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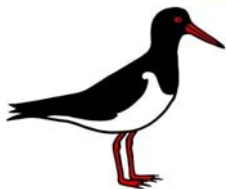
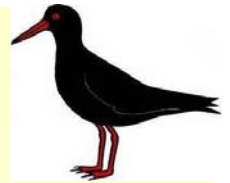
Southern Rivers

CMA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW



SOUTH COAST SHOREBIRD RECOVERY NEWSLETTER



Sharing the shoreline



2008/09 Season

This Season in Shorebirds

The shorebird breeding season kicked off in August with Hooded Plover's nesting first in the South Coast Region (SCR). The ex Shorebird Recovery Coordinators, Mike and Jill, found this early nest on Racecourse Beach in Ulladulla. Soon after this discovery Jodie started work again at the local NPWS office and 'Hoodie' nests were popping up everywhere. Down on the Far South Coast (FSCR) Amy's 'Hoodies' were late starters with the first nest not found til late September, but she was very busy anyway with all the nesting Pied Oystercatchers. The FSCR holds 70% of our Pied breeding pairs. Then it was October and the Little Terns started arriving. The intense summer nesting frenzy really began. Meanwhile the Sooty Oystercatcher islands were surveyed and the 'Hoodies' and Pies just kept on nesting. It's a juggling game as usual but with the assistance of a great band of dedicated local volunteers we had another good season for the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program.

The Little Terns set up colonies at eight breeding sites along the southern coastline of NSW this season. In total approximately 177 breeding pairs laid 641 eggs, hatched 273 chicks and fledged at least 143 of these chicks. This is a great result and up there with the best seasons on record. Numerous Fairy Terns also nested amongst the Little Terns especially in the FSCR. This

species has declined especially in Victoria. Our 28 breeding pairs fledged at least 7 chicks. We will continue to monitor this species in southern NSW. The endangered Hooded Plovers had one of their best seasons yet with 14 chicks fledged from the 16 breeding pairs. Furthermore we had our first signs of recruitment early in the season with 4 young adults present in the SCR, presumed last seasons fledglings returning. Two paired up and even nested together. Exciting!

Pied Oystercatchers nested in most estuaries along the south coast. A total of 38 breeding pairs incubated 90 eggs, hatched 46 chicks and fledged 22. Overall a good result but breeding success was reduced compared with previous seasons. The Sooty Oystercatchers, nested on all eight offshore islands as with previous years. Eighty pairs of Sooty Oystercatchers were observed with 74-78 eggs, 17-29 chicks and at least two fledglings. A further three pairs were found nesting on the mainland.

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Hooded Plovers



This season a total of 14 endangered Hooded Plover chicks were fledged from 16 breeding pairs nesting along the southern coastline of NSW. This is an excellent result and one of our best seasons yet!

In the **South Coast Region** we had the usual eight breeding pairs, plus an extra pair formed by two returning 2007/08 fledglings who eventually nested. Nine is the highest number of breeding pairs in the region since the program began in 2000. Furthermore, in total there were four of these returning fledglings sighted early in the season which is a good sign of recruitment into our endangered population. These young adults were easily distinguished by their not quite black hood. This is the first time we have noticed young adults recruiting into our area. A good sign :)

The northernmost pair of 'Hoodies' nested again at **Marys Beach** at Jervis Bay this season. The first nest was discovered by Booderee Ranger, Tony Carter in mid September. The 3 eggs hatched a few weeks later. Two chicks were regularly sighted and fledged in mid November. A second nesting attempt of two eggs was found in early December. By January the nest was gone, possibly interfered with by local kids. The third nest was found in mid February and contained three eggs. However a few weeks later it also disappeared, apparently to the local kids again which was very disappointing. Hopefully the issue can be addressed next season through educating the local community.

The **Berrara** Hooded Plover pair were sighted at the southern end of Berrara Beach during September, October and November. The nesting area used last season alongside Berrara Creek was flooded due to high rainfall over the winter. In late November a couple of holiday makers reported seeing the "Hoodies" at Cudmirrah Beach. Upon inspection the pair was found with a one egg nest alongside Swan Lake, right in the walking path and in danger of inundation. The nest was moved higher and rebuilt, fenced off and signposted. The next day a newly recruited local Shorebird Volunteer, David Lemmon, reported two eggs. This nest was ready to hatch just after Christmas, but disappointingly a Boxing Day party and fire on the beach resulted in the fence and signs being ripped down and burnt and the nesting area trampled. The eggs or newly hatched chicks were likely crushed underfoot and the adults deserted the area.

A couple of weeks later a nest scrape was found at the south end of Berrara Beach, however the adults were nowhere in sight and dog tracks up to the nest scrape indicated they had been chased off. This beach is in Conjola National Park and consequently dogs are prohibited but sadly continue to be an issue for the birds. The pair were sighted intermittently around this area but there were no more indications of breeding activity.

Further south at **Inyadda Beach** the resident pair were located with a 2 egg nest in early September. The next visit a week later revealed 4 eggs which is quite unusual for Hooded Plovers. The nest was closely monitored by newly recruited Shorebird Volunteers, Carol and Terry McBride, and reactive fox trapping undertaken. Disappointingly the nest never hatched and eventually the eggs were removed in late October to initiate a new round of nesting. In late November a new 3 egg nest was discovered, but less than a week later the eggs disappeared, possibly to an avian predator. In late December a third nest was found containing 3 eggs and a nest cage was quickly installed to protect the eggs. However by late January the pair had abandoned the nest. It is suspected that one or both of these "Hoodies" is a new breeder and inexperienced, resulting in non viable eggs and abandonment. Hopefully the pair will sort it out for next season.



The amazing four egg Hooded Plover nest at Inyadda Beach.
Photo: Jodie Dunn

Hooded Plover breeding activity in the NSW South Coast & Far South Coast Regions — 2008/09 season

SITE	PAIRS	NESTS	EGGS	CHICKS	FLEDGLING	EGG MAIN FATE	CHICK MAIN FATE
Mary's Beach	1	3	3	3	2	H	Uc / Fl
			2	0	0	HI	
			3	0	0	HI	
Cudmirrah Beach	1	1	2	0	0	HI	
Inyadda Beach	1	3	4	0	0	A	
			3	0	0	Ue	
			3#	0	0	A	
Narrawallee Inlet	1	2	3	3	0	H	Uc / Fx
			2	2	2	H	Fl
Rennies Beach	1	1	2#	0	0	I	
Racecourse Beach	1	3	3	2	0	A	Uc / Fx
			2#	0	0	I	
			3	2	1	A	Uc / Fl
Wairo Beach	1	1	1#	0	0	HI	
Meroo Beach	1	1	3#	3	3	H	Fl
Bullpup Beach	1	3	2	0	0	I	
			3	0	0	I	
			1	0	0	R	
Racecourse Beach	1 ^	2	2#	0	0	Fx	
			3	0	0	AP	
Dawsons Beach	1 ^	1	3	3	0	H	R
SC TOTALS	9 BP	21	53	18	8		
Bogola Head	1	N					
Wallaga Lake Entrance	2 ^ (1N)	1	3#	3	0	H	Uc
Aragunnu	1					N?	
Bengunnu	1 ^	1	3	3	3	H	F
Middle Beach	2	2	3#	3	0	H	Uc
			3#	0	0	Ue	
North Tura Beach	1					N	
Haycock Point to Terrace Beach	2					N?	
Saltwater Creek	1					N	
Nullica Region	1	3	2*	2	2	H	F
			3	0	0	Ue	
			1	0	0	BW	
Wonboyn Lake	1	1	3	0	0	Ue	
Jane Speirs Beach	1	1	2*	2*	1	H	Uc / F
FSC TOTALS	7 BP	8	23	13	6		
TOTALS	16 BP	29	76	31	14		

Abbreviations
N = no nesting recorded
I = inundation
^ = same BP as above

H = hatched
N? = nesting suspected
BW = bad weather
= nest caged

A = abandoned
HI = human interference
Fx = fox predation
* = nest not observed - assumed 2 eggs/chicks based on average clutch size

U(e/c) = unknown egg or chick loss
Fl = fledged
R = raven predation



Hooded Plovers in flight. Adult on the left and fledgling on the right. Photo: J. Dunn

Down at **Narrawallee Inlet** the pair were found in early September with a 3 egg nest. A fox was in the immediate area so fox control was undertaken in Narrawallee Creek Nature Reserve. The chicks hatched out a few weeks later but disappeared within the first week, probably to the fox which was still roaming. In mid November a new nest was found with two eggs on the western side of the spit. In mid December the chicks hatched out just before a big swell and king tide combination inundated their nest. Foxes were eventually trapped around the Pattimores Lagoon track and the two chicks were taken north along the beach. Both fledged in January.

A new pair of young adults (last seasons fledglings) were sighted at Burrill Lake entrance in early September. One was missing the right foot which made tracking and identifying the pair easy. They had nest scrapes in late October but soon vacated this site, possibly due to disturbance from dog walkers. This new 'Hoodie' pair then turned up at **Rennies Beach** with a 2 egg nest in early December. The nest was caged to protect it from the resident Ravens, however the king tide and big swell combination in mid December washed the eggs away. The pair continued to stay in the area frequenting Rennies Beach, the Bombie Beach and even visiting Racecourse Beach but did not show anymore signs of nesting.

The first nest for the **Racecourse Beach** pair was found in mid August by the ex Shorebird Recovery Coordinators, Mike and Jill. On the 20th of September two chicks hatched out but the third egg was abandoned. One chick was lost after about a week to unknown circumstances and the second chick was lost at 3 weeks of age, probably to the fox in the area. Throughout November the pair were sighted on and off and the Burrill/Rennies pair visited which may

have disrupted nesting activity. Finally, in early December a two egg nest was found at the northern end of the beach but a week later the big swell and king tide combination inundated the nest. On New Years Day a new 3 egg nest was found in the same area and fenced off. In late January two chicks hatched out and the third egg was abandoned. One chick was lost in the first week and the second chick went on to fledge in early March.... Finally success!

At the northern end of **Wairo Beach** a young adult (last season's fledgling #3) was spotted in early September, then throughout October, November and December two adults were regularly sighted in the area along with nest scrapes but frustratingly, no eggs. A large area was fenced off in front of the lagoon to protect any potential nests from dogs and people. Fox trapping was undertaken to protect any Hoodie nests. In early January a one egg nest was found and quickly caged to protect it from the foxes and Ravens frequenting the area. This is the first nest ever found for the Wairo Beach pair and consequently their first encounter with our protective measures. Thankfully, when I returned the next day one of the adults was sitting inside the cage incubating the nest. The local ranger visited the following day and reported the same. However when I returned after the weekend the fence had been partly ripped down and signs were broken. There was a fire and alcohol bottles nearby indicating a party and footprints throughout the nesting area, even right up to the cage. The nest had been abandoned and the adults were nowhere to be seen. The pair returned to the area a couple of weeks later but no more nesting activity was recorded. A disappointing outcome.

Throughout October and November at **Meroo Beach** there was only one sighting of a single Hooded Plover. Then in late December a three egg nest was discovered

by local Bawley Point residents, Marg Hamon and Maggie Mance. This nesting area was fenced off, a protective cage installed and fox trapping undertaken. In mid January the three chicks hatched out. All was going well until the 10th of February when the volunteers visited the site and found one of the almost fledged chicks lying on its side, nearly dead while the rest of the family was feeding at the other end of the beach. There were no signs of injury and we were baffled as to how the chick got to this poor condition. We decided to bring the chick into the Milton Vet. The vet said the little chick was underweight and had little hope. Anyway he administered rehydration fluids and medicine and put the chick on a heat pad but it seemed almost dead. Later that day the local wildlife carer, Mari, picked the chick up and gave it a special 'First Aid for Birds' solution. To her amazement she awoke the next morning to the sounds of the chick calling, ready for food and mostly recovered. A couple more days rest while being fed mealworms, prawns and whitebait and the chick was ready for release back with the family at Meroo.

It was a special occasion with all involved in the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Protection of the Meroo nest present. We were all nervous as we took the long walk through the bush down to Meroo Beach. Marg and Maggie did the honours of releasing the chick as close as possible to the rest of the 'Hoodie' family while Mari, Robin and myself watched with binoculars and scopes. After a bit of calling, running around and wing flapping, they all seemed to settle down. We watched for a while to make sure the little chick was OK. An inspection by the volunteers the following day confirmed that the rescued chick had been accepted back into the family and a few days later all three chicks fledged! This is an excellent result and with less than 50 Hooded Plovers remaining in NSW every chick counts.

At **Bullpup Beach** in early September nesting scrapes were found with Raven tracks leading to each one, but



Top to Bottom: The sick little Hooded Plover chick in care, the 'Great Hoodie Rescue Team' Maggie Mance, Marg Hammon, Mari Gardner and Robin Berkhout (L to R), first flight of the fledgling at Meroo Beach, hanging with the family at Armchair Beach a few days later. *Photos: J.Dunn*

no “Hoodies” around the area. The following day the pair were spotted with one of last season’s fledgling (returning fledgling number four!). The pair then moved over to **Racecourse Beach** and laid a 2 egg nest near the base of the foredune and partly in vegetation. A cage was added to protect the nest from ravens and foxes in the area. However on the stormy October long weekend a fox took one of the adults. Perhaps the fox managed to sneak up with the cover of rain, wind and the vegetation. The ‘Hoodie’ on the nest may have been surprised and become entangled in the cage. The fox also crushed the top of the cage and took both eggs from inside. A very sad and distressing day for local Shorebird volunteer, Robin Berkhout, and myself.

