

# NOTE ON THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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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	<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>Scaphopopus</i>	<i>ociferus</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>Tringa</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>longicauda</i>	
	American Woodcock				<i>subruficollis</i>	
10 Other Shorebirds	Wilson's Snipe	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Scolopax</i>	<i>minor</i>	
	Wilson's Phalarope				<i>gallinago</i>	
	Red-necked Phalarope				<i>delicata</i>	
	Ruff				<i>tricolor</i>	
11 Texas Rarities	Curlew Sandpiper	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Phalaropus</i>	<i>lobatus</i>	
	Purple Sandpiper				<i>pugnax</i>	42
	Double-striped Thick-knee				<i>calidris</i>	13
	Northern Jacana				<i>ferruginea</i>	29
Texas Review List species (not covered)	Eskimo Curlew	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers and Allies	<i>Burhinus</i>	<i>bistriatus</i>	1
	Bar-tailed Godwit				<i>jacana</i>	44
	Black-tailed Godwit				<i>numenius</i>	19 (presumed extinct)
	Black Turnstone				<i>borealis</i>	
	Surfbird			<i>Limosa</i>	<i>lapponica</i>	1
	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				<i>limosa</i>	1
	Red-necked Stint				<i>melanocephala</i>	1
	Wandering Tattler			<i>Calidris</i>	<i>virgata</i>	12
	Spotted Redshank				<i>acuminata</i>	3
	Red Phalarope				<i>ruficollis</i>	2
	Pacific Golden-Plover			<i>Tringa</i>	<i>incana</i>	1
	Collared Plover				<i>erythropus</i>	1
					<i>fulvica</i>	54
					<i>collaris</i>	3
				<i>Charadrius</i>	<i>fulva</i>	1
					<i>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*)

Plovers  
(*charadriidae*)

Stilts & Avocets  
(*recurvirostridae*)

Oystercatchers  
(*haematopodidae*)

Jacana  
(*jacanidae*)

“Kara-drya-day”



# WHAT IS A PLOVER?

Domain: ***Eukarya***

Kingdom: ***Anamalia***

Phylum: ***Chordata***

Class: ***Aves***

Order: ***Charadriiformes***

Family:  
***Charadriidae***

11 Genera world-wide



# WHAT IS A PLOVER?

Family:  
***Charadriidae***  
11 Genera world-wide

- *Pluvialis*
- *Oreopholus*
- *Zonibyx*
- *Plegadis*
- *Eudromias*
- ***Charadrius***
- *Hoploxypterus*
- *Vanellus*
- *Erythrogonys*
- *Peltohyas*
- ***Anarhynchus***

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

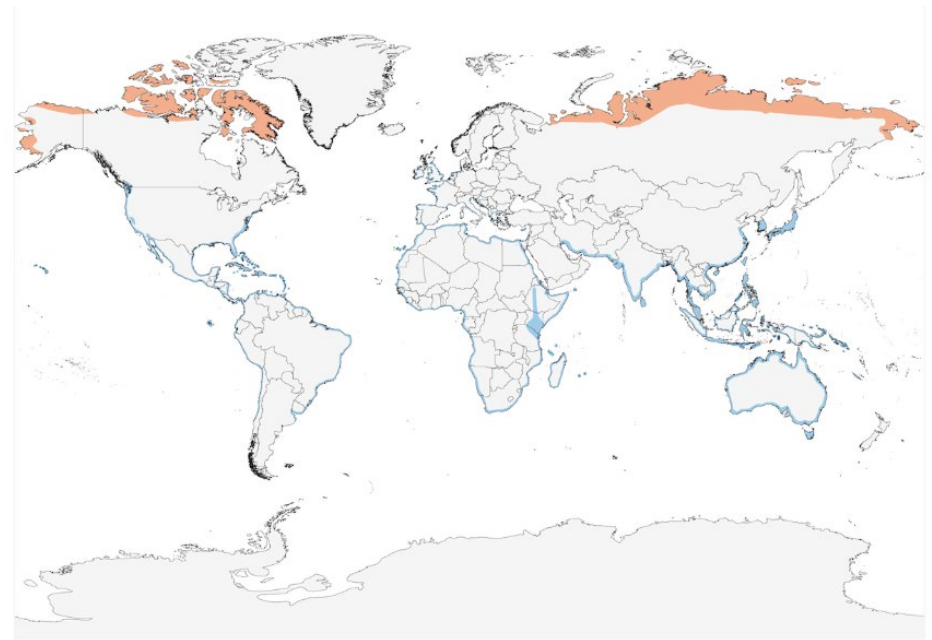
## 2 BIG PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover

American Golden Plover

# BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

*PLUVIALIS SQUATAROLA*



[+ Enlarge](#)

Year-round

Migration

Breeding

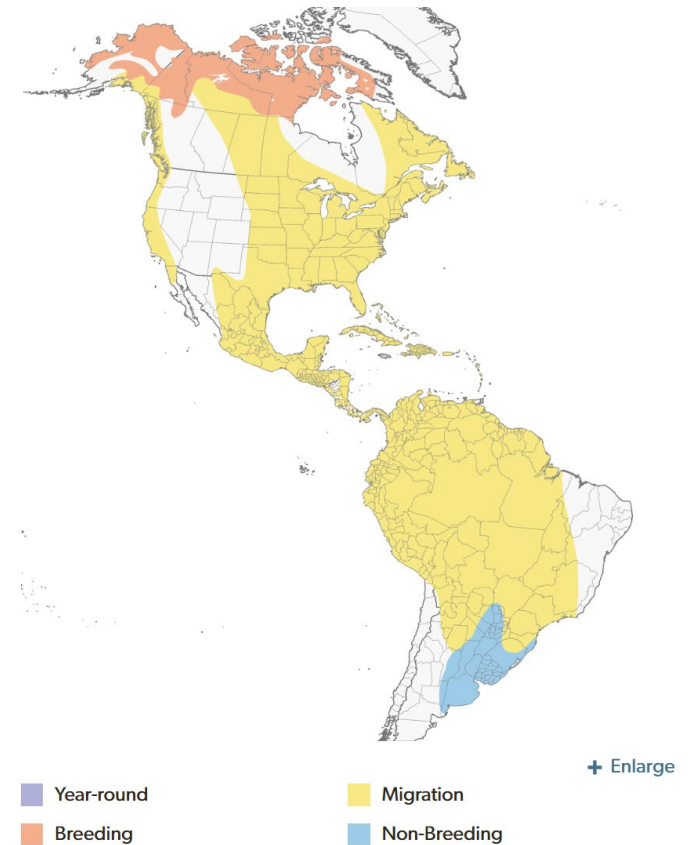
Non-Breeding

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



# AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER

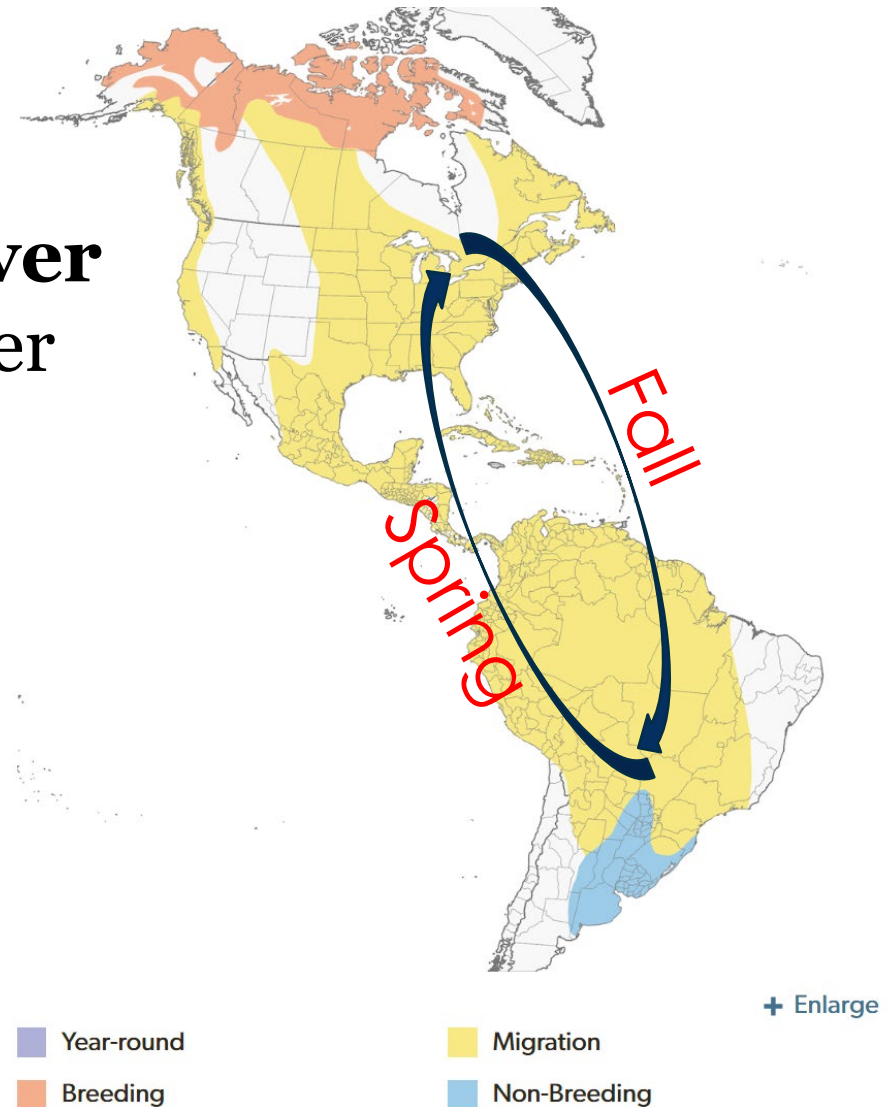
## *PLUVIALIS DOMINICA*



- Spring migrant in Texas (including Hornsby Bend)

