

## Order CHARADRIIFORMES

A large, diverse assemblage of small to medium-large (12–75 cm long) limicoline, pratincoline, aquatic or terrestrial birds. Cosmopolitan from Arctic to Antarctic regions; in all sorts of maritime, freshwater and open terrestrial habitats (including deserts) with a few (woodcocks and snipes) even using dense forests. Once known as Limicolae or Laro-limicolae (e.g. Mayr & Amadon 1951); colloquially, the assemblage (excluding alcids, skuas, gulls, terns and skimmers) is often referred to as waders (especially in Britain) or shorebirds (especially in North America).

About 350 species in 19 families, though taxonomic treatments vary. Following families recognized (mostly based on recent reviews of Order [Sibley *et al.* 1988; Sibley & Ahlquist 1990; Sibley & Monroe 1990]):

Thinocoridae	seed-snipes; four species, S. America.
Pedionomidae	Plains-wanderer; monotypic, Aust.
Scolopacidae	sandpipers, snipes and allies; c. 85 species, cosmopolitan.
Rostratulidae	painted snipes; two species, s. America and Old World.
Jacaniidae	jacanas; seven species, pantropical.
Chionididae	sheathbills; two species, Antarctica and subantarctic islands.
Burhinidae	thick-knees, stone-curlews; nine species, widespread in Old World and two in Neotropics.
Haematopodidae	oystercatchers; c. 11 species, worldwide in tropics and temperate regions.
Recurvirostridae	avocets and stilts; about seven species, worldwide in tropical and temperate regions.
Ibidiorhynchidae	Ibisbill; monotypic, central Asia.
Charadriidae	plovers and lapwings; c. 60 species, cosmopolitan.
Pluvianellidae	Magellanic Plover; monotypic, S. America.
Dromadidae	Crab Plover; monotypic, Arabian region.
Glareolidae	pratinoles, coursers, and Egyptian Plover; c. 15 species, widespread in Old World.
Stercorariidae	skuas and jaegers; about seven species, mostly in Arctic and Antarctic regions.
Rhynchopidae	skimmers; three species, pantropical.
Laridae	gulls; c. 47 species, cosmopolitan.
Sternidae	terns; c. 42 species, cosmopolitan.
Alcidae	auks; c. 20 species, Arctic and temperate regions of n. hemisphere.

Apparently monophyletic. Pteroclididae (sandgrouse) probably sister-group of Charadriiformes (e.g. Fjeldså 1976, 1977; Sibley & Ahlquist 1990; BWP), though whether best placed within Charadriiformes or in separate order is debated. Flamingoes (Phoenicopteridae) and divers (Gaviidae) have also been treated as Charadriiformes (Olson & Feduccia 1981; Fjeldså 1976, 1977) but DNA–DNA hybridization studies (Sibley & Ahlquist 1990) inconsistent with these theories. Affinities to other orders still controversial; DNA–DNA hybridization has suggested closest links are to large waterbirds, such as storks, herons and allies, Pelicaniformes, Procellariiformes, penguins, grebes, divers (Gaviidae) and also Falconiformes. All these were combined in huge order Ciconiiformes by Sibley & Ahlquist (1990).

Taxonomy and relationships reviewed in Sibley & Ahlquist (1990), Christian *et al.* (1992) and BWP (and references therein). Recent reviews have included: patterning of downy young (Jehl 1968; Fjeldså 1976, 1977), osteology (Strauch 1978; Mickevitch & Parenti 1980; Olson & Steadman 1981), DNA–DNA hybridization (Sibley *et al.* 1988, Sibley & Ahlquist 1990) and electrophoresis of tissue proteins (Christian *et al.* 1992). The studies of allozymes, DNA–DNA hybridization and the most recent osteological study of the entire order (Strauch 1978) have agreed in finding two or three well-knit, monophyletic assemblages within the Charadriiformes: scolopacids and allies (Thinocoridae, Pedionomidae, Scolopacidae, Rostratulidae, Jacaniidae) and charadriids and allies (Chionididae, Burhinidae, Haematopodidae, Recurvirostridae, Ibidiorhynchidae, Charadriidae, Pluvianellidae, Dromadidae, Glareolidae, Stercorariidae, Rhynchopidae, Laridae, Sternidae, Alcidae); Strauch (1978) treated Alcidae as separate lineage, but skeletons may be so highly modified for foot-propelled diving that they do not reflect relations well (Sibley & Ahlquist 1990); gulls and allies have also been regarded as a separate lineage (Christian *et al.* 1992) or as allied to charadriids (e.g. Sibley & Ahlquist 1990). Further relationships within the Order discussed in introductions to families.

Because the Order comprises so many species and adaptations are so diverse, few characters shared by all species; those that are shared are mostly anatomical features of the skull, e.g. most or all have schizorhinal nostrils, schizognathous palates, well-developed vomer, lachrymals fused with ectethemoid and pre-frontal bones, well-developed supra-orbital grooves; see Olson & Steadman (1981) for more information on osteological characters. Wings usually have 11 primaries, with p10 longest and p11 minute; 15–24 secondaries; diastataxic except in *Scolopax minor*, as far as is known. Usually 12 tail-feathers. Necks usually rather long with 15–16 cervical vertebrae. Oil-gland bilobed and tufted. Syrinx, tracheo-bronchial; two carotids (type A-1 of Glenny 1955); caeca present. Legs usually rather long; hind toe small or lacking in most but all toes greatly elongated in Jacaniidae. Feathers with small thin afterfeathers. Normally two moults annually: complete post-



breeding and partial pre-breeding; some jacanas and alcids have flightless periods when moulting remiges. Young, downy, usually with intricate cryptic patterns on upperparts of three chief types: pebbly, spotted and striped, matching characters of habitat (Fjeldså 1976, 1977): precocial, nidifugous usually, self-feeding or not depending greatly on parents.

Thirteen families recorded in HANZAB region, with 54 species breeding, 41 occurring as regular non-breeding migrants and c. 38 as accidentals or probable accidentals. Scolopacidae, Stercorariidae, Laridae and Sternidae will be dealt with in Volume 3 of HANZAB.

