

SHOREBIRDS

Not all shorebirds live by the shore. You can find them on the beach, in marshes and meadows, in the woods, and even in your local landfill. Shorebirds are part of the animal kingdom. Scientists have split up the larger kingdoms into smaller groups called phylum, class and order. Shorebirds belong to the chordate phylum. Almost all chordates have a backbone and a skeleton. All birds belong to the same class. There are 30 different orders of birds.

One of the most common shorebirds in this area is the gull. There are so many gulls because they will eat almost anything including insects, fish, worms, rodents, grain, and garbage! Terns can be found all over the world. Terns used to be hunted for their feathers but now we have laws to protect them. Puffins live in the northern oceans of the world. Puffins have very colorful beaks. They can dive up to 200 feet deep and they can hold up to 30 fish in their mouth at once! Shorebirds are fun to watch and learn about.

I got my information from Shorebirds: From Stilts to Sanderlings by Sara Swan Miller.