

HEADED TO THE BEACH?

Watch out for hoodies!

Hooded Plovers on Eyre Peninsula beaches

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



The Hooded Plover lives year round on the beaches of Australia's southern ocean, often retreating to inland areas during the winter non-breeding months. Their breeding season is August to March, and this is when we need to look out for their nests on beaches.

Hoodies nest on the beach between the high water mark and the foredune; and can also nest in the adjacent sand dunes. They lay their eggs (a maximum of three at a time) in a simple, shallow nest scrape on the ground, away from vegetation.

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



Which plover is which?

When people hear the word 'plover', they often think of a noisy, swooping bird that might be found on grassy areas or reserves. These are common plovers, known as Masked Lapwings, and are very different to the Hooded Plovers which are a shy and small (19-21 cm long) beach nesting bird.

Hooded Plover

Rare & **THREATENED**



◀ You can only find me on ocean beaches!

Spur-winged Plover or Masked Lapwing

Common & swooping



◀ You might find me nesting on your local footy oval!

A conservation collaboration

Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board and BirdLife Australia work with local coastal councils and community groups to implement actions to help protect the threatened Hooded Plover.


Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

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



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How many hoodies?

In South Australia, there are an estimated **800-900 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 and keep dogs on a leash.

Watch out for fences and signs

At times, temporary signs and fences will be installed to protect nests and chicks on popular beaches with lots of visitors. While temporary fencing can help, the chicks and parents will move out of the fenced area to feed at the water's edge so it's still important to look out for them outside the fence.

On other known nesting beaches, signs will often be at entry ways so visitors know there are birds on the beach that need space.

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.



Become a hoodie volunteer!

Over the past decade, work to save Hooded Plovers has shown success, with birds successfully nesting on Eyre Peninsula beaches.

Work to save the Hooded Plover could not be done without 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.

BirdLife Australia

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🌐 birdlife.org.au/beach

