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2 Big Plovers

Black-bellied Plover
American Golden Plover
Mountain Plover



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				<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	
	American Avocet				<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	
	American Oystercatcher				<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	
2 Big Plovers	Black-bellied Plover	Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings	<i>Pluvialis</i>	<i>squatarola</i>	
	American Golden-Plover				<i>dominica</i>	
	Mountain Plover				<i>montanus</i>	
3 Ringed Plovers	Killdeer	Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings	<i>Charadrius</i>	<i>vociferus</i>	
	Semipalmated Plover				<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>	
	Western Sandpiper				<i>mauri</i>	
5 Calidris Bigs	Red Knot	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Calidris</i>	<i>canutus</i>	
	Stilt Sandpiper				<i>himantopus</i>	
	Sanderling				<i>alba</i>	
	Dunlin				<i>alpina</i>	
6 Tringa + Spotted	Pectoral Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Actitis</i>	<i>melanotos</i>	
	Spotted Sandpiper				<i>macularius</i>	
	Solitary Sandpiper				<i>solitaria</i>	
	Lesser Yellowlegs				<i>flavipes</i>	
	Willet (Eastern & Western subspecies)				<i>semipalmata</i>	
	Greater Yellowlegs				<i>melanoleuca</i>	
7 Godwits & Curlews	Whimbrel	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Numenius</i>	<i>phaeoopus</i>	
	Long-billed Curlew				<i>americanus</i>	
	Hudsonian Godwit				<i>haemastica</i>	
8 Dowitchers	Marbled Godwit	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Limosa</i>	<i>fedoa</i>	
	Short-billed Dowitcher				<i>griseus</i>	
	Long-billed Dowitcher				<i>scolopaceus</i>	
9 Grass-pipers	Upland Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Bartramia</i>	<i>longicauda</i>	
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper				<i>subruficollis</i>	
	American Woodcock				<i>Scolopax 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>	
11 Texas Rarities	Ruff	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Calidris</i>	<i>pugnax</i>	42
	Curlew Sandpiper				<i>ferruginea</i>	13
	Purple Sandpiper				<i>maritima</i>	29
	Double-striped Thick-knee				<i>Burhinus bistriatus</i>	1
Texas Review List species (not covered)	Northern Jacana	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>		44
	Eskimo Curlew				<i>Numenius borealis</i>	(presumed extinct)
	Bar-tailed Godwit				<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1
	Black-tailed Godwit				<i>limosa</i>	1
	Black Turnstone				<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	1
	Surfbird				<i>virgata</i>	12
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	3
	Red-necked Stint				<i>ruficollis</i>	2
	Wandering Tattler				<i>Tringa incana</i>	1
	Spotted Redshank				<i>erythropus</i>	1
	Red Phalarope				<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	54
	Pacific Golden-Plover	Charadriidae	Plovers and Lapwings	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>		1
	Collared Plover				<i>Charadrius collaris</i>	3

WHAT IS A PLOVER?

Domain: *Eukarya*

Kingdom: *Anamalia*

Phylum: *Chordata*

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Charadriiformes*

Families:
19 shorebird families world wide

5 shorebird families
in North America

Sandpipers,
Phalaropes & allies
(*scolopacidae*)

Oystercatchers
(*haematopodidae*)

Jacana
(*jacanidae*)

Plovers
(*charadriidae*)

Stilts & Avocets
(*recurvirostridae*)

“Kara-drya-day”

WHAT IS A PLOVER?

Domain: *Eukarya*

Kingdom: *Anamalia*

Phylum: *Chordata*

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Charadriiformes*

Family:
Charadriidae

11 Genera world-wide



Family:
Charadriidae
11 Genera world-wide

- *Pluvialis*
- *Oreopholus*
- *Zonibyx*
- *Phegornis*
- *Eudromias*
- *Charadrius*
- *Hoploxypterus*
- *Vanellus*
- *Erythrogonyx*
- *Peltohyas*
- *Anarhynchus*

WHAT IS A PLOVER?

