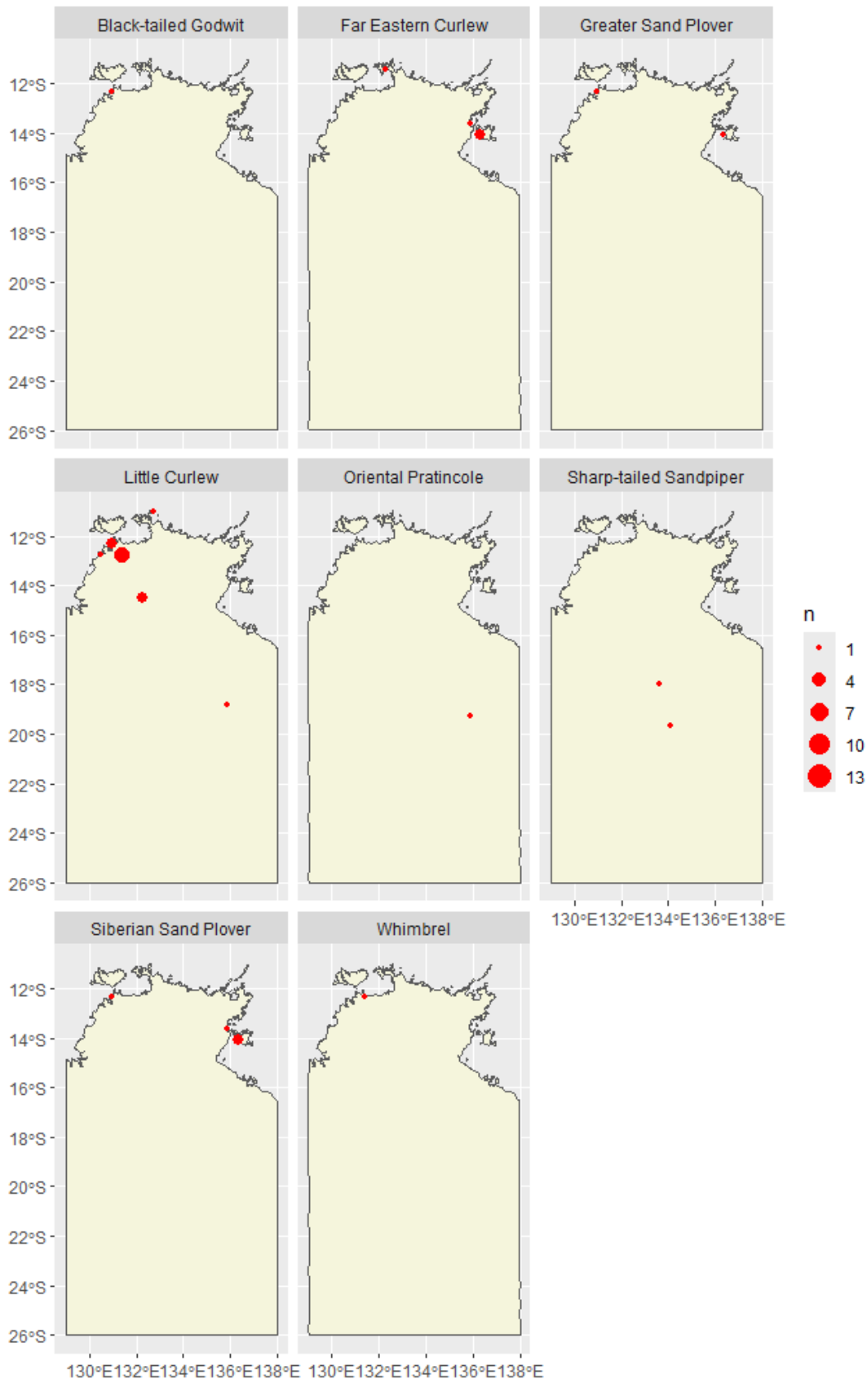
Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Little Curlew	Summer	2017	1,100 / 110	5,000*	1	2	Incidental*

Areas of importance outside the SBA network

Available data indicates eight shorebird species occurring in important numbers outside the SBA network in the territory, apparently regularly so in a number of areas (Figure). Little Curlew in particular stands out for reaching importance levels most years in the northern plains.

Important numbers of Siberian Sand Plover and Far Eastern Curlew have been recorded around islands in the eastern NT. Observations for other species largely occur in a few accessible locations along the coast. These areas will be subject to further review in terms of potential inclusion in the national SBA network. Overall, given the length of the coastline, its inaccessibility over vast areas and the available shorebird habitat present these available records are likely to represent merely a fraction of bird concentrations present.

Figure 6. Frequency of annual occurrence of important species-specific shorebird numbers outside the SBA network in the Northern Territory between 2009-2024, displayed at a 50x50km grid resolution.



Queensland

Geography and habitat

Queensland's mainland coastline stretches over 6,900 kilometres, offering near-continuous habitat for migratory shorebirds. This is further extended by 6,300 kilometres of island shores. On the east coast, extensive intertidal habitats are formed by long sand bars and islands—some up to 120 kilometres—creating shallow, sheltered bays such as Moreton Bay and the Great Sandy Strait. From Gladstone to Townsville, central Queensland features prolific embayments like Shoalwater Bay, backed by higher terrain. The Great Barrier Reef, extending more than 2,000 kilometres from near Fraser Island (K'gari) to Torres Strait, provides important habitat for several species and is considered the principal non-breeding area in Australia for the Wandering Tattler.

In north-west Queensland, the Gulf of Carpentaria shares over 1,000 kilometres of shallow coastline with the Northern Territory. Its south-eastern section hosts some of Australia's largest supra-tidal salt flats, spanning up to 20 kilometres wide. Tidal patterns vary significantly: most of the east coast experiences semi-diurnal tides with amplitudes of several metres, while areas such as Mackay and Broad Sound see tidal ranges exceeding 6 metres. In contrast, the Gulf of Carpentaria typically experiences one high tide per day, peaking around 4 metres.

Intertidal shorebird habitats—including mudflats, sandflats, seagrass beds, mangroves, and saltmarshes—occur almost continuously along the coast. In the Gulf, large salt flats are seasonally inundated by monsoonal rains and king tides, creating additional feeding habitat. Coastal rivers such as the Brisbane, Mary, Fitzroy, Burdekin, Mitchell, Flinders, and Leichhardt account for 45% of Australia's surface runoff (Pigram 2007) and play a key role in shaping estuarine and coastal shorebird habitats. Several major rivers or their tributaries still maintain unregulated flows.

Inland shorebird habitat is widespread and driven by highly variable summer–autumn rainfall. Key inland areas include the near-coastal zone (seasonal freshwater wetlands) and the broad south-west (episodic freshwater and saline systems), with fewer sites in the drier, upper catchments. After major flooding in the Lake Eyre Basin—particularly the Georgina, Diamantina, and Cooper catchments—and in areas like the Bulloo and parts of the Murray–Darling Basin, millions of hectares of floodplain habitat become productive for shorebirds, often peaking in autumn. Sub-terminal lakes such as Machattie, Yamma Yamma, and Torquinie then provide persistent feeding areas as they slowly dry out into spring (Barter & Harris 2002), often with sparse vegetation cover. The floodplain and lake sites of the Channel Country are not included in this edition of the Directory, despite extensive habitat availability (notably in 2010 to 2012 and in 2022 to 2024) due to lack of or reduced survey effort during this time period.

Important sites

In Queensland, two SBAs stand out as internationally significant for migratory shorebirds based on both total numbers and the number of species exceeding the 1% population threshold: the South-East Gulf of Carpentaria and Moreton Bay on the east coast.

The South-East Gulf of Carpentaria is the most important site in both Queensland and Australia for Black-tailed Godwit and is internationally significant for a total of eight shorebird species as well as its shorebird aggregations. Moreton Bay is internationally significant for ten species of migratory shorebirds and remains a critical site on the east coast. Great Sandy Strait, the top site in Queensland for Bar-tailed Godwit, is also internationally significant for four other species.

The size of important sites varies considerably — from small estuaries and inlets to more than 550 kilometres along the South-East Gulf. Although habitat is largely continuous, for conservation and management purposes it may be beneficial to divide the South-East Gulf — where seven major river systems discharge — into a series of distinct important sites.

Historically, the South-East Gulf of Carpentaria supported the largest number of migratory shorebirds in Queensland (Driscoll 1996). However, since 2005, infrequent and incomplete survey coverage in the Gulf (a difficult area to survey), combined with increased survey effort along the east coast, has resulted in a shift in the proportion of reported shorebird numbers across the state.

A substantial, though largely undocumented, proportion of migratory shorebirds arriving in the South-East Gulf between August and October is thought to disperse to other parts of Queensland and beyond. Leg-flag re-sightings (AWSG database / BirdMark - <https://www.birdmark.net/en>) have confirmed movement of species such as Red Knot and Curlew Sandpiper between the Gulf and southeastern Australia or New Zealand. Limited survey data also suggest the Gulf may support some migratory species during the austral winter.

Little is known about the abundance and movement of Little Curlew within Queensland, but the state is undoubtedly an important part of its non-breeding range. Grassland species like Oriental Plover and Oriental Pratincole are present but appear in smaller numbers than in the Northern Territory or Western Australia. Freshwater species more common in northern Australia, such as Wood Sandpiper and Long-toed Stint, are relatively scarce in Queensland.

Pressures and threats

Queensland's low population density overall, contrasts with concentrated urban development along the east coast, where pressure on shorebird habitat from urbanisation and disturbance is highest. Elsewhere, such pressures are generally low, though large-scale impacts like wetland sedimentation and altered river flows affect habitats broadly across parts of the state.

Habitat loss from coastal development has been locally significant, particularly in the far south-east and around northern port cities. Urban areas are often adjacent to important shorebird sites, where managing disturbance from people, dogs, and watercraft remains a key challenge—especially in Moreton Bay.

Northern and inland Queensland remain relatively undeveloped but face increasing water harvesting and resource extraction proposals that could affect downstream habitats. As flooding regimes decline in the Murray–Darling Basin, episodic inland floodplain habitats in the Channel Country may become increasingly important for shorebirds.

State of Knowledge

Despite Queensland's vast shorebird habitat, overall knowledge is relatively high, largely due to the long-term efforts of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of Birds Queensland. Regular monitoring occurs along much of the east coast south from Townsville, supported by BirdLife Australia local branches such as BirdLife Capricornia.

Knowledge of Moreton Bay is especially detailed, informed by multiple research projects on Far Eastern Curlew (Finn et al. 2001; Driscoll & Ueta 2002), and Grey-tailed Tattler (Coleman et al. 2018), including satellite tracking, foraging studies, and long-term leg-flagging programs. The University of Queensland's Fuller Laboratory has also played a leading role in shorebird research at both local and flyway scales.

In contrast, remote regions such as Shoalwater Bay and the South-East Gulf of Carpentaria remain data-poor due to access restrictions and survey challenges. Key surveys in the Gulf by QWSG, and more recent contributions from Indigenous Rangers, have provided valuable insights, identifying new important sites and highlighting the significance of inundated salt flats and offshore islands.

On western Cape York, Indigenous Ranger programs supported by BirdLife Australia have strengthened site knowledge over the past decade (Jackson et al. 2016). QWSG has also expanded survey coverage along the central Queensland coast. While data gaps remain in remote regions, Queensland's shorebird research and monitoring effort is among the most extensive in Australia.

Figure 7. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in Queensland (blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

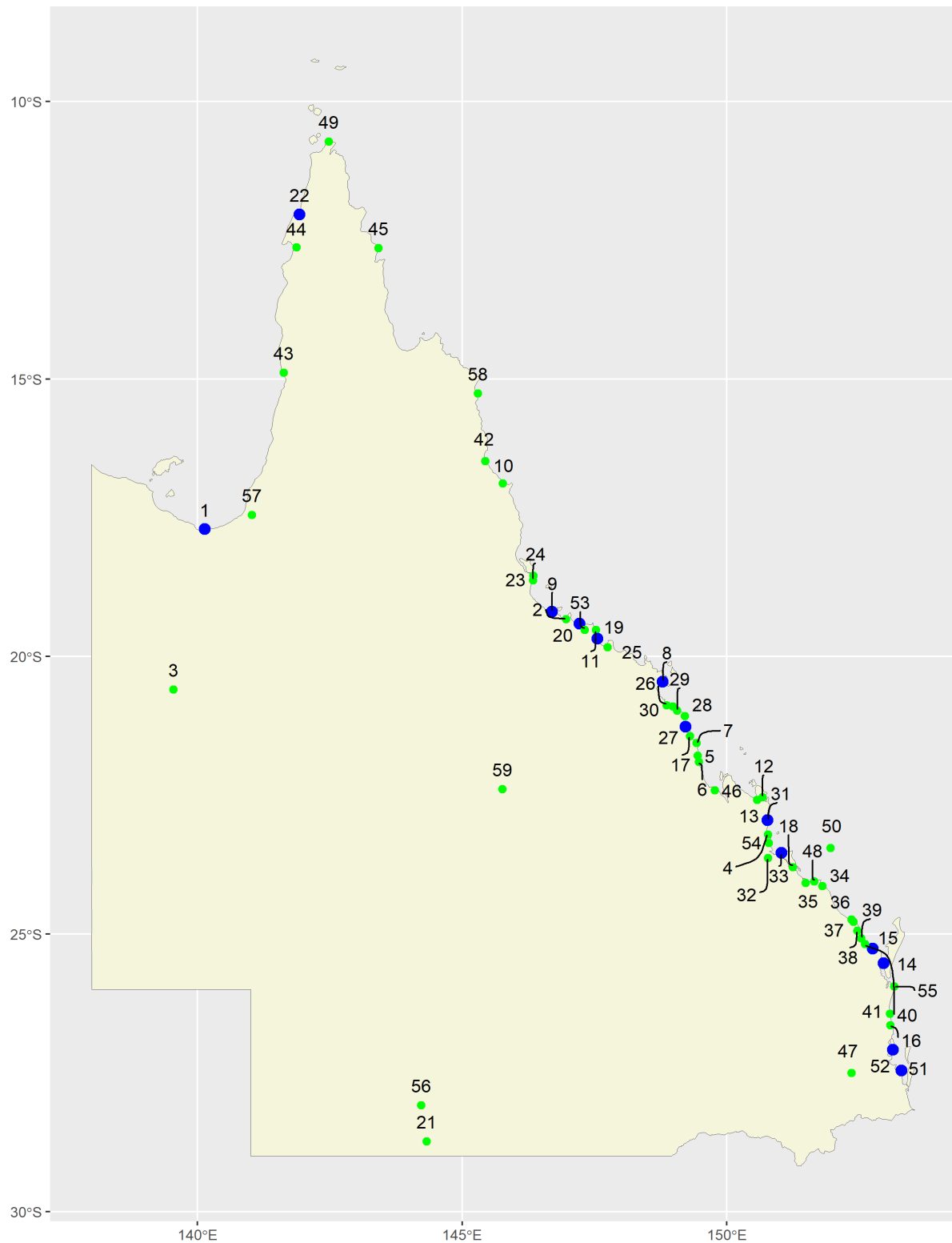


Table 133. List of map IDs for shorebird habitat in Queensland

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Alma Saltworks	32	Elim Beach	58	Noosa	41
Alva Beach	11	Elliott River Estuary	38	Pormpuraaw	43

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Armstrong Beach	17	Four Mile Beach	5	Port Clinton	12
Blacks Beach	28	Gladstone	18	Port Douglas	42
Bowling Green Bay	20	Great Sandy Strait	14	Pumicestone Passage	52
Brandon - Colevale Wetlands	53	Ince Bay	7	Punsand Bay	49
Broadsound	46	Karumba Plains	57	Repulse Bay	8
Burdekin River delta	19	Keppel Sands	54	Rodds Bay	48
Burnett River Estuary	37	Kinka Beach	4	Sand Bay	29
Burrum River Estuary	40	Lake Bindegolly	56	SE Gulf of Carpentaria	1
Bustard Bay	34	Lake Galilee	59	Seaforth	30
Cairns area	10	Lake Moondarra	3	Shoalwater	13
Capricornia Cays	50	Lake Numalla	21	Skyring Estuary	36
Carmila Beach	6	Lockyer Valley	47	St. Helens Bay	26
Central Queensland Narrows	33	Lucinda	23	Taylors Beach	24
Chilli Beach	45	Mackay	27	Theodolite Creek	39
Cleveland Bay	2	Mapoon	22	Toogoom to Point Vernon	15
Colosseum Inlet	35	Maroochy River	16	Townsville Region	9
Corio Bay	31	Mission River	44	Upstart Bay	25
Double Island Point	55	Moreton Bay	51		

Alma Saltworks

Table 134. Site account for Alma Saltworks SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD012 Fitzroy River Delta
Wetland type	A1, A2, A6, C4, A8, A9, A11, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Fitzroy Floodplain and Delta
Geographical Coordinates	-23.62688, 150.77777
Area	4,708 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: 2

General site description

The Alma Saltworks Shorebird Area is located in the Fitzroy River delta near Port Alma, south-east of Rockhampton in Queensland. It includes the extensive salt-field pond complex and nearby claypans along Inkerman Creek, surrounded by permanent, shallow, saline intertidal wetlands influenced by tides. The broader delta supports additional shallow seasonal and permanent freshwater swamps and floodplain lagoons. This diverse mix of saline ponds, clay flats, estuarine waters, and freshwater wetlands provides key foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 135. Importance of SBA Alma Saltworks for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	1,318	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	1,000*	0	2	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,200 / 120	585	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	150*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2011	350 / 35	37	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Alva Beach

Table 136. Site account for Alva Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD004 Burdekin Delta Aggregation QLD100 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-19.52169, 147.5282
Area	3,570 hectares
No. of count areas	8
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: NA

General site description

The Alva Beach Shorebird Area lies northeast of Ayr in north Queensland, stretching 18 km along the Coral Sea between Cape Bowling Green and the Burdekin River delta—the largest on Australia’s east coast. This dynamic coastline is shaped by high river discharge and supports a range of shorebird habitats including beaches, estuaries, intertidal flats, mangroves, and small inland salt flats. These diverse and shifting environments provide important foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 137. Importance of SBA Alva Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2021	20,000 / 2,000	6,573	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2021	6,000 / 600	3,672	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	1,500	1	2	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,200 / 120	815	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	491	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2022	1,500 / 150	424	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2023	260 / 26	60*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2022	350 / 35	47	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Armstrong Beach

Table 138. Site account for Armstrong Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD053 Sarina Inlet–Ince Bay Aggregation
Wetland type	A1, A2, A3, A4, C1, A6, A7, A9, A11, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Repulse Bay and Ince Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-21.43475, 149.29732
Area	372 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: NA

General site description

The Armstrong Beach Shorebird Area is located on the low coastal plain southeast of Mackay, Queensland, and extends from Freshwater Point to Taffy Inlet, encompassing Armstrong Beach and Llewellyn Bay. The site features inshore coral reefs, extensive shallow waters, and is dominated by subtidal and intertidal mudflats. These habitats provide important feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds.

Table 139. Importance of SBA Armstrong Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Great Knot	Summer	2023	4,000 / 400	1,495	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2018	3,750 / 375	585	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	66	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Blacks Beach

Table 140. Site account for Blacks Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD100 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	Repulse Bay to Ince Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-21.07225, 149.2078
Area	956 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: NA

General site description

The Blacks Beach Shorebird Area is situated north of Mackay, Queensland, and includes Blacks Beach in Slade Bay, the stretch from Bucasia to Shoal Point in Sunset Bay, and wetlands along Eimeo and McCreadys Creeks. Dominated by beaches, intertidal flats, and small estuaries, the site lies within a region of high tidal amplitude, reaching up to 6 metres. As part of a near-continuous chain of shorebird habitats along Queensland's central east coast, this area offers important foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 141. Importance of SBA Blacks Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2017	800 / 80	120*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2023	900 / 90	115	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	85*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2012	350 / 35	50	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2024	260 / 26	45	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Bowling Green Bay

Table 142. Site account for Bowling Green Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	Bowling Green Bay (Site Number: 42)
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD002 Bowling Green Bay QLD005 Burdekin–Townsville Coastal Aggregation
Wetland type	A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, C2, A10, A11, A12, B6, B10, C1, A9
Flyway Network Site	Bowling Green Bay (EAAF089)
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-19.40862, 147.2184
Area	20,079 hectares
No. of count areas	21
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: 8

General site description

The Bowling Green Bay Shorebird Area is located south of Townsville in northern Queensland and spans from Cape Bowling Green to Mt Cleveland, including Horseshoe Lagoon on the

Burdekin River floodplain. This site features a continuous wetland complex of shallow embayments, extensive intertidal flats, mangrove-lined creek channels, supratidal salt pans, and brackish to freshwater marshes and lakes on low-lying coastal plains. These diverse wetland habitats provide critical feeding and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 143. Importance of SBA Bowling Green Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	8,544	0	7	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	6,403	1	8	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	2,850	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	1,488	1	4	QWSG; ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2015	2,300 / 230	1,400	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2011	3,750 / 375	900	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2013	1,400 / 140	900	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,200 / 120	573	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2013	1,500 / 150	410	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	3,750 / 375	400	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Lesser Sand Plover	Summer	2012	2,750 / 275	330	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2011	1,300 / 130	251	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2012	260 / 26	230	2	8	QWSG; ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2021	750 / 75	121	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2010	1,200 / 120	120	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	100*	0	5	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2017	900 / 90	90*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2019	350 / 35	50*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2010	15 / NA	16	NA	3	QWSG; ASMP

Brandon - Colevale Wetlands

Table 144. Site account for Brandon - Colevale Wetlands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD005 Burdekin–Townsville Coastal Aggregation
Wetland type	A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, C2, A10, A11, A12, B6, B10, C1, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-19.51769, 147.31037
Area	479 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Brandon-Colevale Shorebird Area is located south of Townsville in northern Queensland on the Burdekin River floodplain. It comprises small lakes and freshwater marshes surrounded by grasslands that are seasonally inundated by floodwaters from the Burdekin River system. These seasonal wetlands provide suitable foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 145. Importance of SBA Brandon - Colevale Wetlands for migratory shorebird

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	200*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Broadsound

Table 146. Site account for Broadsound SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD003 Broad Sound
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A7, A8, B10, A10, A11, A12, B2, B4, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Broad Sound
Geographical Coordinates	-22.41224, 149.76766
Area	33,320 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

The Broadsound Shorebird Area is located on the western coastline of Broad Sound, north of Rockhampton in central Queensland. It encompasses estuaries, saltmarshes, mangroves, and extensive intertidal flats across the Waverley, St Lawrence, and western Herbert Creeks, the Styx River, and north to South Red Bluff. The area forms a large, sheltered embayment with a very high tidal range and a complex wetland system of subtidal and estuarine habitats. Seasonal freshwater and brackish wetlands on adjacent coastal plains also provide important habitat for Black-tailed Godwits, Latham's Snipe, and other small shorebirds. These diverse wetland environments support large numbers of migratory shorebirds.

Table 147. Importance of SBA Broadsound for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Great Knot	Summer	2022	4,000 / 400	1,170	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2020	6,000 / 600	674	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2011	1,300 / 130	603*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2014	350 / 35	599	1	9	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2011	1,400 / 140	400*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	300*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2022	900 / 90	235	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2013	260 / 26	52*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Burdekin River Delta

Table 148. Site account for Burdekin River Delta SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD004 Burdekin Delta Aggregation
Wetland type	A5, A2, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, B1, B4, B5, B6, B9, B10, B14, C1, C2, C3, A1, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-19.67996, 147.55558
Area	15,479 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: 4

General site description

The Burdekin River Delta Shorebird Area lies east of Ayr, south of Townsville in northern Queensland, at the mouth of the Burdekin River—one of Australia’s largest rivers. The delta spans 1.5 to 13 kilometres in width and supports a continuous, complex wetland aggregation of beaches, bars, spits, islets, intertidal flats, mangrove-lined estuaries, and both permanent and seasonal freshwater bodies on the floodplain. This mosaic of habitats supports diverse feeding and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 149. Importance of SBA Burdekin River delta for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	14,774	0	7	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2019	6,000 / 600	5,150	0	7	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2019	4,000 / 400	4,120	1	7	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	3,236	5	9	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2019	260 / 26	2,350	5	9	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	2,000	3	4	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2018	3,750 / 375	750	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2019	750 / 75	680	0	8	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2019	800 / 80	670	0	3	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red Knot	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	650	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,200 / 120	500	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2019	900 / 90	440	0	7	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2019	350 / 35	350	1	8	QWSG; ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2019	750 / 75	260	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Winter	2017	900 / 90	250*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2021	350 / 35	176	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2020	1,400 / 140	160	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2018	450 / 45	150	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2020	260 / 26	140	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Winter	2023	750 / 75	121	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2021	800 / 80	97	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2021	300 / 30	36	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	34	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2019	NA / 15	19	NA	6	QWSG; ASMP

Burnett River Estuary

Table 150. Site account for Burnett River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, B9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-24.7778, 152.3867
Area	1,135 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA

General site description

The Burnett River Estuary Shorebird Area is located north of Bundaberg in south-eastern Queensland and encompasses the Burnett River Estuary from Rubyanna Creek to its mouth, including Flying Fox and Barubbra islands, Oaks Beach, and the swamp behind Bundaberg Port.

The area features mangrove-lined channels, intertidal mudflats, sand flats, and sand bars, along with low-energy sandy beaches interrupted by rocky outcrops. This mix of estuarine and coastal habitats provides important feeding and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 151. Importance of SBA Burnett River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	1,202	0	9	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,200 / 120	173	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2017	350 / 35	59	0	8	QWSG; ASMP

Burrum River Estuary

Table 152. Site account for Burrum River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD146 Burrum Coast
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A12, A8, A9, A11, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-25.18063, 152.608
Area	4,850 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: NA

General site description

The Burrum River Estuary Shorebird Area is located north of Maryborough in south-eastern Queensland and spans from the Burrum–Isis River junction, past the Gregory Islands, to Beelbi Creek mouth. It includes extensive intertidal flats, mangrove and salt flat systems along estuaries and coastlines, freshwater wetlands dominated by wallum heath, and smaller areas of sedgeland and swamp forest. Low-energy sandy beaches lie behind intertidal mudflats along the coast. This range of estuarine and coastal habitats supports foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 153. Importance of SBA Burrum River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2021	350 / 35	110*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2016	260 / 26	60	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Bustard Bay

Table 154. Site account for Bustard Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD127 Bustard Bay Wetland
Wetland type	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A12, A7, A8, A9, A11, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-24.13502, 151.80012
Area	5,697 hectares
No. of count areas	22
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

The Bustard Bay Shorebird Area, south of Gladstone in central Queensland, includes mangrove-dominated estuarine wetlands around Middle Island and the southern end of Bustard Bay, including Eurimbula and Round Hill creeks. The area features shallow, saline estuaries with minimal freshwater input, backed by small salt flats and seasonal freshwater wetlands in Eurimbula National Park. Dominant habitats include banded mangrove forest and shrubland, intertidal mudflats, sand flats, and low-energy sandy beaches. These diverse coastal and estuarine environments provide critical feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 155. Importance of SBA Bustard Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2011	260 / 26	200*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2011	900 / 90	129*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	65*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Cairns area

Table 156. Site account for Cairns area SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD157 Port of Cairns and Trinity Inlet
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A7, C8, A9, A10, A12, C6, C7, A8, B9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-16.88095, 145.76709
Area	2,990 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Cairns Shorebird Area is adjacent to the city of Cairns in far north Queensland and includes the Cairns Esplanade, Holloway Beach, Bessie Point, Mission Bay, Cairns Centennial Lakes, and

the Tingira Street Wetlands in Portsmith. The area features mangrove-lined estuaries such as Chinaman Creek and the Barron River Mouth, extensive intertidal mud and sand flats, and low-energy sandy beaches. These diverse coastal and estuarine habitats provide important feeding and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds, including habitat for Latham's Snipe.

Table 157. Importance of SBA Cairns area for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2023	20,000 / 2,000	2,291	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	800	0	10	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	700	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2023	900 / 90	606	0	8	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2021	4,000 / 400	478	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2010	800 / 80	243	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Winter	2023	900 / 90	157	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2023	260 / 26	109	0	7	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2010	350 / 35	52	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2017	350 / 18	32*	0	3	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2010	NA / 15	19	NA	14	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Winter	2020	NA / 15	15	NA	1	QWSG; ASMP

Capricornia Cays

Table 158 Site account for Capricornia Cays SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD100 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Wetland type	A3, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-23.44934, 151.95509
Area	12,281 hectares
No. of count areas	16
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: NA

General site description

The Capricornia Cays Shorebird Area consists of 15 coral cay islands off the central Queensland coast, located 45–75 km from Gladstone and forming part of the Capricorn and Bunker groups. The cays lie on planar reefs with varying exposure to winds and currents, resulting in a mix of sand and shingle formations shaped by erosion, accretion, and cyclonic disturbance. They range in size from 4 to over 100 hectares and in elevation from 3 to 9 metres. Habitats include sandy beaches, reef flats, and coastal vegetation, supporting critical roosting and foraging areas for migratory shorebirds across these remote, predator-free islands.

Table 159. Importance of SBA Capricornia Cays for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2012	300 / 30	300	1	2	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2017	800 / 80	255	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2015	260 / 26	59*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2021	300 / 30	49*	0	3	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Wandering Tattler	Summer	2015	100 / 10	12*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Carmila Beach

Table 160. Site account for Carmila Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-21.89479, 149.46697
Area	621 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Carmila Shorebird Area is located south of Mackay in north Queensland, extending from Three Mile Creek to the southern side of the West Hill Creek Estuary. The site features intertidal marine and estuarine wetlands backed by low-energy sandy beaches, with occasional sand bars and small mangrove-lined creek channels. These varied coastal and intertidal habitats provide important foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 161. Importance of SBA Carmila Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2015	800 / 80	97*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2015	260 / 26	80*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Central Queensland Narrows

Table 162. Site account for Central Queensland Narrows SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD017 Northeast Curtis Island QLD021 The Narrows

Wetland type	A1, A2, A6, A11, A8, A9, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-23.53799, 151.03028
Area	47,894 hectares
No. of count areas	18
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: 2

General site description

The Central Queensland Narrows Shorebird Area, south-east of Rockhampton, encompasses the Port Alma region, Fitzroy River Delta, estuaries of Connor, Deception, and Graham Creeks, the north-western tidal wetlands of Curtis Island, and the coastline from Cape Keppel to Cape Capricorn. The area includes extensive intertidal habitats such as mudflats, salt flats, sand bars, and mangrove-fringed estuaries, as well as permanent shallow saline waters. Coastal lowlands and seasonally inundated marine plains lie behind much of the intertidal zone. Rocky headlands and small islands add further habitat variation. These expansive and diverse wetland environments provide essential feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 163. Importance of SBA Central Queensland Narrows for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	7,217	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	4,034	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2011	20,000 / 2,000	2,582	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2011	260 / 26	1,047	3	4	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2011	900 / 90	1,023	1	3	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	3,750 / 375	862	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	835*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Great Knot	Summer	2013	4,000 / 400	707	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2012	3,750 / 375	596	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2011	350 / 35	564	1	2	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	407	1	3	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	400*	0	2	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	364*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2011	260 / 26	318	1	2	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2012	750 / 75	315	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Winter	2011	900 / 90	299	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2013	800 / 80	287	0	3	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2011	800 / 80	257	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Winter	2011	750 / 75	218	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2011	250 / 25	44	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2012	300 / 30	31	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2011	NA / 15	21	NA	3	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Winter	2012	NA / 15	15	NA	1	QWSG; ASMP

Chilli Beach

Table 164. Site account for Chilli Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.643767, 143.419121
Area	236 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Chilli Beach Shorebird Area is located south of Mackay in north Queensland, extending from Cape Weymouth to Cape Griffith. The site features a single, long stretch of sandy beach, backed by coastal dune vegetation and lowland rainforest.

Table 165. Importance of SBA Chilli Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2020	260 / 26	34*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Cleveland Bay

Table 166. Site account for Cleveland Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD005 Burdekin–Townsville Coastal Aggregation
Wetland type	A1, C3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, B1, B2, B4, B5, B6, B9, B10, B14, C1, C2, A2
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-19.328, 146.9621

Area	17,448 hectares
No. of count areas	9
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: 2

General site description

The Cleveland Bay Shorebird Area lies east of Townsville and extends along the coastline from the Ross River mouth to Cape Cleveland. Situated on a broad, low-gradient coastal floodplain dissected by meandering creeks, the area includes shallow marine waters, intertidal mudflats, mangrove swamps, and freshwater lakes and swamps. This complex and continuous aggregation of wetland habitats supports diverse foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 167. Importance of SBA Cleveland Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	5,495	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	4,000	1	5	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	1,069	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2012	1,400 / 140	600	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	3,750 / 375	452	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	400*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Red Knot	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	350	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2020	260 / 26	290*	1	2	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2018	900 / 90	235*	0	3	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Winter	2010	900 / 90	197	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	193*	0	4	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2023	800 / 80	91*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2010	350 / 35	51	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	210	260 / 26	26	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Colosseum Inlet

Table 168. Site account for Colosseum Inlet SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD129 Colosseum Inlet-Rodds Bay
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A9, A6, A7, A8, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-24.07659, 151.48911
Area	12,843 hectares

No. of count areas	29
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: 2

General site description

The Colosseum Inlet Shorebird Area, located south of Gladstone in central Queensland, centres on Hummock Hill Island and includes Colosseum Inlet and the Thornton Creek estuary. The area features extensive mangrove forests and shrublands with distinct seaward-to-landward banding, claypan and saltmarsh flats, restricted seagrass beds, and a small coral reef. Shallow saline estuaries with minimal freshwater input connect to low-energy sandy beaches, intertidal mudflats, and sandbars at creek mouths. This mosaic of estuarine, coastal, and marine habitats provides important foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 169. Importance of SBA Colosseum Inlet for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2013	20,000 / 2,000	2,274	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	3,750 / 375	571	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2020	260 / 26	440	1	3	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2011	900 / 90	386	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	364	1	4	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2013	800 / 80	307	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2012	350 / 35	201	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2012	750 / 75	151	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2012	260 / 26	77	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	53	0	2	QWSG; ASMP

Corio Bay

Table 170. Site account for Corio Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	Shoalwater and Corio Bays Area (Site Number: 44)
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD043 Corio Bay Wetlands
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, B14, A9, A10, A11, B1, B2, B10, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-22.94689, 150.76576
Area	2,645 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: 1

General site description

The Corio Bay Shorebird Area is located north-east of Rockhampton in central Queensland and comprises a shallow marine embayment with extensive intertidal flats, tidal channels, and fringing freshwater swamps and seasonally inundated areas. The bay is influenced by both tidal marine waters and seasonal freshwater inflows from surrounding catchments. Low-energy sandy beaches border the southern section near the estuary mouth. This combination of tidal flats, estuarine systems, and freshwater habitats provides important feeding and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 171. Importance of SBA Corio Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2023	260 / 26	750	2	2	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2022	1,400 / 140	547	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2024	3,750 / 375	432	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2024	4,000 / 400	413	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2017	350 / 35	186*	0	3	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2010	900 / 90	181*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2023	800 / 80	151	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2023		110	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2021	300 / 30	40*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2024	250 / 25	30*	0	2	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Double Island Point

Table 172. Site account for Double Island Point SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Cooloolo and Fraser Coast
Geographical Coordinates	-25.94297, 153.15969
Area	572 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Double Island Point Shorebird Area lies south-east of Rainbow Beach in south-eastern Queensland and includes over 7 kilometres of sandy beach and connected offshore sand bars sheltered by the headland. The site features narrow intertidal sand flats and is partly protected

from prevailing south-easterly and north-easterly winds. These sandy coastal habitats provide foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 173. Importance of SBA Double Island Point for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2015	300 / 30	30*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Elim Beach

Table 174. Site account for Elim Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-15.25824, 145.29339
Area	55 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

The Elim Beach Shorebird Area is located north of Cooktown in far north Queensland and is centred on Elim Beach. The site features extensive intertidal mud and sand flats, scattered mangroves, and sandy beaches. These varied coastal habitats provide important feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 175. Importance of SBA Elim Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2014	1,400 / 140	150*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2014	800 / 80	80*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Elliott River Estuary

Table 176. Site account for Elliott River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A12, A8, A9, A11, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-24.94079, 152.46517
Area	1,256 hectares

No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: 4

General site description

The Elliot River Estuary Shorebird Area lies just southeast of Bundaberg in south-eastern Queensland, stretching from the river's upper tributaries near Palm Springs Park to its mouth at Elliot Heads. The area includes intertidal flats, mangrove forests, and coastal salt flats, with low-energy sandy beaches along the shoreline. These estuarine and coastal habitats provide suitable foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 177. Importance of SBA Elliott River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Whimbrel	Summer	2012	900 / 90	99	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	84	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2022	260 / 26	80*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2022	300 / 30	30*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	28*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Four Mile Beach

Table 178. Site account for Four Mile Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD047 Four Mile Beach
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A10, A7, A8, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-21.784804, 149.449975
Area	4,326 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Four Mile Beach SBA is part of a low coastal plain with a well-developed beach dune and the adjacent marine waters from Yarrowonga Point to West Hill Island. The catchment for the site is that of streams draining eastward out of Connors Range. Marion, Kelly, Basin and Gillinbin creeks drain fresh water into the northern and central sections of the site, whilst West Hill, Three Mile and Bone creeks drain fresh water into the southern section. The area is a good example of a marine and estuarine wetland system of the Central Queensland Coast bioregion. The site has a diverse shoreline including a rocky shore and well-developed sand beach.

Table 179. Importance of SBA Four Mile Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2017	260 / 26	70	0	1	Incidental*

Gladstone

Table 180. Site account for Gladstone SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD019 Port Curtis
Wetland type	A1, A2, A3, A4, A9, A6, A7, A8, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-23.79384, 151.24205
Area	9,077 hectares
No. of count areas	42
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 12

General site description

The Gladstone Shorebird Area lies adjacent to the city of Gladstone in central Queensland and includes tidal zones around Kangaroo Island, southern Curtis Island, Facing Island's western side, and the coastline south to Tannum Creek. The area features shallow estuarine and marine waters influenced by freshwater inputs from the Calliope and Boyne rivers, with extensive mangrove forests, salt flats, shrublands, and coastal claypans. Vegetation ranges from halophytic shrublands to grasslands dominated by sand couch. Key roosting sites include Chinaman Island, Facing Island, and the Gladstone ash ponds, while the extensive intertidal flats of Targinie and Pelican Banks support large numbers of foraging migratory shorebirds.

Table 181. Importance of SBA Gladstone for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	2,253	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2010	3,750 / 375	1,006	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2011	900 / 90	432	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	404	1	13	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2011	800 / 80	380	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2011	350 / 35	353	1	6	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2024	260 / 26	214	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2012	750 / 75	196	0	2	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	155	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2011	800 / 80	92	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2011	260 / 26	35	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Wandering Tattler	Summer	2010	100 / 10	23	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2011	NA / 15	17	NA	1	QWSG; ASMP

Great Sandy Strait

Table 182. Site account for the Great Sandy Strait SBA

Ramsar Site	Great Sandy Strait (Site Number: 51)
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD132 Great Sandy Strait
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A12, A8, A9, A11, A7
Flyway Network Site	Great Sandy Strait (EAAF092)
Key Biodiversity Area	Great Sandy Strait
Geographical Coordinates	-25.52619, 152.95959
Area	84,296 hectares
No. of count areas	60
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 14

General site description

The Great Sandy Strait Shorebird Area lies east of Maryborough in south-eastern Queensland, stretching from Hervey Bay to Tin Can Bay. This expansive and complex wetland system includes intertidal sand and mudflats, extensive seagrass beds, mangrove forests, saltmarshes, and saline estuarine waters with some freshwater inflows. Habitats range from shallow estuarine channels and subtidal seagrass meadows to mud and sand flats, salt flats, and vegetated swamp margins behind mangroves. The region supports high biodiversity, including 10 species of mangrove and rich communities of invertebrates and fish. It is one of three major feeding and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds in eastern Australia.

Table 183. Importance of SBA Great Sandy Strait for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	18,309	0	15	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2010	3,750 / 375	10,816	9	15	QWSG; ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2012	20,000 / 2,000	4,385	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2023	4,000 / 400	2,445	0	15	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2012	3,750 / 375	2,300	0	10	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	1,738	4	12	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	1,515	0	7	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2018	260 / 26	1,300	10	15	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2012	900 / 90	1,177	1	13	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2010	350 / 35	1,057	10	15	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Winter	2012	4,000 / 400	920	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2012	1,400 / 140	914	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	810	0	9	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2016	750 / 75	629	0	12	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2012	800 / 80	600	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2010	1,100 / 110	383	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2022	350 / 35	365	1	14	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Winter	2011	900 / 90	347	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	318	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,200 / 120	280*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,200 / 120	250	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2011	250 / 25	195	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2018	1,500 / 150	175	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2015	750 / 75	134	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2018	300 / 30	85	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2011	260 / 26	65	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2020	300 / 30	45*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2010	NA / 15	22	NA	15	QWSG; ASMP

Ince Bay

Table 184. Site account for Ince Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD053 Sarina Inlet–Ince Bay Aggregation
Wetland type	A1, A2, A3, A4, C1, A6, A7, A9, A11, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Repulse Bay and Ince Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-21.55457, 149.42144
Area	6,626 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: NA

General site description

The Ince Bay Shorebird Area lies south-east of Mackay in north Queensland and extends from Dawson Beach around Ince Bay to the western coastline of Cape Palmerston. The area encompasses a low coastal plain with extensive shallow waters and inshore coral reefs. Key habitats include broad intertidal and subtidal mudflats, sandy beaches, and estuarine creek systems lined with mangroves. These diverse coastal and estuarine environments provide critical feeding and roosting habitat for a range of migratory shorebird species, particularly during low tide when expansive mudflats are exposed.

Table 185. Importance of SBA Ince Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2018	20,000 / 2,000	3,306	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2018	4,000 / 400	1,040	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2018	6,000 / 600	766	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2018	800 / 80	311	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2018	1,400 / 140	300	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2015	260 / 26	254	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2018	900 / 90	167	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	157	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2023	300 / 30	32	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Karumba Plains

Table 186. Site account for Karumba Plains SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD114 Southern Gulf Aggregation
Wetland type	B10, B6 (otherwise may be considered as A11); A8 occurs on three sides.
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Gulf Plains
Geographical Coordinates	-17.4488, 141.02437
Area	22,672 hectares
No. of count areas	9
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Karumba Plains Shorebird Area is located on the south-eastern coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, approximately 28 km east-north-east of the township of Karumba. This expansive marine plain lies just above the highest astronomical tide and is situated between Brannigan and Walker Creeks, with Jenny Lind Creek separating the core area from the eastern plain. It features numerous shallow basins, gilgai hollows, and depressions that form temporary freshwater wetlands during the wet season, often drying out by mid-dry season. The plain is dominated by salt-tolerant grasslands with scattered scalds and sparse cover of low trees, and includes seasonal herb fields, legume thickets, and tussock grasslands that provide critical habitat for species like the Little Curlew. On very high tides, during cyclones, or after heavy rainfall, parts of the plain may be inundated by seawater or inland floodwaters. These dynamic habitats support a significant but under-documented population of migratory shorebirds.

Table 187. Importance of SBA Karumba Plains for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2013	20,000 / 2,000	4,647	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Little Curlew	Summer	2013	1,100 / 110	3,159	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	1,363	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2018	1,300 / 130	500*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Marsh Sandpiper	Winter	2018	1,300 / 130	150*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Keppel Sands

Table 188. Site account for Keppel Sands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD022 Yeppoon – Keppel Sands Tidal Wetlands
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-23.35818, 150.7914
Area	883 hectares

No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Keppel Sands Shorebird Area is situated on the central Queensland coast east of Rockhampton, south of Yeppoon, with the village of Keppel Sands just north of a tidal creek. This site encompasses approximately 10 km of coastline centered on the mouth of Struber Creek and includes intertidal flats, sandy beach, a minor estuary, and salt flats and mangroves within a broad swale behind the coastal dune system. The intertidal flats fronting the beach are the primary feeding habitat for shorebirds, while some roosting also occurs on the estuarine margins and salt flats inland of the dune system. The area receives substantial sediment input from the nearby Fitzroy River, shaping the dynamic coastal and intertidal environments. The mouth of Struber Creek is a particularly important roost site for species such as Great Knot. The combination of expansive intertidal flats and sheltered roosts makes this area valuable for migratory shorebirds.

Table 189. Importance of SBA Keppel Sands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	2,422	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2010	4,000 / 400	2,220	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2010	260 / 26	56	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Kinka Beach

Table 190. Site account for Kinka Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD022 Yeppoon – Keppel Sands Tidal Wetlands
Wetland type	A1, A4, A5, A6, A12, A8, A9, A11, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-23.202997, 150.783526
Area	1,298 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Kinka Beach Shorebird Area is centred on Causeway Lake and Kinka Beach, located approximately 53 kilometres north-east of Rockhampton in central Queensland. The shorebird area is characterised by coastal features including sandy beaches, rocky headlands, offshore islands, shallow bays, mangrove-lined estuaries, salt flats and saltmarsh, and freshwater marsh and forest.

Kinka Beach is dominated by intertidal mudflats backed by a sandy beach, terminating in the south at a rocky headland. Causeway Lake is an estuarine saline lake with sand flats/bars at the entrance, higher tidal saltmarshes and claypans, which are occasionally inundated, and small areas of permanent and semi-permanent freshwater marsh.

Table 191. Importance of SBA Kinka Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2024	260 / 26	130	0	10	QWSG; ASMP

Lake Bindegolly

Table 192. Site account for Lake Bindegolly SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD125 Lakes Bindegolly and Toomaroo
Wetland type	B4, B12, B6, B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Bindegolly
Geographical Coordinates	-28.08102, 144.2217
Area	25,608 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Lake Bindegolly Shorebird Area is situated in south-western Queensland and centres on a system of shallow, interconnected lakes within an arid inland basin. The lakes are primarily filled by local runoff from Gooaranne Creek and surrounding catchments, rather than by a major river system, making inundation events infrequent and dependent on highly variable seasonal rainfall. When full or overfull, the lakes range from fresh to brackish, becoming increasingly saline as they dry out. The wetland system is near-permanent, supporting extensive shallow margins ideal for shorebirds, especially during drying phases when exposed mudflats and retreating waterlines concentrate prey. The lakebed and margins are vegetated with dwarf-shrubs, sedges, and sparse grasses, particularly on sandy edges. As one of the few significant waterbodies in the region, Lake Bindegolly serves as a critical drought refuge for waterbirds and a productive foraging ground for migratory shorebirds.

Table 193. Importance of SBA Lake Bindegolly for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	240*	0	2	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Lake Galilee

Table 194. Site account for Lake Galilee SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD083 Lake Galilee
Wetland type	B8, B6, B12, B13
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Galilee
Geographical Coordinates	-22.38645, 145.75687
Area	29,659 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Galilee is an expansive inland wetland located in central Queensland, perched in uplands between the Cooper Creek and Burdekin River catchments, and technically part of the Lake Eyre Basin. The lake is fed by around 20 ephemeral creeks from a relatively small local catchment and fills only occasionally after tropical downpours. When inundated, it becomes a freshwater system, with the eastern half supporting canegrass and belalie. As water recedes, it separates into multiple basins; the western basins become brackish to saline and are dominated by samphire and dwarf shrublands. This drawdown phase provides extensive habitat for shorebirds, notably Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, as well as breeding sites for waterbirds such as swans and terns. Despite its isolation and limited ground surveys, Lake Galilee supports large numbers of shorebirds during wet years, particularly across its broad, exposed mudflats and retreating water margins.

Table 195. Importance of SBA Lake Galilee for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	6,000	0	1	EAWS (2025)

Lake Moondarra

Table 196. Site account for Lake Moondarra SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD121 Lake Moondarra
Wetland type	C1
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-20.59134, 139.54142
Area	2,703 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Moondarra is a large artificial wetland situated just outside the inland city of Mount Isa in north-west Queensland. Formed by impounding the Leichhardt River, the lake is fed by a network of tributaries including Spring, North Branch, Spear, Big Sandy, Stockyard, Lagoon, and Breakaway creeks. Water levels fluctuate seasonally due to variable rainfall and water extraction for urban use. Despite its artificial origin, Lake Moondarra is one of the few substantial permanent water bodies in this semi-arid region and serves as a critical dry-season refuge for waterbirds. Its extensive, stable shorelines and open water provide important habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 197. Importance of SBA Lake Moondarra for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	600*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Lake Numalla & Lake Wyara

Table 198. Site account for Lake Numalla & Lake Wyara SBA

Ramsar Site	Currawinya Lakes (Currawinya National Park) (Site number)
Directory of Important Wetlands	Lake Numalla Aggregation - QLD123
Wetland type	B2, B8, B6, B5
Flyway Network Site	Currawinya National Park EAAF090
Key Biodiversity Area	Paroo Floodplain and Currawinya
Geographical Coordinates	-28.73471, 144.3227
Area	9,000 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Numalla, located in an arid region of southwest Queensland, comprises a large freshwater lake, smaller ephemeral lakes, drainage depressions, and associated streamlines. The lake receives inflow from stream flow, surface runoff, and direct rainfall, maintaining fresh, permanent water that becomes brackish during dry periods. Key wetland habitats include deep open water, emergent wetlands along shallow margins, and vegetated claypans. As a major freshwater refuge in a largely arid landscape, Lake Numalla supports significant numbers of waterbirds and migratory shorebirds, particularly during drought conditions. Nearby Lake Wyara, a terminal saline lake, is equally known to support important numbers of birds.

Table 199. Importance of SBA Lake Numalla & Lake Wyara for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2014	20,000 / 2,000	2,091	0	1	EAWS (2025)

Lockyer Valley

Table 200. Site account for Lockyer Valley SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-27.50372, 152.34876
Area	649 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Lockyer Valley site includes Lake Clarendon, an irrigation reservoir with some gently sloping shoreline that is exposed when storage levels are low. The lake provides a mix of open water and shallow edge habitats, supporting a variety of wildlife as part of a broader network of small irrigation dams in the region. The site includes the largely natural, intermittent wetland, Seven Mile Lagoon, which has a maximum extent of about 400 hectares and as it draws down it provides extensive muddy habitat on alluvial clay with short vegetation cover. The lagoon supports many species of migratory shorebird in small numbers. It is partly a local government reserve and other parts are grazed by cattle on private land.

Table 201. Importance of SBA Lockyer Valley for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,300 / 130	330*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 18	25	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Lucinda

Table 202. Site account for Lucinda SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD146 Herbert River Floodplain
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-18.54558, 146.34571
Area	1,404 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 8, Winter: 8

General site description

The Lucinda Shorebird Area is located adjacent to the coastal township of Lucinda in north Queensland. It extends from the southern end of the Hinchinbrook Channel, around Lucinda Point, and south along the coastline to the first creek estuary. The area is dominated by shallow intertidal mudflats backed by sandy beaches, with an estuarine creek system featuring sand bars, mudflats, and fringing mangroves. These diverse intertidal habitats provide important foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 203. Importance of SBA Lucinda for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	2,169	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2019	4,000 / 400	1,500	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2010	1,400 / 140	600	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2010	260 / 26	250	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	240*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2016	350 / 35	110*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2019	350 / 35	50	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2010	260 / 26	34	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Mackay

Table 204. Site account for Mackay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD052 Sandringham Bay-Bakers Creek Aggregation
Wetland type	A1, A4, A5, A9, A7, A8, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Repulse Bay to Ince Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-21.26482, 149.21798
Area	5,550 hectares
No. of count areas	33
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 12

General site description

The Mackay Shorebird Area lies adjacent to the city of Mackay in north Queensland and extends along the coastline from the Mackay Port wetlands and the entrances of the Pioneer River and Bakers Creek, around Sandringham Bay and Dudgeon Point, to Dudgeon Beach. Key habitats include mangrove-lined estuaries, low-energy sandy beaches, and extensive intertidal mud and sand flats, with rocky platforms occurring at Dudgeon Point. The Dudgeon Point

wetlands and salt flats are also part of the shorebird area. These habitats provide crucial foraging and roosting grounds for migratory shorebirds.

Table 205. Importance of SBA Mackay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	5,695	0	8	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	3,750 / 375	2,000	0	11	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2010	260 / 26	1,601	13	14	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2013	1,400 / 140	1,241	0	9	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	1,097	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2013	800 / 80	656	0	10	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2023	900 / 90	640	0	15	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	526	2	15	QWSG; ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2014	1,500 / 150	468	0	11	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2015	4,000 / 400	434	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2015	260 / 26	258	0	9	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2023	750 / 75	200	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,200 / 120	197	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2010	350 / 35	177*	0	7	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2013	300 / 30	170	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2015	750 / 75	167	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2010	1,400 / 140	150*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2017	800 / 80	143	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2013	250 / 25	62	0	10	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2011	NA / 15	19	NA	7	QWSG; ASMP

Mapoon

Table 206. Site account for Mapoon SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD071 Port Musgrave Aggregation
Wetland type	A1, A2, A6, A7, A12, A9, A10, A11, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.03595, 141.92627
Area	36,508 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: NA

General site description

The Mapoon Shorebird Area is located northwest of Cairns in far north Queensland, centred on Port Musgrave where the Ducie and Wenlock Rivers flow into a shallow marine estuary. The area features large, sheltered saline estuaries with extensive subtidal and intertidal flats, alongside smaller supratidal flats. The coastline around the estuary entrance is characterised by sandy beaches backed by broad intertidal mudflats. These diverse coastal habitats provide important feeding and roosting grounds for migratory shorebirds.

Table 207. Importance of SBA Mapoon for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2017	20,000 / 2,000	4,583	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	1,700	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,300 / 130	1,601	1	4	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2017	260 / 26	922	2	6	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2024	4,000 / 400	749	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2022	1,400 / 140	607	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2017	2,300 / 230	556	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2016	900 / 90	489	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2017	350 / 35	223	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2024	1,100 / 110	210	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2017	750 / 75	205	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Little Curlew	Summer	2017	1,100 / 110	180	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2015	1,500 / 150	172	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	149	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	21	NA	4	QWSG; ASMP

Maroochy River

Table 208. Site account for Maroochy River SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD185 Coolum Creek and Lower Maroochy River
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, B14, A12, B1, B2, B10, B13, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-26.64053, 153.08716

Area	715 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA

General site description

The Maroochy River Shorebird Area is located near the coastal town of Maroochydore, north of Brisbane. It is centred on the Maroochy River estuary and its mouth, including the adjacent coastline. The area features shallow marine intertidal sand flats, with Goat Island presenting seaward sand flats and mangroves on the landward side. Narrow sandy beaches with intertidal sand flats border the river mouth, providing important habitat for migratory shorebirds to feed and roost.

Table 209. Importance of SBA Maroochy River for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Whimbrel	Summer	2023	900 / 90	154	0	2	QWSG; ASMP

Mission River

Table 210. Site account for Mission River SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-12.625121, 141.871846
Area	5,489 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

The Mission River Shorebird Area is located near the coastal town of Weipa, on the north west coast of the Cape York Peninsula. It is centred on the combined Mission, Embley and Pine River estuary and its three mouths, including the adjacent coastline. Narrow sandy beaches with intertidal sand flats fringe the river mouths, providing habitat for migratory shorebirds to feed and roost.

