

Have you seen a shorebird with a colored flag on its leg?

You can help save imperiled migratory shorebirds by recording and reporting information on any color-marked birds you spot.

An international team of researchers has been marking several species of imperiled migratory shorebirds. These birds make long annual trips from wintering grounds as far south as the tip of South America to breeding grounds in the high Arctic.

The marked birds—red knots, semipalmated sandpipers, ruddy turnstones, sanderlings, whimbrels and Hudsonian godwits—sport leg bands and flags colored according to the country where they were affixed. Most flags also feature codes that make it possible to identify individual birds.

“Resightings” of marked birds when they stop to rest and feed along their journey provide much-needed data on movement patterns and habitat uses and needs. This information is vital to understanding and reversing the population declines migratory shorebirds are experiencing, and scientists need your help collecting it.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

By making a few key observations and entering them into an online database, you can do your part to keep these birds from disappearing from our shores forever. (You can also look up all the other data collected on the birds you spot.)

All you need is a spotting scope, binoculars or camera with telephoto lens, a willingness to be on the lookout for marked birds and a commitment to not disturbing them.

Learn more and sign up at
www.bandedbirds.org

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