3 Genera

Pluvialis

American
Golden
Black-bellied

Charadrius

Killdeer
Semipalmated
Piping

Anarhynchus

Mountain
Wilson's
Snowy

2 ID Groups

Big Plovers

Ringed Plovers

BIG PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover

American Golden Plover

Mountain Plover

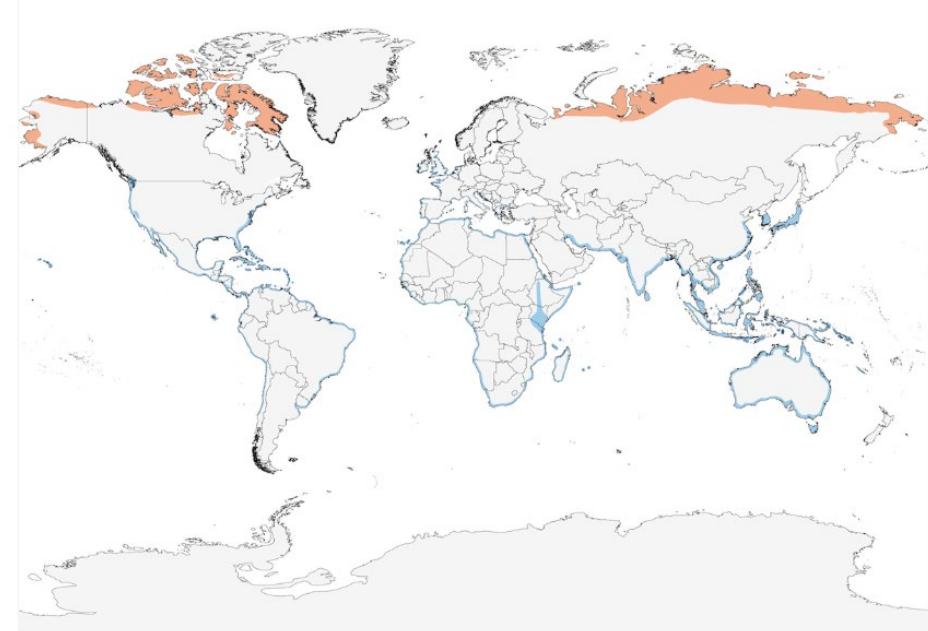
2 BIG PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover

American Golden Plover

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

PLUVIALIS SQUATAROLA



[+ Enlarge](#)

Year-round

Breeding

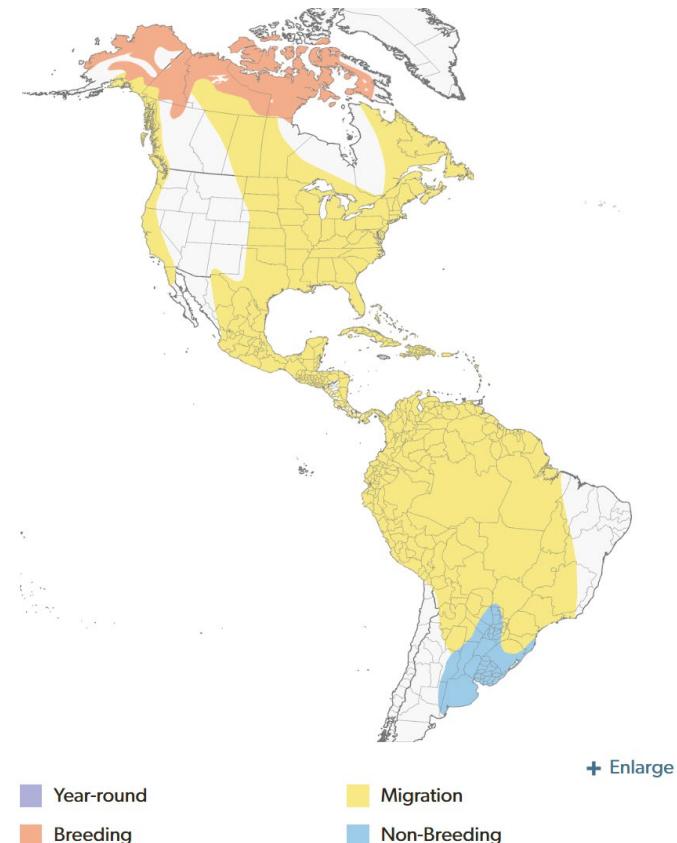
Migration

Non-Breeding

- Fall & Spring migrant and winters in Texas (including Hornsby Bend)

