

PLOVER, NEW GUINEA MASKED

RANGE:

New Guinea, southeast Australia, New Zealand (includes several subspecies)

HABITAT:

The plovers frequent wet grasslands, but will readily invade human made habitats such as farmland, pastures, sports grounds and airfields.

SIZE:

Length: 35 cm

REPRODUCTION:

- Both male and female have similar coloration.
- Breeds mainly in the southeast region of Australia.
- Nest is usually a vegetation lined depression on the ground, similar to killdeer, however birds have been known to nest on the roofs of houses.
- Breeds throughout the year, as long as there is wet weather.

DIET:

Earthworms, other small invertebrates, insects, seeds and vegetables.

BEHAVIOR:

- Non-breeding flocks of birds of up to 100 individuals may form and travel over wide areas in the search for food and suitable habitat.
- Their main call is a loud, penetrating rattle, often heard at night, which has led to the birds being highly disliked by farmers.
- It is a wading bird

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The birds are olive-brown above and white on the belly. The crown or top of the head, outer wing feather and sub-terminal band are black and the wing has a brown tipped yellow spur at the "wrist". A broad black stripe runs down the back and extends both above and below the eye. Northern subspecies exhibits large yellow facial wattles.
- Has been very adaptable to European settlement.

STATUS:

Common. Populations in some areas are actually growing problematic for other species.

REFERENCE:

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/scribblygum/March2000/>

<http://www.nzbirds.com/spurwingedplover.html>

theZOO

L O U I S V I L L E

PHOTO
COMING
SOON

Order:	Charadriiformes
Family:	Charadriidae
Genus:	Vanellus
Species:	miles