



THE Louis Berger Group, INC.

12596 W. Bayaud Ave., Suite 201, Lakewood, CO 80228
Tel 303 985 6600 Fax 303 984 4942 www.louisberger.com

A72
CAH

CONVERSATION

Date 06 -13, 2008 Time 1:00p

RECORD 

Name: Wendy Edwards

Organization: State of Rhode Island Fish and Wildlife Department

Phone: 401-364-9124

I had a brief conversation with Wendy Edwards, asking her to describe the field protocol that the state of Rhode Island used for the management of piping plovers. Below is her response.

Rhode Island manages plovers on 12 beaches on a case-by-case basis following USFWS protocols. The USFWS recommends a buffer distance of 50 m for nesting plovers. In Rhode Island, symbolic fencing (8' metal "U" poles, yellow rope, do-not-enter signs) is used to protect plover nests, nest scrapes and, if needed, fledgling foraging areas, from pedestrians. Sixty volunteers monitor nests while providing public education (e.g., discussion, flyers) seven days a week. The buffer distances are determined, in part, by the flush distance of incubating adults. State biologists observe flush distances in the field to make these determinations. In general, plovers that breed on beaches with more pedestrians flush at shorter distances than plovers breeding in areas with less human contact. Buffer distances are also a function of nest location and beach width. For example, if nest is placed on the upper dune, managers will protect the lower beach in addition to nest site. In one example, a beach 1.5 mile in length has one-third of its length closed during the breeding season.

Written by John Walsh
