Australian Capital Territory

Nature Conservation (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) Conservation Advice 2025

Notifiable instrument NI2025-303

made under the

Nature Conservation Act 2014, s 90C (Conservation advice)

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1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Nature Conservation (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) Conservation Advice 2025*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

3 Conservation advice for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Schedule 1 sets out the conservation advice for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*).

Linda Neaves
Chair, Scientific Committee
21 May 2025

Schedule 1

(see s 3)

ACT Government
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development

ACT Scientific Committee

CONSERVATION ADVICE

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER – *Calidris acuminata*

CONSERVATION STATUS

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – *Calidris acuminata* (Horsfield 1821) – is recognised as threatened in the following jurisdictions:

International	**Vulnerable**, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List
National	**Vulnerable**, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
	Marine, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
	Migratory, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
	Vulnerable, Action Plan for Australian Birds
ACT	**Vulnerable**, *Nature Conservation Act 2014*
NSW	Not listed, *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
VIC	Not listed, *The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
QLD	Not listed, *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
SA	Not listed, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
TAS	Not Listed, *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*

ELIGIBILITY

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is listed as Vulnerable in the ACT Threatened Native Species List under IUCN Criterion A – A2bce+3ce+4bce as the species has undergone a substantial reduction in numbers over three generations, with increasing frequency and severity of drought in Australia contributing to the species' decline (Clemens 2017) it is predicted these effects will continue and be amplified by climate change (Evans et al. 2017). Elsewhere, the main threats are changes to coastal stopover locations, particularly along the coast of the Yellow Sea (DCCEEW 2024; Attachment 1).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Rawshorty – NatureMapr)

DESCRIPTION AND ECOLOGY

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a small-medium-sized wading bird, typically 17–22 cm long, has a wingspan of 36–43 cm, and weighs 65 grams. It has a flat back, pot belly and somewhat drawn-out rear end. It has a small flat head on a short neck with a short and slightly decurved bill. The species has medium length legs. The sexes are similar and there is marked seasonal variation in

plumage (Higgins and Davies 1996). Breeding adults are heavily marked with chevrons and spots on the underparts and have a rich chestnut cap and white eyeing. Non-breeding adults are duller grey-brown with a drab brown cap. Juveniles are brightest, with a plain buffy breast, bright cap, and contrasting white eyeline (eBird 2024).

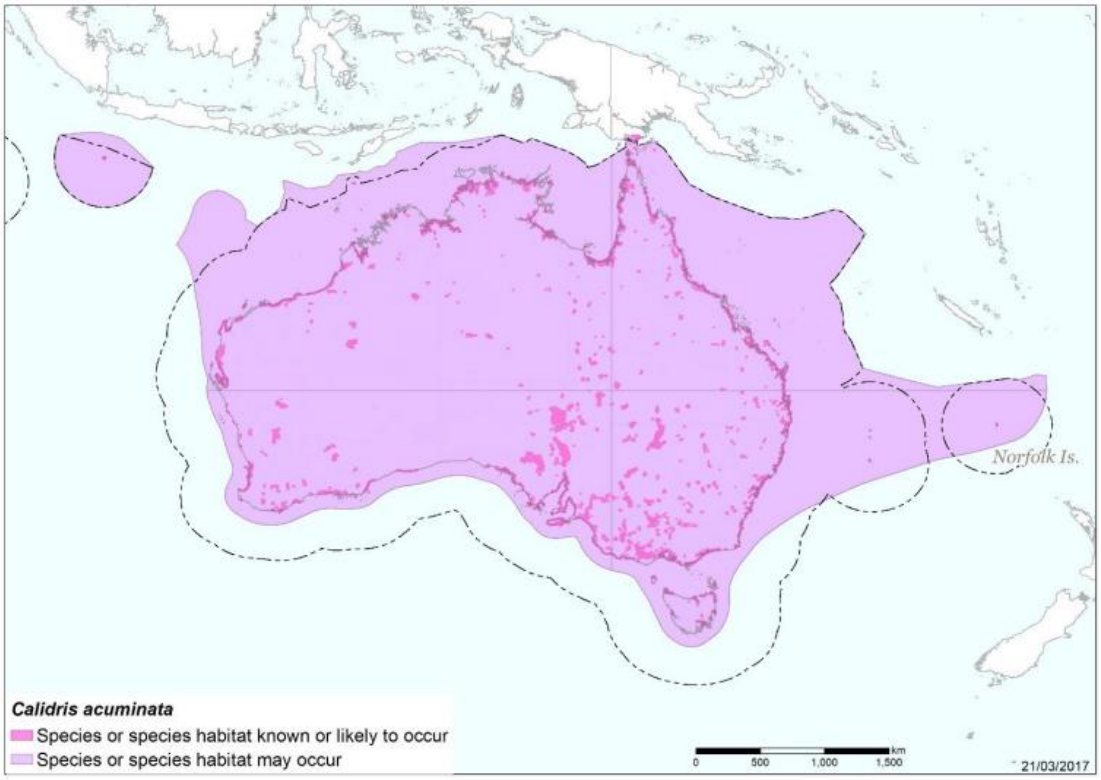
The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is omnivorous and forages on seeds, worms, molluscs, crustaceans and insects (Higgins and Davies 1996, Weller et al. 2020).

