

# NOTE ON THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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# 1 Distinct Shorebirds

Ruddy Turnstone  
Black-necked Stilt  
American Avocet  
American Oystercatcher



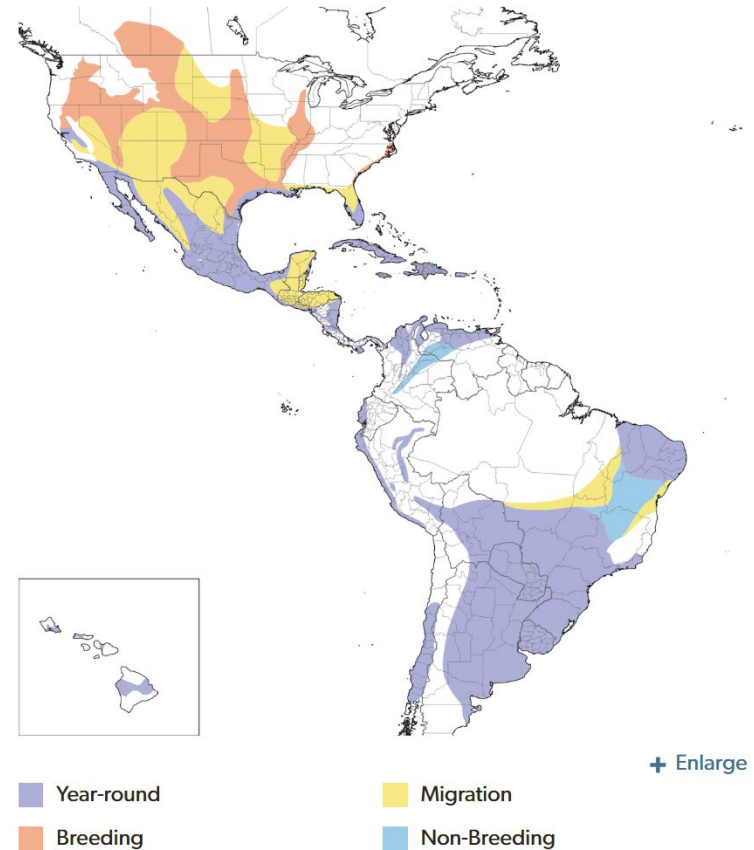
TEXAS STATE LIST OF SHOREBIRDS						
TAS SHOREBIRD CLASS ID GROUP	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	FAMILY COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	TBRC ACCEPTED RECORDS
1 Distinct Shorebirds	Ruddy Turnstone	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Arenaria</i>	<i>interpres</i>	
	Black-necked Stilt	Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocets	<i>Himantopus</i>	<i>mexicanus</i>	
	American Avocet	Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocets	<i>Recurvirostra</i>	<i>americana</i>	
	American Oystercatcher	Haematopodidae	Oystercatchers	<i>Haematopus</i>	<i>palliat</i>	
2 Big Plovers	Black-bellied Plover	Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings	<i>Pluvialis</i>	<i>squatarola</i>	
	American Golden-Plover			<i>Pluvialis</i>	<i>dominica</i>	
	Mountain Plover			<i>Charadrius</i>	<i>montanus</i>	
	Killdeer			<i>Charadrius</i>	<i>vociferus</i>	
3 Ringed Plovers	Semipalmated Plover	Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings	<i>Charadrius</i>	<i>semipalmatus</i>	
	Piping Plover				<i>melodus</i>	
	Wilson's Plover				<i>wilsonia</i>	
	Snowy Plover				<i>nivosus</i>	
4 Calidris Peeps	Baird's Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Calidris</i>	<i>bairdii</i>	
	Least Sandpiper				<i>minutilla</i>	
	White-rumped Sandpiper				<i>fuscicollis</i>	
	Semipalmated Sandpiper				<i>pusilla</i>	
5 Calidris Bigs	Western Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Calidris</i>	<i>mauri</i>	
	Red Knot				<i>canutus</i>	
	Stilt Sandpiper				<i>himantopus</i>	
	Sanderling				<i>alba</i>	
6 Tringa + Spotted	Dunlin	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Calidris</i>	<i>alpina</i>	
	Pectoral Sandpiper				<i>melanotos</i>	
	Spotted Sandpiper				<i>macularius</i>	
	Solitary Sandpiper				<i>solitaria</i>	
7 Godwits & Curlews	Lesser Yellowlegs	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Actitis</i>	<i>flavipes</i>	
	Willet (Eastern & Western subspecies)				<i>semipalmata</i>	
	Greater Yellowlegs				<i>melanoleuca</i>	
	Whimbrel				<i>phaeopus</i>	
8 Dowitchers	Long-billed Curlew	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Numenius</i>	<i>americanus</i>	
	Hudsonian Godwit				<i>haemastica</i>	
	Marbled Godwit				<i>fedoa</i>	
	Short-billed Dowitcher				<i>griseus</i>	
9 Grass-pipers	Long-billed Dowitcher	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Limnodromus</i>	<i>scolopaceus</i>	
	Upland Sandpiper				<i>bartramia</i>	
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper				<i>calidris</i>	
	American Woodcock				<i>minor</i>	
10 Other Shorebirds	Wilson's Snipe	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Gallinago</i>	<i>delicata</i>	
	Wilson's Phalarope				<i>tricolor</i>	
	Red-necked Phalarope				<i>lobatus</i>	
	Ruff				<i>pugnax</i>	42
11 Texas Rarities	Curlew Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Calidris</i>	<i>ferruginea</i>	13
	Purple Sandpiper				<i>maritima</i>	29
	Double-striped Thick-knee				<i>bistriatus</i>	1
	Northern Jacana				<i>spinosa</i>	44
Texas Review List species (not covered)	Eskimo Curlew	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Numenius</i>	<i>borealis</i>	19 (presumed extinct)
	Bar-tailed Godwit				<i>limosa</i>	1
	Black-tailed Godwit				<i>limosa</i>	1
	Black Turnstone				<i>melanocephala</i>	1
	Surfbird				<i>virgata</i>	12
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				<i>acuminata</i>	3
	Red-necked Stint				<i>ruficollis</i>	2
	Wandering Tattler				<i>incana</i>	1
	Spotted Redshank				<i>erythropus</i>	1
	Red Phalarope				<i>fulicarius</i>	54
	Pacific Golden-Plover				<i>fulva</i>	1
	Collared Plover				<i>collaris</i>	3

