



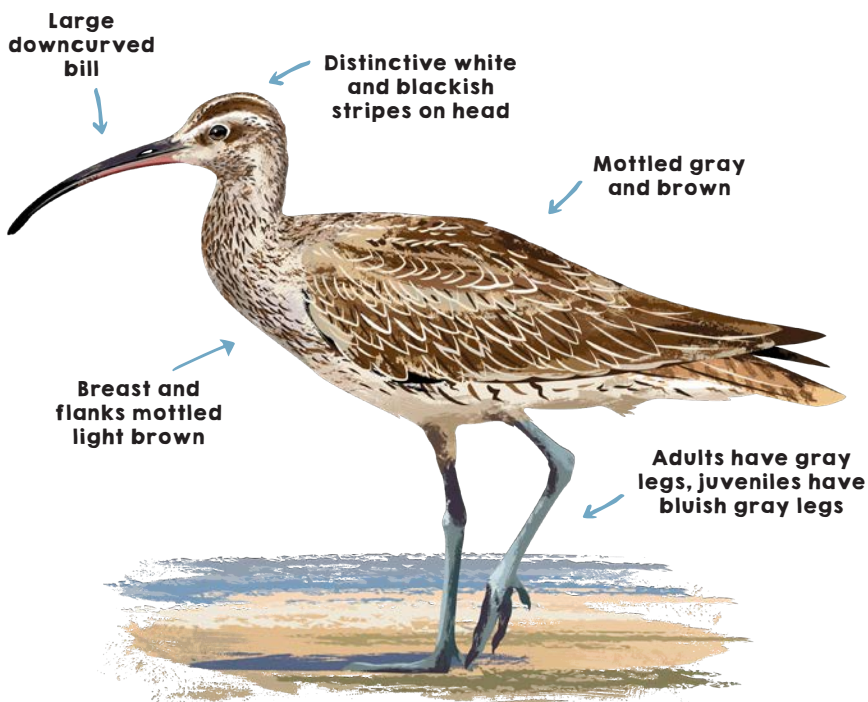
SHORE B I R D

S P E C I E S C A R D S

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Size: 43-46 cm Weight: 310-404 g



Long bill is specially adapted to probe into crab burrows in mud and sand.

BREEDING

On the tundra, birds scrape a bowl into the ground and line it with leaves, grasses, or lichens.

HABITAT

Saltmarshes, mudflats, sandy beaches, agriculture fields, mangroves

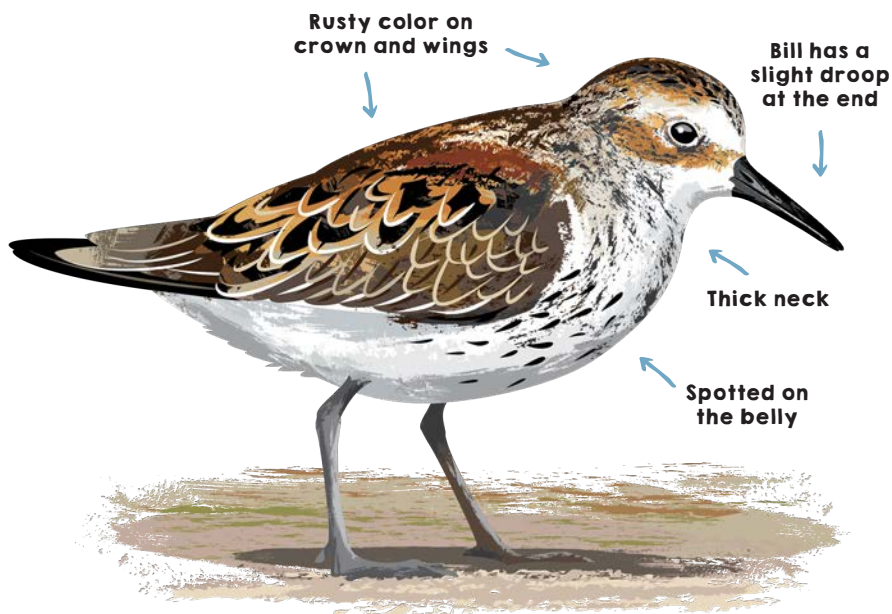
BEHAVIOR

Gather in flocks to roost, can be territorial at daytime feeding sites.

