

# Piping Plovers at Barnegat Light

Piping Plovers are an endangered bird which nests on our beaches. Efforts in New Jersey are critical to help prevent it from going extinct.



Jim Verhagen

These delicate birds are nesting at Barnegat Light in increasing numbers and it is all thanks to your Beautiful Natural Beach Habitat.

But they still need your help! Since they lay their eggs directly on the sand, they are very well camouflaged and easy to step on. This is why we put up fencing around their nests.

When the chicks hatch, they leave the nest (and the fenced areas!) to reach the shoreline where they feed. Mom and dad do not bring them food – they have to feed themselves. They are vulnerable to loss by predators, vehicles, and being disturbed by beach goers.

## *How can you help?*

### **DO NOT CHASE OR PICK UP PIPING PLOVERS, THEIR EGGS OR THEIR CHICKS.**

Although it may seem that a bird or its chicks are injured, they are not. They mainly use camouflage to hide from predators and will crouch on the ground to hide.

### **RESPECT FENCED AREAS.**

Posting areas with “Area Closed” signs gives the nesting parents some room to feel comfortable as people walk by. But when their nests hatch, chicks *will not* stay inside the posted areas, and will move to the water’s edge to feed, so keep a look out and avoid approaching them!

### **WALK YOUR DOG AWAY FROM NESTING AREAS.**

Dogs can disrupt nesting birds, leaving their eggs and chicks vulnerable to predators or exposed to summer heat. Dogs may chase or even kill chicks! Even a well-behaved or leashed dog is a threat to plovers because the birds cannot tell the difference between a real and perceived predator.

### **GIVE THE BIRDS SOME SPACE.**

Kite-flying, Frisbee, other games and drones should be enjoyed well away from nesting and foraging areas.

### **TAKE YOUR TRASH WITH YOU.**

Crows, gulls, foxes, and raccoons are drawn to food waste and litter left behind on our beaches. These predator species are some of the biggest threats to Piping Plovers.

Want More Information? Visit:

<https://exit63.wordpress.com> AND [www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/beachnester\\_info.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/beachnester_info.htm)