

From: Birds Queensland Rarities Appraisal Committee (BQ RAC)

Date: 14 July 2018

Submission No 195: Little Stint, *Calidris minuta*, Submitted by Roger Janesch

This submission related to a Little Stint, *Calidris minuta*, seen in an overflow area from the Burketown sewerage treatment works, FNQ on the 26 October 2017. This stint was observed for approximately 15 minutes and approached to within 10 metres enabling a video of the stint to be recorded. This submission was supported by both images from this video and reports from Danny Rogers (Melbourne) and David Bakewell (Malaysia).

The stint was described as being in first year basic (non-breeding) plumage. The feathers of the back and wing-coverts were dark grey-brown with pale edging producing a blotched appearance. The crown was buff-grey with fine dark streaking. The underparts clean white with only the sides of the neck and breast being buff-grey. The bill was long and fine and appeared slightly drooped towards the tip. The legs appeared noticeable long. Both the bill and legs were black in colour.

The observer distinguished this species from other similar species, particularly the Red-necked Stint, *C. ruficollis*, by the longer thinner bill and the longer legs. Additionally, dark centres of the back and wing coverts are unlike that of the red-necked Stint. This species was also distinguished from both the Long-toed Stint, *C. subminuta*, and Temminck's Stint, *C. temminckii*, by having black legs opposed to the yellowish legs of these two species. Another two species considered, where the Baird' Sandpiper, *C. bairdii*, however, both the long legs and the absence of fine dark streaking across the breast was separated this species from this slightly larger American sandpiper. The other species was the White-rumped Sandpiper, *C. fuscicollis*, which differed by having a dark central stripe to the upertail / rump area; while in the White-rumped Sandpiper there is only a narrow white band across the rump.

This is the both the first record of Little Stint to be accepted by the Birds Queensland Rarities Committee and the first record of this species in Queensland

Unanimously accepted

David Stewart
Birds Queensland
Rarities Appraisal Committee
Chairperson