

20/01/2024

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Nesting Piping Plovers on the rise

The Near Threatened Piping Plover enjoyed a record breeding season in Massachusetts in 2023.

Mass Audubon, the Massachusetts chapter of the National Audubon Society in USA, announced an estimate of 1,145 nesting pairs in the state – the highest number since records began in 1986. This total represents a more than 500% increase from when conservation efforts began, at an estimated 135 pairs recorded, and a more than 10% increase from 2022, when there were an estimated 1,033 nesting pairs.



The state of Massachusetts holds some 50% of the Atlantic Coast population of Piping Plover (Ed Stubbs).

Furthermore, in 2023, plovers returned to beaches that hadn't seen nests in years, a success story attributed to Mass Audubon's [Coastal Waterbird Program](#), which uses fencing, signage, nest exclusion areas and land-use agreements with local stakeholders to protect nesting and breeding birds.

Massachusetts is believed to support some 50% of the Atlantic Coast population of Piping Plover. The species is listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN.

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