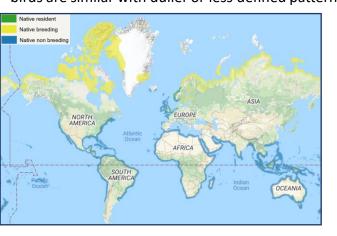


Ruddy turnstone (Arenaria interpres)

Identification

L: 22-24 cm/S: 50-57 cm

Small, sturdy wader. The breeding male has a whitishbeige head with black streaks, and a black curved line on the eye that is connected to a black collar. This black pattern is connected to a black breast and black flank patch. The wings are chestnut brown with black scale patterns. The underparts are white. The bill is short and black, the legs orange. Breeding females and nonbreeding birds are similar with duller or less defined patterns.



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Distribution

The ruddy turnstone has a circumpolar breeding distribution, breeding on the entire northern Eurasian coast (including coastal Norway), the Baltic, southern Siberian islands, western and northern Alaska, northern Canada, Greenland, and Svalbard. Eurasian ruddy turnstones migrate in the winter to western Europe, Africa, the middle East, southern Asia, and Australasia. American ruddy turnstones winter in the US, central America, and northern South America.

Why this species?

- Beautifully patterned wader, easy to identify
- Interesting wintering range, huge from very northern to very southern.
- On every continent except the Antarctic

Fun facts

The ruddy turnstone is named for its behavior: it is often seen turning stones over, looking for crustaceans, mollusks, and insects. It can also use its bill like a shovel, digging holes in the sand.

Ruddy turnstones are monogamous, and usually meet the same mate for multiple breeding seasons. They are also very territorial during this period and may even attack other turnstones at the beginning of the breeding season.

During their migration, ruddy turnstone may travel more than 700 kilometers in one day.

Population

Estimated 300,000-500,000 mature individuals but decreasing



