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Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Red-necked stint: pp 171-172.



RED-NECKED STINT

Family Scolopacidae

Species *Calidris ruficollis*

Common name Red-necked Stint

Status Migrant

Abundance Rare

Size 150 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Wrybill 200 mm)

Habitat A bird of muddy estuaries and harbours.

Worldwide range The smallest of the wading birds to visit New Zealand. It breeds in north-east Siberia and in Alaska and migrates down the coasts of the countries of the western Pacific rim to Australia. A few straggle on to New Zealand.

New Zealand range Found in traditional shore-bird localities with largest flocks

usually being seen at Te Hahi on the Manukau Harbour, and Lake Ellesmere.

Description – non-breeding plumage

Forehead and eyebrow White. **Head and upperparts** Grey with brownish tinge.

Neck Traces of red on sides of neck. **Wings** Greyish, with a white line across the middle of the wings. **Tail** Whitish outer feathers with black inner. **Underparts** White. **Bill and legs** Black.

Description – breeding plumage

Face, neck, chin and throat Brick red. New Zealand birds show only slight reddening prior to departure. **Upperparts** Dark brown with rufous edges to feathers. **Underparts** White.

Conspicuous features

- The smallest of the Arctic wading birds to come to New Zealand.
- Bill is black, short and straight.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Prefers to feed on mud that has a thin film of water over it.
- Feeds busily with sewing-machine action with little runs here and there.
- Usually found towards the edges of Wrybill flocks.
- Often feeds in the company of other sandpipers and Wrybills.
- In flight birds fly low and direct in a compact group.

Where to find – North Island

North Auckland – Kaipara Harbour at Manukapua Island. P. 287.

South Auckland – Manukau Harbour at Te Hahi. P. 300, 301.

South Auckland – Miranda at the “Stilt Ponds”. P. 302.

Other areas – Ahuriri, Manawatu Estuary and Waikanae Estuary.

Where to find - South Island

Canterbury – Lake Ellesmere at various places. P. 351, 352.

Southland – Waituna Lagoon and Awarua Bay. P. 364.