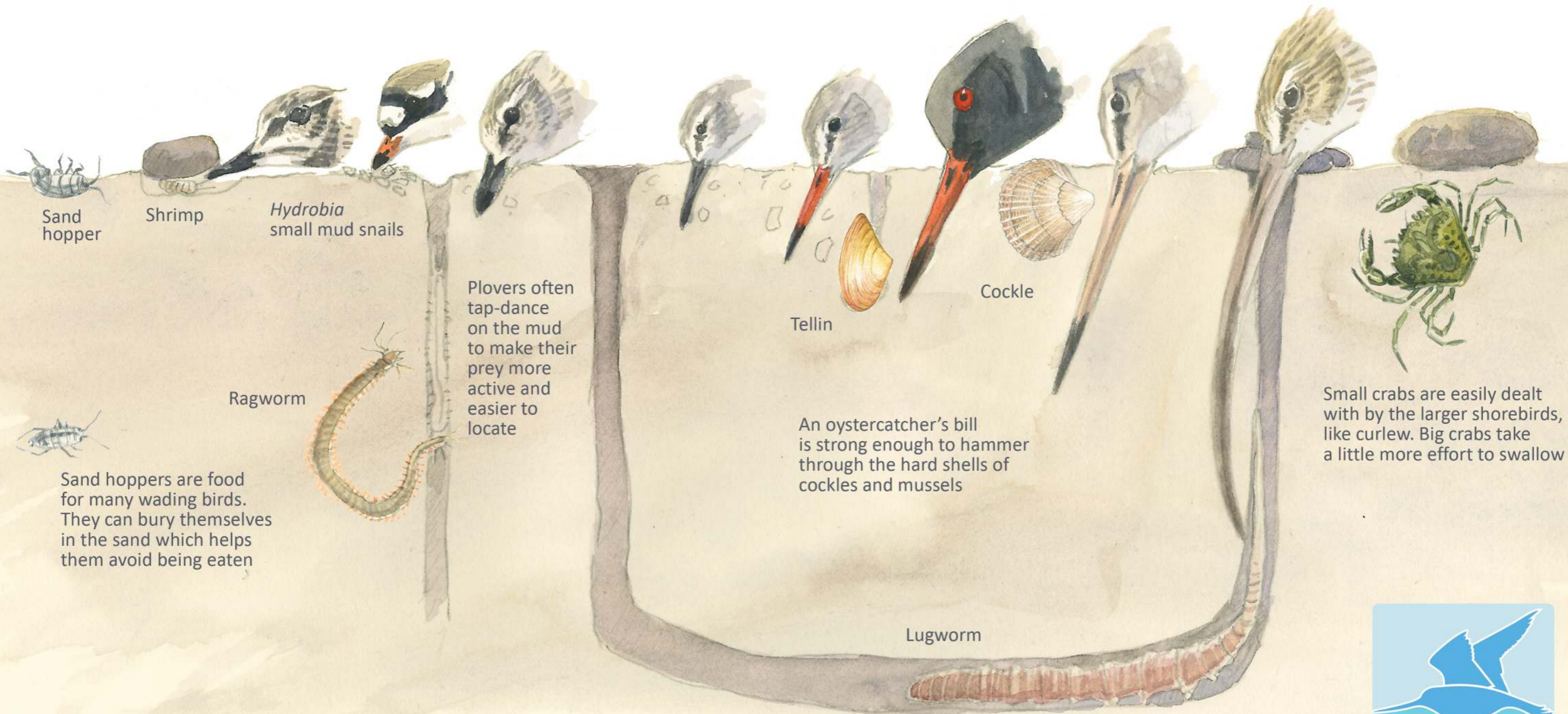




Different beaks, different food

Coastal birds flock to the Solent in Winter to feast on a variety of food in, or on, the mud. Birds with shorter beaks feed mainly by sight. Long beaks feel movements in the sand.

Turnstone Ringed Plover Grey Plover Dunlin Redshank Oystercatcher Black-tailed Godwit Curlew



Sand hopper

Shrimp

Hydrobia
small mud snails

Ragworm

Sand hoppers are food for many wading birds. They can bury themselves in the sand which helps them avoid being eaten

Plovers often tap-dance on the mud to make their prey more active and easier to locate

Tellin

Cockle

An oystercatcher's bill is strong enough to hammer through the hard shells of cockles and mussels

Lugworm

Small crabs are easily dealt with by the larger shorebirds, like curlew. Big crabs take a little more effort to swallow

