



**SUPPORTING
RESEARCH**

MONITORING

EDUCATION

GRANTS

The Foundation for South Australian Shorebirds has recently been formed to financially support researchers, citizen scientists, coastal community groups and coastal managers to enhance our understanding on the conservation status of resident and migratory shorebirds.

www.sashorebirds.org



South Australia has a number of vulnerable resident shorebird species, including Hooded Plover, Australian Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher and Red-capped Plover. They can be found along parts of South Australia's coastline, including ocean beaches, estuaries, rock platforms and tidal wetlands. They mostly nest on beaches and adjacent sand dunes, and, in the case of the Sooty Oystercatcher, rocky intertidal zones.

Because nesting often occurs at times of high levels of human activity on beaches in spring and summer, disturbance can significantly affect their nesting success. The Hooded Plover has been designated as endangered. Australian Pied Oystercatchers forage and nest along ocean beaches, as well as estuaries, intertidal wetlands of sheltered bays. Often on sheltered sand spits, they form large roosting flocks comprising mainly sub-adult and non-breeding adults.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS SUITABLE FOR FUNDING

- Resident shorebird population ecology, including their breeding success
- The roles of resident or migratory shorebirds in South Australia's coastal trophic ecology
- Localised movement ecology of resident or migratory shorebirds, using marked-recapture/resighting studies
- Activities by coastal community groups assisting in the conservation of shorebirds
- Travel scholarships to students or key speakers to shorebird conferences or study sites
- Depiction of aspects of the life cycles of shorebirds by writers, artists and media presenters.



During our southern hemisphere spring, flocks of the migratory shorebirds arrive on our South Australian coast from their nesting grounds as far away as northern Siberia and Alaska. Here, during summer and early autumn, they forage on small invertebrates living amongst the mud or beach-cast seaweed, significantly increasing their weight, before their extraordinary return flight to their breeding grounds.

More than 15 species visit our shores, and a number of these are deemed as critically endangered, including the Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great and Red Knots and the Curlew Sandpiper.

Applicants are encouraged to seek additional support from other funding groups include Birds SA Conservation grants (www.birdssa.asn.au) Birdlife Australia Conservation grants (www.birdlife.org.au) to enhance the success of their project.

Calls for applications will be made in February each year, and all applicants will be advised before early May. Grants will apply from the start of each financial year.

Further information about the Foundation can be directed to the chair of the R&D committee **Dr. Keith Jones**
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www.sashorebirds.org