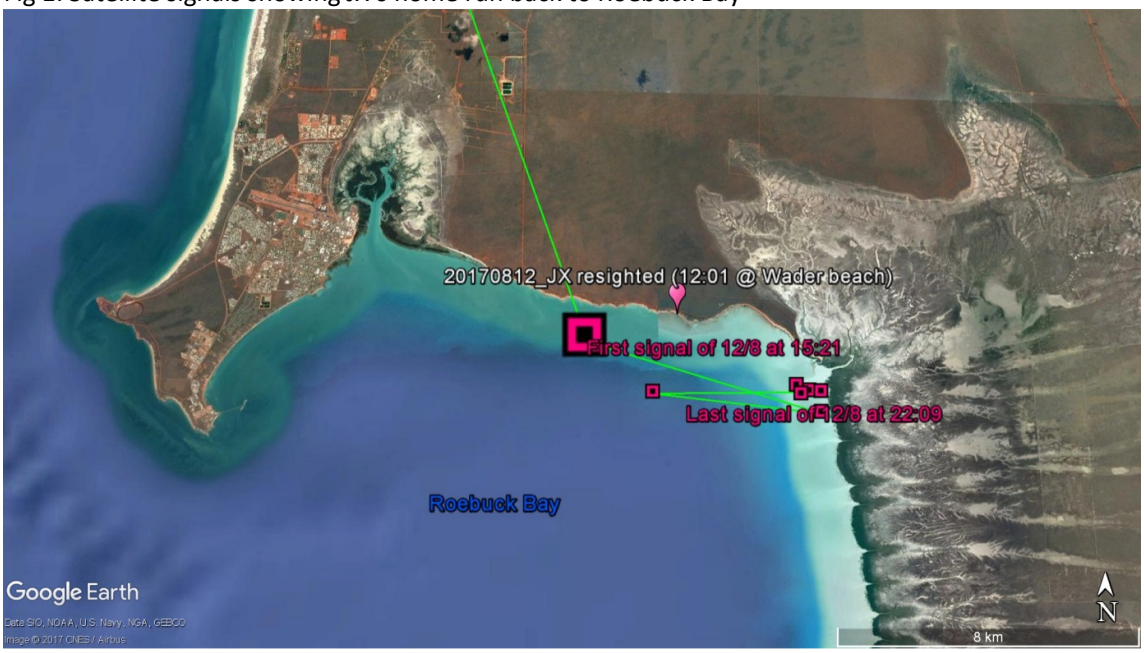
Seeing is believing!

"Well we don't need to wait until JX's PTT turns on again…." said Chris Hassell and Kerry Hadley at Wader Beach, Roebuck Bay, Broome: JX is the first Whimbrel back home!

Photo 1: JX found and photo graphed back in Broome at noon on 12-Aug-17 (photo by Kerry Hadley)

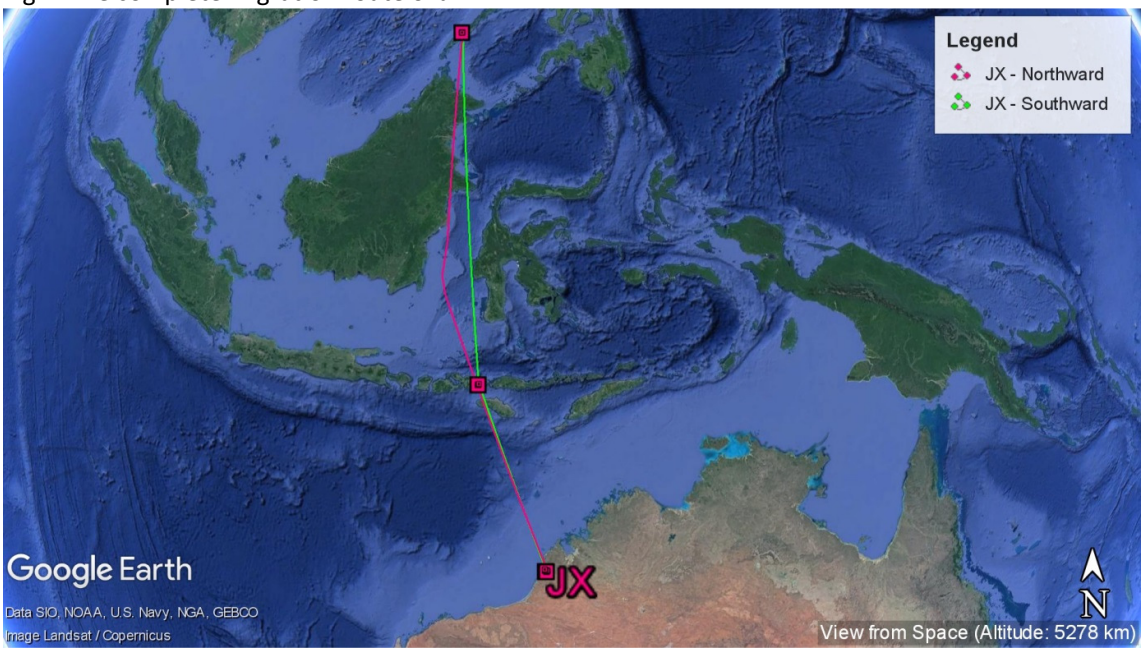
It is a real excitement to see JX appearance at Roebuck Bay (12:01) well before we receive the signal from the satellite later in the afternoon (15:21). JX was spotted roosting at Wader Beach during high tide, mixing with a good flock of Knots, Godwits, and Sandpipers etc. (as you could tell from the photo). It is looking a bit thin (abdominal profile = 2) after another day of continuous flight from Indonesia.

