

MEET THE SPOONIE

The bird with a spoon on its face

Meet the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Its beak is shaped like a tiny spoon — so everyone calls it the **Spoonie**.

A spoon for a beak

It swishes its beak from side to side in shallow water, feeling for food in the soft mud — like a tiny shovel.

On the menu: tiny shrimp, little worms and insects hidden in the mud — most smaller than a grain of rice.



15 cm

as long as your hand, and lighter than an egg

Only 500

grown-up Spoonies left on Earth

SUMMER COAT



Rusty orange head and chest for the Arctic summer.

WINTER COAT



Pale grey and white for the muddy winter coasts.

One of the rarest birds on the planet

Scientists call it *Critically Endangered*. The muddy places where it feeds are disappearing — so people all along its route are working to save them.

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8,000 km — twice a year

Spoonies build their nests at the very top of the world. In autumn they fly all the way down to warm, muddy coasts in Asia — and in spring they fly back again.



Countries the Spoonie visits

Russia · China · North Korea · South Korea · Japan · Vietnam · Thailand · Myanmar · Bangladesh

Their food is in the mud

On the way it rests at the same mudflats every year to eat and grow new feathers. If a mudflat is built over, there is nowhere left to refuel.

Born in the Arctic



Chicks hatch on cold tundra in Chukotka, Russia, and must find their own food on day one.

Adopt one



Spoonie
Scan with a phone, adopt a Spoonie and give it a name.

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