



wish you peace and health in all four seasons

Photo: Rob Bauer







university of
 groningen



Theunis Piersma

Rudi Drent Chair in Global Flyway Ecology



Bringing Good Connections to Life



connections
between people

connections
between birds

SCIENCE CONSERVATION
connections with birds
PUBLIC OUTREACH

connections between birds & environments

Photo: Jan van de Kam

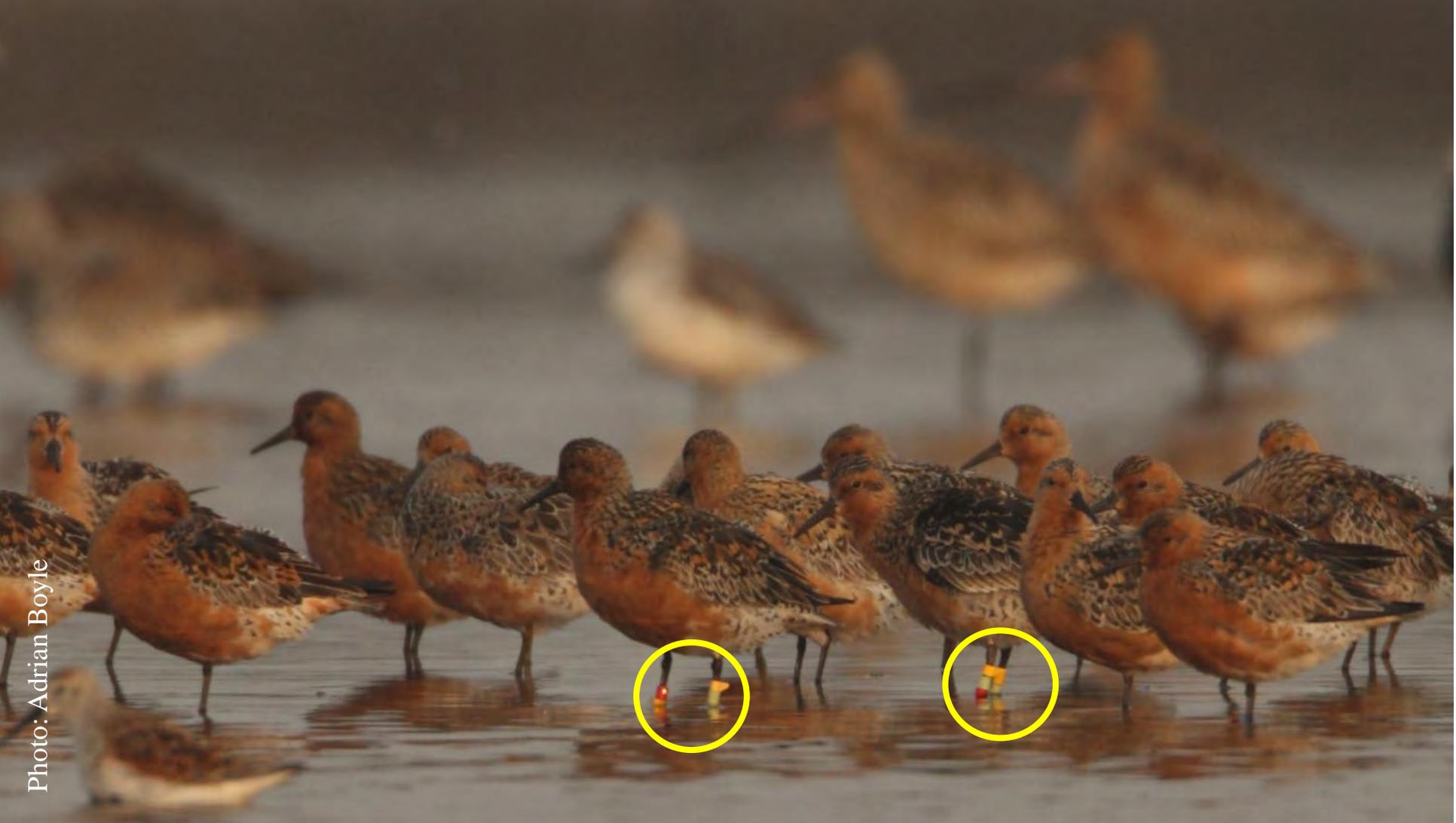
Individual Colour Marks:
demographic book-keeping
& migration

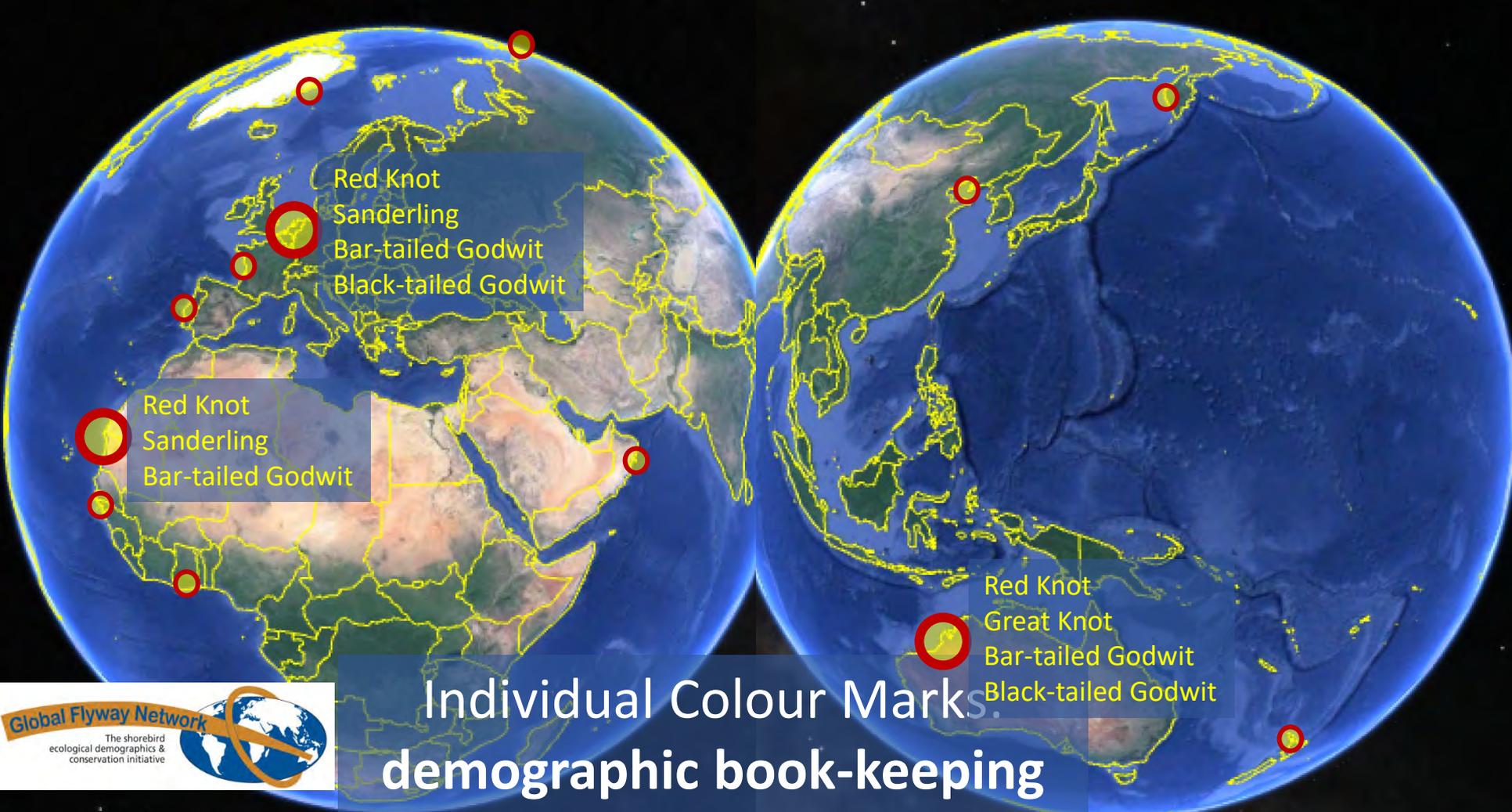
Solar-powered Satellite Tags
migration + habitat use
& seasonal demography



Individual Colour Marks:
demographic book-keeping
& migration







Individual Colour Marks. demographic book-keeping

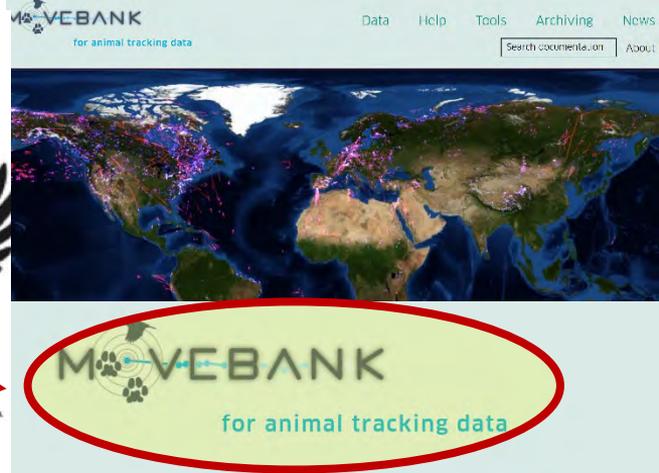
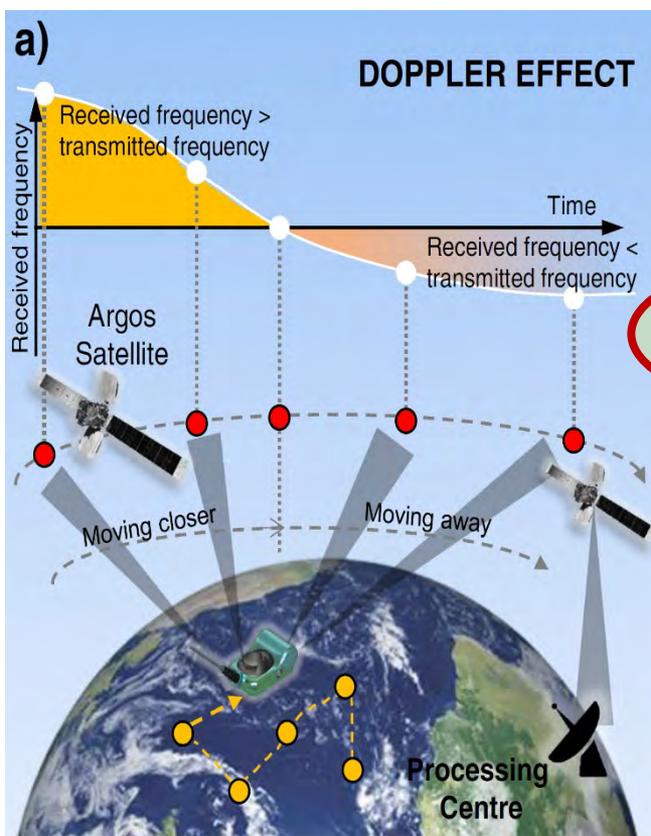


Photos: Wlodek Miessner & Rob Buijter



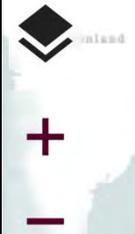
Solar-powered Satellite Tags migration + habitat use & seasonal demography





Carter *et al.* *Movement Ecology*
(2016) 4:25.
DOI 10.1186/s40462-016-0090-9

Higuchi & Pierre *Landscape Ecol. Engin.* (2005) 1: 33-42.
DOI 10.1007/s11355-005-0002-4
Artwork: Michiko Shigehara



