

Red-necked Stint

Calidris ruficollis



Features and adaptations

- 1 Long pointed wings for migrating incredible distances
- 2 Only weigh around 30 grams because their bones are hollow
- 3 Have an internal compass for way finding across our planet
- 4 Slender legs and toes for walking over wet surfaces
- 5 Sensitive beak and hairy tongue for finding food
- 6 Two different feather patterns depending on time of year

Habitat

Where
Red-necked
Stints fly



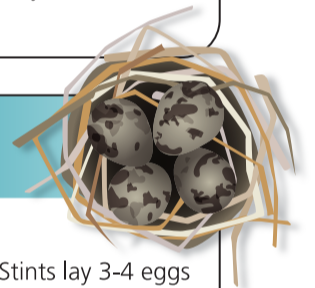
Red-necked Stints fly across the world each year. From August to April they are found in Australia. They spend their days foraging on the coastal shores and wetlands. From September to March they are in Siberia and Alaska. They build their nest on the tundra. It is a cold and dry habitat covered in low growing plants and lichens. When migrating, they make rest stops on Asian wetlands.

Diet



Red-necked Stints prepare for migration by fuelling up with lots of food. In Australia, they use their beaks to catch tiny minibeasts (like snails and crabs less than 1mm long) in wet sand and mud. They use their hairy tongue to slurp up biofilm, a sugary soup made by microalgae. In Siberia and Alaska, they munch on seeds and flying insects.

Life stages



In Alaska and Siberia, Red-necked Stints lay 3-4 eggs in a nest on the ground. Both parents incubate the eggs for three weeks. After hatching, chicks need to care for themselves immediately! Their mother migrates a few days after they hatch and their father migrates two weeks later. The chicks will fly to Australia later and spend 1 1/2 years growing into an adult before migrating north again with their flock.

Threats



Red-necked Stint habitats are often used by Victorians for recreation and relaxation. These human activities can disturb the birds' foraging and roosting behaviours. Red-necked Stints must build up energy stores to make their epic journey, so it is very important they get enough food and rest while they are in Australia.

Conservation



Safe-guarding Red-necked Stint populations requires global cooperation. Australia is one of 157 countries who have signed the Ramsar Agreement. This is a plan to protect important wetlands around the world. Victoria has 22 Ramsar sites. When visiting these sites, we can help by staying on paths, collecting litter, and keeping dogs away from birds.



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.



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