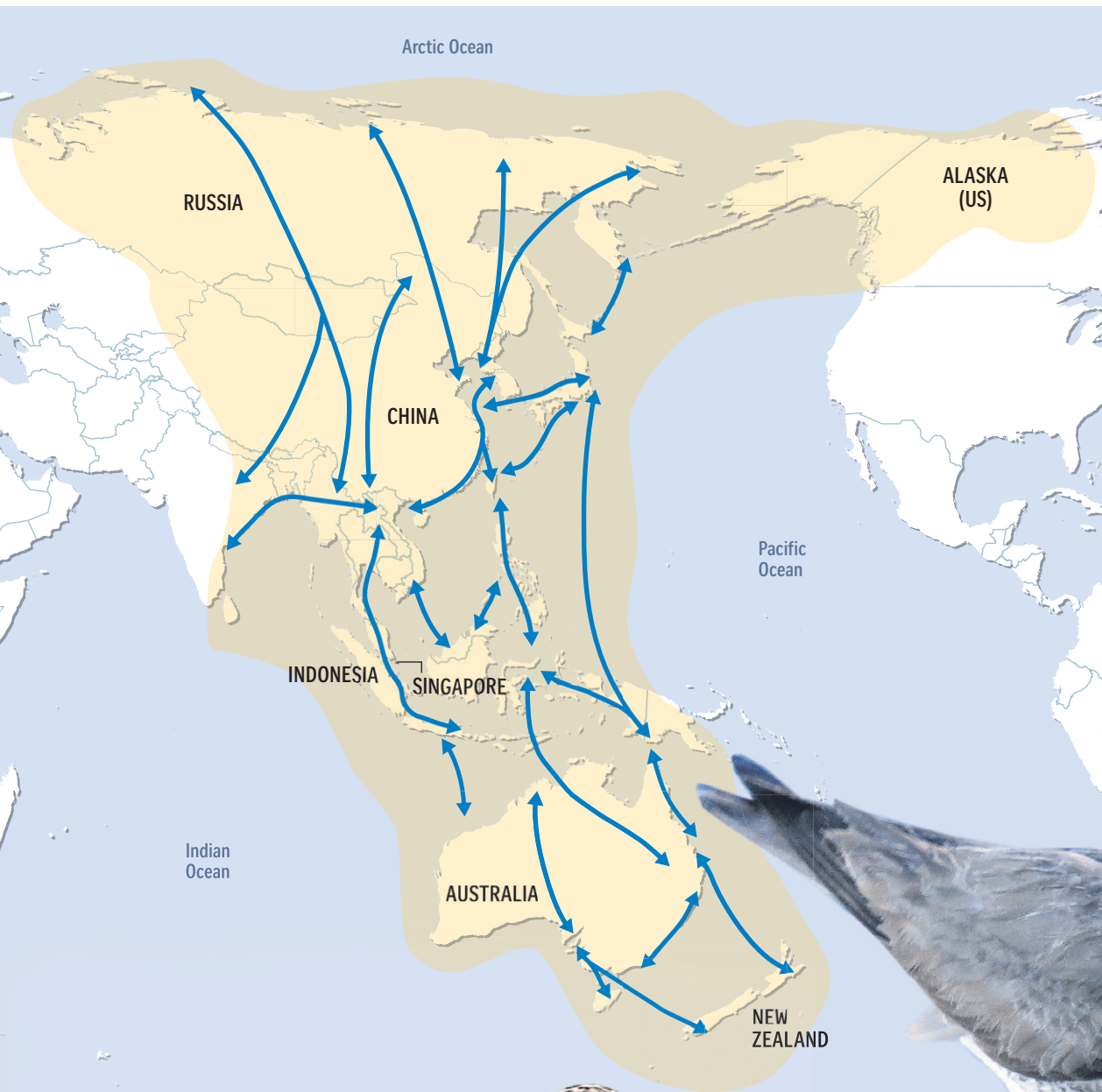


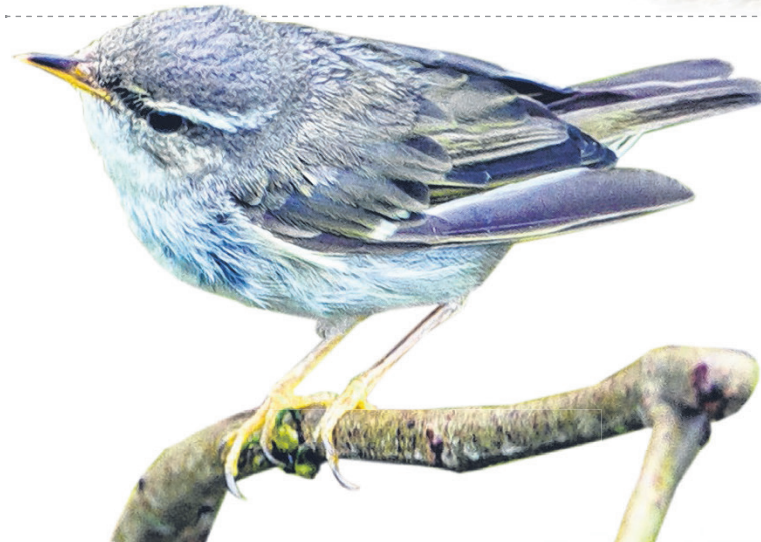
Avian tourists

Over 2,000 birds from more than 30 species make their way down from the Arctic to Singapore every year to escape the winter chill. They take cues from the lengths of days, the earth's magnetic field, their recognition of the night sky, and natural landmarks, to accomplish one of nature's greatest feats, with many birds making a round-trip journey of some 14,000km. Many of these species do so via the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the largest of the five major flyways around the world, which connects 22 countries in regions such as South-east Asia, North America and North-east Asia.



Pacific golden plover

Native to Alaska and northern Siberia, the Pacific golden plover can fly more than 3,000km in a single, non-stop flight. It is also considered by the National Audubon Society as a "climate endangered" bird, as its wintering areas on the Pacific islands are vulnerable to sea level rise. This is one of the most common Arctic-breeding shorebirds in Singapore.

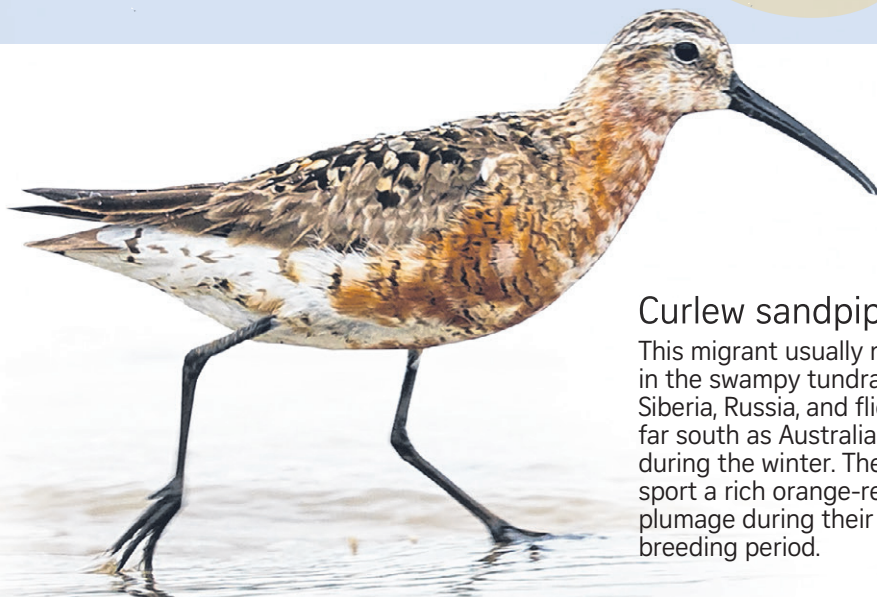


Arctic warbler

This bird has a distinct trill, and is widespread in Singapore. It has even been found in the small parklands in the middle of Shenton Way, Orchard Road and in Housing Board estates. In the Arctic, tens of millions of this bird can be found breeding there. It is the most abundant and ubiquitous of the Arctic-breeding birds to be found in Singapore, said Dr Yong Ding Li of environmental group BirdLife International.

Aleutian tern

This seabird feeds by plunging into the water to catch its prey. It is considered an uncommon migrant in Singapore, and is best seen foraging in the Singapore Strait south of the mainland.



Curlew sandpiper

This migrant usually nests in the swampy tundras of Siberia, Russia, and flies as far south as Australia during the winter. The birds sport a rich orange-red plumage during their breeding period.

Grey-tailed tattler

Often found in mudflats, reefs and sandy beaches, this bird is also considered an uncommon migrant in Singapore.