<https://www.globalflywaynetwork.org/flyway/bridging-flyways/map>

2000 km

last update: 12:00 GMT / local time:+0200

Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

Photo: Theunis Piersma



Paul
Howey



Photos: Jan van de Kam



Photo: Jan van de Kam



Photo: Jan van de Kam

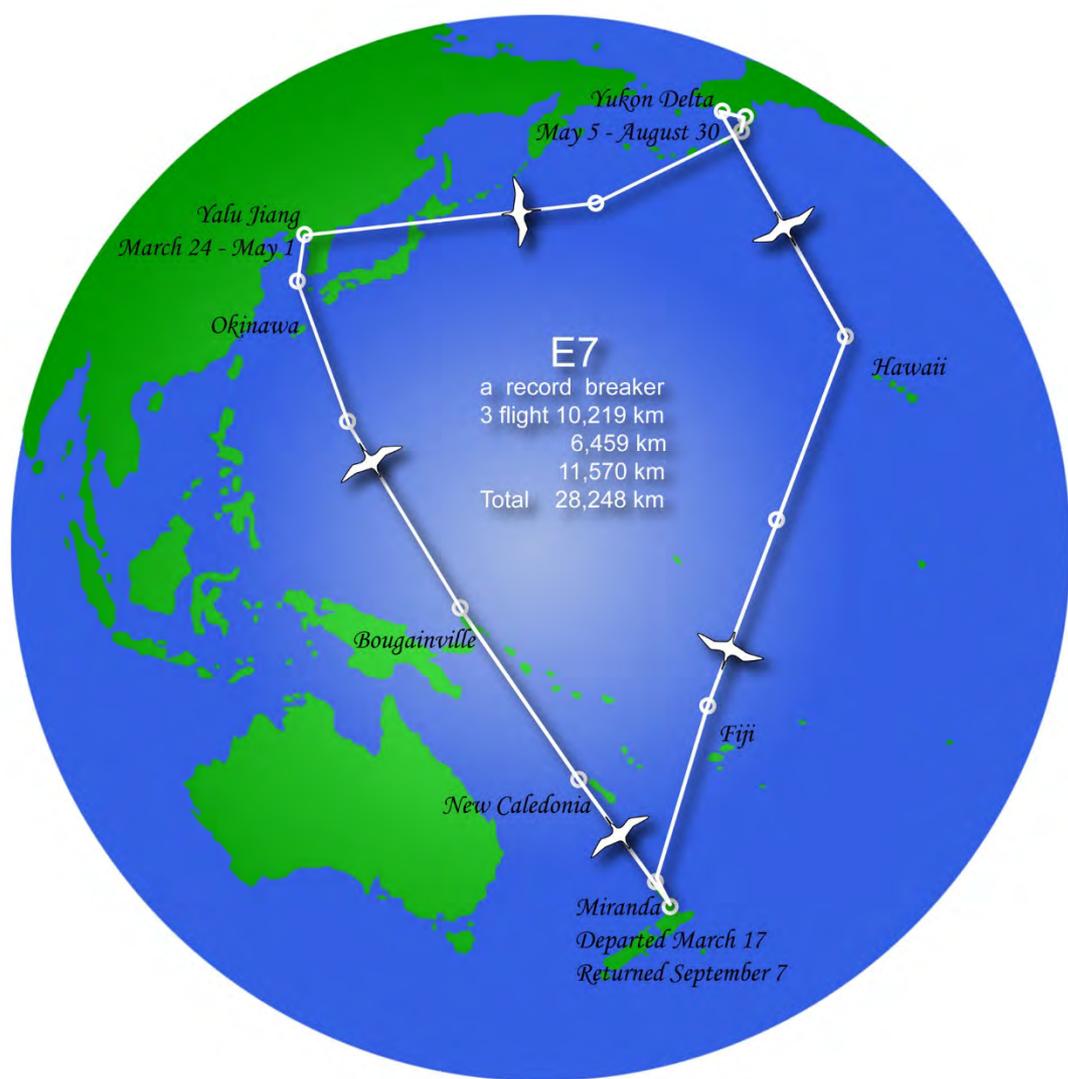




Photo: Jan van de Kam







Photo: Jan van de Kam



Photo: Jan van de Kam



Photo: Theunis Piersma



Photo: Theunis Piersma



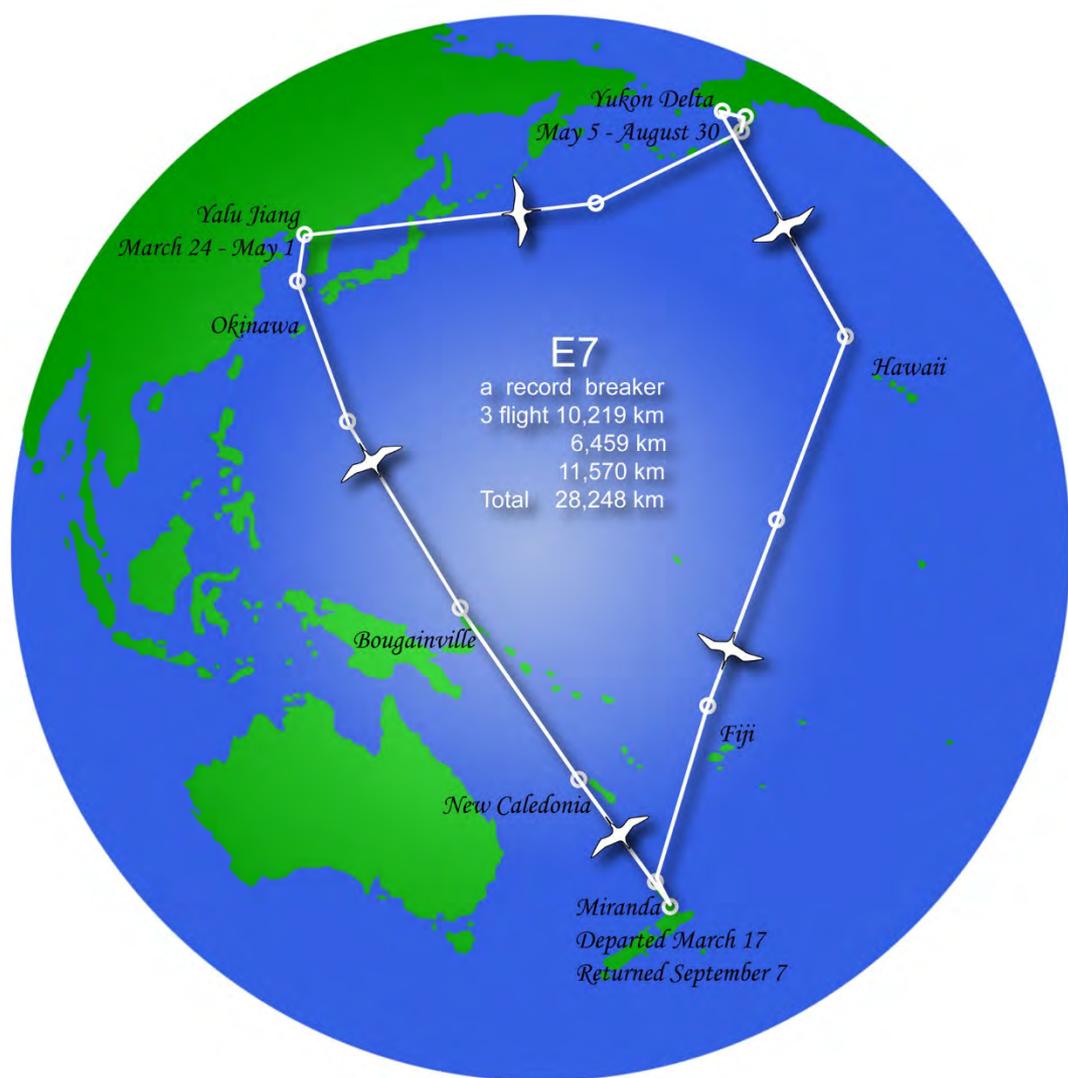
Photo: Theunis Piersma



Photo: Jan van de Kam



Photo: Bob Gill





2 September 2007

departure 17 March 2007

Image NASA



Photo: Keith Woodley

From: Lee Tibbitts <ltibbitts@usgs.gov>
To: p.battley@massey.ac.nz, B.Gartrell@massey.ac.nz, rgill@usgs.gov,
familyhabraken@yahoo.com.au, David.Melville@xtra.co.nz, riegen@xtra.co.nz,
rschckrd@xtra.co.nz, gillianv@actrix.co.nz, nilsw@prbo.org, shorebird@xtra.co.nz,
ingridandpeter@slingshot.co.nz, doncooper@actrix.co.nz, druthrauff@usgs.gov,
colleen_handel@usgs.gov, brian_mccaffery@fws.gov, gpage@prbo.org,
sarahewarnock@yahoo.com, david_douglas@usgs.gov, daniel_mulcahy@usgs.gov,
theunis@nioz.nl, jeff17_marks@msn.com, chartman@unr.nevada.edu

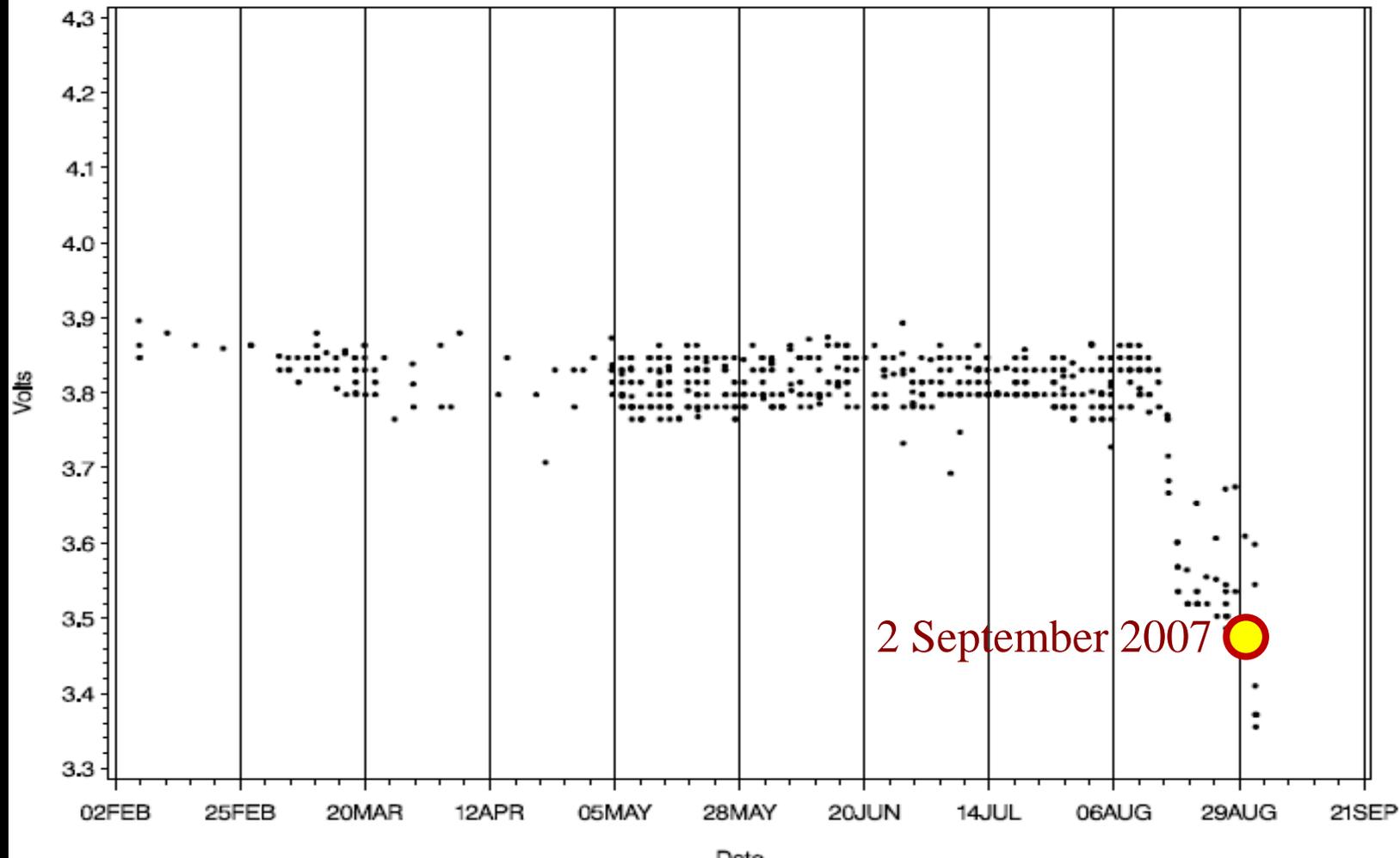
Date: Sunday, 02 September, 2007 02:59
Subject: godwit update: it is going to be a nail biter.....

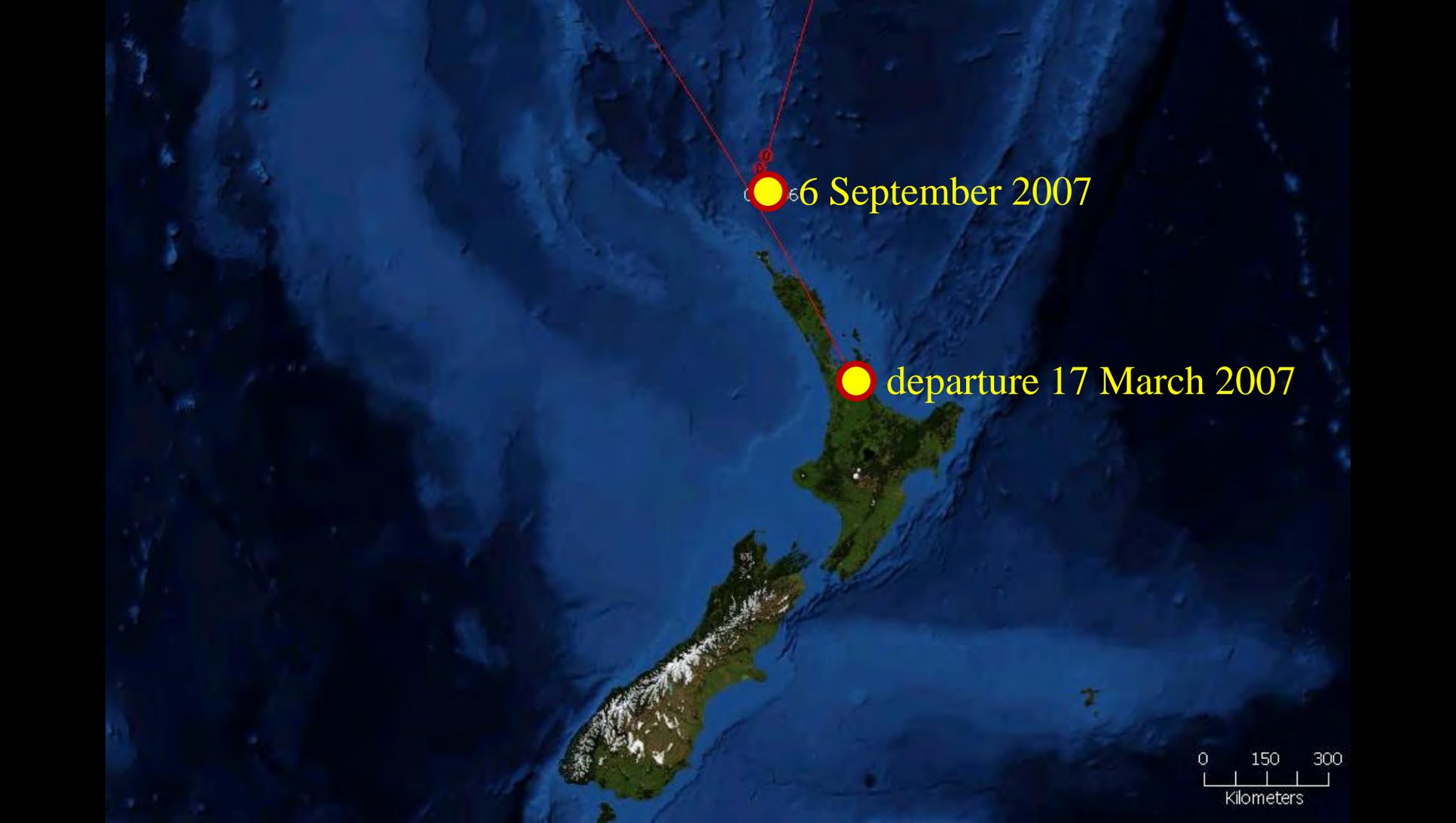
Hi Everyone,

E7 is on her way back to her southern home!!!!.

PTT Voltage

ptt=40155 animal=BARG_E7 sentype=mwv1





6 September 2007

departure 17 March 2007

0 150 300
Kilometers

7 September 2007

A

1 9/1/07:19

A

3

3 9/22/07:8

A

A

A

9/8/07:21

3

3

3

A 9/22/07:6

23

32

A

2

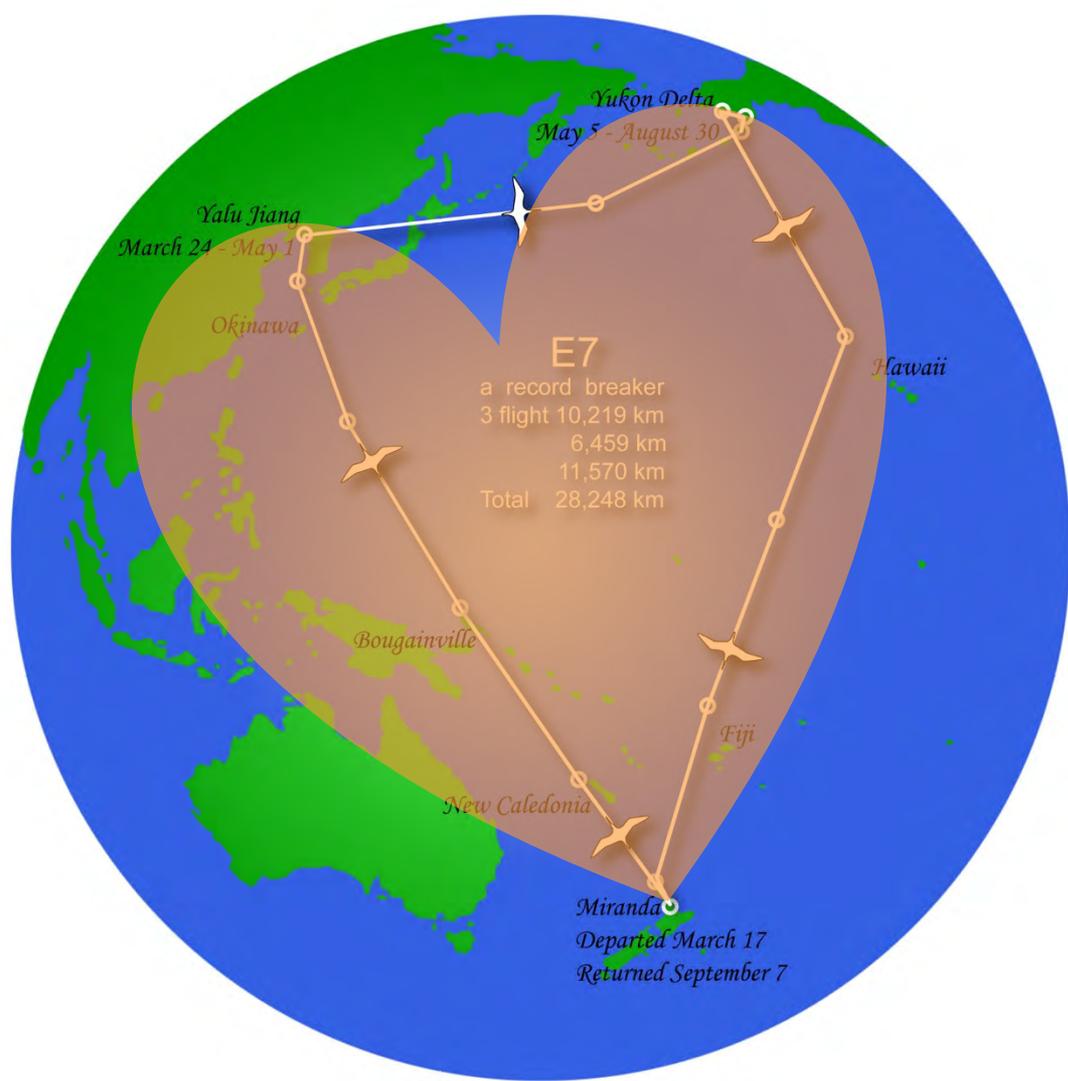
33

A

2

3 9/3/07:16

3



Bar-tailed Godwit E7

Grutto verbreekt vliegreCORD

De grutto die door Nieuw-Zeelandse onderzoekers de naam 'E7' kreeg heeft haar eigen record (10.200 km) verbeterd met een non-stop terugreis van 11.500 km.



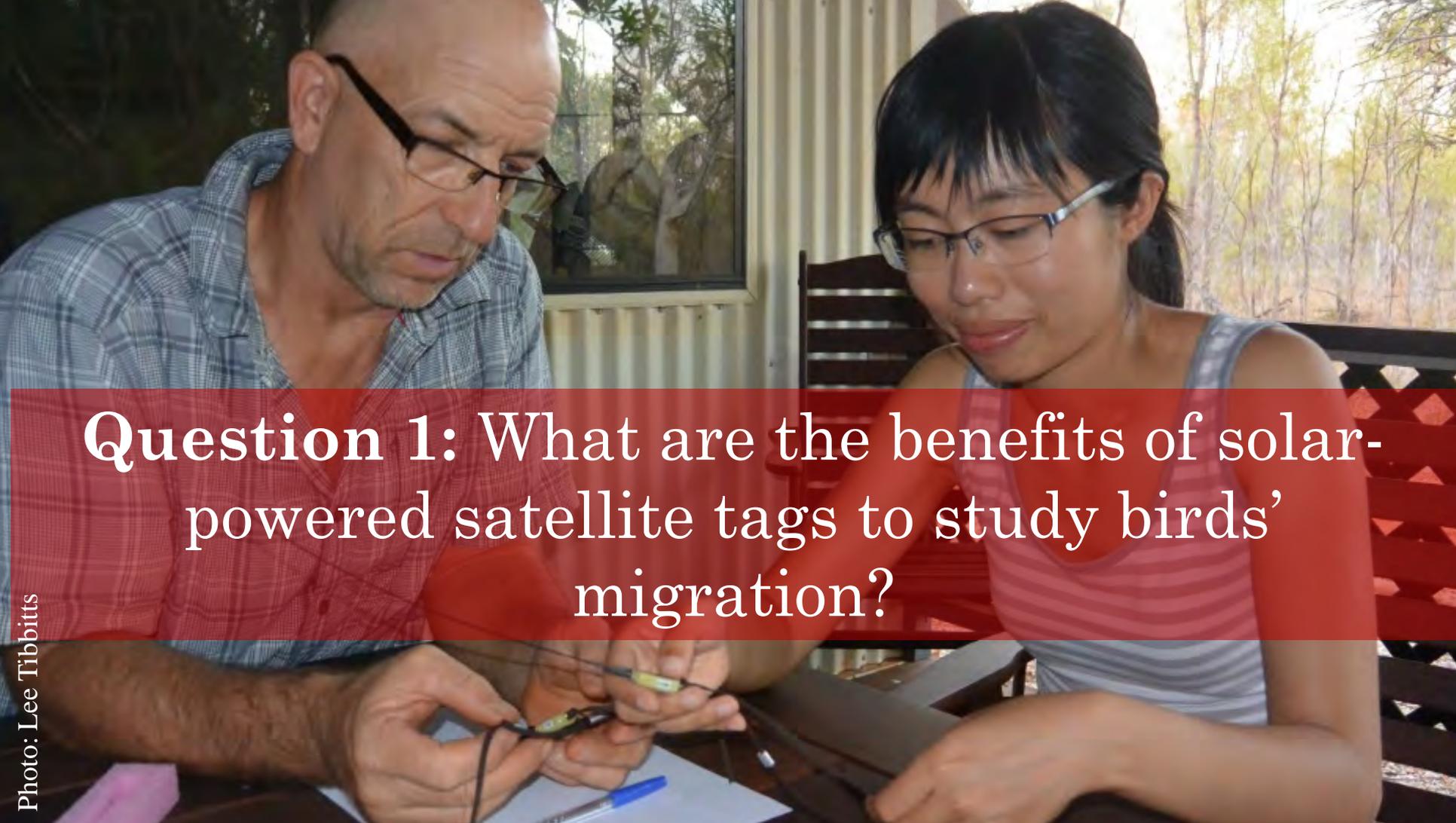
Eén vogel doet de wetenschap versteld staan

WELLINGTON
Wetenschappers in Nieuw-Zeeland staan versteld van een grutto die non-stop 11.500 kilometer heeft gevlogen. De trekvogel kan worden gevolgd omdat zij begin dit jaar een zendertje kreeg ingeplant. De trip van 11.500 kilometer is een trekvogelrecord. Onderzoeker Phil Battley van de Massey Universiteit in Nieuw-Zeeland houdt via de satelliet sinds februari in totaal zestien grutto's in de gaten. (ANP/DPA)

Dutch daily newspaper (Algemeen Dagblad), 12 September 2007



Solar-powered Satellite Tags

A man and a woman are sitting at a table outdoors, focused on a task. The man, on the left, is wearing glasses and a blue plaid shirt. The woman, on the right, is wearing glasses and a pink and white striped tank top. They are both looking down at something in the man's hands, which appears to be a small electronic device or component. The background shows a window with a view of trees and a wooden chair. A red semi-transparent banner is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

Question 1: What are the benefits of solar-powered satellite tags to study birds' migration?



Chris Hassell

Ginny Chan

Photo: Lee Tibbitts



Where do Great Knots stop during migration?



Great Knots (*Calidris tenuirostris*) are small migratory shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway that fly each year between breeding grounds in the eastern Russian Arctic and nonbreeding grounds in Australia. They are also [endangered](#). One major threat is the habitat destruction and degradation in their stopping areas during their migration.

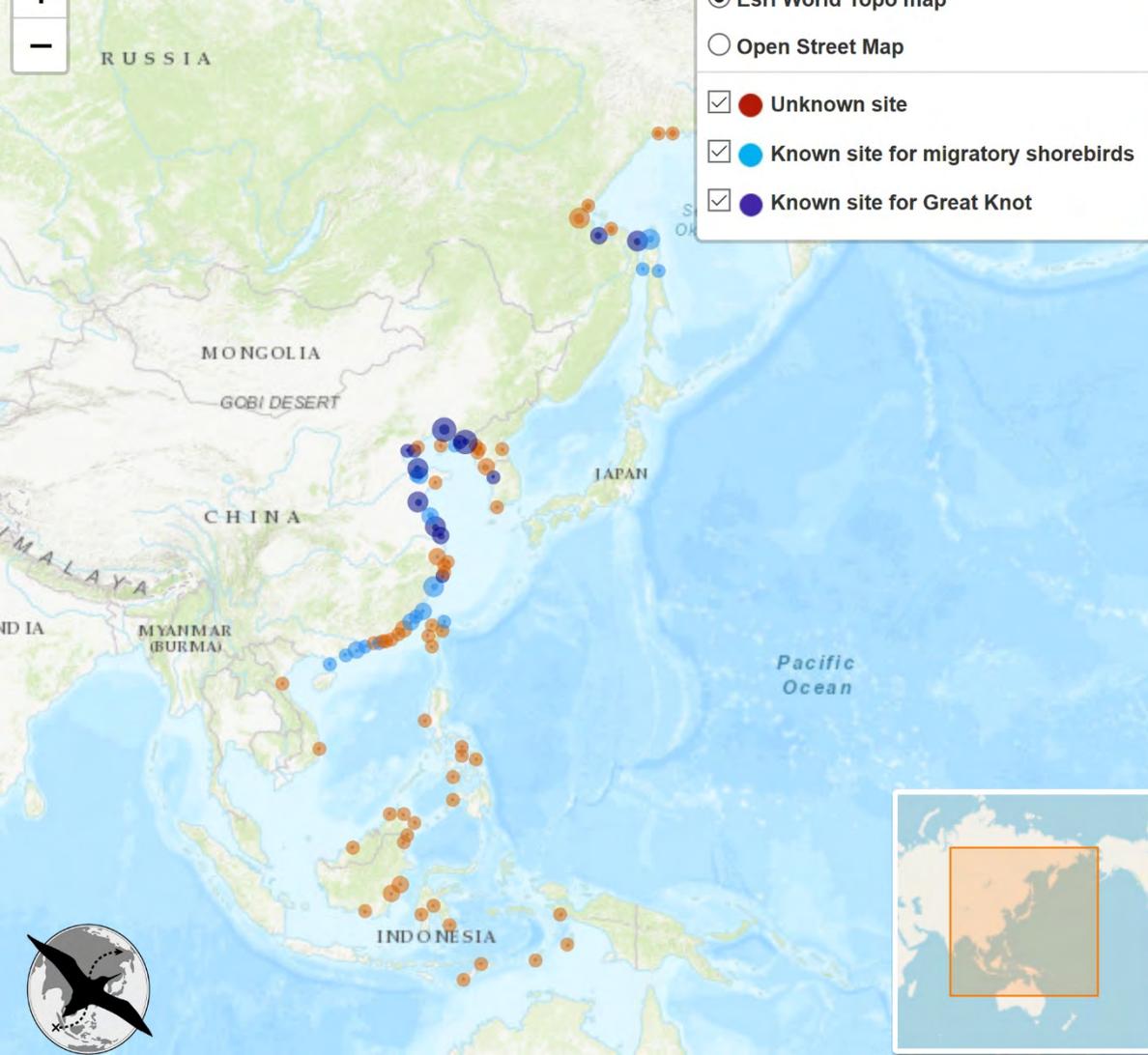
In 2015-2017, a team of scientists from the Netherlands (University of Groningen and NIOZ), USA (US Geological Survey) and Australia, brought together by the [Global Flyway Network](#), tracked Great Knots year-round with satellite transmitters. This is the first time that the entire migration journey has been tracked.

Here are the 92 sites where these great knots stopped.

Prior to this study, many of these sites (63%) were not known as important for migratory shorebirds. The study has highlighted regions potentially important for shorebirds but lack ecological information and conservation recognition, such as those in Southern China and Southeast Asia.

Find out more in the [article in the Journal of Applied Ecology](#).





Great Knot



<https://chanyingchi.github.io/greatknot.stops/>



Great Knot



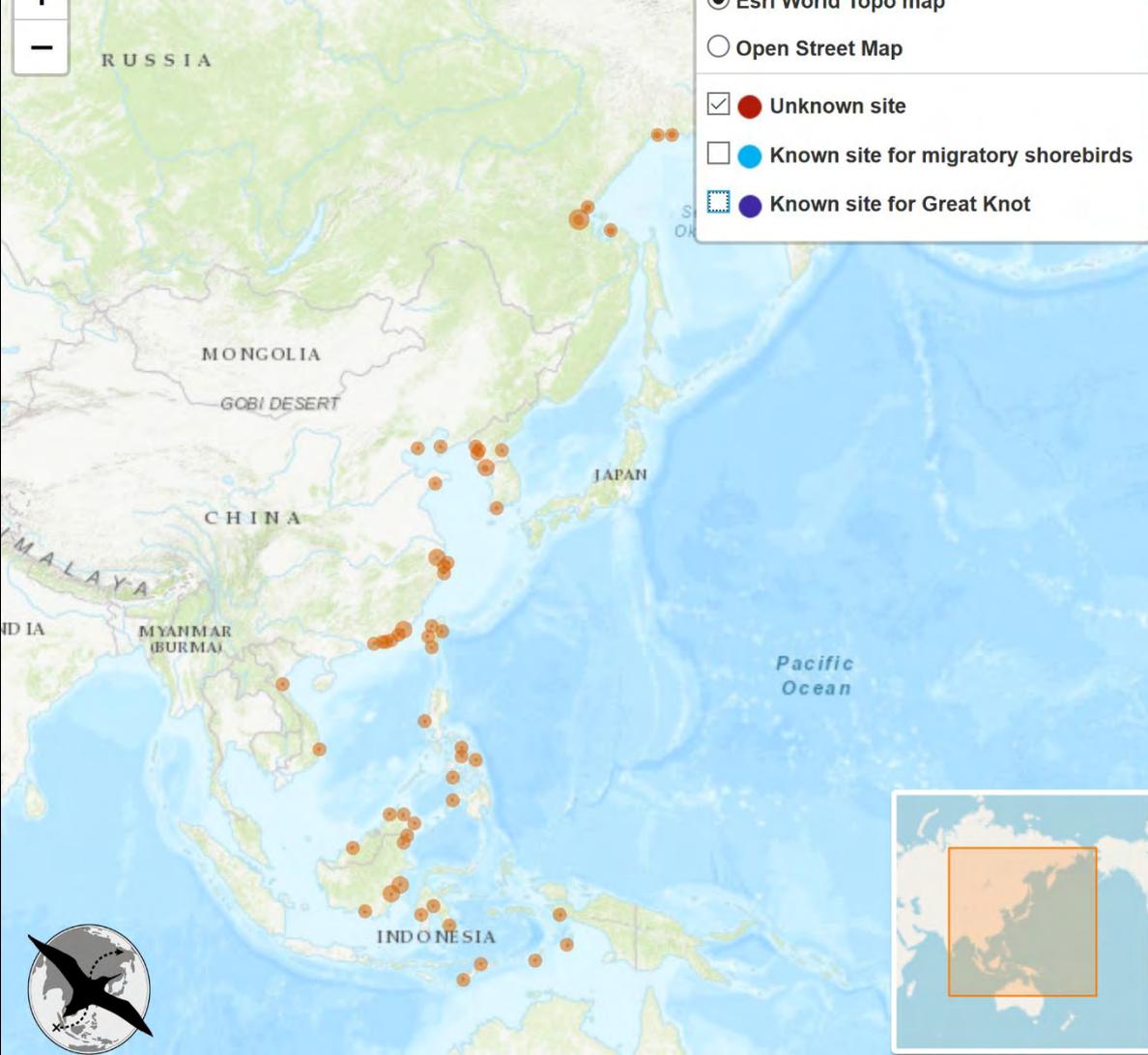
<https://chanyingchi.github.io/greatknot.stops/>



Great Knot



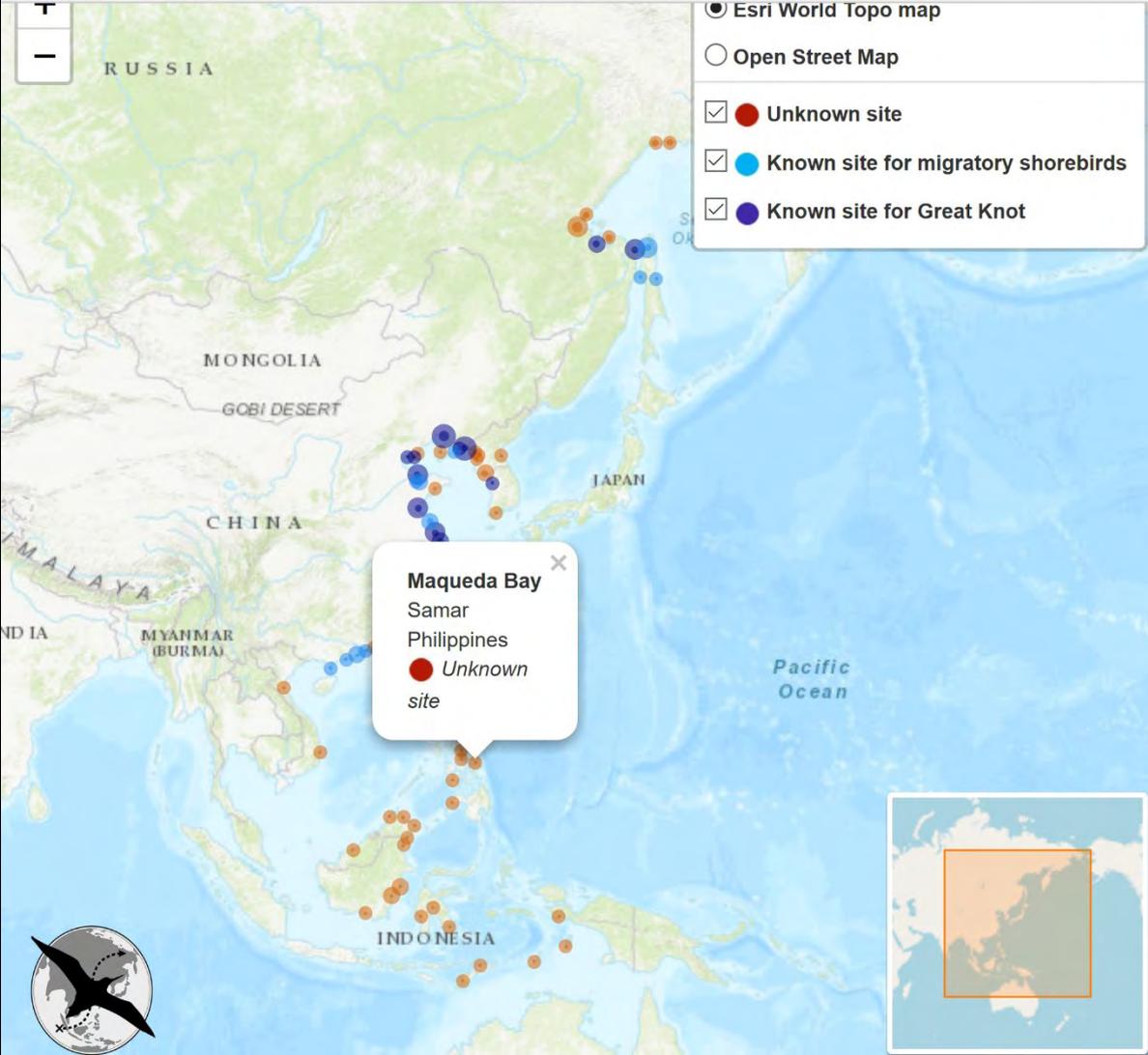
<https://chanyingchi.github.io/greatknot.stops/>



Great Knot



<https://chanyingchi.github.io/greatknot.stops/>



Great Knot



<https://chanyingchi.github.io/greatknot.stops/>

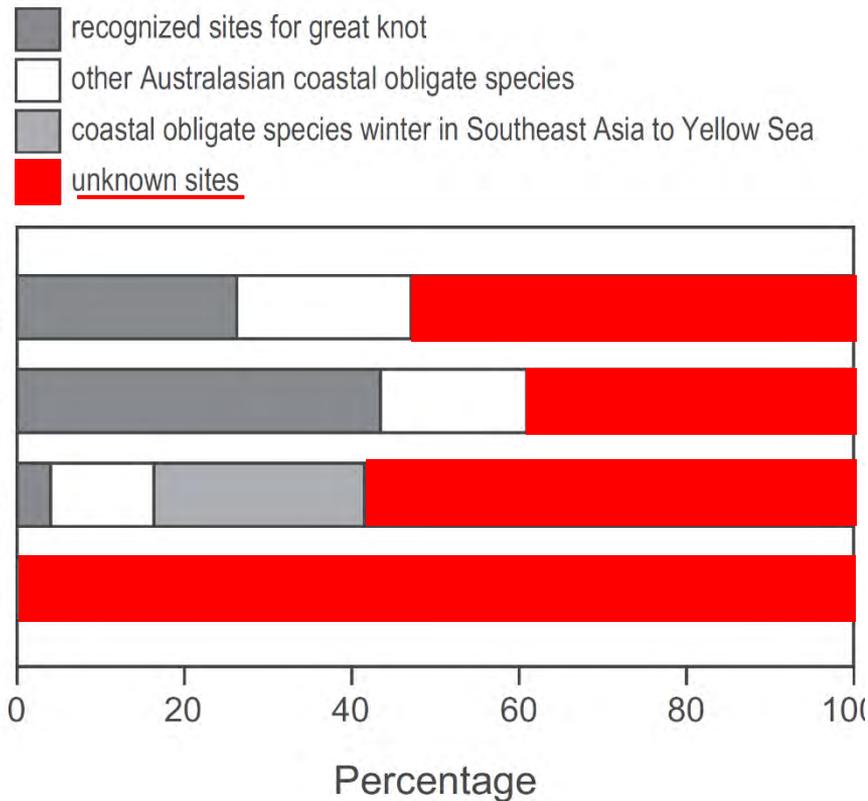


Filling knowledge gaps in a threatened shorebird flyway through satellite tracking

