

Name: _____



Image credit: BirdLife Australia

Shorebirds 2024 Competition Workbook

What is a shorebird?

Shorebirds are birds which live on our shores. They make up 10% of Australia's bird species and are the world's most endangered group, with habitat loss and climate change being some of the major threats to shorebirds. Australia has over 50 species of shorebirds. There are resident species, which means they stay here all year and breed on many of Australia's beaches. There are also 37 migratory species regularly seen in Australia. Migratory shorebirds fly north every year, during our winter, to breed, many of them making a journey of over 12,000kms to the Arctic.

Commonly called 'waders' most shorebirds are seen around wetlands, mudflats and coastal areas where they gather to feed in flocks along the water's edge. Some shorebirds, however, prefer to live in areas away from the shore, in grasslands and agricultural fields. Shorebirds feed on invertebrates, including insects, molluscs, marine worms and small crabs and other crustaceans.

Other birds like to live on the shore as well but unlike seabirds, such as gulls and terns, or waterbirds, like ducks and pelicans, shorebirds do not have webbed feet, so they cannot paddle on the water or fish in the sea. They live their lives entirely on land.

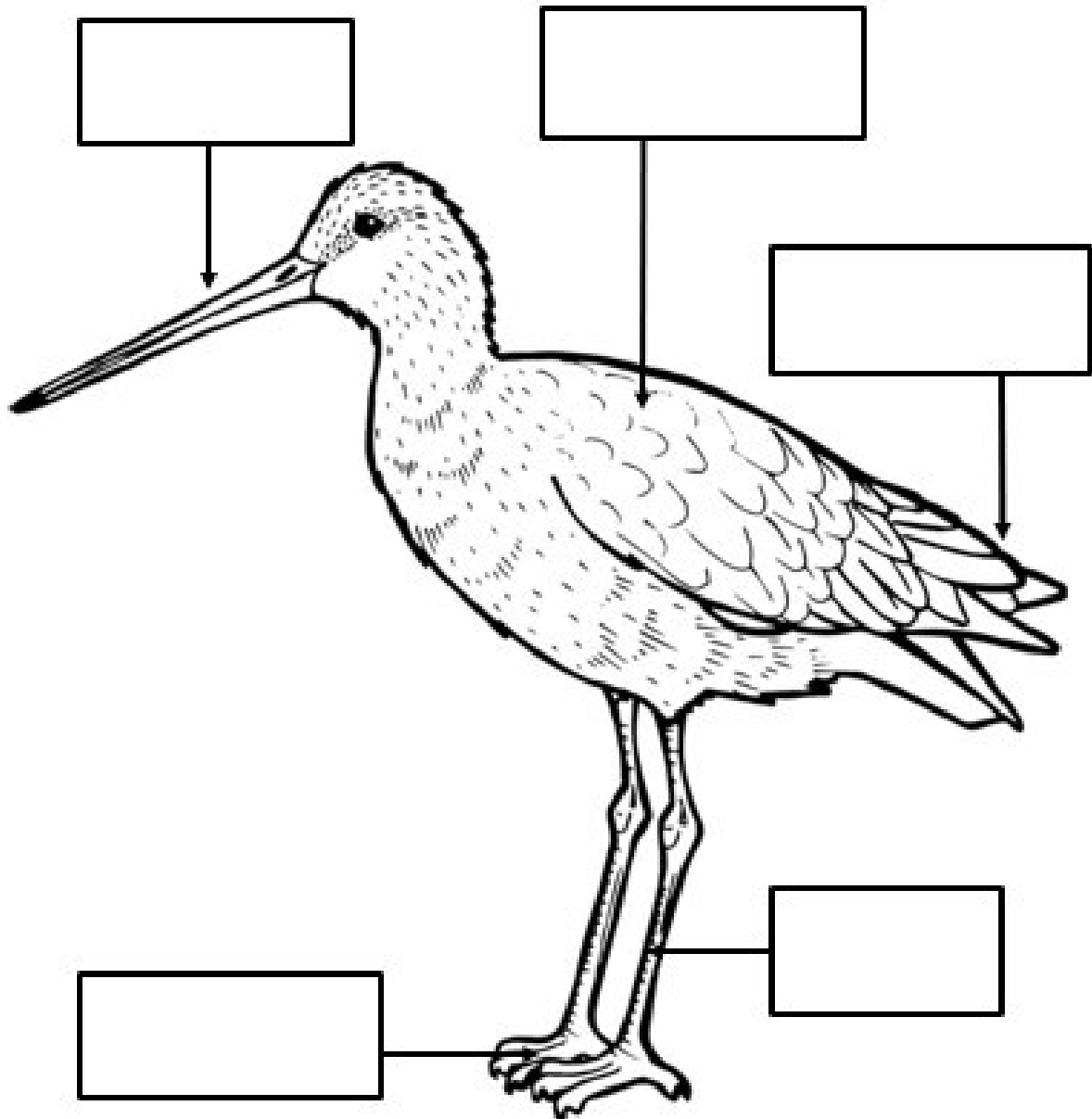
Have you seen a shorebird? You probably have but didn't notice it. They are the little brown birds that run around on the mud as the tide goes out!

