

large heavy bill

adult breeding

adult non-breeding

**GREATER SAND PLOVER** 21cm. M

coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones

narrow bill

adult male breeding

adult non-breeding

**ORIENTAL PLOVER** 25cm. M

sparsely vegetated plains of arid inland and coastal mudflats and beaches of northern Australia

long legs

bill short and stout

darker mask

adult breeding

adult non-breeding

**LESSER SAND PLOVER** 19cm. M

coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones

**DOUBLE-BANDED PLOVER** 19cm. M

adult breeding

adult non-breeding

bill short and narrow

winter visitor returning to New Zealand for summer

coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones, also open bare margins of inland freshwater and saline marsh, south-east Australia

**RED-CAPPED PLOVER** 15cm. R

rufous cap

adult male

adult female

bare mudflats and margins of inland and coastal saline wetlands

**RED-KNEED DOTTEREL** 18cm. R

feeds in shallow margins of inland freshwater wetlands including temporary shallows after rain

black breast band and head, chestnut flanks, distinctive white throat

short rear end

long legs with pink upper half

distinctive black markings on face and breastband

**BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL** 17cm. R

pairs or small family groups on dry margins of freshwater wetlands large or small

distinctive black hood and white collar

**HOODED PLOVER** 21cm. R

sandy ocean beaches of southern Australia, open edges of saltlakes in south-west Australia

short pink legs

wedge shaped bill

adult non-breeding

adult breeding

bright orange legs and feet

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** 23cm. M

uses stout bill to flip stones, shells, seaweed and driftwood on sandy or cobble beaches, rock platform or reef of coastal Australia

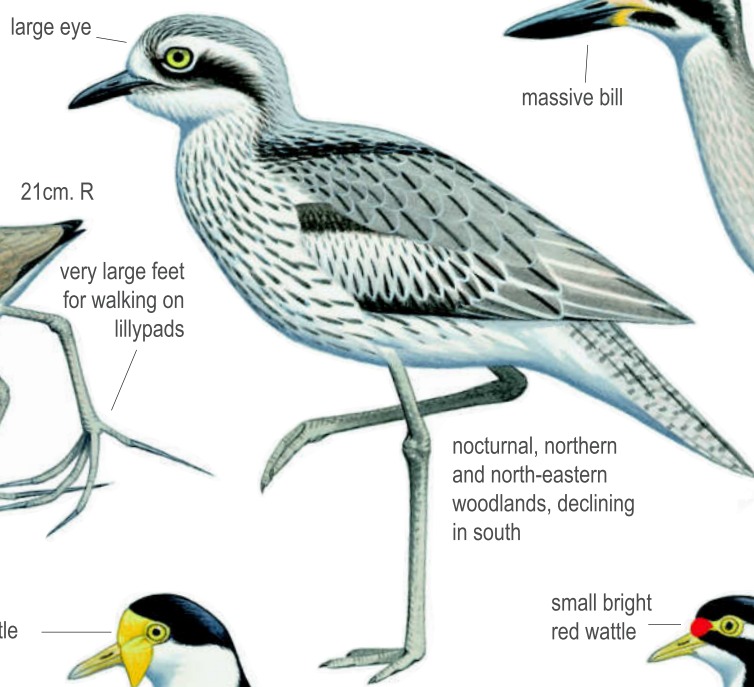
M = migratory  
R = resident species

Measure in centimetres after each species name denotes length from bill tip to end of tail.

For more information visit [www.shorebirds.org.au](http://www.shorebirds.org.au)

