

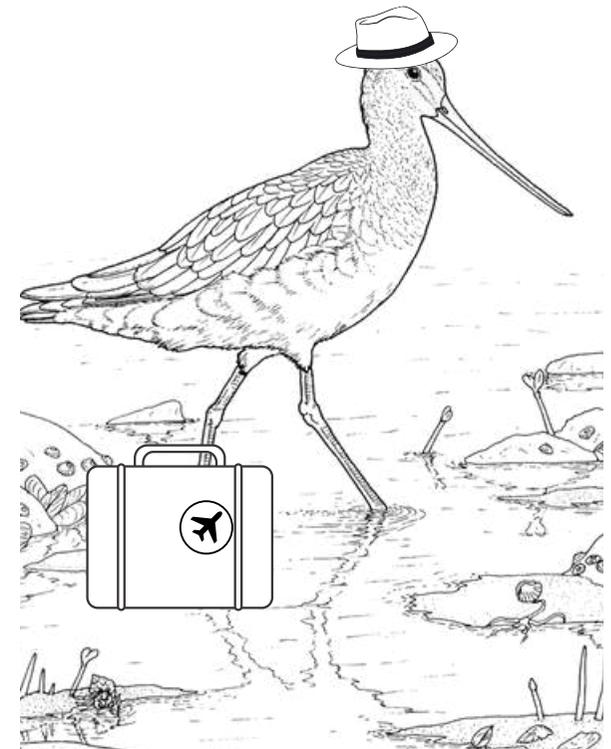
A Godwit's Grand Getaway

Let's make a beautiful home for the marvelous migratory Hudsonian Godwit!

These long-legged birds are incredible travelers. Every year, they fly thousands of miles from the Arctic all the way to South America for the winter. That's a super long journey! Along the way, they stop at important places called wetlands, like ponds, mudflats, beaches and even flooded farmland. These spots are like a perfect rest stop, full of yummy food like insects, worms, and small crustaceans that help them refuel for the rest of their trip.

Today, you'll get to build your very own paper plate wetland to show a Hudsonian Godwit a great place to rest and recharge. But first, let's learn more about what makes a wetland so special:

- Wetlands are found all over the world except Antarctica.
- One of the largest wetlands in the world is the Pantanal which covers over 93,000 miles over Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay in South America. It's no surprise that Hudsonian Godwits and other wetland-loving migratory birds choose to spend the winter in South America!
- Many of the plants that are found in the wetland either grow under the water or float on top of it. But some grow out of the ground like trees. The 3 main types of plants found here are emergent, floating, and submerged.
- Wetlands can be made of saltwater or freshwater and sometimes they are a combination of both.
- A Hudsonian Godwit's long bill is perfect for finding food! They love the soft muddy ground in wetland where they use this bill to find crustaceans, mollusks, insects, and worms.





With help from an adult, gather the following materials:

- A paper plate
- Small pebbles
- Small sticks
- moss
- Plastic animals- optional
- White cardstock or bristol board
- Paints
- Markers
- Glue
- Glue gun (optional)



Paper plate wetland diorama. Photo by Tina Robertson

Once you've gathered your materials, it's time to make a wetland habitat no Hudsonian Godwit can resist!

1. Fold the paper plate in half and crease it firmly. Then, unfold it.
2. Paint the plate. Paint one half of the plate green (for land) and the other half blue (for water).
3. Add texture to the water. Squeeze on extra blobs of blue, green, and brown paint where you want your water to be. Use your brush to spread the paint around, leaving it thick to create a mucky, muddy look that's true to a real wetland.
4. Create your animals. Think about what a Hudsonian Godwit will eat and be sure to draw those too! While the plate dries, you can draw and cut out some wetland animals on cardstock or bristol board. We have included a drawing of Hudsonian Godwits that you can print, color and cut out before adding to the habitat. You can even use plastic animals if you have some.
5. Build your landscape. Once your plate is dry, add trees to the background using paint or a marker. Then, glue down or simply arrange natural elements like moss, small sticks, and pebbles on the land portion of the diorama. For a more realistic look, you can hot glue moss onto small sticks to create mini trees.
6. Place the animals. Add your paper or plastic animals to the scene to complete your beautiful wetland habitat.

