

## Red Knot *Calidris canutus*



**Folk Name:** Beach Robin, Robin Snipe

**Status:** Migrant

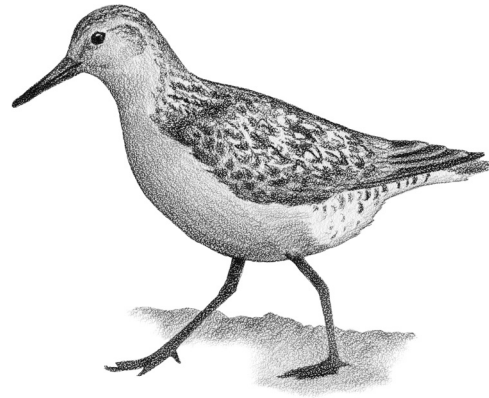
**Abundance:** Accidental

**Habitat:** Mudflats

The Red Knot is renowned as one of the world's most amazing long-distance migrants. Scientists using geolocator devices have confirmed some of these robin-sized shorebirds migrate almost nonstop from their breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic to their wintering grounds in southern South America, a combined total of up to 18,000 miles in a single year. Banding records have confirmed that one male Red Knot, dubbed "Moonbird," has completed this dangerous trek for at least 21 years, thus completing the same distance in miles as it is from the Earth to the Moon and half the way back. Unfortunately, the breeding population of this captivating migrant is in steep decline with losses of over 75% in some areas. In 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated the Red Knot as a "threatened" species to help provide it some protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The Red Knot is almost never seen away from the coast in the Carolinas. It has only been found once in this region. Jeff Lemons discovered three Red Knots sitting together on a large exposed mudflat on Lake Norman, off Norman Island Road in Mecklenburg County, on August 25, 2007. He was able to photograph the trio to formally document their presence this far west of their normal coastal migration route.

The Red Knot is listed on the Red Watch List of birds of the continental United States. It is a "species with extremely high vulnerability" to extinction. It is in need of immediate and significant conservation action.



J F M A M J J A S O N D



*Red Knot on the shore of Lake Norman. (Jeff Lemons)*