Table 211. Importance of SBA Mission River for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2014	260 / 26	30	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Moreton Bay

Table 212. Site account for Moreton Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	Moreton Bay (Site Number: 41)
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Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD134 Moreton Bay QLD194 Lake Coombabah
Wetland type	A1, B9, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, B1, B2, B4, B5, B7, A2, B14, A12, B13
Flyway Network Site	Moreton Bay (EAAF013)
Key Biodiversity Area	Moreton Bay and Pumicestone Passage
Geographical Coordinates	-27.45873, 153.29742
Area	115,767 hectares
No. of count areas	170
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Moreton Bay Shorebird Area lies immediately adjacent to Brisbane in southern Queensland, extending from the Caboolture River entrance into Deception Bay in the north, along the east sides of Moreton Island, North and South Stradbroke Islands, the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, and south to the Broadwater and Lake Coombabah near the Gold Coast. This large semi-enclosed estuarine bay is bounded by two of the world's largest sand dune islands. The environment is dominated by extensive intertidal marine and estuarine mudflats with substrates of mud, sand, or coral exposed at low tide. Mangroves fringe the muddy intertidal zones around estuaries and sheltered embayments. Lake Coombabah is a tidal lake fed by perennial Coombabah Creek, with depths ranging from less than 1.5 to over 5 metres in tidal reaches. The area supports about 900 hectares of tidal reaches, swamps, waterlogged depressions, and creek lines, providing rich habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 213. Importance of SBA Moreton Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2021	20,000 / 2,000	18,936	0	15	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2024	3,750 / 375	7,864	15	15	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	6,669	1	15	QWSG; ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2013	20,000 / 2,000	4,452	0	12	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,200 / 120	3,408	14	15	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2013	6,000 / 600	3,040	0	11	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,300 / 130	2,187	4	15	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2021	350 / 35	2,125	15	15	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2021	260 / 26	2,053	15	15	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2021	900 / 90	1,603	5	15	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2012	3,750 / 375	1,560	0	13	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	1,545	1	14	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2021	800 / 80	1,512	15	15	QWSG; ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2020	1,500 / 150	1,219	0	15	QWSG; ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2020	2,300 / 230	884	0	14	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	830	0	11	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,200 / 120	784	0	11	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2012	350 / 35	713	8	14	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2015	800 / 80	643	0	14	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Winter	2016	900 / 90	496	0	9	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2012	1,400 / 140	432	0	11	QWSG; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	280	1	15	QWSG; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	248	0	15	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2020	260 / 26	228	0	12	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2020	750 / 75	166	0	11	QWSG; ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2024	750 / 75	160	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2020	1,300 / 130	159	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	450 / 45	136*	0	5	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2019	300 / 30	135	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2016	300 / 30	104	0	8	QWSG; ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2019	300 / 30	83	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 35	55*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	25	NA	15	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Winter	2017	NA / 15	21	NA	14	QWSG; ASMP
Wandering Tattler	Summer	2024	100 / 10	10*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Noosa

Table 214. Site account for Noosa SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-26.43657, 153.07612
Area	2,702 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: 14

General site description

The Noosa River flows across a low-gradient coastal plain in southeast Queensland, bordered by the Cooloola sandmass to the east and sandstone hills to the west. The system includes a complex mosaic of permanent and seasonal freshwater, brackish, and saline lakes, marshes, heathlands, and estuarine wetlands. Fringing mangroves, swamp she-oak forest, and saltmarsh are prominent along the river and lake margins. Extensive intertidal flats, sedgeland, and heathlands support a diverse range of habitats. While urban development has impacted parts of the estuary, water quality remains generally high throughout the lakes and lower reaches. During flood events, broad areas of the floodplain become inundated, creating valuable temporary wetlands for waterbirds and shorebirds.

Table 215. Importance of SBA Noosa for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	26	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Pormpuraaw

Table 216. Site account for Pormpuraaw SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD067 Northeast Karumba Plain Aggregation
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A12, A8, A9, A10, A11, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-14.88732, 141.62827
Area	5,059 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

The Pormpuraaw Shorebird Area is located on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula in far north Queensland, covering the Gulf of Carpentaria coastline from Mookan Creek mouth to Chapman Beach and the adjacent floodplains. This diverse landscape includes marine intertidal flats, sandy beaches and foredunes, secondary dunes and swales, saline clay plains, and low coastal rises along the seaward edge. The area also features levees and margins of tidal channels, extensive estuarine lagoons, low-lying plains, depressions, and old stream channels. The environment is shaped by strong estuarine tidal influences, with additional extensive freshwater flooding during the wet season, creating a dynamic and productive habitat for shorebirds.

Table 217. Importance of SBA Pormpuraaw for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2013	6,000 / 600	622	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Port Clinton

Table 218. Site account for Port Clinton SBA

Ramsar Site	Shoalwater and Corio Bays Area (Site Number: 44)
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD054 Shoalwater Bay
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A5, A10, A7, A8, A9, A6
Flyway Network Site	EAAF094 Shoalwater Bay
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-22.53596, 150.67162
Area	10,201 hectares
No. of count areas	24
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

Port Clinton is a series of shallow marine embayments and estuaries along the central Queensland coast, bordered by rocky headlands, sandy beaches, and low-lying freshwater swamps. The area features extensive tidal flats and mangrove forests, with dune lakes, saline coastal flats, wet heath, and periodically inundated woodlands also present. Freshwater swamps dominated by sedgeland and shrubby woodland fringe the margins of the coastal system. Intertidal sand and mudflats, along with mangrove-lined estuaries, provide important foraging habitat for shorebirds and waterbirds. The diversity of wetland types supports a range of ecological communities across both marine-influenced and freshwater environments. Port Clinton was included in previous, comprehensive shorebird surveys (ca. 2007 and earlier) identified as Shoalwater Bay and including both of these SBAs, because Shoalwater Bay and Port Clinton provide near-contiguous shorebird habitat and both lie within the vast Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area.

Table 219. Importance of SBA Port Clinton for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	2,043	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2020	3,750 / 375	1,180*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Summer	2020	900 / 90	643*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Great Knot	Summer	2019	4,000 / 400	555	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2019	350 / 35	354	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2020	260 / 26	348*	1	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Port Douglas

Table 220. Site account for Port Douglas SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-16.479722, 145.43529
Area	2,190 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

Port Douglas SBA encompasses an area between the coastal town of the same name and the Mossman River mouth at Cooya Beach to the north, approximately 60 km north of Cairns. Habitat mostly consists of intertidal sand and mudflats, along with mangrove-lined estuaries, providing foraging habitat for shorebirds and waterbirds.

Table 221. Importance of SBA Port Douglas for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2020	260 / 26	34*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Pumicestone Passage

Table 222. Site account for Pumicestone Passage SBA

Ramsar Site	Moreton Bay (Site Number: 41)
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD136 Pumicestone Passage QLD188 Upper Pumicestone Coastal Plain
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A9, A7, A8, A6, C1, B1, B9, B10, B13, B15, A12

Flyway Network Site	Moreton Bay (EAAF013)
Key Biodiversity Area	Moreton Bay and Pumicestone Passage
Geographical Coordinates	-27.08753, 153.13561
Area	8,437 hectares
No. of count areas	68
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 14

General site description

The Pumicestone Passage Shorebird Area is located at the northern end of Moreton Bay in southern Queensland, north of Brisbane. It extends from the southern end of Bribie Island along the narrow passage between the island's western coast and the mainland, northward to Wickham Point at Caloundra. This shallow, low-energy waterway is shaped by limited ocean exchange and silt deposition from several mainland creeks, creating vast intertidal flats that support extensive foraging habitat for shorebirds. The area also includes seagrass meadows and is fringed by mangroves and melaleuca swamps within the adjacent Bribie Island National Park. Pumicestone Passage includes the well-known Toorbul roost site, making it a key location for monitoring migratory shorebirds.

Table 223. Importance of SBA Pumicestone Passage for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	6,908	0	15	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2010	3,750 / 375	5,486	5	15	QWSG; ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2012	20,000 / 2,000	2,277	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2012	3,750 / 375	1,888	0	7	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	992	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	990	1	15	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2011	4,000 / 400	955	0	10	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2016	350 / 35	813	7	15	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2011	900 / 90	453	0	15	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2016	800 / 80	444	0	9	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2017	350 / 35	400*	1	14	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	354	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Winter	2016	900 / 90	274	0	8	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2015	260 / 26	232	0	14	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2012	1,400 / 140	202	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2021	750 / 75	191	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2010	260 / 26	50*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2023	250 / 25	30*	0	2	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2010	NA / 15	21	NA	13	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Winter	2015	NA / 15	15	NA	1	QWSG; ASMP

Punsand Bay

Table 224. Site account for Punsand Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A7, A6, A9, A4
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-10.71923, 142.47718
Area	267 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Punsand Bay Shorebird Area is located at the northern tip of Cape York Peninsula and consists of approximately 7 kilometres of sandy beach, interspersed with small headlands and a minor estuary. Shorebird habitat is dominated by beach frontage, with intertidal flats several hundred metres wide near the estuary at the eastern end. The estuary is fed by a small local catchment and provides additional foraging and roosting habitat. With tidal influence reaching up to 3.5 metres nearby at Thursday Island, the site offers important intertidal feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds in a remote part of far north Queensland.

Table 225. Importance of SBA Punsand Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2014	1,400 / 140	177	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2014	260 / 26	114	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Repulse Bay

Table 226. Site account for Repulse Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD050 Proserpine-Goorganga Plain
Wetland type	A1, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, B14, A11, B1, B4, B6, B10, A10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Repulse Bay to Ince Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-20.45311, 148.78705

Area	4,924 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: NA

General site description

The Repulse Bay Shorebird Area is located north of Mackay in north Queensland and encompasses the coastline of Repulse Bay, including the estuaries of the Proserpine and O'Connell rivers, and Repulse and Thompson creeks. The area features mangrove-lined estuaries, extensive intertidal mud and sand flats, and sandy beaches or mangroves backing the shoreline. Tidal waters from the marine and estuarine systems regularly flood the flats and channels, while freshwater discharge during wet season events can temporarily lower salinity levels. These broad intertidal zones provide valuable feeding habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 227. Importance of SBA Repulse Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2018	20,000 / 2,000	6,405	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2011	4,000 / 400	4,047	1	6	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2018	260 / 26	1,250	5	5	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	3,750 / 375	545	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2011	1,400 / 140	340	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2018	900 / 90	311	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2015	350 / 35	270	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2013	2,300 / 230	241	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2015	750 / 75	170	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	150	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2011	800 / 80	97	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2020	NA / 15	16	NA	2	QWSG; ASMP

Rodds Bay

Table 228. Site account for Rodds Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD129 Colosseum Inlet and Rodds Bay
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A9, A6, A7, A8, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA

Geographical Coordinates	-24.05322, 151.64873
Area	6,271 hectares
No. of count areas	15
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: 2

General site description

The Rodds Bay Shorebird Area is located south of Gladstone in central Queensland and is centred on the interconnected, mangrove-dominated estuarine wetlands along the western side of Rodds Peninsula. The site features extensive mangrove forests and shrublands with clear zonation patterns, backed by smaller areas of salt-flats. The estuary is shallow, permanent, and saline, with limited freshwater input, and the entrance supports intertidal sand flats and bars. These intertidal zones and sheltered estuarine habitats provide important foraging areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 229. Importance of SBA Rodds Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	3,750 / 375	501	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	262	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2012	800 / 80	239	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2012	750 / 75	195	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2011	350 / 35	131	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2011	260 / 60	75	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2012	260 / 26	30	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Sand Bay

Table 230. Site account for Sand Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD051 Sand Bay
Wetland type	A1, A4, A5, A9, A7, A8, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Repulse Bay to Ince Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-20.97599, 149.06113
Area	4,842 hectares
No. of count areas	14
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: NA

General site description

The Sand Bay Shorebird Area is located north of Mackay in north Queensland, extending from Cape Hillsborough to Shoal Point and encompassing the estuaries of Constant and Reliance creeks. This coastal zone forms a marine and estuarine wetland complex with a varied shoreline of sandy beaches, extensive intertidal mudflats, and mangrove forests. The area experiences strong tidal influence with a range of up to 6 metres, leading to broad exposure of feeding habitat at low tide. During the wet season, freshwater inputs dilute estuarine areas to brackish conditions, while waters remain mostly shallow and saline throughout the year. These extensive intertidal flats and estuarine zones offer high-quality foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 231. Importance of SBA Sand Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2015	20,000 / 2,000	4,295	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2013	4,000 / 400	1,674	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	1,257	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2011	2,750 / 275	585	1	3	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2015	1,400 / 140	522	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	489	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2013	3,750 / 375	472	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2015	900 / 90	453	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	330	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2015	800 / 80	211	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2011	750 / 75	95	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2020	300 / 30	43	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2011	NA / 15	17	NA	2	QWSG; ASMP

South East Gulf of Carpentaria

Table 232. Site account for South East Gulf of Carpentaria SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD114 Southern Gulf Aggregation
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A10, A7, A8, A9, A6
Flyway Network Site	South-East Gulf of Carpentaria: Karumba Smithburne (Delta Downs) (EAAF 120); South-East Gulf of Carpentaria: Nijinda Durlga (Tarrant) (EAAF 125); Wernadinga Coast (EAAF149).
Key Biodiversity Area	Gulf Plains

Geographical Coordinates	-17.70856, 140.13688
Area	112,042 hectares
No. of count areas	41
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: 1

General site description

The South East Gulf of Carpentaria Shorebird Area spans over 550 kilometres of coastline in Queensland, from west of Forsyth Island to the mouth of the Mitchell River. A central zone between Tarrant Point and the Smithburne River supports the majority of shorebirds. This vast, remote area features a complex continuum of coastal habitats, including intertidal flats, mangroves, tidal estuaries and creek channels, and vast salt flats/marshes. It is subject to both regular tidal inundation and significant freshwater flooding during the wet season, often intensified by cyclones. Intertidal and supratidal flats, along with emergent, forested, and scrub-shrub wetlands, support diverse ecological functions. The dominant foreshores are muddy-silty sands and in the core area, the major shorebird roosts are on sand-shell beaches, many of them small in size and subject to alteration by storms and invasion of mangroves. Despite its importance as one of Australia's most significant shorebird areas, it has been comprehensively surveyed on only a few major expeditions due to its large extent, remoteness and near-absence of public road access. The extensive, undisturbed intertidal flats and estuarine wetlands make this site critical for supporting large numbers of migratory shorebirds, including birds that forage there all summer as well as others that use the area on passage to south-eastern Australia and New Zealand. Data held by other organisations confirm the site's importance and indicate a high level of importance also for coast beyond this site including in the nearby Wellesley Islands.

Table 233. Importance of SBA SE Gulf of Carpentaria for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2013	20,000 / 2,000	54,071	1	2	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2013	4,000 / 400	28,979	2	2	QWSG; ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2015	20,000 / 2,000	19,515	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2013	2,300 / 230	9,609	1	2	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	7,649	1	2	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2013	6,000 / 600	6,616	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Black-tailed Godwit	Winter	2015	2,300 / 230	6,080	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Little Curlew	Summer	2019	1,100 / 110	6,000*	1	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Great Knot	Winter	2015	4,000 / 400	5,860	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2013	1,400 / 140	5,281	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2015	6,000 / 600	2,331	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Winter	2015	1,300 / 130	1,825	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2013	260 / 26	967	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2013	3,750 / 375	913	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2015	1,400 / 140	810	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2020	1,200 / 120	700*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2015	350 / 35	533	1	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	509	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Common Greenshank	Winter	2015	1,100 / 110	496	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2013	900 / 90	460	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	406	1	2	QWSG; ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2013	750 / 75	311	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Marsh Sandpiper	Winter	2015	1,300 / 130	307	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2013	300 / 30	238	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2015	1,300 / 130	186	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	150*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Winter	2015	900 / 90	135	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2013	750 / 75	133	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2013	1,100 / 110	125	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,200 / 120	125*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2013	450 / 45	98	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2013	800 / 80	85	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2015	300 / 30	85	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2013	NA / 15	24	NA	2	QWSG; ASMP
Species diversity	Winter	2015	NA / 15	19	NA	1	QWSG; ASMP

Seaforth

Table 234. Site account for Seaforth SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A4, A5, A9, A7, A8, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Repulse Bay to Ince Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-20.89785, 148.97585
Area	611 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: NA

General site description

The Seaforth Shorebird Area is located north of Mackay in north Queensland and extends along the coastline from the west side of Cape Hillsborough to the east side of Port Newry,

encompassing Ball Bay, Halliday Bay, Seaforth Beach, and Finlaysons Point. The shoreline features a diverse mix of sandy beaches, extensive intertidal mudflats, and rocky headlands, particularly around Halliday Bay, with mangrove forests backing much of the coast. The area forms a complex of marine and estuarine wetlands influenced by a tidal range of up to 6 metres. Shallow inshore waters are predominantly saline but become brackish during the wet season due to freshwater input from local catchments. The varied coastal habitats and extensive intertidal flats provide important foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 235. Importance of SBA Seaforth for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Whimbrel	Summer	2013	900 / 90	111	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2012	260 / 26	72	0	10	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2017	350 / 35	61	0	6	QWSG; ASMP

Shoalwater

Table 236. Site account for Shoalwater SBA

Ramsar Site	Shoalwater and Corio Bays Area (Site Number: 44)
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD054 Shoalwater Bay QLD048 Island Head Creek-Port Clinton Area
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A5, A10, A7, A8, A9, A6
Flyway Network Site	EAAF094 Shoalwater Bay
Key Biodiversity Area	Shoalwater Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-22.58538, 150.57245
Area	34,719 hectares
No. of count areas	98
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Shoalwater Shorebird Area is located north of Rockhampton along Queensland's central east coast, extending from Macdonald Point to Cape Clinton. It includes Shoalwater Bay, a bay opening to Island Head, and the indented shores of Townshend and Leicester islands. The intertidal zone is dominated by extensive shallow mud and sand flats - especially in Shoalwater Bay - along with prevalent seagrass beds and fringing mangrove forests dissected by tidal creeks. While small beaches, spits, and salt flats occur primarily on the western side, steep rocky shores feature in the far east. High-tide shorebird roosts are concentrated at sites like West Point beach, Shoalwater Creek mouth, and exposed mangrove branches (numerous roosts especially in the east of Shoalwater Bay) or salt flats. The area's vast intertidal habitats and remote, undeveloped character support significant numbers of migratory shorebirds. Being within a military training area, natural values are protected through enforced environmental requirements.

Table 237. Importance of SBA Shoalwater for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	5,410	0	1	Aecom (2016)
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	2,349	1	1	Aecom (2016)
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2016	750 / 75	1,149	1	1	Aecom (2016)
Whimbrel	Summer	2016	900 / 90	789	0	1	Aecom (2016)
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	3,750 / 375	605	0	1	Aecom (2016)
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2016	350 / 35	518	1	1	Aecom (2016)
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2020	260 / 26	386*	1	1	Aecom (2016); incidental*

Skyring Estuary

Table 238. Site account for Skyring Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, B9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-24.74034, 152.3484
Area	1,409 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: 4

General site description

The Skyring Estuary Shorebird Area is located just north of Bundaberg in central Queensland, encompassing the western sand spit of Barubbra Island and extending east to the mouth of Croome Creek. The site features mangrove-lined estuarine channels, intertidal mudflats, sand flats, and sand bars, with small islands situated near the estuary entrance. The coastline east of the estuary is dominated by low-energy sandy beaches backed by additional intertidal flats. These sheltered tidal environments provide important foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 239. Importance of SBA Skyring Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2012	1,500 / 150	216	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2015	750 / 75	122*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2014	800 / 80	94*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2010	350 / 35	48	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2010	350 / 35	46	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
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St. Helens Bay

Table 240. Site account for St. Helens Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD055 St Helens Bay Area
Wetland type	A1, A2, A3, A9, A5, A6, A7, A4
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Repulse Bay to Ince Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-20.88135, 148.85868
Area	7,731 hectares
No. of count areas	8
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: 7

General site description

The St Helens Bay Shorebird Area is located north of Mackay in north Queensland, extending from just west of Port Newry and including Rabbit Island, St Helens Bay, and the coastline opposite Brothers Island. The site features a diverse marine and estuarine wetland complex, with sandy beaches, extensive intertidal mudflats, and mangrove forests. These tidal environments are regularly inundated by saline waters, with seasonal freshwater input from catchment runoff during the wet season. The combination of intertidal flats and sheltered foraging areas makes this site important habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 5. Importance of SBA St. Helens Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Great Knot	Summer	2012	4,000 / 400	1,034	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2013	3,750 / 375	727	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2015	350 / 35	95	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Winter	2012	750 / 75	76	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2015	350 / 35	45	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2013	260 / 26	30	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Taylors Beach

Table 242. Site account for Taylors Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD146 Herbert River Floodplain
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11

Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-18.62568, 146.33364
Area	1,096 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Taylors Beach Shorebird Area is located near the coastal village of Taylors Beach in north Queensland, centred on the estuary of Victoria Creek and the adjacent coastline. The site features extensive shallow intertidal mudflats backed by sandy beaches, along with an estuarine creek system containing sand bars, mudflats, and mangrove-lined channels. This mosaic of intertidal habitats supports a variety of foraging and roosting opportunities, making it a valuable site for migratory shorebirds.

Table 243. Importance of SBA Taylors Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Great Knot	Summer	2022	4,000 / 400	1,100*	0	2	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2021	1,500 / 150	236*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Theodolite Creek

Table 244. Site account for Theodolite Creek SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD146 Burrum Coast
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A12, A8, A9, A11, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-25.07624, 152.53619
Area	785 hectares
No. of count areas	8
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: NA

General site description

The Theodolite Creek Shorebird Area is north of Maryborough in south-eastern Queensland, encompassing the estuary of the Theodolite River, adjacent coastline, and Woodgate Swamp to the south. The site includes extensive intertidal flats, sand bars, and sand flats at the river mouth, with mangroves and saltflats along the estuary and coastal margins. Inland, the area features freshwater wetlands dominated by wallum heath, with smaller patches of sedgeland and swamp forest. Woodgate Swamp is a shallow, seasonal, semi-permanent freshwater marsh. Low-energy sandy beaches back the intertidal flats, providing important habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 245. Importance of SBA Theodolite Creek for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Whimbrel	Summer	2012	900 / 90	208	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2012	260 / 26	206	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2010	350 / 35	199	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2011	260 / 26	39	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Toogoom to Point Vernon

Table 246. Site account for Toogoom to Point Vernon SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD146 Burrum Coast
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A6, A12, A8, A9, A11, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-25.26242, 152.75416
Area	3,253 hectares
No. of count areas	9
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 14

General site description

The Toogoom to Point Vernon Shorebird Area lies along the Hervey Bay coastline north of Maryborough in south-eastern Queensland. Extending from the beaches of Hervey Bay city through Point Vernon and the Eli and O'Regan Creek estuaries to north of the Beelbi Creek mouth, the area features extensive intertidal sand flats, bars, and spits. Mangrove and saltflat systems fringe the estuaries and coastline, while freshwater wetlands inland are dominated by wallum heath, sedgeland, and swamp forest. Low-energy sandy beaches and intertidal mudflats provide valuable foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 247. Importance of SBA Toogoom to Point Vernon for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	2,317	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	1,021	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2012	260 / 26	942	7	15	QWSG; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2015	3,750 / 375	623	0	5	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2013	4,000 / 400	503	0	3	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2020	1,400 / 140	382	0	6	QWSG; ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2011	900 / 90	159	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2012	350 / 35	103	0	12	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2016	350 / 35	44	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2018	260 / 26	42	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2015	250 / 25	25	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Wandering Tattler	Summer	2023	100 / 10	11*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*

Townsville Region

Table 248. Site account for Townsville Region SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, B1, B2, B4, B9, B10, B14,
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-19.19811, 146.6953
Area	7,536 hectares
No. of count areas	12
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: 5

General site description

The Townsville Region Shorebird Area is located adjacent to the city of Townsville in north Queensland and extends north along the Halifax Bay coastline to the Rollingstone Creek estuary. The area includes the estuaries of the Bohle and Black rivers and Bluewater Creek and is characterised by sandy beaches and extensive intertidal sand flats, interspersed with mangrove-lined estuaries and broad mudflats. Inland, the Bohle River floodplain supports swamps and claypans. This combination of estuarine, intertidal, and floodplain habitats provides rich foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 249. Importance of SBA Townsville Region for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	5,089	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2010	4,000 / 400	4,500	2	9	QWSG; ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2010	1,400 / 140	439	0	4	QWSG; ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2015	800 / 80	300	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	250	0	2	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	130	0	8	QWSG; ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2014	260 / 26	100	0	3	QWSG; ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2018	800 / 80	82	0	1	QWSG; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2024	350 / 35	35*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2011	NA / 15	15	NA	1	QWSG; ASMP

Upstart Bay

Table 250. Site account for Upstart Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	QLD004 Burdekin Delta Aggregation QLD009 Southern Upstart Bay
Wetland type	A2, A5, A6, A7, C1, A9, A10, A11, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-19.83155, 147.74118
Area	9,252 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Upstart Bay Shorebird Area is located south of Home Hill in north Queensland and encompasses the coastline of Upstart Bay, including Nobbies Inlet and the estuary mouths of Molongle and Rocky Ponds creeks. These extensive, low-lying coastal plain features predominantly saline environments, with some freshwater habitats in impoundments that fill irregularly with seasonal rain. The site includes open water and lower intertidal zones with dense seagrass beds, higher intertidal and supratidal flats, sandy beaches and ridges with low vine forest, mangroves, and freshwater swamps. These varied coastal and estuarine habitats support abundant food resources and diverse roosting sites for migratory shorebirds.

Table 251. Importance of SBA Upstart Bay for migratory shorebirds

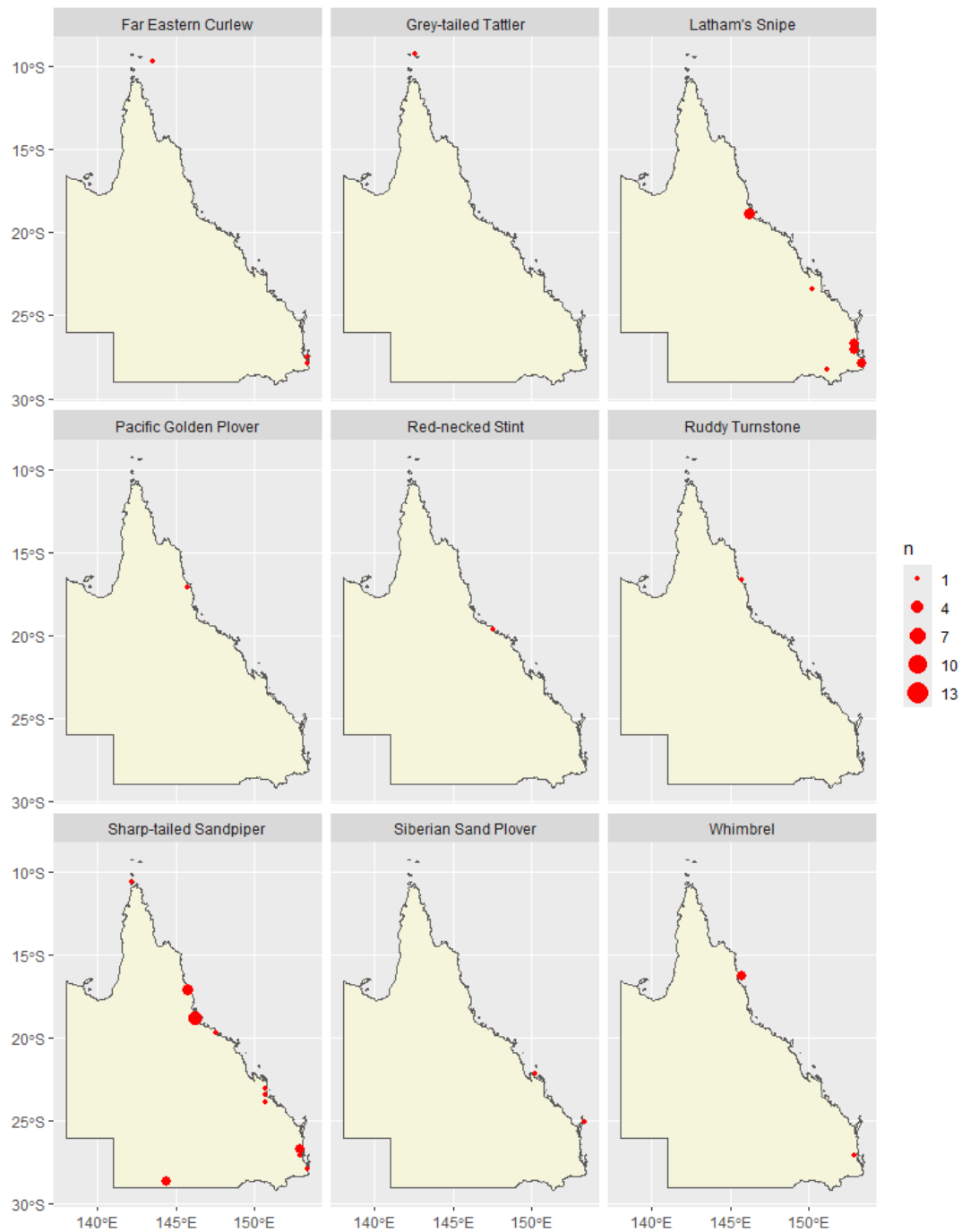
Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Whimbrel	Winter	2017	900 / 90	150*	0	1	QWSG; ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2021	350 / 35	45	0	1	QWSG; ASMP

Areas of importance outside the SBA network

Available data indicate nine shorebird species occurring in important numbers outside the SBA network in the state, apparently regularly so in a number of areas (Figure). Given the large number of coastal SBAs however for the majority of these species additional records only relate to a few scattered locations. Freshwater wetland specialists Latham's Snipe and Sharp-tailed

Sandpiper occurring on near-coastal plains and on inland wetlands are an exception, with numerous areas outside the SBA network apparently supporting important concentrations. These areas will be subject to further review in terms of potential inclusion in the national SBA network.

Figure 8. Frequency of annual occurrence of important species-specific shorebird numbers outside the SBA network in Queensland between 2009-2024, displayed at a 50x50km grid resolution.



South Australia

Geography and habitat

South Australia has more than 5,000 kilometres of mainland coastline and the fourth-largest area of intertidal habitat among Australian states. Extensive intertidal flats are found in low-energy coastal systems such as Coffin Bay, Venus Bay, Franklin Harbour, and the innermost reaches of Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent. These gulfs act as reverse estuaries: fine sediment carried southward accumulates at their heads, forming vast shallow flats. This process creates a gradient of increasing salinity and temperature from south to north, especially in Spencer Gulf, due to minimal freshwater inflows. These dynamic coastal systems support diverse shorebird communities, offering foraging opportunities across a mosaic of tidal habitats, including large areas of modified and man-made habitats, such as the extensive saltfields north of Adelaide.

West of Ceduna, the high-energy coastline dominated by sea cliffs provides little suitable habitat for shorebirds. In contrast, South Australia's southeast features several near-coastal wetlands of international significance, including Lake George and the Lower Lakes and Coorong complex. The Coorong is the state's most important shorebird site, supporting large numbers of migratory and resident species annually. However, its ecological condition depends heavily on freshwater inflows from the Murray–Darling Basin and local south-east drainage systems. During periods of low inflow, such as the Millennium Drought, salinity levels rise sharply, reducing habitat suitability for many species.

Inland, South Australia's largest potential shorebird habitats occur in the arid zone. Here, episodic flooding of the Channel Country rivers briefly provides extensive muddy habitat, and intense local rainfall fills vast salt lakes like Lake Eyre and Lake Torrens. These boom events support spectacular bird aggregations and are critical for arid-zone breeders such as Banded Stilt, and for staging Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and other migratory species when conditions are favourable (Kingsford & Porter 1993; Jaensch 2009; Reid et al. 2010; Clemens 2016).

Important sites

South Australia supports a scattered but vital network of nationally and internationally important shorebird sites, particularly along the coast from the Victorian border through to the Coorong, the Gulf St Vincent and the western Eyre Peninsula. Key sites include the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, which have long supported large populations of shorebirds.

Unlike many sites on Australia's north and east coasts, South Australia's shorebird habitats are terminal non-breeding destinations. Here, migratory shorebirds complete their southward journey to rest and feed over the austral spring and summer before migrating north to Northern Hemisphere breeding grounds in March and April.

The state's importance lies particularly in supporting smaller shorebird species. It is internationally significant for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Sanderling, with several sites also important for Red-necked Stint, Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Double-banded Plover, and Curlew Sandpiper. The Gulf St Vincent hosts several significant areas, such as the eastern tidal flats and saltmarsh, Port River estuary and adjacent saltfields, while the south-east near-coastal wetlands and salt lakes provide essential foraging and refuge habitat.

Inland, episodic wetlands in the arid zone—such as Lake Eyre and Lake Torrens—can become critical habitat during flood events, though these remain under-surveyed due to their remoteness and variability. None of the far-inland shorebird areas registered as important in this edition of the Directory, principally due to sparseness of survey effort and limited habitat suitability during the study’s timeframe.

Pressures and threats

South Australia is sparsely populated overall, with most of its residents living in Adelaide. Consequently, pressures from urbanisation and human disturbance are most pronounced around Adelaide. Recent increases in domestic tourism have also increased pressure from human disturbance in regional coastal towns, particularly via recreational driving on beaches. Many towns, including the capital, are situated near key shorebird habitats, particularly around Gulf St Vincent, where public access to intertidal flats increases the risk of disturbance from recreational activities, including dog walking, bait collection, crabbing, boating, and beach driving.

At a broader scale, landscape-level threats such as wetland sedimentation and altered river flows impact shorebird habitats, most severely in the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, where long-term hydrological changes (notably changes in discharge of the Murray River due to large-scale interstate harvesting of water for irrigation) have driven substantial declines in shorebird populations since the 1980s.

With the loss of regular flooding in the Murray–Darling Basin, the episodic wetlands of the Channel Country and Lake Eyre Basin may become increasingly important. However, understanding and protection of their conservation value is compromised by limited monitoring and management due to remoteness and unpredictability of flood events.

State of knowledge

The state of knowledge on shorebirds in South Australia is relatively high, particularly for coastal areas, thanks to long-term efforts by groups such as Friends of Shorebirds South East, Birds SA, the Australasian Wader Studies Group, and the Victorian Wader Study Group. Some surveys began at least 50 years ago and regular monitoring is conducted at around 60 SBAs across the state, with a strong emphasis on accessible coastal habitats.

While knowledge of coastal shorebird populations is contemporary and well-founded, understanding of inland sites—especially episodic wetlands in the arid north such as Lake Eyre, Lake Torrens, and the Channel Country—remains limited. These areas are difficult to access, vast, and only become available as shorebird habitat following significant rainfall in catchments or on site. Surveying them often requires targeted expeditions and special funding.

Aside from some localised and professional surveys in recent years, inland regions have seen little systematic monitoring. This is reflected in the scarcity of mapped inland sites, despite the ecological importance and size of wetland networks in the state’s interior.

Figure 9. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in South Australia (blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

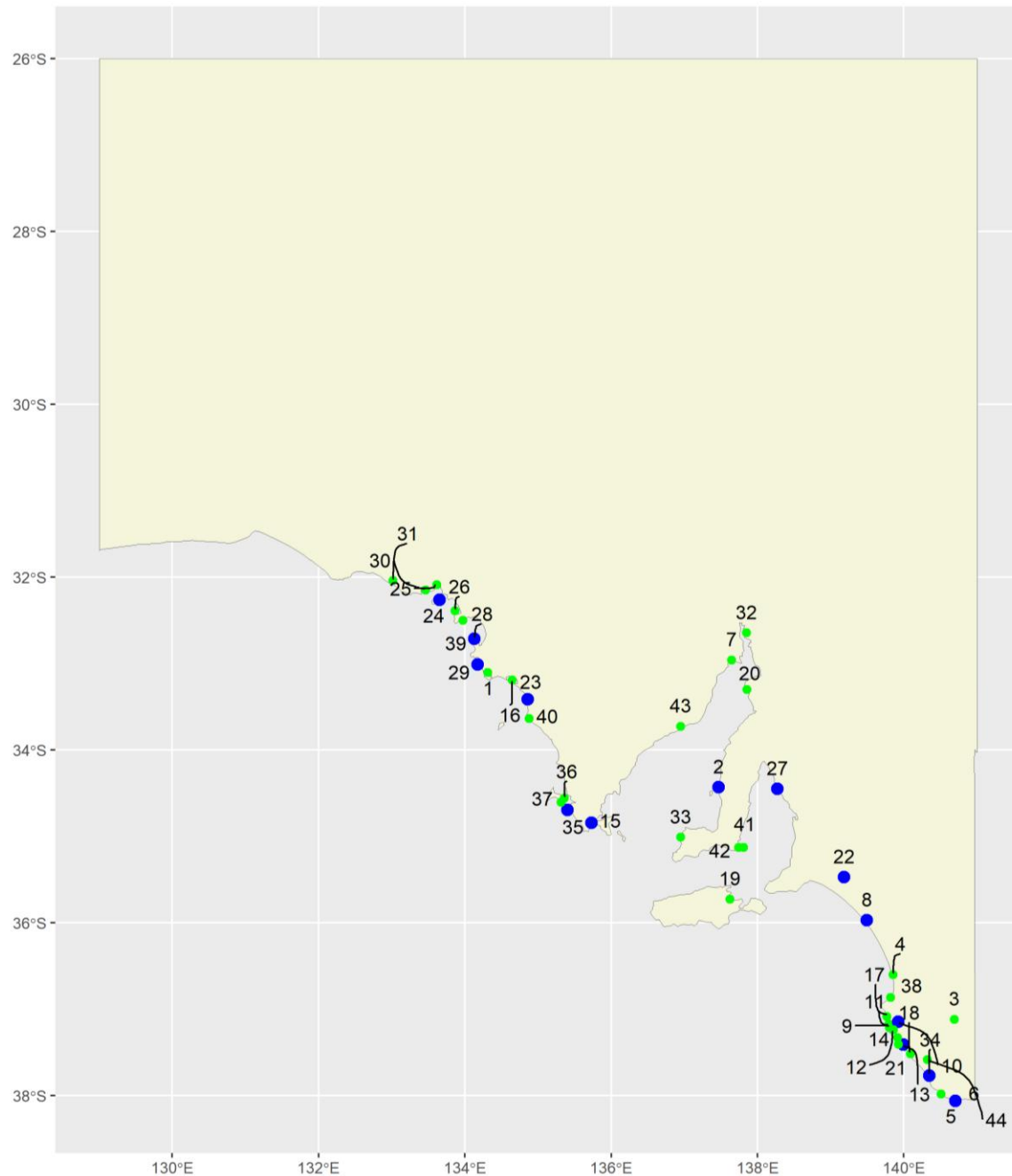


Table 252. List of map IDs for shorebird habitat in South Australia

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Baird Bay	1	Lake McIntyre, Millicent	44
Beachport National Park	21	Lake Newland	23
BHP Saltfields	7	Lake Robe	11
Bool Lagoon	3	Lake St Clair	14
Carpenter Rocks	5	Lower Yorke Peninsula	33
Coffin Bay	36	Murat Bay	25
Coorong	8	Point Brown to Acraman Creek	39

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
East Yorke Peninsula	42	Port Lincoln	15
Eyre Island	26	Port MacDonnell	6
Fox and Pub Lakes	9	Port Pirie coast	20
Franklin Harbor	43	Port Victoria	2
Guichen Bay	17	Rivoli Bay	18
Gulf St Vincent	27	Sceale Bay	29
Gunyah Beach	35	Sensation Beach	37
Kangaroo Island	19	St Peter Island	24
Kingston SE	38	Streaky Bay	28
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	22	Taratap	4
Lake Bonney SE	34	Tourville Bay	30
Lake Eliza	12	Troubridge Island	41
Lake George, SA	13	Venus Bay	16
Lake Hawdon	10	Waterloo Bay	40
Lake Macdonnell	31	Winninowie CP	32

Baird Bay

Table 253. Site account for Baird Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA004 Baird Bay
Wetland type	A1, A4, A8, A7, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.10553, 134.3128
Area	5,417 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: 1

General site description

The Baird Bay Shorebird Area is located on the west coast of South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, southeast of Streaky Bay. This shallow sheltered bay opens into Anxious Bay and features a narrow entrance with an extensive flood tide delta bisected by a single channel. Jones Island lies at the bay's mouth, with another unnamed island at its head. The area is dominated by sand flats, beach ridges, and dunes, with samphire shrublands on tidal flats, sedgeland in soaks, and mallee shrublands across coastal dunes and calcrete plains. The site supports the largest concentration of Grey Plovers on South Australia's west coast and provides important roosting habitat for seabirds on its islands, making it a valuable site for migratory shorebirds.

Table 254. Importance of SBA Baird Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2023	20,000 / 2,000	2,622	0	2	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	1,307	0	6	ASMP

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,300 / 130	615	0	4	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2011	1,300 / 130	360	0	2	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,200 / 120	290	0	3	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2011	750 / 75	288	0	7	ASMP
Grey Plover	Winter	2014	750 / 75	84	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	83	0	6	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2024	300 / 30	43	0	1	ASMP

Beachport National Park

Table 255. Site account for Beachport National Park SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.4064, 139.92453
Area	409 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Beachport Conservation Park is located between the township of Beachport and the Sunland Holiday Village in south-eastern South Australia. The site features high-energy sandy beaches facing southwest, with some rocky headlands and intertidal reef areas. Habitats include white sand beaches, weathered limestone cliffs, coastal dunes, and saltmarshes. These diverse environments support a range of coastal flora and attract numerous bird species. The intertidal flats, reef platforms, and saltmarshes provide important foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 256. Importance of SBA Beachport National Park for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2012	300 / 30	110*	0	1	Incidental*

BHP Saltfields

Table 257. Site account for BHP Saltfields SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA020 Upper Spencer Gulf
Wetland type	A1, A2, A9, A7, A8, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.96068, 137.64137
Area	3,693 hectares

No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: NA

General site description

The BHP Saltfields Shorebird Area is located on the western side of the Upper Spencer Gulf in South Australia, near the industrial area of Whyalla and adjacent to the BHP salt evaporation ponds at False Bay. The site includes commercial salt ponds and surrounding coastal habitats, featuring extensive intertidal sand and mudflats dissected by tidal channels that connect to the shallow, hypersaline waters of the gulf. As a reverse estuary, Spencer Gulf receives minimal freshwater input, resulting in high salinity levels. These conditions support abundant invertebrate communities, making the area an important feeding and roosting site for migratory shorebirds.

Table 258. Importance of SBA BHP Saltfields for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2023	20,000 / 2,000	3,149	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	2,000	0	2	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,300 / 130	1,100	0	5	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,200 / 120	200	0	1	ASMP

Bool Lagoon

Table 259. Site account for Bool Lagoon SBA

Ramsar Site	Bool and Hacks Lagoons (Site Number: 26)
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA052 Bool & Hacks Lagoons
Wetland type	B5, B13, B10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.11832, 140.68745
Area	3,371 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Bool Lagoon Game Reserve and Hacks Lagoon Conservation Park are located in the southeast of South Australia and form part of the Bool Lagoon wetland system, which comprises multiple shallow basins including Bool Lagoon, Little Bool Lagoon, Round Swamp, House Swamp, Hacks Lagoon, the Twig Rush Lagoons, and smaller unnamed wetlands. Situated in a broad interdunal flat, the basins are shallow depressions bordered by lunettes and support a mosaic of wetland vegetation and open water, with exposed mudflats during dry periods. The system is managed as a flood equalisation basin, receiving water from surrounding agricultural land, and serves as a critical remnant of once-extensive wetlands in a heavily drained region. It functions as an

important drought refuge and breeding site for waterbirds, and when conditions are suitable, the mudflats and shallows also provide valuable foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 6. Importance of SBA Bool Lagoon for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	5,000*	1	5	Incidental*

Carpenter Rocks

Table 260. Site account for Carpenter Rocks SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.98475, 140.50857
Area	646 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 12

General site description

The Carpenter Rocks Shorebird Area is located southwest of Mount Gambier in the far southeast of South Australia and extends along the coast from Cape Banks Lighthouse to Cape Douglas. The area is dominated by oceanic environments, featuring high-energy sandy beaches interspersed with rocky headlands, extensive rock platforms, and coastal outcrops. These exposed coastal habitats support limited intertidal flats, but the rock platforms and sandy stretches may provide important foraging areas for some shorebird species, particularly during lower tides.

Table 7. Importance of SBA Carpenter Rocks for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2017	20,000 / 2,000	2,012	0	1	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2017	6,000 / 600	1,735	0	7	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2014	300 / 30	310	1	15	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2024	300 / 30	200*	0	1	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2010	300 / 30	117	0	7	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	70	0	5	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP

Coffin Bay

Table 262. Site account for Coffin Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA008 Coffin Bay Coastal Wetland System
Wetland type	A1, A7, A5, A4
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Coffin Bay (Migratory Shorebird trigger species: NA)
Geographical Coordinates	-34.55769, 135.35658
Area	2,860 hectares
No. of count areas	9
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

Coffin Bay is located on the southern coast of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia and comprises narrow peninsulas—Coffin Bay and Horse Peninsula—that enclose sheltered bays and shallow marine waters. The coastline features limestone cliffs, narrow sandy beaches at the base of cliffs and in coves, and broader beaches where dunes meet the ocean. Within the bays, extensive intertidal mud and sandflats provide key foraging habitat, while flat limestone islands and outcrops offer secure high-tide roosting areas. This mix of sheltered flats and roost sites supports a variety of migratory shorebirds.

Table 263. Importance of SBA Coffin Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2020	6,000 / 600	949	0	4	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2024	300 / 30	365	1	7	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	297	0	2	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2020	750 / 75	158	0	2	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	130	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2020	300 / 30	113	0	5	ASMP

Coorong

Table 264. Site account for Coorong SBA

Ramsar Site	The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland (Site number: 25)
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA063 The Coorong, Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert
Wetland type	A10, B12, B8, A11
Flyway Network Site	The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert (EAAF016)
Key Biodiversity Area	The Coorong
Geographical Coordinates	-35.97026, 139.49342
Area	26,507 hectares
No. of count areas	29

Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 10
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General site description

The Coorong is a large, shallow coastal lagoon system located at the mouth of the Murray River in South Australia. It is separated from the Southern Ocean by the Youngusband Peninsula and divided into Northern and Southern Lagoons by long peninsulas. The Northern Lagoon connects to Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert, where fresh to brackish waters transition into saline conditions. South of the Southern Lagoon, shallow ephemeral salt lakes and swampy mudflats extend across the landscape. Seasonal water level fluctuations expose extensive intertidal mudflats, while habitats across the site include saline marshes, samphire flats, freshwater soaks, and hypersaline zones. These diverse wetlands provide critical foraging and roosting habitat for a wide range of migratory shorebirds.

Table 265. Importance of SBA Coorong for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2012	20,000 / 2,000	45,090	7	14	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2018	6,000 / 600	25,498	13	14	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	14,222	10	14	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2020	20,000 / 2,000	4,409	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2020	6,000 / 600	4,360	0	2	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,200 / 120	2,443	3	11	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2021	300 / 30	868	4	6	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2017	1,100 / 110	311	0	9	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2019	1,300 / 130	207	0	1	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,200 / 120	125*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	28*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

East Yorke Peninsula

Table 266. Site account for East Yorke Peninsula SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-35.13001, 137.74072
Area	1,592 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 12

General site description

The East Yorke Peninsula shorebird area lies along the west coast of Gulf St Vincent in South Australia, stretching from Sheoak Beach near Edithburgh north to Pine Point near Port Julia. The coastline is dominated by low-energy sandy beaches and extensive intertidal sandflats, interspersed with smaller areas of mudflats and saltmarsh, particularly around estuaries like Salt Swamp Creek near Coobowie. Rocky shorelines, such as those at Oyster Point near Stansbury, add to the habitat diversity. These sheltered coastal environments support important feeding and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 267. Importance of SBA East Yorke Peninsula for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	1,513	0	2	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	428	0	2	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2010	1,100 / 110	143	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	76	0	7	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2017	300 / 30	40*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2012	250 / 25	30*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Eyre Island

Table 268. Site account for Eyre Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Nuyts Archipelago
Geographical Coordinates	-32.38642, 133.86281
Area	6,351 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA

General site description

Eyre Island Shorebird Area is centred around Eyre Island, part of the Nuyts Archipelago near Smoky Bay on the west coast of South Australia. The island features large ocean-facing sand dunes and mangrove communities on the sheltered side, with similar coastal environments present along the adjacent mainland. The broader area includes rocky shores, intertidal sandflats, seagrass meadows, tidal deltas, and mangroves that fringe the shallow waters of Smoky Bay. This diverse mosaic of coastal and marine habitats supports important roosting and foraging areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 269. Importance of SBA Eyre Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2015	20,000 / 2,000	3,396	0	9	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	2,004	0	10	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	470	0	9	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	3,750 / 375	410	0	1	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2011	1,300 / 130	365	0	2	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2011	750 / 75	323	0	11	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2013	300 / 30	306	1	8	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,200 / 120	303	0	2	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2012	1,100 / 110	176	0	4	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	176	0	10	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2013	NA / 15	19	NA	7	ASMP

Fox and Pub Lakes

Table 270. Site account for Fox and Pub Lakes SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6, B17, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.17415, 139.79332
Area	32 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 8, Winter: NA

General site description

The Fox and Pub Lakes Shorebird Area is located 2 km west of Robe on South Australia's far southeast coast. It consists of two shallow lakes influenced by tidal incursion and freshwater inputs from inland drains via Lake Nunan. The lakes are fringed by tea-tree scrub, samphire flats, sedgeland, and coastal closed scrub. These habitats provide important foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 271. Importance of SBA Fox and Pub Lakes for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2010	350 / 35	150*	0	8	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP

Franklin Harbor

Table 272. Site account for Franklin Harbor SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	SA010 Franklin Harbour
Wetland type	A1, A2, A9, A7, A8, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.72705, 136.9472
Area	10,770 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: NA

General site description

Franklin Harbour is a shallow, almost landlocked embayment on the east coast of the Eyre Peninsula, protected at its mouth by a long, narrow sandy peninsula. The shorebird area includes tidal mudflats, sand flats, and a coastal dune system, with vegetation transitioning from mangroves to samphire, saltbush, and mallee inland. These diverse intertidal and coastal habitats provide critical foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 273. Importance of SBA Franklin Harbor for migratory shorebird

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	1,210	0	3	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	483	0	1	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2021	750 / 75	109	0	2	ASMP

Guichen Bay

Table 274. Site account for Guichen Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.08383, 139.76739
Area	592 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Guichen Bay is located on the southeast coast of South Australia, with its eastern side extending 11 kilometres south of Cape Thomas along Long Beach, a high-energy sandy ocean beach. The southern shore of the bay is more rugged, featuring rocky points and extensive intertidal rock platforms. These contrasting coastal environments offer a mix of dynamic wave-exposed beaches and more stable rocky platforms, creating varied foraging conditions. While vegetation and inland features are not detailed, the area's shoreline provides critical roosting

and feeding habitat. Guichen Bay supports regular occurrences of Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone, making it important for migratory shorebirds.

Table 275. Importance of SBA Guichen Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	117*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2024	300 / 30	30*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Gulf St Vincent

Table 276. Site account for the Gulf St Vincent SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA019 Wills Creek SA007 Clinton SA015 Port Gawler and Buckland Park Lake SA005 Barker Inlet and St Kilda
Wetland type	A1, A2, C4, B6, A6, A7, A8, A9
Flyway Network Site	Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (EAAF131)
Key Biodiversity Area	Gulf St Vincent
Geographical Coordinates	-34.45209, 138.2689
Area	33,125 hectares
No. of count areas	28
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Gulf St Vincent Shorebird Area is a reverse estuary on South Australia's central coast, supporting a mosaic of marine, coastal, inland, and artificial wetlands. Natural habitats include tidal flats, estuaries, tidal creeks, mangroves, saltmarshes, seagrass meadows, and supratidal claypans, while artificial wetlands such as commercial saltfields at Price and Dry Creek, stormwater detention basins, effluent ponds, and a seasonal freshwater lake further enhance habitat diversity. Sediment transported southward accumulates at the gulf's head, forming extensive shallow waters and mudflats, particularly near Clinton Conservation Park. Between Ardrossan and Barker Inlet, this complex gradient of temperature, salinity, and habitat structure supports a wide diversity of migratory shorebirds.

Table 277. Importance of SBA Gulf St Vincent for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2023	20,000 / 2,000	19,040	0	15	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	12,779	8	15	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2018	1,300 / 130	7,586	13	15	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2020	20,000 / 2,000	3,708	0	2	ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2020	6,000 / 600	3,258	0	8	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,300 / 130	2,815	4	15	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	3,750 / 375	1,000*	0	7	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,200 / 120	948	0	13	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2011	4,000 / 400	800	0	1	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2023	1,100 / 110	398	0	15	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2022	750 / 75	388	0	14	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,200 / 120	340	0	3	ASMP
Red Knot	Winter	2023	1,300 / 130	335	0	5	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	293	0	15	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2018	1,300 / 130	135	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2020	300 / 30	129*	0	4	ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2023	350 / 35	127	0	11	ASMP
Grey Plover	Winter	2020	750 / 75	92	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	55	0	6	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2020	300 / 30	40	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2015	300 / 30	32	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2019	NA / 15	23	NA	15	ASMP

Gunyah Beach

Table 278. Site account for Gunyah Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA008 Coffin Bay Coastal Wetland System
Wetland type	A5, A4
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Coffin Bay (Migratory Shorebird trigger species: NA)
Geographical Coordinates	-34.69841, 135.4029
Area	329 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: 5

General site description

Gunyah Beach is situated on the south coast of the Eyre Peninsula, extending 17 kilometres from Point Avoid to rocky outcrops near Shoal Point on the southeastern corner of the Coffin Bay Peninsula. The area is dominated by high-energy oceanic sandy beaches, with rocky platforms and outcrops marking its boundaries. These dynamic coastal habitats provide foraging and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds that rely on exposed sandy shores and intertidal zones along the oceanfront.

