

Will this rare bird return to our shores?



Exciting news! Piping plovers have been sighted on Lake Ontario's shores.

Piping plovers last nested on Lake Ontario in 1984.

By giving these birds space, you can help us provide a safe place for them and their chicks.



- Piping plovers have been seen on Lake Ontario! State and federal endangered species laws protect piping plovers, and staff are monitoring the birds.
- Each summer, plovers return to Great Lakes beaches to breed and raise families. The number of nesting plovers in the Great Lakes has risen from 12 pairs in 1990 to 70 pairs in 2014! Most nest in Michigan.
- Plovers have not nested on Lake Ontario for 30 years. In the 1930s, as many as 30 pairs nested along the Great Lakes in New York alone. To recover the species, plovers need to be in other locations.
- NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation maintains a bird sanctuary at Sandy Pond Beach. One pair is exploring a site in the sanctuary, and another pair is nesting further north along the shore.
- To give these birds space, please stay out of the bird sanctuary and other roped-off or signed areas. Please pick up trash to avoid attracting predators to the areas, and keep dogs on leash.

Special thanks to the Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance Association for assistance and interest.

Learn more: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/pipingplover/>



Photos Credit: USFWS/Joel Trick