Illustrations by Jeff Davies  
Courtesy of WWF

BUSH STONE-CURLEW 55cm. R



large eye

nocturnal, northern and north-eastern woodlands, declining in south

BEACH STONE-CURLEW 55cm. R

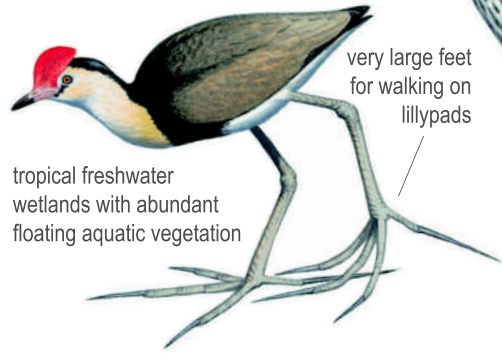


massive bill

long dark bar on wing

beaches, mudflats and small islands of northern and eastern Australia

COMB-CRESTED JACANA 21cm. R



very large feet for walking on lily pads

tropical freshwater wetlands with abundant floating aquatic vegetation

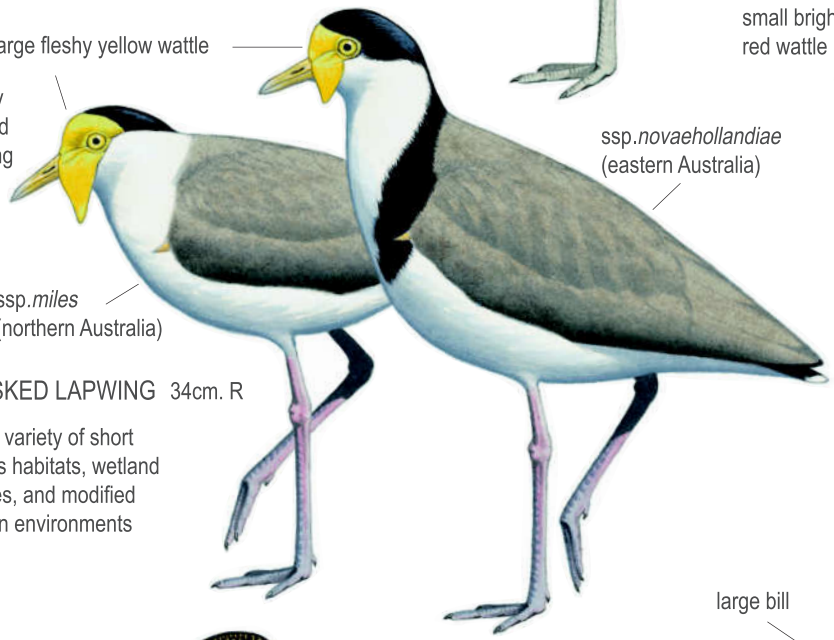
large fleshy yellow wattle

very noisy with a loud penetrating alarm call

*ssp. miles* (northern Australia)

MASKED LAPWING 34cm. R

wide variety of short grass habitats, wetland edges, and modified urban environments



*ssp. novaehollandiae* (eastern Australia)

small bright red wattle

BANDED LAPWING 27cm. R

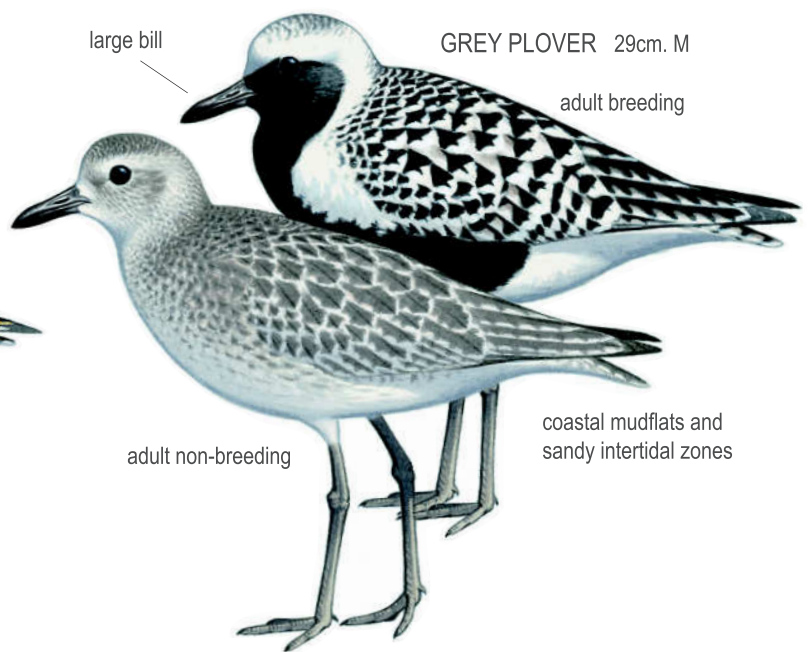
open short grasslands and semi arid rangeland, southern half of Australia

