

## **Grey-tailed Tattlers – a fresh look at a common shorebird**

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The presence of a small population of Grey-tailed Tattlers (*Tringa brevipes*) in Port Stephens on the central coast of New South Wales is providing opportunities to carefully observe the behaviour of this common, but much under-studied species. Typically, 100-120 birds are present in Port Stephens in the austral summer; 10-15 non-breeding birds in winter.

The authors have been monitoring the population since 2012, conducting extended observations during periods of foraging and roosting. In May 2014 the program was extended to include observations at some well-known Japanese staging areas. Also, contact was established with local Japanese shorebird surveyors who agreed to an exchange of information.

Certain behavioural aspects among both the Port Stephens study population and migrating Grey-tailed Tattlers staging in Japan appear to differ from previously published reports. The differences observed in both groups will be discussed, including previously unreported agonistic episodes and two instances suggestive of pair-bonding.