

Shorebirds 2024 Newsletter 2

Postcard activity for students

Our Shorebirds Competition 2024 invites students in Years 3 to 6 to create a postcard featuring an Australian shorebird. This newsletter for teachers provides information and tips which you can use to assist your students. Our [website](#) has additional resources for teachers and students, including curriculum-linked teacher lessons. Any questions can be emailed to competition@ansto.gov.au

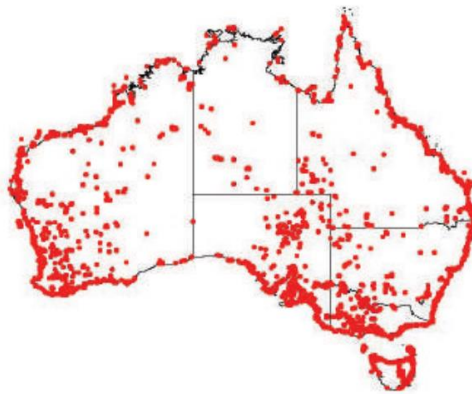
Do shorebirds live near you?

Shorebirds are found in many parts of Australia. The linked [ID booklet](#) by BirdLife Australia and map below shows how widespread they are.

Finding out about shorebirds in your area is a good place to start. Is there a beach or wetland nearby? If so, it may have shorebirds! Students can find out which shorebird species are found locally and learn about their behaviour, adaptations, and any interesting facts about the birds.

Students can visit the local environment and consider the habitat features that shorebirds rely on. Resident shorebirds may be spotted on our shores all year round. Some migratory species may be seen, although most will not be returning to our shores until Spring. If there is no shorebird area nearby, students can research shorebirds found in their State or Territory.

TIP: If an area supports a population of *threatened* shorebirds, there is likely to be signage and locally available information about the species.



Shorebird sightings in Australia, from BirdLife Australia's Birdata portal.

Choosing a shorebird

Students can choose any shorebird found in Australia to feature on their postcard entry. We encourage students to connect with their local environment, if possible, by choosing a bird found locally. It may be a *resident* shorebird, which breeds on our shores, or a *migratory* shorebird, which breeds in the Arctic. **Check the ID booklet above to confirm that students are choosing a listed shorebird!** Some seabirds and waterbirds can be confused for shorebirds but have different behaviours and features to shorebirds.

Purpose of the postcard

Postcards are great at getting a message across quickly! They are usually sent while people are traveling and want to share a local scene and a short message. The purpose of the postcard for this competition will be to highlight a local shorebird species (or one found in the student's State or Territory) and share a message about the bird.

The activity encourages students to learn about an important member of wetland or coastal ecosystems and allows students to demonstrate their creativity. They will also learn how a postcard works! Additionally, ANSTO will donate 50 cents for every postcard received to BirdLife Australia for their important shorebird conservation work. Entering the Shorebirds Competition will help shorebirds!

Postcard size

Postcards should be **15 cm by 10.5 cm** (or A6 in size). This is equivalent to an A4 sheet cut into quarters (or A5 sheet cut in half).

We recommend using thick art paper or thin cardboard, so the postcards are relatively stiff. This will also allow both the front and back surfaces of the postcard to be worked on by students.

Postcard artwork

Students will need to create the artwork on their postcard by hand (digitally created entries will not be accepted.) **It should feature a drawing or painting of an Australian shorebird, and the name of the bird should be clearly shown.** The shorebird's habitat can also be shown, and the name of the area and State/Territory.

The artwork should be in landscape orientation. The following mediums can be used: lead and coloured pencils, pens, textas, crayons or paint. Students can draw their artwork in lead pencil before they add colour. The shorebird should show the main features for the species, but otherwise, creativity is encouraged!



Artwork by Yolanda D. in Year 6, 2022

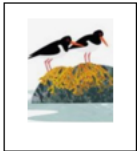
Back of the postcard

Students will need to include their information on the back of the postcard and a message. Due to the small size, we recommend that students practice on scrap paper first to make sure everything fits neatly!

Before they start writing, we suggest that students divide the back of the postcard by ruling a pencil line down the middle. On the left-hand side, students will need to **tell us why they think their shorebird is amazing or share an interesting fact they have learned about their shorebird.**

Students will also need to provide their details on the left-hand side: Full name, Year at school, school name, suburb or town, State and postcode, and their teacher’s email address. Postcards from each school will be separated during processing and need to be individually identifiable.

The ANSTO address should go on the right-hand side. Students may like to draw a ‘stamp’ in the right-hand top corner.

<p><i>Share a message here!</i></p>	
<p>Student full name Year at school School name Suburb or Town State and <u>postcode</u> Teacher email address</p>	<p>To: ANSTO Shorebirds Competition C/- ANSTO Discovery Centre (B65) New Illawarra Rd Lucas Heights, NSW, 2234</p>

Submitting entries

Postcards can be posted to ANSTO any time before the competition closing date of 18 October 2024. **We are accepting postcards now!**

Postcards can be mailed in bulk from schools, in one envelope. Please separate postcards for Years 3-4 and Years 5-6, if possible, as these age groups will be processed and judged separately.

When your students’ original postcards are ready to post, fill in the [Entry Form for Schools](#) so we know the entries are on their way. Postcards will not be returned, and only original work will be accepted.

We hope your students enjoy learning about these unique and special birds. We look forward to seeing their amazing and creative postcards.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us at competition@ansto.gov.au



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