bold black U-shaped breast band when viewed from front

large bill

GREY PLOVER 29cm. M

adult breeding

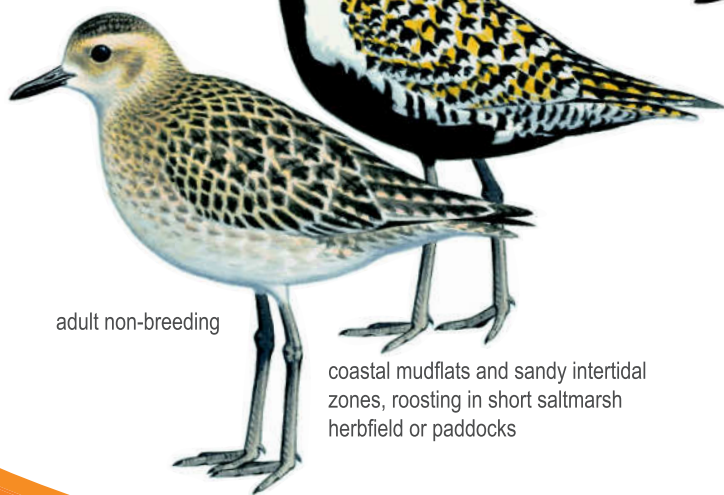


adult non-breeding

coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones

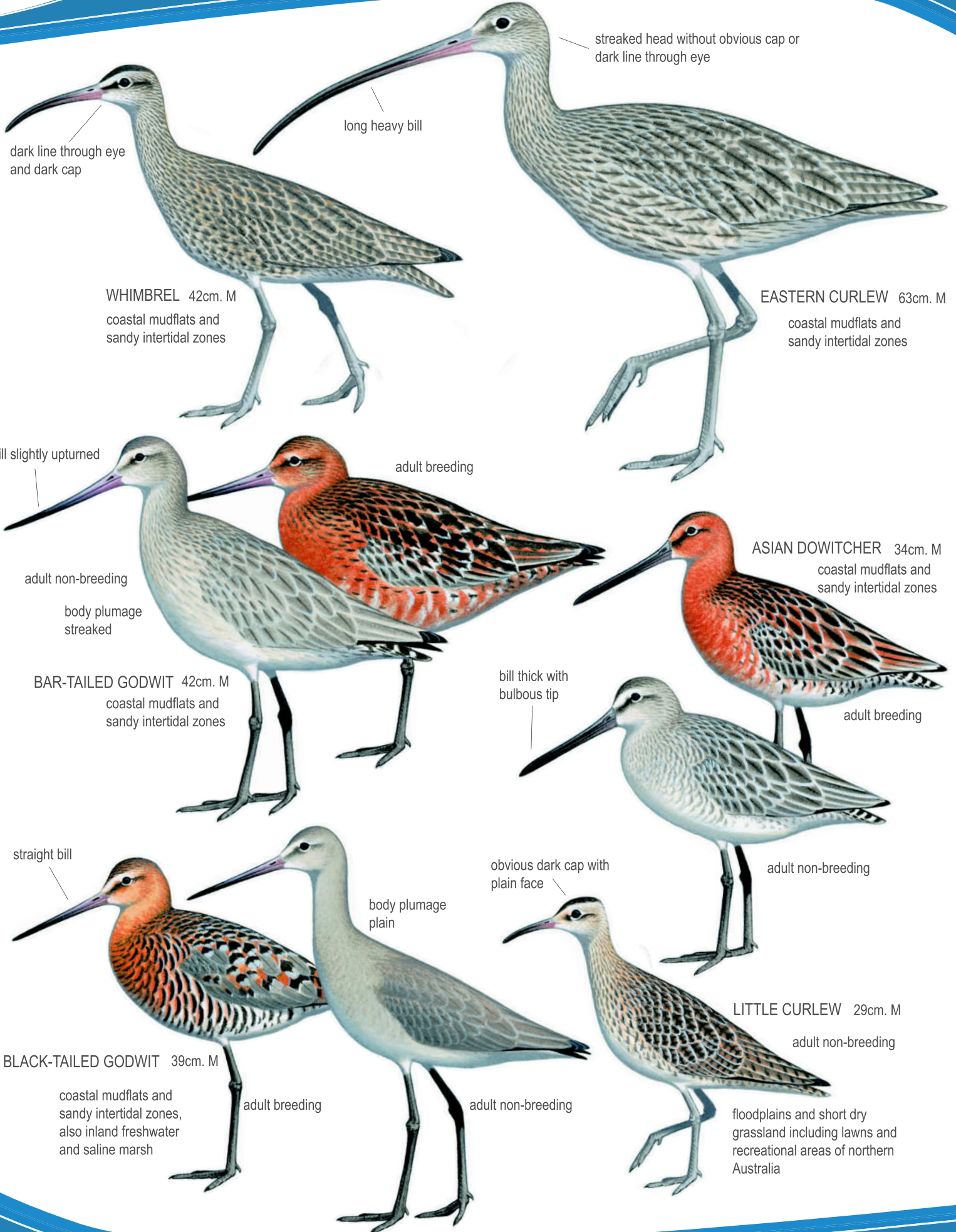
PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER 25cm. M

adult breeding



adult non-breeding

coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones, roosting in short saltmarsh herbfield or paddocks