# “ELLIPTICAL” MIGRANTS

**American Golden Plover**  
White-rumped Sandpiper  
Whimbrel  
Hudsonian Godwit



# Black-bellied

## Habitat

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

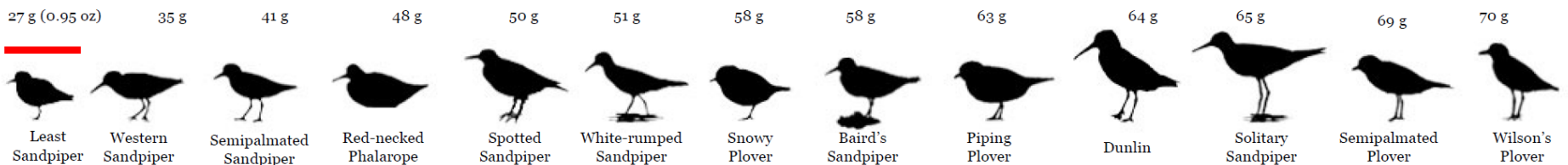
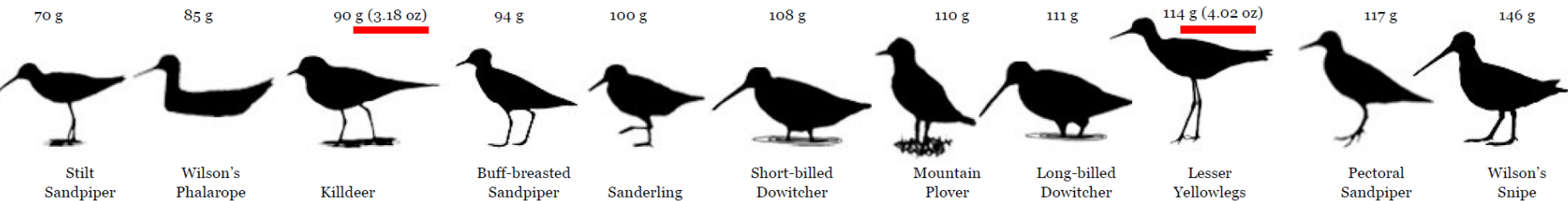
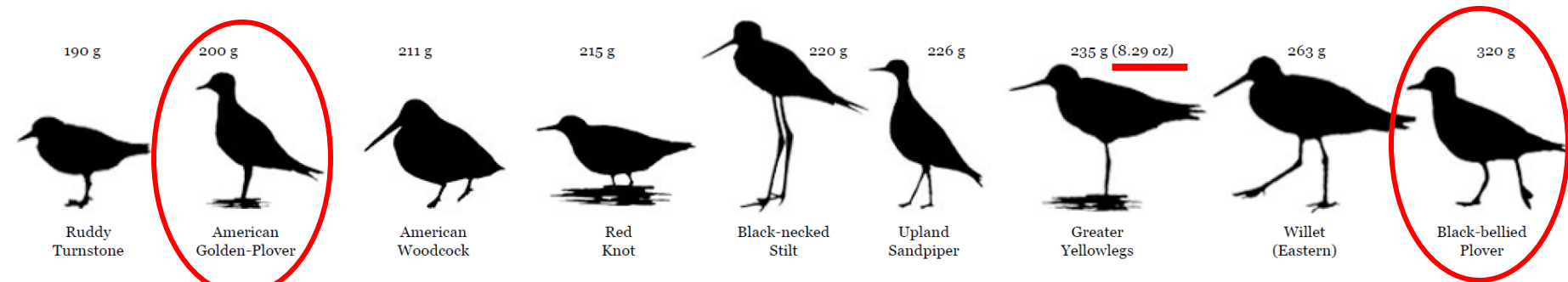
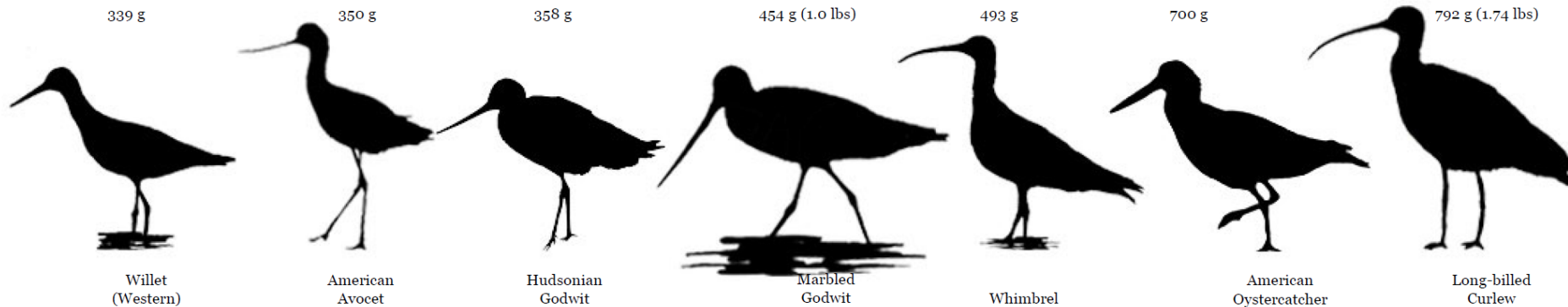
# American Golden

