

Killdeer (KLDLDR)

Charadrius vociferus



Characteristics

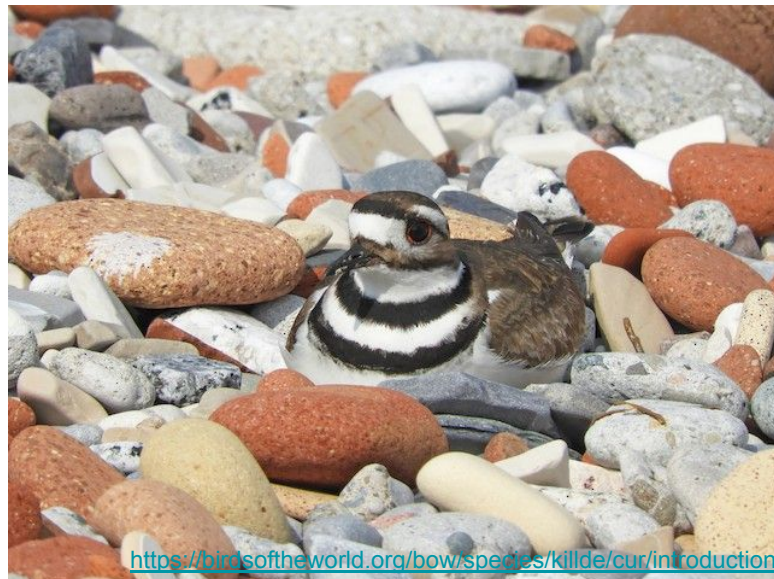
- Brown/tan with a white belly, two black bands around neck, orangish rump
- Slender bird with a long pointed tail
- Roundish head, large eyes and short bill that is similar to all plovers
- Length: 20-28 cm
- Weight: 75-128 g
- Wingspan: 46-48 cm

Habitat

- Can be seen near beaches or open areas like mudflats, estuaries, and grazed fields
- Golf courses, lawns and pastures are also common places to find them
- Nesting habitats include gravel-covered roofs, areas with shallow water, or short-grass fields
- Found all over North/South America

Behavior

- Spends most of their time running, stopping to take in surroundings, then continue running
- Flight is hasty with occasional wingbeats
- Broken-wing display to distract the predator away from nest site
- Courtship displays include male flying over nesting territory and nest-scape making
- Begins breeding in early spring



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Diet

- Prey on earthworms, snails, grasshoppers, beetles, and aquatic insect larvae
- May also eat seeds from agricultural fields
- They have been known to be opportunistic feeders and eat dead frogs or minnows.

Zzyzx-Specific Information

- Killdeer can be seen in the Mojave desert year-round

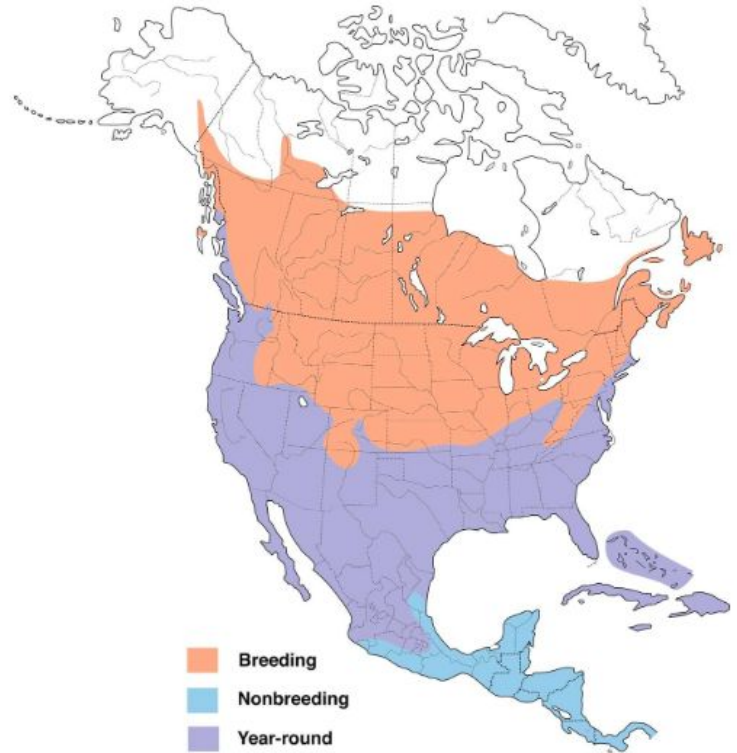
Conservation Status

- Least concern, protected under the Migratory Bird Act
- Most widespread California shorebird

Did you know?!

- Killdeer are monogamous and if the pair does not migrate, they could stay together for several years to breed.
- Male and female killdeer both help make the nest.
- Killdeer are easily spooked and make a high pitched cry to warn others.
- The oldest known killdeer to live in the wild was 10 years and 11 months old!

Range



<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Killdeer/maps-range>



References

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Killdeer/lifehistory>

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