Table 279. Importance of SBA Gunyah Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2014	300 / 30	1,228	7	11	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2014	6,000 / 600	633	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2010	300 / 30	369	1	2	ASMP

Kangaroo Island

Table 280. Site account for Kangaroo Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA023 Busby and Beatrice Islets SA024 Cygnet Estuary SA021 American River Wetland System SA078 Rush Lagoon SA032 Murray Lagoon SA026 D'Estrees Bay
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A8, A7, A6, A10, B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Kangaroo Island
Geographical Coordinates	-35.72899, 137.62293
Area	7,884 hectares
No. of count areas	21
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 11

General site description

The Kangaroo Island shorebird area is concentrated in the island's east, where diverse coastal and wetland habitats contrast with the predominantly rocky cliffs of the west. Key sites include the Busby/Beatrice Islets, Cygnet Estuary, American River wetlands, Rush and Murray Lagoons, and D'Estrees Bay. These areas support intertidal mudflats, tidal estuaries, sandy beaches, shallow lagoons, saline swamps, and permanent inland wetlands. Habitats range from exposed cocklebeds and shell beaches to vegetated freshwater-fed lagoons and salt-tolerant paperbark shrublands. This ecological variety supports a broad array of foraging and roosting conditions, making eastern Kangaroo Island a critical refuge for migratory shorebirds.

Table 8. Importance of SBA Kangaroo Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	974	0	4	ASMP

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	800	0	3	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2012	300 / 30	129	0	8	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2010	300 / 30	37	0	2	ASMP

Kingston SE

Table 282. Site account for Kingston SE SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA053 Lakes Butchers and Salt
Wetland type	A5, B12, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-36.86719, 139.81923
Area	339 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Kingston SE shorebird area includes Butchers Gap Conservation Park and Maria Creek Reserve, supporting a diverse range of wetland and coastal habitats behind a low, well-vegetated dune system. Inland, three shallow lakes—Butchers Lake, Salt Lake, and an unnamed lake—are seasonally inundated, expanding into surrounding tea-tree and sedge swamps during wet years. These wetlands receive inflow from agricultural drains and a freshwater spring. Tea-tree scrub, samphire, and saltmarsh vegetation surround the lakes. Maria Creek Reserve provides extensive coastal saltmarsh, isolated freshwater wetlands, and seaweed-covered beaches. These varied habitats support foraging and roosting for a range of migratory shorebirds.

Table 283. Importance of SBA Kingston SE for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	300*	0	1	Incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2018	350 / 35	175*	0	3	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP

Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert

Table 284. Site account for Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert SBA

Ramsar Site	The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland (Site number: 25)
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA063 The Coorong, Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert
Wetland type	A10, B12, B8, A11
Flyway Network Site	The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert (EAAF016)
Key Biodiversity Area	The Coorong

Geographical Coordinates	-35.47344, 139.18058
Area	129,280 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 2

General site description

Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert, located southeast of Adelaide, form South Australia's largest freshwater system, comprising fresh to brackish and saline waters. Connected to the Coorong's northern lagoons via the River Murray mouth, the lakes support a variety of permanent and ephemeral wetlands, including shoreline marshes. Despite significant alteration from river regulation, agriculture, and recreational use, the area provides diverse habitats and serves as an important drought refuge for waterbirds. The lakes' wetlands support feeding, roosting, and breeding for migratory shorebirds within a landscape dominated by farming and lakeside towns.

Table 285. Importance of SBA Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	45,462	1	2	MDBA (2019); ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	30,435	1	1	MDBA (2019); ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	11,299	2	10	MDBA (2019); ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,200 / 120	1,018	0	2	MDBA (2019); ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2020	1,200 / 120	200*	0	1	MDBA (2019); ASMP; incidental*
Common Greenshank	Summer	2010	1,100 / 110	198	0	1	MDBA (2019); ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	67*	0	4	MDBA (2019); ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2014	300 / 30	50*	0	1	MDBA (2019); ASMP; incidental*

Lake Bonney SE

Table 286. Site account for Lake Bonney SE

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.7715, 140.34845
Area	8,180 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: 7

General site description

Lake Bonney SE, in South Australia's far southeast, is one of Australia's largest permanent freshwater lakes, experiencing seasonal water level fluctuations from freshwater inflows and winter rainfall. The shoreline features sandy beaches, sand flats, mud flats, and marshes, providing a diverse mosaic of habitats. Although impacted by pulp mill discharge, the lake remains a critical site supporting migratory shorebirds by offering feeding and resting areas within its wetland habitats.

Table 287. Importance of SBA Lake Bonney SE for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2021	20,000 / 2,000	7,782	0	8	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2021	6,000 / 600	6,277	1	8	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	2,221	3	8	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2024	250 / 25	917	3	6	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2021	6,000 / 600	756	0	1	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2020	1,100 / 110	114	0	1	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP

Lake Eliza

Table 288. Site account for Lake Eliza SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA062 South East Coastal Salt Lakes
Wetland type	A6, B17, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Hawdon
Geographical Coordinates	-37.24075, 139.85883
Area	4,063 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Eliza, located in the far southeast of South Australia within Little Dip Conservation Park, is a shallow, hypersaline interdune lake bordered by coastal scrub, dense melaleuca groves, rushes, and samphire flats. It receives water from local runoff, natural springs, and private drains and is part of a larger lake system including Freshwater Lake. This mosaic of vegetation and shallow hypersaline waters provides crucial habitat and feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds.

Table 289. Importance of SBA Lake Eliza for migratory shorebird

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	3,182	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	2,903	0	1	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,200 / 120	135	0	1	ASMP

Lake George

Table 290. Site account for Lake George SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA062 South East Coastal Salt Lakes
Wetland type	A6, B17, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Hawdon
Geographical Coordinates	-37.41023, 139.98984
Area	5,767 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: 13

General site description

Lake George, located in the far southeast of South Australia, is a deep estuarine lake system comprising three interconnected water bodies: the Big (northern) Lake, Middle Lake, and Southern (little) Lake. Situated in an interdune corridor, it is intermittently connected to the sea and fringed by tea-tree vegetation. The western shore supports coastal foredune scrub, herblands, and low open forests, while the eastern shore has largely been cleared for pasture with sedges and rushes along the lakeshore. This diverse estuarine habitat provides important feeding and resting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 291. Importance of SBA Lake George, SA for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2024	20,000 / 2,000	10,563	0	9	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	9,436	5	9	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	5,065	3	7	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	717	8	12	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2013	6,000 / 600	656	0	1	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP

Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,200 / 120	180	0	2	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
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Lake Hawdon

Table 292. Site account for Lake Hawdon SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6, B17, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Hawdon
Geographical Coordinates	-37.14923, 139.92544
Area	11,258 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Hawdon, located about 16 kilometres east of Robe in South Australia's far southeast, is a shallow, seasonally inundated lake situated within a coastal interdunal corridor. It is fed by local runoff, natural springs, and private drains. The lake is fringed by dense vegetation and supports extensive sedgeland dominated by species such as *Baumea* and *Juncus*. These sedgelands and seasonal wetlands provide valuable feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds during periods of inundation. Recent initiatives from the SA Department for Environment and Water such as the Lake Hawdon North Restoration Project aim to improve habitat quality and availability for Shorebirds.

Table 293. Importance of SBA Lake Hawdon for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	16,796	0	5	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	16,430	3	5	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	2,070	0	4	Friends of Shorebirds SE (FoSSE); ASMP

Lake Macdonnell

Table 294. Site account for Lake Macdonnell SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.03836, 133.01265

Area	928 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: 1

General site description

Lake Macdonnell, on the far western edge of the Eyre Peninsula, is a former salt mine and now the site of Australia's largest gypsum mine. The lake is characterised by high salinity and a distinctive pink hue caused by salt-tolerant algae and bacteria. Surrounding habitats include sand dunes, salt marshes, and mudflats, forming a unique salt lake ecosystem. These saline conditions support specialised invertebrates, providing an important food source for migratory shorebirds that forage and roost along the lake's edge.

Table 295. Importance of SBA Lake Macdonnell for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2024	6,000 / 600	792	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2024	300 / 30	180	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2024	300 / 30	173	0	1	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,200 / 120	120*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Winter	2011	300 / 30	60	0	1	ASMP

Lake Newland

Table 296. Site account for Lake Newland SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA012 Lake Newland
Wetland type	B7; also, B12 and B17
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Newland KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.41601, 134.85976
Area	3,577 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Newland is located on the west coast of Eyre Peninsula and comprises a series of semi-continuous lakes and ponds extending over 18 kilometres. These lakes lie in a coastal depression inland, running parallel to the shoreline and separated from the sea by tall sand dunes. The system is primarily fed by freshwater springs emerging from the dune system, with additional input from direct winter rainfall. Water levels fluctuate seasonally, and the lakes are typically shallow and hypersaline, often drying back significantly during summer. Shorebird habitat includes exposed lake beds during drying phases, fringing samphire-dominated dwarf-

shrub communities, and scattered patches of sedgeland. These features create valuable foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 297. Importance of SBA Lake Newland for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	938	0	3	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2015	300 / 30	788	9	10	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	330	0	2	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,200 / 120	167	0	3	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	63	0	4	ASMP

Lake Robe

Table 298. Site account for Lake Robe SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA062 South East Coastal Salt Lakes
Wetland type	A6, B17, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Hawdon
Geographical Coordinates	-37.21449, 139.80105
Area	289 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Robe is located in the far southeast of South Australia and lies within an interdune corridor between present and relict coastal dunes. It is a shallow, saline lake fringed by diverse vegetation, including coastal scrub, samphire flats, and sedgelands. The lake receives water from local runoff, natural springs, and private drainage, with water levels and salinity varying seasonally. Shallow margins and extensive mudflats are exposed during drier periods, creating important foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds. The surrounding dune system and terrestrial vegetation also provide roosting and sheltering areas, supporting a range of waterbirds and contributing to the ecological value of the site.

Table 299. Importance of SBA Lake Robe for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2018	350 / 35	100*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Lake St Clair

Table 300. Site account for Lake St Clair SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA062 South East Coastal Salt Lakes

Wetland type	A6, B17, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Hawdon
Geographical Coordinates	-37.32954, 139.91176
Area	2,452 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: 1

General site description

Lake St Clair is located in the far southeast of South Australia within an interdune corridor between present and relict coastal dunes. It is a shallow lake fringed by dense native vegetation, including samphire, sedgeland, and coastal scrub. The lake is primarily fed by local runoff, natural springs, and private drainage, with freshwater springs providing critical drought refuge for wetland-dependent species. Seasonal variation in water levels exposes shallow margins and mudflats, which offer important foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds. The site is protected within a conservation park that preserves the largest remaining patch of intact native vegetation in the region, enhancing the site's ecological integrity.

Table 9. Importance of SBA Lake St Clair for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2017	6,000 / 600	701	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2012	250 / 25	41	0	1	ASMP

Lower Yorke Peninsula

Table 302. Site account for Lower Yorke Peninsula SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA013 Point Davenport
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Southern Yorke Peninsula
Geographical Coordinates	-35.0105, 136.94908
Area	1,467 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: NA

General site description

The Lower Yorke Peninsula shorebird area spans the south and west coasts of Yorke Peninsula, encompassing key sites including Port Moorowie, Sturt Bay, Point Davenport, Pondalowie Bay, Gleasons Landing, Corny Point, Masons Beach, Point Turton and Hardwicke Bay. Southern sites such as Port Moorowie, Sturt Bay and Point Davenport feature extensive intertidal mudflats, sandy beaches and samphire flats. Point Davenport also includes a semi-stranded tidal lagoon and dynamic sand spit system that floods during extreme high tides. Western locations like

Pondalowie Bay, Gleasons Landing and Corny Point are more exposed, with sandy bays framed by rocky headlands and platforms. The north-facing sites of Masons Beach, Point Turton and Hardwicke Bay are more sheltered, offering broad tidal sand and mudflats ideal for shorebird foraging. The diversity of habitats across this extensive coastal zone supports a wide range of migratory shorebird species.

Table 303. Importance of SBA Lower Yorke Peninsula for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	250*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2013	300 / 30	80	0	6	ASMP

Murat Bay

Table 304. Site account for Murat Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Tourville Bay and Murat Bay (Migratory Shorebird trigger species: NA)
Geographical Coordinates	-32.08864, 133.61318
Area	1,125 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 8, Winter: NA

General site description

Murat Bay, located on the far western edge of the Eyre Peninsula near Ceduna, is part of the larger Denial Bay system. The shorebird area features extensive sandy beaches punctuated by rocky headlands, alongside diverse habitats including subtidal reefs, seagrass meadows, mangroves, coastal headlands, and offshore islands. These varied environments support a rich assemblage of shorebirds and marine species. Murat Bay's complex coastal and marine ecosystems provide important feeding and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds within the broader Eyre Peninsula bioregion.

Table 305. Importance of SBA Murat Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	1,045	0	2	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,200 / 120	127	0	1	ASMP

Point Brown to Acraman Creek

Table 306. Site account for Point Brown to Acraman Creek SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA (adjacent to part of Streaky Bay, SA016)
Wetland type	A5, A7, A4, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.49735, 133.96863
Area	2,061 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: NA

General site description

The Point Brown to Acraman Creek shorebird area stretches about 30 kilometres along the upper west coast of Eyre Peninsula. The western section near Point Brown is characterised by low cliffs, rock-strewn beaches, rocky headlands, and intertidal rock platforms, providing important habitat for species like Ruddy Turnstone. Moving eastwards, the coastline transitions to lower-energy sandy beaches with expansive intertidal flats, including exposed fine sediments and seagrass beds at low tide. These habitats support large numbers of shorebirds, including significant populations of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, making this area vital for migratory and resident shorebird species.

Table 307. Importance of SBA Point Brown to Acraman Creek for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	1,034	0	3	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	787	0	1	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	230	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2023	300 / 30	120	0	4	ASMP

Port Lincoln

Table 308. Site account for Port Lincoln SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.8437, 135.73305
Area	1,266 hectares
No. of count areas	8
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 5

General site description

The Port Lincoln shorebird area is located on the eastern side of the Eyre Peninsula and includes sections of Port Lincoln National Park. The coastline is dominated by wide oceanic sandy beaches such as Tinah Beach, Wanna Beach, Cape Tournefort Beach, Maclaren Point

Beach, and Yatchies Beach, interspersed with steep rocky headlands. The area supports a diverse range of coastal habitats, including unconsolidated dune fields, wave-cut shore platforms, fringing reefs, and deep offshore reefs. These features provide important foraging and roosting habitats for a range of migratory shorebird species.

Table 309. Importance of SBA Port Lincoln for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2012	6,000 / 600	706	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2015	300 / 30	602	5	9	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2011	300 / 30	90	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2017	250 / 25	46*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Port MacDonnell

Table 310. Site account for Port MacDonnell SBA

Ramsar Site	Piccaninnie Ponds Karst Wetlands (Ramsar Site: 66)
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.06336, 140.70392
Area	617 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Port Macdonnell shorebird area is located in the far southeast of South Australia, extending from the Victorian border at Piccaninnie Ponds westward along the coastline to Cape Northumberland, approximately 3 kilometres west of the Port Macdonnell township. Exposed to the Southern Ocean, the shorebird area comprises a series of sandy beaches interspersed with rocky headlands and points. These dynamic coastal habitats provide important feeding and roosting sites for a range of shorebird species, particularly during migration periods.

Table 311. Importance of SBA Port MacDonnell for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2020	20,000 / 2,000	3,440	0	4	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2017	6,000 / 600	1,728	0	15	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2020	300 / 30	1,300	4	6	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	783	0	9	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	270	0	14	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	181	0	13	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,200 / 120	161	0	2	ASMP

Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	130*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Winter	2023	300 / 30	120*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2012	300 / 30	76	0	3	ASMP

Port Pirie coast

Table 312. Site account for Port Pirie coast SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA020 Upper Spencer Gulf
Wetland type	A1, A2, A9, A7, A8, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Spencer Gulf
Geographical Coordinates	-33.29945, 137.85144
Area	39,637 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: NA

General site description

The Port Pirie Coast shorebird area is located on the eastern side of Spencer Gulf, centred around the township of Port Pirie. It extends from Port Broughton in the south to Ward Spit near Port Germein in the north. The shorebird area is characterised by extensive tidal sand and mud flats, intersected by a complex network of tidal channels that connect to the shallow, warm, and saline waters of the Upper Spencer Gulf. These habitats provide critical feeding and roosting grounds for a variety of migratory and resident shorebird species, supported by the rich invertebrate life found in the intertidal zone.

Table 313. Importance of SBA Port Pirie coast for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	5,159	0	3	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2019	6,000 / 600	2,580	0	4	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	2,250	1	3	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2022	300 / 30	190	0	4	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,200 / 120	144	0	1	ASMP

Port Victoria

Table 314. Site account for Port Victoria SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA

Geographical Coordinates	-34.43279, 137.46637
Area	2,310 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 2

General site description

The Port Victoria shorebird area is located on the western coastline of Yorke Peninsula, adjacent to the township of Port Victoria. It stretches from Chinaman Wells in the north, past Wardang Island and the township of Port Victoria, down to Port Rickaby in the south. This shoreline faces Spencer Gulf and features a variety of coastal habitats, including sandy ocean beaches, rocky platforms, and headlands—particularly prominent at Point Peace, west of Port Victoria. These diverse coastal environments support important feeding and roosting sites for shorebirds, with intertidal areas providing rich foraging grounds.

Table 315. Importance of SBA Port Victoria for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2021	20,000 / 2,000	3,266	0	2	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	2,500	2	12	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	870	0	6	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	153	0	4	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2011	750 / 75	93	0	2	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2024	250 / 25	32	0	1	ASMP

Rivoli Bay

Table 316. Site account for Rivoli Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.51734, 140.08565
Area	1,367 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

The Rivoli Bay shorebird area is located in the far southeast of South Australia, northeast of the township of Mount Gambier. It extends from the coastal town of Beachport in the north to Cape Buffon near Southend, covering approximately 19 kilometres of coastline. The bay is dominated by wide sandy beaches that open directly to the Southern Ocean, providing important foraging and roosting habitat for a range of shorebird species. At its southern end, the bay culminates in

the rocky headland at Cape Buffon, which adds habitat diversity with its exposed rock headlands.

Table 317. Importance of SBA Rivoli Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2024	300 / 30	90*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Sceale Bay

Table 318. Site account for Sceale Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Seagull Lake KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.01182, 134.17497
Area	915 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: 3

General site description

The Sceale Bay shorebird area is located on the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. It extends from Point Westall in the north, encompassing Speed Point, Yanerbie Beach, and Sceale Bay, and continues south to Cape Blanche. The coastline is primarily composed of sandy ocean beaches, interspersed with rocky headlands and platforms that provide diverse shorebird habitat. Just inland from Sceale Bay lies Seagull Lake, a very shallow saline basin dominated by mudflats, which serves as an important foraging site for a variety of shorebird species.

Table 319. Importance of SBA Sceale Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	2,108	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2011	300 / 30	1,055	2	11	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	1,037	0	5	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,300 / 130	286	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2023	300 / 30	179	0	10	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,200 / 120	139	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2014	300 / 30	63	0	1	ASMP

Sensation Beach

Table 320. Site account for Sensation Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	SA008 Coffin Bay Coastal Wetland System
Wetland type	A5, A4
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Coffin Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-34.60458, 135.31404
Area	459 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: NA

General site description

Sensation Beach is located on the south coast of the Eyre Peninsula, at the southwestern corner of the Coffin Bay Peninsula in South Australia. The shorebird area spans approximately 6 kilometres, from the headland near Sudden Jerk Island, around Misery Bay, to the rocky outcrops and platforms marking the beginning of the cliffs at Avoid Bay. This coastal stretch is dominated by high-energy oceanic sandy beaches, flanked by rocky platforms and outcrops at either end, providing important foraging and roosting habitat for a variety of shorebird species.

Table 321. Importance of SBA Sensation Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2013	300 / 30	501	1	5	ASMP

St Peter Island

Table 322. Site account for St Peter Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A7, A5, A4, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Nuyts Archipelago KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.26161, 133.65625
Area	3,807 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: NA

General site description

The St Peter Island shorebird area is an island located approximately 15 kilometres southwest of Ceduna on the coast of South Australia. It features extensive intertidal flats up to 1 kilometre wide and several kilometres long along its eastern side, as well as a small area of saltmarsh on its northern side. Due to its relative isolation and low levels of human activity, the island experiences minimal disturbance, making it an important refuge for migratory shorebirds. It supports large numbers of shorebird species and serves as a secure high-tide roosting site within the region.

Table 323. Importance of SBA St Peter Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2015	20,000 / 2,000	5,232	0	10	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2024	6,000 / 600	2,108	0	8	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	1,800	1	9	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2015	4,000 / 400	700	0	3	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2024	300 / 30	601	4	10	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,300 / 130	409	0	7	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2015	3,750 / 375	400	0	1	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2011	750 / 75	397	0	9	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2011	1,100 / 110	209	0	4	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,200 / 120	196	0	3	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2023	300 / 30	100	0	2	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	41	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2011	NA / 15	17	NA	4	ASMP

Streaky Bay

Table 324. Site account for Streaky Bay

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA016 Streaky Bay
Wetland type	A1, A2, A9, A7, A8, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.71712, 134.1263
Area	3,442 hectares
No. of count areas	21
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: 3

General site description

Streaky Bay is located on the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula. The shorebird area extends from Point Brown in the north and includes Edward Bay, Point De Mole, Gascoigne Bay, Point Lindsey, the Acraman Creek mouth, Streaky Bay proper, and the coastline west of the Streaky Bay township including Point Gibson and Cape Bauer. The area around Point Gibson and the Acraman Creek mouth features a shallow coastal spit, sandy beaches, mangrove and samphire tidal flats, tidal creeks, and exposed mud flats with seagrasses. Acraman Creek is considered one of the best examples of diverse samphire vegetation on the Eyre Peninsula. Streaky Bay itself is dominated by wide sandy beaches, with the headlands at either end comprising rocky outcrops interspersed with small sandy coves. Ecological features include mangrove low woodland and samphire low shrubland on tidal flats, heathland on sand dune ridges, and mallee open scrub in the surrounding areas. The site serves as a major feeding and roosting area for waterbirds along the west coast of South Australia.

Table 325. Importance of SBA Streaky Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2024	20,000 / 2,000	2,443	0	3	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2024	6,000 / 600	1,342	0	6	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	417	0	3	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2010	750 / 75	364	0	9	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2019	300 / 30	354	2	9	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,200 / 120	205	0	1	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	200	0	2	ASMP
Red Knot	Winter	2010	1,300 / 130	190	0	1	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2014	1,100 / 110	115	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2024	300 / 30	93	0	1	ASMP

Taratap

Table 326. Site account for Taratap SBA

Ramsar Site	The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland (Ramsar Site: 25)
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA063 The Coorong, Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert
Wetland type	A10, B12, B8, A11
Flyway Network Site	The Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert (EAAF016)
Key Biodiversity Area	The Coorong
Geographical Coordinates	-36.60275, 139.84988
Area	4,299 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: 2

General site description

Taratap is a regional locality in southeastern South Australia, located at the southern end of Coorong National Park and extending southward toward Kingston SE. The shorebird area comprises a chain of saline, ephemeral wetlands disconnected from the southern lagoon of the Coorong. Key waterbodies in this system include Brine Shrimp Lakes, Coxiella Lake, Nadzab (Paranki) Lagoon, Teilaka Lagoon, and several smaller unnamed wetlands. These wetlands are intermittently inundated on a seasonal basis, creating conditions that support large populations of Brine Shrimp. This, in turn, provides an important food resource for significant numbers of resident and migratory shorebirds.

Table 327. Importance of SBA Taratap for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,200 / 120	185*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Tourville Bay

Table 328. Site account for Tourville Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	SA009 Davenport Creek
Wetland type	A1, A4, A9, A7, A8, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Tourville Bay and Murat Bay (Migratory Shorebird trigger species: NA)
Geographical Coordinates	-32.14856, 133.46365
Area	7,681 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 8, Winter: NA

General site description

Tourville Bay is located on the far western edge of the Eyre Peninsula. Davenport Creek, the most southerly arm of the bay's multi-channel entrance to Denial Bay, is fringed with mangroves and meanders into a large saltmarsh area backed by a series of lakes. The ocean side features large sand dunes, while the southern coastline includes rocky promontories such as Point Peter and Point James, with small land-locked beaches backed by cliffs and cliff-top dunes. This mix of mangroves, saltmarsh, lakes, dunes, and rocky shores provides important habitat that supports migratory shorebirds.

Table 329. Importance of SBA Tourville Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	830	0	1	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	582	0	2	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,200 / 120	126	0	2	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2012	750 / 75	87	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	61	0	3	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2011	NA / 15	16	NA	1	ASMP

Troubridge Island

Table 330. Site account for Troubridge Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Troubridge Island
Geographical Coordinates	-35.12971, 137.80737
Area	1,062 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

Troubridge Island is located in the Gulf of St Vincent near the east coast of Yorke Peninsula, southeast of Edithburgh. The island is characterised by low-energy sandy beaches, intertidal wrack accumulations, sand flats, and areas of mud flats and saltmarsh around its shoreline.

These coastal and intertidal habitats provide critical foraging and roosting opportunities that support migratory shorebirds.

Table 331. Importance of SBA Troubridge Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	623	0	2	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	60*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*

Venus Bay

Table 332. Site account for Venus Bay

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A4, A8, A7, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Venus Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-33.18745, 134.64615
Area	7,968 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: NA

General site description

Venus Bay, on the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula, is a large, shallow, and sheltered bay with a narrow entrance to the Southern Ocean. The area features extensive sand flats, beach ridges, and coastal dunes, with Germein Island and other islands near the bay's mouth providing important roosting sites. These diverse coastal habitats support large numbers of seabirds and create valuable foraging and roosting conditions for migratory shorebirds.

Table 333. Importance of SBA Venus Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	945	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2022	300 / 30	500	1	1	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2015	1,100 / 110	226	0	1	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2015	750 / 75	172	0	4	ASMP

Waterloo Bay

Table 334. Site account for Waterloo Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A4, A8, A7, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.6354, 134.87339
Area	224 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

Waterloo Bay, adjacent to the town of Elliston on the Eyre Peninsula, offers sheltered and enclosed ocean beach habitat within a coastline dominated by sheer rocky cliffs. Despite relatively high human disturbance, the area includes two seasonally inundated wetlands that hold low levels of water. These habitats provide important foraging and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 335. Importance of SBA Waterloo Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2012	300 / 30	75*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2014	300 / 30	40*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Winninowie CP

Table 336. Site account for Winninowie CP SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	SA020 Upper Spencer Gulf
Wetland type	A1, A2, A9, A7, A8, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Spencer Gulf
Geographical Coordinates	-32.6451, 137.84864
Area	6,716 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Winninowie Coastal Park shorebird area, on the east side of Spencer Gulf, features intertidal habitats from Chinaman Creek to Mt Grainger, including mangrove-lined Redcliff Point and the low-energy coast of Back Beach. It consists of tidal sand and mud flats with channels linking claypans and samphire vegetation to the saline waters of Upper Spencer Gulf. These habitats, shaped by high salinity, large tidal ranges, and minimal freshwater inflow, support significant numbers of migratory shorebirds.

Table 337. Importance of SBA Winninowie Coastal Park for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2013	6,000 / 600	1,000*	0	3	Incidental*

Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,200 / 120	150*	0	1	Incidental*
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Special SBA cases: Latham's Snipe Project

This section provides an overview of special SBA cases of importance derived from the Latham's Snipe Project where these sites fall outside the established ASMP site network in South Australia.

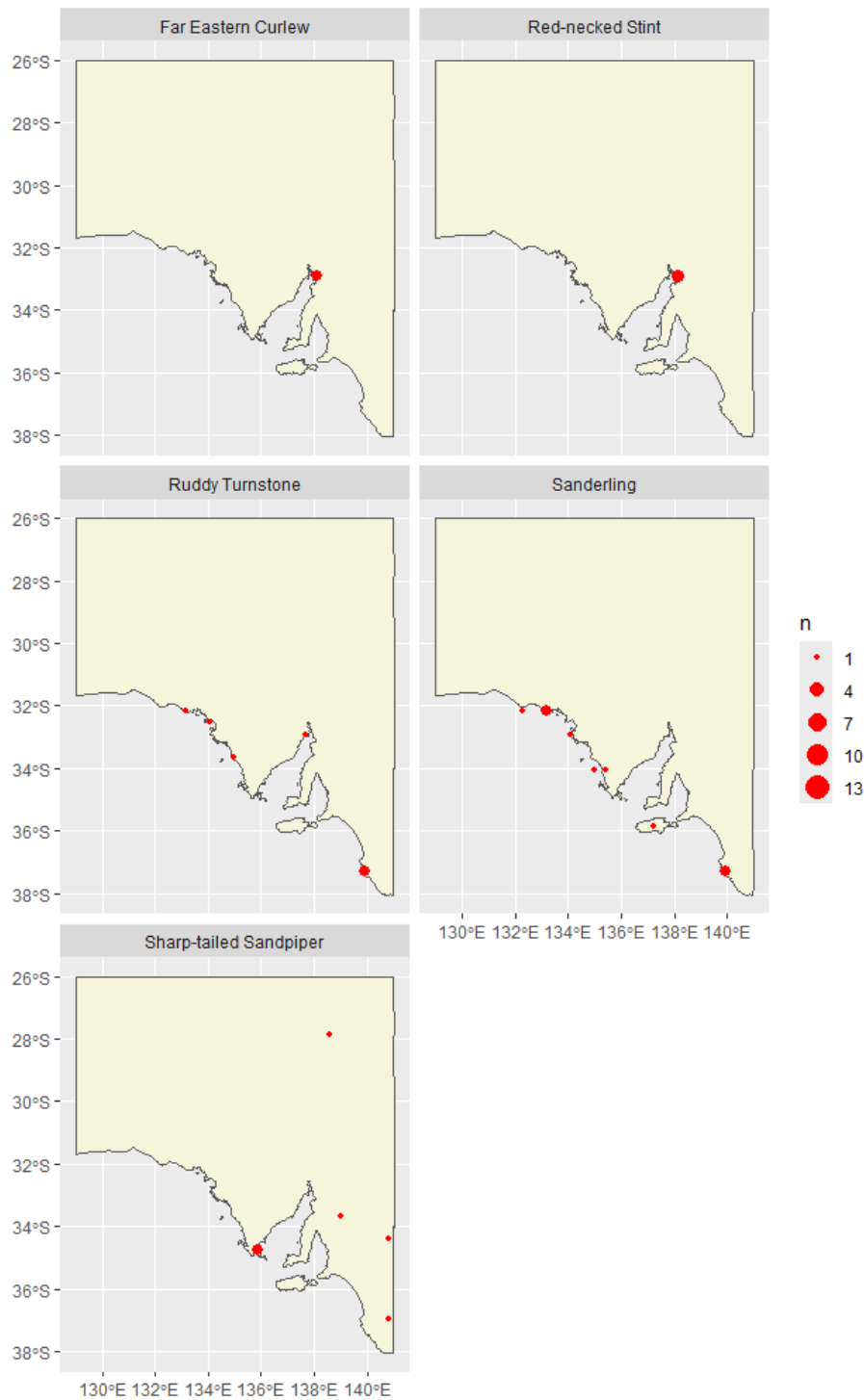
Table 338. Importance of special SBA cases in South Australia for Latham's Snipe (International threshold: 350; National threshold: 18)

Site name	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort	Source
Lake McIntyre, Millicent	Summer	2016	29	0	1	8	Latham's Snipe Project

Areas of importance outside the SBA network

Available data indicates five shorebird species occurring in important numbers outside the SBA network in the state, apparently regularly so in a number of areas (Figure). These include areas for (but are not limited to) Far Eastern Curlew and Red-necked Stint (northern Spencer Gulf), Ruddy Turnstone (coastal southeast SA), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (eastern Eyre Peninsula) and Sanderling (coastal southeast SA, Eyre Peninsula). These areas will be subject to further review in terms of potential inclusion in the national SBA network.

Figure 10. Frequency of annual occurrence of important species-specific shorebird numbers outside the SBA network in South Australia between 2009-2024, displayed at a 50x50km grid resolution.



Tasmania

Geography and habitat

Tasmania, including its 334 offshore islands, has over 4,800 km of coastline—longer than Victoria and New South Wales combined. While much of this coastline is high-energy and steep, limiting the formation of extensive intertidal flats, significant shorebird habitats still occur, particularly in sheltered bays and estuaries.

The most important intertidal habitat is in the far northwest, from Hunter Island through Boullanger Bay and Robbins Passage to Stanley, including Duck Bay. Here, expansive mudflats stretch for several kilometres, offering critical foraging areas. Along the north coast, short beaches interspersed with shallow estuaries such as Devonport and Port Sorell provide additional shorebird habitat.

On the east and southeast coasts, key sites are concentrated around sheltered bays and inlets, particularly between Sorell and South Arm. Pitt Water and Orielton Lagoon, near the Coal River estuary, are among Tasmania's most significant sites. King and Flinders Islands also support important shorebird habitats, especially in more protected coastal areas.

Shorebird habitat in Tasmania is primarily composed of sandy beaches, intertidal sand and mudflats, and associated saltmarsh (e.g. Marion Bay). Inland freshwater wetlands are uncommon and generally too deep to support shorebirds, despite abundant rainfall and numerous rivers and lakes.

Important sites

Tasmania's important migratory shorebird areas are concentrated on the north-west and south-east coasts, each supporting different key species. Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay is by far the most significant shorebird area, regularly supporting internationally important numbers of Red-necked Stint, Double-banded Plover, Red Knot (which is otherwise uncommon in Tasmania), and Ruddy Turnstone. Nearby Stanley East is also internationally important for Double-banded Plover, as well as Port Sorell further east.

King Island's coastal coves continue to support internationally significant numbers of Ruddy Turnstone and Double-banded Plover. Collectively, these sites represent Tasmania's core shorebird areas, with habitats that serve as terminal non-breeding destinations in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway.

Additionally, Latham's Snipe occur at scattered inland sites, often in swamps and wet meadows, with some locations reaching national significance, though none currently meet international thresholds due to the species' cryptic nature and dispersed distribution.

Pressures and threats

Tasmania's relatively high population density contributes to notable human pressures on migratory shorebird habitat. Infrastructure such as causeways across Pitt Water and Orielton Lagoon, built for the main east coast highway and near Hobart Airport, has altered habitat structure and increased disturbance. Recreational use of four-wheel drive vehicles poses a

major disturbance threat on beaches, including remote sites. Shorebird areas in the north west are under threat from wind farm development.

Agricultural runoff, particularly from dairy farms, may affect estuarine water quality, though impacts are not well quantified. Expansion of oyster farming and other aquaculture ventures may also influence water quality at key shorebird sites. Industrial activity in estuarine areas—attracted by access to hydro-electric power—poses additional potential risks.

The spread of the invasive sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) is affecting dune integrity and hindering nesting by resident shorebirds. Its alteration of beach structure may also reduce the suitability of roosting and foraging areas for migratory species.

State of knowledge

Migratory shorebirds in Tasmania have been studied for many decades by both amateur and professional ornithologists. Research in the 1980s on Latham's Snipe, including by Naarding (1982), contributed to the eventual ban on hunting this species, which saw an estimated 1,000 birds taken annually until 1983. Geolocator studies on site-faithful Ruddy Turnstones from King Island have provided valuable insight into migration routes between Tasmania and the Arctic, revealing unexpectedly long southward crossings of the Pacific Ocean (e.g. Minton et al. 2011).

Today, many beaches and estuaries are regularly surveyed for both migratory and resident shorebirds, with ongoing contributions from dedicated volunteers and researchers helping to maintain a solid understanding of site importance, population trends and site fidelity across the state (e.g. Cooper et al. 2025, Newman and Woehler 2016, Newman et al. 2020).

Monitoring across the state has a strong focus on the biannual effort, with supplementary counts undertaken at several shorebird areas, strengthening our collective understanding of seasonal fluctuations of shorebird numbers at those locations. Until recently a number of areas in the north and northeast of the state were also subject to regular waterbird surveys.

Figure 11. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in Tasmania (blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

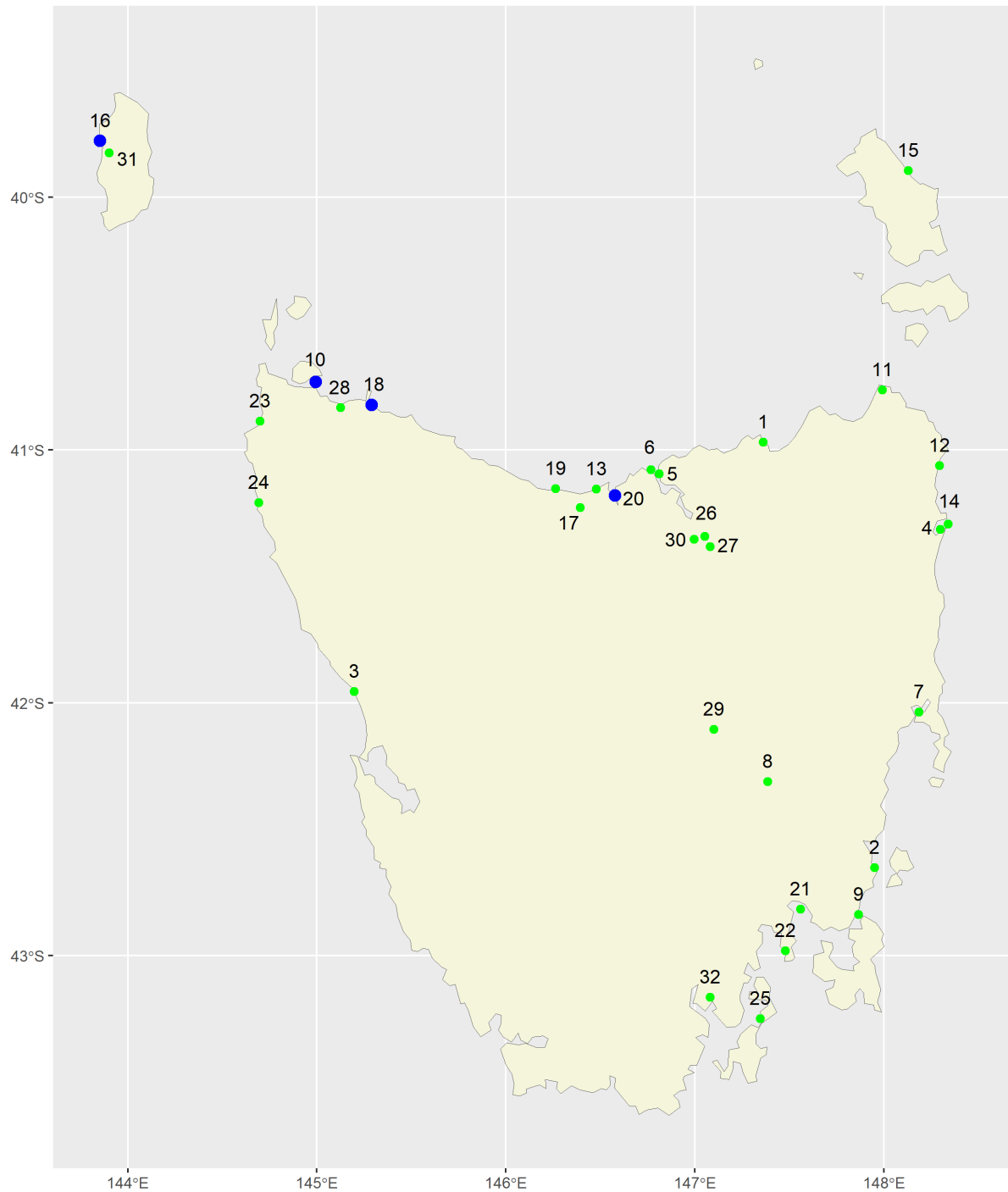


Table 339. List of map IDs for shorebird habitat in Tasmania

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Bruny Island	25	Maurouard Beach	14
Burton's Reserve	32	Moorland	13
Cape Portland	11	Moulting Lagoon	7
Devonport	17	Pittwater, TAS	21
Flinders Island	15	Policemans Point	12

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
George Town Reserve	5	Port Sorell	20
Georges Bay	4	Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	10
Greens Beach	23	Rotaract Park, Smithton	28
Grindelwald dam	30	Sandspit Point	2
Kelso, Tamar Estuary	6	Shag Lagoon, King Island	31
King Island	16	Silver Plains	29
Lades Beach	1	South Arm Peninsula	22
Lake Dulverton	8	Stanley East	18
Legana	26	Strahan	3
Leith	19	Tamar Island Wetlands	27
Marion Bay & Blackmans Bay	9	Temma	24

Bruny Island

Table 340. Site account for Bruny Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Great Bay Bruny Island
Geographical Coordinates	-43.24941, 147.3463
Area	1,215 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Bruny Island, off southeast Tasmania, consists of North and South islands connected by a narrow isthmus known as The Neck, with shorebird habitats concentrated at Great Bay and Simpsons Bay. Great Bay features an oceanic sandy beach stretching six kilometres between rocky outcrops from its northern end to Chuckle Head. This coastal environment supports a range of migratory shorebirds.

Table 341. Importance of SBA Bruny Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2014	250 / 25	36*	0	2	Incidental*

Cape Portland

Table 342. Site account for Cape Portland SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	TAS006 Tregaron Lagoon 1 TAS007 Tregaron Lagoon 2 TAS009 to TAS012 Unnamed wetlands
Wetland type	A6, A8, A10, A11

Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Cape Portland
Geographical Coordinates	-40.76253, 147.99052
Area	3,344 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: 9

General site description

The Cape Portland shorebird area, on Tasmania's far northeast coast, features sandy beaches interspersed with rocky headlands and over twenty coastal lagoons situated in swales, depressions, and dune fields. These wetlands hold both permanent and ephemeral water. The area functions as an important staging site for migratory shorebirds, supporting significant numbers during both northward and southward migrations.

Table 343. Importance of SBA Cape Portland for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	1,602	0	7	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	242	0	7	ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2010	1,500 / 150	167	0	1	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,200 / 120	121	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	86	0	6	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2010	300 / 30	35	0	1	ASMP

Devonport

Table 344. Site account for Devonport SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-41.22683, 146.39345
Area	1,117 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: 1

General site description

The Devonport shorebird area on Tasmania's north coast includes the estuarine environments of the Mersey River and adjacent sandy beaches interrupted by rocky headlands at the river mouth. This mix of coastal and estuarine habitats provides essential feeding and roosting sites that support migratory shorebirds.

Table 345. Importance of SBA Devonport for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2024	250 / 25	120	0	6	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	100	0	11	ASMP

Flinders Island

Table 346. Site account for Flinders Island SBA

Ramsar Site	Logan Lagoon (Site Number: 4)
Directory of Important Wetlands	TAS044 Logan Lagoon
Wetland type	A11
Flyway Network Site	Logan Lagoon (EAAF012)
Key Biodiversity Area	Eastern Flinders Island
Geographical Coordinates	-39.89484, 148.12905
Area	20,219 hectares
No. of count areas	19
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Flinders Island lies northeast of Tasmania and features a long eastern coastline dominated by sandy shores, dunes, and coastal lagoons formed by dune impoundments. These lagoons receive input from small, mostly intermittent streams, with some flowing directly to Bass Strait. The coastal vegetation is largely comprised of scrub and shrubland. The island's eastern shore also supports significant populations of resident shorebirds and other waterbirds including Hooded Plover. The shorebird area comprises a range of key estuaries, inlets and lagoons on the island, including Logan Lagoon, both a Ramsar and a Flyway Network Site.

Table 347. Importance of SBA Flinders Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2024	6,000 / 600	3,400*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2019	300 / 30	43*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

George Town Reserve

Table 348. Site account for George Town Reserve SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-41.09398, 146.8104

Area	123 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 12

General site description

The George Town Reserve shorebird area on Tasmania's north coast encompasses the estuarine environment along the east bank of the Tamar River from north of George Town to Low Head Coastal Reserve. It features sandy beaches, tidal mudflats, and small rocky outcrops, providing important feeding and roosting habitat that supports migratory shorebirds. In addition to the biannual effort, supplementary counts are undertaken here throughout the year.

Table 349. Importance of SBA George Town Reserve for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	69	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	65	0	5	ASMP

Georges Bay

Table 350. Site account for Georges Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	St
Geographical Coordinates	-41.31427, 148.29709
Area	2,319 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: 10

General site description

The Georges Bay shorebird area is a series of beaches, coves and mud flats on the foreshore of Georges Bay just east of St Helens on the east coast of Tasmania and includes Blanche Beach. The shorelines of Georges Bay are characterised by extensive tidal mud flats, sand flats, some rocky outcrops and saltmarsh environments. Behind the immediate shoreline is a number of conservation areas including Medea Cove, Humbug Point, St Helens and McDonalds Point.

Table 351. Importance of SBA Georges Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2022	6,000 / 600	1,000	0	3	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2024	300 / 30	220*	0	4	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2021	250 / 25	73	0	3	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	39	0	1	ASMP

Greens Beach

Table 352. Site account for Greens Beach

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	North West Tasmanian Coast
Geographical Coordinates	-40.88588, 144.69874
Area	131 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Greens Beach shorebird area is southwest of the town of Smithton, on the far northwest coast of Tasmania. The shorebird area consists of an oceanic sandy beach environment that extends from a rocky headland in the north, bordered by the Preminghana Conservation Area down to the rocky platforms and cliffs of Green Point in the south.

Table 353. Importance of SBA Greens Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2017	300 / 30	60*	0	1	Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2018	300 / 30	48*	0	2	Incidental*

Kelso, Tamar Estuary

Table 354. Site account for Kelso, Tamar Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-41.07808, 146.76595
Area	173 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 10

General site description

The Kelso shorebird area is located on the western bank of the Tamar River on Tasmania's north coast and extends from Kelso Bay to the eastern end of Greens Beach. The area features sandy beaches, extensive tidal mudflats, salt marshes, and small rocky outcrops, particularly within Kelso Bay, providing key foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 355. Importance of SBA Kelso, Tamar Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	91	0	9	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2012	300 / 30	40	0	2	ASMP

King Island

Table 356. Site account for King Island SBA

Ramsar Site	Lavinia (Site Number: 5)
Directory of Important Wetlands	TAS074 Lake Flannigan TAS075 Lavinia Nature Reserve (Lake Martha Lavinia, Sea Elephant Wildlife Sanctuary, Nook) TAS076 Pearshape Lagoon 1 TAS077 Pearshape Lagoon 2 TAS078 Pearshape Lagoon 3 TAS079 Pearshape Lagoon 4
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A11, B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	King Island
Geographical Coordinates	-39.77706, 143.8536
Area	2,217 hectares
No. of count areas	31
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 5

General site description

The King Island shorebird area includes a range of coastal habitats such as high-energy oceanic beaches, sheltered sandy bays, rocky platforms, estuarine wetlands, saltmarshes, brackish lakes, and freshwater lagoons. Key features include the estuarine system at Sea Elephant River, saltmarsh extending inland, and significant water bodies like Big Lake, Lake Flannigan, and Pearshape Lagoon. These diverse habitats support a variety of foraging and roosting opportunities essential for migratory shorebirds. The long-term King Island Ruddy Turnstone census carried out by the Victorian Wader Study Group is a crucial component in our understanding of the importance of the island for the species.

Table 357. Importance of SBA King Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2010	300 / 30	890	15	15	VWSG King Island Ruddy Turnstone Census
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2014	250 / 25	470	2	5	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	200	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2014	300 / 30	114	0	1	VWSG King Island Ruddy Turnstone Census
Sanderling	Summer	2014	300 / 30	40	0	1	ASMP

Lades Beach

Table 358. Site account for Lades Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6, A8, A10, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-40.9682, 147.3608
Area	294 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: 2

General site description

Lades Beach Shorebird Area is located at the southern end of Anderson Bay on the northeast coast of Tasmania. The beach extends from Granite Point on the northwestern edge of the Bridport township to rocky platforms on the tip of East Sandy Point. The shorebird area is dominated by extensive sand flats and sandy beaches, particularly around the mouth of the Little Forester River which has a small estuary behind a sand spit. The northern end of the shorebird area narrows to a rocky shoreline with minor sand areas.

Table 359. Importance of SBA Lades Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	83	0	2	ASMP

Lake Dulverton

Table 360. Site account for Lake Dulverton SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-42.31072, 147.38499
Area	250 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: 8

General site description

Lake Dulverton is a shallow freshwater lake in Tasmania that has recently been modified to retain water year-round, following the construction of a dam wall and pipeline from a nearby reservoir. While previously often dry, it now supports dense aquatic vegetation, including

extensive stands of emergent plants and submerged communities dominated by water ribbons, which provide food and shelter for aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, and waterbirds. The lake's irregular shoreline features sandstone cliffs and overhangs, with surrounding habitat including open grazing paddocks, clumps of heath, scattered eucalypts and casuarinas, and planted pines near the township. It is an important refuge and foraging site for a range of waterbird and shorebird species.

Table 10. Importance of SBA Lake Dulverton for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	46	0	3	ASMP

Legana

Table 362. Site account for Legana SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Tamar Wetlands
Geographical Coordinates	-41.34103, 147.05267
Area	169 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

The Legana shorebird area is located along the south bank of the Tamar River in northern Tasmania and features a mix of tidal mud and sand flats. The surrounding wetlands include diverse habitats such as saltmarshes, marshes, swamps, lakes, and lagoons. These environments provide important foraging and roosting habitat that supports migratory shorebirds. In addition to the biannual effort, separate waterbird counts are undertaken here throughout the year.

Table 363. Importance of SBA Legana for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	370*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2019	350 / 35	66*	0	1	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP; incidental*

Leith

Table 364. Site account for Leith SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-41.1522, 146.26241
Area	368 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

The Leith coastal area, situated east of the River Forth at its outlet into Bass Strait, comprises a mosaic of intertidal and subtidal habitats. Saltmarshes, tidal flats, and rocky reefs dominate the shoreline, supporting a diverse array of flora and fauna. Sandy sediments and patches of seagrass further contribute to the site's ecological complexity, providing important feeding and sheltering areas for a variety of coastal and marine species.

Table 365. Importance of SBA Leith for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2014	250 / 25	38	0	2	ASMP

Marion Bay & Blackmans Bay

Table 366. Site account for Marion Bay & Blackmans Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Marion Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-42.83795, 147.86451
Area	501 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 13

General site description

The Marion Bay and Blackmans Bay shorebird area on Tasmania's east coast is centred on Long Spit and includes oceanic sandy beach habitat at Marion Bay, extensive tidal mud and sand flats, and salt marshes at the mouth of Sedbury Creek. These diverse coastal and estuarine environments provide key foraging and roosting habitat that supports migratory shorebirds.

Table 367. Importance of SBA Marion Bay & Blackmans Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	28	0	3	ASMP

Maurouard Beach

Table 368. Site account for Maurouard Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-41.29243, 148.33869
Area	303 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA

General site description

Maurouard Beach, located along the eastern side of St Helens Conservation Area, is an exposed high-energy sandy beach backed by the extensive Peron Dunes. Behind the southern section of the dunes lie isolated wetlands, including Moriarty, Windmill and Jocks lagoons, which do not connect to the sea. This mix of coastal and wetland habitats supports migratory shorebirds by providing feeding and roosting opportunities across the dynamic dune-beach and wetland interface.

Table 369. Importance of SBA Maurouard Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	30	0	1	ASMP

Moorland

Table 370. Site account for Moorland SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-41.15463, 146.47722
Area	331 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Moorland shorebird area is centred on Moorland Beach, located east of the Devonport town centre on the north coast of Tasmania. The shorebird area comprises Moorland Beach, Moorland Point and Northdown Beach. It is bordered in the east by the Margaret Rocks headland. This shorebird area is dominated by sandy beaches which are interrupted occasionally by rocky headlands and rock platforms. In addition to the biannual effort, supplementary counts are undertaken here throughout the year.

Table 371. Importance of SBA Moorland for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	167	0	15	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2016	250 / 25	54	0	7	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2019	300 / 30	34	0	1	ASMP

Moulting Lagoon

Table 372. Site account for Moulting Lagoon SBA

Ramsar Site	Moulting Lagoon (Site Number: 3)
Directory of Important Wetlands	TAS037 Moulting Lagoon
Wetland type	A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Moulting Lagoon
Geographical Coordinates	-42.03696, 148.18498
Area	4,089 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Moulting Lagoon, located on Tasmania's central east coast, is a large estuarine system at the confluence of the Swan and Apsley Rivers. It features deep and shallow waters, intertidal mudflats, and saltmarshes, with a grazed western shoreline and a relatively undisturbed eastern shoreline covered in native vegetation. As one of Tasmania's largest and most important wetland areas, Moulting Lagoon provides critical feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 373. Importance of SBA Moulting Lagoon for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	85*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Pitt Water-Orielton

Table 374. Site account for Pitt Water-Orielton SBA

Ramsar Site	Pitt Water-Orielton (Site Number: 6)
Directory of Important Wetlands	TAS067 Pitt Water and Orielton Lagoon
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	Orielton Lagoon (EAAF014)
Key Biodiversity Area	South Arm
Geographical Coordinates	-42.81577, 147.55847
Area	3,386 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: 13

General site description

The Pitt Water–Orielton shorebird area, located within the Derwent Estuary, consists of tidal lagoons, bays, and estuaries from four watercourses, protected from the open sea by the Seven Mile Beach sand bar. Extensive tidal mud and sand flats are exposed due to restricted tidal flow under two causeways, creating prime shorebird feeding habitat. Vegetation includes saline herbland, sedgeland/rushland, and coastal grassland. This diverse and sheltered system supports significant populations of migratory shorebirds.

Table 375. Importance of SBA Pitt Water-Orielton for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2014	250 / 25	111	0	12	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2015	350 / 35	93	0	3	ASMP

Policemans Point

Table 376. Site account for Policemans Point SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-41.06132, 148.29253
Area	50 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

The Policemans Point shorebird area, located in the southern part of Mt William National Park and extending into the Bay of Fires Conservation Area, features oceanic sandy beaches flanking the Ansons Bay outlet and estuarine tidal sand flats along the channel. These coastal and estuarine habitats support migratory shorebirds by providing both feeding and roosting opportunities.

Table 377. Importance of SBA Policemans Point for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2022	300 / 30	125*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2011	300 / 30	40	0	1	ASMP

Port Sorell

Table 378. Site account for Port Sorell SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Rubicon Estuary
Geographical Coordinates	-41.18095, 146.5786
Area	2,586 hectares
No. of count areas	8
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 7

General site description

The Port Sorell shorebird area encompasses coastal and estuarine environments around the Rubicon River, including extensive tidal mud and sand flats, sand bars, islands, and salt marshes. Sandy beaches such as Bakers Beach and Hawley Beach extend to rocky reefs and platforms at the Carbuncles. These diverse intertidal and coastal habitats support a variety of migratory shorebirds for feeding and roosting.

Table 379. Importance of SBA Port Sorell for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2013	250 / 25	350	2	14	ASMP

Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay

Table 380. Site account for Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Robbins Passage and Boullanger Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-40.73104, 144.99458
Area	23,511 hectares
No. of count areas	13

Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 13
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General site description

The Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay shorebird area on Tasmania's northwest coast features extensive tidal sand and mudflats stretching from Cape Grim to Stanley, including smaller islands such as Kangaroo, Montagu, Wallaby, and Howie. These expansive intertidal habitats provide critical feeding and roosting grounds that support significant numbers of migratory shorebirds. The SBA is by far the most important in the state and ranks among the most important shorebird areas in southern Australia.