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER

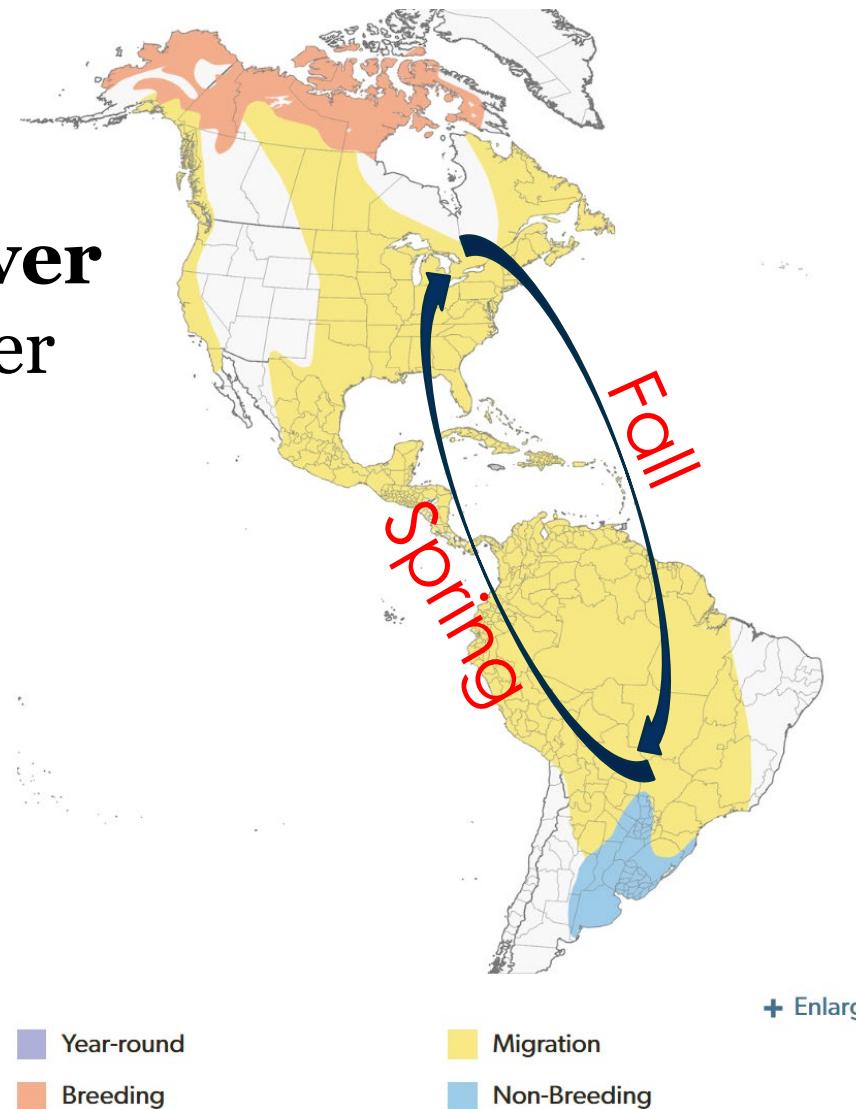
PLUVIALIS DOMINICA



- Spring migrant in Texas (including Hornsby Bend)

“ELLIPTICAL” MIGRANTS

American Golden Plover
White-rumped Sandpiper
Whimbrel
Hudsonian Godwit



Black-bellied

American Golden

Habitat

- Mostly coastal
- Mudflats
- Beaches
- Inland lakes (migration)

Habitat

- Prairies
- Pastures
- Tilled farmland
- Untilled harvested fields
- Mudflats
- Shorelines

SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25

339 g



Willet
(Western)

350 g



American
Avocet

358 g



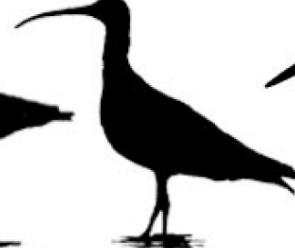
Hudsonian
Godwit

454 g (1.0 lbs)



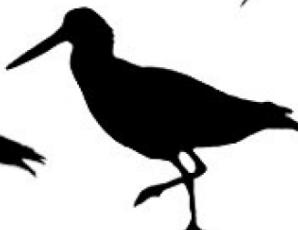
Marbled
Godwit

493 g



Whimbrel

700 g



American
Oystercatcher

792 g (1.74 lbs)



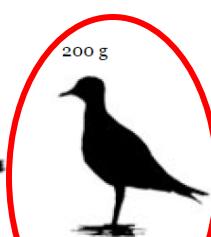
Long-billed
Curlew

190 g



Ruddy
Turnstone

200 g



American
Golden-Plover

211 g

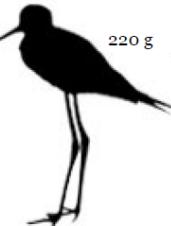


American
Woodcock

215 g



Red
Knot



Black-necked
Stilt

220 g



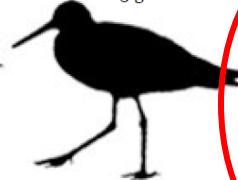
Upland
Sandpiper

226 g



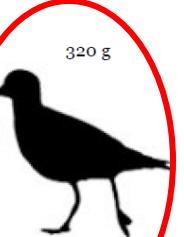
Greater
Yellowlegs

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



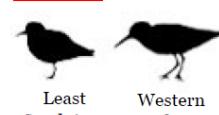
Pectoral
Sandpiper

146 g



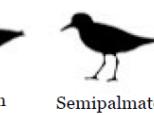
Wilson's
Snipe

27 g (0.95 oz)



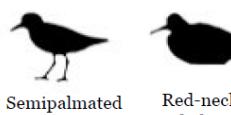
Least
Sandpiper

35 g



Western
Sandpiper

41 g



Semipalmented
Sandpiper

48 g



Red-necked
Phalarope

50 g



Spotted
Sandpiper

51 g



White-rumped
Sandpiper

58 g



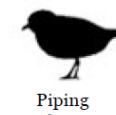
Snowy
Plover

58 g



Baird's
Sandpiper

63 g



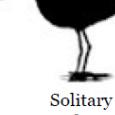
Piping
Plover

64 g



