

From: [Mike Murray](#)
 To: ffff1@mindspring.com
 Bcc: [Cyndy Holda](#)
 Subject: Re: Fledging Plovers
 Date: 07/17/2009 04:44 PM

Frank,

Sorry about the lack of a phone call. I'm not sure why you weren't called, but we will be sure to let you know the next time. We are issuing a press release shortly to explain the Cape Point access situation.

In general, we can reopen an area to ORV and pedestrian access as soon as PIPL or CWB chicks have fledged, if there are no other breeding activities (such as other species nests or chicks, etc.) in the area causing it to remain closed (except that "prenesting areas" have to remain closed until July 15 or two weeks after all breeding activity has ceased, whichever is later). The two-week waiting period after fledging applies only to AMOY chicks, because young AMOY fledglings are relatively big birds and weak flyers, and less capable of getting out of the way of moving vehicles or pets off leash than are the fledglings of the smaller shorebird species.

At Cape Point, the remaining piping plover chicks all fledged by last week (which is why we were able to reopen Ramp 44, etc.); however, access to the Point remained blocked about 60 meters south of Ramp 44 due to unfledged American oystercatcher (AMOY) chicks for which under the consent decree a 200 m buffer is required. These AMOY chicks have now fledged, so we are able to at least reopen the access corridor to pedestrian use and we expect to be able to reopen the corridor to ORV access and pets in about two weeks.

I realize that people are eager for ORV access to the Point and we are eager to be able to reopen it. I hope it is considered at least partially good news that people can now drive onto the beach at Ramp 44 and then legally walk to the Point, knowing that full access will be restored soon.

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07/17/2009 10:56 AM

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To Mike Murray <mike_murray@nps.gov>

cc

Subject Fledging Plovers

Mike,

Sorry I missed you on your visit the other day. I do have a question on report I had from closure at Cape Point. I have been advised by another tackle shop that they got a call from NPS Manteo today advising there was a walking corridor to Cape Point. I have had no such call.

they also advised they were told thePlover that fledged a few days ago would not be strong enough to have the closure removed for orv's til 7-31-09. I thought the fledge to open time was 14 days and opening could occur.

Can anyone explain why access proponents always get the short end of the stick when it comes to closing areas and opening them again.

I look forward to your reply.
Frank Folb