

Field identification of shorebirds

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Gestalt

Instead of worrying about every feather detail

Identifications can be based on general impression = GESTALT

Shape

Posture

Behavior

Facial impression



**Who are
these
people?**



Can gestalt be used as a field mark?

Drawbacks

no single gestalt field mark is conclusive

gestalt field marks are hard to quantify

gestalt field marks can vary

Advantages

when gestalt field marks are used together, one has a powerful tool for field ID

OBJECTIVES

- Quantify gestalt
- Emphasize holistic field identification

Picking out birds from a flock is all about gestalt birding



Gestalt birding is not meant to replace looking at details

They should complement each other

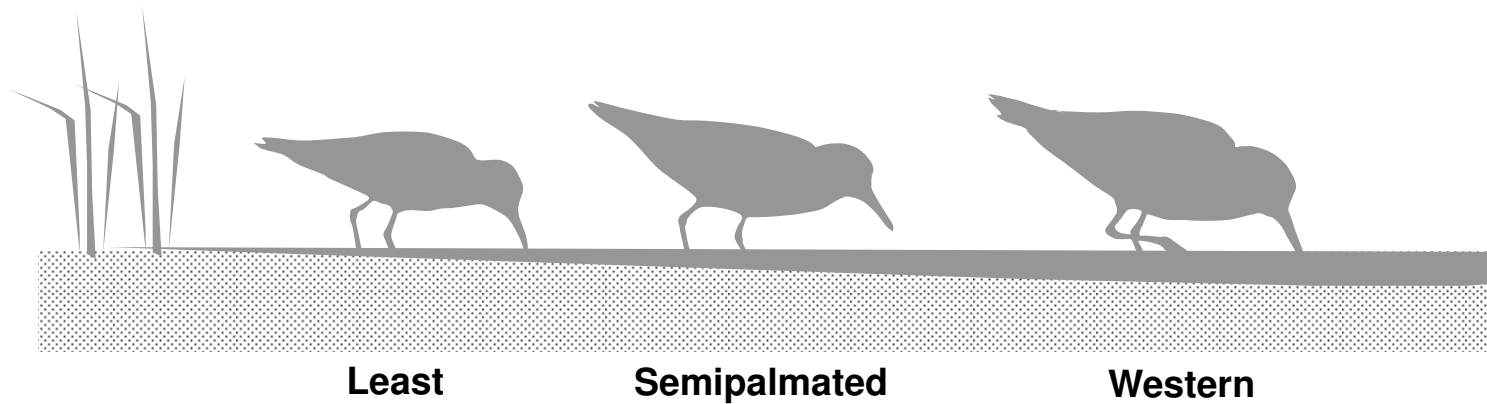
Basics

Bill shape, size, leg length



Basics

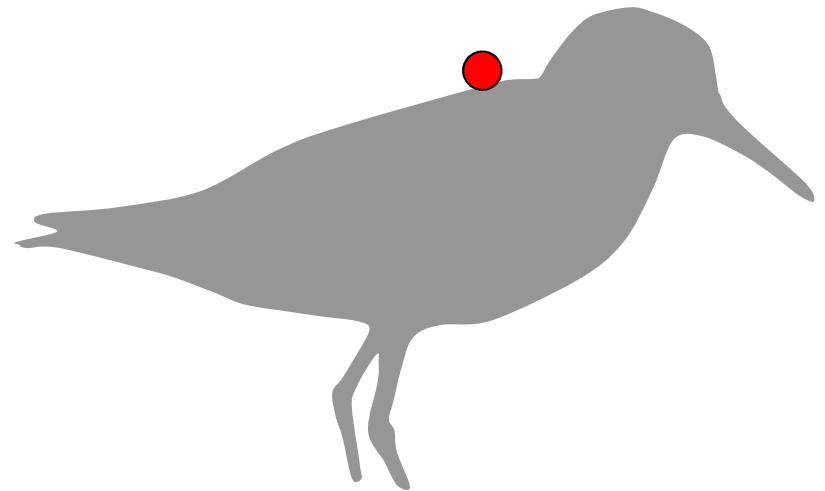
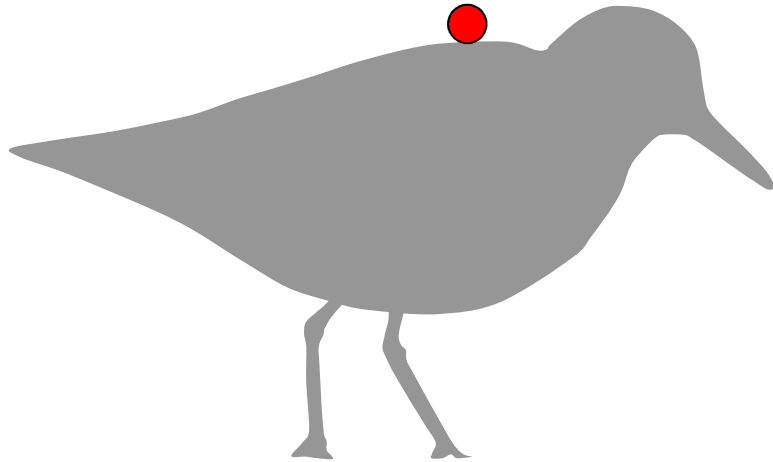
Habitat





