

Basic Observation Journal

(Most appropriate for elementary students and for field trips that emphasize observation)

Students record shorebird and habitat observations through drawings, poems, map illustrations, and matching exercises. This journal includes four pre-field trip pages and one post-field trip page.

Contents

Page 1

- Shorebird Field Journal Cover/Be a Good Bird-watcher!
- What Do I Know About Shorebirds/Field Trip Summary

Page 2

- Field Trip Memories/What Do I Want to Learn About Shorebirds
- Parts of a Shorebird (in flight)/Shorebird Drawings (blank page)

Page 3

- Shorebird Drawings/Parts of a Shorebird Standing
- Shorebird Habitat Information/Shorebird Beaks

Page 4

- Shorebird Feeding Styles/Habitat Map
- Shorebird Observation Data Sheet/Taxonomy Tree

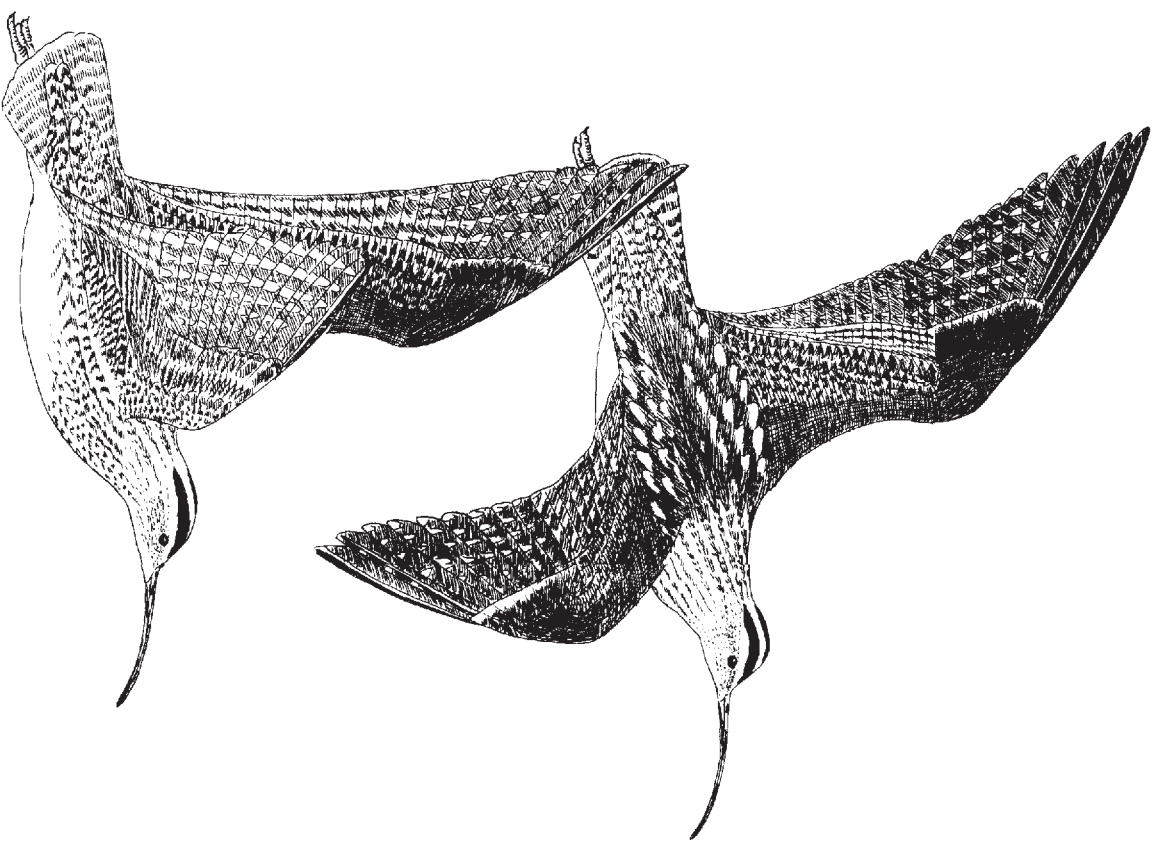


Be a Good Bird-watcher!

- Watch birds from a distance.
- Never chase birds!
- Stay on roads, paths, and walkways.
- Never pick or collect plants or animals.
- Do not leave trash behind.
- Respect No Trespassing signs and rules that apply to the area you are visiting.
- Let your words and actions be a good example to others.

Shorebird

Field Journal



Name: _____

What Do I Know About Shorebirds and Their Habitat?

Write down everything you know about shorebirds.
Use the questions below to help you get started.
What is a shorebird?

What do shorebirds look like?

What do shorebirds eat?

What habitat do shorebirds need?

Why are shorebirds important?

What other plants and animals do I expect to see living with shorebirds?

Other things I know about shorebirds....

Field Trip Summary

What did you like most about your field trip?

What new things did you learn about shorebirds and their habitat?

What other plants and animals did you see?

What new questions do you have about this place and the plants and animals that live there?