# BLACK-NECKED STILT

## *HIMANTOPUS MEXICANUS*



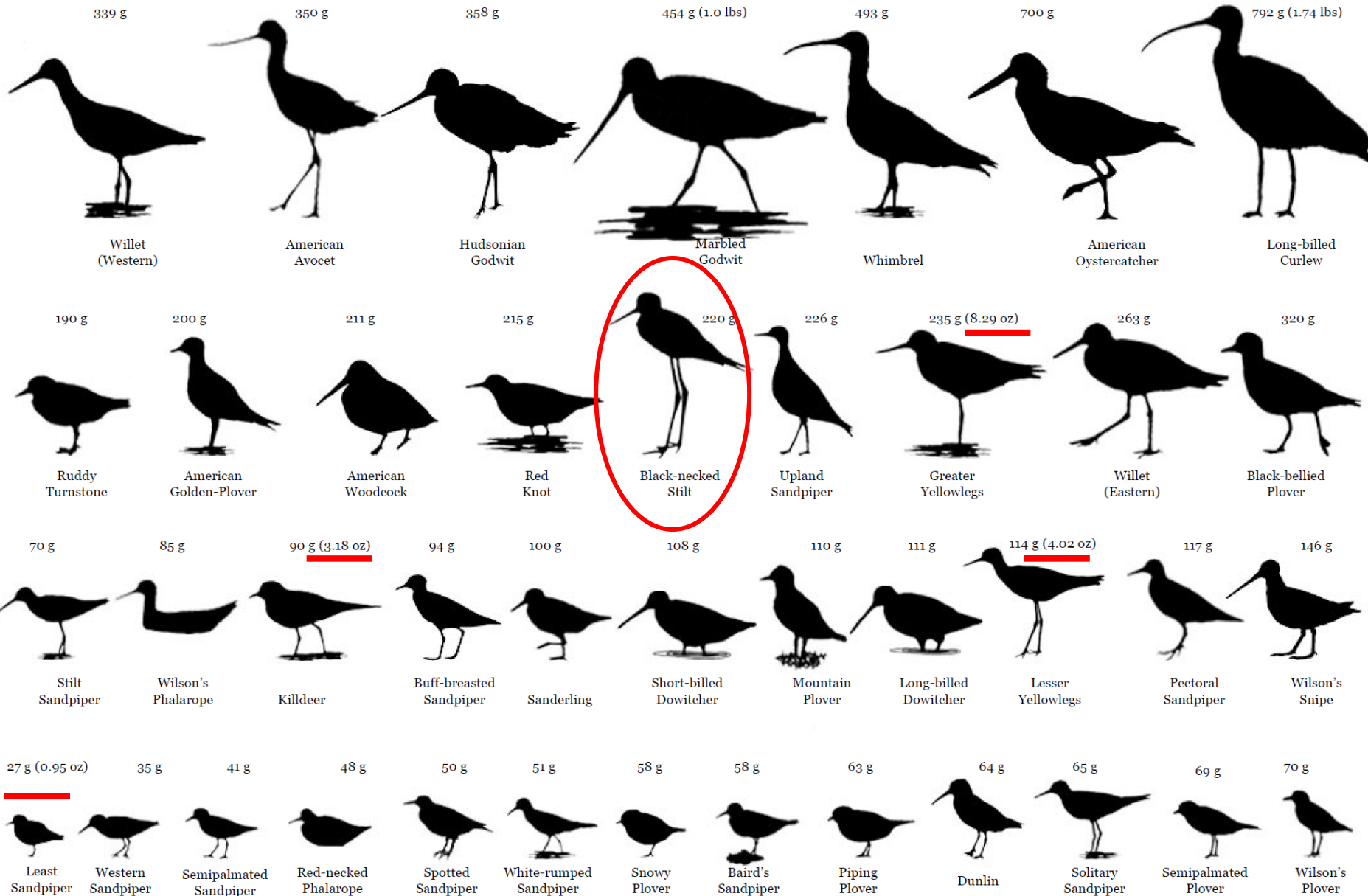
Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