Despite this loss a few weeks later a new one egg nest turned up at the south end of the beach. Possibly the widow had paired up with last seasons fledgling that had been hanging around. That didn’t take long at all! A couple of days later a second egg was laid in another scrape about thirty centimeters away from the first. Strange! Robin and I decided to put the eggs together in one scrape but upon returning to the nesting area, she found that the birds had done it themselves, apparently rolling the second egg to join the other one in the first scrape. Weird! By early November there were three eggs in the nest, but these were soon all taken by the Ravens.

In late November a two egg nest was found on nearby **Bullpup Beach** but within a week this nest was inundated by a big southerly swell. In early December another nest with three eggs was laid further along the beach. A sandwall was quickly built in front of the nest area to protect it from the next big southerly swell but



Hooded Plover nest at Racecourse Beach in Kioloa. Notice the depression near the top of the photo where one of the eggs was originally laid, but had now been rolled over to join the other egg. Photo: Robin Berkhout

when combined with the king tides in mid December, the eggs were washed away. In late December yet another “Hoodie” nest was found on Bullpup but taken by Ravens within a few days. This site is a major priority for Raven control next season, especially as we will not be using nest cages here again.

The resident **Dawsons Beach** Hooded Plovers had nest scrapes in early September but then mysteriously disappeared for a few weeks. Finally in early October a three egg nest was found, but a fox and ravens were also in the area. The fox took the poison bait just before the chicks hatched out. Great! But by mid November all the chicks were lost to the Ravens. In early December the pair made more nest scrapes but then disappeared again. This may be the pair which turned up at Meroo Beach in late December and was sighted on beaches between throughout that month. Dawsons Beach is another site in need of more raven control.

In total in the **SCR** nine breeding pairs laid 53 eggs in 21 nests, hatching 18 chicks and eventually fledging 8 of these. An excellent result! In addition to these nine pairs there was at least one other adult in the region bringing the SCR total to 19 adults.

In the **Far South Coast Region** this season seven Hooded Plover pairs were recorded breeding, only slightly reduced from the eight last season. The two pair at Saltwater Creek and Bogola Head have exhibited strong site fidelity in the past but turned up only briefly before moving on to an unknown site or intermittently appearing but not breeding. Furthermore, breeding commenced later (late September) within the region compared with previous seasons and in comparison to the SCR further north (mid August).

In addition to these 7 breeding pairs, 16 individuals were recorded intermittently at certain sites, such as North Tura Beach. Admittedly, some of these individuals may have indeed bred within the region but laid or lost nests in between monitoring of sites. Only three pair managed to fledge chicks this season, these being the Bengunnu, Nullica River and Jane Spiers pairs.

Disappointingly the pair that have bred at **Bogola Head** for many seasons, often producing fledglings, appeared and then chose not to breed at the site. Instead they were often sighted with the Wallaga Lake pair, though repeated searching failed to find any nesting activity for this pair at any sites this season. Similarly, pairs at **Saltwater Creek** and **North Tura** were intermittently sighted but no nesting was recorded. This was increasingly disappointing even with thorough searching of adjoining beaches and sites. No ap-



Hooded Plover chick Photo: Mike Jarman

parent cause was obvious for their dispersal, one beach at Saltwater Creek was even closed to the public for many weeks in November/December and all fox baiting undertaken in previous years continued. Other shorebird species successfully bred at Saltwater Creek this season. Furthermore no nests containing eggs were sighted for the two pair that frequent the beaches from **Haycock Point to Terrace Beach**, they are suspected to have nested as scrapes were sighted at many locations in this region.

The **Wallaga Lake** entrance pair successfully incubated one clutch inside the protective cage, however as with previous seasons the chicks were quickly taken soon after hatching by an unknown predator. This site was repeatedly visited by foxes this season, often large concentrations of their tracks were found throughout the entrance breeding site, hence it is highly likely the chicks were taken by foxes this season.

The **Aragunnu/Bengunnu** region was repeatedly checked by Patricia Latimer and Steve Deck this season. The one pair is assumed to frequent both these beaches. It is suspected the pair chose to nest on Bengunnu Beach this season and lost their eggs/chicks to huge seas which swamped the beach in November. A second nesting attempt on this remote beach soon after resulted in 3 fledglings.

At **Middle Beach** two pair attempted to breed this season, tolerating nesting in close proximity to each other. The first pair bred halfway along the beach and successfully hatched out their chicks from inside the protective cage, however they were taken by an unknown predator within a week of hatching. The second pair nested at the lagoon, but a predator, possibly a snake or small goanna took the three eggs from inside the cage.

The **Nullica River** mouth and surrounding beaches in Eden Cove are the territory of a single productive pair. Often this pair are only sighted occasionally, often 'disappearing' and reappearing with fledglings in tow. This season, as with previous seasons, the pair managed to secretively incubate their eggs and fledge two chicks from a secluded beach within the cove. After their first success, they commenced incubating a second clutch in late January, though on one of the busiest beaches in the cove. This three egg nest was lost to unknown circumstances. A third one egg nest found in mid February was lost within a couple of days, probably to the heavy rain and a localised hail storm.

A pair on **Wonboyn Beach** (north of entrance) were found nesting by dedicated shorebird volunteer Steve Burrows in mid November. This is the first time a nest has actually been located on the long stretching beach. The remote location and the extent of the beach does not permit frequent monitoring, hence the fate of the 3 egg nest is unknown.

Jane Spiers Beach in Nadgee Nature Reserve was monitored by Lyn Evans this season (Ranger for Nadgee NR). One visit in early February revealed a single fledgling still keeping company with its parents.

Disappointingly this season the rest of **Nadgee Nature Reserve** was not surveyed for shorebirds, so it is unknown how many pairs were present or if their breeding was successful this season.

Overall for the **FSCR** a total of 7 breeding pairs incubated 8 nests containing 23 eggs, hatching 13 chicks and a definite 6 fledglings. In addition to these 14 breeding adults, another 16 individuals were sighted within the region, bringing the total up to 30 "Hoodies" for the FSCR.

Across the two regions a total of 16 breeding pairs incubated 29 nests containing 76 eggs, hatching 31 chicks and resulted in 14 fledglings. One of the best seasons on record. It will be interesting to see if any of our fledglings return next season.....



Hooded Plover returning to the nest Photo: J.Dunn

Little Terns



This season Little Terns established breeding colonies at eight locations along the southern coastline of NSW. Three of these colonies were located in the SCR (Windang, Lake Wollumboola and Lake Conjola) and five colonies were within the FSCR (Tuross Lake, Brou Lake, Mogareka/Bega River Mouth, Wallagoot Lake and Nadgee Nature Reserve).

The largest colonies were located at Lake Conjola and Tuross Lake with over 100 adult Little Terns each, while Lake Wollumboola colony was slightly smaller with around 80 birds and even smaller colonies of less than twenty individuals were established at the remaining sites. In total approximately 177 Little Tern pairs nested along the southern NSW coast this season. Many Fairy Terns also nested amongst the Little Tern colonies, particularly in the FSCR. This species has declined in the southern states of Australia and is listed as endangered within Victoria.

