

pectoral sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Scolopacidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The pectoral sandpiper is about eight and three-tenths to slightly more than eight and three-fourths inches long (tail tip to bill tip in preserved specimen). Dark streaks on the breast end abruptly in a horizontal line. The back feathers are dark brown with white lines. The crown may have some rust coloration, and the legs are dull yellow.

BEHAVIORS

This species is a common migrant through Illinois. Spring migrants begin arriving in early March. They nest in the Arctic. Migrants returning south start appearing in late June. The species overwinters in southern South America. Flooded fields, shorelines, mudflats and wet pastures are the habitats used in Illinois as these birds search for insects and other small invertebrates.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

temporary water supplies

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge

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