Piping Plover
Charadrius melodus

Threatened means a species could become endangered.

Piping plovers are small and stocky. They are about 8 inches long.

The ring around the piping plover’s neck is sometimes called a “necklace”. Piping plovers only have one “necklace”, while another similar shorebird, called a killdeer, has two.

Chicks hatch out of the eggs in about 25-30 days. They leave the nest soon after hatching, and are able to feed themselves.

Piping plovers lay 4 eggs in a small scrape in the sand. They often line their nests with small pebbles.

When predators approach nests or chicks, adult piping plovers will pretend they are injured. That is called feigning.

The adults show the chicks where to get food. They eat small worms, flies, and other invertebrates (creatures with no backbone).

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