





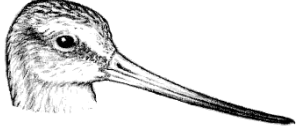



















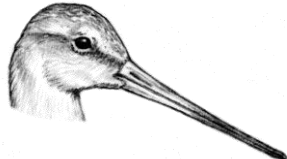









# AID TO WADER IDENTIFICATION IN THE FIELD

	BILL PROFILE	MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS	COMMON NAME (+ Bird Silhouette)
<b>BILL CURVES DOWNWARD</b>		Largest wader (53-61cm). Streaked brown, paler below. Longest bill – 4 x length of head. Female's bill longer than male's.	Far Eastern Curlew 
		Large wader (38-43cm). Bill 2½ x length of head. Mostly brown, with stripes on crown. Often roosts in mangroves.	Whimbrel 
		Small wader (18-23cm). Bill slightly longer than head. Plain grey-brown above, white below, black legs. Often feeds belly deep in shallow water.	Curlew Sandpiper 
<b>BILL CURVES UPWARD</b>		Large wader (38-45cm). Mottled grey-brown, paler below. Broken bars on rump and tail. Bill pink with black tip. Male turns chestnut on underparts when breeding. Prefers to feed in shallow water, often submerging head.	Bar-tailed Godwit 
		Large wader (31-35cm). Mostly grey above, very white under body. Long, greenish legs. Often found in marsh areas.	Common Greenshank 
		Small wader (22-25cm). Grey-brown above, white below. Short orange-yellow legs. Actively chases prey, crouching with head lowered.	Terek Sandpiper 
<b>BILL STRAIGHT &amp; SHORTER THAN HEAD</b>		Medium wader (23-28cm). Golden brown speckles on back and wings, cream below. Striking black bordered white on underparts and face when breeding. Large eye. Bill half length of head. Upright stance.	Pacific Golden Plover 
		Small wader (19-21cm). Chestnut markings on head and breast when breeding. Feeds by stop, run and peck method on surface of mud.	Lesser Sand Plover 
		Small resident wader (14-16cm). Grey-brown above, red cap, white below. Black legs. Nests on shoreline above high tide mark. Runs quickly in stops and starts.	Red-capped Plover 

## AID TO WADER IDENTIFICATION CONT'D

BILL STRAIGHT & SAME LENGTH AS HEAD		Small, dumpy wader (23-25cm). Mostly grey-brown. Crown less streaked than Great Knot. Slightly mottled breast turns reddish brown when breeding. Seen more during southward migration Sept-Oct.	Red Knot 
		Small wader (20-25cm). Larger and more upright than Lesser Sand Plover. Chestnut markings on head and breast when breeding. Surface feeder.	Greater Sand Plover 
		Small wader (17-23cm). Rusty crown and very defined feather pattern. Prefers mangrove and freshwater wetlands.	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 
		Smallest wader (13-16cm). Grey-brown above, white below, black legs. Light red head and neck when breeding. Very busy feeder, even through most of the high tide.	Red-necked Stint 
BILL STRAIGHT & LONGER THAN HEAD		Large wader (36-43cm). Uniform grey-brown, white undersides, white rump and black tail. Pink bill with black tip. Male turns rusty on upper parts when breeding.	Black-tailed Godwit 
		Medium dumpy wader (26-28cm). Mostly grey with mottled breast. Distinctive darker streaks on head.	Great Knot 
		Medium wader (24-27cm). Even grey above, white below. White eyebrows. Yellowish legs. Often roosts on rocky shores or in mangroves.	Grey-tailed Tattler 
		Small, finely built wader (22-25cm). Pale grey-brown above, very white below. Needle-like bill. Long greenish legs.	Marsh Sandpiper 

Illustrations & text courtesy Ivell Whyte Qld Wader Study Group

### WHEN IDENTIFYING WADERS IN THE FIELD, REMEMBER TO LOOK FOR:

- 1) **SIZE & FEATHER COLOUR**
- 2) **LENGTH & SHAPE OF BILL**
- 3) **LENGTH & COLOUR OF LEGS**