

## Piping Plovers Return to Chebeague Island's Indian Point



*Photos by Krista Hayward*

For the fourth year in a row, endangered piping plovers have chosen to nest on Chebeague Island. During this sensitive nesting period, we're asking for everyone's help to keep the birds safe until the chicks are able to fly off on their own.

Dogs are among their biggest threats, along with seagulls, foxes, cats, raptors, and careless beachgoers. If we're lucky, the chicks will grow wings and fledge in about four to six weeks.

### **So what can you do?**

- Stay away from the roped-off area to avoid stressing the birds.
- Hold off on bringing dogs to the beach until after July 31.
- Fill in any holes you make in the sand so the chicks don't get trapped.
- Pack out your trash, which attracts predators.
- Do not fly kites or drones, which the birds perceive as a threat
- Throwing and hitting games, such as football, volleyball, and frisbee, are not allowed near the marked habitat areas.
- Keep cats indoors.

Thank you for doing your part to help protect wildlife and this fragile landscape.

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Hayward at [khayward3@yahoo.com](mailto:khayward3@yahoo.com) or Clare Ellis at [clareelliswebb@gmail.com](mailto:clareelliswebb@gmail.com).