

KNOW YOUR PURPLE SANDPIPER

MOTTLED PURPLED GREY BACK

SHORT GREY & ORANGE BILL

SHORT YELLOW LEGS

LIGHT PURPLED GREY
FRONT



Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Summer: 0
Winter: 9,700

UK conservation status: **Red**
Protected by The Wildlife and
Countryside Act 1981.

Movements and Migration

9,700 individuals arrive from Greenland, Svalbard and Scandinavia for winter. It is rare to see these birds breeding in the UK apart from a couple attempts in northern Scottish islands.

Voice

Although usually silent, flocks sometimes make a Swallow-like twittering 'wee-wit' as they take off.

Food

Picks up food left stranded by the tide or pecks amongst mussels or seaweed. In winter, eats small winkles, mussels, dog whelks, shrimps, small crabs, insects and other tiny creatures washed up by the tide or among living seaweed.

Threats

Breeding sites in the UK are kept secret to protect the birds from egg thieves and disturbance. Also disturbance from recreational activity along coastal sites during winter period.

Migration:

1,375-2,000 miles

Flight Initiation Distance:

36 metres

Wingspan:

40-44 cm

Oldest Bird:

20 years

