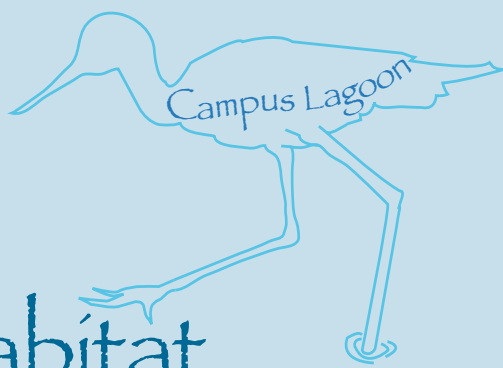


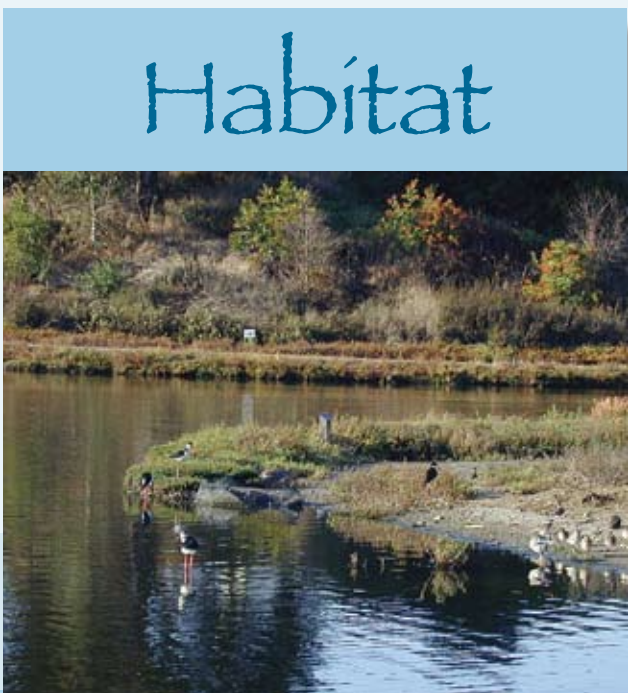
# Lagoon Shorebirds

Migrating visitors use created habitat



## Restoration Creates Shorebird Habitat

The 1995 restoration of this portion of the Campus Lagoon shoreline created shallow margins, channels, and islands preferred by several shorebird species. These more extensive shallow shorelines increase opportunities for shorebird foraging for invertebrates in the mud. The islands create a sense of protection for the birds while also providing viewing opportunities for people. Most of the remaining lagoon shoreline dropoff is steep and provides minimal shallow water habitat for foraging.



## Habitat

### Shorebirds Have Preferences Too!

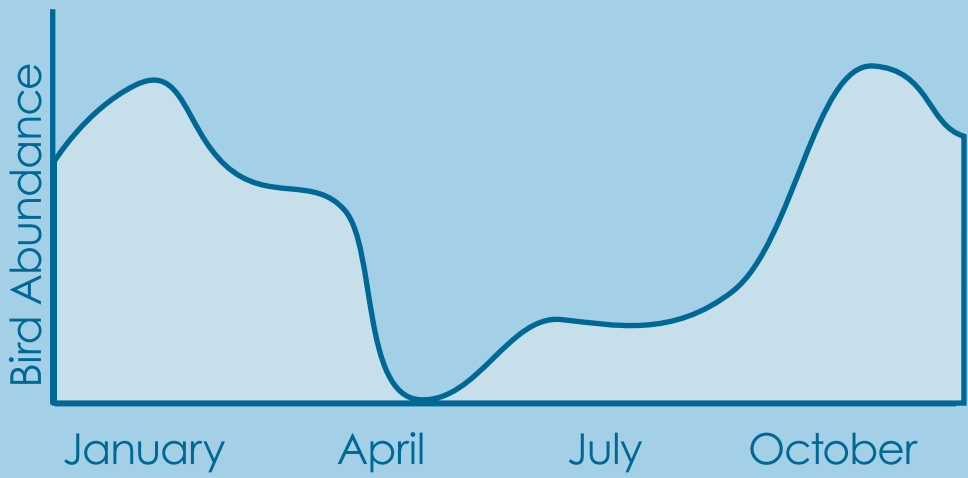
While some shorebirds favor the beach, these shorebirds prefer the lagoon's calm, shallow water and mudflats.

