

Red Knot

(*Calidris canutus rufa*)

- The Red Knot is a medium-sized shorebird with a typical “sandpiper” profile - long bill, relatively small head and long legs, and long tapered wings.
- During the breeding season, their face, neck, and breast plumage is a chestnut red, while the feathers on their upperparts are grey, dark brown, or black.
- There are six subspecies of Red Knot worldwide, three of which occur in Canada, and one of which occurs in Newfoundland and Labrador.



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Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

The Red Knot breeds in the central Canadian Arctic and winters in Tierra del Fuego in South America. During their fall migration, they use coastal mudflats, salt marshes, sandy estuaries, and sand flats within Newfoundland and Labrador.

Population Trends

The *rufa* subspecies of Red Knot has been designated as endangered because there has been a 70% decline in their abundance in the past 15 years. Population trends within the Province are unknown.

Limiting Factors and Threats

It is widely accepted that the primary threats to Red Knot are habitat degradation and disturbance on the wintering grounds and the spring migration stopovers and decreases in food resources at the spring migration stopovers. Little is known about direct threats to Red Knots in this Province.

Special Significance

Red Knot are regarded as a “flagship” species for shorebird conservation because of their long inter-continental migrations and their vulnerability to threats as a result of their concentration in large numbers at a limited number of key sites.

You can help protect the Red Knot:

- Report any sightings to the Wildlife Division.
- Participate in bird surveys and counts.
- Our dogs are curious, when on a beach keep your dog on a short leash so that they stay away from birds.

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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