COMPILATION AND ASSESSMENT OF PIPING PLOVER WINTERING AND MIGRATORY STAGING AREA DATA IN NORTH CAROLINA. Susan E. Cameron[1], David H. Allen[2], Marcia M. Lyons[3], Jeff R. Cordes[4], and Sidney B. Maddock[5]. [1]North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, 253 White Oak Bluff Road, Stella, NC, 28582; camerons@coastalnet.com. [2]North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, 183 Paul Drive, Trenton, NC, 28585; allend@coastalnet.com. [3]Cape Hatteras National Seashore, P.O. Box 190, Buxton, NC, 27920; Marcia_Lyons@nps.gov. [4]Cape Lookout National Seashore, 131 Charles Street, Harkers Island, NC, 28531; Jeff_Cordes@nps.gov. [5]P.O. Box 1359, Buxton, NC, 27920; Sbmaddock@aol.com.

Coastal North Carolina provides important habitat for both migrating and wintering Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*). All three geographic populations of Piping Plovers are known to use the North Carolina coastline during the non-breeding season. Migrating and wintering Piping Plovers face a number of threats in the state including habitat loss and degradation due to development, chronic human disturbance and beach and inlet stabilization projects. In the past, surveys for non-breeding Piping Plovers were conducted primarily in an opportunistic fashion and not compiled in one location. In 2001, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission created an Access database for non-breeding piping plover observations and compiled sightings in an effort to help identify some of the most important areas for non-breeding Piping Plovers. In recent years, systematic surveys conducted on Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashores and at various locations in the state in association with beach stabilization projects coupled with the increase in reported opportunistic sightings and the compilation of coast-wide data, have lead to an increase in our knowledge about non-breeding Piping Plovers in North Carolina. In addition, it has aided with the review of projects that have the potential to negatively impact Piping Plovers and in management efforts for non-breeding plovers. We still have much to learn about non-breeding Piping Plovers in the state and about the impacts of the aforementioned threats. Additional systematic surveys are needed in other areas along the coast such as difficult to reach shoals and more frequent surveys are required along sites of known importance to further our understanding of migrating and wintering Piping Plovers in North Carolina.