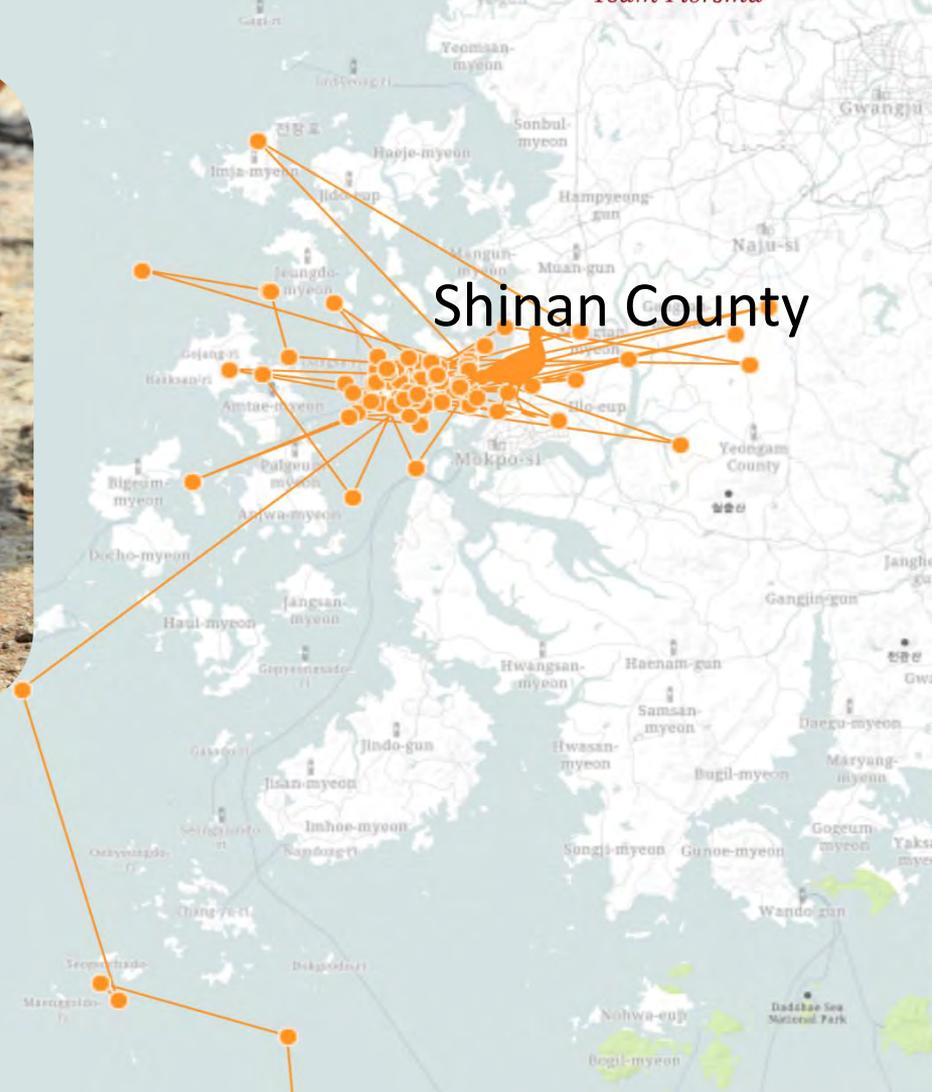
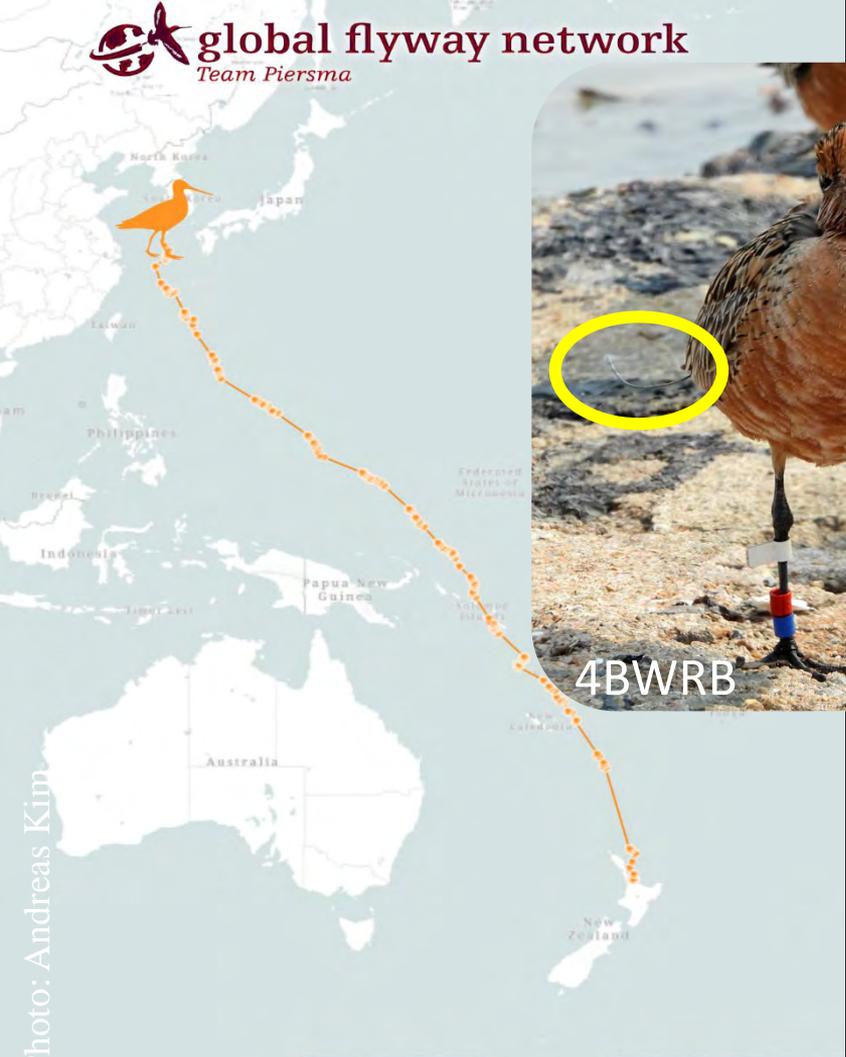
Ying-Chi Chan^{1,2}  | T. Lee Tibbitts³  | Tamar Lok²  | Chris J. Hassell⁴ |
He-Bo Peng^{1,2,5}  | Zhijun Ma⁵  | Zhengwang Zhang⁶  | Theunis Piersma^{1,2,4} 

BENEFIT-1

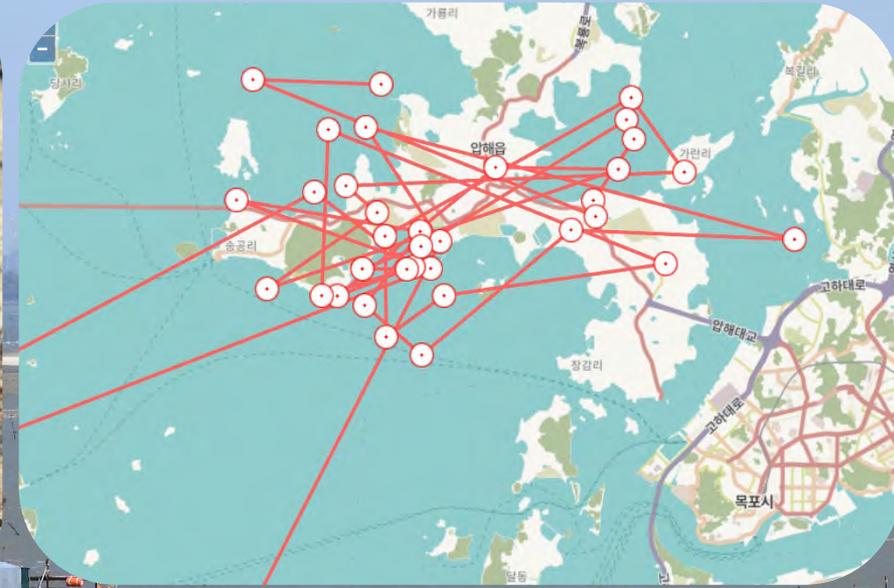
Sat-tags give
'spatially' and
'temporally'
unbiased data
on distribution
and occurrence





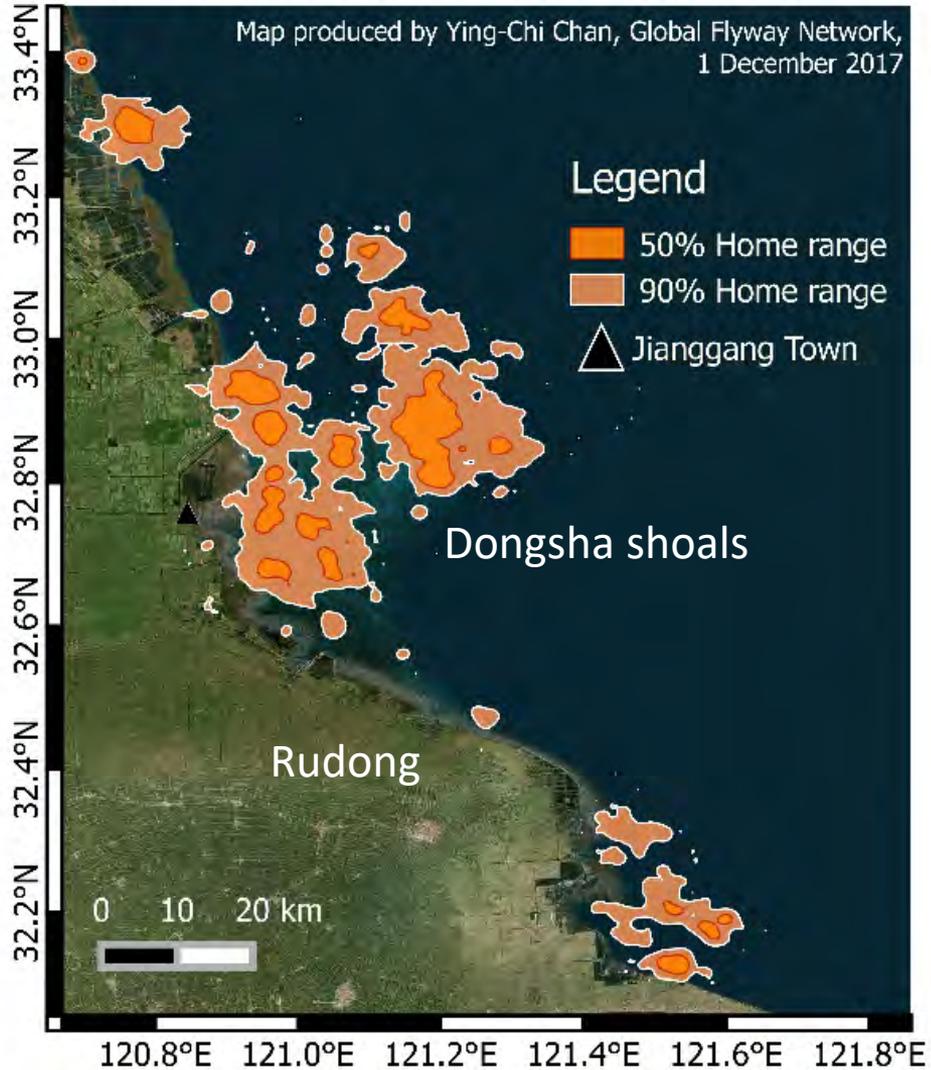


*“Shinan County consists of about 1000 islands and islets.
Some tidal areas are protected area and the region is
listed for **UNESCO World Heritage Site** recognition”*



Shinan County,
South Korea





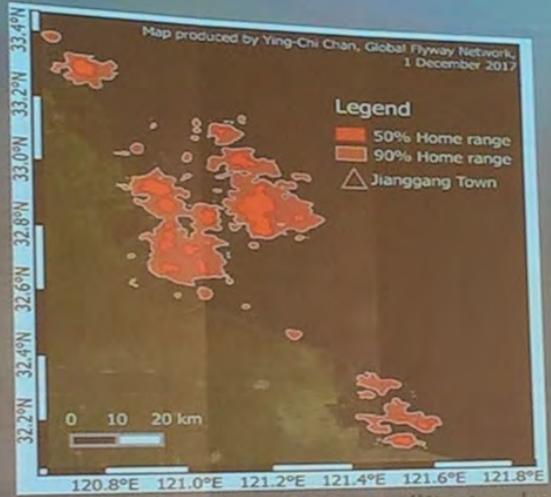
unambiguously demonstrating the importance of the Dongsha shoals, Jiangsu, China, for migrating bar-tailed godwits and great knots



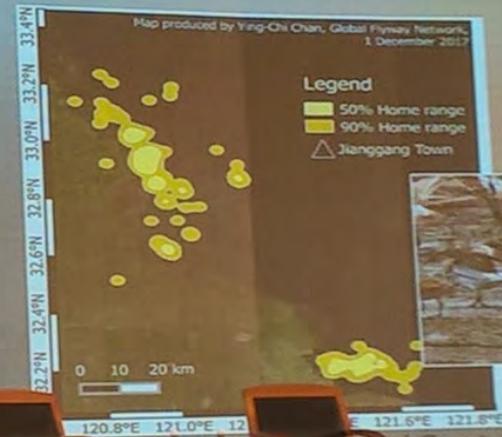
Importance of Tiaozini and Dongsha to Great Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit

生态遗产

Wetlands



Foraging range of 18 satellite tracked Bar-tailed Godwit NT (May 2015 – September 2017) (Chan Y.C.)