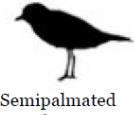
Dunlin

65 g



Solitary
Sandpiper

69 g



Semipalmented
Plover

70 g



Wilson's
Plover

2 BIG PLOVERS

STRUCTURE IS THE KEY



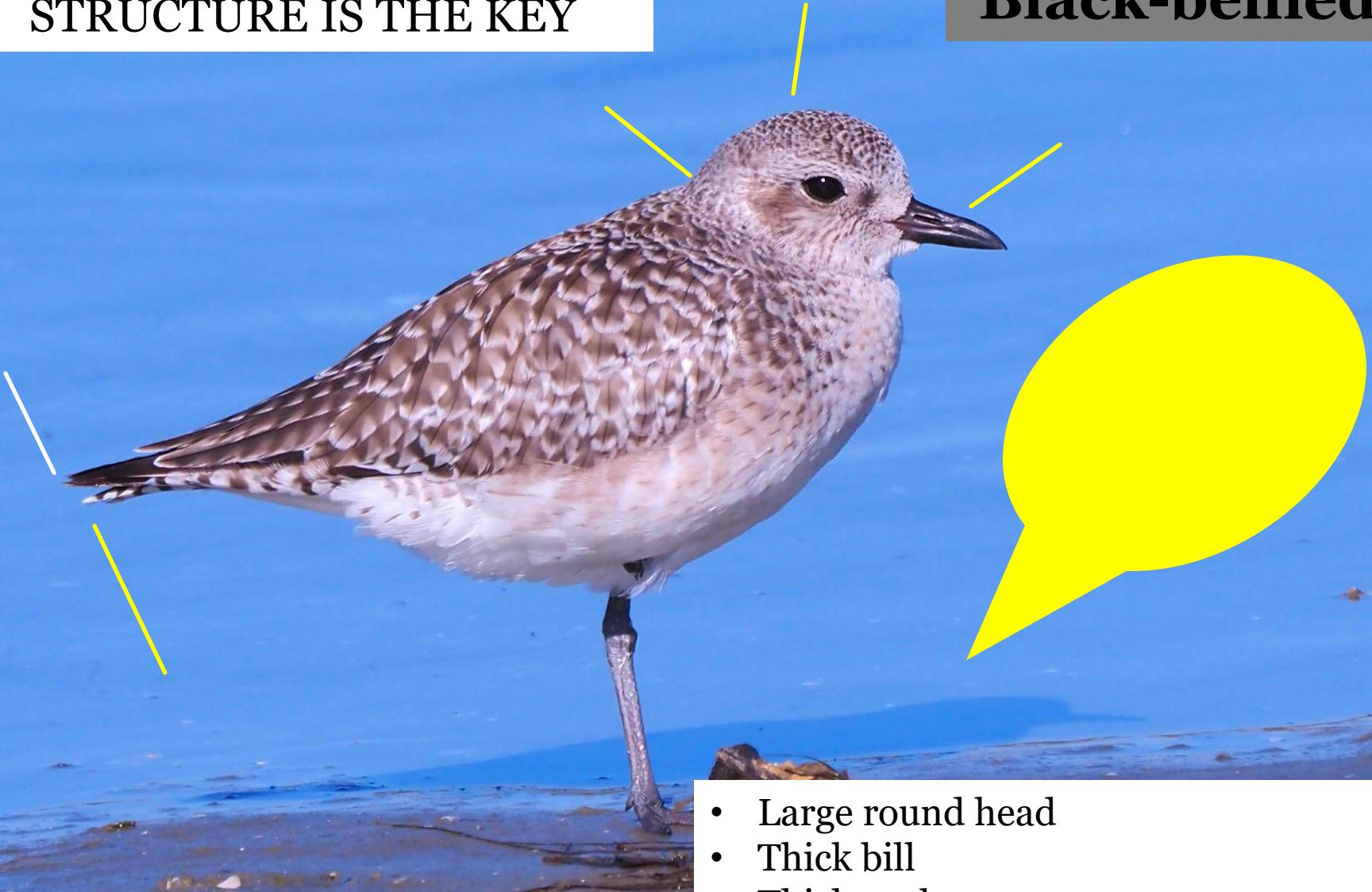
American
Golden

- Spring migrant in Texas
- (including Hornsby Bend)

- Small, dove-like head & neck
- Small, thin bill
- Long, attenuated look
- Primaries **longer** than tail

2 BIG PLOVERS
STRUCTURE IS THE KEY

Black-bellied

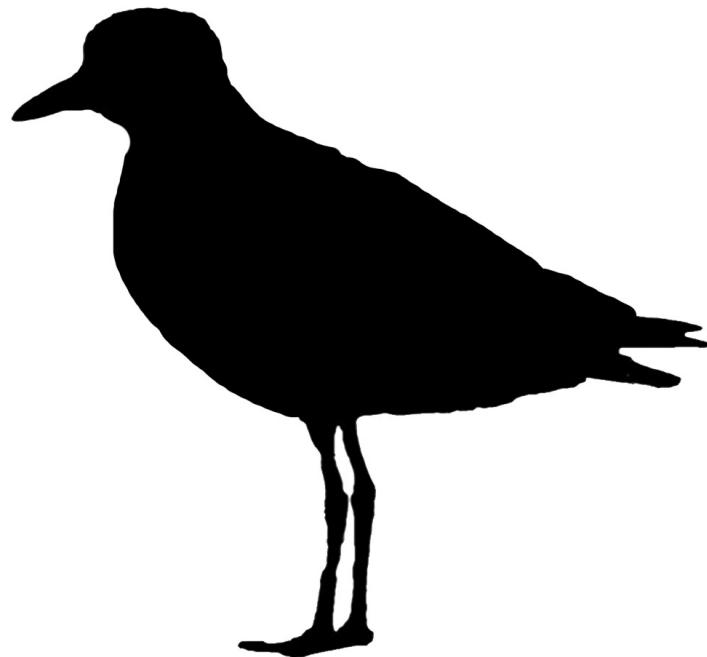


- Large round head
- Thick bill
- Thick neck
- More squat, less attenuated
- Primaries **even** with tail

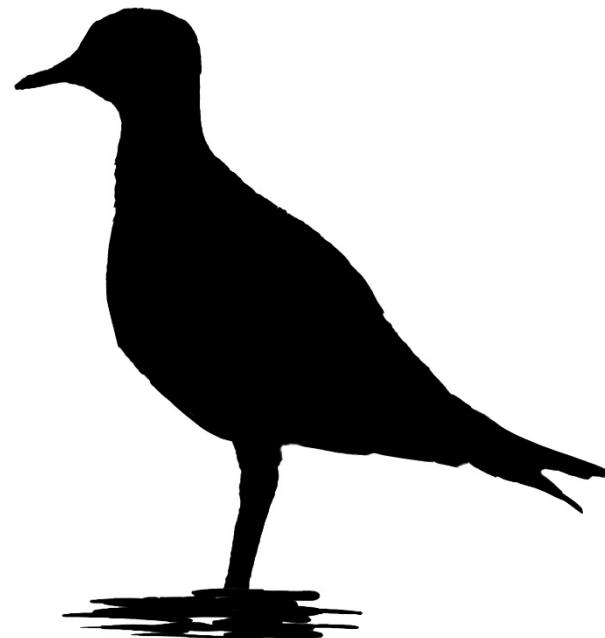
2 BIG PLOVERS

STRUCTURE IS THE KEY

Hefty



Athletic



Black-bellied

American Golden

2 BIG PLOVERS

STRUCTURE IS THE KEY



Black-bellied

American Golden

2 BIG PLOVERS STRUCTURE IS THE KEY

American Golden

Black-bellied



320 g
12 inches

200 g
11.25 inches

PLUMAGE

- ▶ Alternate (breeding)
- ▶ Basic (non-breeding)