dark line through eye and dark cap

long heavy bill

streaked head without obvious cap or dark line through eye

**WHIMBREL** 42cm. M  
coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones

**EASTERN CURLEW** 63cm. M  
coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones

bill slightly upturned

adult breeding

adult non-breeding

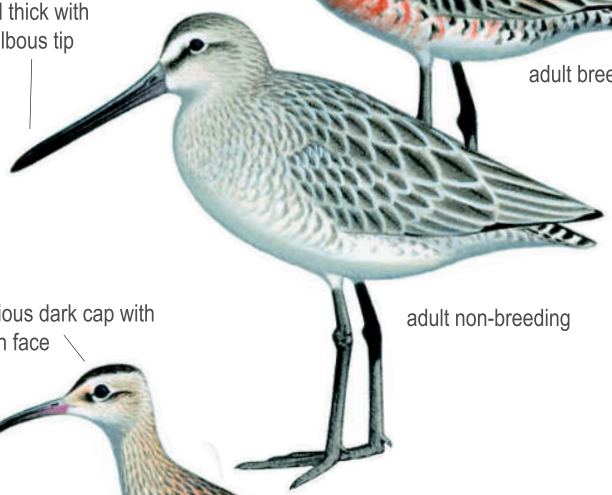
body plumage streaked

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** 42cm. M  
coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones

**ASIAN DOWITCHER** 34cm. M  
coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones

bill thick with bulbous tip

adult breeding



adult non-breeding

straight bill

body plumage plain

obvious dark cap with plain face

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** 39cm. M

coastal mudflats and sandy intertidal zones, also inland freshwater and saline marsh

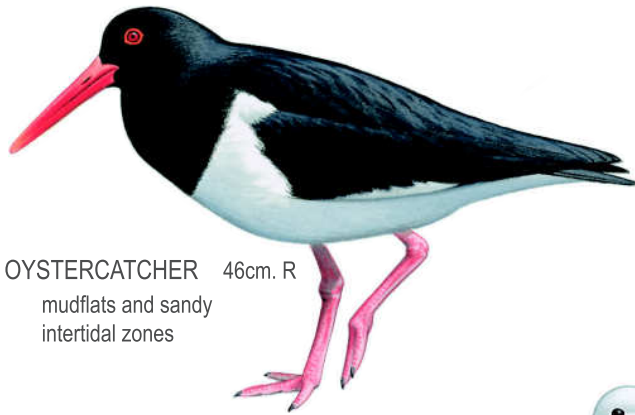
adult breeding

adult non-breeding

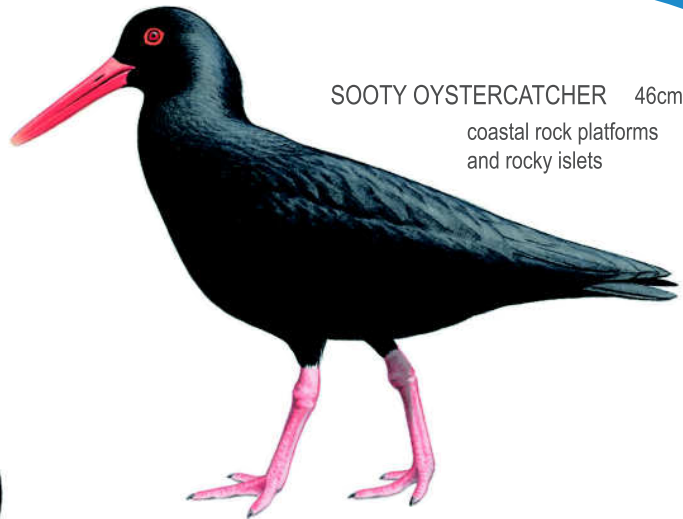
**LITTLE CURLEW** 29cm. M

adult non-breeding

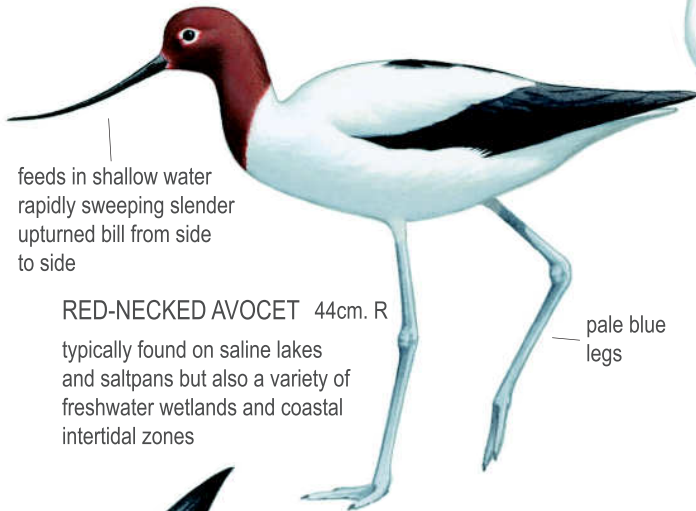
floodplains and short dry grassland including lawns and recreational areas of northern Australia



