

NOTE ON THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note that this material is being circulated for the personal educational use of the student of Travis Audubon Society classes. Please do not distribute, copy, post, share, or further disseminate any of this material.

Photographs used in these presentations are credited to Jeffrey E. Patterson or the eBird contributors named in the photographs and to the Macaulay Library of The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Other photographs are credited as indicated.

1 Distinct Shorebirds

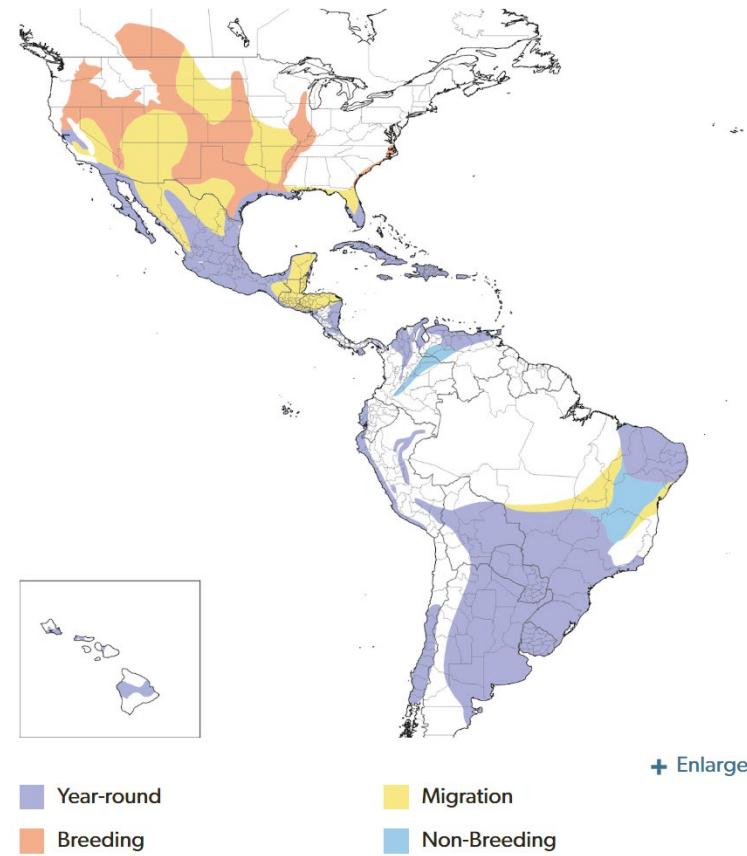
Ruddy Turnstone
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
American Oystercatcher



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	Arenaria	interpres	
	Black-necked Stilt				mexicanus	
	American Avocet				americana	
	American Oystercatcher				palliatus	
2 Big Plovers	Black-bellied Plover	Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings	Pluvialis	squatarola	
	American Golden-Plover				dominica	
	Mountain Plover				montanus	
	Killdeer				vociferus	
3 Ringed Plovers	Semipalmated Plover	Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings	Charadrius	semipalmatus	
	Piping Plover				melodus	
	Wilson's Plover				wilsonia	
	Snowy Plover				nivosus	
4 Calidris Peeps	Baird's Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Calidris	bairdii	
	Least Sandpiper				minutilla	
	White-rumped Sandpiper				fuscicollis	
	Semipalmated Sandpiper				pusilla	
	Western Sandpiper				mauri	
5 Calidris Bigs	Red Knot	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Calidris	canutus	
	Stilt Sandpiper				himantopus	
	Sanderling				alba	
	Dunlin				alpina	
	Pectoral Sandpiper				melanotos	
6 Tringa + Spotted	Spotted Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Actitis	macularius	
	Solitary Sandpiper				solitaria	
	Lesser Yellowlegs			Tringa	flavipes	
	Willet (Eastern & Western subspecies)				semipalmata	
	Greater Yellowlegs				melanoleuca	
7 Godwits & Curlews	Whimbrel	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Numenius	phaeopus	
	Long-billed Curlew				americanus	
	Hudsonian Godwit			Limosa	haemastica	
	Marbled Godwit				fedoa	
8 Dowitchers	Short-billed Dowitcher	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Limnodromus	griseus	
	Long-billed Dowitcher				scolopaceus	
9 Grass-pipers	Upland Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Bartramia	longicauda	
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper				subruficollis	
10 Other Shorebirds	American Woodcock	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Scolopax	minor	
	Wilson's Snipe				delicata	
	Wilson's Phalarope			Gallinago	tricolor	
	Red-necked Phalarope				lobatus	
11 Texas Rarities	Ruff	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Calidris	pugnax	42
	Curlew Sandpiper				ferruginea	13
	Purple Sandpiper			Burhinus	maritima	29
	Double-striped Thick-knee				bistriatus	1
Texas Review List species (not covered)	Northern Jacana	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	Jacana	spinosa	44
	Eskimo Curlew				Numenius	borealis
	Bar-tailed Godwit			Limosa	lapponica	1
	Black-tailed Godwit				limosa	1
	Black Turnstone			Arenaria	melanocephala	1
	Surfbird				virgata	12
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper			Calidris	acuminata	3
	Red-necked Stint				ruficollis	2
	Wandering Tattler			Tringa	leucophrys	1
	Spotted Redshank				erythropus	1
	Red Phalarope			Phalaropus	fulicarius	54
	Pacific Golden-Plover				fulva	1
	Collared Plover	Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings	Charadrius	collaris	3

