

Share^{the} Shore with OUR WILDLIFE

Our beaches are home to shorebirds like sandpipers and plovers, and to seabirds such as gulls and terns. Many of these birds are present in Florida fall through spring, but migrate north to nest. Others are here all year.



Ruddy Turnstone



Willet



Least Sandpiper



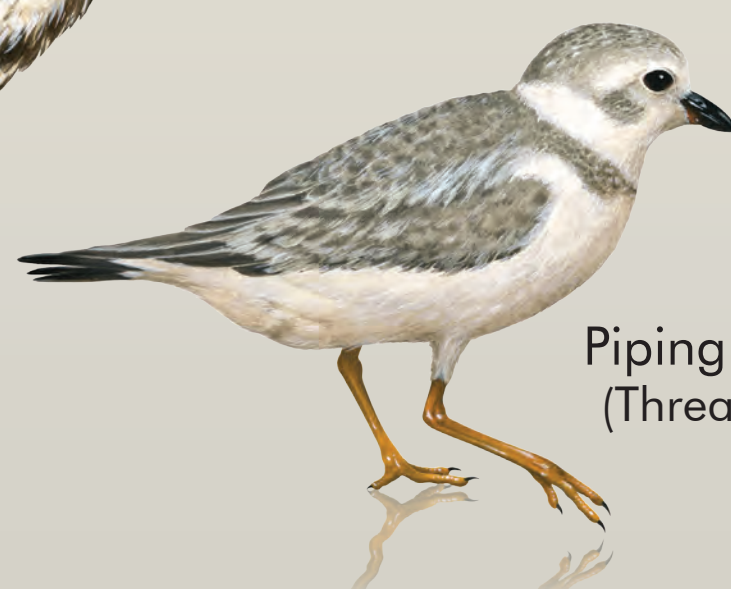
Sanderling



Red Knot (Threatened)



Black-bellied Plover



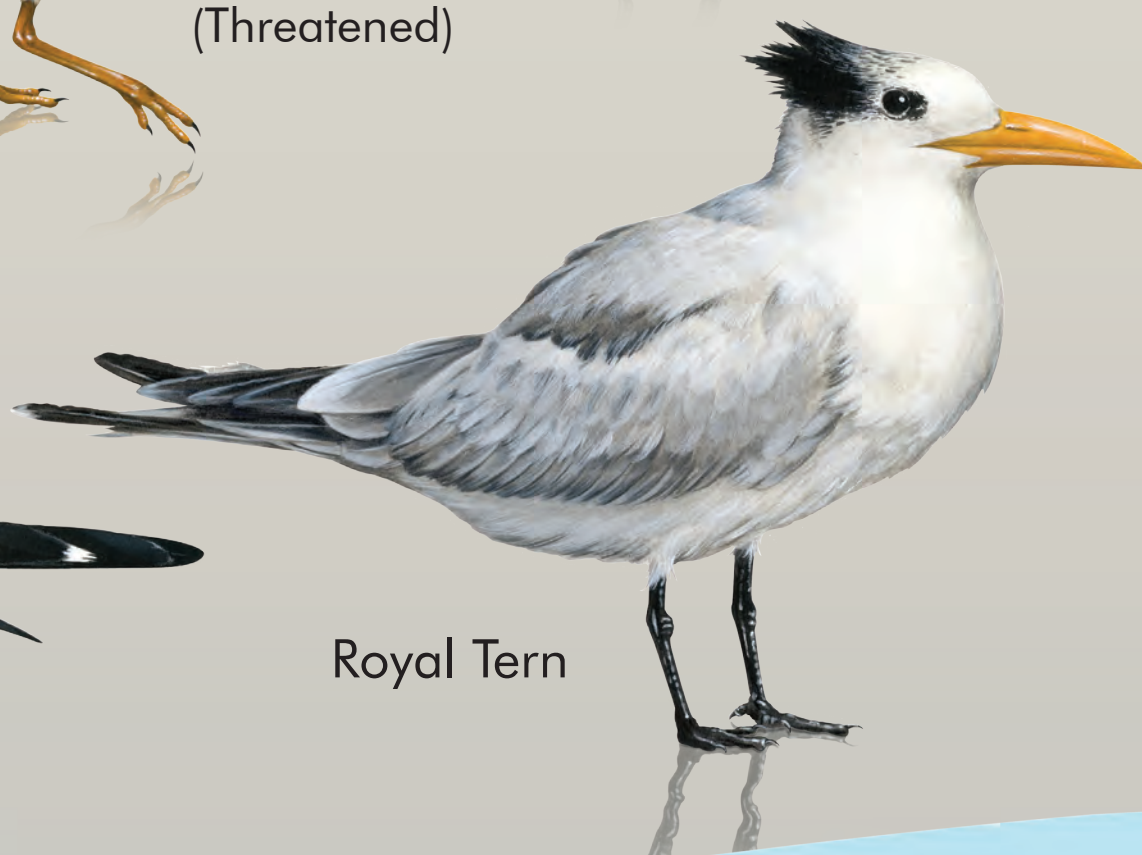
Piping Plover (Threatened)



Dunlin



Laughing Gull (in breeding plumage)



Royal Tern



The Red Knot is a federally protected threatened species.

