



A SUMMARY OF BREEDING SUCCESS FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON

Monitoring Hooded Plovers on the Adelaide Coast and Fleurieu Peninsula



Monitoring Hooded Plovers on the Adelaide Coast and Fleurieu Peninsula

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A summary of the breeding success for the 2024-2025 season.

Cover photo: Olivers Reef Fledglings (D. Weinert)

Second page photo: Aldinga chicks (D. Randall)

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Executive Summary

Hooded Plover monitoring, site protection and community engagement on the Adelaide metro and Fleurieu Peninsula coast is coordinated through BirdLife Australia's Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project staff and supported by the Green Adelaide Landscape Board (Green Adelaide). It is funded primarily through Green Adelaide with additional support from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (Back From the Brink), administered by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board (Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu). It is further supported by BirdLife Australia's National Beach-nesting Bird team and resources. The work is undertaken in collaboration with Adelaide metro and Fleurieu coastal councils and relies on dedicated support from trained BirdLife Australia volunteers.

During the 2024/25 Hooded Plover breeding season 4,754 observations were entered into the MyBeachBird data portal. An additional 421 entries were completed before and after the breeding season, capturing valuable information about flocking and roosting sites. There were 98 volunteers participating in on-site monitoring. A staggering 6,911 hours were spent by the dedicated team of volunteers to monitor the Hooded Plovers and their threats, contribute to the running of the Beach-nesting Birds program, and to educate the public about the Hooded Plovers in our region.

There were 61 beach sites visited through the season with 50 sites monitored frequently. A total of 35 Hooded Plover breeding pairs were confirmed as actively nesting at 36 sites on the Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu coast (compared to 36 pairs at 37 sites in 2023/24). In addition, there was one pair on territory with scrapes but no nest, and one additional site where a pair was regularly on site; however, no scrapes or nests were found. It may be due to this being a pebble beach substrate, making it difficult to identify 'scraping' combined with the consistent disturbance caused from illegal vehicles traversing the pebble bank. The remaining sites recorded no breeding activity.

This season there were 110 breeding attempts, 278 eggs observed, 72 chicks observed and 16 fledglings (compared to 97 chicks and 18 fledglings in 2023/24, and 52 chicks and 16 fledglings in 2022/23). The percentage of nests that failed at egg stage was 71.8% (79 nests), higher than last season (66.7% in 2023/24), and lower than the season prior (77.3% in 2022/23). High tides and storm surges were the suspected cause of failure for 6 nests and the known cause of failure for 10 nests (20.25% of failures). Fourteen nest failures were suspected to have been the result of fox depredation with records of fox prints around these nests and a fox captured on a remote camera was the known cause of failure for one nest (accounting for 18.99% of failures). In addition, there was one nest with partial egg loss to a fox and the remaining loss to tide. Ravens were the suspected cause of loss for 9 nests and the known cause of failure for one nest (12.66% of failures). The percentage of chicks observed that survived to fledging increased from last season (22.2% in

2024/25 compared to 18.6% in 2023/24). However, this percentage is lower than the four previous seasons. Known causes of failure of chicks include predation by kestrels and silver gulls with additional causes of failure suspected to be predation by foxes, kestrels, silver gulls, magpies, a raven and a dog. It is also suspected that an E-bike being ridden on the beach was the cause of failure for one chick which was seen in a wheel rut in the sand before a silver gull flew off with the dead or injured chick. Despite the loss of eggs and chicks, the Hooded Plover fledgling per pair result was 0.46, which met the target range of 0.4-0.5 to maintain population viability over time.

The 16 fledglings from the 2024/25 breeding season came from across the region and there were 2 new breeding sites this season, West Beach and Whalers (Victor Harbor). Bird Island had 1 fledgling. West Beach, in the City of Charles Sturt, had the first fledgling recorded for the season nationally. There was also a second fledgling from the second nesting attempt at West Beach. There was 1 fledgling at Port Stanvac, in the Onkaparinga council area. There were 6 fledglings from Yankalilla council area (including triplets from Tunkalilla East), 3 fledglings from Victor Harbor (including 1 from the new breeding site at Whalers) and 3 fledglings from Alexandrina council area. Of the 16 fledglings, 4 were from remote sites (Bird Island – 1, and Tunkalilla East – 3).

With the incredible support of councils and BirdLife Volunteers, 85 (77.27%) of the 110 confirmed nests on the Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula coast had some form of nest site management (predominantly temporary fencing and signage). Of the 16 fledglings this season, 13 came from nests with some form of nest site management. The other fledglings were from Tunkalilla East, a remote site.

Dog disturbance and impacts on nesting activity is still of high concern. Council compliance teams have invested considerable staff resources for compliance visits to Hooded Plover sites, and most councils have now incorporated a by-law requiring dogs-on-lead at Hooded Plover breeding sites. Compliance visits and use of council dog signs have gradually increased since 2017 when councils, working with BirdLife Australia and Green Adelaide (AMLR NRM Board at the time), first started introducing the new regulations. However, review of threat data collected by volunteers for each council area reveals that numbers of off leash dogs detected within the 100 metres of Hooded Plover breeding sites are still prohibitively high. Stricter regulations will become a future necessity if successful coexistence (i.e. as a minimum, leashing dogs in the vicinity of actively breeding Hooded Plovers) cannot be achieved. In June 2024, BirdLife Australia provided a submission to the South Australia Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 Review recommending a consistent approach to managing the impacts of off leash dogs on protected wildlife including that dogs should be on a lead within 100 metres of a Hooded Plover Breeding Area as a minimum restriction.

Suspected fox depredation of both nests and chicks was reported across the region. This season Green Adelaide continued to fund fox den searches with staff, a contractor and utilising sniffer dogs. If active dens were located, den fumigation was completed in partnership with local government,

DEW and private land managers. Fox den searches are timed to reduce fox pressure on the Hooded Plover breeding season and when foxes are known to be actively breeding and inside a den. Across Metro and Fleurieu coasts 66 fox dens were found and treated. Additional measures to reduce the pressure of foxes on Hooded Plovers included the use of FOXWatch™ devices for which we continue to explore the efficacy of, the use of Canid Pest Ejectors at a remote site, and education with landholders about fox management.

Vehicles on beaches adds yet another threat to beach-nesting birds. Vehicles can cause disturbance to nesting birds forcing the incubating adults to leave the nest. Vehicles can also run over and crush eggs, strike flightless chicks and disturb their access to critical foraging areas by the shoreline, resulting in starvation. In addition, Hooded Plovers vulnerable to vehicle strike when newly fledged as they are not yet proficient flyers and reaction times to respond to threats are slower and still developing for several months as they are dispersing across unfamiliar coastlines and becoming exposed to new threats. Fledging success is limited on beaches where vehicles are allowed and there is also concern about the increasing use of E-bikes on beaches. BirdLife Australia continues to advocate for better protection of beach-nesting birds and has been working closely with Birds SA and DEW on developing vehicle restrictions at known high biodiversity, breeding and refuge sites across the State.

BirdLife Australia work with stakeholders across the region to improve Hooded Plover fledgling success. One mechanism for improving our adaptive management capacity is by preparing and presenting individual Council and National Parks (Newland Head Conservation Park) reports which are based on the invaluable data collected by volunteers. These reports summarise breeding success, threats and recommendations and help plan for the season ahead. Some other examples of stakeholder engagement include providing advice for mitigating the impacts of beach management works and events near Hooded Plover breeding areas and presenting at coastal management forums and conferences.

The engagement of the community is vital for the protection of our beach-nesting birds. BirdLife Australia staff and volunteers participate in engagement activities and events across the region including on beach pop-up education sessions, information stands at festivals, introduction to beach-nesting bird workshops through SA's Nature Festival and education sessions with surf-lifesaving clubs. Community education is also developed through media including social media, radio and television interviews and newsletters. The community's knowledge of and support for the protection of Hooded Plovers continues to grow.



Image 1. Chick at Middleton Beach West (Photo: M. Stokes)

Introduction

Over 87% of the Australian population lives within 50 kilometres of the coast (ABS 2020). A growing trend for a 'sea change', and with coastal tourism representing \$24.7 billion Australia wide in 2019 (Austrade 2019), significant and increasing pressure is placed on shorebirds. In South Australia, there are 4 species of resident shorebirds, the Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher, Red-capped Plover and Hooded Plover, that nest on ocean beaches and offshore islands, as well as seabirds such as the Fairy Tern that is listed as threatened nationally and endangered in South Australia.

Hooded Plovers are listed as Vulnerable and both Oystercatcher species as Rare in South Australia under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. Hooded Plovers (Eastern) are also listed as Vulnerable under national legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). This listing occurred in 2015 based on citizen science data collected through biennial counts and monitoring of breeding success, providing evidence for the species eligibility under threatened criteria. Under the EPBC Act, a Conservation Advice has been prepared for the Eastern Hooded Plover in 2014. This conservation advice aims to provide national direction to implement priority actions and mitigate against key threats. A review and update were undertaken in 2019 but still await Federal Ministerial approval. In 2025, a national Hooded Plover recovery team is being initiated to improve consistency and sharing of information nationally.

Hooded Plovers are the most threatened of beach-nesting resident shorebirds because they are habitat specialists. They are limited to breeding and feeding exclusively on ocean beaches in South Australia, with the rare exception of some coastal saline lakes in parts of the Southeast coast, Yorke Peninsula and on the Eyre Peninsula. The Fairy Tern is a small bird, that feeds primarily on fish and is generally restricted to shallow water coastal areas and estuaries. Fairy Terns prefer to nest close to available food resources to forage, whereas oystercatchers have a broader nesting habitat range

which includes rocky outcrops, islands and more heavily vegetated dune areas. Red-capped Plovers occupy a range of habitats including samphire saltmarsh, freshwater wetlands, low energy beaches, salt fields and claypans.

Beach-nesters make simple nest-scrapes in the sand, and their well-camouflaged eggs and chicks are extremely difficult to spot, and therefore at great risk of being trampled by visitors to the beach. People, unleashed dogs, horses and vehicles on beaches not only pose a direct threat, but they also disturb incubating adults, resulting in temporary nest abandonment which exposes the eggs and chicks to harsh temperatures, and both natural and introduced predators such as ravens, gulls, magpies, foxes and cats. This is particularly true of disturbances caused by unleashed dogs and vehicles, where adults spend long periods away from the nests and chicks. Furthermore, residential development and littering attract increased numbers of predators to beaches.

Chicks cannot fly for five weeks and need to forage on the beach to survive: this places them in harm's way, and they are easily crushed or disturbed by people, dogs and vehicles on the beach. If they spend too much time in hiding, they can starve to death or be exposed to harsh temperatures in the absence of a brooding adult. The adult birds attempt to distract potential threats, leaving the chicks unattended and exposed to predators. In addition, vehicles on beaches compact the sand, impacting on the bulk of prey items that these shorebirds rely on. Hooded Plovers remain vulnerable to vehicle strike when newly fledged as they are dispersing across unfamiliar coastlines, becoming exposed to new threats and do not become proficient flyers for several months.

Given the severe pressures placed on coastal breeding birds, in particular the threatened status of the Hooded Plover, BirdLife Australia embarked on a project to 'promote coexistence between recreationists and Beach-nesting Birds' in 2006. Beaches will always be popular places for recreation within Australian culture, and the best solution to a problem which is very much human generated, is to try and engage people to change their behaviours and help protect these birds so they have a future. This project has evolved into the National Beach-nesting Birds Program and is currently funded by a range of Government grants and stakeholder partnerships, as well as various philanthropic trusts and donors across Australia.

The Beach-nesting Birds program on the Adelaide Coast and Fleurieu Peninsula was initiated as a collaboration between BirdLife Australia and Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board in 2008-2009, with initial investment supporting the 2008 Hooded Plover Biennial Count. With the enactment of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, NRM Boards were superseded by Landscape Boards. The Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula Hooded Plover population spans across both the Green Adelaide and Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu regions. This season there were 13 pairs nesting at 14 sites on Green Adelaide's coastline, representing 36.1%

of the population (compared to 13 pairs at 13 sites in 2023/24). The remaining 22 pairs (63.9%) occur along Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu's coastline (down from 23 pairs in 2023/24).

The Hooded Plover Program is part of BirdLife Australia's national Beach-nesting Birds program. Green Adelaide continues to support the program through funding and staff across the two regions. On the Fleurieu and metropolitan coast, it is primarily supported by funding through Green Adelaide with additional support from the Australian Government, Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu - a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel, and the South Australian Government's Citizen Science Grant. The program is also supported by local councils, the National Parks and Wildlife Service SA and its amazing volunteers.

The Hooded Plover program is an excellent example of conservation success. Strong partnerships, volunteer investment and community working together, to not just halt the decline of this threatened species, but to ensure it thrives. Busy urban beaches have seen remarkable success and is an excellent case study showing that wildlife and the community can co-exist.

Aims of the program

The main aim of the National Beach-nesting Birds (BNB) program is to involve coastal communities and land managers in the protection of breeding sites to see an overall improvement in breeding success. The program focuses on the Hooded Plover in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and uses an adaptive management approach, improving on-ground management and community awareness strategies over time. The results are applicable in a broader sense to other beach-nesting birds around Australia.

The national objectives of this recovery program are to:

1. Improve breeding success and population resilience of Hooded Plovers through:
 - On-ground threat mitigation at priority sites across the species' range.
 - Research to overcome key knowledge gaps including improving threat mitigation, as well as to evaluate and adapt best practice for Hooded Plover recovery.
 - Education to shape sustainable beach use behaviours.
2. Identify, protect, and restore critical habitat so that the current distribution is protected and maintained or improved.
3. Develop tools, resources, capacity and supportive policy to ensure long-term sustainability and consistent delivery of recovery actions.

In the Adelaide metro and Fleurieu Peninsula specifically, our aims are expanded into the following detailed actions:

1. Improve breeding success and population resilience of Hooded Plovers:

- i. Monitor the breeding status of all known pairs on the Adelaide coast and Fleurieu Peninsula during the breeding months (July-April). Seek to maintain monitoring of sites over time to quantify improvements in breeding success related to management investment.
- ii. Ensure all sites where birds are monitored, have potential threats being simultaneously monitored. This is to assess changes in the occurrence and severity of threats over time, to detect new and emerging threats, and to assess the impact of threats on breeding outcomes.
- iii. Implement on-ground protection of individual breeding sites assessed as vulnerable, following best practice management protocols outlined in 'A practical guide to managing beach-nesting birds in Australia' (Maguire 2008).
- iv. Implement an adaptive management approach, by investigating the effectiveness of nest site protection and modifying where appropriate (and following best practice) in subsequent seasons. For example, management techniques can be adapted to local geomorphological and beach user specifications.
- v. Install remote cameras at nest sites where nests repeatedly fail to detect and identify nest predators. This is done following strict protocols and there are strict limits on the frequency of use of remote cameras to avoid any predator associations between cameras and nests.
- vi. Band a sample of Hooded Plovers on the Adelaide coast and Fleurieu Peninsula and maintain a database of future sightings to track movements, survival rates and site and pair fidelity. This will lead to better knowledge about the exchange of birds between the Adelaide coast and Fleurieu Peninsula and other regions of South Australia, and possibly other states, enabling a better idea of what we consider a population. Blood samples are taken to contribute to a collaborative study of population genetics carried out by Museums Victoria, Deakin University and BirdLife Australia.
- vii. Increase awareness and engagement of communities in Hooded Plover conservation via media, social media, and organised events and activities such as the biennial count, scope viewing, workshops, community art projects, school visits and craft stalls. Awareness raising and opportunities to participate are carried out with the aim of changing beach user behaviour to promote long-term coexistence and minimise human impacts.

2. Protect and restore critical habitat so that the current distribution is maintained and protected

- i. Maintain a current distribution map and database of the location of breeding pairs of Hooded Plovers on the Adelaide coast and Fleurieu Peninsula.

- ii. Participate in the Hooded Plover eastern mainland census (Biennial Count) every two years (e.g. November 2026, November 2028) to inform population trend and high-level threat trend analyses.
- iii. Using threat assessments from the Biennial Count, coupled with local volunteer knowledge of intensively monitored sites, identify sites where habitat is being degraded by invasive or introduced weeds and target these sites for weed control and follow up spinifex plantings.
- iv. Identify sites at risk of tidal inundation and investigate potential for habitat retreat or habitat improvements to create longer-term resilience to adapt to rising sea levels.
- v. Protect sites from habitat modifications that will impact suitability for nesting, foraging, roosting or flocking.
- vi. Seek to understand impacts of climate change on population distribution and to prioritise sites for habitat protection, including protection from future coastal armouring projects.

3. Develop tools, resources, capacity and supportive policy to ensure long-term sustainability and consistent delivery of recovery actions.

- i. Establish 'Friends of the Hooded Plover' regional groups on the Adelaide coast and Fleurieu Peninsula to encourage community ownership and long-term sustainability of the program.
- ii. Develop new resources and materials to support and improve participation of volunteers and land managers in monitoring and recovery actions for the Hooded Plover.
- iii. Hold regular meetings, workshops and training opportunities and support communications between volunteers, land managers and program coordinators so that all participants share feedback and work collaboratively toward improved recovery outcomes.
- iv. Ensure all data is entered into BirdLife Australia's MyBeachBird portal to contribute to the national program.
- v. Work in partnership with land managers to deliver consistent on-ground recovery actions, signage and messaging.
- vi. Engage with local, state and federal government policy and decision makers to ensure threats to Hooded Plovers and their habitat are acknowledged and managed accordingly. This may for example include influencing local bylaws, statewide threatened species or coastal planning legislation, tourism or events management, beach renourishment projects, etc.

The main roles of the different groups working on this project are as follows:

- BirdLife Australia staff provide strategic direction for recovery of Hooded Plovers across the Eastern mainland, register and induct volunteers, maintain ethics and permit approvals, provide advice, workshops, training, and technical support, as well as data analysis and maintenance of the national MyBeachBird database. BirdLife Australia staff carry out research to improve recovery efforts, analyse and review data to maintain an adaptive management approach, and maintain a national network for information sharing and

supporting recovery of the Hooded Plover. BirdLife Australia staff work to raise awareness and provide education to coastal communities. BirdLife Australia staff work with BirdLife Australia volunteers, Green Adelaide Coast and Seas team, councils, Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu, and Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to coordinate or advise on nest protection responses across the coast.

- In some regions along the Adelaide and Fleurieu coast, Coastal Conservation Officers from Green Adelaide coordinate nest protection responses for the project and support BirdLife Australia volunteers, and local council staff for on ground implementation.
- A Regional Support Officer role, funded by Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu through Australian Government Back from the Brink funding, assists with delivery of volunteer support, awareness raising and site protection.
- BirdLife Australia Volunteer Regional Coordinators, Beach Leaders and Volunteers undertake the important roles of monitoring breeding birds and site threats, recording data on the portal, installing fences/signs, and talking with the public, etc.

