

Species at Risk

PIPING PLOVER



What does it look like?

A small and short sandpiper that is coloured white and light grey. It has orange-yellow legs and a short beak.

Often confused with a killdeer—adult piping plovers have a black stripe between the eyes and one black band around the neck while killdeers have two.

Where can it be found?

Just like other species of sandpipers, piping plovers nest on beaches and tidal flats with sand or gravel and little to no vegetation.

In fall, they migrate south to the Gulf Coast.

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Threats

- More stabilized lake levels in Manitoba have led to habitat loss—years of higher water have resulted in past nesting sites now underwater.
- Disturbances on beaches including increased human traffic from recreational areas and motor vehicles.

What can you do to recover this species?

Unfortunately, piping plover populations have been decreasing rapidly over the last few decades. In Manitoba, they are considered very rare.

If you spot a piping plover, be aware of avoiding any nests in the area and contact the MMF!

