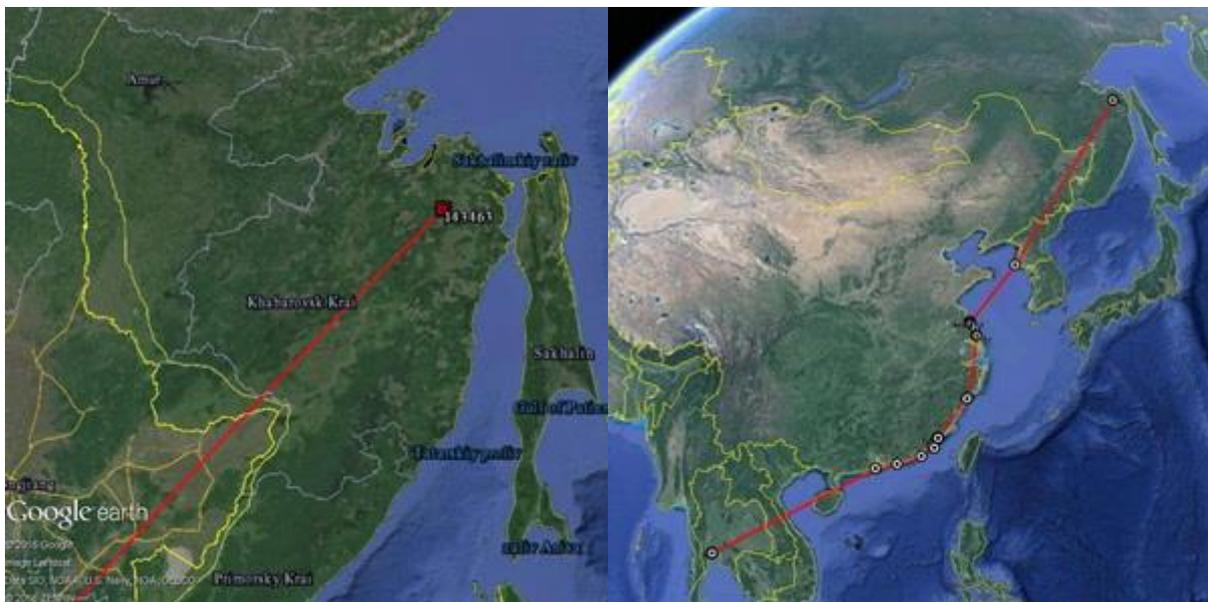


Project Update: May 2016

The first satellite tagged spotted greenshank has probably arrived on its breeding ground. 'Frankie', the first spotted greenshank we tagged with a satellite transmitter in this field season, has arrived in south-eastern Russia, (its presumed breeding grounds) showing us the first satellite tracking of the northward migration route of any spotted greenshank. This bird has travelled about 5554 km between its wintering grounds in Thailand and its breeding grounds in Russia, all within 1 month. We received the first signal that it departed from the Thai wintering area on 21st April 2016, and the first signal that it reached the Russian breeding area on 20th May 2016. There were two main stopover sites on its northward migration. The first was in Weitou bay, Fujian Province, China, where Frankie stayed about 1 week. The second was in the Dongtai-Dafeng area, Zhejiang Province, China, where this spotted greenshank stayed more than 2 weeks before the last recorded stopover close to a small island on the western coast of Korean Peninsula on 18th May 2016. Some Chinese volunteers had visited the stopover sites in Dongtai-Dafeng area to look for this tagged bird, but didn't obtain any sightings of Frankie.

Currently (as of 27th May), Frankie is still in the same area, and it would be interesting to know the movement patterns on breeding ground as well. We wish Frankie the best of luck with its breeding there!

Note: All distances and flight times in this update are preliminary. Further statistical analysis will be done at a later stage.



Left: Final track of the northward migration to this spotted greenshank's presumed breeding grounds in north-eastern Russia. Right: Track of the spotted greenshank 'Frankie' from its wintering grounds in the Inner Gulf of Thailand to its presumed breeding grounds in north-eastern Russia from April to May 2016.