

Maianbar foreshore reserves

Endless summer

For thousands of years migratory shorebirds have been global wanderers. They make an annual journey of over 24,000 kilometres from Australia to the top of Siberia or western Alaska and back again.

Migratory birds enjoy our abundant shorelines and estuaries during the Australian summer. During our winter, they travel north to breed and utilise the vast resources in the Alaskan and Siberian summer. They live their lives in an endless summer.

Each year around September/October, the shorebirds arrive in Australia. A number of species take advantage of the diverse habitats found on the shores of Port Hacking.

Eastern curlews (*Numenius madagascariensis*) have declined by 80% in 3 decades and are now critically endangered.

Photo © Wayne Butterworth



The bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) makes the longest known non-stop migration of any bird, carrying out an 11,500 kilometre southward migration from Alaska to the Australian east coast without stopping. Photo © Wayne Butterworth

Before the shorebirds return to their breeding grounds in Siberia and Alaska in April and May, they fatten up, to provide fuel for their long journey. Travelling north, most make their first stop in the Yellow Sea; a non-stop flight of up to seven days. There, they fatten up again before heading north to their breeding grounds – another six or seven day flight. After breeding, the young and adults return to Australia, completing their journey.

Help keep Port Hacking a secure home for these birds

Migratory birds feed on the sand flats at low tide, consuming as much as they can. At high tide they move to higher ground to rest and conserve energy on Deeban Spit.

It's critical that the birds are not disturbed. The sight of dogs, boats and humans can force the birds to move elsewhere and use up valuable body reserves. If disturbed, shorebirds may not have the strength and energy needed for their long migration and may fail to reach their breeding grounds.

Your care will help ensure that this wonderful migration event continues and that future generations can also marvel at these amazing birds.

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