



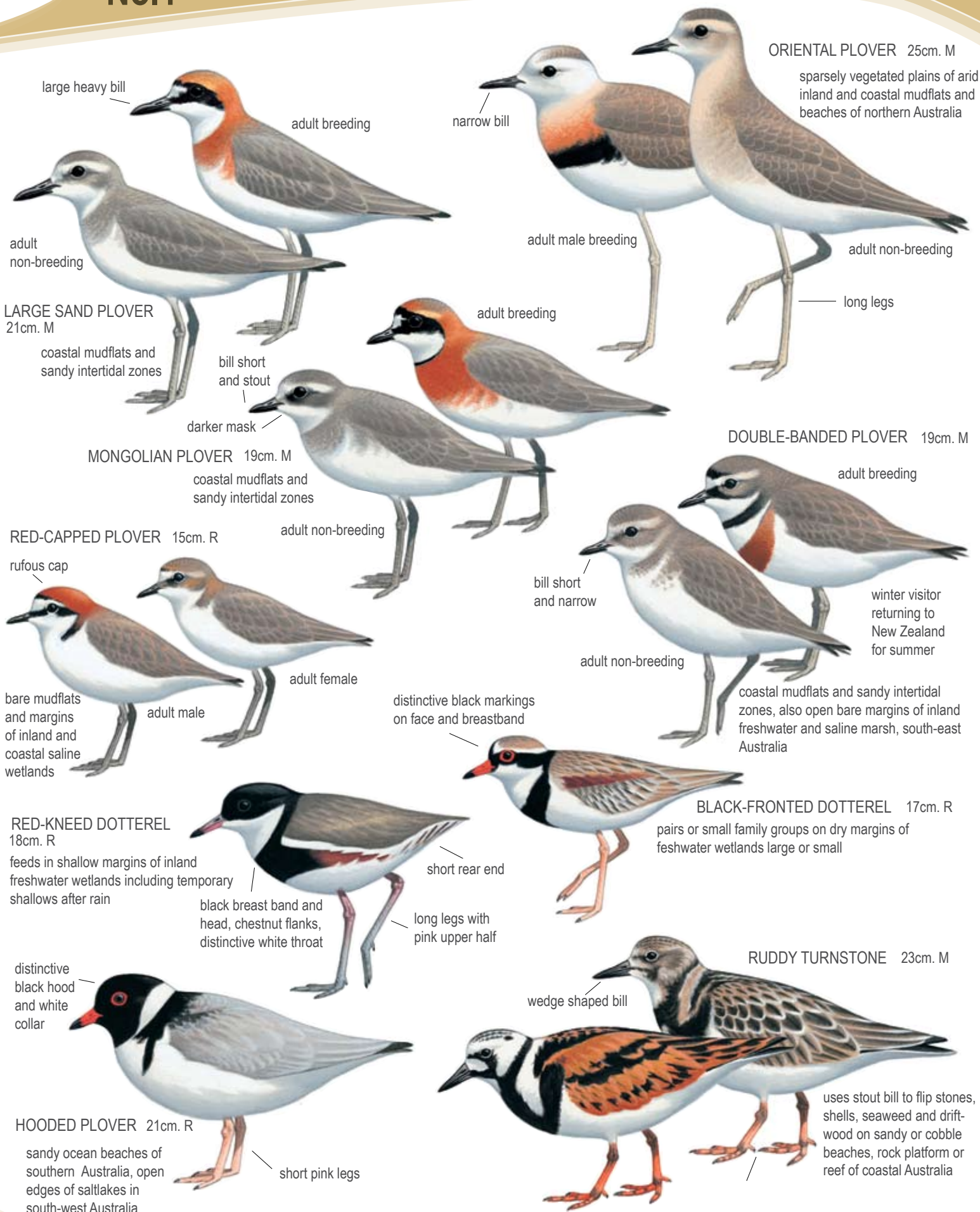
Australian Shorebirds Identification Sheet

Small Plovers and Turnstone

No.1



Australian Government
Department of the Environment
and Water Resources



M = migratory .

R = resident species.

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

Illustrations by Jeff Davies
for more information visit www.shorebirds.org.au



Australian Shorebirds Identification Sheet

Large Plovers, Lapwings, Stone-curlews and Jacana

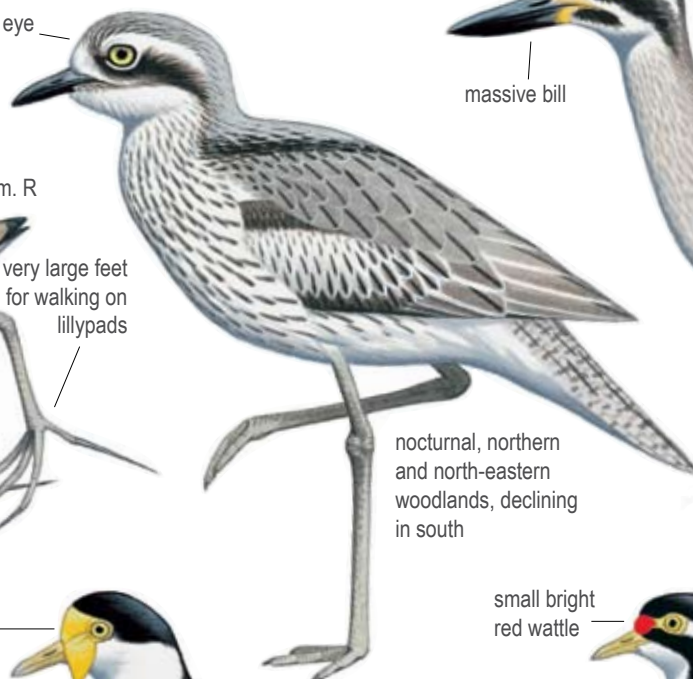
No.2



Australian Government
Department of the Environment
and Water Resources

BUSH STONE-CURLEW 55cm. R

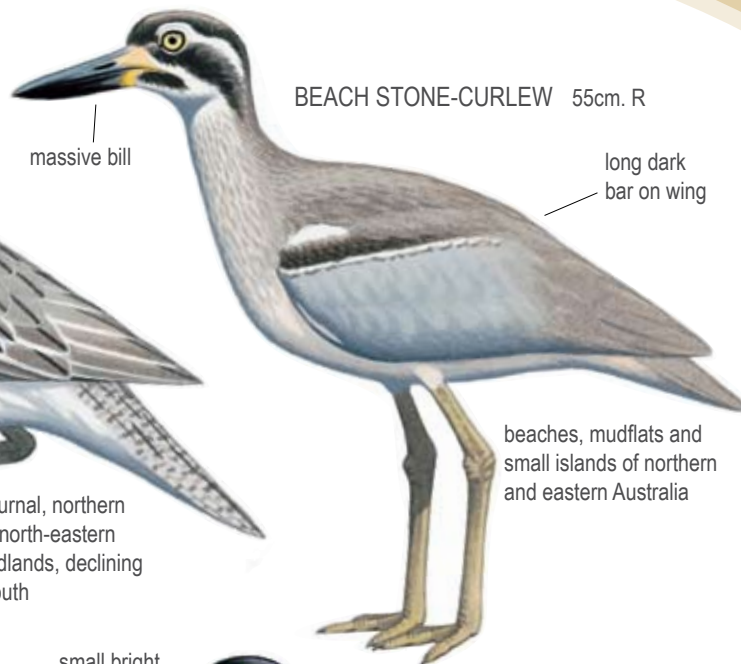
large eye



massive bill

BEACH STONE-CURLEW 55cm. R

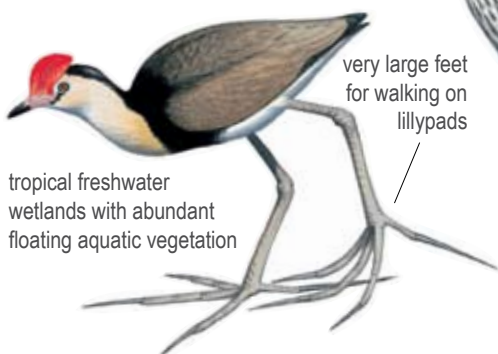
long dark
