

## Surfbirds

The **Surfbird**, is a small stocky [wader](#) in the family Scolopacidae. It is usually classified in a genus of its own, as ***Aphriza virgata***, but more recent data suggests it is very close genetically to the [Red](#) and [Great Knots](#) and should be included in *Calidris* (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). Indeed, the Great Knot looks very much like a larger, more long-billed, and somewhat darker surfbird.



Surfbird on nest from US FWS

This bird has a short dark bill, yellow legs and a black band at the end of the white rump. In breeding plumage, it has dark streaks on the brownish head and breast with dark spots on its white underparts; the upperparts are dark with rust colouring on the wings. Birds in winter plumage and immature birds are mainly grey on the upperparts and breast and white on the underparts with streaking.

Their breeding habitat is rocky tundra areas in Alaska and the Yukon. The female lays 4 eggs in a depression on the ground lined with vegetation. Both parents look after the young birds, who feed themselves.

These birds migrate to the Pacific coasts of North and South America, from southern Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

On the nesting grounds, these birds mainly eat insects and some seeds. At other times of year, they eat mollusks and crustaceans found along the surf line on rocky coasts and are usually found in small flocks, often with turnstones.

The song is a whistled *tee tee tee*.

**Copyright: Wikipedia.** This article is licensed under the [GNU Free Documentation License](#). It uses material from Wikipedia.org ... **Additional information and photos added by Avianweb.**

---

**Please Note:** The articles or images on this page are the sole property of the authors or photographers. Please contact them directly with respect to any copyright or licensing questions. Thank you.

The Avianweb strives to maintain accurate and up-to-date information; however, mistakes do happen. If you would like to correct or update any of the information, please [send us an e-mail](#). THANK YOU!