- Breeds in Texas (including Hornsby Bend)

# SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25





# BLACK-NECKED STILT



- Sharp black and white pattern
- Pink stilt legs
- Needle-like bill
- Slim, long neck, small head

Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



# HABITAT

- Marshes
- Rice fields
- Ponds

Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



# BLACK-NECKED STILT



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

# BLACK-NECKED STILT



- White rump and tail
- Long legs trail behind
- Call *yip yip yip* (the Marsh Poodle)





# BLACK-NECKED STILT



**“Dimorphic”**



# BLACK-NECKED STILT



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



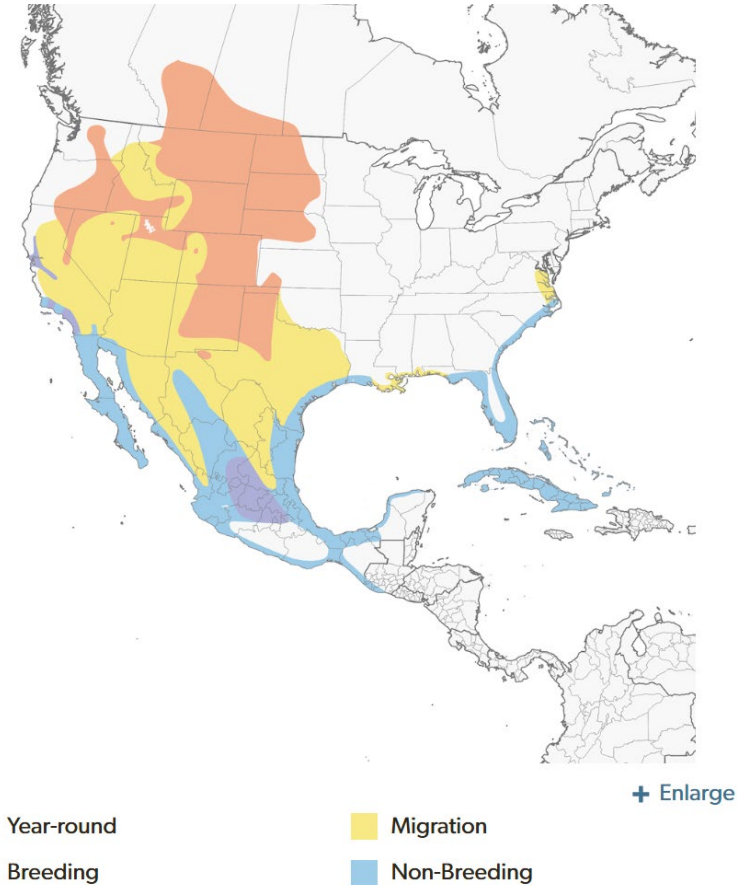
# BLACK-NECKED STILT



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

# AMERICAN AVOCET

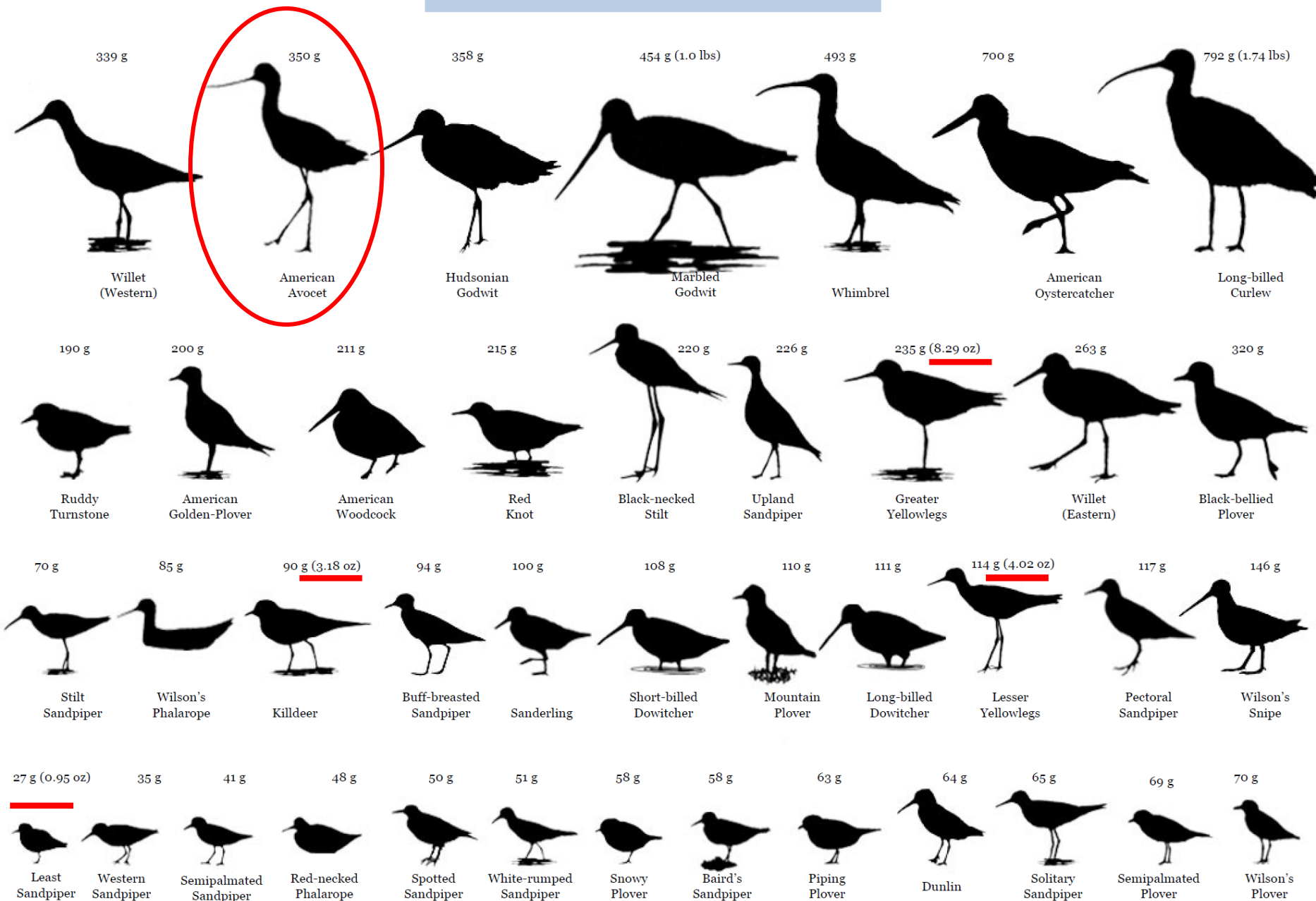
## *RECURVIROSTRA AMERICANA*



- Winters in the 1000s on Texas Coast
- Spring & fall migrant in Cen-Tex

# SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25





# AMERICAN AVOCET

Alternate



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

- Long blue legs
- Chunky body
- Long upturned bill
- Bold wing and body pattern
- Cinnamon head and neck



# AMERICAN AVOCET

Basic



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

# AMERICAN AVOCET

Basic



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



A large flock of American Avocets is shown in a wetland. The birds are densely packed, filling the frame. They have long, thin, straight bills and are mostly white with dark, mottled wings and backs. Some birds are standing in shallow water, while others are on the ground. The background is a vast expanse of similar birds, creating a sense of a large colony.

