



# Shorebirds of Manitoba

Content & photos by:  
Christian Artuso  
Bird Studies Canada



## What is a “Shorebird”

- >200 species within 14 families within order Charadriiformes (excludes the “web-footed” members of the order)
- Mostly long-legged & primarily ground-dwelling  
Best known examples are “plovers” and “sandpipers”





**Burhinidae “thick-knees” – Double-striped Thick-knee**



**Haematopodidae “oyster-catchers” – Blackish Oystercatcher**



**Pluvianidae – Egyptian Plover**



**Jacanidae – jacanas – African Jacana**



**Jacanidae – jacanas –  
Pheasant-tailed Jacana**

**Thinocoridae – seedsnipe – Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe**



**Turnicidae – buttonquail – Barred Buttonquail**



## What is a “Shorebird”

- Most occur in non-treeed or sparsely treed habitats (coastal areas, mudflats, tundra, prairie, wetlands)

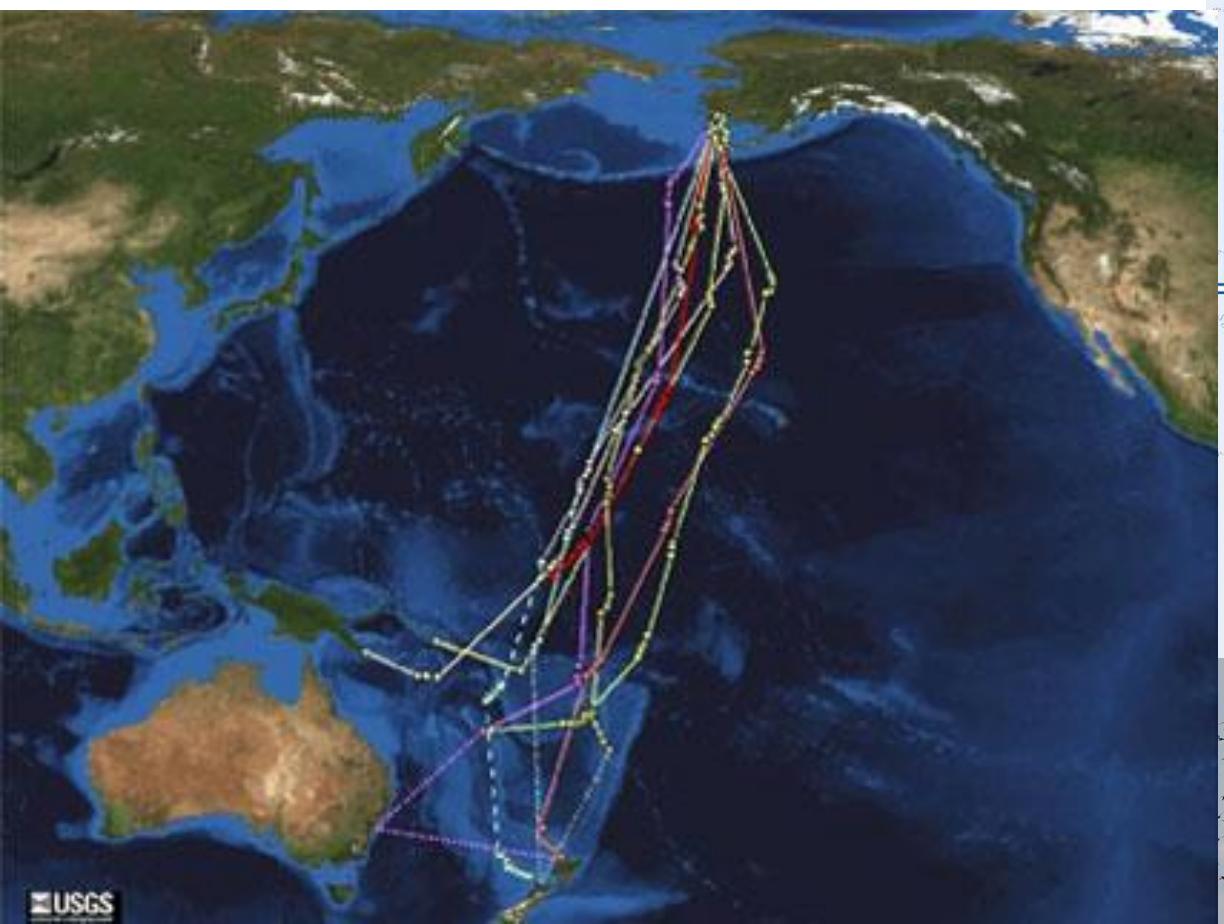
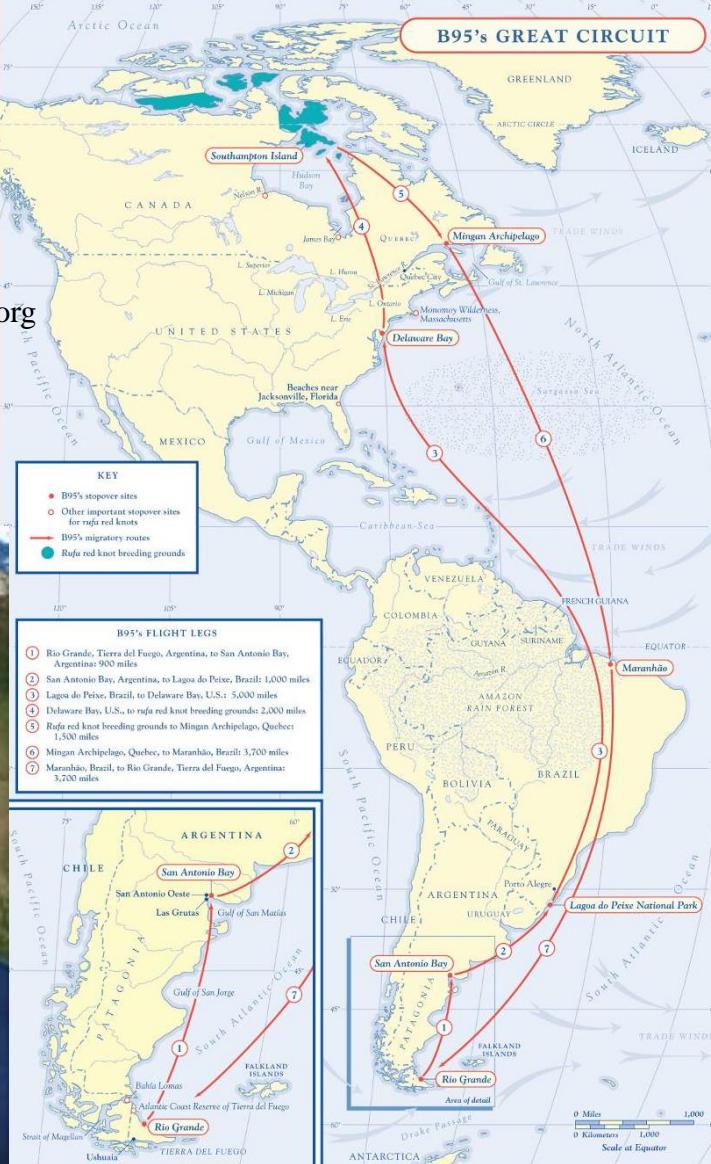


