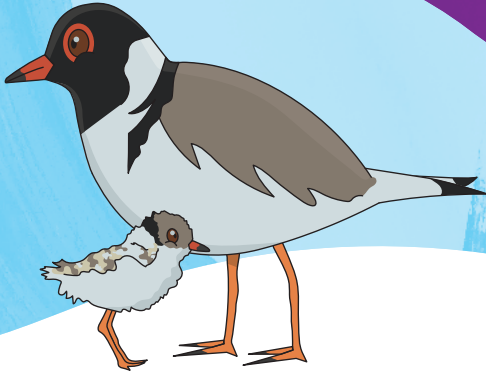




Hooded plover



Who am I?

I am a shy little bird who lives on sandy ocean beaches, and you can call me a “hoodie” – it’s my nickname!

I have a black ‘hood’, white collar, black-tipped red beak, and red rings around my eyes, and my chicks are sandy-brown all over to help them camouflage from predators. You might see me scurrying about the beach, bobbing my head, and snacking on insects, worms, and sandhoppers.

We pair up for life and between August and March every year, we make a nest in shallow sand and washed-up seaweed. We take turns incubating 1-3 speckled eggs for about 30 days before they hatch, and my chicks are vulnerable for another 35 days until they can fly.

Scientific name

Thinornis cucullatus

Conservation status

Vulnerable

Average life span

20 years

Range/distribution

Australia’s eastern and southern coastlines

Habitat

Open, sandy beaches

Classification

Coastal bird

Sadly, there are only around 750 of us left in Victoria, and keeping my eggs and chicks safe can be hard.

How can you help me?

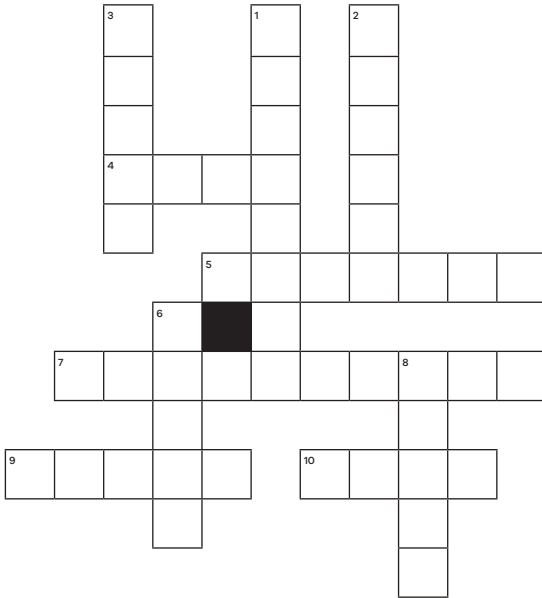
Over summer, I live on the beach so when you come to visit for a walk or swim, remember to look out for me and my nest and give us plenty of space! I’m easily startled, so if you get too close, I might leave my nest and expose my eggs to the sun. My eggs and chicks are also small, fragile, and blend in with the sand to protect them from predators. To help keep us safe, please keep your distance, and make sure your dog is on a lead.

**KEEP US SAFE,
GIVE US SPACE**

Hooded plover

Complete the crossword puzzle

Can you solve the clues and fill in the grid?

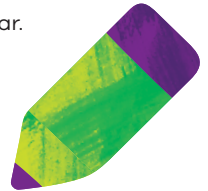


Down:

1. Keep your _____ to help protect hooded plovers.
2. A nickname for a hooded plover.
3. Adult birds take _____ incubating their eggs.
6. What colour is a plover's 'hood'?
8. Hooded plovers nest on the _____.

Across:

4. Eggs stay in this until they hatch.
5. Something hooded plovers snack on.
7. What is the conservation status of the hooded plover?
9. Word for a baby bird.
10. An item to clip onto a dog's collar.



Fill in the blanks

There are only around _ _ _ hooded plovers left in Victoria.

Hint! The answer is on the first page and crossword answers are below.



Conservation Regulator Focus Species have been selected to raise awareness about the small changes people can make to protect wildlife in the wild and in captivity. Find out more at conservationregulator.vic.gov.au

Answers are:
ACROSS
1. distance
2. hoodle
3. turns
4. nest
5. insects
7. vulnerable
8. beach
9. chick
10. lead