Order Charadriiformes – shorebirds
  Suborder Charadrii – plover relatives
    Burhinidae – thick-knees or stone-curlews
    Chionidae – Sheathbill
    Pluvianellidae – Magellanic plover
    Pluvianidae – Egyptian plover
    Charadriiidae – plovers
    Ibidorhynchidae – Ibisbill
    Haematopodidae – oystercatchers
    Recurvirostridae – stilts and avocets

Suborder Scolopaci – sandpiper relatives
  Rostratulidae – painted snipes
  Jacanidae – jacanas
  Pedionomidae – Plains wanderer
  Thinocoridae – seedsnipes
  Scolopacidae – sandpipers and snipes

Suborder Lari – gull relatives
  Turnicidae – buttonquails
  Family Dromadidae – Crab-plover
  Glareolidae – coursers and pratincoles
  Stercorariidae – skuas and jaegers
  Alcidae – auks and guillemots
  Laridae – gulls and terns
  Rhynchopidae (included by some in Laridae) – skimmers
Order Charadriiformes – shorebirds
Cursorimorphae (with Gruiformes) per Jarvis et al 2014 and others; one of the “magnificent 7 of Reddy et al 2017 supraorbital salt glands; schizorhinal nostril; most with moderately long narrow wings; crus bare above intertarsal joint ("knee"); most nest on ground either in scrape or nest; most migratory; most predators primarily of invertebrates though vertebrates and omnivory common

Anarhynchus frontalis photo John Hill

Esacus neglectus photo Mari Kibby

Rhynchops niger (allegedly)

Dromas ardeola photo skullsite.com
Order Charadriiformes – shorebirds

supraorbital salt glands; schizorhinal nostril; most with moderately long narrow wings; crus bare above intertarsal joint (“knee”); most nest on ground either in scrape or nest; most migratory; most predators primarily of invertebrates though vertebrates and omnivory common

Suborder Charadrii – plover relatives
most with relatively insensitive bill; most forage on land whether or not near water

Suborder Scolopaci – sandpiper relatives
most with long soft sensitive bill; most shallow-water waders; reversed sex roles not uncommon

Suborder Lari – gull relatives
with relatively insensitive bill; most with wider gape than Charadrii and Scolopaci, hence larger prey; many piscivorous; many neritic or pelagic, though abundant inland
Suborder Charadrii:
Family Burhinidae – thick-knees or stone-curlews, 10 species, Middle and South America, southern Europe and Asia, Africa, Australia

medium size; large eyes; long wings and legs; tridactyl; nocturnal; prefer open habitats

*Burhinus indicus*
Indian stone-curlew

*Esacus neglectus*
Beach stone-curlew
Suborder Charadrii: 
Family Chionidae – Sheathbill, 2 species, southernmost South America to Antarctic

medium size; stocky; white; named for horny sheath covering nostrils; small eyes; short wings and legs; diet primarily offal

*Chionis albus* Snowy sheathbill

photo Samuel Blanc

photo Hal Brindley
Suborder Charadrii:

Family Pluvianellidae – Magellanic plover, 1 species, southernmost South America

*Pluvianellus socialis* Magellanic plover

photo Luke Seitz
Suborder Charadrii:
Family Pluvianidae – Egyptian plover, 1 species, sub/equatorial Africa

small size; black back plume; tridactyl; noted for gleaning crocodile teeth

*Pluvianus aegyptius* Egyptian plover
Suborder Charadrii:
Family Charadriidae – plovers, 66 species (plus 1 recently extinct), Worldwide

small to medium size; short insensitive bill; large eyes; some with wattles and/or fleshy eye ring; narrow pointed wings; some with wing spurs; legs medium to long; hallux (hind toe) small; disruptive coloration common

*Vanellus senegallus* African wattled lapwing

*Charadrius vociferus* Killdeer
Family Charadriidae
Lapwings (plovers)

*Vanellus spinosus* Spur-winged lapwing
photo Charles J Sharp

*Vanellus armatus* Blacksmith Lapwing
photo Hans Hillewaert

*Vanellus miles* Masked lapwing
photo Phil Battley

*Vanellus crassirostris* Long-toed lapwing
Anarhynchus frontalis Wrybill

photo Phil Guilford
Suborder Charadrii:
Family Ibidorhynchidae – Ibisbill, 1 species, Himalayas and high plains of central Asia

small; decurved bill; tridactyl; inhabits streams; poorly known

*Ibidorhyncha struthersii* Ibisbill
Suborder Charadrii:
Family Haematopodidae – oystercatchers, 11 species (plus 1 recently extinct); coastal Americas, Europe, Africa, Australia

medium size; long chisel-like bill; bare eye ring; black or black and white; diet of molluscs