Western Sandpiper

Calidris mauri

Size: 14-17 cm Weight: 22-35 g



They have a bristled tongue that acts like a sponge to help them slurp up biofilm, bacteria and single-celled algae on the surface of mud.

BREEDING

Chick hatching will peak in late June and within 17-18 days chicks will be preparing to migrate in mid-august.

HABITAT

Mudflats, agricultural fields, lakeshores

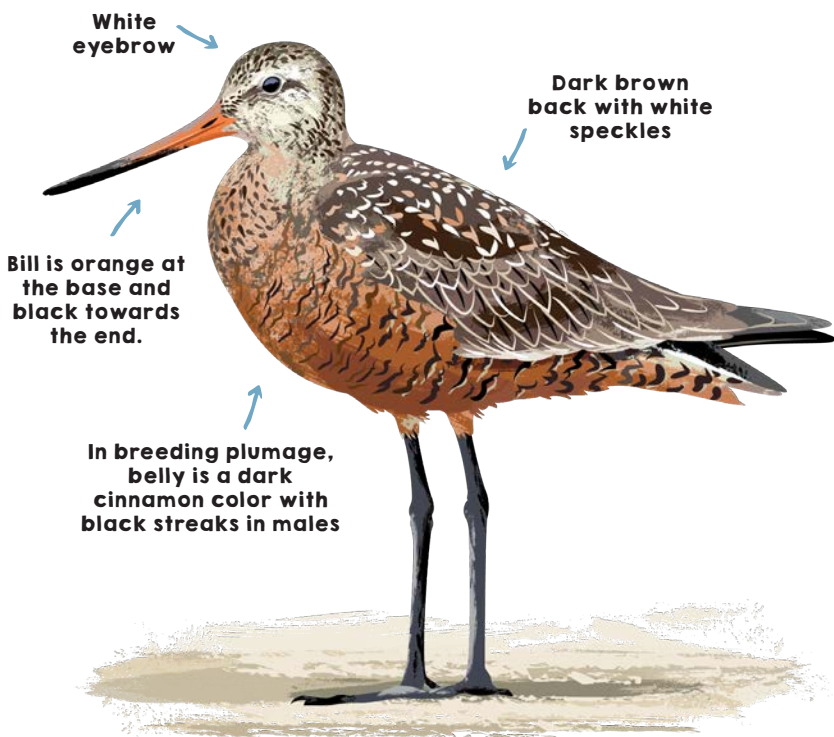
BEHAVIOR

Feeds day and night with slow and steady foraging behavior on mudflats.

Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

Size: 36–42 cm Weight: 196–358 g



Long bill has a flexible tip that can bend to catch prey deep in mud.

BREEDING

Monogamous and highly territorial. Unlike many other shorebirds, adults will share in parenting.

HABITAT

Coastal lagoons, marshes, ocean coasts, fields

BEHAVIOR

Generally feeds by touch, probing their long bills into the mud, sometimes even submerging their heads.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Calidris subruficollis

Size: 18–21 cm Weight: 46–81 g



Short,
black bill



Back is spotted with
brown and black



Pale, cream-
colored
face



Overall cream-colored
plumage on body and head



Yellow legs



With big, bold eyes and delicate features, this species is considered one of the most elegant shorebirds.

BREEDING

Courtship occurs at leks when a group of males gather in one place to make animated display to attract females.

