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648 Charadriiformes

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 seedsnipes; 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.	
Jacanidae 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	n Neotropic
Haematopodidae oystercatchers; c. 11 species, worldwide in tropics and temperate regions.	
Recurvirostridae avocets and stilts; about seven species, worldwide in tropical and temperate re	egions.
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 pratincoles, coursers, and Egyptian Plover; c. 15 species, widespread in Old W	/orld.
Stercorariidae skuas and jaegers; about seven species, mostly in Arctic and Antarctic region	s.
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.	8891 H3.9 1991 A.9 B

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, Procellariformes, 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, Jacanidae) and charadrids and allies (Chionididae, Burhinidae, Haematopodidae, Recurvirostridae, Ibidorhyncidae, Charadriidae, Pluvianellidae, Dromadidae, Glareolidae, Stercorcariidae, 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 charadrids (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 Jacanidae. 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, Stercorcariidae, 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, rhynchokinesis 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 upperwingcoverts; 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,

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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 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 Westernport 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 Surfbird 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 Surfbirds (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 ¹
Aphriza	1 (Surfbird)	0
Calidris	18	8 NB, 6A, 1D
Eurynorhynchus	1 (Spoon-billed Sandpiper)	0
Micropalama	1 (Stilt Sandpiper)	1 NA
Tryngites	1 (Buff-breasted Sandpiper)	1 NA
Limicola	1 (Broad-billed Sandpiper)	1 NB
Philomachus	1 (Ruff)	1 NB

¹ 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. melanotus, 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 rhynchokinetic 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. *maritima*). (3) Like second strategy, but first pre-alternate moult produces dull plumage, mostly like non-breeding but often

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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 nonbreeding 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 mauri Western Sandpiper

Ereunetes mauri Cabanis, 1857, J. Orn. 1856 (4): 420-1 — Cuba.

The specific name is in honour of Ernesto Mauri (1791–1836), Italian botanist and director of the botanical gardens in Rome, who aided Prince Bonaparte; the Prince persuaded Jean Cabanis to name the sandpiper after his botanical mentor.

The English name refers to the coast of the USA.

OTHER ENGLISH NAMES Web-footed Sandpiper.

MONOTYPIC

FIELD IDENTIFICATION Length 14-17 cm; wingspan 28-31 cm; weight 20-35 g. Largest stint. Very small sandpiper with round shoulders, flat back, front-heavy carriage and long tapered body; short wings reach level with or slightly beyond tip of tail at rest; primary projection short in adults, short to moderate in juveniles. Unlike other stints in HANZAB region, toes are webbed. General shape and structure more similar to Dunlin Calidris alpina than stints. Compared with other stints, stand taller and appear to have large head, long legs and long bill; bill of females, long and slightly decurved, tapering from rather deep base to fine tip; bill of males, shorter and straighter. In flight, all plumages show narrow white wingbar and white sides to black-centred rump and uppertailcoverts. Flight call distinctive. Sexes similar, but females slightly larger, with longer bills that droop more obviously at tip. Marked seasonal variation. Juvenile distinct. Immatures separable.

