

# Nova Scotia Piping Plover Conservation Program



Piping Plover *Hans Toom*



Piping Plover nest *BSC*



Nesting Piping Plover *EC-CAPS*



Piping Plover volunteer *BSC*



Educational sign *BSC*



Piping Plover chick *Hans Toom*

## Program Overview

Every spring, Piping Plovers—sparrow-sized, endangered shorebirds—arrive at beaches across Atlantic Canada to nest and raise young. Since 2001, the number of Piping Plovers returning to Nova Scotia’s beaches has steadily declined. Loss of beach nesting habitat, predator pressures, coastal development, and human recreation are the main causes of endangerment and are among the challenges facing plovers today.

Bird Studies Canada’s Nova Scotia Piping Plover Conservation Program uses population monitoring, beach habitat protection, and dedicated volunteers and project partners to reverse the decline of Piping Plovers in Nova Scotia.

## Monitoring & Protecting Piping Plovers

From April through August, a team of biologists monitors Piping Plovers in southern Nova Scotia—where the majority of the province’s plovers breed. Regular beach surveys allow us to document breeding success, population changes, and potential threats on beaches. We protect habitat around nests from trampling using signs and rope. Our data is used to inform beach management, species recovery planning, and public awareness.

## Beach Habitat Stewardship

Beach habitat stewardship is a critical component to recovering Piping Plovers. We reach coastal landowners, engage dozens of volunteers in habitat protection activities, and share plover-friendly tips with beach-goers:

- Walk on the wet sand - keep clear of signs marking sensitive nesting areas;
- Keep pets leashed;
- Take food and trash off the beach;
- Do not drive on beaches and dunes.
- Learn more or volunteer!



## Contact Us

Sue Abbott, Bird Studies Canada  
c/o Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service  
45 Alderney Dr., 16th floor  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2N6  
TEL 902/426-4055; FAX 902/426-6434  
EMAIL [sabbott@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:sabbott@bsc-eoc.org); [nsplovers@gmail.com](mailto:nsplovers@gmail.com)  
WEB <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/regional/nsplover.html>

Program Support



**Program Partners** Cape Sable Important Bird Area; Ecology Action Centre; Fresh Air Society; Nature Conservancy Canada; NS Department of Transportation & Public Works; Parks Canada Agency; Société Acadienne Sainte-Croix.