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# Threatened and Endangered Species

## Management and Protection Program



# 2011

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## Introduction

Established in 1686, the Southampton Town Board of Trustees has long supported the need to protect the town's various natural resources. Located on the eastern end of Long Island, Southampton is home to an extensive coastline of ocean and bay beaches. Within this sensitive coastal habitat resides three federally and state listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species. These include two bird species; the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) and the plant seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*). In addition, the town is also home to seabeach knotweed (*Polygonum glaucum*), a rare plant in New York State.

Prior to 1998, T&E species recovery in the Southampton area was undertaken by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). However, due to a decrease in staffing and resources provided by the NYSDEC and TNC, the Southampton Trustees initiated their own program. To date, this includes the sole management of approximately 13 miles of ocean beach from Shinnecock County Park East to the East Hampton Town border, and 16 bay sites located throughout the town. During the 2011 season the Trustees worked cooperatively with The Nature Conservancy in an effort to become acquainted with the sites managed by TNC. Two sites were shared by the Trustees and TNC. Onset of the 2012 season the trustees will manage the TNC ocean sites west of Shinnecock Inlet. TNC will maintain monitoring their two bay sites, while the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service monitor the shoreline of Westhampton Beach Dunes. Monitoring is also provided by the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation at public beaches in county ownership (Shinnecock West and East County Parks).

Listed as federally threatened and state endangered, the piping plover (PIPL) constitutes the largest portion of the T&E Species Program. Arriving from mid to late March, the piping plover breeding season lasts until late August to early September. Prior to their arrival, pre fencing is erected in areas that have historically been used by nesting plovers. The purpose of this fencing is to preserve the habitat from foot and vehicular traffic. Piping plovers are territorial, in that they will not nest within the direct vicinity of another mating pair. Consequently, the first month is often spent defending a territory and nesting doesn't officially begin until this is complete; usually late April to early May. Once the female lays one egg, she will continue to do so every other day until four eggs are laid. From this point on, both the male and female will share incubating duties for the next 25-28 days. Additional string fencing is erected for any nests not located in the previously installed areas in order to protect the incubating adult from being disturbed and flushed from the nest. If the site is suitable, a ten foot diameter wire mesh enclosure is erected and nylon netting is placed on top. The enclosure is put up so that the plovers can get in and out but predators such as crows, gulls, raccoons, and foxes can not. If a nest is not successful and it is still early enough in the season, the pair will renest, often in close proximity of the previous nest. Failure can occur as a result of abandonment, predation, washout, unhatched eggs or loss of chicks at a young age. During a renest the number of eggs laid begins to decrease consecutively.

Right before the chicks are due to hatch, snow fencing is erected to close off the area to vehicular traffic. This fencing is erected within approximately 1000 meters on each side of the nest and extends from the toe of the dune to the water's edge. The reason for this

structure is, that upon hatching, piping plover chicks are extremely small, camouflage and unable to fly until they are 25-35 days old. In addition, the chicks are precocial; meaning that they are not fed by their parents but must find their own food and begin doing so within the first few hours after hatching. As a result, chicks often run back and forth along the beach, putting them at risk. Once a plover chick is observed flying approximately 15 meters it is considered a success and is counted toward the management goals.

In order to remove the Atlantic Coast piping plover populations from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, the USFWS has developed a recovery criterion that must be met. Delisting will occur when there are 2,000 breeding pairs, maintained over five years. Of the two thousand, 575 of those must be located within New York and New Jersey. Other important delisting criteria include achieving a five year average productivity of 1.5 fledged chicks per pair and instituting long term agreements among cooperating agencies, landowners, and conservation organizations in order to maintain populations and productivity (USFWS, 1995). For the 2010 season, there were a total of 1782 pairs along the Atlantic Coast in which 498 were located in the NY-NJ unit.

Listed as a threatened species in New York State, the least tern (LETE) shares some similarities with the piping plover in terms of breeding and nesting behavior. As a result, beachgoers often mistake the identities of these two species. Arriving to their breeding grounds by late April to mid May, eggs are normally laid from late May through June. Frequently found within the same habitat as the piping plovers, nests are incubated for approximately 21 days. However, unlike the plover, terns nest in colonies and can have anywhere from 1 to 3 eggs per nest, making the use of exclosures impractical. In order to protect their nests, adult terns will actively defend them by dive bombing or defecating on any perceived threat. These birds are also different in that they are semi-precocial. Chicks are capable of moving about shortly after birth but remain in or around the nest and are fed by the adults. Often times the chicks stay within the string fence and hide amongst vegetation until they are nearly ready to fly or have already fledged. Although this is beneficial in regard to safety from vehicular or foot traffic, it makes exact counts more difficult. As a result, least tern counts are estimated. Around 19-20 days after hatching, the least tern chicks are able to fly and most have left for wintering grounds by the end of August to early September.

Seabeach amaranth is an annual low growing plant once abundant in coastal environments from Massachusetts to South Carolina. Believed to have been extirpated for over three decades from the state of New York, small populations were discovered on Long Island in 1990. This is believed to be the result of seeds being transported via storms and hurricanes. Recognized as both state and federally endangered, the population of seabeach amaranth has steadily increased and is now found in seven states, the majority of which are located in the mid Atlantic region. Found along sandy beaches, amaranth is often located between the toe of the dune and the high tide mark. The plants begin sprouting from their seeds between June and July and can grow as large as three feet in diameter. Upon their arrival, string fence is erected to protect the plants and they are individually counted. Seed production begins in August, peaks in September and last until the plant dies, sometimes occurring as late as November.

The main threat facing the future of seabeach amaranth is the loss of suitable habitat. This is often caused by the increased rate of erosion as a result of the use of bulkheads, seawalls, and other artificial dune construction as a means of beach stabilization. Additional threats include off road vehicles and natural factors, such as predators. Seabeach amaranth facilitates beach growth by trapping wind blown sand and assisting in the production of dunes. It has been recorded that in a few months, a cluster of amaranth plants can build a dune 18" high and 12' across. As with the federally protected piping plover, seabeach amaranth does need to meet certain criteria prior to delisting. This will occur when seventy five percent of the sites with suitable habitat within at least six of the nine historically occupied states are occupied by seabeach amaranth populations for ten consecutive years (USFWS, 1996).

The Town of Southampton is also home to seabeach knotweed. Sharing several similarities with seabeach amaranth, knotweed is faced with many of the same threats. As a result, populations within its range are beginning to decline. Considered a rare plant in New York State, the presence of this species bears significance in terms of its current status. Present from July to as late as November on both the ocean and bay sites, seabeach knotweed plants are identified and counted. The number of plants observed is estimated when plants are found in large clusters.

In total, the 2011 Threatened and Endangered Species Program confirmed the fledging of 30 piping plovers from the 43 nests and re-nests managed by the Southampton Town Trustees. The 32 total nesting pairs of piping plovers produced a final productivity of .94 for the 2011 season. Least tern pairs were estimated at 138 and produced approximately 11 fledges a serious decrease from years past. More than half the terns that fledged fledged from a new site not previously monitored before being discovered this summer. Iron Point Park is only accessible by water; though small, is an excellent secluded area for nesting shore birds. A total of 43 seabeach amaranth plants were also counted along with an estimated 897 seabeach knotweed plants. Numbers for both seabeach amaranth and seabeach knotweed have significantly decreased since the 2010 season.

**Ocean Sites:** (See attached maps for nesting locations)

**Southampton Beach** contains three sub-sites based on the location of road accesses. At approximately 3.5 miles, this is the largest site monitored by the Trustees and is located within the Village of Southampton. Southampton Beach also provides some of the widest beach located within the Town and supplies suitable habitat to all the T&E Species present. Off road vehicle traffic and beach raking are the largest concerns at this site.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity:** 1.6

**Shinnecock East County Park to Road D:** One Piping Plover nest was located within this sub-site; likely a re-nest with a clutch size of 3. This nest was of concern due to its close proximity to the picnic area which is open to ORV every day year round. The nest was exclosed and the entire clutch fledged.

6 Least Tern nests located within symbolic fencing resulted in two fledges for this site. No seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed was located at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pair, 3 Fledge

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.0

**Road D to Halsey Neck Lane:** This sub-site was the most productive for Southampton Beach, as well as the entire Trustee managed sites for the Town of Southampton. However, it is also one of the most difficult to manage. Although there is minimal public access, residents often walk dogs in this area with disregard to the string fencing. In addition, driving is a constant issue at this site. A total of eight pairs laid 13 nests at this site. Twelve chicks were fledged from four of the nests. Three of the four nests that successfully fledged were exclosed. The fourth nest was not exclosed and the entire brood fledged. Four of the thirteen nests hatched a total of sixteen chicks, of which only three chicks were lost, despite attempts of predation by a known fox in the area.

There were 11 least tern nests located within the same fencing as the plovers. Of these 11 nests, 0 tern chicks fledged. This sub-site also had 8 seabeach amaranth found within symbolic fencing.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 8 Pairs, 12 Fledges  
**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.5

**Halsey Neck Lane to South Main St:** The beach that lies within this area includes the very popular Coopers Beach and the Southampton Bathing Corp. This area is a high use site and as a result struggles with an increase in predators. In addition, beach raking is also used to maintain the beach, which removes food sources and shelter for both the piping plovers and least terns.

One pair of Piping Plovers laid two nests just east of Coopers Beach this season. The first nest attempt was predated before it was able to be exclosed. The second nest was exclosed and successfully hatched four chicks, one of which fledged. This particular area had a large amount of unleashed dogs that could have resulted in the disappearance of three of the four chicks.

