

Gulls (*Larus*) and Plovers (*Charadrius* and *Pluvialis*)



Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus

Alternate Plumage



Grey upperparts

Black crown stripe

Short, orange bill with black tip

Black neck band

White belly

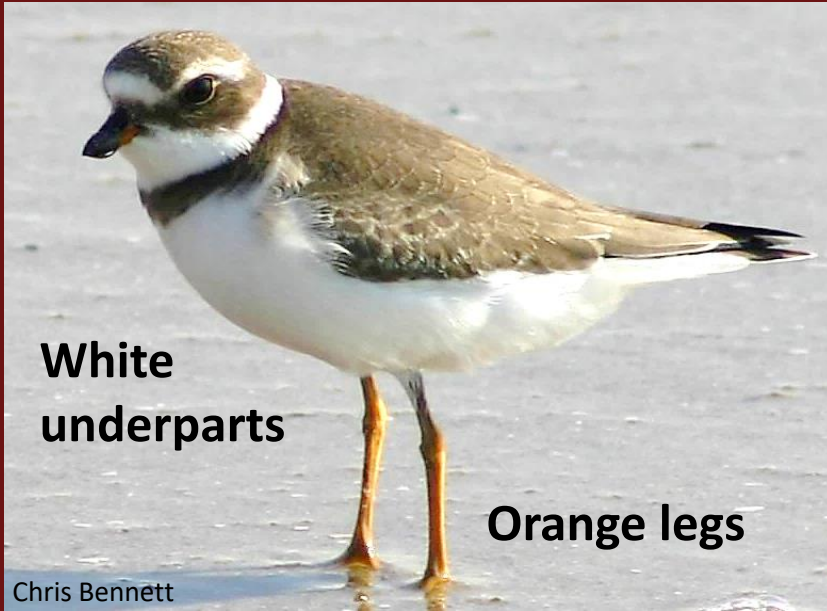
Orange legs

Semipalmated Plover

Charadrius semipalmatus

~45 g

Alternate Plumage



White
underparts

Orange legs

Chris Bennett

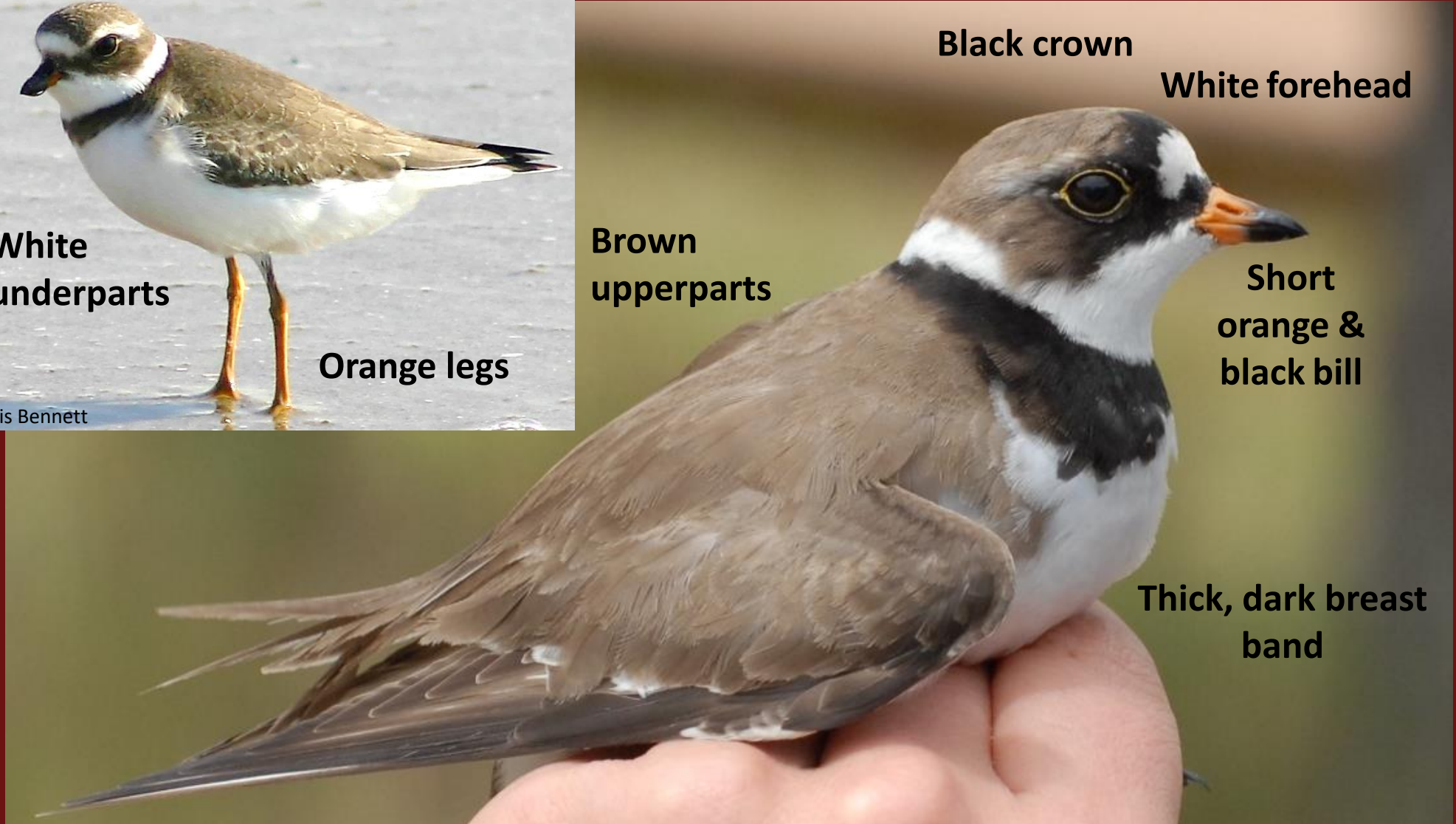
Brown
upperparts

Black crown

White forehead

Short
orange &
black bill

Thick, dark breast
band



Ruth Walker

Semipalmated Plover

Charadrius semipalmatus

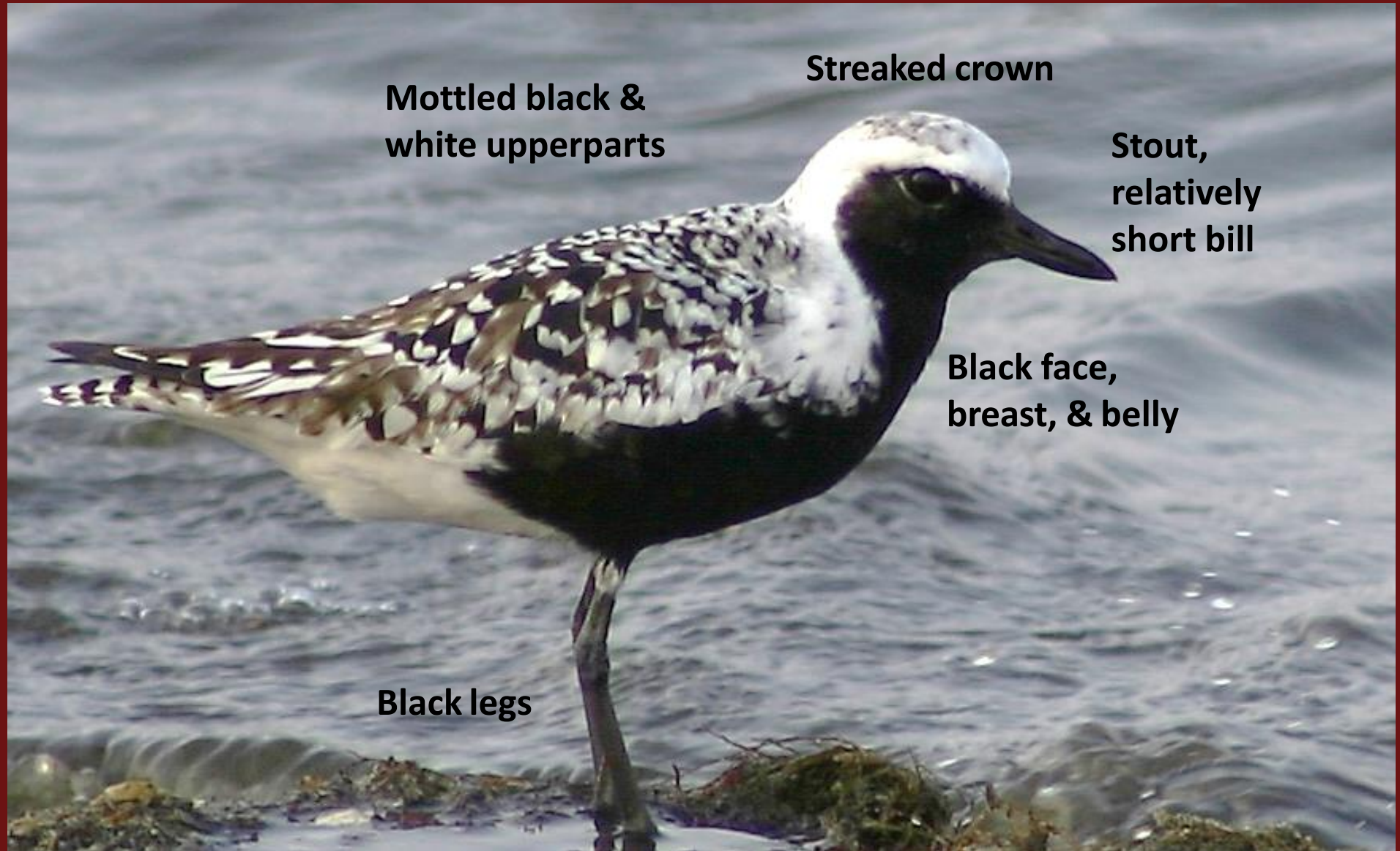
Basic Plumage



Black-bellied Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Alternate Plumage



Mottled black &
white upperparts

Streaked crown

Stout,
relatively
short bill

Black face,
breast, & belly

Black legs

Chris Bennett

~240 g

Black-bellied Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Basic Plumage

Bill Buchanan

Brown upperparts
with white spots



Chris Bennett

Stout,
relatively
short bill



White breast
with brown
streaks & spots

Black legs

Laughing Gull

Larus atricilla

Alternate Plumage

Black head with thin, white, eye crescents and red bill

Chris Bennett



Attains adult plumage (illustrated here) in three years.
Immature plumages rarely seen in Delaware in spring.

