

grade
4-6

Wetlands

This is a resource developed by Bellarine Catchment Network. Learn about the wonders of wetlands and how we can all protect them.

For more information, email info@bcn.org.au



Wetlands

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Wetlands are one of the most important ecosystems in the world, similar to rain forests and coral reefs. A large number of species of microbes, plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and mammals can be part of a wetland ecosystem. Wetlands can include swamps, marshes, billabongs, lakes, salt marshes, mudflats, mangroves, coral reefs, fens, peat bogs, or bodies of water and they can be natural or artificial.

Ramsar Wetlands are specific wetlands in different parts of the world that are important worldwide. In 1971, people from all over the world came together to pledge to protect specific wetlands. This pledge was called the "Ramsar Convention" and aims to protect wetlands across the globe and take care of the plants and animals that rely upon them.

In Victoria, we have 10 of these globally important wetlands. Places like Lake Connewarre and Swan Bay are examples of a Ramsar wetland and are visited by many migratory birds.

Migratory birds travel the world via 'flyways' (like highways) and our local flyway is the 'East Asian-Australasian Flyway'. Our migratory birds use this flyway to get to Alaska and Siberia so that they can breed. When their chicks are fully grown, they turn around and make the journey back to Australia to eat and get their strength back.



Bird Types

Cut out the birds on the right side of this page and use the link to the right to research if they are a resident, migratory or introduced. Paste your answers into the boxes below.

[Click here](#)
for more
info

RESIDENT (lives here all year)

MIGRATORY (make an annual migration)

INTRODUCED (not native to Australia)



magpie

swan

red knot

little
raven

indian myna

cockatoo

curlew
sandpiper

wattlebird

eastern
curlew

house
sparrow

pelican

blackbird

pied stilt

sea gull

common
greenshank

Bird Bingo

Head to your backyard, local reserve or beach and play bird bingo by looking and finding these birds. Try and cross off as many birds as you can.

Hint: [Click here to watch our video](#)

 Swamp Harrier	 Royal Spoonbill	 White-Bellied Sea Eagle	 Red-Capped Plover	 White-faced Heron	 Crested Pigeon	 Eurasian Blackbird	 Galah
 Red-necked Stint	 Sooty Oystercatcher	 Common Greenshank	 Little Black Cormorant	 Chestnut Teal	 Pied Cormorant	 European Starling	 Eastern Rosella
 Australasian Swamphen	 Australasian Gannet	 Great Cormorant	 Grey Teal	 Great Egret	 Whiskered Tern	 Welcome Swallow	 Rainbow Lorikeet
 Australian Pelican	 Black-Shouldered Kite	 Black Swan	 Yellow-Billed Spoonbill	 Pacific Gull	 Silver Gull	 Raven	 Superb Fairywren
 Little Pied Cormorant	 Far Eastern Curlew	 Black-faced Cormorant	 Caspian Tern	 Bar Tailed Godwit	 Little Egret	 Willie Wagtail	 Red Wartbird
 Pied Oystercatcher	 Australian Ibis	 Masked Lapwing	 Black-fronted Dotterel	 Common Tern	 Spotted Dove	 Australian Magpie	 House Sparrow

Spot the difference

In the boxes provided, write down all the differences you see between each bird pair. Look for differences in colour, shape, size and plumage.