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## Order CHARADRIIFORMES

### Family SCOLOPACIDAE sandpipers and allies

Small to large shorebirds (12–66 cm) with long bills and legs. Largest family of suborder Charadrii, with some 88 species in c. 24 genera; most species only breed in higher latitudes of Holarctic, but migrate long distances and occur almost worldwide in non-breeding period. In HANZAB area, 51 species in 18 genera: two breeding species, 27 regular non-breeding migrants, 19 accidentals and three doubtfully recorded. All are transequatorial migrants except for the two species of *Coenocorypha* that breed NZ, which are sedentary. The family is usually split into six subfamilies (e.g. Jehl 1968; BWP): Scolopacinae, Gallinagoninae, Tringinae, Arenariinae, Calidridinae and Phalaropodinae; we place the dowitchers *Limnodromus* in a separate subfamily, Limnodrominae (q.v. for details). All except Scolopacinae (woodcocks) represented in HANZAB region. Though they are convenient groupings, these subfamilies may not be wholly monophyletic (e.g. Strauch 1978; Dittman *et al.* 1989; Sibley & Ahlquist 1990; BWP); until phylogeny within the Family is understood, sequence of genera and species followed by different authors is likely to remain unsettled. Sequence and taxonomy used here follows Christidis & Boles (1994). Studies of allozymes (Christian *et al.* 1992), DNA hybridization (Sibley *et al.* 1988; Sibley & Ahlquist 1990), osteology (Strauch 1978) and patterns of downy young (Jehl 1968) generally agree in treating Scolopacidae as monophyletic, with distant links to Jacanidae, Rostratulidae, Thinocoridae and Pedionomidae.

Body-form diverse, from slender to stocky. Females slightly to considerably larger than males, though in a few species males are larger (Jehl & Murray 1986). Wings, long and pointed; p10 longest; 15–22 secondaries, including elongate tertials, which, with scapulars, cover back and rump when at rest. Tail, short; 12 feathers except in *Gallinago*, which have 14–28, and *Coenocorypha*, which have 14. Neck, long. Shape of bill varies considerably, though generally long and slender; usually straight to decurved, but recurved in a few Tringinae; tip of bill, fine or only slightly swollen (cf. Charadriidae) with sensory pits. Compared to Charadriidae, eyes small and head narrow. Unlike Charadriidae, have numerous fine pores in premaxillary bone to accommodate Herbst's corpuscles, which are assumed to be associated with more tactile, less visual, methods of foraging; some species have been shown to be capable of sensing buried prey, either through chemoreception (van Heezik *et al.* 1983) or mechanical detection of vibrations or self-induced pressure signals (Gerritsen *et al.* 1983; Gerritsen 1988; Piersma *et al.* 1994). Skeleton and musculature of jaw distinctive (Burton 1974). In most species, rynchokinesis of skull highly developed, enabling flexible upper mandible to be opened or retracted at tip only (to grasp prey while probing). Tarsi and tibiae, short to long, with transverse scales (except in *Numenius*). Four toes in all species except Sanderling *Calidris alba*; toes fairly long with lateral membrane (webbed in some); hindtoe, small and raised (except in Arenariinae). No crop. Caeca present. Apparently no other waders have spiral sperm cells (similar to those of Passeriformes).

Non-breeding plumage mostly dull and cryptic: mottled greys and browns above, and paler or white below, with or without streaks and spots. Breeding plumage generally much brighter (except in curlews, snipes and woodcocks), with more rufous or black. In HANZAB region, adults seen mainly during austral summer in non-breeding plumage, though breeding plumage can be seen on birds just before n. migration or on arrival after s. migration. Sexes usually similar. Bills, legs and feet variously, sometimes brightly, coloured. Adults generally have two moults per cycle: (1) a partial pre-breeding (pre-alternate) moult of most feathers of body, and, often, some tertials and upperwing-coverts; and (2) a complete post-breeding (pre-basic) moult; both usually performed in non-breeding areas or while staging on migration. Primaries moult outwards, usually after s. migration; some subspecies of Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (q.v.), Purple Sandpiper *C. maritima* and Rock Sandpiper *C. ptilocnemis* moult all primaries on or near breeding grounds before s. migration, a strategy rare in *Calidris*; Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis* moult remiges rapidly, inducing flightlessness in 50–70% of birds, apparently uniquely among Charadriiformes. Precocial young nidifugous; most feed themselves. Down varies greatly in structure and pattern; pattern mainly of spotted or striped type (Fjeldså 1977). Juvenile plumage usually distinctive; most like that of non-breeding adults, but often a little brighter, especially in Calidridinae. Moult-strategies of subadults complex and vary considerably with species, route of migration and age of first breeding. Adult plumage attained when 3–21 months old; most scolopacids of our region (except snipes) first attain adult plumage through partial first pre-alternate moult when c. 8–11 months old, or through complete second pre-basic moult when c. 12–16 months old (see discussion of Moults in General Introduction). Swift runners; wade expertly and some species swim habitually (Phalaropodinae). Stance often upright. Flight, fast and direct, often in tight flocks.

When breeding, most scolopacids (except some snipes and woodcocks) are birds of open habitats, including tundra. At other times, use a variety of habitats, including forests (woodcocks) and open sea (phalaropes), though most prefer shallow, fresh, brackish or intertidal wetlands. Greatest concentrations occur on intertidal mudflats,



especially estuaries. Feed mainly by touch, and the mandibular skeleton has distinctive features associated with tactile methods of foraging. When feeding, most probe into soft, moist substrata to catch invertebrates; some (e.g. Arenariinae) forage on rocky shores; surface-tension mechanism for feeding on plankton, recently described for Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* (Rubega & Obst 1993), may prove to be widespread among scolopacids with fine bills. Mixed-species foraging flocks common.

Migration the most striking feature of scolopacids. All but some Gallinagoninae, Scolopacinae and two aberrant Tringinae migrate (though some Tringinae partly resident in Europe), usually from breeding grounds in higher latitudes of n. hemisphere to lower latitudes of n. or s. hemispheres; many undertake extremely long migration steps, with non-stop flights of several thousand kilometres preceded by dramatic increase in weight. Scolopacids of HANZAB region breed mainly in e. Russia, Mongolia, n. China and Alaska; Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* breeds Japan and in small numbers in e. Russia.

Migratory routes vary dramatically depending on the relationship between breeding and non-breeding ranges, and the ability to undertake long-distance non-stop flights. Some species migrate overland, some via coastal routes and others cross oceans; many species use a combination of these routes. Some species return to breeding grounds by the same route used in s. migration while others return by different routes, and make a loop migration (e.g. Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*). Timing of departure from breeding grounds often varies between sexes (e.g. Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*) and between ages; juveniles often leave at slightly different time (e.g. Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*) or migrate via a different route (e.g. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*). Most regular non-breeding migrants to Aust. migrate via East-Asian–Australasian Flyway; others to Aust. and, especially NZ, cross Pacific Ocean. Generally, in Aust. and NZ, s. migration Aug.–Nov. and n. migration, Feb.–May. Individuals of most species display a high degree of site-fidelity at breeding, non-breeding and even staging areas; others have little fidelity to breeding site and populations mix much (e.g. Curlew Sandpipers; P.S. Tomkovich). In HANZAB region, displays sometimes seen before migration, e.g. Red Knots in tight single-species flocks in nw. Aust. before migration (Lane & Jessop 1985). Pre-migratory flighting observed during Mar. in NZ (McKenzie 1967).

