



# Wet and Wild



## 2020, Week 3 - Answers Wonderful Wet & Wild Wetlands

### Red-capped plovers, red-capped dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

1. I have white underparts and forehead. My upperparts are mainly grey-brown.
8. Adult males have a rufous or reddish-brown crown and hindneck like a 'cap'.
10. I am 14–16 cm long and my wingspan is 27–34 cm; and weigh 35–40 g.
15. I mainly eat small molluscs, crustaceans and worms around sandflat and mudflat areas with bare ground.
17. My nest is a small depression in the ground, with minimal or no lining, close to a wetland or shoreline.
20. I have a clutch of two pale yellowish-brown eggs that are speckled with black spots.

### Fleurieu leek orchid *Prasophyllum murfettii*

2. I am a tall species of orchid endemic to South Australia.
6. I have a single dark green, tubular leaf and a flower spike with over thirty greenish with brown, pink and white flowers.
9. I only grow around the edges of swamps on the Fleurieu Peninsula.
16. There are between 100 and 150 individual plants of my species growing in two places and I'm listed as "Critically Endangered".
21. The main threats to the species are vegetation clearance, drying of catchments, stock trampling and inappropriate fires.
24. I'm one of 30 plants that the Australian Government has prioritised to support the species recovery effort.

### Yarra Pygmy Perch *Nannoperca obscura*

5. I grow to about 6.5 cm long with a deeply notched single dorsal fin and rounded tail fin.
11. I prefer to live in shallow (1-2 m) freshwater streams with moderate to high water flow.
13. I live 1-5 years and spawn during spring (September to October) laying eggs on aquatic vegetation in clear, fresh water.
14. My body colour is gold to dusky brown-grey, paler on the belly, with dark spots or blotches along the midline.
18. My diet includes insects such as mosquito larvae, molluscs and planktonic crustaceans
22. Major threats include wetland drainage, habitat damage, altered water flows and predation by introduced fish including Redfin perch and Mosquito fish.

### Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

3. I have a wingspan of 2.3 - 2.5 m and my pink bill is the longest of any living bird at 40 cm - 50 cm long.
4. I catch mainly fish, but I'm an opportunistic feeder and eat a variety of aquatic animals including crustaceans and turtles.
7. I'm a strong flier and will move to inland lakes during times of drought.
12. I can live over 30 years and it is said that my beak can hold more than my belly can.
19. Mr Percival, Storm Boy's friend on the windswept Coorong was one of my species.
23. The Coorong is an important breeding ground for me thanks to the area's abundance of fish.



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