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper breeds in northern Siberia from June to August. It departs on its southern migration journey from late June, with most birds leaving in July. Adult males leave before females, which depart before the juveniles. The species is a passage migrant through eastern Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan, Micronesia, the Philippines, and Southeast Asia.

During the non-breeding season, approximately 91 percent of the East Asian - Australasian population occurs in Australia and New Zealand (Bamford et al. 2008). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers normally arrive in northern Australia in early September and occur within all states and territories (Map 1). They are found mostly in the south-east and are widespread in both inland wetlands and coastal locations. The species is widespread in most regions of New South Wales and Victoria as well as occurring in Canberra (Figure 1). Being one of the first shorebirds to leave Australia, the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper typically departs the non-breeding grounds by April. Overwintering individuals in Australia are extremely rare.

Map 1. Modelled distribution of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

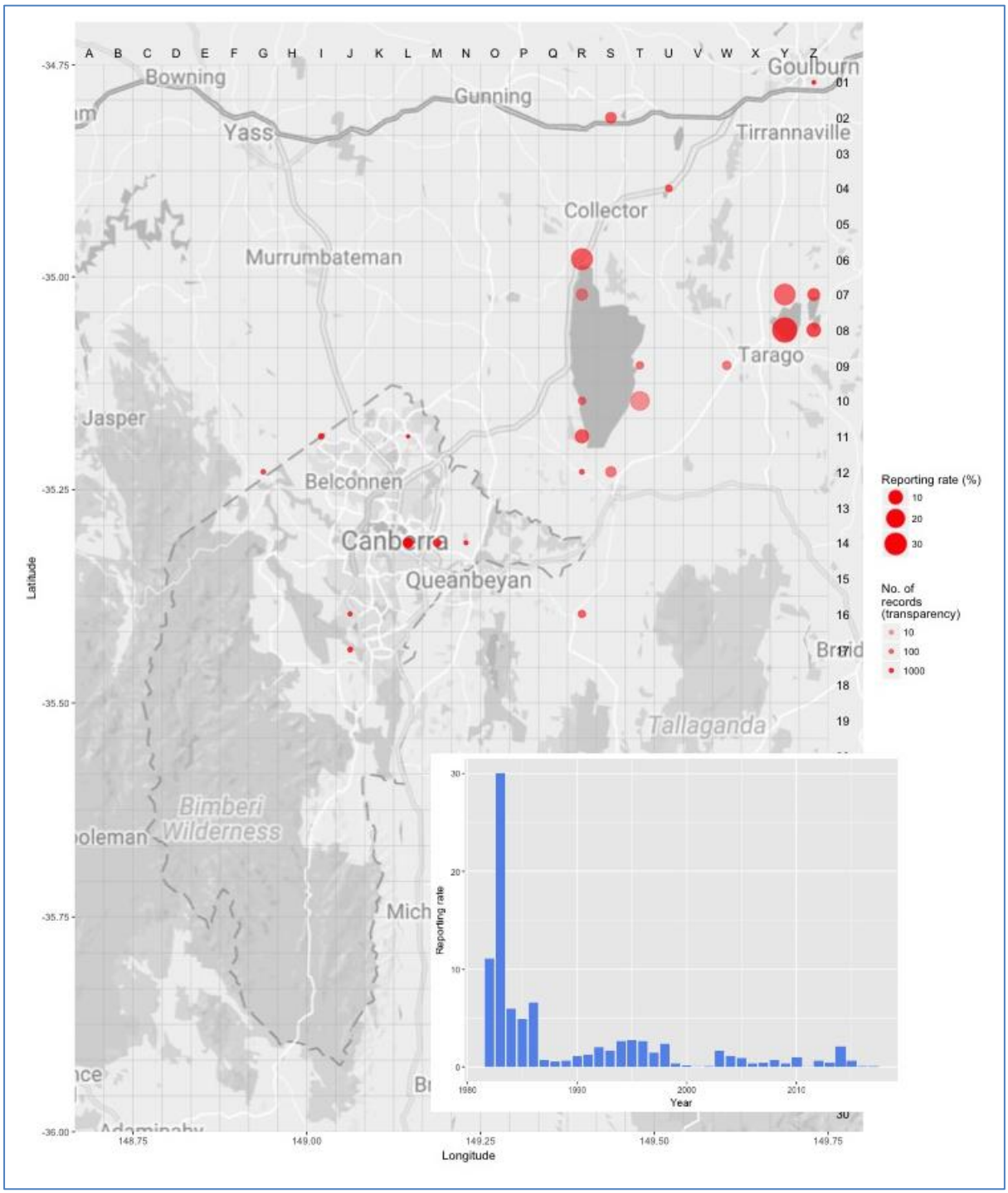


Source: Base map Geoscience Australia; species distribution data Species of National Environmental Significance database.

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers are more flexible in their habitat choice and more tolerant of grassy vegetation than most shorebird species. The highest density groups are usually found around grassy edges of shallow inland freshwater wetlands (DCCEEW 2024) up to 800 m asl. (Quintero and Jetz 2018). They are

also found around sewage ponds, flooded fields, mudflats, mangroves, rocky shores, and beaches (DCCEEW 2024)). After rainfall events, the species may also feed on areas of agricultural pasture (Higgins and Davies 1996; Weller et al. 2020).

Figure 1: Distribution of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper records in the ACT region – 1982–2017



Source: Canberrabirds.org.au. (2018). Note: Reporting rate (%) is the proportion of all surveys in which the species was present. These data were collected by volunteer birdwatchers using various survey methods and, on some occasions, more than one person may have recorded bird sightings on the same day, which may skew the data.

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is the second most regularly occurring shorebird in the ACT (after Latham's Snipe) with records showing it has been recorded here in 78% of years over the previous 40 years