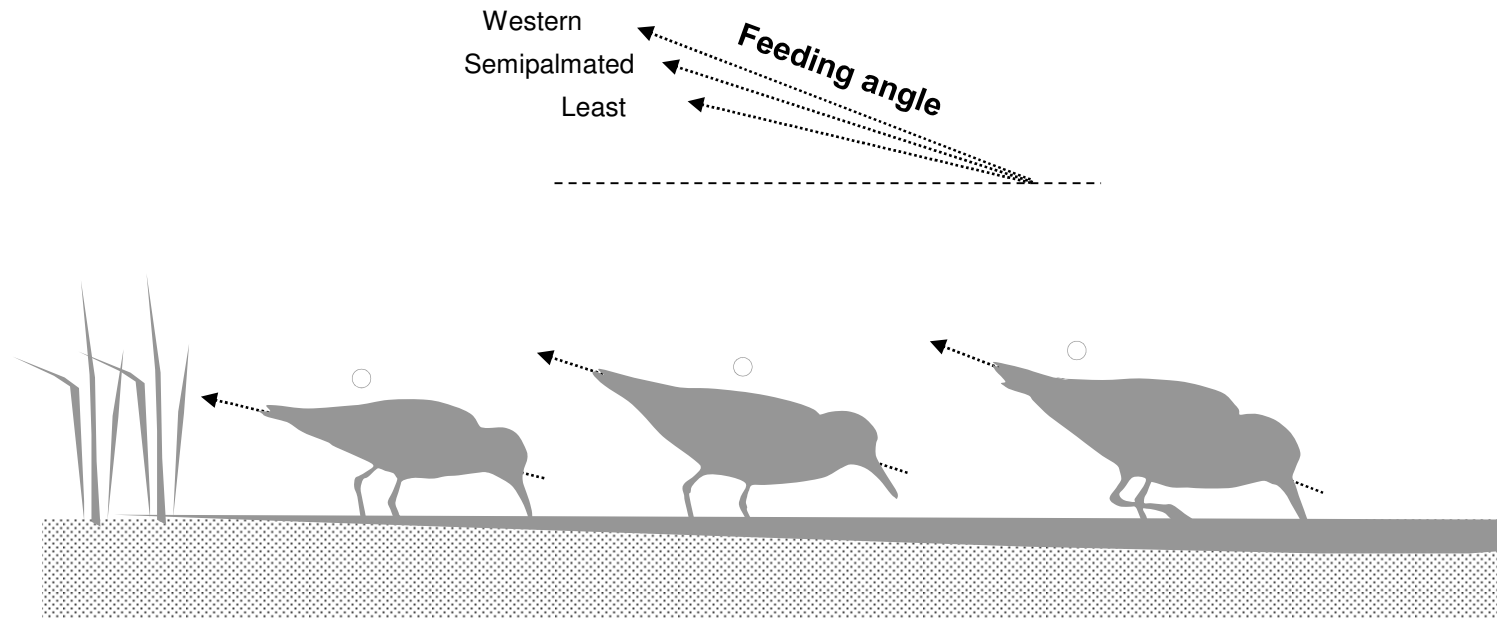
Back Curvature

Imagine a rolling ball



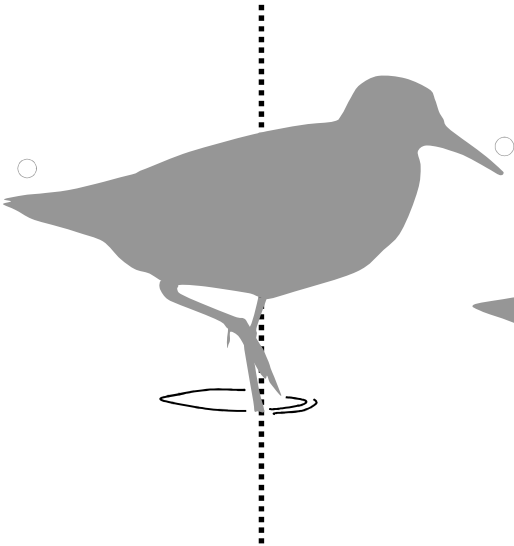
Feeding Angle

Imagine a line drawn from wingtip to base of bill

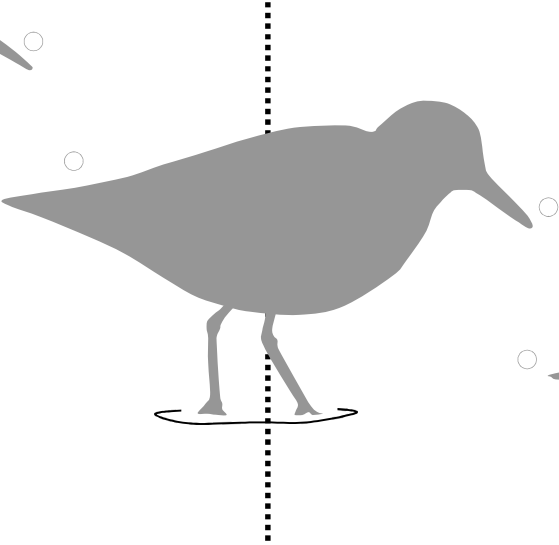


Calidris

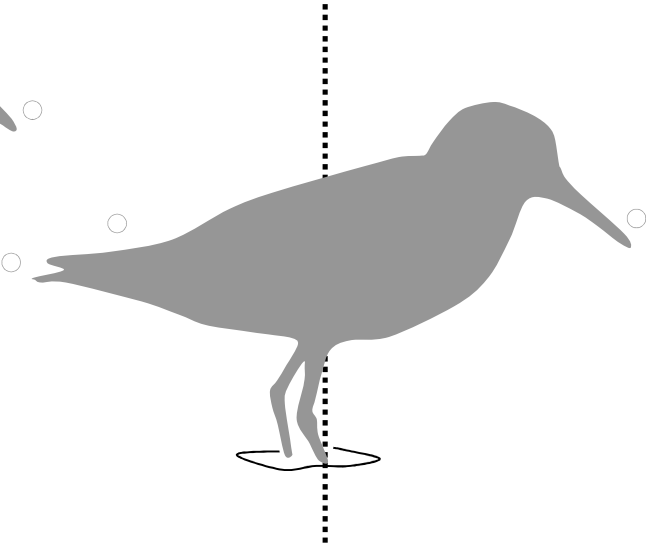
Least



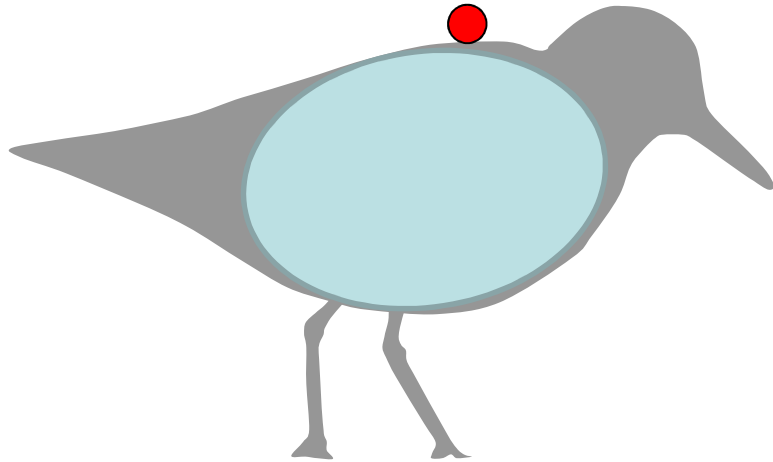
Semipalmated



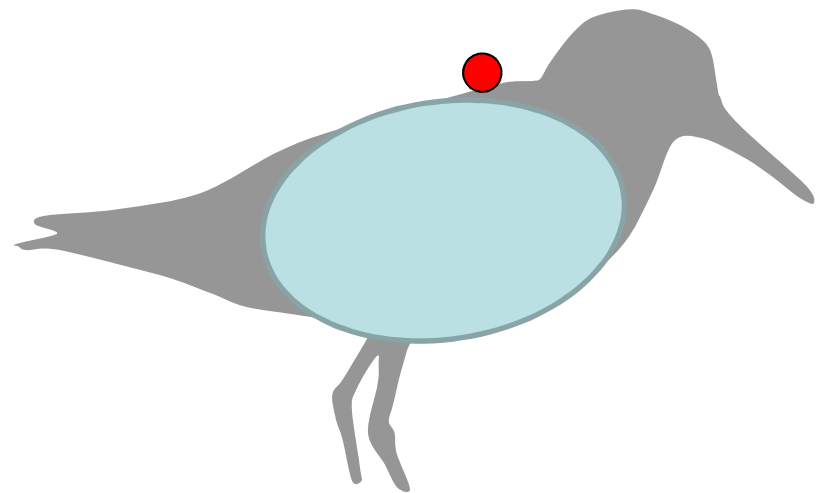
Western



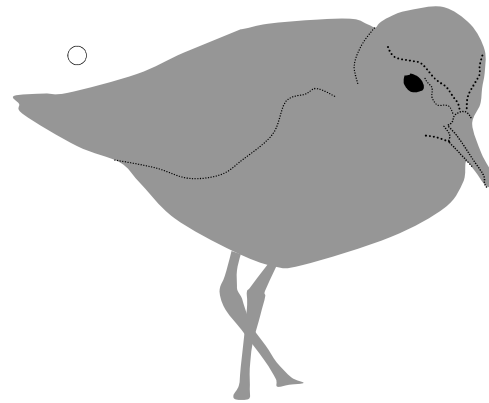
Semipalmated Sandpiper



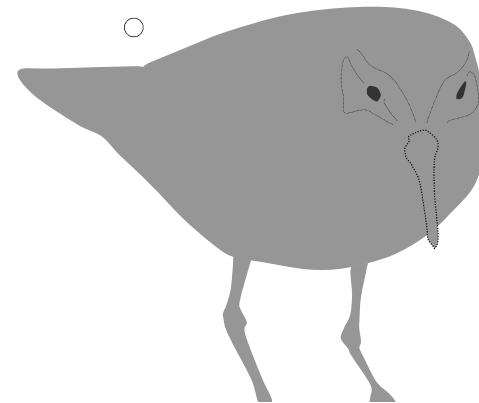
Western Sandpiper



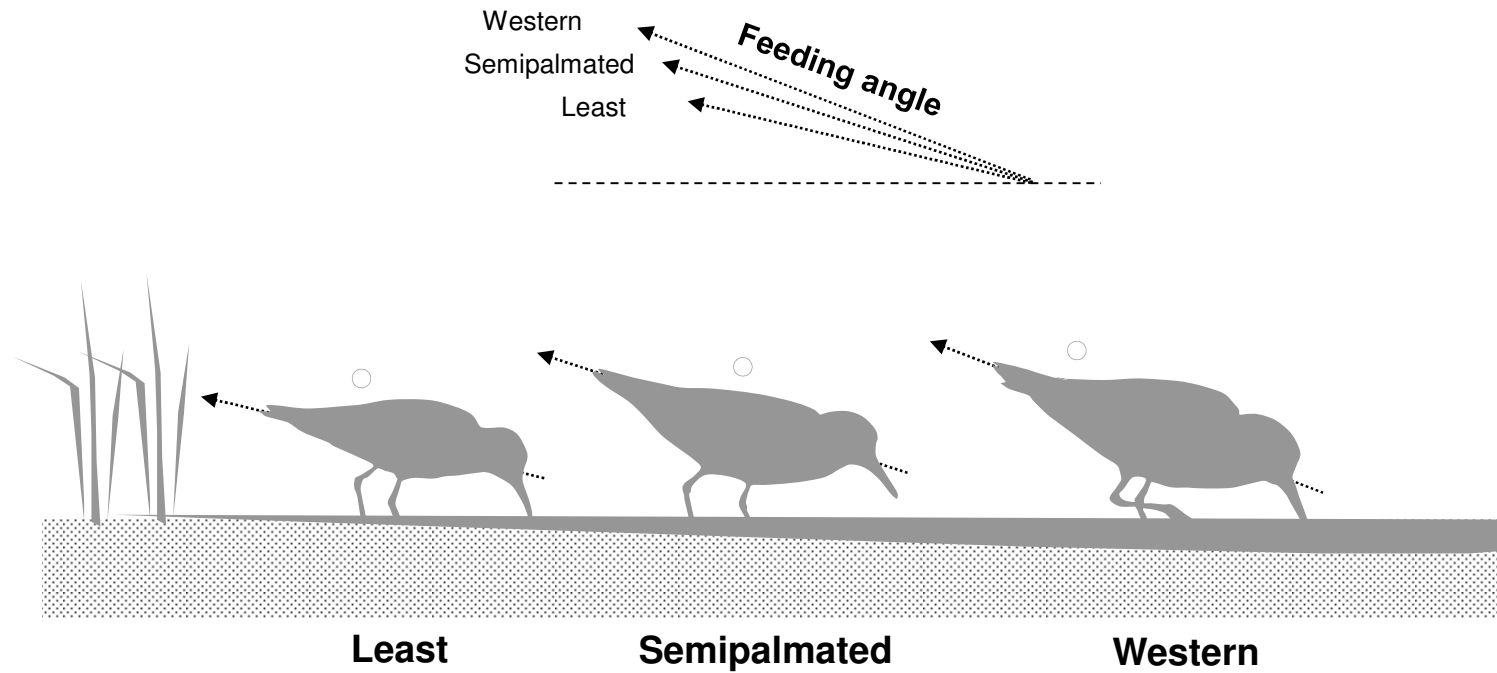
Semipalmated



Western



Least, Semipalmated, Western Sandpipers





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Nov 26, 2004 - Bolivar

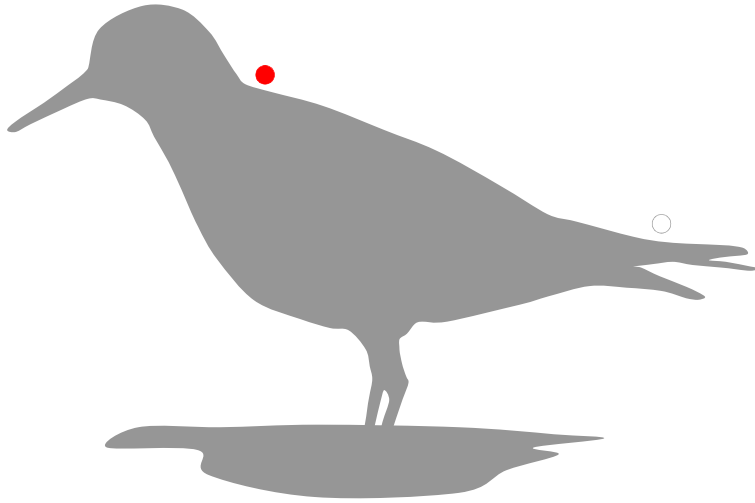


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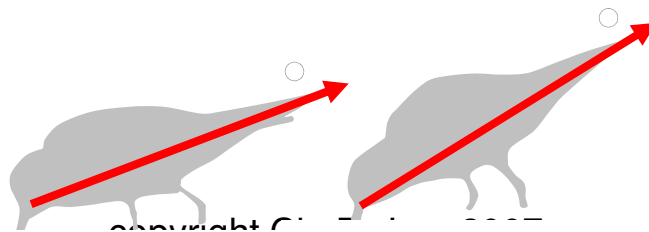
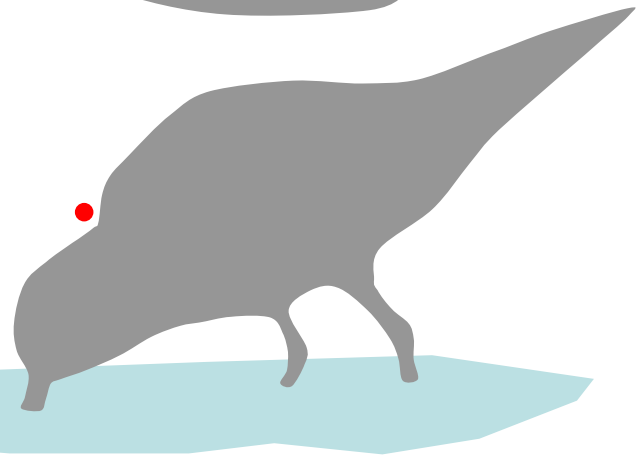
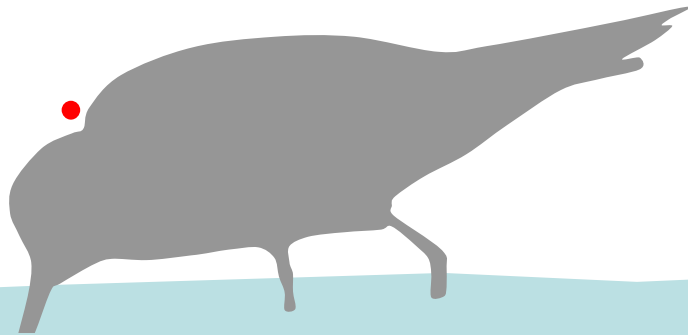
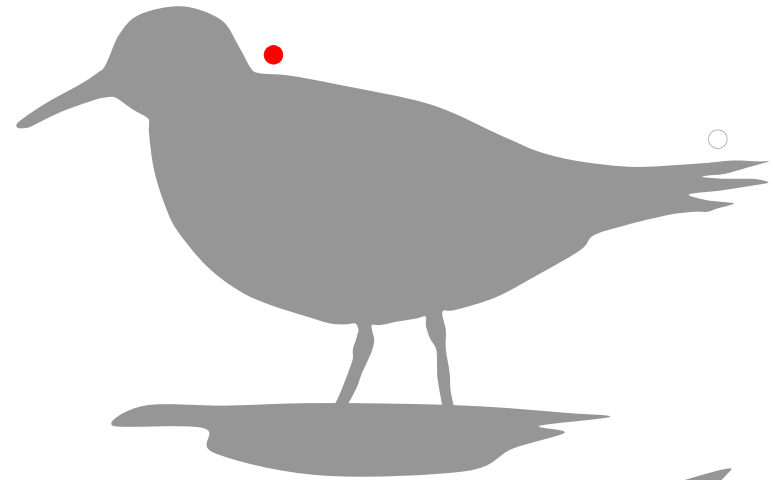




