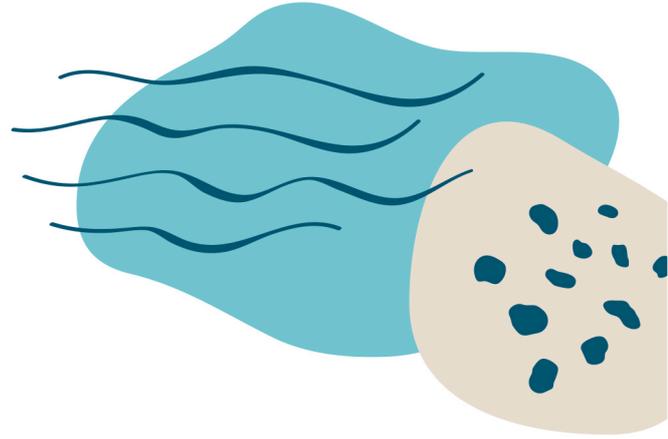


Media Release



30 November 2021

Arctic shorebirds ‘checking in’ for the summer holidays

With no QR code required, migratory shorebirds are arriving at Discovery Bay after flying tens of thousands of kilometres after the northern Arctic summer.

Sanderling flocks of more than 1000 have recently arrived at beaches in Nelson in Victoria. But more are expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Sanderling are a small migratory shorebird weighing less than 50 grams are set to help researchers this season with a new migratory tracking project.

As part of this project, researchers will attempt to catch Sanderling and fit them with a very small location tracking beacon – but they need citizen help to locate these arriving flocks.

“Understanding where Sanderling are on this is important for the project as it allows research teams to concentrate their efforts on capture and tracking,” Marcel Klaasen, Centre for Integrative Ecology at Deakin University, said.

“Once tracking equipment is fitted, we are then better placed to track and observe Sanderling behaviours which will in turn guide our conservation efforts for the species”.

“Understanding the behaviour of Sanderling while at ‘home’ in Discovery Bay is part of ongoing management priorities for the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site,” Glenelg Hopkins CMA Ramsar site coordinator, Gavin Prentice, said.

Members of the public are encouraged to let the project team know when they see flocks of sanderling on our southern shores by emailing a sighting location to Gavin Prentice at GlenelgRamsar@ghcma.vic.gov.au

The Sanderling Tracking Project is a coordinated effort of community groups, researchers and land managers. Initiated through the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Coordination Committee, the project is managed by South-west Environment Alliance with support from Friends of Shorebird SE, Deakin University, Birdlife Australia and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Funding for this community research partnership is provided by the Victorian Government’s Community Volunteering Action Fund.

ENDS



CAPTION: A flock of an estimated 1500 Sanderling spotted at the Glenelg Estuary last week.

IMAGE: DAVE NICHOLS