**PIED OYSTERCATCHER** 46cm. R  
mudflats and sandy intertidal zones

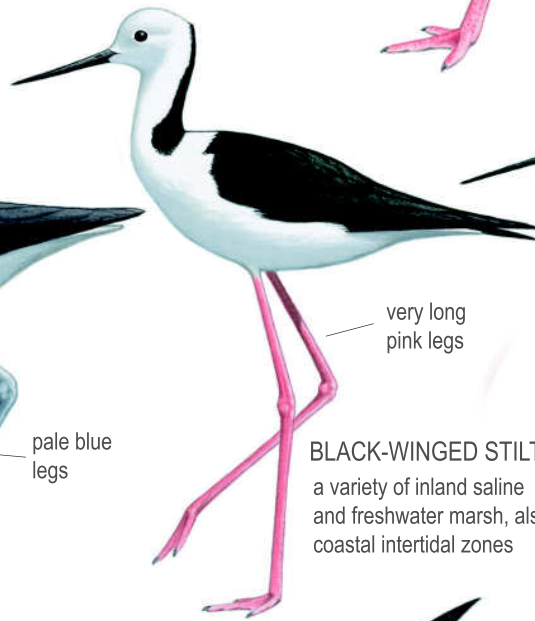


**SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER** 46cm. R  
coastal rock platforms and rocky islets



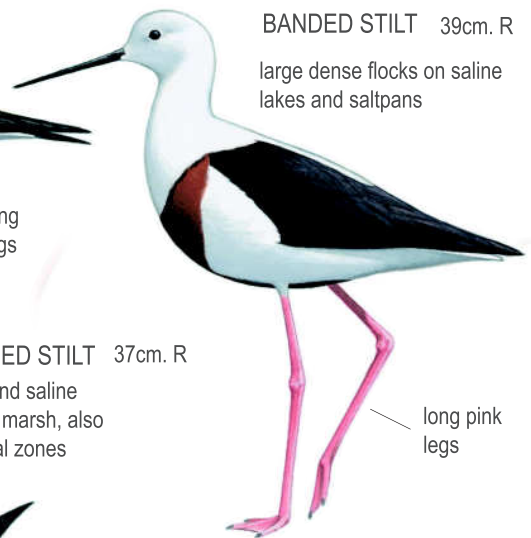
feeds in shallow water rapidly sweeping slender upturned bill from side to side

**RED-NECKED AVOCET** 44cm. R  
typically found on saline lakes and salt pans but also a variety of freshwater wetlands and coastal intertidal zones



pale blue legs

**BLACK-WINGED STILT** 37cm. R  
a variety of inland saline and freshwater marsh, also coastal intertidal zones

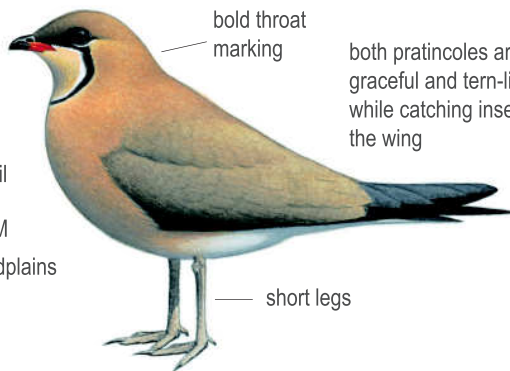


**BANDED STILT** 39cm. R  
large dense flocks on saline lakes and salt pans



forked tail

**ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE** 24cm. M  
open grasslands and floodplains of northern Australia



bold throat marking

short legs

both pratincoles are graceful and tern-like while catching insects on the wing



legs trail beyond square tail

**AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE** 21cm. R

open grasslands and gibber plains of the arid interior

chestnut belly

long legs

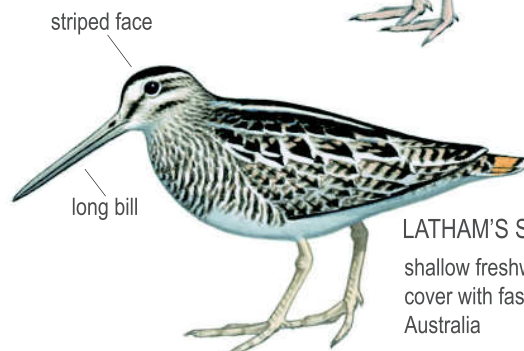
**AUSTRALIAN PAINTED SNIPE** 27cm. R



male

female

shallow freshwater swamps, sits quietly under cover becoming more active towards dusk