Baird's Sandpiper

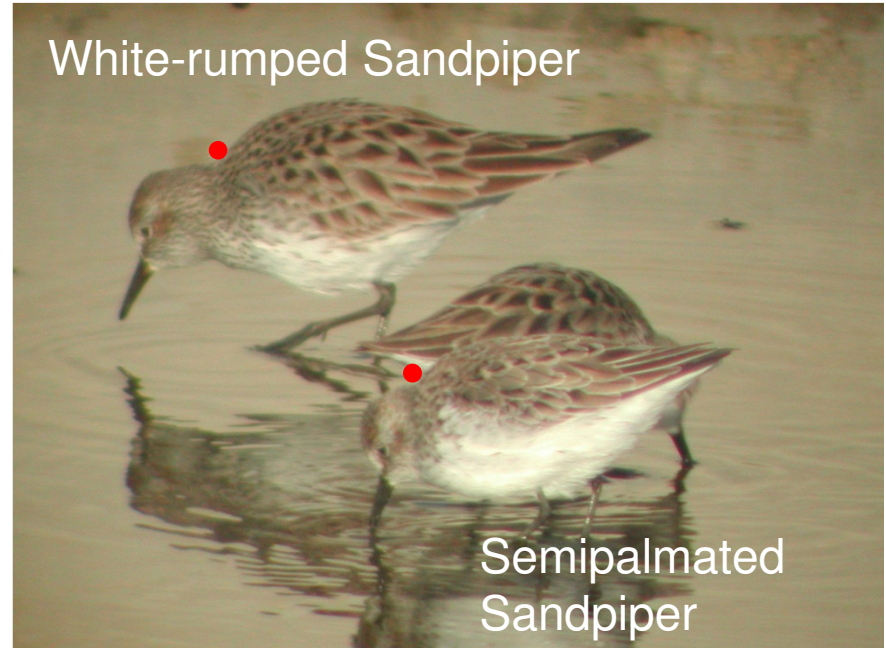


White-rumped Sandpiper





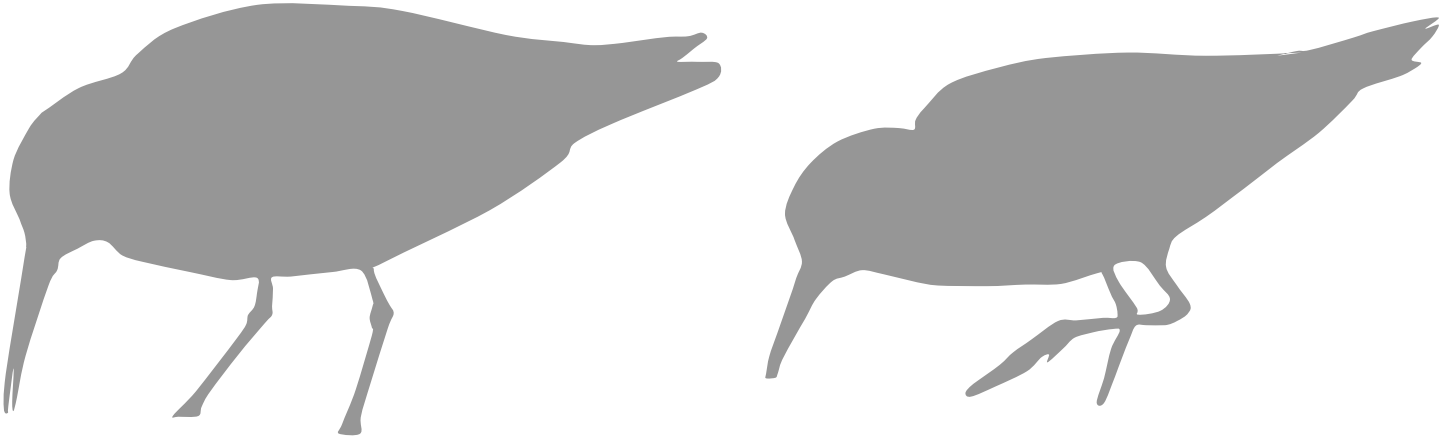
Baird's Sandpiper



White-rumped Sandpiper

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Dunlin versus Western Sandpiper



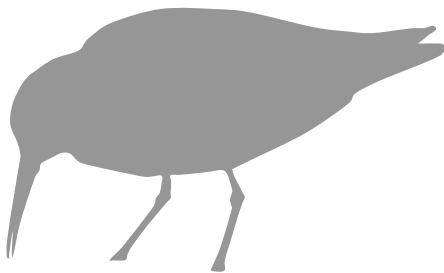
Nov 26, 2004 - Bolivar



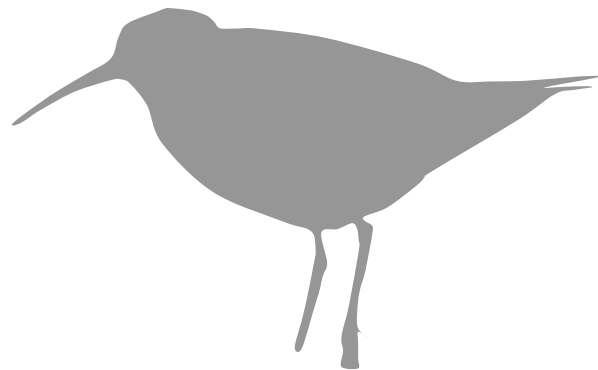
August, 2003 Bolivar



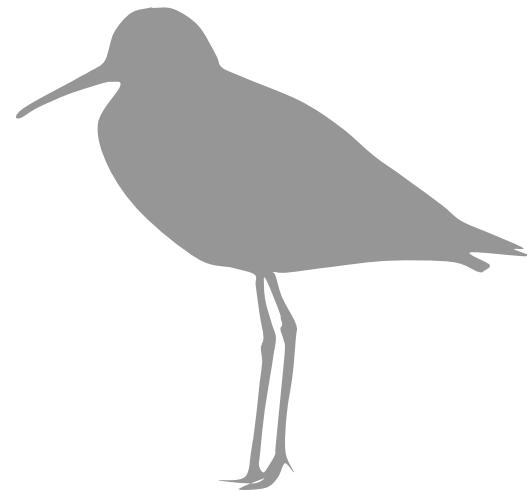
Dunlin



Curlew



Stilt



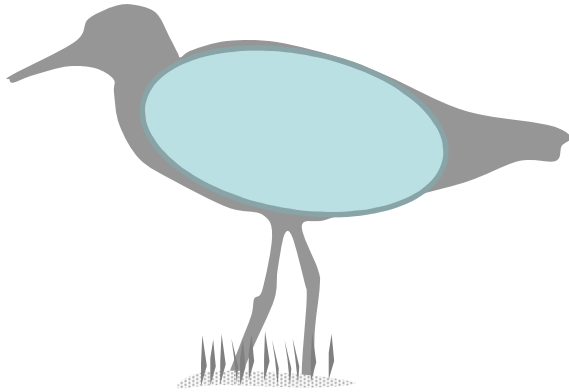


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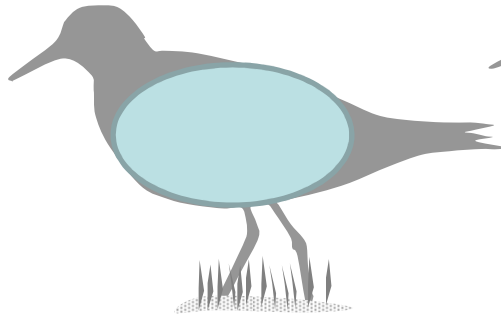
June 3, 2006 – Bolivar Flats, TX