In non-breeding areas, most species undertake regular local movements between feeding and roosting sites or between different feeding sites. Most local movements are in response to tides, which affect exposure of feeding grounds (e.g. Hindwood & Hoskin 1954; Carter *et al.* 1976; Saunders & de Rebeira 1985; Smith 1985; Lane). Some roosting and feeding sites are close together, birds gradually dispersing from or returning to roosting sites as tides fall and rise (e.g. Robertson & Dennison 1979). At other sites, roosting and feeding sites farther apart, with birds even flying between islands or between islands and mainland (Saunders & de Rebeira 1985); in Capricorn Grp, Qld, Ruddy Turnstones and Grey-tailed Tattlers *Heteroscelus brevipes* fly at least 4 km from Tyron I., where roost at high tide, to North West Reef, where thought to feed (Prendergast *et al.* 1985); at Cairns, Qld, Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus* move to mouth of Barron R. every evening (Amiet 1957) and can travel up to c. 20 km between roosting and feeding sites (McKenzie 1967; Garnett 1989). In poor weather, such as days of high winds or in storms, may move to sheltered areas other than normal roosting sites, such as near-coastal wetlands or pools in dunes (e.g. Crawford 1972; Forest 1982; Aust. Atlas). Some species dispersive, either locally or over longer distances (see accounts), sometimes in response to availability of food or availability of suitable wetland habitat. In NZ, Common Greenshanks *Tringa nebularia* tend to move round within harbours rather than returning to roosting site each day (Sibson 1965) and, in Tas., Common Greenshanks appear to move between coastal sites (Wall 1953); Curlew Sandpipers apparently move from Westport Bay, Vic., in Aug. when daily exposure of intertidal feeding grounds reduced (Loyn 1978; see also Hindwood & Hoskin 1954; Alcorn 1988).

Mainly feed and roost in single-species flocks. All species are strong fliers and those that form flocks often perform spectacular and complex aerial movements, which are performed with remarkable precision. Many species territorial during breeding season, but others lack specific territorial boundaries and are semi-colonial. Courtship displays, elaborate, including spectacular song-flights, often associated with formation of pairs. Distraction displays include repetitive display-flights, rodent-runs, and feigning injury.

Mating systems extraordinarily diverse, including monogamy (some species pair for life), polygyny (in some species, males display on leks, mating with females that visit their territories; in others, males maintain simultaneous pair-bonds with more than one female but provide no parental care) and polyandry (including double-clutching monogamy, where female lays two successive clutches, each of which is incubated by single adult; and classical polyandry, where female maintains pair-bonds with more than one male). Reasons for diversity of mating systems not clear but short breeding seasons and ability of single parent to incubate clutch and brood and raise chicks probably involved; possibly also related to phylogenetic history. For reviews of mating systems, see Ligon (1993) and Pitelka *et al.* (1974).

In CALIDRIDINAE, mating systems remarkably varied, including monogamy, polygyny, polyandry; most species monogamous (e.g. Pitelka *et al.* 1974). Role of sexes in parental care as diverse as mating systems. Apparently solely by female in the four polygynous species; roughly equally shared in some (e.g. Dunlin *C. alpina*), though female tends to leave chicks earlier; in others, male undertakes more of work and females leave before chick-rearing (or even



incubation) complete. Behaviour more complex in successive polyandrous species, with males raising first brood while females may lay and raise another clutch. In GALLINAGONINAE, mating systems poorly known but several species monogamous; Great Snipe *Gallinago media* promiscuous, mating at leks, and apparently unique among snipe in performing courtship display on ground; others have crepuscular or nocturnal display-flights accompanied by distinctive calls and non-vocal sounds (see Gallinagoninae). Mass flights of displaying snipes have been said to be aerial leks in several species, but confirmation needed (could be result of unsettled territorial boundaries early in breeding season) (Byrkjedal 1990). In TRINGINAE, most species monogamous but successive polyandry can occur in Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* and Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*. Parental care shared about equally or females leave breeding grounds early while males undertake or finish rearing chicks. ARENARIINAE are monogamous; Ruddy Turnstone territorial and aggressive. LIMNODROMINAE, poorly known; apparently monogamous; territorial but *L. semipalmatus* nests in small colonies. Both sexes incubate; males undertake most of chick-rearing. In PHALAROPODINAE, many sex roles reversed when breeding; females almost unique among Scolopacidae in undertaking courtship behaviour, contesting access to mates in 'scramble displays' (Reynolds 1987; Colwell & Oring 1988a). Phalaropes usually monogamous, though polyandry recorded in all three species; incidence of polyandry may vary between populations but reasons not yet clear (e.g. Colwell & Oring 1988b). Males undertake virtually all incubation and raise chicks alone (see Colwell 1986; Colwell & Oring 1988a,b).

Most scolopacids breed first at 2 years old, though some species can breed in their first year and maturity may be delayed for more than 2 years in some large long-distance migrants. Usually nest on ground, often concealed in herbage. The scrape, often made during a scraping ceremony by the male in the presence of female, is often lined, usually after laying the first egg and more lining is added during incubation. Unusually, Solitary *Tringa solitaria*, Green *Tringa ochropus* and some Wood *Tringa glareola* Sandpipers recorded nesting in trees, usually in nests of other birds (see BWP). Usually four eggs per clutch, in some cases two or three. Eggs usually pyriform, with dark-brown and black markings, over paler ground-colour; all are cryptically coloured. Incubation normally starts with laying of last egg and chicks hatch almost simultaneously. Both sexes usually share incubation, though one bird often takes greater share. Downy young leave nest within 1 day of hatching and generally accompanied by brooding adult till able to fly. Social organization, social behaviour and breeding not discussed further in subfamily accounts.

In East-Asian–Australasian Flyway, hunting and destruction of wetland habitats major threats to shorebirds; this Flyway said to be probably the most threatened migration system in world (Lane & Parish 1991). Outside Aust. and NZ, hunting widespread, mainly for food, but little information available on impact on populations (Lane & Parish 1991). For example, in Thailand and n. Vietnam, both Great Knot and Red-necked Stint on passage or overwintering are eaten, and captive birds are kept to act as decoys to catch other waders; band-recoveries of Red-necked Stints in n. Vietnam have come from birds taken for food (Starks 1987; J.R. Starks). Many wetlands destroyed by reclamation for agriculture, aquaculture, salt-production, and urban or industrial development, including wetland habitats in Aust. and NZ (Lane & Parish 1991). Aust. is signatory to the Ramsar Convention and to bilateral treaties with Japan (JAMBA) and China (CAMBA) to protect migratory birds.

