

Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus



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.



Killdeer

Threatened means a species could become **endangered**.



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

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



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).

Check us out! <http://ternandplover.unl.edu>
Produced by the Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership