

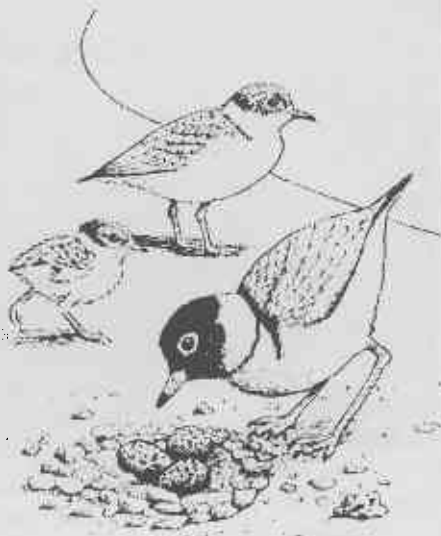
## IN BRIEF

# HAVE YOU SEEN HOODED PLOVERS?

The Hooded Plover is a bird of coasts and salt lakes in southern Australia that is rare and declining. In some areas its range has contracted and its numbers dwindled, and now it is estimated that the total population is only about 5000 birds.

It lives and breeds on beaches and salt lake margins. Its nest is a small scrape on an open beach, very hard to see because of the cryptic colouring, but vulnerable to cats and foxes.

Birds Australia has a project to survey for the Hooded Plover. Although predominantly coastal, as you can see from the map, they do occur inland. This winter, as your local salt lake fills, have a look for Hooded Plovers. Contact Julie Raines at Birds Australia and she will send you recording sheets and notes on the birds, including identification of possibly confusing species.



*Drawing by Judy Blyth.*



*Julie Raines: ph/fax 9306 5819 or  
email: [birdswa@starwon.com.au](mailto:birdswa@starwon.com.au)*