



MASHKII ZIIBII

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

2025 Chequamegon Point Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) Seasonal Report



Report Prepared by Aidan Doherty

Photos from Rowan Gibson, Cait Williamson, Billy Flynn, & Aidan Doherty

Photo by Rowan Gibson

**BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE
SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA
INDIANS**



MASHKIIZIIBII NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Naomi Tillison, *Director* • **Russ Corbine Jr.**, *Deputy Director* • **Elouise Lozinski**, *Wildlife Program Manager* • **Jakob Wohlford**, *Ornithology Specialist*

Mailing Address: PO Box 39, Odanah, WI 54861

Physical Address: 72682 Maple Street, Odanah, WI 54861

Building Name: Chief Blackbird Center

Department Phone Number: 715-682-7123

©2025 All Rights Reserved. Reprint with permission only.



2025 Piping Plover Report prepared by

Aidan Doherty with
additional data sourced by Jakob Wohlford

Photos taken by Rowan Gibson, Aidan Doherty,
Cait Williamson, and Billy Flynn



CONTENTS

Overview.....	4
Nests.....	6
Piping Plover Behavior.....	14
Predators.....	15
Visitation and Human Impact.....	17
Chick Banding	19
Adult Banding.....	21
Other Plants and Wildlife.....	22
Weather.....	32
Glossary	33
Special Thanks	34

OVERVIEW

PIPING PLOVER RECOVERY EFFORTS

What are piping plovers?

Piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) are small, sand-colored migratory shorebirds, typically measuring 7 inches long. They only nest in the middle of wide beaches with ample amounts of cobble. The Great Lakes subspecies (*Charadrius melodus circumcinctus*) of Piping Plover is listed as endangered due to nesting habitat loss and anthropogenic disturbances (pet dogs, development, ATV traffic, aircraft traffic, harassment).

Before human encroachment, an estimated historical population of 500-800 pairs inhabited North America. Piping Plovers were listed as endangered in 1986, when there were only 16 nesting pairs left around the Great Lakes. Since then, due to recovery efforts, the number of unique pairs nesting along the Great Lakes has grown to 88, as of 2025. This marks the highest number of pairs recorded since the species was first listed as endangered.

Project Goal

The mission of the piping plover project is to restore the species to sustainable population levels resembling those prior to human disturbance, ultimately leading to delisting from the endangered species list.

Here, in Northern Wisconsin

On Chequamegon Point, a team works to accomplish this goal, including two piping plover monitors recruited each year to monitor the areas where these birds' nest. During the breeding season, monitors walk the beach daily to locate and document piping plovers, nests, eggs, and chicks. The monitors look for signs of predators and human disturbance, assist with plover chick banding, and educate the public, especially those interfering with the birds.

Making Progress

Great Lakes Piping
Plovers Federally
Listed as Endangered
Species

Less than 15
breeding pairs in ALL
the Great Lakes

1986

**In ALL the Great
Lakes:**

- **88** unique breeding pairs
- **110** chicks fledged in the wild, 36 captive-reared

In ALL of Wisconsin

- **11** unique breeding pairs
- **11** Nests
- **22** chicks fledged in the wild

2025

**Locally, at
Chequamegon Point
and Mashkiiziibii:**

- **7** unique breeding pairs
- **12** chicks fledged in the wild
- **7** Nests

Who is Involved?

This project is a cooperative effort between the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department, the National Park Service ([Apostle Islands National Lakeshore](#)), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Nature Conservancy.

2025 was the 52nd year of monitoring the Great Lakes piping plovers at Chequamegon Point on the south shore of Lake Superior, the 39th year since the species received endangered status, and the 27th year of partnership in restorative efforts with

the Mashkiiziibii Tribe.

The monitors for this field season were Aidan Doherty and Rowan Gibson. Between May 23 and August 6, the monitors conducted daily surveys on Chequamegon Point, weather permitting. Seven piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) nests were documented and monitored. This season, 23 eggs hatched on Chequamegon Point and 12 chicks **fledged**. There were no nests observed near the point of Long Island.

CHEQUAMEGON POINT AND LONG ISLAND

Where is Long Island?

Long Island was at one time a true island, located at the northeast of Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin. However, since the 1970s, sand accumulation has connected the island with the mainland, making it part of a peninsula known as Chequamegon Point. An act of Congress in 1986 added the area known as Long Island to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (National Park Service). Wetlands near Chequamegon Point have resulted in less development. The absence of roads results in visitors arriving at the Long Island portion of Chequamegon Point by watercraft or float plane/ultralight.

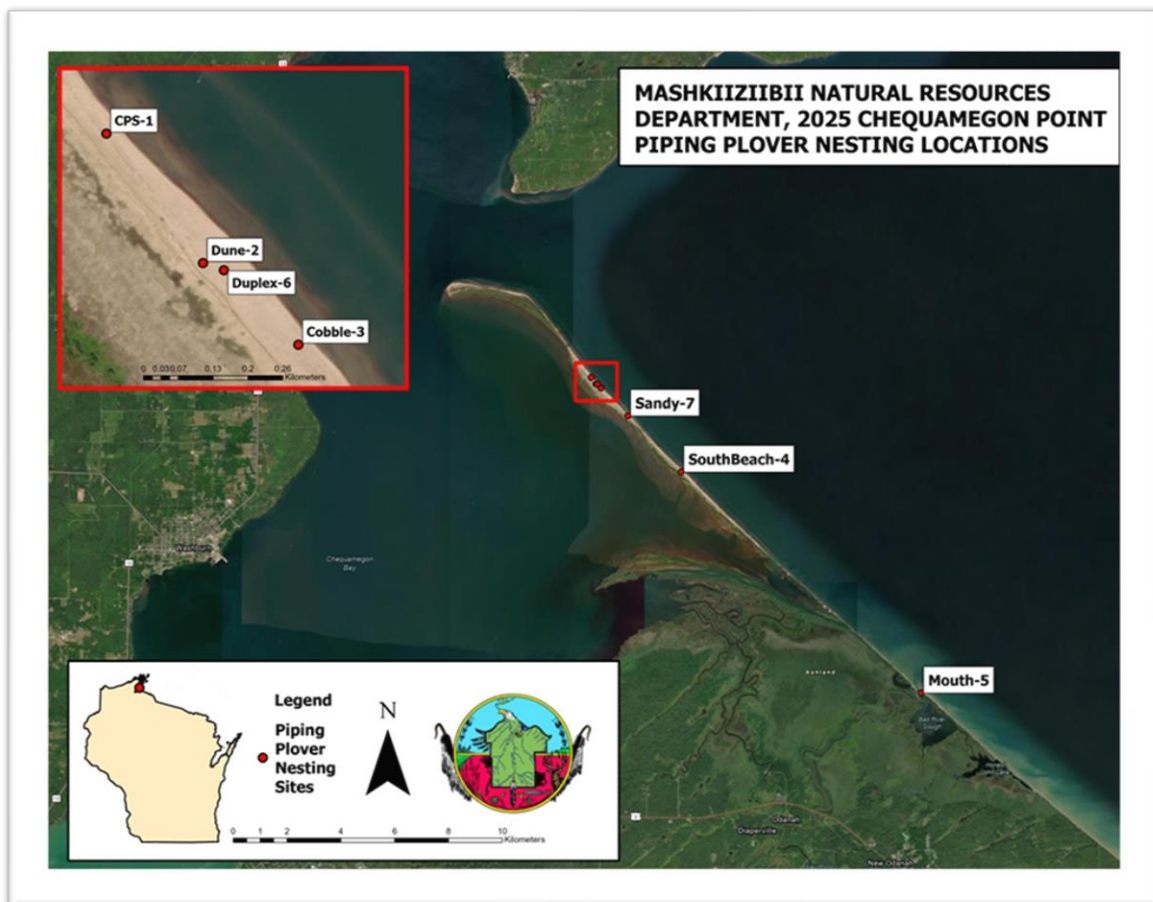


NESTS

Seven piping plover nests were monitored during the 2025 season. Five nests were located on the north-west shore of Chequamegon Point within an area commonly referred to as Plover Beach due to the recurrence of nests for several years. These five nests at Plover Beach also fall within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The other two nests are located further south along the eastern shore. Nest 5 was located on a sandy point where Mashkiiziibii (Bad River) meets Anishinaabeg-Gichigami (Lake Superior), outside of the national park boundaries. All nests were located within the historical tribal lands of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

The Bad River Reservation was established with the 1854 Treaty of La Pointe with the U.S. Government and was sited along the beautiful shores of Anishinaabeg-Gichigami and Chequamegon Bay. Bad River is the largest Chippewa reservation in the state of Wisconsin at 124,459 acres. The reservation boundaries encompass lands in two counties and six municipal townships with 36 miles of Anishinaabeg-Gichigami shoreline and over 488 miles of rivers and streams. To learn more about the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa you are encouraged to visit <https://www.badriver-nsn.gov/history/>.

(Source: <https://www.badriver-nsn.gov>)



NEST 1: CPS

Female: Blueberry

- **Band combo:** X [2651-63503], B : Of, b b
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/13 - 7/16

Male: Otto

- **Band combo:** X [-831-83598], -: Of, O O
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/13 - 7/16

Nest found: 5/23

Hatch date: 6/24 **no chicks observed*

Exclosure Installed: 5/23

Psychological fencing installed: 6/07



Nest Overview/Site Description

Nest #1 was the northernmost nest on Chequamegon Point. This nest location consistently hosts piping plover nests annually. This area of Plover Beach is an expansive, flat beach with wide **wash zones**, cobble, and driftwood scattered throughout.

This nest, like most, was directly inside the **cobble pan**. Slightly north of the nest had the highest concentration of human activity, as a nearby **tree line** along the beach offered shade for visitors. When visitors were not present, the adults frequently foraged at the tree line. Adults at this site would forage in the dune, near the water, and in the driftwood. Foraging primarily occurred north of the nest due to competition further east. Adults from nest #1 would occasionally engage in **territory disputes** at the other nearby nests. The male from nest #1, Otto, was observed limping on his left foot throughout the monitoring season. When inspected during banding, nothing appeared wrong.

By late June, two of the four eggs had hatched. Evidence of eggshells near the water's edge indicated quick predation, as no chicks were ever observed. By early July, CPS adults stopped incubating the remaining two eggs, which were evidently infertile. The remaining eggs were collected, and the adults departed within the following two weeks.

Nest 2: Dune

Female: Young Little Ruby

- **Band combo:** X [2651/83591], Y: Of, L R
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/13 - 7/16

Male: Google

- **Band combo:** X [0831/83581], [G]: O, O/G Rdot, [G326]
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/13 - 7/23

Nest found: 5/29

Hatch date: 6/30

- O^c, G (465): X, - [8101/37032] (*PREDATED before fledging*)

Exclosure Installed: 5/23

Psychological fencing installed: 6/05



Nest Overview/Site Description

Of all the nests on Chequamegon Point, Nest #2 was one of the closest to the **foredune**. For this reason, we named nest #2 “Dune”. Nest #2 was also in very close proximity to nest #6. Nest #2 and Nest #6 were only 40ft away, resulting in near constant **parallel walks**, territorial disputes, and **flight displays** between adults. This became a more consequential issue later in the monitoring season after the chicks hatched. Adults from both nests frequently focused on each other and the territory boundaries, leaving the chicks vulnerable to nearby avian predators. Monitors even observed adults from Nest #1 attacking Dune chicks. This posed a challenge for monitors, as it was impossible to keep track of all chicks simultaneously.

Piping Plovers typically lay clutches of four eggs. Nest #2, however, had five eggs, a unique occurrence. Of the five eggs, four chicks hatched. The fifth egg was infertile and never hatched; incubation was quickly abandoned in favor of safeguarding the other chicks. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of both plovers and monitors, all four chicks were lost to predation. The only banded chick, just before it was ready to fledge, was also predated. The remaining infertile egg was collected for further testing, and both adults migrated south.

Nest 3: Cobble

Female: Big Little Betty

- **Band combo:** X [-831-83452], b: Of, L B
- **Arrival and departure:** Before 5/23-7/4

Male: XO

- **Band combo:** X [1841/67224], [G]: O, [G163]
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/13 - 7/4

Nest found: 5/26

Hatch date: 6/15-16 **no chicks observed*

Exclosure Installed: 5/23

Psychological fencing installed: 6/07



Nest Overview/Site Description

Nest #3, referred to as “Cobble”, was located in a vast cobble pan with medium to large driftwood sparsely distributed throughout. Like nests CPS, Dune, and Duplex, this nesting location's main complication was its proximity to other plover nests. The Cobble Male, XO, is Chequamegon Point’s oldest returning bird (since 2017). The female on this nest, Big Little Betty, finished laying eggs when the nest hit three eggs. This was also unusual, being the only three-egg nest observed at Chequamegon Point in 2025.