Table 11. Importance of SBA Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	10,718	0	13	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	7,710	3	13	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2022	20,000 / 2,000	3,248	0	6	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	1,961	12	13	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2021	6,000 / 600	1,858	0	5	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2017	1,300 / 130	1,475	1	9	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2022	300 / 30	1,136	13	13	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,200 / 120	712	0	9	ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2018	1,500 / 150	449	0	13	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2014	300 / 30	283	0	10	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2023	1,200 / 120	220*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	184	0	2	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2018	300 / 30	150	0	2	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2010	1,100 / 110	125	0	1	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2010	350 / 35	96	0	6	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2014	750 / 75	87	0	2	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2010	NA / 15	16	NA	3	ASMP

Sandspit Point

Table 382. Site account for Sandspit Point SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-42.65143, 147.95028
Area	184 hectares
No. of count areas	1

Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: 6
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General site description

Sandspit Point is an estuarine coastal lagoon and marsh system located on the south-east coast of Tasmania. The site includes permanent open water, fringing mudflats, and sandy beach habitats. Surrounded by grazing land, the marsh vegetation features a mix of native and exotic grasses. The lagoon supports year-round habitat for a variety of shorebirds.

Table 383. Importance of SBA Sandspit Point for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	31	0	2	ASMP

South Arm Peninsula

Table 384. Site account for South Arm Peninsula SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	TAS055 Calverts Lagoon
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8, B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	South Arm
Geographical Coordinates	-42.98083, 147.47702
Area	1,873 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: 13

General site description

The SBA, located in the Derwent River estuary and on the South Arm Peninsula south of Hobart, comprises diverse habitats including ephemeral and semi-permanent lagoons, tidal mudflats, and saltmarshes. Clear and Calverts Lagoons are landlocked and seasonally variable, while Pipe Clay Lagoon and the surrounding coastal areas such as Ralphs Bay support extensive tidal mudflat systems. These varied environments provide essential feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds. In addition to the biannual effort, supplementary counts are undertaken on a selection of lagoons throughout the year.

Table 385. Importance of SBA South Arm Peninsula for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	647	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	139	0	11	ASMP

Stanley East

Table 386. Site account for Stanley East SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Northwest Tasmanian Coast
Geographical Coordinates	-40.82191, 145.29096
Area	1,355 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 6

General site description

The Stanley East shorebird area extends to the southeast of the small coastal town of Stanley on the far northeast coast of Tasmania. The shorebird area is characterised by the sandy Tatflows Beach and extensive salt marsh and intertidal sand and mud flats in East Inlet. These varied environments provide essential feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 387. Importance of SBA Stanley East for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2016	250 / 25	300	3	8	ASMP

Strahan

Table 388. Site account for Strahan SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	North West Tasmanian Coast.
Geographical Coordinates	-41.95429, 145.1968
Area	1,786 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: 1

General site description

The Strahan shorebird area is located west of the township of Strahan on the shoreline of Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's west coast. The shorebird area includes Ocean Beach extending from the northern headland of Macquarie Harbour northward to the rocky headland of the Henty River mouth, and the area around the King River entrance to Macquarie Harbour. The environments which characterise this shorebird area include high-energy oceanic sandy beaches.

Table 389. Importance of SBA Strahan for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2013	250 / 25	160*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Tamar Island Wetlands

Table 390. Site account for Tamar Island Wetlands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Tamar Wetlands
Geographical Coordinates	-41.38254, 147.07934
Area	432 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Tamar Island Wetlands shorebird area, located on the Tamar River north of Launceston in northern Tasmania, includes tidal mudflats, lagoons, and several islands, with Tamar Island being the largest. These habitats offer crucial feeding and roosting sites that support migratory shorebirds.

Table 391. Importance of SBA Tamar Island Wetlands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	180*	0	1	Incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2013	250 / 25	60*	0	2	Incidental*

Temma

Table 392. Site account for Temma SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	North West Tasmanian Coast
Geographical Coordinates	-41.20751, 144.69224
Area	89 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Temma shorebird area on Tasmania's west coast includes high-energy oceanic sandy beaches stretching from Rebecca's Point to Gaffney Point, featuring sand bars near creek and river mouths, rocky and pebble beaches, rock platforms, and extensive seaweed and kelp racks. It also encompasses Poppy's Lagoon Beach, Barney Creek Beach and estuary, and Lady Kathleen Beach. These diverse coastal habitats provide important feeding and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds.

Table 393. Importance of SBA Temma for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	65*	0	1	Incidental*

Special SBA cases: Latham's Snipe Project

This section provides an overview of special SBA cases of importance derived from the Latham's Snipe Project where these sites fall outside the established ASMP site network in Tasmania.

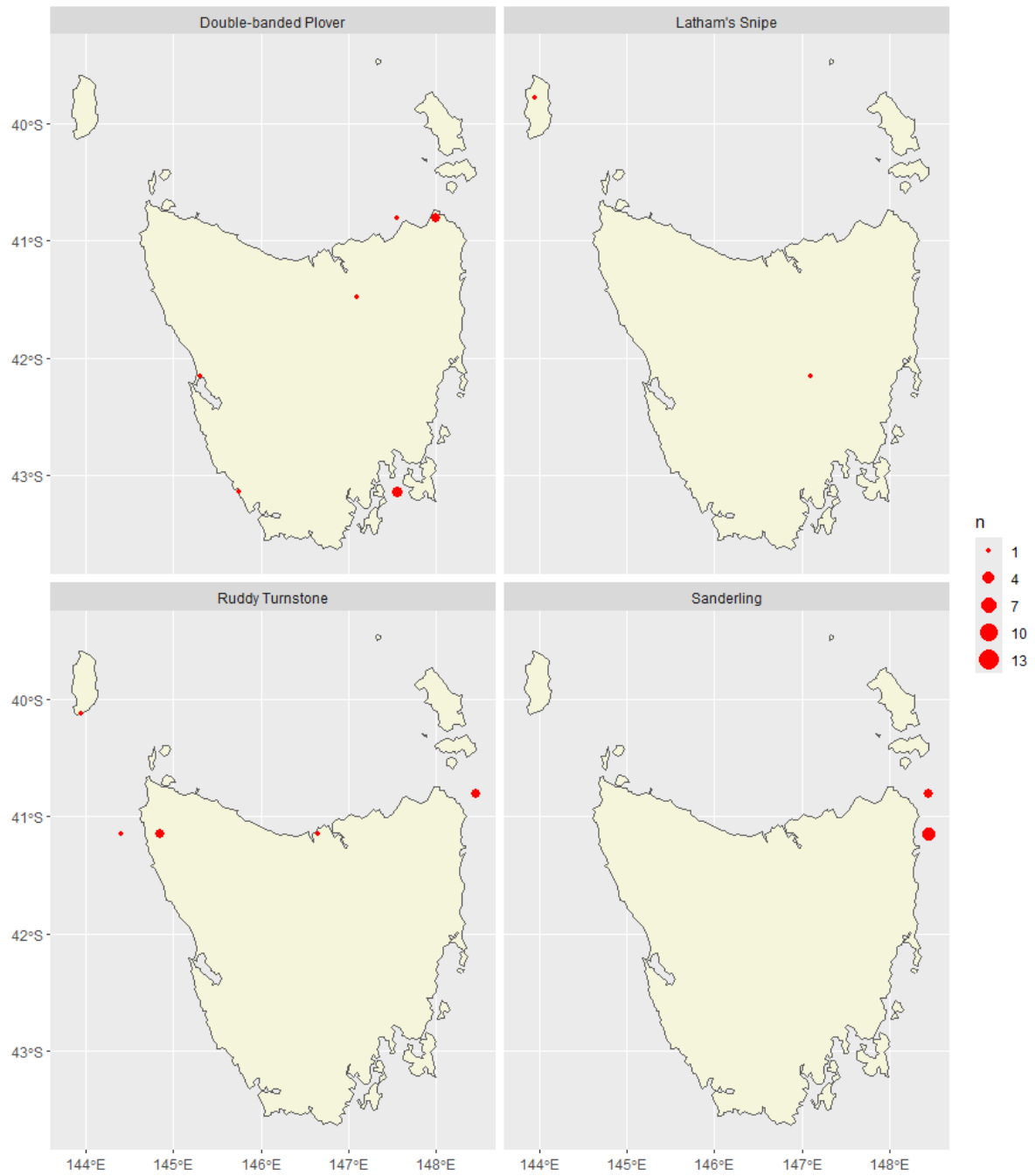
Table 394. Importance of special SBA cases in Tasmania for Latham's Snipe (International threshold: 350; National threshold: 18)

Site name	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort	Source
Rotaract Park, Smithton	Summer	2023	140	0	9	9	Latham's Snipe Project
Silver Plains	Summer	2024	110	0	4	5	Latham's Snipe Project
Grindelwald Dam	Summer	2020	33	0	1	7	Latham's Snipe Project
Shag Lagoon, King Island	Summer	2021	28	0	1	5	Latham's Snipe Project
Burton's Reserve	Summer	2024	21	0	1	7	Latham's Snipe Project

Areas of importance outside the SBA network

Available data indicates four shorebird species occurring in important numbers outside the SBA network, apparently regularly so in a number of areas (Figure 12). These include areas for (but are not limited to) Double-banded Plover (Bruny Island and NE Tasmania), Ruddy Turnstone (south of Temma and NE Tasmania) and Sanderling (NE Tasmania). These areas will be subject to further review in terms of potential inclusion in the national SBA network.

Figure 12. Frequency of annual occurrence of important species-specific shorebird numbers outside the SBA network in Tasmania between 2009-2024, displayed at a 50x50km grid resolution.



Victoria

Geography and habitat

Victoria has the second-shortest coastline of any Australian jurisdiction (2,512 km including islands) yet supports diverse and regionally significant shorebird habitats. Along the coast, a continuous sequence of headlands, beaches, estuaries, and tidal inlets dominates the landscape. While exposed stretches of coastline offer limited intertidal habitat, extensive tidal wetlands are present in the sheltered bays of Port Phillip and Western Port, and further east in the Gippsland Lakes, Anderson Inlet, Corner Inlet, and Shallow Inlet. Many estuaries open into shallow, saline or brackish coastal lakes behind sand dunes—such as those at Mallacoota, the Snowy River estuary, and Shallow Inlet. Mangroves occur sporadically, particularly in the western bays, while intertidal mudflats, sandy beaches, and rock platforms provide a mosaic of habitats for a range of migratory and resident shorebirds.

Inland Victoria also contains extensive shorebird habitat, particularly in the floodplain wetlands of the Murray River Basin, Western District, and Wimmera. These wetlands vary from permanent lakes to temporary, rainfall-dependent depressions, and many are influenced by river regulation or artificial water delivery. Vegetation includes lignum shrublands, sedgeland, reedbeds, and open meadows of native herbs or grasses. These systems provide critical habitat for species such as Latham's Snipe, as well as feeding and roosting areas for large numbers of migratory shorebirds during favourable years. Many inland wetlands are seasonally or episodically inundated and may remain dry for extended periods, highlighting the importance of variable climatic conditions and hydrological connectivity for maintaining their ecological function.

Important sites

Migratory shorebirds in Victoria use a broad network of sites, extending from the far south-western coastline to the eastern bays and estuaries, as well as inland lakes and floodplain wetlands. Key coastal sites include large estuaries and embayments such as Western Port Bay, western Port Phillip Bay, Anderson Inlet, Shallow Inlet, and Corner Inlet. These areas support high shorebird diversity and abundance. Of these, Corner Inlet is the most important, being internationally significant for Red-necked Stint, Bar-tailed Godwit, Double-banded Plover, Red Knot, Sanderling, Far Eastern Curlew as well as its shorebird aggregations. It is protected by several marine and coastal parks.

South-western ocean beaches support high numbers of Sanderling and Double-banded Plover, while near-coastal freshwater wetlands are important for Latham's Snipe. Other internationally important sites include Swan Bay—Mud Islands, and modified wetlands around Werribee/Avalon, East Port Phillip, and Moolap Saltworks. Inland, internationally significant lakes such as the Corangamite lakes complex support species like Double-banded Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Red-necked Stint.

Most Victorian sites function as terminal non-breeding habitats, providing critical foraging and roosting areas where shorebirds recover over the austral spring and summer before returning to their Arctic breeding grounds in March–April.

Pressures and threats

Victoria's relatively small size and high population density place considerable pressure on coastal shorebird habitats. Most of the state's population lives in Melbourne, and human disturbance from beachgoers, off-leash dogs, recreational fishers, and horse riders is widespread—particularly during summer holidays when shorebirds are present in greatest numbers. Intertidal areas near the city support few shorebirds for extended periods, though the Western Treatment Plant, Avalon Coastal Reserve, and other modified wetlands offer some protection from disturbance due to restricted public access.

Historical habitat loss from industrial development and urban expansion, especially around Port Phillip and Western Port Bays, has significantly reduced the availability of saltmarsh and intertidal flat habitat. While some small ongoing losses persist, concerted restoration efforts are underway in several key areas. Inland wetlands face additional pressures from altered water regimes, land clearing, and declining flooding frequency. Effective conservation depends on coordinated management of inland lake clusters and remaining coastal wetland networks.

State of knowledge

Victoria is the most comprehensively surveyed state in Australia for migratory shorebirds. This coverage reflects decades of work by the Victorian Wader Study Group (VWSG), BirdLife Australia, and regional partners like the Geelong Field Naturalists Club. While future surveys may identify additional important sites—particularly inland—most key locations are already known. A strong foundation of contemporary knowledge is maintained by a well-organised volunteer network coordinated by BirdLife Australia, operating across nearly all regions of the state. Many sites are accessible and straightforward to survey, though some—due to their size or complexity—require coordinated efforts. Inundation-dependent inland areas, such as Wimmera District lakes, are surveyed less frequently due to their episodic nature.

Figure 13. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in Victoria (blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

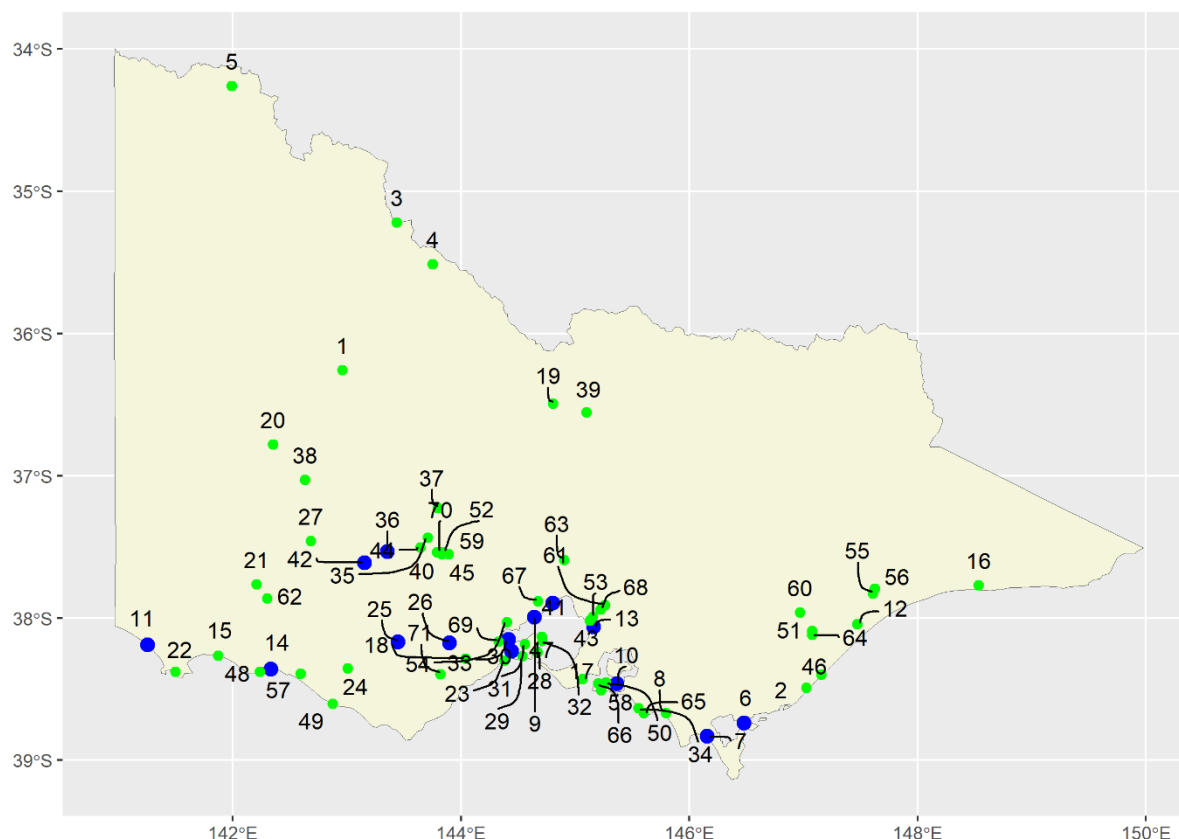


Table 395. List of map IDs for shorebird habitat in Victoria

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Aitken Creek, Cascade Terrace wetland, Craigieburn	63	Hamilton	21	Penshurst town precinct	62
Allansford	57	Heathdale Glen Orden Wetland	67	Peterborough wetlands	49
Anderson Inlet	8	Horsham	20	Point Cook to Williamstown	41
Balyang Sanctuary	69	Indented Head	47	Port Fairy	14
BARC wetlands, Bairnsdale	55	Jack Smith Lake	2	Portland	22
Bass Coast	34	Kerang Lakes	4	Saltwater Creek, Phillip Island	66
Begola	29	Lake Buloke	1	Seaspray	46
Black Rocks/Breamlea	23	Lake Burrumbeet	44	Shallow Inlet	7
Cape Paterson Ecovillage	65	Lake Connewarre and Barwon River Estuary	30	Silverleaves, Phillip Island	50
Carrum Wetlands	43	Lake Corangamite area	25	Snowy River Estuary	16
Cheltenham Rd Retarding Basin, Melbourne	53	Lake Elingamite	24	St. Leonards Salt Lake	32
Clifton Creek swamp, Wy Yung	56	Lake Goldsmith	36	Swan Bay & Mud Islands	28
Corner Inlet	6	Lake Learmonth	35	Swan Hill	3
Corop Region	19	Lake Lonsdale	38	Tirhatuan Wetlands Conservation Reserve	68
Deepdene Rd wetland (Dean's Marsh east)	71	Lake Lorne	31	Waranga Basin	39
Discovery Bay to Glenelg River	11	Lake Murdeduke	26	Waterford Wetlands	61

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
East Port Phillip	13	Lake Wendouree	45	Werribee / Avalon	9
Elcho & Lara, Lakeland Wetlands	54	Lake Wongan	42	Westernport	10
Evelyn Drive wetland	51	Macalister wetland reserve	60	Willaura	27
Fitzroy River Mouth	15	Merin Merin and Middle Swamps	37	Winchelsea Region	18
Flax Mill swamp, Ballarat	70	Mildura	5	Winters Swamp	40
Flinders	17	Moolap	33		
Flooding Creek, Sale	64	Moyne Estuary	48		
Gippsland Lakes	12	Nerrina wetlands, Ballarat	59		
Graydens wetland, Phillip Island	58	Norman St Industrial area, Ballarat	52		

Anderson Inlet

Table 396. Site account for Anderson Inlet SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC062 Anderson Inlet
Wetland type	A1, A5, A9, A7, A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Anderson Inlet (migratory shorebird trigger species: Red-necked Stint)
Geographical Coordinates	-38.66789, 145.79411
Area	3,463 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: 7

General site description

Anderson Inlet, one of Victoria's largest estuaries, is formed by the Tarwin River and several smaller tributaries, enclosed by spits that have created the inlet which has since infilled with estuarine sediment. The inlet mouth remains permanently open to the sea, allowing constant flushing and strong tidal flows. It features extensive intertidal mudflats across multiple monitoring areas, providing vital feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 397. Importance of SBA Anderson Inlet for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	2,982	0	4	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	2,690	0	8	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,300 / 130	500	0	2	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2023	250 / 25	340*	1	6	ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	155	0	11	ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2020	350 / 35	110	0	5	ASMP; Latham's Snipe Project

Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2016	350 / 35	47*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
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Bass Coast

Table 398. Site account for Bass Coast SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC078 Powlett River Mouth
Wetland type	A6, A10, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.6345, 145.55124
Area	486 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: 3

General site description

The Bass Coast shorebird area features a high-energy coastal beach stretching from Kilcunda Beach to the rock platforms and cliffs at Hamers Haven. Near Kilcunda, the Powlett River mouth includes a small wetland with significant saltmarsh vegetation that experiences periodic flooding. This combination of dynamic beach and saltmarsh habitats supports migratory shorebirds by providing essential feeding and roosting sites along the coast.

Table 399. Importance of SBA Bass Coast for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	88	0	1	ASMP

Begola

Table 400. Site account for Begola SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.26862, 144.53668
Area	2 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: NA

General site description

The Begola Wetlands, located in Ocean Grove, Victoria, are a small environmental reserve forming part of a larger natural water catchment system behind coastal dunes extending to

Point Lonsdale. Receiving stormwater runoff from surrounding residential areas, the wetlands filter water slowly through to Swan Bay. Though appearing isolated, Begola Wetlands are ephemeral and integral to a broader network of coastal habitats that provide important feeding and resting sites for migratory shorebirds.

Table 12. Importance of SBA Begola for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2018	350 / 35	98	0	9	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP

Black Rocks/Breamlea

Table 402. Site account for Black Rocks/Breamlea SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.2998, 144.37825
Area	215 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 10

General site description

The Black Rocks/Breamlea shorebird area, located south of Geelong between Torquay and Barwon Heads, comprises two parts: the rocky ocean-surrounded platform of Black Rocks in the east, and the Breamlea Flora and Fauna Reserve in the west. The reserve features coastal saltmarsh, ancient moonah woodlands, and the Karaaf Wetlands, with waterways influenced by seasonal freshwater flows from Thompson Creek and tidal inflows from Bass Strait. These diverse habitats provide crucial feeding and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds.

Table 403. Importance of SBA Black Rocks/Breamlea for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2017	6,000 / 600	800*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	204	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2012	250 / 25	78	0	7	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2012	300 / 30	40*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Carrum Wetlands

Table 404. Site account for Carrum Wetlands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Carrum Wetlands
Geographical Coordinates	-38.01781, 145.12879
Area	149 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Carrum wetlands, located in the southeastern Melbourne suburbs of Braeside and Aspendale Gardens, consist of an aggregation of lakes, ponds, and channels grouped mainly into Braeside Park, Woodlands Industrial Estate, and Waterways Estate. These wetlands receive substantial stormwater runoff from adjacent industrial and residential areas, leading to challenges with chemical pollutants and debris. Despite this, the wetlands provide important habitat supporting significant numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, offering feeding and roosting opportunities within the urban landscape.

Table 405. Importance of SBA Carrum Wetlands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	400*	0	1	Incidental*

Corner Inlet

Table 406. Site account for Corner Inlet SBA

Ramsar Site	Corner Inlet (Site Number: 13)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC066 Corner Inlet
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A9, A7, A8, A5
Flyway Network Site	Corner Inlet (EAAF009)
Key Biodiversity Area	Corner Inlet
Geographical Coordinates	-38.74035, 146.47867
Area	69,743 hectares
No. of count areas	33
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

Corner Inlet, located along South Gippsland's coastline and bordered by Wilsons Promontory to the south, is a complex estuarine system comprising barrier islands, sandy spits, lagoons, swamps, tidal creeks, deltas, and washovers. The area features extensive mangroves, saltmarshes, sandy beaches, and vast intertidal mudflats on both mainland and islands. This diverse coastal environment provides internationally significant feeding habitat for migratory shorebirds, supporting nearly half of Victoria's overwintering populations. The inlet is surveyed in two parts: Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park, known for its extensive intertidal flats,

seagrass beds, barrier islands, and mangrove-lined estuaries, supports the majority of these birds, while Western Corner Inlet is surveyed separately. Corner Inlet is Victoria's most important site for migratory shorebirds due to its rich and varied habitats and relatively low exposure to anthropogenic disturbance.

Table 407. Importance of SBA Corner Inlet for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2021	20,000 / 2,000	30,753	9	14	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2022	6,000 / 600	19,954	13	15	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2021	3,750 / 375	12,863	13	15	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2021	20,000 / 2,000	9,739	0	8	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2022	6,000 / 600	4,760	0	8	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2020	3,750 / 375	3,801	1	9	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	2,623	3	14	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2021	250 / 25	2,404	12	15	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2019	300 / 30	1,366	6	11	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,200 / 120	1,005	0	8	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	1,000*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Red Knot	Winter	2021	1,300 / 130	555	0	6	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2011	350 / 35	510	6	15	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2016	750 / 75	472	0	11	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2014	1,200 / 120	280	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2020	300 / 30	223	0	3	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2021	1,100 / 110	131	0	2	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2012	900 / 90	100*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2016	350 / 35	92	0	2	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2024	300 / 30	45*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	17	NA	5	ASMP

Corop Region

Table 408. Site account for Corop Region SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC160 Wallenjoe Wetlands
Wetland type	B1, B2, B5, B6, B7, B8, B11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-36.49245, 144.80571
Area	2,540 hectares
No. of count areas	9
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: NA

General site description

The Corop region shorebird area comprises many wetlands: Greens Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Lake Cooper, and Gaynor Swamp Wildlife Reserve. The system is fed primarily by the ephemeral Cornella and Wanalta Creeks. Most of the wetlands in this complex are fresh, but Lake Cooper and Greens Lake are brackish to saline depending on water levels. Historically, Greens Lake was ephemeral, relying solely on rainfall and flood runoff, with water lost through evaporation. Since 1968, it has served as off-stream storage supplementing the Waranga Western Channel and the Rochester and Loddon Valley Irrigation Areas, with surplus flows diverted into Greens Lake and later released during peak demand. Lake Cooper remains a natural storage, linked to Greens Lake by a channel built to regulate Lake Cooper's water levels, helping reduce foreshore erosion and manage backwater issues affecting Cornella Creek and Gaynor Swamp. This network of lakes and wetlands provides important shorebird habitat within the region.

Table 409. Importance of SBA Corop Region for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	2,500*	1	1	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	108*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2019	350 / 18	18*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Discovery Bay to Glenelg River

Table 410. Site account for Discovery Bay to Glenelg River SBA

Ramsar Site	Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay (Site Number: 67)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC028 Glenelg Estuary VIC030 Long Swamp
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A11, B1, B4, B5, B7, B12
Flyway Network Site	Discovery Bay Coastal Park (EAAF091)
Key Biodiversity Area	Discovery Bay to Piccaninnie Ponds KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.19003, 141.25602
Area	2,100 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: 3

General site description

Discovery Bay is internationally important for Sanderling and designated as an East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Network Site. The shorebird area encompasses diverse coastal environments including rugged cliffs, extensive beaches, mobile dune fields, wetlands, and woodland forests. Key habitats include dynamic high-energy ocean beaches, coastal cliffs and headlands, estuaries, swamps, and extensive dune systems. The nationally significant Glenelg River Estuary and Long Swamp wetlands lie within the area. Long Swamp is a shallow freshwater wetland sustained by a groundwater aquifer within the Discovery Bay dune barrier system. The Glenelg Estuary consists of the main Glenelg River channel and Oxbow Lake, a side lagoon. High human disturbance occurs in parts of the site, causing shorebirds to move in

response to disturbance, water levels, and sandbar changes, influencing habitat use and distribution.

Table 411. Importance of SBA Discovery Bay to Glenelg River for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2022	300 / 30	1,500*	4	5	ASMP; incidental*
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2017	6,000 / 600	1,000	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2019	300 / 30	250*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	201	0	3	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2016	250 / 25	100	0	8	ASMP

East Port Phillip

Table 412. Site account for East Port Phillip SBA

Ramsar Site	Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands (Site Number: 57)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC068 Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands
Wetland type	B4, B7, B13, B9, B10, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Carrum Wetland (migratory shorebird trigger species: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper)
Geographical Coordinates	-38.06251, 145.16042
Area	882 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA

General site description

The East Port Phillip shorebird area is centred on the Edithvale and Seafood wetlands, along with Melbourne Water's Eastern Treatment Plant and several other nearby wetlands and commercial sites. These wetlands represent one of the largest remaining freshwater wetland complexes in the highly modified Port Phillip-Western Port region. They comprise herb, rush, reed, and shrub-dominated meadow and marsh habitats alongside open water. Fed by a network of modified creeks and drains with extensive catchments, the Edithvale Wetlands function as a floodplain during major rainfall, draining into Mordialloc Creek and the artificial Patterson River. The northern and southern parts of the wetlands are hydraulically connected by a pipe. Many wetland sections experience annual drying or may become brackish when water levels are low due to saline groundwater influence.

Table 413. Importance of SBA East Port Phillip for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2014	20,000 / 2,000	4,638	0	9	ASMP

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	3,720	9	14	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	2,800	0	5	ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2021	350 / 35	122	0	9	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2013	250 / 25	40	0	3	ASMP

Fitzroy River Mouth

Table 414. Site account for Fitzroy River Mouth SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC084 Yambuk Wetlands
Wetland type	A10, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Yambuk
Geographical Coordinates	-38.26382, 141.87352
Area	1,583 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: 6

General site description

The Fitzroy River Mouth shorebird area includes the Yambuk Wetlands which are a network of the estuarine environments of the Eumeralla River and Shaw River (Lake Yambuk), associated freshwater meadows and semi-permanent saline wetlands. Also included is the Quamby Park swamp in the west, the Eumerella (Yambuk) Coastal Reserve and the rocky platforms of The Craggs at the western end of the ocean beach.

Table 415. Importance of SBA Fitzroy River Mouth for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2016	6,000 / 600	858	0	1	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	620	0	2	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2022	300 / 30	400*	1	4	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	200	0	8	ASMP

Flinders

Table 416. Site account for Flinders SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC083 Western Port
Wetland type	A2, A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.42737, 145.06276
Area	269 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 12

General site description

The Flinders shorebird area stretches along Victoria's southern coastline from Flinders to Point Leo, encompassing coastal habitats such as creek outlets, small estuaries, ocean beaches, rock platforms, and intertidal zones. The area experiences significant human recreational disturbance, especially during holiday seasons, due to its proximity to popular towns like Flinders, Shoreham, and Point Leo. The prevalence of rock platforms makes it a regular foraging site for species like the Ruddy Turnstone.

Table 417. Importance of SBA Flinders for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2017	250 / 25	70*	0	4	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	36	0	1	ASMP

Gippsland Lakes

Table 418. Site account for Gippsland Lakes SBA

Ramsar Site	Gippsland Lakes (Site Number: 21)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC073 Lake Wellington Wetlands VIC072 Lake Victoria Wetlands VIC071 Lake King Wetlands
Wetland type	A8, A10, A11, B1, B13, B7, B8, B4
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Gippsland Lakes
Geographical Coordinates	-38.04154, 147.47063
Area	70,959 hectares
No. of count areas	64
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 13

General site description

The Gippsland Lakes shorebird area comprises three major interconnected lake systems in eastern Victoria. Lake Wellington, the westernmost, receives inflows from several rivers including the Avon, Macalister, Thomson, and LaTrobe. East of it lies Lake Victoria, a large coastal lagoon fringed by saltmarsh, fed through wetlands connected to Lake Wellington. Further east is Lake King, which is supplied via Lake Wellington and Lake Victoria wetlands and includes extensive coastal lagoons, channels, saltmarsh, and brackish to freshwater marshes. Additionally, the narrower Lake Reeve, located behind the coastal dune system, forms part of

this wetland complex. These diverse habitats provide important feeding and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 419. Importance of SBA Gippsland Lakes for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2011	6,000 / 600	3,800*	0	1	Birdlife East Gippsland; ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	600	0	3	Birdlife East Gippsland; ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 35	101	0	5	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	91*	0	1	Birdlife East Gippsland; ASMP; incidental*

Hamilton

Table 420. Site account for Hamilton SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC110 Lake Linlithgow Wetlands
Wetland type	B5, B8, B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.76358, 142.20803
Area	1,495 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 9

General site description

The Hamilton shorebird area consists of an aggregation of lakes and swamps formed in shallow depressions in the basalt plains of western Victoria. Lake Linlithgow is fed by Boonawah Creek and several drains. Tabor swamp is fed by local run off from the surrounding area. Lake Kennedy is supplied by drains and a creek. Krause Swamp is fed by two creeks and has an outlet drain to Lake Bullrush. The other wetlands are naturally closed basins with small local catchments. In times of high flow, Lake Linlithgow, Lake Kennedy and Lake Bullrush may overflow to the former Soldiers Swamp and Buckley Swamp to the south-west, to provide additional temporary habitat for migratory shorebird species such as Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

Table 421. Importance of SBA Hamilton for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	4,151	0	2	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	4,000	1	4	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2013	6,000 / 600	2,510	0	2	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2020	6,000 / 600	1,200	0	1	ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	155	0	5	ASMP

Horsham

Table 422. Site account for Horsham SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-36.77803, 142.35324
Area	1,066 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Horsham area includes Pine Lake, a former saline lake now functioning as a stock and domestic water supply reservoir within the Wimmera-Mallee system. The lake has a muddy bottom and is bordered by wide areas of grazing land. A small salt swamp known as Creeping Lake lies on the western side and retains varying water levels, providing important habitat for migrating shorebirds during favourable conditions.

Table 423. Importance of SBA Horsham for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	650*	0	2	Incidental*

Indented Head

Table 424. Site account for Indented Head SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.13032, 144.70649
Area	42 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Indented Head shorebird area is located on the Bellarine Peninsula, east of Geelong, in a small coastal township. The coastline here features a mix of low-energy sandy beaches and rocky sections, especially around the numerous headlands characteristic of this part of the peninsula. Due to limited tidal variation, the area provides only small expanses of intertidal foraging habitat. During the summer months, shorebird activity is impacted by high levels of human recreational disturbance.

Table 425. Importance of SBA Indented Head for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2015	300 / 30	31*	0	1	Incidental*

Jack Smith Lake

Table 426. Site account for Jack Smith Lake SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC069 Jack Smith Lake
Wetland type	A10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.48824, 147.02349
Area	1,993 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: 3

General site description

The Jack Smith Lake Shorebird Area lies roughly midway between Corner Inlet and the Gippsland Lakes and includes both the Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve and the smaller Lambs Lake. This area is defined by its seasonal aquatic herbfields and marshlands, which are interspersed with dense stands of Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*). The wetlands are ephemeral and experience regular wetting and drying cycles. As a result, large areas of suitable habitat are typically available in spring and early summer, but the shallow nature of the wetlands leads to rapid evaporation. This can cause a swift and significant reduction in available habitat as the season progresses.

Table 427. Importance of SBA Jack Smith Lake for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,300 / 130	292	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2012	250 / 25	58	0	1	ASMP

Kerang Lakes

Table 428. Site account for Kerang Lakes SBA

Ramsar Site	Kerang Wetlands (Site Number: 17)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC048 Lake Kelly VIC047 Lake Cullen VIC045 Lake Bael Bael VIC042 Johnson's Swamp VIC041 Hird's Swamp
Wetland type	C4, B8, B5, B10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	North Victorian Wetlands
Geographical Coordinates	-35.51417, 143.75242
Area	3,630 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: NA

General site description

The Kerang Lakes shorebird area on the northern Victorian plains comprises a range of wetland types, including the permanent saline Lake Kelly, the large deep freshwater Lake Bael Bael with River Red Gum and Tangled Lignum, the shallow saline Lake Cullen, and the deep freshwater marshes of Johnson's Swamp and Hird's Swamp connected by Pyramid Creek. Many of these wetlands receive environmental water allocations, supporting diverse wetland habitats that provide important foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 429. Importance of SBA Kerang Lakes for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	850*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,200 / 120	133	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2014	250 / 25	40*	0	3	ASMP; incidental*

Lake Buloke

Table 430. Site account for Lake Buloke SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC127 Lake Buloke Wetlands
Wetland type	B6, B8, C2, B14, B12
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-36.25821, 142.96193
Area	6,128 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Lake Buloke shorebird area, northeast of Melbourne, includes the main lake, the Overflow, and Little Lake Buloke, all within a large wetland basin on the mostly cleared Wimmera plains. Fed by the Avon-Richardson River, the wetlands support diverse vegetation fringed by riparian

woodlands, though this is being altered by increasing soil and water salinity. The area provides significant habitat for waterbirds, particularly waterfowl and migratory shorebirds.

Table 431. Importance of SBA Lake Buloke for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,300 / 130	300*	0	2	Incidental*

Lake Burrumbeet

Table 432. Site account for Lake Burrumbeet SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.50245, 143.64308
Area	2,507 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Burrumbeet is a large, shallow, eutrophic lake in central western Victoria fed primarily by Burrumbeet Creek and surrounding catchments. It is bordered by plains grassland, grassy woodland, sedgy wetlands, and open water, though periods of drought have led to fluctuating water levels and increased salinity. The lake supports a range of wetland habitats and is surrounded by grazing land, with its embankments and scattered large trees offering important shelter and foraging areas for wildlife.

Table 433. Importance of SBA Lake Burrumbeet for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,300 / 130	200*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2024	350 / 18	20	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Lake Connemare and Barwon River Estuary

Table 434. Site account for Lake Connemare and Barwon River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (Site Number: 18)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC070 Lake Connemare
Wetland type	A6, A8, B10, B5, B4

Flyway Network Site	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (EAAF065)
Key Biodiversity Area	Bellarine Wetlands
Geographical Coordinates	-38.23209, 144.44329
Area	4,900 hectares
No. of count areas	9
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 14

General site description

The Lake Connemare and Barwon River Estuary shorebird area on the Bellarine Peninsula includes a mosaic of swamps, freshwater and saline wetlands, saltmarsh, and an intertidal estuary within the Barwon River valley. Key sites include Belmont Common, Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamps, Lake Murtnaghurt, Sparrovale Wetlands and Lake Connemare itself. Lake Connemare had tidal influences, but other key wetlands in the complex have complex freshwater regimes, with water levels fluctuating with environmental flows, floods and storm water from nearby residential areas. The varied wetland types and low human disturbance support large numbers of migratory shorebirds annually.

Table 435. Importance of SBA Lake Connemare and Barwon River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	8,257	0	7	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	6,110	3	8	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2024	6,000 / 600	3,615*	0	6	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,200 / 120	1,556	1	5	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2010	250 / 25	337	1	10	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2023	1,300 / 130	230*	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2023	1,200 / 120	194*	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*
Common Greenshank	Summer	2010	1,100 / 110	145	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2018	350 / 35	54*	0	6	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP; incidental*

Lake Corangamite area

Table 436. Site account for Lake Corangamite area SBA

Ramsar Site	Western District Lakes (Site Number: 20)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC102 Cundare Pool/Lake Martin VIC103 Kooraweera Lakes VIC104 Lake Beeac VIC105 Lake Bookaar VIC106 Lake Colongulac VIC107 Lake Corangamite VIC108 Lake Cundare VIC109 Lake Gnarpurt VIC111 Lake Milangil VIC113 Lake Terangpom VIC114 Lower Lough Calvert and Lake

	Thurumbong VIC115 Middle Lough Calvert VIC120 Upper Lough Calvert
Wetland type	B5, B6, B7, B8, B10, B12, C1
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Corangamite Complex
Geographical Coordinates	-38.16794, 143.44996
Area	42,026 hectares
No. of count areas	45
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 14

General site description

The Corangamite Lakes complex consists of a diverse network of permanent to intermittent lakes with mostly bare margins and variable salinity, ranging from fresh to hypersaline. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland permanent saline lake in Australia, is part of this highly turbid and nutrient-rich system. Seasonal and annual water regime fluctuations shape the habitat availability, with ephemeral lakes providing high-quality feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds during key seasonal periods.

Table 437. Importance of SBA Corangamite Lakes Complex for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2018	20,000 / 2,000	17,871	0	10	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	9,810	4	13	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2017	20,000 / 2,000	9,554	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2017	6,000 / 600	9,078	1	6	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2018	6,000 / 600	6,745	1	12	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,200 / 120	2,085	2	7	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2022	1,300 / 130	1,200*	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	1,000*	6	10	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2023	1,200 / 120	362	0	2	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2020	350 / 35	59	0	3	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP

Lake Elingamite

Table 438. Site account for Lake Elingamite SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC101 Cobden-Terang Volcanic Craters
Wetland type	B5, B13, B10, B7
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.35475, 143.00647
Area	323 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Elingamite, formed in an extinct volcanic crater, features a high water level and extensive floating peat mats around its margins that provide ideal foraging conditions for migratory shorebirds. The lake supports fresh to brackish water conditions that vary with rainfall and season, enhancing its suitability as a seasonal shorebird habitat.

Table 439. Importance of SBA Lake Elingamite for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	478	0	2	ASMP

Lake Goldsmith

Table 440. Site account for Lake Goldsmith SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.53271, 143.35647
Area	1,119 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 8, Winter: 4

General site description

Lake Goldsmith Shorebird Area is a shallow, semi-permanent freshwater volcanic lake that fills from local catchment runoff and frequently dries during prolonged dry periods. While full conditions offer limited shorebird habitat aside from Latham's Snipe, the drying phase exposes extensive muddy verges that create ideal foraging conditions for migratory habitat generalists such as Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint.

Table 441. Importance of SBA Lake Goldsmith for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2020	20,000 / 2,000	2,455	0	2	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	2,200	2	4	ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2024	6,000 / 600	1,360*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2024	250 / 25	204*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,200 / 120	146	0	1	ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 35	39*	0	1	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP; incidental*

Lake Learmonth

Table 442. Site account for Lake Learmonth SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.43439, 143.70775
Area	541 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: 3

General site description

Lake Learmonth Shorebird Area is located in central western Victoria. Lake Learmonth is a shallow semi-permanent freshwater lake which is used extensively for recreation depending on water levels. In recent years, water levels have generally been too low for boat-based recreational activities, and this combined with extensive exposed muddy margins, has resulted in large areas of suitable shorebird foraging habitat, particularly around the Lake's north eastern shoreline.

Table 443. Importance of SBA Lake Learmonth for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	150*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 35	96	0	5	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2021	250 / 25	28*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Lake Lonsdale

Table 444. Site account for Lake Lonsdale SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C1
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.02902, 142.6308
Area	2,299 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Lonsdale is a large, shallow reservoir on the eastern side of the Grampians National Park, fed primarily by Mount William Creek. The lake features extensive mudflats, sandy beaches, marshy zones, and earthen banks fringed by open woodland, with habitat availability varying by water level. These diverse and dynamic conditions support foraging opportunities for migratory shorebirds.

Table 445. Importance of SBA Lake Lonsdale for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	800*	0	1	Incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	40*	0	2	Incidental*

Lake Lorne

Table 446. Site account for Lake Lorne SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.182169, 144.556171
Area	6 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: NA

General site description

The Lake Lorne SBA is located in Drysdale on the Bellarine peninsula, 23 kilometres east of Geelong. The lake has a connection to the groundwater system which feeds the natural springs that run into Port Phillip Bay. The natural water level can rise and fall greatly. It can also lag in response to the weather, taking some time to fill after rain and retaining high water levels through dry periods. The lake can be a particularly important refuge for birds during drought.

Table 447. Importance of SBA Lake Lorne for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2015	350 / 18	22*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Lake Murdeduke

Table 448. Site account for Lake Murdeduke SBA

Ramsar Site	Western District Lakes (Site Number: 20)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC112 Lake Murdeduke
Wetland type	B12, B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Corangamite Complex
Geographical Coordinates	-38.17523, 143.89832
Area	1,674 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: 4

General site description

Lake Murdeduke is a permanent brackish to saline lake fed by local runoff, direct precipitation, Mia Mia Creek, and several drainage lines. The lake supports a high diversity and abundance of birdlife and functions as an important drought refuge. Its stable water regime and salinity levels create suitable foraging habitat for a range of migratory shorebirds.

Table 449. Importance of SBA Lake Murdeduke for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2020	20,000 / 2,000	5,329	0	2	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2017	20,000 / 2,000	3,473	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2020	6,000 / 600	2,633	0	3	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	2,560	4	4	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2017	6,000 / 600	2,200	0	3	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,200 / 120	800*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,300 / 130	700*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2023	1,500 / 150	244*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2021	1,200 / 120	150	0	2	ASMP

Lake Wendouree

Table 450. Site account for Lake Wendouree SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC137 Lake Wendouree
Wetland type	B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.55017, 143.83311
Area	257 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake Wendouree is a permanent freshwater lake in urban Ballarat, bordered by residential and industrial areas and used extensively for water-based recreation. It supports submerged, floating, and emergent native aquatic vegetation, with introduced species along the parkland fringe. Although typically lacking shorebird habitat, occasional drawdowns expose expansive muddy verges that provide ideal foraging conditions for migratory species such as Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

Table 451. Importance of SBA Lake Wendouree for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	220*	0	1	Incidental*

Lake Wongan

Table 452. Site account for Lake Wongan SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.61092, 143.15364
Area	254 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: 2

General site description

Lake Wongan is a shallow freshwater lake east of Ballarat, fed by local runoff from surrounding farmland. It features mudflats, marshy areas, and earthen banks bordered by open grasslands and some woodland vegetation. Typically inundated in winter, the lake provides high quality freshwater marsh and mudflat habitat for migratory shorebirds in spring and early summer before drying completely by late summer.

Table 453. Importance of SBA Lake Wongan for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2020	20,000 / 2,000	2,500	0	1	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	2,300	2	2	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,200 / 120	220	0	1	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	188	0	2	ASMP

Merin Merin and Middle Swamps

Table 454. Site account for Merin Merin and Middle Swamps SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC138 Merin Merin Swamp
Wetland type	B6, B14, B10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.225771 143.799129
Area	215 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: NA

General site description

Merin Merin and Middle Swamps SBA is located approximately 25 kilometres south of Maryborough in central Victoria. Both swamps form the southern end of a wetland complex which extends north onto the Northern Riverine Plain. The swamps receive water via localised runoff from surrounding volcanic cones (Mt Glasgow, Mt Cameron and Merin Hill) and may overflow into the Tullaroop Creek. Both swamps are locally important due to their high wildlife value and connection with Clunes State Forest.

Table 455. Importance of SBA Merin Merin and Middle Swamps for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2017	350 / 18	22	0	1	ASMP

Mildura

Table 456. Site account for Mildura SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC014 Lake Ranfurly VIC026 Wargan Basins (Meridian Lakes)
Wetland type	B7, B8, B5, B12
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.26067, 141.98934

Area	994 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: NA

General site description

The Mildura shorebird site comprises three wetland areas. The closest is a pair of wetlands, Lake Ranfurly and Lake Hawthorn are interconnected and have a narrow flood-level connection to the adjacent Murray River. The second component is an oxbow lagoon, Brickworks Billabong, on the Murray floodplain near Merbein. The third is an aggregation of about ten elongated basins, up to a kilometre long, known as the Wargan Basins or Meridian Lakes, situated more than 10 kilometres from the river within a sand plain. Shorebird habitat in the site includes shallow lakebed and drying bare margins and intermittent saline marshes. The eastern part of Lake Ranfurly, separated at low water levels from the western part by a causeway, receives water from stormwater and treated sewage effluent from the Mildura urban area. The eastern part of Lake Ranfurly tends to be fresher than the western part which receives irrigation effluent. This lake system is also used for disposal of saline groundwater from the Mildura-Merbein Groundwater Interception Scheme. Brickworks Billabong is primarily watered by rises in the Murray River. The Wargan Basins receive pumped-in discharge from domestic sources, food processing and irrigation effluent, as well as pumped-in excess water from Lake Ranfurly. Salinity of the wetlands varies markedly—brackish to hypersaline—through the year, related to local rainfall and runoff. Surveys of shorebirds at the site are at three widely-separate wetlands. Numbers of ducks, coots, stilts and/or other waterbirds in both the Wargan Basin and Lake Ranfurly often exceed 10,000.

Table 457. Importance of SBA Mildura for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	130*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Moolap

Table 458. Site account for Moolap SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C1, C2, C4, C9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Bellarine Wetlands
Geographical Coordinates	-38.15214, 144.41626
Area	776 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 12

General site description

The Moolap shorebird area, located east of Geelong on the Bellarine Peninsula, comprises former saltworks, a decommissioned industrial site, and the Point Henry Foreshore Reserve. The extensive wetland systems, shaped by historical saltworks infrastructure that replaced natural samphire flats, now provide critical habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 459. Importance of SBA Moolap for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	3,316	0	4	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	1,615	0	11	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2021	1,300 / 130	1,554	2	11	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,200 / 120	745	0	4	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2011	250 / 25	205	0	2	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	166	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP

Point Cook to Williamstown

Table 460. Site account for Point Cook to Williamstown SBA

Ramsar Site	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (Site Number: 18)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC116 Point Cook and Laverton Saltworks
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A11, B1, B5, B7, B10, B12, C4
Flyway Network Site	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (EAAF065)
Key Biodiversity Area	Cheetham and Altona
Geographical Coordinates	-37.89533, 144.80435
Area	1,352 hectares
No. of count areas	12
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: 11

General site description

The Point Cook to Williamstown shorebird area encompasses a diverse range of remnant wetlands along the north-western shore of Port Phillip Bay, including freshwater wetlands, salt pans, mudflats, and shallow inshore waters. Key sites include Jawbone Reserve, Korotioit Creek Mouth, Altona Coastal Park, Rowden's Swamp, Cheetham Wetlands, Truganina Swamp, the Spectacle Lakes complex, and RAAF Lake. These varied habitats support a high diversity of migratory shorebirds, particularly along intertidal and muddy coastal zones.

Table 13. Importance of SBA Point Cook to Williamstown for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2011	20,000 / 2,000	4,988	0	7	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2021	6,000 / 600	4,480*	0	10	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	2,120*	1	9	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,200 / 120	1,800	2	10	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2023	6,000 / 600	1,300*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2014	250 / 25	332*	2	7	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2014	1,200 / 120	300*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Port Fairy

Table 462. Site account for Port Fairy SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC119 Tower Hill Swamp VIC075 Lower Merri River Wetlands
Wetland type	B8, B5, A10, A11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Port Fairy to Warrnambool
Geographical Coordinates	-38.35903, 142.33503
Area	1,728 hectares
No. of count areas	23
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 8

General site description

The Port Fairy shorebird area spans a high-energy coastal landscape between Port Fairy and Warrnambool, encompassing dune-backed beaches, brackish wetlands, and river-fed swamps. Key habitats include Killarney Beach, Belfast Coastal Reserve and Rutledges Cutting, Griffiths Island, the Merri River Wetlands, and Tower Hill—a unique brackish volcanic crater wetland. Wetland systems like Kelly, Saltwater, and Killarney Swamps are seasonally influenced by river floodwaters and occasional sea washovers, while others, such as Tower Hill, are groundwater-fed. These diverse and dynamic habitats support a wide array of migratory shorebirds, including internationally significant numbers of Latham's Snipe.

Table 463. Importance of SBA Port Fairy for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	3,502	0	4	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2019	6,000 / 600	1,995	0	11	ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,300 / 130	1,779	2	7	ASMP
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2011	350 / 35	443	1	2	Latham's Snipe Project; ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2018	300 / 30	400	2	15	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	365	2	7	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2019	300 / 30	288	0	12	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2010	300 / 30	92	0	2	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2020	300 / 30	87	0	5	ASMP

Portland

Table 464. Site account for Portland SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.37763, 141.4981
Area	236 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: NA

General site description

The Portland Shorebird Area includes the high-energy coastline of Bridgewater Bay, between Cape Nelson and Cape Bridgewater, and the sheltered wetland of Fawthrop Lagoon in central Portland. The coastal section is dominated by dense coastal dune scrub, while Fawthrop Lagoon provides calmer, vegetated wetland habitat. Together, these contrasting environments support a variety of migratory shorebirds throughout the year.

Table 465. Importance of SBA Portland for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	140*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2018	300 / 30	100	0	1	ASMP

Seaspray

Table 466. Site account for Seaspray SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A10
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.39746, 147.15744
Area	934 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Seaspray Shorebird Area is centred on the coastal estuary of Merriman Creek, which flows east from the Strzelecki Hills to the sea at the southern end of Ninety Mile Beach in eastern Victoria. The area features sandy beaches and a dynamic estuarine system that supports a range of recreational activities. Despite human use, the estuary and surrounding habitats provide important seasonal foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 467. Importance of SBA Seaspray for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	300*	0	1	Incidental*
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2017	250 / 25	50*	0	1	Incidental*

Shallow Inlet

Table 468. Site account for Shallow Inlet SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC080 Shallow Inlet Marine & Coastal Park
Wetland type	A1, A2, A5, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park (EAAF093)
Key Biodiversity Area	Shallow Inlet
Geographical Coordinates	-38.8316, 146.158
Area	2,609 hectares
No. of count areas	11
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: 12

General site description

Shallow Inlet is a large tidal embayment bordered by sandy spits, bars, and mobile dunes, with expansive intertidal mudflats, seagrass meadows, and saltmarsh. It receives freshwater runoff from intermittent creeks and constructed drains through adjacent farmland, but is primarily influenced by strong tidal flows. Storm-driven wave action results in a dynamic estuary mouth, with significant changes in intertidal sand flat extent not uncommon between seasons. Several low-elevation islands within the inlet covered in saltmarsh vegetation, offer sheltered, disturbance-free roosting habitat directly adjacent to rich intertidal foraging grounds, providing ideal conditions for migratory shorebirds. There is evidence of likely routine movement of birds between Shallow Inlet and nearby Corner Inlet in response to weather conditions and foraging resource availability.

Table 469. Importance of SBA Shallow Inlet for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	4,830	0	10	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2016	6,000 / 600	3,525	0	11	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2018	20,000 / 2,000	2,364	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2018	6,000 / 600	1,683	0	4	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,200 / 120	930	0	9	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	906	9	12	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2020	300 / 30	570	9	10	ASMP
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2016	1,500 / 150	356	0	8	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	260*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	210	0	10	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2013	1,100 / 110	128	0	1	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2014	350 / 35	91	0	3	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2010	300 / 30	65	0	3	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2010	NA / 15	17	NA	1	ASMP

Snowy River Estuary

Table 470. Site account for the Snowy River Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC087 Lower Snowy River Wetland System
Wetland type	A7, B13, A11, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lower Brodribb River
Geographical Coordinates	-37.76798, 148.53057
Area	3,943 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: 6

General site description

The Snowy River Estuary shorebird area in far eastern Victoria encompasses the estuarine wetlands of the Snowy and Brodribb Rivers, including Lake Corringale, Lake Wat Wat, and Lake Curlip. This floodplain system supports a mosaic of habitats such as Swamp Paperbark, reed beds, saltmarsh, and intertidal mudflats—many of which have been lost or degraded elsewhere in the region. The estuary mouth is shaped by tidal sandbanks and high-energy coastal beaches, while Lake Wat Wat and Lake Curlip are tidally influenced, creating dynamic wetland conditions that support a diversity of migratory shorebirds.