BLACK-NECKED STILT

HIMANTOPUS MEXICANUS



- Breeds in Texas (including Hornsby Bend)

SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25

339 g



Willet
(Western)

350 g



American
Avocet

358 g



Hudsonian
Godwit

454 g (1.0 lbs)



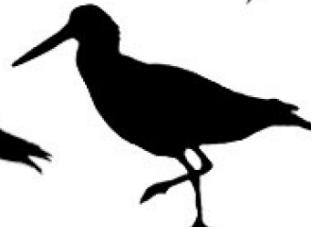
Marbled
Godwit

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



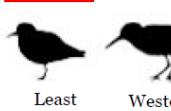
Pectoral
Sandpiper

146 g



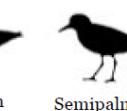
Wilson's
Snipe

27 g (0.95 oz)



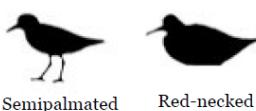
Least
Sandpiper

35 g



Western
Sandpiper

41 g



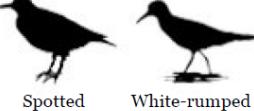
Semipalmented
Sandpiper

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



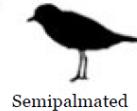
Dunlin

65 g



Solitary
Sandpiper

69 g



Semipalmented
Plover

70 g



Wilson's
Plover

BLACK-NECKED STILT



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

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

HABITAT

- Marshes
- Rice fields
- Ponds



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

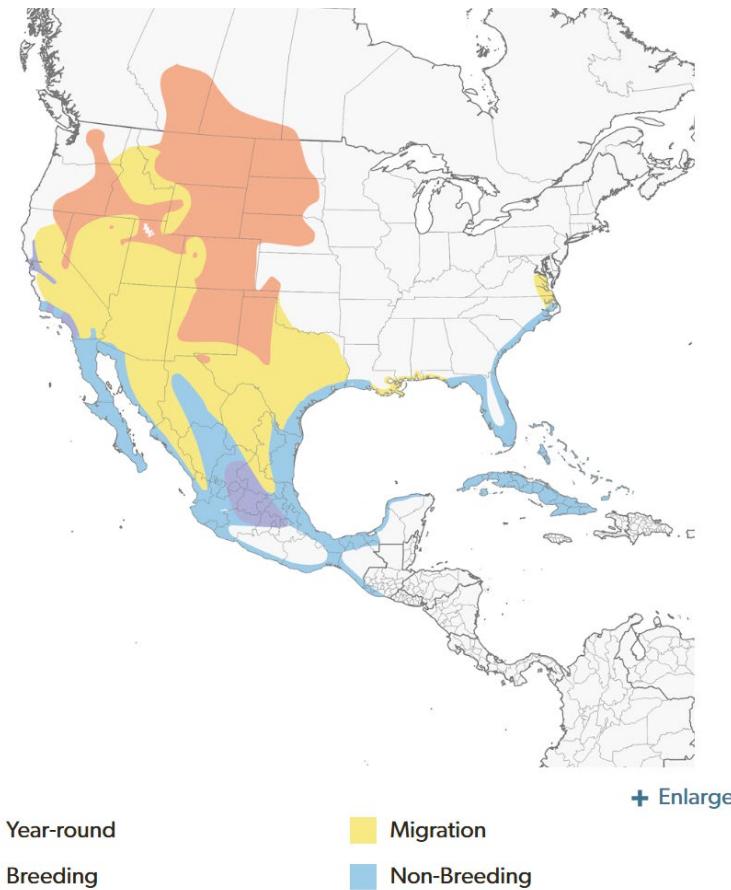
AMERICAN AVOCET

RECURVIROSTRA AMERICANA



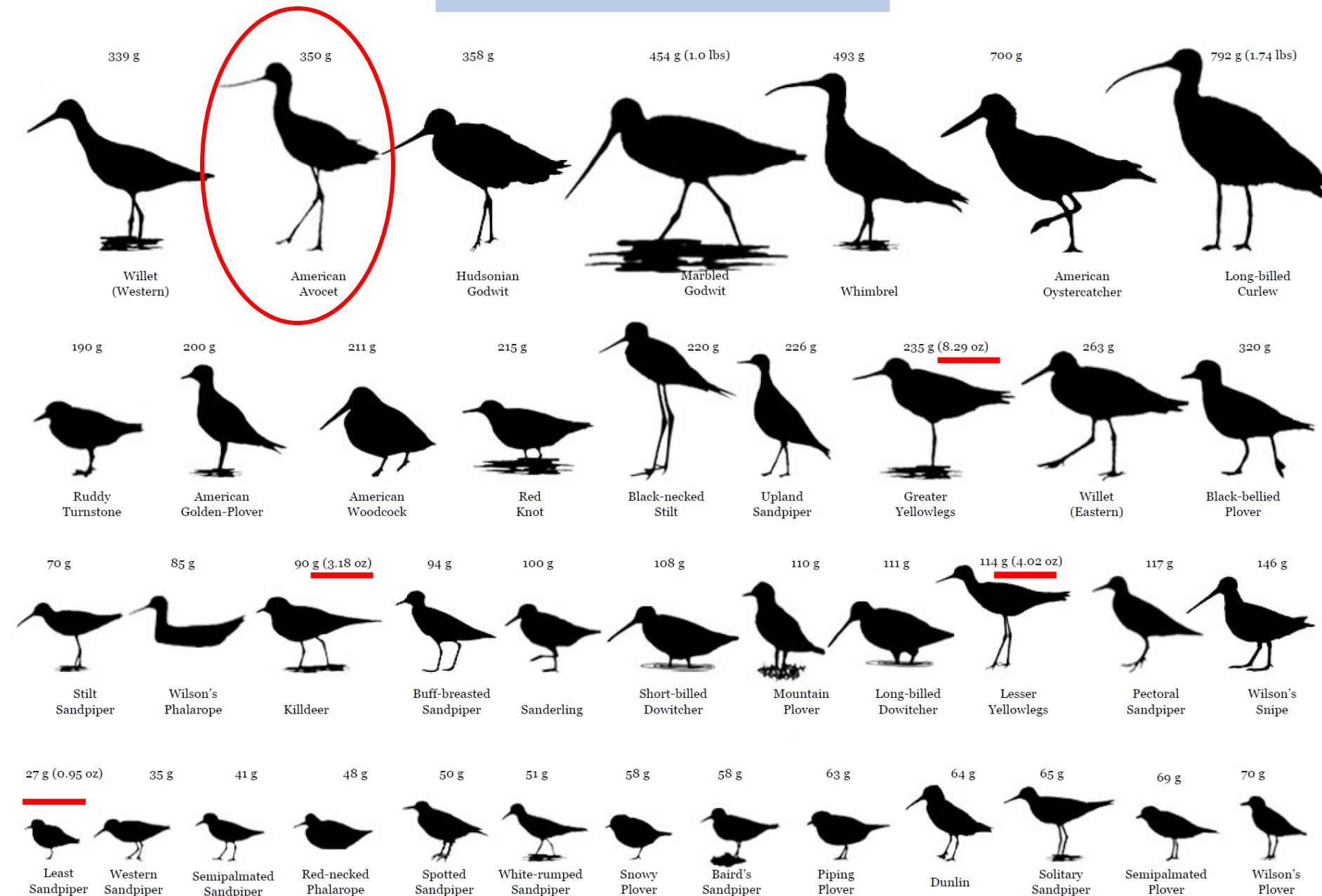
Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