Initially, two of the three eggs hatched. Unfortunately, both chicks were predated before being observed. Incubation of the last egg didn’t cease past the expected hatch date, so the egg was **candled** and determined to be not viable. Both adults continued to incubate the remaining egg until it was collected, days after both adults disbanded and left.

After the Cobble adults left, Duplex adults and chicks frequented the Cobble exclosure for foraging. The departure of CPS and Cobble adults allowed for less **intraspecific competition**, giving surviving chicks from other nests more room to forage.

Nest 4: South Beach

Female: Rose Girl

- **Band combo:** X [-831-83590], R: Of, G L
- **Arrival and departure:** Before 5/23-7/16

Male: Pippin

- **Band combo:** X [-831-83584], P: Of, P N
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/13 – 7/29

Nest found: 5/31

Hatch date: 6/25

- X [8101/36785], A¹³: O^R –
- X [8101/36783], A¹⁴: O^G, –
- X [8101/36778], A¹⁵: O^Y, –
- X [8101/37000], A¹⁶: O^B, –

Fledge date: 7/18

Exclosure Installed: 6/10

Psychological fencing installed: 6/11



Nest Overview/Site Description

Nest #4, South Beach, was the furthest nest south that monitors could observe daily. From the monitor camp, nest #4 was a four-mile walk one way. Nest #4 was adjacent to a large bald eagle nest on a thinner section of the beach. The nest was predominantly surrounded by smaller pieces of driftwood, with smaller pebbles lining the nearby shore. Luckily, South Beach had some of the best parents. All four eggs hatched within two days and were fiercely guarded by both adults. While foraging, South Beach adults often split the chicks between themselves and foraged in opposite directions.

Shortly after all chicks had hatched, all six individuals relocated further south down the beach near the cabins. While the male adult would stay with the chicks until fledging, Rose Girl would end up meeting the CPS adults before migrating together.

Nest 5: River Mouth

Female: Very Good Violet

- **Band combo:** X[8101/36789], V: Of, G V
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/17-

Male: Extra Large Guy

Band combo

- X[8101-36793], L: Of, G Y
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/17 –

Nest found: 6/3

Hatch date: 6/22

- X [8101/36784], -: O, A (Gdot, A10)

Fledge date: 7/15

Exclosure Installed: 6/10

Psychological fencing installed: 5/24



Nest Overview/Site Description

Nest #5 marks the second consecutive year that the same pair returned to the mouth of the Bad River (Mashkiiziibii). The site consisted of a sandy point with cobble and driftwood set further back. The nest was elevated slightly from the wash zone. A typical flock of approximately 30-50 seagulls frequented the area surrounding the nest throughout the season. The plovers here tolerated an abundance of passing boat traffic, although boat speeds were far slower at the mouth than in the open water near the other nests. This nest was also the only nest to be occasionally disturbed by ATV traffic, although the beach was closed to ATV traffic during the nesting months. Tracks were often seen close to **psychological fencing**. Even though the nest was set back from the water, nests at the mouth are typically affected by the elements more than other nests (wind, waves, erosion, etc).

Like other nests monitored this year, one infertile egg didn't hatch. Of the three eggs that did hatch, only one chick survived to fledging. Because of the Bad River and excessive walking distance, this nest was only able to be monitored on occasion when dropping off or picking up stationed plover monitors every four days. The occurrence of seagulls at the mouth is a probable culprit for chick mortality at this location.

After the remaining chick neared fledging, the adult female relocated near Cobble and Sandy nests before departing.

Nest 6: Duplex

Female: Georgia

- **Band combo:** X [2651/63498], G: O (r dot)
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/13-7/16

Male: Gary

Band combo

- X [2651/63531], G: Of, -

Arrival and departure: 5/20 – 7/29



Nest found: 6/3

Hatch date: 7/1

- X [8101-37094], G⁴⁷⁷: O^R, G/O
- X [8101-37095], G⁴³⁴: O^Y, G/O
- X [8101-37096], G⁴³⁵: O^G, G/O
- X [8101-37097], G⁴³⁶: O^B, G/O

Fledge date: 7/24



Exclosure Installed: 6/10

Psychological fencing installed: 6/05

Nest Overview/Site Description

Nest #6's location was incredibly close to nest 2. The Duplex nest was so close to nest #2 that they shared the same psychological fencing. This resulted in frequent, near-constant, parallel walks, and territorial disputes. Despite the shared resources and space, Duplex hatched all four chicks (same day). Distracting territorial matters often left the Dune and Duplex chicks vulnerable to overhead seagulls. To counteract this, monitors built scarecrows (or scaregulls) to keep avian predators away. Scarecrows were moved daily to assist the often unguarded chicks. To the credit of the scarecrow or not, all four Duplex chicks fledged after banding and were seen flying shortly after. Duplex chicks were frequently observed foraging in or near the dunes to avoid large, nearby seagull flocks. Once neighboring plover nests were abandoned, Duplex chicks and adults moved around the beach more (usually going south towards the Sandy Nest (nest 7)).

Nest 7: Sandy

Female: Bobbie

- **Band combo:** 8101-36934 O, b/O: X, b (Ydot, b501)
- **Arrival and departure:** 5/20-8/4

Male: Oly

- **Band combo:** 2331-95854 X, [G]: -,O (Ydot, [G368])
- **Arrival and departure:** 6/6-7/23

Nest found: 6/3

Hatch date: 7/1

- X [8101-37098], G⁴³⁷: O^B, G/O/G
- X [8101-37099], G⁴³⁸: O^R, G/O/G
- X [8101-37100], G⁴³⁹: O^Y, G/O/G

Fledge date: 7/29

Exclosure Installed: 6/10

Psychological fencing installed: 6/10



Nest Overview/Site Description

Sandy was the seventh nest discovered during the 2025 plover season. This nest marked a new record number of nests for Chequamegon Point/Long Island. The nest was located on a wide sandy beach with little to no cobble and trace amounts of driftwood, hence the name. Because of this, seagulls frequented the shoreline, a likely reason for the nest being very close to the foredune.