Table 471. Importance of SBA Snowy River Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
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Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	50*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
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St. Leonards Salt Lake

Table 472. Site account for St. Leonards Salt Lake SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.15749, 144.71007
Area	65 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

Saint Leonards Wildlife Reserve lies immediately north of the township of Saint Leonards on the Bellarine Peninsula and features a large coastal salt lake surrounded by extensive saltmarsh. The lake is often dry and has a clay and salt floor, with a main southern basin connected to a smaller northern extension by a narrow channel. The area includes prominent geomorphological features such as relict beaches, spits, and islands, and is bordered to the west and south by a continuous bluff, likely marking the edge of a former marine embayment. These features create valuable habitat for shorebirds, particularly when water is present in the lake.

Table 473. Importance of SBA St. Leonards Salt Lake for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	130*	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*

Swan Bay & Mud Islands

Table 474. Site account for Swan Bay & Mud Islands

Ramsar Site	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (Site Number: 18)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC081 Swan Bay and Swan Island
Wetland type	A1, A8, A7, A2
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Swan Bay and Port Phillip Bay Islands
Geographical Coordinates	-38.24009, 144.66799
Area	4,206 hectares
No. of count areas	8
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 14

General site description

The Swan Bay and Mud Islands shorebird area includes Swan Bay, a shallow marine embayment on the eastern Bellarine Peninsula, and the Mud Islands, located approximately 7 kilometres offshore in Port Phillip Bay. Swan Bay features extensive seagrass beds, fringing saltmarsh, and 700–1,000 hectares of intertidal mudflats exposed at low tide. The surrounding landscape includes spits, barrier islands, and remnant woodlands. The Mud Islands are low-lying sandbanks shaped by storm activity, with saltmarsh, dune shrubland, and surrounding seagrass beds and mudflats. Together, these areas offer expansive, undisturbed feeding and roosting habitat that supports a high diversity of migratory shorebirds.

Table 475. Importance of SBA Swan Bay & Mud Islands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	4,559	0	9	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2019	6,000 / 600	3,201	0	14	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,200 / 120	1,125	0	13	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	815	0	9	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2010	3,750 / 375	394	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2011	250 / 25	250	1	9	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2015	300 / 30	77	0	2	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	65	0	2	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2010	NA / 15	15	NA	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP

Swan Hill

Table 476. Site account for Swan Hill SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B5, B6, C6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-35.22007, 143.43739
Area	821 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: NA

General site description

The Swan Hill shorebird area comprises five wetlands west of Swan Hill in northern Victoria, including three mostly ephemeral natural lakes—Woorinen Drainage Lake, Woorinen Central

Drainage Lake, and Murrawee Lake—which are typically dry but occasionally inundate, creating temporary shorebird habitat. Woorinen Drainage Lake holds water more regularly, offering more consistent habitat. The Swan Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant adds permanent freshwater ponds and a large evaporation pond with exposed muddy margins. Most wetlands are saline, except the treatment plant. Water levels vary across sites, but due to limited wetland availability in the region, these areas can support large numbers of migratory shorebirds.

Table 477. Importance of SBA Swan Hill for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	270	0	2	ASMP

Waranga Basin

Table 478. Site account for Waranga Basin SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-36.55472, 145.09804
Area	5,936 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Waranga Basin is the fourth largest inland waterbody in Victoria, located on the site of a former natural wetland and now functioning as a major irrigation storage. The basin's water levels fluctuate in response to irrigation demands, influencing the extent of wetland and shoreline habitats. It is surrounded by agricultural land and state forest, with the southern margin abutting ironbark forest when the basin is full. The combination of open water, variable wetlands, and adjacent forested areas supports a rich diversity of birdlife.

Table 479. Importance of SBA Waranga Basin for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	30*	0	2	Incidental*

Werribee / Avalon

Table 480. Site account for Werribee/Avalon SBA

Ramsar Site	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (Site number: 18)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC121 Werribee-Avalon Area

Wetland type	A7, C6, A8
Flyway Network Site	Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula (EAAF065)
Key Biodiversity Area	Werribee and Avalon
Geographical Coordinates	-37.99417, 144.64156
Area	6,520 hectares
No. of count areas	28
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Werribee–Avalon shorebird area in western Victoria includes a diverse mosaic of natural and artificial wetlands varying in salinity and water depth. Natural features include intertidal lagoons (Limeburners Bay and The Spit), estuaries (Little and Werribee Rivers), saltmarsh flats, shallow freshwater marshes influenced by tidal flows and stream outflows, and rocky spits sometimes used as roosts (notably at Pt Wilson). Artificial, managed wetlands, regularly used by shorebirds for ‘top-up’ foraging at high tide, include salt evaporation ponds from the former Avalon salt works and sewage treatment lagoons and filtration paddocks within the Werribee Treatment Complex, managed through gravity-fed and pumped water systems. Together, these wetlands provide extensive intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, and mangrove habitat that support large numbers of migratory shorebirds.

Table 14. Importance of SBA Werribee / Avalon for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2020	20,000 / 2,000	31,576	3	15	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong Field Nats/ARI counts
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2020	6,000 / 600	17,161	15	15	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong Field Nats/ARI counts
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	10,922	12	13	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong Field Nats/ARI counts
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,200 / 120	3,328	12	15	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong Field Nats/ARI counts
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2020	20,000 / 2,000	3,128	0	2	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong Field Nats/ARI counts
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2017	6,000 / 600	2,664	0	7	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
							Field Nats/ARI counts
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2014	1,200 / 120	570	0	3	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong Field Nats/ARI counts
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2012	250 / 25	443	7	11	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong Field Nats/ARI counts
Species diversity	Summer	2012	15 / NA	15	1	NA	Melbourne Water/ARI WTP counts; Geelong Field Nats/ARI counts

Westernport

Table 482. Site account for Westernport SBA

Ramsar Site	Westernport (Site number: 19)
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC083 Westernport
Wetland type	A1, A2, A4, A9, A7, A8, A5
Flyway Network Site	Westernport (EAAF066)
Key Biodiversity Area	Westernport
Geographical Coordinates	-38.46303, 145.3675
Area	55,625 hectares
No. of count areas	41
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

Westernport is a large coastal bay in southern Victoria featuring diverse habitats including intertidal mudflats, mangroves, saltmarsh, seagrass beds, deep channels, and freshwater marshes. Fed by six major rivers and numerous minor creeks, the bay's shoreline supports a range of wetland types and low-lying ephemeral grasslands that respond dynamically to seasonal rainfall and tidal influences. The combination of extensive mudflats, seagrass flats, and fringing vegetation provides ideal foraging and roosting conditions for a wide variety of migratory shorebirds.

Table 483. Importance of SBA Westernport for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2014	20,000 / 2,000	15,157	0	15	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	12,608	6	15	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,200 / 120	2,698	5	14	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2017	20,000 / 2,000	2,522	0	4	ASMP

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2023	6,000 / 600	1,486	0	7	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	1,380	1	9	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2019	250 / 25	827	15	15	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2012	350 / 35	613	8	15	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2010	3,750 / 375	499	0	4	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,200 / 120	347	0	2	ASMP
Red Knot	Winter	2020	1,300 / 130	204	0	2	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2023	1,300 / 130	150*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2011	350 / 35	113	0	12	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	72	0	9	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2022	NA / 15	16	NA	1	ASMP

Willaura

Table 484. Site account for Willaura SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC098 Lake Muirhead VIC099 Mount William Swamp VIC136 Lake Buninjon
Wetland type	B10, B12, B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.45718, 142.68351
Area	3,682 hectares
No. of count areas	9
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: 11

General site description

The Willaura shorebird area, located east of the Grampians National Park in western Victoria, includes a network of freshwater and brackish wetlands such as Lake Muirhead, Mount William Swamp, Lake Buninjon, and Brady Swamp. These wetlands vary in salinity and vegetation, with features including dense rushes, Sea Rush meadows, Tangled Lignum, and submerged aquatic vegetation. Lake Buninjon and Brady Swamp are part of broader catchment and floodplain systems, with water levels influenced by streams and the Wannon River. This diversity of habitats provides critical feeding and roosting opportunities for migratory shorebirds across the wetland complex.

Table 485. Importance of SBA Willaura for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	700	0	3	ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2020	250 / 25	128*	0	7	ASMP; incidental*

Winchelsea Region

Table 486. Site account for Winchelsea Region SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B5, B6, B7, C1
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-38.28399, 144.04002
Area	1,340 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: 3

General site description

The Winchelsea Region shorebird area includes Lake Modewarre, Lake Gherang Wildlife Reserve, and Wurdiboluc Reservoir within the small Modewarre Catchment. Water levels and quality fluctuate seasonally, affecting habitat availability. Lake Gherang is a deep, well-vegetated marsh that overflows into the more open Lake Modewarre, which is surrounded by grassland and agricultural land. Runoff from Mount Moriac and local rainfall feed these systems, with water levels typically declining through late summer and autumn. During low water periods, exposed mudflats and shallow water zones create optimal foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds including Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Table 487. Importance of SBA Winchelsea Region for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	3,000*	1	2	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2014	20,000 / 2,000	2,130	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	1,730	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP
Double-banded Plover	Winter	2018	250 / 25	110*	0	2	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2024	350 / 18	28*	0	1	Geelong Field Nats; ASMP; incidental*

Winters Swamp

Table 488. Site account for Winters Swamp SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	VIC137 Lake Wendouree
Wetland type	B5
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-37.53654318, 143.783108
Area	30 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 5, Winter: NA

General site description

The Winters Swamp SBA is located in the western part of Ballarat approximately 8 km from the city centre. The swamp is an ephemeral wetland which was previously grazed and has since been revegetated.

Table 489. Importance of SBA Winters Swamp for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Latham's Snipe	Summer	2022	350 / 18	30	0	2	ASMP; Latham's Snipe Project

Special SBA cases: Latham's Snipe Project

This section provides an overview of special SBA cases of importance derived from the Latham's Snipe Project where these sites fall outside the established ASMP site network in Victoria.

Table 490. Importance of special SBA cases in Victoria for Latham's Snipe (International threshold: 350; National threshold: 18)

SBA name	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Moyne Estuary	Summer	2023	221	0	7	11
Peterborough Wetlands	Summer	2015	207	0	11	11
Silverleaves, Phillip Island	Summer	2020	131	0	6	9
Evelyn Drive Wetland	Summer	2020	115	0	6	7
Norman Street Industrial Area, Ballarat ^x	Summer	2023	97	0	4	5
Cheltenham Rd Retarding Basin	Summer	2023	83	0	8	8
Elcho & Lara, Lakeland Wetlands	Summer	2021	82	0	2	8
BARC Wetlands, Bairnsdale	Summer	2018	81	0	7	9
Clifton Creek Swamp, Wy Yung	Summer	2023	63	0	6	7
Allansford	Summer	2024	58	0	10	11
Graydens Wetland, Phillip Island	Summer	2021	55	0	2	8
Nerrina Wetlands, Ballarat	Summer	2023	52	0	4	6
Waterford Wetlands	Summer	2019	43	0	3	6
MacAlister Wetland Reserve	Summer	2024	37	0	8	9
Aitken Creek, Cascade Terrace Wetland, Melbourne	Summer	2022	36	0	3	4
Penshurst town precinct	Summer	2020	36	0	4	6
Flooding Creek, Sale	Summer	2020	34	0	1	9
Cape Paterson Ecovillage	Summer	2023	33	0	1	5
Saltwater Creek, Phillip Island	Summer	2018	31	0	4	9
Heathdale Glen Orden Wetland	Summer	2022	29	0	1	4
Tirhatuan Wetlands Conservation Reserve	Summer	2021	23	0	1	9

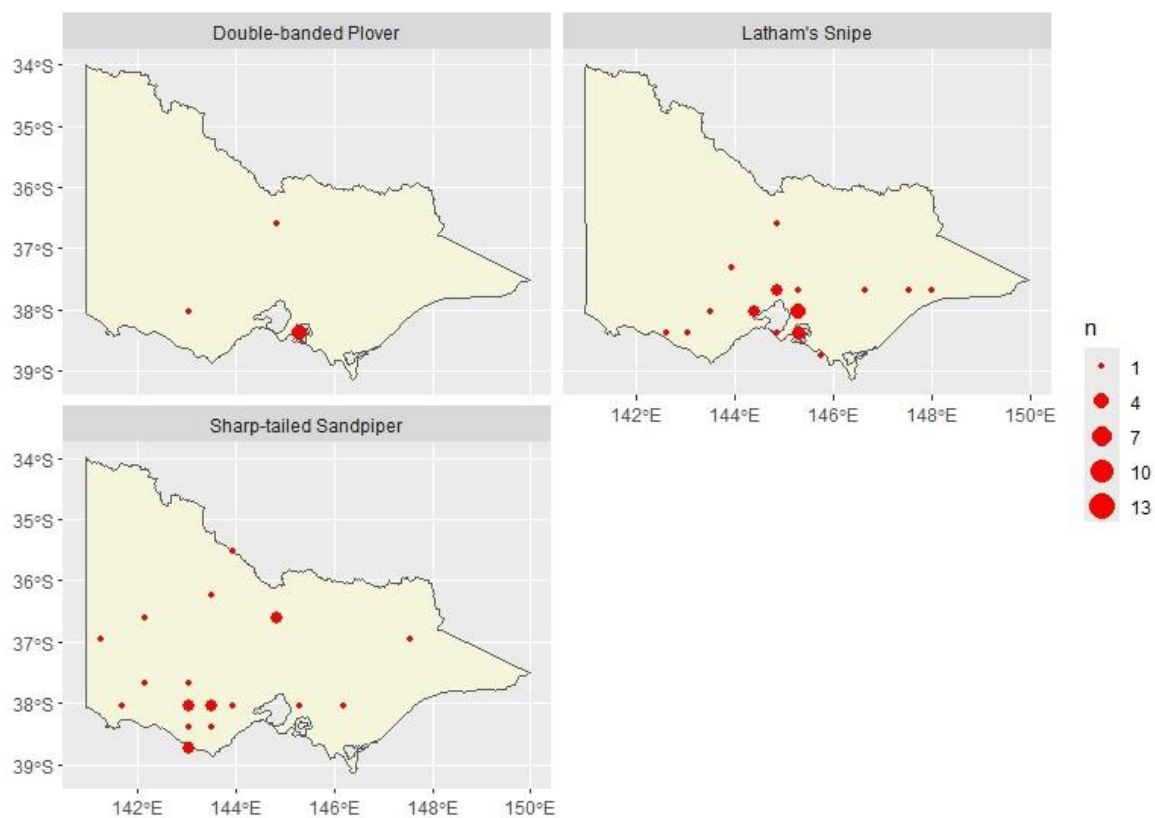
SBA name	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Balyang Sanctuary	Summer	2016	20	0	1	7
Flax Mill Swamp, Ballarat	Summer	2018	20	0	1	8
Deepdene Rd Wetland (Dean's Marsh East)	Summer	2022	18	0	1	6

Footnote: X. LSP site Norman Street Industrial Area, Ballarat has since been developed, with no suitable habitat for Latham's Snipe remaining.

Areas of importance outside the SBA network

Available data indicates three shorebird species occurring in important numbers outside the SBA network in the state, apparently regularly so in a number of areas (Figure) for Latham's Snipe (Melbourne region), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (particularly southwest Victoria) and Double-banded Plover (Westernport Bay). These areas will be subject to further review in terms of potential inclusion in the national SBA network.

Figure 14. Frequency of annual occurrence of important species-specific shorebird numbers outside the SBA network in Victoria between 2009-2024, displayed at a 50x50km grid resolution.



Western Australia

Geography and habitat

Western Australia has the longest coastline of any Australian jurisdiction, with nearly 13,000 km of mainland and 8,000 km of island shore. The diversity of coastal and inland environments supports a broad range of migratory shorebird habitats, though suitability varies greatly by region.

Much of the north Kimberley coast consists of rocky headlands and cliffs, offering limited habitat. However, extensive intertidal flats occur in large embayments like Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach along the arid northwest coast. These areas, though not river-fed, are influenced by heavy rainfall from cyclones and monsoonal activity, which may seasonally flood adjacent plains.

The Pilbara coast features low-lying shores fed by intermittent rivers, with significant shorebird habitat in industrial saltfields and ephemeral inland systems like Fortescue Marsh. Exmouth Gulf contains extensive intertidal and supratidal flats, mangroves, and islands. Tidal range decreases southwards, from over 10 m in Broome to around 1 m along the southern WA coast.

The lower west coast is predominantly sandy but backed by interdunal lakes and estuarine systems, including the Peel-Harvey Estuary. The south coast between Cape Leeuwin and Cape Arid contains many estuaries, tidal lagoons, and long beaches, interspersed with seasonal wetlands that provide high-value habitat, particularly in summer.

Non-tidal wetlands include coastal plains with seasonal claypans and swamps vegetated with grasses, sedges, samphires, or thickets. Inland habitats range from vast artificial and natural freshwater lakes in the Kimberley to episodically filled saline lakes in the Goldfields and southwest. These systems are highly dynamic and generally under-surveyed.

Important sites

The most important sites for migratory shorebirds in Western Australia—and the entire Flyway—lie along the north-west coast. Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck Bay (including Bush Point) are internationally significant for 16 and 18 species respectively and regularly support some of the highest shorebird numbers recorded in the country. These vast tidal flats serve as critical arrival and departure points during migration and have been the focus of long-term, intensive survey effort. Roebuck Bay holds among the highest known numbers of Asian Dowitcher in Australia, while Eighty Mile Beach consistently supports exceptional numbers of Great Knot and Red Knot—an order of magnitude higher than counts from elsewhere in Australia. Roebuck Plains, a seasonally inundated floodplain adjacent to the bay, is also notable for supporting very large numbers of grassland-favouring shorebirds such as Oriental Plover.

Although both Oriental Plovers and Oriental Pratincoles occur widely across northern Australia including in dryland habitats, historic concentrations on the north-west coast have exceeded those documented elsewhere in the Flyway (Sitters et al. 2004; Piersma & Hassell 2010).

Elsewhere along the arid coast, shorebird habitat is concentrated at industrial saltfields near Port Hedland and Dampier, and at Exmouth Gulf. The role of inland regions remains poorly

understood due to limited survey coverage, but huge wetlands such as Lake Gregory (Paraku), Lake Argyle, Fortescue Marshes, and episodic playas like Lake Mackay likely support large numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and other species following summer rain.

In the south-west, regionally important habitat occurs at Peel-Harvey Estuary, Wilson Inlet, and Albany Harbour, with shorebirds also using coastal lakes and estuaries as seasonal water levels recede.

Pressures and threats

Despite their remoteness, key shorebird habitats in northern Western Australia face risks from industrial activity. Oil and gas operations offshore present a potential pollution threat to sites like Barrow Island and Exmouth Gulf, while the long-term viability of habitat at north-western saltfields may be uncertain if salt production ceases. Pastoral grazing is widespread across tropical inland wetlands but impacts on shorebirds remain poorly studied. Disturbance at Roebuck Bay has been documented and remains a concern.

In the south-west, habitat pressures are more pronounced. Urban expansion and recreational use have degraded foreshores around the Swan River Estuary. Rapid growth in the Perth region has increased human disturbance and altered wetland hydrology. The Peel–Harvey Estuary, subject to eutrophication and modified by the Dawesville Cut, continues to support shorebirds despite urban encroachment. Similar pressures affect the Vasse–Wonnerup Estuary, though active management prioritises biodiversity.

South coast inlets remain relatively intact, shaped largely by natural processes. In the Wheatbelt, extensive salinisation from historical land clearing has severely affected freshwater lakes, while the state's inland salt lakes remain mostly unmodified.

State of knowledge

Despite the vast extent and remote location of many shorebird habitats in Western Australia, the state is among the best-studied regions in Australia for migratory shorebirds. Annual expeditions by the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) since 1981 (e.g. Minton et al. 2015), supported by government and academic collaborators, have generated a substantial body of knowledge from sites such as Roebuck Bay, Eighty Mile Beach, and Port Hedland Saltfields. These efforts, including long-term banding and re-sighting programs, satellite tracking of species like knots, godwits, Little Curlews, and pratincoles, and focused projects on Yellow Sea migrants (Rogers et al. 2009), have been instrumental in understanding shorebird movements and informing site management—contributing greatly to shorebird conservation in the Flyway.

Extensive biometric data have been collected across the north-west, and Broome has emerged as a key site for observing migration departures. The Broome Bird Observatory and affiliated laboratory facilities have enabled detailed studies of benthic prey communities in Roebuck Bay (e.g. Tulp & de Goeij 2004; Piersma et al. 2016), with implications for broader shorebird conservation across northern Australia.

In the south-west, research has a longer history, with CSIRO-led banding beginning in the Swan River Estuary in 1958. Volunteer monitoring across the Swan River, Peel-Harvey Estuary, and

Albany Harbours over the past four to five decades has produced valuable data on site usage and movement patterns. Survey coverage of more remote areas of WA has expanded since foundational efforts in the 1980s (e.g. Jaensch & Vervest 1990), with more recent work carried out by universities, industry environmental studies (e.g. Barrow Island; Bamford & Moro 2011), and community volunteers (e.g. Faure Island, Shark Bay). However, other areas known historically to have supported internationally important numbers of shorebirds such as Lake MacLeod have not been wholesale surveyed since 2006.

Figure 15. Map overview of listed shorebird areas in Western Australia (blue = internationally important; green = nationally important). Numbers refer to associated table.

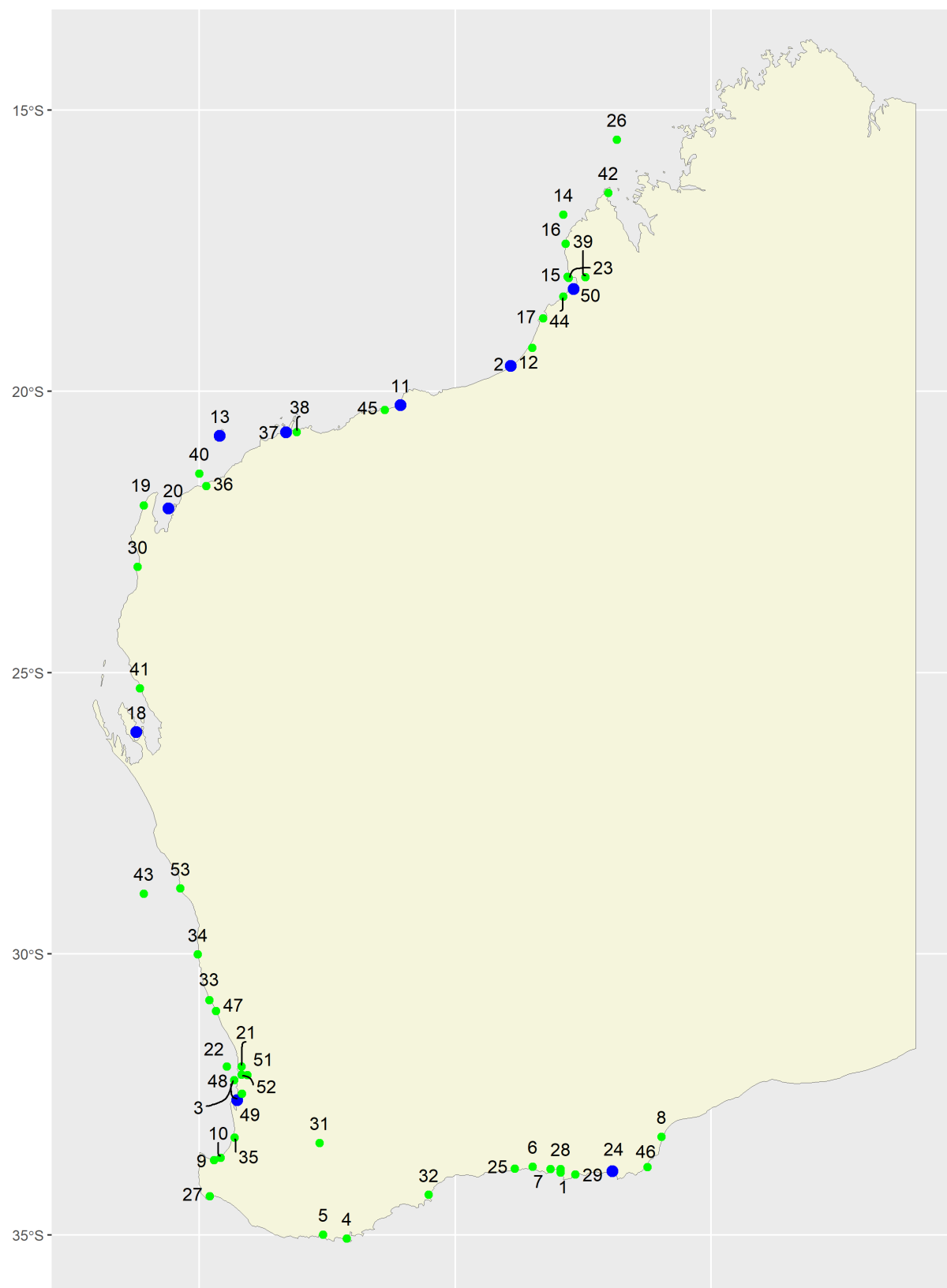


Table 491. List of Map IDS for shorebird habitat for Western Australia

SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID	SBA	Map ID
Abrolhos Islands	43	Dampier Saltworks	37	Onslow	36
Adele Island	26	Eighty Mile Beach	2	Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	48
Albany	4	Esperance	1	Pilbara Islands	40
Anna Plains	12	Exmouth Gulf	20	Port Hedland	45
Bannitup Lake	28	Forrestdale Lake	51	Roebuck Bay	50
Barrow Island	13	Garden Island	3	Roebuck Plains	39
Bibra and Thompsons Lake Reserves	52	Geraldton	53	Rottneest Island	22
Blackwood Estuary	27	Gordon Inlet	32	Shark Bay	18
Broadwater (Busselton)	9	Green Head	34	Stokes National Park	25
Broome	23	Israelite Bay	46	Swan River	21
Broome Beaches	15	Karratha	38	Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	10
Cape Le Grand	29	Lacepede Islands	14	Wagin Region	31
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	44	Lake Gore	6	Wandalup Ponds	49
Carnarvon	41	Lancelin	47	Warden Lakes	7
Coast north of Eighty Mile	17	Leschenault Estuary	35	Wedge Island	33
Coral Bay	30	Leslie Saltfields	11	Wilson Inlet	5
Cygnets Bay	42	Ningaloo Marine Park	19	Yoknap	24
Dampier Peninsula	16	Nuytsland Nature Reserve	8		

Abrolhos Islands

Table 492. Site account for Abrolhos Islands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A3, A4, A5, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Houtman Abrolhos
Geographical Coordinates	-28.93184, 113.91497
Area	40,994 hectares
No. of count areas	NA
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Abrolhos Islands are a group of over 170 islands, islets and rocks, located approximately 60 kilometres off the coast of Geraldton, in the Indian Ocean. The archipelago is made up of three main island groups including the Wallabi, Easter and Pelsaert Island groups. The archipelago consists of a mix of limestone continental islands, sand or coral cays, and mangrove wetlands. The Abrolhos is one of the most significant seabird breeding areas in the eastern Indian Ocean, with over two million seabirds estimated to nest there. Despite its importance for seabirds, limited habitat diversity on the islands limits the number of shorebird species. Although many of the islands have migratory shorebirds along their shorelines, tidal flats or in tidal ponds, only Ruddy turnstones occur in significant numbers.

Table 493. Importance of SBA Abrolhos Islands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	110*	0	5	Incidental*

Adele Island

Table 494. Site account for Adele Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A3, A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Adele Island
Geographical Coordinates	-15.52317, 123.15811
Area	491 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Adele Island is a small, uninhabited Island 200 kilometres northwest of Derby, off the Kimberley coast of Western Australia. The low-lying sand island is surrounded by extensive sand banks and sand flats. The island is covered with dense, low vegetation and has a small protected tidal lagoon. Adele Island is a Class A Nature Reserve and supports large numbers of breeding seabirds. The extensive sandflats provide important habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 495. Importance of SBA Adele Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Great Knot	Summer	2022	4,000 / 400	3,200*	0	1	Incidental*
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2022	1,400 / 140	2,698*	1	1	Incidental*
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2022	3,750 / 375	1,983*	0	1	Incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,200 / 120	610*	0	1	Incidental*
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2022	750 / 75	332*	0	1	Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2022	300 / 30	330*	1	1	Incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2022	260 / 26	186*	0	1	Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2021	300 / 30	180*	0	1	Incidental*

Albany

Table 496. Site account for Albany SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA051 Oyster Harbour
Wetland type	A5, A6, A8, A7, A2
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-35.0678, 117.88136
Area	2,273 hectares
No. of count areas	17
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA

General site description

The Albany shorebird area is located adjacent to the township of Albany, 419 kilometres south of Perth. The shorebird area extends along the coastline and incorporates the following areas: Princess Royal Harbour, Shoal Bay, Middleton Beach, Lake Seppings, and Oyster Harbour. Princess Royal Harbour and Shoal Bay are wide sandy beaches with tidal flats, interrupted by rocky headlands. Middleton Beach is a sandy beach that opens to the Southern Ocean in Frenchman Bay. Lake Seppings is a shallow lake surrounded by marsh areas and coastal vegetation that lies behind Middleton beach. Oyster Harbour is a large estuary which is fed by the King and Kalgan Rivers. The Kalgan River mouth is the site of a small high tide shorebird roost. The Albany shorebird area consists of a variety of habitats for migratory shorebirds, supporting a high diversity of species.

Table 497. Importance of SBA Albany for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	159	0	1	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2017	750 / 75	75	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2017	NA / 15	17	NA	2	ASMP

Anna Plains

Table 498. Site account for Anna Plains SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-19.22115, 121.50219
Area	2,024 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Anna Plains is an inland cattle station located adjacent to the southern portion of Eighty Mile Beach in Western Australia. When seasonal flooding occurs, parts of the coastal plain within the station become shallow ephemeral wetlands, creating important inland habitat for shorebirds. The site, recognised as the Anna Plains Important Bird Area, regularly supports nationally significant numbers of Oriental Pratincole and Little Curlew. These flooded grasslands and claypans provide feeding and roosting habitat during favourable conditions.

Table 499. Importance of SBA Anna Plains for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Oriental Pratincole	Summer	2021	28,800 / 2,880	10,000*	0	1	Incidental*
Little Curlew	Summer	2022	1,100 / 110	150*	0	1	Incidental*

Bannitup Lake

Table 500. Site account for Bannitup Lake SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.83058, 122.06104
Area	179 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 14, Winter: NA

General site description

Bannitup Lake is situated on the southern coast of Western Australia, approximately 15 kilometres west of Esperance. Bannitup Lake is a saline/brackish open body of water with an area of approximately 160 hectares. The lake is not currently part of a formal conservation reserve, although it is situated 3 kilometres east of the Lake Mullet Nature Reserve which consists of a series of interconnected lakes. Bannitup Lake provides an important feeding site for shorebirds during winter when many of the surrounding lakes are flooded from winter rains. During the summer most of the lake dries out except for the eastern side which is fed by a spring stream. Red-Capped Plovers, Red-Necked Stints, and the occasional Hooded Plover are known to use this area.

Table 15. Importance of SBA Bannitup Lake for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2022	20,000 / 2,000	2,193	0	2	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2022	6,000 / 600	2,000	0	6	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,300 / 130	225	0	3	ASMP

Barrow Island

Table 502. Site account for Barrow Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A3, A4, A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA

Key Biodiversity Area	Barrow Island KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-20.78935, 115.39967
Area	24,754 hectares
No. of count areas	34
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: 5

General site description

Barrow Island, located off the Pilbara coast in Western Australia, is one of the most important conservation areas in Western Australia. The island has widely distributed shorebird habitat along its shoreline, featuring shallow intertidal rock platforms, limestone cliffs, and horizontal rocky shelves. In exposed areas, coral and algal turf dominate the outer rock edges, while in sheltered regions, sand and mud accumulate to form unvegetated tidal mudflats. These mudflats, especially extensive in the south and southeast, are crucial for supporting large numbers of waders. Offshore intertidal reefs further enhance the island's value as a foraging and roosting site for migratory shorebirds.

Table 503. Importance of SBA Barrow Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2023	20,000 / 2,000	6,759	0	5	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2013	6,000 / 600	2,192	0	6	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2023	800 / 80	1,663	2	7	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2023	1,400 / 140	987	0	6	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2023	300 / 30	645	3	6	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2023	3,750 / 375	386	0	1	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2023	260 / 26	351	1	5	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2015	260 / 26	200	0	2	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2013	800 / 80	183	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2023	300 / 30	86	0	6	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2023	750 / 75	79	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2013	300 / 30	48	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2021	NA / 15	19	NA	5	ASMP

Bibra and Thompsons Lakes Reserves

Table 504. Site account for Bibra and Thompsons Lakes Reserves SBA

Ramsar Site	Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes (Site Number: 35)
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA092 Thomsons Lake
Wetland type	B8
Flyway Network Site	EAAF017 Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.15317, 115.82721
Area	820 hectares
No. of count areas	6

Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA
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General site description

Bibra and Thomsons Lakes are part of the East Beeliiar chain of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain in Western Australia. Thomsons Lake, within the Beeliiar Regional Park, is a seasonal fresh to brackish wetland that typically dries by autumn, while Bibra Lake holds water year-round. Both lakes are fed by groundwater and artificial supplementation and are bordered by urban and agricultural land. Surrounding habitats include sedgeland with rushes and bulrushes, open woodland, and extensive mudflats that emerge during dry periods. The Lake's mudflats provide critical foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds, supporting their seasonal feeding and roosting needs.

Table 505. Importance of SBA Bibra and Thomsons Lakes Reserves for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,300 / 130	850*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Blackwood Estuary

Table 506. Site account for Blackwood Estuary

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.31229, 115.20358
Area	1,427 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: NA

General site description

The Blackwood Estuary site comprises the permanent Blackwood River and its seasonal or near-permanent creeks, flowing through a catchment that transitions from highly disturbed agricultural land upstream to less disturbed forested areas downstream. The lower river is tidally influenced, with daily fluctuations. Vegetation along the riverbanks is diverse, supporting a range of species and reflecting gradients in soil, rainfall, and landform—ranging from coastal low scrub and forested areas with jarrah and karri in the lower-middle catchment, to mallee and shrubland in the drier east.

Table 507. Importance of SBA Blackwood Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	202*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Sanderling	Summer	2022	300 / 30	111*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
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Broadwater (Busselton)

Table 508. Site account for Broadwater (Busselton) SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B8, B11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Busselton Wetlands
Geographical Coordinates	-33.67079, 115.28378
Area	49 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: NA

General site description

The Broadwater–Busselton shorebird area, west of Busselton, is centred on a seasonal brackish coastal lake surrounded by mudflats, low samphire shrubland, and open scrub. Despite its proximity to residential areas and high recreational use, the site supports key shorebird habitat. The exposed mudflats and shallow water zones provide essential foraging grounds, while the surrounding vegetation offers roosting areas. These features make the site valuable for supporting migratory shorebirds during the non-breeding season.

Table 509. Importance of SBA Broadwater (Busselton) for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	887	0	2	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	630	0	1	ASMP

Broome

Table 510. Site account for Broome SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-17.97754, 122.21592
Area	76 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

The Broome shorebird area consists of several locations within or on the edge of the township of Broome. This shorebird area includes the sewerage treatment ponds, the golf course, five

sporting ovals and one open parkland area. As the Broome township is located on a broad peninsula with Cable beach to the west and Roebuck bay to the east, these shorebird areas provide easily accessible roosting sites for resting migratory shorebirds.

Table 511. Importance of SBA Broome for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	57*	0	3	ASMP; incidental*

Broome Beaches

Table 512. Site account for Broome Beaches SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-17.95966, 122.19951
Area	1,631 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

The Broome Beaches shorebird area stretches along the western coastline of the Broome Peninsula, encompassing Cable Beach north to the Willie Creek estuary and south from Gantheaume Point to the western headland of Roebuck Bay. The area features extensive tidal sandflats along Cable Beach, providing broad, open foraging grounds, while Gantheaume Point supports rocky platforms, intertidal reefs, and narrower sandy beaches. This combination of wide sandflats and rocky intertidal zones offers diverse and productive feeding habitats, supporting significant numbers of migratory shorebirds throughout the non-breeding season.

Table 513. Importance of SBA Broome Beaches for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Oriental Pratincole	Summer	2023	28,800 / 2,880	3,000*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2016	6,000 / 600	1,034	0	1	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2018	4,000 / 400	500*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2017	800 / 80	500*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2017	1,400 / 140	400*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,200 / 120	300*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2017	260 / 26	150*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2017	750 / 75	150*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2019	300 / 30	30*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2019	300 / 30	30*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	16	NA	1	ASMP

Cape Le Grand

Table 514. Site account for Cape Le Grand SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.9286, 122.34994
Area	1,401 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA

General site description

The Cape Le Grand shorebird area lies within Cape Le Grand National Park and features wide, exposed sandy beaches influenced by the Southern Ocean and partially sheltered by the offshore Recherche Archipelago. These expansive coastal habitats are ideal for sandy shore specialists like the Sanderling. However, increasing recreational pressure, particularly from vehicle use, has led to track erosion, habitat degradation, and the potential spread of disease. Despite these threats, the broad sandy beaches provide important foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 515. Importance of SBA Cape Le Grand for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2012	300 / 30	30	0	1	ASMP

Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek

Table 516. Site account for Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek SBA

Ramsar Site	Roebuck Bay (Site Number: 33)
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA020 Roebuck Bay
Wetland type	A7, A8, A4, A2, A5, A9
Flyway Network Site	Roebuck Bay (EAAF111)
Key Biodiversity Area	Roebuck Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-18.30979, 122.11546
Area	755 hectares

No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Cape Villaret to Jack's Creek shorebird area lies south of Broome and encompasses a dynamic stretch of coastline featuring extensive intertidal mudflats and broad sandy beaches. This area experiences a significant tidal range of up to 10 metres, creating wide (up to 4 km) intertidal flats, particularly around the mouth of Jack's Creek. These mud and sand flats support a rich community of bottom-dwelling invertebrates, providing an abundant food source for migratory shorebirds. The site adjoins the southern boundary of the Roebuck Bay Ramsar Site, offering a continuation of critical foraging habitat for shorebird populations.

Table 517. Importance of SBA Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	5,519	0	1	MYSMA counts
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	2,503	1	1	MYSMA counts
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	3,750 / 375	1,107	0	1	MYSMA counts
Great Knot	Summer	2016	4,000 / 400	573	0	1	MYSMA counts
Sanderling	Summer	2016	300 / 30	453	1	1	MYSMA counts
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2016	300 / 30	326	1	1	MYSMA counts
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	264	0	1	MYSMA counts
Whimbrel	Summer	2021	900 / 90	170*	0	1	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	15	NA	1	MYSMA counts

Carnarvon

Table 518. Site account for Carnarvon SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA010 McNeill Claypan System WA011 Shark Bay East
Wetland type	A5, A6, A7, A8, A10, B2, B6, B8, B13
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-25.28062, 113.83614
Area	38,986 hectares
No. of count areas	27
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: 10

General site description

The Carnarvon shorebird area lies at the mouth of the Gascoyne River on the Indian Ocean and includes a diverse range of habitats. These comprise the estuarine waters and floodplains of the Gascoyne River, McNeil Claypan, inland wetlands and grasslands both within and beyond the township, as well as an extensive stretch of intertidal coastline—extending roughly 20 km north and 50 km south of the river mouth. This mosaic of estuarine, claypan, wetland, and intertidal habitats provides essential feeding and roosting areas for a variety of migratory shorebird species.

Table 519. Importance of SBA Carnarvon for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	5,972	0	5	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2010	20,000 / 2,000	2,505	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2016	6,000 / 600	2,258	0	4	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2011	3,750 / 375	1,270	0	9	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2010	6,000 / 600	698	0	1	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2016	4,000 / 400	668	0	1	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,200 / 120	655	0	6	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2016	300 / 30	540	1	9	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	500*	0	3	ASMP; incidental*
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2010	3,750 / 375	492	0	1	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2011	1,400 / 140	466	0	10	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2010	800 / 80	453	0	7	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2019	800 / 80	343	0	10	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2014	300 / 30	295	0	3	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2010	1,200 / 120	278	0	1	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	263	0	4	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2015	900 / 90	242	0	6	ASMP
Red Knot	Winter	2010	1,300 / 130	222	0	1	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2010	1,400 / 140	207	0	2	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2012	1,100 / 110	180*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Whimbrel	Winter	2013	900 / 90	135	0	3	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2015	350 / 35	119	0	10	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2013	350 / 35	64	0	7	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	48	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2014	NA / 15	23	NA	9	ASMP
Species diversity	Winter	2010	NA / 15	17	NA	3	ASMP

Coast north of Eighty Mile

Table 520. Site account for Coast north of Eighty Mile SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A7, A8, A4, A2, A5, A9

Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-18.70203, 121.71832
Area	7,516 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Coast North of Eighty Mile Beach shorebird area lies south of Broome and spans the coastline from Split Point at Cape Bossut to False Cape Bossut, encompassing Ledge Point, Islet Point, Rocky Point, Black Rock Point, and Lagrange Bay, next to the community of Bidyadanga. The area features extensive intertidal mudflats, particularly within bays containing the mouths of five tidal creek systems. These creeks are lined with mangrove swamps along their banks and islands. Beyond the creek mouths, the coastline includes broad intertidal sandflats and small rocky headlands. This diverse coastal environment provides vital foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 16. Importance of SBA Coast north of Eighty Mile for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2016	20,000 / 2,000	5,054	0	1	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	1,114	0	1	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2016	4,000 / 400	820	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2016	6,000 / 600	699	0	1	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2016	3,750 / 375	681	0	1	ASMP
Oriental Plover	Summer	2016	2,300 / 230	380	0	1	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2016	900 / 90	347	0	1	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	332	0	1	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2016	750 / 75	166	0	1	ASMP
Little Curlew	Summer	2016	1,100 / 110	149	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2016	300 / 30	104	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2016	300 / 30	102	0	1	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2016	350 / 35	86	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	19	NA	1	ASMP

Coral Bay

Table 522. Site account for Coral Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A3, A5, B8, B12, C6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-23.12117, 113.79089
Area	801 hectares
No. of count areas	5

Seasonal effort	Summer: 6, Winter: NA
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General site description

The Coral Bay shorebird area, north of Carnarvon, includes coastal sites around Coral Bay township such as Purdy Point, Bills Bay, Point Maud, Bateman Bay, Cardabia Flats, and the Coral Bay Sewage Farm. The area is dominated by extensive intertidal sandflats and sandy beaches around the bays and points, providing important foraging grounds. Cardabia Flats are seasonal salt flats that transform into saline lakes during rainfall events, while the sewage treatment basins offer more permanent freshwater habitat. Together, these diverse habitats support a range of migratory shorebirds throughout the year.

Table 523. Importance of SBA Coral Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Oriental Plover	Summer	2017	2,300 / 230	480	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2017	300 / 30	125	0	3	ASMP

Cygnnet Bay

Table 524. Site account for Cygnnet Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-16.46734, 122.99379
Area	1,019 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Cygnnet Bay shorebird area on the Dampier Peninsula features extensive intertidal mudflats and sandy beaches along the coastline from Reddell Point through Mission Bay to the southern end of Catamaran Bay. Two estuarine creeks flow into the bays, with linear channels bordered by mangrove swamps and wide mudflats behind them. Small rocky headlands separate the bays, creating a diverse coastal environment. These habitats provide vital foraging and roosting areas that support migratory shorebirds.

Table 525. Importance of SBA Cygnnet Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2012	800 / 80	200*	0	1	Incidental*
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2012	1,400 / 140	150*	0	1	Incidental*

Dampier Peninsula

Table 526. Site account for Dampier Peninsula SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5, B9, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-17.37458, 122.1544
Area	883 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

The Dampier Peninsula shorebird area on the west coast extends from Barred Creek northwards past Quondong Point, James Price Point, to Minari (Coulomb) Point. Behind Barred Creek's mouth lies a spring-fed, tidally influenced brackish lake surrounded by bare mudflats, samphire shrubland, and closed forest, providing key habitat for waders. Quondong Point features rocky platforms and reefs with sandy beaches, while James Price Point has extensive beaches punctuated by rocky outcrops. The coastline to Minari Point is dominated by sandy beaches and broad intertidal mudflats. This mosaic of habitats offers essential feeding and resting sites for migratory shorebirds.

Table 527. Importance of SBA Dampier Peninsula for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	256	0	1	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2016	800 / 80	123	0	1	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2014	260 / 60	114*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2016	300 / 30	54	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2016	300 / 30	38	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	16	NA	1	ASMP

Dampier Saltworks

Table 528. Site account for Dampier Saltworks SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C4
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-20.731, 116.69467
Area	11,068 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: NA

General site description

The Dampier Saltworks, situated west of Karratha, comprise large evaporation ponds designed for crystallising sodium chloride from seawater. These shallow salt ponds and surrounding areas create a unique wetland environment that supports a diversity of migratory shorebirds by providing critical feeding and roosting habitat within this otherwise arid coastal region.

Table 529. Importance of SBA Dampier Saltworks for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	12,154	0	10	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2019	6,000 / 600	8,089	1	9	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2023	1,400 / 140	2,700*	1	4	ASMP; incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,200 / 120	1,941	4	7	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2021	260 / 26	1,564	3	6	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	1,343	1	9	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2017	900 / 90	103	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	59	0	3	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2017	NA / 15	22	NA	10	ASMP

Eighty Mile Beach

Table 530. Site account for Eighty Mile Beach SBA

Ramsar Site	Eighty-Mile Beach (Site Number: 34)
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA018 Eight-Mile Beach
Wetland type	A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	Eighty-Mile Beach (EAAF110)
Key Biodiversity Area	Mandora Marsh and Anna Plains
Geographical Coordinates	-19.54778, 121.08927
Area	32,175 hectares
No. of count areas	47
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

Eighty-Mile Beach, south of Broome in northern Western Australia, stretches 220 kilometres between Cape Missiessy and Cape Keraudren. This shorebird area is characterised by continuous tidal mudflats backed by extensive white sand beaches and sand dunes, with minimal emergent vegetation. Recognised as one of Australia's most important shorebird sites, it provides critical foraging and roosting habitat. The area is also one of the best-studied shorebird sites in northern Australia, with near-annual surveys conducted by AWSG since 1981. Due to the size of the area the SBA is only occasionally counted in its entirety. During the period described in this report, a complete census of the full length of Eighty Mile Beach was only undertaken once, in late 2015 (i.e. summer 2016). Since 2004 a fixed 60-80km stretch of this SBA has been counted 2-3 times per year as part of the MYSMA project. Most entries in table

266. are based on the latter sampling approach and those peak count values are therefore underestimates of the total species numbers supported by the Eighty Mile Beach SBA. In 2010 extremely large numbers of Oriental Pratincole, Oriental Plover and Little Curlew were counted in this SBA (Piersma and Hassell, 2010). Although not part of the established monitoring program for this area, given their significance these numbers have been used as the peak species counts for Eighty Mile Beach. but have not been included in the shorebird aggregation criteria derived from regular monitoring effort through the MYSMA project. In all, it is clear that in some years the SBA can support well over 800,000 migratory shorebirds in instances where conditions on inland grassy plains force large numbers of these three species to the coast.

Table 531. Importance of SBA Eighty Mile Beach for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Oriental Pratincole	Summer	2010	28,800 / 2,880	520,000 ^a	2	2	MYSMA counts; Piersma & Hassell (2010) ^a
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2013	20,000 / 2,000	332,193	15	15	MYSMA counts
Oriental Plover	Summer	2010	2,300 / 230	144,300 ^a	11	12	MYSMA counts; Piersma & Hassell (2010) ^a
Great Knot	Summer	2013	4,000 / 400	136,377	15	15	MYSMA counts
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2013	3,750 / 375	63,456	15	15	MYSMA counts
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2013	1,400 / 140	42,166	15	15	MYSMA counts
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	33,840	15	15	MYSMA counts
Red Knot	Summer	2013	1,300 / 130	32,923	15	15	MYSMA counts
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2011	20,000 / 2,000	26,803	2	15	MYSMA counts
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2013	800 / 80	15,704	15	15	MYSMA counts
Little Curlew	Summer	2020	1,100 / 110	14,200 ^a	2	10	MYSMA counts; Piersma & Hassell (2010) ^a
Great Knot	Winter	2011	4,000 / 400	10,254	5	15	MYSMA counts
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2013	750 / 75	7,524	15	15	MYSMA counts
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2011	3,750 / 375	6,100	3	15	MYSMA counts
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2013	1,400 / 140	4,418	11	15	MYSMA counts
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2013	1,200 / 120	4,407	15	15	MYSMA counts
Common Greenshank	Summer	2015	1,100 / 110	4,046	15	15	MYSMA counts
Sanderling	Summer	2016	300 / 30	3,362	15	15	MYSMA counts
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2014	6,000 / 600	2,967	0	15	MYSMA counts
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2013	800 / 80	2,296	11	15	MYSMA counts
Red Knot	Winter	2011	1,300 / 130	2,001	3	13	MYSMA counts

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2016	300 / 30	1,996	8	15	MYSMA counts
Grey Plover	Summer	2016	750 / 75	1,272	8	15	MYSMA counts
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2016	350 / 35	930	15	15	MYSMA counts
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,200 / 120	922	0	11	MYSMA counts
Terek Sandpiper	Winter	2022	750 / 75	818	2	15	MYSMA counts
Whimbrel	Summer	2016	900 / 90	696	0	15	MYSMA counts
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2012	2,300 / 230	655	0	1	MYSMA counts
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,300 / 130	582	0	11	MYSMA counts
Common Greenshank	Winter	2016	1,100 / 110	532	0	13	MYSMA counts
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2020	260 / 26	500*	1	6	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Grey Plover	Winter	2020	750 / 75	488	0	11	MYSMA counts
Sanderling	Winter	2010	300 / 30	456	2	9	MYSMA counts
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2020	350 / 35	380	1	14	MYSMA counts
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	263	0	3	MYSMA counts
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	450 / 45	234	0	15	MYSMA counts
Whimbrel	Winter	2024	900 / 90	179	0	6	MYSMA counts
Pacific Golden Plover	Summer	2016	1,500 / 150	151	0	1	MYSMA counts
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2014	300 / 30	99	0	10	MYSMA counts
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2024	260 / 26	85*	0	1	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2016	NA / 15	28	NA	15	MYSMA counts
Species diversity	Winter	2014	NA / 15	21	NA	15	MYSMA counts

Esperance

Table 532. Site account for Esperance SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.88772, 122.06302
Area	6,194 hectares
No. of count areas	13
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA

General site description

The Esperance shorebird area is located on the coastline of Esperance Bay, adjacent to the townships of Castletown and Esperance, on the far southeast coast of western Australia. The shorebird area includes all the coastal beaches of Esperance Bay, stretching from the town beaches of Esperance and Castletown around to the beaches bordering the western end of Cape Le Grand National Park. The shorebird area is characterised by wide sandy beaches exposed to the Southern Ocean gaining some limited protection from the offshore islands of the Recherche Archipelago. Such environments provide suitable habitat conditions for shorebird species such as Sanderling which are sandy coastline specialists.

Table 533. Importance of SBA Esperance for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2021	300 / 30	113	0	7	ASMP

Exmouth Gulf

Table 534. Site account for Exmouth Gulf SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA006 Cape Range Subterranean Waterways WA007 Exmouth Gulf East
Wetland type	A2, A8, A9, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Exmouth Gulf Mangroves
Geographical Coordinates	-22.08002, 114.40103
Area	498,971 hectares
No. of count areas	45
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: 10

General site description

The Exmouth Gulf shorebird area, adjacent to the township of Exmouth on the North West Cape, encompasses the entire Gulf coastline, nearby islands including the Muiron and Sunday Islands, and the Indian Ocean coast from North West Cape to Point Billie. The east side of the Gulf features expansive intertidal mudflats, mangroves, and saline coastal flats, with islands subject to complete tidal inundation. Mangroves provide crucial coastal protection against frequent cyclones. The southern Gulf includes a large coastal plain with estuaries such as Turtle Creek, Gale Bay, and Bay of Rest, dominated by similar habitats of mudflats, mangroves, and saline flats. These diverse intertidal environments offer essential feeding and roosting sites for migratory shorebirds. The SBA is difficult to monitor in its entirety due to the logistics required. Currently a subset of its count areas are surveyed regularly by a single observer, which often support important numbers in their own right. Most entries in table 268, however are based on counts from 2018, the last time a large-scale survey effort was able to be organised. Hence the tabulated data underestimates the regularity with which individual species numbers exceed (inter)national thresholds. It is considered that outside Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck Bay SBAs, Exmouth Gulf is one of the most important areas for migratory shorebirds in Western Australia.

Table 535. Importance of SBA Exmouth Gulf for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2018	20,000 / 2,000	14,599	0	7	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2018	3,750 / 375	3,329	0	7	ASMP
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2017	20,000 / 2,000	3,113	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2018	6,000 / 600	2,408	0	2	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2018	800 / 80	2,199	2	10	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2018	4,000 / 400	1,924	0	4	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2018	1,400 / 140	1,571	1	8	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2017	800 / 80	742	0	5	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2017	6,000 / 600	687	0	1	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2019	1,400 / 140	453	0	3	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	429	1	7	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2017	260 / 26	418	1	2	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2018	300 / 30	392	4	8	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2018	900 / 90	356	0	1	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,200 / 120	354*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2018	260 / 26	354	1	8	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2024	1,100 / 110	304	0	4	ASMP
Oriental Plover	Summer	2021	2,300 / 230	299	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2018	300 / 30	284	0	10	ASMP
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2018	750 / 75	180	0	2	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,200 / 120	167	0	1	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2017	300 / 30	145	0	3	ASMP
Whimbrel	Winter	2017	900 / 90	124	0	1	ASMP
Grey Plover	Summer	2018	750 / 75	86	0	1	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2023	350 / 35	65*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Winter	2017	300 / 30	53	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2018	NA / 15	23	NA	10	ASMP
Species diversity	Winter	2017	NA / 15	16	NA	3	ASMP

Forrestdale Lake

Table 536. Site account for Forrestdale Lake SBA

Ramsar Site	Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes (Site Number: 35)
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA092 Thomsons Lake
Wetland type	B8
Flyway Network Site	EAAF017 Forrestdale and Thomsons Lakes
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.15883, 115.93738
Area	212 hectares
No. of count areas	2

Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA
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General site description

Forrestdale Lake is a brackish, seasonal lake that typically dries for one to three months during summer–autumn. It is fringed by sedgeland, seasonal marshes, wooded swamps, and winter-wet areas, and surrounded by low open woodland, open scrub, and cleared land. The site is a significant breeding, drought refuge, and migration stopover for waterbirds, as well as an important stopover for migratory shorebirds.

