

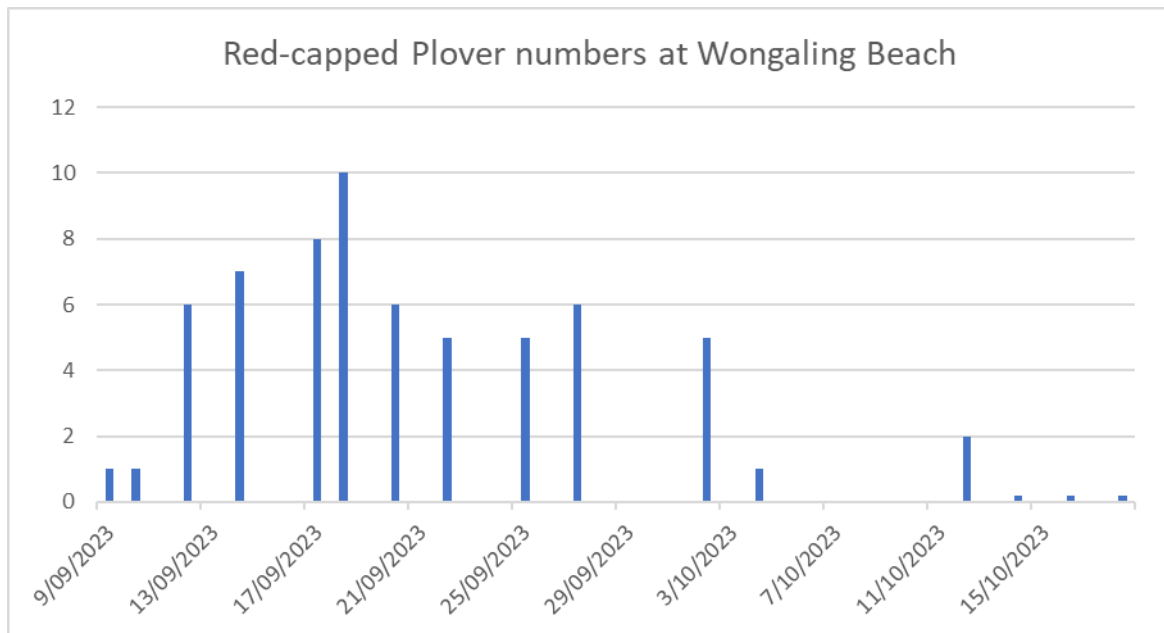
Wongaling Beach Beach-nesting Birds records and Threats Profile: 9 September 2023 –
18 October 2023

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Wongaling Beach is suitable nesting habitat for Little Terns, Beach Stone-curlews, Red-capped Plovers and possibly Pied Oystercatchers. A team of surveyors from the local area have conducted 21 surveys here in 7 weeks, as the area comes into the breeding season. 20 species have been recorded, including two beach-nesting species (Red-capped Plover and Little Tern) a migratory shorebird (Lesser Sand Plover) and three coastal raptors (Osprey, Brahminy Kite and White-bellied Sea-Eagle).

Species	Scientific Name	No. of surveys	No. of birds
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	17	22
Red-capped Plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>	15	66
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	5	6
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	5	5
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	4	9
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	4	4
Torresian Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula spilorrhoea</i>	3	30
Australian Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon macrotarsa</i>	3	3
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	2	2
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>	1	20
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis moluccus</i>	1	12
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>	1	6
Black Butcherbird	<i>Melloria quoyi</i>	1	1
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	1	1
Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera sylvia</i>	1	1
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	1	1
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	1	1
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	1	1
Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	1	1
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	1	1

The Red-capped Plover is still a resident beach-nesting bird at Wongaling Beach. Numbers fell in October, coinciding with an algal bloom, with zero Red-capped Plovers sighted in three consecutive mid-October surveys. Ospreys were also frequently reported, as the beach is part of a known territory for these raptors. Lesser Sand Plovers are an Endangered migratory shorebird. Numbers were small but records on several occasions suggest that the creek estuary is a suitable foraging habitat, and this species forages in both muddy and sandy environments.



30 threat assessments were conducted from the 21 surveys (a threat assessment can be carried out whenever a beach-nesting bird is encountered, so there can be more than one threat assessment per survey).

- Off-leash dogs were encountered on >50% of surveys.
- Dog on-leash compliance rate was 25% by total number of dogs and 36% by number of surveys encountering dogs. These surveys are within an on-leash area south of Miter St.
- Bicycles were encountered frequently (37%), as the beach sand is hard and flat. This activity is probably largely below high tide mark but could crush small and cryptic chicks.
- Quadbike frequency was much lower than data collected from many other Little Tern habitats in the area. These tend to be a greater problem on beaches with fewer people.
- Horses and horse tracks were encountered on three occasions.

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	off-leash dogs	On-leash dogs	Humans*	Bicycles	Quadbikes	Horses
Assessments (n=30)	16 (53.3%)	9 (30%)	27 (90%)	11 (37%)	3 (10%)	3 (10%)
Mean no. per survey	1.53	0.5	6.7	NA	NA	NA

*-denotes humans other than the observer(s)