

The Montclair Bird Club

QUIZ 157

October 9, 2022

We watch sanderling running in and out of the surf searching for food. What special feature of their bills improves their success rate?



Link to ponder: Inventory of major [European bird collections](#).

The answer is on the next page



“Dunlin, curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, sanderling *Calidris alba*, and little stint *Calidris minuta* commonly use distal rhynekinesis [independent movement of only the tip of the bill] to strike, capture, and transport small prey items. . . . Rhynekinesis is a mechanism that could contribute to the flexible feeding behavior of long-distance migratory shorebirds, enhancing small prey profitability and so improving foraging efficiency.” Sora M. Estrella and José A. Masero, *Journal of Experimental Biology* 2007.

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Southwest Wings

