Shorebird Identification Workshop 1
Kevin J. McGowan

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Education

Kevin’s rule of 3 for beginners
1. Pick 1 – Identify 1 bird at a time
2. 2 many birds – Identify to a broad category, then narrow to a smaller group
3. Look for 3 – Find 3 clues or more

Basic Shorebird Diversity
- Plovers
- Peeps
- Curlews and godwits
- Tringines
- Snipe
- Phalaropes
- Others
How do you identify shorebirds?

- Size
- **Shape**
  - Color pattern
  - Markings
  - Behavior
  - Habitat
  - Calls

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Identify one shorebird at a time
- Use shape to narrow to group
- Compare size with other birds
- Watch for color patterns, especially when it flies
- Notice how it forages
- Notice where it forages
- Listen for calls

birds.cornell.edu/courses
macaulaylibrary.org/guide/voices-of-shorebirds