(Australian Wildlife Services 2016 in ACT Government 2018). In the ACT, most individuals have been recorded between September and January (eBird 2024) but birds can arrive in the ACT as early as August and stay until April. Around 78% of observations of this species in the ACT are from Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve (JWNR), with another 14% at the Fyshwick Sewage Ponds (COG 2015). The largest flock size recorded in the ACT in 2018 was just 18 birds (in October at JWNR), a vast difference to the 300 birds recorded in 2017 and 800 in 2016 (COG 2019, 2020). Comparable analysis is not available since 2018, but numbers have likely remained at or below 2018 levels (ebird 2025; NatureMapr 2025). The species may occasionally be seen at other locations including Lake Burley Griffin East Basin, Norgrove Park Wetland, Mulligans Flat Dam, Ginninderra Creek, Canturf turf farm (Fyshwick) and West Belconnen Pond (eBird and COG in ACT Government 2018).

Larger groups tend to be seen at Fyshwick Sewage Pond compared to elsewhere in the ACT (e.g., 28 birds were seen on 26 October 2014, 61 observations of this species in 2014, 32 in 2013 (eBird 2015)). The most important habitat in the region for the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper occurs in NSW at Lake Bathurst (e.g., 3000 birds recorded in November 2014, (COG 2016)) and to a lesser extent Lake George (ACT Government 2018).

THREATS

In Australia, the major threat to this species is from an increased frequency and severity of drought (Clemens 2017), which is predicted to occur as the climate changes (Evans et al. 2017). Other threats to the species include the ongoing loss and degradation of wetland habitat.

Within the ACT, the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is primarily threatened by loss and degradation of suitable ephemeral habitat and disturbance to fitness-related behaviours (ACT Government 2018), mostly due to:

- anthropogenic climate change-related loss of wetland habitats, due to, for example, reduced rainfall and run-off, increased temperature and evaporation, and increasing incidence and severity of drought
- habitat degradation through unfavourable changes to or management of vegetation surrounding wetland sites, resulting in altered hydrology, poor water quality or water contamination
- anthropogenic disturbance, including visitors to publicly accessible wetlands for recreation (e.g., JWNR), leashed or roaming dogs and impacts of residential/industrial development including noise and light pollution.