HABITAT

Grasslands, pastures, and agricultural fields

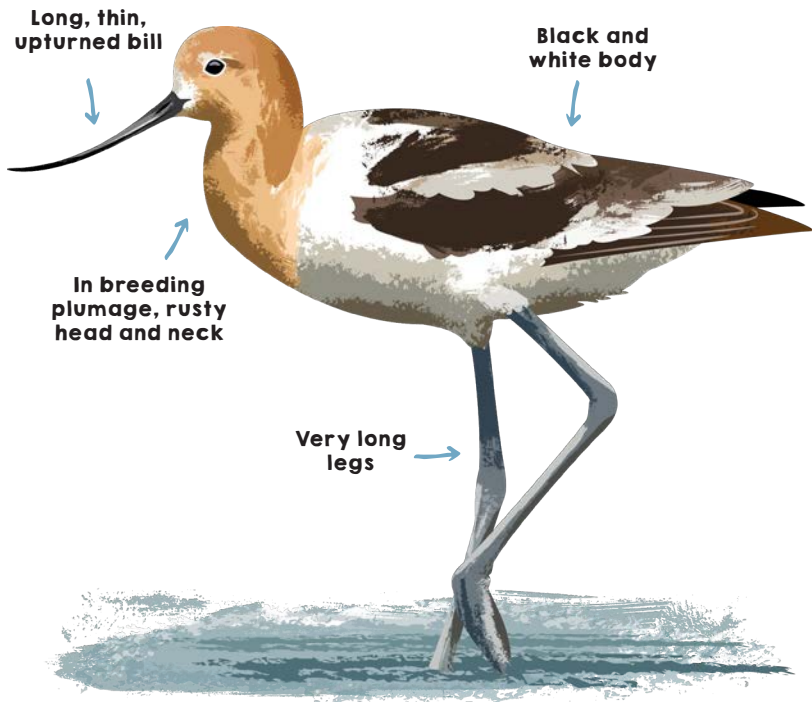
BEHAVIOR

Walks quickly, with high steps picking insects from the ground.

American Avocet

Recurvirostra americana

Size: 43-47 cm Weight: 275-350 g



This distinguished bird's rusty head and neck will be a pale gray in the nonbreeding season.

BREEDING

Chicks are not just able to walk, but also swim to avoid predators.

HABITAT

Fresh and saltwater wetlands, salt ponds, mudflats, fields

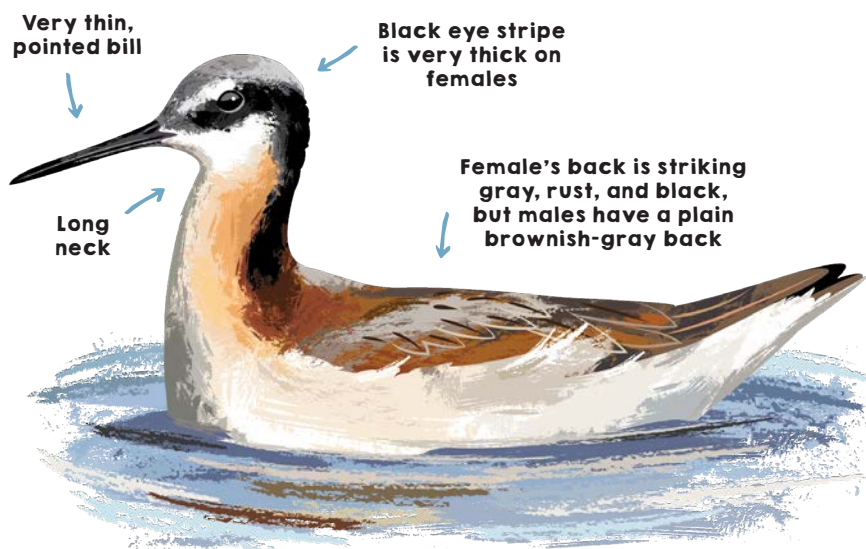
BEHAVIOR

Wades through water, moving bill back and forth to filter out prey.

Wilson's Phalarope

Phalaropus tricolor

Size: 22-24 cm Weight: 30-85 g



While migrating, Wilson's Phalarope will double their weight at their saline lake stopover sites.

BREEDING

The more brightly colored female will abandon the male to care for the eggs and chicks, to find another mate.

HABITAT

Saline lakes, coastal marshes, sewage ponds

BEHAVIOR

Often feeds in deeper water, swimming in circles to create a vortex and pull insects to the surface.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Size: 23-25 cm Weight: 65-95 g



Slim, straight,
dark bill

Grayish head with
darker streaks on
the crown

Pale throat
and chest with
dark streaks

Gray-brown
back and wings
with streaking

Long,
yellow legs



Rather than congregating in large flocks in the nonbreeding season, they are often more dispersed in a large area.