Once all four chicks hatched, they were often seen foraging within the larger driftwood logs slightly north of the nest (higher up towards the dune). It wasn't uncommon for chicks to be foraging within the dune grass. During chick banding, the 4th Sandy chick was determined to be predated. After banding the three surviving chicks, the sandy male relentlessly chased one of the banded chicks after release. The male would attack, chase, and fly at the chick who attempted to get away. Eventually, all chicks were accepted.

Once chicks were closer to fledging, the Sandt Nest male Oly left the chicks and was seen near Plover Beach before departing. The Sandy Nest female, Bobbie, watched over the chicks until fledging.

PIPING PLOVER

BEHAVIOR



Monitors can't be everywhere at once, and various factors can contribute to monitors observing certain nests more than others. Nests 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 were observed the most due to proximity to the plover camp. Monitors had to walk upwards of eight miles a day when monitoring nest 4, making it impractical to check several times daily. The Mouth Nest, nest 5, was observed even less around every four days, because it was not accessible without the use of a boat.

From what was observed, the plovers seemed to have few issues with incubation. Plovers were observed swapping consistently, rarely leaving the eggs alone for long periods of time. Despite this, many of the eggs were infertile. Between all seven nests, five eggs weren't viable. Four of the nests had infertile eggs. When plovers delegate time to incubating these eggs, they often leave their successful young unguarded, leading to higher rates of chick predation.

Adult plovers were seen defending their territories from potential nest predators, other shorebird species, and other Piping Plovers. Adult plovers from nests 1, 2, 3, and 6 were occasionally observed working together to chase off other birds (mainly seagulls) from overlapping territories. Despite this, most conflicts occurred between plovers. Plover adults from nearby nests were observed chasing other adults and chicks away. Parallel walks, territorial disputes, and alarm calls occurred nonstop after chicks hatched near nests 1, 2, 3, and 6.

Overall, of the 23 eggs hatched, 12 chicks fledged, for a success rate of 42%. An improvement of 2% from the 2024 plover monitoring season. We also exceeded our fledged chick per nest goal of 1.5 fledged chicks/nest with 1.71/nest this year, also exceeding the 1.6/nest in 2024.



PREDATORS

Gulls pressured the plovers throughout the entire monitoring season. Throughout the season, nearly 500 herring gulls/ring-billed gulls were observed semi-regularly along the beach. Seagulls were most problematic on Plover beach, where hundreds of seagulls would accumulate near and around plover exclosures. Seagulls accumulated predominantly in front of nest 1, where the beach was widest.

Monitors didn't observe what was responsible for predating the chicks; however, given past observations and the abundance of seagulls nearby, monitors assume seagulls were responsible. These predations potentially happened early in the morning, before monitors could intervene.

Several things deterred the seagulls from targeting newborn and adolescent plovers. Seagulls would relocate when high winds and excessive wave action hit the lakeside of Chequamegon Point/Long Island.

Scarecrows/Scaregulls created and placed by monitors also seemed to deter seagulls from bothering nests 2 and 6 later in the season. Nest 4 was also mostly unbothered by seagulls, with monitors seeing very few around the exclosure. One possible explanation was an eagle nest in a large white pine in the wood line behind nest 4. Monitors during the 2024 season noticed a possible correlation between nearby eagles scaring crowds of seagulls away from nests.

Another problem monitors faced was visitors accidentally pushing large flocks of seagulls towards nests when beaching their boats. This resulted in monitors having to chase seagulls away from active nests and chicks.

Other predatory birds like merlin and owls were also observed, but none were sighted near plover nests.



Two scarecrows made by monitors. The one on the left created by monitor Rowan and the one on the right by monitor Aidan

Predators Continued

The most prevalent mammal predators observed were coyotes. Coyote tracks were commonly seen in all areas near the nests; shore, cobble, foredune, dune tops and dune valleys. Their tracks were encountered daily during monitoring from beginning of the season to the end.

Bear tracks were common at the northern end of Chequamegon Point, as was bear scat. Blueberries were prevalent both at camp and further north near the lighthouses, explaining the increased black bear activity in those areas later in the season.

Monitors didn't see any of the mammal predators during day monitoring. Tracks would be encountered first thing in the morning at the wash zone near camp (coyote, skunk and/or raccoon). As we made our way to the nests, we often followed the coyote tracks which hovered along the shoreline and then populated the nesting areas in all directions.

Evidence of predation was observed throughout the season. Many bird remains, predominantly wings, were found along the beach. Later in the season a newly deceased seagull was found within one of the enclosures, this didn't correspond to any loss of plover life. It's not definitively known what predated these birds.



Skunk tracks found near plover camp



Black bear spotted by monitor near the point



Visitation and Human Impact

Human Visitors

How do they get to the Point? All observed visitors to Chequamegon Point arrived via watercraft this year. The most popular site for anchoring was at the north end of Plover Beach and the nearby “Narrows” area directly to the north. At the Narrows, boats anchored on both the east and western shores of Chequamegon Point. There were also several visitors near nest 7.

Boats/Humans/Dogs

As one might expect, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday were the busiest days for beach and water visitors as were sunny, hot days. The 4th of July and the following two weekends saw the highest numbers of visitors for the season.

Visitors often created campfires, arranged driftwood into large piles, and even constructed fixtures using driftwood. This was most often done in the evening hours after the plover monitors had left the area, so opportunity to discourage this behavior was not available. These creations would be discovered the next morning. Abandoned campfires were often covered with sand with a vertical stick poked in the center. Imported firewood was often left charred on the beach.

Plastic, glass, fishing lures/lines/nets, cans, and other debris were collected by monitors from the beach and shoreline. Mylar balloons were the most common, found in many locations including on the beach, behind the dunes and in the tree lines. Visitors would also frequently leave/forget children’s sand toys. Clothing would also frequently wash up on the beach.

Monitors also had to enforce leashed dogs, a strict rule on Chequamegon Point/Long Island. Monitors reminded visitors that dogs are required to be leashed within park boundaries and in and around the plover habitat. While visitors acknowledged the rule, many were dismissive or didn’t adhere to the rule. Others promised to keep their dogs close, leashed, or on the boat. On one occasion, the monitor’s leash reminder was met with hostility when a visitor parked directly in front of nest 1. Fortunately, the disgruntled visitor left after being talked to. Altogether, visitors were very respectful and adhered to the rules after being reminded. Many of the people visiting were local and knew of or were very interested in the piping plovers.