## What is a “Shorebird”

- Most shorebirds that breed in temperate zone are migratory  
(some exceptionally long-distance)



[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)



## What is a “Shorebird”

- Least Sandpiper: 15.5 g, 13 cm → Far Eastern Curlew: 860 g, 63 cm



## What is a “Shorebird”

- Fixed clutch-size
- Some polyandrous species
- Some sexually dichromatic



## What is a “Shorebird”



- Bill can probe into soft substrate, is flexible and tactile/sensory

FASCINATING interactions



FASCINATING behaviour



**FASCINATING behaviour**



**FASCINATING behaviour**

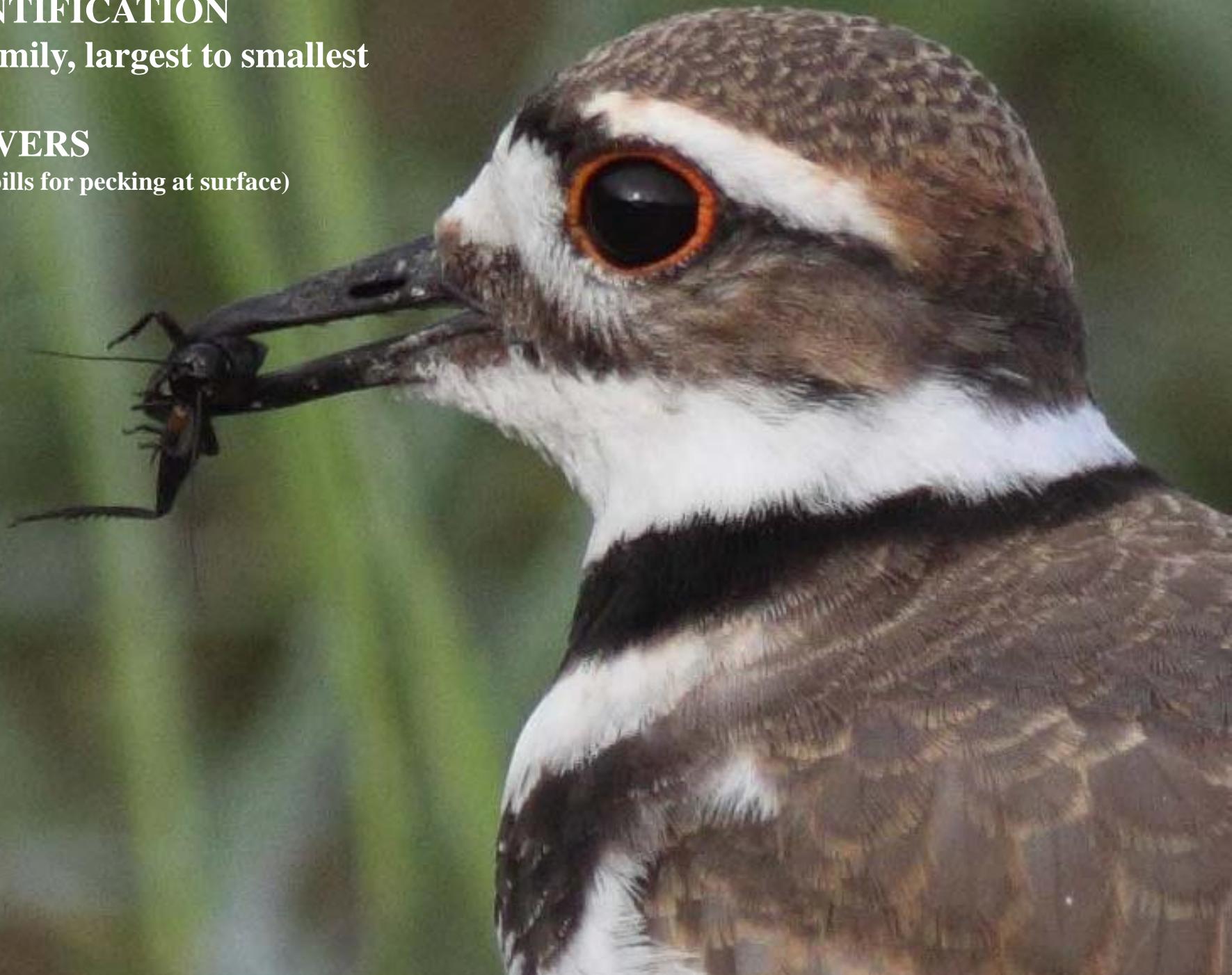


# IDENTIFICATION

By family, largest to smallest

## PLOVERS

(short bills for pecking at surface)



