

## RULES TO LEARN AND LIVE BY

*ALWAYS FIRST CONSIDER WHERE YOU ARE LOOKING AT YOUR DOWITCHER AND WHEN YOU SEE YOUR DOWITCHER, THEN CONSIDER THE PLUMAGE.*

### □ Long-billed Dowitcher

- Any dowitcher during winter period away from a large coastal estuary (e.g. San Francisco Bay, Morro Bay, Newport Bay, and San Diego Bay) is very likely a **Long-billed**.
- Any dowitcher after October, likely early October, and away from coast **IS** a **Long-billed**.
- Any molting dowitcher away from known wintering areas for Short-billed is likely a **Long-billed**.
- Any adult dowitcher away from a location where Short-billed winters after mid-August is a **Long-billed**.
- Dowitchers seen after the first few days in May, especially away from large coastal estuaries where some immature Short-bills summer, are likely **Long-billeds**.

### □ Short-billed Dowitcher

- Any dowitcher in juvenal plumage in August is very likely a **Short-billed**, if before final week, almost certainly a **Short-billed**.