



SHOREBIRDS OF ROCKPORT








— A Field Guide —
to Our Coastal Waters



TEXAS GULF COAST
★
ARANSAS BAY



POLOVERS

KILLDEER	BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER	SEMIPALMATED PLOVER	PIPING PLOVER	WILSON'S PLOVER	SNOWY PLOVER
						
Year-round resident. Most familiar plover. Double breast band.	Common winter visitor. Large and bold. Black belly in breeding plumage.	Migrant. Golden-spangled back. Long-distance champion (Alaska to Argentina).	Migrant. Single breast band. Smaller than Killdeer.	Winter visitor. Federally threatened. Pale sandy color, orange legs.	Summer resident. Nests on Texas coast. Thick black bill.	Year-round resident. Tiny and pale. Nests on open beaches.

LARGE SANDPIPERS

GREATER YELLOWLEGS	LESSER YELLOWLEGS	LONG-BILLED CURLEW	WHIMBREL	MARBLLED GODWIT	AMERICAN AVOCET	
						
Year-round resident. Most common shorebird on Aransas Bay. Bold black-and-white wing pattern in flight.	Winter visitor. Long bright yellow legs. Loud 3-note call.	Migrant. Similar to Greater but smaller. Quieter 1-2 note call.	Winter visitor. Enormous decurved bill. Largest North American shorebird.	Migrant. Large, striped crown. Curved bill shorter than curlew.	Winter visitor. Buffy-brown, long upturned bill. Aransas Bay flats.	Winter visitor. Elegant black-and-white with rusty head in breeding, sweeping bill.

PEEPS (SMALL SANDPIPERS)

WESTERN SANDPIPER	LEAST SANDPIPER	DUNLIN	SANDERLING	SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER
				
Abundant migrant and winter visitor. Most common peep on the Texas coast.	Migrant. Smallest shorebird in the world. Yellow-green legs.	Winter visitor. Drooped bill tip. Black belly patch in breeding plumage.	Winter visitor. The classic beach sandpiper chasing waves.	Migrant. Very similar to Western. Blunt bill tip.

DOWITCHERS & SNIPE

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER	WILSON'S SNIPE
		
Winter visitor. Sewing-machine feeding motion in shallow water.	Migrant. Nearly identical to Long-billed, habitat and call separate them.	Winter visitor. Cryptic in marsh grass. Explosive zigzag flight.

SCAN TO EXPLORE SHOREBIRDS & MORE!



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SPECIALTY BIRDS

RED KNOT	WILSON'S PHALAROPE
	
Summer resident. Nests locally. Bold black-and-white, absurdly long pink legs.	Migrant. Federally threatened. Aransas Bay is a critical stopover. Robin-sized with brick-red breeding plumage.

WHERE TO SEE THEM:



ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



GOOSE ISLAND PARK



LITTLE BAY



LAMAR PENINSULA & HWY 35 FENCE LINES

LOOK FOR THEM:

In marshes, tidal flats, beaches, shorelines, and estuarine waters across Aransas Bay.

