

Distinctive Shorebirds



Photos by Greg Lavaty

American Oystercatcher



American Oystercatcher



- *Haematopus palliatus*
- Tidal mudflats, oyster reefs
- Texas Coast – Uncommon permanent resident

American Oystercatcher



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

American Oystercatcher



- Bill flattened like an oyster knife

American Oystercatcher



American Oystercatcher



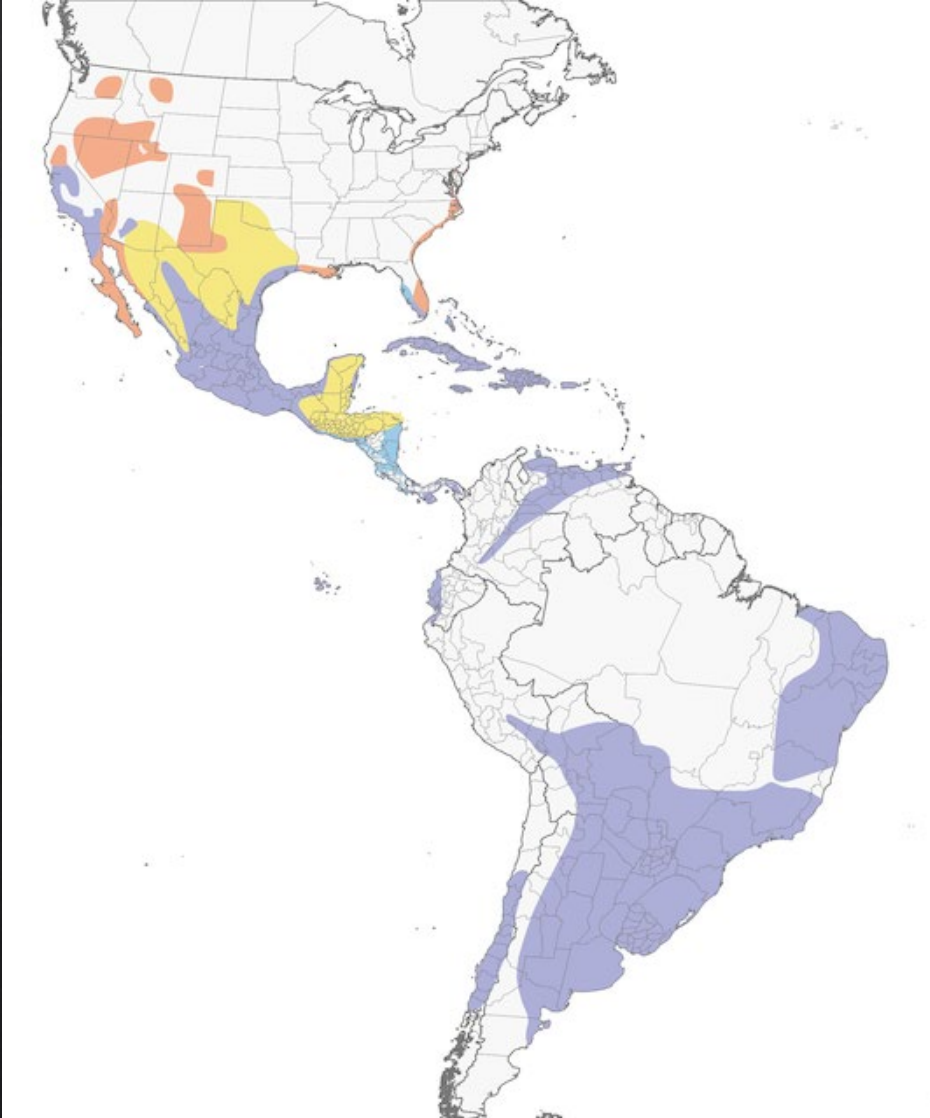
- White wing stripe
- Call *wheeu*



Black-necked Stilt



Black-necked Stilt



- *Himantopus mexicanus*
- Marshes, rice fields
- Breeds in Texas, uncommon in winter on the coast