# Black-bellied Plover



# American Golden-Plover



**Black-bellied Plover**



# American Golden-Plover



**American Golden-Plover**



**Black-bellied Plover**



# American Golden-Plover



# Black-bellied Plover



**black armpits in flight**

Killdeer



# Semipalmated Plover



# Semipalmated Plover



# Semipalmated Plover



Piping Plover



# Piping Plover

©c.artuso



Piping Plover



**Avocets and Stilts** (very long legs, long bills)

**American Avocet**



# American Avocet



# American Avocet



©C. Arthur

# Black-necked Stilt



**Sandpipers** (long bills for probing)



**Marbled Godwit**



**Marbled Godwit**  
(cinnamon underwings)



Hudsonian Godwit



# Hudsonian Godwit



Hudsonian Godwit



# Hudsonian Godwit



# Hudsonian Godwit



Whimbrel



Willet



# Willet



artus

**Hudsonian Godwit**

**Willet**



# Willet



# Greater Yellowlegs



# Greater Yellowlegs



# Greater Yellowlegs



# Lesser Yellowlegs



# Lesser Yellowlegs

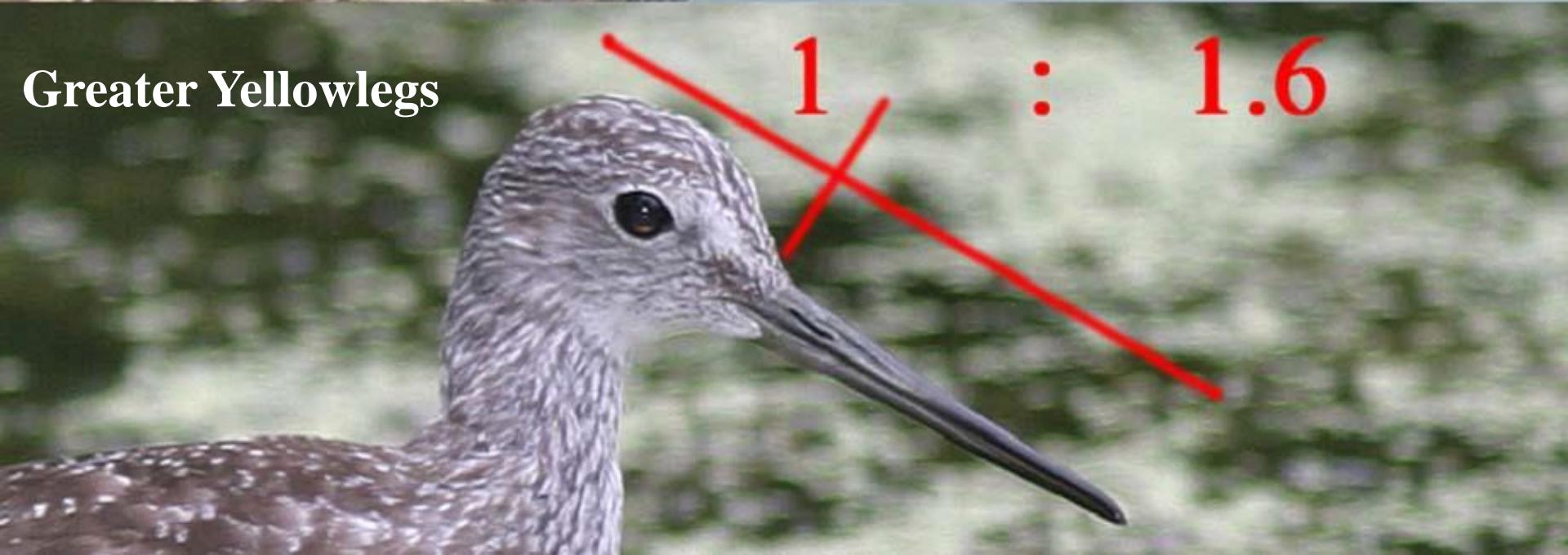


Lesser Yellowlegs



1 : 1.3

Greater Yellowlegs



1 : 1.6

## Yellowlegs versus dowitchers (white rump versus back)



# Upland Sandpiper



# Upland Sandpiper



# Short-billed Dowitcher



# Short-billed Dowitcher



# Short-billed Dowitcher



# Short-billed Dowitcher



# Long-billed Dowitcher (breeding plumage)



# Short-billed Dowitcher

versus

# Long-billed Dowitcher



breast sides & flanks:      **spotted**  
colour:                            **~ salmon**  
back / scapular feathers:    **buff tips**

**barred**  
**~ darker red**  
**white tips (contrast!)**

# Long-billed Dowitcher



# Long-billed Dowitcher



# Solitary Sandpiper



Compare: Lesser Yellowlegs



Solitary Sandpiper

# Spotted Sandpiper



# Spotted Sandpiper



# Spotted Sandpiper



## American Woodcock



# Wilson's Snipe



# Wilson's Snipe



# Red Knot



# Red Knot



Ruddy Turnstone



Ruddy Turnstone



Stilt Sandpiper



# Stilt Sandpiper



# Pectoral Sandpiper



# Pectoral Sandpiper



## Buff-breasted Sandpiper





**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**



Buff-breasted Sandpiper



Ruff and reeve, non-breeding, for comparison



# Sanderling



Sanderling



# Sanderling



# Sanderling



# Sanderling



Dunlin



Dunlin



Dunlin



Stilt Sandpiper, non-breeding



Dunlin, non-breeding



Wilson's Phalarope



Wilson's Phalarope – male less brightly coloured than female



# Wilson's Phalarope



# Red-necked Phalarope



## Red-necked Phalarope



Peeps – tiny sandpipers



Least      White-rumped  
Baird's   Semipalmated

# Baird's Sandpiper



# White-rumped Sandpiper



# White-rumped Sandpiper



# White-rumped Sandpiper



Peep rump pattern, black stripe through white, except White-rumped Sandpiper



# Semipalmated Sandpiper



# Semipalmated Sandpiper



# Least Sandpiper



# Least Sandpiper



# **PEEPS**

Large,  
Long-winged:

Golden-brown:

Grey

**Baird's Sandpiper**

**White-rumped Sandpiper**

Small,  
short-winged:

**Least Sandpiper**  
(yellow leg colour)

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**

# Western Sandpiper, RARE in MB



A close-up photograph of a shorebird's head and upper body. The bird has a white forehead, a black stripe through the eye, and a brown crown. Its eye is a vibrant orange-red with a black pupil. The beak is dark and slightly open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Thank  
you!