

# Checklist for becoming a Beach-nesting Birds Volunteer

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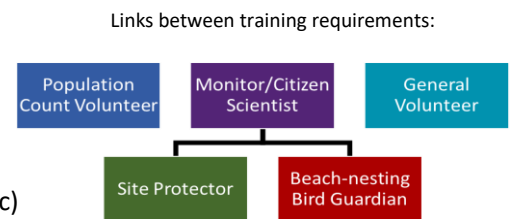
Thank you for taking interest in helping beach-nesting birds. There are various roles that you can participate in, each of which requires an induction and training specific to the tasks that you will be performing. These have been developed to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable experience as part of our Program, while also ensuring the safety of these highly threatened birds.

**Please see the checklists below to get an overview of the requirements for each of the volunteer roles within the BNB Program.** To fulfil these requirements, you will find all registration, reading and induction materials in the one location, our BNB Hub: <https://beachvol.birdlife.org.au/>

## All participants will need to have:

- Gone to the Beach-nesting Birds Hub webpage: <https://beachvol.birdlife.org.au/> and read the [role descriptions](#) available on the home page. The following roles are available:

- a) Population Count Volunteer (e.g. Hooded Plover biennial count)
- b) Monitor/Citizen Scientist
- c) Site Protector (on-ground, breeding site protection)
- d) Beach-nesting Bird Guardian (wardening)
- e) General Volunteer (e.g. data entry, weeding, events, education, etc)



- Scroll down to the sign up form and select from the list, the roles you would like to be involved in. This will prompt you to complete a registration form which is how you officially sign up to volunteer for the Beach-nesting Birds Program. The final question in the form asks you to agree to the [Conditions of Participation](#).

- Once you are signed into the BNB Hub, please click on the 'My Courses' tab (see Figure 1 at the end of document for instructions of where to find this). Here you will find the training content for each of the roles you have 'selected'.

At any time, you can add more roles and access the additional training courses relevant to these by self-enrolling (available at the bottom of each of the Courses pages).

You can also access a full suite of reading materials in the 'Document Library' under the 'My Courses' tab (see Figure 1 at the end of document for instructions of where to find this).

- Had contact with their local Regional Coordinator or if you are located in an area without a volunteer coordinator, a BirdLife Australia staff member.

## If you have signed up for the Population (Biennial) Count Volunteer role, you will need to have:

- Completed the online *Biennial Count Induction* found under the 'My Courses' tab within the Beach-nesting Birds Hub
- Received your assigned/chosen route map, count instructions and data sheets from your Regional Coordinator. If you wish to be part of the Hooded Plover biennial count, you will be contacted generally around July-August in a count year. You will also see this 'event' appear under the relevant States where the count occurs (e.g. SA, Vic, NSW, Tas).

birds are in our nature

- Sign up for access to BirdLife Australia's Birdata (<https://birdata.birdlife.org.au/>)

*Please note: Birdata is only used only for Population Count data and there is a different portal for entering data specific to repeated visits to nesting pairs.*

#### **If you have signed up for the Monitor/Citizen Scientist role, you will need to have:**

- Completed the online *Monitor/Citizen Science Induction* found under the 'My Courses' tab, including reading all of the associated resources:
- Received your MyBeachBird Data Portal Login upon successful completion of your induction (<https://portal.mybeachbird.com.au/>) from BirdLife Australia. If you have waited more than one week for this, please contact [beachnestingbirds@birdlife.org.au](mailto:beachnestingbirds@birdlife.org.au) to remind the team you need a portal login.
- Attended a training workshop. *Note: training workshops are usually provided at the start of each season in major regions active in the BNB program. If you have missed out on this training, you need to liaise with BirdLife Australia to organise an alternative. We hold online training sessions several times a year you can join remotely.*
- Met or spoken with your local coordinator/mentor. This may include undertaking beach walks/on ground training to show you the birds, give hints on how to observe them and point out areas where they have nested in the past.
- ? Do you feel confident to monitor on your own? Don't monitor if you are not confident in your abilities or have any concerns about monitoring independently - you are able to participate in mentoring for as long as you require and your regional coordinator or the BNB team are here to help you.

#### **If you have signed up for the Site Protector (on-ground, breeding site protection) role, you will need to have:**

- Completed the Monitor/Citizen Science checklist (see above). This is a prerequisite for Site Protector training because you must first fully understand the birds you are working to protect.
- Completed the online *Site Protection Induction* found under the 'My Courses' tab, including reading all of the associated resources
- Attended a Site Protector workshop. *Note: training workshops are provided at the start of each season. If you have missed out on this training, you need to liaise with BirdLife Australia or your regional coordinator to organise an alternative. There may be opportunities for one-on-one training.*
- Met your local coordinator/mentor/land manager and visited the beach for some practical experience.
- Understood the approvals and communications processes relevant to protecting breeding sites at your specific sites or for your region.
- ? Do you feel confident to undertake Site Protection? If you are not confident in your abilities, you are able to participate in mentoring for as long as you require.

#### **If you have signed up for the Nest/Chick Site Guardian role, you will need to have:**

- Completed the Monitor/Citizen Science checklist (see above). This is a prerequisite for the Nest/Chick Site Guardian training because you must first fully understand the birds you are working to protect.
- Completed the online *Nest/Chick Site Guardian Induction* found under the 'My Courses' tab, including reading all of the associated resources
- Attended a communications training workshop. *Note: training workshops are usually provided at the start of each season in key regions where guardians are needed. If you have missed out on this training, you need to liaise with BirdLife Australia to organise an alternative.*

- Met your local coordinator/mentor and visited the beach for some practical experience.
- ? Do you feel confident to undertake the role of Site Guardian? If you are not confident in your abilities, you are able to participate in mentoring for as long as you require.

#### **If you have signed up for the General Volunteer role:**

- For office volunteering (data vetting and other office-based tasks), BirdLife Australia will contact you and discuss in more detail.
- Activities such as weeding, events and social surveys are intermittent. BirdLife Australia and your Regional Coordinator will keep your interest on file and contact you when these become available.
- The BNB team has developed an education kit linking to the national curriculum. Please contact Meghan Cullen ([meghan.cullen@birdlife.org.au](mailto:meghan.cullen@birdlife.org.au)) to discuss options about conducting an incursion or excursion at a school. Please note that to participate in school activities, you will need a Working with Children Check (or the equivalent for your state or territory). BirdLife Australia or your Regional Coordinator will be in touch with further information.

## WELCOME!

You are now ready to participate in the Beach-nesting Birds program! If you are still not confident, let us know and we'll provide further support and training opportunities. Do not hesitate to contact BirdLife Australia at any time throughout your volunteer journey by emailing [beachnestingbirds@birdlife.org.au](mailto:beachnestingbirds@birdlife.org.au).

You will hear from us at least twice a year via our *Word about the Hood* email newsletter (Winter and Summer editions) which will include announcements about any major reports or publications we have produced. These documents will be made available through the 'Document Library' so keep an eye on the announcement section here. Throughout the year, we will also be adding events to the BNB Hub so watch out for news about upcoming events in your region or state.

In the meantime, you can follow our Program on our Facebook ([Hooded Plover Birdlife](#)), Instagram ([@Birdlife\\_hoodie](#)) and Twitter ([@Birdlife\\_hoodie](#)) accounts.

**Figure 1:** Screenshot showing the location of the 'My Courses' tab, the individual courses and the 'Document Library' once users are logged into the BNB Hub: <https://beachvol.birdlife.org.au/>