Special features of shorebirds

Shorebirds have some special features that help them live in their wetland habitats. They are: Long bills used to find food in mud and water,

- Long thin legs compared to their body size for walking in shallow water and mud,
- Long toes so they can balance on the soft sand or mud,
- Pointed wings with long flight feathers for fast flight,
- Mottled mostly brown plumage to help them blend with the shore (camouflage) and hide from predators.

On the shorebird picture below, label the special features of a shorebird.



For the Shorebirds 2024 Competition you are going to create a postcard of your favourite shorebird and tell us an interesting fact, or other information you have discovered about your shorebird.

Do some research to learn about your shorebird and some interesting facts.

What is the name of the shorebird you have chosen? Check it's on the list of Australian Shorebirds. If not, you will need to choose another bird that is on the list. Do some research on your shorebird to find out about its amazing life.

My shorebirds name:

Some interesting facts I have learned about my shorebird. Use the box below to write some notes.

From your research choose one interesting fact that you learned about your shorebird to use on your postcard. Write it in the space below. Be creative!

My favourite shorebird fact:

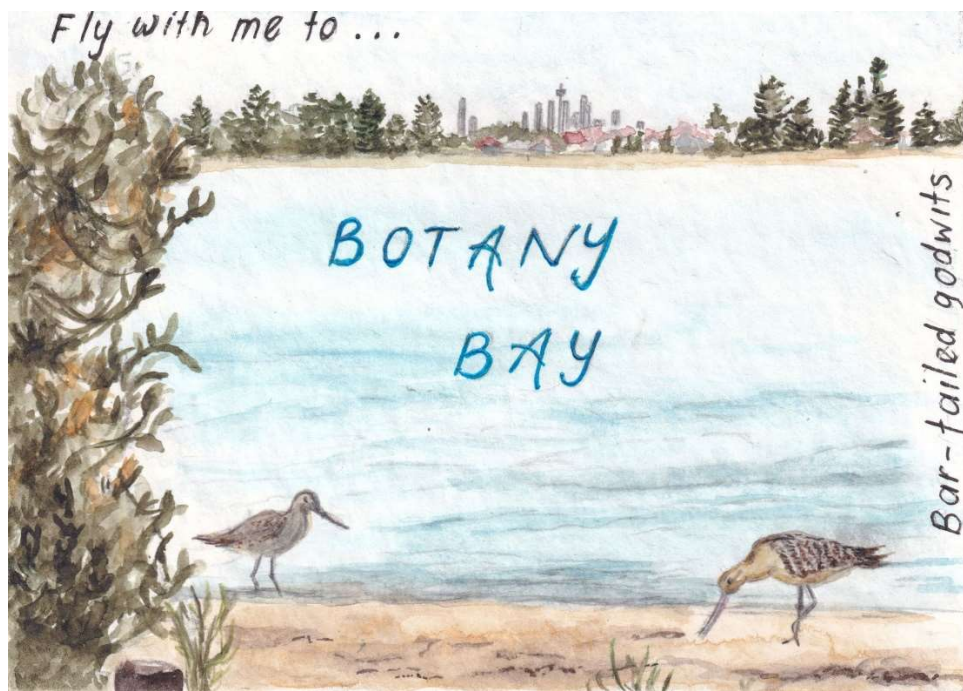
How to make a postcard

You will now design your postcard for the Shorebirds Competition 2024.

On the **front of the postcard**, draw or paint your shorebird and write the name of the bird. You can also show its wetland or coastal home and the name of the area. It's a good idea to draw with lead pencil first, before you add colour.


Important: Check that your bird is an [Australian Shorebird](#) before you start designing your postcard!

Here is an example for you.



On the back of your postcard, you need to write all your information.

Divide the back of your postcard into four sections using a pencil and then neatly write your information. Use the example below to show you where the information goes.

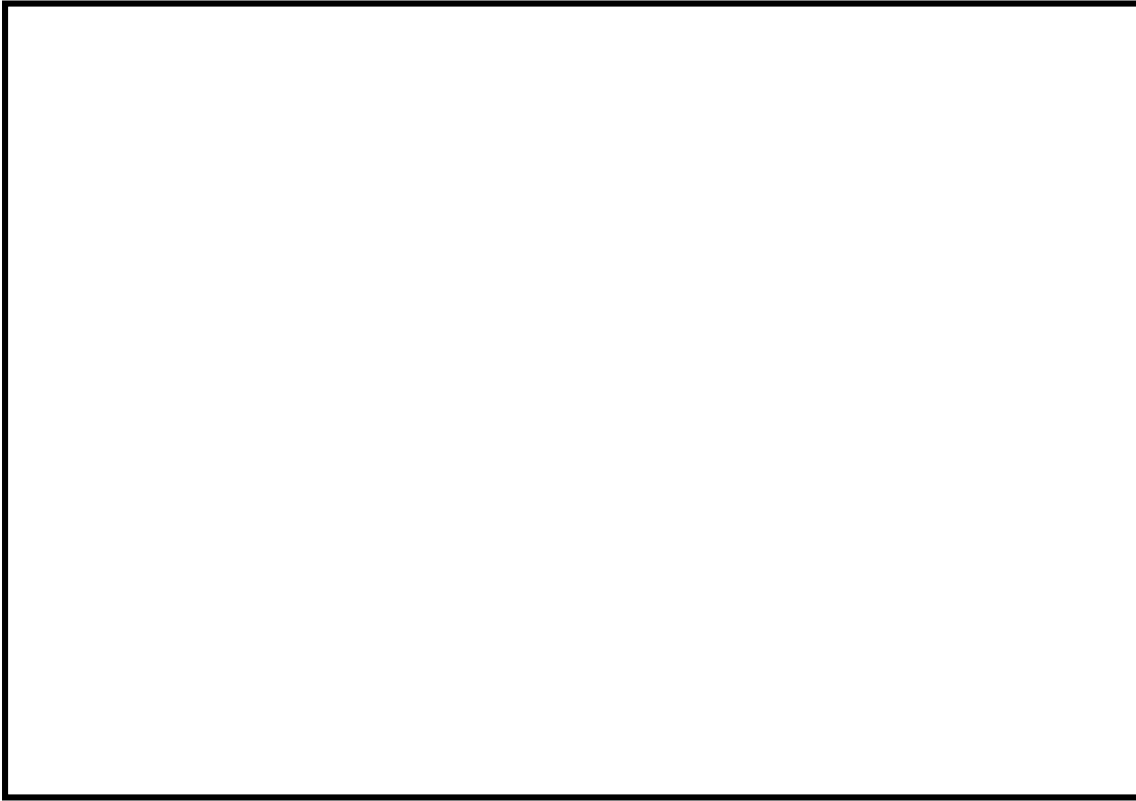
Write your shorebird message here	
Write your address here. Your full name Year at school Suburb or Town State, postcode Email address (parent/teacher)	To: ANSTO Shorebirds Competition C/- ANSTO Discovery Centre (B65) New Illawarra Rd Lucas Heights, NSW, 2234

On the next page are two boxes that are the postcard size. Use these boxes and a lead pencil to practice planning your postcard. This will help you to make sure your design and words all fit nicely on your postcard.