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



SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25



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

AMERICAN AVOCET

Alternate

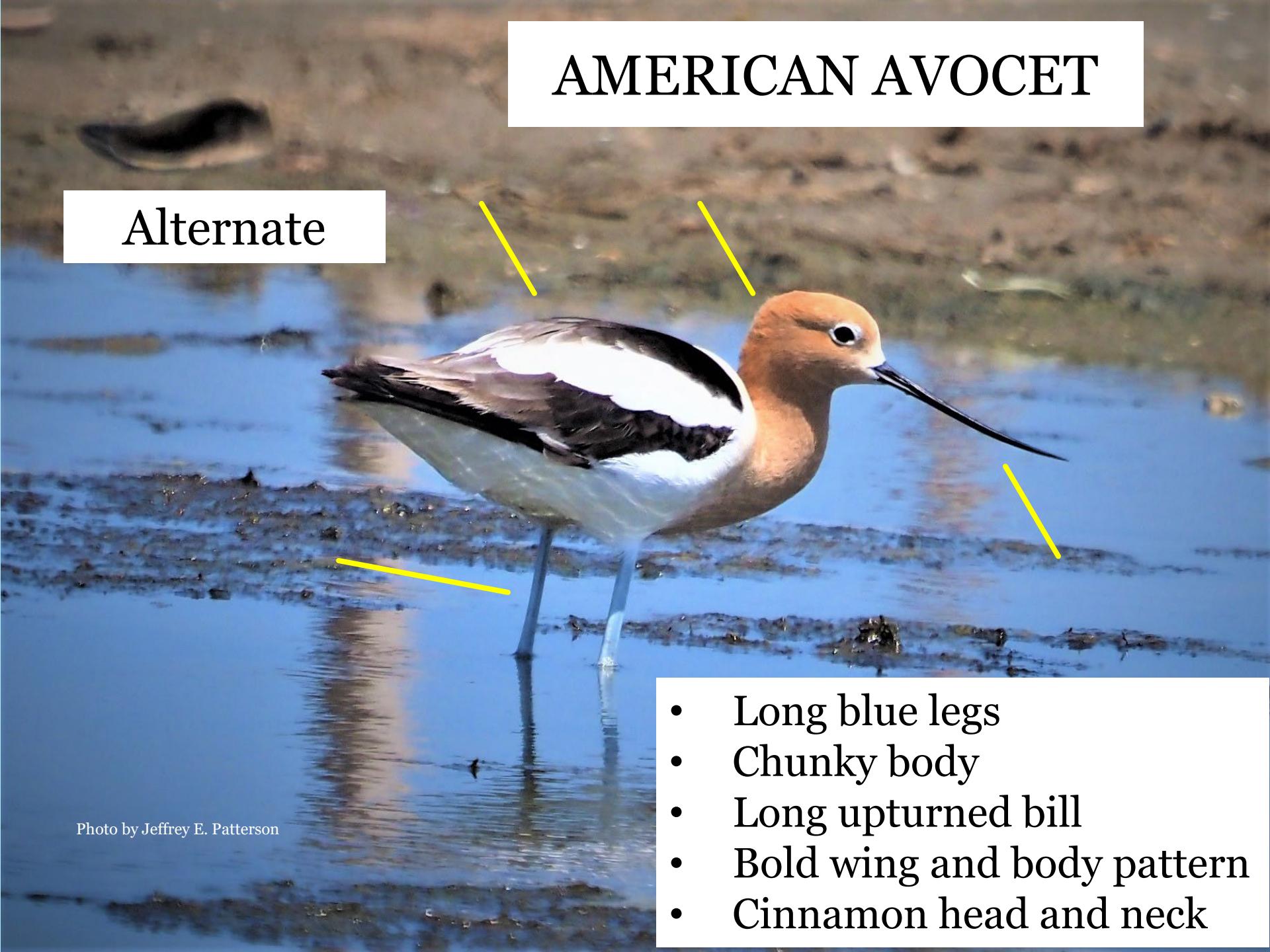


Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

