

Aldinga Washpool:

Macroinvertebrate baseline

APPENDIX 2 – WATERBIRD & SHOREBIRD FOOD SOURCES

Water/shorebirds recorded at the Washpool	Prey Species
Australian Crake	Invertebrates: varied, mostly those that live on the mud surface; Plants: seeds
Australian Pelican	Mainly fish. Small quantities of Crustaceans: crabs, shrimps; Vertebrates: small turtles, frogs, and rarely, other birds
Australian Painted Snipe	Plants: small seeds; Invertebrates: varied
Australian Shelduck	Plants: grazers on grasses and seeds, submerged algae, charophytes and macrophytes; Insects: chironomid midge larvae & adults, water boatmen, dragonfly larvae, beetles, mayflies; Crustaceans: seed shrimps, brine shrimps, Molluscs: bivalves
Australian White Ibis	Invertebrates: varied, including worms and terrestrial crickets; Fish; Frogs
Australasian Bittern	Fish: up to 60cm long; Crustaceans: freshwater crayfish; Other Invertebrates, Small vertebrates including Frogs; Rats; Birds
Australasian Grebe	Aquatic Insects, Crustaceans: freshwater crayfish; Molluscs: snails; Fish
Australasian Shoveler	Insects: beetles especially <i>Berosus</i> , water boatmen; Molluscs: small snails & small bivalves mostly less than 4mm, rarely Crustaceans: seed shrimps; Plants: floating seeds strained from the water
Baillon's Crake	Plants: floating algal rafts; Invertebrates: possibly only those caught in the algae
Banded Lapwing	Mainly Insects: beetles, ants; Other prey includes Molluscs: snails; Arachnids: spiders; Annelids: worms
Banded Stilt	Mainly Crustaceans: brine shrimp, shield shrimp, seed shrimp, aquatic slaters & other isopods; Other prey includes Molluscs: small snails; Insects: chironomid midges - adult and larvae; Arachnidae: spiders; Fish: hardyheads; Plants: some <i>Ruppia</i>
Black-fronted Dotterel	Annelids: earthworms; Molluscs: snails; Insects: chironomids, bugs, beetles, ants, rarely grass seeds
Black Swan	Plants: aquatic plants. Invertebrates only eaten when caught up in vegetation
Black-tailed Nativehen	Plants: Grazers on grasses
Black-winged Stilt	Mainly Molluscs: snails; Annelids: worms; Crustaceans: seed shrimp; Insects: beetles, chironomids, water boatmen; Plants a minor component: seeds of samphires & <i>Ruppia</i>
Buff-banded Rail	Crustaceans; Molluscs; Insects; Vertebrates: frogs; Plants: seeds, fruit; Carrion and refuse
Bush Stone-curlew	Varied Insects; Molluscs; Vertebrates: small lizards & occasional small mammals; Plants: seeds
Cape Barren Goose	Plants: grazers on grasses, seeds including grasses and samphire
Caspian Tern	Fish
Cattle Egret	Insects: terrestrial grasshoppers, crickets & locusts, Arachnids: ticks; Vertebrates including frogs & reptiles
Chestnut Teal	Plants: largely amphibious plants like <i>Polygonum</i> , sedges, grasses, aquatic seeds; Insects: beetles, water boatmen, chironomid midges & mosquitoes, caddis, dragon & damselflies; Molluscs: small bivalves; Crustaceans: freshwater crayfish, microcrustaceans



