Plovers at a Glance

Male Plover from Point Reyes Beach

Beach News with Kate and Jess
2007 Plover Season: Current Stats

Interesting Facts

- Currently plovers have laid 27 nests this season. This is 3 more nests than last year's total of 24 and 11 more nests at this point in the season compared to last year's total of 16 nests.
- So far 3 nests have been found in the restored dune area (RDA) and 2 males have moved their chicks over a mile away into the RDA to raise their young.

The Plover News as of July 1st, 2007

- 27 nests so far/ 5 re-nests
  - 22/27 nests exclosed – only 1 unexclosed nest made it to hatch
  - 51% of the nests have hatched (14/27)
  - 28.5% egg loss: predation, tides and unknown factors
- 8 nests are being incubated (22-24 potential chicks)
  - 51% hatch success so far (40 eggs hatched/78 eggs laid)
  - 21% of laid eggs failed due to tides, predation or unknowns
- 4 broods are running around the beach (8 chicks)
  - 60% chick loss (24 birds/40 eggs hatched)
- 8 chicks fledged
  - 20% fledgling success (8/40 eggs hatched)
  - 60% chick loss due to predation or unknown factors

CHECK OUT A NEST FROM POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE (PORE)

Females lay 1–3 eggs in 2–5 days. Males and females take turns incubating the eggs for 27–30 days.

CHECK OUT PORE'S ONE HOUR OLD PLOVER CHICKS

Freshly out of the egg and still damp

Once the eggs hatch the female looks for a new mate and the male becomes the primary caregiver. The male will guide the chicks towards food sources (mainly insects) and away from predators. Young chicks are born with feathers, they have the ability to walk/run and are able to feed themselves within hours of birth.

CHECK OUT OUR FIRST FLEDGED CHICKS!

It takes roughly one month for a chick to grow into its adult body and develop flight feathers. Once the bird is able to fly it is typically independent of the adult male plover. Adult male plovers then move on to mate with another female plover. The plover breeding season is March–September and typically the last nests are found in late July, early August, which leaves just enough time (2 months) for the whole breeding cycle to complete before the fall migration.

EXTRAS - As seen on the BEACH / TRAIL

Can you identify this raptor?

Can you identify this masked mammal?