After a 40 year absence the Little Terns returned to nest at Windang in 2003/04. However due to the high

levels of disturbance and threats at this urban nesting site, initial attempts were unsuccessful. In 2007 the Lake Illawarra Authority constructed the northern breakwall and dredged the entrance channel to Lake Illawarra. To compensate for disturbing the nesting area, an exclusive 'Bird Island' was created using the dredge spoil. The 2007/08 season was the LT's first breeding season on this 'Bird Island' and 14 chicks were successfully fledged.

In preparation for the return of the Little Terns this season NPWS staff and local volunteers erected a fence and signs around the nesting area in early November. Due to natural sand accretion the 'Bird Island' had joined to the mainland over the winter and was easily accessible. After the fence was erected the LIA dredged a channel to entirely separate the 'Bird Island' from the mainland, thus giving the nesting LT's protection from fox predation and also people and dogs.

This season the Little Terns returned to the 'Bird Island' in late October. Numbers slowly built up to around 20-25 adults and the first nests were laid in mid November, with two 2-egg nests and one single egg nest. Further terns were paired up and making nest



The Windang 'Bird Island' - the Little Terns were overrun with Silver Gull's this season *Photo: J.Dunn*

Little Tern breeding activity in the NSW South Coast & Far South Coast Regions—2008/09 season

Site	Pairs	Eggs	Chicks	Fledglings	Main Fate
Windang Beach	8	9	0	0	SG
Lake Wollumboola	38	161	48	27	FI / Uc / Fx / I
Lake Conjola	43	184	108	61	FI / Uc / I
Tuross Lake	59	231	94	39	FI / I / SG
Brou Lake	9	17	11	6	FI / Uc / Fx
Mogareka	10	17	9	7	FI / Uc / I
Wallagoot Lake	9	21	3	3	FI / Dg / A
Newtons Beach	1	1	?	?	?
TOTAL	177	641	273	143	

Abbreviations

A = abandoned

Uc = unknown chick loss

FI = fledged

Fx = Fox predation

I = inundated

Dg = Dog disturbance

SG = Silver Gull predation

? = unknown fate

scrapes. Disappointingly, on returning to the island two days later, there was only one nest remaining, which now contained 3 eggs. A week later all nests and Little Terns were gone from the Windang site.

These nests were presumed to have been predated upon by the Silver Gulls, resulting in the Little Terns deserting the site. There were particularly high numbers of gulls on the 'Bird Island' along with their newly fledged chicks. These birds breed on the nearby Five Islands off Port Kembla. The young gulls were witnessed picking around on the ground and undoubtedly stumbled on a Little Tern nest here and there. With more than a hundred Silver Gulls on the small 'Bird Island', the Little Terns didn't have much of a chance.

Throughout December and January Little Terns continued to come and go, sometimes settling on the island, with numbers ranging between 2 and 25 adults. Further nests were laid but quickly disappeared, with two 1-egg nests in late December and another nest in mid January. These nests were also predated on by the Silver Gulls. By late January Little Tern numbers dwindled again as all the adults departed. A disappointing season at Windang.

Further south at **Lake Wollumboola** the Little Terns arrived on the second of November. Over the month adult numbers slowly built up to around fifty and the first six nests were laid. Sadly, on the last weekend of November the nesting area was vandalised, with the string fence and signs ripped out and graffiti on the interpretive signage in the car park. Luckily, no nests were damaged and it did not appear to deter the Little Tern breeding. The following week the nesting frenzy really began and by the middle of December there were 38 nests containing 70 eggs, the first chicks from the surviving early nests were hatching out and the adult number reached eighty. Right at this peak in nesting activity, the king tides combined with big swells to wash-over the entire nesting area. Volunteers managed to raise some nests on sand piles and overall saved fourteen of the nests. An amazing effort! Also around this time stormy weather with high winds and rain resulted in the abandonment of numerous nests and around half the adults left the Lake Wollumboola site.

The nest numbers were beginning to slowly build up again in late December as pairs renested, when disappointingly the nesting area was vandalised for the second time. The Nowra NPWS crew had almost completed installing the protective electric fence, however the vandals smashed the posts and the eight strands of wire now needed to be restrung. Signage, string fencing



The vandalised Lake Wollumboola Little Tern Site Photo: Mike Abramowitz

and nest cages were also ripped out and some even thrown in the lake. Due to the lack of a functioning electric fence, a fox entered the nesting area on Christmas Eve and took 18 eggs from 11 nests, and up to 14 chicks. More nests were abandoned from the disturbance. The colony was reduced to twelve nests containing 23 eggs. A small number of the chicks survived the fox attack and the first fledgling was sighted on the 30th of December.

Adult numbers remained fairly stable at around forty birds and nest numbers built up again over the next couple of weeks. Those older nests, which had survived the bad weather, big swell and fox attack began hatching. By mid January the adult number had increased to eighty again and there were 28 nests containing more than 50 eggs. With another king tide coming up in the middle of the month numerous nests were sand bagged and volunteers were prepared to rescue eggs, store them in numbered egg cartons and return them when the water subsided. However this time there was no big swell and the colony was safe. Disappointingly a few nests were abandoned due to the sandbagging. We just can't win!



The Lake Wollumboola volunteers sandbagging nests Photo: Leo Cimador

With this last round of nests mostly surviving to hatch, chick numbers began to increase in the colony during late January resulting in most fledglings being sighted gathering in small groups along the beach throughout February. Later in the month birds began to leave the colony on their migration to Asia and by early March all the Little Terns were gone. One last almost fledged chick was found abandoned on the beach and taken into care, however it survived for only a few days. The overall fledgling total for the season was twenty-seven. An excellent result despite all the setbacks.

Down at **Lake Conjola** near Ulladulla the Little Terns arrived in early November with 30-40 adults sighted on the sixth. Nesting began a few days later and by the 21st of November there were 18 nests with 36 eggs and at least 100 adults. However the big swells combined with king tides over the next couple of days inundating 12 nests. During this time a few nests were also lost to unknown circumstances, possibly the white faced heron seen cruising the nesting area. Despite this disturbance adult numbers remained stable and by early December there were 46 nests containing 106 eggs and the first chicks began to hatch out.

In mid December the big swell and king tide combination washed over part of the nesting area again. Luckily, after the first wash over in November many of the Little Terns nested on higher ground, so only 11 of the 44 nests were lost and a couple more were abandoned. Adult numbers dropped a little after this disturbance, as some pairs left the site. A small wave of re-nesting took place a week later and adult numbers built up again to more than one hundred.



Trying to decide where to nest—Lake Conjola Spit Photo: J.Dunn



Col and Maureen at Lake Conjola Little Tern Colony Photo: J.Dunn

Chick numbers began to increase throughout December as the surviving nests hatched and the first fledgling was sighted in late December. Fledgling numbers slowly increased and in mid January 39 fledglings were sighted gathered along the shoreline on one afternoon. Around this time sadly five chicks and near fledglings were found dead of natural causes, probably underfed or abandoned. The colony began to decrease in size as adults and fledglings left Conjola to migrate north along the coast. Late nests hatched and small numbers of chicks continued to fledge. By late February only two adults remained. Lake Conjola colony fledged a minimum of sixty-one chicks this season. The best season so far!

The Little Terns arrived within the **Tuross Lake** catchment on the 5th of November 2008 (7 individuals sighted). These first arrivals commenced nesting within a fortnight of their arrival with a few nests appearing on the 21st of November when approximately 12 adults were present at the site. These nests were located on last seasons nest site, a small, vegetated island within the lake. Initial worries of only a low number of birds arriving this season were quickly put to rest with over 50 adults present by the end of November. Numbers grew to over 100 by mid December and the new arrivals spread out onto an adjacent sandspit to nest.

More than 40 mm of rain in the catchment in mid December caused substantial flooding of both the island and sandspit nests and the loss of many nests. Sandbagging of the remaining vulnerable nests resulted in a small number successfully hatching out on the island colony. However, with the rising lake levels the area available for roosting shorebirds, such as over 100 Crested Terns and 200 Silver Gulls, was considerably reduced and the only exposed sand was within the Little Tern colonies. With the increased concentration of Silver Gulls the remaining incubating adult Little Terns



Little Tern nest at Tuross Lake Photo: Amy Harris

on the sandspit failed to protect their eggs from gull predation and as such, the remaining nests on the sandspit were all predated.

After this disappointing initial nesting an incredible re-nesting effort was undertaken in the busiest week between Christmas and new year, on the sandspit at the lake entrance (entrance closed to ocean), directly opposite the main beach at Tuross. The majority of the colony appeared to re-nest here with over 43 Little Tern nests laid at the entrance during the season. Incredibly, the colony survived the busy Christmas tourist season, king tides and had no predation by foxes, gulls or ravens. In the end 68 Little Tern chicks hatched out within the entrance colony (43 definitely sighted in nest and 25 presumed to have hatched) and 39 of these are estimated to have fledged in early March.



Little Tern fledgling Tuross Photo: John Cornish

Early in the season (21st Nov), two Little Tern adults attempted to breed at the entrance sandspit of the closed **Brou Lake**. This initial nesting attempt was unsuccessful, with the eggs suspected of being taken by one of numerous foxes that frequented the area. This single pair hung around for many more weeks without breeding. Then in early January numbers increased to over a dozen (possibly some relocated individuals from the initial failed nesting attempt at Tuross Lake) and 8 nests were laid containing 15 eggs. The 'Friends of Brou Lake' group kept a close eye on the colony during the summer months and 11 eggs hatched progressively from late January onwards. For the first time in over 5 seasons Little Tern chicks were fledged from Brou Lake. The final number of fledglings for this colony was 6 and all the Little Terns departed in early March.

Whilst no large gatherings of Little Terns occurred at **Mogareka** this season a smaller number of adults (approximately 20) managed to successfully nest on the entrance sandspit. Similar to previous seasons, the 'people fence' was erected at the site and a line of BVSC 'dogs prohibited' signs were erected at the southern end of the sandspit to prevent disturbance and allow the birds to settle. One or two nests were laid weekly from the 18th of December onwards, with a total of 10 nests containing 17 eggs being laid on the site. All nests were caged to prevent predation by the Silver Gulls and Foxes which occasionally frequented the site.

In anticipation of the king tides around early January volunteers sandbagged potentially vulnerable nests on the seaward side of the sandspit. Waves did wash through the 'dips' in the sandspit however only a small number of nests were lost in the swells. Chicks progressively hatched out from 11th of January onwards and 7 survived to fledge.



Mogareka Little Tern site pack up Photo: A. Harris

Initially the Little Tern breeding season on 'Bird Island' at **Wallagoot Lake** appeared promising with over 32 adults present in late November. These Little Terns were joined with up to 35 Fairy Terns. Little Tern nesting commenced very quickly with 5 nests found soon after their arrival on the large sandflats surrounding Bird Island. More nests were laid (up to 10) and all were caged. However within a fortnight of the commencement of the season a large dog appeared to have run through the colony and circled many nest cages. No eggs were taken but the majority of nests were abandoned after this disturbance. Only two pair remained incubating and their persistence paid off with at least three eggs hatching and the three chicks surviving to fledge. As with Brou Lake these are the first fledglings in many years from Wallagoot Lake.

For the first time a 'small tern' nest was discovered within **Nadgee Nature Reserve**. The nest containing a single egg, presumed to be a Little Tern nest, was found by NPWS field officer Simon Loshiavo on the 24th of November half way along Newtons Beach. Unfortunately this is the only sighting of the nesting attempt and the outcome is unknown.



One egg Little Tern nest at Wallagoot Photo: A.Harris

The Little Tern adult population for the southern coastline of NSW was estimated at 177 breeding pairs this season. From the 641 eggs laid in 314 nests, 273 chicks hatched and 143 chicks survived to fledge. This is one of the best seasons since the program began a decade ago. The Little Tern Recovery Plan aims for 0.5 fledglings per breeding pair for recovery of the species. This season we fledged an amazing 0.8 per breeding pair. What a great result thanks to the tireless efforts of the volunteers with monitoring, protection and most of all, the hard work of sandbagging!

Pied Oystercatchers

On the southern coastline of NSW this season the Pied Oystercatchers nested in most estuaries and along many beaches, particularly in the FSCR. Many pairs successfully raised at least one chick to fledgling and incredibly even three chicks in one instance. Bherwerre Beach, Cullendulla Creek and Wallagoot Lake appeared to be favoured feeding sites for Pied Oystercatchers towards the end of the breeding season, with over 29 sighted foraging along the shoreline at Wallagoot, including a few banded or flagged individuals.

During the 2008/09 breeding season 38 breeding pairs were monitored and similar to last breeding season most



large lakes and estuaries supported two or more breeding pairs (e.g. Lake Conjola - 5 BP's, Wagonga Inlet - 4 BP's). Additional non-breeding individuals were recorded opportunistically at many sites.

This season in the **South Coast Region** eleven breeding pairs and their nests were monitored over the breeding season. Of these six were only monitored sporadically and the outcome of nesting is uncertain. Two more pair were suspected of nesting but no nests were found.

Up at **Shoalhaven Heads** it seems the resident pair of Pied Oystercatchers has been replaced with two inexperienced breeding pairs much to local volunteer, Rex's, disappointment. Early in September a pair settled in the usual breeding location and began scraping. A fence



Pied Oystercatchers at Cullendulla Creek Nature Reserve Photo: John Perkins

Pied Oystercatcher breeding activity in the NSW South Coast & Far South Coast Regions — 2008/09 season

SITE	PAIRS	NESTS	EGGS	CHICKS	FLEDGLINGS	EGG MAIN FATE	CHICK MAIN FATE
Shoalhaven Heads	2	2 (N?)	1	0	0	Fx	
			1	0	0	I	
Berrara Creek	1					N?	
Berringer Lake Island	1	1	2	2	0	H	Uc
Conjola Lake Islands	3	3	2	2	0	H	Uc
			2	2	0	H	Uc
			2	0	0	Ue	
Lake Conjola Entrance	1	1	2	2	2	H	Fl
Narrawallee Inlet	1	1	2	2	1	H	Fl / Uc
Burrill Lake	1	1	2*	2	0	H	Uc
Durras Lake Entrance	1	2	3	0	0	Fx	
			2	2	1	H	Fl / Uc
Durras Lake	1	1	2*	2	2 PFI	H	PFI
Batemans Bay South	1	2	2	0	0	HI	
			3	2	1	H / Ab	Fl / Uc
SC TOTALS	11 BP	14	26	16	5 (+2PFI)		
Tuross Lake	3	3	2	2	0	H	Na/ Uc
			2	2	1	H	Uc / Fl
			1	0	0	Ue	
Brou Lake	1	1	2	1	1	A	Fl
Wagonga Inlet	4	4	2	2	1	H	Uc / Fl
			2	2	1	H	Uc / Fl
			2	1	1	Ue / H	Fl
			2	0	0	D?	
Tilba Lake	1	1	2	2	1?	H	Uc / PFI
Barragoot Lake	1	1	1	0	0	D	
Cuttagee Lake	1	1	2	1	1	H / Uc	Fl
Wallaga Lake	2	3	2	0	0	R	
			2	0	0	Fx	
			2#	0	0	Fx	
Bermagui	1	1	2	2	2?	H	PFI
Murrah River Entrance	1	1	3#	2	1	H / A	Uc / Fl
Middle Beach	1	2	2	0	0	Ue	
			1	0	0	Ue	
Nelsons Lagoon	1	1	2	2	2	H	Fl
Mogareka	1	2	2	2	0	H	Uc
			2	0	0	Ue	
Bournda Beach	2	N?					
Bournda Lagoon	1	3	2	0	0	Fx	
			2	0	0	G	
			2	0	0	R	
Haycock Point	1	1	1	0	0	Ue	
North Long Beach	1	1	3	2	2	Ue	Fl
Bithry Inlet	1	2	2	0	0	Ue	
			3	3	3	H	Fl
Wallagoot Lake	1	1	2	2	2	H	Fl
Saltwater Creek	1	1	2	1	1	Ue / H	Fl
Wonboyn Lake entrance	2	2	2	0	0	Ue	
			1	1	1?	H	PFI
Wonboyn Greenglades	1	1	2	0	0	Fx	
Whale Spit near Davidson's	1	N?					
FSC TOTALS	27 BP	33	64	30	17 (+4PFI)		
TOTALS	38 BP	47	90	46	22 (+6PFI)		

Abbreviations

U(e/c) = unknown egg or chick loss

D = dog disturbance

R = raven predation

* = nest not observed - assumed 2 eggs/chicks based on average clutch size

N = no nesting recorded

H = hatched

HI = human interference

Na = natural cause

N? = nesting suspected

Fl = fledged

G = goanna predation

^ = same BP as above

A = abandoned

PFI = possibly fledged

Fx = fox predation

= nest caged

and signs was quickly erected, however no eggs were ever found. There were fox tracks in the area but we are unsure if this is the reason for lack of nesting. Over on Comerong Island, just across the lagoon a second pair laid an egg in mid September. By the time Rex had returned with his camera, the egg was gone, possibly to the fox. In early October this pair laid another egg in a shallow depression made by a worm pump. The nest was in immediate danger of inundation so the egg was moved to a nearby scrape on higher ground. However the egg again disappeared by the next day. No further eggs were located but nest scrapes were made into December.

Further south at **Beecroft Peninsula**, Defence Rangers Mark Armstrong and Holly Macken reported Pied Oystercatchers nesting at Longbeach in mid October. Down at **Booderee National Park**, Ranger Tony Carter reported nesting Pieds at Green Point (inside Jervis Bay) and another pair on the northern side of Sussex Inlet. Reports in late October indicate the nests were fine with the Sussex nest possibly hatching however no further visits were made and the fate of these three nests is unknown and consequently they are not included in our data. Next season both Defence and Booderee Parks will be given further information on Pied Oystercatcher breeding biology, behaviour and nest protection.

At **Lake Conjola** three pairs of Pied Oystercatchers were found with two egg nests on the islands in late September. The northern most pair were on the small sand island in **Berringer Lake** and the nest was raised on sandbags. Another nest was found on the island opposite the Post Office and the third nest was on a nearby island close to the caravan park. In mid October a fourth pair was found with a two egg nest on an



A Pied Oystercatcher relaxes, safe and sound by the 'No Dogs' signage at Lake Conjola Entrance *Photo: J.Dunn*

island between the above two islands. The Post Office nest hatched and one chick was sighted. Later in the month the Berringer nest hatched and the two chicks were taken across to the mainland at low tide, however the Post Office Island family was already gone. In early November the Caravan Park island chicks were both sighted, but they soon disappeared too. The Berringer chicks were never seen again and the middle island nest disappeared too. The Post Office, middle and Berringer island adults were all sighted in early December but no fledglings were present. I thought these nests would be safe on the islands.....

At the **Lake Conjola Entrance** a pair nested in mid November with a two egg nest high on the dunes and right in the middle of the Little Tern colony. Both chicks hatched just before Christmas and survived the tourist season to fledge in late January.



L to R: Col putting the finishing touches on the raised nest on Berringer Lake Island, the parents wait, the completed nest, back on the nest *Photos: J.Dunn*

Down at **Narrawallee Inlet** a two egg nest was found on the spit in late September. Chicken necks were buried a few hundred metres north along the beach to keep the roaming fox away from the nesting area. Both of the chicks hatched in late October, however one chick was lost a week later and the other had a damaged wing. This was possibly a near miss from the fox or caused by trampling from people or dogs. After a couple of weeks an attempt was made to catch the chick to examine the wing, but the chick jumped in the water and swam to the other side. On returning the next day the family was together on the spit again. The chick went on to fledge and still forages with the parents in the area, although one wing hangs a bit low.

Further south at **Burrill Lake**, a pair of Pies were reported in mid October with a two week old chick in the reeds behind the bottle shop. This is the same site where the pair fledged a chick last season. However there were no further reports or sightings so it is assumed that the chick was lost.

At **Durras Lake Entrance** the pair had a three egg nest in mid September. However a week later the nest was gone and tracks indicated a fox had taken all three eggs. Fox trapping was undertaken and the fox was quickly removed from the area. In late November a second nest was found, with two eggs. The chicks hatched just after Christmas and only days later the shorebird area was vandalised with the fencing pulled down and stakes broken and strewn around. Both chicks survived until mid January when one was lost. The second chick fledged in early February.

Further up in **Durras Lake** the Pied Oystercatcher pair was reported nesting in late October. A few weeks later there was another report of two chicks, however there were no further sightings or reports so the fate of these chicks is unknown.

At **Bateman's Bay Marina** the resident pair of Pies nested right in the middle of the sandflat in mid September. The area was in danger of inundation so the



Jodie and Meryl raising the Batemans Bay Marina nest on sandbags, the finished nest with egg replaced, parent returns to incubate *Photo: J.Perkins*

two egg nest was raised on seven sandbags. Only a week later the nest site was vandalised with the string cut, sandbags thrown around and the eggs taken. In early October the pair renested in a 'secret location'. The three egg nest survived, however only two eggs hatched and the third was abandoned. Then in early December, just before fledging one of the chicks was taken during the day, perhaps by a raptor. The other chick survived to fledge. Sadly, this Pied Oystercatcher breeding site is to be dredged and developed in an extension of the Batemans Bay Marina. Let's hope they save enough space for the Pies.

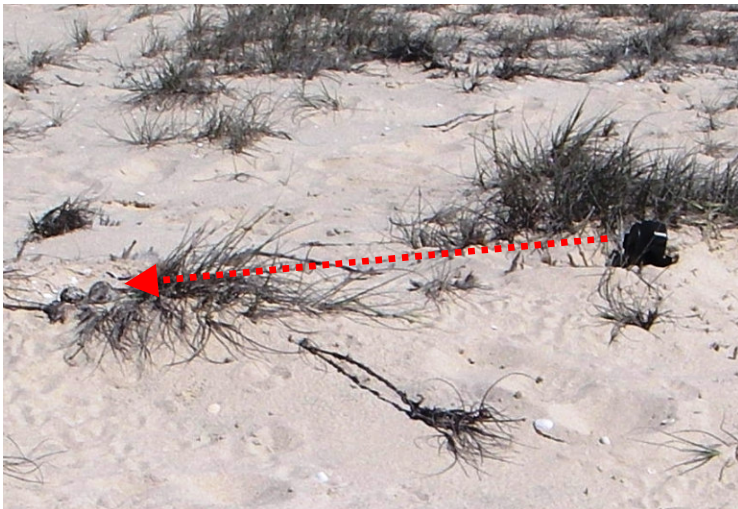
In total this season 11 breeding pairs in the SCR incubated 14 nests containing 28 eggs, hatching 18 chicks and definitely fledging five.

Down on the **Far South Coast** twenty seven breeding pairs were monitored this season. Due to the large number of nest sites monitored the details of each are not given here, instead a summary of various pairs from across the region is presented.

Wagonga Inlet (Narooma) was a significant site for Pied Oystercatcher breeding again this season. Four breeding pairs were monitored within the estuary, though up to 10 individuals were sighted. A central grassy island within the estuary proved to be the favoured nest site, with three of the four pair breeding



Pied Oystercatcher chicks at Durras Lake Entrance *Photo: J.Perkins*



The remote motion sensor camera watching the two egg Pied Oystercatcher nest (L) and a photo from the camera (R) Photos: A.Harris and MAC

here all within close proximity to each other (~5 m apart). All three pair managed to fledge one chick each, with each losing one chick to unknown causes. A fourth pair nested briefly on Lewis Island further up the inlet, however their eggs were taken soon after laying most likely by dogs that frequented the island despite signs being erected to warn visitors of the Pied Oystercatcher nest and the restricted dog access.

At two sites prone to fox predation, nest cages (1 m diameter circular cages) were erected around Pied Oystercatcher nests. At the first site, **Wallaga Lake**, this protection measure failed to stop the predation with a fox getting through the 10cm square wire (not under it) and taking the eggs. Conversely, at the **Murrah River entrance** caging the nest of the resident pair protected the eggs until their hatching in late October. One chick successfully fledged from this nest.

Bithry Inlet is always home to at least one breeding pair of Pied Oystercatcher. The long-time resident 'peg-leg' appeared to either have moved on or died and a new individual (possibly with peg-legs old partner?) moved in to breed. An initial breeding attempt only metres from the main entrance was successful in incu-

bating and hatching out two chicks. However these chicks were taken within a week of hatching possibly by the resident family of ravens. The location of the second nesting attempt remains a mystery, however the pair arrived back on the beach with 3 chicks in tow. One parent became entangled in fishing line, with both feet eventually entwined. Numerous attempts to catch this individual to free its legs were not successful, as it could fly unencumbered by the line. Despite this disability the pair managed to fledge the 3 chicks.

In the **FSCR** 27 breeding pairs incubated 33 nests containing 64 eggs, hatching 30 chicks and definitely fledging seventeen.

A total of thirty eight breeding pairs were monitored on the southern coastline of NSW this season. This is slightly less than last season (57 pairs) due to a lower number of monitored pairs in the FSCR. A few extra pairs were found in the SCR, however monitoring of these new pairs was sporadic and usually resulted in unknown egg or chick fates. Overall 47 nests were monitored across both regions, containing 90 eggs, hatching 46 chicks and fledging a definite 22 of these chicks.



Pied Oystercatcher family - parent in the middle and fledglings either side (L) and a three egg Pied nest (R) Photos: J.Dunn and Robyn Kesby

Sooty Oystercatchers



This season all eight **offshore islands** on the southern coastline of NSW were surveyed for nesting Sooty Oystercatchers. Most islands were surveyed once early in the season and if time permitted further visits were made to determine breeding success and fledgling numbers. A research student worked on Montague Island in the FSCR monitoring breeding throughout the season and in the SCR three nests were found on the mainland.

During November thorough surveys were undertaken of all seven offshore islands in the **SCR** – Brush, Belowla, Grasshopper, Wasp, the Tollgates (both islands) and Snapper. Brush Island was also visited earlier (late October) and later in the season (late February) in an effort to gain further insight into the problems with breeding success on this island. A Sooty Oystercatcher nest was also found at Island Beach and another two were reported at Honeymoon Bay on Beecroft Peninsula and Point Upright at Durras.

The first survey of **Brush Island** was undertaken on the 27th and 28th of October during a Seabird Study. There were 12 pairs of Sooty Oystercatchers but no breeding activity displayed yet. On the second visit on the 10th of November nineteen Sooty Oystercatcher pairs were defending territory on the island, however there were only 5 nests containing 7 eggs. Another nest contained a broken egg which showed signs of avian predation. Numerous nest scrapes were found all around the island. A third visit to the island on the 20th of February revealed only 5 individual birds remaining

on the island and no fledglings. Probably a bit too late to gauge breeding success.

Belowla Island was surveyed on the 11th of November. This small island was very busy with seventeen pairs of Sooty Oystercatchers. Fourteen of these had active nests containing 24 eggs and a further two pair had nests containing a single broken egg each. The last pair did not appear to be associated with any nest and overall there were no signs of any chicks yet.

Grasshopper Island was also surveyed on the 11th of November. Eleven pairs were found on the island. Six of these pairs had nests containing 7 eggs and one of these nests also contained a broken egg in addition to the whole egg. Three Sooty pairs had chicks, one chick was sighted for each pair however a second chick from each nest may have been hiding. One pair of Sooties was high up on an inaccessible cliff and by their behaviour obviously had eggs or chicks. The final pair did not have any nest.