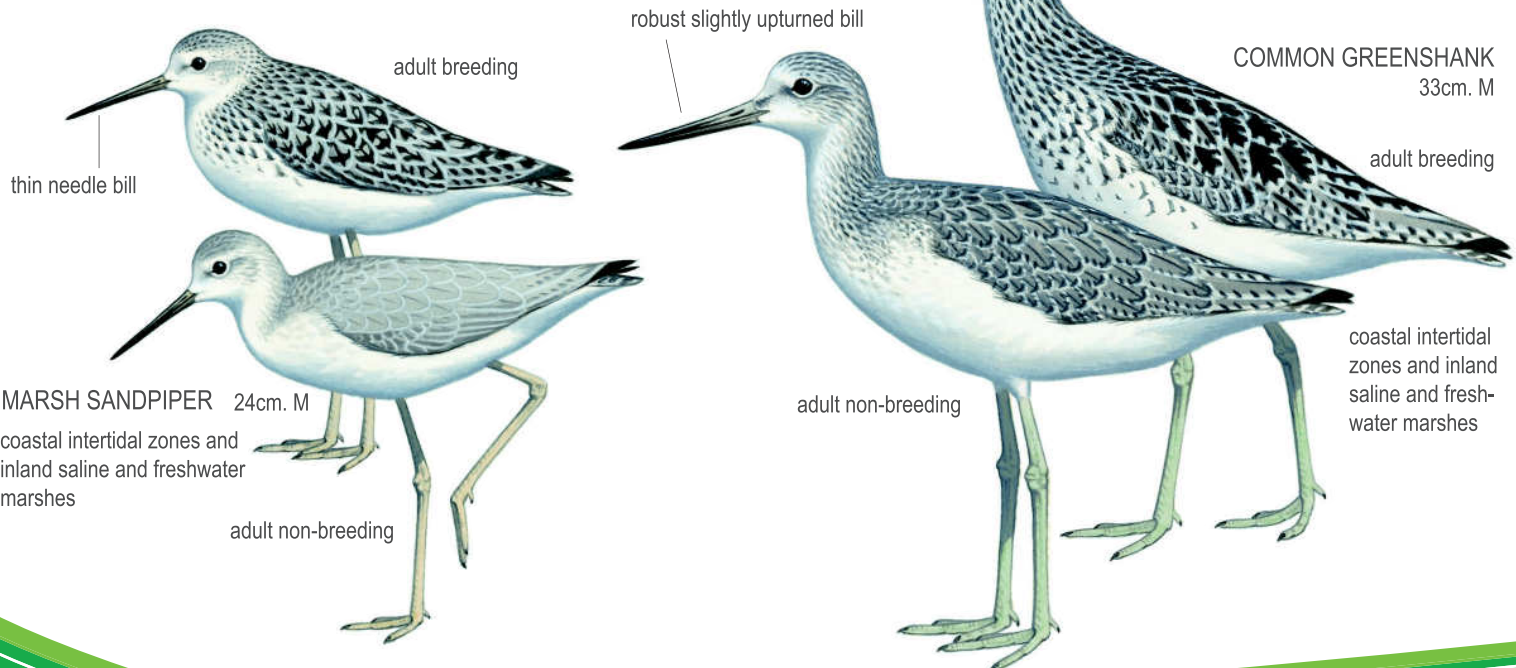
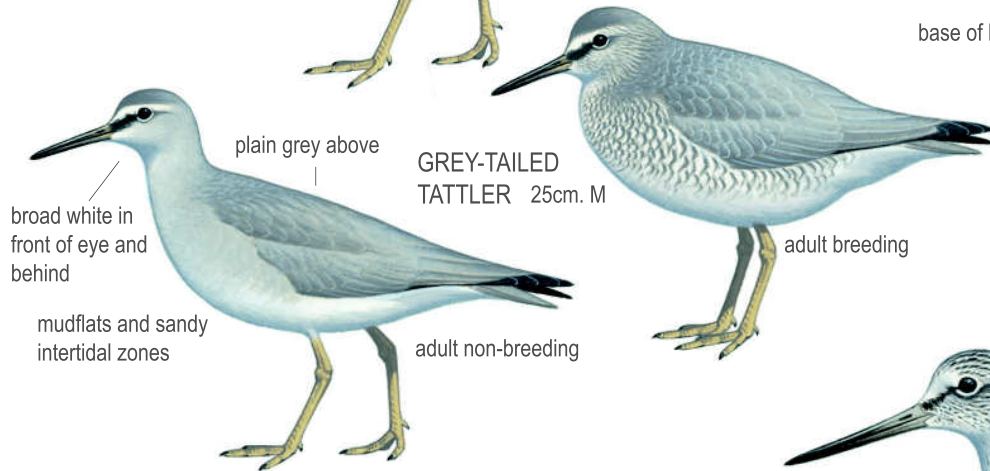
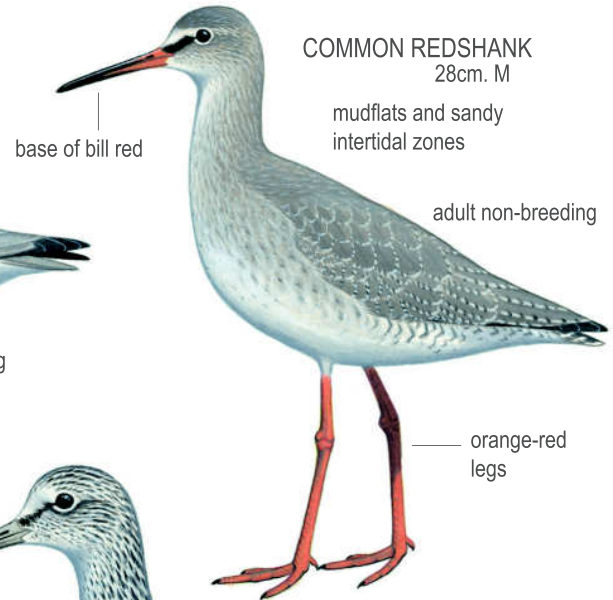
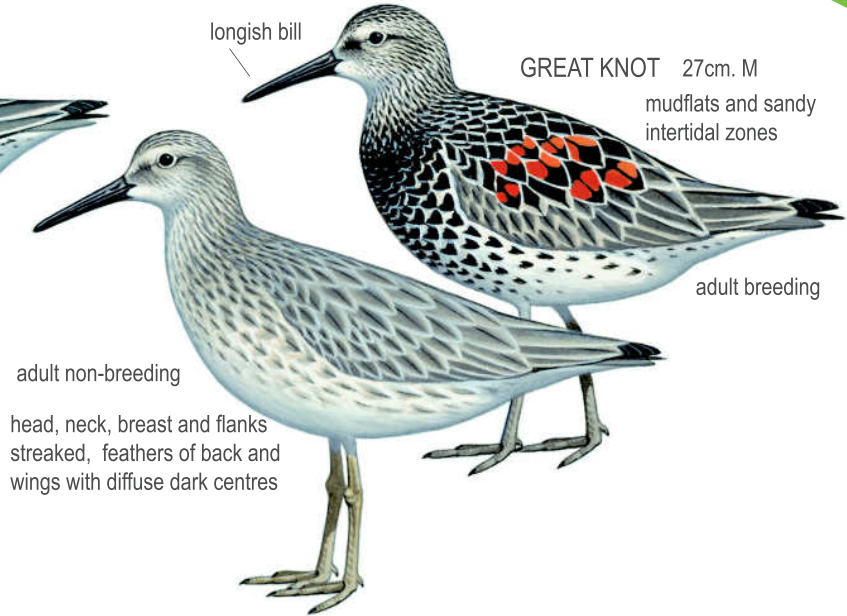
striped face