Table 537. Importance of SBA Forrestdale Lake for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	200*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Garden Island

Table 538. Site account for Garden Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.24404, 115.68136
Area	314 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

Garden Island is a narrow, 10 km-long island formed from a limestone outcrop overlain by sand deposits. The island features relatively undisturbed natural habitats, including Quindalup dunes, low to open forests, dense coastal scrub, low heath, and a mix of soft sandy and rocky beaches. While it lacks wetlands due to dense vegetation, its beaches and foreshore provide good habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 539. Importance of SBA Garden Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2020	300 / 30	32*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Geraldton

Table 540. Site account for Geraldton SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
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Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-28.8394, 114.62729
Area	263 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: NA

General site description

The Geraldton shorebird area includes the sandy beaches surrounding Point Moore, where a prominent sandy foreland connects to a large intertidal reef extending 200 metres offshore. The southern section features a low-energy, low tide terrace, while the northern section is bordered by a reef platform. A 200-metre-wide dune reserve backs the beach, creating a sheltered coastal environment that provides important habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 541. Importance of SBA Geraldton for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2013	300 / 30	358	1	9	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2020	300 / 30	115	0	9	ASMP

Gordon Inlet

Table 542. Site account for Gordon Inlet SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Fitzgerald River KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.2879, 119.48058
Area	391 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

Gordon Inlet, located at the southwest corner of Fitzgerald River National Park, is a shallow, wave-dominated estuarine system fed by the Gairdner River. Due to high evaporation, the inlet often dries out almost completely, functioning more as a transient estuary than a permanent waterbody. Salinity levels fluctuate widely, ranging from slightly below seawater to over four times as saline. The 6.4-square-kilometre area consists primarily of the main basin and estuary barriers, with smaller areas of salt marsh and intertidal flat. These dynamic saline environments provide valuable foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds during suitable conditions.

Table 543. Importance of SBA Gordon Inlet for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2012	300 / 30	200	0	1	ASMP

Green Head

Table 544. Site account for Green Head SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-30.01333, 114.9668
Area	75 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 8, Winter: NA

General site description

Green Head, a coastal town north of Perth, features sandy and rocky shorelines backed by limestone reefs, expansive seagrass meadows, and shallow embayments. Influenced by the warm Leeuwin Current, the area supports a rich marine ecosystem with hard and soft corals, sponges, and healthy seagrass beds due to the absence of riverine inflow. Despite high levels of human disturbance during peak tourist seasons, these intertidal habitats offer important foraging conditions for shorebirds, particularly species like Ruddy Turnstone that favour rocky and sandy coastlines.

Table 545. Importance of SBA Green Head for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	84	0	7	ASMP

Israelite Bay

Table 546. Site account for Israelite Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.7957, 123.75796
Area	51 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Israelite Bay shorebird area, east of Esperance, features wide sandy ocean beaches flanking Point Malcolm, a rocky headland with associated reef platforms. This headland and associated reef platforms enrich the beaches with food resources suitable for small shorebirds such as Sanderling.

Table 547. Importance of SBA Israelite Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2016	300 / 30	100	0	1	ASMP

Karratha

Table 548. Site account for Karratha SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A3, A4, A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-20.72062, 116.89946
Area	3,566 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

The Karratha shorebird area, located along the shores of Nickol Bay and the eastern side of the Burrup Peninsula, comprises extensive intertidal mudflats, supratidal salt flats, clay pans, and mangroves. Productive tidal flats extend up to a kilometre from the high-water mark, particularly in southern Nickol Bay near the township. Five key monitoring sites—Karratha Back Beach, Clearverville, Hearson Cove, Cowrie Cove, and Watering Cove—encompass a mix of mudflat, beach, and rocky shoreline habitats. While high tide roosting areas are limited due to recreational disturbance, many shorebirds forage in the intertidal zones and roost in the nearby Dampier Saltworks, supporting their use of the area.

Table 549. Importance of SBA Karratha for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2014	3,750 / 375	400*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2014	1,400 / 140	200*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2013	800 / 80	108*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2014	350 / 35	35*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2022	260 / 26	28	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Lacepede Islands

Table 550. Site account for Lacepede Islands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A3, A5, A10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lacepede Islands KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-16.85669, 122.10918
Area	164 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Lacepede Islands, located 30 kilometres off the Dampier Peninsula, comprise four low-lying cays—West, Middle, Sandy, and East Island—formed of coarse sand and coral rubble from surrounding reefs. These treeless islands support sparse vegetation of small bushes and shrubs and are surrounded by productive tidal flat systems. Managed as a reserve by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and free of introduced rats since the 1980s, the islands provide important foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 551. Importance of SBA Lacepede Islands for migratory shorebirds.

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2021	300 / 30	359*	1	1	Incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,300 / 130	240*	0	1	Incidental*
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,200 / 120	150*	0	1	Incidental*
Red Knot	Summer	2022	1,300 / 130	130*	0	1	Incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2021	300 / 30	114*	0	3	Incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2023	800 / 80	100*	0	1	Incidental*
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2023	800 / 80	80*	0	1	Incidental*

Lake Gore

Table 552. Site account for Lake Gore SBA

Ramsar Site	Lake Gore, Ramsar Site 55
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA026 Lake Gore System
Wetland type	B7, B14, B12, B8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Gore System KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.78401, 121.51463
Area	1,442 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

The Lake Gore shorebird area, a Ramsar-listed site on the south coast of Western Australia, includes Lake Gore and a network of interconnected wetlands extending southwest to Quallilup Lake and west to Barker Inlet. Lake Gore is a semi-permanent, circular lake fed by the Dalyup River, with water levels and salinity fluctuating from fresh-brackish to saline depending on rainfall. During wetter periods, it overflows into nearby basins and swamps; in drier times, it becomes shallow and supports abundant small crustaceans. Intermittently inundated wetlands such as Lakes Carbul, Kubitch, and Gidong also provide important habitat, particularly when connected via the Coobidge Creek system. The area includes saline and brackish marshes, Saltwater Paperbark woodlands, sedgeland, and samphire shrublands.

Table 553. Importance of SBA Lake Gore for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	226	0	1	ASMP

Lake MacLeod

Table 554. Site account for Lake MacLeod SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA009 Lake MacLeod
Wetland type	B8, B7, B19, C4, B11, B12, B10, A9
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake MacLeod KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-23.97655, 113.6667
Area	56,107 hectares
No. of count areas	2
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

Lake MacLeod is a large salt lake located on the central-western coast of Australia, north of Carnarvon. Lower basins within the central-western part of the lake are fed seawater via sinkholes in a karst system that connects the lakebed to the Indian Ocean and results in about 80 square kilometres of the lake being permanently inundated. This upwelling of seawater is continuous and discharge rates vary during the day, apparently under influence of twice-daily tides. Surface inflow from Lyndon and Minilya Rivers is episodic (substantial discharge) or near-seasonal (only nearby lakebed inundated). Direct precipitation may also contribute significantly to water supply in wetter years.

An extensive, active industrial saltfield is located near the far south end of the lake and brine collection channels radiate from this location across the adjacent lakebed, separate from the shorebird site. Salt is produced by brine extraction and thus the saltfields do not normally provide habitat for migratory shorebirds.

The lake is a major migration stop-over and drought refuge area for shorebirds; it is one of the most important sites in Australia, supporting more Curlew Sandpipers than any other site, by an order of magnitude. It also supports Australia's largest inland community of mangroves and associated fauna. Despite its relative significance and importance for migratory shorebirds, due partly to no public access (despite largely consisting of Crown Land) Lake Macleod is surveyed on a sporadic basis only, with the last known (localised) surveys having been undertaken in 2014. Large scale surveys have not been carried out since 2006, an issue that needs urgent attention.

Table 555. Importance of SBA Lake Gore for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,200 / 120	2,340*	1	1	Incidental
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	1,496*	0	1	Incidental
Red Knot	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	900*	0	1	Incidental
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	450 / 45	82*	0	1	Incidental

Lancelin

Table 556. Site account for Lancelin SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-31.01572, 115.32727
Area	249 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

Lancelin, a coastal town north of Perth, features sandy and rocky shorelines backed by limestone reefs and expansive seagrass meadows in shallow embayments. Influenced by the warm Leeuwin Current and free from riverine inflow, the area supports a rich marine ecosystem with hard and soft corals, sponges, and healthy seagrass beds. Despite high levels of human disturbance during peak tourist seasons, these intertidal habitats provide suitable foraging grounds for shorebirds, particularly species such as Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling that favour rocky and sandy coastlines.

Table 557. Importance of SBA Lancelin for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2017	300 / 30	200*	0	10	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2019	300 / 30	91*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*

Sanderling	Summer	2020	300 / 30	50*	0	3	ASMP; incidental*
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Leschenault Estuary

Table 558. Site account for Leschenault Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6, A7, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.26812, 115.69075
Area	4,726 hectares
No. of count areas	7
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: NA

General site description

The Leschenault Estuary shorebird area, just north of Bunbury, comprises a large coastal inlet and estuarine lake system fed by several rivers, including the Wellesley, Brunswick, Collie, Ferguson, and Preston. The area features intertidal mudflats, low samphire shrubland, and open scrub, with ocean connectivity maintained via an artificial channel at the southern end known as “The Cut.” These diverse estuarine habitats provide important foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

Table 559. Importance of SBA Leschenault Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2020	6,000 / 600	700*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2018	300 / 30	70	0	1	ASMP

Leslie Saltfields

Table 560. Site account for Leslie Saltfields SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA068 Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System
Wetland type	C4, A7, A9, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Port Hedland Saltworks KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-20.24842, 118.93205
Area	10,535 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA

General site description

The Leslie Saltfields shorebird area encompasses two large salt production facilities bordered by extensive intertidal flats, tidal creeks (including Ridley River, Catfish Creek, and Rock Cod Hole Creek), and mudflats stretching between the saltfields and the Indian Ocean. Seawater is drawn from tidal creeks and concentrated into brine through a series of ponds before reaching evaporation pans near Port Hedland. High tide roosts are scattered around Finucane Island and Cooke Point. These varied intertidal environments, including the outflows of Ridley River and Tabbabba Creek, provide critical foraging and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 561. Importance of SBA Leslie Saltfields for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2019	20,000 / 2,000	12,263	0	12	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2019	6,000 / 600	5,142	0	11	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,300 / 130	3,885	5	12	ASMP
Oriental Plover	Summer	2022	2,300 / 230	1,567	0	6	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2019	260 / 26	1,248	3	10	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2019	4,000 / 400	1,220	0	3	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2019	3,750 / 375	1,139	0	5	ASMP
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2023	450 / 45	910	3	10	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,200 / 120	805	0	11	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2023	1,400 / 140	407	0	2	ASMP
Little Curlew	Summer	2015	1,100 / 110	151	0	1	ASMP
Asian Dowitcher	Summer	2019	280 / 28	127	0	7	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	121	0	6	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2014	300 / 30	46	0	2	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2013	NA / 15	26	NA	12	ASMP

Ningaloo Marine Park

Table 562. Site account for Ningaloo Marine Park SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A3, A4, A5, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-22.02885, 113.91238
Area	13,311 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: 8

General site description

The Ningaloo Marine Park shorebird area extends along the west coast of North West Cape from the tip of the Cape to Point Billie. This coastline features oceanic beaches and extensive, typically unvegetated intertidal mudflats, occasionally interrupted by small creek entrances

with mangrove-lined channels and surrounding mudflats. These diverse intertidal habitats support high numbers of migratory shorebirds by providing abundant foraging opportunities.

Table 563. Importance of SBA Ningaloo Marine Park for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2022	800 / 80	200*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2020	300 / 30	86	0	3	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2020	300 / 30	80*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Species diversity	Summer	2020	NA / 15	15	NA	1	ASMP

Nuytsland Nature Reserve

Table 564. Site account for Nuytsland Nature Reserve SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.25695, 124.03478
Area	72,634 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 7, Winter: NA

General site description

The Nuytsland Nature Reserve shorebird area comprises two sections along the southern coast of Western Australia: the eastern section extends 100 kilometres from the northern end of Israelite Bay, and the western section includes Kanidal Beach stretching 140 kilometres east from Twilight Cove. This remote coastline features wide sandy ocean beaches interspersed with high rocky cliffs shaped by the Southern Ocean. The influence of the ocean and rocky marine environments enriches nearby beaches with food resources, supporting small shorebirds such as Ruddy Turnstones.

Table 565. Importance of SBA Nuytsland Nature Reserve for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2022	300 / 30	47*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sanderling	Summer	2022	300 / 30	38*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Onslow

Table 566. Site account for Onslow SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C4, A7, A9, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-21.67897, 115.13564
Area	36,117 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 3, Winter: 1

General site description

The Onslow shorebird area, located at the southern edge of Western Australia's Pilbara region, features a major salt production facility surrounded by extensive intertidal sand flats, tidal creeks, inlets, and supratidal claypan habitats. Much of the tidal inundation has been modified for salt production, yet the site remains a critical migration stopover for shorebirds along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. Several high tide roosting areas support foraging birds despite limited structured monitoring data, suggesting the area likely holds international significance for multiple migratory shorebird species.

Table 567. Importance of SBA Onslow for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2015	6,000 / 600	1,000*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2024	260 / 26	91*	0	1	Incidental*

Peel & Yalgorup Lakes

Table 568. Site account for Peel & Yalgorup Lakes SBA

Ramsar Site	Peel-Yalgorup System (Site Number: 36)
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA095 Yalgorup Lakes System WA083 Lake McLarty System WA087 Peel-Harvey Estuary
Wetland type	A6, A8, A7, B7, B12, B14, B13
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Peel-Harvey Estuary KBA, Yalgorup KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.6046, 115.74336
Area	20,252 hectares
No. of count areas	30
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA

General site description

The Peel and Yalgorup Lakes shorebird area, located south of Perth, Western Australia, encompasses the diverse Peel-Yalgorup System. This includes the estuarine Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary, freshwater wetlands of Lakes McLarty and Mealup, the saline lakes within

Yalgorup National Park, and surrounding upland areas. The system features a complex mix of habitats—estuarine, freshwater, swamps, and salt lakes—each with distinct hydrological cycles that support a wide variety of ecologically significant species and communities. The artificially created Dawesville Channel connects the Peel-Harvey Estuary to the Indian Ocean and influences the site’s tidal patterns and hydrology. These wetlands are considered representative of the Swan Coastal Plain’s wetland ecosystems.

Table 569. Importance of SBA Peel & Yalgorup Lakes for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2020	20,000 / 2,000	12,612	0	15	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2020	6,000 / 600	7,230	2	15	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	6,015	11	15	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2011	1,200 / 120	700*	0	2	ASMP; incidental*
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2013	6,000 / 600	600*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Common Greenshank	Summer	2010	1,100 / 110	400	0	15	ASMP
Red Knot	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	313	0	1	ASMP
Long-toed Stint	Summer	2019	2,300 / 230	230*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Grey Plover	Summer	2010	750 / 75	97	0	2	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2021	350 / 35	41	0	1	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2023	NA / 15	24	NA	14	ASMP

Pilbara Islands

Table 570. Site account for Pilbara Islands SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	NA
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-21.45904, 114.99544
Area	2,031 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: NA, Winter: NA

General site description

The Pilbara Islands comprise over 400 islands and islets off the Pilbara coast, supporting high conservation values due to their isolation from mainland threats. These islands provide important refuge and foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds, with birds commonly roosting and feeding on intertidal flats, mangroves, sandy spits, and beaches. Island habitats also include mangrove stands, algal mats, and intertidal seagrass beds that serve as key nursery areas for fish and prawns.

Table 571. Importance of SBA Pilbara Islands for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2024	300 / 30	30*	0	1	Incidental*

Port Hedland

Table 572. Site account for Port Hedland SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C4, A7, A9, A8
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-20.32828, 118.62634
Area	13,582 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: 1, Winter: NA

General site description

The Port Hedland Shorebird Area, surrounding the second largest town in Western Australia's Pilbara region, includes two major salt production facilities separated by extensive coastal intertidal flats, tidal creeks (Ridley River, Catfish Creek, and Rock Cod Hole Creeks), and mudflats along the Indian Ocean. Several smaller high tide roost sites are found around Finucane Island, Cooke Point, and at the mouths of the King Edward and Morgan Rivers east of Port Hedland. The area comprises ten survey sites (excluding the Leslie Saltfields) and offers a diverse combination of natural foraging habitats, high tide roosting locations, and saltworks evaporation ponds, providing important habitat for a variety of shorebird species.

Table 573. Importance of SBA Port Hedland for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2020	800 / 80	500*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2020	1,300 / 130	250*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2016	1,400 / 140	200*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Red Knot	Summer	2016	1,300 / 130	150*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2016	260 / 26	50	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2020	300 / 30	50*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Roebuck Bay

Table 574. Site account for Roebuck Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	Roebuck Bay (Site Number: 33)
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA020 Roebuck Bay
Wetland type	A7, A8, A4, A2, A5, A9
Flyway Network Site	Roebuck Bay (EAAF111)
Key Biodiversity Area	Roebuck Bay
Geographical Coordinates	-18.18405, 122.3138
Area	42,193 hectares
No. of count areas	16
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

Roebuck Bay Shorebird Area (including Bush Point) features an exceptionally large tidal range, exposing approximately 160 square kilometres of some of Western Australia's widest tidal flats, which range from sandy in the west to soft and muddy in the east. The tidal flats are completely submerged twice daily by extreme tidal cycles, forcing birds to roost on the sandy beaches of the northern shores, and to Bush Point in the south. During spring tides or cyclones, adjoining coastal flats and salt pans may also flood. The eastern boundary includes microscale linear tidal creeks lined with mangroves, which extend into the creeks alongside extensive seagrass beds exposed at low tide for shorebird foraging. The site is influenced by a mix of tidal seawater and fresh surface and groundwater, shaping salinity gradients that affect plant and animal distributions. Roebuck Bay is globally significant as a major migratory shorebird non-breeding site, serving as a key arrival and departure point for large portions of Australian shorebird populations.

Table 575. Importance of SBA Roebuck Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2017	20,000 / 2,000	135,725	15	15	MYSMA counts
Oriental Pratincole	Summer	2023	28,800 / 2,880	60,000*	1	2	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Great Knot	Summer	2018	4,000 / 400	42,481	15	15	MYSMA counts
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2015	3,750 / 375	39,320	15	15	MYSMA counts
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2018	1,400 / 140	26,351	15	15	MYSMA counts
Shorebird aggregation	Winter	2012	20,000 / 2,000	21,612	3	15	MYSMA counts
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2022	6,000 / 600	18,097	15	15	MYSMA counts
Great Knot	Winter	2012	4,000 / 400	9,788	11	15	MYSMA counts
Oriental Plover	Summer	2019	2,300 / 230	9,580	4	11	MYSMA counts
Red Knot	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	6,130*	13	15	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Bar-tailed Godwit	Winter	2011	3,750 / 375	5,649	3	13	MYSMA counts
Black-tailed Godwit	Summer	2023	2,300 / 230	5,144	5	13	MYSMA counts

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2020	6,000 / 600	4,283	0	12	MYSMA counts
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2022	800 / 80	3,732	13	15	MYSMA counts
Greater Sand Plover	Winter	2010	1,400 / 140	3,335	10	15	MYSMA counts
Sanderling	Summer	2011	300 / 30	3,235	15	15	MYSMA counts
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2017	1,200 / 120	3,216	8	15	MYSMA counts
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2024	1,300 / 130	2,800*	1	4	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Terek Sandpiper	Summer	2016	750 / 75	1,997	11	15	MYSMA counts
Whimbrel	Summer	2019	900 / 90	1,809	8	15	MYSMA counts
Red Knot	Winter	2010	1,300 / 130	1,746	3	13	MYSMA counts
Whimbrel	Winter	2024	900 / 90	1,385	2	15	MYSMA counts
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2023	300 / 30	1,344	15	15	MYSMA counts
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2014	1,200 / 120	1,079	0	7	MYSMA counts
Grey-tailed Tattler	Winter	2011	800 / 80	1,002	2	15	MYSMA counts
Terek Sandpiper	Winter	2011	750 / 75	938	1	10	MYSMA counts
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2018	350 / 35	893	11	15	MYSMA counts
Grey Plover	Summer	2022	750 / 75	835	1	15	MYSMA counts
Common Greenshank	Summer	2018	1,100 / 110	747	0	15	MYSMA counts
Little Curlew	Summer	2015	1,100 / 110	731	0	1	MYSMA counts
Far Eastern Curlew	Winter	2020	350 / 35	629	7	13	MYSMA counts
Black-tailed Godwit	Winter	2014	2,300 / 230	572	0	4	MYSMA counts
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2017	300 / 30	470	1	13	MYSMA counts
Common Greenshank	Winter	2014	1,100 / 110	449	0	10	MYSMA counts
Sanderling	Winter	2010	300 / 30	448	6	13	MYSMA counts
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2023	1,300 / 130	442*	0	1	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Summer	2022	450 / 45	434	0	15	MYSMA counts
Grey Plover	Winter	2020	750 / 75	317	0	11	MYSMA counts
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2023	260 / 26	222*	0	13	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Asian Dowitcher	Summer	2017	280 / 28	191	0	10	MYSMA counts
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Winter	2015	450 / 45	100*	0	1	MYSMA counts; incidental*
Siberian Sand Plover	Winter	2021	260 / 26	100	0	1	MYSMA counts
Asian Dowitcher	Winter	2023	280 / 28	31*	0	1	MYSMA counts; incidental*

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Species diversity	Summer	2017	NA / 15	28	NA	15	MYSMA counts
Species diversity	Winter	2014	NA / 15	28	NA	15	MYSMA counts

Roebuck Plains

Table 576. Site account for Roebuck Plains

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA021 Roebuck Plains System
Wetland type	B4, B10, B6, B5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Roebuck Bay KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-17.96844, 122.54423
Area	47,722 hectares
No. of count areas	3
Seasonal effort	Summer: 2, Winter: NA

General site description

The Roebuck Plains Lakes Shorebird Area, near Broome in north-west Western Australia, includes Lake Eda, Lake Champion, and Taylors Lagoon. Lake Eda is a near-permanent waterbody, while the other wetlands in the area are more seasonal. The site lacks a major inflowing river, and while the lakes fill in most wet seasons, episodic inundation of the entire floodplain occurs infrequently, roughly every five to ten years following large rainfall events. These variable water conditions create important habitat for shorebirds adapted to fluctuating wetland environments.

Table 577. Importance of SBA Roebuck Plains for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Oriental Pratincole	Summer	2024	28,800 / 2,880	60,000*	1	1	ASMP; incidental*
Little Curlew	Summer	2022	1,100 / 110	2,773*	1	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,300 / 130	1,500*	1	2	ASMP; incidental*
Oriental Plover	Summer	2021	2,300 / 230	300*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Winter	2017	1,300 / 130	280*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Marsh Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	161	0	1	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Winter	2023	1,200 / 120	160*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Wood Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	154	0	1	ASMP

Rottnest Island

Table 578. Site account for Rottnest Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA089 Rottnest Island Lakes
Wetland type	B7, B12, B8, A4, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Rottnest Island
Geographical Coordinates	-32.00287, 115.53513
Area	333 hectares
No. of count areas	17
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

The Rottnest Island Shorebird Area, located off the coast of Perth, includes eighteen lakes and swamps on the island, as well as the beaches of Thomson, Porpoise, and Salmon Bays and the western headland. Seven of these lakes are permanent, ranging in salinity from fresh to highly saline, with depths generally under one metre but some reaching up to eight metres. Surrounding vegetation consists mostly of low shrubland and sedgeland. The beaches are high-energy sandy oceanic shores with rocky outcrops and headlands. Rottnest Island experiences heavy tourism, especially in summer, and serves as a crucial migration stop-over and drought refuge site for shorebirds in south-western Australia.

Table 579. Importance of SBA Rottnest Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2023	20,000 / 2,000	2,553	0	4	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	2,305	0	15	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2013	300 / 30	284	0	13	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2013	300 / 30	256	0	15	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Winter	2011	300 / 30	44	0	2	ASMP
Sanderling	Winter	2014	300 / 30	30	0	1	ASMP

Shark Bay

Table 580. Site account for Shark Bay SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA008 Hamelin Pool WA011 Shark Bay East
Wetland type	A1, A2, A9, A8, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Faure and Pelican Islands (Shark Bay)
Geographical Coordinates	-26.06126, 113.77114
Area	670,713 hectares
No. of count areas	19

Seasonal effort	Summer: 12, Winter: NA
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General site description

The Shark Bay Shorebird Area, located south of Carnarvon near the township of Denham, encompasses the entire Shark Bay coastline and its islands, including Faure and Pelican. The area is defined by expansive embayments, intertidal mud and sand flats, and coastal plains. These intertidal habitats are particularly extensive around the islands and at Petit Point. Mangrove communities occur along the Carnarvon to Bush Bay coast, on Faure Island, and at Guichenault Point, appearing in low closed-forest, scrub, and open-scrub formations. Behind the mangroves, and in areas they do not occupy, samphire shrublands dominate, particularly in the northeast of the bay. Key high tide roosts for migratory shorebirds are located at Guichenault Point and on Faure and Pelican Islands.

Table 581. Importance of SBA Shark Bay for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2015	20,000 / 2,000	10,296	0	7	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2015	6,000 / 600	6,716	1	9	ASMP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Summer	2013	3,750 / 375	2,402	0	8	ASMP
Greater Sand Plover	Summer	2013	1,400 / 140	1,818	1	7	ASMP
Great Knot	Summer	2023	4,000 / 400	1,080	0	5	ASMP
Siberian Sand Plover	Summer	2015	260 / 26	682	2	5	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2024	300 / 30	543	4	8	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2015	1,200 / 120	457	0	2	ASMP
Grey-tailed Tattler	Summer	2023	800 / 80	438	0	8	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2014	1,300 / 130	336	0	1	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2013	1,100 / 110	282	0	5	ASMP
Far Eastern Curlew	Summer	2013	350 / 35	131	0	3	ASMP
Whimbrel	Summer	2014	900 / 90	92	0	1	ASMP
Sanderling	Summer	2023	300 / 30	70	0	3	ASMP
Species diversity	Summer	2014	NA / 15	20	NA	10	ASMP

Stokes National Park

Table 582. Site account for Stokes National Park SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6, A8, B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.82139, 121.16424
Area	1,684 hectares
No. of count areas	4
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: NA

General site description

The Stokes National Park Shorebird Area includes Stokes Inlet and Lake Cubinup. Stokes Inlet, the largest waterbody in the area at approximately 14 square kilometres, is a permanent estuarine system. It receives inflows from the Young and Lort Rivers at its northern end, with both rivers remaining estuarine for several kilometres upstream. The inlet provides a diverse range of shorebird habitats, including deeper open water, intertidal mudflats, and fringing Coastal Saltmarsh vegetation. The inlet is typically separated from the ocean by a sandbar, but in recent years, increased catchment runoff—largely due to land clearing—has resulted in more frequent breaching events. These breaches usually last for a few months before the sandbar reforms naturally, closing the inlet again.

Table 583. Importance of SBA Stokes National Park for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2021	6,000 / 600	981	0	3	ASMP

Swan River

Table 584. Site account for Swan River SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA091 Swan-Canning Estuary
Wetland type	A6, A8, A7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.00653, 115.822
Area	3,195 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA

General site description

The Swan River Shorebird Area runs through metropolitan Perth from Fremantle to Ellen Brook, including the lower Canning River. It is a tidal system with frequent exposure of intertidal flats, freshwater inflows from drains and seepage, and seasonal marsh inundation. Habitats include samphire flats, sedgeland, paperbark and flooded gum forests, and river sheoak stands, though much native vegetation has been replaced by urban infrastructure. Despite high human disturbance, the area provides important habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Table 585. Importance of SBA Swan River for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	2,285	0	1	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2010	6,000 / 600	1,973	0	1	ASMP

Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary

Table 586. Site account for Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary SBA

Ramsar Site	Vasse-Wonnerup System (Site Number: 38)
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA093 Vasse-Wonnerup Wetland System
Wetland type	B8, A10, B11
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Busselton Wetlands KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.62813, 115.41188
Area	1,329 hectares
No. of count areas	10
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: NA

General site description

The Vasse-Wonnerup System Shorebird Area is a Ramsar-listed wetland located just east of Busselton, comprising the Vasse and Wonnerup estuaries, inundated floodplains, marshes, connecting channels, and a shared sea inlet. It is fed by four rivers—Vasse, Sabina, Abba, and Ludlow—as well as the Deadwater and Malbup Creeks, and is separated from the ocean by low coastal dunes. Water levels, salinity, and nutrient concentrations vary considerably, with many wetlands drying in late summer. Vegetation includes samphire, rushes, and Melaleuca woodlands, and parts of the site border Tuart Forest National Park. These diverse wetland habitats support large numbers of migratory shorebirds.

Table 587. Importance of SBA Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2023	6,000 / 600	3,600*	0	8	ASMP; incidental*
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2022	20,000 / 2,000	2,560	0	2	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2022	1,300 / 130	865	0	9	ASMP
Curlew Sandpiper	Summer	2023	1,200 / 120	190*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*
Common Greenshank	Summer	2015	1,100 / 110	132	0	3	ASMP

Wagin Region

Table 588. Site account for Wagin Region SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	B6, B10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.36888, 117.3475

Area	818 hectares
No. of count areas	5
Seasonal effort	Summer: 9, Winter: NA

General site description

The Wagin Region Shorebird Area is centred on the Wagin Lake Nature Reserve, which includes a small lake and two smaller lakes to the east, surrounded by shrubland and impacted by invasive weeds. These groundwater-fed freshwater lakes are increasingly saline and bordered by cleared farmland. Further south lies a chain of larger, seasonal wetlands and the nearby Dumbleyung Lake Nature Reserve. These wetland habitats provide important foraging and roosting areas that support migratory shorebirds.

Table 589. Importance of SBA Wagin Region for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2019	1,300 / 130	573	0	1	ASMP

Wandalup Ponds

Table 590. Site account for Wandalup Ponds SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	C2, C6
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-32.48936, 115.8327
Area	457 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 4, Winter: NA

General site description

The Wandalup Ponds Shorebird Area is located on a large privately-owned pig farm south of Perth, where settlement and aeration ponds are used to biologically treat piggery waste as part of a composting facility operated by C-Wise. The site lies within the Serpentine catchment, an area of low-lying winter wetlands underlain by leached sands, upstream of the Peel-Harvey Estuary. The Serpentine catchment has the largest area of livestock grazing in the region, and nutrients from the piggery can ultimately enter the estuary system. Despite its industrial function, the treatment ponds support important foraging and roosting habitat for many migratory shorebirds.

Table 591. Importance of SBA Wandalup Ponds for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2018	1,300 / 130	137*	0	1	ASMP; incidental*

Warden Lakes

Table 592. Site account for Warden Lakes SBA

Ramsar Site	Lake Warden System (Site Number: 39)
Directory of Important Wetlands	WA027 Lake Warden System
Wetland type	B12, B7
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	Lake Warden System KBA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.82822, 121.86155
Area	2,082 hectares
No. of count areas	8
Seasonal effort	Summer: 11, Winter: NA

General site description

The Warden Lake Shorebird Area, a Ramsar Site near Esperance, includes a chain of saline lakes and marshes behind coastal dunes, comprising Lake Warden, Woody, Wheatfield, Station, Mullet, Ewans and Windabout Lakes, along with 90 satellite wetlands. Fed by freshwater runoff, groundwater, and creeks, the system ranges from permanent to seasonal lakes with varying salinity. The surrounding catchment is largely cleared farmland, with some brackish springs at the eastern end. While Lake Warden lacks emergent vegetation, trees and rushes fringe its shoreline. A water management system optimises shallow wetland conditions, enhancing the site's suitability for migratory shorebirds.

Table 593. Importance of SBA Warden Lakes for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Red-necked Stint	Summer	2012	6,000 / 600	907	0	6	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2015	1,100 / 110	183	0	3	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2012	1,300 / 130	152	0	2	ASMP

Wedge Island

Table 594. Site account for Wedge Island SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-30.82366, 115.1954
Area	150 hectares
No. of count areas	1
Seasonal effort	Summer: 10, Winter: NA

General site description

The Wedge Island Shorebird Area includes Wedge Island and its adjacent mainland beach, featuring white sand beaches and natural coastal vegetation with no development. Part of the Turquoise Coast Islands Nature Reserve Group, the island and mainland shoreline consist of parallel sand dunes with limestone outcrops. There are no wetlands on the island.

Approximately every seven years, a wide sandbar connects Wedge Island to the mainland, allowing pedestrian and vehicle access. Despite the lack of wetlands, the island's undisturbed coastal habitat provides important refuge and foraging grounds for migratory shorebirds.

Table 595. Importance of SBA Wedge Island for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2017	300 / 30	500	1	7	ASMP
Ruddy Turnstone	Summer	2023	300 / 30	76	0	4	ASMP

Wilson Inlet

Table 596. Site account for Wilson Inlet SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A6, A10
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-34.99524, 117.41375
Area	5,178 hectares
No. of count areas	12
Seasonal effort	Summer: 15, Winter: 15

General site description

Wilson Inlet is a shallow estuarine lagoon located on the south coast of Western Australia near the town of Denmark. It is fed by the Hay, Denmark, Sleeman, and Little Rivers, along with several smaller creeks, within a catchment area of over 2,000 square kilometres comprising pastoral land, nature reserves, and urban development. The inlet's shoreline supports varied vegetation, including rushes, sedges, paperbarks, swamp heathland, and swamp woodlands. A nature reserve near the Hay River mouth offers important shorebird habitat during summer months. The inlet is naturally closed to the Indian Ocean by a sandbar, which is artificially opened most winters to reduce flooding in surrounding low-lying areas. This artificial opening affects water levels and shorebird habitats, though its exact impact on shorebird communities remains uncertain and is considered in ongoing management plans.

Table 597. Importance of SBA Wilson Inlet for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Shorebird aggregation	Summer	2010	20,000 / 2,000	3,327	0	10	ASMP

Red-necked Stint	Summer	2014	6,000 / 600	2,989	0	15	ASMP
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Summer	2010	1,300 / 130	747	0	7	ASMP
Red-necked Stint	Winter	2019	6,000 / 600	700	0	3	ASMP
Common Greenshank	Summer	2014	1,100 / 110	308	0	9	ASMP

Yokinup

Table 598. Site account for Yokinup SBA

Ramsar Site	NA
Directory of Important Wetlands	NA
Wetland type	A1, A5
Flyway Network Site	NA
Key Biodiversity Area	NA
Geographical Coordinates	-33.87059, 123.0772
Area	839 hectares
No. of count areas	6
Seasonal effort	Summer: 13, Winter: NA

General site description

The Yokinup Shorebird Area is located along the white sand foreshore of Yokinup Beach on the Southern Ocean, within Cape Arid National Park. The site features a sheltered bay where the Thomas River Estuary meets the ocean at its western edge. The area includes coastal dunes backed by natural vegetation that transitions into banksia woodland. Granite outcrops are scattered throughout the bay, adding to the diverse coastal landscape. This combination of sheltered estuary, sandy beaches, dunes, and native vegetation provides important habitat for migratory shorebirds to forage and roost along this stretch of the southern coastline.

Table 599. Importance of SBA Yokinup for migratory shorebirds

Species	Season	Year	Threshold (Int / Nat)	Peak count	Int	Nat	Source
Sanderling	Summer	2014	300 / 30	453	3	7	ASMP

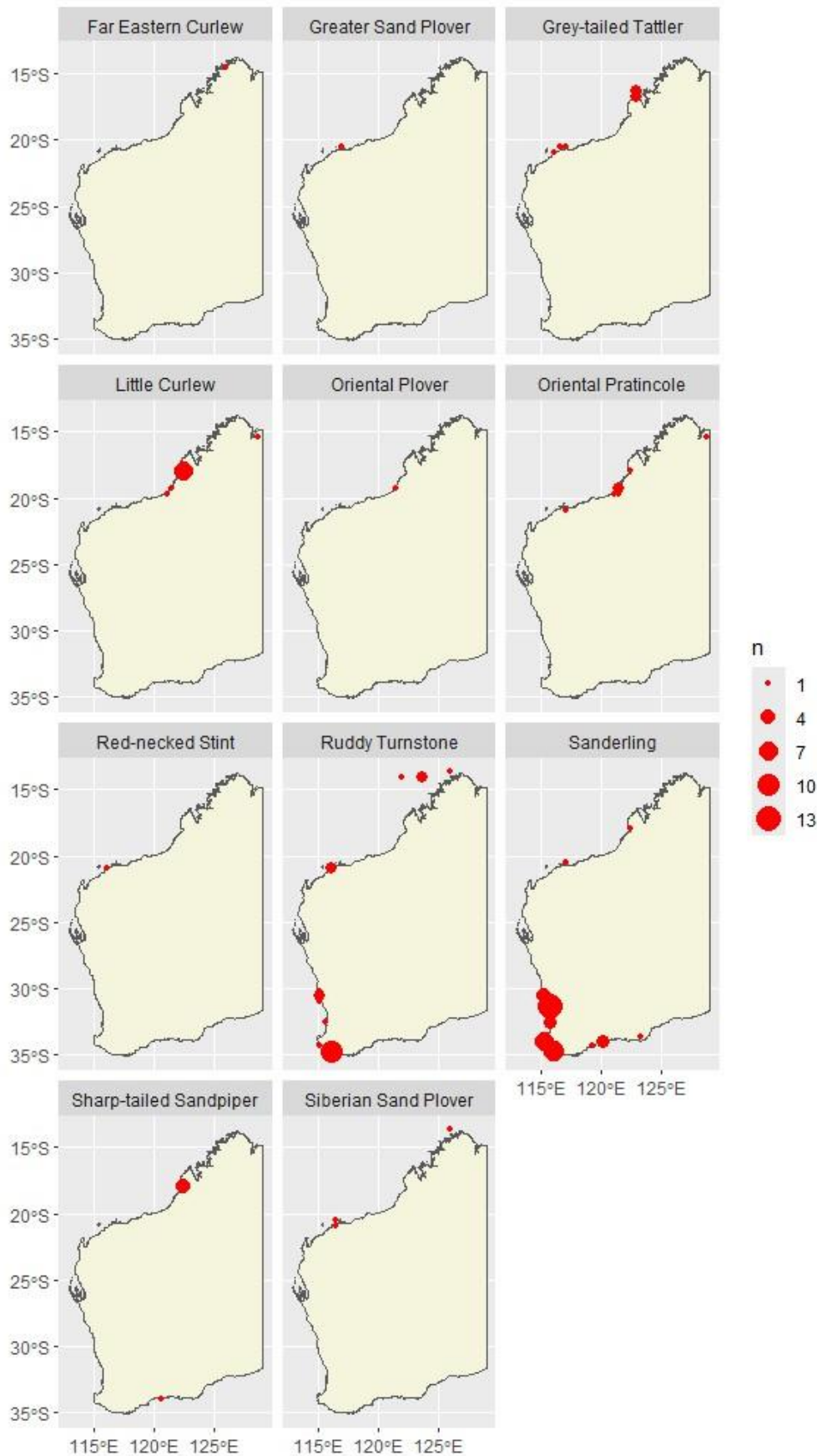
Areas of importance outside the SBA network

Available data indicates 11 shorebird species occurring in important numbers outside the SBA network in the state, apparently regularly so in a number of areas (Figure). Specialists of inland, open landscapes such as Oriental Plover, Oriental Pratincole and Little Curlew are regularly recorded in northwest Australia on near-coastal plains. These species are known to occur over much larger (much less accessible) areas than highlighted here through the use of incidental observations.

Important Grey-tailed Tattler concentrations on the Dampier Peninsula stand out in the far north of the state, as does the presence of important Ruddy Turnstone concentrations on islands off the Kimberley coast. In the far southwest of the state there appear to be a number of areas where Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone are regularly recorded in important numbers. These and

other areas will be subject to further review in terms of potential inclusion in the national SBA network.

Figure 16. Frequency of annual occurrence of important species-specific shorebird numbers outside the SBA network in Western Australia between 2009-2024, displayed at a 50x50km grid resolution.



Species accounts

Species accounts are provided for all 28 migratory shorebird species found to occur in important numbers at an established SBA or for Latham's Snipe, occurrence of important numbers on a Latham's Snipe Project site on at least one occasion in the period between 2010-2024. Separate overviews are provided for shorebird aggregation and species diversity metrics.

Asian Dowitcher

Scientific name: *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\), Conservation Advice for *Limnodromus semipalmatus* \(Asian Dowitcher\)](#).

In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

Asian Dowitchers have a disjunct breeding range that extends from west to east Siberia and south into Mongolia. It has been recorded as a non-breeding visitor to Japan, North Korea, South Korea, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand. It is estimated that approximately 80 per cent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Indonesia. When in Australia, they are most common in the Northern Territory and north-west Western Australia, and scarce to rare elsewhere.

Table 600. SBAs supporting important numbers of Asian Dowitcher (International threshold: 280; National threshold: 28)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2012	268	0	9	11
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2017	191	0	10	15
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2019	127	0	7	12
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2020	49	0	2	9
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2023	31*	0	1	15

Bar-tailed Godwit

Scientific name: *Limosa lapponica*

EPBC listing: Endangered (ssp. *menzbieri*), Endangered (ssp. *baueri*), Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\), Conservation Advice for *Limosa lapponica menzbieri* \(Yakutian Bar-tailed Godwit\)](#).

In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2024). Conservation Advice for *Limosa lapponica baueri* (Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit).

Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/86380-conservation-advice-05012024.pdf>. In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

The Bar-tailed Godwit breeds in the north of Scandinavia, Russia and north-west Alaska. In the EAAF, Bar-tailed Godwits are a common passage migrant through China, Japan and the Korean Peninsula. On southward migration, ssp. *baueri* has been recorded undertaking non-stop flights (>10,000km) across the Pacific to their non-breeding grounds in New Zealand. The species has also been recorded in south-east China, south to Indonesia, west to Thailand, east to the Pacific Islands through to Micronesia and Fiji. Approximately 88 percent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, Bar-tailed Godwits has been recorded in the coastal areas of all Australian states. The species is widespread in the Torres Strait and along the east and south-east coasts of Queensland, NSW and Victoria, including the offshore islands.

Table 601. SBAs supporting important numbers of Bar-tailed Godwit (International threshold: 3,750; National threshold: 375)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2013	63,456	15	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2015	39,320	15	15	15
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2021	12,863	13	15	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2010	10,816	9	15	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2024	7,864	15	15	15
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2011	6,100	3	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2011	5,649	3	13	15
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2010	5,486	5	15	15
Corner Inlet	VIC	Winter	2020	3,801	1	9	15
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2014	3,500*	0	4	NA
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	3,329	0	7	13
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2013	2,402	0	8	12
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2012	2,300	0	10	14
Elcho Island	NT	Summer	2011	2,002	0	2	2
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2012	2,000	0	11	15
Adele Island	WA	Summer	2022	1,983*	0	1	Na
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Winter	2012	1,888	0	7	14
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2012	1,560	0	13	15
Milingimbi Coast	NT	Summer	2016	1,433	0	4	8
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2011	1,270	0	9	11
Port Clinton	QLD	Summer	2020	1,180*	0	1	1
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2019	1,139	0	5	12
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2016	1,107	0	1	1
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2012	1,103	0	2	3
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2010	1,091	0	15	15
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2011	1,045	0	2	2
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2010	1,006	0	4	13
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2012	1,000*	0	7	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	913	0	1	3
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Winter	2011	900	0	1	8
Port Stephens	NSW	Summer	2010	876	0	10	15
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2012	862	0	3	4
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	756	0	1	4
Burdekin River Delta	QLD	Summer	2018	750	0	5	9

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
St. Helens Bay	QLD	Summer	2013	727	0	1	10
Shoalhaven Estuary	NSW	Summer	2016	710	0	10	15
Coast North of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	681	0	1	1
Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains	NT	Summer	2012	639	0	2	3
Toogoom To Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2015	623	0	5	15
Shoalwater	QLD	Summer	2016	605	0	1	1
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2020	600*	0	1	15
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2012	596	0	1	2
Armstrong Beach	QLD	Summer	2018	585	0	1	7
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Summer	2012	571	0	3	4
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	545	0	5	7
Rodds Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	501	0	1	4
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2010	499	0	4	15
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2010	492	0	1	10
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	474	0	1	3
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2013	472	0	1	6
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	452	0	1	6
Corio Bay	QLD	Summer	2024	432	0	1	6
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2012	410	0	1	12
Botany Bay	NSW	Summer	2011	403	0	3	15
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	400	0	2	11
Karratha	WA	Summer	2014	400*	0	1	2
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2015	400	0	1	10
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Summer	2010	394	0	1	15
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2023	386	0	1	7

Black-tailed Godwit

Scientific name: *Limosa limosa*

EPBC listing: Endangered, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for *Limosa limosa* \(Black-tailed Godwit\)](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

Black-tailed Godwits have a broad but discontinuous breeding range extending from Iceland to the Russian Far East, with non-breeding populations found across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Australasia. Within the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, at least two subspecies are recognised: *L. l. melanuroides*, which breeds in disjunct populations across Mongolia, northern China, Siberia, and the Russian Far East; and the recently recognised *L. l. bohái*, which also occurs in Australia, with multiple records and photographs particularly from the southeastern Gulf of Carpentaria. Black-tailed Godwits migrate across a wide front to non-breeding grounds spanning western South Asia to Australia, including India, Indochina, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Melanesia. Around 50% of *melanuroides* are thought to spend the non-breeding season in Australia, where the species is widespread but most numerous along the northern coast between Darwin and Weipa.

Table 602. SBAs supporting important numbers of Black-tailed Godwit (International threshold: 2300; National threshold: 230)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	9,609	1	2	3
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	6,080	1	1	1
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2023	5,144	5	13	15
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2011	3,222	1	11	11
Chambers Bay	NT	Summer	2012	3,002	1	2	2
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2011	2,811	1	1	3
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2023	1,800*	0	10	15
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2012	1,797	0	1	2
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	1,400	0	5	11
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2015	1,250	0	9	9
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2020	884	0	14	15
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	773	0	1	4
Milingimbi Coast	NT	Summer	2016	668	0	1	8
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2012	655	0	1	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2021	300	0	4	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2017	556	0	2	9
Elcho Island	NT	Summer	2011	500	0	1	2
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	350*	0	1	3
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2013	241	0	1	7

Broad-billed Sandpiper

Scientific name: *Limicola falcinellus*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) . In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Broad-billed Sandpipers breed in northern Europe and Siberia. In the EAAF, they have been recorded during migration in eastern China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Philippines.

Approximately 40 per cent of the flyway population spends the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, they are most common in coastal areas in the north and north-west parts of the country.

Table 603. SBAs supporting important numbers of Broad-billed Sandpiper (International threshold: 450; National threshold: 45)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2017	4,605	8	11	11
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2023	910	3	10	12
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2022	434	0	15	15
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2012	234	0	15	15
Burdekin River Delta	QLD	Summer	2018	150	0	2	9
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2014	136*	0	5	15
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2012	135	0	6	9
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2024	117*	0	1	3

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2015	100*	0	1	14
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	98	0	1	3
Lake MacLeod	WA	Summer	2014	82*	0	1	NA
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	45	0	1	4

Common Greenshank

Scientific Name: *Tringa nebularia*

EPBC listing: Endangered, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for *Tringa nebularia* \(Common Greenshank\).](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

Common Greenshanks breed across Eurasia. During northward and southward migration, the species is a common passage migrant through China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan and South-east Asia. Approximately 17 per cent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Australia. Common Greenshanks have one of the widest distributions in Australia and occur in both coastal and inland areas across the country.

Table 604. SBAs supporting important numbers of Common Greenshank (International threshold: 1100; National threshold: 110)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2015	4,046	15	15	15
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2015	1,356	1	11	11
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2018	747	0	15	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	608	0	1	8
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2016	532	0	13	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	496	0	1	1
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	469	0	1	3
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2014	449	0	10	15
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2010	400	0	15	15
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2023	398	0	15	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2010	383	0	6	15
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2019	325*	0	7	NA
Coorong	SA	Summer	2017	311	0	9	15
Wilson Inlet	WA	Summer	2014	308	0	9	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2024	304	0	4	13
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2013	282	0	5	12
Venus Bay	SA	Summer	2015	226	0	1	9
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2024	210	0	2	9
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2011	209	0	4	10
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	SA	Summer	2010	198	0	1	13
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2017	196*	0	5	15
Warden Lakes	WA	Summer	2015	183	0	3	11
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2012	180*	0	2	11
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2012	176	0	4	12

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Lake Connewarre and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Summer	2010	145	0	1	15
East Yorke Peninsula	SA	Summer	2010	143	0	1	15
Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	WA	Summer	2015	132	0	3	15
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2021	131	0	2	15
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2013	128	0	1	12
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2010	125	0	1	13
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	125	0	1	3
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2014	115	0	1	11
Lake Bonney SE	SA	Summer	2020	114	0	1	9

Curlew Sandpiper

Scientific name: *Calidris ferruginea*

EPBC listing: Critically Endangered, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2023\). Conservation Advice for *Calidris ferruginea* \(Curlew Sandpiper\)](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 18-Dec-2023.

Distribution:

Curlew Sandpiper breed in the Arctic of northern Siberia. They are a passage migrant through Europe, north Africa, Kazakhstan, west and south-central Siberia, China, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, west Melanesia, Indonesia and New Guinea. During the non-breeding period, they occur throughout Africa, south of southern Mauritania and Ethiopia, along the valley of the Nile River and in Madagascar. They also occur in Asia, from the coastal Arabian Peninsula to Pakistan and India, through Indomalaya, South-East Asia and Indochina to south China and Australasia. Approximately 60 per cent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, Curlew Sandpipers are widespread in both coastal areas and inland wetlands.

Table 605. SBAs supporting important numbers of Curlew Sandpiper (International threshold: 1,200; National threshold: 120)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2013	4,407	15	15	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2023	3,408	14	15	15
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Summer	2020	3,328	12	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2017	3,216	8	15	15
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2015	2,698	5	14	15
Coorong	SA	Summer	2017	2,443	3	11	15
Lake MacLeod	WA	Summer	2014	2,340*	1	1	NA
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Summer	2018	2,085	2	7	15
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2018	1,941	4	7	10
Point Cook to Williamstown	VIC	Summer	2011	1,800	2	10	14
Lake Connewarre and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Summer	2010	1,556	1	5	15
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Summer	2013	1,125	0	13	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2014	1,079	0	7	15
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	SA	Summer	2010	1,018	0	2	13

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2019	1,005	0	8	15
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2024	948	0	13	15
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2018	930	0	9	12
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2017	922	0	11	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	863	0	1	8
Alva Beach	QLD	Summer	2021	815	0	1	5
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2014	805	0	11	12
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Summer	2017	800*	0	1	7
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2017	784	0	11	15
Moolap	VIC	Summer	2010	745	0	4	13
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2022	712	0	9	13
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2011	700*	0	2	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2020	700*	0	1	1
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2010	655	0	6	11
Adele Island	WA	Summer	2022	610*	0	1	NA
Alma Saltworks	QLD	Summer	2011	585	0	1	4
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	573	0	3	11
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Winter	2014	570	0	3	15
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2018	500	0	3	9
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2015	457	0	2	12
Chambers Bay	NT	Summer	2012	407	0	1	2
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Winter	2023	362	0	2	14
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2019	354*	0	2	13
Westernport	VIC	Winter	2017	347	0	2	15
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2017	340	0	3	15
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2018	340*	0	4	NA
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2015	303	0	2	12
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2017	300*	0	1	2
Point Cook to Williamstown	VIC	Winter	2014	300*	0	1	11
Baird Bay	SA	Summer	2011	290	0	3	12
Corner Inlet	VIC	Winter	2014	280	0	1	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2017	280*	0	1	14
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2010	278	0	1	10
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	255	0	1	3
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2016	252	0	9	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2011	250	0	4	15
Lake Wongan	VIC	Summer	2018	220	0	1	6
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Winter	2023	220*	0	1	13
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2018	209	0	4	9
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2024	205	0	1	11
BHP Saltfields	SA	Summer	2021	200	0	1	10
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	SA	Winter	2020	200*	0	1	2
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2024	197	0	1	15
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2023	196	0	3	10
Lake Connemara and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Winter	2023	194*	0	1	14
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2010	192	0	2	15
Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	WA	Summer	2023	190*	0	1	15
Taratap	SA	Winter	2017	185*	0	1	2
Legune	NT	Winter	2018	181	0	1	3
Lake George, SA	SA	Summer	2010	180	0	2	9
Burnett River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2013	173	0	1	12
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	167	0	1	10

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Lake Newland	SA	Summer	2023	167	0	3	11
Port MacDonnell	SA	Summer	2012	161	0	2	15
Roebuck Plains	WA	Winter	2023	160*	0	1	NA
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Winter	2021	150	0	2	4
Lacepede Islands	WA	Summer	2023	150*	0	1	NA
Winninowie CP	SA	Summer	2019	150*	0	1	NA
Lake Goldsmith	VIC	Summer	2024	146	0	1	8
Port Pirie coast	SA	Summer	2019	144	0	1	6
Sceale Bay	SA	Summer	2010	139	0	1	12
Lake Eliza	SA	Summer	2011	135	0	1	2
Kerang Lakes	VIC	Summer	2015	133	0	1	5
Murat Bay	SA	Summer	2014	127	0	1	8
Tourville Bay	SA	Summer	2011	126	0	2	8
Coorong	SA	Winter	2017	125*	0	1	10
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2021	125*	0	1	3
Cape Portland	TAS	Summer	2015	121	0	1	14
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Winter	2010	120	0	1	8
Lake Macdonnel	SA	Summer	2017	120*	0	1	3

Double-banded Plover

Scientific name: *Charadrius bicinctus*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

The Double-banded Plover breeds exclusively in New Zealand, where it is widespread. During the non-breeding season, part of the population remains in New Zealand whereas the remainder migrate to Australia. It is the only migratory shorebird that migrates from Australia to New Zealand. When in Australia, Double-banded Plovers occur across both coastal and inland areas, and are most common in eastern and southern Australia.

Table 606. SBAs supporting important numbers of Double-banded Plover (International threshold: 250; National threshold: 25)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Winter	2020	2,560	4	4	4
Corner Inlet	VIC	Winter	2021	2,404	12	15	15
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Winter	2020	1,961	12	13	13
Lake Corangamite Area	VIC	Winter	2018	1,000*	6	10	14
Lake Bonney SE	SA	Winter	2024	917	3	6	7
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Winter	2020	906	9	12	12
Westernport	VIC	Winter	2019	827	15	15	15
Lake George, SA	SA	Winter	2018	717	8	12	13
King Island	TAS	Winter	2014	470	2	4	5
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Winter	2012	443	7	11	15
Port Fairy	VIC	Winter	2018	365	2	7	8

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Port Sorell	TAS	Winter	2013	350	2	8	15
Anderson Inlet	VIC	Winter	2023	340*	1	6	7
Lake Connewarre and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Winter	2010	337	1	10	14
Point Cook To Williamstown	VIC	Winter	2014	332*	2	7	11
Stanley East	TAS	Winter	2016	300	3	5	6
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Winter	2011	250	1	9	14
Cape Portland	TAS	Winter	2019	242	0	5	9
Shoalhaven Estuary	NSW	Winter	2024	235*	0	11	15
Moolap	VIC	Winter	2011	205	0	2	12
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2016	205	0	14	15
Lake Goldsmith	VIC	Winter	2024	204*	0	2	4
Fitzroy River Mouth	VIC	Winter	2020	200	0	2	9
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2011	195	0	3	14
Lake Wongan	VIC	Winter	2020	188	0	2	2
Worimi Conservation Lands	NSW	Winter	2024	182	0	14	14
Port Macdonnell	SA	Winter	2010	181	0	13	15
Strahan	TAS	Winter	2013	160*	0	1	1
Hamilton	VIC	Winter	2019	155	0	5	9
Cape Portland	TAS	Winter	2019	133	0	3	14
Ulladulla	NSW	Winter	2010	132	0	1	5
Willaura	VIC	Winter	2020	128*	0	7	11
Manning River Estuary	NSW	Winter	2011	123*	0	11	13
Devonport	TAS	Winter	2024	120	0	1	1
South Arm Peninsula	TAS	Winter	2017	118	0	11	13
Pittwater, Tas	TAS	Winter	2014	111	0	12	13
Winchelsea Region	VIC	Winter	2018	110*	0	1	3
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Winter	2021	108	0	15	15
Corop Region	VIC	Winter	2020	108*	0	1	NA
Discovery Bay To Glenelg River	VIC	Winter	2016	100	0	7	8
Gippsland Lakes	VIC	Winter	2020	91*	0	1	13
Kelso, Tamar Estuary	TAS	Winter	2020	91	0	8	10
Bass Coast	VIC	Winter	2010	88	0	1	3
Moulting Lagoon	TAS	Winter	2020	85*	0	1	NA
Lades Beach	TAS	Winter	2010	83	0	2	2
Black Rocks/Breamlea	VIC	Winter	2012	78	0	7	10
Georges Bay	TAS	Winter	2021	73	0	3	10
Carpenter Rocks	SA	Winter	2018	70	0	5	12
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	SA	Winter	2019	67*	0	4	2
George Town Reserve	TAS	Winter	2018	65	0	4	12
Mackay	QLD	Winter	2013	62	0	10	12
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Winter	2018	60	0	1	15
Tamar Island Wetlands	TAS	Winter	2013	60*	0	2	NA
Jack Smith Lake	VIC	Winter	2012	58	0	1	3
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2018	55	0	5	15
Flinders	VIC	Winter	2018	54	0	4	12
Moorland	TAS	Winter	2016	54	0	4	15
Lake Illawarra	NSW	Winter	2015	51*	0	7	10
Snowy River Estuary	VIC	Winter	2019	50*	0	1	6
Lake Dulverton	TAS	Winter	2019	46	0	3	8
Port Hacking	NSW	Winter	2023	44	0	4	7
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2012	43	0	2	2
Lake St Clair	SA	Winter	2012	41	0	1	1

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Kerang Lakes	VIC	Winter	2014	40*	0	3	Na
Lake Lonsdale	VIC	Winter	2019	40*	0	2	Na
Port Stephens	NSW	Winter	2012	37	0	7	10
Wallaga Lake	NSW	Winter	2018	37*	0	1	3
Tuross	NSW	Winter	2010	36	0	1	2
Bruny Island	TAS	Winter	2014	36*	0	2	Na
Macleay River Estuary	QLD	Winter	2021	34*	0	2	Na
Botany Bay	NSW	Winter	2020	33*	0	1	15
Hastings River	NSW	Winter	2012	32	0	1	15
Port Victoria	SA	Winter	2024	32	0	1	2
Lake Bathurst	NSW	Winter	2021	32*	0	1	Na
Sandspit Point	TAS	Winter	2020	31	0	2	6
Corio Bay	QLD	Winter	2024	30*	0	1	1
East Yorke Peninsula	SA	Winter	2012	30*	0	1	12
Nambucca River	NSW	Winter	2013	30	0	2	3
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Winter	2023	30*	0	2	14
Elliott River Estuary	QLD	Winter	2020	28*	0	1	4
Lake Learmonth	VIC	Winter	2021	28*	0	1	3
Marion Bay & Blackmans Bay	TAS	Winter	2019	28	0	3	13
Noosa	QLD	Winter	2010	26	0	1	14

Far Eastern Curlew

Scientific name: *Numenius madagascariensis*

EPBC listing: Critically Endangered, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2023\). Conservation Advice for *Numenius madagascariensis* \(Far Eastern Curlew\).](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 18-Dec-2023.

Distribution:

The Far Eastern Curlew is endemic to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. It breeds in eastern Russia and north-eastern China and travels through Mongolia, Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, China, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia to its non-breeding grounds. About 25 per cent of the population is thought to spend the non-breeding season in the Philippines, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea but most (approximately 70 per cent) spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, the Far Eastern Curlew is widespread in coastal regions in north-east and south of the continent, with smaller numbers elsewhere along the coast.

Table 607. SBAs supporting important numbers of Far Eastern Curlew (International threshold: 350; National threshold: 35)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	2,125	15	15	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2010	1,057	10	15	15
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2016	930	15	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2018	893	11	15	15
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2016	813	7	15	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2012	713	8	14	15

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2020	629	7	13	15
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2012	613	8	15	15
Broadsound	QLD	Summer	2014	599	1	9	11
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2011	564	1	2	2
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	533	1	1	1
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2013	526	2	15	15
Shoalwater	QLD	Summer	2016	518	1	1	1
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2011	510	6	15	15
Port Stephens	NSW	Summer	2013	450*	2	15	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	429	1	7	13
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2013	407	1	3	4
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	406	1	2	3
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2011	404	1	13	13
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Winter	2017	400*	1	14	14
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2010	387	1	15	15
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2020	380	1	15	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2022	365	1	14	14
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Summer	2011	364	1	4	4
Port Clinton	QLD	Summer	2019	354	1	1	1
Gladstone	QLD	Winter	2011	353	1	6	12
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	350	1	8	9
Port Stephens	NSW	Winter	2012	350*	1	5	10
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	330	0	6	6
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	306	0	3	8
Darwin Harbour	NT	Summer	2018	292	0	6	11
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	270	0	4	7
Rodds Bay	QLD	Summer	2013	262	0	3	4
Shoalhaven Estuary	NSW	Summer	2017	230	0	15	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2017	223	0	4	9
Botany Bay	NSW	Summer	2011	219	0	15	15
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2013	210	0	10	12
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Winter	2012	201	0	2	2
Theodolite Creek	QLD	Summer	2010	199	0	2	7
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2013	193*	0	4	6
Corio Bay	QLD	Summer	2017	186*	0	3	6
Mackay	QLD	Winter	2010	177*	0	7	12
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Winter	2021	176	0	3	4
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	163	0	1	3
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	157	0	1	5
Anderson Inlet	VIC	Summer	2011	155	0	11	11
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Winter	2010	148	0	12	15
Rodds Bay	QLD	Winter	2011	131	0	2	2
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2013	131	0	3	12
Townsville Region	QLD	Summer	2011	130	0	8	11
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2023	127	0	11	15
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2018	121	0	6	12
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2015	119	0	10	11
Westernport	VIC	Winter	2011	113	0	12	15
Burrum River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2021	110*	0	1	4
Lucinda	QLD	Summer	2016	110*	0	1	8
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2022	105	0	13	15
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2012	103	0	12	15
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	100*	0	5	11

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Manning River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2018	100*	0	9	15
Botany Bay	NSW	Winter	2010	99	0	12	15
Clarence River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2015	96	0	6	10
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2010	96	0	6	13
St. Helens Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	95	0	6	10
Pittwater, TAS	TAS	Summer	2015	93	0	3	14
Corner Inlet	VIC	Winter	2016	92	0	2	15
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Winter	2014	91	0	3	12
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2015	90	0	9	15
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2016	88	0	5	11
Shoalhaven Estuary	NSW	Winter	2023	88*	0	4	15
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	86	0	1	1
Elliott River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2011	84	0	2	5
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2015	76	0	10	15
Tweed Estuary	NSW	Summer	2012	72	0	3	15
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2011	68	0	1	3
Armstrong Beach	QLD	Summer	2013	66	0	1	7
Bustard Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	65*	0	1	2
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2023	65*	0	2	10
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Summer	2013	65	0	2	15
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2013	64	0	7	10
Hastings River	NSW	Summer	2011	62	0	7	15
Darwin Harbour	NT	Winter	2019	61	0	4	11
Seaforth	QLD	Summer	2017	61	0	6	13
Legune	NT	Summer	2018	60	0	2	4
Burnett River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2017	59	0	8	12
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2010	52	0	4	15
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Winter	2010	51	0	1	2
Blacks Beach	QLD	Summer	2012	50	0	3	13
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Winter	2019	50*	0	1	8
Clarence River Estuary	NSW	Winter	2010	50	0	1	9
Lucinda	QLD	Winter	2019	50	0	1	8
Skyring Estuary	QLD	Summer	2010	48	0	1	5
Alva Beach	QLD	Summer	2022	47	0	1	5
Anderson Inlet	VIC	Winter	2016	47*	0	1	7
Skyring Estuary	QLD	Winter	2010	46	0	1	4
St. Helens Bay	QLD	Winter	2015	45	0	3	7
Upstart Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	45	0	1	1
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Winter	2016	44	0	2	14
Tuross	NSW	Summer	2012	43*	0	1	3
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	41	0	1	3
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2021	41	0	1	15
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2011	41	0	1	10
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2018	38	0	1	9
Alma Saltworks	QLD	Winter	2011	37	0	1	2
Karratha	WA	Summer	2014	35*	0	1	2
Moruya	NSW	Summer	2020	35*	0	1	3
Townsville Region	QLD	Winter	2024	35*	0	1	5
Camden Haven	NSW	Summer	2010	35*	0	1	NA

Great Knot

Scientific name: *Calidris tenuirostris*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for *Calidris tenuirostris* \(great knot\)](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

The Great Knot breeds in north-east Siberia, Russia, wintering mainly in Australia, but also throughout the coastline of South-East Asia and on the coasts of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. The Yellow Sea of North Korea, South Korea and China is a particularly important stop-over site on migration on both northward and southward migration. It is estimated that approximately 90 per cent of Great Knots spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, Great Knots occur almost exclusively in coastal areas around the country and are most common in Queensland and Western Australia.

Table 608. SBAs supporting important numbers of Great Knot (International threshold: 4,000; National threshold: 400)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2013	136,377	15	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2018	42,481	15	15	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	28,979	2	2	3
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2015	13,230	14	15	15
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2011	10,254	5	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2012	9,788	11	15	15
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2012	7,501	2	2	2
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	5,860	1	1	1
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	4,504	2	6	8
Townsville Region	QLD	Summer	2010	4,500	2	9	11
Elcho Island	NT	Summer	2012	4,201	1	2	2
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	4,120	1	7	9
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	4,047	1	6	7
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	4,000	1	5	6
Adele Island	WA	Summer	2022	3,200*	0	1	NA
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	2,850	0	4	11
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2012	2,580	0	8	11
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2023	2,445	0	15	15
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2022	2,281	0	8	15
Keppel Sands	QLD	Summer	2010	2,220	0	1	1
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	1,924	0	4	13
Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains	NT	Summer	2012	1,868	0	1	3
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2012	1,821	0	8	9
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2013	1,674	0	6	6
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	1,539	0	1	3
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2012	1,500	0	2	3
Lucinda	QLD	Summer	2019	1,500	0	2	8
Armstrong Beach	QLD	Summer	2023	1,495	0	5	7
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2019	1,220	0	3	12
Broadsound	QLD	Summer	2022	1,170	0	2	11
Taylors Beach	QLD	Summer	2022	1,100*	0	2	NA
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2023	1,080	0	5	12
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	1,040	0	2	5

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
St. Helens Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	1,034	0	5	10
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2011	955	0	10	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2012	920	0	1	14
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2017	856*	0	4	NA
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	830	0	11	15
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	820	0	1	1
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2011	800	0	1	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2024	749	0	1	9
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2013	707	0	3	4
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2015	700	0	3	10
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2016	668	0	1	11
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2016	573	0	1	1
Port Clinton	QLD	Summer	2019	555	0	1	1
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2013	503	0	3	15
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2018	500*	0	1	2
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2021	478	0	2	15
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2015	434	0	2	15
Corio Bay	QLD	Summer	2024	413	0	1	6

Greater Sand Plover

Scientific name: *Charadrius leschenaultii*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2023\). Conservation Advice for *Charadrius leschenaultii* \(Greater Sand Plover\)](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 18-Dec-2023.

Distribution:

Greater Sand Plovers breed in central Asia and adjacent areas of southern Siberia, north-western China, from south-eastern Kazakhstan west to the Aral Sea and the eastern shores of the Caspian Sea, and south to Afghanistan and at scattered sites from Azerbaijan, west into Turkey and south through Syria to Jordan. The migratory route of the Greater Sand Plover is more westerly than other shorebirds that visit Australia. The species has been recorded only in small numbers on passage in eastern Asia, including eastern and south-eastern and with records of very small numbers or vagrants further east on the Korean Peninsula and in Japan. Many are recorded on passage through South-East Asia. Some are also recorded on passage through New Guinea. Approximately 68 per cent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, Greater Sand Plovers occur in coastal areas of all states but are most common in the north-west.

Table 609. SBAs supporting important numbers of Greater Sand Plover (International threshold: 1,400; National threshold: 140)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2013	42,166	15	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2018	26,351	15	15	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	5,281	1	1	3
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2013	4,418	11	15	15

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2010	3,335	10	15	15
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2016	3,236	5	9	9
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2010	3,165	10	15	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	2,930	1	4	8
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2023	2,700*	1	4	10
Adele Island	WA	Summer	2022	2,698*	1	1	NA
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2016	2,503	1	1	1
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	1,951	1	2	4
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	1,829	1	2	3
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2013	1,818	1	7	12
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	1,571	1	8	13
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2011	1,315	0	1	2
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2013	1,241	0	9	15
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	1,114	1	1	1
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2015	1,105	0	15	15
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2010	991	0	5	11
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2023	987	0	6	7
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2024	955*	0	7	NA
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2012	914	0	5	15
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2013	900	0	6	11
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	810	0	1	1
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2022	607	0	5	9
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	600	0	2	6
Lucinda	QLD	Summer	2010	600	0	2	8
Corio Bay	QLD	Summer	2022	547	0	4	6
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	522	0	1	6
Elcho Island	NT	Summer	2012	499	0	2	2
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2011	466	0	10	11
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2019	453	0	3	10
Darwin Harbour	NT	Summer	2021	440	0	5	11
Townsville Region	QLD	Summer	2010	439	0	4	11
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	432	0	11	15
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2023	407	0	2	12
Broadsound	QLD	Summer	2011	400*	0	1	11
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2017	400*	0	2	2
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2016	400*	0	2	4
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2020	382	0	6	15
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	340	0	5	7
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	300	0	3	5
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2024	280*	0	1	3
Dampier Peninsula	WA	Summer	2016	256	0	1	2
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2010	207	0	2	10
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2012	202	0	1	15
Karratha	WA	Summer	2014	200*	0	1	2
Port Hedland	WA	Summer	2016	200*	0	1	1
Punsand Bay	QLD	Summer	2014	177	0	1	1
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Summer	2010	170*	0	1	NA
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Winter	2020	160	0	1	4
Elim Beach	QLD	Summer	2014	150*	0	1	3
Mackay	QLD	Winter	2010	150*	0	1	12
Cygnet Bay	WA	Summer	2012	150*	0	1	NA

Grey-tailed Tattler

Scientific name: *Tringa brevipes*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) . In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Grey-tailed Tattlers breed in north-central and north-eastern Siberia and migrate through Taiwan, southern Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Australia, with small numbers wintering in these locations. Some individuals winter in New Zealand and Fiji. Approximately 90 per cent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, Grey-tailed Tattlers are most common on coastlines in the northern parts of the country.

Table 610. SBAs supporting important numbers of Grey-tailed Tattler (International threshold: 800; National threshold: 80)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2013	15,704	15	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2022	3,732	13	15	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	2,376	1	1	8
Shoalwater	QLD	Summer	2016	2,349	1	1	1
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2013	2,296	11	15	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	2,199	2	10	13
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2016	1,738	4	12	15
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2023	1,663	2	7	7
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	1,512	15	15	15
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2016	1,043*	3	8	NA
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2011	1,002	2	15	15
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2011	998	2	11	11
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2016	990	1	15	15
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	917	1	1	3
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2011	800*	1	11	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	742	0	5	10
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	670	0	3	9
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2013	656	0	10	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2015	643	0	14	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2012	600	0	5	14
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	332	0	1	1
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Summer	2010	550*	0	1	NA
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2017	500*	0	1	2
Port Hedland	WA	Summer	2020	500*	0	1	1
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2010	453	0	7	10
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Winter	2016	444	0	9	14
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2023	438	0	8	12
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2011	380	0	4	13
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2012	358	0	7	9
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2019	343	0	10	11
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	311	0	1	5

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Summer	2013	307	0	3	4
Townsville Region	QLD	Summer	2015	300	0	1	11
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2013	287	0	3	4
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2016	264	0	1	1
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2011	257	0	1	2
Capricornia Cays	QLD	Summer	2017	255	0	1	4
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2010	243	0	2	15
Lucinda	QLD	Summer	2016	240*	0	1	8
Rodds Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	239	0	2	4
Darwin Harbour	NT	Summer	2022	230	0	3	11
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	211	0	1	3
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	211	0	3	6
Ningaloo Marine Park	WA	Summer	2022	200*	0	2	12
Cygnnet Bay	WA	Summer	2012	200*	0	1	NA
Darwin Harbour	NT	Winter	2021	195	0	6	11
Barrow Island	WA	Winter	2013	183	0	1	5
Corio Bay	QLD	Summer	2023	151	0	1	6
Mackay	QLD	Winter	2017	143	0	3	12
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	141	0	1	4
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2020	126	0	10	15
Dampier Peninsula	WA	Summer	2016	123	0	1	2
Blacks Beach	QLD	Summer	2017	120*	0	1	13
Karratha	WA	Summer	2013	108*	0	1	2
Chambers Bay	NT	Summer	2011	102	0	1	2
Lacepede Islands	WA	Summer	2023	100*	0	1	NA
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2010	99	0	3	15
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2011	98	0	1	3
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Winter	2021	97	0	1	4
Carmila Beach	QLD	Summer	2015	97*	0	1	1
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	97	0	1	7
Skyring Estuary	QLD	Summer	2014	94*	0	1	5
Gladstone	QLD	Winter	2011	92	0	1	12
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2023	91*	0	1	6
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	85	0	1	3
Townsville Region	QLD	Winter	2018	82	0	1	5
Elim Beach	QLD	Summer	2014	80*	0	1	3
Lacepede Islands	WA	Winter	2023	80*	0	1	NA

Grey Plover

Scientific name: *Pluvialis squatarola*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for *Pluvialis squatarola* \(Grey Plover\)](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

Grey Plovers breed in northern Siberia, Alaska and northern Canada. During migration, they occur through China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan and South-east Asia, as well as India, Africa, coastal North America, islands in the Caribbean Sea and Central and South America. During the

non-breeding season, Grey Plovers are widespread across the coasts of North and South America, western and southern Europe, Asia and Australia. The numbers of Grey Plovers that spend the non-breeding season in Australia varies significantly between years. When in Australia, Grey Plover occurs across all states, and is especially common between the Coorong and the western beaches of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, as well as in Western Australia between Albany and the northern Kimberley coast.

Table 611. SBAs supporting important numbers of Grey Plover (International threshold: 750; National threshold: 75)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2016	1,272	8	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2022	835	1	15	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	506	0	1	8
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2020	488	0	11	15
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2016	472	0	11	15
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2011	397	0	9	10
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2022	388	0	14	15
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2024	387*	0	5	NA
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2010	364	0	9	11
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2011	323	0	11	12
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2020	317	0	11	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	311	0	1	3
Baird Bay	SA	Summer	2011	288	0	7	12
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	260	0	6	9
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2011	201	0	4	15
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	174	0	2	3
Venus Bay	SA	Summer	2015	172	0	4	9
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	170	0	2	7
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2015	167	0	1	15
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	166	0	1	1
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2024	160	0	2	15
Coffin Bay	SA	Summer	2020	158	0	2	11
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2015	134	0	6	15
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	121	0	2	11
Franklin Harbor	SA	Summer	2021	109	0	2	9
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2010	97	0	2	15
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	95	0	2	6
Port Victoria	SA	Summer	2011	93	0	2	15
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2020	92	0	1	15
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2014	87	0	2	13
Tourville Bay	SA	Summer	2012	87	0	1	8
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	86	0	1	13
Baird Bay	SA	Winter	2014	84	0	1	1
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2023	79	0	1	7
Albany	WA	Summer	2017	75	0	1	12

Latham's Snipe

Scientific name: *Gallinago hardwickii*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for *Gallinago hardwickii* \(Latham's Snipe\)](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

Latham's Snipe breed in Japan and far eastern Russia. During migration, the species passes through Papua New Guinea and northern Australia. It is thought that the entire world's population of Latham's Snipe migrate to Australia, where it is most common in the southeast of the continent. The distribution of Latham's Snipe is naturally fragmented due to the patchy availability of its preferred freshwater wetland habitat.

Latham's Snipe's importance thresholds differ slightly from the standard approach used for most other migratory shorebird species. From a flyway perspective, SBAs of national importance are those with at least 35 birds present (0.1% of the flyway population estimate). Given the importance of the Australian continent for the species' global population and in recognition of the species' tendency to congregate in densely vegetated freshwater wetlands, making it hard to count, a special national importance threshold of 18 birds is used here instead as stipulated in the EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2017).

Table 612. SBAs and Snipe sites (LSP) supporting important numbers of Latham's Snipe (International threshold: 350; National threshold: 18)

SBA / Snipe project site ^{LSP}	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Port Fairy	VIC	Summer	2011	443	1	9	15
Moyne Estuary ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2023	221	0	7	11
Peterborough Wetlands ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2015	207	0	11	11
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2022	205	0	6	15
Fox and Pub Lakes	SA	Summer	2022	178	0	8	8
Kingston SE	SA	Summer	2018	175*	0	4	NA
Willinga and Meroo Lakes	NSW	Summer	2011	156	0	1	4
Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve	ACT	Summer	2023	146	0	9	9
Rotaract Park, Smithton ^{LSP}	TAS	Summer	2023	140	0	9	9
Silverleaves, Phillip Island ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2020	131	0	6	9
BulBul Cres / Kekul St wetlands ^{LSP}	NSW	Summer	2023	126	0	5	6
Branch Creek, Gap Road, Alstonville ^{LSP}	NSW	Summer	2020	125	0	6	6
East Port Phillip	VIC	Summer	2021	122	0	9	15
Evelyn Drive Wetland ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2020	115	0	6	7
Silver Plains ^{LSP}	TAS	Summer	2024	110	0	4	5
Gippsland Lakes	VIC	Summer	2022	101	0	5	13
Lake Robe	SA	Summer	2018	100*	0	1	NA
Norman Street Industrial Area, Ballarat ^{LSP,X}	VIC	Summer	2023	97	0	4	5
Begola	VIC	Summer	2018	98	0	9	10
Lake Learmonth	VIC	Summer	2022	96	0	5	7
Anderson Inlet	VIC	Summer	2022	110	0	5	11
Cheltenham Rd Retarding Basin ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2023	83	0	8	8
Elcho & Lara, Lakeland Wetlands ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2021	82	0	2	8
BARC Wetlands, Bairnsdale ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2018	81	0	7	9

SBA / Snipe project site ^{LSP}	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Legana	TAS	Summer	2019	66*	0	2	3
Clifton Creek Swamp, Wy Yung ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2023	63	0	6	7
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Summer	2020	59	0	3	15
Allansford ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2024	58	0	10	11
Graydens Wetland, Phillip Island ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2021	55	0	2	8
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2022	55*	0	2	15
Lake Connewarre and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Summer	2018	54*	0	7	15
Maitland Wetlands	NSW	Summer	2019	54*	0	2	NA
Wallsend & Bunnings Wetlands ^{LSP}	NSW	Summer	2021	53	0	1	6
Nerrina Wetlands, Ballarat ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2023	52	0	4	6
Bowral Botanic Gardens ^{LSP}	NSW	Summer	2021	50	0	6	9
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2018	45	0	1	15
Sea Peace Flats, Byron ^{LSP}	NSW	Summer	2022	45	0	3	7
Waterford Wetlands ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2019	43	0	3	6
Lake Goldsmith	VIC	Summer	2022	39*	0	3	8
MacAlister Wetland Reserve ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2024	37	0	8	9
Aitken Creek, Cascade Terrace Wetland, Melbourne ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2022	36	0	3	4
Penshurst town precinct ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2020	36	0	4	6
Flooding Creek, Sale ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2020	34	0	1	9
Bowral Street Reserve ^{LSP}	NSW	Summer	2021	33	0	1	5
Cape Paterson Ecovillage ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2023	33	0	1	5
Grindelwald Dam ^{LSP}	TAS	Summer	2020	33	0	1	7
Rose Lagoon	NSW	Summer	2014	33*	0	3	5
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2017	32*	0	3	15
Saltwater Creek, Phillip Island ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2018	31	0	4	9
Byron	NSW	Summer	2013	30*	0	3	14
Parramatta River	NSW	Summer	2020	30	0	2	13
Winters Swamp	VIC	Summer	2022	30	0	3	7
Heathdale Glen Orden Wetland ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2022	29	0	1	4
Lake McIntyre, Millicent ^{LSP}	SA	Summer	2016	29	0	1	8
Shag Lagoon, King Island ^{LSP}	TAS	Summer	2021	28	0	1	5
West Belconnen Ponds ^{LSP}	ACT	Summer	2018	28	0	2	9
Winchelsea Region	VIC	Summer	2024	28*	0	1	7
Barkhill Road, Forge Creek ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2016	26	0	2	8
Lake Illawarra	NSW	Summer	2010	26	0	1	11
Brunswick River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2015	25	0	2	15
Lake Macquarie	NSW	Summer	2022	25	0	1	9
Lockyer Valley	QLD	Summer	2022	25*	0	1	1
Cliftleigh Meadows Park ^{LSP}	NSW	Summer	2022	24	0	1	2
Irrawang Swamp ^{LSP}	NSW	Summer	2019	24	0	2	6
Tirhatuan Wetlands Conservation Reserve ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2021	23	0	1	9
Lake Lorne	VIC	Summer	2015	22*	0	1	13
Merin Merin and Middle Swamps	VIC	Summer	2017	22	0	1	5
Burton's Reserve ^{LSP}	TAS	Summer	2024	21	0	1	7
Horse Park Wetlands, Jacka ^{LSP}	ACT	Summer	2019	21	0	1	3
Balyang Sanctuary ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2016	20	0	1	7
Flax Mill Swamp, Ballarat ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2018	20	0	1	8
Lake Burrumbeet	VIC	Summer	2024	20*	0	1	5
Gwydir Wetlands	NSW	Summer	2015	20*	0	1	NA
Lake Bathurst	NSW	Summer	2012	20*	0	1	NA

SBA / Snipe project site ^{LSP}	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Horse Park Drive Wetlands, Forde ^{LSP}	ACT	Summer	2023	19	0	1	8
Wallis Lake	NSW	Summer	2021	19*	0	1	2
Corop Region	VIC	Summer	2019	18*	0	1	3
Deepdene Rd Wetland (Dean's Marsh East) ^{LSP}	VIC	Summer	2022	18	0	1	6
Mulligans Flat	ACT	Summer	2013	18*	0	1	NA

Footnote: X. LSP site Norman Street Industrial Area, Ballarat has since been developed, with no suitable habitat for Latham's Snipe remaining.

Little Curlew

Scientific name: *Numenius minutus*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Little Curlews breed in Siberia. They migrate through Mongolia, China, Japan, Indonesia and New Guinea, with a few records in Borneo and the Philippines. Over 95 per cent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season on coastal plains in Australia. When in Australia, Little Curlews are most common in the north of the continent, from Port Hedland in Western Australia to the Queensland coast. In summer 2010 a very large number of Little Curlew (14,200) was recorded on Eighty Mile Beach (Piersma & Hassell, 2010).

Table 613. SBAs supporting important numbers of Little Curlew (International threshold: 1,100; National threshold: 110)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2020	14,200	2	10	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2019	6,000*	1	1	3
Ramingining Plains	NT	Summer	2017	5,000*	1	2	NA
Legune	NT	Summer	2018	4,380	3	3	4
Karumba Plains	QLD	Summer	2013	3,159	1	1	1
Roebuck Plains	WA	Summer	2022	2,773*	1	1	2
Legune	NT	Winter	2018	1,520	1	1	3
Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains	NT	Summer	2020	1,200*	1	1	3
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2015	731	0	1	15
Hyland Bay & Moyle Floodplain	NT	Summer	2017	300*	0	1	1
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2018	200*	0	1	3
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2017	180	0	1	9
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2015	151	0	1	12
Anna Plains	WA	Summer	2022	150*	0	1	NA
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	149	0	1	1

Marsh Sandpiper

Scientific name: *Tringa stagnatilis*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Marsh Sandpipers breed in central Asia and winter in sub-Saharan Africa, southern Asia, Indonesia and Australia. In the EAAF, the species is known to migrate through China, Korea and Japan. It has also been recorded in the Philippines and west Micronesia. When in Australia, Marsh Sandpipers occur in inland wetlands and coastal areas across the country.

Table 614. SBAs supporting important numbers of Marsh Sandpiper (International threshold: 1300; National threshold: 130)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2010	2,247	3	11	11
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	815	0	1	3
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	660	0	2	4
Alva Beach	QLD	Summer	2021	491	0	1	5
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	307	0	1	1
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2012	263	0	3	15
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2013	177	0	2	9
Moolap	VIC	Summer	2015	166	0	1	13
Roebuck Plains	WA	Summer	2010	161	0	1	2
Chambers Bay	NT	Summer	2012	155	0	1	2
Alma Saltworks	QLD	Summer	2014	150*	0	1	4
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2018	150*	0	1	3
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2024	150*	0	1	3
Karumba Plains	QLD	Winter	2018	150*	0	1	NA
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2016	149	0	1	9

Oriental Plover

Scientific name: *Charadrius veredus*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Oriental Plovers breed in scattered sites in northern and eastern Mongolia. They are a common passage migrant through China, with occasional records through the Korean Peninsula, Japan and south-east Asia. The majority of the global population winters on coastal plains in northern Australia, with most records between Exmouth Gulf and Derby in Western Australia. In summer 2010 a very large number of Oriental Plover (144,300) were recorded on Eighty Mile Beach (Piersma & Hassell, 2010).

Table 615. SBAs supporting important numbers of Oriental Plover (International threshold: 2300; National threshold: 230)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2010	144,300	11	12	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2019	9,580	4	11	15
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2022	1,567	0	6	12
Legune	NT	Summer	2018	586	0	2	4
Coral Bay	WA	Summer	2017	480	0	1	6
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	380	0	1	1
Roebuck Plains	WA	Summer	2021	300*	0	1	2
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2021	299	0	1	13
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	231	0	1	3

Oriental Pratincole

Scientific name: *Glareola maldivarum*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Oriental Pratincoles breed in southern, south-eastern and eastern Asia, from northern parts of the Indian subcontinent, east through Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to southern, eastern and northern China, Mongolia and adjacent areas of south-eastern Siberia. They are a common passage migrant through China, Japan, Indochina, the Philippines, the Malay Peninsula and Indonesia. It is unclear whether the species undergoes extreme natural fluctuations in Australia. When in Australia, the species is most common in northern areas, particularly along the coasts of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia. The large flyway population estimate is derived from a sighting of 2.8 million birds at Eighty Mile Beach in 2004. In summer 2010 a very large number of Oriental Pratincole (520,000) were recorded on Eighty Mile Beach (Piersma & Hassell, 2010).

Table 616. SBAs supporting important numbers of Oriental Pratincole (International threshold: 28,800; National threshold: 2,880)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2010	520,000	2	2	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2023	60,000*	1	2	15
Roebuck Plains	WA	Summer	2024	60,000*	1	1	2
Anna Plains	WA	Summer	2021	10,000*	0	1	NA
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2023	3,000*	0	1	2

Pacific Golden Plover

Scientific name: *Pluvialis fulva*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds*. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Pacific Golden Plovers breed in northern Siberia and the western parts of Alaska. In the EAAF, the species is a common passage migrant through south-eastern Siberia, eastern and southern China, Japan, the Korean Peninsula, Indochina, the Philippines, the Malay Peninsula and parts of Indonesia. Approximately 10 per cent of the flyway population of Pacific Golden Plovers spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, they are most common in coastal regions, with a few inland records. Most Pacific Golden Plovers occur along the east coast and are especially widespread in Queensland and New South Wales.

Table 617. SBAs supporting important numbers of Pacific Golden Plover (International threshold: 1500; National threshold: 150)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2020	1,219	0	15	15
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2014	522	0	15	15
Shoalhaven Estuary	NSW	Summer	2016	510	0	10	15
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2013	496	0	12	15
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2014	468	0	11	15
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2018	449	0	13	13
Alva Beach	QLD	Summer	2022	424	0	1	5
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2013	410	0	2	11
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2016	356	0	8	12
Lord Howe Island	NSW	Summer	2018	292*	0	4	NA
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2014	260*	0	2	NA
Norfolk Island	EXT	Summer	2013	256*	0	1	1
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Summer	2023	244*	0	1	7
Taylors Beach	QLD	Summer	2021	236*	0	1	NA
Skyring Estuary	QLD	Summer	2012	216	0	1	5
Manning River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2018	210*	0	4	15
Lake Ainsworth	NSW	Summer	2014	206*	0	1	NA
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	203	0	1	8
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2018	175	0	1	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2015	172	0	1	9
Cape Portland	TAS	Summer	2010	167	0	1	14
Worimi Conservation Lands	NSW	Summer	2021	155	0	2	15
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2016	151	0	1	14
Hastings River	NSW	Summer	2012	151	0	1	15

Red-necked Stint

Scientific name: *Calidris ruficollis*

EPBC Listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds*. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) . In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Red-necked Stints breed in Siberia and Alaska. The species is a common passage migrant through Japan, the Korean Peninsula, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and west Micronesia. Over 80 per cent of the flyway population of Red-necked Stints spend the non-breeding season in Australia, with small numbers overwintering in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. When in Australia, Red-necked Stints are most common in Victoria and Tasmania but occur across all states.

Table 618. SBAs supporting important numbers of Red-necked Stint (International threshold: 6000; National threshold: 600)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2010	33,840	15	15	15
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	SA	Summer	2010	30,435	1	1	13
Coorong	SA	Summer	2018	25,498	13	14	15
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2022	19,954	13	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2022	18,097	14	15	15
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Summer	2020	17,161	15	15	15
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2011	15,361	6	11	11
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2023	12,779	8	15	15
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2014	12,608	6	15	15
Lake George, SA	SA	Summer	2014	9,436	5	9	9
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Winter	2017	9,078	1	6	14
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2019	8,089	1	9	10
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2010	7,710	3	13	13
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2020	7,230	2	15	15
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Summer	2018	6,745	1	12	15
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2015	6,716	1	9	12
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	6,669	1	15	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	6,616	1	1	3
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	6,403	1	8	11
Lake Bonney SE	SA	Summer	2021	6,277	1	8	9
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	5,150	0	7	9
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2019	5,142	0	11	12
Corner Inlet	VIC	Winter	2022	4,760	0	8	15
Point Cook to Williamstown	VIC	Summer	2021	4,480*	0	10	14
Coorong	SA	Winter	2020	4,360	0	2	10
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2020	4,283	0	12	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	4,104	0	2	8
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2011	4,034	0	3	4
Gippsland Lakes	VIC	Summer	2011	3,800*	0	1	13
Alva Beach	QLD	Summer	2021	3,672	0	2	5
Lake Connewarre and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Summer	2024	3,615*	0	6	15
Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	WA	Summer	2023	3,600*	0	8	15
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2016	3,525	0	11	12
Flinders Island	TAS	Summer	2024	3,400*	0	1	2
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2020	3,258	0	8	15
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Summer	2019	3,201	0	14	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2013	3,040	0	11	15
Wilson Inlet	WA	Summer	2014	2,989	0	15	15
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2014	2,967	0	15	15
Lake Eliza	SA	Summer	2011	2,903	0	1	2
East Port Phillip	VIC	Summer	2014	2,800	0	5	15

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Anderson Inlet	VIC	Summer	2010	2,690	0	8	11
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2013	2,688	0	2	9
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Winter	2017	2,664	0	7	15
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Winter	2020	2,633	0	3	4
Port Pirie coast	SA	Summer	2019	2,580	0	4	6
Hamilton	VIC	Summer	2013	2,510	0	2	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	2,408	0	2	13
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	2,331	0	1	1
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	2,307	0	2	3
Rottneest Island	WA	Summer	2023	2,305	0	15	15
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2016	2,258	0	4	11
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Summer	2017	2,200	0	3	7
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2013	2,192	0	6	7
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2024	2,108	0	8	10
Lake Hawdon	SA	Summer	2011	2,070	0	4	7
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2010	2,004	0	10	12
BHP Saltfields	SA	Summer	2023	2,000	0	2	10
Bannitup Lake	WA	Summer	2022	2,000	0	6	14
Shoalhaven Estuary	NSW	Summer	2021	2,000*	0	1	15
Port Fairy	VIC	Summer	2019	1,995	0	11	15
Swan River	WA	Summer	2010	1,973	0	1	15
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Winter	2021	1,858	0	5	13
Carpenter Rocks	SA	Summer	2017	1,735	0	7	15
Winchelsea Region	VIC	Summer	2014	1,730	0	1	7
Port MacDonnell	SA	Summer	2017	1,728	0	15	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2014	1,700	0	3	9
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Winter	2018	1,683	0	4	12
Moolap	VIC	Summer	2014	1,615	0	11	13
Cape Portland	TAS	Summer	2014	1,602	0	7	14
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2011	1,548	0	1	2
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2015	1,515	0	7	15
East Yorke Peninsula	SA	Summer	2014	1,513	0	2	15
Lake MacLeod	WA	Summer	2014	1,496*	0	1	NA
Westernport	VIC	Winter	2023	1,486	0	7	15
Lake Goldsmith	VIC	Summer	2024	1,360*	0	1	8
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2024	1,342	0	6	11
Alma Saltworks	QLD	Summer	2010	1,318	0	2	4
Baird Bay	SA	Summer	2023	1,307	0	6	12
Point Cook to Williamstown	VIC	Winter	2023	1,300*	0	1	11
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	1,257	0	2	6
Franklin Harbor	SA	Summer	2015	1,210	0	3	9
Hamilton	VIC	Winter	2020	1,200	0	1	9
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	1,113	0	1	4
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2015	1,097	0	5	15
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2010	1,069	0	1	6
Murat Bay	SA	Summer	2015	1,045	0	2	8
Sceale Bay	SA	Summer	2010	1,037	0	5	12
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2016	1,034	0	1	2
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2010	1,021	0	4	15
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	1,020	0	1	3
Discovery Bay to Glenelg River	VIC	Summer	2017	1,000	0	1	14
Georges Bay	TAS	Summer	2022	1,000	0	3	14
Onslow	WA	Winter	2015	1,000*	0	1	1

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Winninowie CP	SA	Summer	2013	1,000*	0	3	NA
Stokes National Park	WA	Summer	2021	981	0	3	13
Kangaroo Island	SA	Summer	2011	974	0	4	15
Coffin Bay	SA	Summer	2020	949	0	4	11
Venus Bay	SA	Summer	2023	945	0	1	9
Lake Newland	SA	Summer	2023	938	0	3	11
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2016	914*	0	1	NA
Warden Lakes	WA	Summer	2012	907	0	6	11
Port Victoria	SA	Summer	2015	870	0	6	15
Fitzroy River Mouth	VIC	Summer	2016	858	0	1	9
Tourville Bay	SA	Summer	2011	830	0	1	8
Black Rocks/Breamlea	VIC	Summer	2017	800*	0	1	13
Lake Macdonnell	SA	Summer	2024	792	0	1	3
Point Brown to Acraman Creek	SA	Summer	2023	787	0	1	5
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	766	0	1	5
Lake Bonney SE	SA	Winter	2021	756	0	1	7
Port Lincoln	SA	Summer	2012	706	0	1	13
Lake St Clair	SA	Summer	2017	701	0	1	2
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2023	700	0	1	15
Leschenault Estuary	WA	Summer	2020	700*	0	1	10
Wilson Inlet	WA	Winter	2019	700	0	3	15
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	699	0	1	1
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2010	698	0	1	10
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	687	0	1	10
Broadsound	QLD	Summer	2020	674	0	1	11
Lake George, SA	SA	Winter	2013	656	0	1	13
South Arm Peninsula	TAS	Summer	2015	647	0	1	14
Gunyah Beach	SA	Winter	2014	633	0	1	5
Broadwater (Busselton)	WA	Summer	2014	630	0	1	9
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2021	629	0	1	15
Troubridge Island	SA	Summer	2010	623	0	2	3
Pormpuraaw	QLD	Summer	2013	622	0	1	3
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Winter	2013	600*	0	1	NA

Red Knot

Scientific name: *Calidris canutus*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for Calidris canutus \(red knot\)](#). In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

The species has an extremely large range, breeding in North America, Russia, north-west and east Greenland to north Alaska. It also breeds in the north Canadian Arctic Archipelago. In the EAAF during migration and the non-breeding season, the species is seen in east and south-east Asia, from eastern China, through the Philippines, south to Indonesia, and west to Malaysia and Australasia. It is a vagrant to India, Thailand, Mongolia, Hawaii, Palau and Fiji. When in

Australia, Red Knots are relatively common in much of the coastal areas, particularly in the northwest.

Table 619. SBAs supporting important numbers of Red Knot (International threshold: 1300; National threshold: 130)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2013	32,923	15	15	15
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2010	7,876	3	6	11
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	7,649	1	2	3
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2018	7,586	13	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2019	6,130*	13	15	15
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2021	2,623	3	14	15
Port Victoria	SA	Summer	2021	2,500	2	12	15
Port Pirie coast	SA	Summer	2019	2,250	1	3	6
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2011	2,001	3	13	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	1,825	1	1	1
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2015	1,800	1	9	10
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2017	1,782	1	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2010	1,746	3	13	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2019	1,545	1	14	15
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2017	1,475	1	9	15
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2016	1,189	0	3	9
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2012	1,000*	0	11	15
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2016	992	0	1	15
Lake MacLeod	WA	Summer	2014	900*	0	1	NA
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2016	835*	0	1	4
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2015	810	0	9	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	666	0	2	8
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	650	0	4	9
Broadsound	QLD	Summer	2011	603*	0	1	11
Tourville Bay	SA	Summer	2014	582	0	2	8
Corner Inlet	VIC	Winter	2021	555	0	6	15
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2023	500*	0	4	15
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2011	365	0	2	12
Baird Bay	SA	Summer	2011	360	0	2	12
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2010	350	0	1	6
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2023	335	0	5	15
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2020	313	0	1	15
Elcho Island	NT	Summer	2012	302	0	1	2
Coffin Bay	SA	Summer	2020	297	0	2	11
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2015	263	0	4	11
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2024	260*	0	1	12
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	251	0	1	11
Townsville Region	QLD	Summer	2010	250	0	2	11
Point Brown to Acraman Creek	SA	Summer	2013	230	0	1	5
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2010	222	0	1	10
Westernport	VIC	Winter	2020	204	0	2	15
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2010	200	0	2	11
Streaky Bay	SA	Winter	2010	190	0	1	3
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	150	0	1	7
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2023	150*	0	1	15
Port Hedland	WA	Summer	2016	150*	0	1	1
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	132	0	1	3
Lacepede Islands	WA	Summer	2022	130*	0	1	NA

Ruddy Turnstone

Scientific name: *Arenaria interpres*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for *Arenaria interpres* \(Ruddy Turnstone\).](#) . In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

Ruddy Turnstone breeds on the coasts of Europe, Asia and North America. During migration, the species occurs in coastal areas across southeast Asia and the Pacific. Approximately 73 per cent of the flyway population occurs in Australia and New Zealand during the non-breeding season. When in Australia, Ruddy Turnstones occur in all states in coastal regions with occasional inland records.

Table 620. SBAs supporting important numbers of Ruddy Turnstone (International threshold: 300; National threshold: 30)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2016	1,996	8	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2023	1,344	15	15	15
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2022	1,136	13	13	13
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2021	1,052*	10	11	NA
King Island	TAS	Summer	2010	890	15	15	15
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2023	645	3	6	7
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2024	601	4	10	10
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2024	543	4	8	12
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Summer	2010	535*	1	1	NA
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2017	470	1	13	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	446	1	1	8
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	392	4	8	13
Lacepede Islands	WA	Winter	2021	359*	1	1	NA
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2019	354	2	9	11
Adele Island	WA	Summer	2022	330*	1	1	NA
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2016	326	1	1	1
Carpenter Rocks	SA	Summer	2014	310	1	15	15
Capricornia Cays	QLD	Summer	2012	300	1	2	4
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2017	293	0	15	15
Lord Howe Island	NSW	Summer	2014	290*	0	12	NA
Port Fairy	VIC	Summer	2019	288	0	12	15
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Winter	2014	283	0	10	13
Port MacDonnell	SA	Summer	2010	270	0	14	15
Rottneest Island	WA	Summer	2013	256	0	15	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	248	0	15	15
Lancelin	WA	Summer	2017	200*	0	10	1
Port Pirie coast	SA	Summer	2022	190	0	4	6
Legune	NT	Summer	2018	181	0	2	4
Adele Island	WA	Winter	2021	180*	0	1	NA
Sceale Bay	SA	Summer	2023	179	0	10	12
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2021	176	0	10	12

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Lake Macdonnel	SA	Summer	2024	173	0	1	3
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2013	170	0	6	15
Moorland	TAS	Summer	2011	167	0	15	15
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2010	166	0	15	15
Port Victoria	SA	Summer	2010	153	0	4	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	145	0	3	10
Kangaroo Island	SA	Summer	2012	129	0	8	15
Point Brown to Acraman Creek	SA	Summer	2023	120	0	4	5
Carpenter Rocks	SA	Winter	2010	117	0	7	12
Guichen Bay	SA	Summer	2021	117*	0	1	2
Geraldton	WA	Summer	2020	115	0	9	10
King Island	TAS	Winter	2014	114	0	1	5
Lacepede Islands	WA	Summer	2021	114*	0	3	NA
Coffin Bay	SA	Summer	2020	113	0	5	11
Abrolhos Islands	WA	Summer	2021	110*	0	5	NA
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	104	1	1	1
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2016	104	0	8	15
Devonport	TAS	Summer	2010	100	0	11	11
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2014	99	0	10	15
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	97	0	1	3
Lancelin	WA	Winter	2019	91*	0	2	NA
Rivoli Bay	SA	Summer	2024	90*	0	1	2
Port Fairy	VIC	Winter	2020	87	0	5	8
Cape Portland	TAS	Summer	2017	86	0	6	14
Blacks Beach	QLD	Summer	2017	85*	0	1	13
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2018	85	0	2	15
Green Head	WA	Summer	2021	84	0	7	8
Baird Bay	SA	Summer	2011	83	0	6	12
Lower Yorke Peninsula	SA	Summer	2013	80	0	6	14
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Summer	2015	77	0	2	15
East Yorke Peninsula	SA	Summer	2011	76	0	7	15
Port MacDonnell	SA	Winter	2012	76	0	3	15
Wedge Island	WA	Summer	2023	76	0	4	10
Waterloo Bay	SA	Summer	2012	75*	0	1	1
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2017	72	0	9	15
George Town Reserve	TAS	Summer	2010	69	0	1	13
Temma	TAS	Summer	2017	65*	0	1	NA
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2011	64	0	1	2
Lake Newland	SA	Summer	2011	63	0	4	11
Sceale Bay	SA	Winter	2014	63	0	1	3
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2013	62	0	2	11
Tourville Bay	SA	Summer	2011	61	0	3	8
Troubridge Island	SA	Summer	2010	60*	0	2	3
Greens Beach	TAS	Winter	2017	60*	0	1	NA
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2017	59	0	3	10
Broome	WA	Summer	2021	57*	0	3	2
Dampier Peninsula	WA	Summer	2016	54	0	1	2
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Summer	2011	53	0	2	4
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2020	52	0	4	15
Botany Bay	NSW	Summer	2021	50*	0	1	15
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2022	50*	0	1	15
Port Hedland	WA	Summer	2020	50*	0	1	1
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2021	50*	0	7	15

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Capricornia Cays	QLD	Winter	2021	49*	0	3	NA
Barrow Island	WA	Winter	2013	48	0	1	5
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2017	48	0	1	11
Greens Beach	TAS	Summer	2018	48*	0	2	NA
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	47	0	1	3
Nuytsland Nature Reserve	WA	Summer	2022	47*	0	1	7
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2014	46	0	2	12
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2024	45*	0	2	15
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	EXT	Summer	2024	45*	0	4	NA
Rottneest Island	WA	Winter	2011	44	0	2	15
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2020	43	0	1	6
Flinders Island	TAS	Summer	2019	43*	0	1	2
Kelso, Tamar Estuary	TAS	Summer	2012	40	0	2	13
Policemans Point	TAS	Summer	2011	40	0	1	2
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2011	39	0	1	3
Georges Bay	TAS	Summer	2010	39	0	1	14
Norfolk Island	EXT	Summer	2012	38*	0	2	1
Kangaroo Island	SA	Winter	2010	37	0	2	11
Flinders	VIC	Summer	2017	36	0	1	13
Lord Howe Island	NSW	Winter	2014	36*	0	1	NA
Cape Portland	TAS	Winter	2010	35	0	1	9
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2021	34	0	1	9
Moorland	TAS	Winter	2019	34	0	1	15
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2015	32	0	1	15
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2023	32	0	1	5
Indented Head	VIC	Summer	2015	31*	0	1	NA
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2019	30*	0	1	2
Elliott River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2022	30*	0	1	5
Maurouard Beach	TAS	Summer	2021	30	0	1	12
Darwin Central	NT	Summer	2018	30*	0	1	1
Pilbara Islands	WA	Summer	2024	30*	0	1	NA

Sanderling

Scientific name: *Calidris alba*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Sanderlings breed in northern America to northern Russia and islands in the Arctic Ocean. On migration, the species is a common passage migrant in coastal eastern China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indochina, the Philippines and New Guinea and Indonesia. It is estimated that 10 per cent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, Sanderlings favour high energy beaches in coastal areas across all states and territories.

Table 621. SBAs supporting important numbers of Sanderling (International threshold: 300; National threshold: 30)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2016	3,362	15	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2011	3,235	15	15	15
Discovery Bay to Glenelg River	VIC	Summer	2022	1,500*	4	5	14
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2019	1,366	6	11	15
Port MacDonnell	SA	Summer	2020	1,300	4	6	15
Gunyah Beach	SA	Summer	2014	1,228	7	11	12
Sceale Bay	SA	Summer	2011	1,055	2	11	12
Coorong	SA	Summer	2021	868	4	6	15
Lake Newland	SA	Summer	2015	788	9	10	11
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2016	740*	7	10	NA
Port Lincoln	SA	Summer	2015	602	5	9	13
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2020	570	9	10	12
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2016	540	1	9	11
Sensation Beach	SA	Summer	2013	501	1	5	7
Venus Bay	SA	Summer	2022	500	1	1	9
Wedge Island	WA	Summer	2017	500	1	7	10
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2010	456	2	9	15
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2016	453	1	1	1
Yokinup	WA	Summer	2014	453	3	7	13
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2010	448	6	13	15
Fitzroy River Mouth	VIC	Summer	2022	400*	1	4	9
Port Fairy	VIC	Summer	2018	400	2	15	15
Gunyah Beach	SA	Winter	2010	369	1	2	5
Coffin Bay	SA	Summer	2024	365	1	7	11
Geraldton	WA	Summer	2013	358	1	9	10
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2019	307	1	15	15
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2013	306	1	8	12
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2014	295	0	3	10
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	284	0	10	13
Rottne Island	WA	Summer	2013	284	0	13	15
Discovery Bay to Glenelg River	VIC	Winter	2019	250*	0	2	8
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	238	0	1	3
Corner Inlet	VIC	Winter	2020	223	0	3	15
Georges Bay	TAS	Summer	2024	220*	0	4	14
Carpenter Rocks	SA	Summer	2024	200*	0	1	15
Gordon Inlet	WA	Summer	2012	200	0	1	1
Lake Macdonnell	SA	Summer	2024	180	0	1	3
Legune	NT	Summer	2018	154	0	1	4
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2018	150	0	2	13
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2019	135	0	6	15
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2020	129*	0	4	15
Coral Bay	WA	Summer	2017	125	0	3	6
Policemans Point	TAS	Summer	2022	125*	0	1	2
Port MacDonnell	SA	Winter	2023	120*	0	1	15
Esperance	WA	Summer	2021	113	0	7	15
Blackwood Estuary	WA	Summer	2022	111*	0	1	6
Beachport National Park	SA	Summer	2012	110*	0	1	NA
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	102	0	1	1
Israelite Bay	WA	Summer	2016	100	0	1	1
Portland	VIC	Summer	2018	100	0	1	6
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2023	100	0	2	10

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2024	93	0	1	11
Port Fairy	VIC	Winter	2010	92	0	2	8
Port Lincoln	SA	Winter	2011	90	0	1	5
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2023	86	0	6	7
Ningaloo Marine Park	WA	Summer	2020	86	0	3	12
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	85	0	1	1
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2019	83	0	3	15
Ningaloo Marine Park	WA	Winter	2020	80*	0	1	8
Leschenault Estuary	WA	Summer	2018	70	0	1	10
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2023	70	0	3	12
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Winter	2010	65	0	3	12
Lake Macdonnell	SA	Winter	2011	60	0	1	1
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2020	60	0	5	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	53	0	1	10
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2012	51	0	1	15
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Summer	2010	50*	0	1	NA
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	SA	Summer	2014	50*	0	1	13
Lancelin	WA	Summer	2020	50*	0	3	1
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2020	45*	0	1	15
Baird Bay	SA	Summer	2024	43	0	1	12
Manning River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2023	43	0	1	15
Corio Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	40*	0	1	6
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2020	40	0	1	15
King Island	TAS	Summer	2014	40	0	1	15
Long Reef	NSW	Summer	2024	40	0	1	11
Black Rocks/Breamlea	VIC	Summer	2012	40*	0	1	13
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	EXT	Summer	2011	40*	0	1	NA
East Yorke Peninsula	SA	Summer	2017	40*	0	1	15
Waterloo Bay	SA	Summer	2014	40*	0	1	1
Dampier Peninsula	WA	Summer	2016	38	0	1	2
Nuytsland Nature Reserve	WA	Summer	2022	38*	0	1	7
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2021	36	0	2	9
Garden Island	QLD	Summer	2020	32*	0	1	2
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2012	31	0	1	4
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2019	30*	0	1	2
Cape Le Grand	WA	Summer	2012	30	0	1	12
Rottne Island	WA	Winter	2014	30	0	1	15
Double Island Point	QLD	Summer	2015	30*	0	1	NA
Guichen Bay	SA	Summer	2024	30*	0	1	2

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Scientific name: *Calidris acuminata*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for *Calidris acuminata* \(Sharp-tailed Sandpiper\).](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers breed in northern Siberia. They are a common passage migrant through Mongolia, China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan, Micronesia, the Philippines and south-east Asia. Small numbers winter in New Zealand, but most of the population winters in Australia (approximately 91 per cent). The species is most common in south-east Australia and there are many inland records of birds on passage. The species is known to respond to ephemeral conditions inland and in some years, individuals may not migrate as far south when there is sufficient water in inland systems.

