**BAR-TAILED GODWIT 1YBRL**

This male Bar-tailed Godwit known since banding by the rather unromantic name of 1YBRL was banded at ‘Richard’s Point’ one of the sites on the eastern beaches of the northern shores of Roebuck Bay.

He was age 1 (in his first year of life) at capture and banding. He seems to have undertaken his first northward migration while still age 2 (in his second year of life) which is young for godwits from north west Australia. If he bred he would have had his 3rd birthday late in the breeding season while in Yakutia, Siberia. He has 46 sightings in the field since banding. He is very much a bird of the western beaches, particularly roosting on the most western beach of Roebuck Bay that stretches between the town of Broome itself and the Broome Port. This beach is regularly watched by 2 very skilled and dedicated Broome shorebird enthusiasts and this accounts for the large set of sightings attributed to him. All but 1 of his sightings are in Roebuck Bay but the only one outside of there, in Yalu Jiang on the border of North Korea and China, was a mere 7 days after a sighting in Roebuck Bay. 7 days between sightings at sites 6,400km apart! The bird was not only seen but also photographed by Jimmy Choi, a PhD student working at Yalu Jiang.

I have edited the summary of sightings below to show the last sightings before and after migration the overseas sightings and then the first return to Roebuck Bay and the last sighting to date. He has not been seen back from the 2012 breeding season yet.

**Summary of sightings (edited)**

**Bar-tailed Godwit**

**Banding 1YBRL**

**01/06/2007 Two Dog Hermit beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome, Australia**

**07322671 (1YBRL) Aged 2 Sex M**

27/03/2008 Two Dog Hermit beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-18.00, 122.37) Australia

Chris Hassell & Rob Berry

14/10/2008 Two Dog Hermit beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-18.00, 122.37) Australia

Alice Ewing

17/02/2009 Nicks Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-18.00, 122.37) Australia

Chris Hassell & Adrian Boyle

07/10/2009 Two Dog Hermit beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-18.00, 122.37) Australia

Alice Ewing

04/04/2010 Two Dog Hermit beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-18.00, 122.37) Australia

Chris Hassell & Clare Morton

Seen 7 days alter at YJ

11/04/2010 Yalu Jiang Site 2 (39.83, 124.08) China (mainland)

Jimmy Choi

7 days after RB sighting

22/12/2010 Simpson's Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-17.99, 122.21) Australia

Clare Morton

27/03/2011 Quarry Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-18.00, 122.37) Australia

Mo Verhoeven and Joop van Eerbeek & Adrian Boyle

27/10/2011 Simpson's Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-17.99, 122.21) Australia

Clare Morton & Grant Morton

31/03/2012 Two Dog Hermit beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-18.00, 122.37) Australia

Chris Hassell & Ginny Chan

Bar-tailed Godwit 1YBRL at Yalu Jiang, China on 11/04/2010



Image Jimmy Choi