

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

A medium-sized, chunky shorebird, the Pectoral Sandpiper is found most commonly on mudflats with short grass or weedy vegetation and seems more at home in the grass than in the water.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

Medium-sized sandpiper. Moderately long neck. Moderately long, slightly drooping bill. Moderately long, yellowish or greenish legs. Dark, densely streaked chest showing sharp border with white belly. Dark center of rump and tail. Back reddish brown with two thin white lines extending its length.

Immature Description

Juvenile similar to adult, but with more scaly pattern on back and finer streaks on chest.

Cool Facts

- The breeding male Pectoral Sandpiper has an inflatable throat sac, which expands and contracts rhythmically during display flights. The accompanying vocalization consists of a series of hollow hoots, and is one of the most unusual sounds heard in summer on the arctic tundra.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 8.7 inches
- Wingspan - 16.9 inches
- Weight - 1.4 - 3.7 ounces