Fig 1: Satellite signals showing JX's home run back to Roebuck Bay



In order to reach Broome at 12:01 on 12-Aug-17, JX has made another 1,091km flight from Bima. Based on the last signal JX sent from Bima at 19:00 on 10-Aug-17, JX could have either stayed at Bima for only a short while or it didn't make a stop at all and fly directly back to Broome. If JX has kept its speed at 41.3km/h as per its flight from Palawan to Bima earlier, it could have been reached Broome on 11-Aug-17 at around 21:00 (even before I was typing Project Updates #9)!

Fig 2. The complete migration route of JX



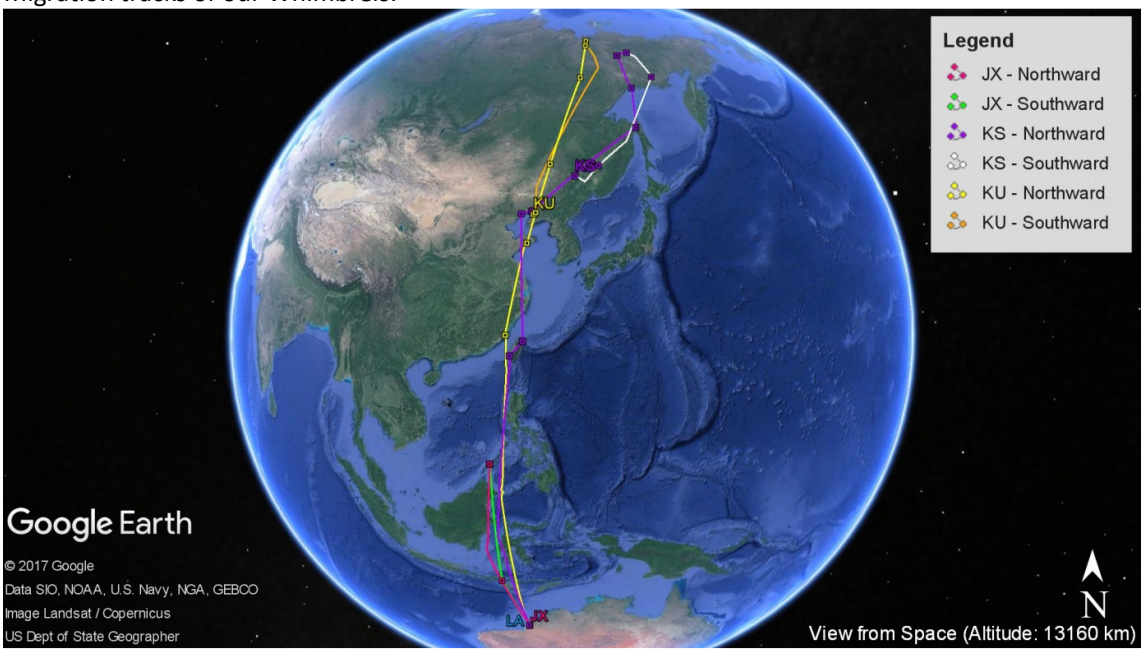
Observation from the field shows that the satellite transmitter and its antenna are at perfect position. Given the sunny weather in Broome, the transmitter must have been well charged by solar power to show us JX's movement around the Bay after it came home.

JX is now in good hands (eyes) of the Broome local birdwatchers/observers. After such amazing journey, we hope JX could soon replenish and continue to strive in the Bay.

It would of course even be better if JX's transmitter continue to work until the next migration season!

As of 12 August 2017:

Migration tracks of our Whimbrels:



Migration summary on our Whimbrels

Leg Flag (track colour: N - S)	No. of days since deployment	No. of days since departing Australia	Distance travelled
LA (blue)	181 days	0 days	0 km
KS (purple - white)	169 days	118 days	13,509 km
KU (yellow - orange)	169 days	117 days	13,276 km
JX (pink - green)	140 days	114 days	6,124 km

Katherine Leung
12 August 2017