

Shorebirds for Today and Tomorrow

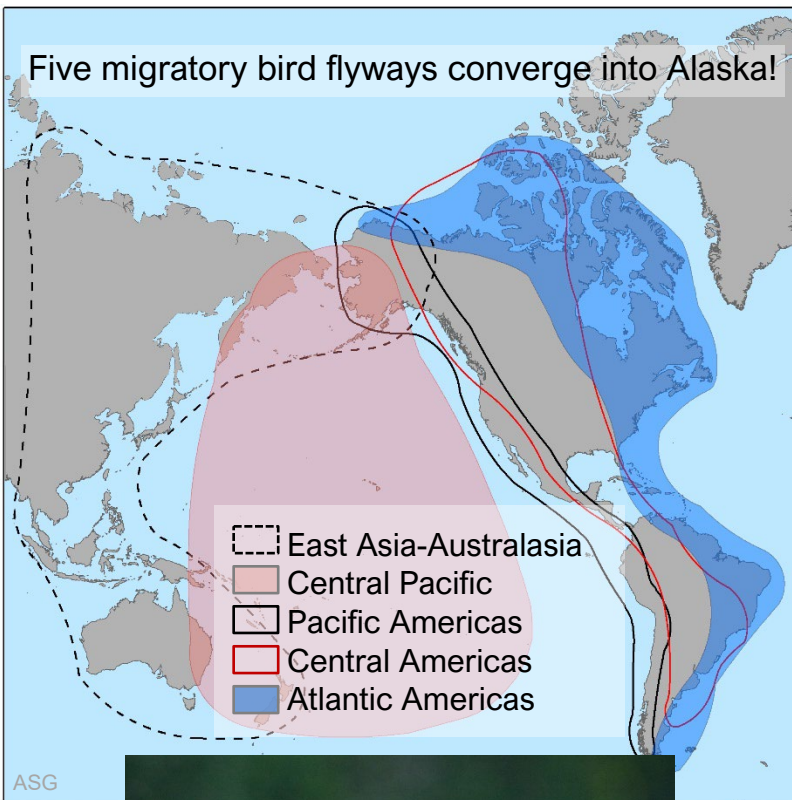
Not a gull,
not a sparrow!



**Western Alaska is
a super-hotspot for shorebirds:**

- Huge amounts of habitat and food for birds
 - Millions of breeding and migrating shorebirds
 - Shorebirds are food and cultural resources for subsistence communities
- DR

Five migratory bird flyways converge into Alaska!



Have you seen a banded bird?

Reporting bands provides key information about when and where birds move, their age, and health of populations. For species opened to hunting, it is legal for people to harvest banded birds. But please avoid shooting birds wearing tracking devices: Look for an antenna, a “backpack,” or a thick band.

Please report bird bands online at www.reportband.gov, or ask for help at your tribal council, school, and a National Wildlife Refuge (Yukon Delta phone 907-543-1037, Togiak 907-842-1063, Alaska Peninsula-Becharof 907-246-3339). When reporting a band, you do not need to tell your exact hunting location, just use the location of the nearest village. Quyana!

Ceñairet Maa-irpak Kingunemteñun-Ilu

Naruyauvkenani,
tekciuguvkenani!



DR

iisuraar /
semipalmated sandpiper



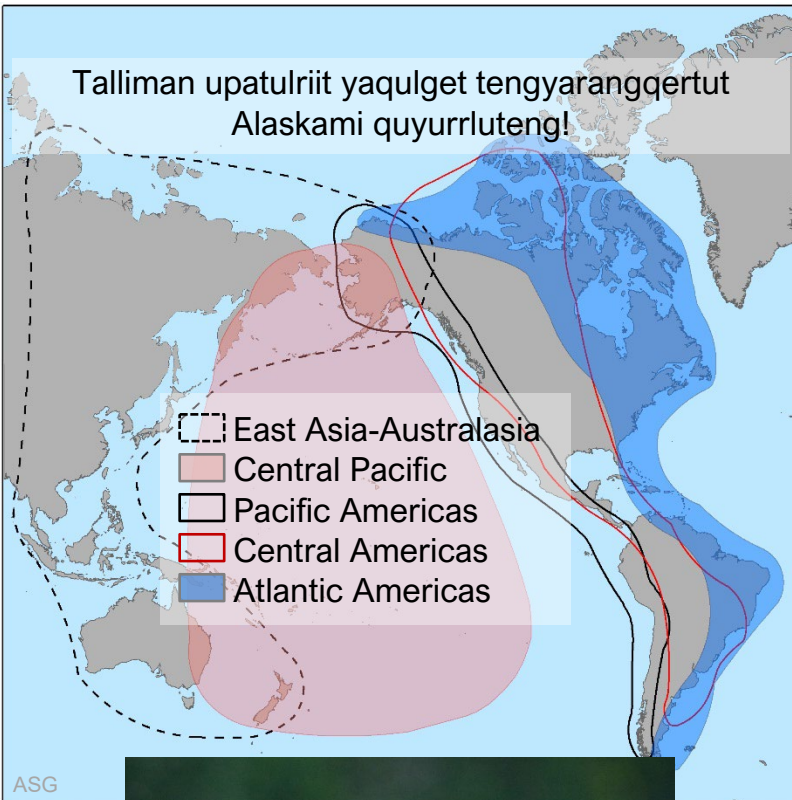
Ceñairet uitayunqegtut

Kuigpiim Kuskuqviim-Ilu paingategni:

- Angpiarluteng piviit nerviat-Ilu
- Amlepiarluteng kayangiyartulriit ceñairet upalriit
- Ceñairet elicautnguut yuuyaramun anagyaramun-Ilu piarkamteñek

DR

Talliman upatulriit yaqulget tengyarangqertut
Alaskami quyurrluteng!



ASG



MD

tuntussiik /
lesser yellowlegs

Tangellruuten-qaa yaqulegmek kulutmek atulriamek?

Qanrutkellriit kulutmek nallunaivkalartut nanluciatnek, allrakuitnek, cali ayuquciitnek tememi tamarmeng quyurmi. Awkut yaqulget pissuryuumallret, cangatnarqenrituq-gguq quyurcillerkaq kulutetulriani. Nall'aruskuvet yaqulegmek atulriamek nallunaikutmek, nutegyaaqevkenaku: kiarrluten nallunaikutmek, amaurcuutmek, wall' kulutmek.

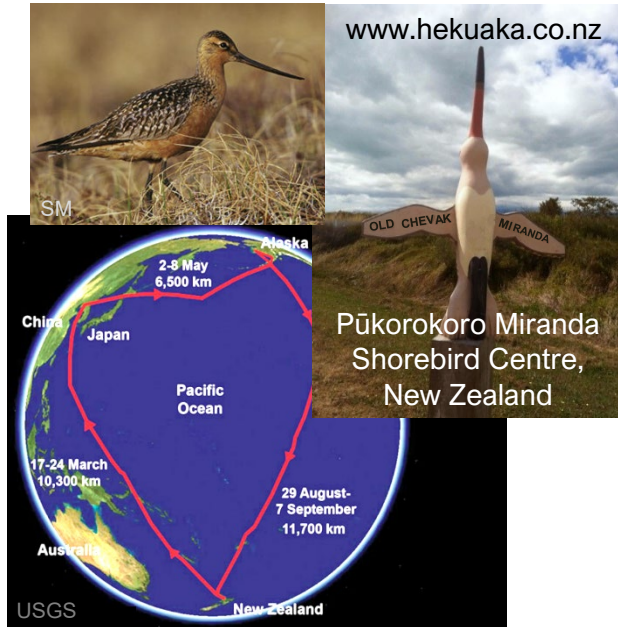
Qayagauteknarci yalqulget kulutiit online-arkun wani:

www.reportband.gov, wall'u ikayustarluten tribal council-aavnun, elitnaurvigmun, wall'u wavet: Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (qanerrsuutiit: 907-543-1037).

Qayagautek'kuvgu kulun, qanrutkenrilengerpegu nani pissurvillren, kiingan nunacuararpeci avatiinek. Quyana!

Migrations of Four Shorebirds that Breed in Alaska

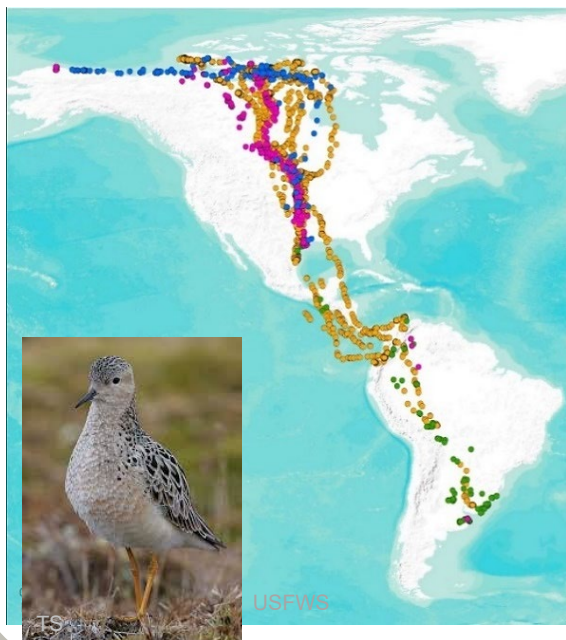
tevatevaaq / teguteguaq (Yup'ik)
bar-tailed godwit (English)
kuaka (Māori)