Black-necked Stilt



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

Black-necked Stilt





Black-necked Stilt

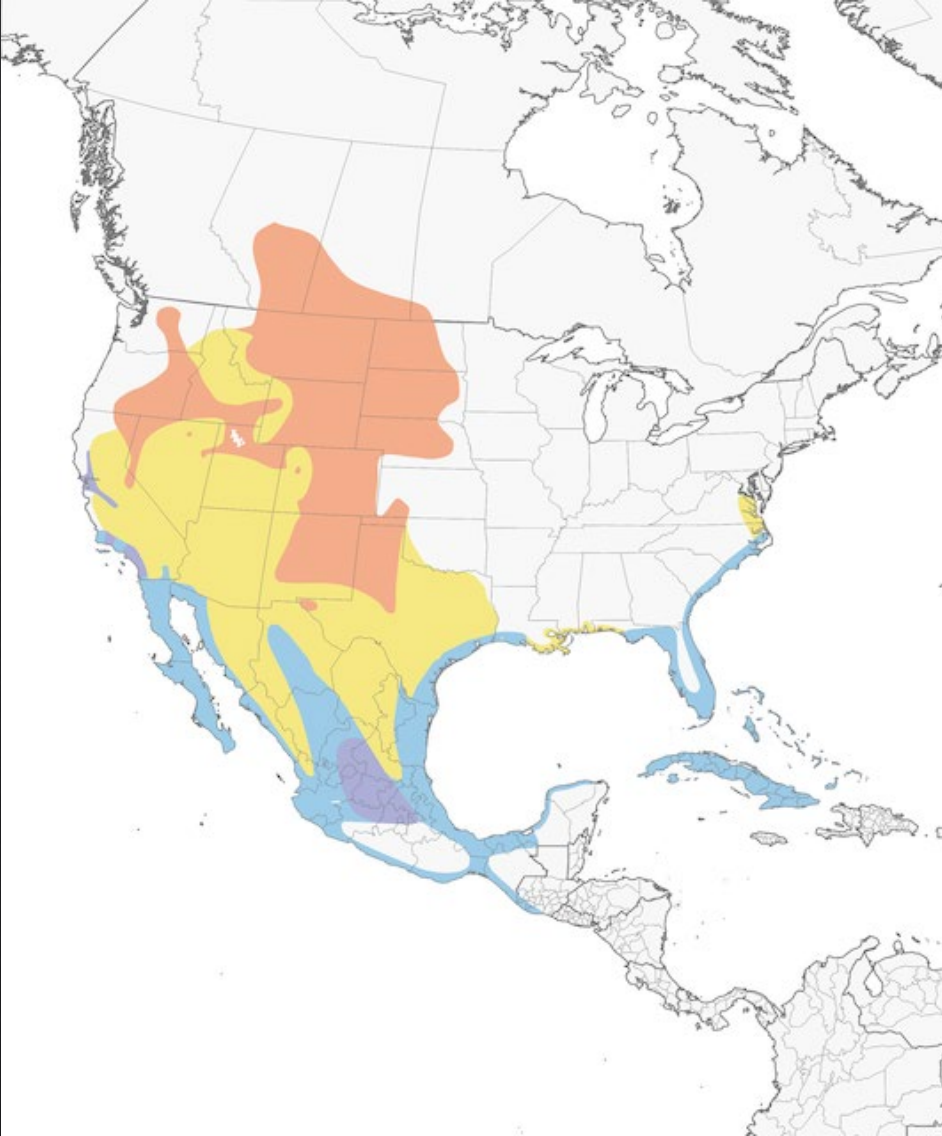
- White rump and tail
- Long legs trail behind
- Call *yip yip yip*



American Avocet



American Avocet



- *Recurvirostra americana*
- Marshes, sand flats, salt marshes
- Spring and fall migrant in Central Texas
- Winters along Texas coast

American Avocet



- Long legs, chunky body
- Long upturned bill
- Bold wing and body pattern
- Breeding Plumage – cinnamon head and neck

