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# Purple Sandpiper

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris maritima*) is a small shorebird.

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## Description [edit]

Adults have short yellow legs and a medium thin dark bill with a yellow base. The body is dark on top with a slight purplish gloss and mainly white underneath. The breast is smeared with grey and the rump is black. They measure 20–22 cm (7.9–8.7 in) in length and 42–46 cm (17–18 in) across the wings, and weight is from 50–105 g (1.8–3.7 oz).<sup>[2]</sup>

## Breeding [edit]

Their breeding habitat is the northern tundra on Arctic islands in Canada and coastal areas in Greenland and northwestern Europe. They nest on the ground either elevated on rocks or in lower damp location. The males makes several scrapes; the female choose one and lays 3 or 4 eggs. The male takes the major responsibility for incubation and tends the chicks. The young feed themselves.

An apparent case of hybridization between this species and the Dunlin has been reported from England (Millington, 1994).

Purple Sandpiper



Conservation status

Extinct

Threatened

Least Concern

EX

EW

CR

EN

VU

NT

LC

Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[1]</sup>

Scientific classification

Kingdom:

Animalia

Phylum:

Chordata

Class:

Aves

Order:

Charadriiformes

Family:

Scolopacidae

Genus:

Calidris

Species:

C. maritima

Binomial name

Calidris maritima

Brünnich, 1764

Synonyms

Erolia maritima

Arquatella maritima



Range of C. maritima

Cymraeg

Dansk

Deutsch

Eesti

Español

Esperanto

Euskara

Føroyskt

Français

Íslenska

Italiano

עברית

Kalaallisut

Latviešu

Lietuvių

Magyar

Nederlands

Norsk bokmål

Norsk nynorsk

Picard

Piemontèis

Polski

Português

Русский

Suomi

Svenska

Tiếng Việt

Winaray

Edit links

## Range and Migration [edit]

In Britain, these birds occur in winter in good numbers principally along the east and south coasts, where they favour rocky shorelines adjacent to the sea. It is much rarer as a breeding bird, found only in a localised area of the **Cairngorms National Park**, where 1–3 pairs have bred since the 1970s. Records of breeding by this species in the UK are monitored and archived by the **Rare Breeding Birds Panel**.

They are late **migrants** and move to rocky ice-free **Atlantic** coasts in winter. most go no further south than **North Carolina** and northern **Portugal**. They are fairly gregarious, forming small flocks, often with **Ruddy Turnstones**. This species is tame and approachable.

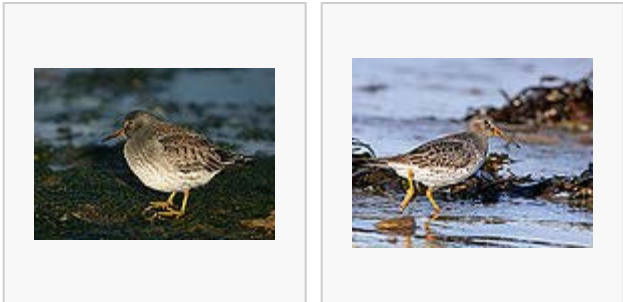
## Feeding [edit]

These birds forage on rocky coasts, picking up food by sight. They mainly eat arthropods and mollusks, also some plant material.

## Status [edit]

The Purple Sandpiper is one of the species to which the *Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds* (AEWA) applies.

## Gallery [edit]



Winter adult at Lowestoft, UK

Northumberland, June 2008

## References [edit]

1.

↑

BirdLife International (2012). "Calidris maritima" . *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2*. International Union for Conservation of Nature. Retrieved 26 November 2013.

2.

↑

[1]  (2011).

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Millington, Richard (1994): A mystery Calidris at Cley. *Birding World* **7**(2): 61-63. HTML excerpt

## External links [edit]

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Purple Sandpiper facts on BTO BirdFacts

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Purple Sandpiper Information  at eNature.com

Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Purple***

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple\_Sandpiper[4/30/2014 1:50:49 PM]

- [Purple Sandpiper videos, photos, and sounds](#)  at the Internet Bird Collection
- [Purple Sandpiper photo gallery](#)  at VIREO (Drexel University)

[Sandpiper.](#)

[Wikispecies](#) has information related to: *[Calidris maritima](#)*

Categories: [IUCN Red List least concern species](#) | [Calidris](#) | [Erolia](#) | [Sandpipers](#) | [Birds of Europe](#) | [Birds of the Faroe Islands](#) | [British Isles coastal fauna](#) | [Birds of Ukraine](#) | [Animals described in 1764](#)

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