# Migratory and resident shorebirds of Wilson Inlet

Wilson Inlet is in the top 118 Australian wetlands of international significance to migratory shorebirds, and could qualify for formal listing because of the 1st world population of Red-necked Stint that has been observed here. Migratory shorebirds are protected by international agreements. Federal, State and Local authorities have a legal responsibility to protect them. Major threats to shorebirds, both overseas and locally, include: loss of habitat, e.g. due to reclamation of wetlands for development; pollution of wetland habitat; disturbance by commercial or recreational activity in feeding and roosting areas, reducing feeding and resting time as birds are unable to utilize their habitat when disturbed; predation, e.g. by domestic dogs off leads, foxes and feral cats; fire, particularly for local species which breed on or near our coast; and climate change, as rising sea levels will potentially flood large areas of habitat. Locally, decisions resulting in the flooding of Morley Beach and other habitat during the summer months can greatly affect the available habitat for shorebirds. Shorebirds visiting Wilson Inlet utilize a variety of habitat, feeding on worms, molluscs, crustaceans and other invertebrates in shallow water, and roosting above the high tide line. In addition to those illustrated, the following migratory species are uncommonly seen on Wilson Inlet: Ruddy Turnstone, Lesser Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Terek Sandpiper, and Long-toed Stint. Additional non-migratory shorebirds also occur here including: Black-winged Stilt, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers and Black-fronted Dotterel.

## Shorebird species

### Red-necked Avocet
- **Calidris canutus**
- IUCN Status: Near Threatened

### Hooded Plover
- **Thinornis rubricollis**
- Habitat: diverse inland & coastal habitat, fresh & saline, coastal habitat. Returns to same nest cup or within 100m of previous year’s nest-site.

### Greater Sand Plover
- **Calidris alba**
- Population estimate: Global 180,000 – 360,000; Flyway 110,000; Australian 75,000
- Migrant: August to May. Breeds from Turkey to Mongolia. In Australia, most breeds in coastal & estuarine habitats, less commonly in farming, mining & logging areas.

### Pacific Golden Plover
- **Pluvialis fulva**
- Population estimate: Global 1,800,000 – 1,900,000; Flyway 25,000-100,000; Australian 3,000

### Red-necked Stint
- **Calidris ruficollis**
- Population estimate: Global 620,000 - 700,000; Flyway 22,000; Australian 10,000
- Migrant from Siberia. Breeds in high arctic of Asia & N America. Widespread around Australian coast. Stopover sites include saline & freshwater inland lakes. Winter habitat is coastal, principally sandy beaches & lagoons. Runs behind recording waves & darts up beach ahead of next wave. Breeds June to July in solitary pairs. Large flocks for migration, large mixed flocks, foraging in winter. Threats include disturbance on beaches, avian influenza, pollution/ degradation of wetland habitat in China & Korea.

### Red knots
- **Calidris canutus**
- Population estimate: Global 1,100,000; Flyway 220,000; Australia 130,000
- Summer migrant. Breeds in Suriroa & N America. Widespread in coastal & estuarine habitats, less commonly in farming, mining & logging areas. Returns to chestnut red breeding plumage of males, which is only occasionally seen in Australia on arrival or departure.

### Curlew Sandpiper
- **Actitis hypoleucos**
- Population estimate: Global 25,000-100,000; Australian 3,000

### Pectoral Sandpiper
- **Calidris melanotos**
- Population estimate: Global 2,600,000 - 3,200,000; Flyway 25,000-100,000; Australian 3,000

### Grey-tailed Tattler
- **Tringa brevipes**
- Population estimate: Global up to 1,000,000; Flyway 100,000 - 1,000,000; Australian 9,000
- Migrant from Arctic, August to September. April to May. Breeds in high arctic of Asia & N America. Winters in Africa, Middle East, SE Asia & Australia. Habitat: diverse inland & coastal habitat, fresh & saline, coastal & estuarine habitats, less commonly in farming, mining & logging areas. Returns to chestnut red breeding plumage of males, which is only occasionally seen in Australia on arrival or departure.

### Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- **Calidris alba**
- Population estimate: Global 180,000 - 360,000; Flyway 110,000; Australian 75,000
- Migrant, August to May. Breeds from Siberia to E Siberian & N American Arctic, November to March. Uncommon but widespread in Australia, particularly SE. Diverse habitat: shallows & soft mud, coastal & inland, fresh & saline.