Bird of the Month - July
Least Sandpiper

IDENTIFICATION
• Our smallest shorebird, only the size of a sparrow. Look for a tiny bird, near the water. Yellow legs will seal the ID
• Males and Females are similar
• Their call is a high-pitched “creep”

FOOD
• Eats mostly aquatic invertebrates like worms and crustaceans. Forages near the water’s edge or very shallow water

PREDATORS
• The main predator of any shorebird is the Peregrine Falcon

BEHAVIORS AND FUN FACTS
• Habitat - Shallow water edges. Least Sandpipers breed in the far north and only visit us during their spring and fall migrations
• Sandpipers usually find safety in numbers and like to form small Flocks, often mixed in with other shorebirds. This helps them avoid predators
• The average Least Sandpiper weighs in at just about one ounce or the same as 5 quarters
• In the fall, Least Sandpipers may fly non-stop over 2000 miles to their wintering grounds in South America
• Shorebirds can be difficult to identify, so it’s important to look carefully. Binoculars are usually necessary to nail down the Least Sandpiper ID
• Least Sandpipers are more tolerant of humans and flush less often than other shorebirds