



FACTSHEET

Pied Oyster-catcher

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Common Name: Australian Pied Oyster-catcher

Scientific Name: *Haematopus longirostris*

Conservation Status: Listed as Least Concern under ICUN (2014). All Rottnest Island's fauna is protected under the *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*.

Habitat: Coastal habitat, Wetlands.

Body length: 42-45 cm

Weight: 550 g

Gestation period: 28-30 days

Number of young: 1-3 (2-3 eggs)

Description:

The Australian Pied Oyster-catcher is easy to identify because of its distinct colouring. Its head, breast, shoulders, wing and tail are all black. Its undersides are white and it has a white bar on each wing. It has a long red bill and red eyes with pink legs.

Diet:

Molluscs, worms, snails.

In the Wild:

There are 18-25 breeding pairs of Pied Oyster-catchers on the Island. These wading birds are territorial, defending up to 200m from their nest sites. These Oyster-catchers nest above the high tide level on the sand or on the cliffs looking over their area. Both the male and female of the species share parenting duties.

These birds feed in the intertidal zone (area between low and high tide) of beaches. As the water retreats, they run down the beach looking for holes in the sand. These holes show where molluscs, worms or snails might be hidden. Their strong red bill is well adapted to probe the holes for food.



Threats:

- Human activity causing disturbance and habitat loss
- Unnaturally high Silver Gull populations
- Introduced predators such as foxes, dogs and cats
- Pollution

DID YOU KNOW?

Pied oyster-catchers pretend to have a broken wing to try and distract intruders or predators away from their nest.

