

# Bird of the Month - July

## Least Sandpiper



### IDENTIFICATION

- **Our smallest shorebird, only the size of a sparrow. Look for a tiny bird, near the water. Yellow legs will seal the ID**
- **Males and Females are similar**
- **Their call is a high-pitched “creep”**

### FOOD

- **Eats mostly aquatic invertebrates like worms and crustaceans. Forages near the water’s edge or very shallow water**

### PREDATORS

- **The main predator of any shorebird is the Peregrine Falcon**

### BEHAVIORS AND FUN FACTS

- **Habitat - Shallow water edges. Least Sandpipers breed in the far north and only visit us during their spring and fall migrations**
- **Sandpipers usually find safety in numbers and like to form small Flocks, often mixed in with other shorebirds. This helps them avoid predators**
- **The average Least Sandpiper weighs in at just about one ounce or the same as 5 quarters**
- **In the fall, Least Sandpipers may fly non-stop over 2000 miles to their wintering grounds in South America**
- **Shorebirds can be difficult to identify, so it’s important to look carefully. Binoculars are usually necessary to nail down the Least Sandpiper ID**
- **Least Sandpipers are more tolerant of humans and flush less often than other shorebirds**