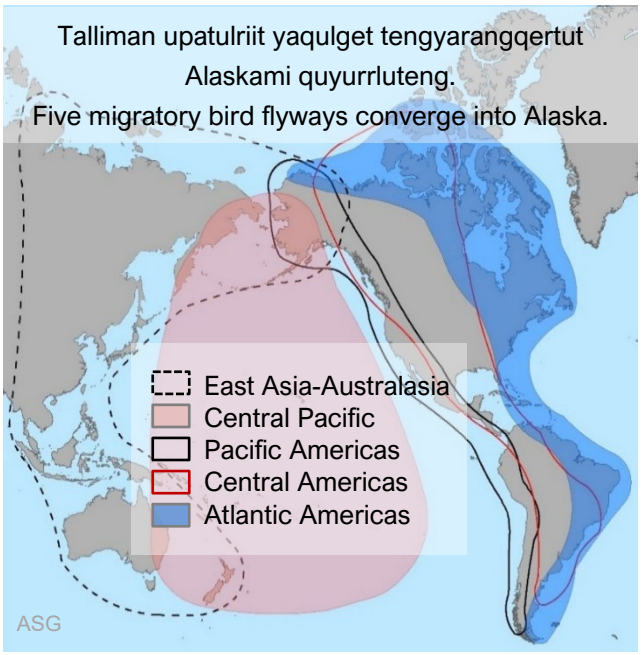
Ceńairet Maa-irpak Kingunemteńun-llu
Shorebirds for Today and Tomorrow









Ceńairet uitayunqegtut Kuigpiim Kuskuqviim-llu paingategni:

- Angpiarluteng piviit nerviat-llu
- Amllepiarluteng kayangiyartulriit ceńairet upalriit
- Ceńairet elicautnguut yuuyaramun anagyaramun-llu piarkamteńek

Western Alaska is very important for shorebirds:

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

Ceńair | Shorebird

sugg'erpak | long-billed shorebird



pipipiaq, ik'ikikiaq
whimbrel



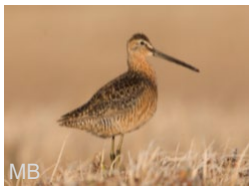
ciivikaaq
bristle-thighed curlew



tevatevaaq, teguteguaq
bar-tailed, marbled, and Hudsonian godwits



tuntussiik, kanagarpak
lesser and greater yellowlegs



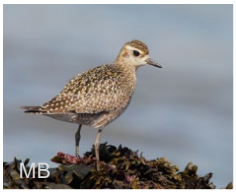
qayaruartalek, uuluyaqneq
long- and short-billed dowitchers



kukukuaq
Wilson's snipe



tuyik, tuuliigaq, tuliiq-tuliiq
black-bellied, Pacific, and American golden plovers



tuuliiyagaq, iituligaq
young black-bellied, Pacific, and American golden plovers



uyarr'uyaq, tapruar
semipalmated plover



qiuracetaaq, kiuk'aq
ruddy turnstone



ciilmak
black turnstone



lisuraar, iiyuraar
western and other small sandpipers



curemraq, iisuraarpak*
dunlin (*and other large sandpipers)



levlevleraq, ulevlaq
least sandpiper



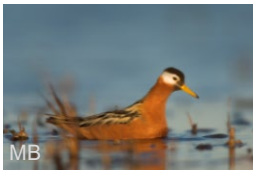
temtemtaaq, kumkumaq
pectoral sandpiper



ikigcaqaq
spotted sandpiper



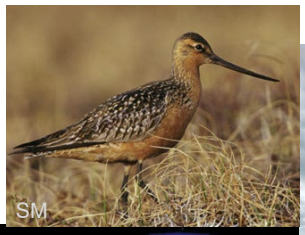
imaqcaar, teleqcaar
red-necked phalarope

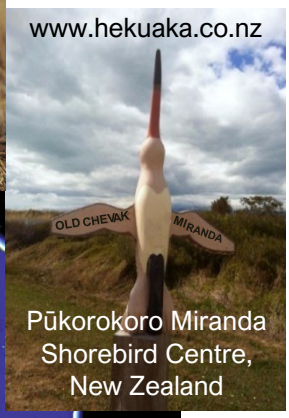


augtuar, ayungnaar
red phalarope

Cetaman Ceńairet Eglercimallret Alaskamun Kayangiyartulalriit
Migrations of Four Shorebirds that Nest in Alaska

tevatevaaq, teguteguaq (Yup'ik)
bar-tailed godwit (English)
kuaka (Māori), ban wei cheng yu (Chinese)