bar on wing



beaches, mudflats and
small islands of northern
and eastern Australia

COMB-CRESTED JACANA 21cm. R

very large feet
for walking on
lily pads

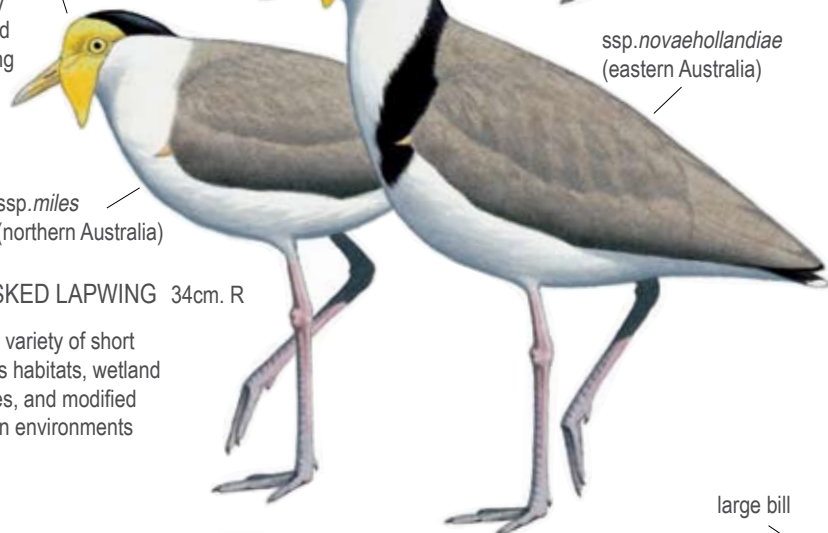


tropical freshwater
wetlands with abundant
floating aquatic vegetation

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

large fleshy yellow wattle

very noisy
with a loud
penetrating
alarm call



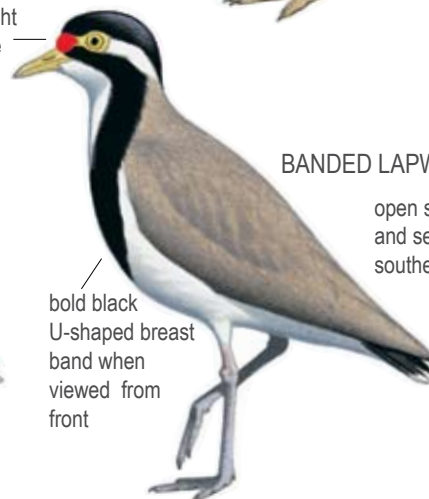
ssp. novaehollandiae
(eastern Australia)

ssp. miles
(northern Australia)