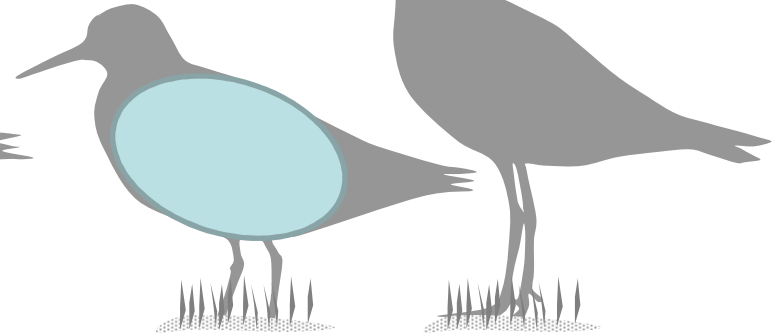
Ruff



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper



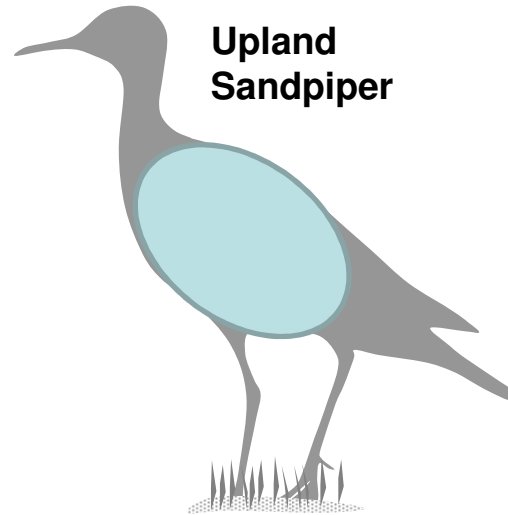
Pectoral Sandpiper



Buff-breasted Sandpiper

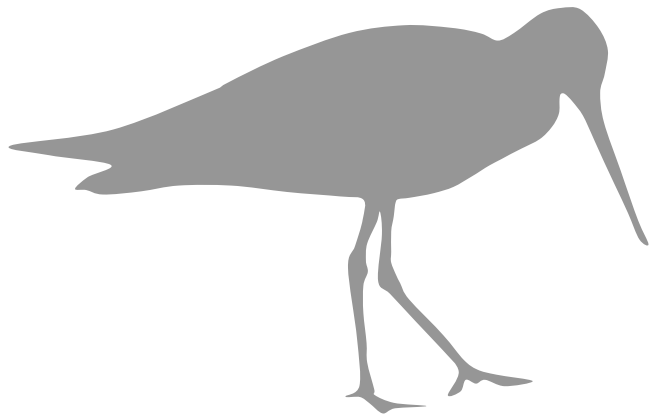


Upland Sandpiper

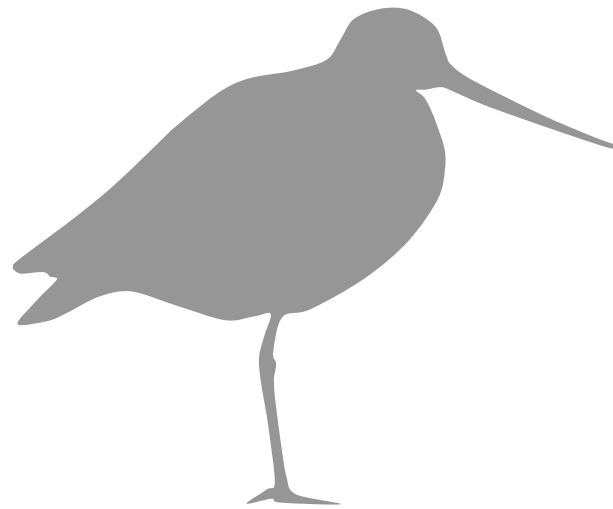




Hudsonian



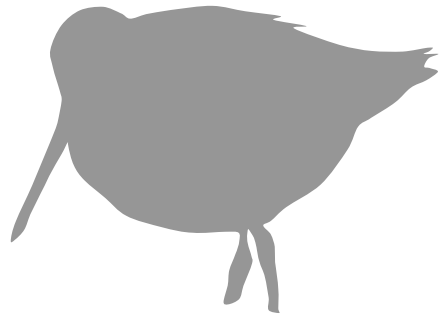
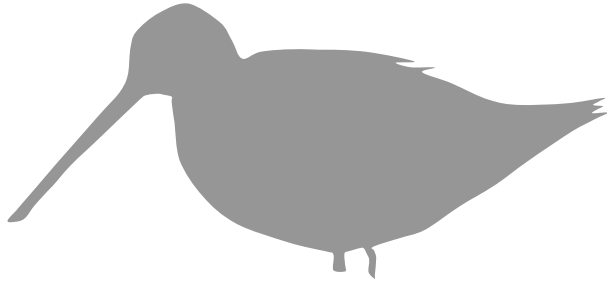
Marbled



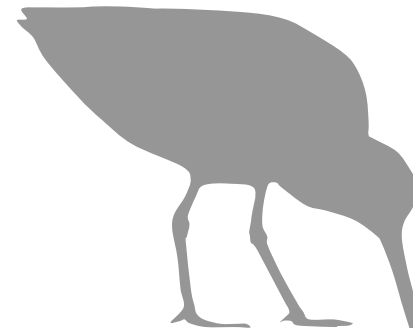
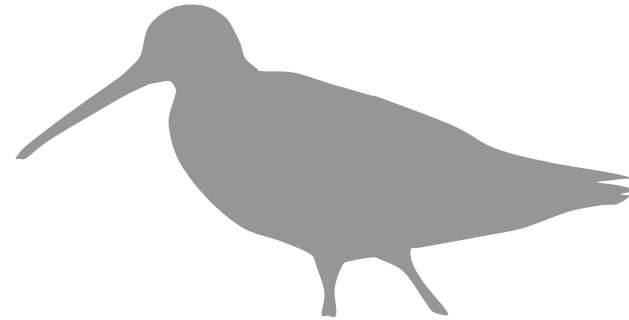


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Long-billed Dowitcher



Short-billed Dowitcher



July 31, 2005, Bolivar, TX



ee 2007

Sep 4, 2004 – Brazoria, TX



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Aug 6, 2005 – Bolivar, TX

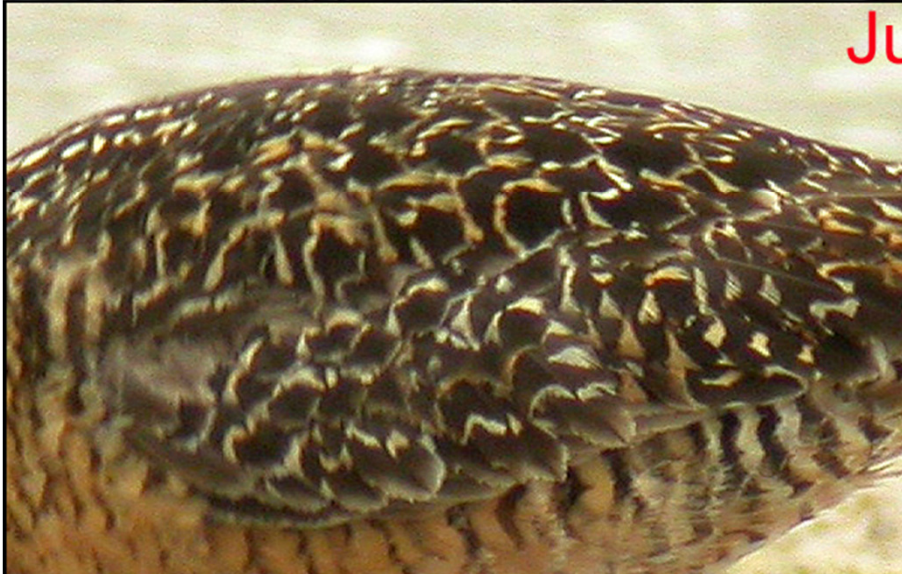


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April

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July



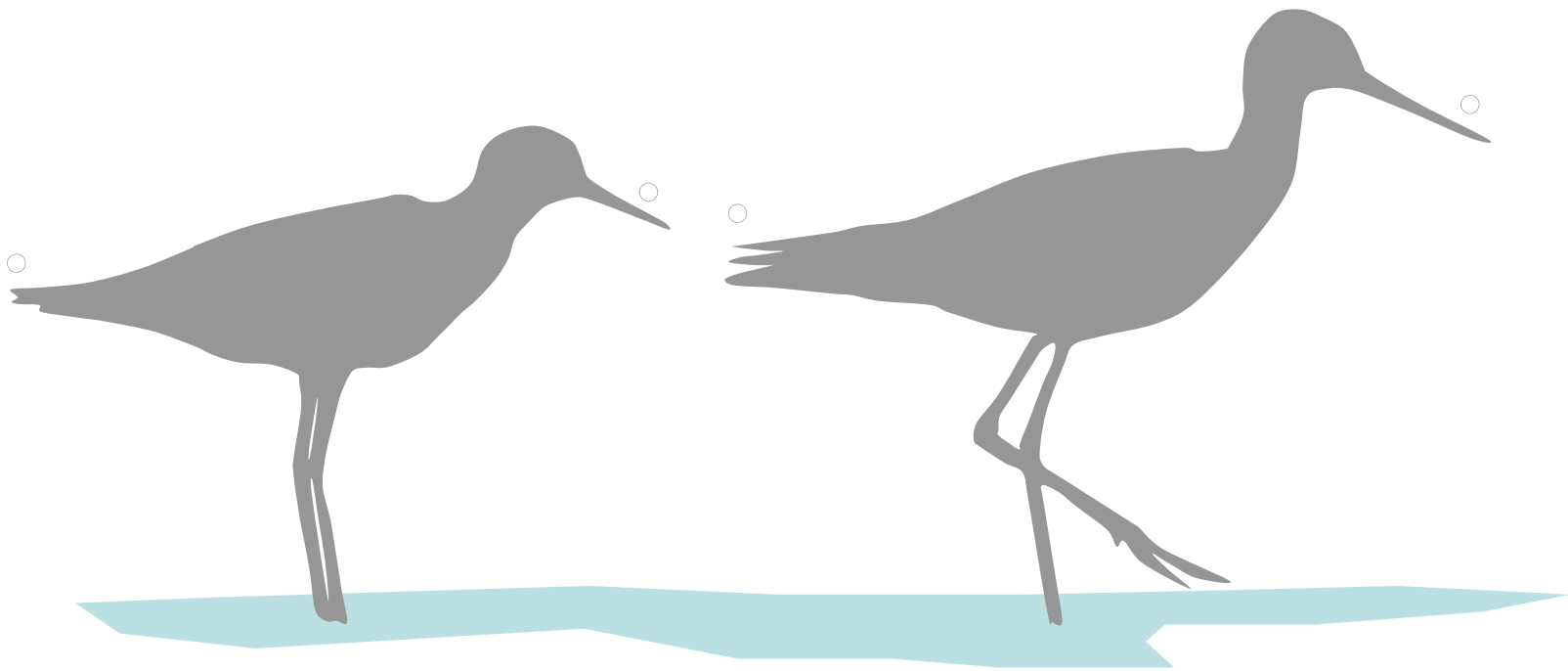
Long-billed

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Short-billed

Lesser Yellowlegs

Greater Yellowlegs



Dec 11, 2004 - Galveston

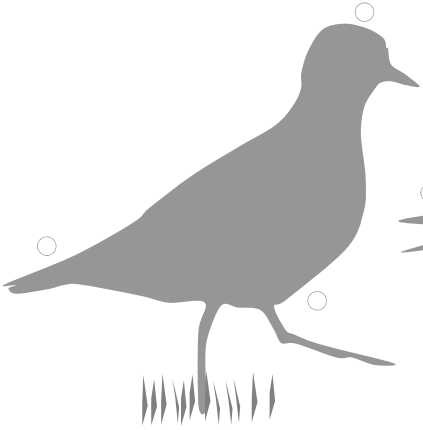


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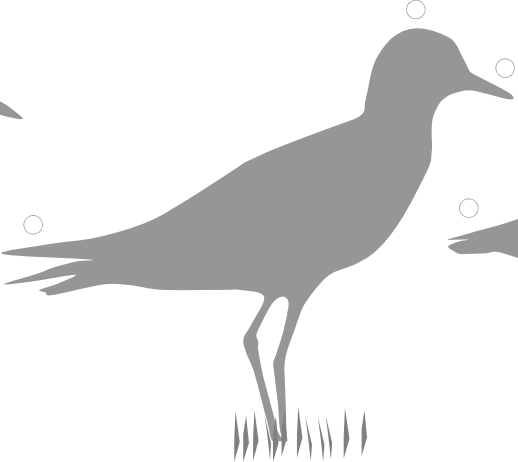


