

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

In the estuary
All year round



The **Masked Lapwing** is an aggressive bird, defending its eggs and chicks by swooping any invaders and scolding them in a loud screeching voice. This allows them to raise young in urban areas where cats, dogs, possums and rats often take eggs or chicks. Nests are often in unusual places such as roundabouts, rooftops or football ovals. The birds were once known as Spur-winged Plovers. They are not true plovers, but are related to the lapwings from other parts of the world, so the name was changed.

Beak-to-tail: 35 – 40 cm

In the estuary
September - April

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Ruddy Turnstones are dumpy waders that act like small bulldozers as they move along the beach or rock platforms tossing aside rocks or seaweed in their search for sandhoppers and small molluscs. They migrate to breeding grounds in Eastern Siberia, departing around April and arriving back in the following September.

Beak-to-tail: 22 – 24 cm