### Shorebirds of a Different Feather

Some popular beach going shorebirds include Snowy Plovers, Least Terns, Sand-erlings, Willets, Whimbrels and Curlews.

| Name               | Least Sandpiper   | Killdeer  | Long-billed Dowitcher   | Greater Yellowlegs  | Black-necked Stilt  |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| ID Tips            | The only small shorebird with yellow legs; has drooping thin bill         | Parallel black throat bands; distinctive white stripes on wing tips while in flight | Relatively stout bird with long bill  | Distinctive long yellow legs; long, protruding neck looks like human "adam's apple"     | Contrasting colors and long red legs; needle-like bill, curves upward in female, straight in male     |
| Food               | Fly pupae, amphipods, crab larvae and marine worms                        | Flies, small mollusks, earth-worms; sometimes minnows, frogs or seeds               | Insect larvae, marine worms, crustaceans and mollusks                                     | Dragonfly nymphs, aquatic bugs, small fish, and frogs                                   | Brine flies, water boatmen, beetle larvae; sometimes grasshoppers, crickets, small fish, and frogs    |
| Foraging & Habitat | Rarely wades but pecks at surface at water's edge in muddy or sandy sites | Most feeding occurs at night on beaches, lawns, mudflats and gravel                 | Uses sensors on bill to probe in "sewing machine" motion in fresh water pools and lagoons | Uses side-to-side motion in shallow water of intertidal estuaries and brackish wetlands | Stirs up mud to reveal invertebrate prey along inland shorelines and treatment ponds; seldom on beach |
| Breeding Sites     | Breeds in low Arctic regions  | Breeds locally and across southern and western US and Mexico                        | Breeds in high Arctic tundra  | Breeds in boreal wetlands   | Breeds locally and in mountains and coastlines of southern US and Mexico                              |
| Fun Fact           | World's smallest shorebird  | Adults will fake a broken wing to lure predators away from nests                    | Both sexes share incubation responsibility, but only the male cares for the young         | Runs frantically to chase fish  | Second to flamingos, longest legs in proportion to body size  |

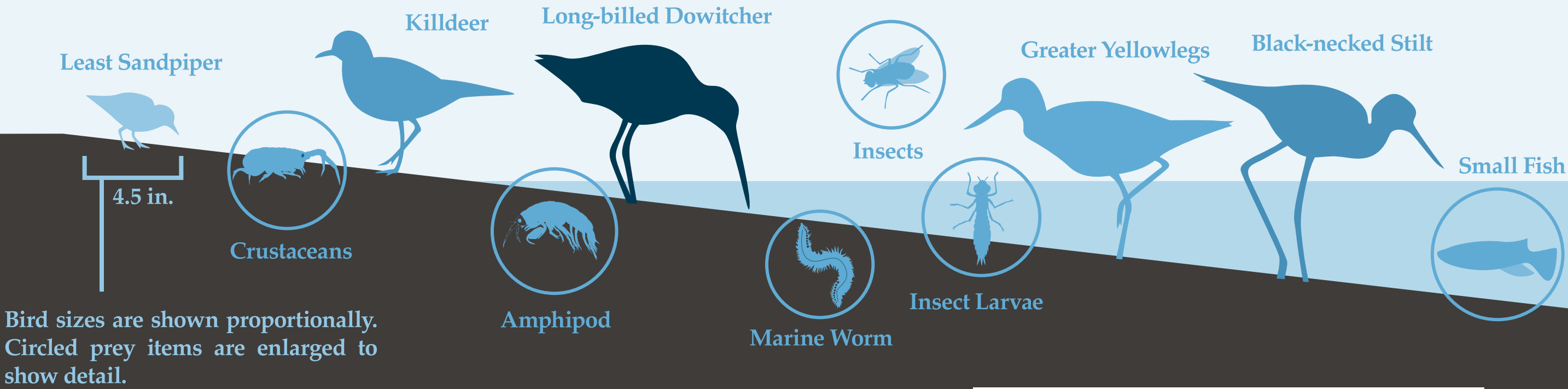
## When are the Shorebirds Here?



### Shorebird Visitation is Seasonal

These shallow and muddy margins are important for migrating shorebirds, especially during the fall and winter. The lagoon and beach are important stopover points between nesting grounds as far north as Alaska and wintering grounds in southern California and further south. The calm lagoon provides refuge for many bird species during high tides and storms.

## Foraging Zones and Prey



## Bills, Legs, and Foraging Habits

Shorebird bill and leg characteristics have evolved in conjunction with the prey and competitors that share their niche. This narrow shoreline habitat provides a rich diversity of prey, which supports the diversity of body structures shown below.



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