**great crested
tern**



whiskered tern

example: one has a yellow beak



caspian tern



common tern



**little pied
cormorant**



pied cormorant



**little black
cormorant**



**great
cormorant**

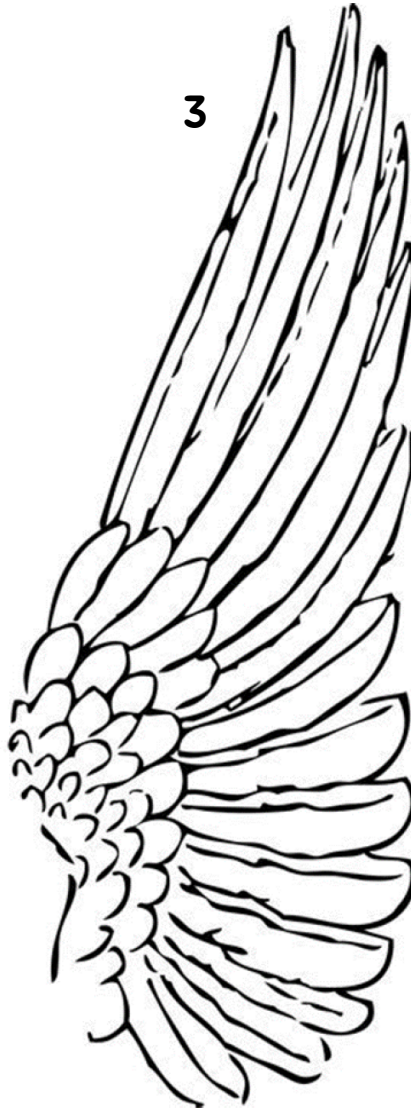
Parrot puppet

Colour in the Orange-bellied Parrot, a Critically Endangered migratory parrot that visits the Bellarine in winter. Then, cut out each piece and use glue to attach the pieces in order to make a puppet.