Connection to regional and statewide plans

At a regional level, two Coastal Action Plans have been completed for the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board region: the Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan (SFCAP) and for relevant coastal areas of the Metropolitan Adelaide and Northern Coastal Action Plan (MANCAP). These plans contain detailed coastal maps and plant and animal lists and relevant data and recommendations. The plans also outline key conservation priorities along the coast, provide suggested actions and identify key partners and stakeholders to be involved.

The Coastal Action Plans are used to assist in priority setting of coastal management actions for Green Adelaide and Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu, councils, DEW and private landholders. In implementing the Coastal Action Plans, Green Adelaide and Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu address local initiatives identified in the Plans to conserve Hooded Plovers and other Beach-nesting Birds, as well as providing resourcing towards BirdLife Australia coordination.

Green Adelaide has recently reviewed the MANCAP priority actions and achievements with local councils, stakeholders and partners with the document to be released in 2026. Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu are also reviewing the SFCAP. These documents update the extension of Hooded Plover territories and flocking sites across the region and capture additional threats not previously included. In view of the status of this species, the Hooded Plover has been flagged as a focal species for the SFCAP and the MANCAP area.

The South Australian Recovery Plan for the Hooded Plover (Baker-Gabb and Weston 2006) remains in draft form. Relevant actions and priorities of this draft were incorporated into the Coastal Action Plan's detailed local actions to manage foreshore use to minimise impact on the species during the

nesting and fledging season. Key players identified were the Department for Environment and Water, councils, community, and the previous Natural Resources Management Board. Many of these actions and priorities need updating due to the considerable advances in research and knowledge of South Australian Hooded Plover sites, threats, and actions since 2006. While BirdLife Australia has developed a Conservation Action Plan (2019-current) and is currently acting to coordinate recovery actions, working alongside each of the Landscape Boards, across South Australia, there would be great benefit to updating the South Australian Hooded Plover recovery plan and formalising this to strengthen support and awareness of the current aims and approach.

The Australian Government, through the Saving Native Species program, has funded BirdLife Australia to establish a Recovery Team for the Hooded Plover (eastern). An initial meeting will be held in February 2026. The primary function of the Recovery Team is advancing Hooded Plover recovery by addressing gaps in conservation that require partnerships across the species range.

An Overview of the 2024/2025 Breeding Season

Monitoring effort

As part of BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Program, volunteers participating in monitoring of breeding Hooded Plover pairs at priority sites across South Australia entered their data into the MyBeachBird portal. On the Adelaide Metro coast and Fleurieu Peninsula, an attempt is made to monitor all occupied sites, i.e., the entire population of Hooded Plovers, while elsewhere in South Australia, only a sample of breeding pairs are monitored within each Landscape region due to logistical and resource constraints, and the smaller human population sizes from which to recruit volunteers.

The volunteers and staff on the Adelaide Metro coast and Fleurieu Peninsula once again displayed a tremendous effort in entering their sightings into the MyBeachBird portal with a total of 4,754 data records entered during the 2024/2025 Hooded Plover breeding season and an additional 421 entries were completed before and after the breeding season, capturing valuable information about flocking and roosting sites. There were 98 BirdLife Australia volunteers that participated in on site monitoring along with two BirdLife staff, one Green Adelaide staff member, and other stakeholder staff.

Overall, 33.52% of the data entries for the national Hooded Plover program, and 74.40% of all South Australian entries were from the Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula, which is to be commended. It also highlights the value of having BirdLife Australia's Sharing the Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project staff based in Adelaide (supported by Green Adelaide), the support from multiple VRCs and Beach Leaders and the additional support available from the Green Adelaide Coast and Seas team.

Volunteers contributed a staggering 6,911 hours over the breeding season. Volunteer time includes time monitoring the birds and their threats, installing site protection management, travel time, data entry time, planting spinifex seedlings at the Our Plover Coast sites, and the additional coordination and actions undertaken by the Volunteer Regional Coordinators (VRCs) and Beach Leaders. The VRCs and Beach Leaders contributed approximately 1,736 of the volunteer hours. It is important to note that these hours are best estimates but certainly an underestimate as they do not reflect all of the hours volunteers put in over emails, phone calls, text messages, training & meetings, going through photos, and other situations that have not been accounted for. In addition, these volunteer hours do not include hours spent monitoring other species of beach-nesting birds.

There were 61 sites visited by volunteers over the breeding season, 50 of these sites were regularly monitored for breeding. Historically occupied sites and flocking sites were visited in addition to known breeding sites, to determine if there were new breeding pairs.

Hooded Plover breeding site use

The monitoring of 61 potential Hooded Plover breeding sites revealed 44 sites with nests and an additional two sites where pairs were demonstrating breeding behaviour. In addition to the sites with nests, one site had a pair on territory with scrapes but no nest, and one site had a pair regularly on site; however, no scrapes were found likely because of the pebble beach substrate that makes it difficult to see scrapes. The remaining sites recorded no breeding activity.

Data included in the report is from breeding pairs that have had monthly visits (as a minimum). Anything less than monthly visits means that it is not possible to confirm the number of nesting attempts and could potentially miss an entire fledging event if enough months are missed. Three sites were monitored even though no birds were seen during the season because these sites were historically occupied and potentially a location where young birds may try to establish a territory. The remaining sites had birds sighted, either individuals or flocks, at least once during the season.

There were some changes to breeding sites in the 2024/25 season. For example, there were partner changes during the 2024/25 season at both Ochre Cove and Bashams Beach (See Table 4). There were also two new nesting locations. The pair, RT and unbanded partner, that nested at the Torrens River Mouth in 2022/23 and 2023/24, moved to a nesting site at West Beach. This site has not previously been recorded as a nesting site since consistent monitoring from 2009. Another new nesting site was established by an unbanded pair at Whalers, near Victor Harbor (see Image 2). In addition to the new sites that were established, nesting was once again reported at Southport. This season an unbanded pair had a 2-egg nest (0 chicks, 0 fledglings) at Southport (see Image 3). Previously reported nesting attempts at Southport Beach include one nest (0 chicks, 0 fledglings) back in 2012/13 and one nest (2 chicks, 0 fledglings) in 2011/12.



Image 2. New nesting site at Whalers, Victor Harbor (Photo: K. Bartley).



Image 3. Location and nest at Southport. First nesting attempt at this site since 2012/13 (Photo A. Read).

There were territory changes during the 2024/25 season. Through the flagging program, we were able to confirm changes in territories of individual birds and pairs (see flagging section below for details). Some pairs will use multiple sites in a year and between seasons. Examples of territory changes during the 2024/25 season include:

- JR Left (White) & unbanded partner nested twice at Moana South and then had a third nest at Moana Beach. The 1st nest (3 eggs) was lost to a tide. The 2nd nest (3 eggs) and 3rd nest (2 eggs) hatched but did not produce fledglings. JR has been recorded changing territories previously. In 2023/24, JR had a nest at Snapper Point (3 eggs) followed by a nest at Moana Beach South (3 eggs). The nest at Snapper Point did not hatch. The Moana Beach South

nest was the first nest produced by JR Left (White) to successfully hatch, with 2 chicks that were then taken by a kestrel at 2 days old. JR is a 6-year-old female Hooded Plover that previously nested at Maslin Beach/+North (1 nest, 2 eggs, 2022/23), Aldinga South (1 nest, 1 egg, 2021/22) with no eggs hatching during these breeding attempts. Although JR has not successfully produced a fledgling, the number of eggs and number of nests to hatch are increasing.

- This season, CS Right (White) & unbanded partner had 4 failed nests at Carrickalinga Estuary. A fox, raven, silver gull, human and dog were suspected causes of failure for these nests. CS & partner then moved to Carrickalinga Sands where their 5th and final nest of the season hatched 3 chicks and successfully produced 1 fledgling. Estuarine areas often provide good food resources and areas for Hooded Plover chicks to shelter; however, these areas may also be corridors for foxes and busy sites for people and dogs; territory changes are likely a result of the cumulative threats and pressures at these sites.
- Another pair that frequently moves between sites is PX Right (White) & unbanded partner. This season PX & partner nested 3 times at Victor Central. The 1st nest was lost to tide. The second nest hatched, and 2 chicks were observed but did not fledge. The 3rd nest failed and was suspected to have been predated on by a fox. The pair then moved to Hindmarsh River Mouth where the 4th nest was lost to a raven. For the final nest of the season the pair moved to Olivers Reef where they successfully produced 2 fledglings. Last season the pair was observed at Hindmarsh River Mouth and Oliver's Reef, producing scrapes but no nests. However, at Victor Central they produced 5 nests and 2 fledglings (see further details about territory changes in Table 4).

Tables 1-4 provide an overview of breeding sites monitored and Figures 1 and 2 show breeding site locations. A breakdown of the number of data portal entries for each site, and threat assessments at each site can be found in Table 1.

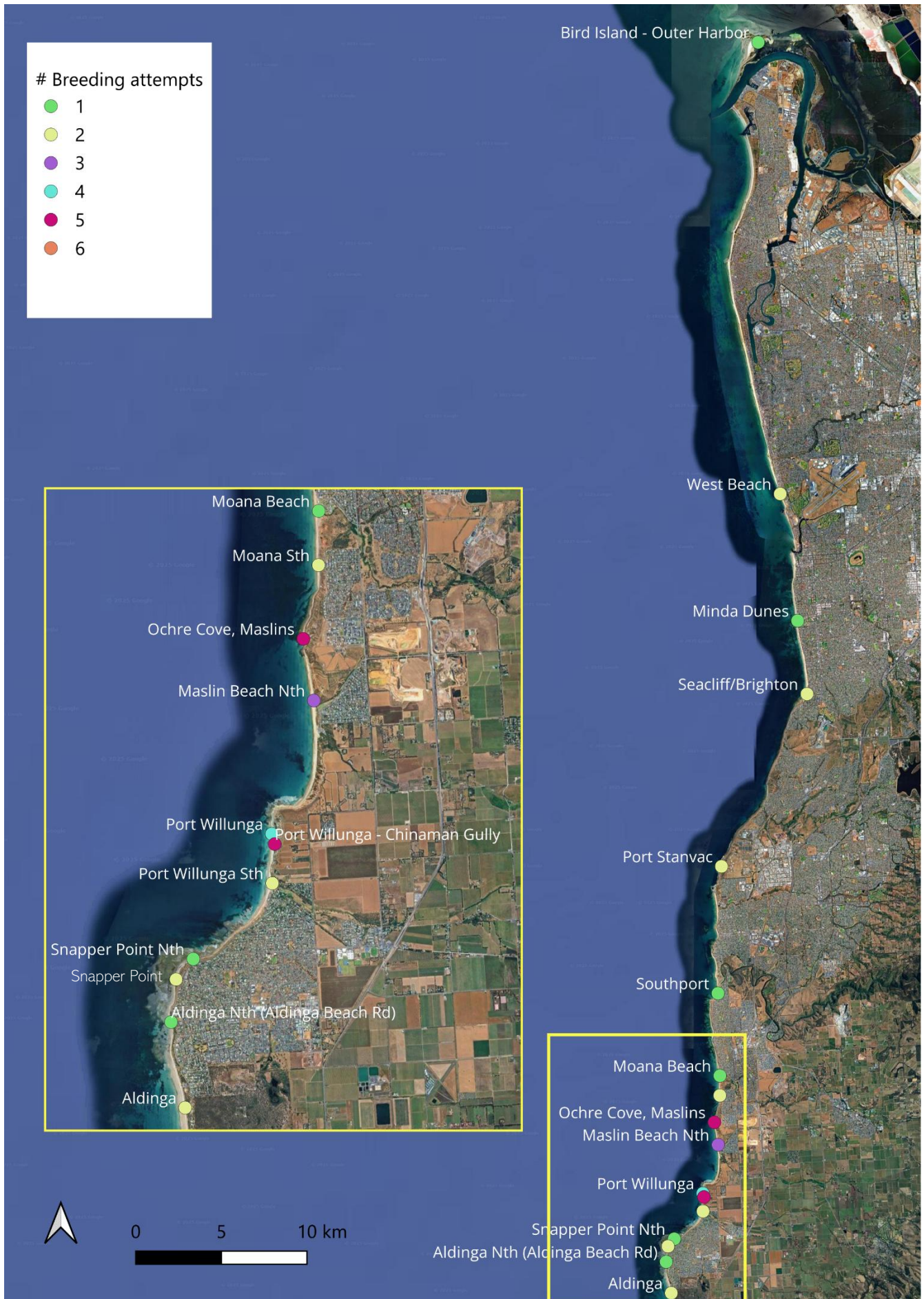


Figure 1. Hooded Plover breeding sites and number of breeding attempts at each site within Green Adelaide (Bird Island to Aldinga) for the 2024/2025 season.

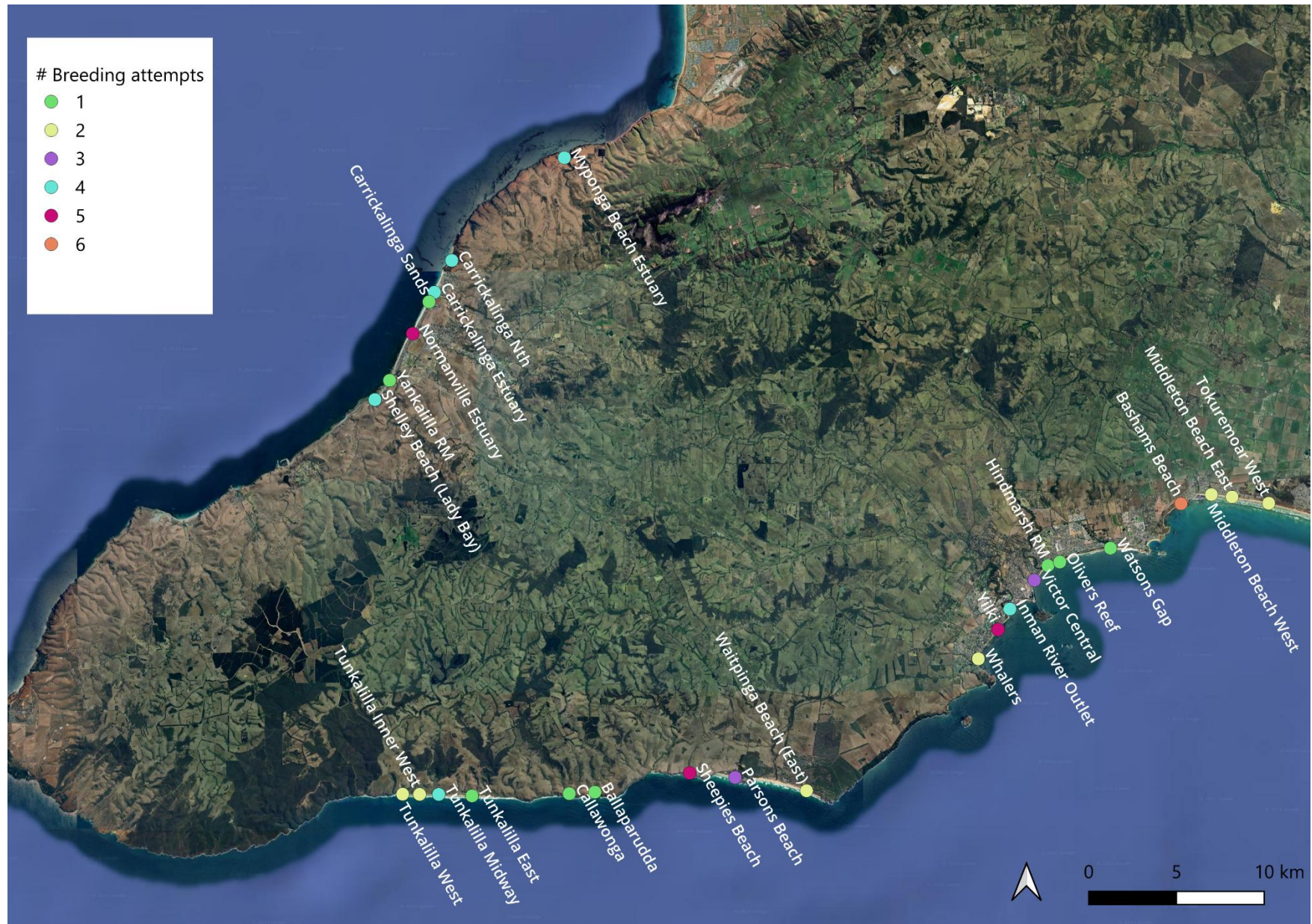


Figure 2. Hooded Plover breeding sites and number of breeding attempts at each site within Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu region (Myponga Beach to Tokuremoar West) for the 2024/2025 season.

Table 1. Number of portal entries and threat assessments on the Adelaide coast and Fleurieu Peninsula during the 2024/25 breeding season. Portal entries are the number of entries entered via the online 'Mybeachbird' data portal. Full threat assessments include both the observed number of threats plus print assessments. There are some sites where the substrate does not allow for print data to be collected (e.g. Rocky coastline, with no sand). *Denotes sites that were visited infrequently and not included in the 'sites monitored' in Table 2.