AIRCRAFT

No float planes were witnessed landing in the waters near Chequamegon Point. However, several large aircraft flew directly over piping plover nesting areas and adjacent shorelines. Two planes, a very large military plane and a small float plane, were observed flying close to the beach. Additionally, a black privately owned helicopter was spotted flying dangerously low on three separate occasions. One of the monitors estimated the aircraft to be only 30-50 feet off the ground during the initial observation.

While helicopters and planes have differing minimum heights of



operation, flying that low is still illegal and dangerous behavior for monitors, visitors, plovers, and the pilot. Because of this, the eyewitness monitor worked with an FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) investigator to file a complaint.

Piping plovers can't distinguish aircraft and drones from avian predators that want to eat them or their young. Not only can they be mistaken for predators, but the loud noise can interfere with foraging, courtship, and **copulation**. At worst, low flying aircraft can cause piping plovers to abandon nests or young, greatly affecting population revival efforts. Disturbing piping plovers this way is illegal and considered harassment under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

(Source: <https://pipingploverproject.org/tag/drones/>)



Privately owned helicopter flying directly over Plover beach

HUMAN/MONITOR INTERACTION

Visitor/monitor interaction was overwhelmingly positive this season. Printed brochures were given out to those who were receptive, as well as small cards with a QR Code that when scanned would lead to www.greatlakespipingplover.org for more information. Only during the 4th of July and subsequent two weekends did individuals or families walk directly in front of the nesting sites. On these occasions, the monitor would greet and educate them on the plovers. People without prior knowledge of piping plovers were very interested in learning more or helping. During one instance, several young boys volunteered to help chase seagulls away from the nests. Monitors emphasized the endangered status and rarity of the piping plovers in the Great Lakes. When approached, monitors let visitors view the adults and chicks with specialized equipment. Visitors appreciated how special it was to be one of very few people to see piping plovers in the wild. People passing by were asked to walk in the wet zone and carefully listen for a quiet “peep-lo” or “keep-er”.

Most visitors knew about the piping plover's habitat being in the local vicinity. They asked questions and were quite interested in learning more, especially how to best navigate or behave in the area while visiting. Many told us they were locals from either Ashland, Bayfield, or Odanah. Visitors who self-identified as repeat or annual visitors to Chequamegon Point would ask how many nests there were this year, how many chicks, etc. The public's continued appreciation, respect, and awareness of piping plovers is tremendously beneficial for the conservation effort.



CHICK BANDING

BIRD BANDERS:

Sumner Matteson, Avian Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

Kassandra Arts, Biological Technician, Apostle Island National Lakeshore

Both plover monitors were present.

On both banding days, chicks were weighed prior to banding, and after banding were released in the direction of their parents. Parent plovers and chicks were observed until they reunited, then banders and support departed.

Six chicks were banded July 2, 2025. The chicks were located at Plover Beach, Nests 2, 4 and 5 (Dune, South beach, Mouth). Seven more chicks were banded on July 17, 2025. The second day of chick banding proved to be more of a challenge. One of the Sandy (nest 7) chicks couldn't be located and was assumed predated. The male adult also showed aggression towards one of its chicks post banding. The four Duplex chicks (nest 3) were also much older and quicker than the other chicks. This made corralling the chicks a greater challenge. This, however, proved to be no obstacle for the skilled team of support (pictured below).



The graceful release of a newly banded chick



Day 1

From left to right: Kassandra Arts, Melanie Michaels, Rowan Gibson, Aidan Doherty, Sumner Matteson, Jakob Wohlford, Elouise Lozinski, and Izzy Vetterman. Photo taken by Cait Williamson



Day 2

Top left to right: Sumner Matteson, Landis Ehler, Alex Juedes, Aidan Doherty, Elouise Lozinski, Rowan Gibson. **Bottom left to right:** Ed Jakaitis, Mikayla Erickson, Kassandra Arts, Izzy Vetterman, Jakob Wohlford. Photo taken by Billy Flynn

CHICK BANDING DAY

(CONTINUED)



Sumner Matteson and Kassandra Arts delicately soldering bands on plover chick



Plover banding team slowly and methodically approaching chicks from the dune for capture



(front to back) Jakob, Aidan, Melanie Michaels, and Rowan are releasing recently banded chicks.



Sumner Matteson (left), Kassandra Arts (middle), and Izzy Vetterman (right) recording data and banding chick



ADULT BANDING

BIRD BANDERS:

Stephanie Schubel, Lead Plover Bander and Field Team Coordinator, University of Minnesota

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

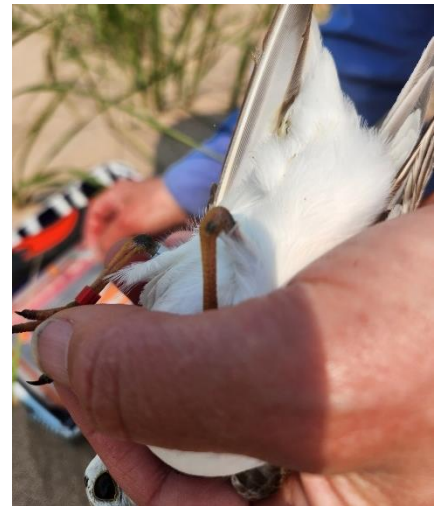
Aimee Rothschild, Field Team, University of Minnesota

Both plover monitors were present.

On both banding days, adults were weighed prior to re-banding, and after banding were released and supervised momentarily until an adult was back incubating the eggs.

Adult banding took two days to complete. During adult banding, chick bands are removed from the adult plovers and new, unique bands are soldered (this does not hurt the bird). The adults are usually given unique band color combinations that correspond with their names. For example, one adult with the combo X, L: Of, G, Y, was given the name Extra Large Guy. These individualized combinations help with monitoring on Chequamegon Point and at their wintering grounds.

This year was very successful for adult banding. Of the 13 adults needing new combinations, 8 were re-banded. The Nest 1 male and female, nest 2 female, nest 3 female, nest 4 male and female, and nest 5 male and female all had updated band combinations. The method used for capturing adults can be stressful, so monitors observed the adults closely after release to ensure incubation resumed. All adults resumed their parental duties without complication.



