

Update 6 ...

And another spring season here in Bohai Bay has come to a close. It has been productive and enjoyable, but we are looking forward to heading home for a rest.

We have spent 58 days in the field, in excess of 160 'person-days', looking for or at shorebirds. We have accumulated 4,122 flag and colour-band observations, our highest total since 2015. This has included birds from 21 banding regions and we have seen flags or bands on 14 species. Our total of 1,097 northwest Australia colour-band observations is our second highest total in 9 years of visits to the site. The individually recognisable birds from the GFN project are in the table below.

	Bar-tailed Godwit	Great Knot	Red Knot	Total
Observations	17	141	939	1097
Individuals	4	44	302	350

During the course of our work and birding, we have seen 245 bird species - our highest annual total ever. On top of this, we have met and worked with some fantastic people, including shorebirds researchers from across the globe and, of course, the kind and welcoming locals.

Anyway, we're busy packing up and soon to be travelling so we will conclude with less words, more photos...



Little Stint



Yellow-legged Buttonquail



Breakfast



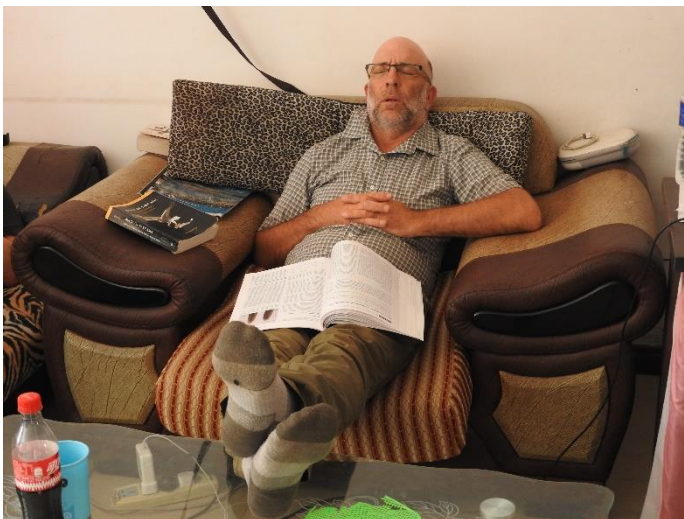
Jellyfisher people, an aquaculture practice we have not seen in previous years.



Forest Wagtail



Chris explaining GFN's work to the Liu family and students.



Napping after a hard morning in the field. Only the morning?' Well we do leave at 4AM! And sometimes go out again the afternoon.



Kath pointing, she's very skilled at that.



Someone has to be diligent and write things down.



Nesting Oriental Storks with signs saying 'do not disturb'.



Common Tern



Left: Leiming and student heading out to band Pied Avocets



Right: PhD student, Tong M (front) and his volunteers, Hai Li and Rainy Cai heading out to take mud samples



Whiskered Tern



White-winged Tern



A not-so-scenic scanning site

Thanks for reading (and looking)

GFN Team 2018