MASKED LAPWING 34cm. R

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

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

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER 25cm. M

adult breeding



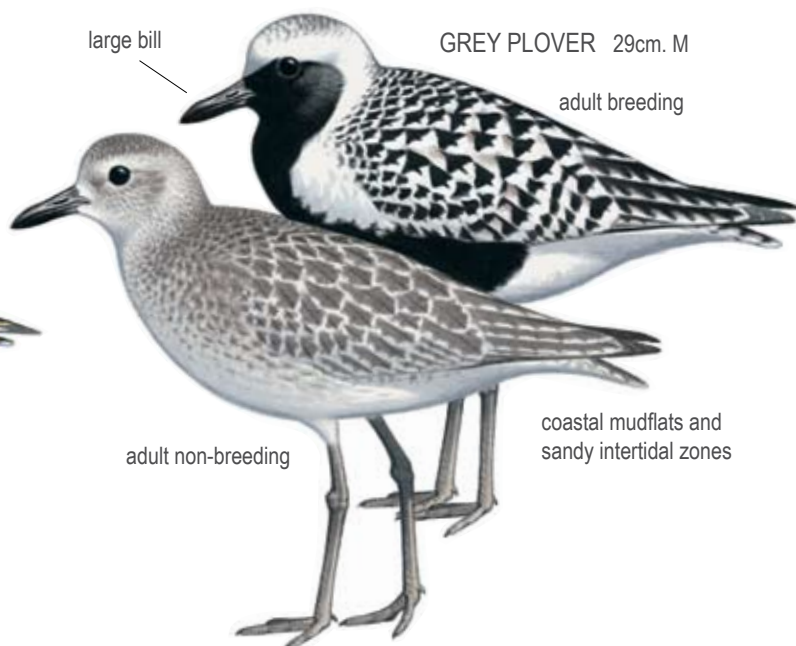
adult non-breeding

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

large bill

GREY PLOVER 29cm. M

adult breeding



adult non-breeding

coastal mudflats and
sandy intertidal zones



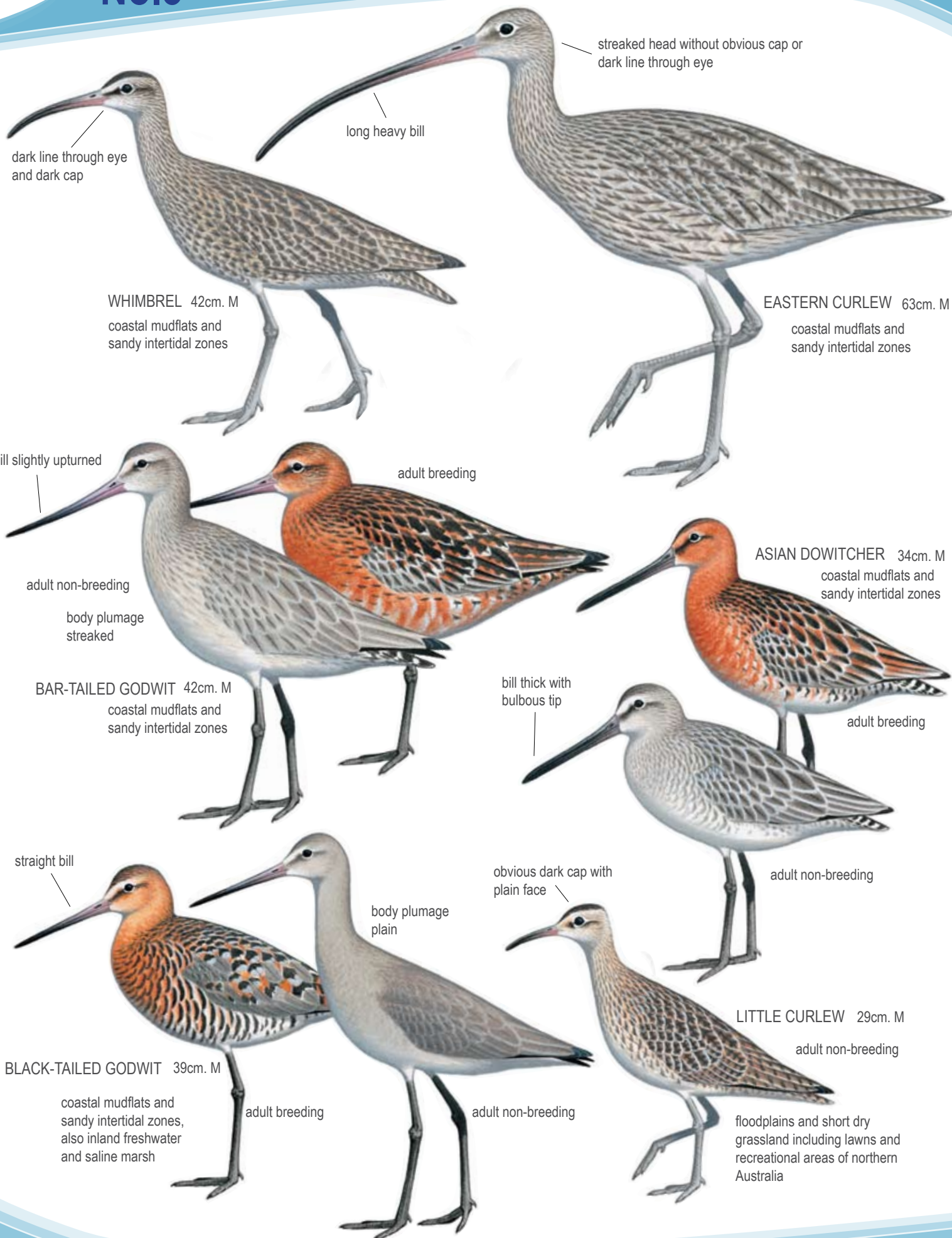
Australian Shorebirds Identification Sheet

