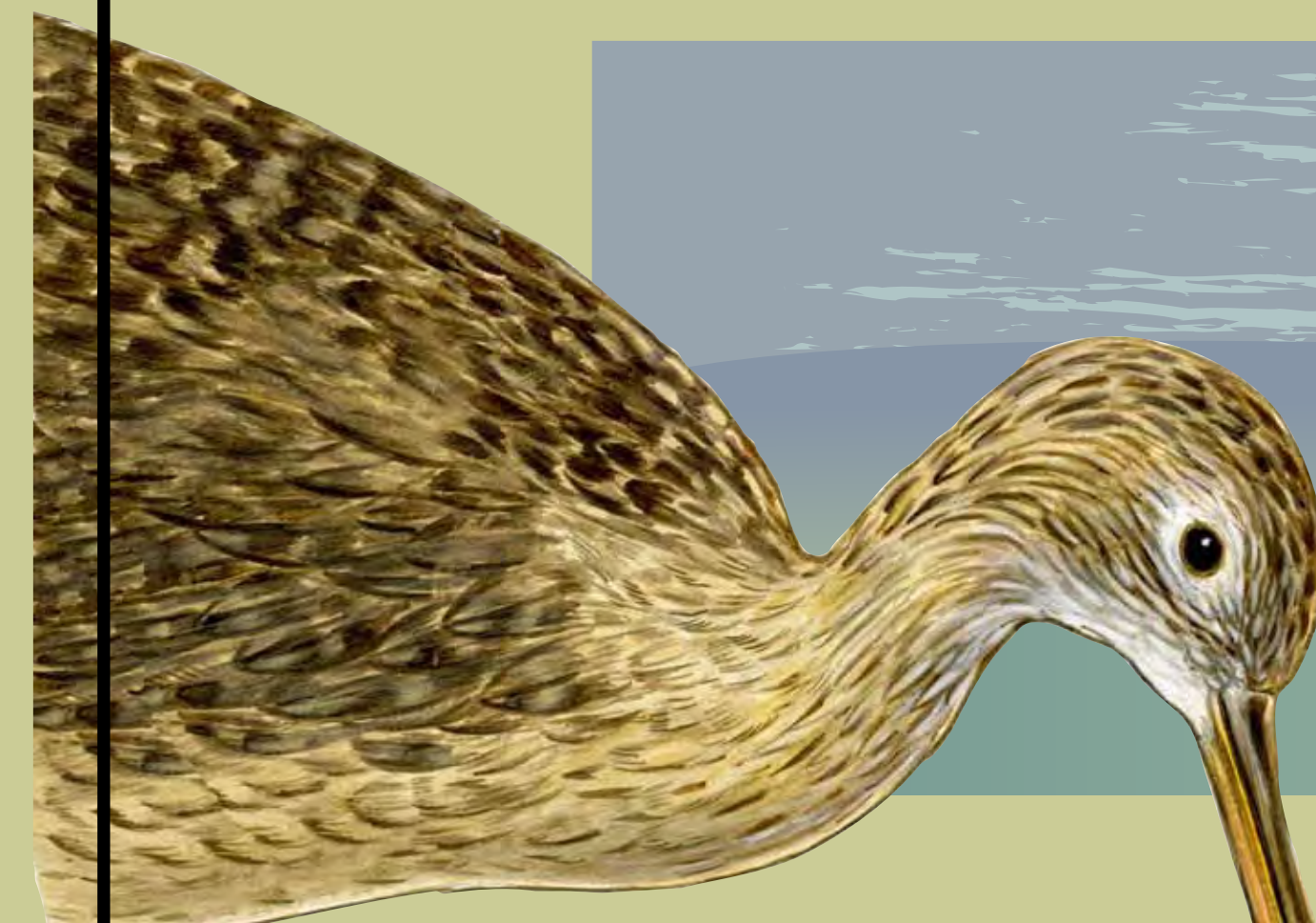


Hidden Signs of the Season