In many n. hemisphere breeding areas, breeding success cyclical and thought to be linked to population cycles of lemmings, which in turn influence levels of predation of breeding birds (Underhill *et al.* 1993). For example, in breeding areas of Curlew Sandpipers, decreased populations of lemmings *Lemmus sibiricus* and *Dicrostonyx torquatus*, the regular prey of Arctic Foxes *Alopex lagopus*, results in increased predation of eggs and young of Curlew Sandpipers (Roselaar 1979). Reproductive success in n. hemisphere in preceding breeding season reflected in numbers and proportion of juveniles and immatures in populations in non-breeding areas, such as Aust. and NZ.

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## Subfamily CALIDRIDINAE arctic sandpipers and allies

Small to medium-sized (15–29 cm) migratory shorebirds. Twenty-four species in seven genera (see Table 1); six genera monotypic; *Calidris* comprises remaining 18 species (though these were once placed in several different genera). In HANZAB region, 19 species recorded: ten regular non-breeding migrants, eight accidental, one doubtfully recorded (and one problematic hybrid). *Calidris* may contain 2–3 species-groups (BWP): (1) knots (two species), which have much in common with Surf-bird *Aphriza virgata*, especially Great Knot *C. tenuirostris* (Jehl 1968a); (2) sandpipers with partially webbed feet ('*Ereunetes*' group: *C. pusilla* and *C. semipalmatus*); and (3) other sandpipers ('*Erolia*' group). Groups (2) and (3) do not differ greatly, and may be more closely related to *Micropalama*, *Limicola*, *Eurynorhynchus*, *Tryngites* and *Philomachus* than they are to knots and Surf-birds (Jehl 1968a; BWP). Patterns of downy young suggest possible affinities of Calidridinae to Gallinagoninae, Limnodrominae and, possibly, Arenariinae (Jehl 1968a,b; Fjeldså 1977) but precise relationships not clear; allozyme and DNA research so far (e.g. Dittman *et al.* 1989; Dittman & Zink 1991; Christian *et al.* 1992) have not included comparison with all other subfamilies of Scolopacidae.

Table 1

GENUS	NUMBER OF SPECIES	NUMBER OF SPECIES IN HANZAB REGION <sup>1</sup>
<i>Aphriza</i>	1 (Surfbird)	0
<i>Calidris</i>	18	8 NB, 6A, 1D
<i>Eurynorhynchus</i>	1 (Spoon-billed Sandpiper)	0
<i>Micropalama</i>	1 (Stilt Sandpiper)	1 NA
<i>Tryngites</i>	1 (Buff-breasted Sandpiper)	1 NA
<i>Limicola</i>	1 (Broad-billed Sandpiper)	1 NB
<i>Philomachus</i>	1 (Ruff)	1 NB

<sup>1</sup> NB = regular non-breeding migrant; A = accidental; D = unacceptably claimed.

Females generally slightly larger than males, but male is larger in polygynous species: Pectoral *C. melanotos*, Sharp-tailed *C. acuminata*, and Buff-breasted *T. subruficollis* Sandpipers, and Ruff *P. pugnax* (Jehl & Murray 1986). Bill, short and finely pointed in most species, but superficially plover-like in *Tryngites* and broad and flattened in *Eurynorhynchus*. Nostrils in a depression extending anteriorly as a groove that nearly reaches tip of upper mandible. Highly rhyndokinetic except in *Aphriza*; upper jaw typically lightly built and tip of bill sensitive, with many Herbst's corpuscles (associated with tactile foraging). Muscles of jaw and tongue hypertrophied in *Limicola* and *Tryngites*; latter also has hypertrophied salivary glands, in these respects resembling plovers. Internal feeding apparatus of *Calidris* and *Micropalama* very similar (Burton 1974) and further research needed on whether *Micropalama* merits generic recognition. Legs, moderately long and tarsus scutellate. Hindtoe small and raised in most; uniquely among Scolopacidae, it is absent in Sanderling *C. alba*. Anterior toes usually unwebbed but *Calidris* of '*Ereunetes*' group have small basal web between front toes.

Adult breeding plumage finely patterned in rufous, black, grey and buff; white or rufous below, usually with dark spotting, streaking or suffusion on breast. Sexes alike or nearly so, except for strong sexual dimorphism in Ruff, which is also unusual in attaining breeding plumage in pre-supplemental (rather than pre-alternate) moult. Adult non-breeding usually much plainer, grey to brown above and mostly white below; in *Tryngites*, little seasonal change in appearance. Juvenile plumage distinctive, usually with upperparts superficially like that of adult breeding and underparts more like adult non-breeding. All species replace most of juvenile body-plumage early in first pre-basic moult (attaining plumage like non-breeding), typically when in late stages of s. migration or after arrival in non-breeding areas. Thereafter, moult-strategies of subadults complex, but can be separated into three broad categories: (1) Undergo complete moult of all juvenile feathers in first pre-basic when c. 6–8 months old, developing adult breeding plumage in first pre-alternate moult just before first n. migration when c. 9–10 months old (e.g. most Little Stints *C. minuta*, Least *C. minutilla* and Sharp-tailed *C. acuminata* Sandpipers). (2) Retain juvenile remiges, and often much of tail and wing-coverts, through first pre-basic; may replace some outer primaries in partial first pre-supplemental moult; attain plumage very similar to that of adult breeding in first pre-alternate moult before undertaking first n. migration when c. 9–10 months old (e.g. Dunlin *C. alpina* and Purple Sandpiper *C. maritima*). (3) Like second strategy, but first pre-alternate moult produces dull plumage, mostly like non-breeding but often



with varying number of feathers like breeding plumage (colours of these feathers often duller than adult breeding); such birds typically delay first n. migration until at least 2 years old, first attaining adult non-breeding plumage in complete second pre-basic moult when c. 12–15 months old (e.g. Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis*, Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea* and Great Knot *C. tenuirostris*). Down of precocial young, long and loose, especially on nape. Mainly ochraceous to rich brown above, with complex patterns of black blotches and bands, including characteristic marking shaped like hour-glass on centre of back; white below, often with brown wash on foreneck and breast. As in Gallinagoninae and Limnodrominae, spotted dorsal pattern formed by white powder-puffs attached to tips of black down. In most species, white barbules at each feather-tip densely packed and interlock with those of other feathers as large closely knit puffs (resembling scattering of large snow-flakes). In knots and *Aphriza*, powder-puffs have looser microstructure and do not entangle much, so some areas (especially in older chicks) may appear to have diffuse white mottling rather than distinct spots. Some other variation in colour and pattern of downy young attributed to breeding habitat rather than taxonomy (see Jehl 1968b; Fjeldså 1977; BWP).