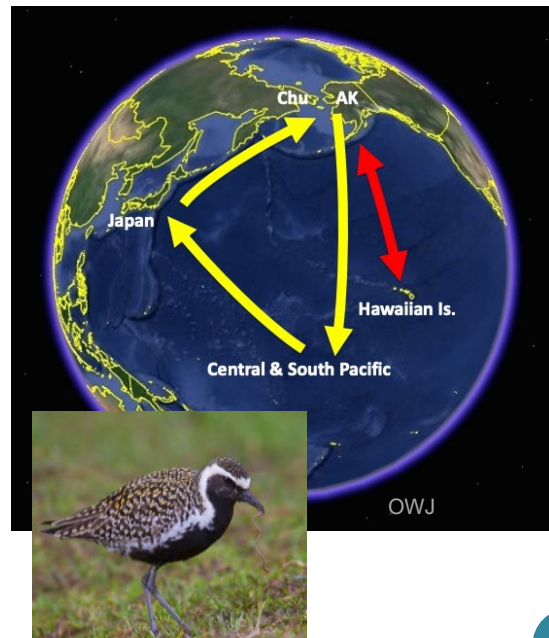
pipipiak / ik'ikikiaq (Yup'ik)
whimbrel (English)
zarapito trinador (Spanish)



temtemtaq / kukumaq (Yup'ik)
buff-breasted sandpiper (English)
maçarico acanelado (Portuguese)

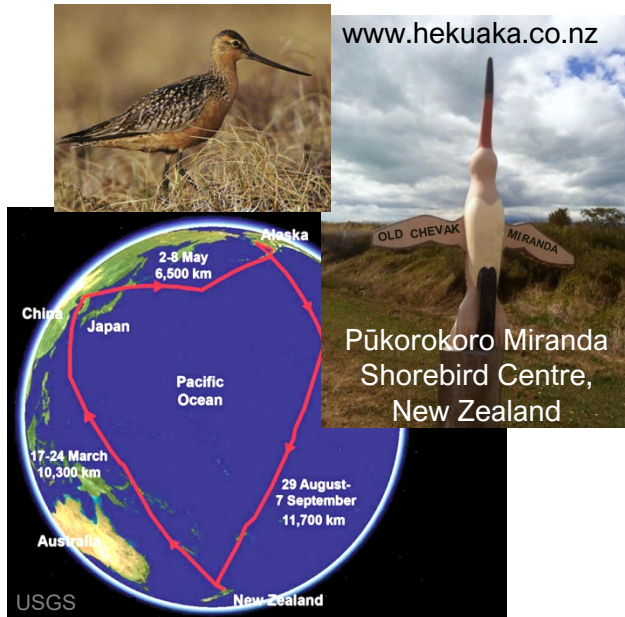


tuyik / tuuliigaq (Yup'ik)
Pacific golden plover (English)
kolea (Ōlelo)



Cetaman Ceñairet Eglercimallret Alaskamun Kayangiyartulalriit

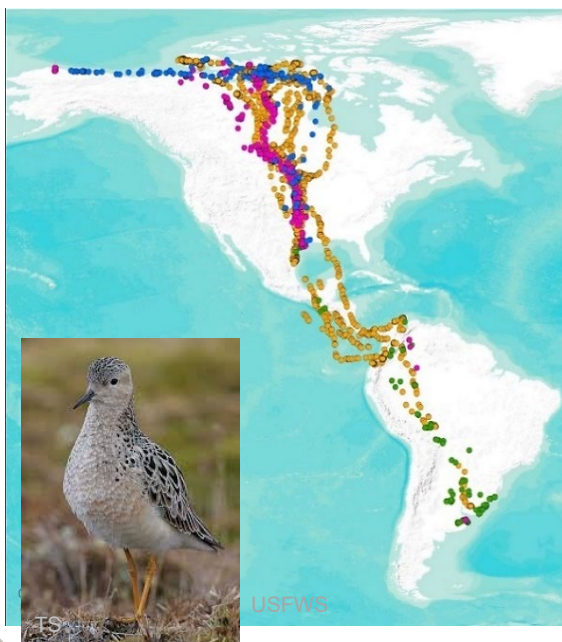
tevatevaaq / teguteguaq (Yup'ik)
bar-tailed godwit (English)
kuaka (Maori, New Zealand)



