

3 December 2019



### Celebrating Latham's Snipe at Milang

**Q: What weighs less than 200 grams, flies more than 8000 kilometres and hangs out at Milang?**

**A: The Latham's Snipe!**

These shy birds are so well camouflaged they are rarely seen. They fly from Russia and Japan to summer in parts of south-eastern Australia, including Milang, before starting the long return journey in March.

Nature Foundation and Goolwa to Wellington LAP invite you to learn more about Latham's Snipe and celebrate their annual visit to Milang through a fun and engaging arts project.

The Snipe Project invites members of the community to celebrate the unique Latham's Snipe by painting and decorating wooden cut-outs of the bird for an outdoor display at Milang.

Natalie Stalenberg from Nature Foundation commented, 'Even though Snipe have been visiting Milang for many years, they are so good at hiding that few people have been lucky enough to see them.

'One of the biggest threats to the Snipe is habitat loss. To help prevent this we are delivering Commonwealth water for the environment into the Milang Snipe Sanctuary to ensure the Snipe have enough food over the hot dry months to sustain them on their long flight home.

'They generally fly in spring when the wetland is still wet, but as it dries out we need to create nice muddy patches and shallow pools amongst the samphire,' said Ms Stalenberg.

The medium-sized brown bird has a long straight bill which it uses to feed on seeds, insects, earthworms and spiders and occasionally molluscs, isopods and centipedes.

Local SA government ecologists have recently identified 11 Snipe in the Milang Snipe Sanctuary.

'Through the Snipe Project we will create a colourful flock of Latham's Snipe, hand cut by the Milang Men's Shed, and decorated by local school students and community members. The decorated Snipe will be displayed at Milang Snipe Sanctuary to draw attention to the plight of this cryptic bird,' Ms Stalenberg said.

Join Nature Foundation and Goolwa to Wellington LAP at the Rotunda in Milang on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December (2 pm) to hear about Latham's Snipe and decorate a Snipe cut-out.

You can also collect your own Snipe cut-out for decoration by contacting Jacqui from Goolwa to Wellington LAP 8536 5600. The decorated flock will be displayed at Milang before these little birds head off on their way in March.



Darryl, Natalie and Roger at the Milang Men's Shed with one of the Snipe ready to be decorated.

## **About Nature Foundation SA:**

Over the past 38 years Nature Foundation SA has invested in conserving, restoring and protecting South Australian landscapes to ensure nature survives and thrives in our magnificent state. We do this by:

- restoring unique habitats and revitalising damaged ecosystems
- saving threatened species
- revitalising wetlands and floodplains along the River Murray with environmental watering
- working with local communities
- funding conservation research projects
- encouraging environmental education and citizen science
- nature-based tourism and geotourism on our Nature Reserves

## **Fast facts:**

- Nature Foundation SA has helped protect over 1.1 million hectares of South Australia and is currently working on protecting the next 1.1 million!
- Over 400 post-graduate student grants awarded by Nature Foundation SA continue to yield amazing work and attract wonderful, bright minds to nature science.
- Our Water For Nature Program has delivered more than 12,000 megalitres of environmental water to help revitalise nearly 90 River Murray wetland and floodplain sites.
- Nature Foundation SA manages six Nature Reserves with significant conservation value. This land protects threatened species, builds wildlife corridors and provides a base from which scientific studies can be undertaken.

For further information about Nature Foundation SA please visit our website: <https://naturefoundation.org.au/>

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