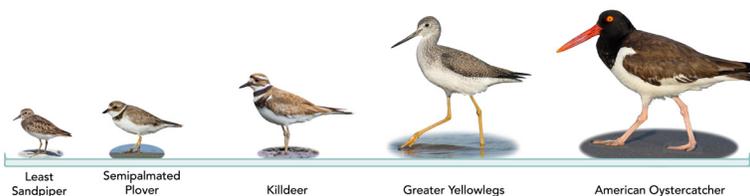


# SHOREBIRD ID TIPS



## KEVIN'S RULE OF FOUR

1. Pick one bird from the crowd to ID.
2. Narrow it down to a category using the silhouettes on the right.
3. Compare the shorebird to others.
4. Find three clues to ID. Focus first on **shape**, **size**, and **behavior**, then look at color pattern, markings, habitat, range, and calls.

## SHAPE

**Bill:** Length, curvature, tip pointing up/down, shape (pointy/blunt)

**Leg Length:** Short, medium, long

**Neck Length:** Short, medium, long

**Body Shape:** Compact, elongated

## SIZE

Size is important only in comparison with another bird. The Killdeer is right in the middle on the size scale.

**Small shorebirds** are smaller than a Killdeer. **Large shorebirds** are larger than a Killdeer.

## FORAGING BEHAVIORS

**Peeps:** Head down, walk, pick, probe

**Plover:** Run and stop, with occasional hiccup (similar to Solitary Sandpiper's bob-up)

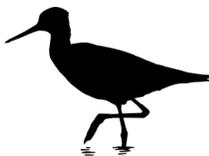
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Stroll-and-pick

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Oil derrick up-and-down probing like dowitchers, but rear tips up

**Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers:** Sewing-machine probing but body stays horizontal

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Tip-up, tail goes up

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Swim-and-run (moves all the time) and swim-and-spin



Tringa-types



Peeps



Snipe-types



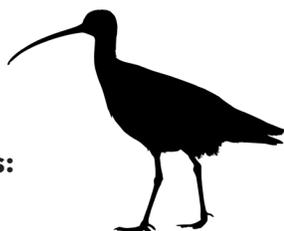
Phalaropes



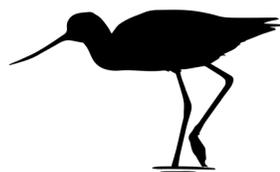
Small others



Plovers



Curlews and Godwits



Large others

Fold here

# SHOREBIRD SIZE GUIDE

**Least Sandpiper** .....6"  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper  
 Western Sandpiper  
 Snowy Plover



Piping Plover  
**Semipalmated Plover** .....7.5"  
 Baird's Sandpiper  
 White-rumped Sandpiper  
 Red-necked Phalarope  
 Spotted Sandpiper



Wilson's Plover  
 Sanderling .....8"

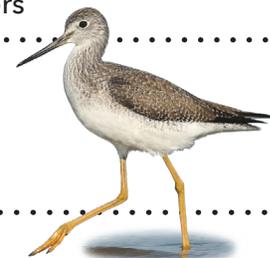
Red Phalarope  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
 Dunlin  
 Solitary Sandpiper .....8.5"  
 Purple/Rock Sandpipers  
 Stilt Sandpiper  
 Mountain Plover

Pectoral Sandpiper  
 Wilson's Phalarope .....9.5"  
 Black/Ruddy Turnstones

Lesser Yellowlegs  
 Red Knot  
 Surfbird  
**Killdeer** .....10.5"  
 American/Pacific Golden Plovers



American Woodcock  
 Long-/Short-billed Dowitchers  
 Wandering Tattler .....11"  
 Wilson's Snipe  
 Black-bellied Plover  
 Upland Sandpiper



**Greater Yellowlegs** .....14"  
 Black-necked Stilt  
 Willet .....15"  
 Hudsonian Godwit



Hudsonian Whimbrel  
**American Oystercatcher** .....18"  
 Black Oystercatcher  
 Marbled Godwit  
 American Avocet

Long-billed Curlew .....23"

All photos Macaulay Library: Least Sandpiper by Mark R Johnson; Semipalmated Plover by Evan Lipton; Killdeer by Mason Maron; Greater Yellowlegs by Graham Montgomery; American Oystercatcher by Daniel Irons