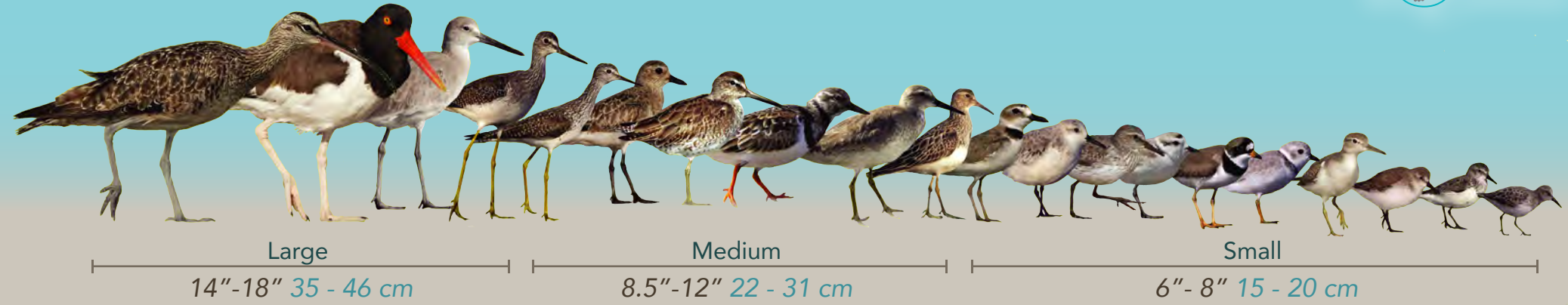


Common Caribbean Shorebirds: ID Guide



Large Shorebirds

Whimbrel 17.5" 44.5 cm
 American Oystercatcher 17.5" 44.5 cm
 Willet 15" 38 cm
 Greater Yellowlegs 14" 35.5 cm
 American Avocet* 18" 46 cm
 Black-necked Stilt* 14" 35.5 cm

*not pictured

Medium Shorebirds

Lesser Yellowlegs 9.5" 24 cm
 Black-bellied Plover 11.5" 29 cm
 Short-billed Dowitcher 11" 28 cm
 Ruddy Turnstone 9.5" 24 cm
 Red Knot 10.5" 26.5 cm
 Pectoral Sandpiper 8.5" 21.5 cm
 Killdeer* 10.5" 26.5 cm
 Stilt Sandpiper* 8.5" 21.5 cm
 Solitary Sandpiper* 8.5" 21.5 cm

Small Shorebirds

Wilson's Plover 7.75" 19.5 cm
 Sanderling 7.75" 19.5 cm
 White-rumped Sandpiper 6" 15 cm
 Snowy Plover 6.25" 16 cm
 Semipalmated Plover 7.25" 18.5 cm
 Piping Plover 7.25" 18.5 cm
 Spotted Sandpiper 7.5" 19 cm
 Western Sandpiper 6.5" 16.5 cm
 Semipalmated Sandpiper 6.25" 16 cm
 Least Sandpiper 6" 15 cm

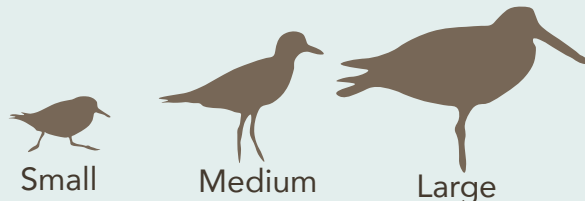
Lesser Yellowlegs & Ruddy Turnstone: Brad Winn;
 Red Knot: Anthony Levesque; Pectoral Sandpiper &
 White-rumped Sandpiper: Nick Dorian; All other photos: Walker Golder

Clues to help identify shorebirds

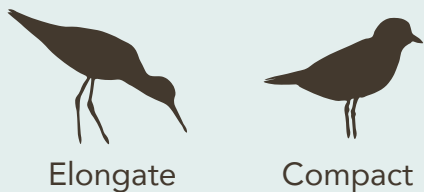
Size & Shape

Size

How big is it compared to other birds?



Overall Body Shape

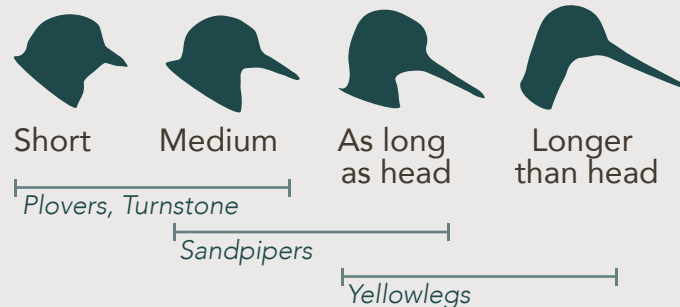


Specific Body Parts

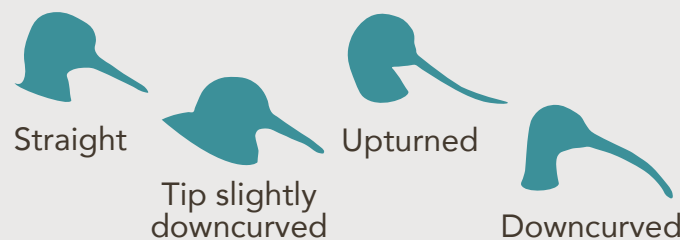
Bill & leg color
 Eye size *Plovers = larger, sandpipers = smaller*
 Leg & neck length

Bill Length & Shape

Length



Curvature



Foraging Behavior

Sandpipers

Peeps (Semipalmated, Western, Least)
 Walk or run with the head down, picking and probing

Spotted Sandpiper
 Bobs tail up and down when walking or standing

White-rumped Sandpiper
 Tail tips up while probing

Stilt Sandpiper
 Probes mud like "oil derrick," rear end tips up

Plovers

Run & stop, pick, hiccup, run & stop

Yellowlegs

Stroll and pick

Dowitchers

Probe mud with "sewing machine" bill, body stays horizontal