MAJOR CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The priority management objective should be to maintain viable, wild populations of the species in the long term, as a component of the indigenous biological resources of the ACT and as a contribution to regional and national conservation of the species. This includes the need to maintain natural evolutionary processes.

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

Conservation actions specific to the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper are detailed in the Commonwealth Conservation Advice (DCCEEW 2024). The ACT *Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species* outlines conservation actions relevant to migratory birds more generally, aiming to *improve knowledge about the occurrence and management of listed migratory species in the ACT (ACT Government 2018)*. Conservation and management priorities for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in the ACT should be to:

- protect habitat, especially important feeding and roosting habitat through improving legal site protection and managing other threats outlined in the ACT Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species
- monitor population trends (as provided by citizen science) and condition of current and potential areas of habitat
- model the effects of climate change on the distribution and quality of the species' habitat (see Climate Change section in Conservation Issues below)
- actively seek opportunities to involve members of local indigenous communities in on ground conservation activities for this species
- encourage and support the continuation and further development of community conservation activities, e.g., the Jerrabomberra Wetlands programs
- continue to support the engagement with other jurisdictions to support the international recovery of the species.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

It is recommended that quantitative targets and resourcing requirements are clearly identified in any Action Plan or other related projects/programs relevant to this species. Broader conservation issues need to be considered in developing and implementing actions arising from this advice.

Critical Habitat and Nationally Important Habitat

Under the EPBC Act, 'important habitat' is a key concept for migratory species, as identified in EPBC Act Policy Statement 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines - Matters of National Environmental Significance 2009. Important habitats in Australia for migratory shorebirds under the EPBC Act include those recognised as nationally or internationally important. JWNR and the Horse Park Wetlands (separate to Horse Park Drive Wetlands) are nationally important wetlands in the *Australian Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia* (DCCEEW 2023).

An Internationally Important site is determined for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper if it regularly supports more than 1 percent of the species' total population (1 per cent flyway of the population = 850 individuals, Hansen et al. 2016).

A Nationally Important site is determined for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper if it regularly supports more than 0.1 percent of the bird's Flyway population (0.1 per cent of the flyway population = 85 individuals, Hansen et al. 2016). All internationally or nationally important habitat that exceeds the above thresholds is considered habitat critical to the survival of the species. The degradation or loss of designated important habitat will have disproportionately detrimental impacts on the species' populations and must be avoided (DCCEEW 2024).

The Commonwealth Conservation Advice (DCCEEW 2024) identifies 'habitat critical to the survival' or important habitats of a species refers to areas that are necessary:

- for activities such as foraging, breeding, roosting, or dispersal
- for the long-term maintenance of the species (including the maintenance of species essential to the survival of the species, such as macrobenthos (sediment-dwelling invertebrate prey)
- to maintain genetic diversity and long-term evolutionary development, or
- for the reintroduction of populations or recovery of the species.

Habitat critical to the survival of the species, should not be destroyed or modified. Actions that have indirect impacts on habitat critical to the survival of the species should also be minimised (i.e., human

disturbance or light pollution impacting habitat). Actions that compromise survival, such as the introduction of new diseases, weeds, or predators, should also be avoided. Actions that remove habitat critical to the survival of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper would interfere with recovery and reduce the area of occupancy of the species. It is important to retain as much foraging and roosting habitat as possible (DCCEEW 2024).

No Critical Habitat as defined under section 207A of the EPBC Act has been identified or included in the Register of Critical Habitat under the EPBC Act.

Climate Change

Climate change impacts are inevitable and will affect the likelihood of persistence, within the ACT, of many species. Capacity should be developed to model the impact on Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and its habitat under likely climate change scenarios if we are to anticipate and manage the impacts of climate change. This will require a combination of research and the development of in-house capacity for the collection of relevant data and its application in climate change modelling.

Jurisdictional Collaboration

As Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a migratory species, the development of any policies and action/recovery plans should be discussed between relevant jurisdictional entities.

Ngunnawal Community Engagement

The ACT Government should actively facilitate, the inclusion of the Ngunnawal people in the conservation of this species and its habitat as part of Ngunnawal Country. Reference to the draft Cultural Resource Management Plan (ACT Government in prep.) would be useful to inform culturally appropriate resource management including of native species that aligns with achieving conservation outcomes for the species.