## Habitat

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

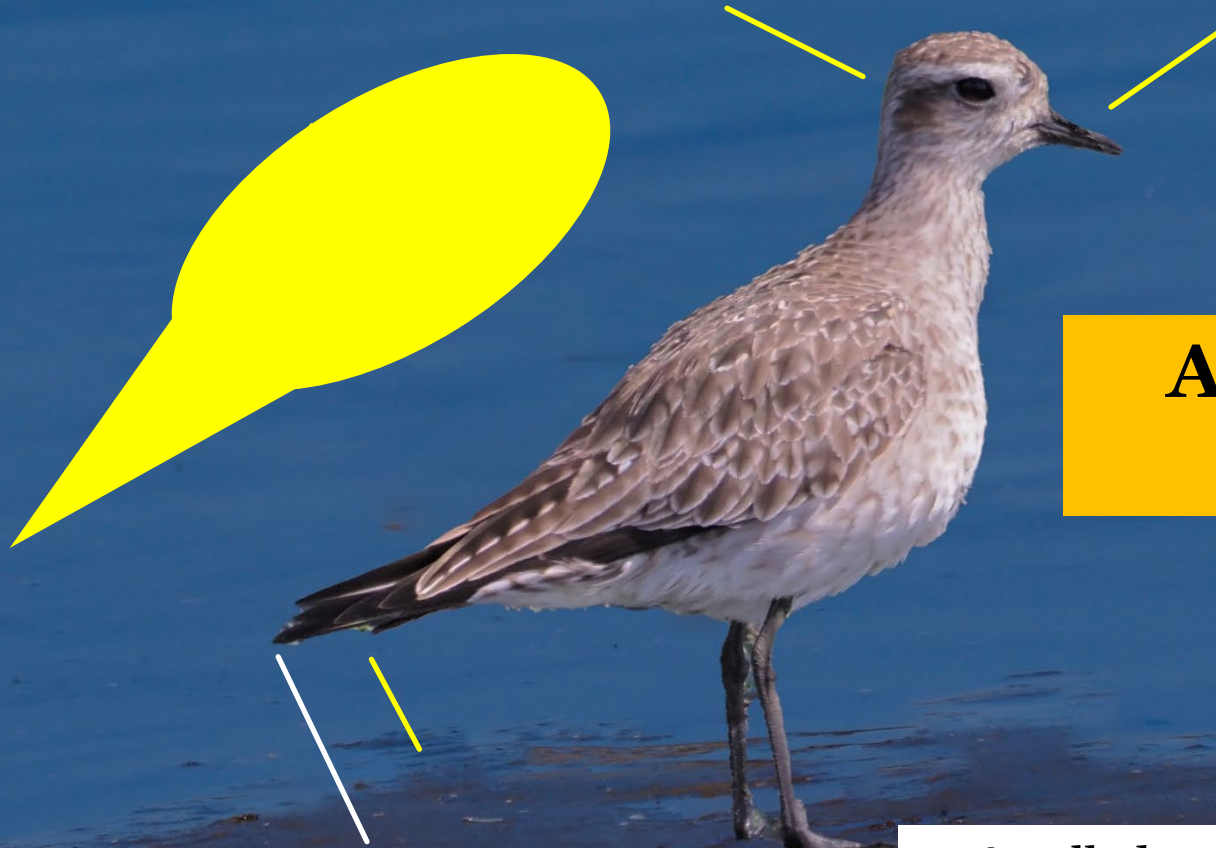
# SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25





## 2 BIG PLOVERS STRUCTURE IS THE KEY



**American  
Golden**

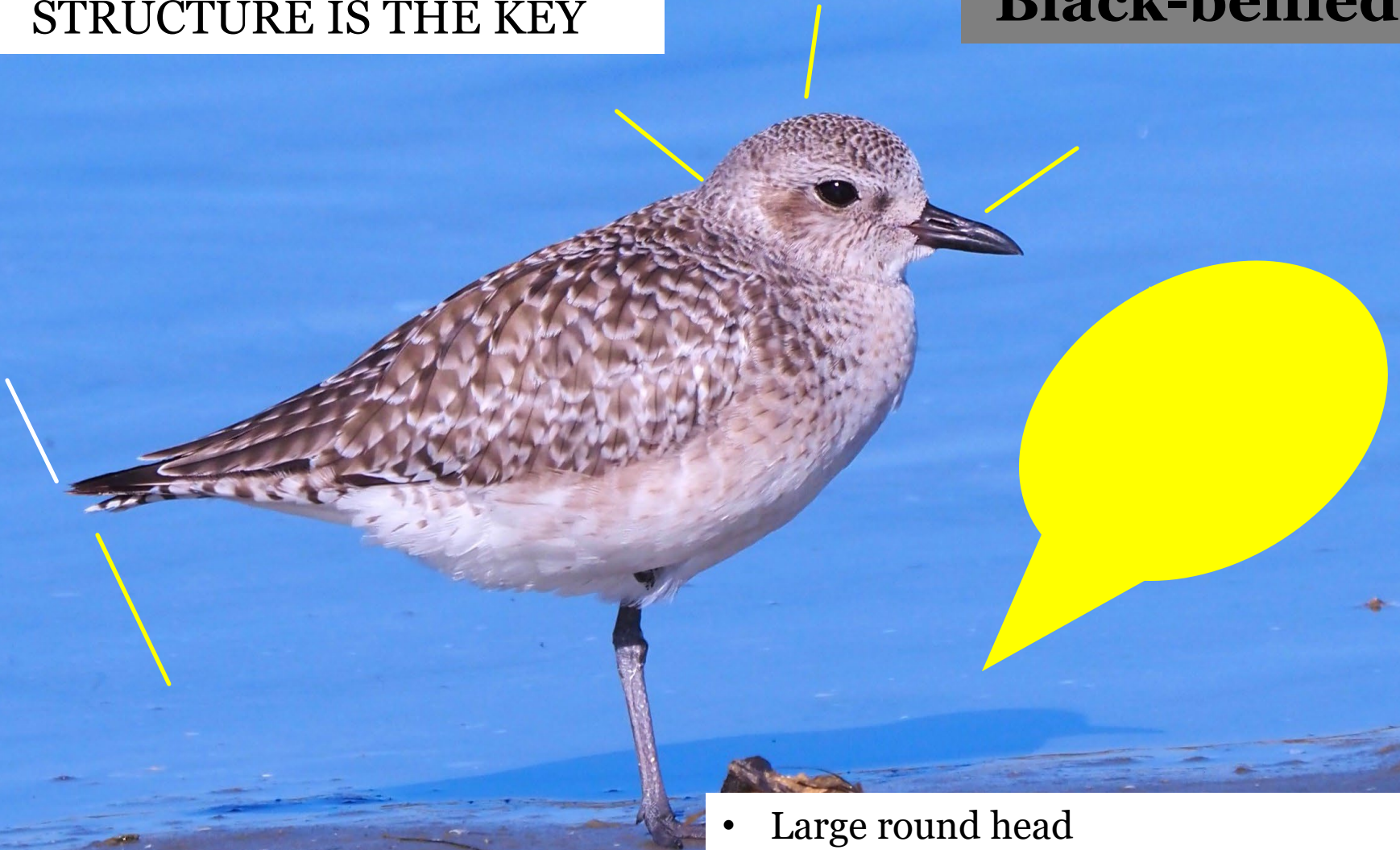
- Spring migrant in Texas
- (including Hornsby Bend)

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

## 2 BIG PLOVERS

### STRUCTURE IS THE KEY

Black-bellied

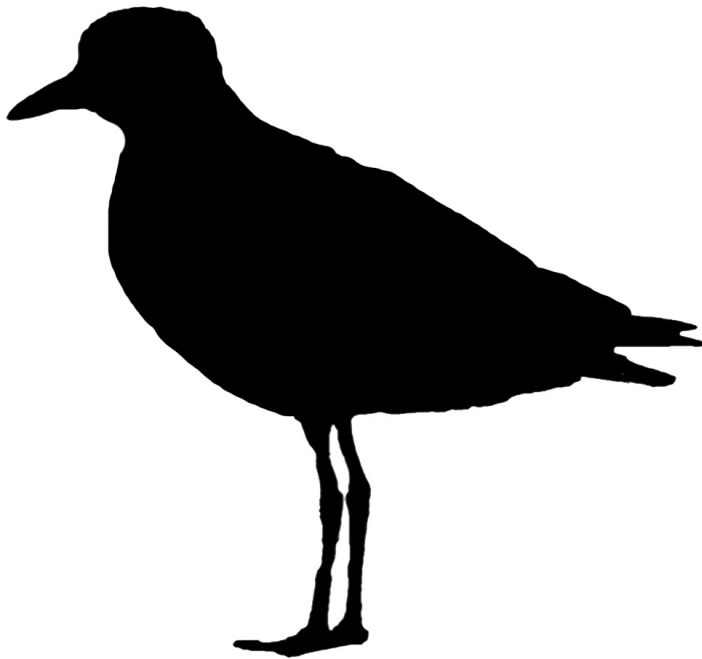


- Large round head
- Thick bill
- Thick neck
- More squatty, less attenuated
- Primaries **even** with tail

## **2 BIG PLOVERS**

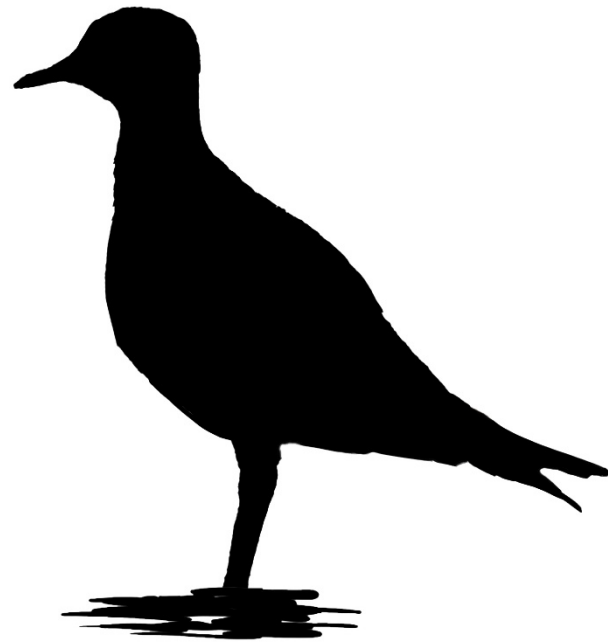
### **STRUCTURE IS THE KEY**

**Hefty**



**Black-bellied**

**Athletic**



**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

White  
supercilium

Golden flecks

**American Golden**

Black undertail  
coverts & vent  
(full alternate)



