

Reserve network takes flight

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The East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network was officially launched on March 26 1996 at the Ramsar Conference in Brisbane. The success of the launch far exceeded the best of expectations. A total of ten countries participated to launch 24 sites as part of the Network.

The breakdown of countries and sites is shown below. The list includes 19 full nominations and five sites that managers formally intend to nominate (in brackets).

Russian Federation

Moroshechnaya Estuary (Kamchatka)

Japan

Yatsu tidal flats
Yoshino Estuary

China

Shuangtaizi Estuary
Yellow River Delta
(Chongming Island)

Hong Kong

Mai Po-Inner Deep Bay

Cambodia

(Kaoh Kapik)

Philippines

Olango Island

Indonesia

Wasur National Park

Papua New Guinea

(Tonda Wildlife Reserve)

Australia

Kakadu
Parry's Lagoon
Moreton Bay
Koorangang Nature reserve
Corner Inlet
Coorong
Orierton Lagoon
Logan Lagoon
(Eighty Mile Beach)
(Roebuck Bay)

New Zealand

Firth of Thames
Farewell Spit

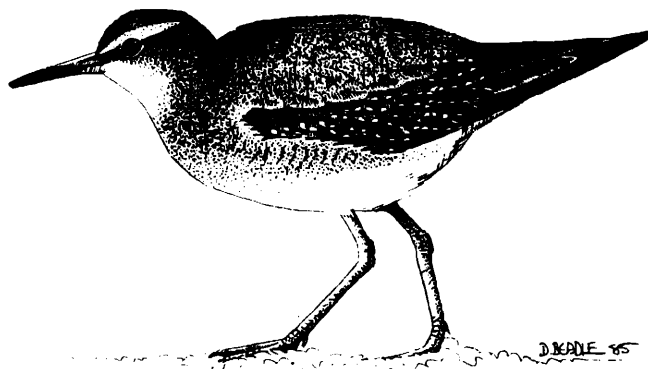
Over 300 people attended the launch to hear the keynote speeches by Senator Ian Campbell (Federal Parliament, Australia), Dr Peter Bridgewater (chair Ramsar Conference and CEO Australian Nature Conservation Agency), Hikari Kobaysaahi (Director Wildlife Protection Bureau, Environment Agency of Japan), Wang Shi Bao (Vice Minister for Forestry, China) and Faizal Parish (Director Wetlands International - Asia Pacific).

Following these species, representatives of each site participated in a ceremony of "putting their sites on the map".

The Shorebird Reserve Network launch was the start. Over the next four years we need to be organised to increase awareness and education, training, research and to improve the management of important sites.

Please join in this initiative. I would like to hear your comments and ideas on the Shorebird Reserve Network and the activities that should be developed within it.

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Grey-tailed Tattler