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

AMERICAN AVOCET

Basic



AMERICAN AVOCET

Basic



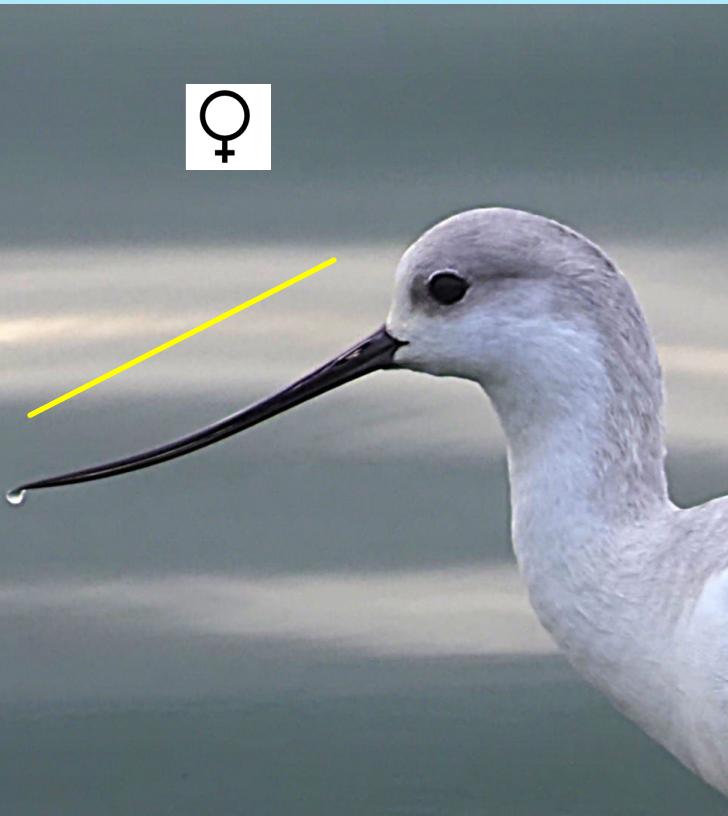
AMERICAN AVOCET

Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

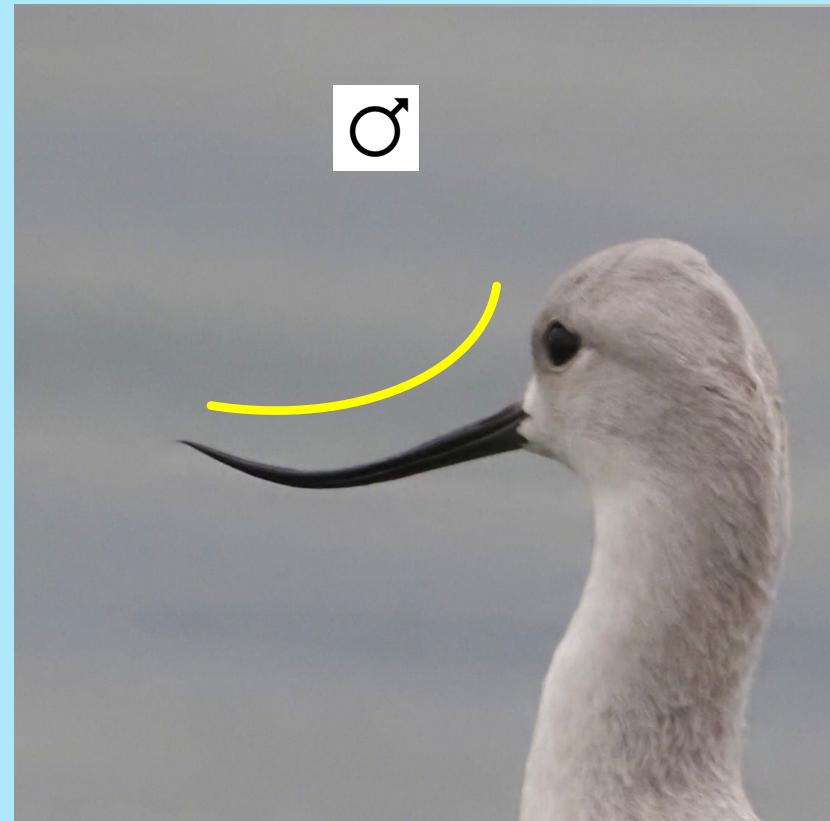
AMERICAN AVOCET



AMERICAN AVOCET



“Dimorphic”