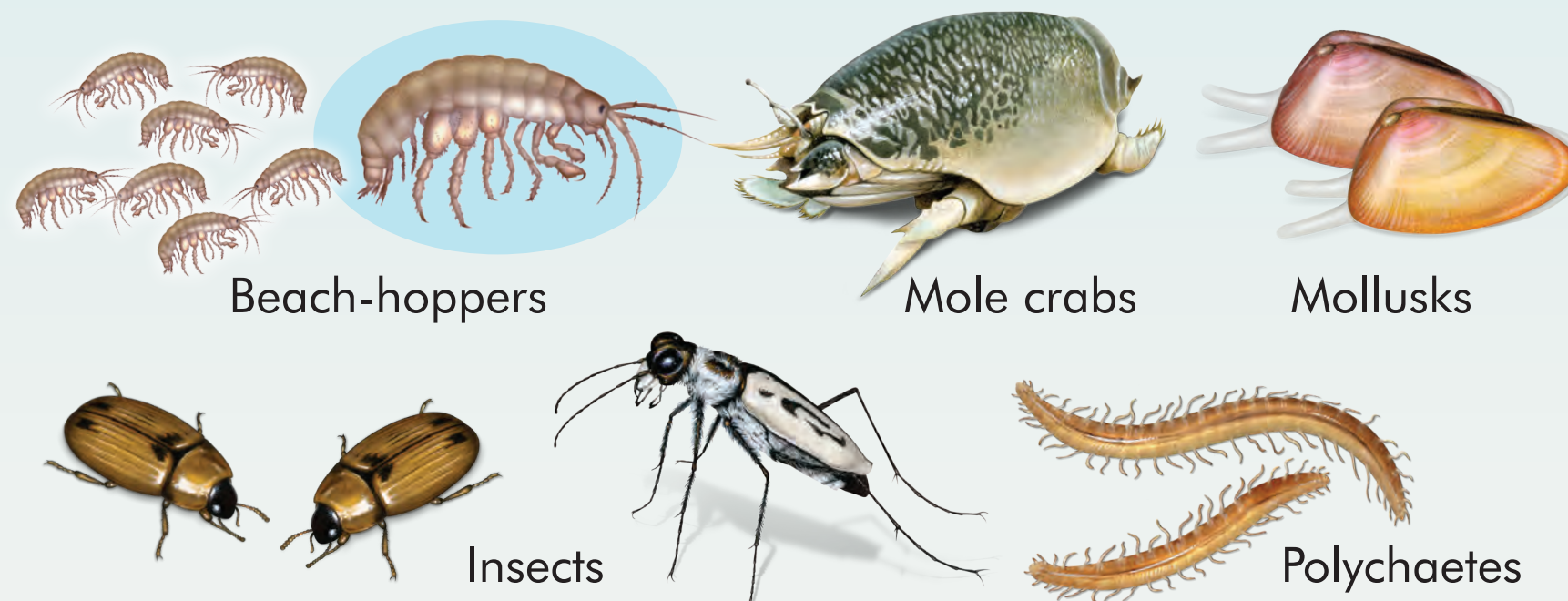
The Red Knot's Journey

Red Knots may travel 20,000 miles each year between their Arctic nesting areas and winter homes. Many winter in Florida; others pass through in migration. They depend on our beaches and flats for food they need to survive and the energy reserves to sustain them in their travels.



Food for Our Birds

Invertebrates living in wrack and wave-washed sands provide food for Red Knots and other shorebirds.



Nesting Shorebirds and Sea Turtles



Snowy Plover with eggs and chick



Loggerhead sea turtle track, egg laying, and nest covering

Some species of shorebirds and seabirds nest on our beaches March to August. Watch out for nests and chicks, which may be difficult to see. Respect posted nesting areas and move away if adult birds seem disturbed.

Sea turtles nest on Florida beaches mainly from May to October. Experience nesting with a permitted guide. Sea turtles may abandon nesting if approached too closely. Keep at a distance, remain quiet, and keep all lights off. Turtles and nests must not be disturbed.

You Can Help

- Never intentionally flush shorebirds. Walk around groups of feeding or resting birds.
- Don't let your children chase birds. When forced to fly, birds use up energy reserves.
- Obey pet ordinances. Shorebirds are scared by dogs, even when dogs are leashed.
- Share the word. Human disturbance is the number one threat to our shorebirds.
- Don't feed gulls and other wildlife.
- Dispose of trash properly.



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Jacksonville District