Stephanie Schubel handling an adult bird for banding

OTHER WILDLIFE



BIRDS, MAMMALS, INSECTS AND MORE

Immature bald eagles were frequent visitors throughout the season, flying both over the nesting areas and perching atop dead trees near the east and west shores of Chequamegon Point. Mature bald eagles were also prevalent. One monitor even saw a “cartwheel courtship flight” or “death spiral” directly in front of the monitor camp, which resulted in one of the eagles swimming. Whitetail deer were also spotted on occasion. As has historically been the case, the deer proved to be curious about the exclosures and/or plovers as exemplified by their tracks near and around exclosures. An adult whitetail deer even ran in front of one of the monitors on their way to a plover nest.

Common mergansers were quite common in the waters along the eastern shore. Some groups were quite large, including twenty or more birds. One monitor captured a photo of a lone female carrying chicks pictured below.



Biting stable flies were incredibly prevalent and bothersome on many days of the season, especially on hot, humid days without wind. Stable flies are terrestrial and hatch from washed-up vegetation and driftwood. Both male and female stable flies bite. They made monitoring quite difficult. Stable flies will bite any open skin but tend to target legs, ankles, and wrists. Bug repellents do not deter biting flies, and they can bite through thin or tight-fitting fabrics. The best preventative option monitors found was to wear loose-fitting clothing and tall boots.



At the end of season, spotted sandpipers took up residence at Plover Beach, including adults and newly hatched chicks who foraged near the piping plovers.

Black bears were also present. Bear tracks and scat were found from camp to the northern end of Chequamegon Point. There were also several middle-of-the-night bear visits heard just outside the tent by monitors.



Migrating birds passing through filled the shoreline at the beginning of the season but soon departed. Likewise, a return near the end of July saw an uptick in shorebird species for a few days before they departed.

BIRDS

Common Name	Scientific Name
Canada Goose.....	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Blue-winged Teal.....	<i>Spatula discors</i>
Gadwall.....	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Green-winged Teal.....	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Greater/Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya marila/affinis</i>
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
Common Merganser.....	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Ruffed Grouse.....	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>
Horned Grebe.....	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>
Mourning Dove.....	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo.....	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>
Common Nighthawk.....	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
Chimney Swift.....	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Sandhill Crane.....	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>
Ring-billed Gull.....	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
Herring Gull.....	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Caspian Tern.....	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>
Double-crested Cormorant.....	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
Great Blue Heron.....	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Bald Eagle.....	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
Broad-winged Hawk.....	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>
Belted Kingfisher.....	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>
Hairy Woodpecker.....	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>
Pileated Woodpecker.....	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
Northern Flicker.....	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Merlin.....	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Black-bellied Plover.....	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Semipalmated Plover.....	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
Piping Plover.....	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Short-billed Dowitcher.....	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>
Ruddy Turnstone.....	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee.....	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Alder Flycatcher.....	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>
Least Flycatcher.....	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
Eastern Phoebe.....	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Eastern Kingbird.....	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Common Raven.....	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
Bank Swallow.....	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus stellaris</i>
Eastern Bluebird.....	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
Veery.....	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*
 American Pipit..... *Anthus rubescens*
 Purple Finch..... *Haemorhous purpureus*
 White-winged Crossbill..... *Loxia leucoptera*
 Pine Siskin..... *Spinus pinus*
 American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis*
 Chipping Sparrow..... *Spizella passerina*
 Dark-eyed Junco..... *Junco hyemalis*
 White-throated Sparrow..... *Zonotrichia albicollis*
 Savannah Sparrow..... *Passerculus sandwichensis*
 Song Sparrow..... *Melospiza melodia*
 Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*
 Eastern Towhee..... *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*
 Baltimore Oriole..... *Icterus galbula*
 Red-winged Blackbird..... *Agelaius phoeniceus*
 Common Grackle..... *Quiscalus quiscula*
 Ovenbird..... *Seiurus aurocapilla*
 Northern Waterthrush..... *Parkesia noveboracensis*
 Golden-winged Warbler..... *Vermivora chrysoptera*

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*
 Tennessee Warbler..... *Leiothlypis peregrina*
 Nashville Warbler *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*
 Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia*
 Common Yellowthroat..... *Geothlypis trichas*
 American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*
 Cape May Warbler..... *Setophaga tigrina*
 Magnolia Warbler..... *Setophaga magnolia*
 Blackburnian Warbler..... *Setophaga fusca*
 Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia*
 Chestnut-sided Warbler..... *Setophaga pensylvanica*
 Black-throated Blue Warbler..... *Setophaga caerulescens*
 Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus*
 Yellow-rumped Warbler..... *Setophaga coronata*
 Black-throated Green Warbler..... *Setophaga virens*
 Canada Warbler..... *Cardellina canadensis*
 Scarlet Tanager..... *Piranga olivacea*
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak..... *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
 Indigo Bunting..... *Passerina cyanea*