# AMERICAN AVOCET

Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

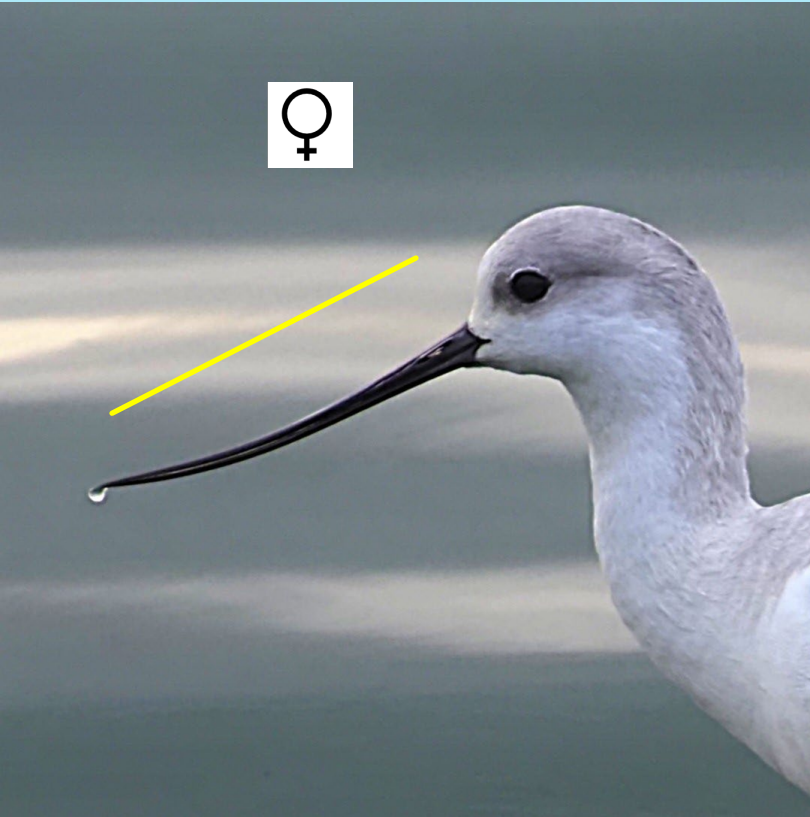


# AMERICAN AVOCET

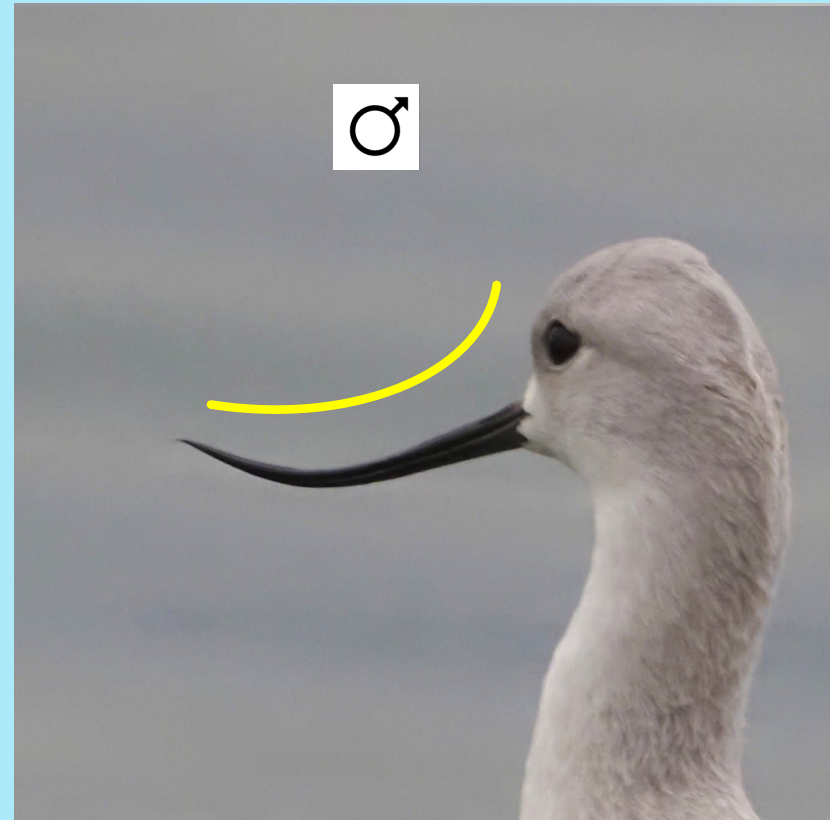


Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

# AMERICAN AVOCET



**“Dimorphic”**





# AMERICAN AVOCET



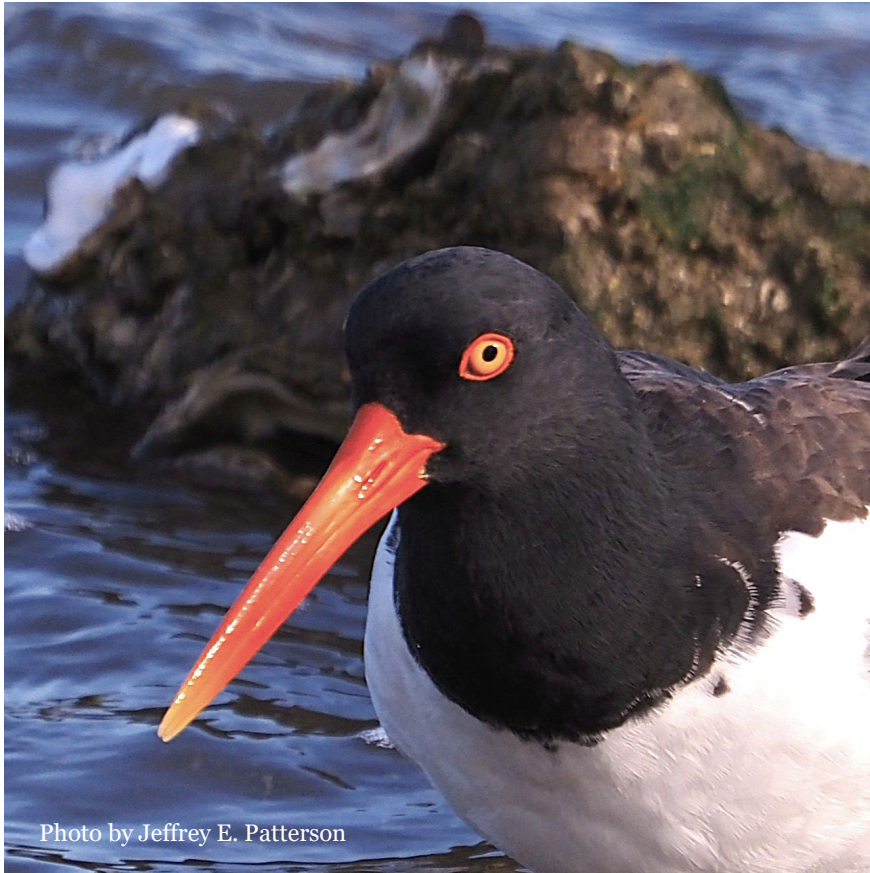
