

Swooping Birds

Plovers

About Plovers

Plovers, also known as Masked Lapwings, are a ground dwelling bird, that have a black head and yellow beak, a light brown back and white underside.

Plovers' habitat includes wetlands and grassy woodland areas. In urban and peri-urban areas, they will also be observed in paddocks, grassy public reserves and road verges, and sport grounds.

Unlike magpies, who build their nests in trees, plovers will lay their eggs in a small depression in the ground. They have also been observed laying their eggs on flat roof tops and in gutters.



Image Credit: David Croft/DPIE

Plovers are protective parents and will exhibit aggressive behaviour towards anything they perceive as a threat to their nest and chicks. When they feel there is a threat, they will screech and swoop intruders until they feel there is no longer a threat to their nest or chicks.

Reduce your chances of being swooped

- Plovers will fearlessly protect their nest, so it is best to give the nest and chicks a wide berth.
- Plovers will screech to warn you that you are too close to their nests or chicks.
- Do not deliberately harass or provoke the birds.
- If you need to enter their space, it is best not to directly walk towards the birds or make eye contact.
- Keep your dog on a leash to reduce the risk of disturbance to the birds.

This protective behaviour only last for a short period of time. For rest of the year, plovers are more placid and wary of humans.

More information can be found on the WIRES website (www.wires.org.au/plovers) and the Backyard Buddies website (www.backyardbuddies.org.au/masked-lapwing-plover).