# 2 BIG PLOVERS

Alternate

**Black-bellied**



**American Golden**



# 2 BIG PLOVERS PLUMAGE

Always



**Black-bellied**

Auxilliaries = arm pit

**American Golden**

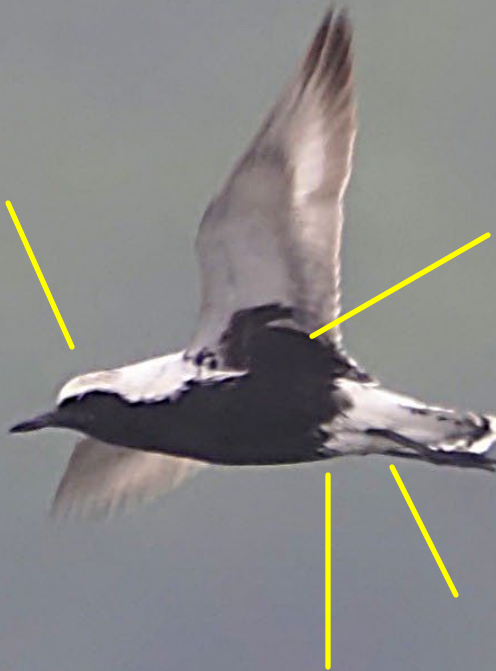




## 2 BIG PLOVERS

**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  
dark cap

Hint of a  
white supercilium

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

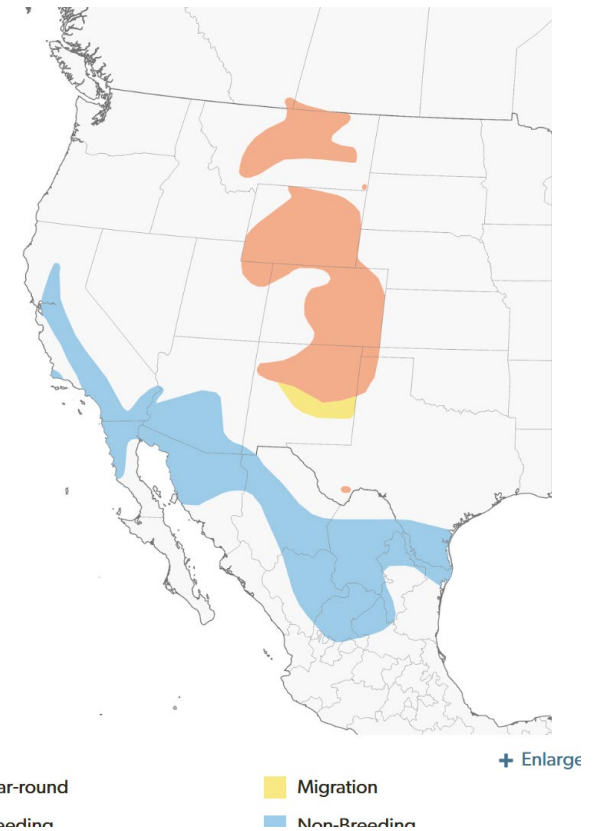


Clean white  
underside

**Habitat:** Coastal  
**Time of Year:** Winter & migration

# MOUNTAIN PLOVER

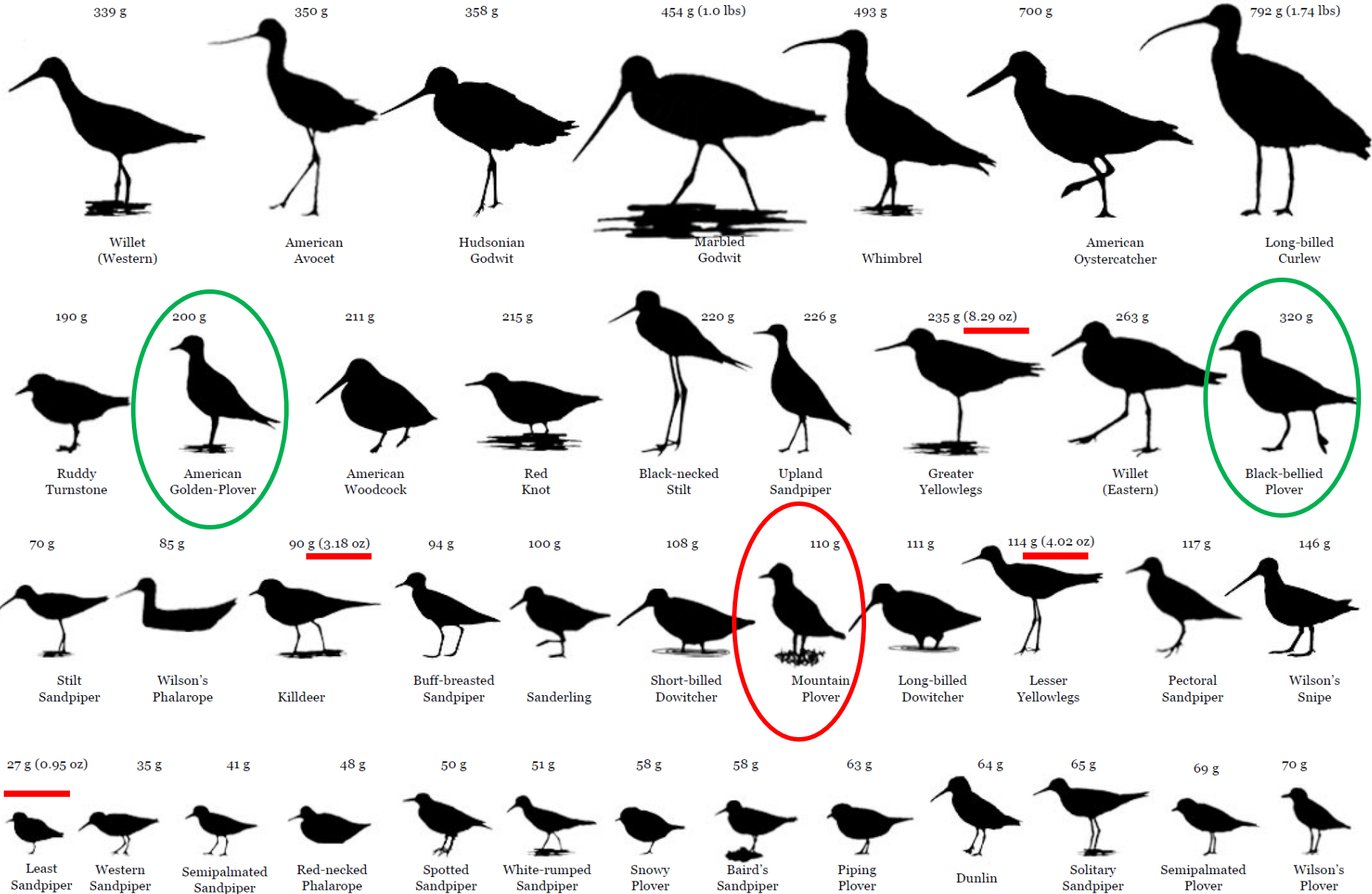
*ANARHYNCHUS MONTANUS*



- Winters in Texas

# SHOREBIRDS BY WEIGHT

Revised 6/13/25



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



# MOUNTAIN



## Habitat

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

NEVER IN  
MOUNTAINS !!!



# MOUNTAIN

## Typical photo





# MOUNTAIN

Typical photo





# MOUNTAIN

Fawn  
colors

## Plover structure

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

White  
underside



# MOUNTAIN

Fly & turn  
in unison



## **2 BIG PLOVERS**

**Black-bellied**





## American Golden





# MOUNTAIN