Site Territory	Portal Entries	Number Threat Assessments	Full Threat Assessments	% Full Threat Assessments Completed
Aldinga	191	166	143	74.87%
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)	120	93	72	60.00%
Aldinga South*	9	9	5	55.56%
Ballaparudda/Callawonga	18	17	17	94.44%
Bashams Beach	71	71	71	100.00%
Bird Island - Outer Harbor	7	6	3	42.86%
Carrickalinga Estuary	104	53	21	20.19%
Carrickalinga North	147	83	32	21.77%
Carrickalinga Rotunda	62	20	1	1.61%
Carrickalinga Sands (South)	43	23	6	13.95%
Christies Beach*	1	1	1	100.00%
Deep Creek CP Blowhole beach*	1	0	0	0.00%
Glenelg Beach North*	1	0	0	0.00%
Hallett Cove	21	18	16	76.19%
Henley Beach*	1	0	0	0.00%
Hindmarsh River Mouth	25	25	24	96.00%
Inman River Outlet	146	141	139	95.21%
Lands End*	4	2	2	50.00%
Marino Rocks*	9	8	0	0.00%
Maslin Beach	92	90	0	0.00%
Maslin Beach - North	150	144	42	28.00%
Middleton Beach East	49	48	48	97.96%
Middleton Beach West	95	92	84	88.42%
Minda Dunes	63	24	7	11.11%
Moana Beach	111	93	74	66.67%
Moana Beach South	145	128	112	77.24%
Morgans Beach Fleurieu*	2	0	0	0.00%
Myponga Beach East	13	6	5	38.46%
Myponga Beach Estuary	51	35	22	43.14%
Normanville Estuary	145	93	26	17.93%
Normanville North	16	8	4	25.00%
Ochre Cove, Maslins	163	143	81	49.69%
Olivers Reef	151	140	129	85.43%
Parsons Beach	16	15	15	93.75%
Port Stanvac	34	27	14	41.18%
Port Willunga	221	150	65	29.41%
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	201	163	65	32.34%
Port Willunga South	132	68	39	29.55%
Seacliff/Brighton	217	124	71	32.72%
Sellicks Beach	34	17	16	47.06%
Semaphore Park (Mirani Ct - Recreation Pde)*	5	4	4	80.00%

Site Territory	Portal Entries	Number Threat Assessments	Full Threat Assessments	% Full Threat Assessments Completed
Semaphore Sth (Recreation Pde - Bower Rd)*	9	8	8	88.89%
Sheepies Beach	20	8	6	30.00%
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	71	65	62	87.32%
Silver Sands	14	9	8	57.14%
Snapper Point	142	112	37	26.06%
Snapper Point North	75	62	14	18.67%
Southport	25	25	24	96.00%
Tennyson Dunes (Estcourt Rd Fort St)*	7	5	4	57.14%
Tokuremoar West	103	101	99	96.12%
Torrens River Mouth	86	48	5	5.81%
Trig Point*	2	2	2	100.00%
Tunkalilla 1st alcove far east*	3	3	2	66.67%
Tunkalilla East	19	19	19	100.00%
Tunkalilla Inner West	18	18	18	100.00%
Tunkalilla Midway	18	18	18	100.00%
Tunkalilla West	18	18	18	100.00%
Victor Central	98	96	91	92.86%
Waitpinga Beach (east)	13	13	13	100.00%
Waitpinga Beach (west)	13	12	11	84.62%
Waitpinga Estuary	13	13	10	76.92%
Watsons Gap	56	56	56	100.00%
West Beach	154	113	18	11.69%
West Lakes Beach (Estcourt Rd - Mirani Ct)*	6	3	3	50.00%
Whalers	129	121	106	82.17%
Yankalilla river mouth	34	29	29	85.29%
Yilki	180	174	163	90.56%
Grand Total	4413	3499	2320	52.57%

Breeding success results

In the 2024/25 breeding season, there were 110 nesting attempts by 35 breeding pairs on the Adelaide Metro coast and Fleurieu Peninsula (see Table 2). The number of breeding pairs is one less than the previous two seasons. However, there were other pairs on territory with scrapes and only one of the sites used in the 2023/24 season was not used this season (Waitpinga Beach west). The number of nests is down from last season (123 in 2023/24) though it is the second highest number of nests recorded (equal to the number in 2022/23). There were 72 chicks observed this season which is down from last season (97 in 2023/24), but the third highest number of chicks observed since the Beach-nesting Birds program began (there were 73 in 2021/22). A combination of the recovery management actions across the region are likely maintaining the number of adult Hooded Plovers. Pressures on nest and chick survival should continue to be investigated and increased protection efforts directed to reducing those.

There were 16 fledglings in the 2024/2025 breeding season, down from 18 in the previous season. However, the approximate benchmark for fledgling production to maintain population viability over time is set as 0.40 – 0.50 fledglings per pair per season, and this season met this target (0.46) (see Table 2).

Variation in the pairs responsible for fledgling production is also important to maintain genetic variation and is supported by the fact that Hooded Plover fledgling success was geographically spread this season across the region, from the most northern site at Bird Island to the most southeastern site of the region at Tokuremoar West. There was one fledgling from Bird Island and two fledglings from the new breeding territory at West Beach, in the City of Charles Sturt. There was one fledgling from Port Stanvac; however, there were no other fledglings from Onkaparinga Beaches this season (compared to 7 fledglings in 2023/24 and 4 in 2022/23). There were 6 fledglings from the Yankalilla council area and 3 fledglings from the Victor Harbor area, including 1 fledgling from a new breeding territory at Whalers. There were also 3 fledglings from the Alexandrina Council area. Variation to the pairs responsible for fledgling production is also supported by pairs that produced fledglings, for example, RT & unbanded partner at West Beach produced fledglings for the first time. Figures 3 and 4 provide a geographic overview of locations where chicks hatched, figures 5 and 6 are of those sites that fledged chicks. Table 3 provides a summary of nesting attempts for each pair monitored and Table 4 presents more detail about each individual nesting attempt.

Table 2. Summary of number of breeding pairs, sites monitored for breeding (see Table 1 for sites monitored), nests, hatching or failing at egg stage, total number of eggs and chicks confirmed, and total chicks that fledged.

Season	# pairs (# sites monitored)	# nests	# nests hatch	# nests fail egg stage	#eggs	# chicks obsv. (% of eggs)	# fledglings (% of chicks)	Fledglings/ Pair
2009/10	12 (12)	18	9 (50.0%)	9	49	19 (38.8%)	7 (36.8%)	0.58
2010/11	19 (23)	36	14 (38.9%)	22	83	26 (31.3%)	9 (34.6%)	0.47
2011/12	14 (26)	24	10 (41.7%)	14	60	22 (36.7%)	8 (36.4%)	0.57
2012/13	20 (38)	34	11 (32.4%)	23	76	23 (30.3%)	9 (39.1%)	0.45
2013/14	18 (35)	35	12 (34.3%)	23	84	23 (27.4%)	9 (39.1%)	0.50
2014/15	20 (44)	46	17 (37.0%)	29	107	32 (29.9%)	10 (31.3%)	0.50
2015/16	21 (45)	42	26 (61.9%)	16	112	63 (56.3%)	19 (30.2%)	0.90
2016/17	24 (46)	56	19 (33.9%)	37	141	39 (27.7%)	16 (41.0%)	0.67
2017/18	27 (47)	59	23 (39.0%)	36	153	52 (34.0%)	18 (34.6%)	0.67
2018/19	33 (50)	86	22 (25.6%)	64	223	46 (20.6%)	10 (21.7%)	0.30
2019/20	28 (43)	82	32 (39.0%)	50	218	69 (31.7%)	17 (24.6%)	0.61
2020/21	31 (49)	98	26 (26.5%)	72	232	52 (22.4%)	14 (26.9%)	0.45
2021/22	31 (48)	93	30 (32.3%)	63	229	73 (31.9%)	19 (26.0%)	0.61
2022/23	36 (52)	110	26 (23.6%)	85	266	52 (19.5%)	16 (30.8%)	0.47
2023/24	36 (47)	123	41 (33.3%)	82	315	97 (30.8%)	18 (18.6%)	0.50
2024/25	35 (50)	110	31 (28.2%)	79	278	72 (25.9%)	16 (22.2%)	0.46

Breeding timing and effort

Nesting began early this season with a nest found on 27th July at Ochre Cove, the earliest recorded on the Fleurieu and Adelaide coast since the program began (31st July 2023 at Torrens River Mouth is the second earliest recorded). This season 12 pairs had nests before the end of August (compared to 17 in 2023/24, 11 in 2022/23, 12 in 2021/22, and 6 in 2020/21); however, only two of these early nests hatched, West Beach and Minda Dunes. West Beach was a new nesting site and the first nest at this site was a 3-egg nest which hatched 2 chicks, 1 egg was not viable. One of these chicks fledged. These were the first chicks, and the first fledgling (fledged 9/10/24) recorded for the season across the national monitoring program (see Image 4).



Image 4. West Beach - first chick to fledge this season (Photo: J. Robins)

This season finished later than last season with a nest at Yilki which hatched 2 chicks on the 29th March. One of the 2 chicks survived until 24th April. However, this nest at Yilki was the only nest established for the region in February. Last season (2023/24) there were 2 new nests in February, both nests failed. Going further back in time, in 2022/23 there were 5 new nests in February, the final chick disappearing on day 34 at Aldinga, on 11th March and in 2021/22, there were no new nests in February.

Fledglings were produced throughout the 2024/25 season, beginning with the earliest fledgling recorded nationally in October. Of the 16 fledglings this season one chick fledged in October (6.25%) followed by one in November (6.25%), four in December (25.00%), one in January (6.25%), 8 in February (50.00%), and one in March (6.25%). February included a successful fledging of a complete clutch of three eggs leading to triplets at Tunkalilla East.

This season, five pairs (14.29%) had only one nesting attempt for the entire season; 10 pairs (28.57%) had two nesting attempts; 5 pairs (14.29%) had three nesting attempts; 7 pairs (20.00%) had four nesting attempts; 6 pairs (17.14%) had five nesting attempts; and 2 pairs (5.71%) had six nesting attempts. The pairs with only a single nesting attempt were at Bird Island, Southport, Yankalilla River Mouth, Tunkalilla East and Watsons Gap. However, after successfully fledging one chick at Bird Island (see Image 5), the behaviour of the pair suggested there could have been a second nesting attempt. A nest or chicks could not be located, and this nesting attempt could not be confirmed. This season there were two pairs with 6 nesting attempts including the pair at Bashams Beach. The other pair that had 6 nesting attempts had five nests at Sheepies Beach and one nest at the western end of Parson's Beach. None of the nests hatched from these sites despite such high investment in breeding effort.



Image 5. Bird Island fledgling, 10 January 2024 (Photo: I. Forsyth)

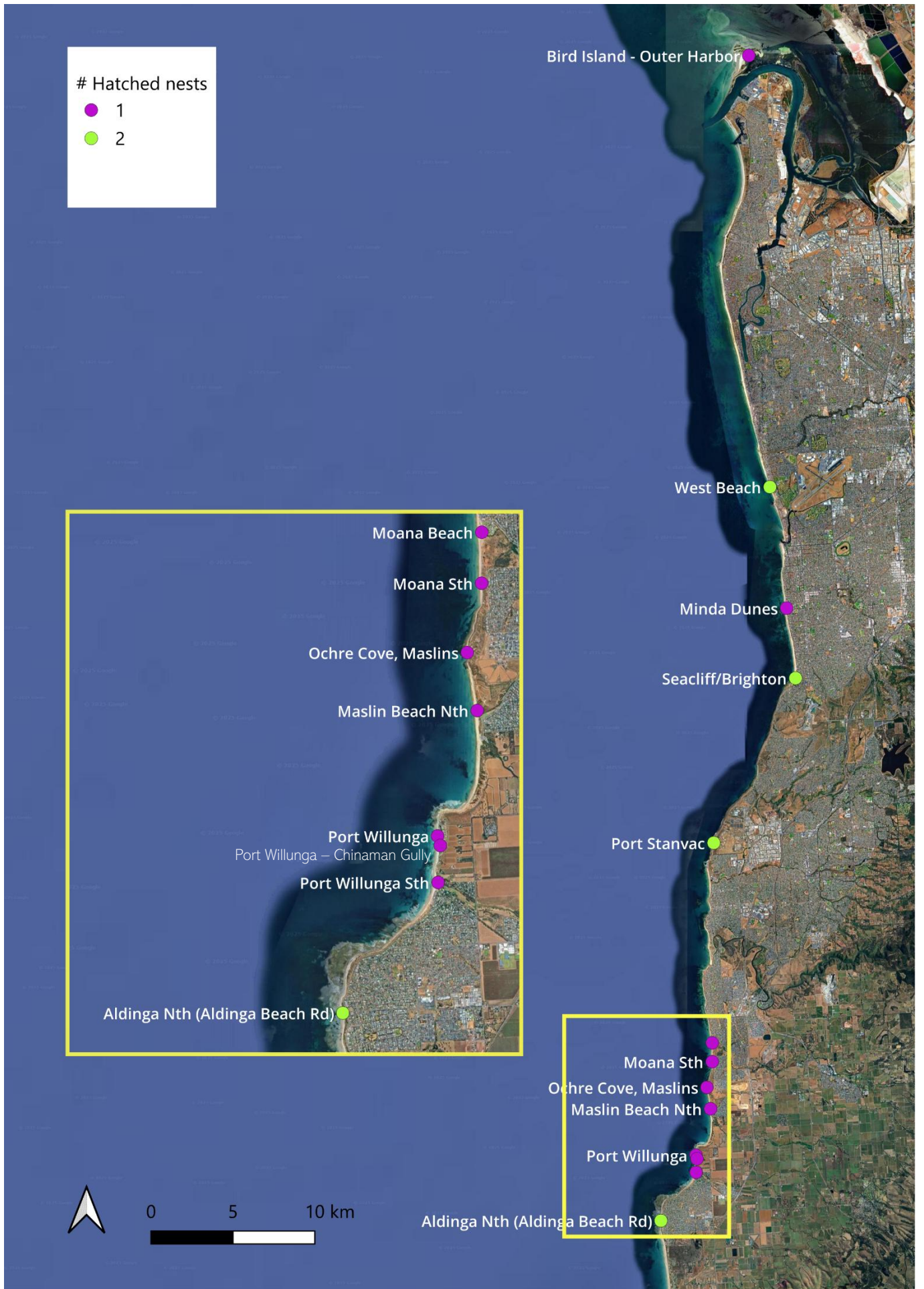


Figure 3. Sites within Green Adelaide where chicks hatched during the 2024/2025 season.



Figure 4. Sites within the Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu Region where chicks hatched during the 2024/2025 season.

Table 3. Summary of nests, number of nests that failed, hatched and fledged, and total number of eggs confirmed, chicks observed and chicks that fledged from each site monitored in the 2024/25 breeding season.

Site	Pair ID	# Nests	# Nests failed	# Nests hatched	# Nests fledged	# Eggs obs	# Chicks obs	# Fledglings
Bird Island - Outer Harbor	Unbanded x2	1	0	1	1	2	2	1
West Beach	RT Right (White) & unb	2	0	2	2	6	4	2
Minda Dunes	XM Right (White) & unb	1	0	1	0	3	3	0
Seacliff/Brighton	XM Right (White) & unb	2	0	2	0	6	5	0
Port Stanvac	AR Left (Orange) & ES Right (White)	2	0	2	1	5	2	1
Southport	Unbanded x2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Moana Beach/Moana South	JR Left (White) & unb	3	1	2	0	8	4	0
Ochre Cove, Maslins	NA Right (Orange) & unb	4	4	0	0	11	0	0
Ochre Cove, Maslins	Unbanded x2	1	0	1	0	2	2	0
Maslin Beach North	RV Right (Orange) & unb	3	2	1	0	7	2	0
Port Willunga	HV Right (Orange) & unb	4	3	1	0	12	1	0
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	YL Right (White) & unb	5	4	1	0	11	3	0
Snapper Point North/Port Willunga South	JT Right (White) & KV Right (White)	3	2	1	0	7	1	0

Site	Pair ID	# Nests	# Nests failed	# Nests hatched	# Nests fledged	# Eggs obs	# Chicks obs	# Fledglings
Snapper Point	XN Right (White) & unb	2	2	0	0	5	0	0
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)/Aldinga	Unbanded x2	3	1	2	0	9	6	0
Myponga Beach Estuary	MN Right (White) & unb	4	3	1	1	11	3	2
Carrickalinga North	WU Right (White) & HW Left (White)	4	3	1	0	12	3	0
Carrickalinga Estuary/ Carrickalinga Sands/ Carrickalinga Rotunda	CS Right (White) & unb	5	4	1	1	13	3	1
Normanville Estuary	NC Right (White) & TD Left (White)	5	5	0	0	11	0	0
Yankalilla River Mouth	Unknown x2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	DT Right (White) & unb	4	4	0	0	9	0	0
Tunkalilla West	YE Right (White) & unb	2	1	1	0	4	2	0
Tunkalilla Inner West	PR Right (White) & unb	2	2	0	0	3	0	0
Tunkalilla Midway	ME Right (Orange) & unb	4	4	0	0	10	0	0

Site	Pair ID	# Nests	# Nests failed	# Nests hatched	# Nests fledged	# Eggs obs	# Chicks obs	# Fledglings
Tunkalilla East	Unbanded x2	1	0	1	1	3	3	3
Ballaparudda/Callawonga	Unbanded x2	2	2	0	0	5	0	0
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	KD Right (White) & NZ Right (Orange)	6	6	0	0	15	0	0
Parsons Beach	WZ Right (White) & unb	2	2	0	0	4	0	0
Waitpinga Beach (east)	UA Right (White) & unb	2	2	0	0	5	0	0
Whalers	Unbanded x2	1	0	1	1	3	3	1
Whalers	AW Right (Green) & unb	1	0	1	0	3	3	0
Yilki	KV Right (Orange) & RR Right (Orange)	5	3	2	0	11	4	0
Inman River Outlet	ZE Right (White) & unb	4	4	0	0	10	0	0
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	PX Right (White) & unb	5	3	2	1	15	5	2
Watsons Gap	Unbanded x2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Bashams Beach	MS Left (White) & VZ Right (White)	5	5	0	0	12	0	0

Site	Pair ID	# Nests	# Nests failed	# Nests hatched	# Nests fledged	# Eggs obs	# Chicks obs	# Fledglings
Bashams Beach	MS Left (White) & unb	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	YV Right (White) & unb	4	2	2	1	11	5	1
Tokuremoar West	SV Right (White) & unb	2	1	1	1	6	3	2
TOTAL		110	79	31	11	278	72	16



Figure 5. Sites within the Green Adelaide Region where chicks fledged during the 2024/2025 season.



Figure 6. Sites within the Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu Region where chicks fledged during the 2024/2025 season.

Nesting results

Of the 110 confirmed nests, 71.80% (79 nests) failed and 28.20% (31 nests) hatched. It is difficult to determine the causes of fate without using remote cameras (which we need to limit use of so as to avoid predator learning) or being present at the exact moment of nest failure, and so many causes of nest failure are recorded as unknown. In 2024/25, of the nests that failed, 77.22% (61 nests) failed to unknown causes. However, for 40 (65.57%) of these nests that had an unknown cause of failure, there were prints or evidence around the nest suggesting possible causes of failure. Of the 40 nests with prints or evidence, predation was suspected as the cause of failure for 29 (72.50%). Many of these nests were suspected to be lost to fox depredation (14 of the 40 nests, 35.00%). An additional nest was suspected to be lost to a fox or avian predator (2.50%). Although fox depredation is still the suspected cause of failure for many of the nests, this number has reduced since 2023/24 when 21 nests (50% of nests with suspected causes) were suspected to be lost to foxes. Additional avian predators were suspected in the loss of nests including ravens (9 nests, 22.50%) and raven and silver gull (1 nest, 2.50%). The number of nests suspected to be lost to ravens has increased this season compared to ravens being the suspected cause of failure of 4 nests in 2023/24. Dogs were the suspected cause of failure for 4 nests (10.00%). Inundation by tides was the suspected cause of failure for 6 nests (15.00%). Other suspected causes of failure include avian predator and human (1 nest, 2.50%), human and dog (1 nest, 2.50%), human (1 nest, 2.50%), eggs buried by sand (1 nest, 2.50%), and trampled by stock (1 nest, 2.50%) (see Table 4 for suspected causes of nest failure).