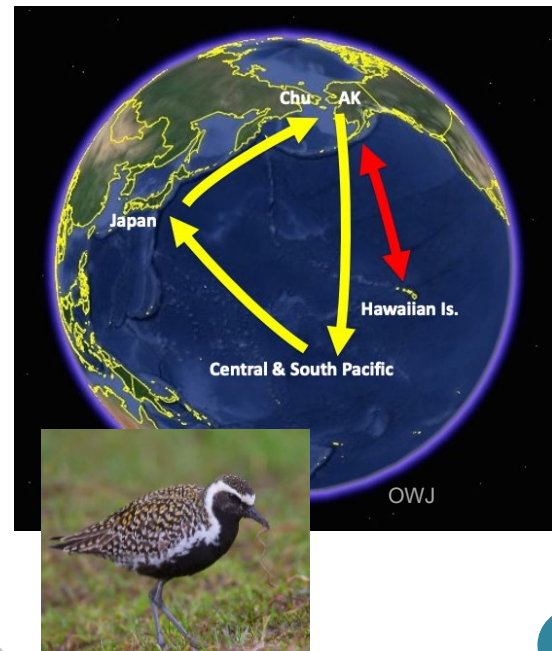
pipipiak / ik'ikikiaq (Yup'ik)
whimbrel (English)
zarapito trinador (Spanish)



temtemtaq / kukumaq (Yup'ik)
buff-breasted sandpiper (English)
maçarico acanelado (Portuguese)



tuyik / tuuliigaq (Yup'ik)
Pacific golden plover (English)
kolea (Ōlelo Hawai'i)



Shorebirds in Yup'ik Culture

Traditional knowledge builds over generations by people living in close contact with nature. The Yup'ik language is key to keeping Indigenous knowledge. Shorebirds and other birds connect people with the Yup'ik homeland, culture, and language. Older generations relate shorebirds with a time when people were closer to nature and the Yup'ik traditions.

Yup'ik families and children enjoy egg harvesting. Children harvest shorebirds when learning to hunt. Shorebirds and their eggs are not main food sources but are important for food security. Shorebirds and other birds are a joyful part of nature. In spring, the birds' arrival, singing, and breeding behaviors signal the end of winter.

In recent decades, Yup'ik people have noticed declining numbers of shorebirds. Based on traditional knowledge, Yup'ik people understand that animals, people, and the land are all interconnected.



AJ



Frances Hale and granddaughters, Hooper Bay

"It brings you back to health, when it comes alive on the tundra. [...] When the birds leave in fall, I say to them: Goodbye and come back again. My grandmother said the same thing. [...] Other people I know do the same thing because we miss the birds when they are gone." Quinhagak Resident

"I grew up with Yup'ik and nowadays we speak mostly English to our grandchildren. It's hard for us to remember those long-time-ago words that we hardly use nowadays." Hooper Bay Residents



Yup'ik mask, early 1900s

"I haven't hunted [shorebirds] in a while. I hardly see them around. Their numbers are going down and I don't want them to go extinct, so I wait [to hunt] until there are more." Hooper Bay Resident

Source: Naves LC, Keating JM, Tibbitts TL, Ruthrauff DR (2019) Shorebird subsistence harvest and Indigenous knowledge in Alaska: Informing harvest management and engaging users in shorebird conservation. *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* 121:duz023. <https://doi.org/10.1093/condor/duz023>

Ceñairet Yuuyaramteñi

Nutemllaq piciryaraput piciurtellruuq ilamteggun, ukanirpak nunamta qaingani anglillruamta. Qaneryaraput Yugtun aturtuuraqan erneq tamalkuan, nutemllaq piciryaraput katagngaituq. Ceñairet cali allat yaqulget malkanivkarlaraakut nunamtenun, yuuyaramtenun, cali qaneryaramteñun. Ceñairet umyuaqelavkalarait tegganret akaurtellria atullrit yuucimeggnek, malkaninrullratni nunameggnun piciryaraitnun-llu.

Ilakellriit cali mikelnguut nunanik'larait kayangussulleq. Mikelnguut pit'lartut ceñairnek elicungcaraqameng pissuryamek. Ceñairet kayanguit-llu angturpaunritut neqkanun, taugaam pirpaknarqut kaigyailkutmun. Ceñairet allat-llu yaqulget nunaniryuutnguut yuilqumi. Up'nerkami tekitaqameng, aturyarait nepiit, kayangillrat-llu nasvit'laraa uksuum pellulla.

Yupiit elpek'ngelqait ikeglikanillrat ceñairet nunait avatiitni, ukaqvakun allrakuni. Qanrumaan nutemllarmi piciryaramteñi, Yupiit taringumait makut ungunssit, allat yuut cali ilateng-llu, cali nuna usgucimallrit.



AJ



Frances Hale, tutgarak-llu, Naparyaarmiut

"Segg'aqercit'laraaten cali temen assiriluku, pek'ngaqami yuilqumi unguvaqerrluni. [...] Yaqulget ayagangaqata uksuarmi, pilaranka: piurci cali tainqiggnartuci. Maurluqa tuaten cali pilallruuq. Wangkuta goodbye-ayuitukut Yugtun; qanlartukut, tainqigeskici. [...] Allat yuut nallunrilkenka tuaten cali pilartut, ugaani yuarnariqerrluteng catairtaqata." Kuinerrarmiu

"Anglillruunga Yupiulua tua-ll' maa-i qanerrlainarnautukut qitevvluta tutgaramteñun. Enqakesciigaliluki awkut akaurtellriit qaneryarat maa-i atuyuuruskeput." Naparyaarmiut