Curlews, Dowitcher and Godwits

No.3



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

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Australian Shorebirds Identification Sheet

Oystercatchers, Avocet, Stilts, Pratincoles and Snipe

No.4



Australian Government

Department of the Environment
and Water Resources

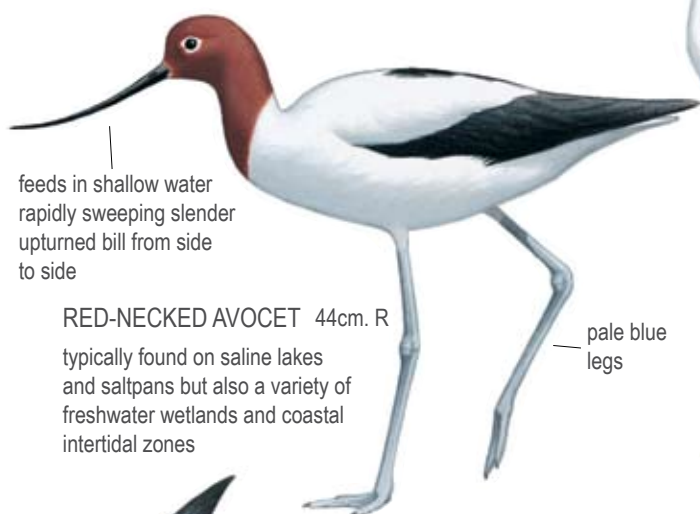
PIED OYSTERCATCHER 46cm. R
mudflats and sandy
intertidal zones



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



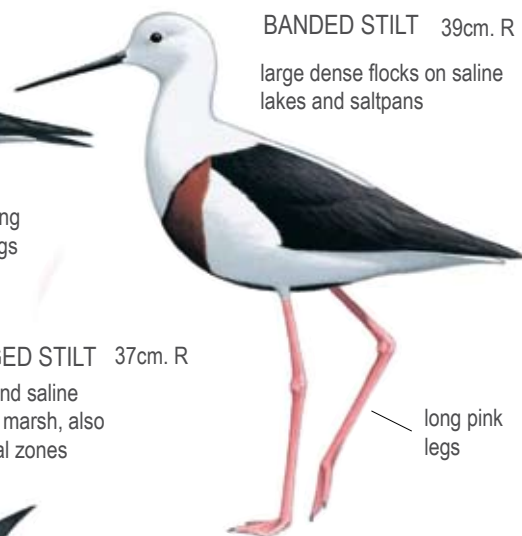
RED-NECKED AVOCET 44cm. R
typically found on saline lakes
and salt pans but also a variety of
freshwater wetlands and coastal
intertidal zones



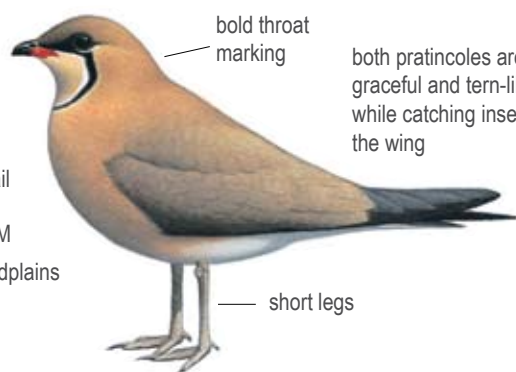
BLACK-WINGED STILT 37cm. R
a variety of inland saline
and freshwater marsh, also
coastal intertidal zones



