

Endangered Shorebird Identification



Hooded Plover

Critically Endangered

Less than 70 birds remain in NSW

Exclusive beach nester



Pied Oystercatcher

Endangered

The most handsome bird on the beach

Nests in dunes and around lakes



Little Tern

Endangered

Migratory shorebird

Nests in colonies around lakes

Don't confuse us with...



Red Capped Plover



Masked Lapwing



Crested Tern

National Parks & Wildlife Service
Ulladulla NSW 2539 Ph: 02 4454 9500
Narooma NSW 2546 Ph: 02 4476 0800
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



Protecting endangered shorebird nests on our beaches



Designed by: Jodie Dunn
Artwork by: Montana GIS

Photos by: Jodie Dunn, Mike Jarman, Charles Dove, Graham Morgan,
Geoff Ross, Duade Paton, Max Sutcliffe, Mike Danesh-Myer,
Glenn Ehmke

Sharing the Shoreline

Endangered Beach Nesting Birds of the South Coast

On the south coast we have three species of endangered beach nesting birds – the Pied Oystercatcher, the Little Tern and the Hooded Plover, known affectionately as the 'Hoodie'.

Less than 70 'Hoodies' remain in NSW and all are found south of Jervis Bay on the beautiful beaches of the South Coast and Far South Coast.

Why are beach nesting birds threatened?

The beach is now a very busy place to lay your eggs. A shorebird nest is a simple scrape in the sand, and the eggs and chicks are camouflaged to avoid predators.

But this means they are very difficult for us to see.

Eggs and young chicks are easily trampled.

Even if people sit too close to a nest, the birds will not incubate their eggs and chicks will hide and not feed, resulting in death.

PLEASE STAY CLEAR OF NESTING AREAS

Off leash dogs scare shorebirds causing birds to abandon their nest.

Uncontrolled dogs may even trample or eat eggs and chicks.

Introduced foxes, ravens and seagulls also threaten shorebirds nests on the beach.

The Recovery Program

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is working closely with local volunteers and communities on the south coast to locate and protect nests and chicks of endangered beach nesting birds.

Temporary fencing is used on the beach to reduce disturbance to nesting areas. This gives the birds space to sit on their eggs and also provides a refuge area for young chicks.

The chicks don't stay inside the fences and roam the beach looking for food!

PLEASE WALK PAST DOWN BY THE WATER

NPWS, councils and local landholders undertake fox control programs to protect native wildlife, especially our endangered beach nesting birds.

How you can help....

Stay clear of fenced nesting areas

so you do not disturb the birds, this allows parents to protect and incubate their eggs, and chicks to feed

Walk down by the shoreline

to minimise disturbance to incubating birds, and allow any chicks to escape to the higher drier area of the beach

Keep dogs under control

do not allow your dog to run into the nesting area or chase the birds. Chicks do not stay inside the fence, so be especially careful if there are chicks on the beach

Become a shorebird volunteer

join your local shorebird volunteer group to help protect threatened beach nesting birds on your beach

Pick up fishing line and rubbish on the beach

shorebirds are very vulnerable to becoming entangled in fishing line and ingesting small pieces of plastic mistaken for food. Help us remove these dangers from the beach

Report banded 'Hoodies'

read the alphanumeric code engraved on the black leg flag, and please report to your local NPWS office with the location and date (photo below: flag code is Y0)

HELP SAVE THESE BIRDS FROM EXTINCTION!

Our beach nesting birds are in danger of becoming extinct due to low levels of breeding success. Very few eggs and chicks survive to become adults.