Water/shorebirds recorded at the Washpool	Prey Species
Common Greenshank	Molluscs: snails; Crustaceans: shrimps, seed shrimps, water fleas; Insects: beetles, ants, bees & wasps; Amphibians: frogs; Fish
Common Sandpiper	Molluscs: bivalves; Crustaceans: seed shrimp, crabs; Insects: beetles, flies, mosquitoes and midges
Curlew Sandpiper	Plants: <i>Ruppia</i> seeds; Annelids: marine worms; Molluscs: bivalves, snails; Crustaceans: seed shrimps, crabs; Insects: flies, mosquitos & midges, beetles
Eurasian Coot	In Australia Coots feed almost entirely on vegetable matter, with Insects, Worms and Fish a minor dietary component
Glossy Ibis	Insects: beetles, dragonflies, damselflies, grasshoppers, crickets, flies and caddisflies; Annelids; Molluscs: snails and bivalves, Crustaceans: freshwater crayfish; Occasional vertebrates including fish, frogs, reptiles and bird chicks
Great Cormorant	Fish, supplemented in freshwater by Crustaceans; Insects and Frogs
Great Egret	Mainly Fish but also other small vertebrates; Insects: Flies
Greater Crested Tern	Mainly Fish but also Insects; Crustaceans
Grey Teal	Plants: largely amphibious plants like <i>Polygonum</i> , sedges, grasses, aquatic seeds; Insects: beetles, water boatmen, chironomid midges & mosquitoes, caddis, dragon & damselflies; Molluscs: small bivalves; Crustaceans: freshwater crayfish, microcrustaceans
Hardhead	Mostly Plant material: seeds & flowers of sedges & grasses, waterlilies (northern Australia) & <i>Polygonum</i> . This species can dive in permanent waters to harvest pondweeds; Insects: beetles & waterbugs; Molluscs: bivalves, Crustaceans: yabbies
Hoary-headed Grebe	Fish
Latham's Snipe	Plant seeds sometimes fibres make up almost half the diet: <i>Poa</i> , <i>Juncus</i> , Cypraceae, Ranunculaceae. Prey items include Annelids: worms; Arachnids: spiders; Insects: flies, mosquitoes & midges, beetles
Little Egret	Fish; Aquatic insects, Crustaceans and Arachnids: spiders
Little Black Cormorant	Fish; Crustaceans and aquatic Insects
Little Pied Cormorant	Crustaceans: freshwater crayfish; Insects; Fish
Maned Duck (Wood Duck)	Plants: grazers on grasses and herbs. Very little seed intake, negligible animal matter
Masked Lapwing	Mainly Insects: beetles; Annelids: earthworms; Molluscs: snails; Centipedes, Millipedes; Plants
Pacific Black Duck	Aquatic plants and their seeds, varied invertebrates
Pacific Gull	Crustaceans: crabs; Molluscs: chitons; Fish
Pacific Golden Plover	Annelids: marine worms; Molluscs: snails; Crustaceans; Arachnids; Insects: bugs, beetles, ants, bees & wasps
Pied Cormorant	Fish
Pink-eared Duck	Insects: especially chironomid midge larvae; Crustaceans: water fleas, seed shrimps, cyclops; Plants: freshwater algae, seeds of <i>Polygonum</i>
Purple Swampphen	Plants: soft shoots of reeds and rushes; Molluscs: snails; Vertebrates: frogs, bird eggs, and ducklings
Red-capped Plover	Annelids; Molluscs: snails; Crustaceans: seed shrimp, slaters and other isopods, scuds, small crabs; Insects: beetles, Chironomid midges, flies, mosquitoes, ants, bees & wasps; Fish