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



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



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

legs trail beyond
square tail

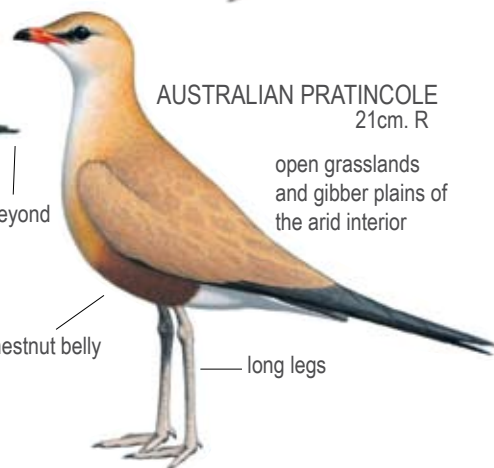


AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE
21cm. R

open grasslands
and gibber plains of
the arid interior

chestnut belly

long legs



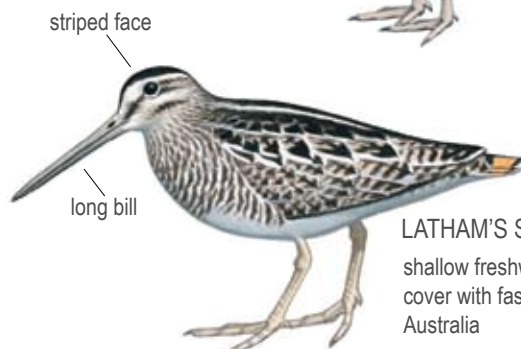
AUSTRALIAN PAINTED SNIPE
27cm. R



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



Australian Shorebirds Identification Sheet

Large Sandpipers

No.5

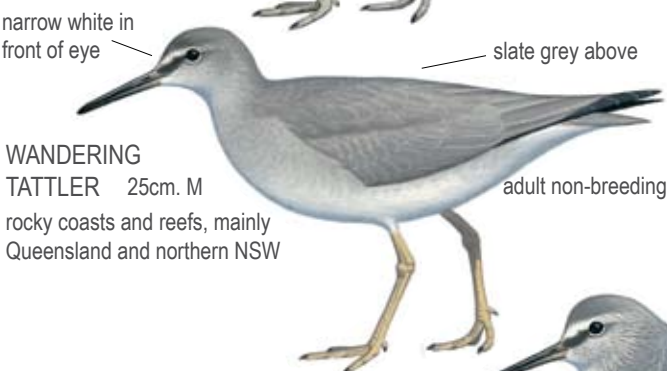


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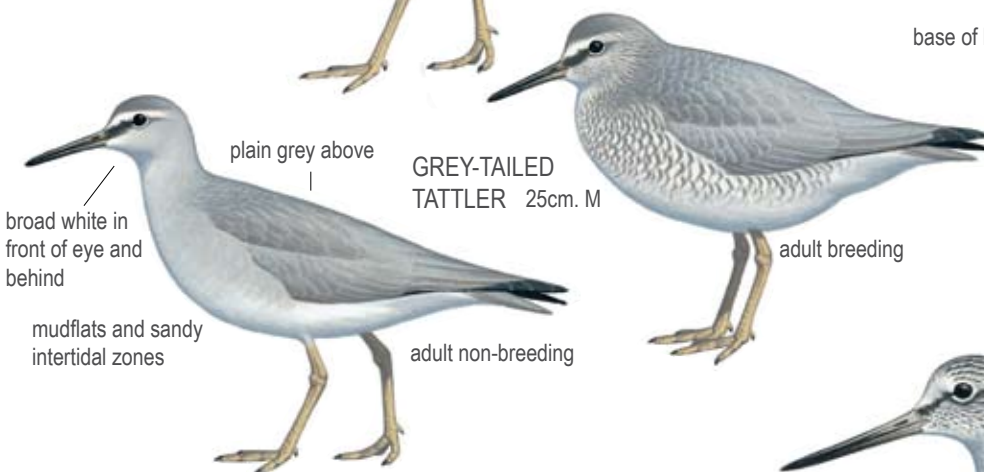