Description Adult breeding Centre of forehead and crown, rufous, coarsely streaked black; sides and rear of crown and nape, rufous, with finer and sparser black streaking. Rest of head and neck, white, grading to grey on hindneck and coarsely streaked black except on chin and throat; with prominent broad white supercilium, broadest behind eye (where finely streaked darker); diffuse dusky loral stripe broadening into smudge in front of eye; and rich rufous patch on earcoverts. Feathers of mantle, black, narrowly fringed grey and rufous and which form only weak narrow pale lines along outer mantle. Scapulars and some new tertials, black, with broad rufous fringes and narrow pale-grey or white tips when fresh; large rufous bases exposed on lower rows of scapulars when these well spread; and foremost upper scapulars often appear almost uniform rufous, forming bright patch of colour at shoulder. Most tertials and all innerwing-coverts contrastingly plain, brownish grey with narrow white fringes. In flight, show: plain brownish-grey innerwing-coverts and slightly darker primary coverts and remiges, with clear narrow white wing-bar along tips of greater coverts; white sides to black line through centre of rump and uppertail-coverts; and dark centre to otherwise pale-grey tail. Underwing, white. Underbody, white, with heavy black streaking on foreneck and upper breast, bold arrowheads on lower breast and flanks; and, often, finer dark streaks on sides of vent and undertail-coverts. With wear, cap, mantle and scapulars become more rufous as pale fringes and tips lost; and black streaking on underbody may coalesce to almost solid black areas on foreneck and breast. Bill, black (rarely, brownish black). Iris, dark brown. Legs and feet, black, sometimes tinged green or brown; with care, webbing between toes can be seen. Adult non-breeding Differ from breeding by: centre of forehead and crown, pale grey, coarsely streaked black; nape, hindneck and sides of neck, pale grey, more finely streaked dark; with prominent white supercilium from bill to above rear ear-coverts, broadest and cleanest in front of eye but often finely streaked dark behind, and giving rather white-faced appearance from head on; narrow dusky loral stripe, often broadening into smudge in front of eye; fine dark streaking on grey ear-coverts and finely streaked and speckled lower cheeks; upper half of narrow white eye-ring usually masked by white supercilium. Rest of upperparts and innerwing-coverts, pale grey with fine dark streaks and fine white fringes when fresh. Underbody, white, with pale grey on sides of breast, overlain with fine dark streaks, which usually form distinctive necklace across upper breast. With wear, upperparts become browner and white fringes lost. Juvenile Differ from breeding by: head and neck much as non-breeding, but grey forehead and crown has darker central ridge of coarser black streaking and faint rufous wash; some have rufous tone to whole crown and earcoverts. General colour of upperparts varies from strongly chestnut-rufous to rather grey, but centre of mantle and fringes of upper scapulars, always rich rufous-chestnut, contrasting with grey lower scapulars and innerwing-coverts. Feathers of mantle and upper scapulars, black, with narrow white fringes that form faint pale mantle V and scapular lines (sometimes absent); lower scapulars, grey, with narrow white fringes that grade to rufous at base, clear black shafts, and distinctive black anchor- or diamond-shaped subterminal markings. Tertials, grey, grading to dark grey at tips and narrowly fringed white or rufous (as general colour of upperparts). Innerwing-coverts, pale grey, with clear dark streaks and narrow white or buff fringes; innermost few greater coverts have small diffuse black subterminal smudge. Underbody, white, with varying orangerufous wash and sharply defined dark streaking on sides of breast. With wear, rufous and pale fringes on upperparts reduced and rufous wash on breast fades. However, rufous fringes often still apparent on upper scapulars of birds well advanced in moult to first immature non-breeding, showing as brightrufous shoulder-patch on otherwise pale-grey upperparts. First immature non-breeding Separable from adult non-breeding only by some worn, retained pale-fringed juvenile innerwingcoverts and tertials (with clear dark shafts and small dark subterminal markings) contrasting with fresh rest of upperparts; on adult, coverts and tertials fresh, uniform pale-grey with neat white fringe. First immature breeding Most remain in non-breeding plumage or attain only scattered breeding feathers in upperparts. Separable from adult till Aug.-Sept. of second year by very worn retained juvenile remiges (fresh or in adults).

Similar species In HANZAB region, only likely to be confused with Red-necked Stint; see that text for details. On subantarctic islands, considerable risk of confusion with vagrant Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla; see Grant & Jonsson (1984), Lewington *et al.* (1991) and Veit & Jonsson (1984) for full discussion. Dunlin has similar shape and long decurved bill and may be confused in non-breeding plumage. However, Dunlin is much bigger, usually has longer bill, and appears to have smaller head and longer body; no webbing between toes; in non-breeding plumage, upperparts are darker grey, wing-bar more conspicuous, and chest appears darker; flight call is similar to that of Western but more raspy in tone.

Gregarious in normal range, often in large flocks; only solitary vagrants reported in HANZAB region. Mainly coastal in non-breeding season, preferring estuarine mudflats and sandy beaches, but also on wide variety of coastal and near-coastal wetlands. Likely to occur in same habitats as Red-necked Stint. Gait and feeding actions similar to those of Red-necked Stint, except feeding often more methodical (like Dunlin) with less frequent pecking and probing; tend to wade in deeper water and swim more than other stints. Flight, swift and agile, and very similar to flight of Red-necked Stints but less free and fluttering. Usual flight call distinctive thin, rather sharp and high-pitched *jeet* or *cheet*, recalling flight call of White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, only notes longer. Also give highpitched *kirrp* and *kirr* and even higher-pitched notes, lacking rsound.

