

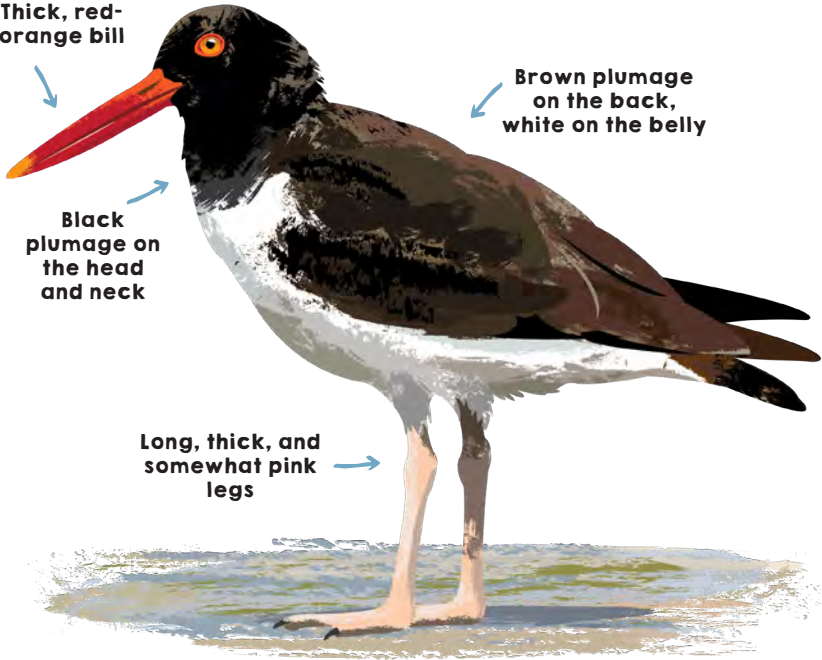
American Oystercatcher

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.