For 18 nesting attempts, the cause of nest failure could be confirmed. There were 10 nests (55.56%) that failed because of tidal inundation (compared to 10 nests in 2023/24 and 20 nests in 2022/23). Another nest (5.56%) had two eggs lost to tide before the remaining egg was suspected to be lost to a dog. Remote sensor cameras confirmed fox predation as the cause of failure at two nests. A fox caused the failure of one complete nest (5.56%) and one nest (5.56%) that had some eggs lost to a fox and the remaining eggs lost to tide. Other confirmed causes of nest failure include nest abandoned (1 nest, 5.56%), nest abandoned because of human interference (1 nest, 5.56%), raven (1 nest, 5.56%), and there was one nest (5.56%) where the pair continued to incubate past the hatching date and the eggs were not viable (see Table 4 for causes of nest failure).

Tide was a cause of nest failure at Port Willunga in 2024/25. HV Right (Orange) & unbanded partner lost two full nests to tide and a partial nest to tide. However, the story that was witnessed by the dedicated volunteers is more complicated than is illustrated in the nest summary table. For one of the nests that was lost to the tide, HV and partner rescued an egg and began to incubate it again, but it was not viable. In another nesting attempt the tide washed through the nest and again HV and partner rescued one egg and began to incubate. Several days later this egg was again taken by the tide and then rescued by the pair. Incredibly this egg hatched but sadly the chick was suspected to have been killed by an off-leash dog with dog tracks winding through the area where the chick was last seen. The determination of HV and partner has been documented by the local Beach Leader in the [Word About the Hood newsletter](#)

As mentioned previously, KD Right (White) & NZ Right (Orange) had six nesting attempts this season and these efforts led to no chicks hatching. The pair nested five times at Sheepies Beach and once at Parsons Beach. Although the cause of failure of one of the nests is unknown, foxes were the suspected cause of failure for two nests and the known cause of failure of one nest which was confirmed when a fox was captured on remote camera. Tide was the suspected cause of one nest failure and the known cause of another. This pair also had six nesting attempts at Sheepies Beach in 2023/24 with no chicks hatching from these attempts, and foxes and tides the known or suspected cause of many of these nests. Additional fox management should be implemented for this site.

At Bashams Beach, there were six nesting attempts. MS Left (White) and VZ Right (White) had five nests before VZ Right (White) disappeared and then an unbanded bird partnered with MS Left (White) and another nesting attempt occurred. None of the nests hatched at this site. The first nest was lost to tide. The following four nests were suspected to be lost to ravens, and the final nest was suspected to be lost to a fox. Methods to protect nests from raven predation should be investigated.

There continue to be concerns for the Hooded Plover breeding site at Sellicks Beach with vehicles driving at speed on the sandy beach and illegally on the pebble beach, and therefore impacting the suitability of the habitat, creating disturbance and potential to crush eggs and strike birds. SR Right (Orange) & unbanded were seen at Sellicks Beach regularly this season (18 out of 34 visits) but there were no recorded nesting attempts. There were also no recorded nesting attempts at Sellicks Beach in 2023/24, but the pair have nested here in previous seasons with five nests and no chicks in 2022/23, two nests and one chick in 2021/22, and three nests and three chicks in 2020/21.

Permitting vehicles on the beach, adds yet another threat on top of the numerous challenges beach-nesting birds already face. Hooded Plovers will nest above the high tide mark, on the sand or pebble banks. Not only are new nests that are not yet fenced incredibly vulnerable to being run over, but the flightless chicks have limited mobility for escaping vehicles and can often shelter in vehicle ruts making them vulnerable to crushing as drivers of vehicles often choose to drive in already made tracks in the sand. Even when nests are fenced, the constant disturbance by passing vehicles can force the incubating adult to leave the nest, leaving the nest vulnerable to predators and weather conditions. On this stretch of beach, the high tide regularly reaches the base of the pebble bank and therefore, if the eggs hatch, the adults have a limited area in which they can freely raise their young and not be constantly disturbed by passing vehicles. Additionally, young chicks need to feed regularly and for this they need unrestricted access to their food source which is found along the wet sand on the shoreline. Without unrestricted access, the tiny chicks can easily starve. This stretch of beach can be lined with parked vehicles, sometimes four or five cars deep, making it impossible for the birds to access the shoreline to feed.

A clause has been introduced by the City of Onkaparinga under By-law 6 - Foreshore, prohibiting vehicles from Hooded Plover breeding sites (within 20m of a sign that indicates the words 'Hooded Plover breeding site'). By-law 6 Foreshore came into effect in November 2023 and if enforced, will

prevent vehicles from parking directly in front of breeding areas. Whilst this is unlikely to address all vehicle related risks to breeding Hooded Plovers, council are to be acknowledged for implementing by-laws in an attempt to better protect breeding sites. Unfortunately, considerable efforts by volunteers are required each season to educate the public and to actively protect nesting sites and vulnerable chicks from vehicles. Additionally, although a speed limit of 10km/hr is in place, over the 2024/25 season, vehicles were regularly observed speeding along the sandy beaches and pebble banks in this area. As with all regulations, enforcement patrols are critical for building compliance and changing social norms. Restrictions should also be established to protect the beach and pebble bank from damage caused by vehicles impacts.

Chicks and fledglings

Out of the total number of nests (110), 31 were confirmed as hatched (28.18%) and 11 of these hatched nests successfully fledged chicks (i.e., 35.48% of hatched nests fledged). Of the 72 chicks observed, 16 (22.22%) fledged.

Overall, in 2024/25, an egg had a 5.4%, which is similar to the 5.3% chance of fledging recorded in 2023/24 and lower than the 6.0% chance of fledging recorded in 2022/23, and 8.3% recorded in 2021/22. A nest had a 10.0% chance of fledging a chick (11 nests out of 110) which is similar to 10.6% in 2023/24 and 10.0% in 2022/23. These figures are down from 12.9% in 2021/22, 12.2% in 2020/21 and significantly lower than the 15.9% in 2019/20. Chick survival (19.75%) was higher than the 2023/24 season (16.5%), which was the lowest recorded since the program began. However, the chick survival rate still remains significantly lower than previous seasons (e.g. 2022/23 – 28%, 2021/22 - 26%). Note: these numbers are based on the assumed number of eggs and chicks where the percentage survival in Table 2 is based on only the eggs and chicks that were observed. The same patterns are seen in both sets of data.

Of the 72 chicks observed, 56 failed. The cause of failure is known for three chicks: one chick was lost to a kestrel and two chicks lost to silver gull predation. However, it should be noted that predation by avian predators is sometimes influenced by other disturbances and threats occurring prior, or leading up to, the actual predation event. The cause of the failures is unknown for 53 chicks (73.61% of chicks observed), with 37 failed chicks having no suspected cause of failure (69.81%). However, one of these chicks was rescued by Wildlife Welfare receiving treatment but unfortunately died the next morning. Necropsy and histopathology could not confirm cause of death but suggests starvation (see further details on p. 72). For 16 of the chicks that failed, there were prints or evidence suggesting possible cause of failure. Suspected cause for five chicks (9.43%) was fox predation, three chicks (5.66%) suspected lost to kestrels, three chicks (5.66%) suspected silver gull, two chicks (3.77%) suspected magpie, two chicks (3.77%) suspected dog, 1 chick (1.89%) suspected raven or fox.

It is important to note that the data reported for nest and chick loss does not account for disturbance. Cause of failure is often secondary to the primary disturbance. For example, dogs off leash around Hooded Plover breeding sites is likely to create significant disturbance to breeding activity. When an adult Hooded Plover perceives a threat, it will leave the nest or send its chicks into hiding to lead the threat away. The adult bird will wait until the perceived threat has left the area before returning to the nest or chicks. If this happens repeatedly throughout the day (e.g. lots of beach users and dogs passing by the breeding site), or for a long period for a given disturbance, the eggs or chicks can fail for several reasons including from predation (particularly from avian predators during daylight hours), exposure (heat or cold) and in the case of chicks, starvation. In 2024-25, a chick was observed being chased by an unleashed dog through the fenced area at Minda Dunes breeding site, the chick was left injured, unattended and in a vulnerable position and was subsequently predated by a kestrel.

An emerging threat has been reported during the 2024/25 season. Along with the threat of vehicles on beaches, we now have reports of E-bikes being ridden on beaches. For example, at Seacliff/Brighton an E-bike was seen weaving and riding at speed in front of the signed and fenced breeding area. When volunteers approached the area, they saw a dead or injured chick in the wheel ruts in the sand. It is suspected it was struck by the E-bike. The chick was then immediately taken by a silver gull. The use of E-bikes needs to be restricted near Beach-nesting Bird breeding sites with clear regulations.



Image 6. E-bike resting against council Hooded Plover compliance banner at Seacliff.

The 16 fledglings produced this season were from 10 pairs of Hooded Plovers. The unbanded pair at Tunkalilla East fledged 3 chicks and all were from the same nest, triplets!! The pair at the new breeding site at West Beach (RT Right (White) & unbanded) produced 2 fledglings. At Tokuremoar West, SV Right (White) & unbanded produced two fledglings and these are the first fledglings from this site. PX Right (White) & unbanded also had two fledglings, from their 5th nesting attempt for the season at Olivers Reef (after having nested earlier at both Victor Central (Croquet Club) and Hindmarsh River Mouth). The pairs that successfully fledged one chick were from: Bird Island (unbanded pair), Port Stanvac (AR Left (Orange) & ES Right (White)), Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands (CS Right

(White) & unbanded), the new nesting site at Whalers (unbanded pair), and Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East (YV Right (White) & unbanded).

There was repeated success for some territories across the last two seasons including: Bird Island (1 fledgling 2024/25, 1 in 2023/24), Tunkalilla East (3 fledglings 2024/25, 1 fledgling 2023/24), and the pair utilising several sites at Victor Harbor with two fledglings from Olivers Reef in 2024/25 and two fledglings from Victor Central in 2023/24.



Image 7. Bird Island chick Nov 2024 (Photo: I. Forsyth)



Image 8. Olivers Reef fledglings Feb 2025 (Photo: D. Weinert)

Table 4. Detailed summary of nest progress for each site according to data entered in the MyBeachBird data portal for the 2024/25 breeding season. Site names in **bold** indicate the location of the nest. For some breeding attempts pairs used neighbouring sites for raising chicks.

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Bird Island - Outer Harbor	unb & unb	1	not found	2			12/11/24	2	31/12/24	Unknown	1	13/12/24
West Beach	RT Right (White) & unb	1	17/08/24	3			5/09/24	2	27/09/24	Unknown	1	9/10/24
West Beach	RT Right (White) & unb	2	23/11/24	3			14/12/24	2	7/01/25	Unknown	1	17/01/25
Minda Dunes	XM Right (White) & unb	1	7/08/24	3			7/09/24	3	12/09/24, 12/09/24, 12/09/24	Unknown, Nankeen kestrel (chick seen injured on beach, volunteers observed chick taken by kestrel, adult HPs chased by a dog through the fenced area earlier in the day), Unknown		
Seacliff/Brighton	XM Right (White) & unb	1	27/09/24	3			28/10/24	3	1/11/24, 1/11/24 (6 - 9am), 2/11/24 (9am - 3pm)	Unknown (x2), Silver gull predation after possible e-bike strike		
Seacliff/Brighton	XM Right (White) & unb	2	21/11/24	3			21/12/24	2	27/12/24 (2.30 - 5.30pm),	Silver Gull, Unknown		

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
									13/01/25 (12 - 5.30pm)			
Port Stanvac	AR Left (Orange) & ES Right (White)	1	19/09/24	3			22/10/24	1			1	25/11/24
Port Stanvac	AR Left (Orange) & ES Right (White)	2	21/12/24	2			28/01/25	1	29/01/25	Unknown (suspect fox)		
Southport	unb & unb	1	17/11/24	2	23/11/24	Unknown						
Moana Beach/Moana South	JR Left (White) & unb	1	21/08/24	3	31/08/24 (3.50 - 5.15pm)	Tide						
Moana Beach/Moana South	JR Left (White) & unb	2	14/09/24	3			14/10/24	2	16/10/24 (9am - 5pm), 16/10/24 (9am - 5pm)	Unknown (suspect magpie), Unknown (suspect magpie)		
Moana Beach/Moana South	JR Left (White) & unb	3	28/10/24	2			2/12/24	2	3/12/24 (6.30am - 11.30am), 12/12/24	Unknown (suspect kestrel), Unknown (suspect fox)		
Ochre Cove, Maslins	NA Right (Orange) & unb	1	27/07/24	3	22/08/24	Unknown (suspect dog)						
Ochre Cove, Maslins	NA Right (Orange) & unb	2	3/09/24	3	21/09/24	Unknown						

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Ochre Cove, Maslins	NA Right (Orange) & unb	3	1/10/24	3	8/10/24	Unknown (suspect avian or human)						
Ochre Cove, Maslins	NA Right (Orange) & unb	4	14/10/24	2	6/11/24	Abandoned (human interference at nest)						
Ochre Cove, Maslins	unb & unb	5	18/11/24	2			20/12/24	2	20/12/24 (7.50am - 5pm), 22/12/24	Unknown (x2)		
Maslin Beach North	RV Right (Orange) & unb	1	3/09/24	2	5/10/24	Unknown						
Maslin Beach North	RV Right (Orange) & unb	2	16/10/24	2			15/11/24	2	20/11/24, 28/11/24	Unknown (x2)		
Maslin Beach North	RV Right (Orange) & unb	3	11/12/24	3	27/12/24	Tide						
Port Willunga	HV Right (Orange) & unb	1	18/08/24	3	2/09/24	Tide						
Port Willunga	HV Right (Orange) & unb	2	12/09/24	3	29/09/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Port Willunga	HV Right (Orange) & unb	3	9/10/24	3	11/11/24	Tide & unknown (suspect dog)						
Port Willunga	HV Right (Orange) & unb	4	24/11/24	3			22/12/24	1	23/12/24 (10.20am - 5pm)	Unknown (suspect dog)		

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	YL Right (White) & unb	1	21/08/24	2	29/08/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	YL Right (White) & unb	2	29/09/24	3	5/10/24	Unknown (suspect tide & fox)						
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	YL Right (White) & unb	3	11/10/24	3			12/11/24	3	18/11/24, 1/12/24, 3/12/24	Unknown (x2), Unknown (suspect dog)		
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	YL Right (White) & unb	4	11/12/24	1	12/12/24	Unknown (suspect dog)						
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	YL Right (White) & unb	5	18/12/24	2	27/12/24	Tide						
Snapper Point North/Port Willunga South	JT Right (White) & KV Right (White)	1	30/09/24	3	3/10/24	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Snapper Point North/Port Willunga South	JT Right (White) & KV Right (White)	2	1/11/24	2	11/11/24	Unknown (suspect dog)						
Snapper Point North/Port Willunga South	JT Right (White) & KV Right (White)	3	25/11/24	2			31/12/24	1	4/01/25	Unknown		
Snapper Point	XN Right (White) & unb	1	4/09/24	2	30/09/24	Unknown						
Snapper Point	XN Right (White) & unb	2	14/10/24	3	20/10/24	Unknown						

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)/Aldinga	unb & unb	1	10/09/24	3	22/09/24	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)/Aldinga	unb & unb	2	17/10/24	3			14/11/24	3	17/11/24, 17/11/24, 17/11/24	Unknown (x3 suspect silver gull)		
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)/Aldinga	unb & unb	3	2/12/24	3			30/12/24	3	4/01/25, 4/01/25, 5/01/25	Unknown (x2 suspect kestrel), Unknown (suspect fox)		
Myponga Beach Estuary	MN Right (White) & unb	1	24/08/24	3	1/09/24	Unknown						
Myponga Beach Estuary	MN Right (White) & unb	2	9/10/24	2	25/10/24	Unknown						
Myponga Beach Estuary	MN Right (White) & unb	3	15/11/24	3	30/11/24	Unknown						
Myponga Beach Estuary	MN Right (White) & unb	4	12/12/24	3			5/01/24	3	8/01/24	Unknown	2	8/02/25
Carrickalinga North	WU Right (White) & HW Left (White)	1	25/08/24	3	28/08/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Carrickalinga North	WU Right (White) & HW Left (White)	2	10/09/24	3			7/10/24	3	16/10/24, 28/10/24, 1/11/24	Unknown (x2), Unknown (suspect raven or fox)		

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Carrickalinga North	WU Right (White) & HW Left (White)	3	18/11/24	3	20/11/24	Unknown						
Carrickalinga North	WU Right (White) & HW Left (White)	4	7/12/24	3	15/12/24	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	CS Right (White) & unb	1	1/10/24	3	4/10/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	CS Right (White) & unb	2	13/10/24	3	28/10/24	Unknown (suspect raven & silver gull)						
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	CS Right (White) & unb	3	13/11/24	1	30/11/24	Unknown						
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	CS Right (White) & unb	4	6/12/24	3	1/01/25	Unknown (suspect human & dog)						
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	CS Right (White) & unb	5	13/01/25	3			12/02/25	3	16/02/25, 21/02/25	Unknown, Unknown (suspect fox)	1	18/03/25
Normanville Estuary	NC Right (White) & TD Left (White)	1	20/09/24	3	28/09/24	Unknown (suspect wind buried eggs in sand)						

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Normanville Estuary	NC Right (White) & TD Left (White)	2	2/10/24	0	20/10/24	Unknown						
Normanville Estuary	NC Right (White) & TD Left (White)	3	24/10/24	3	9/11/24	Unknown (suspect human)						
Normanville Estuary	NC Right (White) & TD Left (White)	4	18/11/24	3	9/01/25	Egg failure/not viable						
Normanville Estuary	NC Right (White) & TD Left (White)	5	25/01/25	2	10/02/24	Unknown						
Yankalilla River Mouth	unknown & unknown	1	25/09/24	2	26/09/24 (7.50am - 1pm)	Unknown						
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	DT Right (White) & unb	1	8/10/24	2	14/10/24	Unknown						
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	DT Right (White) & unb	2	4/11/24	3	12/11/24	Unknown (suspect tide)						
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	DT Right (White) & unb	3	18/11/24	1	26/11/24	Unknown (suspect dog)						
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	DT Right (White) & unb	4	4/12/24	3	17/12/24	Unknown (suspect tide)						
Tunkalilla West	YE Right (White) & unb	1	8/12/24	1	22/12/24	Unknown (suspect tide)						
Tunkalilla West	YE Right (White) & unb	2	5/01/24	3			30/01/25	2	9/02/25, 16/02/25	Unknown (x2)		

