Chestnut-banded Plover  15 cm | 6”
A small and brightly banded wader of alkaline lakes. This is a special bird that only occurs on the soda lakes of East Africa (mainly at Lake Magadi, very rarely elsewhere) and at a few locations in south-west Africa. It has a grey back and both sexes show a rich chestnut-orange breast-band that contrasts with the snow-white throat and underparts. Males have a forehead and crown colour combination of white-black-chestnut-grey, while females show just white and grey. As with Kittlitz’s Plover, the legs and bill are dark.

Three-banded Plover  18 cm | 7”
A small plover with two – not three – dark bands across the breast. If you are wondering why it is called Three-banded Plover, just remember that the white band between the two black ones also counts! This attractive little wader, with its bright red eye-rings and pink legs, is often very confiding and allows a close approach, especially in muddy roadside pools. It is also common along wet grassy margins and sandy riverbanks where your attention may be drawn to its very high-pitched “phew-eet” contact call. When excited it calls a long, muffled “wi-wi-sher-wir-wirrit” that sounds rather like a swift.