

## Feature Bird – Red-neck Stint



photo: Reid Waters

The Red-neck Stint is Australia's smallest migratory shorebirds and flies one of the greatest distances to the breeding grounds of the arctic tundra in Siberia and Alaska. They migrate back apparently through India and Asia to Australia and NZ. It's about the same size as a Red-cap Plover and can regularly be seen feeding at Flat Rock and not so frequently at the Belongil Estuary.

At Belongil when we see them they have been in small groups feeding at the waters edge along the beach or along the creek edge and occasionally, as recently happened, they were feeding on the inter-tidal flats. Their active feeding habit of darting about picking and probing with their bill differs from the stop and start of the Red-daps.

Not all migrate as we saw a small group at the Belongil during the winter month. We may only see the remnants of their rufous head and neck breeding colours otherwise they have an over-all grey-brown appearance and white underparts very distinguishable in flight.