Most species breed in tundra, a few in other open habitats S to Temperate regions of n. hemisphere. Highly migratory; those breeding high Arctic breed faster and migrate farther than most other species of waders. In non-breeding season, inhabit wide range of shallow wetlands. Some species almost exclusively coastal (e.g. Red *C. canutus* and Great *C. tenuirostris* Knots and Sanderling *C. alba*); some typically occur on inland wetlands (e.g. Long-toed Stint *C. subminuta*); others rather catholic in choice of habitat. Feeding behaviour varies; include probing and stitching (a rapid series of shallow probes made close to one another). Usually forage by touch and several species known to detect prey by chemoreception or detection of vibrations (e.g. van Heezik *et al.* 1983; Gerritsen 1988).

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*Calidris fuscicollis* White-rumped Sandpiper

COLOUR PLATE FACING PAGE 289

*Tringa fuscicollis* Vieillot, 1819, *Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.* 34: 461 — Paraguay ex Azara, no. 404.

The specific name is from the Latin *fuscus*, dusky, and the modern Latin *-collis*, necked, referring to the grey breast of non-breeding plumage.

OTHER ENGLISH NAMES Bonaparte's Sandpiper.

MONOTYPIC

**FIELD IDENTIFICATION** Length 15–17 cm; wingspan 36–38 cm; weight c. 45 g. Small wader with short, slightly decurved bill tapering to slightly swollen tip; short legs; very long wings, tips projecting well beyond tip of tail at rest; flat-backed and horizontal stance; and distinctive long low attenuated profile. Shape and stance like that of Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* but with slightly decurved and blunter bill, slightly fuller body and less attenuated shape. Overall length similar to that of Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*; but with much shorter and less strongly decurved bill, shorter legs, and longer, finer wing-points. In all plumages: off-white supercilium; streaked foreneck and breast, with some streaking

along flanks; and, in flight, narrow white wing-bar and conspicuous narrow white band across uppertail-coverts. Sexes alike. Marked seasonal variation. Juvenile distinct. Immatures separable when close.

**Description Adult breeding** Centre of forehead, crown and nape, dull chestnut and brownish grey, heavily streaked black; usually distinct, off-white supercilium extends from bill to sides of nape (often finely streaked darker and less distinct behind eye); thin off-white eye-ring; narrow dusky loreal stripe, usually broadening into diffuse patch in front of eye; hindneck, sides of neck and lower face, off-white and coarsely streaked black, except for plainer and chestnut-tinged ear-coverts; chin



and throat, white. Mantle and scapulars, black, with dull-chestnut fringes and broad brownish-grey tips; on some, hint of pale-buff lines on mantle and scapular. Tertiaries, black centrally, grading to paler, brownish grey on sides and narrowly fringed white. Innerwing-coverts, plain dark brownish-grey, narrowly fringed white. Underbody, white, with coarse black streaking on foreneck and breast and black arrowheads and shorter, finer streaks on flanks. In flight: from above, innerwing-coverts, brownish grey grading to darker along leading-edge of wing; blackish-brown primary coverts and remiges, with weak narrow white wing-bar along tips of greater coverts continuing diffusely across bases of primaries; back and rump, blackish brown; uppertail-coverts mostly white, forming distinctive narrow U-shaped white band contrasting with darker tail (some uppertail-coverts streaked or spotted black, especially on lateral coverts); tail, grey, with black central rectrices; underwing, white, with narrow dusky leading- and trailing-edges. With wear, chestnut tones on head and upperparts (crown, ear-coverts, mantle and scapulars) become stronger and more obvious; and faint buff wash across breast soon lost; with further wear and fading, upperparts appear darker and more blotchy, and demarcation between chest and belly is sharper; in very worn plumage, edges of upperparts feathers may even fade to whitish. Early in austral spring, most likely to show mixture of worn breeding and much fresh non-breeding. Bill, black, usually with green, yellow or orange-brown tinge to base of lower mandible, forming pale patch. Iris, dark brown. Legs and feet, black or blackish grey, often tinged green.

**Adult non-breeding** As breeding; differs by: Head and neck, dark brownish-grey with fine black streaks, with white chin and throat and prominent white supercilium from bill to above rear ear-coverts (often streaked darker, as breeding). Rest of upperparts and innerwing-coverts, dark brownish-grey with varying dark streaks and centres to feathers (grade from fine dark shaft-streaks on mantle and smaller upper scapulars, to more prominent dark shaft-streaks and diffuse dark centres on larger lower scapulars, tertiaries and larger innerwing-coverts); upperparts finely fringed white when fresh. Underbody, white, with varying brownish-grey wash and fine dark streaking on foreneck, breast and fore-flanks, forming prominent gorget usually well demarcated from white belly; flanks usually marked with short fine dark streaks and broader diffuse brownish-grey streaks (cf. arrowheads on adult breeding). Line of dark streaks and spots on lateral uppertail-coverts usually concealed by folded wings. Upperparts become browner with wear.

**Juvenile** Similar to adult breeding, differing mainly in patterning of upperparts and innerwing-coverts and less heavy streaking on underbody. Head and neck: centre of forehead and crown coarsely streaked rufous and black, and ear-coverts tinged rufous; hindneck and sides of neck, grey finely streaked darker; prominent off-white supercilium (usually finely streaked behind eye); narrow dark loreal stripe; lower face, off-white, finely streaked grey; chin and throat, white. Upperparts, mostly black, neatly scaled with rufous, buff or white and with prominent white mantle and scapular Vs: feathers of central mantle and upper two rows of scapulars, black, with rufous fringes; feathers of outer mantle, black, with white tips, forming V; third row of upper scapulars, black, with white tips forming second V, and often with buff or rufous fringes; lower scapulars usually brownish-grey grading to black distally and with white tips; tertiaries, black, or grey grading to black towards tip, with narrow buff or chestnut fringes and, often, white tips. Most innerwing-coverts, brownish-grey, with blackish shafts, narrow buff fringes and white tips; innermost few greater and

median coverts patterned more like tertiaries. Underbody, white, with buffish-grey wash and fine dark streaks on foreneck, breast and fore-flanks forming gorget, which is usually larger and more diffuse on sides of breast; usually, very fine dark streaking extends to mid-flanks. With wear, rufous tones on head become duller; and rufous, buff and white fringes and tips on upperparts often reduced and paler, off-white.

**First immature non-breeding** In austral spring, like adult non-breeding but distinguished by some retained worn juvenile innerwing-coverts and tertiaries, contrasting with fresh non-breeding plumage (in adult, all plumage fresh); some also differ by moult of primaries; extent of moult varies (see Moults): some retain juvenile remiges throughout first austral spring–autumn and have very worn primaries; others replace outer few primaries and show contrast between old worn inner and fresh blackish outer primaries; some have complete moult, replacing primaries, and are inseparable from adult when moult finished.

