

News Release



Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20th, 2026

THREATENED SHOREBIRD POPULATIONS ON THE LONG ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Successful beach closures this past summer at the Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge in Sag Harbor ensured safe nesting habitat for six pairs of piping plovers and one pair of American oystercatchers. One pair of piping plover nested at the Amagansett refuge in East Hampton. Refuge staff regularly monitored these nests and documented progress. Nesting shorebirds at both refuges were challenged by nest and chick loss by avian and mammalian predators. At Elizabeth A. Morton refuge, three piping plover pairs successfully fledged six chicks. At Amagansett refuge, the piping plover pair was unsuccessful. Several other migratory birds also used the refuges for nesting, foraging, and loafing including osprey, willet, ruddy turnstone, common tern, semipalmated plover, black-bellied plover, sanderling, herons, and egrets.

Refuge staff wish to thank visitors for respecting the beach closures that were in place March through August. These closures helped to reduce disturbance to nesting shorebirds and other migratory species. The Jessup's Neck peninsula at Elizabeth A. Morton refuge and the beach at Amagansett refuge will be re-opened to public access after August 20, 2026.

Amagansett refuge and Elizabeth A. Morton refuge are part of the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Complex manages 6,670 acres and includes seven national wildlife refuges, two refuge sub-units and one wildlife management area. The Complex was established to conserve habitat for migratory birds, protect threatened and endangered species, enhance, and restore habitat for native flora and fauna, and provide wildlife-dependent public uses, where appropriate and compatible. The larger National Wildlife Refuge System consists of 588 national wildlife refuges throughout the United States and U. S. territories. For more information, please contact the Refuge Complex Headquarters at 631-286-0485 or visit our website at: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/amagansett> and <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/elizabeth-alexandra-morton>.

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.

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