copyright Cin-Ty Lee 2007

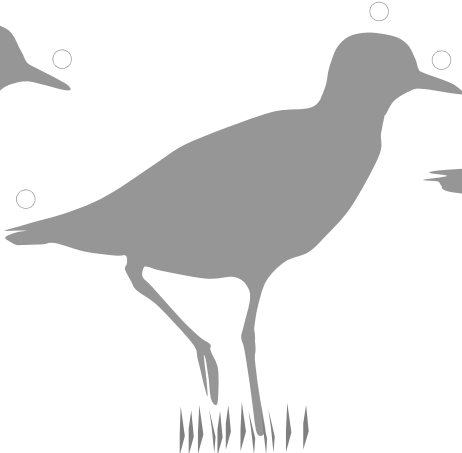
European Golden-Plover



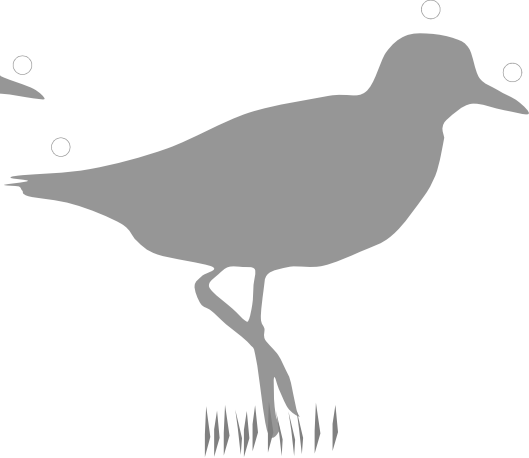
American Golden-Plover



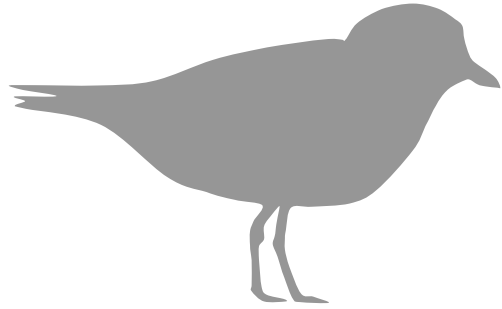
Pacific Golden-Plover



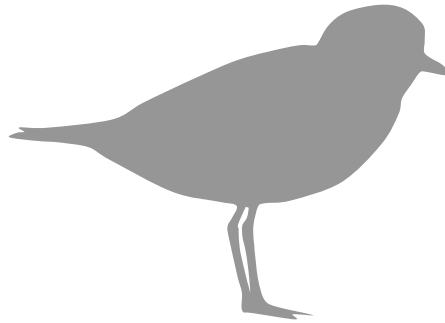
Black-bellied Plover



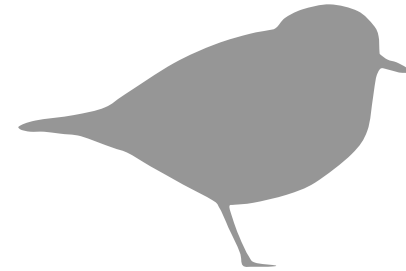
Semipalmated
Plover



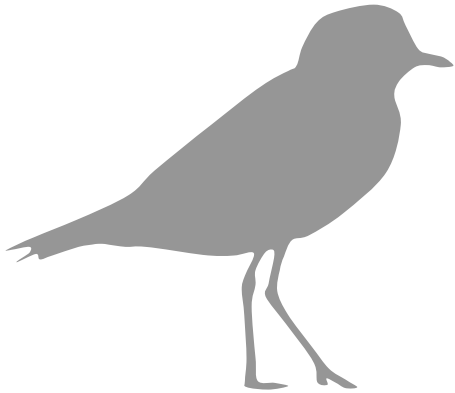
Piping
Plover



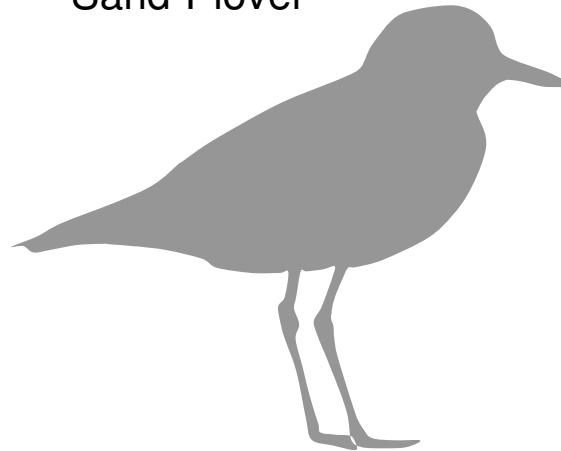
Snowy
Plover



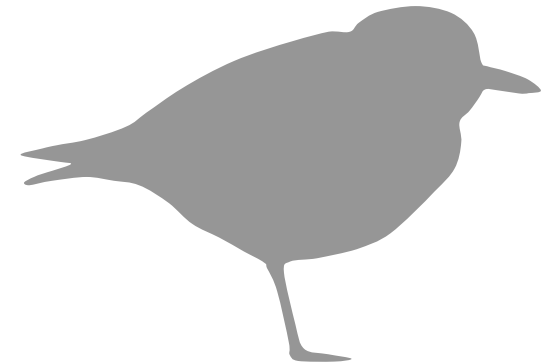
Lesser
Sand-Plover



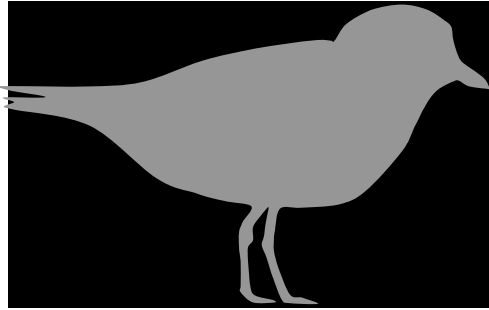
Greater
Sand-Plover



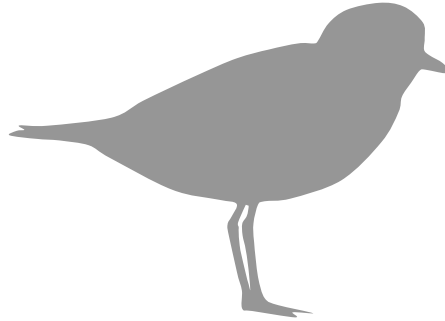
Wilson's
Plover



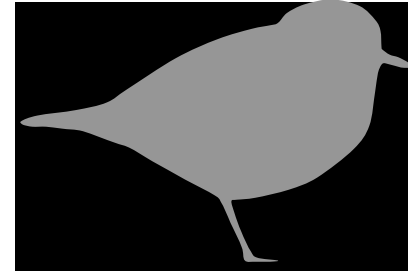
Semipalmated
Plover



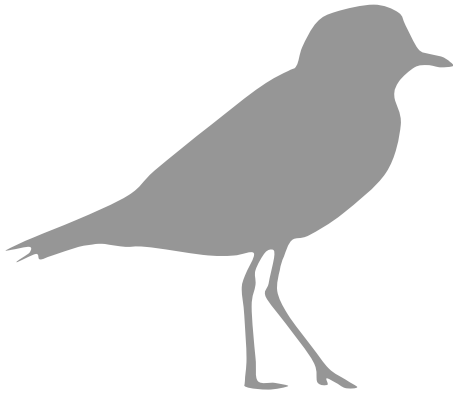
Piping
Plover



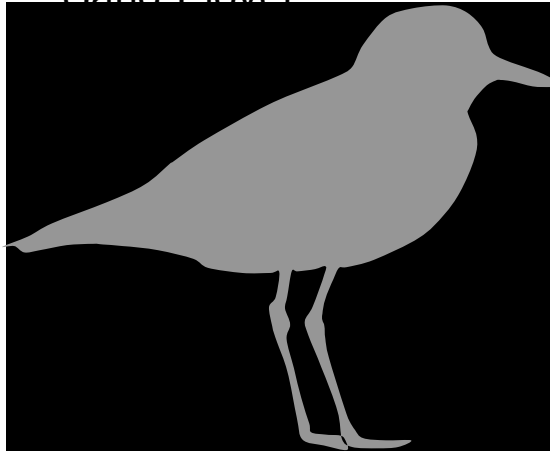
Snowy
Plover



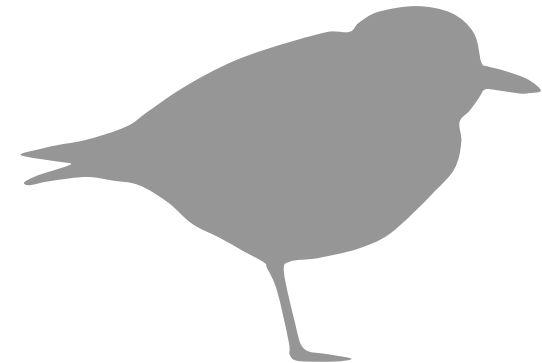
Lesser
Sand-Plover



Greater
Sand-Plover

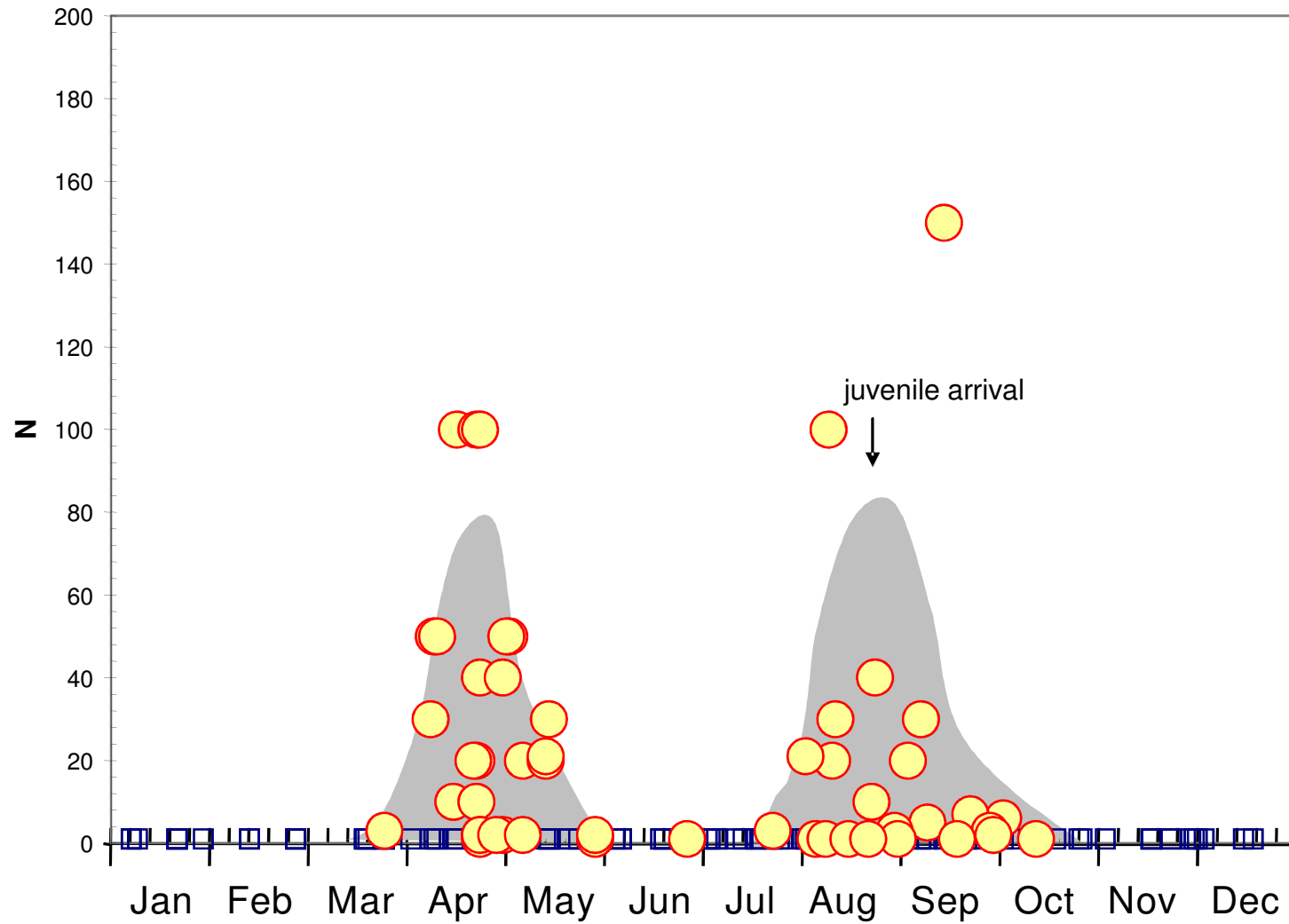


Wilson's
Plover



Be aware of seasonal status

