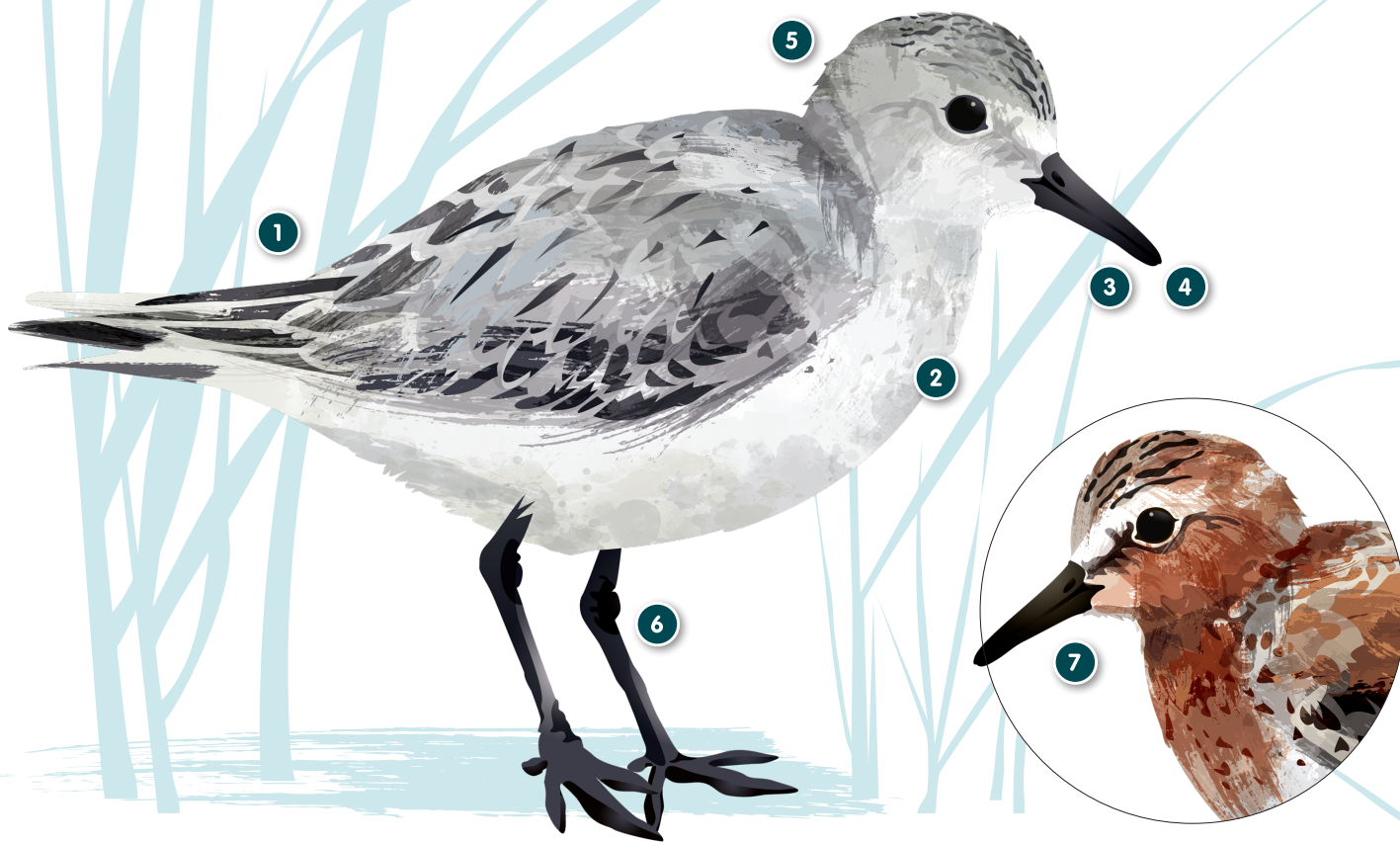


Red-necked Stint

The Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* can be found in 26 different countries at different times of year. They live in Australia during our warmer months.



Features and adaptations

- 1 Long pointed wings**
Wings are narrow and wing span (32cm) is more than double body length (15cm). This reduces air resistance and increases lift.
- 2 Internal compass**
Birds innately know how to navigate across our planet using the sun, stars, and the Earth's magnetic field.
- 3 Sensitive beak**
Red-necked Stints use their sensitive beak to locate tiny invertebrates living in sand, mud and water, such as crabs less than 4mm in size and snails less than 1mm in size.
- 4 Hairy tongue**
The tongue is used to collect biofilm, a sugary soup secreted by microalgae and bacteria on the mudflat's surface.
- 5 Hollow bones**
Bones are extremely light, and total body weight is only approximately 27 grams; less than two fifty cent coins.
- 6 Long slender legs**
Legs and feet are adapted to move through shallow water and wet surfaces without dragging or sinking.
- 7 Two different plumage patterns**
Commonly referred to as breeding and non-breeding plumage, two different feather patterns allow Red-necked Stints to camouflage effectively in different habitats.

Where are they found?



Red-necked Stints travel 12,500km along the East-Asian Australasian Flyway every year. Flyways are invisible highways stretching across our planet used by migratory birds.

Red-necked Stints arrive in Australia during August and September. In April and May they depart for breeding grounds in Alaska and Siberia, however young birds less than a year old overwinter here.

The smallest of our 36 migratory shorebird species, Red-necked Stints must make more stops to rest and refuel than our other migratory shorebirds. We can track individuals by tagging them with coloured leg flags. Birds tagged in Victoria have an orange tag.

The Ramsar Convention: a safe-guard

Halting the decline of Red-necked Stint populations requires global cooperation. Australia is one of 157 nations who have signed the Ramsar Agreement to protect important wetlands around the world. Victoria has 22 Ramsar sites.

