

Plovers at a Glance



Fledgling from Point Reyes Beach

Beach News with Kate and Jess 2007 Plover Season: Current Stats

FAST STATS

- Ten chicks have fledged thus far.
- Five chicks on the beach.
- 24 eggs are being incubated.
 - (24 potential fledglings)

The Plover News as of July 6th, 2007

- **27** nests so far/ 5 re-nests
 - 22/27 nests exclosed – only 1 unexclosed nest made it to hatch
 - 51% of the nests have hatched (14/27)
- **8** nests are being incubated (24 potential chicks)
 - 50% hatch success so far (40 eggs hatched/80 eggs laid)
 - 20% of laid eggs failed due to tides, predation or unknown factors (16 eggs/80 eggs laid)
- **3** broods are running around the beach (5 chicks)
 - 63% chick loss (25 birds/40 eggs hatched)
- **10** chicks fledged
 - 25% fledgling success (10/40 eggs hatched)
 - 60% chick loss due to predation or unknown factors

Displayed to the right is the Interpretative field table for creating awareness and providing education regarding the snowy plovers life cycle and ways visitors can help save a threatened species. This table is staffed by docents and the docent coordinator on the weekends and holidays from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend. Come visit us at Abbott's Lagoon trailhead this weekend!



Identifying Individual PLOVERS at PORE

WHAT THESE BANDS TELL US

This male plover has nested twice this season. His first brood was lost to predation and he is currently waiting for his new brood to hatch.



Identifying individual PLOVERS at PORE is difficult, but can be done. During the nesting season, plovers typically stay close to the nest unless flushed by a predator or unsuspecting human. Once the chicks hatch, male plovers roam the beach with their brood looking for insects and avoiding predators when possible. Females leave the nest in search of a new mate and without color bands they CANNOT be identified separate from their nest. However, at this stage biologists monitor so frequently that they can identify males by their broods, more specifically by the size (age) of the chick(s).

The easiest way to identify individuals is by providing or identifying color bands around the leg(s) of the bird. Color bands are read from the top left to the bottom left, top right to the bottom right. This signature is like giving the bird a name and allows researchers to get more information on individuals. Although PORE typically DOES NOT band birds at the seashore, we do occasionally come across banded birds that find PORE a suitable place for nesting or wintering.

The birds above and below can be identified by the color bands around their legs.
Can you identify these birds by their band colors?



WHAT THESE BANDS TELL US

This female plover was seen on the beach once this year, just passing through on her way to her nesting site.

Distance, light, shadows and heat waves can make identification incredibly difficult.