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Tunkalilla Inner West	PR Right (White) & unb	1	8/12/24	2	5/01/25	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Tunkalilla Inner West	PR Right (White) & unb	2	23/01/25	1	16/02/25	Unknown (suspect tide)						
Tunkalilla Midway	ME Right (Orange) & unb	1	20/10/24	3	20/11/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Tunkalilla Midway	ME Right (Orange) & unb	2	20/11/24	3	8/12/24	Unknown						
Tunkalilla Midway	ME Right (Orange) & unb	3	8/12/24	1	22/12/24	Unknown (suspect tide)						
Tunkalilla Midway	ME Right (Orange) & unb	4	23/01/25	3	30/01/25	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Tunkalilla East	unb & unb	1	not found	3			23/01/25	3			3	9/02/25
Ballaparudda/Callawonga	unb & unb	1	21/09/24	3	11/10/24	Unknown (suspect stock)						
Ballaparudda/Callawonga	unb & unb	2	6/01/25	2	12/01/25	Unknown (suspect avian or fox)						
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	KD Right (White) & NZ Right (Orange)	1	19/10/24	2	26/10/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	KD Right (White) & NZ Right (Orange)	2	8/11/24	3	9/11/24	Tide						
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	KD Right (White) & NZ Right (Orange)	3	24/11/24	3	30/11/24	Unknown						

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	KD Right (White) & NZ Right (Orange)	4	8/12/24	3	21/12/24	Unknown (suspect tide)						
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	KD Right (White) & NZ Right (Orange)	5	29/12/24	2	1/01/25	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	KD Right (White) & NZ Right (Orange)	6	12/01/25	2	1/02/25	Fox						
Parsons Beach	WZ Right (White) & unb	1	17/11/24	3	8/12/24	Unknown						
Parsons Beach	WZ Right (White) & unb	2	21/12/24	1	5/01/25	Unknown						
Waitpinga Beach (east)	UA Right (White) & unb	1	17/11/24	2	8/12/24	Unknown						
Waitpinga Beach (east)	UA Right (White) & unb	2	8/12/24	3	21/12/24	Unknown						
Whalers	unb & unb	1	24/10/24	3			18/11/24	3	27/11/24, 27/11/24	Unknown (x2)	1	22/12/24
Whalers	AW Right (Green) & unb	2	4/01/25	3			1/02/25	3	2/02/25 (11am - 4.40pm), 2/02/25 (11am - 4.40pm), 2/02/25 (11am - 4.40pm)	Unknown (x3)		

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Yilki	KV Right (Orange) & RR Right (Orange)	1	9/10/24	3			12/11/24	2	15/11/24, 4/12/24	Unknown (x2)		
Yilki	KV Right (Orange) & RR Right (Orange)	2	12/12/24	3	18/12/24	Fox and tide						
Yilki	KV Right (Orange) & RR Right (Orange)	3	30/12/24	1	9/01/24	Abandoned						
Yilki	KV Right (Orange) & RR Right (Orange)	4	19/01/25	2	15/02/25	Tide						
Yilki	KV Right (Orange) & RR Right (Orange)	5	24/02/25	2			29/03/25	2	9/04/25, 24/04/25	Unknown, Unknown (suspect fox)		
Inman River Outlet	ZE Right (White) & unb	1	24/10/24	3	31/10/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Inman River Outlet	ZE Right (White) & unb	2	13/11/24	3	28/11/24	Unknown						
Inman River Outlet	ZE Right (White) & unb	3	6/12/24	3	14/12/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Inman River Outlet	ZE Right (White) & unb	4	25/12/24	1	26/12/24	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	PX Right (White) & unb	1	26/08/24	3	2/09/24 (10.45am - 3.30pm)	Tide						

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	PX Right (White) & unb	2	12/09/24	3			15/10/24	2	19/10/24, 25/10/24	Unknown (x2)		
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	PX Right (White) & unb	3	8/11/24	3	14/11/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	PX Right (White) & unb	4	22/11/24	3	29/11/24 (9am - 4pm)	Raven						
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	PX Right (White) & unb	5	8/12/24	3			9/01/25	3	13/01/2025	Unknown	2	12/02/25
Watsons Gap	unb & unb	1	22/08/24	2	30/08/24	Tide						
Bashams Beach	MS Left (White) & VZ Right (White)	1	30/08/24	3	2/09/24	Tide						
Bashams Beach	MS Left (White) & VZ Right (White)	2	13/09/24	3	25/09/24	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Bashams Beach	MS Left (White) & VZ Right (White)	3	7/10/24	2	12/10/24	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Bashams Beach	MS Left (White) & VZ Right (White)	4	3/11/24	2	9/11/24	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Bashams Beach	MS Left (White) & VZ Right (White)	5	24/11/24	2	26/11/24	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Bashams Beach	MS Left (White) & unb	6	14/12/24	2	17/12/24	Unknown (suspect fox)						

Site	Pair ID	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	# Eggs confirmed	Nest fail date	Nest fail cause	Chicks first obsv.	# Chicks obsv.	Chick fail date(s)	Chick failure causes	# fledged	Date fledged
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	YV Right (White) & unb	1	28/08/24	2	1/09/24	Tide						
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	YV Right (White) & unb	2	15/09/24	3			16/10/24	2	17/10/24, 25/10/24	Unknown (x2)		
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	YV Right (White) & unb	3	4/11/24	3	8/12/24	Unknown						
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	YV Right (White) & unb	4	18/12/24	3			16/01/25	3	3/02/25, 3/02/25	Unknown (x2)	1	19/02/25
Tokuremoar West	SV Right (White) & unb	1	13/09/24	3	30/09/24 (8:45am - 4pm)	Unknown (suspect raven)						
Tokuremoar West	SV Right (White) & unb	2	10/10/24	3			15/11/24	3	18/11/24	Unknown	2	20/12/24

Losses to the Population

This season, in addition to the loss of chicks there was one adult Hooded Plover reported as deceased. On 3 February 2025, a volunteer found AW Right (Green) deceased on the beach at the Whalers site. ZE Right (White), that had been nesting at Inman River Outlet earlier in the season, had been observed acting aggressively towards AW on 2 February, while AW was brooding 2-day old chicks. It was suspected that AW had sustained injuries from the aggressive behaviour; however, a necropsy was performed by Zoos SA staff and there was no evidence of trauma. Instead, AW was found to have an enlarged liver and histopathology results indicate that salmonella was present and likely the cause of death.

The Whalers site often has large numbers of Silver Gulls and other coastal birds present and pathogens like salmonella may be easily spread with such large congregations of birds. It was observed that people were feeding birds at this site. BirdLife Australia worked with Victor Harbor City Council providing information for messaging via [A guide to feeding wild birds in Australia](#). Victor Harbor City Council are developing signs asking the public to not feed wildlife and have provided alternative activities that can support the public interest in birds. Additionally, a social media post by Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu highlighted that feeding birds can have negative impacts on beach-nesting birds and other native wildlife.

It is likely that there have been additional losses to the population that have not been observed, like banded Hooded Plover 'MR' who wasn't observed during the 2023-24 or 2024-25 seasons.

Flagging

In total, 295 birds have been banded and flagged as part of BirdLife Australia's research program in South Australia since 2012. On the Fleurieu and metro Adelaide coast, 120 birds have been banded with a single metal band stamped with a unique identifying number sequence on the lower tarsus and a unique engraved Orange, White or Green leg flag on the upper leg (see Table 5).

Reporting of flags is relied upon to build a 'history' for each flagged individual and learn about their movements, breeding partner/s and longevity. Due to the loss of birds, partner swaps and new pairs taking up new territories, there were 9 pairs of unbanded birds on the Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula coast this season: Bird Island, Southport, Ochre Cove – Maslins, Aldinga Nth, Carrickalinga Rotunda, Tunkalilla East, Ballaparudda/Callawonga, Whalers, Watsons Gap (see Table 2).

BirdLife Australia's current priorities for banding include at least one bird from unbanded breeding pairs. Any banding of birds in 2024/2025 needed to take into account risks associated with High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and any outbreaks that occur in Australia, and early in the season these risks paused non-critical banding activities. In January 2025, five adult Hooded Plovers were banded in the Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula region and banding focused on new breeding sites and on the south coast. AW Right (Green) was banded as an adult at the new breeding site at Whalers, Victor Harbor. BD Right (Green) was banded on Bird Island as an adult. Adults were also

banded at Watsons Gap (SW Right (Green)), Inman River Outlet (KP Right (Green)), and Bashams Beach (BE Right (Green)). Several BirdLife Australia volunteers assisted, by talking to the public and redirecting them away from the area of beach where the BirdLife staff were working. These important precautions contributed to the successful banding across the sites.



Image 9. Releasing BD Right (Green) after banding on Bird Island, 20 January 2025 (Photo: K. Bartley)



Image 10. After successful banding, 16 January 2025 (Photo: G. Maguire)

Across the National Beach-nesting Birds program, Birds are targeted for banding for a range of reasons including where both adults of a breeding pair are unbanded, where we are uncertain whether a pair uses two spatially separated sites, juveniles due to being of known age, and fledglings to explore dispersal and survival rates post-dispersal. Not all birds need to be banded. We use this information to help answer ecological questions about the birds, such as:

- Is it the same pair coming back to a territory?
- Is one pair using 'multiple' territories?
- How far do the fledglings and juveniles disperse?
- How old are the birds when they breed?
- Is there a bias towards male/female survivorship?
- How long do the birds live?

BirdLife Australia's Banding program has been going since 2012, and we now can start to explore the data set more fully as this gives us a lengthy time series to capture information about longevity. We are starting to analyse this data in 2025 and 2026 and will report back soon! However, it can be confirmed that some juveniles/chicks that were flagged in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 have not been seen nor have they been detected during biennial counts in nearby regions of the Coorong or Kangaroo Island. However, several adults flagged during these earlier seasons continue to survive and breed amongst the local population, for example: HV Right (Orange) at Port Willunga, NA Right (Orange) at Ochre Cove, AR Left (Orange) at Port Stanvac and KV Right (Orange) at Yilki. SR Right (Orange) was banded as a chick in October 2014 at Maslins. This season SR and unbanded partner were on site at Sellicks Beach but nesting wasn't observed.



Image 11. Checking the moulting stage of SW Right (Green) at Watsons Gap, 16 January 2025 (Photo: G. Maguire)

Flagging enables us to follow movements and behaviours of Hooded Plovers. Some interesting observations of flagged birds for the 2024/25 season:

- UB Right (White) was flagged as a juvenile at Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd) on 29 January 2024. UB was observed on the Coorong Ocean Beach in February 2025. Sighting UB has given us some details about how far the fledglings and juveniles disperse. It will be interesting to continue to follow the movements of UB.
- YM Left (White) was flagged as an adult at Waitpinga Estuary on 28 January 2024. During the 2024/25 season YM had regularly been observed at Waitpinga Beach (west), at the Tunkalilla sites and once at Parsons Beach. We were excited to hear that YM was then seen at Antechamber Bay Estuary (Nth) Kangaroo Island on 5 Jan 2025 by Jean Turner, Hooded Plover VRC for the island. After a brief visit, YM returned to Tunkalilla Inner West (see Image 12).
- JR Left (White) was banded at Seacliff in 2019. JR has had a number of territory changes, and we are able to follow these changes because of the banding. This season JR nested at Moana Beach, having 2 nests at Moana South and 1 nest at Moana Beach. In 2023/24, JR nested at Snapper Point and then at Moana Beach South. JR previously nested at Maslin Beach/+North (2022/23) and Aldinga South (2021/22).
- TT Right (Orange) was flagged at Sheepies Beach in early 2022 as a juvenile and HJ Right (White) was flagged at Watsons Gap in late 2021 as a juvenile. During the 2022/23 season, TT partnered with HJ and had 2 nesting attempts at Tokuremoar West and were both later seen flocking with 7 other Hooded Plovers on the Young Husband Peninsula at the Murray Mouth in July 2023. In 2023/24, TT partnered with SV Right (White) to produce 4 nests at Tokuremoar West. In October 2023 TT's previous partner, HJ, was found deceased and decomposed at Middleton Beach West, cause of death unknown. This season SV Right (White) had 2 nests with an unbanded partner at Tokuremoar West and no observations of TT were recorded on the Adelaide Metro or Fleurieu Coast.



Image 12. YM Left (White) visiting Antechamber Bay, Kangaroo Island, 5 Jan 2025 (Photo: J. Turner)

Table 5. A summary of leg flagged Hooded Plovers captured and banded on the Adelaide coast and Fleurieu Peninsula to June 2025. All birds were captured by licensed and permitted banders. The bird's partner, parent or sibling at the time of banding is displayed. Note: ** denotes Hooded Plovers that were found deceased during the 2024/25 season.

Beach	Date	Age	Sex	Right tarsus	Left tarsus	Right tibia	Left tibia	Partner/parent/sibling Flag
Myponga Beach	8/05/12	Adult	Female	metal		EY (Orange)		
Maslin Beach	8/05/12	Adult	Female	metal		MX (Orange)		
Watsons Gap	18/01/13	Adult	Female	metal		AU (Orange)*		Partner: BX (Orange)
Parsons Beach (far SW end)	18/01/13	Adult	Female	metal		CL (Orange)		Partner: EV (Orange)
Waitpinga Beach (E end)	18/01/13	Adult	Female	metal		KJ (Orange)		
Parsons Beach (far SW end)	18/01/13	Adult	Male	metal			EV (Orange)*	Partner: CL (Orange)
Tunkalilla Beach 3 rd house East	19/01/13	Juvenile	Male	metal		DK (Orange)		Sibling: EM (Orange)
Tunkalilla Beach 3 rd house East	19/01/13	Juvenile	Male	metal		EM (Orange)		Sibling: DK (Orange)
Watsons Gap estuary	20/01/13	Adult	Male	metal			BX (Orange)	Partner: AU (Orange)
Carrickalinga estuary	21/01/13	Adult	Male	metal		CK (Orange)		
Carrickalinga estuary	21/01/13	Adult		metal			LP (Orange)	
Snapper Point (Pt Willunga end)	22/01/13	Adult	Male	metal		HV (Orange)		
Carrickalinga North (N end)	22/01/13	Adult	Likely female	metal		NA (Orange)		Suspect partner: AR (Orange)
Carrickalinga North (N end)	22/01/13	Adult	Male	metal			AR (Orange)	Suspect partner: NA (Orange)
Carrickalinga (toilet block)	27/09/13	Subadult	Male	metal		DJ (Orange)		
Lady Bay Shelley Beach	27/09/13	Adult		metal		SB (Orange)		Partner: LD (Orange)
Carrickalinga Pitmans leap access	27/09/13	Adult	Male	metal		SS (Orange)		Partner: CK (Orange)
Lady Bay Shelley Beach	27/09/13	Adult		metal			LD (Orange)	Partner: SB (Orange)
Inman River outlet	13/11/13	Adult		metal		KV (Orange)		
Bashams Beach	13/11/13	Adult	Male	metal			SA (Orange)*	
Tunkalilla Western estuary	14/11/13	Adult	Male	metal		KW (Orange)		
Tunkalilla far West	14/11/13	Adult	Female	metal		LA (Orange)*		
Tunkalilla creek/3 rd house East	14/11/13	Adult		metal		ST (Orange)		
Tunkalilla mid-west estuary	14/11/13	Adult	Male	metal			MT (Orange)	Partner: ME (Orange)
Callawonga Beach	10/02/14	Chick (25 days)		metal		KP (Orange)		
Waitpinga Beach East	10/02/14	Chick (30 days)		metal		PD (Orange)		Parent: KJ (Orange). Sibling: PR (Orange)

Beach	Date	Age	Sex	Right tarsus	Left tarsus	Right tibia	Left tibia	Partner/parent/sibling Flag
Waitpinga Beach East	10/02/14	Chick (30 days)		metal		PR (Orange)		Parent: KJ (Orange). Sibling: PD (Orange)
Waitpinga Beach West	25/02/14	Juvenile	Female	metal		TZ (Orange)		
Waitpinga Beach West	25/02/14	Juvenile	Male	metal		YN (Orange)		
Waitpinga Beach West	26/02/14	Juvenile	Male	metal		HX (Orange)		
Waitpinga Beach West	26/02/14	Juvenile	Female	metal		UE (Orange)		
Tunkalilla far West	28/04/14	Adult	Male	metal		UB (Orange)		Partner: LA (Orange)
Port Willunga North	29/08/14	Adult	Female	metal			DP (Orange)	Partner: LP (Orange)
Ochre cove, Maslins Beach	16/10/14	Chick	Male	metal		SR (Orange)		Parents: TJ (Orange) & NA (Orange)
Ochre cove, Maslins Beach	16/10/14	Adult	Male	metal		TJ (Orange)		Partner: NA (Orange)
Tunkalilla Beach mid-west estuary	17/10/14	Adult	Female	metal		ME (Orange)		Partner: MT (Orange)
Tunkalilla Beach Western estuary	17/10/14	Adult	Female	metal			WE (Orange)	Partner: KW (Orange)
Waitpinga East	21/01/15	Chick		metal		RR (Orange)		
Heysen East – Tunkalilla Beach	25/03/15	Chick	Female	metal		HT (Orange)		
Myponga Beach	21/08/15	Adult		metal			US (Orange)	Partner: EY (Orange)
Lands End	24/11/15	Juvenile		metal		EW (Orange)		Parent: JW (Orange)
Lands End	24/11/15	Adult		metal		JW (Orange)		
Normanville North/Carrickalinga Sands	28/11/15	Juvenile		metal		MV (Orange)		
Myponga Beach	28/11/15	Juvenile		metal		UV (Orange)		Parents: EY (Orange) & US (Orange)
Carrickalinga North/rotunda	23/02/16	Juvenile	Female	metal		RV (Orange)		Parent: LP (Orange)
Yilki	29/02/16	Juvenile	Female	metal		VH (White)		Parents: KV (Orange) & VH (Orange)
Lands End	29/02/16	Juvenile	Female	metal		ZW (White)		Parent: JW (Orange). Sibling: JZ (White)
Lands End	29/02/16	Juvenile	Male	metal			JZ (White)	Parent: JW (Orange). Sibling: ZW (White)
Yilki	29/02/16	Adult	Female	metal			VH (Orange)	
Waitpinga Beach East	23/03/16	Juvenile	Male	metal			YB (White)	Parent: KP (Orange)