Pectoral Sandpiper



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Practice makes perfect

Aug 11, 2004 – San Diego, CA



Aug 11, 2004 – San Diego, CA

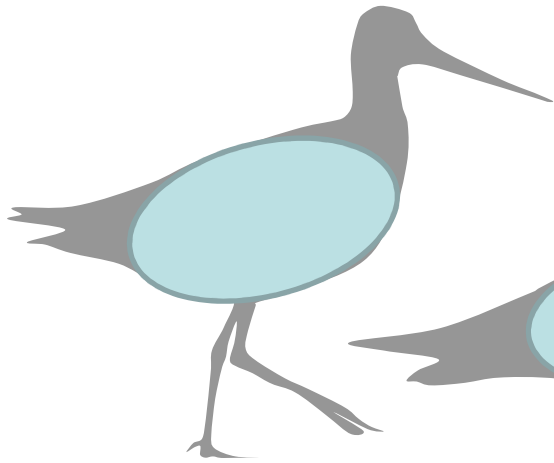


Jan, 2005 – Bolivar, TX

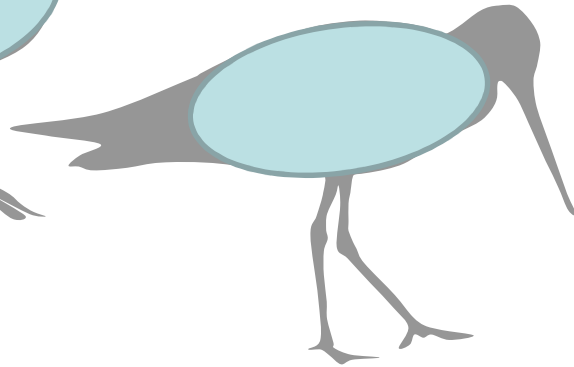
Aug 7, 2004 - Bolivar



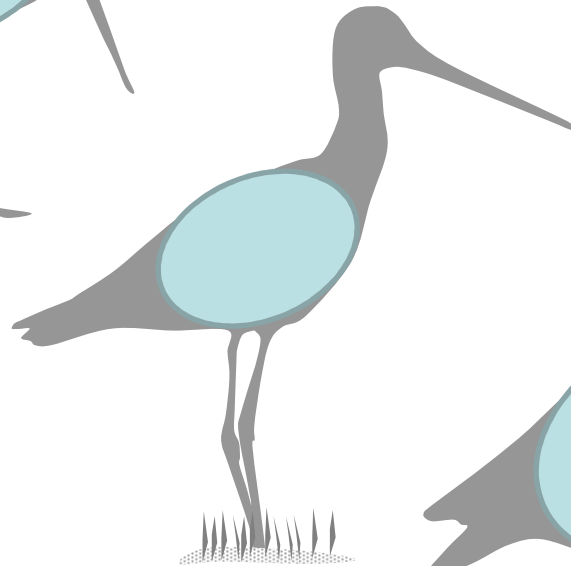
Bar-tailed



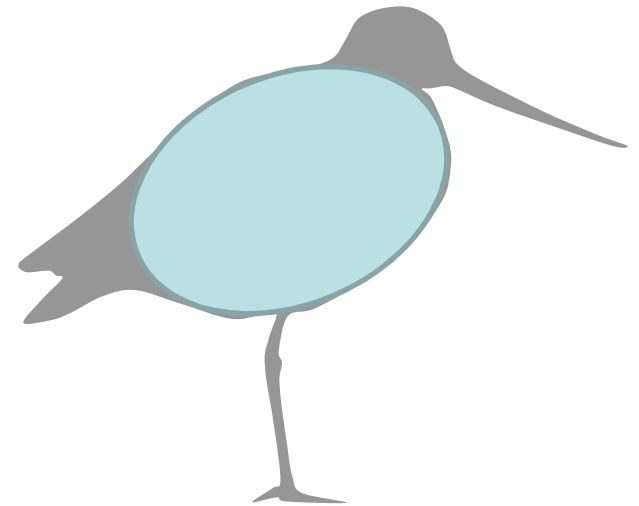
Hudsonian



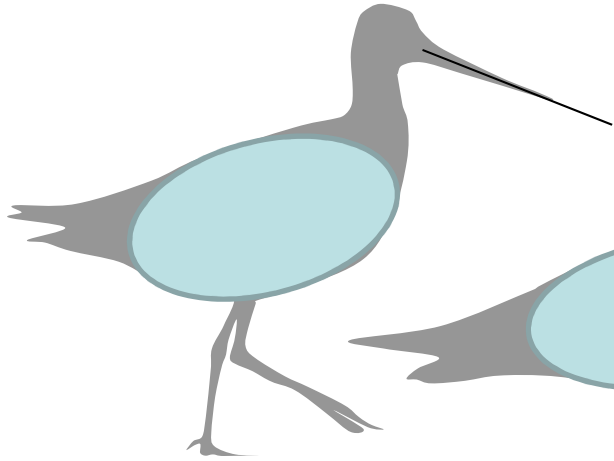
Black-tailed



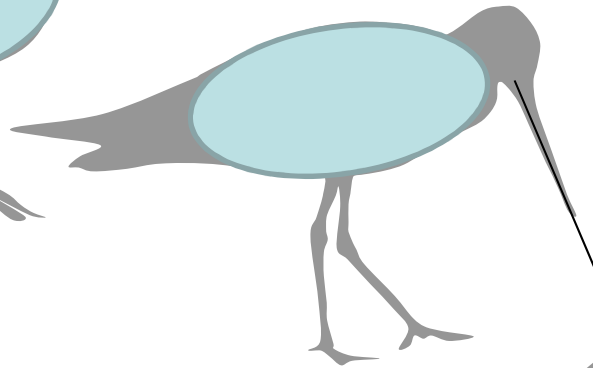
Marbled



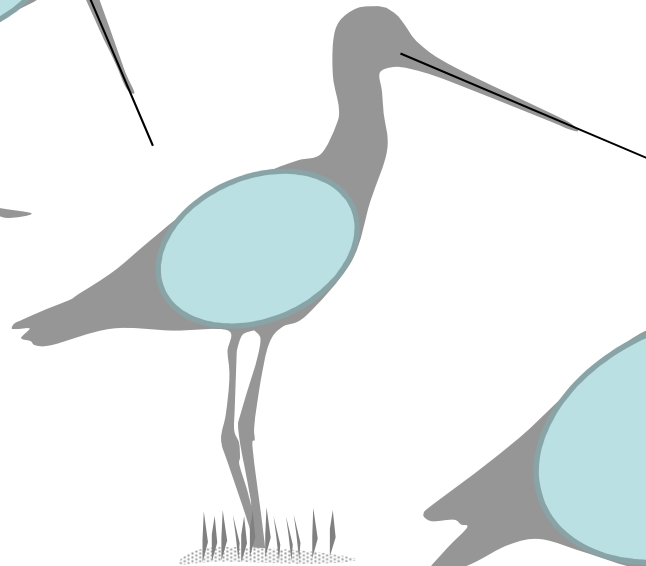
Bar-tailed



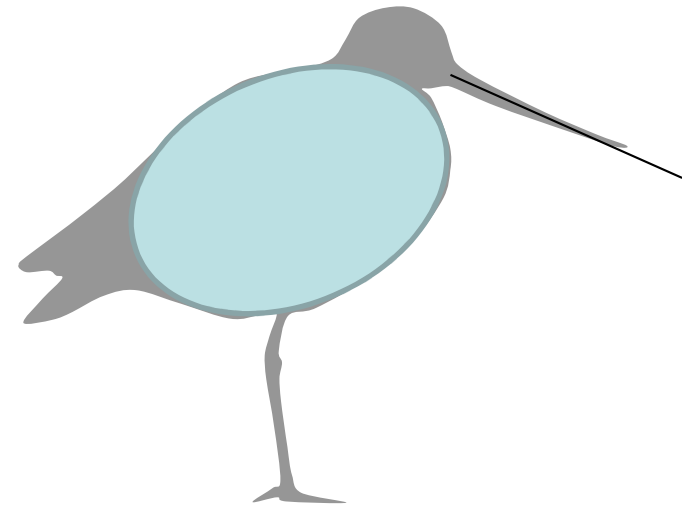
Black-tailed



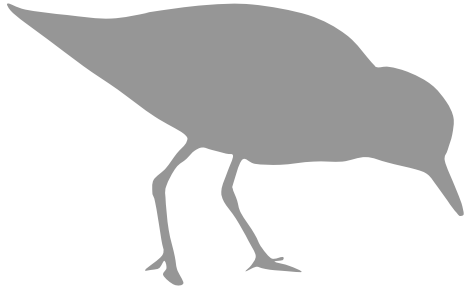
Hudsonian



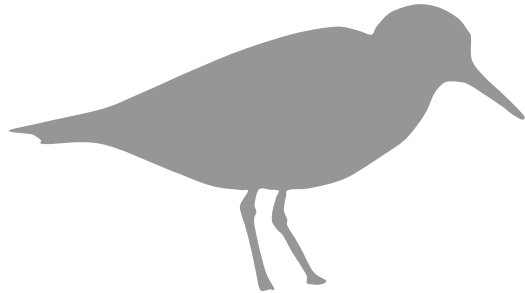
Marbled



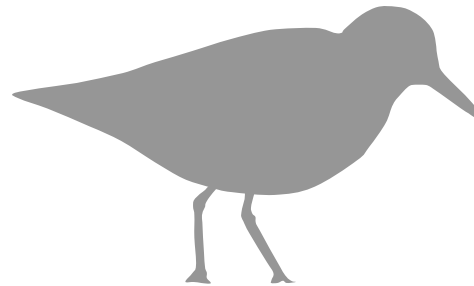
Rufous-necked Stint



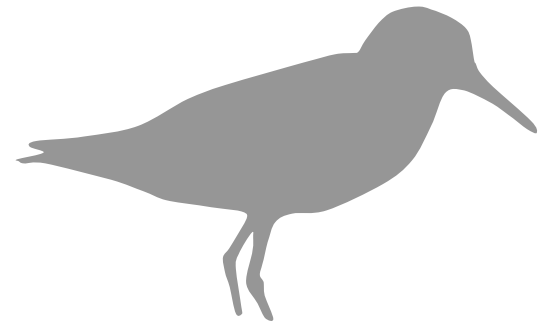
Little Stint

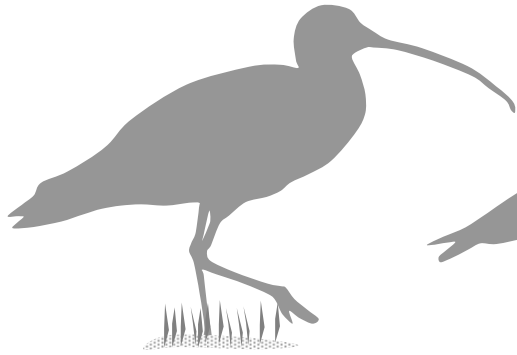


Semipalmated Sandpiper

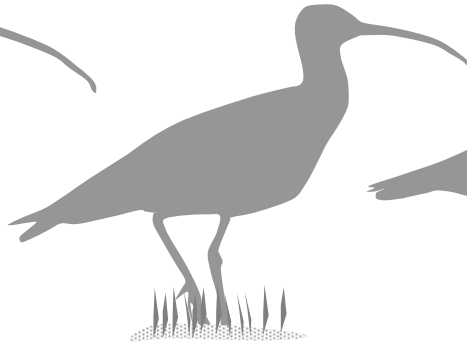


Western Sandpiper