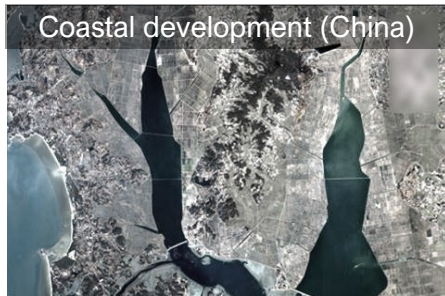
Kegginaquq, 1900 kinguvaraani

"Pissuqaqsaitua [ceñairnek] ak'anirneng. Tangluaqayuurutanka. Ikegliut cali tamasqumanritanka, wa-ga tau atanqellua [pissullerkamneng] nutaan tauḡaam amlleriqerreskata." Naparyaarmiun

Kinguneq: Naves LC, Keating JM, Tibbitts TL, Ruthrauff DR (2019) Ceñairnek quyruciyaraq nerangnaqsaram tungiinun, cali yupiit nallunriyutet Alaskami: nallunaivkarluki nerangnaqsaraam aulukestiit cali qaillukuallekait yuut qel'kumallerkainnun ceñairet. The Condor: Ornithological Applications 121:duz023. <https://doi.org/10.1093/condor/duz023>

Shorebird Numbers Are Declining Worldwide

Because of human activities and related environmental changes, shorebird numbers are quickly declining worldwide. Efforts are underway to understand and alleviate threats, but there are many knowledge gaps. Meanwhile, shorebirds need our help.



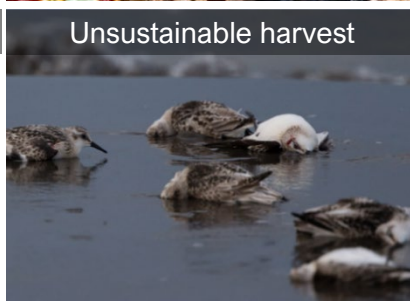
Coastal development (China)



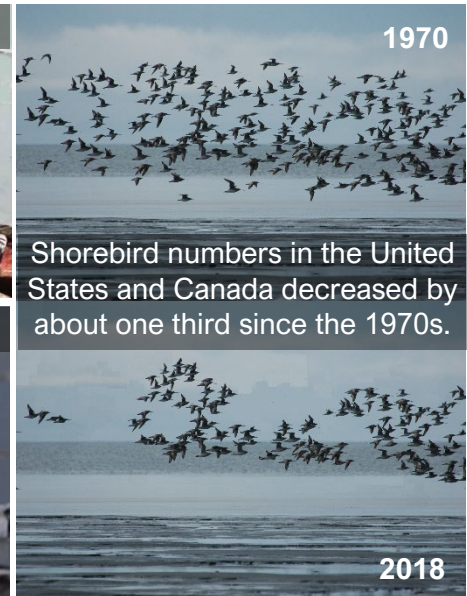
Pollution, contamination



Climate change



Unsustainable harvest



Shorebird numbers in the United States and Canada decreased by about one third since the 1970s.

Some Ways We Can Help Shorebirds

- Learn about shorebirds and their importance in Yup'ik culture. Ask local elders, biologists, and other knowledgeable people.
- Voice your concerns, share knowledge and ideas on how to help shorebirds and other birds.
- Report birds banded or tagged for research (see page 1).
- Do not waste in harvesting and using birds.
- Avoid disturbing shorebirds and other birds, especially at nests and when they are resting or feeding in flocks.
- Minimize ATV traffic on tundra and other natural habitats that are important for birds.
- Appreciate and enjoy shorebirds and other birds: they are food, beauty, and music. They connect Yup'ik people to their land and culture, as well as to other peoples and lands along the birds' migratory routes.

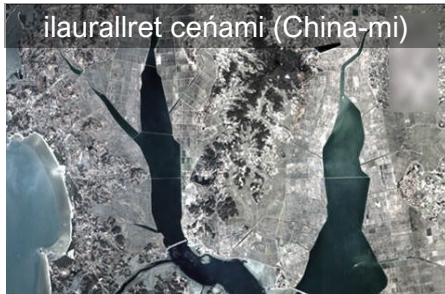


Project: Shorebirds for today and tomorrow: Culture- and place-based learning at Yup'ik schools and communities.
Partnerships: National Audubon Society-Alaska Program, local schools and communities, Cornell Lab of Ornithology-Conservation Media. **Funding:** Audubon Alaska. **Point of Contact:** Liliana Naves, phone 907-276-7034, email: liliana.naves@audubon.org. **Yup'ik translation:** Rebecca Nayamin (Cev'aq). **Updated:** November 2025.