# AMERICAN AVOCET



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

# AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

## *HAEMATAPUS PALLIATUS*



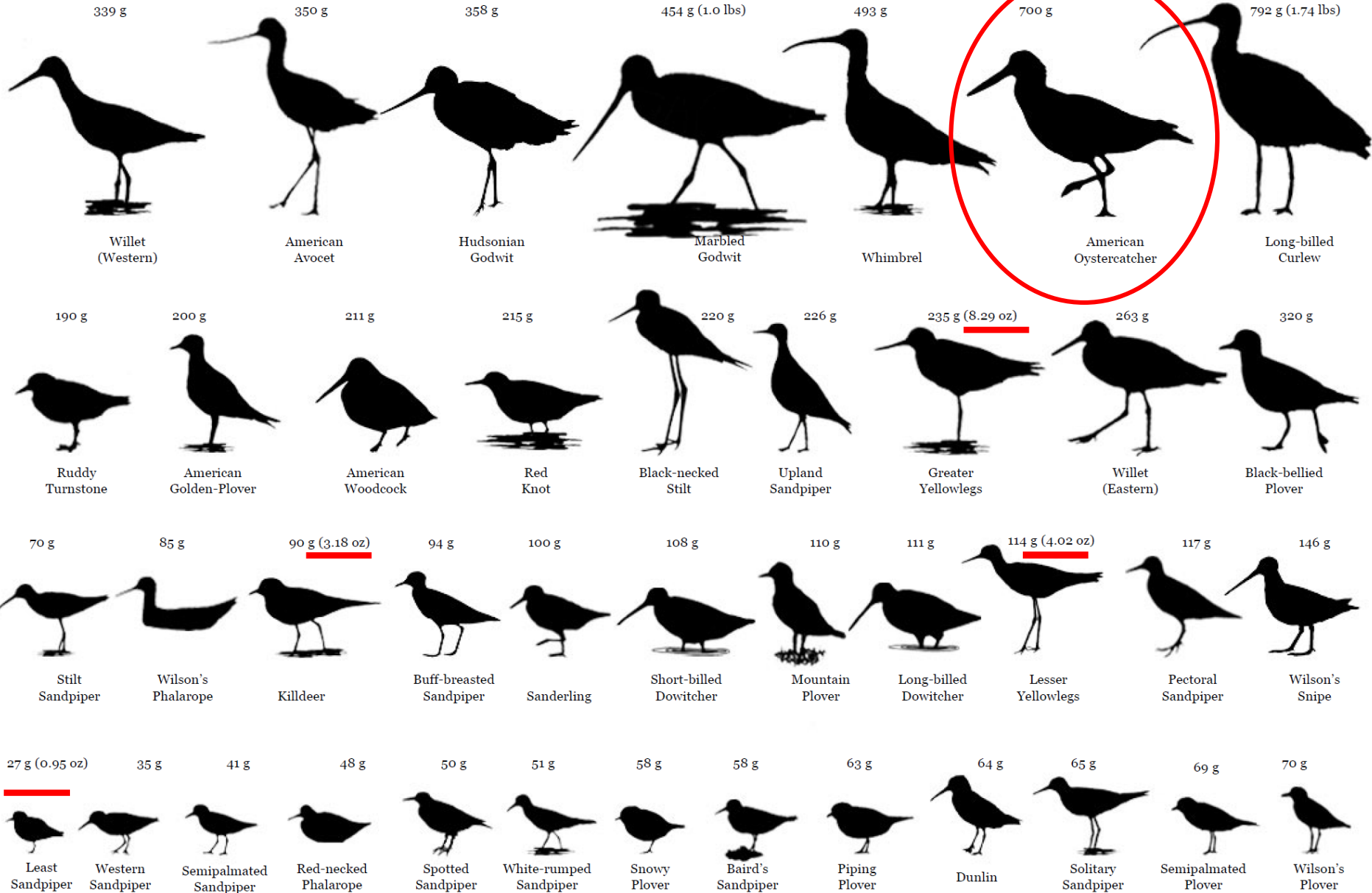
- Very much coastal
- Tidal mudflats, oyster reefs
- Uncommon permanent resident Texas Coast





