

# SHOREBIRDS CONNECT OUR WORLD

Shorebirds are the most remarkable group of species, some flying non-stop across the earth, others entirely nocturnal in their foraging activities, whilst some are apt at swimming. We see and hear birds everyday, and birds can be our connection to the natural world. To hear the calls of these birds, visit [www.hunterlandcare.org.au/shorebirds/](http://www.hunterlandcare.org.au/shorebirds/)

We encourage you to take a closer look at shorebirds on your next visit to the coast or rivers of the Hunter and Manning regions. Check out Birdlife Australia [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au) and Hunter Bird Observers Club [www.hboc.org.au](http://www.hboc.org.au) for bird identification and shorebird outings to enjoy.



## AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN



A large shorebird at 75cm long, partially nocturnal, this species is listed as Endangered. Its habitat includes coastal wetlands containing reed beds. They feed on small animals such as frogs, yabbies, snails and spiders, and they do this by 'stalking' their prey, standing very still and waiting.



## AUSTRALIAN PIED OYSTERCATCHER



A distinctive black and white shorebird with bright orange bill. At about 46cm long, they are common along our rock platforms and beaches using their chisel-shaped bill to catch molluscs which they prise apart. They have a distinctive piping call which sounds like they are constantly talking to each other within the group.



## BAR-TAILED GODWIT



This species has been recorded flying 11,000kms across the globe non-stop! So when they reach the mudflats of our estuaries, they need lots of good food sources such as molluscs, worms and aquatic insects, and quality habitat. You will see them arrive in our area in August each year. This species is also listed as a Critically Endangered Shorebird of Australia.



## BEACH-STONE CURLEW



A large wader at 55cm with a wingspan up to 1m, they are found along coastal beaches, islands, and estuaries. They forage along the intertidal zone of our beaches and breed above the littoral zone finding protection among grasses and shrubs, so that's why it is very important to preserve our coastal dune vegetation. They are a Critically Endangered species and only lay one egg during breeding season.



## BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL



This small wader of 17cm is found along the edges of wetlands, rivers, lakes and marshes. A distinctive behaviour whilst looking for food, is to run quickly and then stop suddenly when they find food to peck at, usually molluscs and insects. They breed between September and February each year and lay eggs in a shallow indentation close to water.



## EASTERN CURLEW



Listed as a Critically Endangered species of Australia, it is vitally important that we preserve our coastal wetlands as their habitat. They are a large shorebird at 63cm long, with a long-curved bill that they use to dig in the mudflats of our estuaries, digging up crabs to eat.

## GREATER-SAND PLOVER



Travelling from Asia and found along the coast of NSW, this species is 21cm in size and is listed as Vulnerable. They can be found roosting on sandy beaches and rocky shores, foraging along the wet areas of low tide looking for worms, molluscs, and crustaceans.



## HOODED PLOVER



Not often seen, and listed as Critically Endangered in NSW, they are a short stocky shorebird to 23cm, with distinctive markings of a black hood and a black-tipped red bill. They prefer vast sandy ocean beaches where they can feed among the beachcast seaweed and wrack, nesting between the hightide mark and foredune.



## LITTLE TERN



A small shorebird at 25cm long as an adult, you may see them along our coastline and estuaries, plunging into shallow water, taking small fish swimming just below the water surface.



## MASKED LAPWING



You will often see this species in pairs, in urban areas defending their nesting site, but their favoured habitat includes mudflats and marshes, grasslands and beaches. At 34cm, they are a large shorebird feeding on earthworms and insects. It is obvious how this species got its name, with its distinctive yellow mask or 'wattles' down each side of its face.



## PIED STILT



This species' very long legs provide an explanation for their name. Common in our coastal and freshwater wetlands, standing at 37cm. They are a social species, most often seen in groups, feeding mainly on aquatic insects and crustaceans as they wade in shallow water.



## RED KNOT



This species is a visitor from the Arctic regions of Siberia, flying non-stop from China to Australia between September and April. A stocky shorebird of 25cm, they like to forage near the water's edge of intertidal mudflats, estuaries, lagoons and sandy beaches, feeding on worms, gastropods, and echinoderms.



Residential Shorebird species



Migratory Shorebird species



Local Land Services

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