

About the Shorebirds

Each year around 40 000 migratory waders (shorebirds) arrive in Moreton Bay from their breeding grounds in the Arctic, mostly Northern Siberia and Alaska.

Many of these birds make a round trip of 25 000 km, with some larger species such as the Eastern Curlew, flying more than 6 000 km non-stop. Even the tiniest wader to visit Moreton Bay, the Red-necked Stint, makes this marathon journey. Stints weigh 25-30 grams and their little bodies are about the size of a hen's egg.

Up to a thousand migratory waders return each year to Boondall Wetlands to spend the warmer months. Many more stop over on their way back to southern states and New Zealand.



Eastern Curlew

The biggest shorebird with the biggest bill, the Eastern Curlew can reach deeper into the mud and sand to catch its favourite food, the yabbie or ghost shrimp.



Whimbrel

Looks just like a little Eastern Curlew. Whimbrels like to feed amongst the mangrove roots.



Bar Tailed Godwit

This is the most common wader in Moreton Bay. The Bar-tailed Godwit usually feeds on the edge of the water and often puts its head right under as it probes for food with its long pink and black bill.



Great Knot

A common visitor to Nudgee Beach, this Siberian migrant can often be seen in groups feeding busily on the mudflats at low tide.



Greenshank

Those long olive-green legs give this wader its name. The Greenshank likes the swamps as well as the mudflats.



Curlew Sandpiper

One of the smaller waders, the Curlew Sandpiper is also one of the busiest, probing for food at an amazing rate.



Red Necked Stint

The tiniest and busiest of the waders on Nudgee Beach, the little Red-necked Stint continues to feed long after the others stop to rest.



Double Banded Plover

This little migrant doesn't come from Siberia - it comes from New Zealand. Double-banded Plovers spend the cooler months here because it's warmer than in New Zealand.