

Advanced Shorebird Observation Journal

*(Most appropriate for middle
school/high school students)*

This version emphasizes shorebird
data collection. Use this journal
with the field trip activity
Shorebird Field Study.

Contents

Pages 1 – 3 as described in the basic
observation journal, plus

Page 4

Your choice of :

1. Shorebird Field Study
Worksheet/Shorebird
Observation Record Sheet 1 (bill
shapes);
2. Shorebird Field Study
Worksheet/Shorebird
Observation Record Sheet 2
(comparison of lengths of bill,
legs, and tails)



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 Field Study Worksheet

Observation Directions

1. Take a quick look around the habitat. Where do you see birds and about how many are there?
2. Do you hear any sounds? Describe them and what might be making them.
3. Use your binoculars or spotting scope and scan the area carefully. Describe what birds you see on the Shorebird Observation Record page. Refer to a field guide for bird names. (Record all the different types of birds you see.)
4. Now look closely for other bird signs--feathers, tracks, and places where birds have probed in the mud. Describe what you find.
5. Watch for the first bird that starts the flock off in flight. Does the leadership change during the flight? What happens when the flock lands?
6. Now focus on a single bird that is probing the mud or sand for food. How can you tell when the bird finds food and when it doesn't?

Shorebird Observation Record Sheet 1

bird no.	no. observed	size (see below)	bill type (see below)	bill color	leg color	bird names

Size:

A. Larger than a raven

B. Smaller than a raven, but larger than a robin (8 inches long)

C. Smaller than a robin, but larger than a sparrow (5 inches long)

D. Smaller than a sparrow





Type of Bill:

A. Curves down (decurved)

B. Curves up (recurved)

C. Short and stout

D. Long and thin



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SHOREBIRD OBSERVATION RECORD SHEET 2

[illegible]