



# **PROJECT 4.17**

Migratory shorebird populations: research for management and recovery

### The challenge

Many of Australia's shorebirds migrate to and from the Northern Hemisphere each year; often staying in the south for up to 6 months. Over the past 50 years, population numbers of most of Australia's migratory shorebird species have declined as a result of habitat loss and hunting. For unknown reasons, the numbers of some species have recently begun to stabilise. Finding out why declines appear to have stopped for some species might hold the key to creating management actions that build on these gains, to support and progress real, sustained population recovery. This project will determine survival rates and reproductive output for several shorebird populations, enabling an understanding of which factors might be important for their further recovery. The project will also analyse which conservation actions for shorebirds have been particularly effective, and summarise all of this information in a series of guidelines for managers.

## The approach

This project will:

- analyse more than one million shorebird banding and sighting records to create an updatable dashboard of reproductive output and survival parameters for key shorebird populations;
- build a comprehensive database of conservation management actions for migratory shorebirds, indicating those known to benefit reproductive output and survival;
- create a shorebird management handbook to guide practitioner management efforts across Australia and along the East Asian – Australasian Flyway; and
- support many of Australia's international obligations to conserve wetland and migratory species.

## **Expected outcomes**

- Coastal species and habitats better understood to support regional planning.
- Coastal habitat knowledge expanded to support restoration solutions.
- Habitat values and species pressures assessed and protection needs identified.
- Existing threatened and migratory species monitoring data building knowledge.

FRONT: Sanderling foraging near Killarney Victoria by Rebecca Hall. BACK: (Left) Ruddy Turnstones in Burgess Bay King Island Tasmania by Marcel Klaassen. (Right) Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit by Ryan Barnaby.

## **Project leaders**

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