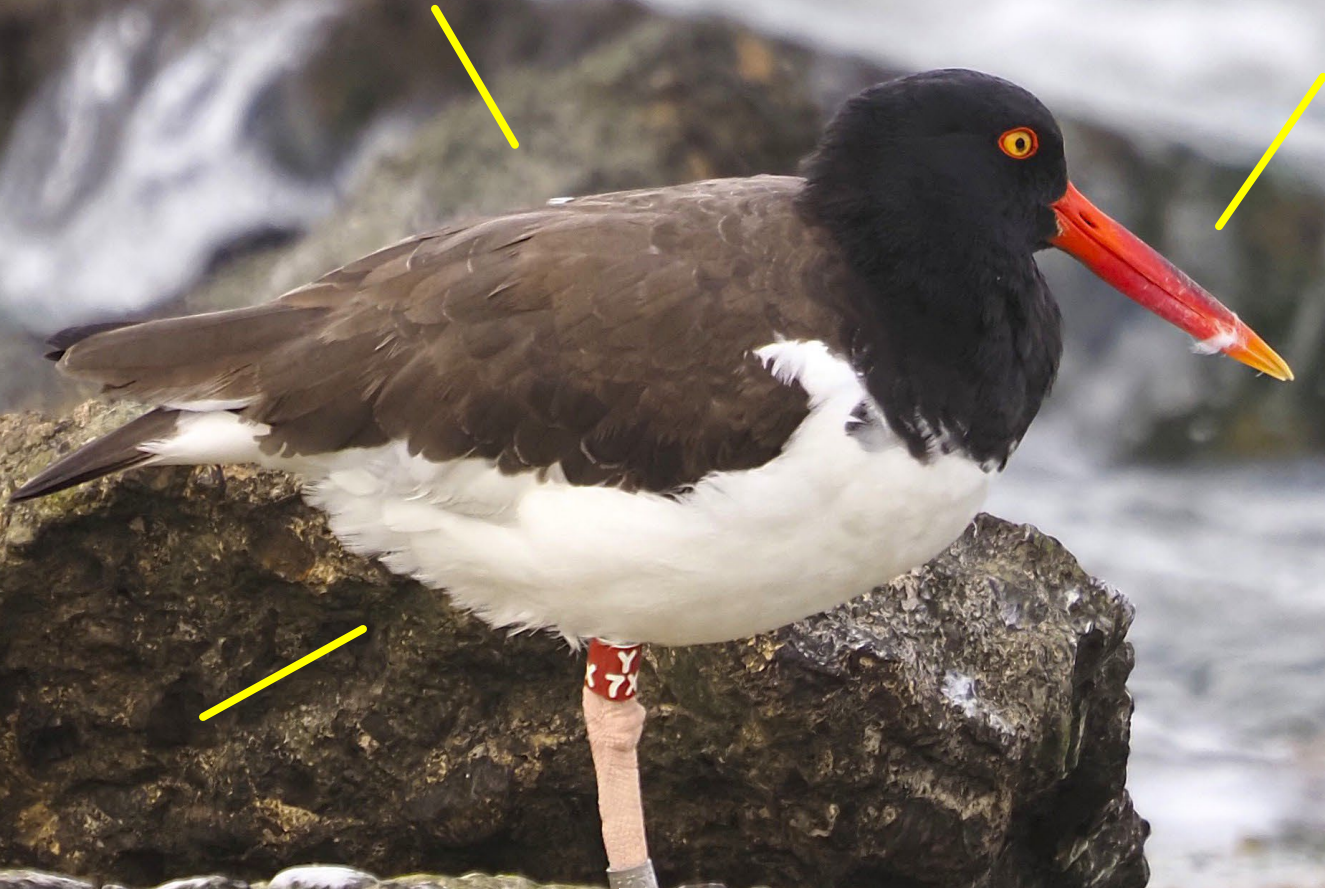
# SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25



