

**MOUNTAIN PLOVER
(CHARADRIUS MONTANUS)**

DFG: Species of Special Concern



Description

The mountain plover looks much like the more common killdeer, but without the killdeer's chest stripes. The head, back, wings, and portions of the upper breast are a pale brown. The neck and underparts are white. The bill is black and the legs are pale brown or brownish-yellow. In flight, the best field marks are a thin white wing stripe and black tail band fringed with a white border. Mountain plovers average about 9 inches (23 cm) in length.

Habitat

Mountain plovers winter in central California, and can be found in short grasslands and plowed fields. They feed mostly on insects, especially spiders, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, and ants. They do not require drinking water, getting enough water from their food.

Range/distribution

Mountain plovers can be found in Fresno, Madera, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties, September through March.

Photo: USGS Patuxent Bird Identification InfoCenter. URL: <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/fram1st/infocenter.html>