Just to the south, **Wasp Island** was surveyed later the same day. There were nine pairs present with five having nests containing 7 eggs and another pair definitely had chicks as one was sighted. A seventh pair was high on an inaccessible cliff and appeared to have eggs or chicks. A further two pairs were not associated with any nests. Interestingly the Reef Egret was sighted flying out from the same area on the southern side of the island where a nest with chicks was found last season, however there was no current nesting activity.

On the 13th of November both the **Tollgate islands** were surveyed for Sooty Oystercatchers. The northern island had 3 pairs. One with a 2 egg nest, another with

Sooty Oystercatcher breeding activity in the NSW South Coast & Far South Coast Regions — 2008/09 season

Site	Pairs	Eggs	Chicks	Fledglings	Main fate
Jervis Bay (Honeymoon Bay)	1	2	2	?	Uc
Murramarang National Park	2	3	0	0	Fx / Ue
Brush Is	19	7	0	0	U
Belowla Is	17	24	0	?	U
Grasshopper Is	11	7-9	3-7	?	U
Wasp Is	9	7-9	1-4	?	U
Nth Tollgate Is	3	2	1-4	?	U
Sth Tollgate Is	5	3	4-6	?	U
Snapper Is	3	2	1	?	U
Montague Island	10	17	5	2	FI / U / AP / I / A
Total	80	74-78	17-29	2	
<div> <div>Abbreviations</div> <div>A = abandoned</div> </div> <div> <div>U(e/c) = unknown egg or chick loss</div> <div>FI = fledged</div> </div> <div> <div>Fx = Fox predation</div> <div>I = inundation</div> </div> <div> <div>AP = avian predation</div> </div>					

chicks and the third pair possibly had chicks. On the southern island five pairs were found. Two pairs had nests, a one-egg nest and the other with two eggs, two chicks were sighted from the third pair while the other two pair definitely behaved as though they had chicks although none could be found.

Further inside Batemans Bay the Crown Lands **Snapper Island** was also surveyed. Of the three pairs sighted on the island, one had a two-egg nest, another had a dead chick and possibly another live one hiding and the third pair did not appear to have a nest.

In addition to these offshore island nests, three nests were found on the mainland of the SCR. In mid October a nest was reported at **Honeymoon Bay** by Booderee Ranger, Tony Carter. A few days later Holly Macken from Beecroft Peninsula Defence Rangers put up signs to keep people away and soon after reported behaviour which indicated the chicks had hatched. However it is unknown if the chicks fledged.

In mid October a mainland Sooty nest was reported at **Point Upright** just north of Durras, by an employee of the nearby Caravan Park. However upon further investigation of this rocky headland there were no nest or chicks. The area will be surveyed next year more

regularly. In early December a one egg Sooty nest was found on top of the dune on the southern end of **Island Beach** (south of Pretty Beach). However four days later the nest was gone and surrounding tracks indicated that a fox had taken the egg, but had also taken a 1080 poison bait from the nearby bait station.

This season in the FSCR the Sooty Oystercatcher population on **Montague Island** was monitored as part of an ANU Honours research project undertaken by Lucy Aplin. Lucy was researching the foraging behaviour and breeding success of Sooty Oystercatcher pairs breeding along the southern shoreline of the island. This regular surveying resulted in establishment of more accurate outcomes for most breeding pairs than has been possible in the past. Ten breeding pair were identified on the South Island of Montague this season, with 17 eggs in 8 nests, hatching 5 chicks and two of these fledged. Lucy also undertook metal banding of many Sooty Oystercatcher chicks.

Overall 59 breeding pairs were identified on the southern coastline of NSW with 49 nests containing 74-78 eggs and 17-29 chicks. Two of these chicks definitely fledged. In addition there were a further 21 non-breeding pairs and 2 individuals bringing the southern population to 162 Sooties.



Clockwise from top left: Sooty Oystercatcher with Pigeonhouse Mountain in the background, the Tollgates - Sooty nesting islands, Amy with a nest on Montague, adult Sooty on Brush Is, Lucy with a banded chick, young chick in the Jodie's hand Photos: Stuart Cohen, J.Dunn, A.Harris and M.Jarman

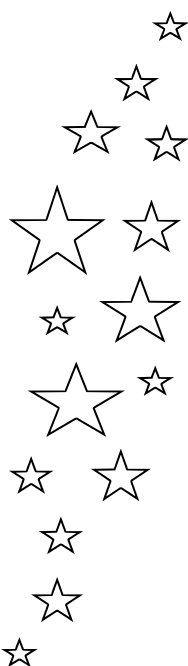
☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ New Babies on the Beach! ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



Jordi Harry Harris

Amy and Kevin Harris
Born 05/04/08 in Moruya
Weighed 4.5 kg

Jordi loves being in his sling and out-
doors in the park looking at the birds
already (magpies, pee wee's silver
gulls, etc.)

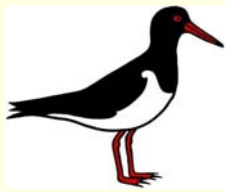


Maya Violet Jarman

Jillian Keating and Mike Jarman
Born 16/12/08 at 4:44pm in Milton
Weighed 3.5kg and was 48cm long

Maya loves being outside - watching the trees blow in the
wind, scrunching the sand on the beach through her toes, and
of course listening to the birds sing! She even 'helped' fence her
first Hooded Plover nest at age 2 weeks - must be in the genes!





Thanks to all the South Coast Shorebird volunteers



Thank- you for all your support, assistance and most of all your passion for protecting our threatened shorebirds. Together we worked hard to have yet another great season on the south coast. We couldn't have done it without you and Amy and I hope to see you all again next season :)

Save the Shorebirds



Shorebirds 2020 There is increasing evidence that migratory shorebird populations throughout the world are declining. Shorebirds using the East-Asian Australasian Flyway are under threat from widespread habitat destruction, especially prevalent in East Asia. Australia, home to 38 species of migratory shorebird during the non-breeding season, is uniquely placed to assess the impacts of these threats on shorebird numbers. Shorebirds 2020 is a program designed to reinvigorate and coordinate national shorebird monitoring in Australia in order to detect population trends nationally and at individual sites. If you would like to help with monitoring just twice a year in your local area check out our website for info on survey sites, bird ID and how to conduct a count www.shorebirds.org.au

South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program Website

Check out our new website with information on the birds, breeding sites and volunteering and great photos. Also find the latest newsletters and reports. We will use the webpage to update you on nesting success throughout the season.

www.southcoastshorebirds.com.au

Hooded Plover stickers available now.

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Stickers are available from Nowra, Ulladulla, Narooma & Merimbula NPWS offices, or from the Shorebird Recovery Coordinators:

Jodie Dunn
PO Box 72
Ulladulla 2539

Amy Jorgensen
PO Box 282
Narooma 2546

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* version next season please email me at jodie.dunn@environment.nsw.gov.au