**First immature breeding** Extent of breeding plumage varies; some distinguished by very worn retained juvenile primaries or contrast between worn inner and fresh outer primaries. None recorded wintering in HANZAB area.

**Similar species** Combination of small size; attenuated profile; short slightly decurved bill (usually with obvious pale area at base of lower mandible); short black legs; streaked chest and, usually, streaked flanks; narrow white wing-bar; and narrow white band across uppertail-coverts distinctive. Only **Baird's Sandpiper** similar in size and with long-winged, attenuated form; see that text for distinctions. **Curlew Sandpiper** and **Stilt Sandpiper** *Micropalama himantopus* only sandpipers similar in size and with white uppertail-coverts: **Stilt Sandpiper** is larger, with longer neck, much longer bill and much longer greenish or yellowish legs; can be confused with **Curlew Sandpiper** in non-breeding and juvenile plumages (especially those with shorter bills than normal); see that text for details.

Normally gregarious, in small to large flocks; only solitary vagrants known from HANZAB region. Typically with Red-necked Stints, Curlew Sandpipers and other small calidrids in coastal and subcoastal habitats, such as mudflats, swamps and lakes. Often tame. Generally have characteristic horizontal and often rather flat-backed stance accentuated by long wings and short legs, somewhat like large stretched-out Red-necked Stint. When alarmed, may adopt upright stance with tail down and head held high on upstretched neck, like that of Pectoral Sandpiper. Gait typical of genus, like that of stints (particularly when running), or of Curlew Sandpiper; sometimes move like plovers, in series of short fast runs and abrupt stops when feeding, with speed of runs exaggerated by rapid movements of legs. Feeding actions brisk, though more deliberate than stints; on muddy substrates, feed by picking from surface or by rapid probing in soft mud using full length of bill, often wading into water and immersing head to probe mud. Wings long, with fine wing-points projecting well beyond tip of tail at rest: at all ages, typically four primary-tips visible beyond tip of longest tertial and three beyond tip of tail, with tips of outer two very closely spaced and tip of fourth outermost falling roughly level with or slightly short of tip of tail; tips of folded wings cross over and describe characteristically large ovals as bird walks. Flight typical of genus, without fluttering of stints: swift and powerful, appearing characteristically loose and flowing with leisurely beats of very long, pointed, swept-back and somewhat sickle-shaped wings. Usual flight call distinctive high-pitched, thin mouse-like squeak *jeet*, *eeet* or *tzet*, often with hint of 'r'-sound, *tzreet*, often repeated in short quick series.



**HABITAT** When not breeding, at edges of wetlands, such as lagoons, swamps, lakes, pools and ditches; occasionally in flooded fields or round receding floodwaters; sometimes round estuaries and mudflats (Bent 1962; Myers & Myers 1979; AOU 1983; BWP). In A'asia, recorded in sheltered harbours and at edges of wetlands, including coastal lagoons, shallow lakes and muddy pools, sewage ponds and saltworks; also in paddocks and other habitats with short grass. Usually round soft exposed mudflats or banks, bars and spits of mud, sand or shells; may forage in soft mud at edge of water or in shallow water (McKenzie 1970; Edgar 1971; Smith 1976; McGill 1978; Smith *et al.* 1978; Curry *et al.* 1983; Smith & Chafer 1989; Cox & Lees 1990). On S. Georgia and S. Shetland Is, recorded in harbour, on tussock grassland and feeding in dry stream bed (Tickell 1960; Prince & Payne 1979; Prince & Croxall 1983); and foraging among rocks and meltwater runoff on edge of colony of penguins, below glacier and also in grassy marsh (Trivelpiece *et al.* 1987).

**DISTRIBUTION** Breed coastal Arctic Canada, from n. Yukon and nw. Mackenzie, E to ne. Keewatin, Southampton I., Bylot I. and s. Baffin I., and N to Banks, Melville and Bathurst Is; also occasionally n. Alaska. Non-breeding range mainly South America, mostly E of Andes and S of Equator, from s. Brazil, S to Falkland Is, C. Horn and Tierra del Fuego; occasionally Peru and Bolivia, and Chile, S of Antofagasta. Accidental to Galapagos Is. Regular in small numbers to Iceland, and British Isles; accidental to continental Europe and Azores; accidental s. Africa (Hockey *et al.* 1986) but regular to Tristan da Cunha (Richardson 1984).

**Aust.** Accepted records (RAC) (all singles): L. Murdeduke, Vic., 25 Nov. 1973–10 Feb. 1974 (Smith 1976); Werribee Sewage Farm, Vic., 9 Jan.–27 Feb. 1977 (Smith *et al.* 1978); Pitt Town Lagoon–McGrath's Hill–Baker's Lagoon, NSW, 29 Oct.–24 Dec. 1977 (McGill 1978; NSW Bird Rep. 1977); Windang, NSW, 31 Oct.–9 Nov. 1984 (Smith & Chafer 1989); ICI Saltworks, St Kilda, SA, 15 Jan. 1988 (Cox & Lees 1990); Tullakool Saltworks, NSW, 19 Jan. 1988 (RAC). Other unverified reports not vetted by RAC: L. Forrestdale, WA,

8–9 Feb. 1981 (Curry *et al.* 1983); Tullakool Saltworks, NSW, 18 Dec. 1987 (NSW Bird Rep. 1987). Single near Maitland, 21 Dec. 1989 (NSW Bird Rep. 1989) not accepted by RAC. Doubtful record between Queenscliff and Ocean Grove, Vic., 15 Oct. 1978 (Aust. Atlas). Claim from Avalon Saltworks, Vic., 15 Dec. 1990, withdrawn.

