

Beach Closure



FINES APPLY

NO 4WDs, DOGS OR HORSES PERMITTED IN THE NOOSA RIVER ESTUARY



Did you know?

Many sandbanks are too small to accommodate both humans and birds, so if people are recreating nearby, shorebirds will avoid the site.

4WDs Can Destroy Nesting Habitats



4WD vehicles can inadvertently destroy the nesting habitat by driving over dunes. As much as possible please drive below the high tide mark and stay off the dunes.

Did you know?

The former Noosa Council established the Noosa Bird Trail in 2004. The Noosa North Shore is site 32 on the Noosa Bird Trail.

Phone Noosa Parks Association for a brochure 5474 2486 or visit:

www.noosaparks.org.au/noosabirdtrail



Interested in birding? Contact the Noosa Parks Association Bird Observers Group on 5476 2123.

Did you know?

Pied Oystercatchers can live for up to 22 years, and have a low breeding rate. One dead breeding Oystercatcher represents a potentially large loss for their population. We can't afford to lose any.

Did you know?

Bar-tailed Godwits fly 11,000 kilometres without stopping - the longest known non-stop flight of migratory land birds. To fuel the flight they gorge whilst they are here to build up a thick layer of fat.

Sunshine Coast
Regional Council

For more information, contact
Sunshine Coast Regional Council on 5449 5166.

MIGRATORY AND RESIDENT SHOREBIRDS AND TERNS

Noosa North Shore



*Information about Resident Shorebirds,
Migratory Shorebirds & Terns that call
Noosa North Shore Home*

Help protect Noosa's unique wildlife

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Regional Council

Significance

A census of shorebirds between October 2005 and January 2007 revealed that the Noosa North Shore and sandbanks within the Noosa River estuary is an area of "National and International Importance" under criteria set by the National Plan for Shorebird Conservation in Australia.

A total of 43 species of birds was recorded during the study period. Several species are protected under international agreements including the China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, the Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention).

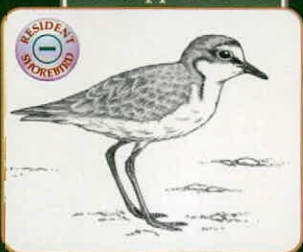
Which birds come here?

Every spring/summer the Noosa River mouth estuary becomes home to migratory terns such as the Little Tern, Common Tern and White-winged Black Tern and migratory shorebirds such as the Pacific Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

The number of migratory birds here in the Noosa River mouth can swell to almost 40,000 when migratory species join resident shorebirds such as the Pied Oystercatcher and Red-capped Plover.

During the census of February 2006 at least 35,000 of the 38,500 migratory terns recorded were the Common Tern *Sterna hirundo longipennis*.

Red-capped Plover



Bar-tailed Godwit



Pacific Golden Plover



Little Tern



Common Tern



Pied Oystercatcher



Where do they come from?

An estimated two million shorebirds migrate annually to Australia from their breeding grounds in arctic Asia, Alaska and the North Pacific.

Some fly as much as 12,000km each way annually from Arctic Russia and back again. They stay in Australia between October and March, building up strength to undertake their journey back to their breeding grounds.

On reaching their destination, they breed and subsequently return to Australia, however juveniles may stay the whole year until mature enough to undertake the migratory journey.



The need for rest and food

Migratory shorebirds must have space, food and protection from predators and disturbances, to recuperate from long flights and to prepare for the next stage of their journey.

When they are not feeding or transiting, shorebirds roost, generally at or above the high tide mark. To conserve energy, they also select roosting areas that are conveniently close to their feeding areas.

Human activities can impact on shorebirds more than 200m away.

When shorebirds take flight because a person, animal, vehicle or vessel disturbs them, they use up critical energy. This means the birds might not gain enough condition for migration and/or breeding. Repeated disturbance exacerbates this problem.

Disturbances to migratory shorebirds are most critical if they occur in January to April before the shorebirds depart and in September/October when they have just returned and are recovering from their journey.

Domestic animals, especially uncontrolled dogs, are a major source of disturbance to shorebirds.

Disturbance has increased in recent decades, with growing numbers of people both living and recreating in areas frequented by shorebirds. Ultimately such disturbances have the potential to impact significantly on the continued success of the species.

You can help by:

- Observing birds quietly from a distance
- Keeping dogs out of the Noosa River Estuary.
- Avoiding driving on foredunes where resident shorebirds nest.