Image credits: Alaska Shorebird Group (ASG); Amanda Boyd USFWS (AB), Andy Johnson Cornell Lab of Ornithology (AJ), Dan Ruthrauff USGS (DR), Jackie Keating ADF&G (JK), Katie Christie ADF&G (KC), Kristine Sowl USFWS (KS), Lili Naves ADF&G (LN), Matthew Danihel (MD), Milo Burcham (MB), National Park Service (NPS), Oscar Wally Johnson (OWJ), Steve Maslowski USFWS (SM), Ted Swem USFWS (TS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Ceñairet Ikegliut Nunarpagmi

Tarut nunarpiim qaingani qaillutussiyaagameng, ceñairet cukamek ikegliut. Cumigtengluteng maa-i aulukistet piut qaillupiaq ikeglungevkalrit aperturluki-llu cat taukut pivkallrat tuaten, taugaam-gguq cali amlletut nallunringnaqlerkateng. Piinanratni, ceñairet arcaqakait ikayuuteput.



ilaurallret ceñami (China-mi)

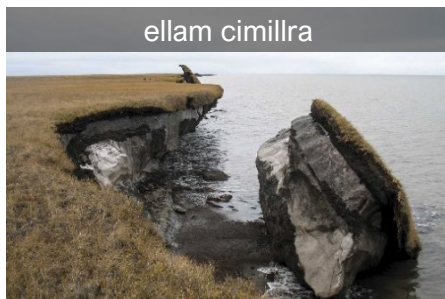


puyurrluk, assiiruyun carrluk



1970

amllertaat avatiini ceñairet North America-mi (37% ikeglillra)



ellam cimillra



tegyunairutellriit quyurtellerkat
nerangnaqsaram tungiinun



2018

Qaillun Allat Piyugngalput Tungiinun Ikayuryugngalput Ceñairet

- Yuarluten qaill' piyugngallerkavnek elitellerkavnek ceñairnek qaillun-llu arcaqakellrit Yuuyarami. Apqaurlukitegganerten, una Yukon Delta (907-543-1037) cali Togiak (907-842-8408) National Wildlife Refuges.
- Allat elpengcarluki cali allat nutarat umyuaqellret qaillun ikayuryugngalten puggluki-llu umyuarniuteten ceñairnek allanek-llu yaqulegnek.
- Atungnaquraaqluki tamaita pitat.
- Ilangciarangnaqevkenaki ceñairet allat-llu yaqulget, arcaqakluki kayangiviat, mernuircaraqameng, wall'u ner'aqameng puyunermi.
- Atussiyaangnaqevkenaki akagyaralgat yuilqumi cali allat nunat yaqulget elviit.
- Quyakluki nunaniryutekluki-llu ceñairet cali allat yaqulget: neqkaugut, kenegnarqut, atuutnguut, cali anernengqerrluteng usgulluki Yupiit nunameggnun, awkunun cali allanun tarunun cali nunanun, cali tengyarait yaqulget upagyarturviit.



temtemaaq / pectoral sandpiper

Caliarka: Shorebirds for today and tomorrow: Culture- and place-based learning at Yup'ik schools and communities.

Ilagauteellret: National Audubon Society-Alaska Program, elicarvigni nunacuarni-llu, Cornell Lab of Ornithology-Conservation Media.

Akilitestet: Audubon Alaska. **Qayagaurvigka:** Liliana Naves, phone 907-276-7034, email: liliana.naves@audubon.org.

Mumigilleq Yugtun: Rebecca Nayamin (Cev'aq). **Updated:** November 2025.

Tarenrat kingunrit: Alaska Shorebird Group (ASG); Amanda Boyd USFWS (AB), Andy Johnson Cornell Lab of Ornithology (AJ), Dan Ruthrauff USGS (DR), Jackie Keating ADF&G (JK), Katie Christie ADF&G (KC), Kristine Sowl USFWS (KS), Lili Naves ADF&G (LN), Matthew Danihel (MD), Milo Burcham (MB), National Park Service (NPS), Oscar Wally Johnson (OWJ), Steve Maslowski USFWS (SM), Ted Swem USFWS (TS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Yup'ik (Y) and English (E) Names: Ceñair, Shorebird

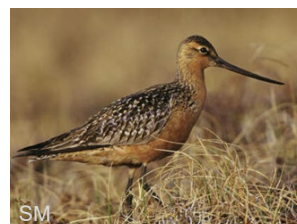
sugg'erpak (Y), long-billed shorebirds (E)



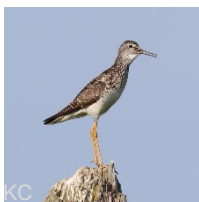
pipipiaq / ik'ikikiaq (Y)
whimbrel (E)



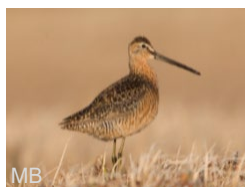
ciivikaaq (Y)
bristle-thighed curlew (E)



tevatevaaq / teguteguaq (Y)
bar-tailed godwit (E)



