



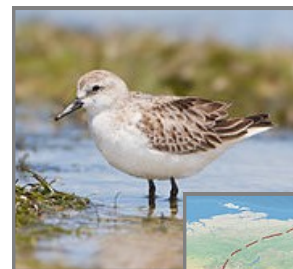
RED-NECKED STINT

Weighing between 21 and 51 grams, the Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) is among the smallest of the wading birds.

It breeds in the Arctic tundra, then, for the northern winter, migrates over thousands of kilometers to places as far away as Australasia, to feed on insects and other small invertebrates in inter-tidal mudflats. It is highly gregarious and will form flocks with other small *Calidris* waders.

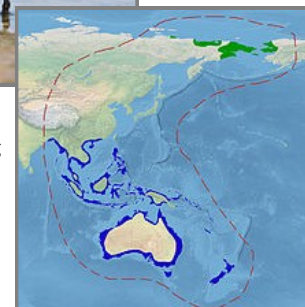
Stints arrive in Australia from late August to September and leave from early March to mid-April; and we have been enormously privileged to have some of them visit the Swan River Estuary each year.

Unfortunately, mainly due to habitat loss, numbers are rapidly dwindling and it is now listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (2009).



Red-necked Stint in winter plumage

Distribution:
Green = breeding range
Blue = wintering range



NATIONAL THREATENED SPECIES DAY WALK

National Threatened Species Day was established in 1996 by the *Threatened Species Network* (a community based program of the World Wide Fund for Nature) and the Commonwealth Government's *Natural Heritage Trust*, as a way to focus attention on Australian threatened species.

Held on the 7th of September each year, it commemorates the death, in 1936 at Hobart Zoo, of the last Tasmanian Tiger. It encourages community involvement in efforts to prevent any further loss of our unique natural heritage.

This year, to celebrate the Day, SERAG Inc has organized a guided walk along the Alfred Cove foreshore, commencing at 9.30am and concluding at 10.30am with morning tea.

Please register your interest in attending this event by emailing oneillc@westnet.com.au.

SCHOOLS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

For a number of years now, secondary schools have encouraged their students to become involved in community organisations through volunteering a minimum of twenty hours service, usually during their years 10 and 11 programs of study. Completion of the twenty hours is required to achieve the WA Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12.

There are many benefits of the scheme: students provide meaningful and useful support to organisations, while at the same time gaining a greater understanding of people, groups and issues, exercising responsibility and developing confidence and skills in solving real-life problems.

Over the last two years SERAG Inc. has been fortunate to have a number of students contribute their time to weeding, planting and litter collection along the river foreshore.

The most dedicated has been Alanna Van Mierlo, who has contributed over thirty hours to restoration work! Alanna attends Santa Maria College in Attadale, where she studies a strong mix of subjects from the sciences and humanities, including Music, which is her great love.

Many thanks, Alanna!

Alanna planting at Pelican Point
Photo courtesy: Margaret Matassa



EROSION PROBLEMS

Worryingly, each of the three A-Class Reserves in the Swan Estuary is being increasingly and severely affected by erosion from boat wash and storm damage.

At Alfred Cove, metres of mature sedge-banks and trees have been lost at the western end, trees have been uprooted on the foreshore behind the Melville Bowling Club, and the fence at Troy Park is now being undermined. At Pelican Point, a significant area of planting completed last year has been washed away, while at Milyu the foreshore steadily retreats towards the Freeway.

Much is being done to address the problem. For example, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Swan River Trust and the Department of Transport are together taking strong action at the northern end of Milyu; and SERAG Inc. is endeavouring to stabilize the river margins of all three Reserves by steadily planting indigenous sedges, shrubs and trees.



Erosion behind Troy Park
Photo courtesy: Margaret Matassa

EROSION CONTROL WORKING BEE AT MILYU

Your assistance is once again needed at Milyu!

Building upon the planting that was completed during late autumn in the southern section of the Reserve, SERAG Inc. has organized another working bee for early Spring, after most of the winter storms have subsided.

We plan to lay lengths of coir matting on the beach where the weed variety of couch grass has been treated by the environment crew from the City of South Perth. We will then plant around 1000 sedges into the matting.

Any assistance you can provide on Wednesday 26th September, between 8.30am and 2.30pm will be warmly welcomed. Volunteers cross the Freeway using the overpass at Gardner Street in Como, then walk north along the dual-use pathway to the Reserve. If you are able to come along, please let us know.

WEEDING WEDNESDAYS

Each Wednesday morning, commencing at 7.00am, a small team of volunteers meets at a pre-arranged place in Alfred Cove A-Class Reserve to complete a couple of hours weeding.

Arguably, there is no better place to be in the early morning than on our beautiful foreshore, enjoying the birdlife, breathing in the fresh air and multi-tasking healthy exercise with assisting the natural environment! To top it all off we finish with morning tea: a luscious cup of home-brewed coffee, a slice of home-made cake and a pleasant chat.

If you have time any Wednesday morning, just phone Margaret on 0419 156404 to find out where to join the weeding group for that day.



FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Weeding Wednesdays in Alfred Cove
- 1 September: Troy Park Sump Planting Morning
- 6 September: Planting at Pelican Point
- 7 September: Threatened Species Day Walk at Alfred Cove
- 22 September: World Rivers Day Litter Clean-up at Alfred Cove
- 26th September: Erosion Control Planting at Milyu
- 30th September: SERAG Inc.'s Wireless Hill Centenary Display

Please refer to the calendar on our website for further information and contact us for details if you would like to participate in any event.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given of our forthcoming Annual General Meeting, to be held on **Tuesday 30th October**, commencing at **6.00pm** at **Atwell House, Melville**.

Nominations for Committee Membership are invited.



Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group Inc.

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