

Make our **missing wildlife** visible again

Eastern curlew

The Eastern curlew is a critically endangered wetland bird. The master of long-haul flights, Eastern curlews are under threat from wetland developments like Toondah Harbour.

Eastern curlew facts

- Common name:** Eastern curlew
- Scientific name:** *Numenius madagascariensis*
- Population:** Declining
- Endangered status:** Critically Endangered



Photo: Wang LiQiang/Shutterstock

Why is the Eastern curlew endangered?

- The Eastern curlew is listed as critically endangered in Australia, with global populations estimated to have declined by 80% in the last 30 years.
- As a wading bird that [travels across our earth](#), they rely on intertidal mudflats for food and habitat.
- But along their migration route, these mudflats are being developed or eroded, placing these beautiful birds at risk.

Where does the Eastern curlew live?

- The Eastern curlew begins its life in Russia and north-eastern China before traveling more than 10,000km to enjoy the summer's sun on southern feeding grounds like Queensland's [Toondah Harbour](#).
- The mudflats in the Yellow Sea (bordering China, Russia and the Korean Peninsula) are one important stopover during their migration south.
- In Australia, wetlands also provide critical habitat for 75% of the world's Eastern curlews.
- The [Ramsar-listed](#) wetlands of Toondah Harbour in Moreton Bay is one of their last strongholds along the east coast.

What threatens the Eastern curlew?

- Although the Eastern Curlew is considered one of the [Australian Government's 20 priority bird species](#), development continues to threaten the species.
- Right now, Walker Corporation is trying to [build a marina](#) on the home of this critically endangered bird.

What does the Eastern curlew look like?

- Eastern curlews – named for their call of 'cuuuurlew' – are the largest shorebirds on our planet, growing up to 60cm tall.
- Their plumage is flecked brown and tan and they have iconic curved black beaks for digging crabs, shrimp and prawns, molluscs and insects out of shallow waters and mudflats.



Photo: Jukka Jantunen/Shutterstock

The Eastern curlew is missing in the wild

We can't imagine an Australia without the Eastern curlew.

But curlews are **missing in the wild**. Because our leaders are missing in action.

That's why we're pushing for stronger laws to better protect them and all of Australia's incredible wildlife.

We demand strong environment laws that will save our iconic wildlife.

We need laws that actually protect nature, including strong outcome-focused environmental standards and an independent regulator to oversee decision-making.

Speak up for the Eastern curlew

[Add your voice to the petition](#) to the federal government, asking our elected representatives to create a new generation of national laws to protect nature.

Header: Kristian Bell/Shutterstock

Join a community of people who show up, speak out and act

Email Address

I'M IN!

or [Donate to ACF today](#) > [Privacy](#) >

Campaigns

[Nature needs us, this election](#)
[Save our big backyard](#)
[Renewable Powered Australia](#)
[Nuclear free](#)
[Food that's good for people and nature](#)

News

[Blog](#)
[Opinion](#)

About Us

[How we work](#)
[Our big goals](#)
[Our wins](#)

Publications

[Reports](#)
[Submissions](#)
[Habitat magazine](#)

Get involved

[Join a local group](#)
[Be a member](#)
[Find an event](#)
[Fundraise for ACF](#)
[Leave a gift in your will](#)

Media

[Media releases](#)
[Opinion](#)
[Background briefs](#)
[Media contacts](#)

Our organisation

[Board & council](#)
[Executive](#)
[Our patron](#)
[Annual reports](#)
[Work with us](#)

Privacy Statement

[Contact us](#)