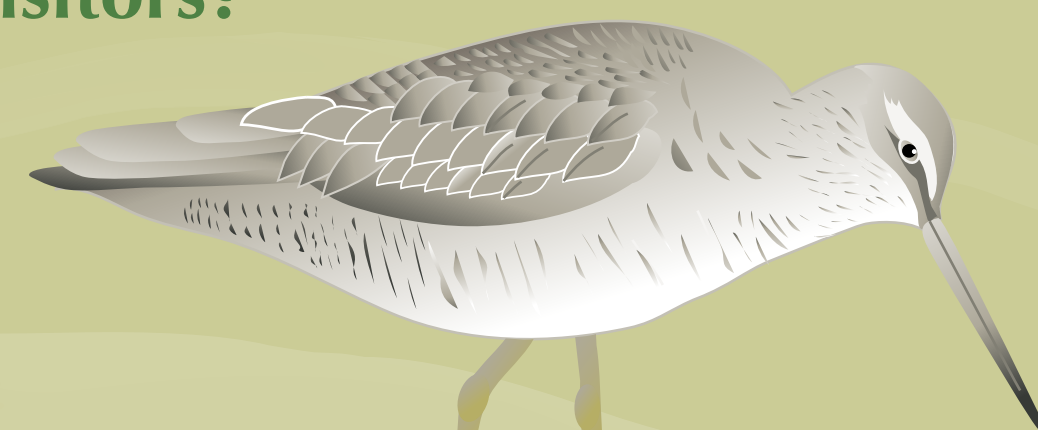
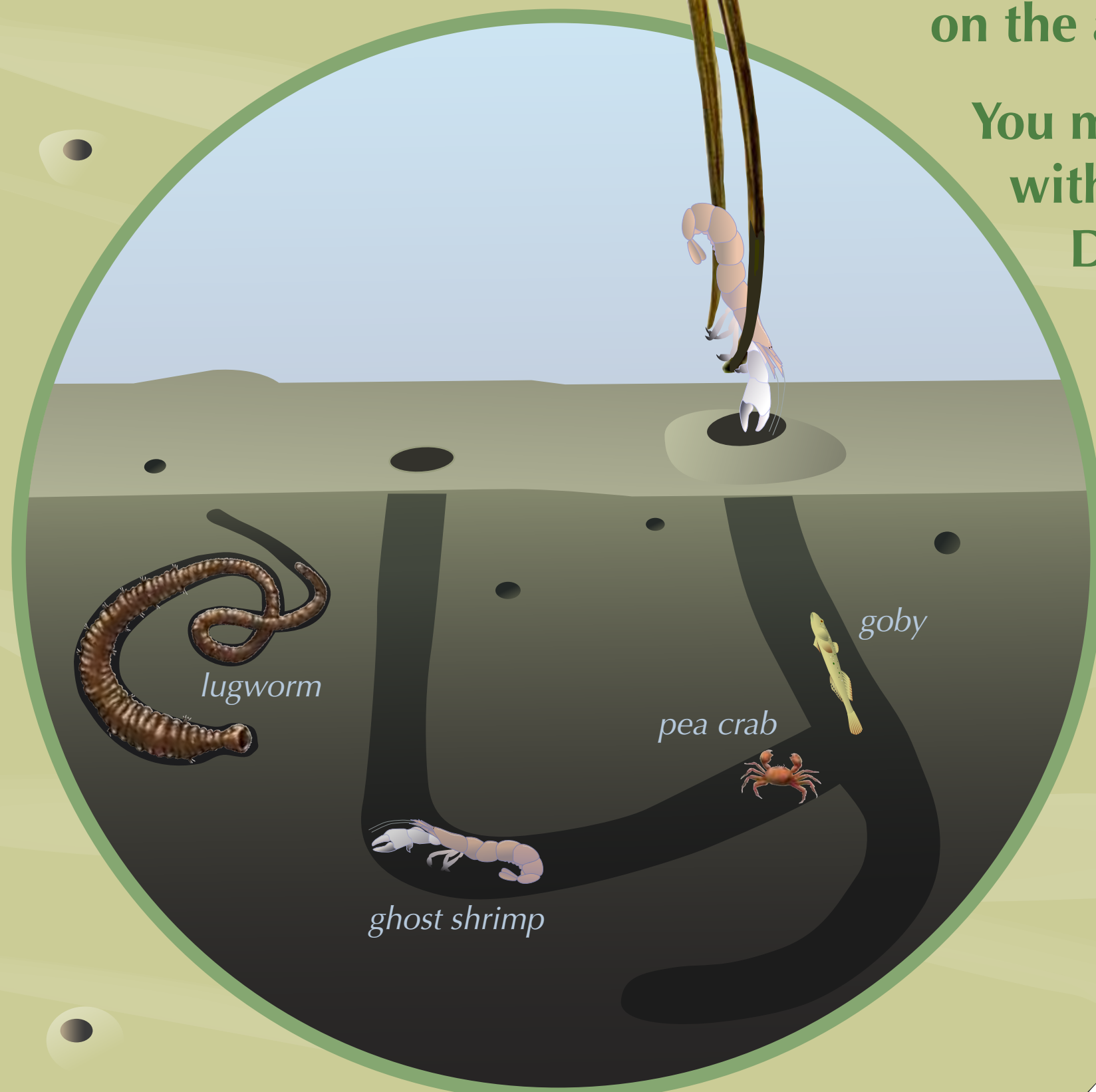