When visiting, you can help by:

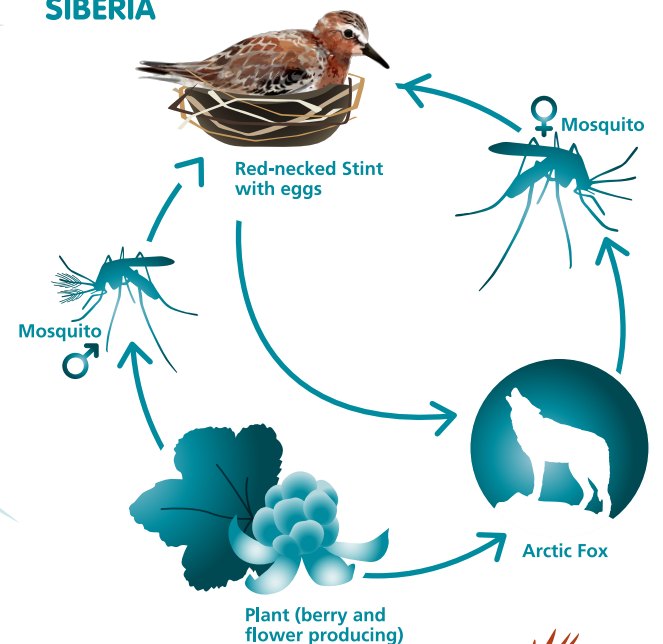
- Taking part in international and local citizen science projects
- Staying on paths
- Keeping dogs on leads and away from birds
- Collecting litter



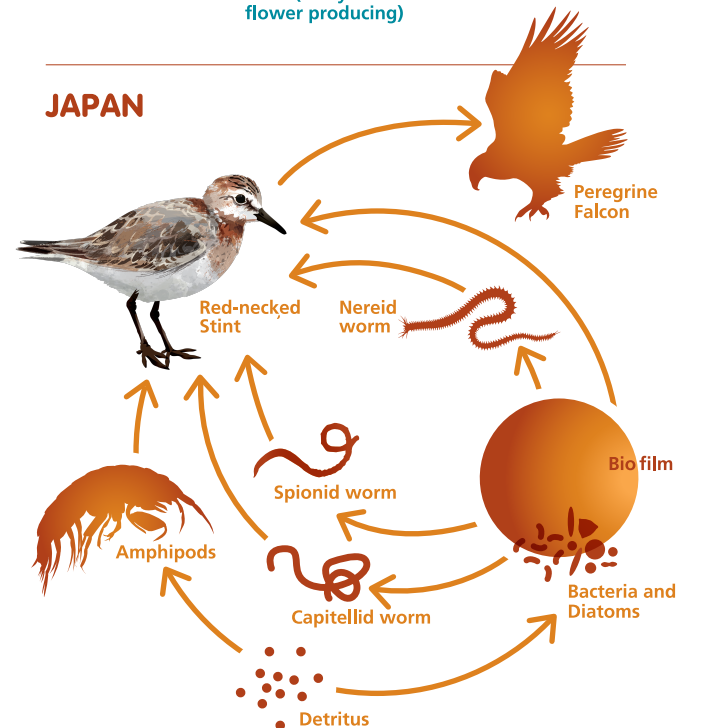
Red-necked Stints: part of many food webs

Red-necked Stints are part of many food webs around the world. The role they play changes with each location. In addition to the examples below, they may eat many other small invertebrates, as well as plant matter such as fruit and seeds.

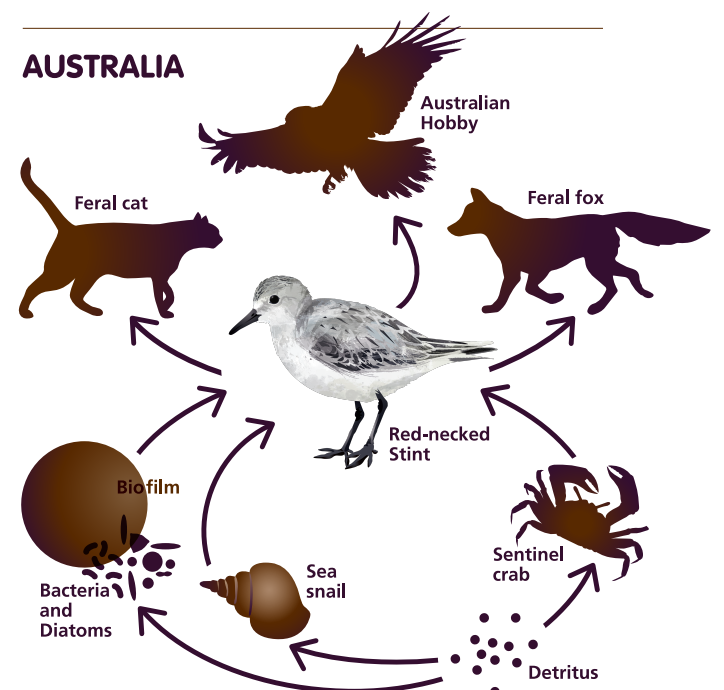
SIBERIA



JAPAN



AUSTRALIA



Wetlands: more than mud

Across our planet, Red-necked Stint populations are in decline. Traditionally, many coastal wetlands were viewed as 'just mud and sand', so were assigned little ecological value, whereas we now know they are teeming with life.

While attitudes have changed, wetland health around the world is threatened by our ever-expanding human population and the development that goes with it.



Victoria's network of parks and reserves are an integral part of Aboriginal cultural landscapes. Parks Victoria respects the deep and continuing connection that Traditional Owners have to these landscapes and recognises their ongoing role in caring for Country.



Care for our birds by printing this poster on recycled paper or by viewing it on your device.