

Celebrate World Shorebirds Day

Brad Andres. August 30, 2021 :



American Avocet. Photo courtesy of Bradford Winn.

Shorebirds — stilts, avocets, plovers, oystercatchers, sandpipers — are some of the most mobile animals on Earth. In the Americas, many Arctic- and boreal-breeding species migrate to spend their nonbreeding season in southern South America, where they share environments, from sea level to the highest Andes, with local breeding species. Here in Colorado, peak post-breeding migration of shorebirds occurs from late August through early September, which happens to correspond with the celebration of [World Shorebirds Day](#) on September 6th.

World Shorebirds Day was created to 1) raise awareness of the need to protect shorebirds and their habitats throughout their annual cycles; 2) raise public awareness of the need for continued shorebird research, monitoring, and conservation; and 3) connect people with shorebirds and wetland sites around the world.



Marbled Godwit (c) Mick Thompson

People are encouraged to get out and observe and count shorebirds between September first and seventh this year. Although you may not think about Colorado as a hotspot for shorebird migration, receding

reservoirs and other wetlands on the Eastern Plains can provide ample shorebird viewing opportunities. A trip to one of these reservoirs, such as Prewitt (located near Merino), can produce 15-20 species and more than 1,000 individuals. So if you want something different to do for Labor Day, grab your field guide and spotting scope and head east.

For information on the conservation of shorebirds in the Americas, please see <https://whsrn.org/> and <https://shorebirdflyways.org/>.