OTHER RELEVANT ADVICE, PLANS OR PRESCRIPTIONS

- Commonwealth Conservation Advice – Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (DCCEEW 2024)
- ACT Action Plan – Migratory Species Action Plan (ACT Government 2018)

LISTING BACKGROUND

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a listed Marine Species and Migratory Species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and is also listed as a Vulnerable species under the EPBC Act, effective 5 January 2024. It is assessed as Vulnerable under Criterion 1 (A2bce+3ce+4bce) of the EPBC Act. In 2025, under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, the ACT Scientific Committee recommended the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper be listed in the Vulnerable category in the ACT Threatened Native Species List to align with the EPBC Act listing.

ACTION PLAN DECISION

The ACT Scientific Committee does not recommend that the Minister for the Environment should make the decision to have an action plan for the species in the ACT under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* at this time. Actions for shore birds, including the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper are included in the ACT *Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species* (ACT Government 2018), however management actions should be strengthened in this plan for threatened migratory species and their habitats in the ACT, including for the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

A National Recovery Plan is not required to be prepared for the species (DCCEEW 2024) as the approved Commonwealth Conservation Advice is deemed to be an effective, efficient and responsive document to guide the implementation of priority management actions, mitigate key threats and support the recovery of the species. It is considered to support the species recovery by identifying priority actions, stakeholders for engagement, and the survey and research priorities to facilitate a better understanding of key threats as well as biological and ecological knowledge gaps (DSSEEW 2024).

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the related Action Plan or other threatened species and ecological communities can be obtained from: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). Phone: (02) 132281, EPSDD – Environment Website: https://www.act.gov.au/environment

ATTACHMENT A: LISTING ASSESSMENT (DCCEEW 2024)

THREATENED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Established under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee finalised this assessment on 7 June 2023.

Attachment A: Listing Assessment for *Calidris acuminata*

Reason for assessment

This assessment follows evaluation by experts of the conservation status of the species in accordance with the Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020 (Garnett and Baker 2021).

Assessment of eligibility for listing

This assessment uses the criteria set out in the EPBC Regulations. The thresholds used correspond with those in the IUCN Red List criteria except where noted in criterion 4, sub-criterion D2. The IUCN criteria are used by Australian jurisdictions to achieve consistent listing assessments through the Common Assessment Method (CAM).

Key assessment parameters

Table 3 includes the key assessment parameters used in the assessment of eligibility for listing against the criteria.

Table 3 Key assessment parameters

Metric	Estimate used in the assessment	Minimum plausible value	Maximum plausible value	Justification
Number of mature individuals	71,000	9,500	268,900	The estimated population of sharp-tailed sandpiper in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway in 2016 was 85,000 birds, all of which were thought to come to Australia (Hansen et al. 2016). By 2020, the population was estimated to be 72,900 mature individuals based on an extrapolation of the 2016 data using trends derived from Clemens et al. (2016, 2019) and Clemens (2017).
Trend	Declining			(Clemens et al. 2021)
Generation time (years)	5.1	3.8	6.4	(Bird et al. 2020)
Extent of occurrence	10,900,000 km²	10,400,000 km²	11,400,000 km²	Sharp-tailed sandpiper has a large distribution ocuring in all Australian states and territories (Weller et al. 2020).
Trend	Stable			(Clemens et al. 2021)
Area of Occupancy	13,000 km²	13,000 km²	20,000 km²	Estimated and minimum AOO is based on the number of 2x2 km squares encompassing all records since 1990; the highest assumes true AOO ≥50 percent higher (Clemens et al. 2021).

Metric	Estimate used in the assessment	Minimum plausible value	Maximum plausible value	Justification
AOO is a standardised spatial measure of the risk of extinction, that represents the area of suitable habitat known, inferred or projected to be currently occupied by the taxon. It is estimated using a 2 x 2 km grid to enable comparison with the criteria thresholds. The resolution (grid size) that maximizes the correlation between AOO and extinction risk is determined more by the spatial scale of threats than by the spatial scale at which AOO is estimated or shape of the taxon's distribution. It is not a fine-scale estimate of the actual area occupied. In some cases, AOO is the smallest area essential at any stage to the survival of existing populations of a taxon (e.g. breeding sites for migratory species).				
Trend	Stable			(Clemens et al. 2021)
Number of subpopulations	1	1	1	(Clemens et al. 2021)
Trend	Stable			(Clemens et al. 2021)
Basis of assessment of subpopulation number	No genetic evidence but birds are assumed to mix freely across the breeding sites.			
No. locations	>10			(Clemens et al. 2021)
Trend	Not calculated			(Clemens et al. 2021)
Basis of assessment of location number	The spatial nature of the threats is such that there are >10 geographically or ecologically distinct areas in Australia where a single threatening event could affect all individuals of the species present within a period of one generation			
Fragmentation	Not severely fragmented.			
Fluctuations	Not subject to extreme fluctuations in EOO, AOO, number of subpopulations, locations or mature individuals.			

