Top 5 Beach-nesters

Kelp Gull



The largest gulls in the region & usually nest in colonies. They have a robust yellow bill with a red dot on the lower bill.

White-fronted Plover



Small, camouflaged birds that always return to the same nesting area & may pretend to be injured to distract you from their nest. 40 pairs occur between Nature's Valley & Plett.

Caspian Tern



The largest of the Terns, with a red bill, tipped black. Black cap when breeding, streaked white when not. Occur in wetlands & sheltered coastal habitats.

Water Thick-knee



Grey-brown plumage with fine streaks and visible wingbar. Usually in pairs along rivers, lakes & lagoons. Mostly nocturnal but active during day.

Afr. Black Oystercatcher



Large black bird with pink legs & long, bright orange bill. Near-threatened with a global population of only 6600 - 50 pairs between Nature's Valley & Plett.



African Spoonbills

Tall, white wading bird, with spoon-shaped bill.

Adults have a bare pink-red face & pale eyes. Feeds in shallows with a sweeping motion of its bill. Fairly common nomad in our area.





#ShareTheShores



Share The Shores

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White-fronted Plover

Be Aware...

Shore-nesting birds are very sensitive to threats entering their territory. They become defensive, standing, running or flying away.

Remaining too close to their nests causes defensive behaviour and depending on the species they will dive-bomb, call & shriek, or even pretend to have a broken limb to lure your attention from their nests.

These behaviours may attract the attention of nearby predators to the nests and young.

Extensive time defending their territory while off the nest can also cause egg/chick death due to heat exposure.



African Black Oystercatcher

Threats to Survival

Shorebirds nest and lay their eggs on beaches in shallow scrapes in the sand. The nests are often very well camouflaged and unsuspecting beach users may accidentally trample them. When nesting birds are forced to leave their nests, their eggs and chicks are left vulnerable to the elements and to predators. Disturbances that cause birds to take flight or leave their young may threaten their survival.

Importance of Nests

Populations of shore-nesting birds are rapidly declining due to modification of beaches by human expansion and development. The success of each nest may therefore be critical for the survival of that species.

Call to Action!

- **Birds become agitated and leave the nest when you are too close. Stay at least 30m away.**
- **Give them some space and avoid designated nesting areas.**
- **Even well-trained dogs can be perceived as a threat. Keep dogs leashed where required.**
- **Do not litter or feed wildlife. Food attracts wild animals which may prey on birds, their chicks and even eggs.**
- **Spread the word! If you see people disturbing nesting areas, gently remind them of how their actions are affecting the birds.**

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