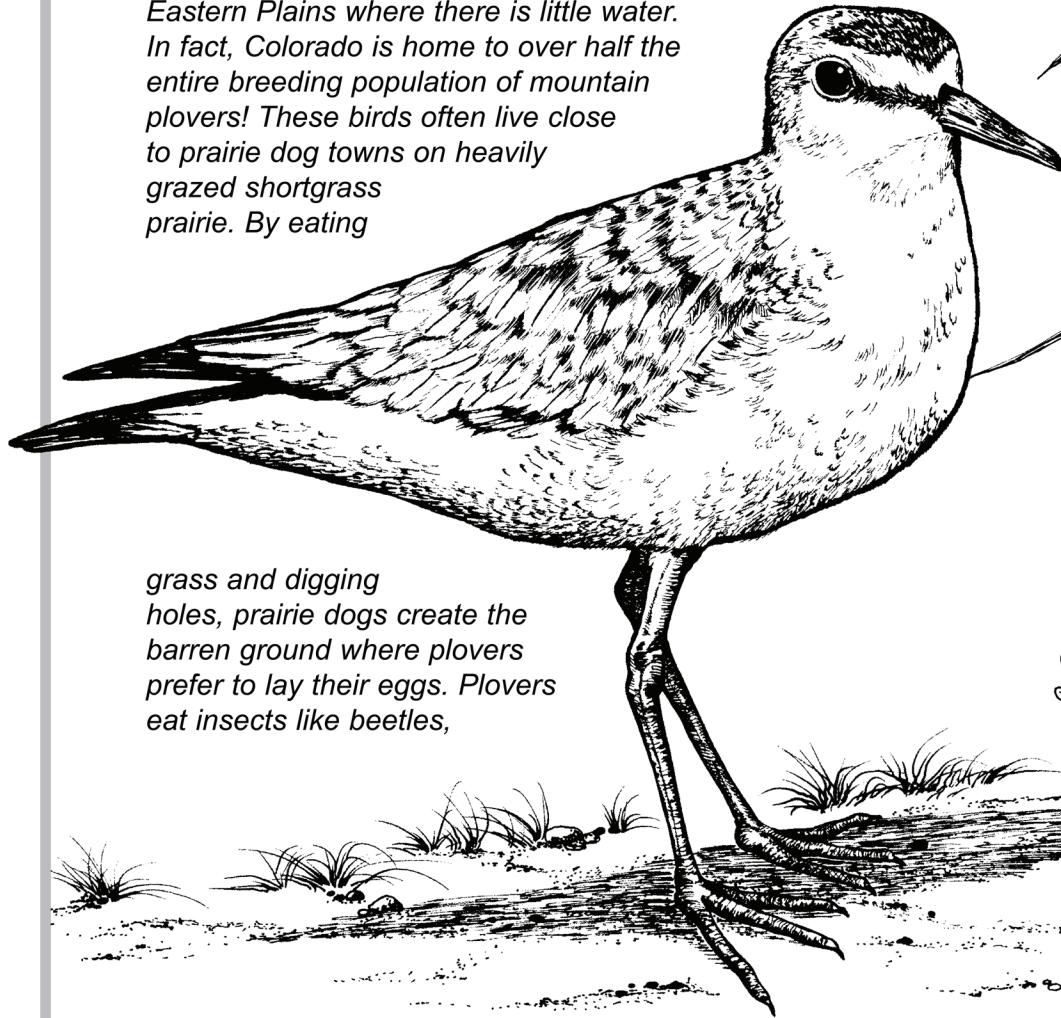


What's in a Name?

Names can be misleading. Mountain plovers are shorebirds that don't live in the mountains. They also do not live by a shore. They live on the Eastern Plains where there is little water. In fact, Colorado is home to over half the entire breeding population of mountain plovers! These birds often live close to prairie dog towns on heavily grazed shortgrass prairie. By eating



grass and digging holes, prairie dogs create the barren ground where plovers prefer to lay their eggs. Plovers eat insects like beetles,



grasshoppers, crickets, and flies. When there is enough food, the females can lay two sets of eggs in rapid succession. If this happens, the male plover attends to the first set of eggs and the female attends to the second. Once hatched, the chicks are active within three hours and can usually catch their first insect during the first day!