My Fieldtrip Memories

What do you want to remember about this place and the things you saw?
Draw a picture or write a poem that will remind you of your visit.

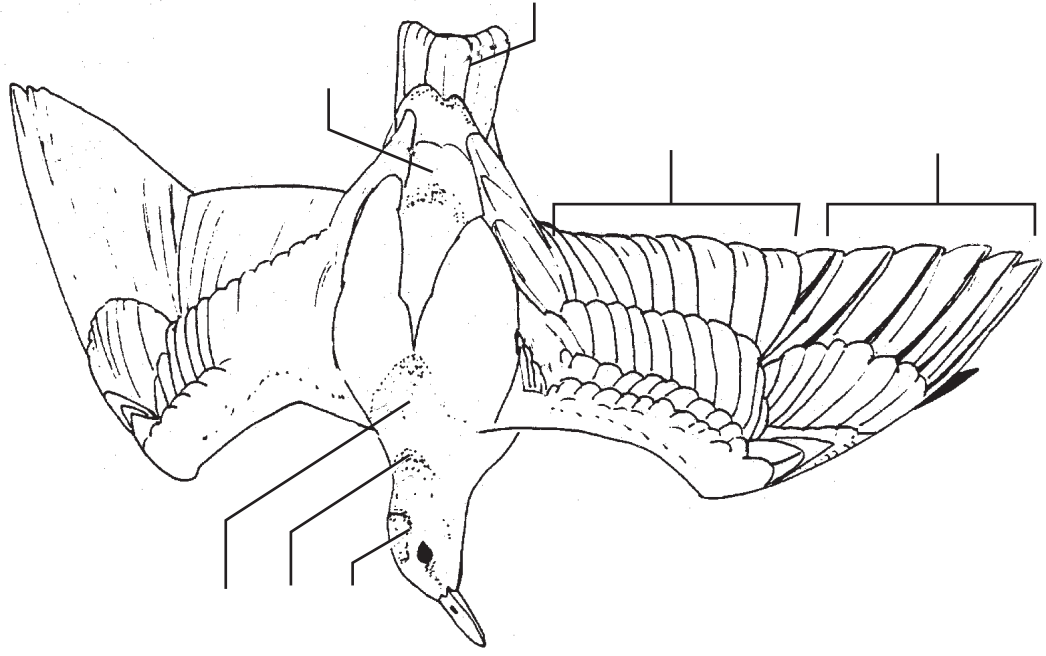
What Do I Want to Learn About Shorebirds?

Write at least one question to answer on your fieldtrip.

When you find the answer (s)...write it (them) below

The Parts of a Shorebird In Flight

Can you name all of the parts of this shorebird?



Shorebird Drawing

Draw at least two shorebirds you see. How do they look different? How do they look alike? Use the Taxonomy Tree on page nine and write the name of the families these shorebirds belong to.

The Parts of a Shorebird Standing

Can you name all the parts of this shorebird?



Shorebird Habitat Information

Date: _____ Time: _____
Weather: _____ Location: _____

What physical features are present?

Dry Mud _____ Short Grasses _____
Salt Water _____ Wet Mud _____
Shoreline _____ Fresh Water _____
Tall Grasses _____ Pebbles or Gravel _____

What types of vegetation are present?

Freshwater Marsh Plants _____
Saltwater Marsh Plants _____
Prairie Grasses _____

What human-made structures are present?

Roads _____ Buildings _____
Inlets and Outlets _____ Dikes or Dams _____
Running Water _____ Berms or Islands _____
Agricultural Fields _____

List sounds and smells you notice.

What is the source of water for this habitat?

Is this site protected?

List any potential threats to this site.

Shorebird Beaks

Designed for What They Eat
and How They Feed



Shorebird Feeding Styles

Watch the different ways shorebirds feed. Draw lines from the feeding techniques you see to the styles of beaks they have (shown across the page). Answers are in the Educator's Guide Appendix. Then take a guess at what types of foods they are after. Record the names of the shorebirds you are watching if you know them.

Shallow probing in the mud or sand

These shorebirds are looking for: _____

Species: _____

Deep probing in the mud or sand

These shorebirds are looking for: _____

Species: _____

Picking things off the surface

These shorebirds are looking for: _____

Species: _____

Breaking or crushing open shelled animals

These shorebirds are looking for: _____

Species: _____

Other types of beaks and feeding styles you notice:

Habitat Map

Draw a map of the field trip site. Create a key in the box below. Show the locations of different habitats, roads, buildings, and wildlife.

Key

Shorebird Observation Data Sheet

Bird Type 1	Number 2	Behavior	Habitat Used 3

- 1. Family-- or species if you are really good at shorebird identification
- 2. What was it doing--feeding, sleeping, swimming, flying?
- 3. Where did you find it--beach, saltwater wetland, freshwater wetland, grassland?

Shorebird Taxonomy Tree

Try to match the birds you are seeing to one of the families on this tree. Write the name in the Bird Type column on the Observation Data Sheet.