AMERICAN AVOCET



Photos by Jeffrey E. Patterson

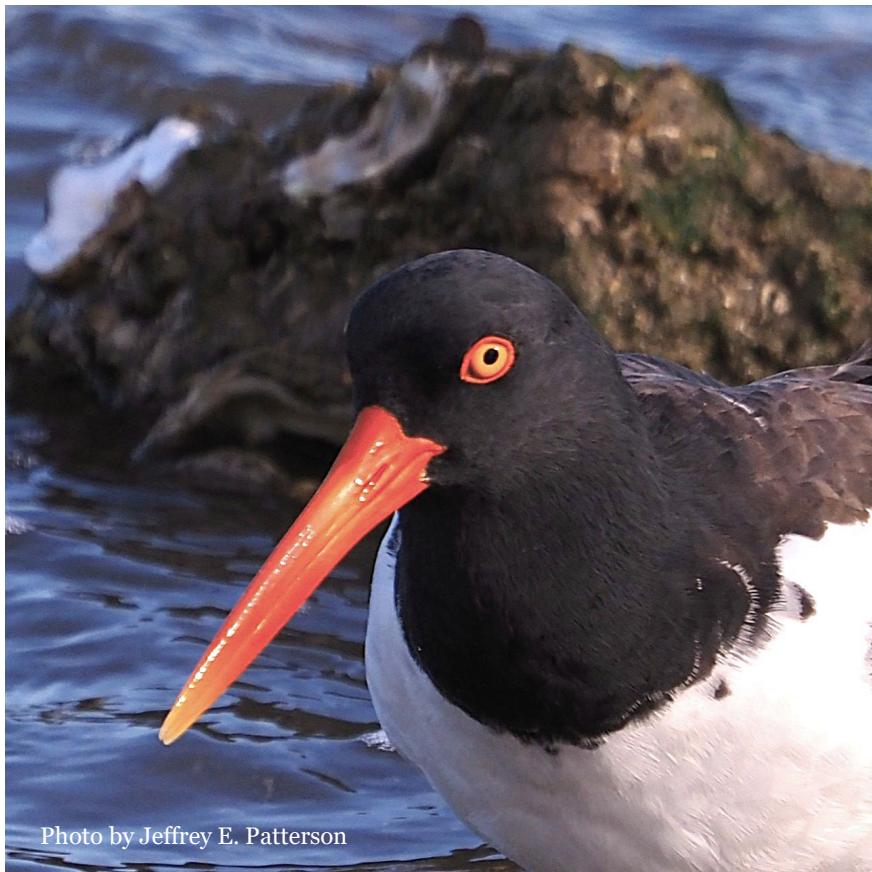
AMERICAN AVOCET



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

HAEMATAPUS PALLIATUS

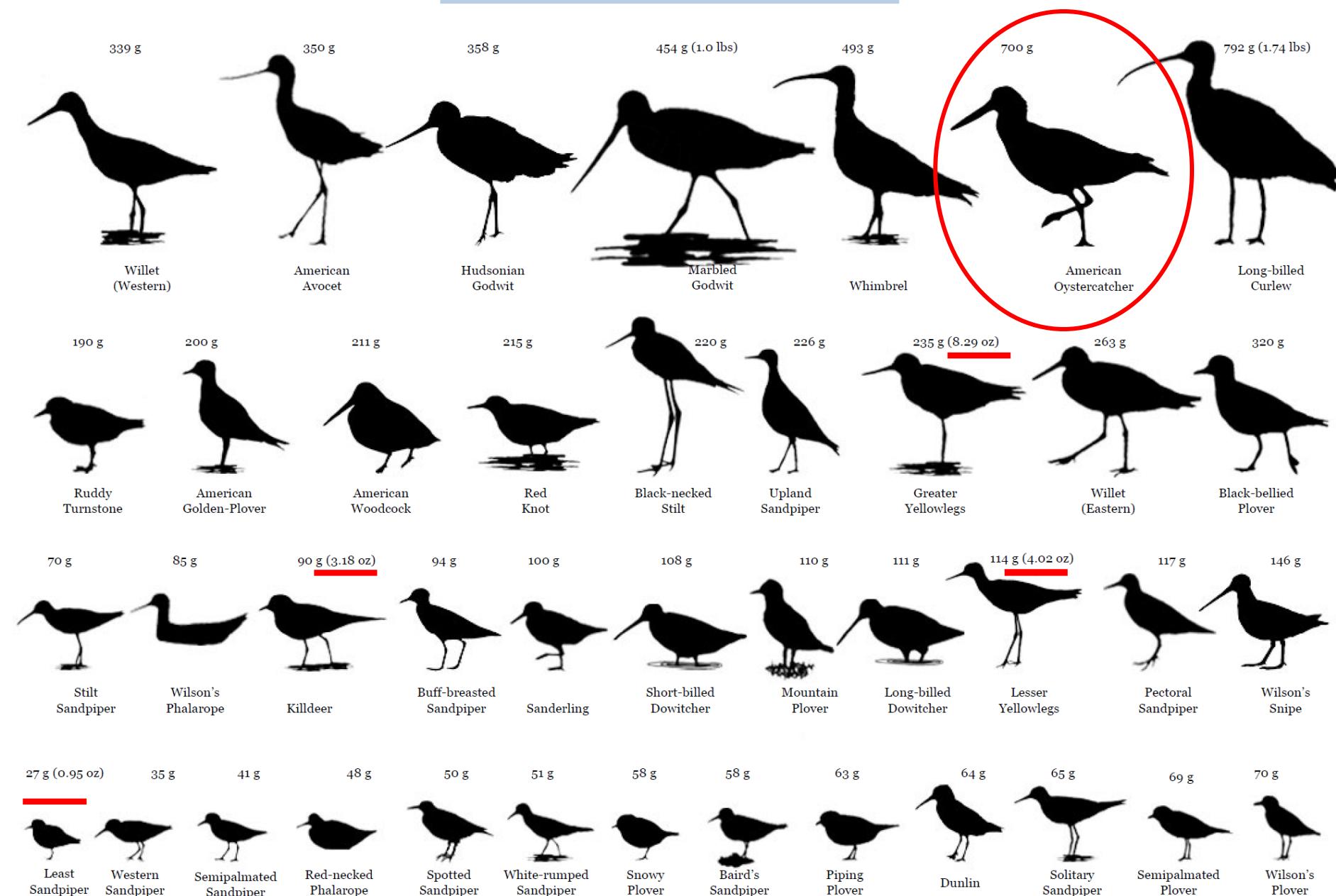


- Very much coastal
- Tidal mudflats, oyster reefs
- Uncommon permanent resident Texas Coast



SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25



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

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

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

A close-up photograph of an American Oystercatcher standing in shallow, rippling blue water. The bird has a black head and neck, a white breast, and brownish wings. Its most striking feature is its long, bright orange bill, which is flattened on the sides, resembling a knife. It is looking slightly to the right.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

- Bill flattened like an oyster knife

Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



“Monomorphic”

