



## Snowy Plovers at a Glance

### April 2012

The **Western Snowy Plover** breeding season runs from March through September, starting with males and females pairing off. The male creates small depressions in the sand called scrapes, which the female selects as the nest. Average clutches contain three incredibly camouflaged eggs. The parents trade incubation shifts for about 28 days. The male cares for the brood for 30 days, until the chicks fledge.

Scrape



Photo: C. Bowdish

Clutch



Photo: NPS

Brood



Photo: C. Bowdish

### Current stats:

- 4 nesting pairs
- 2 nests, 6 eggs, no chicks
- 1<sup>st</sup> chicks should hatch on Memorial Day Weekend!

Memorial Day weekend will also be the start of the season for our docents! These extremely dedicated volunteers will be manning a table at the Abbotts Lagoon trail head. They will be spreading the snowy plover story to the visitors and explaining what the visitor can do to help. This is wonderful timing with our first chicks since they will need all the help they can receive!

Look for the next update at the end of May. If you have any questions, please email Carolyn Campbell at [Carolyn\\_Campbell@partner.nps.gov](mailto:Carolyn_Campbell@partner.nps.gov).

Have a great summer!

James Aliberti

Coordinator of Plover Docents

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