Beach	Date	Age	Sex	Right tarsus	Left tarsus	Right tibia	Left tibia	Partner/parent/sibling Flag
Kent Reserve, Victor Harbor	6/03/17	Juvenile	Female	metal		DT (White)		Parent: RR (Orange)
Yilki	6/03/17	Juvenile	Male	metal		JY (White)		
Yilki	6/03/17	Juvenile		metal		YV (White)		Parents: VH (Orange) & KV (Orange)
Port Stanvac	12/02/18	Adult	Female	metal		ES (White)		Partner: AR (Orange)
Waitpinga East	13/03/18	Adult		metal		UA (White)		
Hindmarsh River Mouth	20/03/18	Adult	Male	metal		PX (White)		
Tunkalilla Beach	4/04/18	Juvenile	Male	metal		TK (White)		Parent: YB (White)
Seacliff	10/09/18	Adult	Female	metal		XS (White)		
Parsons Beach	4/01/2019	Fledgling	Male	metal		PR (White)		Parent: EV (Orange). Sibling: PT (White)
Parsons Beach	4/01/2019	Fledgling	Female	metal			PT (white)	Parent: EV (Orange). Sibling: PR (White)
Normanville South	11/02/2019	Adult		metal		NC (White)		
Seacliff	11/02/2019	Fledgling	Male	metal		YL (White)		Parent: XS (White)
Snapper Point	30/04/2019	Adult		metal		JT (White)		
Hallett Cove	3/09/2019	Adult	Female	metal		MR (White)		
Maslin Beach	5/12/2019	Fledgling	Female	metal		KZ (White)		Parent: NA (Orange)
Seacliff	10/12/2019	Fledgling	Female	metal		CV (White)		Parent: XS (White). Sibling: JR (White)
Seacliff	10/12/2019	Fledgling	Female	metal			JR (White)	Parent: XS (White). Sibling: CV (White)
Bashams Beach	17/02/2020	Adult	Female	metal		MA (White)		Partner: MS (White)
Bashams Beach	17/02/2020	Adult	Male	metal			MS (White)	Partner: MA (White)
Bashams Beach	17/02/2020	Fledgling	Female	metal		JM (White)		Parents: MS (White) & MA (White)
Hindmarsh River Mouth	11/03/2020	Fledgling	Male	metal		HC (White)*		Parent: PX (White)
Moana	20/10/2020	Adult	Female	metal		PM (White)		
Myponga Beach East	20/10/2020	Adult		metal		YK (White)		Partner: WM left (White)
Myponga Beach East	20/10/2020	Adult	Male	metal			WM (White)	Partner: YK right (White)

Beach	Date	Age	Sex	Right tarsus	Left tarsus	Right tibia	Left tibia	Partner/parent/sibling Flag
Maslin Beach	29/12/2020	Fledgling		metal		KV (White)		Parents: RV right (Orange) & unb.
Port Willunga South	19/1/2021	Fledgling	Male	metal		RJ (White)		Parents: JT right (White) & unb.
Ochre Cove	1/2/2021	Fledgling	Male	metal		HN (White)		Parents: NA right (Orange) & unb.
Myponga Beach Estuary	25/2/2021	Fledgling		metal		MN (White)		Parents: US left (Orange) & unb.
Tunkalilla West	16/4/2021	Fledgling	Female	metal		CM (White)		Parents: PT left (White) & unb. Sibling: BN left (White).
Tunkalilla West	16/4/2021	Fledgling	Female	metal			BN (White)	Parents: PT left (White) & unb. Sibling: CM right (White)
Victor Central	7/12/2021	Fledgling		metal		VC (White)		Parents: PX right (White) & unb. Sibling: HV left (White)
Victor Central	7/12/2021	Fledgling		metal			HV (White)	Parents: PX right (White) & unb. Sibling: VC right (White)
Sheepies Beach	14/12/2021	Adult		metal		KD (White)		
Watsons Gap	18/12/2021	Fledgling		metal		HJ (White)*		Parents: BX left (Orange) & unb.
Maslin Beach	3/2/2022	Fledgling		metal		SV (White)		Parents: RV right (Orange) & unb. Sibling: VZ right (White)
Maslin Beach	3/2/2022	Fledgling		metal		VZ (White)		Parents: RV right (Orange) & unb. Sibling: SV right (White).
Sheepies Beach	18/2/2022	Adult		metal		NZ (Orange)		Partner: KD right (White)
Sheepies Beach	18/2/2022	Fledgling		metal		TT (Orange)		Parents: KD right (White) & NZ right (Orange)
Middleton East	21/2/2022	Fledgling		metal		CW (Orange)		Parents: YV right (White) & unb.
Torrens River Mouth	8/12/2022	Adult		metal		RT (White)		
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	28/03/2023	Juvenile		metal		HT (White)		Parents: Presume HV right (Orange)
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	28/03/2023	Juvenile		metal			HW (White)	Parents: Presume HV right (Orange)
Torrens River Mouth	28/03/2023	Juvenile		metal		XL (White)		
Carrickalinga Estuary	23/10/2023	Adult			metal	CS (White)		

Beach	Date	Age	Sex	Right tarsus	Left tarsus	Right tibia	Left tibia	Partner/parent/sibling Flag
Carrickalinga North	27/01/2024	Adult		metal		WU (White)		
Carrickalinga Rotunda	27/01/2024	Adult			metal		TD (White)	
Tunkalilla West	28/01/2024	Adult		metal		YE (White)		
Parsons Beach	28/01/2024	Adult	Female		metal		WV (White)*	
Waitpinga Estuary	28/01/2024	Adult			metal		YM (White)	Partner: WZ Right (White)
Waitpinga Estuary	28/01/2024	Adult		metal		WZ (White)		Partner: YM Left (White)
Inman River Outlet	28/01/2024	Adult		metal		ZE (White)		
Snapper Point	29/01/2024	Adult		metal		XN (White)		
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)	29/01/2024	Juvenile		metal		UB (White)		
Port Willunga	29/01/2024	Juvenile		metal		YR (White)		Parents: HV right (Orange) & unb.
Seacliff/Brighton	29/01/2024	Adult		metal		XM (White)		
Whalers, Victor Harbor	15/01/2025	Adult			metal	AW (Green)**		
Watsons Gap	16/01/2025	Adult		metal		SW (Green)		
Inman River Outlet	16/01/2025	Adult		metal		KP (Green)		
Bashams Beach	16/01/2025	Adult		metal		BE (Green)		
Bird Island	20/01/2025	Adult		metal		BD (Green)		

Breeding Site Management

Managing threats to breeding Hooded Plovers

Any evidence of threats to nests and chicks observed during visits are recorded by staff and volunteers and entered in the data portal. The threat data is collated and provided to the land managers via individual Council Reports, and a National Parks (Newland Head CP) Report. These reports are produced each season summarising breeding success and threats and recommending site-specific actions to reduce threats and increase awareness in the community. BirdLife Australia staff meet with the councils and NPWS at the start of each season to discuss and plan actions based on the recommendations.

Protective efforts around breeding sites

Of the 110 confirmed nests on the Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula, 85 (77.27%) nests had some form of management (Table 7). Along Green Adelaide's coast 35 out of the 37 nests (94.59%) were managed. One of the nests without management was lost to a high tide on the day management was to be installed. The other nest was on Bird Island and was not located given its isolated location and the infrequency of visits; however, signage was installed when a 5-day old chick was observed. Along the Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu coastline some sites are more remote than others, and at the time deemed not at high risk of human impacts, so active management on the beach was limited and only temporary signage at beach access points was installed. Management occurred at 50 out of 73 (68.49%) nests in this region. There were 23 nests without management, with 20 of these deemed remote sites. Unfortunately, the other three nests only lasted one day after being located and failed before management was installed.

Of the 31 nests that hatched, 28 (90.32%) had rope fencing with temporary signs at the access and/or signs at the nest site. The other 3 (9.68%) nests that hatched were in more remote areas and did not have signage or fencing (1 nest Bird Island, 1 nest Tunkalilla West, and 1 nest Tunkalilla East). Of the 11 nests that successfully produced fledglings, 2 nests (18.18%) had no signs or fencing (remote sites at Tunkalilla East and Bird Island (although signage was installed in the chick phase for Bird Island, see Image 13)), and the remaining 9 fledged nests (81.81%) had a minimum of signs at the nest and a rope fence.

Nearly all sites also have permanent signage in place, so those remote sites (excluding Bird Island) which do not have temporary signage or fencing, still have permanent signs which can inform beachgoers to keep an eye out during spring and summer months. Additional permanent signs will be installed at sites next season, funded by Green Adelaide.

In addition to the temporary signage, larger banners are used at some sites. BirdLife Australia chick banners are used in high recreational use areas to indicate a change from nest to chick presence and raise awareness of this very vulnerable stage. They are particularly useful on beaches where vehicles

and horses have access as the large banner can be seen from a distance away. A new design for the chick banners has been used this season. Some councils have also developed banners to indicate that there are by-laws requiring dogs to be on lead near Hooded Plover breeding sites. Chick banners and/or council by-law banners were used at West Beach, Minda Dunes, Seacliff/Brighton, Moana Beach, Moana South, Ochre Cove - Maslins, Port Willunga – Chinaman Gully, Port Willunga, Port Willunga South, Myponga Beach Estuary, Carrickalinga North, Carrickalinga Sands, Whalers, Yilki, Olivers Reef, Middleton Beach West, and Tokuremoar West (see Image 14).



Image 13. Temporary breeding signage on Bird Island (Photo: K. Bartley)



Image 14. New Chicks on the Beach banner at West Beach (Photo: G. Griffiths); Peddler Creek site protection (Photo: K. Bartley)

Volunteers and councils organised additional measures to provide nests, and particularly chicks, with protection this season. At some sites, volunteers wrote updates about nests and chicks on signage designed for community messaging. In some areas, councils or volunteers used signage or fencing to guide foot traffic around a nesting site. A new initiative was used this season in the City of Holdfast Bay using an LED Variable Message Sign at busy beach access points to display by-law messages and alert beach users to the Hooded Plover breeding area (see Image 15).



Image 15. Back & Breeding sign at West Beach (Photo: J. Roetman) and new Chicks on the Beach banner at West Beach (Photo: G. Griffiths)

Chick shelters were used at West Beach, Minda Dunes, Seacliff/Brighton, Moana Beach, Port Willunga – Chinaman Gully, Port Willunga, Port Willunga South, Whalers, Yilki, Olivers Reef, Middleton Beach West, and Tokuremoar West. Chick shelters provide extra refuge for the chicks to hide in when threatened, as there is minimal shelter on those beaches for chicks to hide from predators, inclement weather and recreational users (see Image 16). The pair SV Right (White) and unbanded at Tokuremoar West produced two fledglings this season and these are the first fledglings from this site. Several chick shelters were deployed at this site along the base of the dune (~20m apart) to provide protection from the many avian predators known to patrol the area and offer hiding places for the chicks from off leash dogs, as this stretch of coast is a well-known ‘dog exercise beach’.

Again this season, volunteers acted as site guardians to assist the protection of nests and chicks and to educate beach users during peak periods of human activity. Site guardians were present at West Beach, Minda Dunes, Ochre Cove, Port Willunga – Chinaman Gully, Port Willunga South, Aldinga, Myponga Beach Estuary, Yilki, Olivers Reef, and Middleton Beach West to assist with the protection of

chicks and educate beach users during peak times. Site guardians at Aldinga also spoke with drivers to raise awareness about the nests.

Many sites were attended by volunteers multiple times a day, during days where there was high human visitation or when chicks or nests were particularly vulnerable. Port Willunga, Port Willunga – Chinaman Gully and Seacliff/Brighton each had over 200 site visits during the season and Aldinga, Maslin Beach North, Ochre Cove, Olivers Reef, West Beach and Yilki each had over 150 visits (see Table 1).



Image 16. West Beach chick using shelter (Photo: BirdLife Volunteer)



Image 17. Volunteers and Alexandrina Council staff installing site protection at Bashams Beach (Photo: K. Bartley)

Table 6. Summary of management across sites during the 2024/25 breeding season for each nesting attempt.

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Bird Island - Outer Harbor	1	nest not found chick found 12/11/2024 (est 5 days old)	Y	Y		Sign Nest
West Beach	1	17/08/2024	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Banners, Council Dog By-law Signs, Trained BirdLife Spotter	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Banners, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs, Access path behind nest closed, Trained BirdLife Spotter
West Beach	2	23/11/2024	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Banners, Council Dog By-law Signs, Breeding Update Signs, Trained BirdLife Spotter	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Breeding Update Signs, Council Dog By-law Signs, Rope Fence, Wardens, Shelters
Minda Dunes	1	7/08/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Shelters, Wardens
Seacliff/Brighton	1	27/09/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs
Seacliff/Brighton	2	21/11/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs, Electronic Sign on footpath	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs, Electronic Sign on footpath
Port Stanvac	1	19/09/2024	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence
Port Stanvac	2	21/12/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Southport	1	17/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Breeding Update Signs, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Moana Beach/Moana South	1	21/08/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Breeding Update Signs, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Moana Beach/Moana South	2	14/09/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Breeding Update Signs, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs
Moana Beach/Moana South	3	28/10/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Breeding Update Sign, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Shelters, Breeding Update Sign, Council Dog By-law Signs
Ochre Cove, Maslins	1	27/07/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Ochre Cove, Maslins	2	3/09/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Ochre Cove, Maslins	3	1/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Ochre Cove, Maslins	4	14/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Ochre Cove, Maslins	5	18/11/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Wardens, Council Dog By-law Signs
Maslin Beach North	1	3/09/1934	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Maslin Beach North	2	16/10/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Breeding Update Signs, Council Dog By-law Signs
Maslin Beach North	3	11/12/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Port Willunga	1	18/08/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Port Willunga	2	12/09/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Port Willunga	3	9/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Port Willunga	4	24/11/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, FOXWatch x 2	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	1	21/08/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	2	29/09/2024	N			
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	3	11/10/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Shelters, Wardens, Temporary Bollards, Council Dog By-law Signs
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	4	11/12/2024	N		Rope Fence	
Port Willunga - Chinaman Gully	5	18/12/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Snapper Point North/Port Willunga South	1	30/09/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Breeding Update Signs, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Snapper Point North/Port Willunga South	2	1/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Banners	
Snapper Point North/Port Willunga South	3	25/11/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Wardens, Council Dog By-law Signs, FOXWatch x 2	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Shelters, Wardens, Council Dog By-law Signs, FOXWatch x 2
Snapper Point	1	4/09/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Snapper Point	2	14/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)/Aldinga	1	10/09/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)/Aldinga	2	17/10/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Wardens, Bollards	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Wardens, Bollards, Banner
Aldinga Nth (Aldinga Beach Rd)/Aldinga	3	2/12/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Wardens, Council Dog By-law Signs, Bollards	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Wardens, Bollards, Council Dog By-law Signs, Banner
Myponga Beach Estuary	1	24/08/2024	N		Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Myponga Beach Estuary	2	9/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Banners, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Myponga Beach Estuary	3	15/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Rope Fence, Sign Nest, Council Dog By-law Signs	

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Myponga Beach Estuary	4	12/12/2024	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Banners, Wardens, Council Dog By-law Signs
Carrickalinga North	1	25/08/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Carrickalinga North	2	10/09/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Banners, Council Dog By-law Signs
Carrickalinga North	3	18/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence	
Carrickalinga North	4	7/12/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	1	1/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	2	13/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	3	13/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	4	6/12/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Carrickalinga Estuary/Carrickalinga Sands	5	13/01/2025	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Banners, Council By-law Dog Signs
Normanville Estuary	1	20/09/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence	
Normanville Estuary	2	2/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence	
Normanville Estuary	3	24/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence	

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Normanville Estuary	4	18/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence	
Normanville Estuary	5	25/01/2025	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence	
Yankalilla River Mouth	1	25/09/2024	N			
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	1	8/10/2024	N		Sign Nest, Rope Fence	
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	2	4/11/2024	N		Sign Nest	
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	3	18/11/2024	N		Sign Nest, Rope Fence	
Shelley Beach (Lady Bay)	4	4/12/2024	N		Sign Nest, Rope Fence	
Tunkalilla West	1	8/12/2024	N			
Tunkalilla West	2	5/01/2024	Y			
Tunkalilla Inner West	1	8/12/2024	N			
Tunkalilla Inner West	2	23/01/2025	N			
Tunkalilla Midway	1	20/10/2024	N			
Tunkalilla Midway	2	20/11/2024	N			
Tunkalilla Midway	3	8/12/2024	N			
Tunkalilla Midway	4	23/01/2025	N			
Tunkalilla East	1	not found	Y	Y		
Ballaparudda/Callawonga	1	21/09/2024	N			
Ballaparudda/Callawonga	2	6/01/2025	N			
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	1	19/10/2024	N			

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	2	8/11/2024	N			
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	3	24/11/2024	N			
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	4	8/12/2024	N			
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	5	29/12/2024	N			
Sheepies Beach/Parsons Beach	6	12/01/2025	N		FOXWatch x 3	
Parsons Beach	1	17/11/2024	N			
Parsons Beach	2	21/12/2024	N			
Waitpinga Beach (east)	1	17/11/2024	N			
Waitpinga Beach (east)	2	8/12/2024	N			
Whalers	1	24/10/2024	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs
Whalers	2	4/01/2025	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs
Yilki	1	9/10/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs
Yilki	2	12/12/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Yilki	3	30/12/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Yilki	4	19/01/2025	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, FOXWatch x 3	
Yilki	5	24/02/2025	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, FOXWatch x 3	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs, FOXWatch x 3, Wardens
Inman River Outlet	1	24/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Inman River Outlet	2	13/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Inman River Outlet	3	6/12/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Inman River Outlet	4	25/12/2024	N			
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	1	26/08/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Breeding Update Signs, Wing Fence	
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	2	12/09/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Breeding Update Signs, Wing Fence	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Breeding Update Signs, Wing Fence
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	3	8/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Breeding Update Signs	
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	4	22/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Victor Central/Hindmarsh River Mouth/Olivers Reef	5	8/12/2024	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Breeding Update Signs, FOXWatch x 3	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Wing Fence, FOXWatch x 3, Shelters, Banners, Wardens
Watsons Gap	1	22/08/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Wing Fence	
Bashams Beach	1	30/08/2024	N		Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Bashams Beach	2	13/09/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Permanent Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Bashams Beach	3	7/10/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Sign	
Bashams Beach	4	3/11/2024	N		Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Bashams Beach	5	24/11/2024	N			
Bashams Beach	6	14/12/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	1	28/08/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	2	15/09/2024	Y	N	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Sign.
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	3	4/11/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Breeding Update Signs	

Site	Nesting attempt #	Date nest found	Hatched	Fledged	Nest management type	Chick management type
Middleton Beach West/Middleton Beach East	4	18/12/2024	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs, Breeding Update Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Rope Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs, Wardens, Breeding Update Signs, Wing Fence
Tokuremoar West	1	13/09/2024	N		Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	
Tokuremoar West	2	10/10/2024	Y	Y	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Rope Fence, Council Dog By-law Signs	Sign Access Temporary, Sign Nest, Banners, Wing Fence, Shelters, Council Dog By-law Signs

Management and Awareness Raising Activities During 2024/25

In the 2024/25 breeding season, the following activities were carried out:

Entanglements and rescues

BirdLife Australia has a strict set of protocols for deciding the steps to take in the scenario of an injured, entangled, oiled or sick Hooded Plover adult or chick. These protocols have ethics approval and are an approved process for deciding on intervention. The protocols ensure all the key approvals are in place, that we have veterinarian care lined up for the bird if required and a well-devised plan for each step of any intervention. BirdLife Australia staff work with veterinary staff to follow these protocols. On ground rescue activities are also supported by BirdLife volunteers and many of the entanglements or injuries to Hooded Plovers are only detected because of the valuable observations made by the BirdLife Australia volunteers. Some examples from this season include:

- At the Young Street drain, on the 4th of January, the unbanded Hooded Plover (partner to XM Right (White)) was observed by a volunteer to be limping with a swollen foot. The bird had an entanglement of black twine around the right leg. On the 6th of January the entanglement was removed. While BirdLife volunteers and City of Holdfast Bay compliance officers spoke to members of the public and ensured the area was safe, BirdLife staff captured the Hooded Plover and Zoos SA Veterinary staff removed the twine. The Hooded Plover was given pain relief and anti-inflammatory medication and released. It quickly returned to partner XM and their two-week-old chick. The bird was monitored over the following weeks and made a full recovery.



Image 18. Unbanded Hooded Plover with twine entangled around right foot at Young St Drain, 5th January 2025 (Photo: J. Cobb); Releasing Hooded Plover after entanglement removed, 6th January 2025 (Photo: J. Cobb)

- In addition to the entanglements observed, there was a report of a sick chick. A three-day old chick was found unwell (crouching down and unable to walk) on the sand by a member of the public on Tokuremoar West on 17 November 2024. The chick was taken into care by Wildlife Welfare and received treatment but unfortunately died late the next morning. A necropsy was performed by Zoos SA staff which showed a lack of fat stores and a lack of food in the gastrointestinal tract which could indicate that the chick had not eaten adequately following hatching. Histopathology could not confirm the cause of death but supports the necropsy observations suggesting starvation. There was no evidence of infectious disease.



Image 19. Tokuremoar West Chick in care, died 18 November 2024 (Photo: R. Robinson)

Threat assessments

An important part of the Hooded Plover program are the threat assessments recorded by volunteers during their site visits. These assessments provide crucial information about the threats to nests and chicks. Threat assessment data can be collected for each monitoring observation and during the 2024/25 season threat assessments were completed at 63 sites across the region. Full threat assessments were completed for over 80% of visits to the nesting sites of Ballaparudda/Callawonga, Bashams Beach, Hindmarsh River Mouth, Inman River Outlet, Middleton Beach East, Middleton Beach West, Olivers Reef, Parsons Beach, Port Stanvac, Shelley Beach (Lady Bay), Southport, Tokuremoar West, Tunkalilla (East, Inner West, Midway & West), Victor Central, Waitpinga Beach (East & West), Watsons Gap, Whalers, Yankalilla River Mouth and Yilki (see Table 1).

Liaising with Councils, National Parks & Wildlife and State Government about threat management

Sharing our Shores staff worked with stakeholders on a wide range of activities throughout the season that related to improving Hooded Plover conservation in the region, with some examples being:

- BirdLife Australia met with coastal Councils, and National Parks staff from Newland Head CP to discuss the start of the season and go through the 2023/24 Council Report Cards. The excellent data (monitoring and threat assessment) collection in the portal from volunteers and staff is reported through these Council Report Cards and recommendations are made accordingly.
- BirdLife Australia staff provide training or information enabling council, state government and other stakeholders to more effectively support management of beach-nesting bird breeding sites or to more safely conduct work around beach-nesting birds, for example:
 - Delivered site protection training for Alexandrina staff to support them with management efforts for Hooded Plovers.
 - Delivered site protection training for Victor Harbor staff to support them with management efforts for Hooded Plovers.
 - Met with landholders at West Beach Parks to discuss threats and mitigation of threats to Hooded Plovers.
 - Liaised with the City of Victor Harbor about overabundant Silver Gulls at a Hooded Plover breeding site where the public were feeding birds. Provided information to help educate the public about the impacts of feeding wildlife.
 - Attended the Torrens Outlet Forum to participate in a round table discussion regarding the management of the Torrens Outlet. Participants included community members and staff from City of Charles Sturt, Green Adelaide, DEW and EPA.
 - Delivered presentations on Beach-nesting Birds ecology, threats and management at the National Coast to Coast Conference.
 - Liaised with Flinders Ports about the Hooded Plover breeding site on Bird Island.

- Worked with Local Councils and the Department for Environment and Water to install permanent 'Home of the Hooded Plover' signs across the region.
 - Met with Onkaparinga Council staff to assess habitat requirements for Hooded Plover breeding (e.g. management of sea rocket and sea wheat grass).
- BirdLife Australia staff met with DEW, Green Adelaide and sand carting contractors throughout the season when sand carting or dredging activities had potential to impact Hooded Plover and Red-capped Plover breeding. BirdLife staff supervised at the Torrens River Mouth during the Torrens outlet realignment and beach management activities and at West Beach during sand carting. A BirdLife Australia volunteer was trained as a spotter to observe the behaviour of beach-nesting birds and mitigate negative impacts during these activities. Sand carting contractors were provided with training in beach-nesting bird monitoring. BirdLife staff surveyed beaches for breeding activity prior to beach management operations at Semaphore, Torrens River Mouth, West Beach and Seacliff. There was continued collaboration between BirdLife Australia, DEW, Green Adelaide and the contractors to reduce disturbance to breeding. BirdLife Australia continues to seek improved long-term solutions to management of erosion so that works during the season can be avoided.



Image 20. A motion sensor camera was used to monitor Hooded Plover behaviour when vehicles were passing at West Beach. Vehicles stopped traversing the area before hatching and did not commence again until after fledging (Photo: remote camera)



Image 21. West Beach chicks on hatching (Photo: remote camera), Site monitoring and support by BirdLife Australia staff and volunteers (Photo: K. Bartley)

- BirdLife Australia staff continue to provide advice through submissions during reviews of By-laws and other management regulations and where development might impact beach-nesting birds. Some examples of submissions, reviews or the outcomes of consultation during the 2024/25 season include:
 - Code of Practice for beach driving in SA (June 2025)
 - Variation to wave pool development application, Onkaparinga (January 2025)
 - Legislated By-laws review: No. 5 Dogs, Yankalilla (July 2024)
 - SA Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 Review (June 2024)
 - Onkaparinga Dog on-leash and prohibited areas review (April 2024)
 - Statewide vehicles exclusion zones in high biodiversity areas on beaches. Birdlife Australia staff in conjunction with Birds SA committee members meet regularly with DEW staff to provide recommendations and discuss progress of high priority beaches to be included in the list of future protected areas. Some beaches have been recommended for either seasonal closures or full-time vehicle exclusion areas (ongoing consultation).
 - Provide a presentation to Qld Government staff on process and progress of engaging with SA Govt on implementation of vehicle exclusion areas i.e. high biodiversity areas.

- BirdLife Australia staff provide advice on public event management where events may impact beach-nesting birds, for example:
 - Attended the 2025 Australia Day briefing with City of Onkaparinga.

- Liaised with the coordinators of the 2024 Coastrek Fleurieu Peninsula hiking challenge to mitigate the impacts of the event on Hooded Plover breeding sites. The birds were on site but there were no nests or chicks at the time; however, the 390 participants were briefed on the importance of the area and were asked to walk along the water's edge as they walked along the beach at Waitpinga.



Image 22. Photo from 2024 Coastrek event with people walking at the water's edge (Photo: Coastrek organisation).

- BirdLife Australia staff, including Dr Grainne Maguire (Director Coastal and Wetland Birds), held three 'End of Season Debrief' meetings in the different regions. There were sessions for the Southern Fleurieu, Onkaparinga, and Adelaide Metro regions. These sessions provided a forum for BirdLife staff and volunteers, and staff from coastal councils, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Green Adelaide, Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu and West Beach Parks to review the Hooded Plover breeding season. Breeding season outcomes were discussed along with resource needs, the role of volunteers, compliance on beaches and fox management. They were highly successful in improving collaborative discussions around identifying solutions between stakeholders.
- BirdLife Australia staff reviewed and provided recommendations to Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu during the development of the Southern Fleurieu Conservation Action Plan.

- In addition, BirdLife Australia staff and Wendy White, in her role as Regional Support Officer with Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu, send regular updates to councils and NPWS with breeding updates and any key issues to address at Hooded Plover breeding sites.



Image 23. Southern Fleurieu End-of-Season Debrief meeting (Photo: K. Bartley)

Dog management and compliance

- Of the 85 nests that had some form of management, 71 nests (84%) had council dog by-law signs installed that require dogs to be on-lead near the breeding zones.
- BirdLife Australia works with each council across the Adelaide and Fleurieu Peninsula coast to provide data on dog usage and compliance on beaches that are critical habitats for shorebirds.
- BirdLife Australia continues to advocate for additional measures that mitigate the impacts of dogs on beach-nesting birds. For example, BirdLife Australia provided a submission for the SA Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 Review (June 2024) with measures to mitigate impacts and to provide consistency across the state.
- Councils invest in compliance monitoring and patrols and share this data with BirdLife Australia. This is presented in council reports that explore how major threats are trending in each council region, and the impact that patrol efforts may be having.
- Review of threat data collected by volunteers for each council area reveals that numbers of off leash dogs detected within the 100 metres of Hooded Plover breeding sites are still prohibitively high. Protecting the birds from off leash dog disturbance and attacks poses a continued challenge given the high numbers of dog walkers using sites and the large number still non-compliant with regulations. Stricter regulations will become a future necessity if successful

coexistence (i.e. as a minimum, leashing dogs in the vicinity of actively breeding Hooded Plovers) cannot be achieved.

- BirdLife Australia is instigating a swash zone signage trial in Victoria. Signage is being trialled in the intertidal/swash zone to alert beach users to the potential presence of chicks. Signs are on tall posts that can withstand wave energy. Both timber and steel reinforced plastic posts are being tested. The trial received grant funding from the Australian Government Saving Native Species Program and results will be reported by the end of 2025.



Image 24. Swash zone signage being trialled in Victoria and new council by-law banner used at City of Holdfast Bay (Photo: J. Cobb).

Habitat restoration and management

- Site assessments are conducted by BirdLife staff and volunteers, Council staff and Green Adelaide staff to advise on habitat restoration and requirements (see Images 25 & 26).
- There are increasing reports of E-bike use on beaches. The threats of disturbing and striking Hooded Plovers on the beach have been discussed previously in this report; however, there have also been reports of E-bikes causing erosion of dunes and potential impacts should be monitored and reported.
- Unfortunately, in May 2025 unusually high tides, strong winds and heavy surf heavily impacted beaches and foredunes across the region. The loss of sand from these areas may impact available beach-nesting bird habitat for the 2025/26 season (see Image 27).



Image 25. Assessing Our Plover Coast site at Port Willunga (Photo: J. Roetman).



Image 26. BirdLife Australia staff and volunteers with Onkaparinga Council staff assessing Hooded Plover nesting habitat at Snapper Point (Photo: K. Bartley).



Image 27. Foredune erosion following winter storm events, June 2025 Ochre Cove (Photo: S & A Read)

- The crucial work of the Our Plover Coast projects continues. Invasive weeds reduce the availability of nesting, roosting and foraging habitat by covering large areas of the beach and altering dune morphology and shape. Our Plover Coast projects are implemented along the Fleurieu Peninsula and Adelaide Metro coast and focus on grassy weed control and then revegetation with local coastal species, including rolling spinifex (*Spinifex hirsutus*). Dedicated volunteers from Coastal Community Nurseries work to grow local coastal species which are then planted by community groups (e.g. Friends of the Hooded Plover). The projects are supported by Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu, Green Adelaide, BirdLife Australia, Local Councils, and Department for Environment and Water. Some examples of the efforts made during the 2024/25 season include:
 - The City of Onkaparinga implemented sea wheat grass control and follow up planting of 2,650 spinifex at Port Willunga, Aldinga Beach, Maslins Creek Outlet, Snapper Point and Moana South.
 - With funding from Green Adelaide, Val Wales Coastal Community nursery propagated over 2,500 spinifex that were used for restoration works at Semaphore South, Brighton Dunes, West Beach and Field River.
 - A Grass Roots Grant supported sea wheat grass treatment and the planting of 200 spinifex at Minda Dunes.

- During the Middleton Breathe Easy Revegetation planting day volunteers planted 1,200 seedlings in areas that have had sea wheat grass, sea spurge and gazania weed control.
- 200 seedlings grown at the Green Adelaide supported Fleurieu Coast Community Nursery were planted at an Our Plover Coast site by members of Victor Harbor Coastcare, Friends of the Hooded Plover, Victor Harbor Council, Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu and Birdlife Australia.



Image 28. Our Plover Coast planting demonstration (Photo: K. Bartley).



Image 29. Middleton Breathe Easy planting day (Photo: C. Jackson)

Fox management and aversion

Conservation sniffer dog and den fumigation

During the 2024/25 season, Green Adelaide continued to fund fox den searches utilising human searchers and sniffer dogs and den fumigation in partnership with local government, DEW and private land managers. Further investments were made by Onkaparinga Council and Port Adelaide Enfield Council. Conservation sniffer dogs undertook fox den searches around Hooded Plover breeding sites in the following areas: Torrens Island, Torrens Outlet and Breakout Creek, Kingston Park to Beach Road, Port Stanvac, Southport Beach, Moana Beach, Pedlar Creek, Ochre Point, Maslin Beach, Port Willunga, Aldinga Beach, Aldinga Washpool, Myponga Beach, Hindmarsh River, Inman River, Watsons Gap, Tokuremoar Reserve and Bashams Beach. Green Adelaide staff and contractors also undertook fox den searches including searches at Fort Galnville, Tennyson Dunes, Myponga, Normanville and upstream of Port Willunga. Searches were also conducted for other conservation programs, including areas near Red-capped Plover breeding sites.

There were 66 fox dens found in coastal areas during the 2024/25 season, 8 of these dens were found by the Conservation Dog. Figures 7 & 8 show areas where active fox dens were found. In coastal searches, the Conservation Dog also found 67 areas of interest (i.e. old fox dens, active and inactive rabbit burrows). Fox dens and rabbit burrows were treated.

Fox den fumigation is seeking to reduce predation risk near Hooded Plover nesting territories. It targets denning foxes whose young may learn beach foraging behaviours. The work is not intended as a fox control programme. The range of methods necessary to effectively control foxes, such as baiting, trapping and shooting, are not feasible in most urban situations. Within the urban area, fox den fumigation is one of the few methods available and suitable for localised fox problems and is consistent with approaches in the national Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the European Red Fox (DEWHA 2008). However, the costs for fumigation of dens have risen substantively since the fox management program began. Phosphine generating tablets (e.g. Phostoxin) are no longer registered for fox control and obtaining Den-co Fume® is a challenge due to transport and storage requirements. Carbon monoxide treatment with Den-co Fume® costs between \$40 to \$60 dollars per cartridge per den, as opposed to the previous cost of phosphine tablets of a few cents per den.



Figure 7. Areas where active fox dens were found, Torrens Island to Port Stanvac.

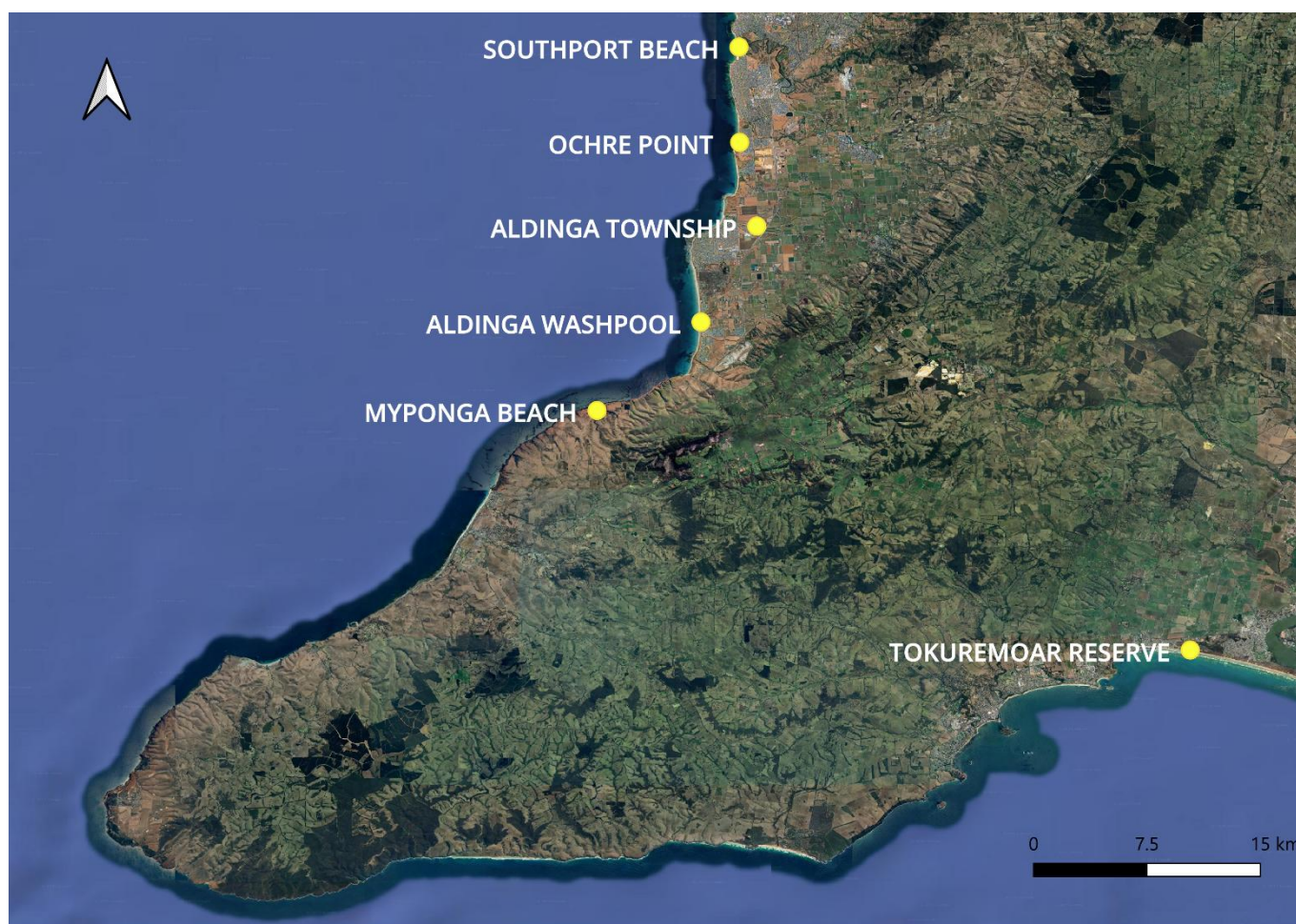


Figure 8. Areas where active fox dens were found, Southport Beach to Tokuremoar Reserve.

