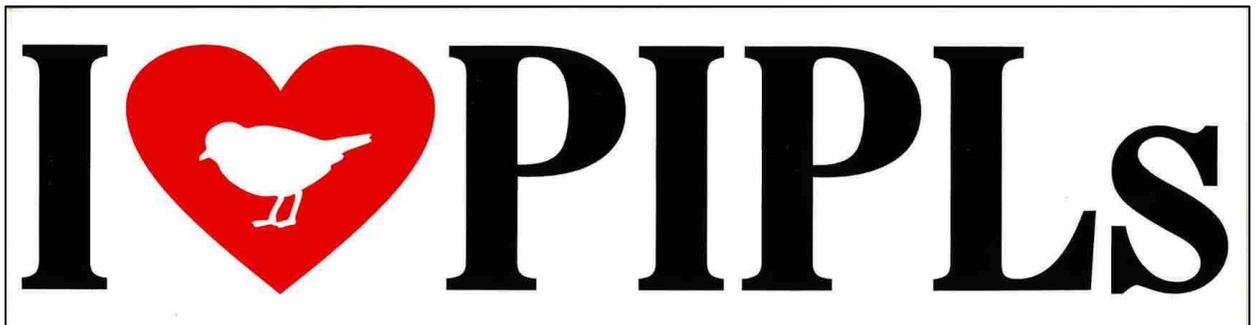


How To Resight and Report Banded Piping Plovers

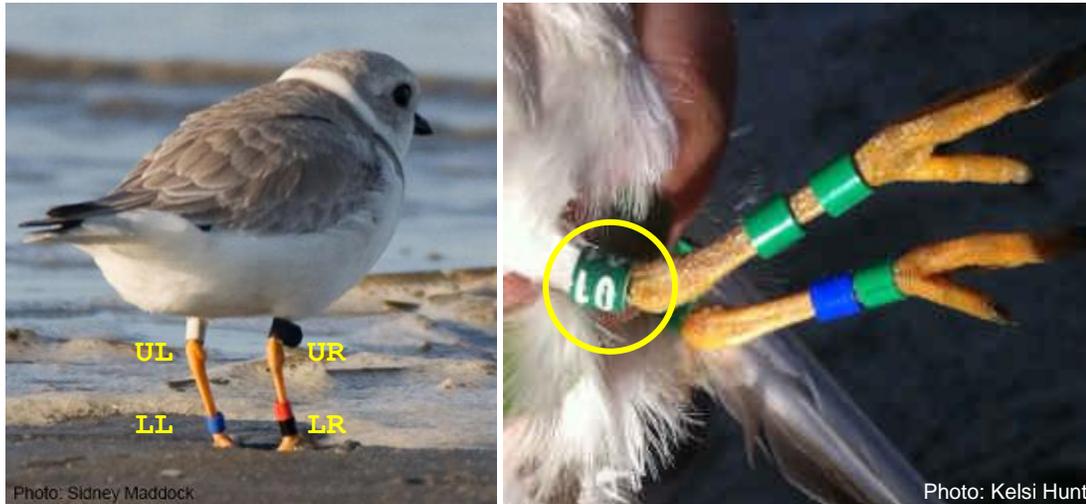
Be careful not to disturb the bird. A slow, quiet approach avoids harassment and allows the observer to carefully scan the band combination. Using a spotting scope facilitates accurate observations from a distance.

Please record:

1. Location where the bird was seen (GPS coordinates are helpful).
2. Date when the bird was seen.
3. Any observations of the bird's behavior (e.g., roosting, foraging).
4. Band combination:
 - a. Band combinations should be recorded in the following sequence: upper left (UL; above the "knee"), lower left (LL; below the "knee"), upper right (UR), lower right (LR). "Right" and "left" are from the bird's perspective, not the observer's (just like a person's right and left legs).
 - b. Band types include flags (band with tab sticking out), metal, and color bands.
 - c. Some bands may have alpha-numeric codes printed on the band or the flag (e.g., A1). The code, in addition to the color and location of the band or flag should be documented. Both the color of the band and the code (e.g., white writing on a green band) should be noted.
 - d. Some bands are split (a single band with two colors; e.g., orange/blue) or triple split (a single band with three colors; e.g., blue/orange/blue).
 - e. Sometimes two bands of the same color are placed over each other, appearing like one very tall band.
 - f. Some piping plovers are banded on the upper legs only, and bands can be stacked (one above the other) on the upper leg.
 - g. Record leg positions where bands are absent.
 - h. Note if the color or type of any of the bands is uncertain or if some parts of a leg were not seen clearly.
 - i. Recognize that band colors can fade over time.



Left Figure: This band combination below would be recorded as: metal (UL), dark blue (LL), black flag (UR), red over black (LR). The abbreviated band combination (refer to http://www.fws.gov/charleston/pdf/PIPL/usfws_pipl_survey_datasheet) would be recorded as: X,BB:Lf,RL. Right Figure: Example in yellow circle shows use of an alpha-numeric code on a color band.



For banded piping plovers seen in South Carolina, please send this information along with the observer's contact information to melissa_bimbi@fws.gov

For more information about band resighting, please consult http://www.fws.gov/charleston/pdf/PIPL_Band_Identification_Training.pdf

To download an example spreadsheet for recording banded piping plovers, go to http://www.fws.gov/charleston/pdf/PIPL/example_usfws_pipl_survey_spreadsheet.xlsx