1: bottom



3



2

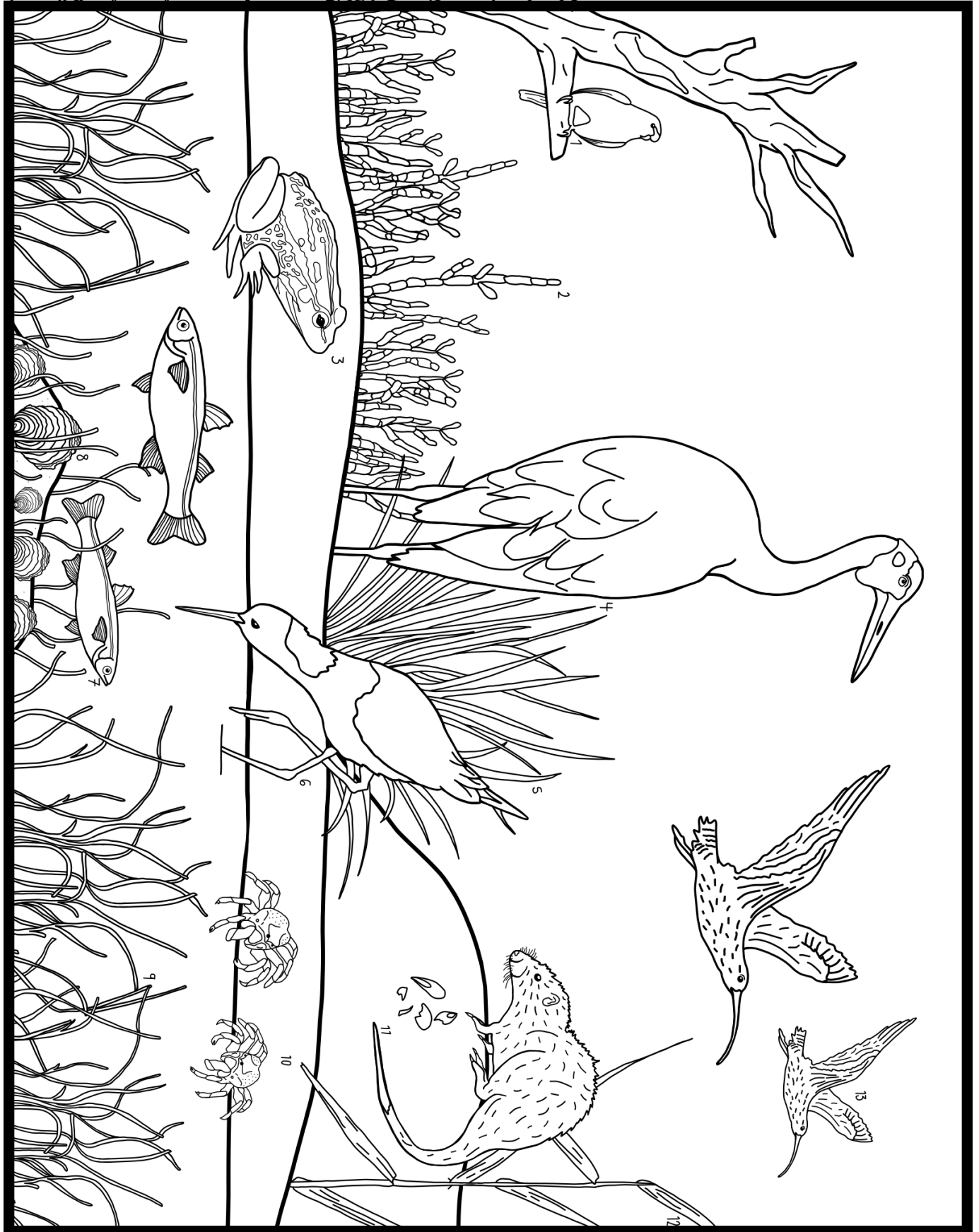


4: top



Colour in a wetland

Colour in the plants and animals that live in a wetland habitat. On the second page, try and write 5 facts about 3 species of your choice.



1. Orange-bellied Parrot
2. Beaded Glasswort
3. Growing Grass Frog
4. Brolga
5. Spiny-headed Mat-rush
6. Pied Stilt
7. Yellow-eyed Mullet
8. Angasi Oyster
9. Eelgrass
10. Soldier Crab
11. Rakali
12. Common Reed
13. Eastern Curlew

Colour in a wetland

number in colour in:
species name:

fact 1:

fact 2:

fact 3:

fact 4:

fact 5:

number in colour in:
species name:

fact 1:

fact 2:

fact 3:

fact 4:

fact 5:

number in colour in:
species name:

fact 1:

fact 2:

fact 3:

fact 4:

fact 5:

Bird watching

Hint: [Click here](#) to
watch our video

To bird watch, sit at a window, sit in your backyard or visit a natural reserve or beach. In the boxes below, write the names of 4 different bird species, the date and time you saw them and draw a sketch of the bird.

name of bird:

date:

time:

name of bird:

date:

time:

name of bird:

date:

time:

name of bird:

date:

