Walk on the wet sand..
Keep your dog on a leash..
Watch your step for
BEACH NESTING BIRDS
..near the dunes in Spring and Summer

Tasmanian beaches are a scenic and magical place to visit and enjoy during Spring and Summer. These beaches are also critical homes to our resident shorebirds, seabirds and migratory shorebirds. Between Spring and Summer, when their breeding occurs and our time at the beach increases, these birds are under enormous pressure.

P.Gray

E.Woehler

Did you know:

- Resident shorebirds in Tasmania are the Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, Hooded and Red-capped Plovers;
- Resident shorebirds spend their lives on beaches and exclusively feed and breed in coastal environments;
- Birds found on beaches of Tasmania are rapidly decreasing in numbers, and the Hooded Plover, Little and Fairy Terns and Little Penguin as well as 36 migratory shorebirds are all vulnerable, these species are all protected in Australia;
- Eggs of shorebirds are small, very well camouflaged and laid direct on the sand above the high tide mark, making them very hard to see and very easy to step on;
- A breeding adult may attempt to distract you by faking a broken wing and calling, this indicates a vulnerable nest or chick is nearby;
- Some shorebirds can live up to 20 - 30 years.

Shorebirds are under many pressures, and with increased human visitors and disturbance on beaches during the breeding season, successful breeding of chicks is falling. With no chicks to replace adults, birds are disappearing from our coasts.

You can enjoy the beach between Spring and Summer, and protect these little birds by following simple steps:

- Walk near the wet sand close to shore, below the high tide mark;
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times unless the beach is an "off-leash" area;
- Check your surrounds before fishing, sunbaking or sitting on the beach;
- Bird watch from a distance-50 metres if you see birds on the beach;
- Be aware of known shorebird breeding areas - look for signs or watch for birds on a beach;
- Stay clear of temporary fencing, this may indicate nearby nest and chicks, prone to disturbance or trampling;
- If you do have a 4WD permit for the beach, stick to the hard sand, well below the high tide mark;
- Leave seaweed or other natural beach materials where you find them;
- Live local? Keep your cat inside at night and desex them; cat regulations may prohibit cats on public reserves, and report feral cat sightings;
- Pick up and dispose of rubbish, fishing lines or plastic;
- Bring your binoculars or camera and take photos away with you
- Join a local wildcare, coastcare, or start your own, care group!

The South East Regional Shorebird Alliance of Tasmania is a collaboration of natural resource managers and dedicated individuals from local Councils, BirdLife Tasmania, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service rangers and Summer Discovery Ranger program, NRM South and coastal community groups.

We are working together across Southern Tasmania to improve breeding success of our shorebirds, penguins and migratory birds. Join us to look after our precious Tasmanian wildlife.

Want more info? Visit your local Parks and Wildlife office to join free Discovery Ranger activities, visit a tourist centre or go to www.nrmsouth.org.au about the alliance.

You can join BirdLife Tasmania or donate to them. BirdLife Tasmania provides ongoing bird surveys, technical support, training and advocacy. Go to www.birdlife.org.au/tasmania

Enjoy the coast, enjoy the weather & share the beach with those of a feather.