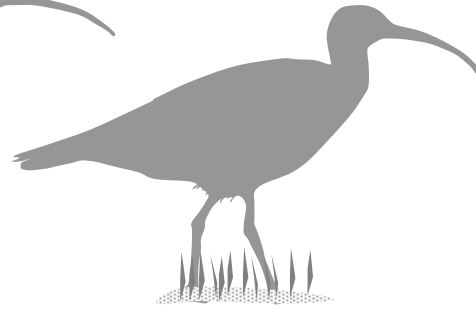




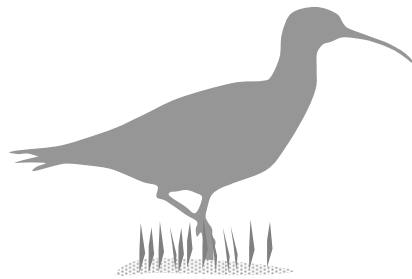
**Long-billed
Curlew**



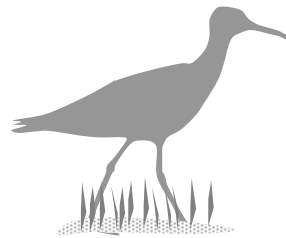
Whimbrel



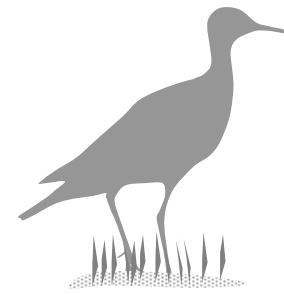
**Bristle-thighed
Curlew**



**Eskimo
Curlew**

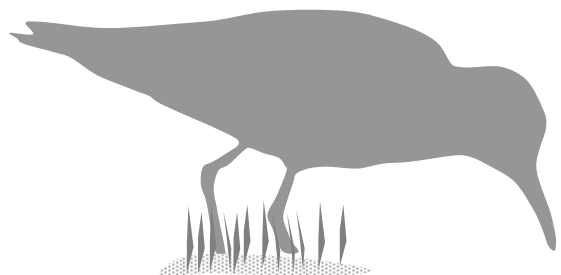


**Little
Curlew**

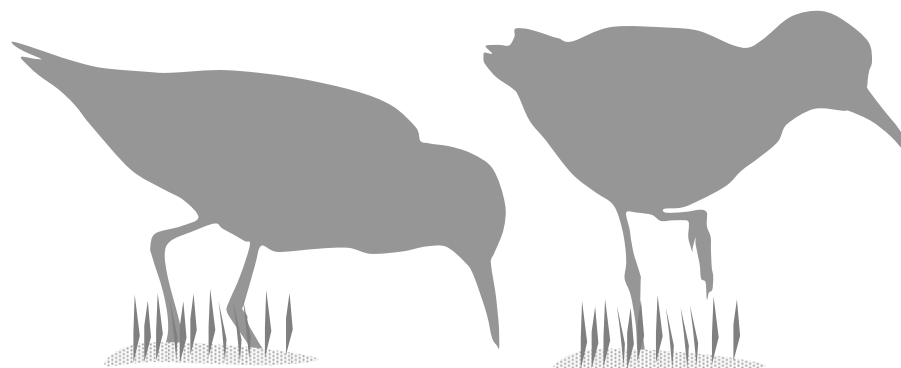


**Upland
Sandpiper**

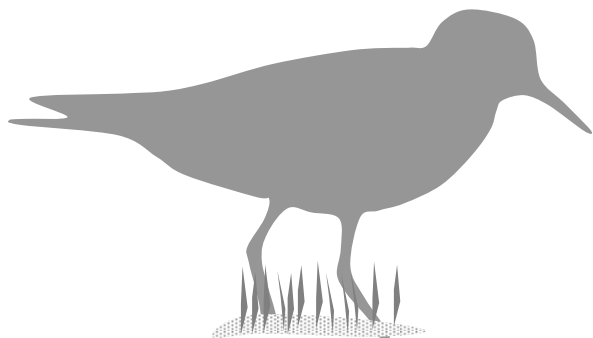
Least Sandpiper



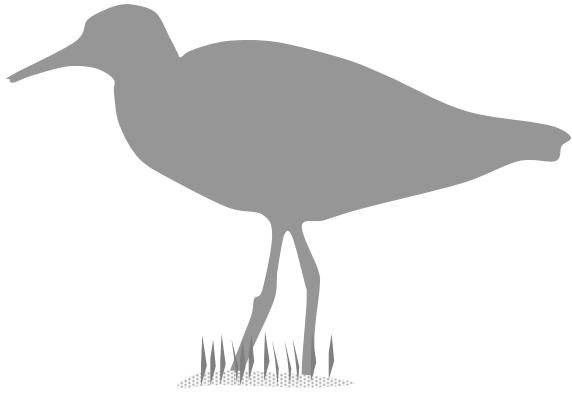
Long-toed Stint



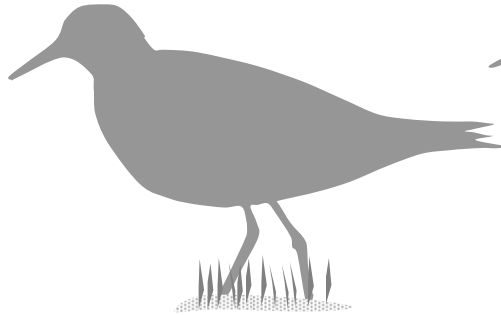
Temminck's Stint



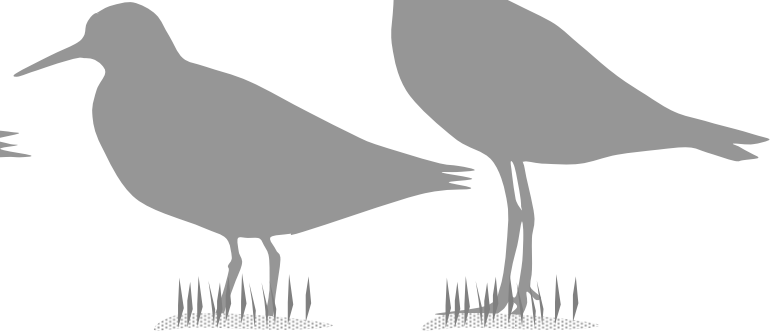
Ruff



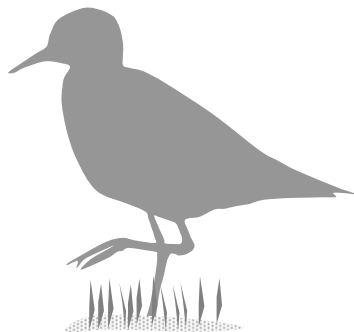
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper



Pectoral Sandpiper

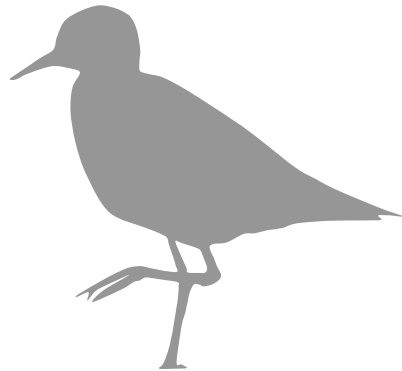


Buff-breasted Sandpiper

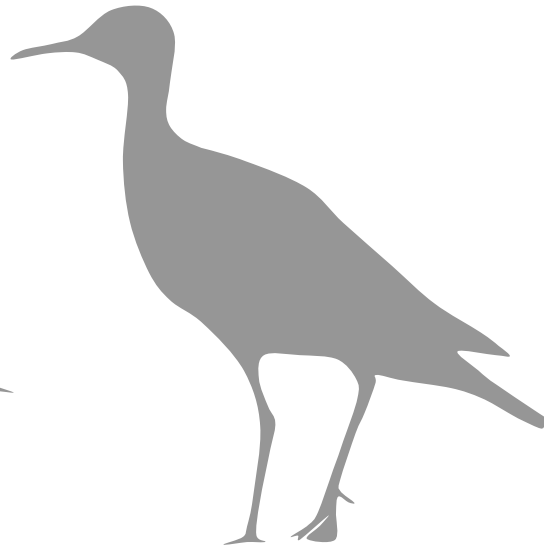


Upland Sandpiper

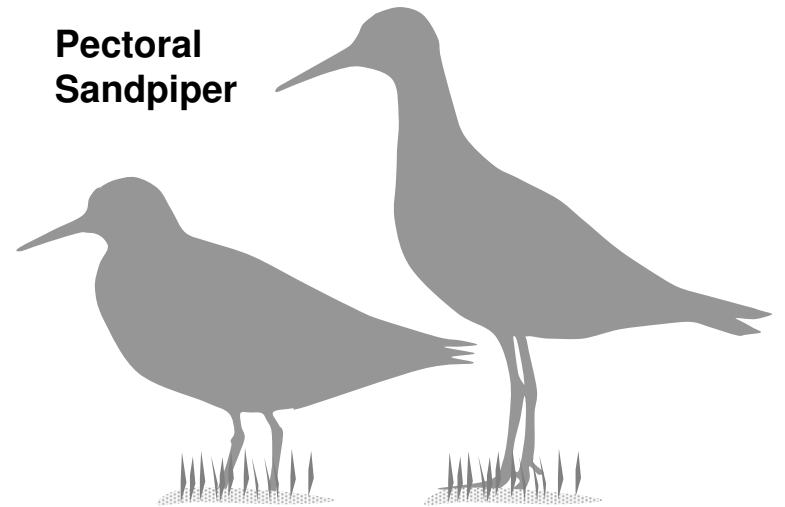




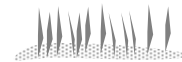
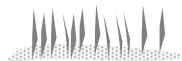
**Buff-breasted
Sandpiper**