long bill

**LATHAM'S SNIPE** 31cm. M

shallow freshwater swamps, erupts from cover with fast zig-zagging flight, eastern Australia

another two species of snipe SWINHOE'S, and PIN-TAILED are recorded in small numbers in northern and western Australia, they are both difficult to separate in the field from LATHAM'S and each other



broad white eye-stripe  
adult non-breeding



**WOOD SANDPIPER** 21cm. M  
shallow freshwater marshes with abundant aquatic vegetation

yellowish bill base  
PECTORAL SANDPIPER 21cm. M  
adult non-breeding



coastal and inland saline or freshwater marsh

rufous in cap

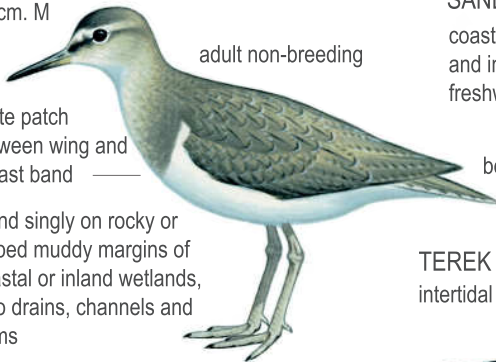


**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** 20cm. M  
coastal intertidal zones and inland saline and freshwater marsh  
adult non-breeding

