

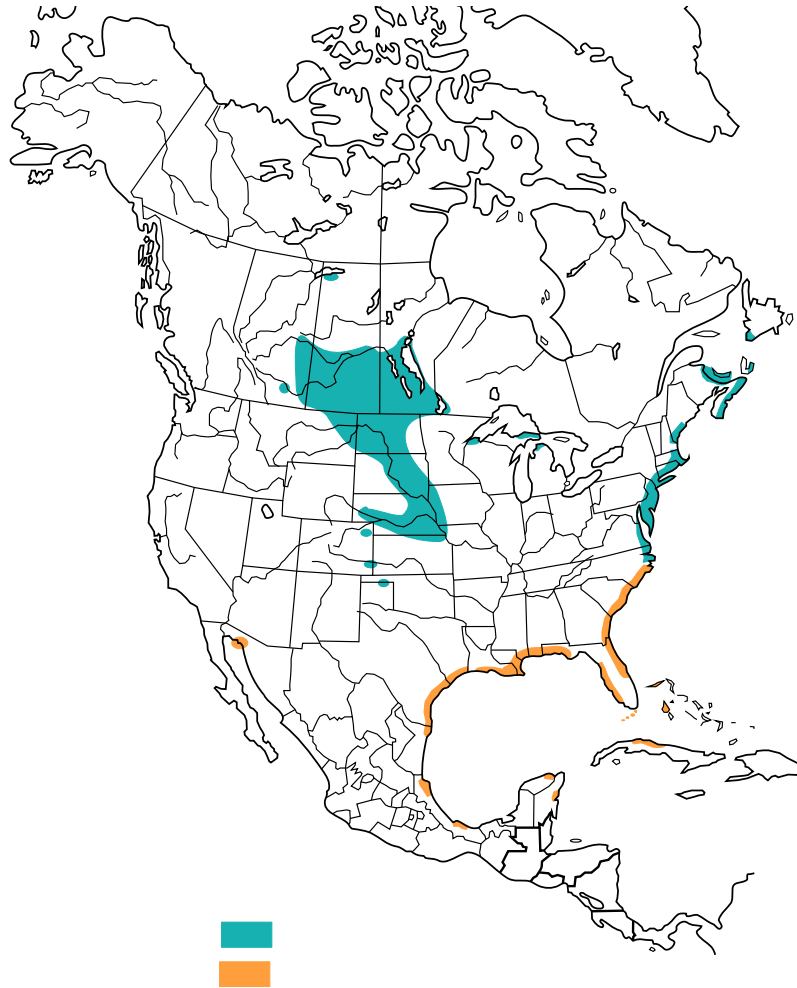


Species at Risk Profile Series: Piping Plover



- Piping Plovers are listed as Endangered in Canada.
- Look for a sandy-brown bird with a single black stripe on its breast.
- Approximately robin-sized, they weigh ~50 g (the same as half a stick of butter).
- They spend their entire life cycle on open, sandy beaches.
- Four eggs are laid in a scrape on a beach, and lined with pebbles or shells.
- They will renest if a nest fails, but each failure increases the risk of nest abandonment.
- Chick survival rates are low, and on average less than one chick per nest survives.
- Their average lifespan is 4-5 years, although some reach 10-12 years.
- When a threat to the nest is detected, the parents will feign injury to distract the predator.
- They usually return to the same breeding and wintering sites each year.





Conservation

- Predation is considered the greatest threat to the recovery of Piping Plover populations, and predators are generally more common near developed areas.
- Beaches are valued for recreation and development particularly during the plover breeding season, reducing available plover habitat.
- Human disturbance on both breeding and wintering grounds, including all-terrain vehicles, off-leash dogs, and other recreational activities, reduces breeding success and adult survival rates.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Piping Plovers [here](#).
- Keep dogs leashed on beaches and maintain distance from breeding pairs.
- Keep livestock from nesting areas as they can crush eggs and chicks and modify the terrain.

Photo credit: PIPL family by Jordan Rutter used with permission (front)

Range map credit: "Birds of North America" <https://birdsna.org> maintained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY