

Florida Woodturning Symposium, Feb 20th – 22nd, 2026
Steve Pritchard, Demonstrator
Shore Bird



This bird is turned off axis to give it a little more natural posture.

Blanks: Bird: 2.25 to 2.5 square blank about 8" long.
Head: 1.5" square blank about 3" long.

1. Turn the blank round.
2. Turn a tenon on one end. This will eventually be the base. Important! You will not have a chance to do this later.
3. Re-mount the blank with a drive center in the center of the blank and the live center approximately 1/8" to 1/4" from the outside edge.
4. Turn the bird's neck and back. Do any sanding of these parts now. No chance later.
5. Remount the blank in a chuck using the tenon created earlier. No need for tailstock support.
6. Blend the bird's underside into the back and finish the legs and base. Tip: a little bead in the middle of the leg makes it more realistic.
7. Sand underside, legs and stand and part off the lathe.

Head:

1. Turn the blank round and start to shape the head. I prefer to turn the head with the beak toward the head stock. This allows me to shape and sand the back of the head more thoroughly.
2. Drill a hole for the top of the neck to fit into. Drill the hole before getting to the final diameter. This allows any tear-out from drilling to be turned away.