

Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularia

Description

The Spotted Sandpiper (whose name means “dweller on the sea coast” and “spot” for the spots on the under parts during breeding season) is commonly seen in suitable habitats all over Alberta from May through August. It migrates here from its winter home (in the southern United States through to South America) to nest in long grass, under small shrubs or logs along the shores of Canada’s many lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. This is a medium sized sandpiper (one of twenty-one types of Sandpipers found in Canada) with olive green upper parts, white under parts with bold round black spots (but only during breeding season), white eyebrows, a short barred tail and dull yellow legs. Its bill is ‘dagger’ shaped, dull orange with a dark tip, good for poking into mud for food. Its legs are short and yellowish, its feet ideal for wading in the water’s edge. It is most frequently seen foraging for food (insects, crustaceans, fish, spiders worms, snails) along shorelines, gravel bars, and in mudflats, wetlands, pastures and cultivated fields.

FUN FACTS



- Females establish and defend territory. She arrives at the breeding grounds before the male to pick and hold territory.
- Females may mate with more than one male leaving the male to care for the clutch of 3-5 eggs and hatched young.
- This bird nods, and teeters up and down as though having difficulty balancing. Chicks teeter as soon as they hatch.
- It has rapid flight with stuttering/quivering wing beats and glides. They make a high whistle upon taking off.




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org



Contact Us

 11555—85th Street NW, Calgary, AB T3R 1J3
 403-214-1312

 admin@calgarywildlife.org
 calgarywildlife.org

 @calgarywildlife
 @calgarywildlife
 @Calgary_wildlife