C.A. Putra



黄(渤)海湿地可持
2017 Yancheng Int
of the Intertidal W

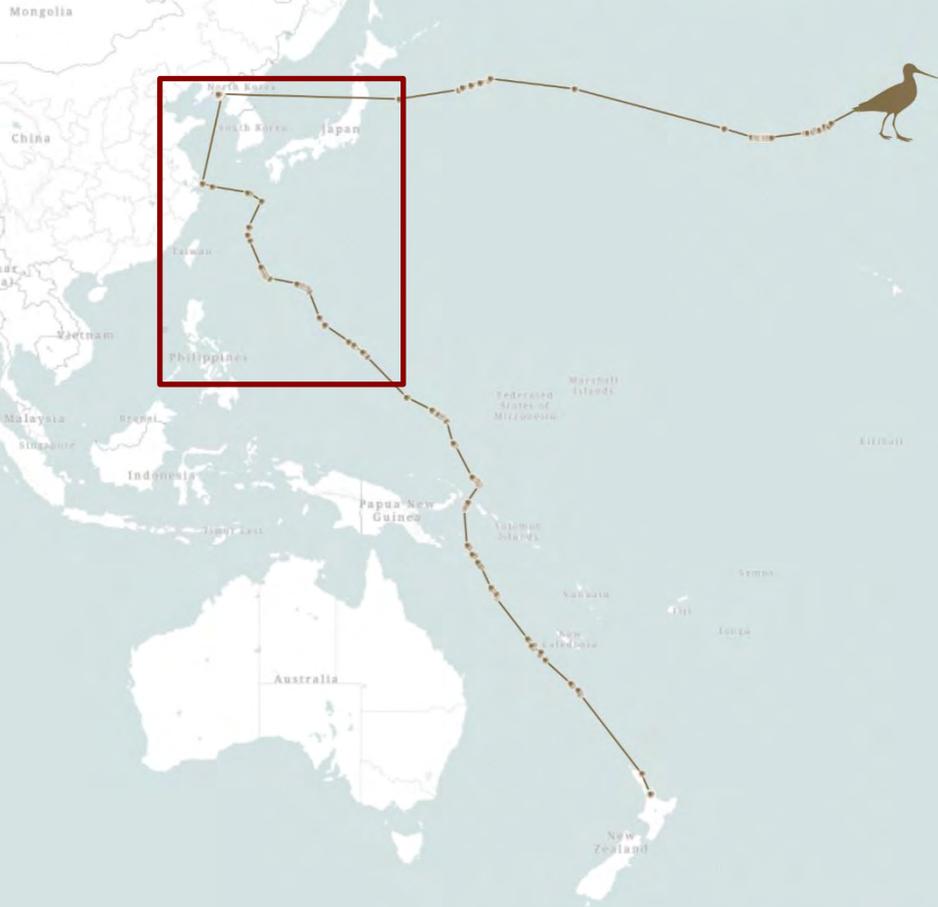
Photo: Nicola Crockford



Shinan County,
South Korea

BENEFIT-2

Sat-tags inform
and underpin the
design of nature
reserves – World
Heritage Sites



2000 km

last update: 12:00 GMT / local time:+0200



Bar-tailed Godwit **4BBWY**
after capture and tagging
at Pukorokoro-Miranda,
New Zealand, on 30
October 2019.

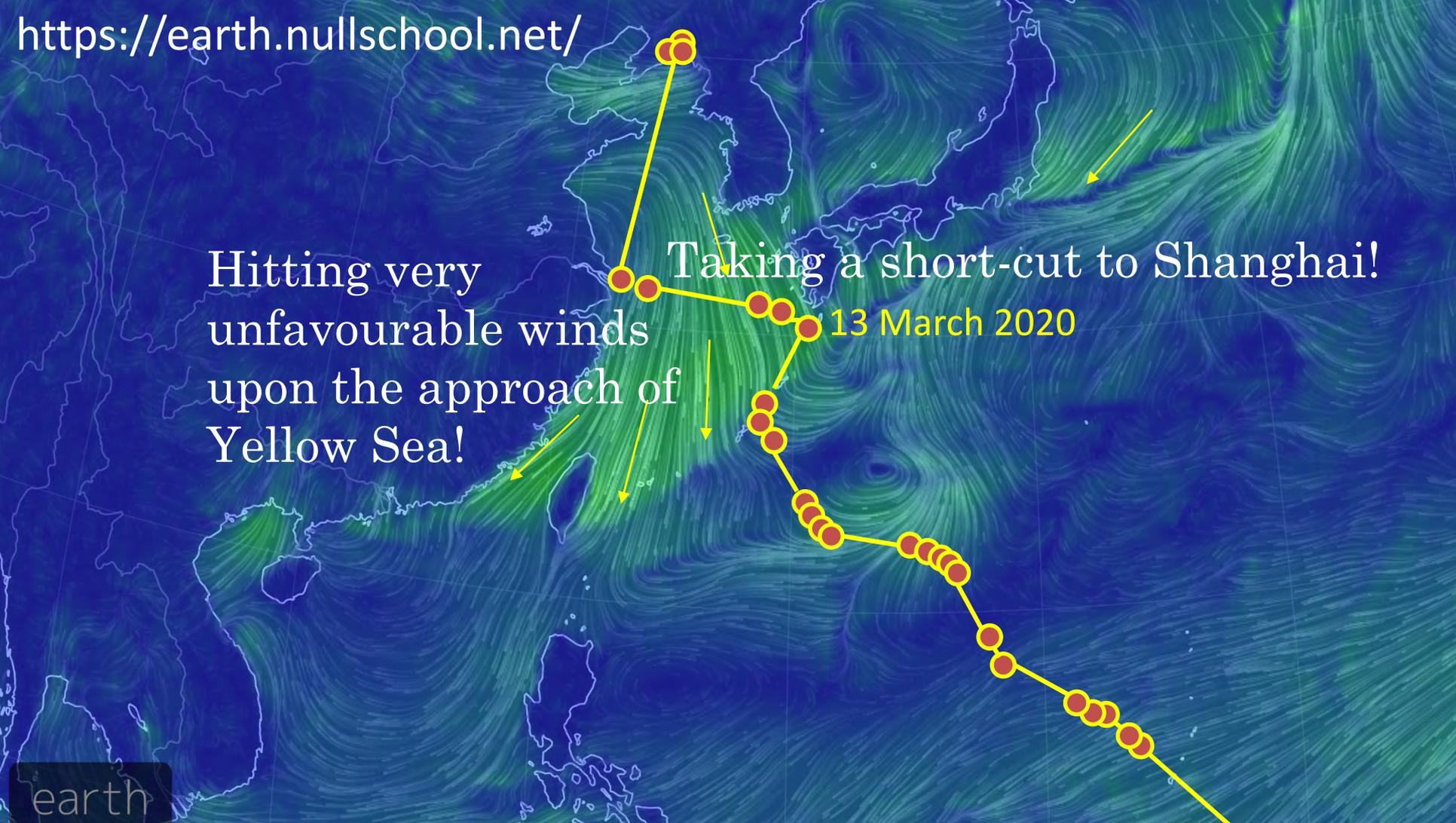
Photo by Katherine Leung



Hitting very unfavourable winds upon the approach of Yellow Sea!

Taking a short-cut to Shanghai!

