



Latham's Snipe

Why in News

Urban development continues to threaten Latham's Snipe habitats as several snipe sites in eastern Australia are at risk from housing developments and large infrastructure projects.

- Latham's Snipe was **formerly known as the Japanese Snipe**.

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Key Points

▪ Characteristics:

- Latham's Snipe is the **largest snipe in Australia**, with cryptic, mainly brown, plumage.
- Their **exceptional eyesight helps** them constantly scan for dangers at night, when they **forage for food in open wet and muddy areas**.

▪ Habitat:

- Breeds in **northern Japan and parts of eastern Russia** during **May-July** and spends the **non-breeding season (September to March)** along **Australia's eastern coast**.
- Like **other migratory shorebirds**, it has incredible endurance, undertaking a non-stop, over-ocean flight between its breeding and non-breeding grounds.

▪ Threats:

- **Hunting and wetland loss** during the 20th century have contributed to a decline in Latham's Snipe in south-eastern Australia.
- The signing of the **Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement in 1981** has

stopped snipe hunting in both countries to some extent.

▪ **Protection Status:**

- [IUCN Red List](#): **Least Concern**

[Source: DTE](#)

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