

Fact Sheet

Red-necked Stint



The Red-necked Stint

The Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) are the smallest migratory bird to visit Australia and are also one of the easiest to spot. Despite weighing approximately 27 grams (around the same weight as a Tim Tam), these birds fly over 25,000 kilometres each year during their annual migration. When Red-necked Stints arrive in Victoria, they generally have their 'non-breeding' plumage which consists of:

- brown and grey-brown upper parts, with a mottled effect
- black rump and tail feathers and a pale wing-stripe in flight
- white underparts with some grey on the sides of the breast.



Breeding plumage



Non-breeding plumage

Migration

Red-necked Stints breed in Siberia and west Alaska during April - August on moist moss-lichen tundra. Their nests are a shallow depression lined with leaves or grass. Both parents share incubation and care of the young. Following breeding, most birds will start their migration from July - August and will visit multiple 'staging sites' along the way in China and Indonesia to rest and feed (Birds in Backyards). Their travel route is part of the **East-Asian Australasian Flyway**, a popular flyway for migratory birds. By late August and September they arrive in Australia and can be found on the coast, in sheltered inlets, bays, lagoons, estuaries, intertidal mudflats and protected sandy shores.

