**BAR-TAILED GODWIT**

This female Bar-tailed Godwit known since banding by the rather unromantic name of 3RRYY was banded at ‘Richard’s Point’ one of the sites on the eastern beaches of the northern shores of Roebuck Bay.

She was age 1 (in her first year of life) at capture and banding. She undertook her first northward migration while still age 2 (in her second year of life) which is young for godwits from north west Australia. If she bred she would have had her 3rd birthday late in her breeding season. Birds in Australia are a nominated ‘birthday’ of August 1st.

The aspect of her history that I particularly like is that she was seen on an island 100km south west off the south west tip of Korea (just 12 days after the previous sighting in Roebuck Bay). She was seen by a member of the public who had ‘no interest’ in birds but was intrigued by the birds leg bands and reported the bird to Nial Moores (a shorebird expert in the EAAF who lives in Korea. Nial went to see the bird and photographed her. Research in action and engaging with the public, perfect! I asked Nial to pass on the bird’s life history to the person who first saw her, which he duly did.

I have edited the summary of sightings below to show the last sighting before northward migration 2012, the overseas sightings and then the first return to Roebuck Bay and the last sighting to date.

**Summary of sightings (edited)**

**Bar-tailed Godwit**

**Banding 3RRYY**

**09/07/2011 Richards Point, Roebuck Bay, Broome, Australia**

**07358367 (3RRYY) Aged 1 Sex F**

04/04/2012 Richards Point, Roebuck Bay, Broome (-17.97, 122.33) Australia

Chris Hassell & Ginny Chan

16/04/2012 Gageo Island, South Korea (34.00, 125.00) Korea

UNKNOWN

IMAGE FROM 23/4/12

23/04/2012 Gageo Island, South Korea (34.00, 125.00) Korea

Nial Moores

22/10/2012 Minton's Straight (-17.98, 122.35) Australia

Chris Hassell & Adrian Boyle

21/11/2012 Boiler Point, Roebuck Bay, Broome (17.00, 122.00) Australia

Chris Hassell

Bar-tailed Godwit 3RRYY at Gageo Island, South Korea on 23/04/2012



Image Nial Moores