2 BIG PLOVERS

White cap

Black-bellied

Alternate

Bright white
(always)

Sharp
demarcation

Black
chest & belly

2 BIG PLOVERS

Alternate

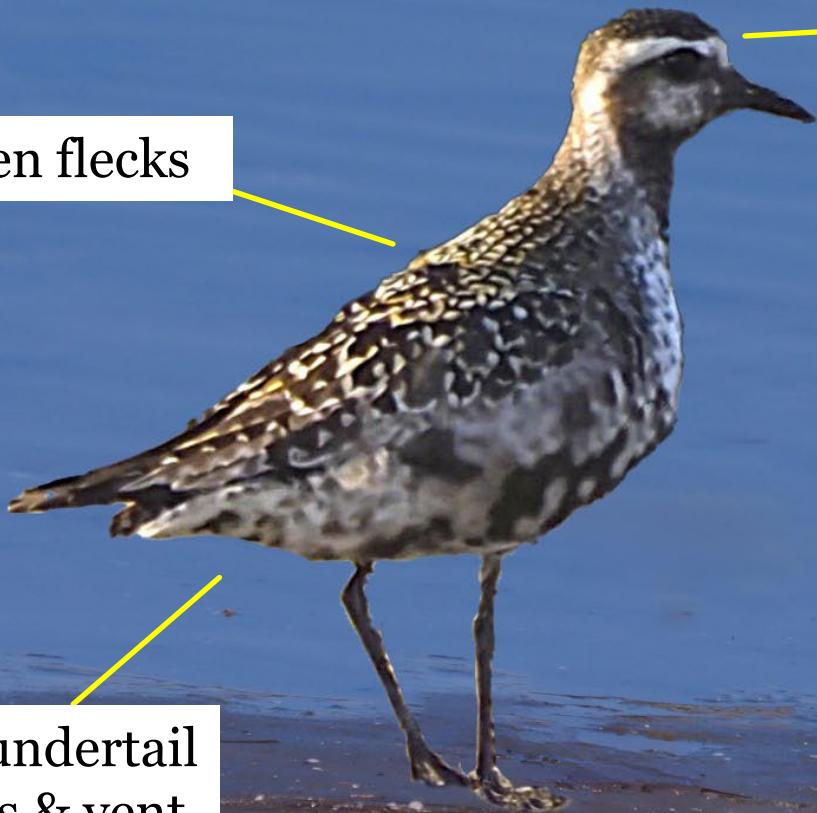
Dark cap

Golden flecks

White supercilium

American Golden

Black undertail
coverts & vent
(full alternate)



2 BIG PLOVERS

Alternate

Black-bellied



American Golden



2 BIG PLOVERS PLUMAGE

Always



Auxilliaries = arm pit

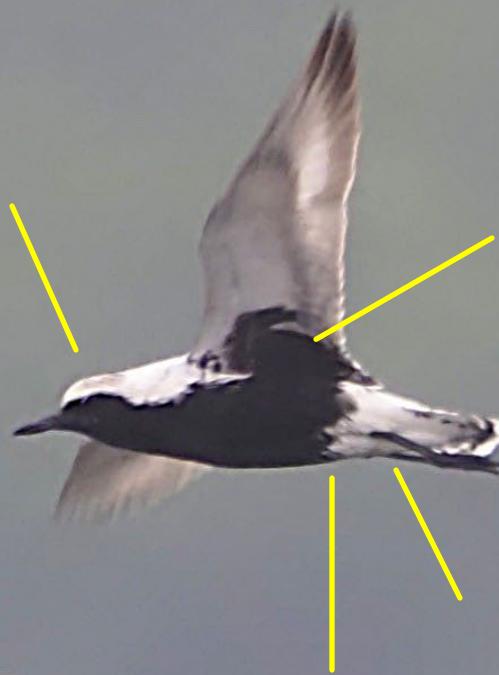
American Golden



2 BIG PLOVERS

Black-bellied

Alternate



- White cap
- Sharp contrast black upper vs white lower belly
- Bright white undertail coverts & vent
- Black auxiliaries always

American Golden

2 BIG PLOVERS



2 BIG PLOVERS

Basic

American Golden

Hint of a white supercilium

Hint of a dark cap

More contrast head & face

Dingy underside

Dingy undertail coverts & vent

Habitat: more often grassy areas
Time of Year: spring migration

2 BIG PLOVERS

Black-bellied

Muted head
& face

Basic

Structure !!!