RED KNOT
24cm. M
mudflats and sandy
intertidal zones

feathers of back, wing and crown
plain grey with fine dark centre line

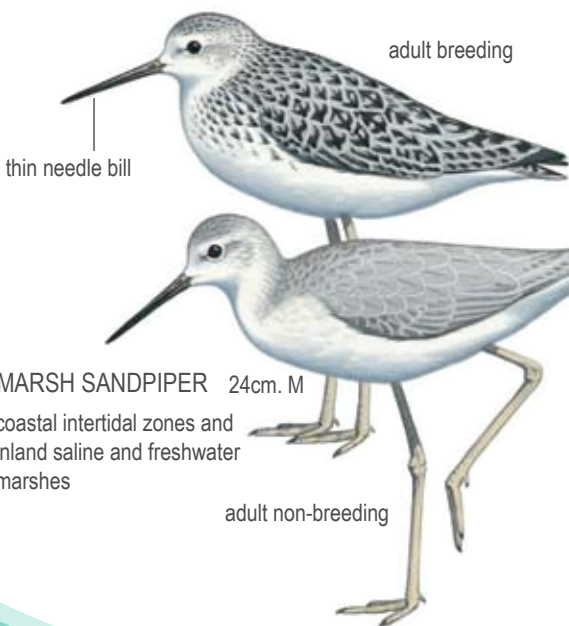


**WANDERING
TATTLER** 25cm. M
rocky coasts and reefs, mainly
Queensland and northern NSW



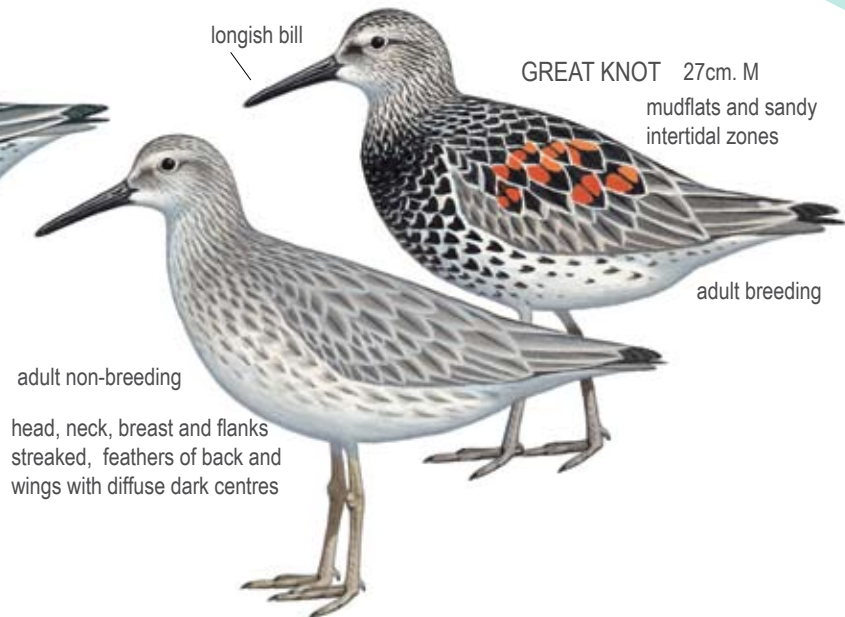
**GREY-TAILED
TATTLER** 25cm. M
adult non-breeding

plain grey above
broad white in
front of eye and
behind
mudflats and sandy
intertidal zones



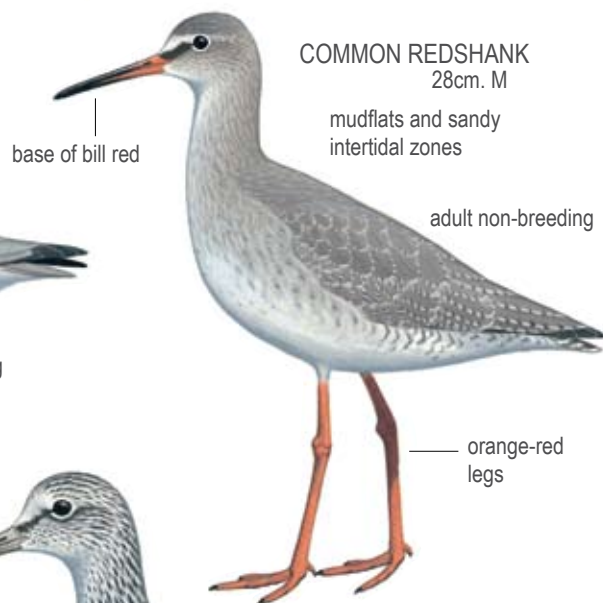
MARSH SANDPIPER 24cm. M
coastal intertidal zones and
inland saline and freshwater
marshes

