

*calidris bairdii*

# Baird's Sandpiper

## Linking Communities

The Baird's Sandpiper is not as commonly seen as other migrating shore birds around the Chaplin, Old Wives, and Reed Lakes because it can occupy diverse habitats away from water. Unlike many other shore birds its migration is well inland and in small flocks of five to thirty. However, it can be seen about mid-April and again in September on the shores of mud flats, grassy margins, and sloughs. Therefore it is another species that commonly uses these areas and is important to the Linking Communities Project.



## Identification

A medium sized sandpiper the Baird's Sandpiper has a buffy plumage with streaked upper breast and unstreaked flanks. The Baird's Sandpiper has a short neck, long legs, and long wings that extend past the tip of the tail when folded.



**LEGEND**  
■ Year Round  
■ Summer (breeding)  
■ Winter (non-breeding)  
■ Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Range data by NatureServe

## Habitat & Distribution

The Baird's Sandpiper breeds in the high Arctic and winters on the western coast of South America. During breeding season it can occupy a diverse range of habitats from the high Andes to sea level. It normally breeds in drier, elevated, coastal areas, and alpine tundra near inland lakes but may also be found near dry sand dunes. During migrations and on its winter grounds it is commonly seen on mudflats, estuaries, grassy marshes, and dry grassy areas near lakes and ponds and rarely dry pastures and prairies away from water.

## Feeding

The Baird's Sandpiper feeds mostly on land, but can sometimes feed in shallow water. It eats larvae, beetles, grasshoppers, and spiders which it pecks from the ground rather than probes.

## Nesting

The male builds a shallow scrape lined with lichen, grass, and leaves among the rocks or in a clump of vegetation. The female lays 4 spotted brown eggs and both parents incubate the eggs. The chicks are born precocial about 20 days later and are able to leave the nest and feed themselves shortly after hatching. The male and female both care for the chicks, but the female usually leaves them to begin her migration. The male stays with them until they fledge at 16-21 days old.

