

News Release



Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Beach Closures at Elizabeth A. Morton and Amagansett National Wildlife Refuges to Protect Natural Resources and Nesting Shorebirds

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will temporarily close portions of Elizabeth A. Morton (Morton) National Wildlife Refuge in Sag Harbor and Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge in East Hampton to protect nesting shorebirds and other sensitive natural resources. Refuge staff have scheduled the following beach closures:

- March 21: Amagansett beach
- March 21: North Spit of Jessup's Neck at Morton
- April 2: Remaining portion of Jessup's Neck, north of the observation platform

These beach closures are an annual management action at Morton and Amagansett and will be in effect until August 31. Exact dates may vary depending on shorebird nesting activity. Refuge visitors will still be able to access Morton's Wild Birds Nature Trail and a portion of the beach. Refuge staff will clearly designate closed areas with signs, fencing, and twine.

Nesting shorebirds at Morton and Amagansett National Wildlife Refuges include the federally threatened piping plover, the state threatened least tern, and the American oystercatcher, a species of conservation concern. Principal threats to these endangered and threatened shorebirds include human disturbance, predators, and loss of habitat. Beach closures provide undisturbed nesting, foraging, and resting habitats; which can help to increase the reproductive success of these birds.

The public can assist with these efforts to protect wildlife and their habitats by: 1) respecting closed areas, 2) keeping refuge beaches and trails clean and free of trash and 3) avoiding activities that may disturb wildlife, including landing watercrafts on the beach and dog walking. Public compliance is integral to the success of these nesting shorebirds. Thank you for making a difference and supporting these wildlife management programs!

For more information, contact the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters at Wertheim NWR, located at 340 Smith Rd., Shirley, NY 11967, by phone at 631-286-0485, or visit our websites at: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/elizabeth-alexandra-morton> and <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/amagansett>

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.