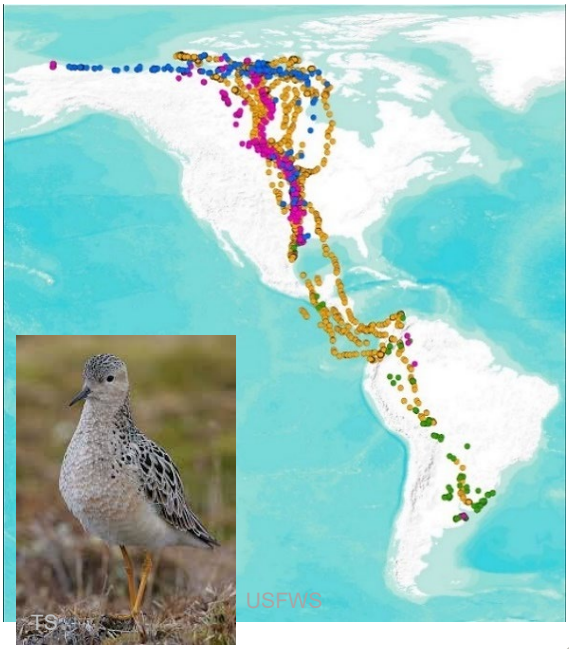




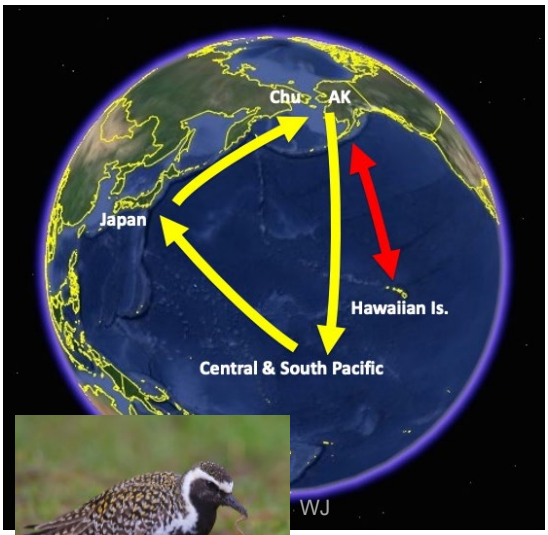
pipipiak, ik'ikikiaq (Yup'ik)
whimbrel (English)
zarapito trinador (Spanish)



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



tuyik, tuuliigaq, tuliiq-tuliiq (Yup'ik)
Pacific golden plover (English)
kolea (Ōlelo)



Ceńairet Yuuyaramteńi | Shorebirds in Yup’ik Culture



Kegginaquq 1900 kinguvaraani.
Yup’ik dance mask, early 1900s.
musée du quai Branly-Jacques
Chirac 70.2006.41.1

PG



AJ

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

Ilakellriit cali mikelnguut nunanik'larait kayangussulleq. Mikelnguut pit'lartut ceńairnek elicungcaraqameng pissuryaramek. Ceńairet kayanguit-llu angturpaunritut neqkanun, tau͡gaam pirpaknarqut kaigyailkutmun. Ceńairet allat-llu yaqulget nunaniryuutnguut yuilqumi. Up'nerkami tekitaqameng, aturyarait nepiit, kayangillrat-llu nasvit'laraa uksuum pellullra.

Yupiit elpek'ngelqait ikeglikanillrat ceńairet nunait avatiitni, ukaqvakun allrakuni. Qanrumaan nutemllarmi piciryaramteńi, Yupiit taringumait makut ungungssit, allat yuut cali ilateng-llu, cali nuna usgucimallrit.

Traditional knowledge builds over generations by people living in 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.

Ceńairet Yuuyaramteńi | Shorebirds in Yup’ik Culture

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

—Kuinerrarmiu

“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

“Anglillruunga Yupiulua tua-ll' maa-i qanerrlainarnaurtukut qitevvluta tutgaramteńun. Enqakesciigaliluki awkut akaurtellriit qaneryarat maa-i atuyuuruskeput.”—Naparyaarmiut

“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 resident

“Pissuqaqsaitua [ceńairnek] ak'anirneng. Tangluaqayuurutanka. Ikegliut cali tamasqumanritanka, wa-ga tau atanqellua [pissullerkamneng] nutaan tau͡gaam amlleriqerreskata.”—Naparyaarmiun

“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



AM Practice bird hunting, Gambell 1940s. Anchorage Museum B1990.14.4.06263



HM Aleut or Western Alaska Eskimo, late 1800s. Grass, bird toes, glass beads, sinew, seal skin. Hearst Museum 2-4667



JK Frances Hale, tutgarak-llu, Naparyaarmiut. Frances Hale and granddaughters, Hooper Bay

Kinguneq | 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

Naves LC (2025) A Yup'ik dance mask from the early-1900s connects Indigenous tradition and shorebird conservation. People and Nature 7:1940–1951. https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.70072

Ceńairet Ikegliut Nunarpagmi
Shorebird Numbers Are Declining Worldwide

Tarut nunarpiim qaingani qailluitussiyaagameng, ceńairet cukamek ikegliut. Cumigtengluteng maa-i aulukistet piut qaillupiaq ikeglingevkallrit aperturluki-llu cat taukut pivkallrat tuaten, tau͡gaam-gguq cali amllertut nallunringnaqlerkarteng. Piinanratni, ceńairet arcaqakait ikayuuteput.

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.



Amllertaat avatiini ceńairet North America-mi (37% ikeglillra).

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



Ilaurallret ceńami (China-mi)

Coastal development (China)



Ellam cimillra

Climate change



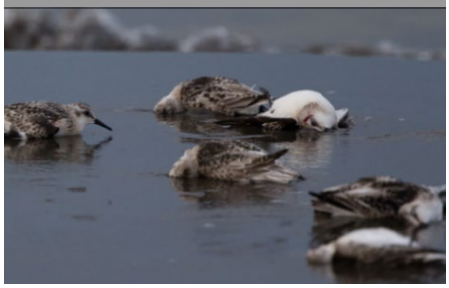
Puyurrluk, assiiruyun carrluk

Pollution, contamination



Teguyunairutellriit quyurtellerkat nerangnaqsaram tanghinin

Unsustainable harvest



Qaillun Allat Piyugngalput Tungiinun Ikayuryugngalput Ceńairet
Some Ways We Can Help Birds and Shorebirds

- Yuarluten qaill' piyugngallerkavnek elitellerkavnek ceńairnek 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 ceńairnek allanek-llu yaqulegnek.
- Atungnaquraaqluki tamaita pitat.
- Ilangciarangnaqevkenaki ceńairet allat-llu yaqulget, arcaqakluki kayangiviat, mernuircaraqameng, wall'u ner'aqameng puyunermi.
- Atussiyaangnaqevkenaki akagyaralget yuilqumi cali allat nunat yaqulget elviit.
- Quyakluki nunaniryuutekluki-llu ceńairet cali allat yaqulget: neqkaugut, kenegnarqut, atuutnguut, cali anernengqerrluteng usgulluki Yupiit nunameggnun, awkunun cali allanun tarunun cali nunanun, cali tengyarait yaqulget upagyarturviit.

- 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 10).
- 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.

Tarenrat kingunrit | Image credits: Steve McCutcheon Collection, Anchorage Museum, B1990.14.4.06263 (AM) Alaska Shorebird Group (ASG), Amanda Boyd USFWS (AB), Andy Johnson Cornell Lab of Ornithology (AJ), Dan Ruthrauff USGS (DR), Courtesy of the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology and the Regents of the University of California (catalog number 2-4667) (HM), Jackie Keating ADF&G (JK), John Schoen (JS), Katie Christie ADF&G (KC), Kristine Sowl USFWS (KS), Lili Naves ADF&G (LN), Milo Burcham (MB), National Park Service (NPS), Oscar Wally Johnson (WJ), Pauline Guyon musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac (PG), Steve Maslowski USFWS (SM), Ted Swem USFWS (TS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Zak Pohlen USFWS (ZP).



Avguyun Nasvirluki Ceńairet Kayangilriit Kuigpiim-Kuskuqviim-llu Paingani (Melquit Qaraliit Kayangiaqata)

Ayagnirluni iqsulirnermek, igat mingumalriit yaasiicuarat iluatni manimauq ayagtu'llra qaillun nallunaillerkaq yaqulegmek.
Wanigga makut yaqulget angtataciit ellmegteggun allani elucini ayuqenrilkiitni.
♫: Una tarenracuar aperquutnguuq maniilluki atrit Yugtun ayuquciirluki yaqulget nepiit.

angtatacia qangqiirtun (aqesgiq), wall'u angtunruarluni

- sugg'erpauluni cali-ll' acitmungqaurluni, tan'gercenan itamarmi: whimbrel / pipipiaq♫ / ik'ikikiaq♫ or bristle-thighed curlew / ciivikaaq



- sugg'erpauluni, pikatmun piarpiarluni wall'u nalqiggluni, kavirranani iqua-ll' tunguluni: godwit / tevatevaaq♫ / teguteguaq (3 ayuqeltaciit)



angtacia mikenruluni qangqiirmi (aqesgiq), tau͡gaam angenruluni tekciugmi

- iruk taklutek esirliulutek-llu: yellowlegs / tuntussiik / kanagarpak (2 ayuqeltaciit)



- sugg'erpauluni nalqiggluni-llu
  - melqut kavircenateng, qatelria qayartun ayuqluni tunuakun: dowitcher / qayaruartalek / uuluyaqneq (2 ayuqeltaciit)



  - melqui nunapigngalngurtun, qaterrluuluteng cit'ret tunuani: Wilson's snipe / kukukuaq♫



- iruk takevkenatek (naninatek) esirliulutek-llu
  - melqui tunguluteng cali qaterluteng, iruk tungulutek, sugg'ek tungupiarlutek
    - tunua nunapigngalnguq cali qaterluni, kegginaa aqsaa-llu tungulutek: black-bellied plover / tuyk♫ / tuuliigaq



    - tunua tunguluni qatelriartuumarmi (tanglaqiit tengaagaqameng), qamiqua manua-llu tungulutek, aqsaa qaterlunl: black turnstone / ciilmak / qiuracetaaq



  - sugg'ek takevkenatek (naninatek) nalqiggluni-llu
    - tunua nunapigngalnguq aqsaa-llu qaterluni, uyamigluni tungulriameng, iruk qalleryiik, sugg'ek qalleryiik tungulriamek iqungqerrluni: semipalmated plover / uyarr'uyaq / qiu͡gg'ititiiq



temii angtataluni kanguruartun

- tungulriangqerrluni manuani qatelriim aqsaani: dunlin / curemraq / iisuraarpak



- tungulriamek pingqer-pegnani aqsaa
  - mermi uitayunqeggluni, kuimaraqan uivaaraqluni
    - melqui ararrluuluni qaterluni-llu, kavirliq uyaqua; cingikeggluni, sugg'ek qecigkinatek tungurrlainauluni: red-necked phalarope / imaqcaar / teleqcaar



    - melqui kavirliunruluteng, iqtulutek sugg'ek esirlik iqua-wa tunguluni: red phalarope / augtuar / ayungnaar



  - mermi uitassiyaayuinani: small sandpiper / iisuraar (qavciuluteng ayuqeltaciit)



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.

body size like ptarmigan or a little larger

- bill very long, downcurved, and dark all along: whimbrel / pipipiaq♫ / ik'ikikiaq♫ or bristle-thighed curlew / ciivikaaq



- bill very long, slightly upcurved or straight, pinkish at base, and dark at tip: godwit / tevatevaaq♫ / teguteguaq (3 species)



body size smaller than ptarmigan, but bigger than snow bunting

- legs long and bright yellow: yellowlegs / tuntussiik / kanagarpak (2 species)



- legs NOT long and bright yellow
  - bill long and straight
    - plumage reddish-brown, white patch shaped as a kayaq on back: dowitcher / qayaruartalek / uuluyaqneq (2 species)



    - plumage mottled brown, whitish stripes on back: Wilson's snipe / kukukuaq♫



  - bill NOT long and straight
    - plumage black and white, legs black, bill entirely black
      - back mottled black and white; black face and belly: black-bellied plover / tuyk♫ / tuuliigaq



      - back black with white patches (seen in flight); black head and bib; white belly: black turnstone / ciilmak / qiuracetaaq



    - brown back and white belly, black collar, legs orange, bill orange with black tip: semipalmated plover / uyarr'uyaq



body size like snow bunting

- black patch on white belly: dunlin / curemraq / iisuraarpak



- NO black patch on belly
  - often on water, swim in circles
    - plumage gray and white, red neck; pointed, thin bill entirely black: red-necked phalarope / imaqcaar / teleqcaar



    - plumage mostly red, thick yellow bill with black tip: red phalarope / augtuar / ayungnaar



  - most often NOT on water: small sandpiper / iisuraar (several species)



Tangellruuten-qaa yaqulegmek kulutmek atulriamek?
Have you seen a banded bird?



tuntussiik, kanagarpak
lesser yellowlegs

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

Qayagautekniarci yalqulget kulutiit online-arkun wani: www.reportband.gov, wall'u ikayustaarluten 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!

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!

Shorebirds for today and tomorrow | Ceńairet Maa-irpak Kingunemteńun-llu: Culture- and place-based learning at Yup'ik schools and communities. https://www.audubon.org/alaska/projects/shorebirds-today-and-tomorrow. Mumigcilleq Yugtun | Yup'ik translation: Rebecca Nayamin Cev'aq. Ilagautellret | Partnerships: local schools and communities, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Cornell Lab of Ornithology-Conservation Media, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Alaska Migratory Birds Office, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre (New Zealand), Audubon Alaska. Akilitestet | Current funding: Audubon Alaska. Qayagaurvigkaq | Contact: Liliana Naves, email: liliana.naves@audubon.org. November 2026.