

0030820

From: [Thayer Broili](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
Subject: Fw: request for reports of piping plover chicks with delayed flight capability
Date: 05/24/2011 10:08 AM

Mike - FYI
Britta - I assume you'll provide any such info. to Anne?

Thayer Broili
Chief of Resource Management
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Phone 252-473-2111 ext.137
Fax 252-473-2595

----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 05/24/2011 09:51 AM -----

Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS
To Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc
05/24/2011 08:33 AM Subject Fw: request for reports of piping plover chicks with delayed flight capability

Interesting request from Anne.

Britta Muiznieks
Wildlife Biologist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

252-995-3740-**Office**
252-475-8348-**Cell**
252-995-6998-**FAX**

----- Forwarded by Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS on 05/24/2011 08:31 AM -----

"Schweitzer, Sara H"
<sara.schweitzer@ncwildlife.org>
05/23/2011 06:51 PM
To "Mike_Hoff@fws.gov"
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cc

Subject FW: request for reports of piping plover
chicks with delayed flight capability

Hello, Piping Plover Folks:

Below is another request for information about Piping Plovers.

Best,
Sara

Coastal Waterbird Biologist
102 Inge Court
Wildlife Diversity Program
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
New Bern, NC 28562
252-639-8435
sara.schweitzer@ncwildlife.org

From: Anne_Hecht@fws.gov [Anne_Hecht@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 3:51 PM
Subject: request for reports of piping plover chicks with delayed flight capability

Dear Atlantic Coast State Piping Plover Coordinators --

I hope the 2011 season is going well for you.

As you know, although we count piping plover chicks as "fledged" for the purposes of estimating productivity when they are flying or reach ≥ 25 days, many piping plovers require up to 35 days to attain sufficient flight capability to evade ORVs and other threats. Over the last few years, I've received a few reports of 35 day old piping plover that are

remain incapable of sustained flight for >15 meters. In order to help us determine the prevalence of this phenomenon, I'd be very appreciative if you would ask your cooperators to watch for any such cases and document the attending circumstances. It does not matter whether the >35 day flightless chicks are at a site with or without ORV use.

Please ask monitors to be very certain of the identity/age of such chicks (occasionally someone reports a flightless plover chick that turns out, on further observation, to come from a different brood than that to which it was previously ascribed). We would like to know if the observed phenomenon applies to all the surviving chicks in a brood or if some chicks appear much more delayed than their brood-mates. Any potential contributing factors (e.g., evidence that prey is limited, harsh weather, unusual disturbance) would also be of interest. Last, if anyone observes flight-capable juveniles that crouch or "freeze" in tire ruts when vehicles approach, please pass those along as well.

I will add this to the end-of-season information request that I typically send to you in August, but I'd be happy to receive any earlier observations that you care to send my way.

The plovers appreciate all your hard work on their behalf,
Anne

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