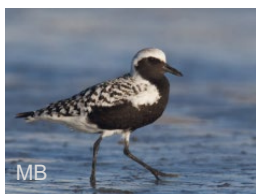
tuntussiik / kanagarpak (Y)
lesser yellowlegs (E)



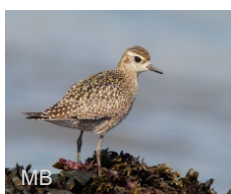
qayaruartalek / uuluyaqneq (Y)
long-billed dowitcher (E)



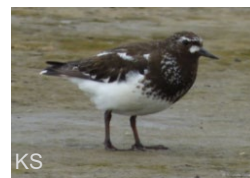
kukukuaq (Y)
Wilson's snipe (E)



tuyik / tuulligaaq / tuliiq-tuliiq (Y)
black-bellied plover (E)



tuulliyagaq / iituligaaq (Y)
young Pacific golden plover (E)



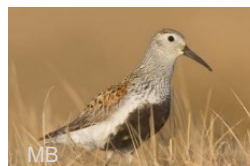
ciilmak / qiuracetaaq (Y)
black turnstone (E)



uyarr'uyaaq (Y)
semipalmated plover (E)



iisuraar / iiyuraar (Y)
western sandpiper (E)



curemraq / iisuraarpak (Y)
dunlin (E)



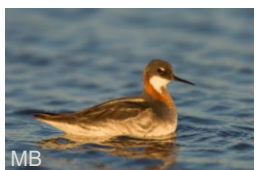
levlevlaraq / ulevlaq (Y)
least sandpiper (E)



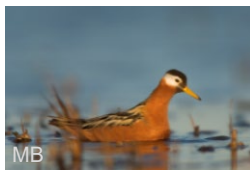
temtemtaaqaq / kumkumaaq (Y)
pectoral sandpiper (E)



ikigcaqaq (Y)
spotted sandpiper (E)



imaqcaar / teleqcaar (Y)
red-necked phalarope (E)



augtuar / ayungnaar (Y)
red phalarope (E)



puyunaq (Y)
shorebird flock (E)

Yugtun (Y) cali Kass'atun (E) Atrit: Ceñair, Shorebird

sugg'erpak (Y), long-billed shorebirds (E)



pipipiaq / ik'ikikiaq (Y)
whimbrel (E)



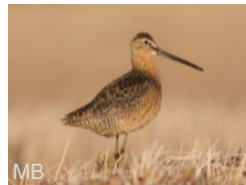
ciivikaaq (Y)
bristle-thighed curlew (E)



tevatevaaq / teguteguaq (Y)
bar-tailed godwit (E)



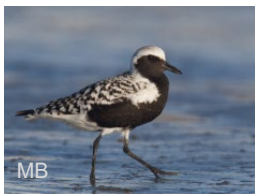
tuntussiik / kanagarpak (Y)
lesser yellowlegs (E)



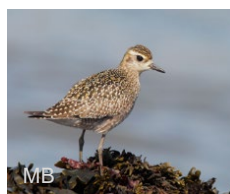
qayaruartalek / uuluyaqneq (Y)
long-billed dowitcher (E)



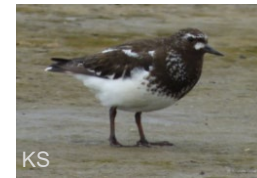
kukukuaq (Y)
Wilson's snipe (E)



tuyik / tuulligaaq / tuliiq-tuliiq (Y)
black-bellied plover (E)



tuulliyagaq / iituligaaq (Y)
young Pacific golden plover (E)



ciilmak / qiuracetaaq (Y)
black turnstone (E)



uyarr'uyaaq (Y)
semipalmated plover (E)



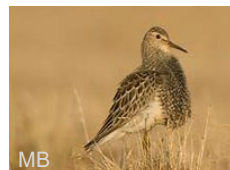
iisuraar / iiyuraar (Y)
western sandpiper (E)



curemraq / iisuraarpak (Y)
dunlin (E)



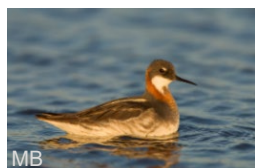
levlevlaraq / ulevlaq (Y)
least sandpiper (E)



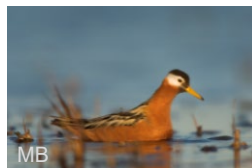
temtemtaaq / kumkumaaq (Y)
pectoral sandpiper (E)



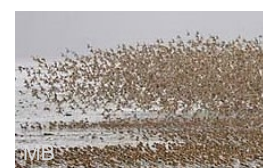
ikigcaaq (Y)
spotted sandpiper (E)



imaqcaar / teleqcaar (Y)
red-necked phalarope (E)



augtuar / ayungnaar (Y)
red phalarope (E)



