

A Shorebird Flying Adventure

AUTHOR

JACKIE KERIN

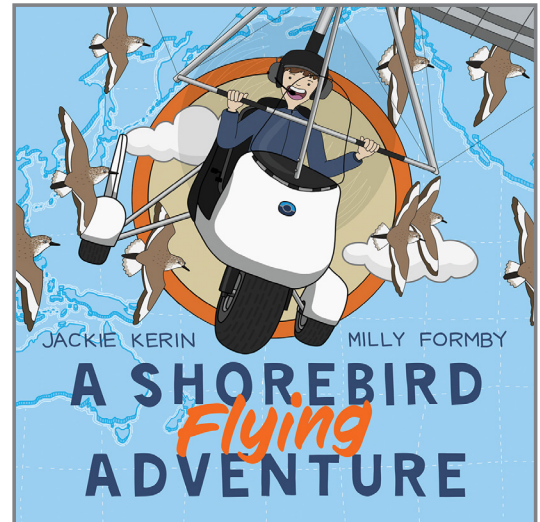
ILLUSTRATOR

MILLY FORMBY

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Join Milly on her microlight adventure and discover how amazing and awesome migratory shorebirds are!

In *A Shorebird Flying Adventure* you'll take a trip to the Arctic tundra and back. On the way you'll meet the birds who travel phenomenal distances every year and explore their precious wetland habitats and breeding grounds. Learn fascinating facts about their diet and find out Milly's top tips to tell one species from another. Grab your binoculars, hop on board and let's go bird watching!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jackie Kerin is the author of several non-fiction books for children and has a deep interest in connecting children to nature, encouraging their curiosity and inspiring them to become advocates for a better world. See <https://www.jackiekerin.com.au/>.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Amellia 'Milly' Formby is a pilot, zoologist, illustrator and bird nerd! She combines these skills to create stories that empower others to become strong voices for nature. Milly will be flying her microlight around Australia to raise awareness for migratory shorebirds in May–November 2022. Follow her amazing journey around Australia at wingthreads.com.

BEFORE READING

- There are birds who migrate, or travel, thousands of kilometres between the Arctic and Australia each year. Watch this video about a special wetland habitat in South Australia, to start learning about migratory shorebirds: <https://youtu.be/1WokMcl2yIw>. What are some of the obstacles they may come across in their lives?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SCIENCE

- Three distinguishing features of birds are their feathers, their beaks and their feet. The book makes some important points about these body parts in migratory shorebirds. What are they? (Answer: Feathers: plumage changes for breeding purposes; Feathers moult sequentially to enable birds to escape predators; Beaks: a variety of shapes and sizes; bendy bills (rhynchokinesis); pressure sensors that help with locating food; Feet: unlike seabirds, shorebird feet are not webbed.)

- Several wetland habitats are shown throughout the book. How many different ones can you find? What does it mean that 'Wetlands are important for biodiversity'? (Answer: Freshwater wetlands, grasslands, saltmarsh, marine wetlands, rocky beaches, sandy beaches, salt lakes, mudflats, mangroves, tundra.)

ENGLISH

- Some of the words in the book may be unfamiliar. From the illustrations or their placement on the page or in the sentence, can you figure out the meaning of these words?
 - wheel spat (cover for a wheel)
 - tatty (ragged, torn)
 - shimmering (faintly shiny, softly glowing)
 - juvenile (young, not yet matured)
 - aquaculture (intentional farming of marine food, like salmon or oysters).

SUSTAINABILITY

- The book asks us to imagine a world where people, pets and birds can share the beach respectfully. What are these things?
- What other ways can you imagine to make our beaches safe places for all life?

ACTIVITY

- In the front of the book is a quote from a piece of music by Laura Brearley called *Acknowledgement of Country Song*, with a line that says, 'For we are all connected as one.' And towards the end of the book the author says, 'Shorebirds teach us that all life is connected through land, sea and sky.' While you listen to the whole song think about how the book demonstrates how shorebirds connect land, sea and sky, and write a few sentences or draw a picture to show your understanding.