

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*



Folk Name: Ox-eye Snipe, Sneeding

Status: Migrant

Abundance: Rare

Habitat: Mudflats

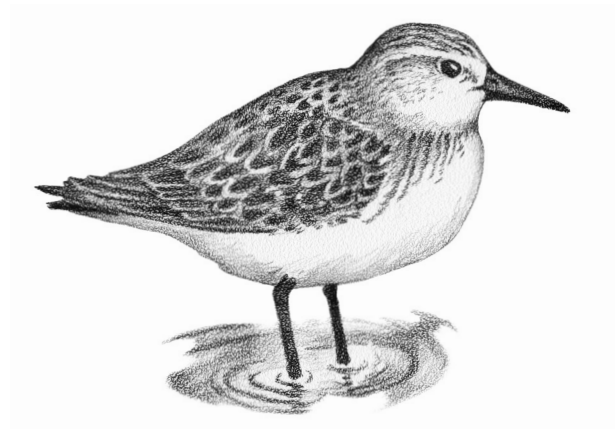
The Semipalmated Sandpiper and the Western Sandpiper are often misidentified. Great care should be taken when trying to differentiate between them in the field. The Semipalmated Sandpiper is a rare but regular migrant in this region in both spring and fall.

Both of these species were once heavily hunted along the Atlantic Coast to fill orders for the millinery trade.

“All of the snipe family were also in great demand. Even the little ox-eye did not escape, for a single order was placed for 600,000 of these at three cents each to fill an English contract.”

—*The Charlotte Democrat*, December 26, 1890

Our spring migration dates for this peep range from 18 March through 27 May. One June record was reported by Tom Sanders and Ron Clark. Fall migration dates range from 19 July in 2010 through 25 September recorded in 2015. The Semipalmated Sandpiper has been reported



in our region 17 out of the last 20 years. Most sightings are of fewer than seven birds. Steve Tracy tallied a flock of 16 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Allen Steam Plant in Gaston County on May 18, 1997, providing the peak count recorded in this region.

The Semipalmated Sandpiper is listed on the Yellow Watch List of birds of the continental United States. It is a species with both “troubling” population declines and “high threats.” It is in need of conservation action.