All photos this page taken by Rowan Gibson 2024, Plover



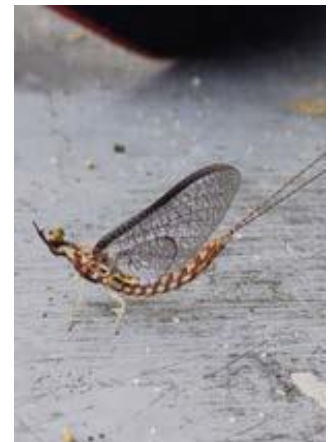
INSECTS

Common Name.....	Scientific Name
Sand Chafer	<i>Strigoderma arbicola</i>
White-collared Chafer	<i>Dichelonyx albicollis</i>
European Chafer	<i>Amphimallon majale</i>
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle.....	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>
Bigeminate Sigil Lady Beetle	<i>Hyperaspis bigeminata</i>
Eye-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Anatis mali</i>
Chinch-bug	<i>Blissus leucopterus</i>
Hairy-necked Tiger Beetle.....	<i>Cicindela hirticollis</i>
Six-spotted Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela sexguttata</i>
Oblique-lined Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela tranquebarica</i>
Ant-like Longhorn Beetle	<i>Cyrtophorus verrucosus</i>
Spotted Cucumber Beetle	<i>Diabrotica undecimpunctata</i>
Baly's Earth-boring Beetle.....	<i>Geotrupes balyi</i>
Three-lined Hopleia	<i>Hoplia trifasciata</i>
Black Firefly.....	<i>Lucidota atra</i>
Tumbling Ragdoll	<i>Mordella marginata</i>
Fan-shaped Fire-colored Beetle	<i>Neopyrochroa flabellata</i>
Green Immigrant Leaf Weevil	<i>Polydrusus formosus</i>
Rain Beetle	<i>Pterostichus melanarius</i>
Red Triangle Long-horned Beetle.....	<i>Purpuricenus humeralis</i>
Bee-mimic Beetle.....	<i>Trichiotinus assimilis</i>
Red-blue Checkered Beetle.....	<i>Trichodes nuttalli</i>
Thin-tailed Long-horned Beetle....	<i>Typocerus acuticauda</i>
Banded Longhorn Beetle	<i>Typocerus velutinus</i>
Roughened Darkling Beetle.....	<i>Upis ceramboides</i>
Rove Beetle.....	<i>Xantholinus sp.</i>
Yellow-spotted Webworm Moth.....	<i>Anageshna primordialis</i>
Spongy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>
.....	<i>Macaria sp.</i>
Virgin Tiger Moth.....	<i>Apantesis virgo</i>
.....	<i>Caenurgina sp.</i>
Arctic Skipper.....	<i>Carterocephalus mandan</i>
Northern Pearly-eye	<i>Lethe anthedon</i>
European Skipper.....	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>
Monarch.....	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>
.....	<i>Ophioninae</i>
Eastern Calligrapher	<i>Toxomerus geminatus</i>
Half-black Bumble Bee.....	<i>Bombus vagans</i>
Yellow-banded Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus terricola</i>
.....	<i>Ectemnius sp.</i>
.....	<i>Aritranis director</i>
Mining Bee.....	<i>Andrena sp.</i>
.....	<i>Pyrobombus sp.</i>
.....	<i>Pandivirilia sp.</i>
.....	<i>Therevinae sp.</i>
Stable Fly/Sand Fly/Biting Fly	<i>Stomoxys calcitrans</i>
Common Snipe Fly	<i>Rhagio mystaceus</i>
.....	<i>Nephrotoma wulpiana</i>
Narrow-headed Marsh Fly.....	<i>Helophilus fasciatus</i>
Common Drone Fly.....	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>
Wandering Deer Fly	<i>Chrysops aberrans</i>
Frigid Deer Fly	<i>Chrysops frigidus</i>
.....	<i>Mesembrina latreillii</i>
Unadorned Bog Fly.....	<i>Parhelophilus obsoletus</i>
Narrow-banded Pond Fly	<i>Sericomyia militaris</i>
Thick-headed fly	<i>Physocephala furcillata</i>
Racket-tailed Emerald	<i>Dorocordulia libera</i>
Giant Mayfly	<i>Hexagenia sp.</i>
Common Marauder.....	<i>Proctacanthus milbertii</i>
Say's Cicada.....	<i>Okanagana rimosa</i>





All photos
this page
taken by
Rowan
Gibson,
Plover
Monitor



OTHER WILDLIFE

(CONTINUED)



ARACHNIDS

Common Name	Scientific Name
American Dog Tick.....	<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i>
Eastern Black-legged Tick.....	<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>
Versicolor Long-jawed Orbweaver.....	<i>Tetragnatha versicolor</i>
.....	<i>Habronattus cognatus</i>
Arabesque Orbweaver.....	<i>Neoscona arabesca</i>
Goldenrod Crab Spider	<i>Misumena vatia</i>
Multicolored Bark Crab Spider.....	<i>Bassania versicolor</i>
Harvestmen sp.	<i>Opiliones sp.</i>

OTHER ARTHROPODS

Common Name	Scientific Name
(Centipede)	<i>Strigamia sp.</i>
(Plankton).....	<i>Holopedium gibberum</i>

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Common Name	Scientific Name
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla Versicolor</i>
Green Frog.....	<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>
Mink Frog.....	<i>Lithobates septentrionalis</i>
Common Garter Snake.....	<i>Amnophis sirtalis</i>
Snapping Turtle.....	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>

FISH

Common Name	Scientific Name
Spottail Shiner.....	<i>Hudsonius hudsonius</i>

MAMMALS

Common Name	Scientific Name
Shrew sp.....	<i>Soricidae</i>
Gray Squirrel.....	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Red Squirrel.....	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
Black Bear.....	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
White-tailed Deer.....	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>



PLANTS

Common Name	Scientific Name
common yarrow.....	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i> sp.
pearly everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>
Lyreleaf Rockcress.....	<i>Arabidopsis lyrata</i>
bearberry.....	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Field Sagewort.....	<i>Artemisia campestris</i>
American marram grass	<i>Calamagrostis breviligulata</i>
Marsh Calla.....	<i>Calla palustris</i>
fireweed	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>
bastard toadflax.....	<i>Comandra umbellata</i>
marsh cinquefoil	<i>Comarum palustre</i>
Canadian bunchberry.....	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>
red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
pink lady's slipper	<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>
wood fern	<i>Dryopteris</i> sp.
trailing arbutus.....	<i>Epigaea repens</i>
field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
Virginia strawberry.....	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>
Eastern Teaberry.....	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
woolly beachheather	<i>Hudsonia tomentosa</i>
Baltic Rush.....	<i>Juncus balticus</i>
common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Swamp Laurel	<i>Kalmia polifolia</i>
seaside pea	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>
Balkan toadflax.....	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>
stag's-horn clubmoss	<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>
northern starflower.....	<i>Lysimachia borealis</i>
Tufted Loosestrife.....	<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>
Canada mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>
narrowleaf cow wheat	<i>Melampyrum lineare</i>
evening primrose	<i>Oenothera</i> sp.
Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella</i> sp.
sand cherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i>
common bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Bog Labrador Tea	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>
Rose sp.....	<i>Rosa</i> sp.
Sheep's sorrel.....	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
common soapwort.....	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>
purple pitcher plant.....	<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>
Marsh Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>
interrupted clubmoss	<i>Spinulum annotinum</i>
white meadowsweet.....	<i>Spiraea alba</i>
marsh hedge nettle.....	<i>Stachys hispida</i>
common dandelion.....	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
western poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron rydbergii</i>
lowbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>

