

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the content in this guide please contact Nature Canada at info@naturecanada.ca, or Moose Cree First Nation Lands and Resources: reception@moosecree.com.



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada



DECLINING SHOREBIRDS of JAMES BAY

SHOREBIRDS ARE PERFECTLY SUITED to their shoreline habitat; long beaks to probe deep in mud and sand, long legs to wade into water, long wings for long migratory flights, and flocking behaviour to help detect enemies and find food. Most shorebirds rely on special sites to rest and feed during long migrations. Many shorebird species are declining. Pollution and disturbance are two reasons for these declines. Assuring their survival begins with us!

ART BY PATRICIA TAYLOR © 2013

STILT SANDPIPER

20 - 23 CM



SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER

13-15 CM



GREATER YELLOWLEGS

29 - 33 CM



WILSON'S SNIPE

27 - 32 CM



SEMPALMATED PLOVER

17 - 19 CM



HUDSONIAN GODWIT

36 - 42 CM



RED KNOT

23 - 25 CM



WHIMBREL

40 - 44 CM



SMALL SHORELINE BIRDS [13-23cm]



STILT SANDPIPER

20 - 23 CM



PLUMAGE: The Stilt Sandpiper has long, greenish legs and a long bill which is drooped at the tip. The breeding plumage is heavily barred on the underside with boldly barred black spots and white outlines on the back, and chestnut cheek patches.

WHERE TO LOOK: Look for this species in mudflats, flooded fields and shallow ponds where it wades in shallow water, probing for invertebrates, insects and seeds.

DID YOU KNOW: Numbers may be declining because of a degradation of their breeding environment.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Dunlin, Pectoral Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER

17 - 19 CM



PLUMAGE: The plumage is white underneath, brown on the back with one thick black or brown band on the chest and yellowish legs.

WHERE TO LOOK: Look for this species along both gravelly and sandy shorelines. It nests on gravel bars in from the beach.

DID YOU KNOW: The Semi-palmated Plover has been seen to swim short distances across small water channels to forage while on migration.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Killdeer.

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER

13 - 15 CM



PLUMAGE: A small shorebird with black legs and a moderately long bill which may droop slightly at the tip. The colouration on the back is grey-brown with a light chest which is usually only lightly marked.

WHERE TO LOOK: Look for this species in mudflats, and shorelines. They probe the mud during low tide for arthropods, mollusks and worms while in flocks.

DID YOU KNOW: *Palmated* means webbed, which is where the common name of this species comes from due to the short webs between their toes.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper.

MEDIUM SHORELINE BIRDS [23-32cm]



BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

28 - 29 CM



PLUMAGE: Plumage is characterized by a grey and black spotted pattern across the back, a white rump and a striking black colouration across the face and belly during the breeding season.

WHERE TO LOOK: Look for this species along beaches, mudflats and shorelines where it forages with a distinct stop-run-peck-scan movement, rarely entering the water.

DID YOU KNOW: The black-bellied plover feeds on invertebrates, worms, and bivalves, sometimes shaking a worm or clam vigorously in shallow water to remove mud when searching for food.

SIMILAR SPECIES: American Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone.

WILSON'S SNIPE

27-32 CM



PLUMAGE: Wilson's Snipe has a very long bill and short legs. Its plumage is brown with bold stripes on the back and head.

WHERE TO LOOK: Look for this species probing in the soil and mud of marshes and the marshy edges of streams and ditches as they look for insects, mollusks and vegetation.

DID YOU KNOW: The long bill of the Wilson's Snipe is flexible which means the bill tips can be opened and closed without moving the base of the bill. Sensory pits at the tip of the bill allow the snipe to feel its prey deep in the mud.

*CONSERVATION STATUS: ENDANGERED

RED KNOT

23 - 25 CM



PLUMAGE: During the breeding season the Red Knot has a red head and breast which changes to grey during the non-breeding season.

WHERE TO LOOK: Look for this species along shorelines, beaches, tidal flats, intertidal marine habitats, especially near coastal inlets, estuaries, and bays.

DID YOU KNOW: The Red Knot migrates a distance of 15,000 km from its Arctic breeding grounds to Tierra del Fuego in South America - one of the longest distances of any bird worldwide.

ᑳᑳᑳᑳᑳᑳ
WO SHA WAY SHOO UK
(CREE TRANSLATION)

LARGE SHORELINE BIRDS [29-44 cm]



WHIMBREL

40 - 44 CM



PLUMAGE: Streaked and buffy overall. Crown is dark with a distinct light stripe down the middle.

WHERE TO LOOK: Forages on the ground for small crabs and other invertebrates along shorelines and mudflats.

DID YOU KNOW: Some migrating Whimbrels fly non-stop from Southern Canada to South America—a distance of over 4,000km (or 2,500 miles).

*CONSERVATION STATUS: AT RISK

HUDSONIAN GODWIT

36 - 42 CM



PLUMAGE: Bill is long and upturned, dark at the tip and reddish at the base. Plumage during the breeding season is a dark reddish chest and black barring on sides with a white stripe on the wing and tail particularly visible during flight.

WHERE TO LOOK: Look for this species in marshy areas and tidal mudflats where it probes in the mud for insects, plants and mollusks.

DID YOU KNOW: Hudsonian Godwits are natural swimmers right from the time they hatch.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Short-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit.

ᑳᑳᑳᑳᑳᑳ
PÔSKOTISIW
(CREE TRANSLATION)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS

29 - 33 CM



PLUMAGE: As the name suggests the Greater Yellowlegs has long, bright yellow legs. It also has a long, slightly upturned bill, a white rump and tail, and a heavily patterned back.

WHERE TO LOOK: Look for this species along shorelines, tidal flats and pond edges where it wades into pools of deeper water.

DID YOU KNOW: The Greater Yellowlegs breeds in mosquito-ridden muskeg, it is one of the least studied shorebirds on the continent, even though it is quite common and widespread.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Lesser Yellowlegs.