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FEMALE

# ACORN WOODPECKER

*Melanerpes formicivorus*

## SIZE & SHAPE

Length: 7.5-9.1 in • Wingspan: 13.8-16.9 in

Acorn Woodpeckers are medium-sized woodpeckers with straight, spike-like bills and stiff, wedge-shaped tails.

## COLOR PATTERN

A clown-faced woodpecker with a black back, red cap, creamy white face, and black patch around the bill. Females have less red on the crown than males. In flight, note the white rump and wing patches.

## RANGE MAP



## HABITAT



These woodpeckers live in oak and mixed oak-evergreen forests on slopes and mountains. Telephone poles and wood siding in urban areas also make for good granaries.

## FOOD



Acorn Woodpeckers harvest acorns from oak trees and store them and a variety of nuts in holes they drill in storage trees called "granaries." They also grab insects on the wing by flying out from high perches.

## NESTING



Acorn Woodpeckers excavate cavities for nesting and nocturnal roosting, and reuse nest holes for many years. They don't build a nest, but as they dig, wood chips accumulate on the bottom.

## BEHAVIOR



Acorn Woodpeckers are unusual woodpeckers that live in large groups, hoard acorns, and breed cooperatively. They give raucous, scratchy *waka-waka* calls frequently.

Photos by Jason Horton/Macaulay Library (male) and © Brian E. Kushner (female)

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# CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAY

*Aphelocoma californica*

## SIZE & SHAPE

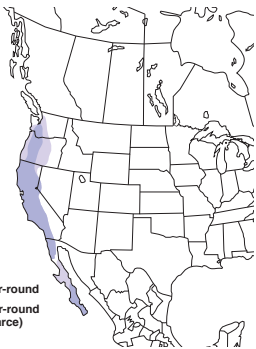
Length: 11-11.8 in • Wingspan: 15.3 in

Fairly large songbird with lanky dimensions and a long, floppy tail. The bird often adopts a hunched-over posture. The bill is straight and stout, with a hook at the tip.

## COLOR PATTERN

California Scrub Jays are a rich azure blue and gray above, with a clean, pale underside broken up by a partial blue necklace. The blue color depends on lighting, so they can also look simply dark.

## RANGE MAP



## HABITAT



Look for California Scrub-Jays in open habitats, oak woodlands, and chaparral along the West Coast, as well as backyards, pastures, and orchards.

## FOOD



In spring and summer, California Scrub-Jays eat mostly insects and fruit and switch to nuts and seeds in fall and winter, especially acorns. Small animals, such as lizards and bird nestlings, are also part of their diet.

## NESTING



They nest in trees where they build a cup nest 6-14 feet above the ground. The nest is often well hidden amid foliage, vines, and mistletoe.

## BEHAVIOR



You can find these assertive, vocal and inquisitive birds silhouetted high in trees, or on wires and posts where they act as lookouts. They fly with slow fluttering wingbeats and alternating glides.

Photo by Bob Gunderson

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# SNOWY PLOVER

*Charadrius nivosus*

## SIZE & SHAPE

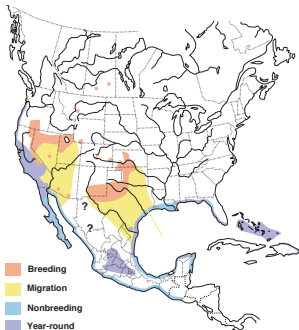
Length: 5.9-6.7 in • Wingspan: 13.4 in

Snowy Plovers are small shorebirds with a horizontal posture, a short neck and a small bill.

## COLOR PATTERN

Snowy Plovers are a pale sandy gray above and white below with a dark bill and legs. Breeding adults have a black crown stripe, a dark ear patch, and a black mark on the neck. Nonbreeding birds have paler facial marks.

## RANGE MAP



## HABITAT



You can find Snowy Plovers on bare to sparsely vegetated sandy beaches, on dry salt flats, river bars, along alkaline or saline lakes, and at reservoirs and ponds.

## FOOD



Snowy Plovers eat terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates including insects, worms, snails, and molluscs.

## NESTING



Snowy Plovers nest in a natural or scraped depression on the ground that is usually lined with pebbles, shell fragments, fish bones, mud chips, and bits of vegetation.

## BEHAVIOR



Snowy Plovers pause, look, run, and then seize prey from the surface of beaches or tidal flats. Sometimes they probe in the sand for food.

Photo by Chris Sayers/Macaulay Library

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# WANDERING TATTLER

*Tringa incana*

## SIZE & SHAPE

Length: 10.2-11.8 in • Wingspan: 19.7-21.6 in

Wandering Tattlers are medium-sized shorebirds with a long bill and short, thick legs. They typically walk with a horizontal posture.

## COLOR PATTERN

Breeding birds are gray above and barred gray and white below with a short white eyebrow. Nonbreeding birds have a gray back and chest, and paler belly. Note yellow legs.

## RANGE MAP



## HABITAT



You can find Wandering Tattlers on rocky shorelines, sometimes near jetties and piers, and occasionally on freshwater near the coast.

## FOOD



Wandering Tattlers forage along rocky shorelines where they blend in with the rocks while searching for small marine invertebrates, insects and fish.

## NESTING



Wandering Tattlers shape a shallow depression on the ground, or choose a natural depression among rocks, and line it with twigs and leaves.

## BEHAVIOR



Wandering Tattlers frequently bob their tail up and down while walking along rocky shorelines.

Photo by Ken Phenicie, Jr.

## LISTEN