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

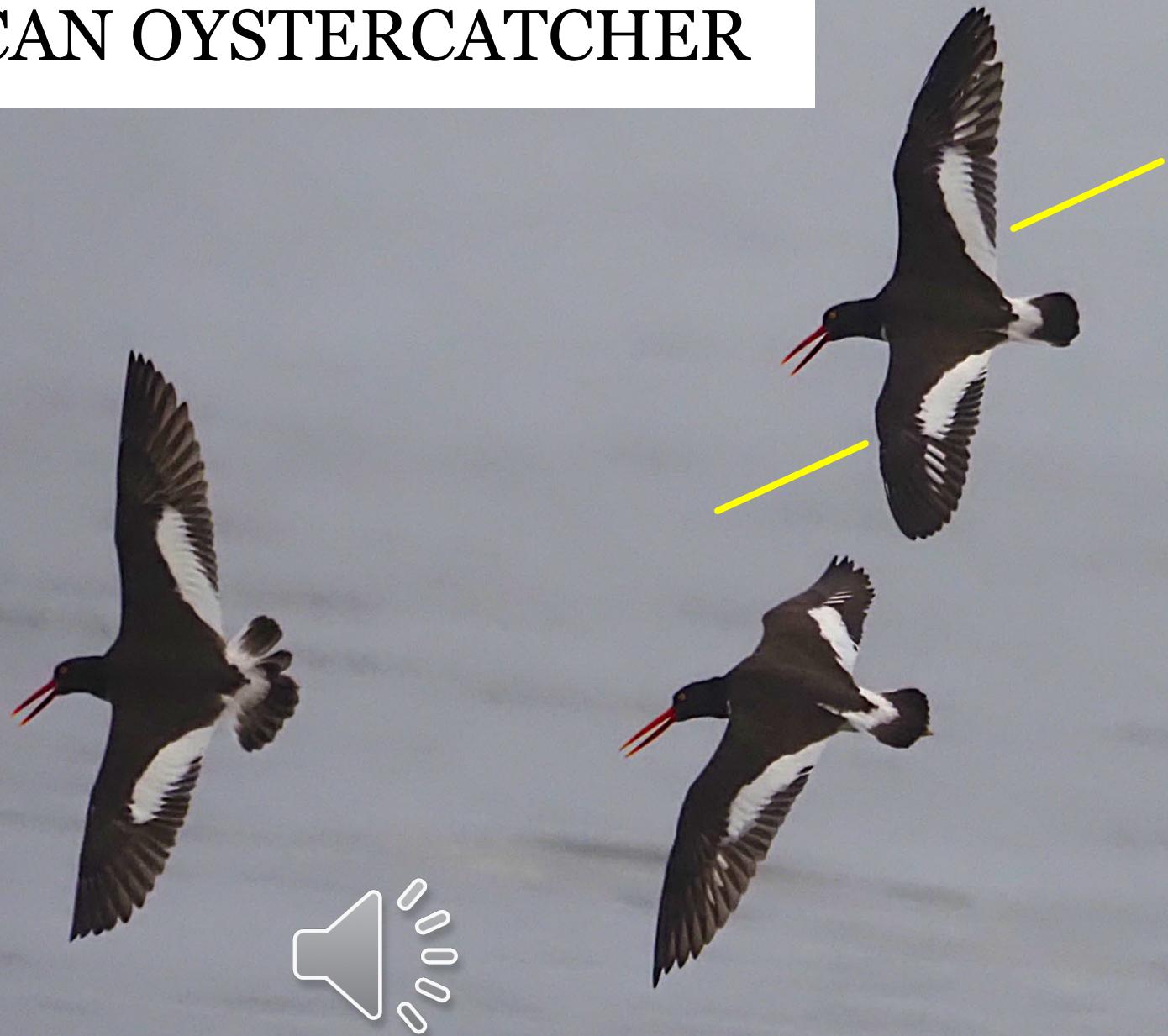


Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

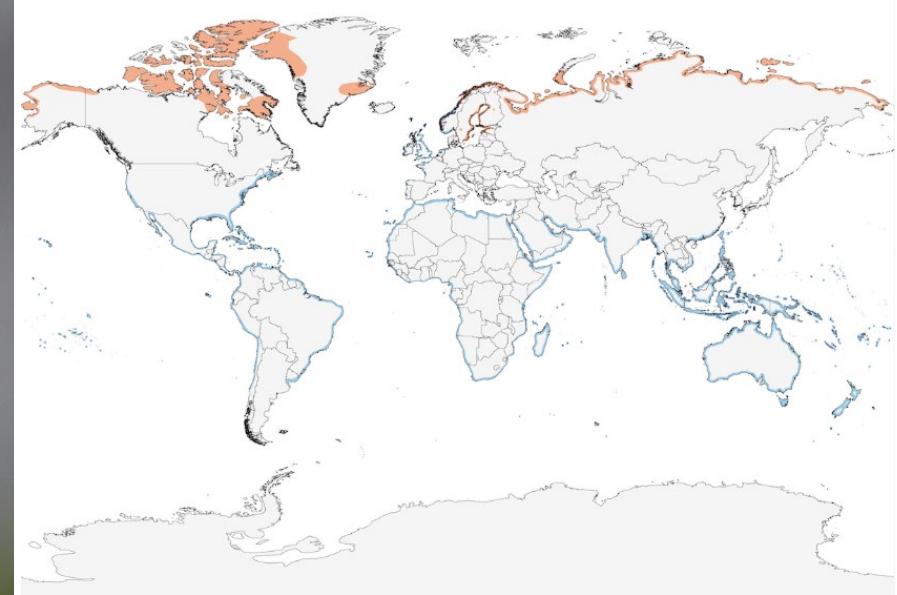
AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

RUDDY TURNSTONE

ARENARIA INTERPRES



[+ 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

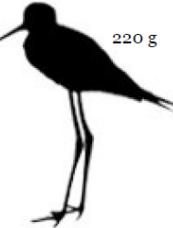


American
Woodcock

215 g



Red
Knot



Black-necked
Stilt

220 g



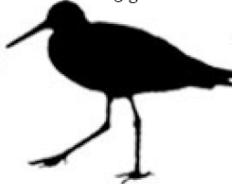
Upland
Sandpiper

226 g



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



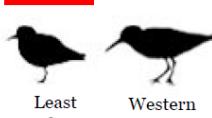
Pectoral
Sandpiper

146 g



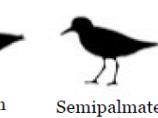
Wilson's
Snipe

27 g (0.95 oz)



