Meet the African Black Oystercatcher

#ShareTheShores



Eat molluscs like mussels, limpets, & clams by prying them open with their screw-driver like bill, but also use their long bill to probe into the sand or mud for other invertebrates (like worms).

Our region is home to around 2% of their population.

You can sometimes tell between male & female by the flecks in their eyes

Usually have 2 eggs in a nest

It takes ±28 days for the eggs to hatch, & ±30 days for the chicks to fledge/become juveniles.

Chicks are fed for several weeks after which the parents teach them how and what to feed on by pointing with their bright red bills.

Chicks have a small, vestigial claw that sticks out from their wing

Very sensitive to disturbance → Large size and colour makes them more visible on beaches; attracting more attention from beach users!



The babies can swim!



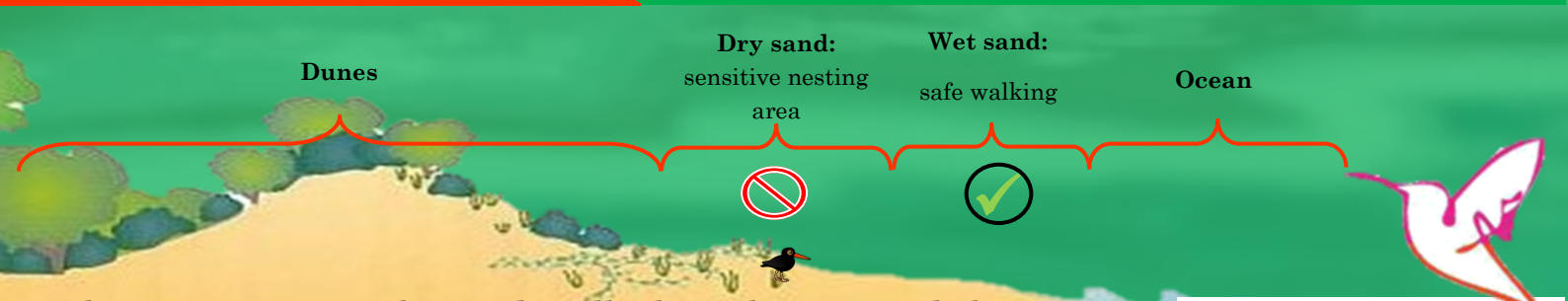
Breed in the vegetated foredune hummocks, as well as on rocky shores and outcroppings

Main threats

Humans & Dogs

- Dogs can cause exposure to harsh weather, predation and possible injury to chicks and adults, when chasing parents off the nests—can lead to nest abandonment.
- Chicks that spend too much time hiding from humans can suffer from exposure, malnutrition or become more vulnerable to predation by gulls or other predators.

How can you help



- When nest sites are observed, walk along the wet sand close to the water's edge.
- Always keep your dog leashed.

BirdLife