Water/shorebirds recorded at the Washpool	Prey Species
Red-kneed Dotterel	Molluscs: aquatic freshwater snails; Insects: mayflies, beetles, flies, mosquitoes & midges, wasps, bees & ants, beetles
Red-necked Avocet	Annelids: worms; Molluscs: small snails/bivalves; Crustaceans: brine shrimp, seed shrimp, fairy shrimp, Insects: beetles; chironomid midges; Fish; Seeds
Red-necked Stint	Plants: <i>Ruppia</i> Seeds, Fabaceae; Animals: Molluscs: aquatic snails; Crustaceans: scuds, seed shrimp; Insects: flies & mosquitoes, chironomid midges, beetles
Royal Spoonbill	Fish; Crustaceans; Insects
Ruddy Turnstone	Molluscs: snails & bivalves; Crustaceans: barnacles, slaters & other isopods, crabs; Annelids: worms; Insects: beetles, ants, wasps & bees; Echinoderms; Fish
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Plants: <i>Poa</i> seeds, Fabaceae; Animals: Molluscs: snails & bivalves; Crustaceans: seed shrimps, scuds; Insects terrestrial & aquatic: dragonflies & damselflies, grasshoppers, bugs, beetles, moths & butterflies, flies, mosquitoes & chironomid midges
Silver Gull	Varied small prey from open water, occasional plant material
Spotless Crake	Plants: seeds; Molluscs; Insects; Crustaceans; and Arachnids: spiders
Straw-necked Ibis	Invertebrates: varied, including worms and terrestrial crickets; Fish; Frogs
Whiskered Tern	Invertebrates: larger swimming species in open water, Fish: small fish like hardyheads
White-faced Heron	Insects: beetles; Frogs & tadpoles
White-necked Heron	Molluscs: bivalves, Crustaceans: freshwater crayfish; Insects: beetles; Frogs & tadpoles
Wood Sandpiper	Molluscs; Insects, terrestrial & aquatic: grasshoppers, bugs, beetles, flies, mosquitoes & midges, ants, wasps & bees
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Varied aquatic Insects

Additional shorebirds that may occur	Prey Species
Bar-tailed Godwit	Mainly Annelids: marine worms, but also earthworms; Crustaceans: crabs; Insects: moths & butterflies
Black-tailed Godwit	Quite variable. In European saltfields it has been found to feed overwhelmingly on chironomid midges. In Northern Australia it mainly feeds on bivalve Molluscs. In Africa it utilises plant foodstuffs especially rice seeds, but also Annelids: marine worms
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Crustaceans: brine shrimp; gammarid shrimps; Annelids: marine worms
Common Redshank	Annelids: marine worms; Molluscs; Insects: chironomid midges
Double-banded Plover	Annelids: earthworms; Molluscs: snails; Crustaceans: scuds; Insects: mayflies, chironomid midges, beetles; Arachnids: spiders
Eastern Curlew	Mainly a great variety of large Crustaceans: prawns & shrimps, crabs; Molluscs: snails; Insects: grasshoppers
Great Knot	Mainly Molluscs: bivalves; Crustaceans: prawns, crabs and shrimps; Annelids: marine worms; Echinoderms; Foraminifera; Fish



Additional shorebirds that may occur	Prey Species
Grey Plover	Annelids: worms; Molluscs: sea snails; Crustaceans; Insects: termites, ants, wasps & bees
Grey-tailed Tattler	Annelids: marine worms; Molluscs; Crustaceans: scuds, slaters & other isopods, crabs; Fish
Lesser Sand Plover	Molluscs: snails; Annelids: worms; Crustaceans; Insects
Long-toed Stint	Australian prey & food source not known: Plants: Seeds; Molluscs; Insects; Crustaceans
Marsh Sandpiper	Molluscs; Insects: Dragonflies & damselflies, bees, wasps & ants, beetles
Pectoral Sandpiper	Plants: Seeds; Insects: beetles, bugs; Crustaceans; Algae
Pied Oystercatcher	Annelids; Molluscs: Aquatic snails including air breathers, large bivalves like pipi & cockles, small bivalves; Crustaceans: prawns, crabs; Rarely fish and Insects.
Red Knot	Mainly Molluscs: bivalves & snails; Also Annelids: marine worms; Crustaceans; Echinoderms.
Ruff	Plants: grains; Animals: Molluscs; Annelids; Crustaceans; Insects; Spiders; Fish; Amphibians
Sanderling	Annelids: worms; Arachnids: spiders; Insects: beetles, butterflies & moths, ants, wasps & bees; Crustaceans; Rarely Fish and Molluscs.
Terek Sandpiper	Crustaceans: scuds, crabs; Insects: beetles, flies, midges & mosquitoes
Whimbrel	Mainly Crustaceans: shrimps, crabs; Also Annelids: marine worms; Fish; Bird Chicks

Data for these compendium tables were sourced from:

Birdlife Australia (undated) *NRAML Birdlife shorebird habitat matrix GM.xlsx* A spreadsheet tabulation of shorebird abundance and habitat use in the Dry Creek Saltfields.

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