

MIGRATORY SHORE BIRDS OR WADERS

Many of the “shore” birds we see in Australia during summer migrate to northern Asia to breed in their summer (our winter). They are commonly known as Migratory Waders as they migrate up to 9,000km to and from their breeding grounds each year.

They range in size from very small (about Sparrow size) to about Crow size. Their long legs and long bills can make them seem larger. While in Australia most are rather non-descript browns and greys but many “colour-up” into “breeding plumage” before migrating.

Waders need tremendous amounts of energy to fly the distances they do. They spend the summer feeding and resting and building up reserves of fat as fuel for their journey. Many lose almost half their departure weight during the trip. It is essential that they be allowed to build those reserves.

Waders feed according to the tides day and night. They eat at low tide when the banks and mud flats are exposed and rest at high tide when the banks are covered. The places they rest are called “high tide roosts.”

Disturbance by people, boats, dogs, children, fisherman, walkers, jet-skis, four-wheel drives or anything else while they are feeding or roosting uses up energy so the fewer disturbances the better.

Moreton Bay is internationally recognised as an important summer feeding and resting place for these international travellers. Please help them by not disturbing them.