*Haematopus leucopodus* Magellanic oystercatcher
Suborder Charadrii:
Family Recurvirostridae – stilts and avocets, 10 species, Worldwide

recurved bill in some; extremely long legs; wader

*Recurvirostra americana* American Avocet

*Himantopus himantopus* Black-winged stilt
Suborder Scolopaci:
Family Rostratulidae – painted snipes, 3 species, southern South America, Africa, Asia, Australia

long bill; stubby tail; crepuscular to nocturnal; monogamous or reversed sex roles with polyandry

*Rostratula benghalensis* Greater painted snipe female left  photo Azahari Reyes
Suborder Scolopaci:
Family Jacanidae – jacanas or lilly-trotters, 8 species, Worldwide except North America and Europe

front shield in some; either wing spur or elongate bony protuberance; enormous feet with elongate straight claws; reversed sex roles; polyandrous; male parental care

*Jacana spinosa* Northern jacana

*Hydrophasianus chirurgus* Pheasant-tailed jacana

*Irediparra gallinacea* Comb-crested jacana
Suborder Scolopaci:
Family Pedionomidae – Plains wanderer, 1 species, Australia

very small; stocky and quail-like; short bill, wings, and tail; reversed sex roles; polyandrous; male parental care; inhabits grasslands; critically endangered

*Pedionomus torquatus*
Plains-wanderer

←female  male→

photo Tun Pin Ong
Suborder Scolopaci:
Family Thinocoridae – seedsnipes, 4 species, South America

small to medium size; stocky quail-like appearance; short bill, legs, and tail; cryptic plumage; herbivorous but not specifically granivorous; inhabit open grasslands, steppes, deserts, mountains; gregarious

**Thinocorus rumicivorus** Least seedsnipe

**Attagis gayi** Rufous-bellied seedsnipe

photo Rodrigo Tapia

photo Carlos Vindas
Suborder Scolopaci:
Family Scolopacidae (includes Phalaropidae) – sandpipers and snipes, 96 species (plus 5 recently extinct); Worldwide

small to medium size; narrow sensitive fleshy bill, straight or decurved, most long; distal rhynchokinesis well-developed in some; most with narrow pointed wings, long legs, short tail; buff to brown above to white below with some spots; most probe for invertebrates near water edge (phalaropes pelagic); most sexually monomorphic; young precocial; gregarious, may be found in great numbers especially in migration; biparental care or only male; rex role reversed in some; may feign injury to lure predators from nest
Family Scolopacidae

*Calidris minutilla* Least Sandpiper
photo Alix d'Entremont

*Arenaria interpres* Ruddy turnstone
photo Ruedi Aeschlimann

*Calidris minutilla* Least Sandpiper
photo Don Edwards

*Actitis macularia* Spotted sandpiper
photo nigel
Bartramia longicauda
Upland sandpiper

Limosa lapponica  Bar-tailed godwit

Scolopax minor
American woodcock

Numenius americanus
Long-billed curlew
Some unusual sandpipers

**Phalaropus tricolor** Wilson's Phalarope
photo Dominic Sherony

**Phalaropus lobatus** lobe-finned toes
Red-necked phalarope
photo Stuart Rae

**Eurynorhynchus pygmeus** Spoon-billed sandpiper
photo Smith Sutibut
Suborder Lari:
Family Turnicidae – buttonquails, 17 species, sub-Saharan Africa, SE Asia, Australia

Small size; most stocky and quail-like; short bill, rounded wings, stubby tail; tridactyl; cryptic plumage; solitary; terrestrial; secretive; omnivorous but mostly granivorous; polyandrous; male incubation and parental care; 2 species Endangered

\[\text{\textit{Turnix sylvaticus}}\]
Common buttonquail

\[\text{\textit{Turnix tanki}}\text{ Yellow-leg}gged\text{ buttonquail}\] photo lonelyshrimp

\[\text{\textit{Ortyxelos meiffren}ii}\text{ Quail-plover}\] photo Raju Kasambe
Suborder Lari:
Family Dromadidae – Crab-plover, 1 species; coastal Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf

medium size; spear-like bill; very long legs; semipalmate; black and white; diet of crabs; gregarious; colonial burrow-nester; 1-2 eggs; biparental care