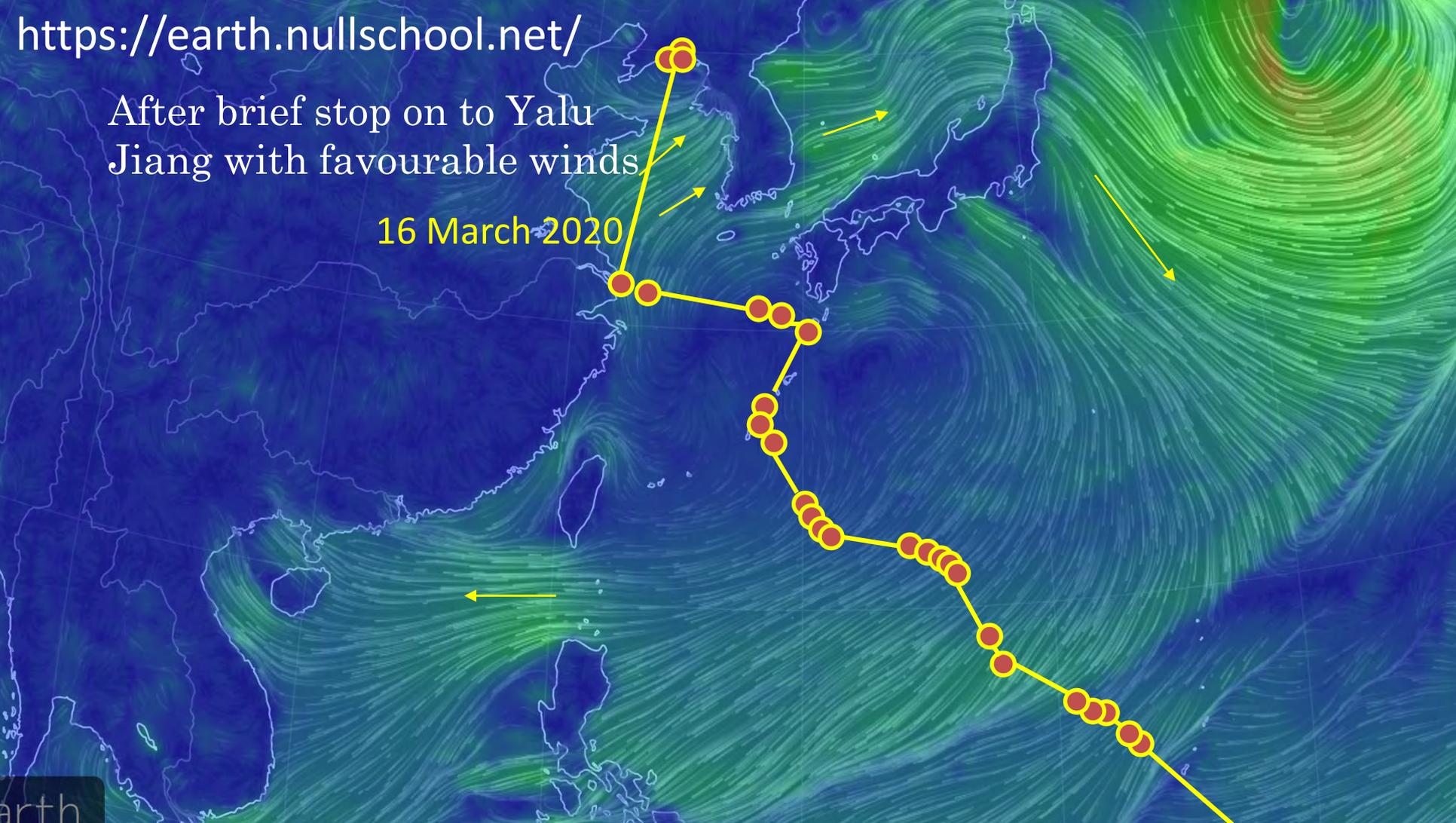
13 March 2020



<https://earth.nullschool.net/>

After brief stop on to Yalu
Jiang with favourable winds

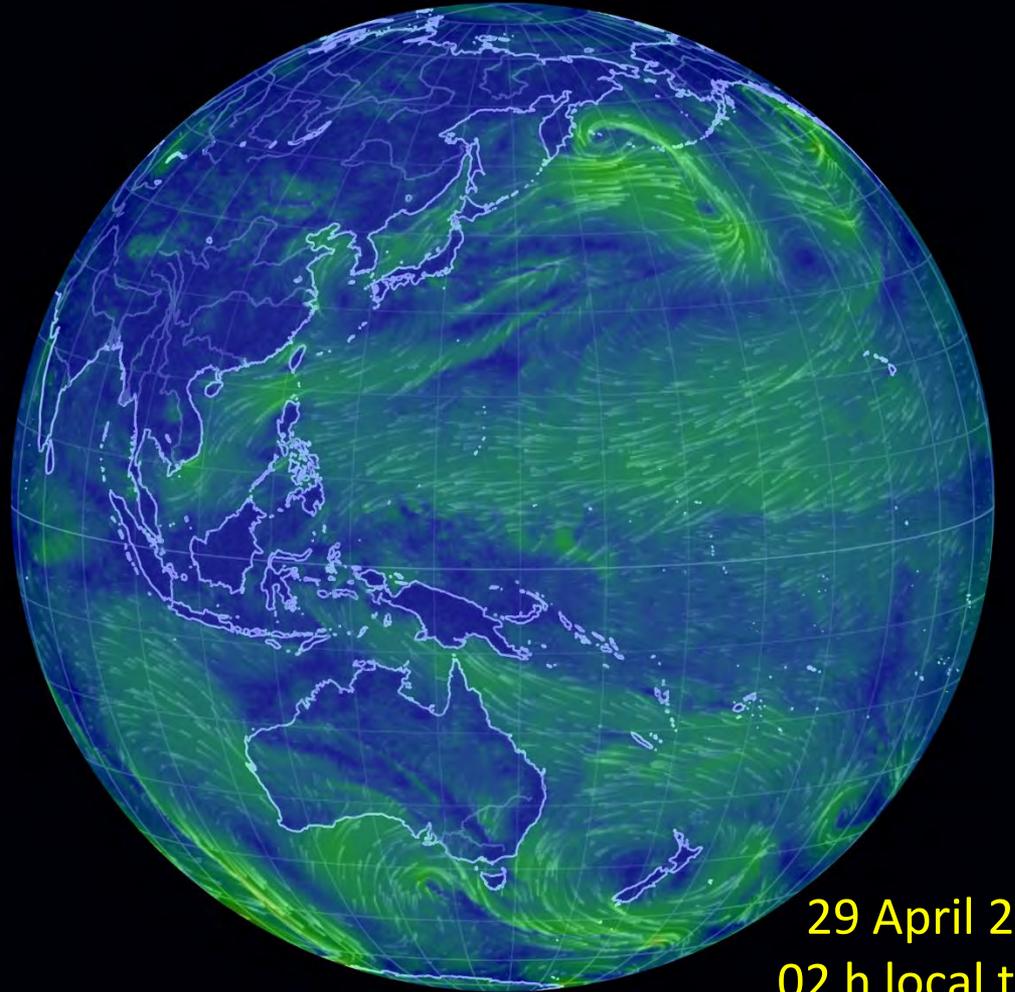
16 March 2020



<https://earth.nullschool.net/>

BENEFIT-3

Sat-tags yield
very precise
information on
how individual
birds deal with
winds (and other
geographic
features)



29 April 2020
02 h local time

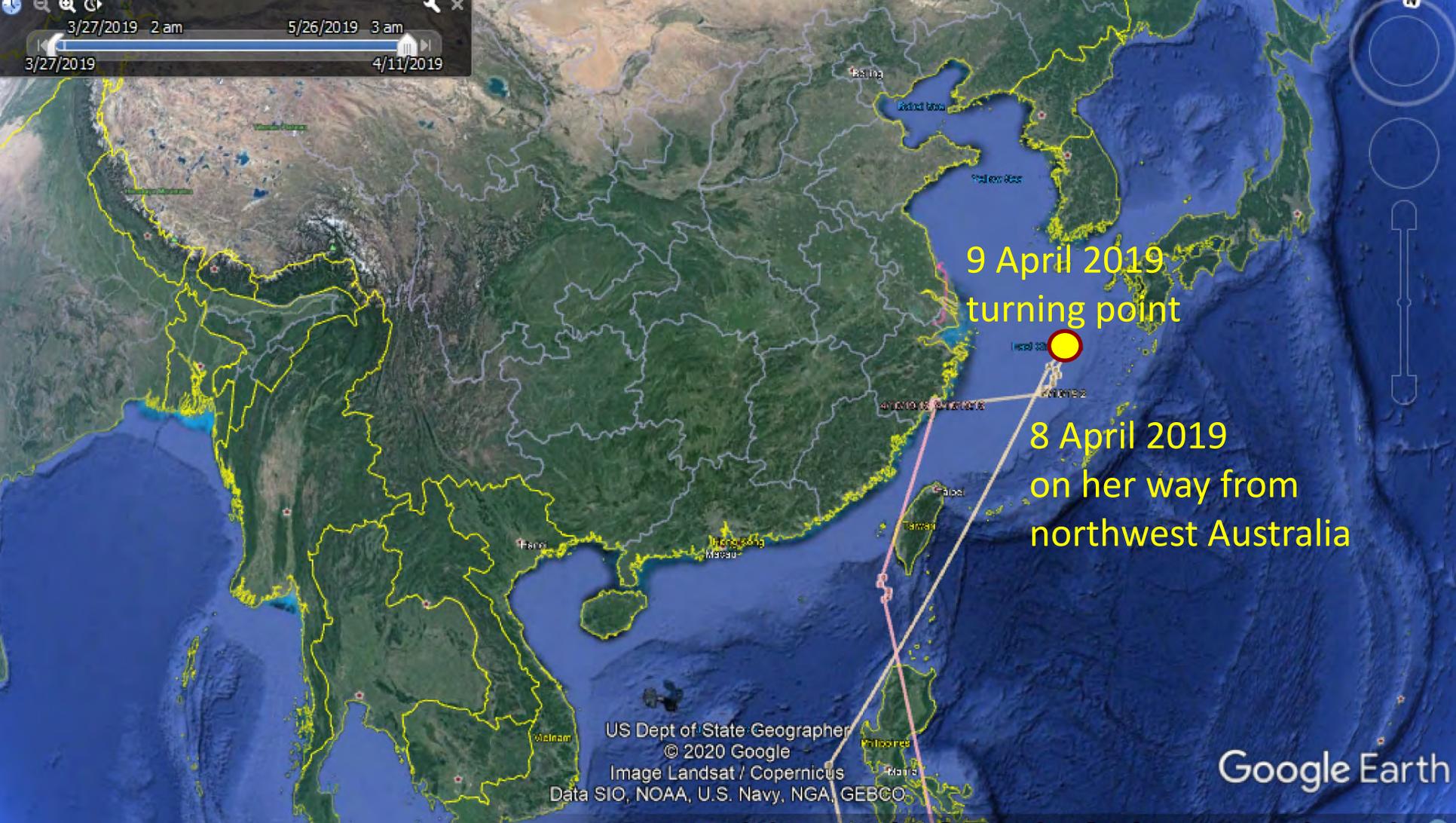
3/27/2019 2 am 5/26/2019 3 am
3/27/2019 4/11/2019

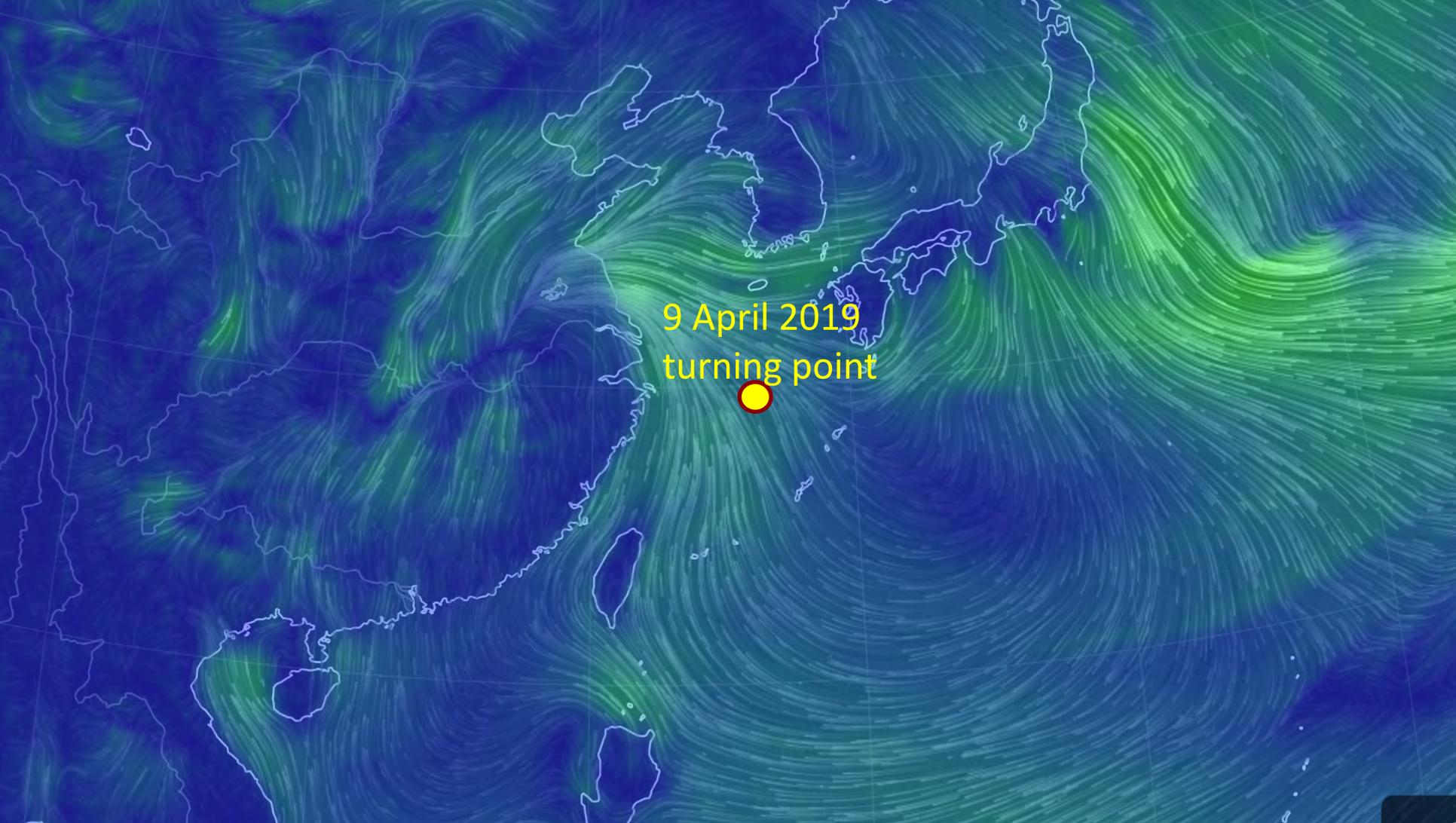
9 April 2019
turning point

8 April 2019
on her way from
northwest Australia

US Dept of State Geographer
© 2020 Google
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google Earth



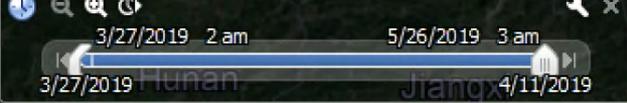


9 April 2019
turning point

Hitting very unfavourable winds upon the approach of Yellow Sea!

9 April 2019
turning point

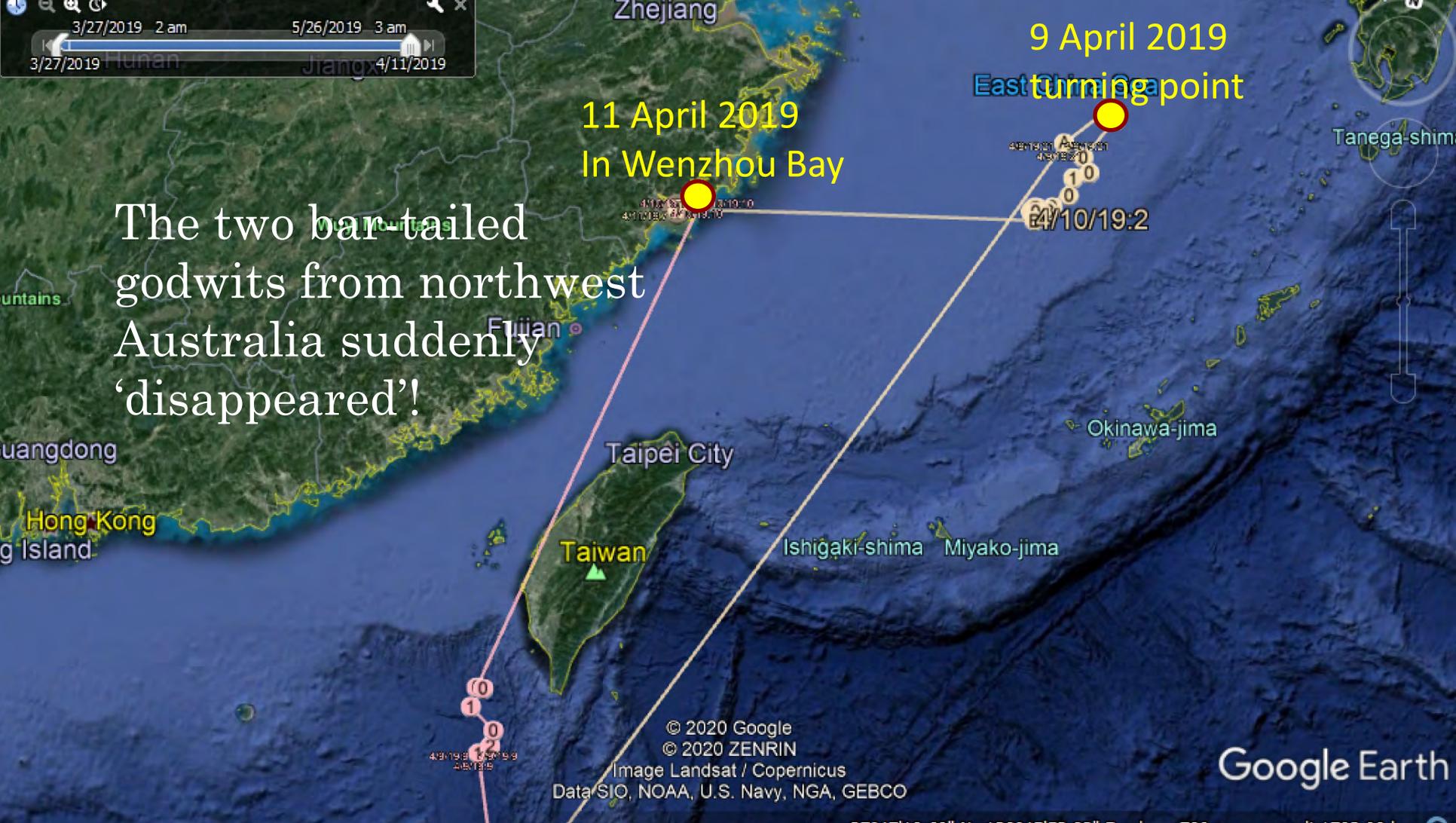




The two bar-tailed godwits from northwest Australia suddenly 'disappeared'!

