



Snowy Plovers at a Glance

July 2012



Photo: T. Paine

OVERVIEW

There are now several western snowy plover chicks on the ground and running around! It has been a very active month, with a nest hatching almost every week in July. There are currently eight chicks on the beach hanging out with dad. The male is the adult responsible for raising the chicks to fledging age, 28 days. The males are extremely nervous when the chicks are young so please be mindful and give them space.

This season, docents continue to have great views of plovers, as well as sightings of garter snakes, otters, and butterflies, not to mention some interesting superlatives like the largest creature to ever live (blue whale) and the fastest creature to ever live (peregrine falcon). Docents have reported good numbers of endangered red-legged frogs residing in the pond. Our docent team continues to protect plover habitat by enlightening beachgoers. Our next update will be at the end of August.

CURRENT STATS:

- 7 nests so far
 - 1 incubating
 - 4 hatched 3 eggs each
 - 2 failed (possibly due to abandonment)
- 12 chicks hatched, 8 currently running around
 - 2 fledged
 - 2 chicks lost, unknown reason

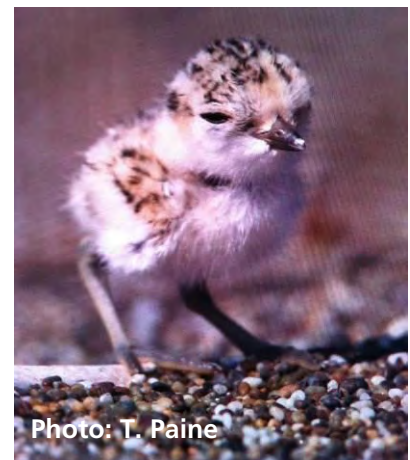


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If you have any questions, please email James Aliberti at SFBwildlifetours@live.com, or Carolyn Campbell at Carolyn_Campbell@partner.nps.gov. Have a great summer!

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