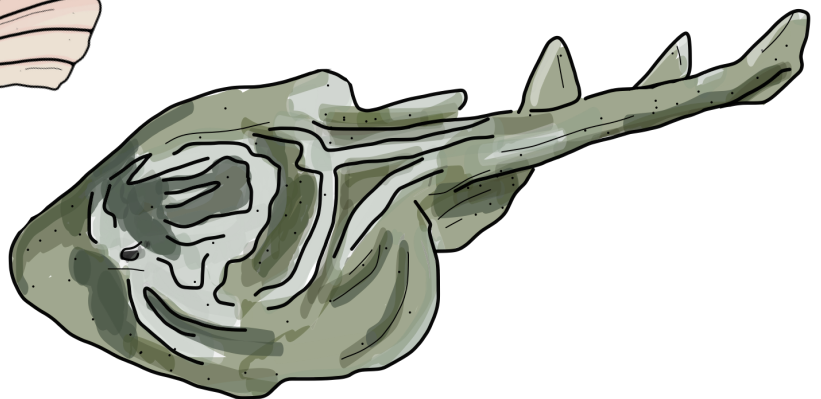
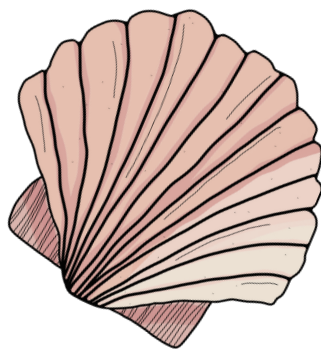
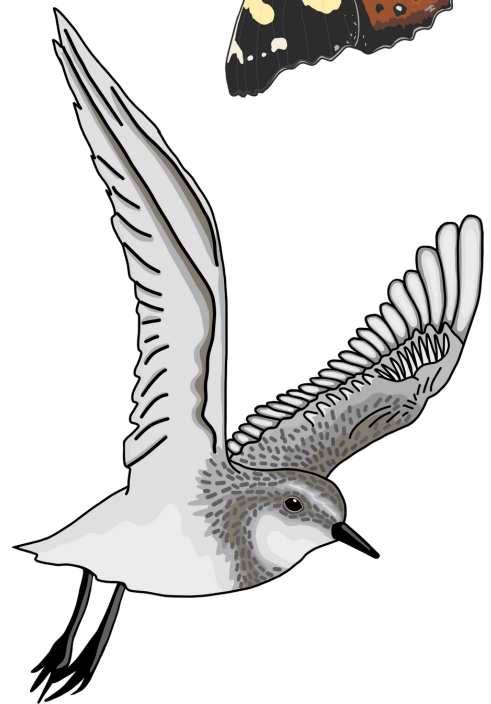
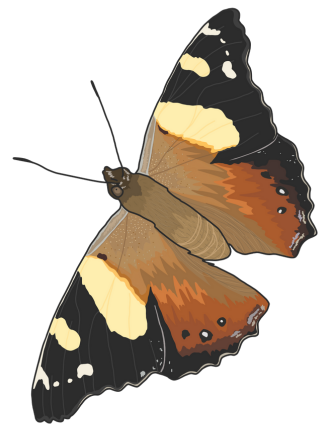
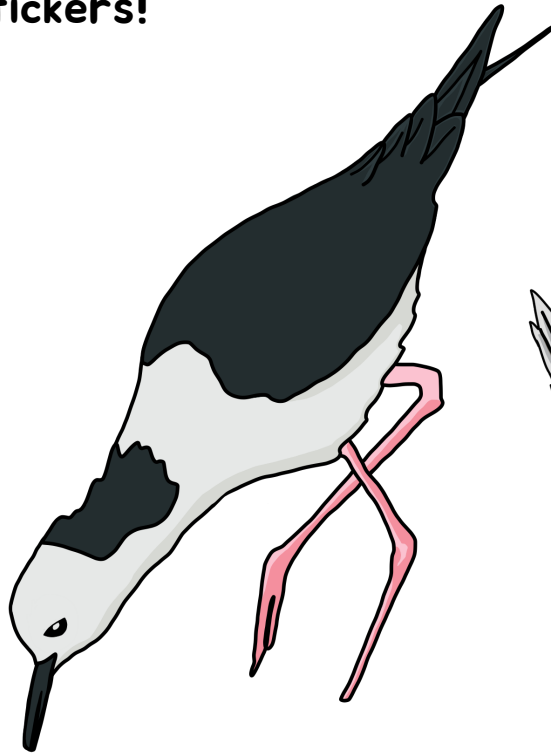
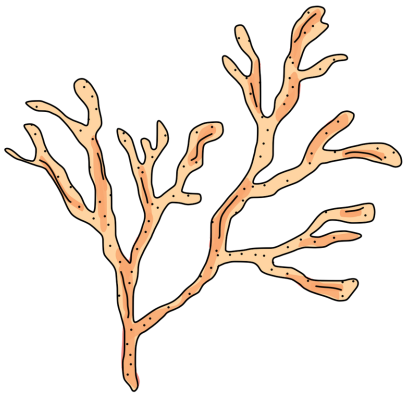
time:

Wetland poster

Using a piece of paper, an online poster maker or scrap paper, create a poster celebrating the following:

- A wetland (e.g. Lake Connnewarre)
- A migratory bird (e.g. Great Knot)
- Threats this bird may face
- How we can help to protect their wetland habitat

Tip: you can cut out these drawings and use them as stickers!



Evaluation

What activity was your favourite?

What types of animals live in wetlands?

What is Ramsar?

list 3 ways that we can enhance and protect our local wetlands?

Name

Teacher

Grade

Date