Criterion 1 Population size reduction

Reduction in total numbers (measured over the longer of 10 years or 3 generations) based on any of A1 to A4			
	Critically Endangered **Very severe reduction**	**Endangered** **Severe reduction**	**Vulnerable** **Substantial reduction**
A1	≥ 90%	≥ 70%	≥ 50%
A2, A3, A4	≥ 80%	≥ 50%	≥ 30%

A1 Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred or suspected in the past and the causes of the reduction are clearly reversible AND understood AND ceased.

A2 Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred or suspected in the past where the causes of the reduction may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.

A3 Population reduction, projected or suspected to be met in the future (up to a maximum of 100 years) [*(a) cannot be used for A3*]

A4 An observed, estimated, inferred, projected or suspected population reduction where the time period must include both the past and the future (up to a max. of 100 years in future), and where the causes of reduction may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.

Based on any of the following

(a) direct observation [except A3]

(b) an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon

(c) a decline in area of occupancy, extent of occurrence and/or quality of habitat

(d) actual or potential levels of exploitation

(e) the effects of introduced taxa, hybridization, pathogens, pollutants, competitors or parasites

Criterion 1 evidence

Eligible under Criterion 1 A2bce+3ce+4bce for listing as Vulnerable

Several studies have recorded declines of sharp-tailed sandpiper with the following change over three generations: −60 percent (Clemens et al. 2016), −24 percent (Clemens 2017), −47 percent (Waterbird meta-analysis; Clemens et al. 2019) and −52 percent (Clemens et al. 2019). The trend is consistent with declines described a decade ago (Garnett et al. 2011).

The most recent analysis by Rogers et al. (2023) estimated the mean change in population was +0.1% annually (1993-2021) for an estimated total increase of 19.8% (95% CI: -51.8, 235.2) over three generations. The mean annual change in the last 10 years (2012-2021) was +1.9% (95% CI: -9.1, 16.7), suggesting the decline may have stabilised (Rogers et al. 2023). These data are clearly markedly at odds with previous studies. This may indicate that the decline of this species has slowed and may even have reversed in the past decade. However, given the substantial reduction in population size estimated by four earlier studies, a listing of Vulnerable is appropriate until population stabilisation can be confirmed over coming years.

The Committee considers that the species has undergone a substantial reduction in numbers over three generations, and the cause has not ceased. Therefore, the species has met the relevant elements of Criterion 1 to make it eligible for listing as Vulnerable.

Criterion 2 Geographic distribution as indicators for either extent of occurrence AND/OR area of occupancy

		Critically Endangered Very restricted	Endangered Restricted	Vulnerable Limited
B1.	Extent of occurrence (EOO)	**< 100 km²**	**< 5,000 km²**	**< 20,000 km²**
B2.	Area of occupancy (AOO)	**< 10 km²**	**< 500 km²**	**< 2,000 km²**
AND at least 2 of the following 3 conditions:				
(a)	Severely fragmented OR Number of locations	**= 1**	**≤ 5**	**≤ 10**
(b)	Continuing decline observed, estimated, inferred or projected in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) area, extent and/or quality of habitat; (iv) number of locations or subpopulations; (v) number of mature individuals			
(c)	Extreme fluctuations in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) number of locations or subpopulations; (iv) number of mature individuals			

Criterion 2 evidence

Not eligible

The sharp-tailed sandpiper's EOO is estimated at 10,900,000 km² (range 10,400,000 – 11,400,000 km²) and its AOO is estimated at 13,000 km² (range 13,000 – 20,000 km²) (Clemens et al. 2021). The species' EOO and AOO are both thought to be stable (Clemens et al. 2021). The species' population is not severely fragmented, and the species is not subject to extreme fluctuations in EOO, AOO, number of subpopulations, locations, or mature individuals (Clemens et al. 2021). Therefore, the species has not met all the requirements of this criterion.