The long-billed curlew uses its down-curved bill to search deep in the mud for food.

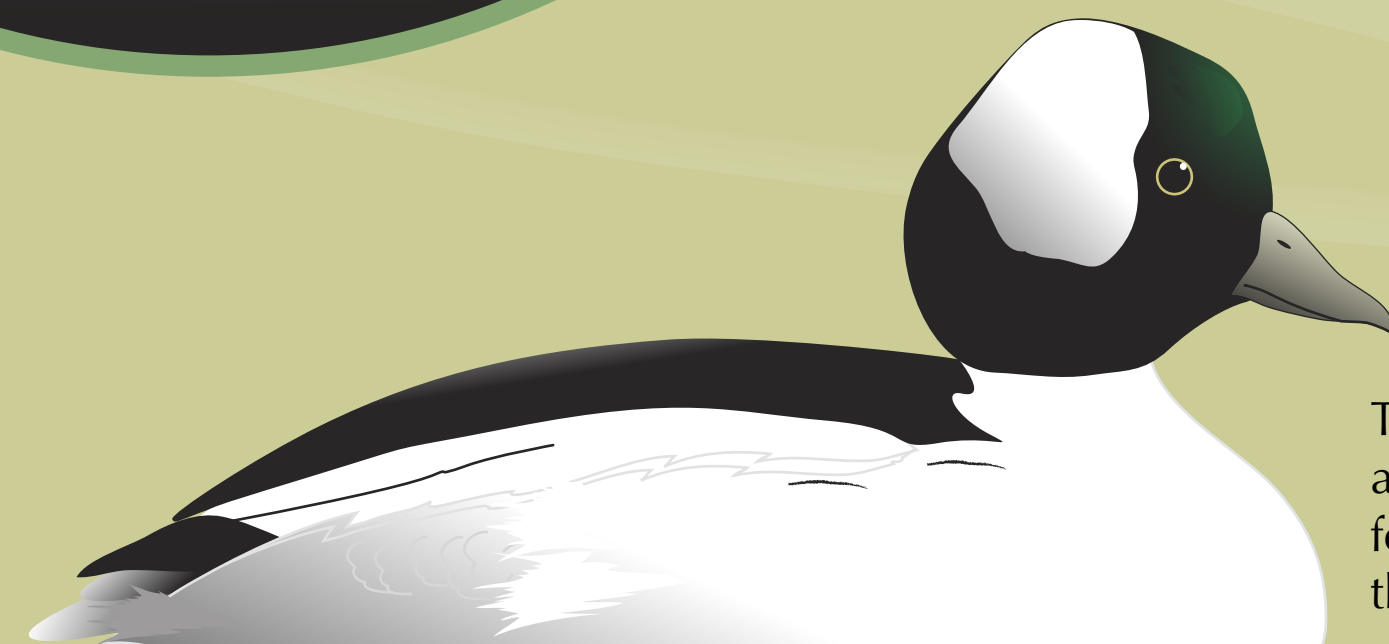
Fall/Winter

Each fall, the Alameda Shoreline hosts thousands of birds that briefly stop to “refuel” during their long southward migration. Quite a few more stay all winter to feast on the abundance of food.

You may notice several types of birds within a small stretch of shoreline. Different bill lengths and feeding strategies allow numerous species to forage in the same area without competing for food. Can you identify some of our seasonal visitors?