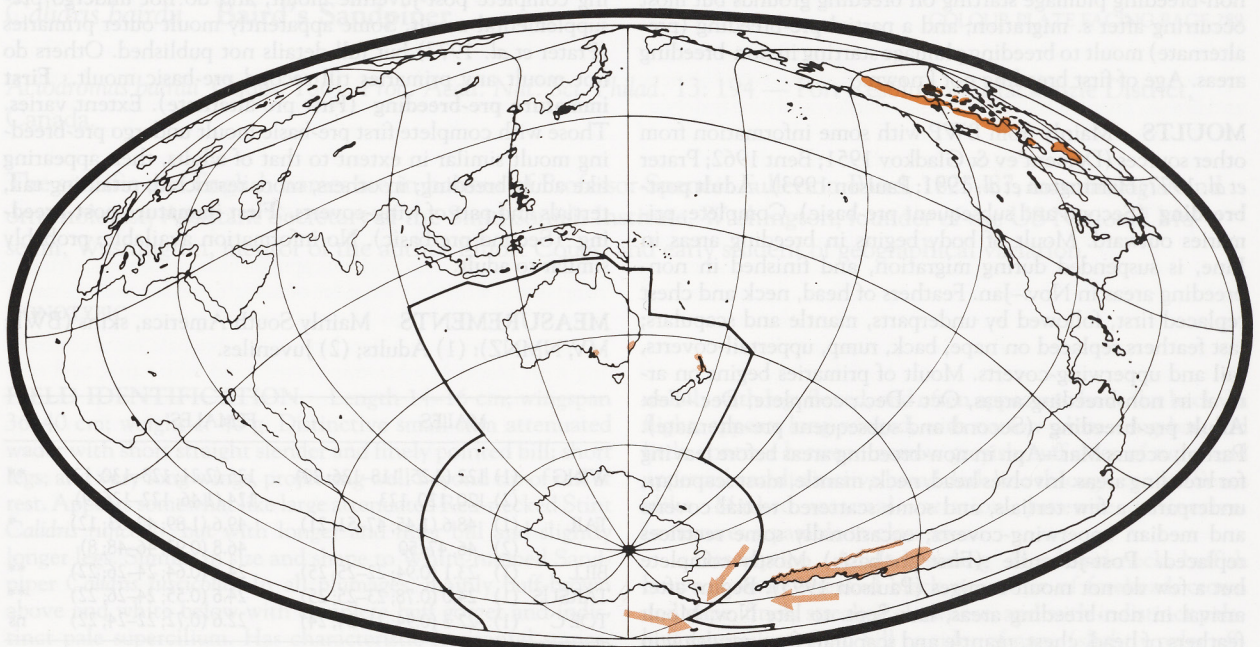
**NZ** Two, Karakara Shellbank, Manukau Harbour, 9–10 Dec. 1969 (McKenzie 1970); single, Paua, 30 Mar. 1971 (Edgar 1971).

**S. Shetland Is** Three, Ardley I., Oct. 1981 (Trivelpiece *et al.* 1987); unknown number, Livingston I., ≤1982 (Hemmings 1985); c. 25, King George I., 22 Oct. 1985–13 Feb. 1986; unknown number, Deception I., summer 1985–86; unknown number, Half Moon I., summer 1985–86; single, King George I., summer 1986–87 (Trivelpiece *et al.* 1987).

**S. Georgia** Most common migrant wader (Prince & Croxall 1983). Singles: Undine Harbour, 9–10 Nov. 1958 (Tickell 1960); Cooper I., 19 Dec. 1971; Bird I.: 2 Dec. 1975; Elsehul–Bird I., 16 Nov., 19 Nov. 1976 (Prince & Payne 1979); 19–24 Nov. 1978; 18 Dec. 1978 (different bird); Dec. 1980 (Prince & Croxall 1983).

**MOVEMENTS** Migratory; breed n. Canada and Alaska, moving S through inland of North America, along Atlantic coast, and through islands of Caribbean and n. South America; between July and early Dec. Records in HANZAB region all between Oct. and Mar. Occasionally straggle S and E of normal non-breeding range: S. Shetland Is, Oct.–Feb. (Trivelpiece *et al.* 1987); S. Georgia at end of period of s. migration (Tickell 1960; Prince & Payne 1979; Prince & Croxall 1983). In Aust., recorded in one locality for up to 11 weeks (Smith 1976); some local movement also recorded, e.g. at localities up to 3 km apart from Oct. to Dec. (NSW Bird Rep. 1977; McGill 1978). N. migration mainly through Central America, e. Mexico and interior of North America, Mar.–June (AOU 1983; BWP). No winter records from HANZAB region.

**PLUMAGES** Prepared by A.M. Dunn. Insufficient material in Aust. or NZ museums to provide full texts on plumage and







related matters; see BWP for full details. Begin partial or complete post-juvenile (first pre-basic) moult to first-immature non-breeding plumage after s. migration; some appear to moult outer primaries in first pre-supplemental moult during austral autumn. Birds that undergo complete post-juvenile moult undergo extensive first pre-breeding (pre-alternate) moult, attaining plumage similar to adult breeding; in others, first pre-breeding moult more restricted. Thereafter, moult twice annually: a complete post-breeding (pre-basic) moult to non-breeding plumage starting on breeding grounds but most occurring after s. migration; and a partial pre-breeding (pre-alternate) moult to breeding plumage starting in non-breeding areas. Age of first breeding not known.

**MOULTS** Mainly from BWP with some information from other sources (Dement'ev & Gladkov 1951; Bent 1962; Prater *et al.* 1977; Harrington *et al.* 1991; Paulson 1993). **Adult post-breeding** (Second and subsequent pre-basic). Complete; primaries outward. Moult of body begins in breeding areas in June, is suspended during migration, and finished in non-breeding areas in Nov.–Jan. Feathers of head, neck and chest replaced first, followed by underparts, mantle and scapulars; last feathers replaced on nape, back, rump, uppertail-coverts, tail and upperwing-coverts. Moult of primaries begins on arrival in non-breeding areas, Oct.–Dec.; complete, Dec.–Feb. **Adult pre-breeding** (Second and subsequent pre-alternate). Partial; occurs Mar.–Apr. in non-breeding areas before leaving for breeding areas. Involves head, neck, mantle, most scapulars, underparts, a few tertials, and some scattered tertial coverts and median upperwing-coverts; occasionally some rectrices replaced. **Post-juvenile** (First pre-basic). Mostly complete but a few do not moult remiges (Paulson 1993). Begins after arrival in non-breeding areas, late Sept. to late Nov. Moult feathers of head, chest, mantle and scapulars first, resulting in

non-breeding appearance by Dec. Those that complete moult continue to replace wing-coverts, tertials, back to tail, and all remiges from Jan. and migrate to breeding areas with adults; others stop moult and retain juvenile coverts, tertials, back to tail and remiges and possibly stay in non-breeding areas. However, there are few s. hemisphere records in austral winter (see BWP) and weights suggest that immatures migrate N with adults (Harrington *et al.* 1991). **Post-juvenile moult of primaries** (First pre-supplemental). Most replace primaries during complete post-juvenile moult, and do not undergo pre-supplemental moult. Some apparently moult outer primaries (Prater *et al.* 1977) but full details not published. Others do not moult any primaries till second pre-basic moult. **First immature pre-breeding** (First pre-alternate). Extent varies. Those with complete first pre-basic moult undergo pre-breeding moult similar in extent to that of adults, then appearing like adult breeding; in others, more restricted, retaining tail, tertials and part of wing-coverts. **First immature post-breeding** (Second pre-basic). No information available; probably similar to adult.