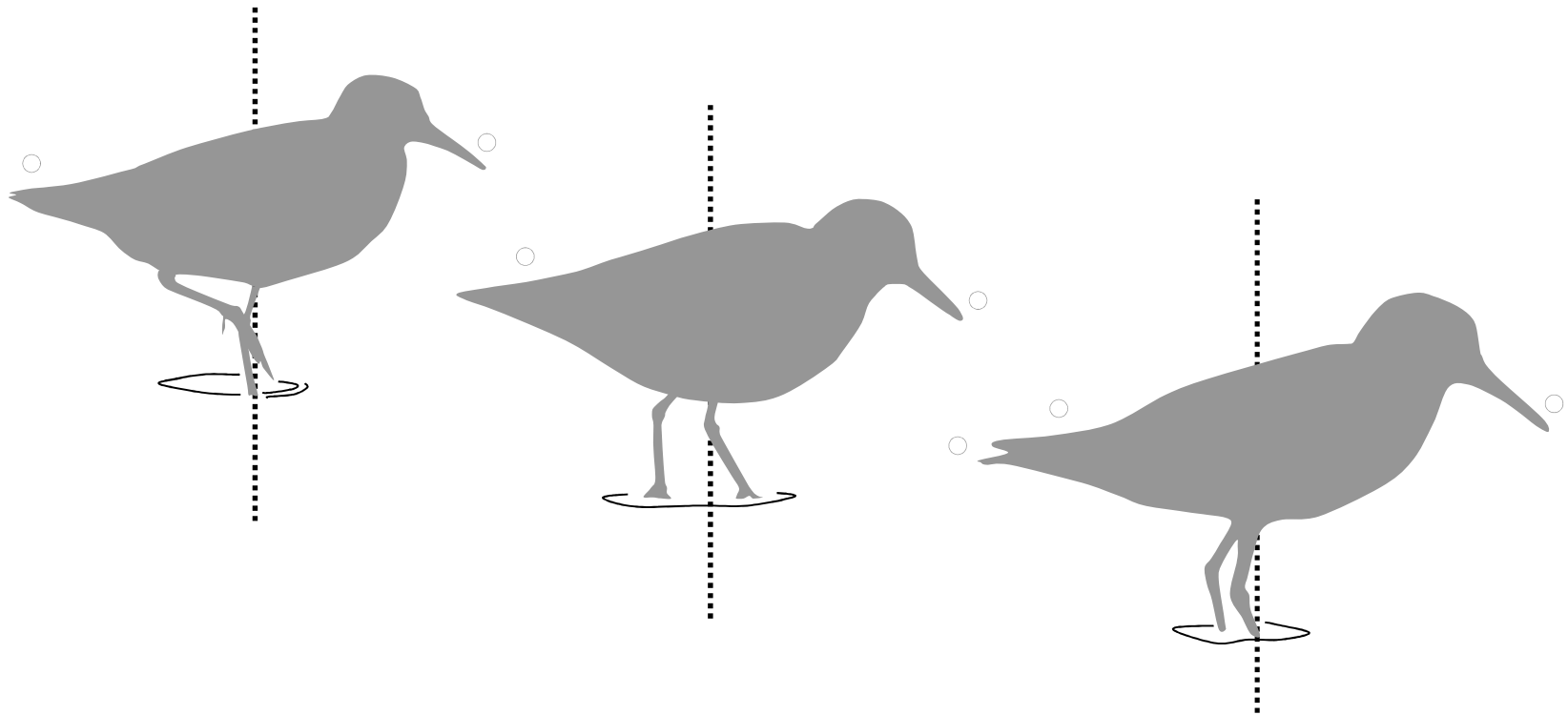
**Upland
Sandpiper**



**Pectoral
Sandpiper**



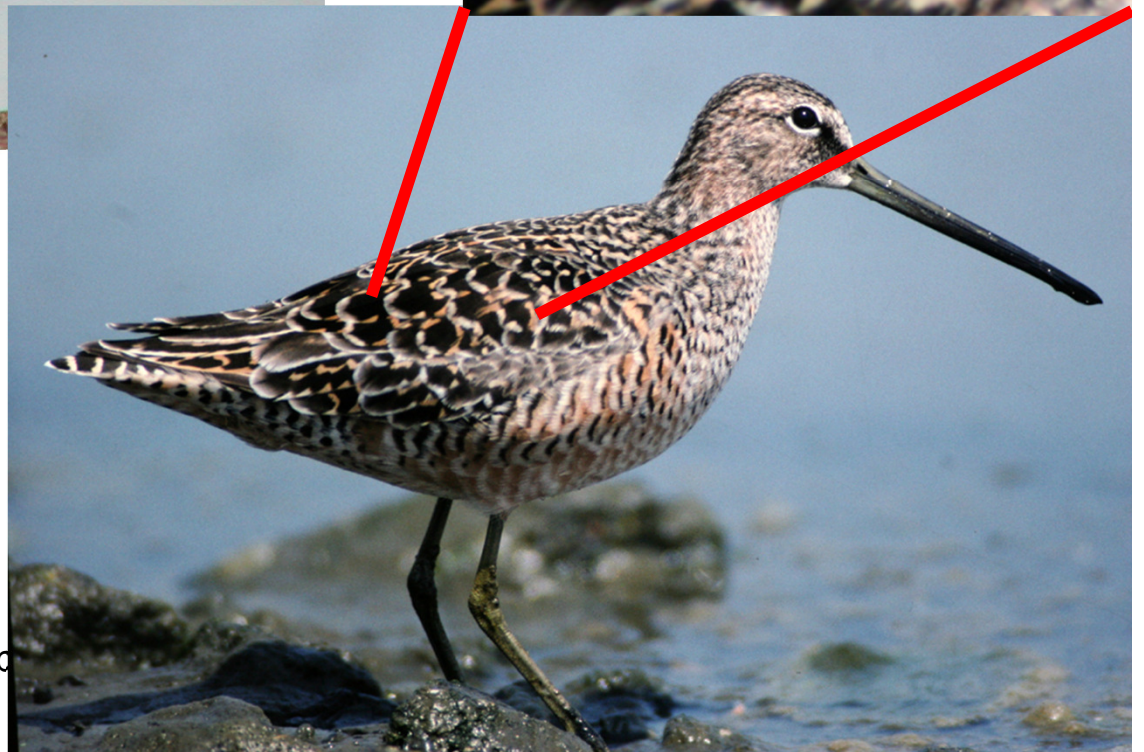
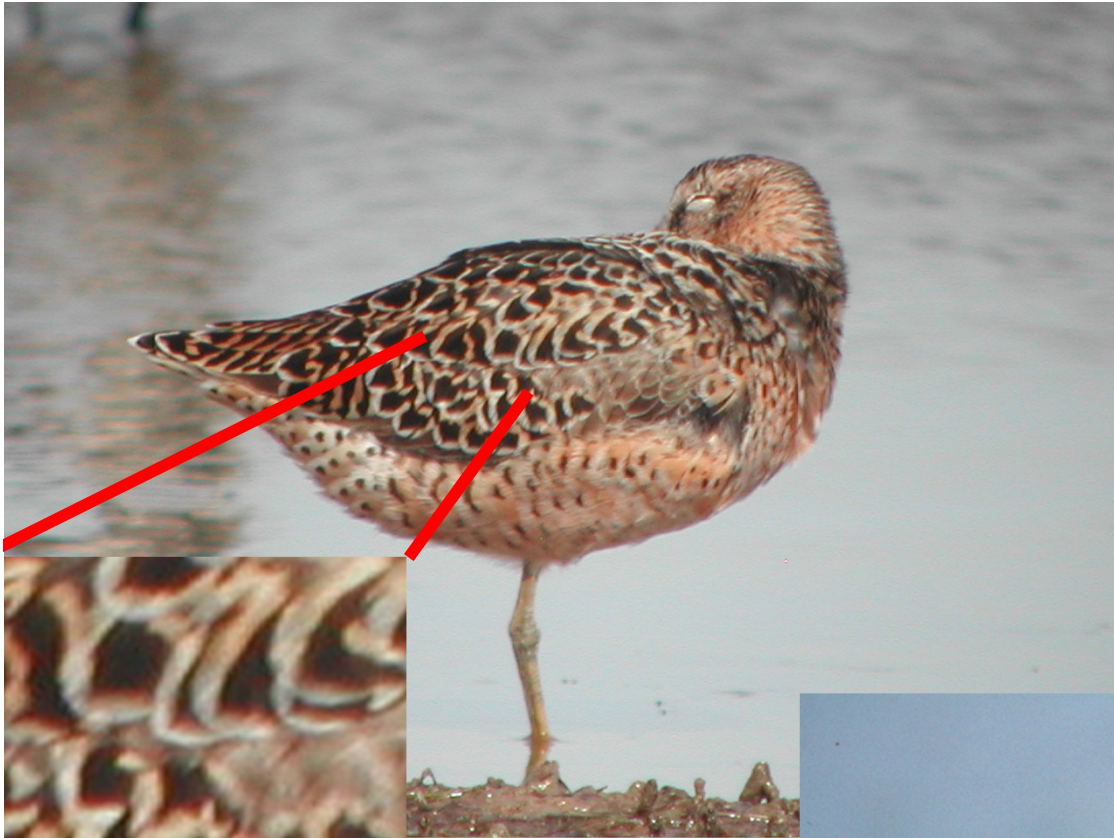
Center of Mass



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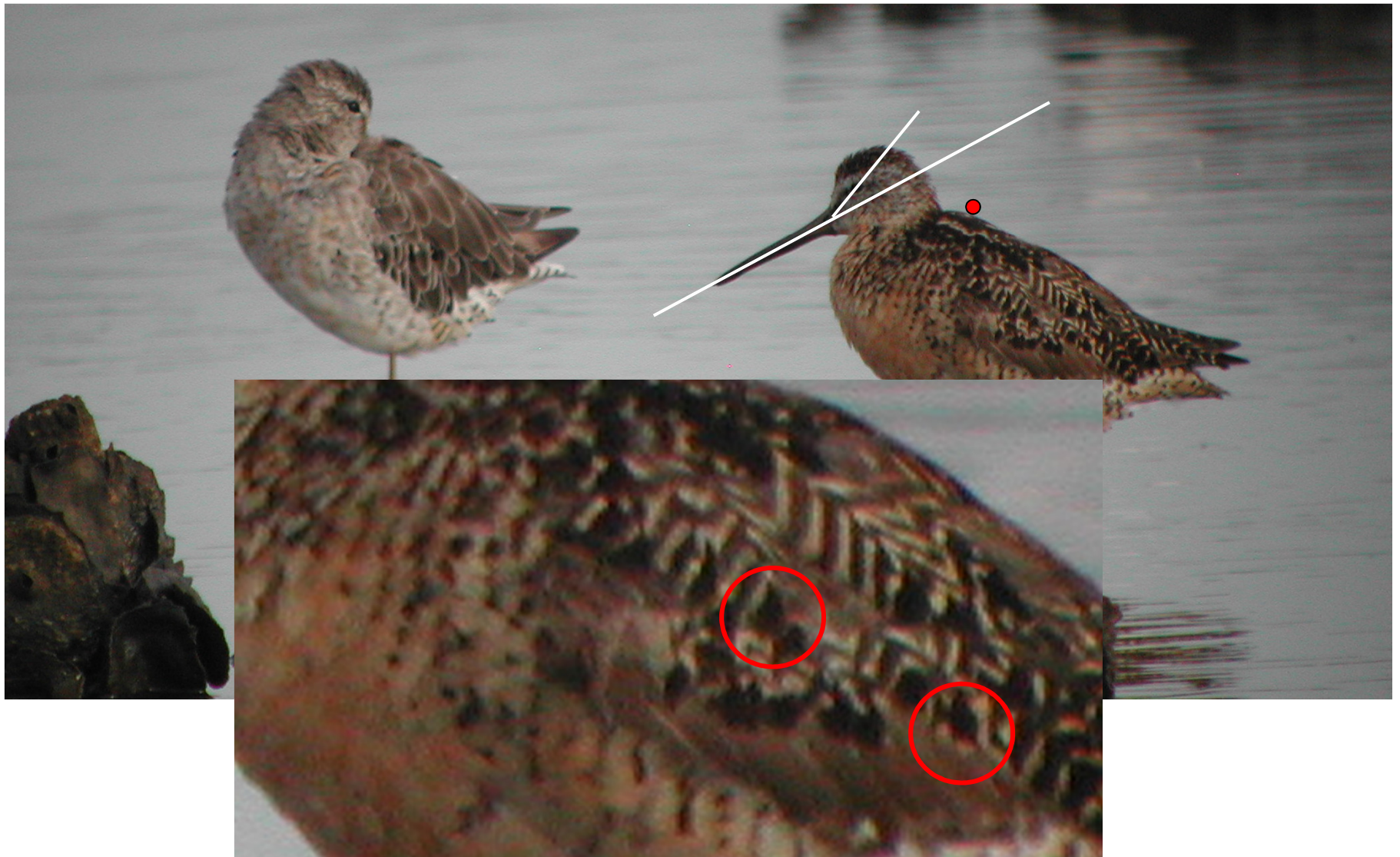
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