



Piping Plovers are experts in camouflage!

Piping Plovers are a threatened species, primarily due to habitat loss and nest destruction.

- Piping Plovers belong to a group of birds called shorebirds. Other shorebirds that nest in Rhode Island include American Oystercatcher, Willet, Common Snipe and American Woodcock.
- Piping Plovers lay their eggs and raise their young along sandy beaches. Their neighbors include Least and Common Terns, and a variety of gulls.
- These migratory birds spend the winter in warmer places, like the Bahamas, but will return to New England every spring to nest and raise their young.
- Their coloring blends in well with the habitat found along the shore, providing excellent camouflage.



photo by Ianna Szewczok

Can you find the Piping Plover in this picture? It is camouflaged well! Turn to the next page if you need help finding it.



photo by Ed Hughes

- Plover eggs are small and speckled and blend in incredibly well with the rocky shores of New England beaches.
- Keeping a nest hidden is an essential part of a plover's job as a parent. They have many predators including Black-crowned Night Herons, Common Grackles, and various mammals. Humans also can disrupt their nesting areas on beaches.



photo by Nichole Nuttall

In order to keep these birds safe during a pivotal part of their lives, please watch for USFWS posted signs on local beaches and stay out of the Piping Plover nesting areas. Thank you!

