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What is a Shorebird?

WHAT IS A SHOREBIRD?

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*)

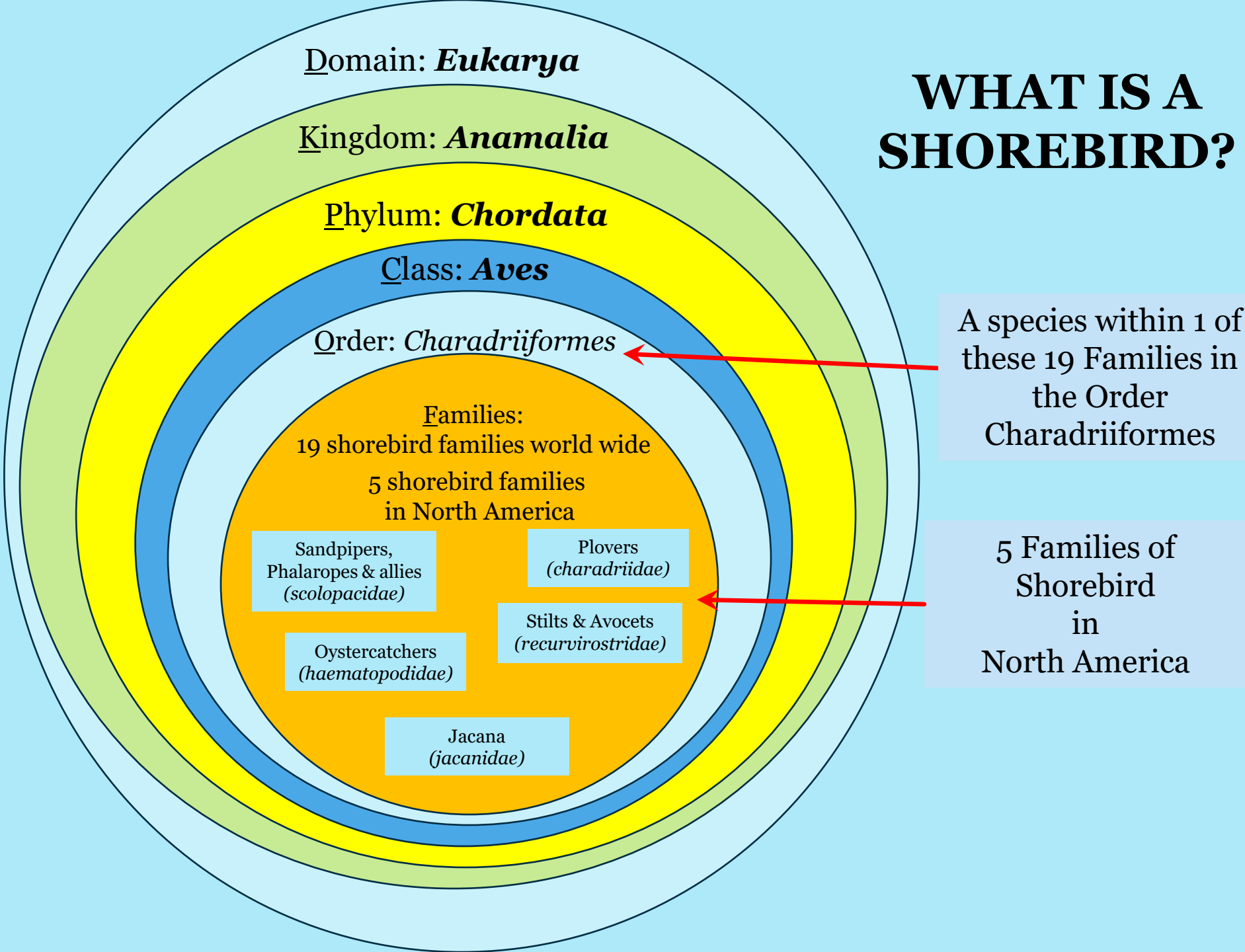
Stilts & Avocets
(*recurvirostridae*)

Oystercatchers
(*haematopodidae*)

Jacana
(*jacanidae*)

A species within 1 of
these 19 Families in
the Order
Charadriiformes

5 Families of
Shorebird
in
North America



About how many species of
shorebirds are
regular in Texas?

About how many species of shorebirds are regular in Texas?