Dromas ardeola
Crab-plover
photo Peter Wächtershäuser
Suborder Lari:
Family Glareolidae – coursers and pratincoles, 17 species, Old World

Subfamily Glareolinae – pratincoles
small body; short decurved bill; large eyes; swallow-like aerial insectivores; crepuscular

Glareola nuchalis
Rock pratincole

Glareola pratincola
Collared Pratincole

Glareola pratincola
Collared Pratincole
photo Ad Breed
Family Glareolidae
Subfamily Cursoniae – coursers

small body; erect posture except when frightened; decurved bill; large eyes; long legs; tridactyl; insectivorous; arid environments

*Rhinoptilus africanus*
Double-banded courser
photo Steve Toon

*Rhinoptilus cinctus*
Three-banded courser

*Cursorius cursor*
Cream-coloured courser
photo Tarique Sani
Suborder Lari:
Family Stercorariidae – skuas and jaegers, species; off-shore Worldwide except eastern coasts of Africa and Asia

medium to large size; gull-like but with more hooked tip of bill; skuas dark, larger and stockier; jaegers with dark cap, light undersides, and disproportionately long central rectrices; palmate; sharp curved claws; diet of fish, carrion, colonial nestlings; kelptoparasitic; coastal and pelagic; breed at high latitudes
Family Stercoraridae

*Stercorarius pomarinus*
Pomarine jaeger  photo Craig Bell

*Stercorarius longicaudus*
Long-tailed jaeger  photo Ian Davies

*Stercorarius antarcticus*
Brown skua  photo Morgan

*Stercorarius antarcticus*
**Stercorarius parasiticus** Parasitic jaeger
kleptoparasitism
Suborder Lari:
Family Alcidae – auks and guillemots, 24 species (plus 1 recently extinct), northern oceans

pelagic; small to medium size; penguin-like; heavy build; most black or black and white; some with colorful bills or plumes; stocky; bill shape highly variable; massive breast muscles; small narrow wings; stubby tail; palmate; sharp curved claws; rapid wingbeat; wing-propelled surface divers; flight fast and direct; diet of fish and crustacea; nest colonially on bare rocks, inaccessible cliffs, puffins burrow; eggs conical so they roll in circle

*Uria aage* Common murre

[Image: photo Klaus Rassinger]
Alca torda Razorbill

photo Gallileo Ramos

Uria lomvia Thick-billed murres photo travel.nationalgeographic.com

Subfamily Larinae – gulls

medium to large size; tip of bill slightly hooked; wings relatively long and narrow; palmate; most counter-shaded dark above white below, but some solid dark or white; white-headed and black-headed forms; coastal or inland but always near water; monogamous; most nest on ground, a few on cliffs (kittiwakes) or in trees; most 2-3 eggs; biparental care; diet of fish, crustaceans, molluscs, or scavenge; 2 species Endangered

*Larus delawarensis*  
Ring-billed gull

*Laus atricilla*  
Laughing gull
*Rissa tridactyla* Black-legged kittiwake

photo Steve Hillebrand

photo Andreas Trepte
*Chroicocephalus bulleri* Black-billed gull colony
Family Laridae: Subfamily Sterninae – terns

small to medium size; long narrow pointed wings; small palmate feet; many with forked tail; many gray above, white below, with black cap; plunge divers; piscivorous; 2 Endangered

*Sterna dougallii* Roseate tern
photo Tim Melling

*Hydroprogne caspia* Caspian tern
photo Mdf

*Onychoprion fuscatus* Sooty tern
photo Duncan Wright
cool terns

*Larosterna inca*
Inca tern
photo Olaf Oliviero Riemer

Phaetusa simplex
Large-billed tern
photo Andreas Trepte

Gygis alba
White tern
photo fatbirder
Family Laridae: Subfamily Rhynchopinae – skimmers

medium size; blade-like lower mandible distinctively longer than upper; very long narrow pointed wings; small palmate feet; black above, white below; piscivorous; forage in flight dragging lower mandible through still shallow water

*Rhynchops niger* Black skimmer
*Rhynchops niger* Black skimmer