

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 9

November 5, 2023

The pictures in this issue are by Beni Fishbein



Least sandpiper at DeKorte Park

For years I have wanted to master the peeps, those puzzling little sandpipers that are frustratingly indistinguishable from each other. This year, miraculously, with the help of the Cornell Lab's course on shorebirds and the careful instruction of several members of this club, I finally feel like I am beginning to get a bit of a handle on these little guys. The least sandpiper is, as its name suggests, very little— even littler than its close cousin the semipalmated sandpiper. In non-breeding plumage, leasts are darker overall, with more brown and rust tones than the grayer semipalmateds, and though they have yellow legs (and the semipalmated dark), these are often covered with mud. Another clue: least sandpipers tend to forage on higher ground, farther away from the water.



Five semipalmated sandpipers with one least sandpiper second from bottom.

If you would like to see your photographs highlighted here, send one or two pictures with a short paragraph to: [Sandy Sorkin & Rick Wright at MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com](mailto:SandySorkin&RickWright@MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).



Southwest Wings