adult non-breeding



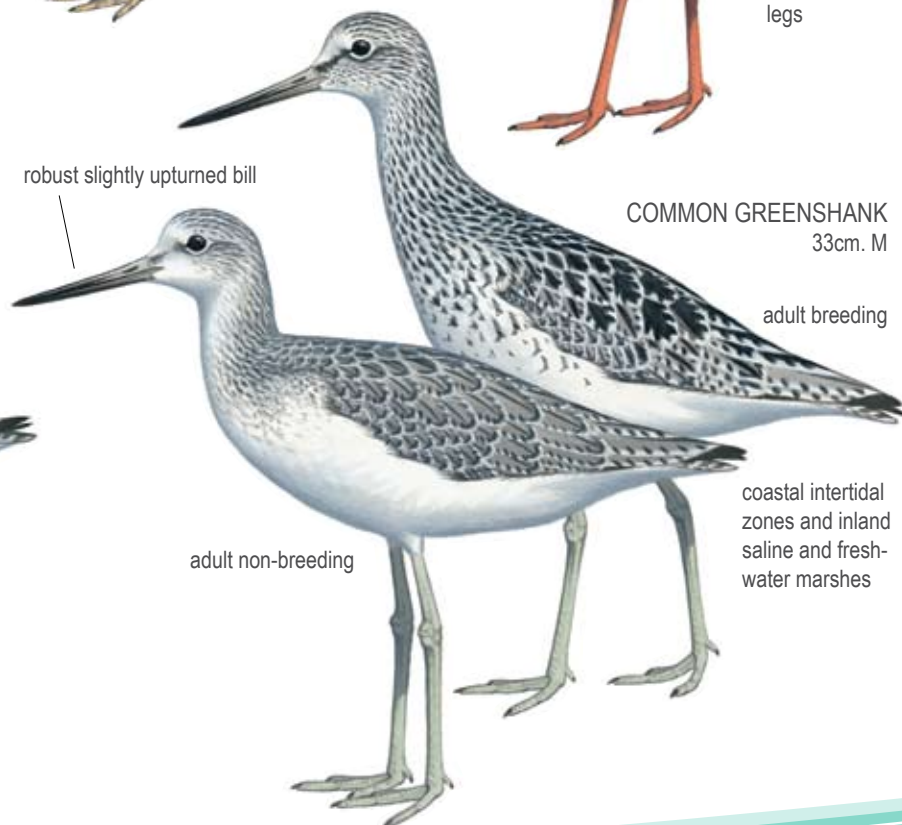
GREAT KNOT 27cm. M
mudflats and sandy
intertidal zones
adult non-breeding

longish bill
head, neck, breast and flanks
streaked, feathers of back and
wings with diffuse dark centres



COMMON REDSHANK
28cm. M
mudflats and sandy
intertidal zones

base of bill red
adult non-breeding
orange-red
legs



COMMON GREENSHANK
33cm. M
adult breeding

adult non-breeding

coastal intertidal
zones and inland
saline and fresh-
water marshes



Australian Shorebirds Identification Sheet

Small Sandpipers

No.6



Australian Government
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broad white eye-stripe
adult non-breeding

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

COMMON SANDPIPER 20cm. M

adult non-breeding

white patch between wing and breast band

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

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER 17cm. M
intertidal mudflats

adult non-breeding
drooped tip

broad bill for entire length

adult breeding

SANDERLING 21cm. M

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

pale face

dark shoulder patch contrasts with very pale silver grey body

adult non-breeding

rufous in cap

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

adult non-breeding

bobs long tail

TEREK SANDPIPER 23cm. M
intertidal mudflats

upturned bill with orange base

adult non-breeding

bold orange legs

yellowish bill base

PECTORAL SANDPIPER 21cm. M

adult non-breeding

streaked breast ends abruptly

coastal and inland saline or freshwater marsh

adult breeding

adult breeding

long down-curved bill

adult non-breeding

CURLEW SANDPIPER 20cm. M

coastal intertidal zones and inland saline and freshwater marsh

adult breeding

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