



The hooded plover lives year round on the beaches of Australia's southern ocean. Their breeding season is August to March, and is when we need to be on the look out for their nests.



Hoodies nest on the beach between the high water mark and the foredune. They lay their eggs (a maximum of three at a time) in a simple, shallow nest scrape.



Both parents look after the nest and keep watch for predators for 28 days until the fluffy, flightless chicks hatch. Chicks follow the parents around but find their own food. They grow to full size in five weeks, which is when they can finally fly.

There's a lot to learn about hoodies and other beach-nesting birds. You can find out more on BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds website: www.birdlife.org.au/beach



Flightless hooded plover chicks



Please share our shores with hoodies

- Leash your dog and walk at the water's edge.
- Don't enter fenced areas or nearby sand dunes.
- Don't sit or remain near fenced or signed areas.
- If driving is allowed, go slowly, stay as close to the water's edge at low tide as is safe and do not park next to fenced areas or signs.
- Ride your horse at low tide and stay close to the water's edge.

A CONSERVATION COLLABORATION

Green Adelaide and BirdLife Australia work with the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, Department for Environment and Water, local councils (City of Charles Sturt, City of Holdfast Bay, City of Marion, City of Onkaparinga, District Council of Yankalilla, City of Victor Harbor and Alexandrina Council), the Fleurieu and South Coast Environment Centres and BirdLife Australia volunteers, to monitor and conserve hooded plovers on the Adelaide metro coast and Fleurieu Peninsula.

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Photo credits: BirdLife Australia, Sue and Ash Read, Simon Gilbie, Emma Stephens, Kerri Bartley, Tony Flaherty, Cath Leo and Matt Endacott.



Adult and juvenile hooded plover

GOING TO THE BEACH?

Watch out for hoodies!

Hooded plovers on Adelaide and Fleurieu beaches

Hooded plovers are a threatened species that need your help. You can help save our hoodies from extinction when you visit the beach.



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Adult hooded plovers

BirdLife Australia researchers band and 'flag' some hooded plovers. This research helps us understand how successful conservation efforts are.

How many hoodies?

There are less than 70 hooded plovers across the Adelaide and Fleurieu Peninsula beaches. In South Australia, there are an estimated 500 to 800 hoodies.

Hoodies are found only in southern Australia and the eastern sub-species is at high risk of extinction in the wild. The species is listed as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act*, and South Australia's *National Parks and Wildlife Act*.



How can I help?

Keep an eye out for hoodies on the beach. If you see them during spring and summer, they are likely nesting. Hoodie eggs and chicks are well camouflaged on the sand and can be easily crushed. You may not see a nest or chick, so walk at the water's edge.

Watch out for fences and signs!

Temporary signs and fences protect nests and chicks. Remember, the chicks and parents will move out of the fenced area to feed at the water's edge!

Birds on the nest... on leash is best

Beaches are a popular place to walk dogs, but nesting hoodies will try to lead dogs and people away from their nests and chicks. This leaves eggs and chicks more exposed to the elements and other predators.

Many local councils now have by-laws relating to leashing your dog near hooded plover signs, and fines may apply.



Become a hoodie volunteer!

Over the last decade, our work to save hooded plovers has shown success, with birds coming to nest along Adelaide's beaches, where they once lived.

Work to save the hooded plover could not be done without our dedicated BirdLife Australia volunteers who help monitor nests, record data, put up signs and fencing, and talk to beach-goers about the birds.

Volunteers record valuable data about nesting success and failure to understand how our local and national hoodie populations are faring. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with BirdLife Australia or visit their website.

'You will be part of an amazing organisation with a great group of similar-minded volunteers. It can sometimes be hard work, but where else would you rather be than on our many beautiful beaches helping these remarkable little birds.'

– Ash and Sue Read, Friends of the Hooded Plover Fleurieu Peninsula