~40 Species each year in Texas

+rarities

TAS SHOREBIRD CLASS ID GROUP	COMMON NAME	Hornsby	Hornsby
		8/20/2025	8/23/2025
1 Distinct Shorebirds	Black-necked Stilt	X	X
	American Avocet	X	X
	American Oystercatcher		
	Ruddy Turnstone		
2 Big Plovers	Black-bellied Plover		X
	American Golden-Plover		
	Mountain Plover		
3 Ringed Plovers	Killdeer	X	X
	Wilson's Plover		
	Semipalmated Plover		
	Piping Plover		
	Snowy Plover		
4 Calidris Peeps	Baird's Sandpiper	X	X
	Least Sandpiper	X	X
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	X	X
	Western Sandpiper	X	X
	White-rumped Sandpiper		
5 Calidris Bigs	Stilt Sandpiper	X	X
	Red Knot		
	Dunlin		
	Sanderling		X
	Pectoral Sandpiper	X	X
6 Tringa + Spotted	Spotted Sandpiper	X	X
	Solitary Sandpiper	X	X
	Lesser Yellowlegs	X	X
	Greater Yellowlegs		

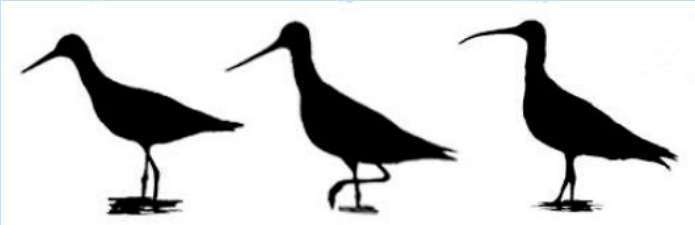
6 Tringa + Spotted	Spotted Sandpiper	X	X
	Solitary Sandpiper	X	X
	Lesser Yellowlegs	X	X
	Greater Yellowlegs		
	Willet (Eastern Subspecies)		
	Willet (Western Subspecies)		
7 Godwits & Curlews	Whimbrel		
	Long-billed Curlew		
	Hudsonian Godwit		
	Marbled Godwit		
8 Dowitchers	Long-billed Dowitcher	X	X
	Short-billed Dowitcher		
9 Grass-pipers	Upland Sandpiper	X	X
	Buff-breasted Sandpiper		
10 Other Shorebirds	Red-necked Phalarope		
	Wilson's Phalarope		
	American Woodcock		
	Wilson's Snipe		
11- Texas Rarities	Ruff		
	Red Phalarope		
	Curlew Sandpiper		
	Purple Sandpiper		
		14	16

WHO AM I?



Describe the difference between
“Structure” and “GISS”

Describe the difference between “Structure” and “GISS”



Structure – the way in which the parts of an object are arranged

GISS – the overall impression or appearance of a bird garnered from such features as shape, posture, flying style or other habitual movements, size and coloration combined with voice, habitat and location.

What are the 3 plumages of Shorebirds?

Can you give the “official” name of these plumages?

Juvenile

Basic (non-breeding, winter)

Alternate (breeding, summer)

Describe the general appearance of these 3 plumages.

3 Plumages

Describe the general appearance of these 3 plumages.

Western
Sandpiper



Basic



Alternate



Juvenile

Least
Sandpiper



WHO AM I?



Describe the difference between a
Plover and a Sandpiper.



How do you tell the difference between a
Long-winged Shorebird and a Short-winged Shorebird?

PRIMARY EXTENSION IN SHOREBIRDS

**Primary
Projection**



Tail

Primaries

PRIMARY EXTENSION

Primaries



Tail

What are the 2 general colors I said were important to scan for at Hornsby?



Brown
V
Frosty

What are the 2 general colors I said were important to scan for at Hornsby?



