

Environmental Impact

Rusty Loses his *Loop*

(Using the resources as a Sunday school lesson)

Sunday School resource
prepared by
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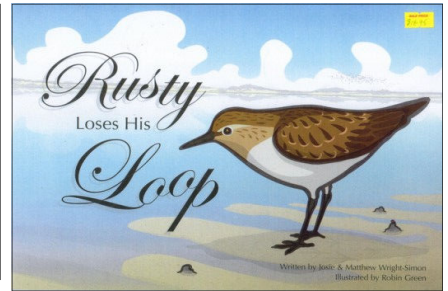
Based on the book written by
Josie & Matthew Wright-Simon
Illustrated by **Robin Green**
ISBN: 0-9578087-8-X © 2006

Published by the **River Murray Urban
Users Local Action Planning Committee**

This book has been produced in South Australia and excellent resources to support its use with children have been made available freely in an educational booklet on the web. Therefore I have started with some of these materials and linked them with our understanding of God's care for birds and the environment.

Download the booklet from: www.murrayusers.sa.gov.au

The book itself is available for **\$18.95** (+pp&h) from the same website, and is now available from the MRN bookshop in the SA UCA office, Level 2, 212 Pirie Street, Adelaide. **Price: \$18.95**



With the children:

Begin:

- Ask if any children have been to the Coorong or the beach and seen sea-birds, especially pelicans.



Use a globe to show children the way many water birds fly across the world to China, Russia and also within Australia. We call them **migratory birds** and they spend a lot of time travelling.

Remind them to look for different birds next time they are at the beach.

Introduce the story as a local one about birds they might see. This is also a real story ...

Read the book...

Reflect for a time as a group:

- Ask a few questions e.g.
 - ♦ What happens next do you think?
 - ♦ How can we make a difference?
 - ♦ Does God care?
- Explain that we know God cares very much because the Bible reveals God knows and cares about the least of animals and birds (**Psalm 147:9, Psalm 104:21, Psalm 84:3**) and Jesus tells us that God is aware of every small bird that falls to the ground in **Matthew 10:29**. (RCL 22/6/08)

Pelican photo courtesy **Paul Barnett UCInvest**

- Then the children might like to explore their response to the story in various ways depending on your facilities, the time available and the age of the children.

Explore:

➤ **Write:**

- Some children might like to write a new ending, or a 'what happened next' sequel to the book.
 - ♦ **Brainstorm** this as a group or it could be a private response.
 - ♦ Ask children "What might happen when Rusty goes back to the Coorong next year?"
 - ♦ or "What needs to change so that Rusty can keep staying at the Coorong?"

➤ **Habitat picture:**

- In the booklet on the website, there is a photocopyable picture of Rusty that could be coloured with felt tip pens or paint and a healthy habitat created as a backdrop.

➤ **Saving water:**

There is also a photocopyable page of a drop of water, headed 'Every Drop Counts', asking children to think of three things they could do to save water.



➤ **Mural: A group activity.**

- If you can source a long length of paper (plain wallpaper can work) and lay it on the floor, children can draw on it using chalk or paint or felt tip pens.
 - ♦ Children can explore the technique of 'bird's eye view' drawing.
 - ♦ Create a mural depicting Rusty's journey from Australia, over the sea and land to Siberia.
 - ♦ Or they could draw a mural of the Coorong with long stretches of sand and shallow lakes, with water birds, boats and fish added.
 - ♦ Children may find a quote from one of the Psalms or the Matthew passage to write along the bottom of the mural.
 - ♦ Make sure all children who contribute to the mural record their names on it.

Whatever the children create, try to make an opportunity for them to share it with the church and find a prominent place to display it with an explanatory label.

www.murrayusers.sa.gov.au

Coorong photo downloaded from
'Steve & Thelma's' Picasaweb album

