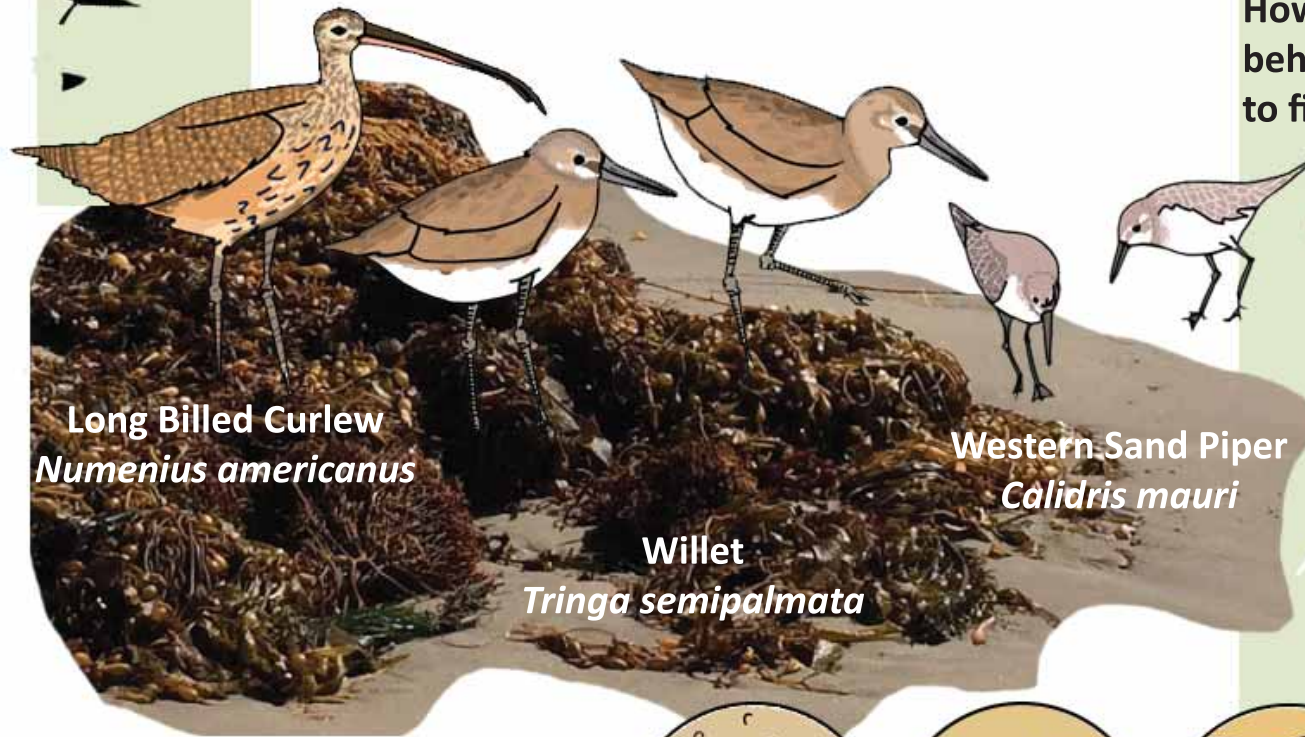
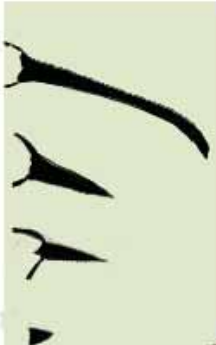


# SHORE BIRDS of CABRILLO

While you may see different species of birds foraging together on the same beach, specialized beaks and behaviors allow them to feed on a variety of food from a variety of places.



Long Billed Curlew  
*Numenius americanus*

Willet  
*Tringa semipalmata*

Western Sand Piper  
*Calidris mauri*

Sanderlings  
*Calidris alba*

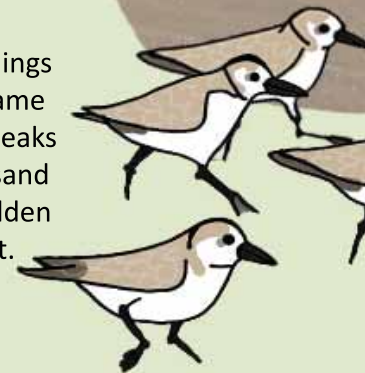
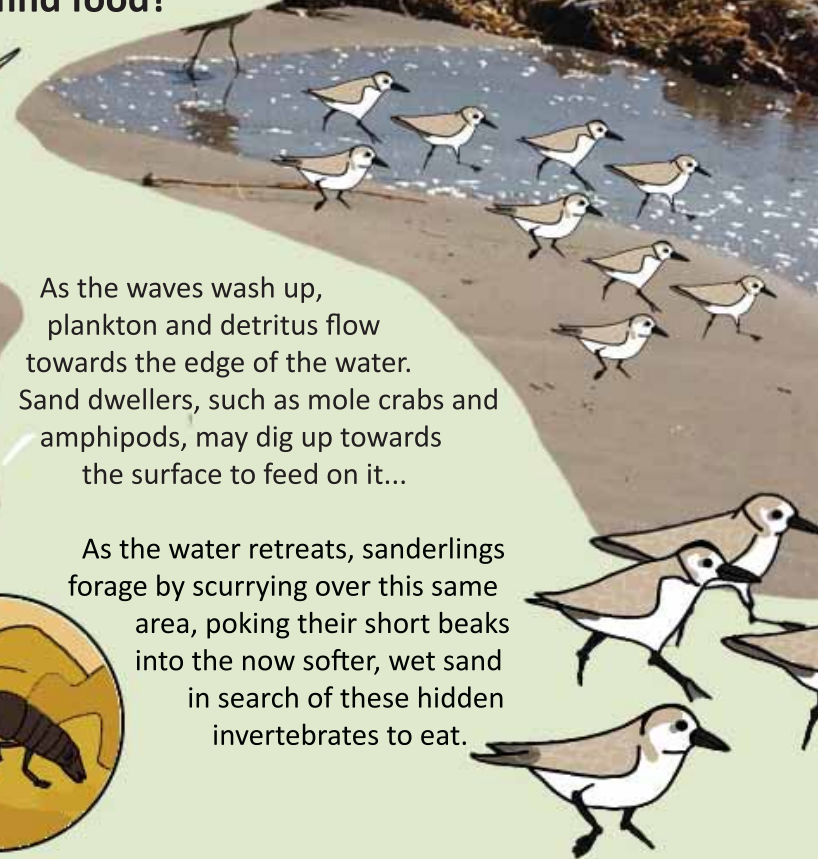
Often seen chasing the waves back and forth while feeding...



How might this behavior help them to find food?

As the waves wash up, plankton and detritus flow towards the edge of the water. Sand dwellers, such as mole crabs and amphipods, may dig up towards the surface to feed on it...

As the water retreats, sanderlings forage by scurrying over this same area, poking their short beaks into the now softer, wet sand in search of these hidden invertebrates to eat.



Washed up piles of decaying kelp (**beachwrack**) provide habitat for small crustaceans and insects such as beach hoppers, kelp flies, rove beetles and more....

In turn, they provide a rich feeding ground for hungry, probing and picking shorebirds.

