








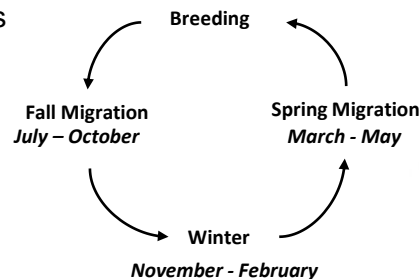
# Shorebirds in Rice

The Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership

	Long-billed Curlew	Whimbrel	American Avocet	Black-necked Stilt	Black-bellied Plover	Killdeer	Semipalmated Plover
							
<b>Size</b>	Very large 23"	Large 18"	Large 18"	Large 14"	Medium 12"	Medium 11"	Small 8"
<b>Bill</b>	Very long, decurved, dark	Long, decurved, dark	Long, recurved	Medium, straight	Short, thick, dark	Short, thick, dark	Short, thin, bicolored
<b>Legs</b>	Grayish, long	Dark, short	Grayish, long	Pink, very long	Black, short	Flesh-colored, short	Orange to yellow, short
<b>Season</b>	Winter	Fall, Spring	Year-round	Year-round	Winter	Year-round	Fall, Spring
<b>Distinguishing Traits</b>	Very long and decurved bill  Cinnamon underparts	Long and decurved bill  Head striped brown and white	Black and white winged  In summer has orange head and neck	Bright pink legs  White spot above eye  Black upperparts	Black axillaries visible in flight  White wing stripe	Two black breast bands  Red eye ring  Distinctive call	Single black breast band  Bicolored bill










Shorebirds are travelers! They may fly thousands of miles twice a year. In the spring shorebirds depart from their wintering grounds and travel to northern latitude breeding grounds. In the late summer, shorebirds make their way back south. Sacramento Valley rice fields provide important foraging habitat for shorebirds whether they are migrating through or staying for the winter.

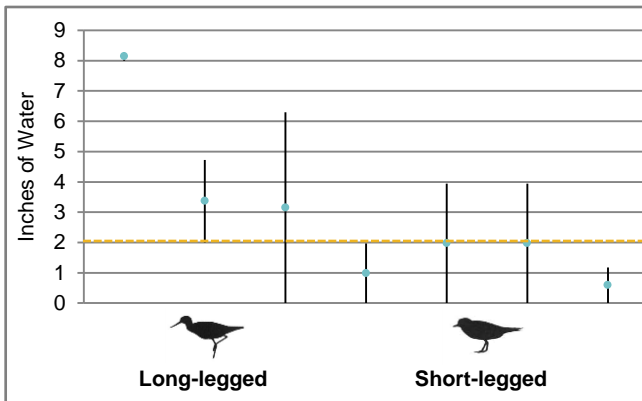


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Have Questions? Contact us!  
 Monica Iglecia (916) 649 7600 ext. 115  
 miglecia@audubon.org  
 Khara Strum (415) 868-0371 ext. 308  
 kstrum@prbo.org

	Greater Yellowlegs	Wilson's Phalarope	Dowitcher	Wilson's Snipe	Dunlin	Western Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper
							
<b>Size</b>	Large 14"	Small 9"	Medium 11"	Medium 11"	Small 9"	Very small 7"	Very small 6"
<b>Bill</b>	Medium, slightly recurved	Medium, straight, dark	Long, straight	Long, straight, dark	Medium, drooping, dark	Short, thin, dark, slightly drooping	Short, thin, slightly decurved
<b>Legs</b>	Bright yellow, long	Yellow, medium	Yellowish, medium	Yellowish, medium	Black, short	Black, short	Yellowish, short
<b>Season</b>	Winter	Fall, Spring	Winter	Year-round	Winter	Winter	Winter
<b>Distinguishing Traits</b>	Longer, slightly recurved bill  Yellow legs  Voice 3 notes: "tew-tew-tew"	Gray upperparts  Often feeds by spinning in deep water	Long bill  White patch on back seen in flight  "sewing machine-like" feeding motion	Long bill  Bold stripes on back  Rusty colors on back	Small size  Gray upperparts  Drooping bill	Very small size  Short, slightly drooping bill	Very small size  Yellowish legs



Shorebirds are particular! They prefer water depths shallower than most fields are flooded in winter.

Long-legged shorebirds prefer water depths up to 8" while short-legged species prefer water depths of only 2". Most birds will benefit from depths of 1"-4" deep.

These shallow water depths make it possible for shorebirds to probe the mud with their sensitive bills for food.