streaked breast ends abruptly

adult breeding

**COMMON SANDPIPER** 20cm. M

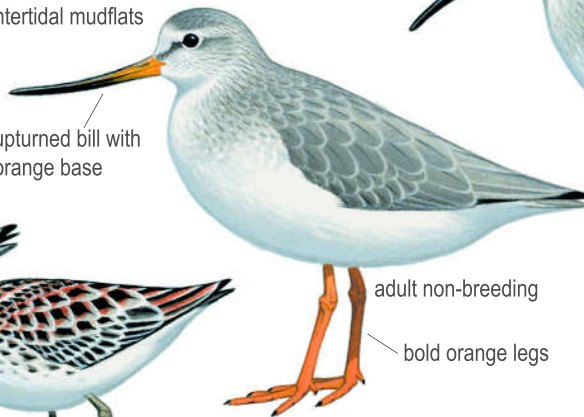


white patch between wing and breast band  
adult non-breeding  
found singly on rocky or sloped muddy margins of coastal or inland wetlands, also drains, channels and dams

flies low with wings bowed down, bold white wing bar

bobs long tail

**TEREK SANDPIPER** 23cm. M  
intertidal mudflats

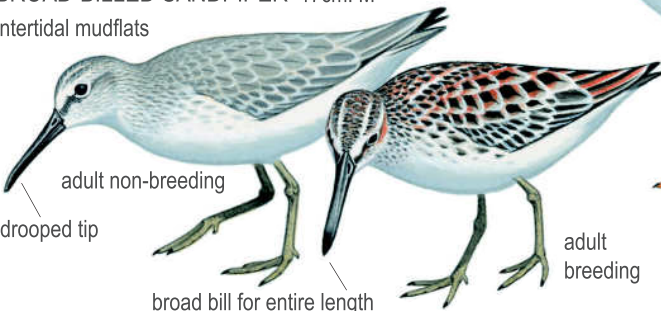


upturned bill with orange base

adult non-breeding

bold orange legs

**BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** 17cm. M  
intertidal mudflats

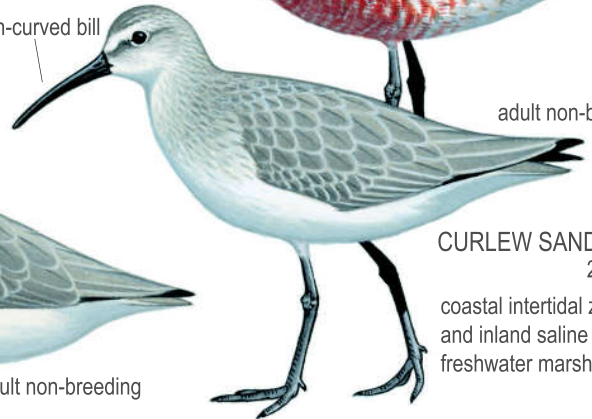


adult non-breeding

adult breeding

broad bill for entire length

long down-curved bill  
adult non-breeding



**CURLEW SANDPIPER** 20cm. M

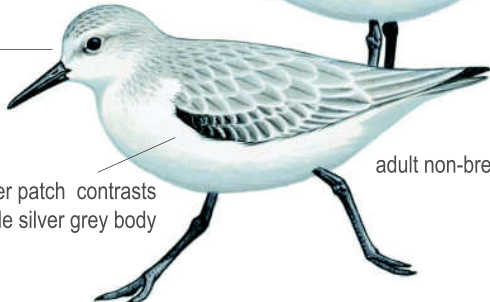
coastal intertidal zones and inland saline and freshwater marsh

**SANDERLING** 21cm. M  
adult breeding



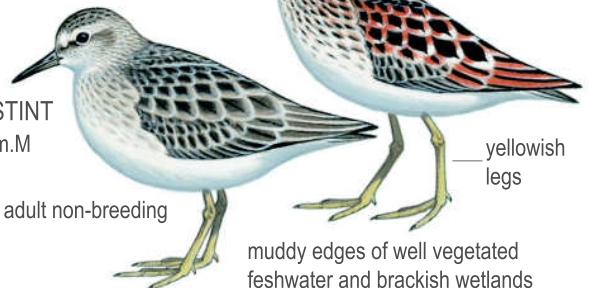
exposed sandy ocean beaches where tight feeding groups run quickly along edge of surf, also sandbars and mudflats

pale face  
adult non-breeding



dark shoulder patch contrasts with very pale silver grey body

**LONG-TOED STINT** 14cm. M  
adult non-breeding



yellowish legs

muddy edges of well vegetated freshwater and brackish wetlands

adult non-breeding

**RED-NECKED STINT** 15cm. M  
coastal intertidal zones and inland saline and freshwater marsh



adult breeding

blackish legs