Call



Clean white
underside

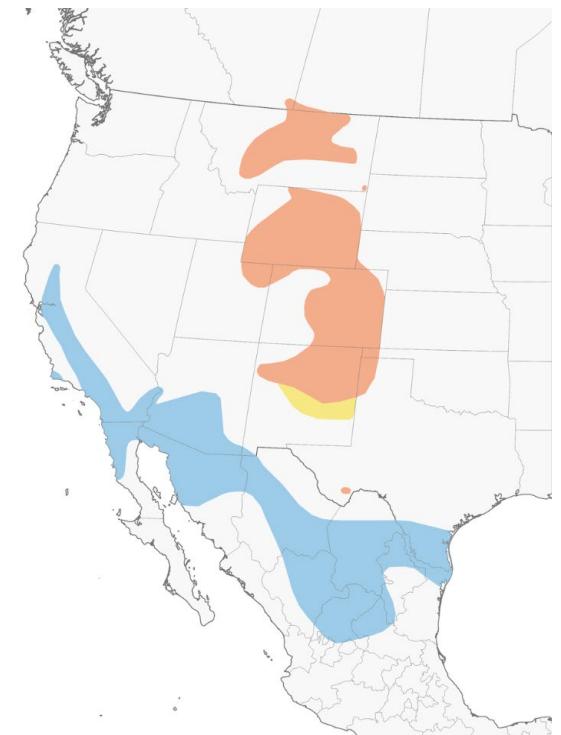
Habitat: Coastal
Time of Year: Winter & migration

MOUNTAIN PLOVER

ANARHYNCHUS MONTANUS



Photos by Brian Genge



Year-round

Breeding

Migration

Non-Breeding

+ Enlarge

- Winters in Texas

SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25

339 g



Willet
(Western)

350 g



American
Avocet

358 g



Hudsonian
Godwit

454 g (1.0 lbs)



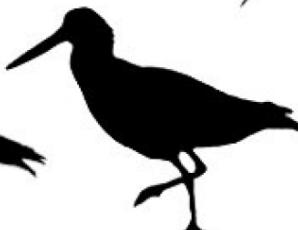
Marbled
Godwit

493 g



Whimbrel

700 g



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Curlew

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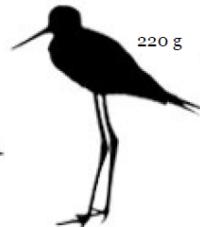
American
Woodcock

215 g



Red
Knot

220 g



Black-necked
Stilt

226 g



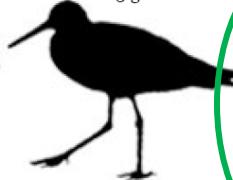
Upland
Sandpiper

235 g (8.29 oz)



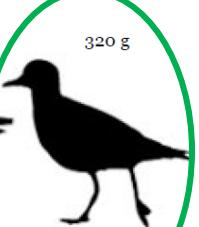
Greater
Yellowlegs

263 g



Willet
(Eastern)

320 g



Black-bellied
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Stilt
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Wilson's
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Sanderling

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Short-billed
Dowitcher

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Mountain
Plover

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Long-billed
Dowitcher

114 g (4.02 oz)



Lesser
Yellowlegs

117 g



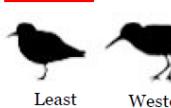
Pectoral
Sandpiper

146 g



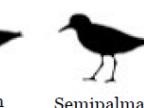
Wilson's
Snipe

27 g (0.95 oz)



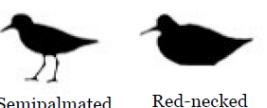
Least
Sandpiper

35 g



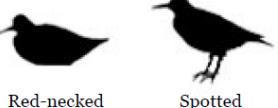
Western
Sandpiper

41 g



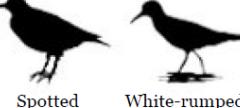
Semipalmented
Sandpiper

48 g



Red-necked
Phalarope

50 g



Spotted
Sandpiper

51 g



White-rumped
Sandpiper

58 g



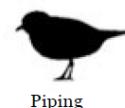
Snowy
Plover

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

MOUNTAIN



Habitat

- Short grass prairies
- Turf farms
- Tilled fields
- Open, flat, dry tablelands

NEVER IN
MOUNTAINS !!!