American Avocet

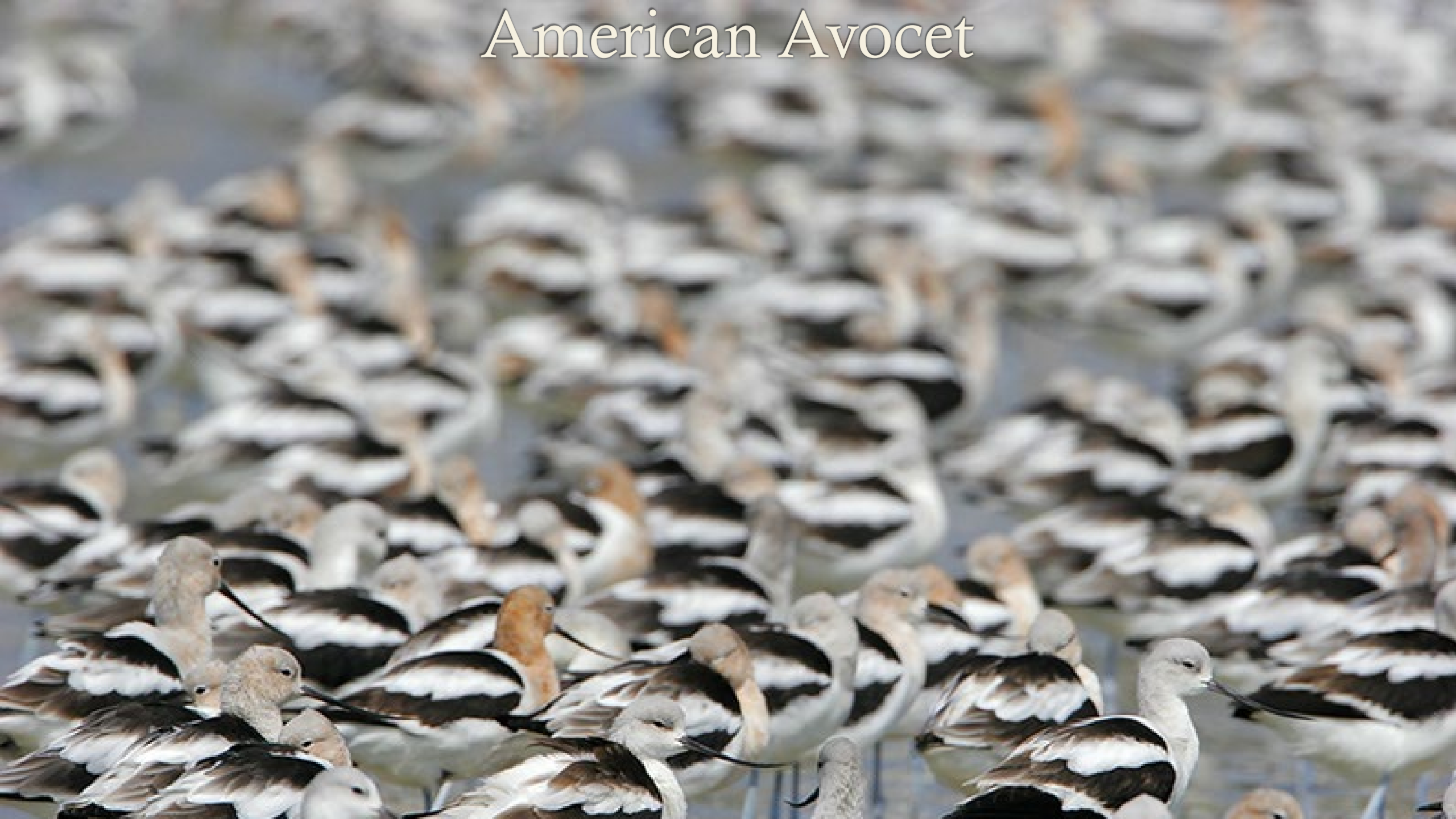


- Nonbreeding Plumage – black and white

American Avocet



American Avocet



American Avocet

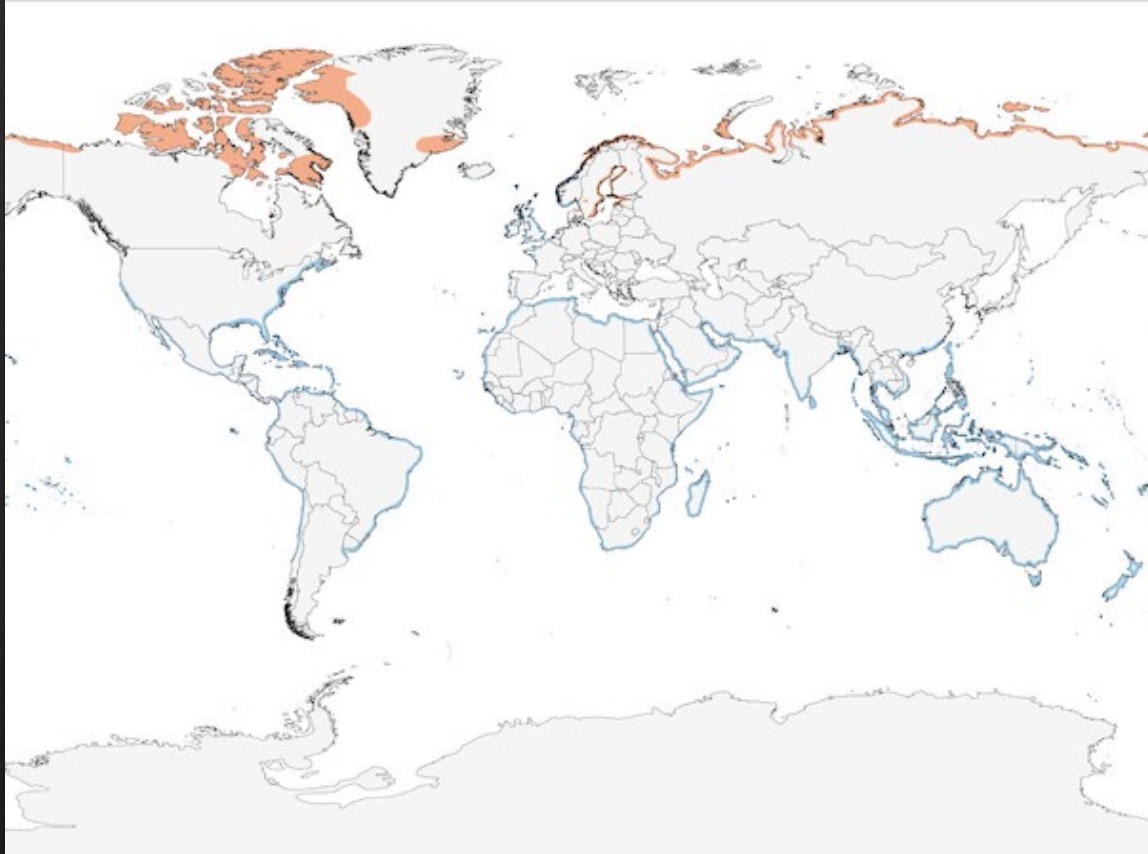
- Bold black and white
- Call a whistled *bleeet*



Ruddy Turnstone



Ruddy Turnstone



- *Arenaria interpres*
- Beaches and mudflats, jetties
- Central TX – Uncommon migrant, mostly fall
- Texas Coast – Common migrant and wintering

Ruddy Turnstone



- Chunky, short legs and neck
- Chisel-like bill
- White underparts with dark breast band
- Orange legs
- Low crouching stance
- Nonbreeding – brown upperparts and head

Ruddy Turnstone



Breeding Plumage

- Bold harlequin pattern
- Rufous back and wing coverts

Ruddy Turnstone



- Bold dark and white pattern
- Call a low rapid *cut-a-cut*



Quiz