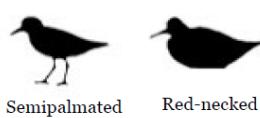
Least
Sandpiper

35 g



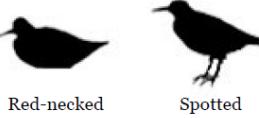
Western
Sandpiper

41 g



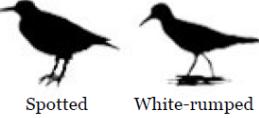
Semipalmented
Sandpiper

48 g



Red-necked
Phalarope

50 g



Spotted
Sandpiper

51 g



White-rumped
Sandpiper

58 g



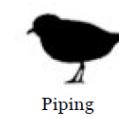
Snowy
Plover

58 g



Baird's
Sandpiper

63 g



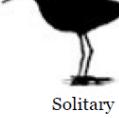
Piping
Plover

64 g



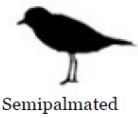
Dunlin

65 g



Solitary
Sandpiper

69 g



Semipalmented
Plover

70 g

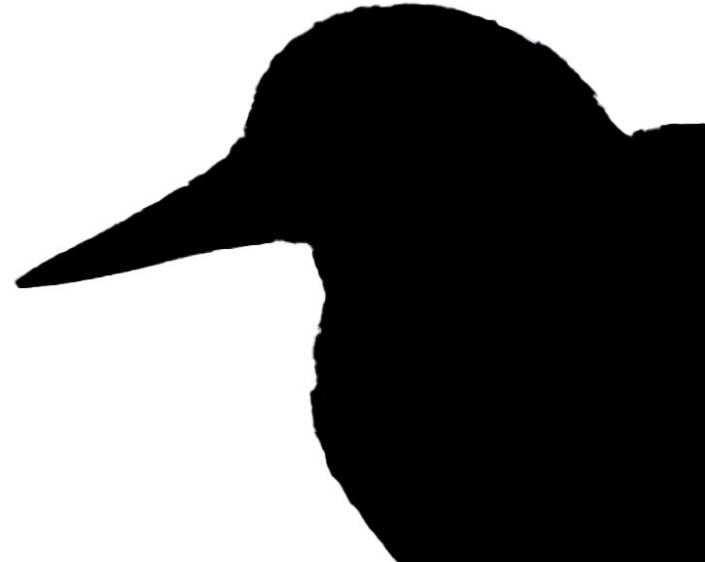


Wilson's
Plover

RUDDY TURNSTONE



- Chisel-like bill



RUDDY TURNSTONE

Alternate



- Bold harlequin pattern
- Rufous back and wing coverts

RUDDY TURNSTONE

Basic

“Monomorphic”



- Muted gray

RUDDY TURNSTONE



Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

RUDDY TURNSTONE

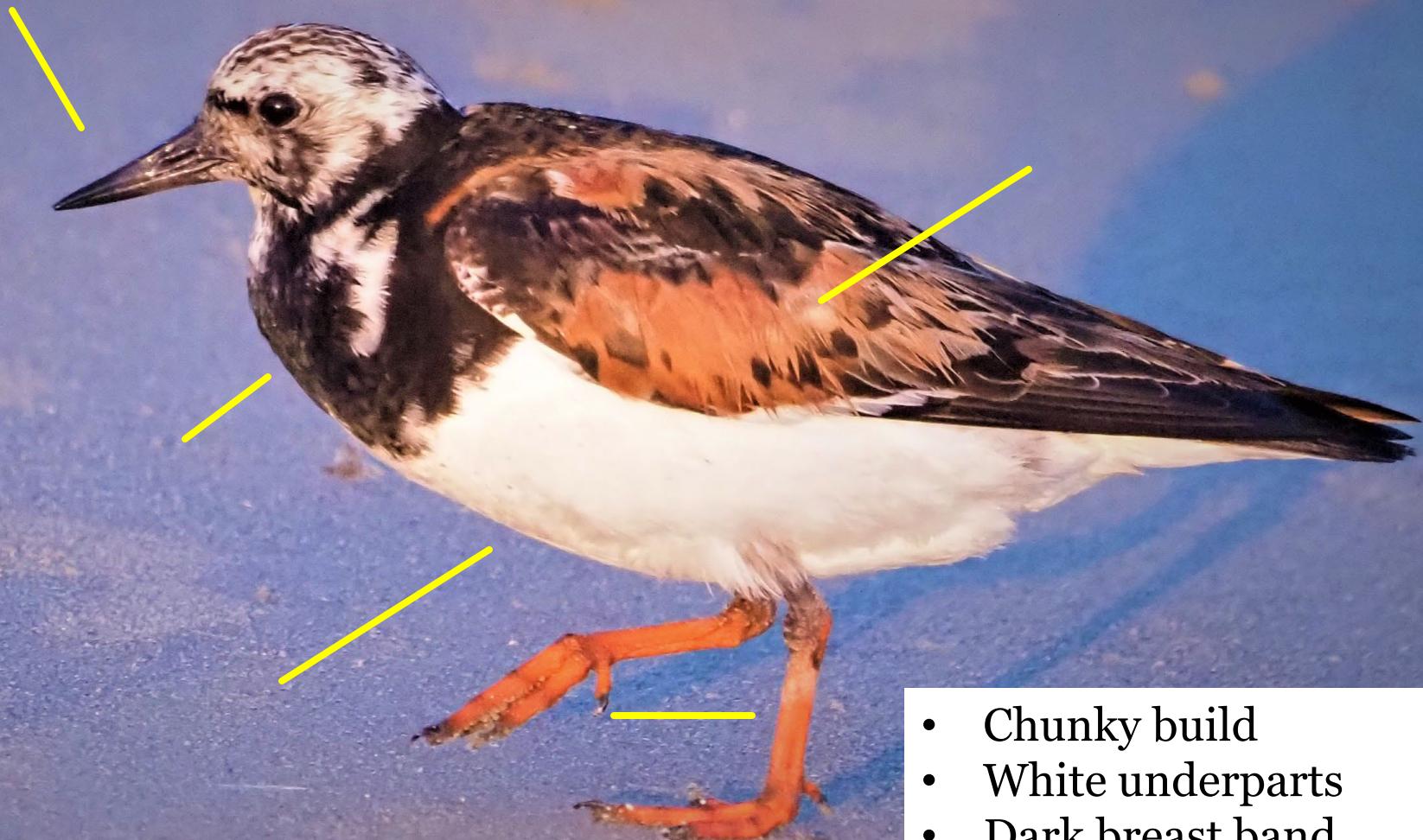


Photo by Jeffrey E. Patterson

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