Mountain Plover photo by Catherine Cuddihy Sylvan, all other photos by Jeffrey E. Patterson

# AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



- Large and bulky
- Bold black, brown & white body
- Heavy orange bill



A close-up photograph of an American Oystercatcher bird standing in shallow, rippling blue water. The bird has a black head and neck, a long, bright orange, flattened bill, and yellow eyes. Its body is white with brown wings and back. The bird is facing the camera.

## AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

- Bill flattened like an oyster knife



# AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



**“Monomorphic”**



# AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

# AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



# AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

# RUDDY TURNSTONE

## *ARENARIA INTERPRES*



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



[+ Enlarge](#)



- Beaches and mudflats, jetties
- Common migrant and winter on Texas Coast
- Uncommon migrant in Cen-Tex



# SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25

339 g



Willet  
(Western)

350 g



American  
Avocet

358 g



Hudsonian  
Godwit

454 g (1.0 lbs)



Marbled  
Godwit

493 g



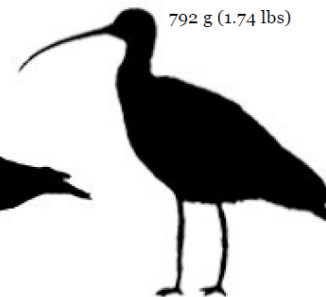
Whimbrel

700 g



American  
Oystercatcher

792 g (1.74 lbs)



Long-billed  
Curlew

190 g



Ruddy  
Turnstone

200 g



American  
Golden-Plover

211 g



American  
Woodcock

215 g



Red  
Knot

220 g



Black-necked  
Stilt

226 g



Upland  
Sandpiper

235 g (8.29 oz)



Greater  
Yellowlegs

263 g



Willet  
(Eastern)

320 g



Black-bellied  
Plover

70 g



Stilt  
Sandpiper

85 g



Wilson's  
Phalarope

90 g (3.18 oz)



Killdeer

94 g



Buff-breasted  
Sandpiper

100 g



Sanderling

108 g



Short-billed  
Dowitcher

110 g



Mountain  
Plover

111 g



Long-billed  
Dowitcher

114 g (4.02 oz)



Lesser  
Yellowlegs

117 g



Pectoral  
Sandpiper

146 g



Wilson's  
Snipe

27 g (0.95 oz)



Least  
Sandpiper

35 g



Western  
Sandpiper

41 g



Semipalmated  
Sandpiper

48 g



Red-necked  
Phalarope

50 g



Spotted  
Sandpiper

51 g



White-rumped  
Sandpiper

58 g



Snowy  
Plover

58 g



Baird's  
Sandpiper

63 g



Piping  
Plover

64 g



Dunlin

65 g



Solitary  
Sandpiper

69 g



Semipalmated  
Plover

70 g



Wilson's  
Plover

# RUDDY TURNSTONE



- Chisel-like bill





# RUDDY TURNSTONE

Alternate



- Bold harlequin pattern
- Rufous back and wing coverts

Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



# RUDDY TURNSTONE

Basic

**“Monomorphic”**



- Muted gray



# RUDDY TURNSTONE



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson



# RUDDY TURNSTONE



- Chunky build
- White underparts
- Dark breast band
- Orange legs
- Low crouching stance