Criterion 3 Population size and decline

	Critically Endangered Very low	Endangered Low	Vulnerable Limited
Estimated number of mature individuals	< 250	< 2,500	< 10,000
AND either (C1) or (C2) is true			
C1. An observed, estimated or projected continuing decline of at least (up to a max. of 100 years in future)	Very high rate 25% in 3 years or 1 generation (whichever is longer)	High rate 20% in 5 years or 2 generation (whichever is longer)	Substantial rate 10% in 10 years or 3 generations (whichever is longer)
C2. An observed, estimated, projected or inferred continuing decline AND its geographic distribution is precarious for its survival based on at least 1 of the following 3 conditions:			
(a) (i) Number of mature individuals in each subpopulation	≤ 50	≤ 250	≤ 1,000
(a) (ii) % of mature individuals in one subpopulation =	90 – 100%	95 – 100%	100%
(b) Extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals			

Criterion 3 evidence

Not eligible

The number of mature sharp-tailed sandpiper is estimated to be 71,000 (range 9,500 – 268,900) mature individuals. The estimated Australian population of 71,000 mature individuals is based on an extrapolation of the 2016 data using trends derived from Clemens et al. (2016, 2019) and Clemens (2017). Therefore, the species has not met all the requirements of this criterion.

Criterion 4 Number of mature individuals

	Critically Endangered Extremely low	Endangered Very Low	Vulnerable Low
D. Number of mature individuals	< 50	< 250	< 1,000
D2.[1] *Only applies to the Vulnerable category* Restricted area of occupancy or number of locations with a plausible future threat that could drive the species to critically endangered or Extinct in a very short time			D2. Typically: area of occupancy < 20 km² or number of locations ≤ 5

[1] The IUCN Red List Criterion D allows for species to be listed as Vulnerable under Criterion D2. The corresponding Criterion 4 in the EPBC Regulations does not currently include the provision for listing a species under D2. As such, a species cannot currently be listed under the EPBC Act under Criterion D2 only. However, assessments may include information relevant to D2. This information will not be considered by the Committee in making its recommendation of the species' eligibility for listing under the EPBC Act, but may assist other jurisdictions to adopt the assessment outcome under the *common assessment method*.

Criterion 4 evidence

Not eligible

The total number of mature individuals is estimated to be 71,000 (range 9,500 – 268,900). The estimated Australian population of sharp-tailed sandpiper in 2020 is based on an extrapolation of the 2016 data using trends derived from Clemens et al. (2016, 2019) and Clemens (2017) (Clemens et al. 2021). Therefore, the species has not met all the requirements of this criterion.

Criterion 5 Quantitative analysis

	Critically Endangered Immediate future	Endangered Near future	Vulnerable Medium-term future
Indicating the probability of extinction in the wild to be:	≥ 50% in 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)	≥ 20% in 20 years or 5 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)	≥ 10% in 100 years

Criterion 5 evidence

Insufficient data to determine eligibility

Population viability analysis has not been undertaken. Therefore, there is insufficient information to determine the eligibility of the species for listing in any category under this criterion.

Adequacy of survey

The survey effort has been considered adequate and there is sufficient scientific evidence to support the assessment.

Public consultation

Notice of the proposed amendment and a consultation document was made available for public comment for 30 business days between 30 March 2023 and 15 May 2023. Any comments received that were relevant to the survival of the species were considered by the Committee as part of the assessment process and provided to the Minister for the Environment with the Committee's advice.

Listing and Recovery Plan Recommendations

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee recommends:

i) that the list referred to in section 178 of the EPBC Act be amended by **including** *Calidris acuminata* in the Vulnerable category.

ii) that there not be a Recovery Plan for this species in accordance with the provisions of the EPBC Act and the Committee's conservation planning principles as follows:

- An approved conservation advice is an effective, efficient and responsive document to guide the implementation of priority management actions, mitigate key threats and support the recovery for this species.
- An approved conservation advice would support the species recovery by identifying priority actions, stakeholders for engagement, and the survey and research priorities to facilitate a better understanding of key threats as well as biological and ecological knowledge gaps.
- The threats facing the entity, and the recovery actions needed can most effectively be guided via an approved conservation advice.
- The threats facing the entity, and the recovery actions needed can most effectively be guided via an approved conservation advice.

iii) Having regard to the above factors, a recovery plan is not required as it would not provide a significant conservation planning benefit above existing mechanisms.