Other fox management efforts

During the 2024/25 season, FOXWatch™ devices were used with the aim of deterring foxes from six Hooded Plover nests. Fox sightings or evidence of a high level of fox activity had been recorded at these sites during earlier nesting attempts. Foxes were suspected to have been the cause of some nest failures. An array of three FOXWatch™ devices was used at each site with the devices set 15-20m from each other behind a nesting site. Additionally, a remote camera was set 2m away from nest to record nest activity. Of the six nests with FOXWatch™ arrays, 4 hatched. Unfortunately, 1 of the nests was lost to a fox (captured by the remote camera, see Image 30); however, the devices at this site stopped working during the nesting period because of an accumulation of sea fret and sand. A maintenance routine for the devices was established after this event. The other nest that did not hatch was lost to a high tide.

During 2022/23 and 2023/24, FOXWatch™ trials were undertaken by Deakin University and BirdLife Australia to examine the effectiveness of the commercially available FOXWatch™ device. When triggered by the body heat and movement of a fox the FOXWatch™ device emits a sweeping ultrasonic sound at 20-24kHz in 3 pulses. It has a detection range of 12 metres. It was first trialled on mock

Hooded Plover nests and showed some promise and then FOXWatch™ devices and control devices were installed by BirdLife Australia staff at sites on the Fleurieu Peninsula and Adelaide metro beaches and at sites in Victoria. The data collected showed that the response to the device was varied, with some foxes deterred by the sound, whilst some foxes showed little or no response to the device. It was determined that sound deterrents could be useful as part of integrated fox management but did not have a significant effect on breeding success on its own. It is still unclear as to the role of audio deterrents in protecting the nest across the 28-day incubation period. The issue of managing foxes continues to be a major barrier to breeding success for Hooded Plovers. Results from the FOXWatch™ study have been published (Saurine et al. 2024, Acoustic deterrents for Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* and threatened shorebird clutch survival on sandy beaches, *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 54).

Some remote sites are suitable for additional fox management methods. In October 2024 fox prints were seen on Bird Island. The fox would have accessed the island during low tide by walking across the sand bar from Torrens Island. The presence of a fox was confirmed in November by remote cameras. Green Adelaide coordinated the installation of two Canid Pest Ejector (CPE) units on the island on 6th December 2024. Foxes were not detected again during the season. The use of CPE may have been successful, or the fox may have returned to Torrens Island on a low tide. CPE units have also been used to successfully manage foxes on Torrens Island.



Image 30. Fox taking eggs from 6th nest at Sheepies Beach. Photo taken by remote camera.

Harmful Algal Bloom

The Harmful Algal Bloom was reported in South Australia in mid-March 2025 at Waitpinga and Parsons Beaches. It is of great concern given there are many unknowns about the potential ramifications for our shorebirds and seabirds, let alone the known devastating impacts on our broader coastal and marine ecosystems. Worst case scenarios could have major impacts on food availability, areas available for foraging and we could see our shorebirds and seabirds respond in various ways, including altering their site use (which is worrying for breeding colonies for example moving to sites they are naïve). There could be interactions with other diseases and cumulative impacts also. Some key reminders for all of our volunteers are to:

- Follow health advice and avoid sites that pose human health risks [Water quality alerts | SA Health](#)
- If there are any signs of the algal bloom at sites you are surveying, please describe rough extent of the shorebird area it is covering and anything of note, such as 'large quantities of dead bivalves', in the 'notes' in the 'threats' section of a data entry.
- If you see sick or dying birds at sites with algal blooms, please don't assume these are related. Report these occurrences as potential HPAI scenarios through the Emergency Disease Hotline.

BirdLife Australia will be closely monitoring the sites and the birds to hopefully reduce knowledge gaps in relation to impacts of the bloom on shorebirds and seabirds.

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Avian Influenza, or bird flu, is an infectious disease of birds caused by strains of Influenza A virus. It affects poultry and wild birds and can spread to mammals including humans. The H5N1 strain is a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) being closely monitored by Australian authorities due to the potential risk of spread to Australia.

An outbreak of H5N1 in Australian birds could be catastrophic, as one in six Australian birds are already facing the threat of extinction. BirdLife Australia is sharing extensive data and expertise with government and wildlife health authorities to assist their preparedness and planning. This includes data-driven assessments of threat pathways and points of sensitivity for threatened birds, supported by the data collated in Birddata. We are keeping project teams and volunteers on the ground informed to boost surveillance of wild bird populations.

What should I do if I suspect a wild bird may be infected with H5 bird flu?

- **AVOID** contact with sick or dead wildlife and their environment. Observe from a distance, and do not allow pets to touch or eat sick or dead wildlife.
- **RECORD** what you see, the location the animal was found, and take photos or video if this is possible without approaching the bird.

- **REPORT** any unusual illness or death in wild birds and other wildlife immediately via the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888**.

Additional information about H5N1 Avian Influenza can be found on the BirdLife Australia webpage:

<https://birdlife.org.au/avian-influenza/>

Port Stanvac Development

The coastline at Port Stanvac provides essential habitats for coastal-dependent native species, including shorebirds, inshore seabirds and waterbirds. It has been announced that the site of the former oil refinery will be developed into a mixed-use precinct that will include shopping, business, entertainment, recreation and 3600 new dwellings. There are concerns about the Port Stanvac development with the potential for the loss of dune and beach habitat and the increased disturbance to breeding Hooded Plovers.

The beaches, dunes and rock groyne falling within the boundaries of the development are a known Hooded Plover breeding site that has been used consistently over time. This consistent use is notably due to the restricted access that this site has had in the past, being closed to the public, ensuring the breeding birds have experienced low disturbance and threat from human recreational activity and dogs. The site has been surveyed since 2012/13 with Hooded Plovers regularly confirmed at the site and with breeding attempts recorded most seasons since 2013/14. Of note, the same male Hooded Plover has been nesting at Port Stanvac since the 2016/17 season and possibly longer. The same male and female pair have been nesting at the site since the 2018/19 season and likely before. Strong site fidelity means that the pair cannot easily change breeding locations and any disturbance that limits the pair's ability to breed at this site will impact breeding success.

The current proposed development overlooks the significant disturbance impacts that the proposed public access plans for use of the beach will have on the breeding outcomes and site use by the birds. An increase of human visitation to the beaches will increase the likelihood of crushing of eggs or chicks. It will also increase the amount of disturbance to nesting or foraging Hooded Plovers because the beach area is small and leaves no room for a buffer from disturbance. The Hooded Plovers must be protected from disturbance from people, dogs and vehicles, including watercraft. As currently proposed, the development will have significant negative impacts on the ability for the birds to successfully breed at the site into the future.

Hooded Plover Biennial Count

In November 2024, volunteers along the Adelaide Metropolitan and the Fleurieu Peninsula coasts took part in the national Biennial Hooded Plover Count coordinated by the BirdLife Australia Beach-nesting Birds team. Participants surveyed a predefined section of coastline, recording all observations of Beach-nesting Birds, including terns. Information on evidence of nesting and the presence of threats and invasive weeds was also collected for each observation where possible. Approximately 2,770 kilometres of coastline was surveyed during the count, across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia and, for the first time, the count was undertaken in three regions in south-west Western Australia covering an additional 117 kilometres. In South Australia there were 892 juvenile and adult

Hooded Plovers recorded. In the Fleurieu Peninsula region (including Adelaide Metro) 98.7 kilometres of beach was surveyed (100% of the suitable habitat). There were 69 adult Hooded Plovers and 0 juveniles recorded by 34 participants. This equates to a density of 0.70 birds per kilometre (compared to 0.71 in 2022 and 0.67 in 2020). A report on the Biennial Hooded Plover Count can be found here: [2024 Biennial Hooded Plover Population Count](#).

Volunteer Regional Coordinators and Beach Leaders

Volunteer Regional Coordinators (VRCs) and Beach Leaders (BLs) continue crucial support of other volunteers, council staff and BirdLife staff through numerous monitoring, management, community outreach and training events. During the 2024/25 season they contributed over 1,700 hours to the program. Just some of the important activities of VRCs and BLs include:

- Liaising with councils, and volunteers, to ensure management is undertaken in a timely and appropriate manner. Volunteer and council support with the installation and on-going management of fencing and signs throughout the season is immense and the program would not be what it is without it.
- Monitored MyBeachBirds Data Portal to ensure high quality data is recorded by volunteers.
- Attended start and end of season meetings.
- Organised regional volunteer meetings.
- Provided multiple BNB Hub, MyBeachBirds Portal and beach training sessions for new volunteers. There were 38 new volunteers that registered during the 2024/25 season and many of these have become active volunteers in the Hooded Plover program. Active volunteers have received training and mentoring this season through a variety of avenues.
- Assisted at pop-up information sessions Minda Dunes, Seacliff/Brighton, West Beach, Myponga Beach and Whalers.
- Provided interviews, articles and social media posts across a range of platforms.
- Provided regular updates to volunteers in their region via texts and emails.
- Coordinated rosters to ensure adequate breeding pair monitoring and wardening.

Awareness raising activities

- Sharing our Shores staff raised awareness about Beach-nesting Birds by:
 - Presenting at Green Adelaide's Adult Coastal Ambassador program.
 - Delivering Introduction to Beach-nesting Birds workshops and beach walks as part of the Nature Festival. Workshops at Sellicks, Goolwa, and West Beach aimed to recruit and train new volunteers focusing on an introduction to BNBs and their threats, and how to participate in the program. Workshop coordination supported by Wendy White.
 - Joined volunteers to meet local business owners at Seacliff/Brighton to discuss threats and mitigation of threats to Hooded Plovers and provide brochures and other resources.

- Provided West Beach Caravan Park with educational materials, Hooded Plover magnets, and information that was displayed on screens throughout the park.
- Sharing our Shores staff provided regular input into Birds SA and BirdLife Australia’s Safe Beaches for All campaign working group and to government agencies.
- BirdLife Australia CEO Kate Millar visited Port Willunga and the Aldinga Washpool to learn more about the local Beach-nesting Birds program.

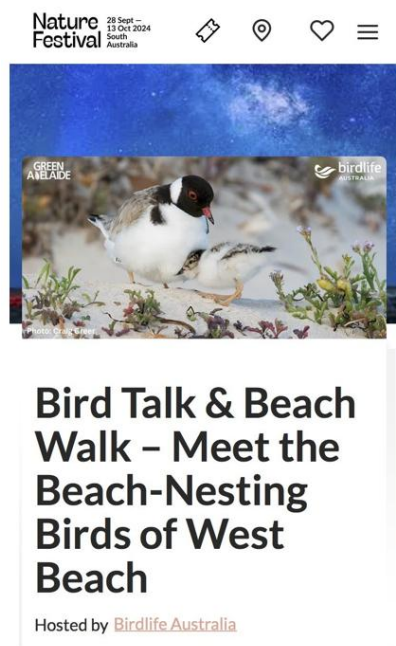


Image 31. Introduction to Beach-nesting Birds workshop and beach walk, West Beach (Photo: K. Bartley)

- Sharing our Shores staff, VRCs, BLs and Volunteers participated in public engagement events including:
 - Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu Our Plover Coast Spinifex planting events at Hindmarsh River, Normanville, and Inman River Outlet, planting rolling Spinifex and Carpobrotus with Friends of the Hooded Plover and Friends of the Inman River volunteers
 - Educational resources displayed at CLLMM Institute Launch
 - Yankalilla Show
 - Pop-up information events at Minda Dunes, Seacliff/Brighton, West Beach, Sellicks Beach, Myponga Beach and Whalers
 - Presentation to Probus meeting about Beach-nesting Birds in the Adelaide Metro area
 - Presentation to the 5049 Coastal Community Association AGM about Beach-nesting Birds in the Adelaide Metro area
 - Visiting local caravan parks to discuss Hooded Plovers and deliver educational resources



Image 32. Pop up education session by BirdLife Australia volunteers and staff at Minda Dunes (Photo: J. Roetman)

- Other awareness raising activities include:
 - BirdLife Australia celebrated Plover Appreciation Day to raise awareness of the plight of ground-nesting plovers around the world through focusing on plover books and novels.
 - A Facebook page 'Hoodies Down South - Adelaide Southern Beaches', created by Linda Corbett for the Onkaparinga Volunteers, continues to provide updates about the Beach-nesting Birds in the area.
 - The Triple Z radio program Melting Pot, hosted by BirdLife volunteer Dudley Corbett, regularly gives an update on the Onkaparinga hoodies.
 - Several Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula councils, Green Adelaide, and Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu regularly promote Hooded Plover awareness on social media.
 - The Fleurieu Environment Centre (FEC) continues to have a permanent Hooded Plover display and sent out updates throughout the season to the community about the

breeding activity via their newsletter and Facebook page. The FEC also run kids' education sessions with support from Wendy White.

- Roslyn Shirlaw coordinates a course on Birdwatching for the University of the Third Age (U3A) program, an international volunteer organisation that provides educational and leisure opportunities for people over 50. It includes classroom sessions and field trips. Kerri Bartley and BNB volunteers Sue and David Thorn, Wendy White and Keith Jones assisted with the course presentation.

Training opportunities for BirdLife Australia staff and volunteers

BirdLife staff provide training opportunities for volunteers. This season training opportunities included:

- Online Beach-nesting Bird training workshop *My Beach Bird Portal Workshop*.
- 2-day Statewide Volunteer Regional Coordinator workshop, Grange SA.
- Site Protector role training workshop for volunteers, Moana SA.
- Beach-nesting Bird Guardian role training workshop for volunteers, Moana SA.
- BirdLife SOS staff attended nest camera and nest aging training.

All BirdLife Beach-nesting Birds volunteers go through mandatory training to participate in the program. All volunteers complete compulsory online training modules for all volunteer roles they wish undertake. A new training module was added during the 2024/25 season with all volunteers required to complete an Induction to Speaking with the Public.



Image 33. Site Protector role training workshop, Moana (Photo: J. Roetman)



Image 34. Green Adelaide Coast and Seas Team Leader Tony Flaherty, BirdLife Australia CEO Kate Millar, BirdLife Australia Volunteer Prue Anderson and BirdLife Australia Staff Julia Roetman visiting the Hooded Plover breeding sites at Port Willunga - August 2024 (Photo: K. Bartley)

Education and promotional resources

- Additional DL flyers with information about Hooded Plovers for vehicles on beaches have been produced and distributed.
- Additional DL flyers with information about Hooded Plovers for dog owners have been produced and distributed.
- Updated and printed Hooded Plover nesting and chicks on beach temporary signs.
- Permanent 'Home of the Hooded Plover' signs have been installed at additional Hooded Plover breeding sites this season including the Torrens River Outlet and Seacliff.
- Back & Breeding signs that give space for volunteers to write breeding information updates have been redesigned and printed.
- Designed and printed new Hooded Plover magnets to be provided to caravan parks.
- Designed and printed new Red-capped Plover and Masked Lapwing comparison postcards.
- Designed and produced new dog leads with all Beach-nesting Birds.
- Additional Hooded Plover pins have been produced.



Image 35. New 'Home of the Hooded Plover' signage - Seacliff (Photo: J. Roetman)



Image 36. New 'Home of the Hooded Plover' sign - Torrens River Outlet (Photo: J. Roetman)

Beach-nesting Birds End of Season Celebration

To acknowledge the vital support and dedication of the volunteers and stakeholders, a celebration was held at Silver Sands Beach Club. BirdLife Australia's Director of Coastal and Wetland Birds, Grainne Maguire, gave an update on the National Beach-nesting Birds program and a study on Nest Survival. Sharing our Shores with Coastal Wildlife Project Coordinators delivered summaries from the 2024/25 season with Julia Roetman giving an overview of the Hooded Plover and Red-capped Plover breeding season and Kerri Bartley summarising the Tern monitoring program. Tony Flaherty, Green Adelaide Coast and Seas Team Leader, gave an overview of coastal conservation efforts in the region. Dr Keith Jones shared results from his research of the Beach-nesting Sooty Oystercatchers and Pied Oystercatchers. There were 52 volunteers and stakeholders in attendance at the event and sharing their experiences from the 2024/25 season.



Image 37. Research and National BNB program update at end of season celebration (Photo: T. Flaherty)



Image 38. Beach-nesting Birds End-of-Season Celebration, 17th May 2025, Silver Sands Beach Club (Photo: T. Flaherty)

Acknowledgements

The success of the Hooded Plover program would not be possible without the incredible volunteers that put their expertise, time, energy and compassion into the program. An enormous thank you to all the amazing volunteers. The time spent monitoring the birds, sharing information with the public, communicating with stakeholders, vetting data, and supporting other volunteers and BirdLife staff is invaluable. The participation and dedication of the volunteers continues to support the recovery program and add to our knowledge of this threatened species. The Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula volunteers provide one of the highest quality data sets in the national program. Thank you!

Big thanks to the Volunteer Regional Coordinators and Beach Leaders: John Cobb with assistance from Stevie Austin (Fleurieu-Adelaide Metro), Robyn Davies, Sally Crafter & Dudley Corbett (Fleurieu-Onkaparinga Beaches), Wendy White (Fleurieu Central – Myponga Beach to Lands End and South Coast) and David and Sue Thorn with assistance from Roslyn Shirlaw (Fleurieu South Coast).

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Special thanks to the councils, rangers and other land managers involved in protecting nesting sites and supporting the project and its volunteers: City of Charles Sturt, West Beach Parks, City of West Torrens, City of Holdfast Bay, City of Marion, City of Onkaparinga, District Council of Yankalilla, National Parks and Wildlife SA – Newland Head Conservation Park, City of Victor Harbor, Alexandrina Council.

Thank you to Steven Papp for the hours that you spent watching over the Hooded Plovers and working with BirdLife Australia during beach management operations. Thank you also to staff from Department

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Thank you to the staff at Port Stanvac for supporting access to monitor Hooded Plovers on the site and providing updates throughout the breeding season.

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Thank you to Jenny McLelland (Zoos SA), Morgan Smith and other Zoos SA staff for their wonderful support and coordination of the removal of entanglements and treating injured birds at very short notice. Thank you also for the important information provided by necropsies on deceased birds.

Thank you also to Rena Robinson and the Wildlife Welfare team in Goolwa for the care taken when an unwell chick was found at Tokuremoar West.

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Middleton West (Photo: M. Stokes)

Thank you