**MEASUREMENTS** Mainly South America, skins (BWP; MV, NMNZ): (1) Adults; (2) Juveniles.

	MALES	FEMALES	
WING	(1) 122 (2.25; 118–126; 20) (2) 120, 120, 123	125 (2.21; 123–130; 12) 124 (1.46; 122–126; 9)	**
TAIL	(1) 48.6 (1.45; 47–51; 21) (2) 46, 47, 50	49.6 (1.89; 47–53; 12) 46.8 (0.93; 46–48; 8)	*
BILL	(1) 23.1 (0.94; 22–25; 25)	24.4 (0.64; 24–26; 22)	**
TARSUS	(1) 24.0 (0.78; 23–25; 25)	24.6 (0.55; 24–26; 22)	**
TOE C	(1) 22.2 (0.94; 21–24; 24)	22.6 (0.72; 22–24; 22)	ns



**WEIGHTS** (1) Throughout range (BWP).

	MALES	FEMALES
Apr.	(1) 28, 30, 33	—
May.	(1) 35	50
early June	(1) 32, 34, 40	—
late June to Aug.	(1) 42, 43, 45	45.8 (37–51; 5)
Aug. to Sept.	(1) 31, 37, 45	—

Unsexed, South America (Harrington *et al.* 1991): (2) s. Brazil, austral summer; (3) s. Brazil, Apr.–May; (4) Venezuela, early Apr.–early June.

	UNSEXED
(2)	37.2 (4.50; 297)
(3)	55.9 (5.27; 39)
(4)	35.1 (4.00; 203)

Gain of weight before migration by immatures as in adults; see Harrington *et al.* (1991) for information on flight-range and changes in weight.

**AGEING** On arrival in non-breeding areas, juveniles have fresh primaries, while adult primaries worn or moulting. In Dec.–Feb., most immatures (first basic) moulting primaries, while adult moult finished and primaries fresh. In Mar.–Apr., immatures indistinguishable from adults, though those that undergo only partial first pre-basic moult recognizable by worn primaries until these are replaced in second pre-basic moult.

**SEXING** When breeding, males have swollen subcutaneous tissue on throat that causes considerable enlargement of throat (Parmelee *et al.* 1968; BWP).

**GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION** None.

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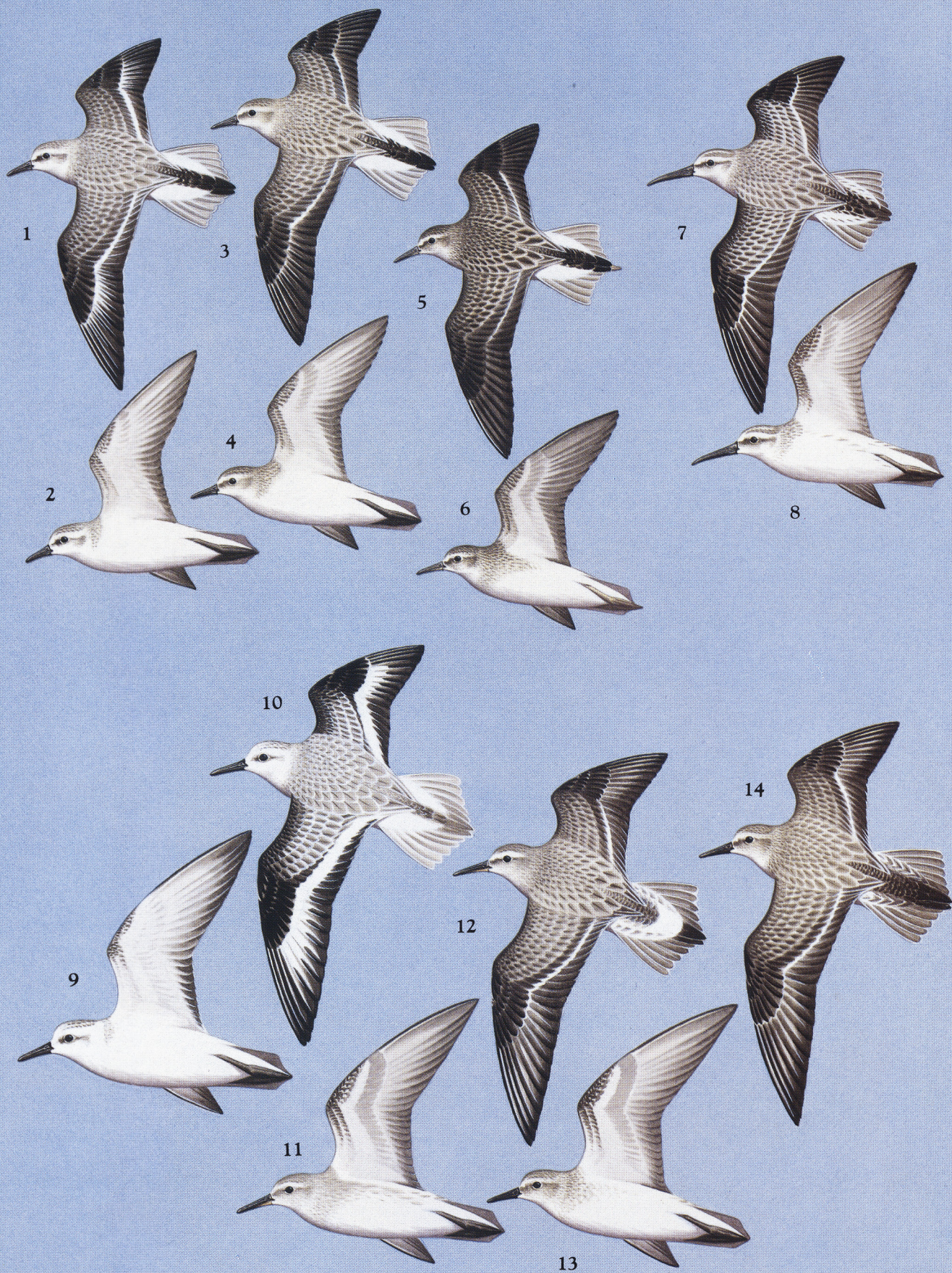
Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (page 283)  
 1 Adult breeding; 2 Adult non-breeding; 3 Juvenile

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (page 279)  
 4 Adult breeding; 5 Adult non-breeding; 6 Juvenile

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (page 333)  
 7 Adult breeding; 8 Adult non-breeding; 9 Juvenile; 10 First immature non-breeding

Sanderling *Calidris alba* (page 237)  
 11 Adult breeding; 12 Adult non-breeding; 13 Juvenile; 14 First immature non-breeding





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**Volume 3, Plate 16**

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* (page 258)  
1, 2 Adult

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* (page 250)  
3, 4 Adult

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* (page 270)  
5, 6 Adult

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (page 333)  
7, 8 Adult

Sanderling *Calidris alba* (page 237)  
9, 10 Adult

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (page 279)  
11, 12 Adult

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (page 283)  
13, 14 Adult