

Lunch Series Talk with Eric Stager  
Common Shorebirds of Central Texas

Q&A

**Q: Is there a good field guide specific to shorebirds?**

Yes, my favorite guide is *The Shorebird Guide* by Michael O'Brien, Richard Crossley, and Kevin Karlson. It's a big book, not something you're going to carry in your pocket.

Also good and more compact is *Stokes Beginner's Guide to Shorebirds* by Donald and Lilian Stokes, and the pull-out guide *Shorebirds of North America: A Comprehensive Guide to All Species* by Marc Minno and Kevin Karlson.

**Q: Are the Austin checklists available from Travis Audubon?**

Yes, you can get a copy from the [Travis Audubon Store](#). It's one of the best tools you can have for "simplifying the question" when you see an unknown bird. I keep one tucked in the back of my field guide.

**Q: Can we access the links to the shorebird migration maps?**

Here's an article on the [Bar-tailed Godwit](#). And here's a wonderful [video on the Semipalmated Sandpiper](#).

**Q: Are these shorebirds found along the entire Gulf Coast of TX or only in specific places?**

Where there is good habitat, most of these birds (and others we didn't discuss today) can be seen along the whole coast from South Padre to Sabine Pass.

**Q: What does "semipalmated" mean?**

Semipalmated means "partially-webbed", referring to the partial webbing between the toes.

**Q: What makes a bird "attenuated"?**

Birders use "attenuated" to describe a bird that looks long and stretched-out in shape, usually because it has very long wings, like American Golden-Plover or White-rumped Sandpiper. It would be the opposite of "stubby".

**Q: What's the best time to see shorebirds at Hornsby?**

Spring migration from late March – late May, and fall migration from July – October. The peak of shorebird migration is in August, when it doesn't feel much like fall!

Right now unfortunately, the best habitat at Hornsby is not very accessible due to a construction project near Pond 1W. Also, only the Platt Lane entrance is open due to covid-19, so driving around the ponds is not currently possible. We'll see if that opens up in time for fall migration.