11 April 2019
In Wenzhou Bay

9 April 2019
East turning point



Yueqing, Wenzhou



Photos: Ginny Chan

Yueqing, Wenzhou

Photos: Ginny Chan

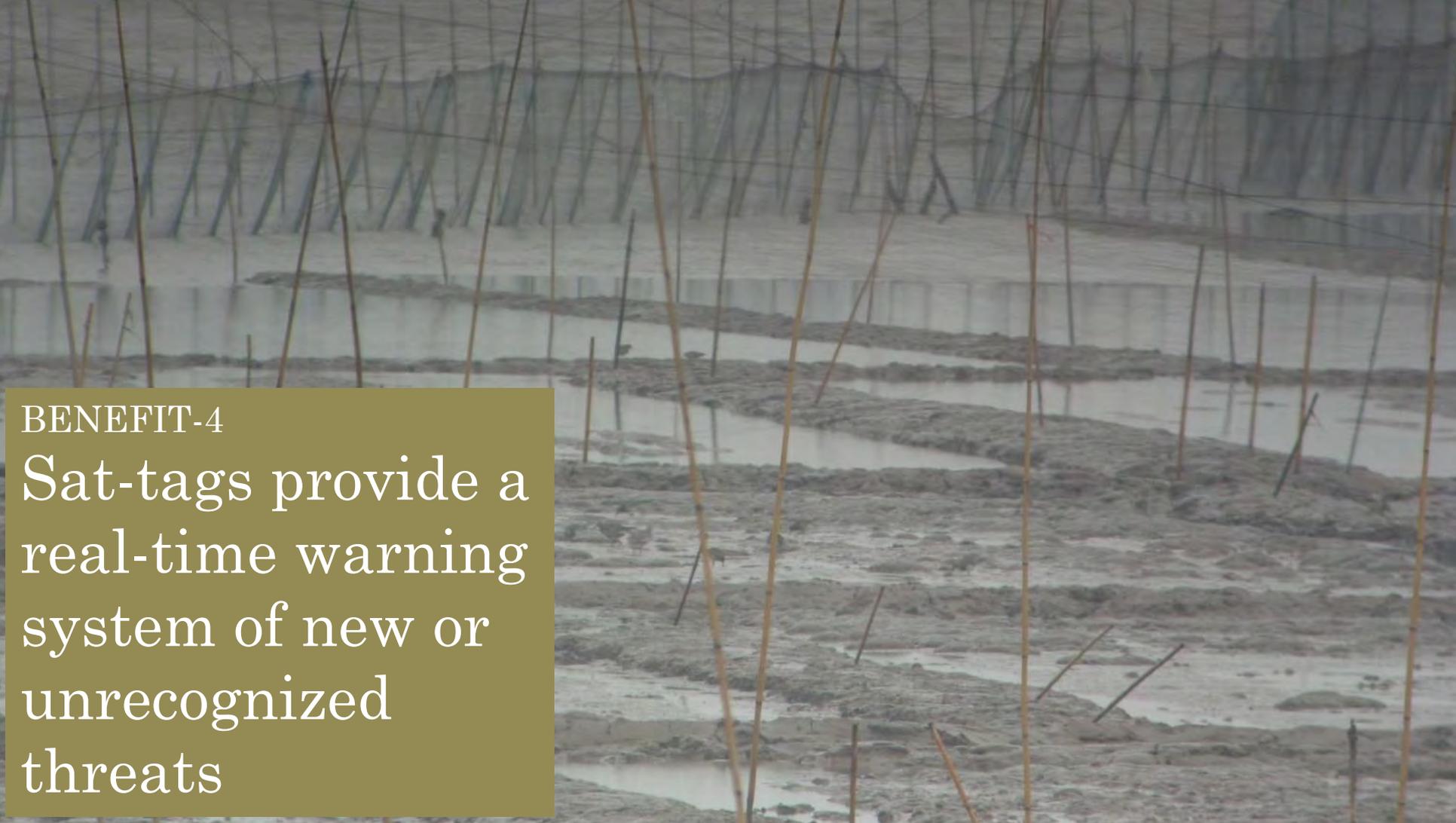


Yalu Jiang, China, April 2020



Photos: Shoudong Zhang





BENEFIT-4

Sat-tags provide a real-time warning system of new or unrecognized threats

Black-tailed godwit

**National bird of
The Netherlands**

Icon of our
historic
flower-rich
meadows



KING
of the Meadows

A photograph of a bird, likely a species of shorebird, standing on a sandy beach. The bird has a long, straight, dark beak and is facing right. Its plumage is primarily brown with some white and blue-grey patches on its wings. It has long, thin legs. On its right leg, there are two bands: a yellow one and a red one with a white tag. On its left leg, there is a yellow band and a green one. The background is a sandy beach with some shallow water and small rocks. The name 'Amalia' is written in white text to the right of the bird.

Amalia

Photo: Lee Tibbitts

Black-tailed godwit

National bird of
The Netherlands

Photo: Hans Pietersma

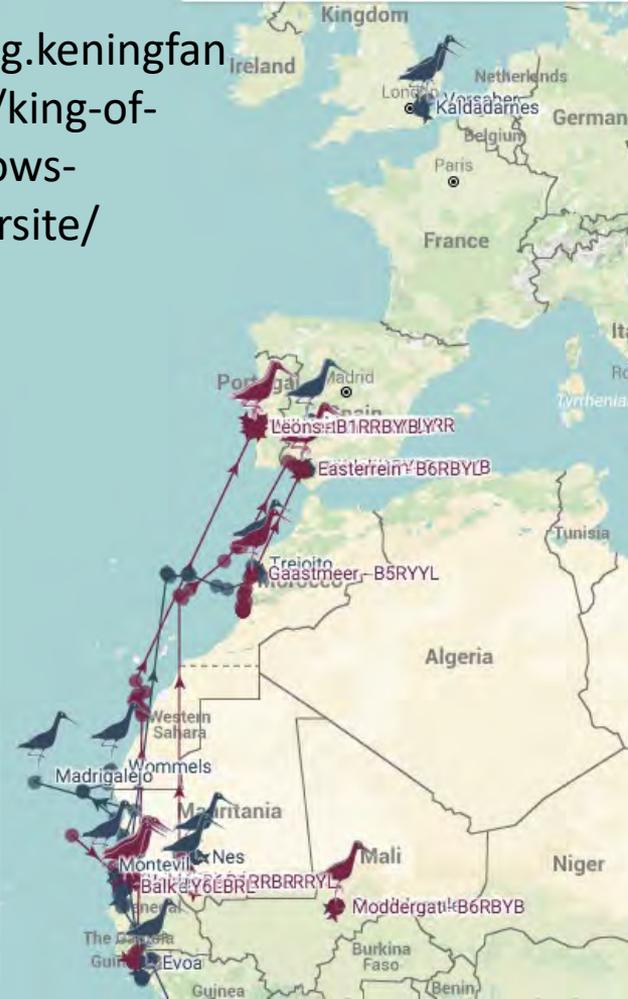
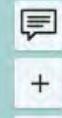
Icon of our
historic
flower-rich
meadows



get transmitterdata from

past week

<https://volg.keningfan.egreide.nl/king-of-the-meadows-transmittersite/>



Bastiaan
Blaauw




**CONFERENCE
 OF THE BIRDS**


**KING
 of the Meadows**



Koning van het grasland

THEATER BIJ DE BOER

VAN DE MAKERS
 VAN MANSHOLT



MEI T/M JULI 2018 OP LOCATIE TE ZIEN IN
 NOORD-HOLLAND, ZUID-HOLLAND, FLEVOLAND,
 BRABANT, OVERIJSEL, UTRECHT EN FRIESLAND



De voorstelling is in 2017 ontwikkeld in coproductie met Pier21
 en het burgerinitiatief Kenning fan 'e greide.



BENEFIT-5

Sat-tags are an under-used tool to engage the public with what it is like to be a long-distance migratory bird



A man and a woman are sitting at a table outdoors, focused on a task. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and glasses. The woman, on the right, is wearing a grey and white striped tank top and glasses. They are both looking down at a small object they are holding together. The background shows a window with a view of trees and a wooden deck railing. A red banner with white text is overlaid on the image.

Question 2: Can you tell which ‘things’ that solar-powered satellite tags can NOT do?

民以食为天，鸟为食而亡





bird food (e.g. *Potamocorbula*)

米蛤=光滑河蓝蛤





国
电
电
力

programme lead by He-Bo
Peng of BFU/NIOZ/RUG &
efforts of Fudan University
team at Yali Jang



Photo: Hebo Peng

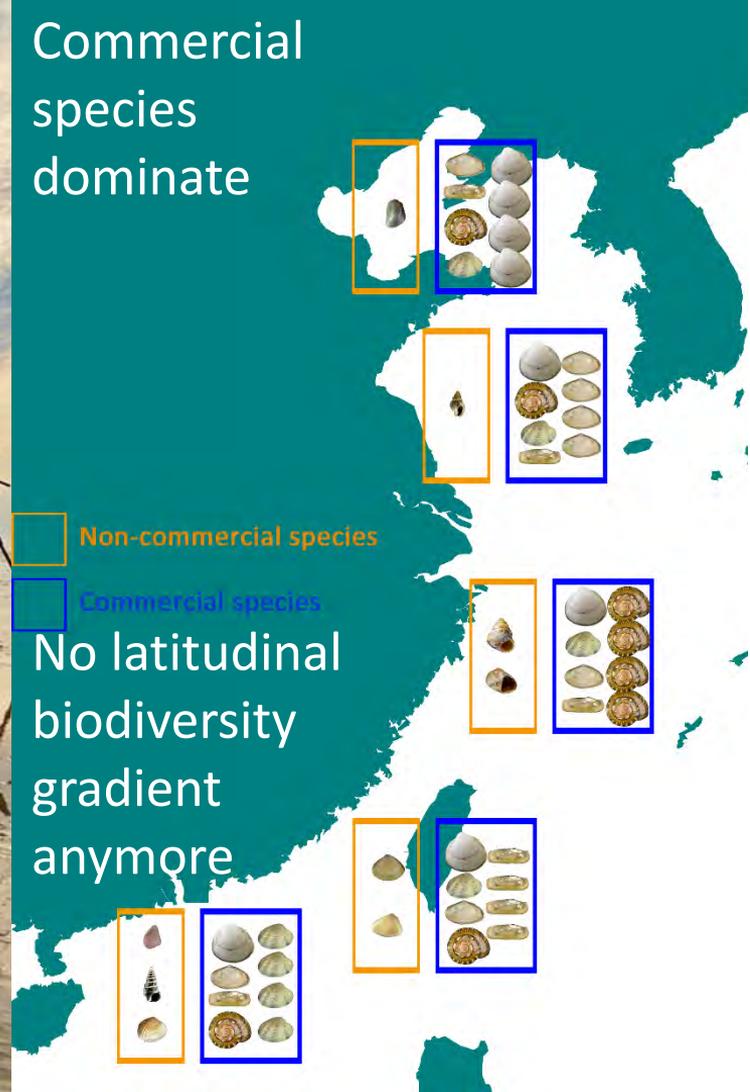


Commercial species dominate

Non-commercial species

Commercial species

No latitudinal biodiversity gradient anymore



WHAT SAT-TAGS DON'T DO!
They still require
tough, on and in
the mud, research
on crucial
'boundary
conditions',
especially food



Bringing Good Connections to Life

connections
between people

connections
between birds

SCIENCE CONSERVATION
connections with birds
PUBLIC OUTREACH

connections between birds & environments

Photo: Jesse Conklin



BREAKING NEWS: where are 4BBWY and YCA right now?



