

their nest within a day. They are accompanied by the parent birds — especially the male — and feed themselves. They fledge in two to three weeks.

Baird's Sandpipers are largely insectivorous, running or walking quickly across mud and meadow, and sometimes through shallow water, gleaning grasshoppers, beetles, spiders, flies, and crane fly larvae. They rarely probe for food.

These lovely sandpipers were common prior to 1900 and probably suffered population declines along with other shorebird species due to heavy hunting by market and sport gunners. They are widespread and distant from man on the breeding grounds for the most part, but their wintering grounds include areas in which pesticide use is heavy enough to pose threats. They must endure among the longest of migrations, and habitat alteration is always a threat on their prairie and Latin American migration staging areas. Hopefully, they will continue to promote adrenaline surges in birdwatchers each fall as juvenile Baird's Sandpipers straggle to the East Coast and fatten up for their long flights to southern South America.

--W.E. Davis, Jr.

#### ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

**Don Radovich** is a Colorado wildlife artist who is retired from his teaching position (painting, art history) at Western State College. He has been interested in birds since childhood. He received a Master's degree in art from the University of New Mexico in 1959, with a thesis on birds and mammals. He has illustrated several books, including *Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Management in North America*, by Thomas Tacha and Clait Braun, and the recent *A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies*, by Herbert Raffaele et al., for which he did the warbler plates. Anyone interested in exploring the possibility of Don doing commission work can contact him at P.O. Box 313, Gunnison, CO 81230 or by telephone at (970) 641-0793.

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