

Anatomy

Small but beautiful wader, yellow-orange to brown speckled with black back and crown. Underparts are much lighter, beige to white with some black speckles on the breast. The long bill and legs are black. In summer, the belly is black. In winter, the belly is white, and the back and crown become a duller grey-brown.



Distribution

The dunlin breeds on the western and southern coast of Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, Scandinavia, the UK, some parts of northern Europe, Siberia, western and northern Alaska, and northern mainland Canada. In the winter, the different populations move south to different locations depending on their breeding areas.

Why this species?

- Beautiful and colorful wader
- Circumpolar
- Population decreasing
- The black belly is unique and makes it easy to identify in summer

Population

Estimated 853,000-1,120,000 mature individuals (2015) but decreasing



Fun facts

Female dunlins are usually larger than males and have proportionally longer bills than them.

Usually, it is the male dunlin that takes care of the juveniles. The female leaves the breeding area, letting him take care of the chicks.

The dunlin is one of the most sociable sandpipers. Groups of dunlins can reach hundreds of thousands of birds at wintering areas.

It is likely that the dunlin sometimes successfully reproduces with the purple sandpiper, as apparent hybrids have been spotted.

Residence period in different Arctic regions IS FO SV AN JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC