

Long-billed Curlew

Numenius americanus

North America's largest shorebird, the Long-billed Curlew breeds in the grasslands of the Great Plains and Great Basin.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Large shorebird.
- Extremely long, down-curved bill.
- Buffy brown in color.
- Plain crown.

Immature Description

Similar to adult, bill shorter.

Cool Facts

- The female Long-billed Curlew's bill is longer than the male's, and is a different shape. Hers is flatter on top with a more pronounced curve at the tip. His is gently curved throughout its length. The juvenile's bill is distinctly shorter than the adults' during its first few months, but it may be equal to the male's length some time in its first year.
- Both the male and female Long-billed Curlew incubate the eggs, and both are aggressive in defense of nests and young. The female typically abandons the brood two to three weeks after hatching and leaves brood care to her mate. Despite this abandonment the same male and female often pair with each other again the next year.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 19.7 - 25.6 inches
- Wingspan - 24.4 - 35 inches
- Weight - 17.3 - 33.5 ounces

