

Baird's sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

At rest, the Baird's sandpiper's wings extend about one-half inch beyond the tail tip. Its legs are black. The feathers across the breast are brown or very light brown. The general color of the feathers on the upper side of the body is brown.

BEHAVIORS

Most of the spring migration for Baird's sandpiper is to the west of Illinois, but a few individuals usually appear in the state each year. Southbound migrants are almost entirely immatures of the species while the adults move along the coastlines of the United States. Spring migrants begin appearing in Illinois in March. They breed in the Arctic tundra. July is the beginning of the southward migration through Illinois. Overwintering occurs in South America. The birds can be seen on mudflats, beaches, sandbars, golf courses and at airports. They feed on small invertebrates.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; marshes; rivers and streams; temporary water supplies

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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