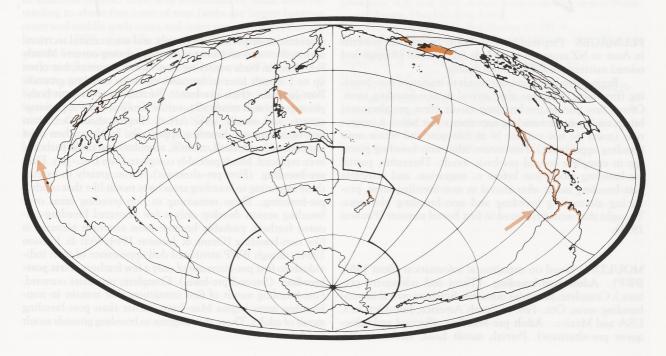
HABITAT During non-breeding period, mudflats of sheltered tidal inlets, bays, lagoons and beaches; also lakes, ponds and inundated paddocks (Bent 1962; AOU 1983; Flint *et al.* 1984; BWP). Reports from HANZAB region mostly in coastal habitats; on mudflats round edges of lagoons, harbours and bays. Once said to have occurred on inland wetland (*c.* 800 km from coast), dominated by canegrass, and with open water surrounding small islets of grass and other vegetation. (Blackburn & Bell 1965; Thomas 1970; Edgar 1971; Hobbs 1974; Pegler & McGill 1979; CSN 19, 26).

DISTRIBUTION Breed round coast of Bering Sea, on e. and n. Chukotskiy Pen. W to mouth of Amguema R., in ne. Siberia; most of breeding population in w. and n. Alaska, from Bristol Bay N to Seward Pen., and occasionally farther N to Pt Barrow. Spend non-breeding season along coast of Pacific Ocean, from California, S through Central America to Peru, and along coast of Atlantic Ocean from South Carolina, through Caribbean and Central America, S and E to Surinam. Vagrant W of normal range: Central Siberia, Japan, Taiwan, Hawaii, Johnston Atoll, Galapagos Is, Canary Is, Azores, British Isles, France and Denmark (AOU 1983; Pratt *et al.* 1987; AWB 1993; BWP; P.S. Tomkovich).

Aust. No acceptable records (RAC); claims include (all singles): Sandford, Tas., 6 Sept. 1969 (Thomas 1970); Ticehurst Swamp, near Ivanhoe, NSW, 11 May 1974 (Hobbs 1974); Homebush Bay, NSW, 22–23 Nov. 1978 (Pegler & McGill 1979).

NZ Following listed in NZCL without comment (singles unless stated): Farewell Spit, early Oct. 1964 (Blackburn & Bell 1965); Rangiputa Bank, Rangaunu Harbour, 3 Nov. 1970 (Edgar 1971); two sightings, Firth of Thames, Feb. 1971 (CSN 19); Paua, 28 Jan. 1979 (CSN 26); one or two, Firth of Thames, 1984 (NZCL).

MOVEMENTS Migratory. Birds from e. Siberia apparently cross to Alaska and Canada and migrate S with Nearctic population. In North America, some move S along Pacific coast, fewer through interior; others cross USA to Atlantic coast. Pass USA, July–Nov., with adults arriving before juveniles. Return through USA, Apr.–June; return to Alaskan breeding grounds, May; to Chukotskiy Pen., late May to midJune. Many remain in non-breeding areas during breeding period (AOU 1983; BWP; P.S. Tomkovich). Vagrant W of normal range, during passage or non-breeding periods in e. Asia, central Pacific Ocean, NZ and, possibly, se. Aust. (see Distribution).





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 post-juvenile moult to immature non-breeding (first basic) plumage after arrival in non-breeding areas. Often, first partial pre-breeding moult (first pre-alternate) brings on immature breeding appearance just before n. migration (many do not migrate N in first year and retain nonbreeding appearance). First attain adult non-breeding plumage in complete second pre-basic moult. Thereafter, partial pre-breeding moult just before n. migration, and complete post-breeding moult after arrival in non-breeding areas, producing alternating breeding and non-breeding plumages. Thought that most first breed in first boreal summer (Paulson 1993).

MOULTS Based on extralimital information (Bent 1962; BWP). Adult post-breeding (Third and subsequent prebasic). Complete; primaries outwards. Starts on arrival in nonbreeding areas; Oct.–Feb. in South America, July–Oct. in s. USA and Mexico. Adult pre-breeding (Second and subsequent pre-alternate). Partial; moult head, neck, mantle, scapulars, underparts, some tertials, and some central rectrices, uppertail-coverts and inner median upperwing-coverts. Mainly Feb.-Mar. in birds wintering in n. South America, but often up to 1 month later in latitudes closer to breeding grounds. **Post-juvenile** (First pre-basic). Partial; involves most bodyplumage, though retain all juvenile remiges, some upperwingcoverts, and usually, some tertials. Begins about Oct. Gain first-immature non-breeding appearance by Nov. when most plumage of head, neck, mantle, scapulars and underparts has been replaced. Moult probably completed late Dec.-Jan. First pre-breeding (First pre-alternate). Varies greatly in extent; those migrating to breeding areas have moult like that of adult pre-breeding. Those remaining in non-breeding areas over breeding season develop only a few scattered breeding-coloured feathers, probably because most alternate plumage is like non-breeding (Grant & Jonsson 1984; Veit & Jonsson 1984), though BWP attributed dull appearance of such individuals to first pre-alternate of only a few feathers. First postbreeding (Second pre-basic). Complete; primaries outward. Post-breeding moult of first immatures that remain in nonbreeding areas begins May-June, earlier than post-breeding moult of adults. Those that migrate to breeding grounds moult as adults.

