



American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* **AMOY** L 17.5in



Widespread coastal breeder on beaches. Winters in small flocks, often on mudflats and inter-coastal waterways, wherever shellfish are plentiful. Chisels or hammers shells to open them. Often seen flying around in pairs or small groups in courtship display. Very noisy high-pitched whistling 'kweep,' a familiar sound of the

beach. **ID:** Unmistakable. Large, heavy-set and pot-bellied. The beady orange eye seems to stare at you. Long, thick, sword-like red bill. Pied plumage striking in flight with bright white belly. One plumage year-round for both sexes. Juv: black-tipped bill, dark eye with hard-to-see pale-tipped coverts.