MOUNTAIN

Typical photo



MOUNTAIN

Typical photo

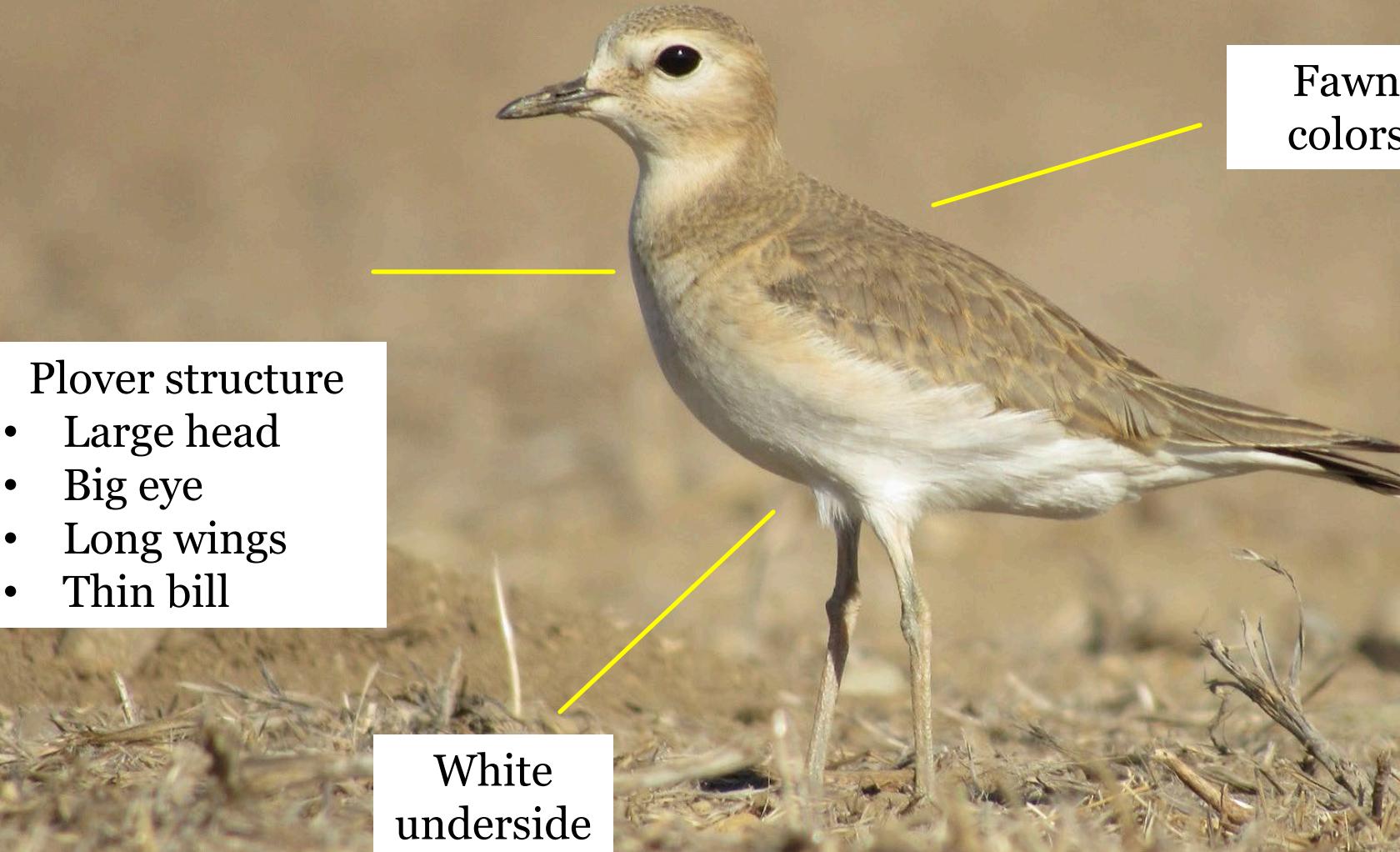
A photograph of a mountain bluebird perched on a light-colored, textured surface, likely a nest box. The bird has a bright blue back and wings, a white belly, and a distinct white patch on its wing. It is facing left. The background is a soft-focus green and brown foliage.

MOUNTAIN

Plover structure

- Large head
- Big eye
- Long wings
- Thin bill

Photos by Greg lavety



Fawn
colors

White
underside

MOUNTAIN



Fly & turn
in unison



2 BIG PLOVERS

Black-bellied



American Golden



MOUNTAIN