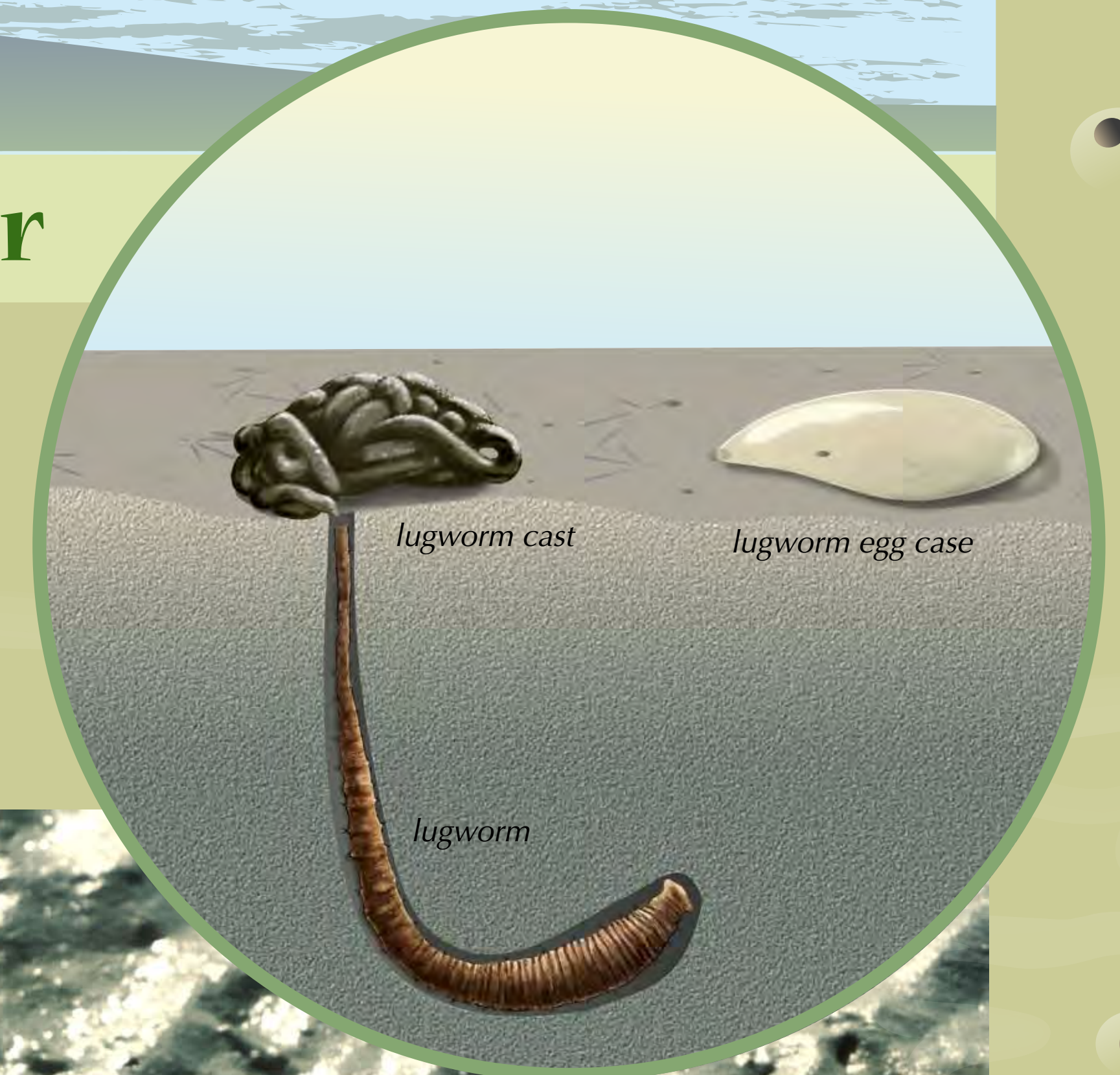
The long-billed and short-billed dowitchers feed in an up-and-down motion that resembles a sewing machine.



The bufflehead is a big-headed duck with a characteristic white patch. Watch it dive for fish and aquatic invertebrates beneath the water's surface.

Spring/Summer

Springtime signals new life at Crab Cove. Baby leopard sharks and bat rays are born in the protective waters of the Bay. On the mudflat at low tide, look for the trenches bat rays leave behind after hunting for prey.



In summer, you might spot a clear or yellowish jelly-like mass on the mud surface—the eggs of the lugworm. Bubble snail eggs can also be found; green blobs with bright yellow specks. Enjoy exploring but please do not disturb the delicate eggs.



Dogs are not allowed on the beach at Crab Cove or Crown Beach.