



Snowy Plovers at a Glance

August 2012



Photo: T. Paine

OVERVIEW

The western snowy plover season has come to a close. The chicks from the last nest of the season fledged at the end of August, bringing the total number of fledglings to nine! This is an amazing number considering we only had seven nests and the average fledge rate is usually one chick per male. There were some extraordinary plover fathers out there: three males fledged two chicks each and one fledged all three chicks! Right now is a great time to see large wintering groups of snowy plovers on the beaches.

The amazing fledgling success this year was also due to our wonderful and dedicated docents! Since the program began, our weekend chick loss has decreased. This year, the docents made an extraordinary number of contacts at 4,244! Every weekend and holiday this summer, the docent program was present on at least one beach and most of the time two! We're hoping for another strong program next year! Our next update will be in April 2013 - the next western snowy plover season.

FINAL STATS:

- 7 nests so far
 - 5 hatched 3 eggs each
 - 2 nests failed to hatch (possibly due to abandonment)
- 15 chicks hatched, 9 fledged
 - 6 chicks lost for unknown reason

If you have any questions, please email James Aliberti at James_Aliberti@partner.nps.gov, or Carolyn Campbell at Carolyn_Campbell@partner.nps.gov. Have a great autumn!



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