BREEDING

Usually nest under a bush near water bodies in the meadows and open woodlands of northern Canada.

HABITAT

Shallow wetlands, flooded fields

BEHAVIOR

Usually has a high step walk through shallow water, making quick jabs to grab prey.

Red Knot

Calidris canutus

Size: 23-26 cm Weight: 90-220 g



Straight, thin,
black bill



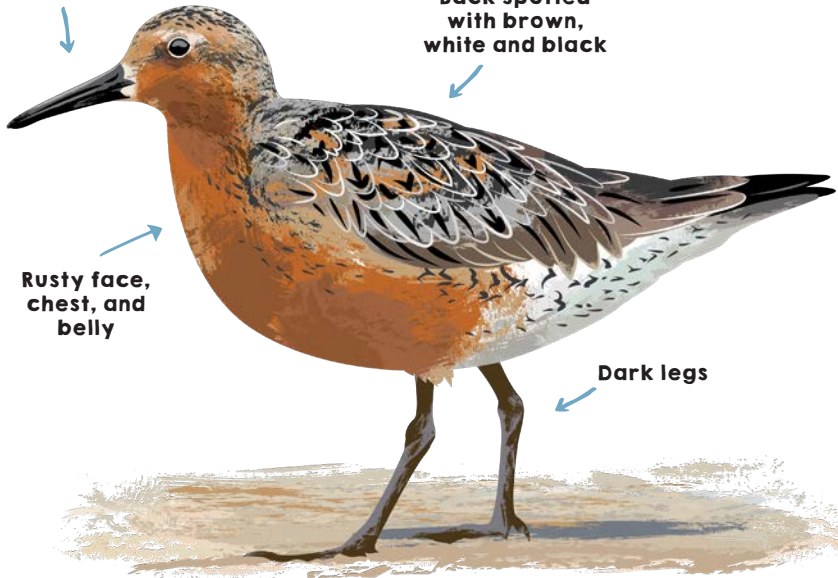
Back spotted
with brown,
white and black



Rusty face,
chest, and
belly



Dark legs



The *rufa* Red Knot is a threatened species in Canada and the United States, due to habitat loss at key stopover sites.

BREEDING

After sharing the work of incubation, the male will aggressively chase the female from the nest when chicks hatch.

HABITAT

Sandy beaches, saltmarshes, mudflats, mangrove swamps

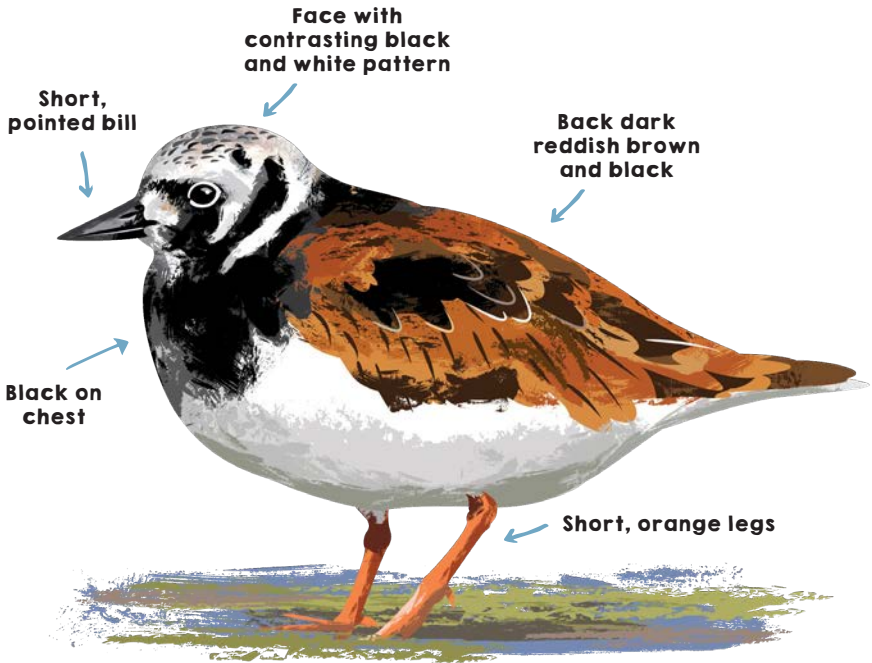
BEHAVIOR

Makes one of the longest migratory flights of any bird from Arctic tundra to Tierra del Fuego, southern Chile.

