

Black-necked Stilt

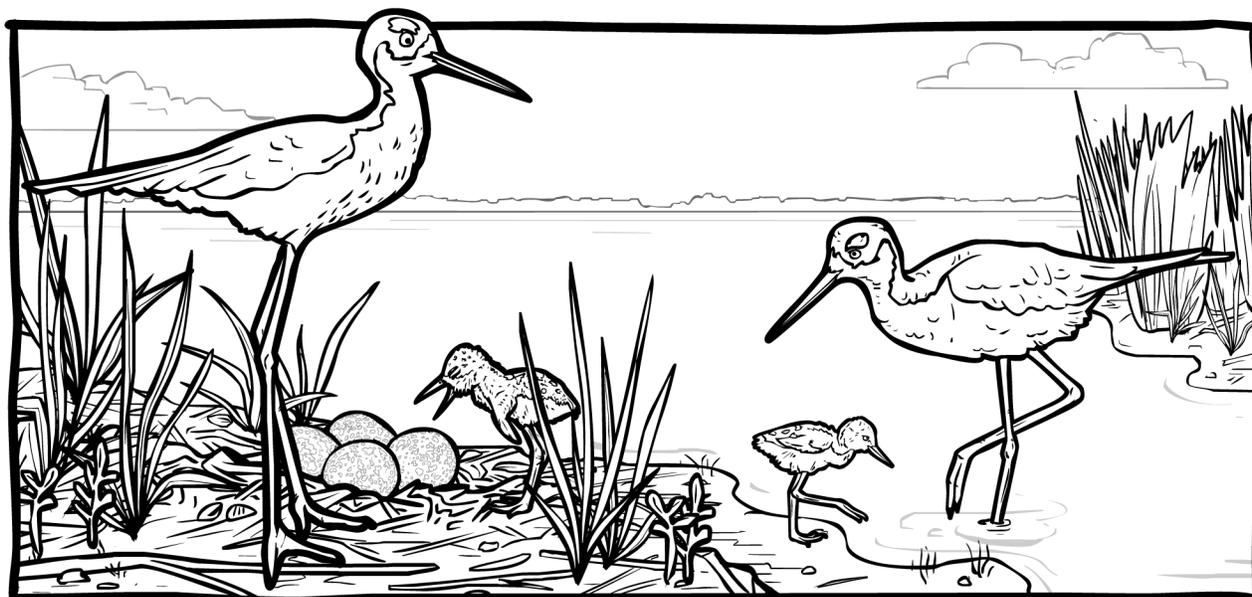
# Black-necked Stilt *(Himantopus mexicanus)*

## Instant ID

- A small-bodied shorebird with a black, needle-like bill and pink, stilt-like legs
- Adults exhibit countershading (one side of an animal is dark and the other is light) with black backs and white bellies
- Juveniles and females may have brown coloration

## Native Niches

- Found in grassy marshes, mudflats, pools and shallow lakes
- Breed mostly south of Daytona Beach and Homosassa Springs
- Nest on the ground or on platforms of dried vegetation



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## Favorite Foods

- Eat aquatic insects, shrimp, larvae, beetles and crayfish
- Sometimes sweep their bills from side to side while feeding

## Critter Characteristics

- Have very long legs compared to their body size
- Use multiple distraction tactics to ward off predators, including the “popcorn display,” where adults in a colony hop up and down while flapping their wings and calling loudly

## Population Protection

- Artificial habitats, such as retention ponds, has expanded their breeding range
- Avoid approaching or allowing pets to approach designated resting / nesting zones