**Brown
V
Frosty**

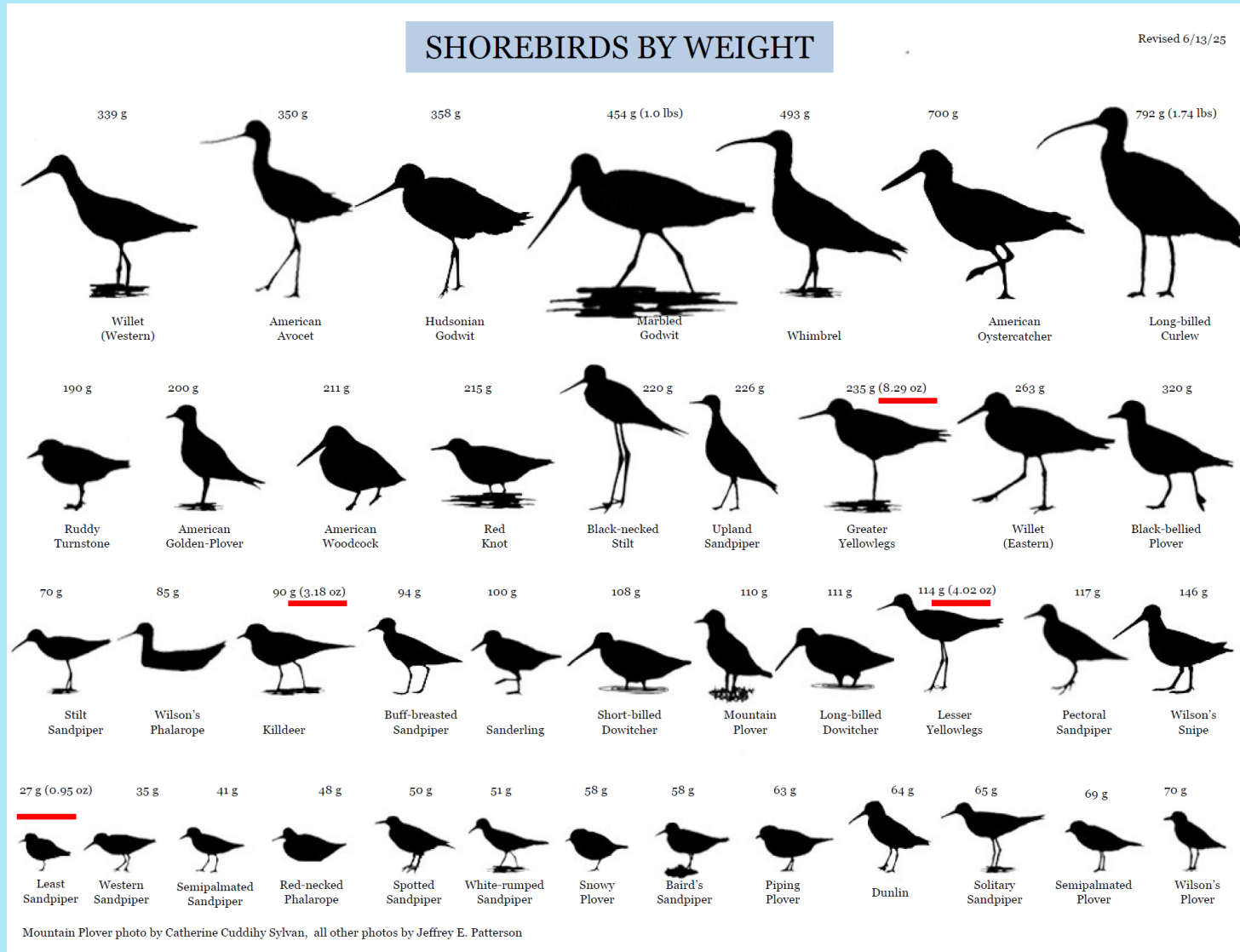
**It's
relative**

WHO AM I?



Which species are our “Reference Birds”?

And why were those species selected?



Which 4 species of Shorebird are almost always present at Hornsby?



Which species makes up about
90% of the small sandpipers at Hornsby?



Least Sandpiper

What are the 3 major,
energy-expensive activities of birds?

- 1. Breeding**
- 2. Migrating**
- 3. Molting**

WHO AM I?



WHICH ARE THE 3 BIG PLOVERS?

- ▶ Black-bellied Plover
- ▶ American Golden Plover
- ▶ Mountain Plover

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ID POINTS OF THE 3 BIG PLOVERS?



Photos by Jeffrey E. Patterson



Photos by Greg lavety

WHICH ARE THE 5 RINGED PLOVERS?

- ▶ Killdeer
- ▶ Semipalmated Plover
- ▶ Piping Plover
- ▶ Snowy Plover
- ▶ Wilson's Plover

WHAT 2 FIELD MARKS
CAN BE USED TO
ID
THE 4 SMALL RINGED PLOVERS?

▶ Back color

▶ (wet sand, dry sand)

▶ Bill shape

▶ (stubby, long & slender, great Honkin)

WHICH SMALL RINGED PLOVER HAS THE “GREAT HONKIN” BILL ?

WHICH ONE HAS A LONG, THIN BILL?

WHICH ONES HAVE SHORT STUBBY BILLS?





- ▶ Great honkin bill
 - ▶ Wilson's
- ▶ Long, thin, pointy bill
 - ▶ Snowy
- ▶ Short stubby bill
 - ▶ Semipalmated
 - ▶ Piping

WHICH ONES HAVE WET SAND
(DARK BROWN) BACKS?

WHICH ONE HAVE DRY SAND
(LIGHT BROWN) BACKS?

- ▶ Wet sand (dark brown)
 - ▶ Semipalmated
 - ▶ Wilson's
- ▶ Dry sand (light brown)
 - ▶ Piping
 - ▶ Snowy

SMALL RINGED PLOVERS ID

		Bill		
		Stubby, 2-toned	Long, dark, thin, pointy	Great-honkin, dark
Back Color	Wet Sand (dark brown)	 <p>Semipalmated</p>		 <p>Wilson's</p>
	Dry Sand (pale brown)	 <p>Piping</p>	 <p>Snowy</p>	