



Snowy Plovers at a Glance

June 2012



Photo: T. Paine

OVERVIEW

We have more western snowy plover eggs on the ground! Several of the banded adults from Monterey Bay have arrived and two of them are nesting females. The chicks on the ground are getting close to fledging. Though plovers prefer flat sandy areas, be vigilant for them anywhere from the wet sand to the grassy dunes. Especially with more chicks on the way, walking carefully on the beach is very helpful to the little ones!

Our docent team has been having a great time of it, with not only sightings of plovers in varying phases of breeding, but also American Bittern with chicks. Docents have seen a large number of other interesting birds, snakes, frogs, and butterflies. Also mammals, from the tiny voles and cute deer fawns, to the majestic blue whales feeding near shore. Our docent team is growing and still has openings, if anyone is interested. Next update will be at the end of July.

CURRENT STATS:

- 5 breeding pairs
- 7 nests so far
 - 4 incubating
 - 1 hatched 3 eggs
 - 2 failed (possibly due to abandonment)
- 3 chicks hatched
 - 2 close to fledging
 - 1 chick lost, unknown reason

Plover copulation between egg laying.



Photo: J. Rolka

If you have any questions, please email James Aliberti at SFBwildlifetours@live.com, or Carolyn Campbell at Carolyn_Campbell@partner.nps.gov. Have a great summer!

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