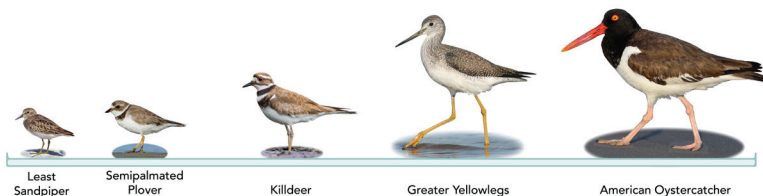


SHOREBIRD ID TIPS



KEVIN'S RULE OF FOUR

1. Pick one bird from the crowd to ID.
2. Narrow it down to a category using the silhouettes on the right.
3. Compare the shorebird to others.
4. Find three clues to ID. Focus first on **shape**, **size**, and **behavior**, then look at color pattern, markings, habitat, range, and calls.

SHAPE

Bill: Length, curvature, tip pointing up/down, shape (pointy/blunt)

Leg Length: Short, medium, long

Neck Length: Short, medium, long

Body Shape: Compact, elongated

SIZE

Size is important only in comparison with another bird. The Killdeer is right in the middle on the size scale.

Small shorebirds are smaller than a Killdeer. **Large shorebirds** are larger than a Killdeer.

FORAGING BEHAVIORS

Peeps: Head down, walk, pick, probe

Plover: Run and stop, with occasional *hiccup* (similar to Solitary Sandpiper's bob-up)

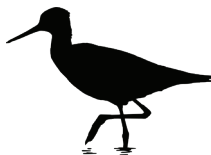
Lesser Yellowlegs: Stroll-and-pick

Stilt Sandpiper: *Oil derrick* up-and-down probing like dowitchers, but rear tips up

Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers: *Sewing-machine* probing but body stays horizontal

White-rumped Sandpiper: Tip-up, tail goes up

Red-necked Phalarope: Swim-and-run (moves all the time) and swim-and-spin



Tringa-types



Peeps



Snipe-types



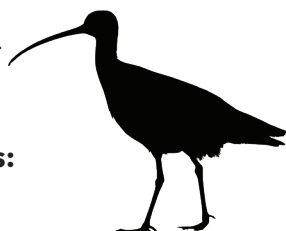
Phalaropes



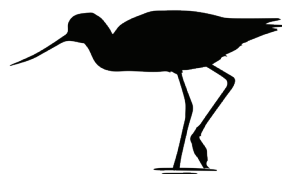
Small others



Plovers



Curlews and Godwits



Large others

SHOREBIRD SIZE GUIDE

Least Sandpiper.....6"
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Snowy Plover



Piping Plover
Semipalmated Plover.....7.5"
Baird's Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Spotted Sandpiper



Wilson's Plover
Sanderling.....8"

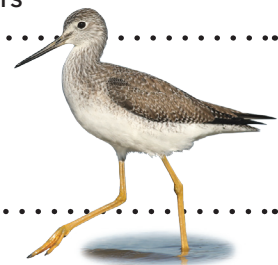
Red Phalarope
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Dunlin
Solitary Sandpiper.....8.5"
Purple/Rock Sandpipers
Stilt Sandpiper
Mountain Plover

Pectoral Sandpiper
Wilson's Phalarope.....9.5"
Black/Ruddy Turnstones

Lesser Yellowlegs
Red Knot
Surfbird
Killdeer.....10.5"
American/Pacific Golden Plovers



American Woodcock
Long-/Short-billed Dowitchers
Wandering Tattler.....11"
Wilson's Snipe
Black-bellied Plover
Upland Sandpiper



Greater Yellowlegs.....14"

Black-necked Stilt
Willet.....15"
Hudsonian Godwit



Whimbrel
American Oystercatcher.....18"
Black Oystercatcher
Marbled Godwit
American Avocet

Long-billed Curlew.....23"

All photos Macaulay Library: Least Sandpiper by Mark R Johnson; Semipalmated Plover by Evan Lipton; Killdeer by Mason Maron; Greater Yellowlegs by Graham Montgomery; American Oystercatcher by Daniel Irons