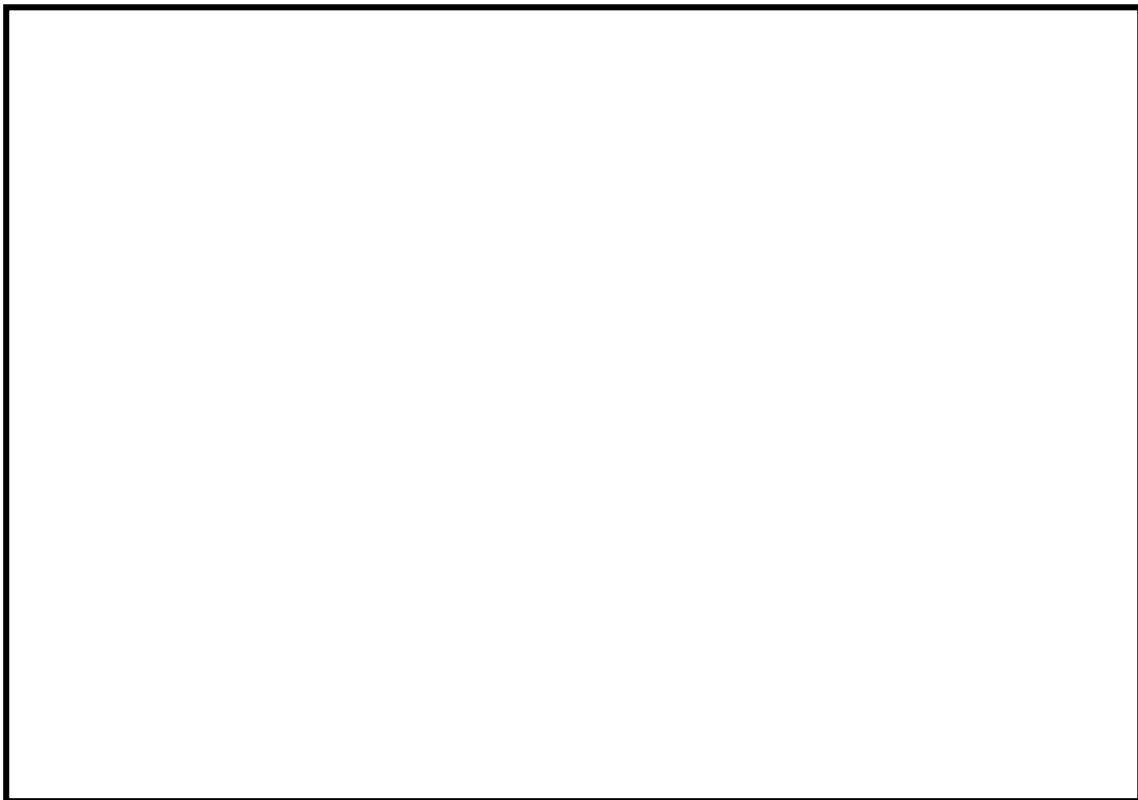
Planning your postcard is very important to make sure you don't forget anything! Have fun creating your original postcard.

When you have finished designing your postcard, you are ready to copy your design, to a piece of thick art paper or a thin piece of cardboard, postcard sized (15 cm long and 10.5 cm wide). Colour your shorebird using pencils, textas or paint and fill in your information ready to send to ANSTO.

My postcard design:



Front of your postcard



Back of your postcard