FUNGI AND LICHEN

Common Name	Scientific Name
Chicken of the Woods.....	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>
British Soldier Lichen.....	<i>Cladonia cristatella</i>





All photos this page taken by Rowan Gibson, Plover Monitor



WEATHER

 SURVEY PERIOD	 MAX. TEMP.	 MIN. TEMP.	AVG. TEMP. INCLUDES OVER NIGHT TEMPS	MEAN AVG. TEMP. NORMAL	TOTAL DAYS OF PRECIP.	 SUM PRECIP.	NORMAL PRECIP. TOTAL	 GUST MAX
May Nest building and incubating	89 °F	25 °F	52.0 °F	51.5°F	3	0.55"	3.45"	45 mph
Jun Incubating and hatching	90 °F	32 °F	61.5 °F	61.0 °F	12	2.78"	3.92"	41 mph
Jul Fledging and departing	91 °F	43 °F	66.3 °F	66.7 °F	9	5.27"	3.93"	52 mph
Aug (6 days) Fledging and departing	87 °F	35 °F	64.8 °F	65.1 °F	3	1.81"	3.44"	40 mph

Historical weather data sourced from weather.gov and wunderground.com

The plover season got wet in June and July. Between both months, there was a total of 21 days of precipitation or wet days. A wet day is classified as any day with a liquid-equivalent of 0.04 inches of precipitation. Chequamegon Point/Long Island saw the most precipitation in July, however, chances of a wet day also rapidly decreased from July to August. June and July had several large storms with strong winds. The combination of precipitation, gusts, and wave action resulted in significant damage to the psychological fencing. Many of the signposts were snapped in half, buried, or bent at a 90° angle. Monitors promptly fixed all damage. One intense storm in July washed away a steel scarecrow between nest 2 and 6. Another storm weeks later deposited it near the monitor camp 1.4 miles from its original location.

The weather did, however, cause difficulties for monitors. In addition to fence repairs, late season storms made inconvenient altercations to the beach. Several lengths of shoreline that were easily traversed early in the season disappeared or were obstructed by fallen trees and driftwood logs. There were also several occasions when monitors had to be removed from Chequamegon Point/ Long Island early due to the threat of storms.

Despite the intensity and frequency of storms, the plovers endured. No nests were lost to flooding and none of the damage was consequential. While severe storms may be stressful for incubating adults, weather did not drastically impact hatch or mortality rates.



A foggy morning at plover beach which hindered observational capabilities



Intense waves and fog before a storm

GLOSSARY

CANDLED-A method used for testing an eggs viability

COBBLE PAN-The strip of beach parallel to the shore where cobblestones (naturally rounded rock) have been most densely deposited by the tide.

COPULATION-The male hops onto the female's back and balances there kneading her with his feet. At the correct moment he transfers his sperm into her cloaca, the male tucks his tail under hers and then dismounts. He sometimes holds on to her neck feathers with his bill for a short time

FLEDGE-The point reached in a juvenile plover's life when its flight feather growth allows for the ability to fly

FLIGHT DISPLAY-The male circles over his territory with stiff, deep wing beats peeping constantly. Males usually do flight displays in response to other males intruding on their territory or to females they are trying to attract.

FOREDUNE -The dune ridge in a system of dunes that is closest to the shoreline.

INTERSPECIFIC COMPETITION-Competition for limited resources by members of the same species

PARALLEL WALK-One territorial display is the parallel walk. (Photo #2, Back Cover) Two plovers, or sometimes more, with adjoining territories, walk side-by-side along the territorial boundary. They take turns running ahead, pecking and bobbing

PSYCHOLOGICAL FENCING- A protective perimeter installed around active nest sites to limit public disturbance. It consists primarily of a set of posts and signs joined by a length of twine or string.

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES-Both males and females can be involved in territory defense. They puff up their back feathers and charge at each other with lowered heads. Sometimes they even jump on each other and tussle on the beach. There will be a lot of peeping during a dispute.

TREE LINE -The belt where the dune system transitions into forest habitat; the edge of the dunes where trees begin to grow

WASH ZONE -The region of the shoreline within which waves break.



Special Thanks

This report represents the effort of a far larger team. First and foremost, thank you to **Jakob Wohlford** and **Elouise Lozinski** for your leadership, mentorship and logistical support throughout the season. The appreciation for each early morning boat ride and late-night security check-in cannot be understated. The passed-down knowledge and experience of piping plovers and Chequamegon Point was extremely valuable and beneficial this monitoring season. We also acknowledge all the behind-the-scenes work and responsibilities, allowing us to concentrate on the birds.

Our thanks to the **Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department: Jacob Rodmaker, Nick Blanchard, and Mark Arbuckle** for the outside help setting up psychological fencing and transportation to and from camp when needed. Extra special thanks to **Jakob Wohlford, and Elouise Lozinski**, for all your work to monitor and support Mashkiiziibii Nest (nest #4) at the mouth of the Bad River. Because we (the monitors) could only visit the nest while transporting by boat to/from Chequamegon Point, that area needed additional support. Our immense gratitude for your dedication to the additional duties and responsibility. The success of that nest reflects all your care.

Thanks to **Sumner Matteson** for leadership and experienced banding on both banding days, as well as your tremendous avian expertise which you so encouragingly shared all through the season. Your positive attitude and humor will always be appreciated.

Thank you to **Stephanie Schubel** for your leadership and expertise this season along with your banding of our adult plovers.

Our thanks to now retired National Park Service staff: **Peggy Burkman** for early training in May and introducing us to the rest of the supportive staff of the National Park Service serving the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Bayfield, WI. Thank you to the rest of the APIS staff for all your assistance on the banding days, we salute **Izzy, Kasey, Melanie, Landis, Alex, Ed, and Billy Flynn**.

Thank you to **Jade Arneson** of US Fish and Wildlife for your guidance and instruction throughout the season with weekly meetings keeping the team informed and prepared.

Finally, recognition and praise to our partner organizations: the **Mashkiiziibii Tribe**, the **National Park Service**, **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, **Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department**, **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**, **The Nature Conservancy**, the **Johnson Family**, and the **WISKERT Corporation** for your dedication to the conservation of Chequamegon Point piping plovers on Lake Superior of the Great Lakes. Together, progress is being made with the hope that generations to come will be able to be as enchanted by these amazing birds as we were this summer. Thank you all!



