

Photo courtesy of Alice Van Zoeren



**WATCH YOUR STEP!** Piping plover nests are shallow depressions in the sand lined with small pebbles or shells. The pebbles or shells are used to camouflage the nest from predators. Both the male and female plovers incubate the eggs.

Photo courtesy of Vince Cavallieri



**PIPING PLOVERS ARE BANDED** with specific combinations to allow scientists to monitor piping plovers and discover important information that may allow us to improve the populations. The orange band on the upper leg indicates that this bird hatched in the Great Lakes region. Other colors are used to distinguish birds from the other regional populations, including the Great Plains and the Atlantic Coast.

Photo courtesy of Alice Van Zoeren



**NEST ENCLOSURES** like the one pictured above are used to protect the nest and plovers from predators. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, tribes, universities, non-profit organizations, and many volunteers work together to monitor piping plovers throughout the Great Lakes. Through monitoring, scientists are able to determine nest success and keep an eye out for predators.



The Superior Watershed Partnership's Great Lakes Conservation Corps (GLCC) crews installed piping plover educational signage at several known nesting sites – including this sign in Grand Marais, MI. Additional GLCC work to protect nesting sites along the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior shoreline has included: site mapping and assessments, vehicle barrier installations, as well as community outreach.



## Report Any Disturbance

Report any disturbance to:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
(517) 351-2555

Report-all-Poaching (RAP)  
DNR Hotline Call or Text  
(800) 292-7800



# Great Lakes PIPING PLOVER

**The Great Lakes Piping Plover** is a federally listed endangered species and is at risk of becoming extinct. This small bird species is a member of the plover family and is a summer resident in the Great Lakes region from mid-April to mid-August. During the winter, piping plovers can be found along the Gulf of Mexico and the southeast Atlantic coast.



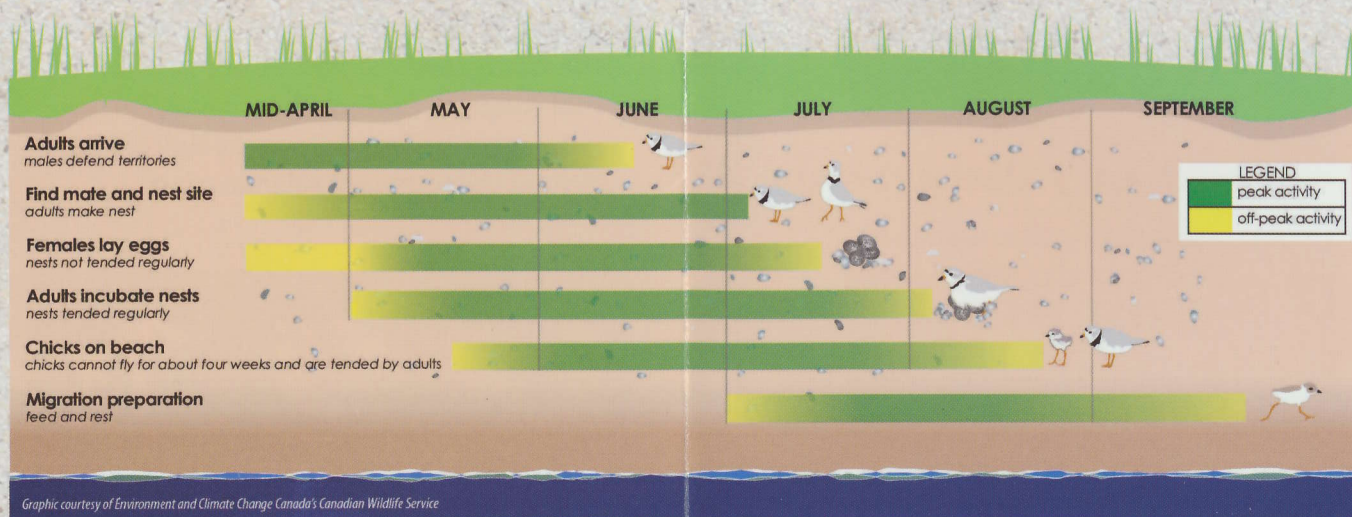




## Why is the piping plover endangered?

**Habitat loss** - Piping plovers require wide, undisturbed sand and gravel beaches with stones and pebbles. The changing Great Lakes water levels, combined with coastal development, make this habitat rare. The northern shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and the southern shore of Lake Superior provide some of the best piping plover habitat in Michigan.

**Nest disturbance** - Piping plovers are very sensitive to human presence and too much disturbance may cause them to abandon their nests. Foot and vehicle traffic in sand near or in nesting areas may result in crushed eggs or chicks. Unleashed pets also can harass and even kill nesting piping plovers and their chicks.



## WARNING!



**VEHICLES PROHIBITED**



**SENSITIVE COASTLINE**



**ENDANGERED SPECIES**



**THREATENED HABITAT**



**RARE PLANTS**



**FOLLOW PET RESTRICTIONS**

## What YOU can do!

- 1. OBEY** posted signs with rules.
- 2. FOLLOW** local pet restrictions.
- 3. KEEP VEHICLES OFF BEACH.**
- 4. LEARN** to identify piping plovers. As their range expands, accurate identification will become critical to research and recovery efforts.
- 5. AVOID** flying kites near posted nesting sites. Plover chicks often mistake them for predatory birds, causing them to stop feeding.