Table 622. SBAs supporting important numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (International threshold: 1300; National threshold: 130)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Lake Hawdon	SA	Summer	2019	16,430	3	5	7
Coorong	SA	Summer	2012	14,222	10	14	15
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	SA	Summer	2010	11,299	2	10	13
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2013	11,139	7	10	11
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Summer	2020	10,922	12	13	15
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Summer	2020	9,810	4	13	15
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2016	6,408	7	14	15
Lake Connawarre and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Summer	2021	6,110	3	8	15
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2010	6,015	11	15	15
Lake George, SA	SA	Summer	2024	5,065	3	7	9
Bool Lagoon	SA	Summer	2019	5,000*	1	5	NA
Hamilton	VIC	Summer	2010	4,000	1	4	15
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2015	3,885	5	12	12
East Port Phillip	VIC	Summer	2019	3,720	9	14	15
Winchelsea Region	VIC	Summer	2019	3,000*	1	2	7
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2022	2,815	4	15	15
Fivebough Swamp	NSW	Summer	2014	2,800	2	5	7
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2024	2,800*	1	4	14
Corop Region	VIC	Summer	2015	2,500*	1	1	3
Lake Macquarie	WA	Summer	2024	2,500	1	1	9
Maitland Wetlands	NSW	Summer	2010	2,460*	1	4	NA
Lake Wongan	VIC	Summer	2020	2,300	2	2	6
Lake Bonney SE	SA	Summer	2020	2,221	3	8	9
Lake Goldsmith	VIC	Summer	2020	2,200	2	4	8
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2022	2,187	4	15	15
Point Cook to Williamstown	VIC	Summer	2020	2,120*	1	9	14
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2013	2,042	1	4	9
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	2,000	3	4	9
Belmore Swamp	NSW	Summer	2019	2,000*	1	2	NA
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	1,952	1	4	4
Port Fairy	VIC	Summer	2018	1,779	2	7	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2017	1,601	1	4	9
Chambers Bay	NT	Summer	2012	1,598	1	1	2
Moolap	VIC	Summer	2021	1,554	2	11	13
Alva Beach	QLD	Summer	2021	1,500	1	2	5
Roebuck Plains	WA	Summer	2022	1,500*	1	2	2
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	1,488	1	4	11
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2016	1,380	1	9	15
Karumba Plains	QLD	Summer	2013	1,363	1	1	1
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2019	1,343	1	9	10
Burnett River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2015	1,202	0	9	12

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Winter	2022	1,200*	0	1	14
BHP Saltfields	SA	Summer	2023	1,100	0	5	10
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	1,096	0	1	3
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	1,070	0	1	8
Point Brown to Acraman Creek	SA	Summer	2014	1,034	0	3	5
Alma Saltworks	QLD	Summer	2014	1,000*	0	2	4
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2015	1,000*	0	2	15
Shoalhaven Estuary	NSW	Summer	2014	1,000*	0	4	15
Broadwater (Busselton)	WA	Summer	2014	887	0	2	9
Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	WA	Summer	2022	865	0	9	15
Bibra and Thompsons Lakes Reserves	WA	Summer	2011	850*	0	1	15
Kerang Lakes	VIC	Summer	2016	850*	0	1	5
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Summer	2016	815	0	9	15
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2020	800	0	10	15
Kangaroo Island	SA	Summer	2013	800	0	3	15
Lake Bathurst	NSW	Summer	2017	800*	0	3	NA
Lake Lonsdale	VIC	Summer	2020	800*	0	1	NA
Port MacDonnell	SA	Summer	2019	783	0	9	15
Wilson Inlet	WA	Summer	2010	747	0	7	15
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Summer	2017	700*	0	1	7
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2020	700*	0	5	15
Willaura	VIC	Summer	2019	700	0	3	14
Horsham	VIC	Summer	2024	650*	0	2	NA
Fitzroy River Mouth	VIC	Summer	2015	620	0	2	9
Baird Bay	SA	Summer	2023	615	0	4	12
Gippsland Lakes	VIC	Summer	2013	600	0	3	13
Lake Moondarra	QLD	Summer	2020	600*	0	1	NA
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2011	582	0	11	15
Wagin Region	WA	Summer	2019	573	0	1	9
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	562	0	1	3
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Winter	2020	519*	0	1	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	509	0	1	3
Anderson Inlet	VIC	Summer	2018	500	0	2	11
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2012	500*	0	3	11
Karumba Plains	QLD	Winter	2018	500*	0	1	NA
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	489	0	3	6
Franklin Harbor	SA	Summer	2010	483	0	1	9
Lake Elingamite	VIC	Summer	2019	478	0	2	11
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2012	470	0	9	12
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2023	442*	0	1	15
East Yorke Peninsula	SA	Summer	2021	428	0	2	15
Macleay River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2022	421*	0	3	NA
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2019	417	0	3	11
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2023	409	0	7	10
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2024	400*	0	1	6
Carrum Wetlands	VIC	Summer	2013	400*	0	1	NA
Legana	TAS	Summer	2019	370*	0	1	3
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2016	364*	0	1	4
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2010	354	0	4	15
Darwin Harbour	NT	Summer	2021	338	0	4	11
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2014	336	0	1	12
Lake Newland	SA	Summer	2015	330	0	2	11

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Lockyer Valley	QLD	Summer	2023	330*	0	1	1
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2020	318	0	5	15
Broadsound	QLD	Summer	2012	300*	0	1	11
Gol Gol	NSW	Summer	2017	300*	0	1	NA
Kingston SE	SA	Summer	2019	300*	0	1	NA
Lake Buloke	VIC	Summer	2017	300*	0	2	NA
Seaspray	VIC	Summer	2015	300*	0	1	NA
Jack Smith Lake	VIC	Summer	2017	292	0	1	2
Sceale Bay	SA	Summer	2023	286	0	1	12
Roebuck Plains	WA	Winter	2017	280*	0	1	NA
Swan Hill	VIC	Summer	2010	270	0	2	7
Darwin Central	NT	Summer	2010	258	0	1	1
Alice Springs Sewage Treatment Plant	NT	Summer	2020	250*	0	1	6
Lower Yorke Peninsula	SA	Summer	2010	250*	0	1	14
Menindee Lakes	NSW	Summer	2014	250*	0	1	NA
Port Hedland	WA	Summer	2020	250*	0	1	1
Lacepede Islands	WA	Summer	2022	240*	0	1	NA
Lake Bindegolly	QLD	Summer	2014	240*	0	2	NA
Lake Connewarre and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Winter	2023	230*	0	1	14
Lake Gore	WA	Summer	2015	226	0	1	11
Bannitup Lake	WA	Summer	2023	225	0	3	14
Lake Wendouree	VIC	Summer	2010	220*	0	1	NA
Coorong	SA	Winter	2019	207	0	1	10
Black Rocks/Breamlea	VIC	Summer	2019	204	0	1	13
Blackwood Estuary	WA	Summer	2020	202*	0	1	6
Discovery Bay to Glenelg River	VIC	Summer	2019	201	0	3	14
Forrestdale Lake	WA	Summer	2020	200*	0	1	12
King Island	TAS	Summer	2010	200	0	1	15
Lake Burrumbeet	VIC	Summer	2022	200*	0	1	5
Tuckerbil Swamp	NSW	Summer	2015	200	0	1	6
Tuggerah Lakes	NSW	Summer	2024	200*	0	1	4
Brandon - Colevale Wetlands	QLD	Summer	2021	200*	0	1	NA
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	186	0	1	1
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2010	184	0	2	13
Tamar Island Wetlands	TAS	Summer	2019	180*	0	1	NA
Albany	WA	Summer	2020	159	0	1	12
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2020	159	0	2	15
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2024	155	0	1	13
Warden Lakes	WA	Summer	2012	152	0	2	11
Lake Illawarra	NSW	Summer	2010	150	0	1	11
Lake Learmonth	VIC	Summer	2021	150*	0	1	5
Portland	VIC	Summer	2016	140*	0	1	6
Parramatta River	NSW	Summer	2019	138	0	1	13
Wandalup Ponds	WA	Summer	2018	137*	0	1	4
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2018	135	0	1	15
Coffin Bay	SA	Summer	2010	130	0	1	11
Mildura	VIC	Summer	2019	130*	0	1	4
St. Leonards Salt Lake	VIC	Summer	2015	130*	0	1	11

Siberian Sand Plover

Scientific name: *Anarhynchus mongolus*

EPBC listing: Endangered

Approved conservation advice: [Threatened Species Scientific Committee \(2016\). Conservation Advice *Charadrius mongolus* Lesser Sand Plover. Canberra: Department of the Environment.](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-May-2016.

Recent research has recommended that the Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* should be split into two species, Siberian Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* (two subspecies), and Tibetan Sand Plover *C. atrifrons* (three subspecies). See the Introduction section for details (Table 1). Within Australia it is not possible to give separate totals for each of these newly defined species, as counters have not attempted to distinguish them in the past. However, the vast majority of “Lesser” Sand Plovers counted in Australia are known to be Siberian Sand Plovers. Only a few Tibetan Sand Plovers have been confirmed to occur in Australia, and the only accepted reports are from north-western Australia, at Eighty Mile Beach, Roebuck Bay and Ashmore Reef.

Distribution:

Siberian Sand Plovers have been recorded breeding in Siberia and scattered sites in central and north-eastern Asia. During migration, the species has been recorded in south-eastern Siberia, eastern and southern China, Japan, the Korean Peninsula, the Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea and a few islands in the south-western Pacific Ocean. Siberian Sand Plovers have been recorded in coastal areas in every state, but are most common in northern and eastern Australia.

Table 623. SBAs supporting important numbers of Siberian Sand Plover (International threshold: 260; National threshold: 26)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	4,406	3	5	8
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2015	3,177	11	11	11
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	2,350	5	9	9
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	2,053	15	15	15
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2010	1,601	13	14	15
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2021	1,564	3	6	10
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	1,390	2	2	3
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2018	1,300	10	15	15
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	1,250	5	5	7
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2019	1,248	3	10	12
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2011	1,047	3	4	4
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	967	1	1	3
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2012	942	7	15	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2017	922	2	6	9
Corio Bay	QLD	Summer	2023	750	2	2	6
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2015	682	2	5	12
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	585	1	3	6
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2020	500*	1	6	15
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Summer	2020	440	1	3	4
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	439	2	2	4

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	418	1	2	10
Shoalwater	QLD	Summer	2020	386*	1	1	1
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2014	362	1	15	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	354	1	8	13
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2023	351	1	5	7
Port Clinton	QLD	Summer	2020	348*	1	1	1
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	330	2	8	11
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2011	318	1	2	2
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2020	290*	1	2	6
Mackay	QLD	Winter	2015	258	0	9	12
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	254	0	3	5
Lucinda	QLD	Summer	2010	250	0	5	8
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2023	250*	0	7	152
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2015	232	0	14	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2020	228	0	12	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2023	222*	0	13	15
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2024	214	0	6	13
Theodolite Creek	QLD	Summer	2012	206	0	3	7
Barrow Island	WA	Winter	2015	200	0	2	5
Bustard Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	200*	0	1	2
Adele Island	WA	Summer	2022	186	0	1	NA
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2017	150*	0	1	2
Burdekin River Delta	QLD	Winter	2020	140	0	1	4
Kinka Beach	QLD	Summer	2024	130	0	10	15
Dampier Peninsula	WA	Summer	2014	114*	0	1	2
Punsand Bay	QLD	Summer	2014	114	0	1	1
Corio Bay	QLD	Winter	2023	110	0	1	1
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2023	109	0	7	15
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2012	101	0	1	3
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2021	100	0	1	15
Townsville	QLD	Summer	2014	100	0	3	11
Onslow	WA	Summer	2024	91*	0	1	3
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2024	85*	0	1	15
Carmila Beach	QLD	Summer	2015	80*	0	1	2
Elliott River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2022	80*	0	1	5
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Winter	2012	77	0	1	2
Rodds Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	75	0	3	4
Seaforth	QLD	Summer	2012	72	0	10	13
Four Mile Beach	QLD	Summer	2017	70	0	1	NA
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2011	65	0	3	14
Alva Beach	QLD	Summer	2023	60*	0	1	5
Burrum River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2016	60	0	1	4
Capricornia Cays	QLD	Summer	2015	59*	0	1	4
Keppel Sands	QLD	Summer	2010	56	0	1	1
Broadsound	QLD	Summer	2013	52*	0	1	11
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Winter	2010	50*	0	1	14
Port Hedland	WA	Summer	2016	50*	0	1	1
Blacks Beach	QLD	Summer	2024	45	0	1	13
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Winter	2018	42	0	2	14
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2011	39	0	1	2
Shoalhaven Estuary	NSW	Summer	2013	39	0	1	15
Theodolite Creek	QLD	Winter	2011	39	0	1	2
Gladstone	QLD	Winter	2011	35	0	3	12
Lucinda	QLD	Winter	2010	34	0	1	8

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Port Douglas	QLD	Summer	2020	34*	0	1	1
Chilli Beach	QLD	Summer	2020	34*	0	1	1
Mission River	QLD	Summer	2014	30	0	1	3
Rodds Bay	QLD	Winter	2012	30	0	1	2
St. Helens Bay	QLD	Winter	2013	30	0	1	7
Karratha	WA	Summer	2022	28*	0	1	2
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Winter	2010	26	0	1	2
Nhulunbuy	NT	Summer	2017	26*	0	1	3

Terek Sandpiper

Scientific name: *Xenus cinereus*

EPBC listing: Vulnerable, Marine, Migratory

Approved conservation advice: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water \(2024\). Conservation Advice for *Xenus cinereus* \(Terek Sandpiper\).](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 05-Jan-2024.

Distribution:

The main breeding range for the Terek Sandpiper is northern Russia. In east Asia, the species passes through Mongolia, China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines and western Micronesia. Approximately 38 per cent of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, Terek Sandpipers occur predominantly on the coast and are more common in northern and eastern Australia.

Table 624. SBAs supporting important numbers of Terek Sandpiper (International threshold: 750; National threshold: 75)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2013	7,524	15	15	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	2,945	1	2	8
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2016	1,997	11	15	15
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	1,191	1	2	3
Shoalwater	QLD	Summer	2016	1,149	1	1	1
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2011	938	1	10	15
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2022	818	2	15	15
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	680	0	8	9
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2016	629	0	12	15
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2024	450*	0	1	3
Adele Island	WA	Summer	2022	332*	0	1	NA
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2012	315	0	3	4
Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains	NT	Summer	2011	272	0	2	3
Legune	NT	Summer	2018	271	0	2	4
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2020	230	0	8	15
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2011	218	0	1	2
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2017	205	0	1	9
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2023	200	0	2	15
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2012	196	0	2	13
Rodds Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	195	0	3	4
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2021	191	0	5	15

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	180	0	2	13
Darwin Harbour	NT	Summer	2020	166	0	2	11
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2020	166	0	11	15
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Summer	2012	151	0	2	4
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2017	150*	0	1	2
Darwin Harbour	NT	Winter	2020	148	0	5	11
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	133	0	1	3
Skyring Estuary	QLD	Summer	2015	122*	0	1	5
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Winter	2023	121	0	1	4
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2017	115*	0	1	NA
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2012	105	0	1	2
St. Helens Bay	QLD	Winter	2012	76	0	1	7

Wandering Tattler

Scientific name: *Tringa incana*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) . In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Wandering Tattlers breed in Siberia, Alaska and north-west Canada. The non-breeding range is around the Pacific rim, along the coasts of North, Central and South America, from south California, south to Ecuador, including the Galapagos Islands. Wandering Tattlers are widespread throughout the tropical Pacific, from Hawaii, south to Polynesia, the Kermadec Islands and New Zealand, and to east Australia, New Guinea and East Micronesia. Wandering Tattlers are a vagrant in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and are uncommon in Australia, although they may sometimes be overlooked. The distribution and status of this species in Asia and Australia is poorly known, partly because of confusion with the Grey-tailed Tattler.

Table 625. SBAs supporting important numbers of Wandering Tattler (International threshold: 100; National threshold: 10)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2010	23	0	1	13
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2016	14*	0	1	15
Capricornia Cays	QLD	Summer	2015	12*	0	1	4
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2023	11*	0	1	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2024	10*	0	1	15
Lord Howe Island	NSW	Summer	2018	10*	0	1	NA

Whimbrel

Scientific name: *Numenius phaeopus*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds*. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) . In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

Whimbrel's breed in north and west Alaska and parts of Eurasia. The species has a widespread distribution during the non-breeding season. In the EAAF, Whimbrels occur throughout south-east Asia, Indochina, the Philippines, south China, and Taiwan. It is also found in the New Guinea region. A significant proportion of the flyway population spend the non-breeding season in Australia. When in Australia, Whimbrels are almost exclusively restricted to coastal areas and occur in all states, with the highest densities in the northern parts of the country.

Table 626. SBAs supporting important numbers of Whimbrel (International threshold: 900; National threshold: 90)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2019	1,809	8	15	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	1,603	5	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2024	1,385	2	15	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2012	1,177	1	13	15
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2011	1,023	1	3	4
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2015	869	0	11	11
Shoalwater	QLD	Summer	2016	789	0	1	1
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2016	696	0	15	15
Port Clinton	QLD	Summer	2020	643*	0	1	1
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2023	640	0	15	15
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2023	606	0	8	15
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	572	0	1	4
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2016	496	0	9	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2016	489	0	3	9
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	466	0	1	8
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	460	0	1	3
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2011	453	0	15	15
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	453	0	6	6
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	440	0	7	9
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2011	432	0	4	13
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Summer	2010	400*	0	1	NA
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Summer	2011	386	0	4	4
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	356	0	1	13
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	347	0	1	1
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2011	347	0	4	14
Darwin Harbour	NT	Summer	2017	337	0	5	11
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	311	0	5	7
Port Stephens	NSW	Summer	2016	301	0	13	15
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2011	299	0	1	2
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2012	282	0	13	15
Pumicestone Passage	QLS	Winter	2016	274	0	8	14
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Winter	2017	250*	0	1	4
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2015	242	0	6	11
Ashmore Reef	EXT	Winter	2010	240*	0	5	NA
Broadsound	QLD	Summer	2022	235	0	3	11
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	235*	0	3	6
Theodolite Creek	QLD	Summer	2012	208	0	1	7
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Winter	2010	197	0	1	2

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Corio Bay	QLD	Summer	2010	181*	0	1	6
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2024	179	0	6	15
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2021	170*	0	1	1
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	167	0	1	5
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2011	159	0	2	15
Cairns area	QLD	Winter	2023	157	0	2	15
Maroochy River	QLD	Summer	2023	154	0	2	15
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	151	0	1	3
Upstart Bay	QLD	Winter	2017	150*	0	1	NA
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2013	135	0	3	10
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	135	0	1	1
Bustard Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	129*	0	1	2
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	124	0	1	10
Blacks Beach	QLD	Summer	2023	115	0	2	13
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	112	0	1	3
Seaforth	QLD	Summer	2013	111	0	1	13
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2017	103	0	1	10
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2012	100*	0	1	15
Elliott River Estuary	QLD	Summer	2012	99	0	1	5
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2014	92	0	1	12
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2017	91	0	1	15
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2017	90*	0	1	11

Wood Sandpiper

Scientific name: *Tringa glareola*

EPBC listing: Marine, Migratory

Wildlife conservation plans: [Commonwealth of Australia \(2015\). Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment.](#) In effect under the EPBC Act from 15-Jan-2016.

Distribution:

The Wood Sandpiper breeds across Eurasia, mostly in Scandinavia, the Baltic countries and Russia. Much of the flyway population spends the non-breeding season in south-east Asia. Small numbers winter in Australia with the largest numbers recorded in north-west Australia.

Table 627. SBAs supporting important numbers of Wood Sandpiper (International threshold: 1300; National threshold: 130)

SBA	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Roebuck Plains	Summer	2010	154	0	1	2

Shorebird aggregation

Internationally important aggregations of migratory shorebirds (>20,000 birds) were mostly found in northern Australia, across Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia in areas with vast stretches of suitable habitat (e.g. Eighty Mile Beach, Roebuck Bay, SE Gulf of Carpentaria, Table). Notable exceptions in the southern half of the continent are the large wetland systems of the Coorong and Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert, although relatively small areas in this part of the country are capable of supporting similar numbers (e.g. Werribee / Avalon, Corner Inlet).

Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck Bay SBAs support internationally important aggregations year-round, and it is likely that several other areas are capable of doing the same if data were available for the winter season (e.g. SE Gulf of Carpentaria, Milingimbi coast, Port McArthur and Borrooloola SBAs).

Nearly 20 SBAs across Australia support between 10,000 and 20,000 migratory shorebirds, in many instances doing so annually.

Compared to Weller et al. (2020) there are very few entries for inland wetlands of importance as between 2010 and 2024 dry conditions resulted in little potential inland habitat, whereas during several episodes of large scale flooding only a limited survey effort was able to be deployed.

It is also important to consider that for many wetlands these numbers are minimum peak counts. For example, areas such as Eighty Mile Beach, SE Gulf of Carpentaria and Exmouth Gulf are mostly sampled rather than counted in their entirety for reasons of scale and logistics.

Table 628. SBAs supporting important numbers of Shorebird aggregation (International threshold: 20,000; National threshold: 2,000)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2013	332,193	15	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2017	135,725	15	15	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	54,071	1	2	3
Lake Alexandrina & Lake Albert	SA	Summer	2010	45,462	1	2	13
Coorong	SA	Summer	2012	45,090	7	14	15
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Summer	2020	31,576	3	15	15
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2021	30,753	9	14	15
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	28,653	1	6	8
Port McArthur and Borrooloola	NT	Summer	2011	28,449	5	11	11
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2011	26,803	2	15	15
Boucaut Bay	NT	Summer	2012	25,806	2	2	2
Chambers Bay	NT	Summer	2012	24,965	1	2	2
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2012	21,612	3	15	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	19,515	0	1	1
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2023	19,040	0	15	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2021	18,936	0	15	15
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2012	18,309	0	15	15
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Summer	2018	17,871	0	10	15
Lake Hawdon	SA	Summer	2019	16,796	0	5	7
Fog Bay	NT	Summer	2011	16,614	0	3	3
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2014	15,157	0	15	15

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	14,774	0	7	9
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	14,599	0	7	13
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2011	14,297	0	2	2
Anson Bay, Daly & Reynolds River Floodplains	NT	Summer	2012	13,944	0	3	3
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2020	12,612	0	15	15
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	12,415	0	2	3
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2019	12,263	0	12	12
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2019	12,154	0	10	10
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2010	10,718	0	13	13
Lake George, SA	SA	Summer	2024	10,563	0	9	9
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2015	10,296	0	7	12
Corner Inlet	VIC	Winter	2021	9,739	0	8	15
Lake Corangamite area	VIC	Winter	2017	9,554	0	1	14
Elcho Island	NT	Summer	2011	8,784	0	2	2
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	8,581	0	3	4
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	8,544	0	7	11
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2016	8,316	0	11	15
Lake Connemara and Barwon River Estuary	VIC	Summer	2010	8,257	0	7	15
Lake Bonney SE	SA	Summer	2021	7,782	0	8	9
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2011	7,217	0	3	4
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2010	6,908	0	15	15
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2023	6,759	0	5	7
Buckingham Bay	NT	Summer	2012	6,600	0	2	2
Alva Beach	QLD	Summer	2021	6,573	0	2	5
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	6,405	0	6	7
Lake Galilee	QLD	Summer	2012	6,000	0	1	12
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2016	5,972	0	5	11
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2013	5,952	0	6	9
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2011	5,695	0	8	15
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2016	5,519	0	1	1
Cleveland Bay	QLD	Summer	2012	5,495	0	3	6
Shoalwater	QLD	Summer	2016	5,410	0	1	1
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Winter	2020	5,329	0	2	4
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2015	5,232	0	10	10
Port Pirie coast	SA	Summer	2019	5,159	0	3	6
Townsville Region	QLD	Summer	2011	5,089	0	4	11
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	5,054	0	1	1
Point Cook to Williamstown	VIC	Summer	2011	4,988	0	7	14
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2016	4,830	0	10	12
Karumba Plains	QLD	Summer	2013	4,647	0	1	1
East Port Phillip	VIC	Summer	2014	4,638	0	9	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2017	4,583	0	4	9
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Summer	2019	4,559	0	9	15
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2013	4,452	0	12	15
Coorong	SA	Winter	2020	4,409	0	1	10
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Winter	2012	4,385	0	2	14
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2015	4,295	0	5	6
Hamilton	VIC	Summer	2010	4,151	0	2	15
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Winter	2020	3,708	0	2	15
Port Fairy	VIC	Summer	2019	3,502	0	4	15
Lake Murdeduke	VIC	Summer	2017	3,473	0	1	7

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Port MacDonnell	SA	Summer	2020	3,440	0	4	15
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2015	3,396	0	9	12
Wilson Inlet	WA	Summer	2010	3,327	0	10	15
Moolap	VIC	Summer	2010	3,316	0	4	13
Ince Bay	QLD	Summer	2018	3,306	0	2	5
Port Victoria	SA	Summer	2021	3,266	0	2	15
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Winter	2022	3,248	0	6	13
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2022	3,187	0	2	15
Lake Eliza	SA	Summer	2011	3,182	0	1	2
BHP Saltfields	SA	Summer	2023	3,149	0	1	10
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Winter	2020	3,128	0	2	15
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	3,113	0	1	10
Anderson Inlet	VIC	Summer	2010	2,982	0	4	11
Fivebough Swamp	NSW	Summer	2014	2,800	0	2	7
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	2,752	0	2	3
Baird Bay	SA	Summer	2023	2,622	0	2	12
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2011	2,582	0	1	2
Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary	WA	Summer	2022	2,560	0	2	15
Rottneest Island	WA	Summer	2023	2,553	0	4	15
Lake Macquarie	WA	Summer	2024	2,552	0	1	9
Westernport	VIC	Winter	2017	2,522	0	4	15
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2010	2,505	0	1	10
Lake Wongan	VIC	Summer	2020	2,500	0	1	6
Lake Goldsmith	VIC	Summer	2020	2,455	0	2	8
Streaky Bay	SA	Summer	2024	2,443	0	3	11
Keppel Sands	QLD	Summer	2010	2,422	0	1	1
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Winter	2018	2,364	0	1	12
Toogoom to Point Vernon	QLD	Summer	2012	2,317	0	3	15
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2023	2,291	0	1	15
Swan River	WA	Summer	2010	2,285	0	1	15
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Winter	2012	2,277	0	1	14
Colosseum Inlet	QLD	Summer	2013	2,274	0	2	4
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2010	2,253	0	2	13
Bannitup Lake	WA	Summer	2022	2,193	0	2	14
Lucinda	QLD	Summer	2019	2,169	0	1	8
Winchelsea Region	VIC	Summer	2014	2,130	0	1	7
Sceale Bay	SA	Summer	2011	2,108	0	1	12
Lake Numalla	QLD	Summer	2014	2,091	0	1	12
Port Clinton	QLD	Summer	2019	2,043	0	1	1
Carpenter Rocks	SA	Summer	2017	2,012	0	1	15

Species diversity

Nationally important levels of species diversity (15 and above; Commonwealth of Australia, 2017) were mostly found in northern Australia, across Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia (Table).

Table 629. SBAs supporting important numbers of Species diversity (International threshold: NA; National threshold: 15)

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Summer	2016	28	NA	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Summer	2017	28	NA	15	15
Roebuck Bay	WA	Winter	2014	28	NA	15	15
Legune	NT	Summer	2016	27	NA	1	4
Leslie Saltfields	WA	Summer	2013	26	NA	12	12
Moreton Bay	QLD	Summer	2016	25	NA	15	15
North Darwin	NT	Summer	2010	24	NA	15	15
Peel & Yalgorup Lakes	WA	Summer	2023	24	NA	14	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Summer	2013	24	NA	2	3
Carnarvon	WA	Summer	2014	23	NA	9	11
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Summer	2018	23	NA	10	13
Gulf St Vincent	SA	Summer	2019	23	NA	15	15
Dampier Saltworks	WA	Summer	2017	22	NA	10	10
Great Sandy Strait	QLD	Summer	2010	22	NA	15	15
Kakadu National Park	NT	Summer	2016	22	NA	2	3
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Summer	2011	21	NA	3	4
Eighty Mile Beach	WA	Winter	2014	21	NA	15	15
Mapoon	QLD	Summer	2016	21	NA	4	9
Moreton Bay	QLD	Winter	2017	21	NA	14	15
Port McArthur and Borroloola	NT	Summer	2010	21	NA	11	11
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Summer	2010	21	NA	13	15
Limmen River mouth	NT	Summer	2016	20	NA	9	9
Milingimbi coast	NT	Summer	2016	20	NA	3	8
Shark Bay	WA	Summer	2014	20	NA	10	12
Barrow Island	WA	Summer	2021	19	NA	5	7
Burdekin River delta	QLD	Summer	2019	19	NA	6	9
Cairns area	QLD	Summer	2010	19	NA	14	15
Coast north of Eighty Mile	WA	Summer	2016	19	NA	1	1
Eyre Island	SA	Summer	2013	19	NA	7	12
Mackay	QLD	Summer	2011	19	NA	7	15
Richmond River Estuary	NSW	Summer	2017	19	NA	14	15
SE Gulf of Carpentaria	QLD	Winter	2015	19	NA	1	1
North Darwin	NT	Winter	2022	18	NA	11	15
Albany	WA	Summer	2017	17	NA	2	12
Carnarvon	WA	Winter	2010	17	NA	3	10
Corner Inlet	VIC	Summer	2016	17	NA	5	15
Darwin Harbour	NT	Summer	2020	17	NA	3	11
Gladstone	QLD	Summer	2011	17	NA	1	13
Legune	NT	Winter	2015	17	NA	1	3
Sand Bay	QLD	Summer	2011	17	NA	2	6
Shallow Inlet	VIC	Summer	2010	17	NA	1	12
St Peter Island	SA	Summer	2011	17	NA	4	10
Bowling Green Bay	QLD	Summer	2010	16	NA	3	11
Broome Beaches	WA	Summer	2016	16	NA	1	2

SBA	State	Season	Year	Peak count	Int	Nat	Seasonal effort
Dampier Peninsula	WA	Summer	2016	16	NA	1	2
Exmouth Gulf	WA	Winter	2017	16	NA	3	10
Hunter Estuary	NSW	Summer	2012	16	NA	10	15
Repulse Bay	QLD	Summer	2020	16	NA	2	7
Robbins Passage/Boullanger Bay	TAS	Summer	2010	16	NA	3	13
Tourville Bay	SA	Summer	2011	16	NA	1	8
Westernport	VIC	Summer	2022	16	NA	1	15
Botany Bay	NSW	Summer	2012	15	1	NA	15
Cairns area	QLD	Winter	2020	15	NA	1	15
Cape Villaret to Jacks Creek	WA	Summer	2016	15	NA	1	1
Central Queensland Narrows	QLD	Winter	2012	15	NA	1	2
Ningaloo Marine Park	WA	Summer	2020	15	NA	1	12
Pumicestone Passage	QLD	Winter	2015	15	NA	1	14
Swan Bay & Mud Islands	VIC	Summer	2010	15	NA	1	15
Townsville Region	QLD	Summer	2011	15	NA	1	11
Werribee / Avalon	VIC	Summer	2012	15	NA	1	15

Discussion and conclusions

This Directory identifies important shorebird areas for migratory shorebirds in Australia using survey data from BirdLife Australia’s national Australian Shorebird Monitoring Program and the Latham’s Snipe Project, as well as additional sources as required. The analysis informing the Directory incorporates 15 years of data, covering both summer and winter periods (September 2009 to August 2024), allowing the results to reflect both seasonal and year-round importance of SBAs.

The Directory systematically documents existing SBAs of national and international significance across the Australian mainland and offshore islands. SBAs are diverse in their geographic range, size and ecological character. Significant habitat encompasses tropical mudflats (e.g. Darwin Harbour, Elcho Island), temperate estuaries (e.g. Hunter Estuary) and embayments (Corner Inlet), arid inland salt lakes (Lake Eyre), high-energy southern beaches (e.g. Gunyah Beach), and large wetland complexes in southeastern Australia (e.g. Coorong, Kerang Lakes). This diversity highlights the need for regionally tailored conservation strategies that acknowledge drivers of habitat value, the species assemblages that rely on them, and threats both current and predicted.

Site importance was determined using established quantitative criteria, with thresholds based on peak counts relative to flyway population sizes—1% for international significance and 0.1% for national significance. This process identified 332 SBAs of importance, comprising 104 SBAs of international importance, 187 SBAs of national importance and a further 41 special Latham’s Snipe SBA cases of national importance (Table). Site significance criteria – single species population thresholds, overall shorebird abundance or species diversity – provide valuable insights into the ecological character of a site and provide a minimum estimate of the carrying capacity of the habitat. Information on temporal and spatial species’ distribution across the SBA network underpins our understanding of an SBA’s ecological importance in space and time, as well as highlighting potential gaps in monitoring.

Australian waterbirds have developed life-histories that are adapted to long periods of privation and episodic periods of, large-scale, intense but temporary productivity. The Directory identifies that ephemeral floodplain wetlands provide critical habitat during episodic flood events, supporting not only large aggregations of breeding resident shorebirds and waterbirds but, serving as staging or indeed, terminal migration destinations for significant populations of opportunistic migrants. Though only intermittently available, these wetlands add large-scale resilience to the wetland landscape, supporting shorebird populations when local conditions are favourable.

Many of the SBAs identified in this Directory are also recognised as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), an international framework developed to identify places critical for the persistence of biodiversity. However, KBAs do not confer any legal status or regulatory protection under Australian law. Similarly, SBAs, as defined in this Directory, are based on ecological and survey boundaries rather than jurisdictional or administrative ones. While SBAs help guide monitoring and conservation priorities, many of them fall outside formal protected areas and have no legal protection. Some sites are partially or fully contained within conservation reserves, national parks, or marine parks, but there is currently no comprehensive accounting of their protection status. Despite their capacity in supporting large numbers of shorebirds, ephemeral sites receive disproportionately lower levels of recognition in protected area networks. For areas in the Lower Eyre Basin, this is an increasingly important issue considering large-scale gas extraction development proposals in the region.

The results of this Directory highlight the sheer scale, and the significant challenge, of conserving migratory shorebirds in Australia – with many sites, diversity of habitat types, and a wide geographic distribution including many remote and difficult to access areas. Ensuring the protection and appropriate management of these sites is essential for maintaining healthy populations and reversing recent declines. This task requires a nationally coordinated and strategic approach with appropriate resourcing and widespread capacity across the continent, as well as international cooperation along the flyway.

This Directory provides a robust and comprehensive evidence base to guide conservation planning and prioritisation. It enables stakeholders to target management actions at the sites most critical for the persistence of migratory shorebird populations in Australia. However, it is important to note that the site network is under ongoing development as new information comes in from across the continent. Therefore, site and habitat importance is not limited to the SBAs listed in this Directory (see Limitations section). It should also be acknowledged that the method for mapping SBA extent produces boundaries which encapsulates the entire ecological unit utilised by shorebirds at its highest resolution. To manage shorebird habitat for conservation it is important to understand how shorebirds interact within the landscape as requirements for roosting and feeding vary. Site managers are encouraged to seek further advice on mapping higher resolution habitat use. This is an important step in developing effective site action plans.

It is also important to consider that the directory focusses on migratory shorebird habitat, and that it is equally critical to undertake an assessment of the importance of sites for resident shorebirds in Australia. This has the potential to be complex as both an understanding of non-

breeding and breeding habitats would be required, as well as the development of criteria which consider species that do not tend to aggregate in high numbers.

Importance of Australia for migratory shorebird conservation

Australia provides critical habitat for migratory shorebirds, serving as a vital sanctuary for a significant portion of their flyway populations. Its network of geographically dispersed and ecologically diverse SBAs, together with New Zealand, forms the southern anchor of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway, a migratory route spanning multiple continents.

The Directory highlights that 24 migratory shorebird species occur at internationally important numbers (1% or more of the flyway population) at one or more SBAs. Australia is particularly important for at least 11 migratory shorebird species, each of which was previously estimated to have over 67% of its flyway population present in Australia during the non-breeding season (van Swinderen et al. 2025). These species are Curlew Sandpiper, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Greater Sand Plover, Grey-tailed Tattler, Latham’s Snipe, Little Curlew, Oriental Plover, Oriental Pratincole, Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

A total of 11 SBAs support internationally important numbers (20,000 or more migratory shorebirds), with another eight areas coming close to that importance level.

The species accounts in this Directory indicate that Australia continues to support large numbers of these and other species. As such, the continent remains critically important to their ongoing survival, particularly in the context of long-term declines in many populations (e.g. Studds et al. 2017, Rogers et al. 2023).

Number and distribution of SBAs of International and National importance

The Directory reveals a total of 331 SBAs that are important for migratory shorebirds in Australia based on currently available data from the ASMP (290 SBAs, 103 of which of international importance) and the Latham’s Snipe Project (41 special SBA cases for Latham’s Snipe only).

Queensland contains the greatest number of internationally significant (regular) SBAs, reflecting large extents of shorebird habitat, closely followed by Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria despite the latter’s smaller overall extent of habitat (Table). Other states and territories have fewer internationally important sites identified within their boundaries for the Directory’s data period. For New South Wales and the Northern Territory this is likely partially explained by limited monitoring effort at inland SBAs and remote coastal SBAs respectively since 2010. The inventory for Victoria is significantly augmented by the inclusion of special case Latham’s Snipe-only SBAs. Regional variation in how sites are defined for monitoring, as well as species-specific patterns of non-breeding distribution also influence the spatial distribution of listed important sites (see Methods section for further detail). Some remote sites in northern Australia provide more than 100 km of contiguous shorebird habitat and component sections would in most cases each meet criteria for international importance.

Table 630. Number and state level distribution of internationally and nationally important SBAs for migratory shorebirds in Australia.

SBA importance	ACT	EXT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
International	0	1	6	12	23	21	4	20	17
National	2	3	31	6	36	22	23	27	37
National (Latham's Snipe only)	3	0	8	0	0	1	5	24	0
Total	5	4	45	18	59	44	32	71	54

In legislative terms, the protection of shorebird species and their habitats is a matter for every state and territory as well as the Australian Government. The scale of the task is especially great across the state jurisdictions, each of which supports more than 20 nationally important sites in addition to their internationally important sites. Local governments also should play a role, often holding the key to effective, on-ground management of important sites.

Number of SBAs per species

The number of important SBAs identified for each species is influenced by a range of factors, including population size, aggregating and roosting behaviour, geographic distribution, and how consistently and thoroughly areas within their range have been surveyed. Consequently, the pattern of site representation by species must be interpreted in the context of both species' ecology and survey limitations.

Table presents, for each species of migratory shorebird, the number of SBAs of international and national importance and the overall total number of important SBAs. Notably, nine species listed in Table 1 (Common Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover, Long-toed Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Pin-tailed Snipe, Red-necked Phalarope, Ruff, Swinhoe's Snipe) do not meet the criteria for an important site at either level. For some of these species—such as the Common Sandpiper—this reflects behavioural tendencies not to form large congregations in Australia. For others, such as the Pectoral Sandpiper, small non-breeding populations limit their abundance at individual sites. Species like Swinhoe's Snipe and Pin-tailed Snipe occur primarily in remote northern areas where survey effort has been limited, and where detection is inherently difficult due to their cryptic habits, identification challenges, and inaccessible habitats. For other species (e.g. Common Redshank, Little Ringed Plover) the northern coastline of Australia is on the edge of their distribution range in the flyway.

Eight species have nine or fewer important SBAs, despite some being recorded in the hundreds at certain locations. This includes relatively scarce species in hard to access habitats such as Wood Sandpiper which predominantly inhabits inland freshwater wetlands in northern Australia, or Wandering Tattler, a species largely restricted to rocky coastline and offshore islands in northeast Australia. Other species with relatively small populations and their core distribution in northern coastal Australia are Asian Dowitcher, Broad-billed Sandpiper and Marsh Sandpiper.

For more abundant Little Curlew, Oriental Plover and Oriental Pratincole, the small number of important SBAs identified undoubtedly reflects incomplete knowledge, with many inland and remote areas lacking recent survey coverage or established shorebird areas. Their preference for open grasslands—rather than coastal or wetland habitats—and somewhat unpredictable or erratic movements within Australia also makes them particularly difficult to locate and monitor systematically.

The Directory also highlights how dependent a significant part of a species' flyway population can be on only a few habitat areas (Table). For example, the six Australian SBAs supporting internationally important numbers of Bar-tailed Godwit cumulatively represent nearly 40% of the species' flyway population of 375,000 birds. Similarly, a total of 11 internationally important SBAs were identified for Great Knot which cumulatively represent 64% of the species' flyway population of 400,000 birds. Such dependencies highlight the need for the highest levels of protection for these sites and a commitment to their ongoing management to ensure habitat values are maintained.

Table 631. Number of SBAs of international and national importance for each migratory shorebird species and cumulative flyway population percentage supported by internationally important SBAs.

Names in red indicate species listed as threatened under the *EPBC Act*.

Common Name	Internationally Significant SBAs	Nationally Significant SBAs	Total	Cumulative percentage flyway population from International SBAs
Asian Dowitcher	0	4	4	0%
Bar-tailed Godwit	6	44	50	37%
Black-tailed Godwit	5	12	17	9%
Broad-billed Sandpiper	2	9	11	12%
Common Greenshank	2	28	30	4%
Curlew Sandpiper	11	54	65	23%
Double-banded Plover	18	71	89	56%
Far Eastern Curlew	19	55	74	34%
Great Knot	11	35	46	64%
Greater Sand Plover	13	32	45	70%
Grey-tailed Tattler	13	37	50	43%
Grey Plover	2	29	31	3%
Latham's Snipe	1	79	80	1%
Little Curlew	7	7	14	28%
Marsh Sandpiper	1	12	13	1%
Oriental Plover	2	6	8	24%
Oriental Pratincole	3	2	5	5%
Pacific Golden Plover	0	24	24	0%
Red-necked Stint	19	86	105	42%
Red Knot	12	28	40	52%
Ruddy Turnstone	16	74	90	29%
Sanderling	24	47	71	70%
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	39	90	129	80%
Siberian Sand Plover	27	35	62	85%
Terek Sandpiper	5	23	28	20%
Wandering Tattler	0	6	6	0%
Whimbrel	4	42	46	6%
Wood Sandpiper	0	1	1	0%

Distribution of shorebirds in Australia

Shorebird species exhibit geographical variation in their distribution across Australia, influenced by factors such as migratory pathways, habitat availability, and ecological preferences. These patterns are evident in the Directory's results, which broadly reflect current knowledge of where each species typically occurs during their time in Australia—whether passing through during migration or remaining throughout the non-breeding season.

Nonetheless, the distribution of migratory shorebirds is still not fully understood. New discoveries continue to emerge, particularly from inland and remote regions that have been historically under-surveyed. Future exploration of these areas, including the vast salt flats of northern Australia that can become important habitat when shallowly inundated (Driscoll 2001), is likely to yield additional insight. Surveying such regions may require a combination of remote sensing, aerial reconnaissance and targeted ground-based monitoring to be effective (e.g. Chatto 2012, Reid et al. 2010). However, in many cases the occurrence of large numbers of migratory shorebirds in these habitats and regions happens in a short period of time and not necessarily during the annual monitoring windows of the AMSP. It is suggested that logistical planning and survey readiness is built in advance, enabling a rapid reaction when suitable climatic conditions driving inland habitat availability arise.

Generally, species with important sites predominantly in southern Australia tend to be smaller-bodied shorebirds, such as Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Sanderling, and Ruddy Turnstone. While large numbers of these species also occur at select northern sites—such as Eighty Mile Beach—this often reflects the expansive habitat availability and the role of these locations as key stop-over or end-point areas during migration.

In contrast, species with important sites concentrated in northern Australia are more often medium to large-bodied shorebirds, including Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Great Knot, and Grey-tailed Tattler. Some species, such as Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, and Siberian Sand Plover, have important sites across both northern and eastern Australia. This is likely influenced by differing migratory strategies and non-breeding distributions of their subspecies, particularly in the case of Bar-tailed Godwit and Red Knot.

While Sharp-tailed Sandpiper has a well-documented presence at important inland sites, contemporary information of important numbers of other shorebird species occurring in Australia's interior is predominantly of an incidental nature. Improved inland survey effort may reveal further sites of importance for other species, particularly Oriental Plover, Oriental Pratincole and Little Curlew.

Limitations

Interpretation of site information provided in the Directory needs to be mindful of limitations, particularly in the context of apparent changes over time at the site level (cf past Directories, Weller et al. 2020, Bamford et al. 2008). Accounts have been included for all shorebird areas that exceeded an importance threshold for at least one criterion (out of species abundance, aggregation or diversity) on at least one occasion within the Directory's timeframe. Any shorebird areas that featured in previous publications but not in the current Directory reflect

changes in effort, population parameters, actual populations, habitats, and/or access to data. These include:

- an absence of monitoring/survey in the data period for the present Directory, or in some vast northern SBAs such as South-East Gulf of Carpentaria, a reduction in the portion of a site surveyed or the frequency of surveys (thus loss of importance should not be assumed);
- an area no longer exceeding importance thresholds, either due to an increase in the flyway population estimate, or changes in taxonomy;
- an area no longer exceeding importance thresholds due to changes in overarching population trends, or range contraction;
- in some cases due to deterioration of the habitat; or (rarely),
- a cessation of third party (non-ASMP) data availability.

Conversely, any SBAs that newly feature in the Directory are either the result of:

- improved monitoring/survey effort;
- changes in the flyway estimates for a particular species;
- changes in taxonomy;
- an apparent increase in importance for one or more criteria since publication of Weller et al. (2020), such as due to a lower population estimate; or,
- improved availability/accessibility of third-party data.

The totals shown in Table and Table reflect the above factors and in particular persistent gaps in survey coverage. This is especially relevant for remote inland and northern regions—where accessibility, lack of reliable funding and resourcing constraints (and unpredictable timing of habitat availability at many inland sites) have hindered regular monitoring. As a result, the actual number of important sites, especially in the Northern Territory, the Gulf of Carpentaria, parts of northwest Western Australia and inland ephemeral wetlands is undoubtedly underrepresented. A prime example in this case is the Lake McLeod SBA in Western Australia which in the past supported internationally important numbers of Curlew Sandpiper (41,000, Bamford et al. 2008; 55,000, Weller et al. 2020), but which has not been surveyed for many years and as such is only listed in this Directory based on a few incidental records collected in 2014. **It is therefore particularly important that interpretation of Directory output avoids conflating lack of data with lack of importance.**

Similarly, the status of some sites formerly classified as internationally important (Weller et al. 2020, Bamford et al. 2008) have shifted to nationally important due to changes in survey coverage, population trends, or updated population thresholds (van Swinderen et al. 2025). Interpretation of changes in status of any given SBA, or indeed exclusion from this Directory compared with previous publications, should be considered against the context of all of the listed points above rather than the assumption that there has been an inherent shift in site value.

Crucially, areas for which monitoring data is available but which are not currently or no longer exceeding importance thresholds cannot be considered unimportant. Such areas may still support regionally or locally important populations of shorebird species but may have been affected by species' range contraction in light of flyway population trends (e.g. in Tasmania, see

Newman et al. 2020). It is essential to continue to value and protect such sites as future habitat for when populations recover.

Furthermore, it is important to note that important shorebird concentrations can and do occur outside the extent of the current SBA monitoring network. The latter is under ongoing development as new information comes in from across the continent. Therefore, shorebird importance is not limited to the SBAs listed in this Directory, as clearly evidenced by the sections in each state chapter highlighting knowledge gaps and approximate locations of such areas.

Future directions

This Directory primarily draws on data from BirdLife Australia's National Shorebird Monitoring Program and the Latham's Snipe Project. As a largely volunteer-based initiative, the program's sustainability depends on minimising the time and resource burden on a small pool of skilled volunteers (Fuller et al. 2020). Participants need to have specialist shorebird identification and counting skills and experience, for which training opportunities are limited. As such, it is challenging to maintain volunteer numbers over time as many experienced counters are ageing and retiring. Furthermore, surveying remote areas requires significant logistical support, safety considerations and coordination, and in most cases requires a paid coordinator to adequately achieve. Consequently, monitoring efforts have historically focused on coastal areas near major population centres. While supplementary surveys of more remote coasts have improved coverage, significant data gaps remain, particularly in northern Australia. These gaps are even more pronounced inland, where many wetlands are temporary and provide shorebird habitat only under favourable but unpredictable conditions—factors that complicate or prevent regular monitoring.

Equally problematic is the minimal funding that is available to comprehensively monitor even some of our most important SBAs. Critically important areas such as Eighty Mile Beach and the SE Gulf of Carpentaria have not been surveyed in their entirety (note that a fixed section of the former is sampled annually) since 2015, and a highly important decade-long timeseries at Port MacArthur and Borroloola SBA struggles to find funds to cover helicopter fuel.

A key application of this Directory is to inform impact assessments of proposed developments such as commercial projects. It offers an up to date, unprecedented knowledge base for areas in many parts of Australia. However, data coverage in remote coastal and inland regions is still incomplete, limiting its application in some areas and for certain species. Addressing these gaps through targeted surveys at a minimum frequency to obtain critical data will be essential for future updates.

Governments, funding bodies, and users of this Directory must acknowledge and invest in filling these knowledge gaps, while also supporting and meaningfully funding the existing monitoring network to maintain the quality and consistency of long-term data. This data is a critical resource for their roles and responsibilities around habitat and biodiversity protection, management and decision-making.

While count areas within SBAs have largely been kept consistent to preserve monitoring data integrity over time, refinement of SBA boundaries to better reflect shorebird habitat will be an ongoing task. In some cases—particularly where site importance is challenged during

development assessments—dynamic boundary definitions (rather than fixed boundaries) may become subject to scrutiny, especially if matters proceed to court. However, it is important that SBA boundaries continue to be dynamic and adaptive to account for changes in these (particularly coastal) areas over time. Further, SBAs, even those which carry an existing site protection (e.g. Ramsar) do not represent or match jurisdictional boundaries, which may complicate assessment of proposed developments.

Further analysis of important areas for migratory shorebirds at sites that are not currently SBAs, including the establishment of ecologically sensible area boundaries is required for a more complete picture of important shorebird habitat in Australia. Future investigation into the status of some sites formerly classified as internationally important (Bamford et al. 2008; Weller et al. 2020) is also required. A gap analysis should be undertaken to determine if changes in site status have occurred over time due to a drop in survey coverage, degradation of shorebird habitat at the site, changes in shorebird population trends at the site, or updated population thresholds (van Swinderen et al. 2025). This could be accompanied by species-specific habitat modelling exercises to identify further potential habitat areas that are currently unsurveyed. Predictive modelling could be refined against known densities and distributions of migratory shorebirds to better inform our understanding of habitat distribution in Australia.

Migratory shorebirds depend on a well-functioning network of habitats to complete their annual life cycles. Conservation strategies must therefore consider not only the value of individual sites, but also their role within the broader Flyway. Looking ahead there is also a need to shift the focus of our existing conservation strategies from ‘passive’ protection via legislative frameworks to include a proactive approach to on-ground measures to ensure the integrity of habitats is maintained, improved and adaptively managed.

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Appendix 1 – Wetland habitat classifications

The criteria for determining nationally important wetlands in Australia, and hence their eligibility for inclusion in the Directory, are those agreed to by the ANZECC Wetlands Network in 1994.

Application of the criteria to individual wetland sites involves a degree of subjectivity. Not only may certain aspects of a site's significance be interpreted differently by different investigators, but information gaps often exist, which make it difficult to judge whether a site meets a particular criterion.

Adoption of a bioregional approach to listing sites in the Directory is seen as one way of reducing the difficulty in applying the criterion relating to a system's uniqueness or representativeness. The Natural Resource Policies and Programs Committee in 2008 agreed to adopt the Australian Drainage Divisions system, along with Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia for marine ecosystems, as the best fit national regionalisation approach for aquatic ecosystems.

The wetland classification system used in the Directory identifies 40 different wetland types in three categories:

- A. Marine and Coastal Zone wetlands
- B. Inland wetlands
- C. Human-made wetlands

It is based on that used by the Ramsar Convention in describing Wetlands of International Importance but was modified slightly to suit the Australian situation in describing wetlands of national importance.

A. Marine and coastal zone wetlands

1. Marine waters — permanent shallow waters less than six metres deep at low tide — including sea bays, straits
2. Subtidal aquatic beds, including kelp beds, seagrass, tropical marine meadows
3. Coral reefs
4. Rocky marine shores, including rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs
5. Sand, shingle or pebble beaches, including sand bars, spits, sandy islets
6. Estuarine waters — permanent waters of estuaries and estuarine systems of deltas
7. Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats
8. Intertidal marshes, including saltmarshes, salt meadows, saltings, raised saltmarshes, tidal brackish and freshwater marshes
9. Intertidal forested wetlands, including mangrove swamps, nipa swamps, tidal freshwater swamp forests
10. Brackish to saline lagoons and marshes with one or more relatively narrow connections with the sea
11. Freshwater lagoons and marshes in the coastal zone
12. Non-tidal freshwater forested wetlands

B. Inland wetlands

1. Permanent rivers and streams, including waterfalls
 2. Seasonal and irregular rivers and streams
 3. Inland deltas (permanent)
 4. Riverine floodplains, including river flats, flooded river basins, seasonally flooded grassland, savanna and palm savanna
 5. Permanent freshwater lakes (>8 ha), including large oxbow lakes
 6. Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes (>8 ha), floodplain lakes
 7. Permanent saline/brackish lakes
 8. Seasonal/intermittent saline lakes
 9. Permanent freshwater ponds
 10. Seasonal/intermittent freshwater ponds and marshes on inorganic soils, including sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes
 11. Permanent saline/brackish marshes
 12. Seasonal saline marshes
 13. Shrub swamps — shrub-dominated freshwater marshes, shrub carr, alder thickets on inorganic soils
 14. Freshwater swamp forest — seasonally flooded forest, wooded swamps on inorganic soils
 15. Peatlands — forest, shrub or open bogs
 16. Alpine and tundra wetlands, including alpine meadows, tundra pools, temporary waters from snow melt
 17. Freshwater springs, oases and rock pools
 18. Geothermal wetlands
 19. Inland, subterranean karst wetlands
- C. Human-made wetlands
1. Water storage areas, including reservoirs, barrages, hydro-electric dams, impoundments (generally >8 ha)
 2. Ponds, including farm dams, stock ponds, small tanks
 3. Aquaculture ponds — fish ponds, shrimp ponds
 4. Salt exploitation — salt pans, salinas
 5. Excavations — gravel pits, borrows pits, mining pools
 6. Wastewater treatment — sewage farms, settling ponds, oxidation basins
 7. Irrigated land and irrigation channels — rice fields, canals, ditches
 8. Seasonally flooded arable land, farmland
 9. Canals