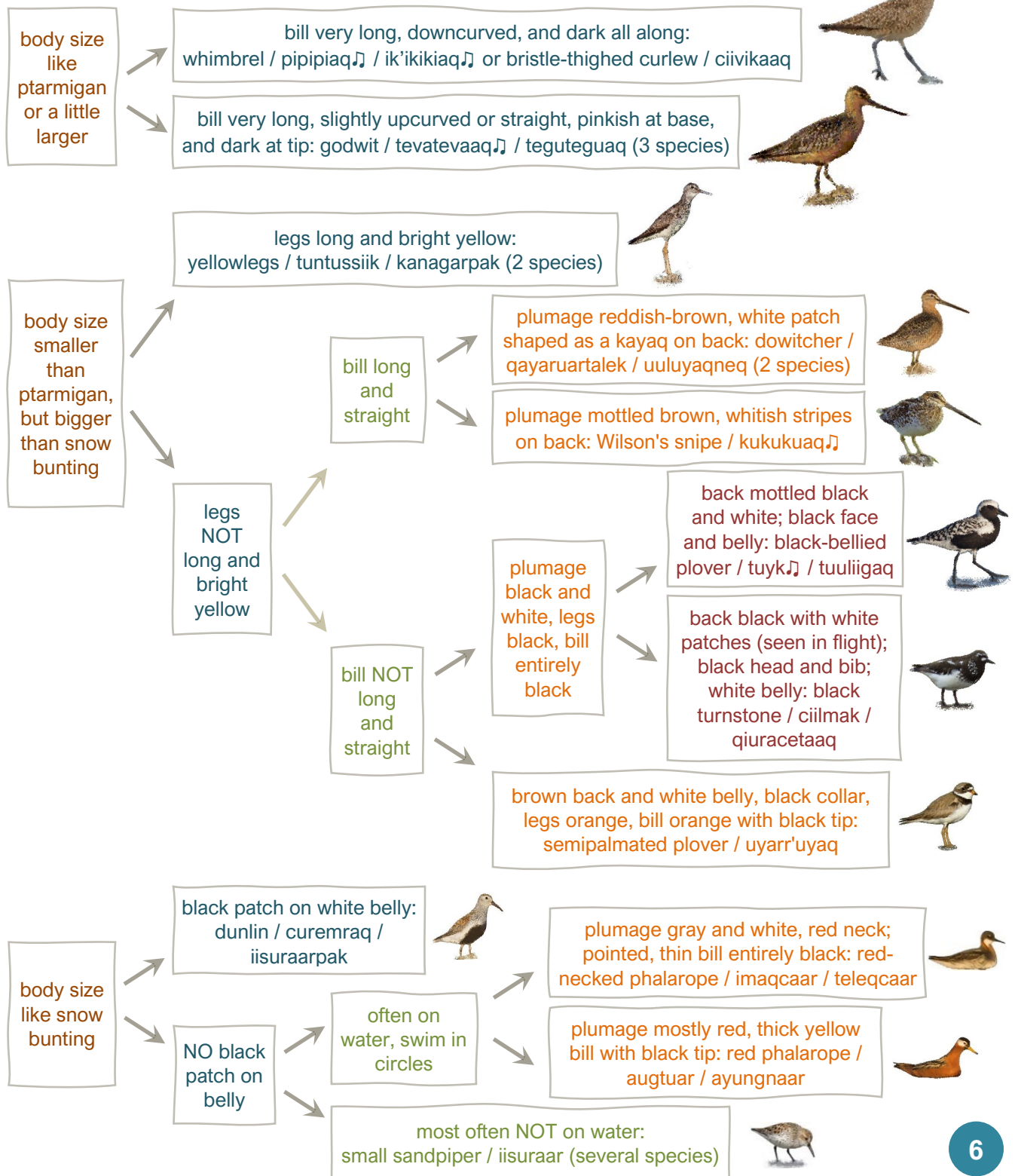
puyunaq (Y)
shorebird flock (E)

Dichotomous Key to Identify Some Shorebirds that Nest in Western Alaska

Starting on the left, colors and arrows indicate successive steps to identify a bird.

Bird images on this page depict size differences among species.

♪: This symbol indicates Yup'ik names that mimic bird sounds.



Avguyun Nasvirluki Ceñairet Kayangilriit Kuigpiim-Kuskuqviim-Ilu Paingani (Melquit Qaraliit Kayangiaqata)

Ayagnirluni iqsulirnermek, igat mingumalriit yaasiicuarat iluatni manimauq **ayagtu'llra** qaillun nallunaillerkaq yaqulegmek.

Wanigga makut yaqulget angataciit ellmegteggun allani elucini ayuqenrilkiitni.

♪: Una tarenracuar aperquutnguq maniilluki atrit Yugtun ayuquciirluki yaqulget nepiit.