Basic Plumage

Dark smudging behind eyes and black bill



Few to no white spots on primaries

320 g

Chris Bennett

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Alternate Plumage

White head with light eyes

Black band on
yellow bill



Yellow legs

Chris Bennett

520 g

Attains adult plumage (illustrated here) in three years. Immature plumages vary by age.

Basic Plumage

Tan streaking on
the head



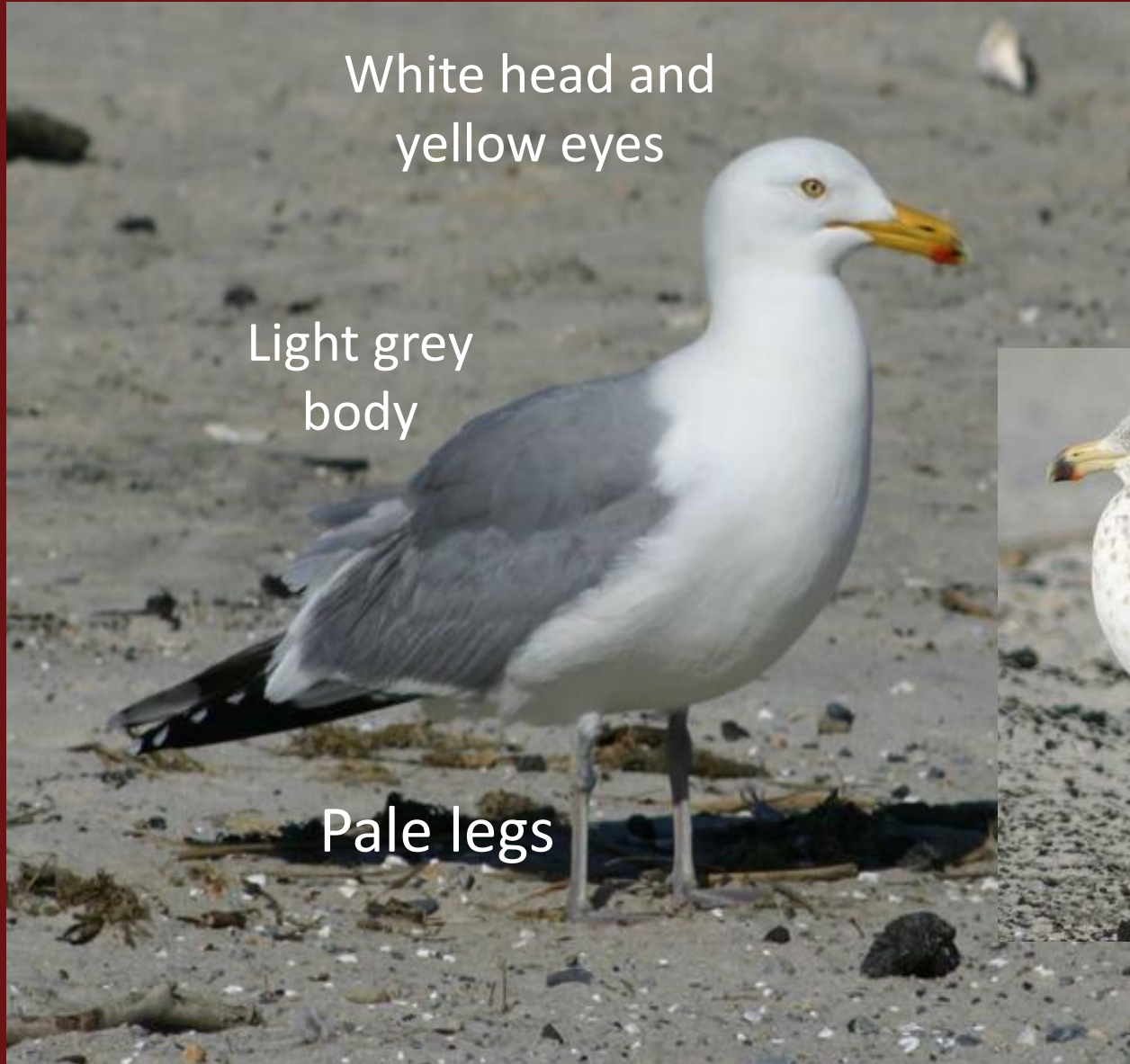
Chris Bennett

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

Alternate Plumage

Attains adult plumage (illustrated here) in four years. Immature plumages vary by age



Basic Plumage



Chris Bennett

Chris Bennett

1,150 g

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

Basic Plumage



Attains adult plumage (illustrated here) in four years. Immature plumages vary by age. Shows the least amount of difference between alternate and basic plumage.

Chris Bennett

1,650 g