MEASUREMENTS (1) Throughout range, adults, skins (BWP, AM, MV).

young bi soon cha	MALES	FEMALES	
WING	(1) 96.8 (2.13; 94–101; 12)	101 (1.36; 99–103; 16)	**
TAIL	(1) 41.0 (2.53; 36-45; 13)	42.0 (1.96; 38-45; 20)	ns
BILL	(1) 23.1 (0.99; 21.7–25.3; 18)	26.8 (0.73; 23.8–28.2; 21)	**
TARSUS	(1) 21.8 (0.65; 20.8–23.0; 19)	23.4 (0.70; 22.1–25.0; 22)	**
TOEC	(1) 18.0 (0.85; 16.7–19.5; 16)	19.4 (0.88; 17.3–21.3; 21)	**

Wing and tail of juveniles average 1.1 mm and 4.4 mm shorter (respectively) than wing and tail of adults; length of bill, tarsus and toe similar to adult from about Oct. (BWP). For more measurements, see Senner *et al.* (1981) and Page & Fearis (1971).

WEIGHTS (1–3) Adults (BWP): (1) Panama and n. South America; (2) California; (3) Vancouver Is, Canada, and Alaska. (4–5) British Columbia, live (Butler *et al.* 1987): (4) Adults; (5) Juveniles.

arean, wanta deardst above	MALES	FEMALES	
Nov.–Mar. (1)	23.9 (4.06; 19–30; 5)	26.7 (5.21; 22–35; 5)	ns
Marearly Apr. (2)	24.2 (1.86; 18-30; 135)	-	
Apr. (4)	27.0 (1.1; 235)	30.2 (2.5; 34)	**
Late AprMay (2)	25.6 (3.07; 20-32; 156)	with the side of t	
(3)	27.9 (3.34; 21-35; 103)	(opuperpansen <u>d</u> ur	
May (4)	28.0 (1.3; 219)	31.0 (1.8; 249)	**
June (4)	23.9 (1.3; 65)	25.7 (1.5; 98)	**
July (4)	24.5 (1.3; 317)	27.2 (1.5; 341)	**
(5)	27.0 (1.3; 4)	26.6 (0.8; 14)	ns
Aug. (5)	25.4 (1.9; 206)	28.0 (2.1; 236)	**
Sept. (5)	26.3 (1.6; 286)	28.7 (1.9; 324)	**

RECOGNITION In non-breeding plumages, very similar to dark-legged stints of HANZAB region, but differ consistently in structure of foot: front toes connected by small webs extending to about first joint of toes (webs are largest between outer and middle toe); outer and inner toes are proportionally longer (c. 90% of middle toe, cf. c. 80–85% in other Aust. stints). Semipalmated Sandpiper has similar structure of feet but generally separable on length and structure of bill, which is shorter, straighter and stubbier; and in w. populations of Semipalmated Sandpiper, bill of males 17.3 mm (0.73; 23) and females 18.9 (0.41; 9) (BWP); e. populations, which are extremely unlikely to occur in HANZAB region, have longer bills, and length of bill of largest females may overlap with length of bill of smallest male Western Sandpipers and identi-

fication can then be difficult (see Prater et al. 1977; Grant & Jonsson 1984; Veit & Jonsson 1984).

AGEING Only juveniles and adults reliably separable upon arrival in non-breeding areas, July–Oct. Most birds undergoing second pre-basic moult difficult to distinguish from adults because timing of moult of primaries in adults varies individually; a few may be detected by advanced moult of primaries, with retained juvenile outer primaries more worn than outer primaries of adults. Juveniles arrive with fresh primaries, which are retained until about May or June; attain first immature non-breeding plumage by about Nov. Adults arrive with all primaries worn and soon undergo moult of primaries, which remains active for 2–3 months. All birds with fresh wings aged as adults from about Dec., but immatures (first basic) separable at this time by heavier abrasion of primaries.

SEXING Plumages similar. Females have significantly longer wing, bill, tarsus and toe than males. Length of bill can be used to determine sex of most individuals: males \leq 24.2 mm, females \geq 24.8 mm; correctly sex 92% of males and 90% of females (Page & Fearis 1971).

GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION None.

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