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Size: 21-25 cm Weight: 91-130 g



This small, stocky bird will make first flight at 19 days and then a few days later flying thousands of miles at up to 65 km/hr.

BREEDING

Nest near the Arctic coast, often occupy the same nest for several years.

HABITAT

Rocky coastal areas, sandy beaches, mudflats

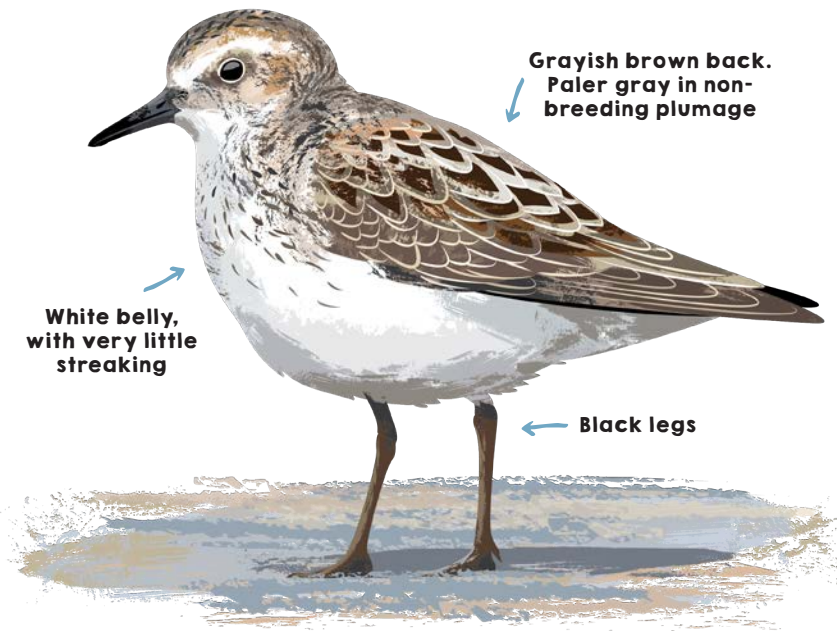
BEHAVIOR

Their name comes from their unique behavior of using their bill to turn over rocks, shells and other debris in search of food.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Calidris pusilla

Size: 15-18cm Weight: 18-52 g



White belly,
with very little
streaking

Grayish brown back.
Paler gray in non-
breeding plumage

Black legs

The Semipalmated Sandpiper gets its common name from the short webs between its toes.

BREEDING

Hatching from late June to July, in just 16-19 days chicks are able to fly.

HABITAT

Mudflats, lakeshores, beaches

BEHAVIOR

Moves quickly, probing mud for food and chasing away competitors.

Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus

Size: 20-28 cm Weight: 75-128 g

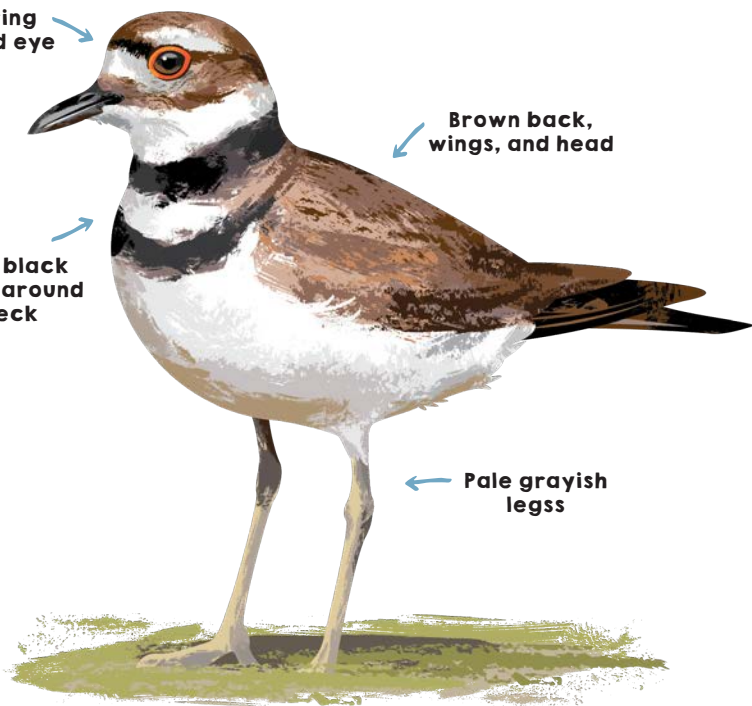


Red ring
around eye

Brown back,
wings, and head

Two black
rings around
neck

Pale grayish
leggs



Named for their alarm call, a *kill-deea*, which is repeated frequently especially in flight.

BREEDING

Adults will pretend to have a broken-wing to pull predators away from their nests and chicks.

HABITAT

Fields, mudflats, parking lots, golf courses

BEHAVIOR

Like other plovers, hunt for prey by sight, using the run-stop-scan strategy.

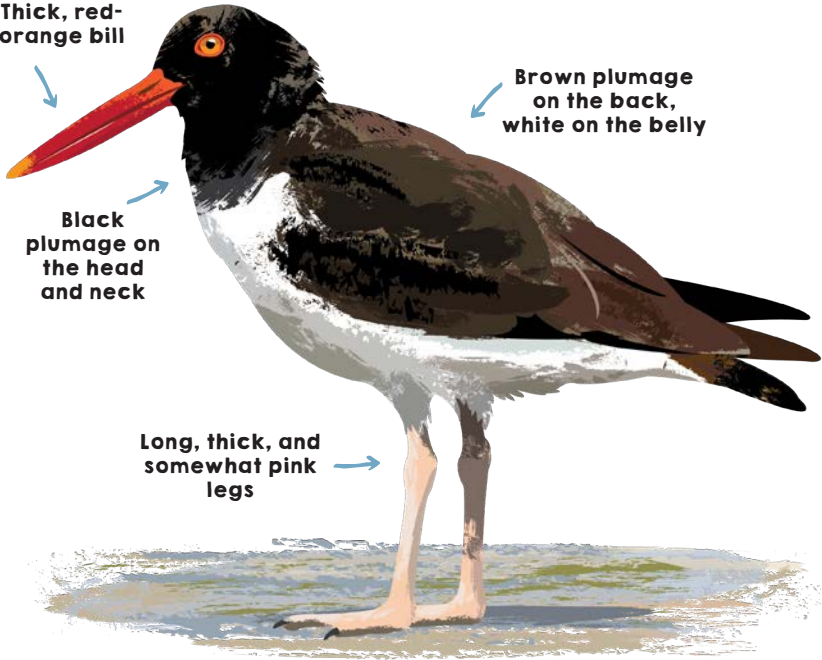
American Oystercatcher

Haematopus palliatus

Size: 40-44 cm Weight: 400-700 g



Thick, red-orange bill



Brown plumage on the back, white on the belly



Black plumage on the head and neck



Long, thick, and somewhat pink legs



They are the only coastal birds that can open large clams and oysters with their strong bills.

BREEDING

Adults will pair as lifelong breeding couples, nesting on sandy, shelly covered beaches, often on barrier islands.

HABITAT

Barrier beaches, salt marshes, rocky coastal areas

BEHAVIOR

Territorial and aggressive during breeding. Make a loud, high-pitched call to communicate with each other.

Shorebird Food Key



Crabs



Beetles



Berries



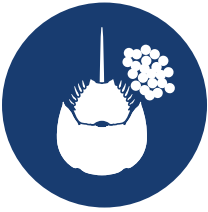
Biofilm



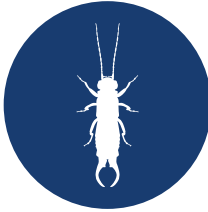
Brine Flies



Brine Shrimp



Horseshoe
Crab Eggs



Insects



Mollusks



Snails



Worms