A least tern colony of 4 nests was also recorded at this location. Of these nests, 0 chicks fledged. Seven amaranth plants were also located in this sub-site, as well as 1 knotweed plant.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pairs, 1 Fledges  
**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.0

**Gin Lane Beach** is located within the Village of Southampton. This site does not have a lot of suitable habitat and no piping plover or least terns were recorded here. No seabeach amaranth or knotweed was located.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pair, 0 Fledges  
**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Old Town Beach** is the easternmost site located within the Village of Southampton. The beach profile at this site makes it excellent habitat for all T&E Species located within the Town. Although eroded to the extreme west and east ends, the beach located in the middle is wide, with sparse vegetation throughout. One pair of Plovers laid one nest and successfully fledged three of the four chicks. ORV restrictive fencing was continuously vandalized or driven through at this site when it was first erected. The fourth chick was lost at fifteen days old. No least terns or seabeach knotweed were present at this site. Two seabeach amaranth plants were counted.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pairs, 3 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 3.0

**Watermill Beach** is located within the Town of Southampton and is broken up into three separate sub-sites based on the names of the town run beaches.

Fowlers, Flying Point, and Scott Cameron (Mecox) compromise a total of five access points, four of which are designated public beaches with lifeguards on duty. As a result, this is a high use site and struggles with unleashed dogs, predators and ORV access.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.3

**Fowlers Beach:** This site was home to one pair of Piping Plovers that successfully fledged one chick. The nest not located but was likely laid in the area behind the dune. The dune is extremely vegetated providing excellent protection from predators. This beach, though signed as a no dog beach, has many unleashed dogs. Two seabeach amaranth plants were counted here. 10 Least Tern nests fledged three chicks. There was no seabeach knotweed counted at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1Pair, 1 fledge

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 1.0

**Flying Point Beach:** This site had one nesting pair. This nest was located on the mud flat area located at the Mecox cut that typically floods. Though the nest was predated, the area in which the nest was located flooded a few days after predation occurred. There were eleven Least Tern nests located here that were washed out, no birds fledged from this site. No seabeach amaranth or knotweed was located here. No seabeach amaranth or knotweed was counted at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pair, 0 fledges

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Scott Cameron Beach:** The westernmost and easternmost boundaries of this site are Town Parks and Recreation managed beach areas, and therefore high in human activity. As a result, the birds often nest in a .4 mile stretch between these sections. Due to abandonment issues in the past exclosures were not initially erected and all nests were predated. Exclosures scheduled to be erected were predated upon return to be exclosed. One nest successfully fledged one chick from this site. Feral cats have been a serious result in the past at this site. Though a colony was not visibly present it is possible a few are still lingering in the area. 7 Least tern nests fledged one chick at this site this season, a significant decrease from past years. No amaranth or knotweed was located here.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 4 Pairs, 1 Fledges

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.25

**Sam's Creek Beach** is a small .6 mile site located between Jobs Lane and Ocean Rd. In the past it has been home to at least one pair of nesting birds. This season no birds nested here, likely a result of serious erosion over the winter. No Least tern activity, seabeach amaranth, or seabeach knotweed was located here.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Sagaponack Lake Beach** is separated into two sub-sites with the lake acting as the divider. Usually the lake cut is not maintained (open) during the breeding/germination season. Typically this area around the opening of the lake serves as an excellent feeding ground for many different shore birds.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Sagaponack Lake West:** This sub-site had one pair of nesting plovers. An enclosure was erected to protect against predators, however only three of the four eggs hatched. By when the chicks would have been twelve days old, none of them remained. 5 Least Tern nests were located here, but none fledged. No seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed was counted here.

**PIPL Site Activity: 1 Pairs, 0 Fledges**

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Sagaponack Lake East:** The westernmost section at this sub-site is the area located by the lake. This season one pair of birds had two nest attempts predated before the clutch was complete. The easternmost section of this site was home to two pairs that each had one nest attempt and did not re-nest. One nest was found high in the dune and was not able to be exclosed. The second nest was not exclosed at first due to weather delays. The nest was predated upon return to be exclosed. Sagaponack Lake is usually produces the largest Tern colony within the Town of Southampton, however of the forty nests no birds fledged. All nests were within symbolic fencing but disappeared after a severe storm in late June. No seabeach amaranth or seabeach knotweed was found.

**PIPL Site Activity: 3 Pairs, 0 Fledges**

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Fairfield Pond Lane Beach** is the eastern most beach within the Town of Southampton Trustee managed sites, located between Gibson Lane and Town Line road. Peter's Pond access divides the site into east and west sub-sites. This site particularly the eastern portion severely erodes each season, this year was particularly bad.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity: 1.2**

**Fairfield Pond Lane Beach West:** This western portion of Fairfield beach is much wider than the eastern portion. Three pairs of Piping Plovers laid three nests, two of which hatched, each fledging one bird a nest. Both nests were exclosed. One of the nests was washed out while it was hatching, two chicks were observed, one egg was washed out of the nest and never hatched, it is unknown if the fourth egg hatched. The third nest was laid late in the season; it was predated before it could be exclosed and the pair never re-nested. Eight tern nests were found here but none fledged chicks.

**PIPL Site Activity: 3 Pairs, 2 Fledges**

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity: .666**

**Fairfield Pond Lane Beach East:** Two pairs nested in this severely eroded eastern section of Fairfield. One pair nested high in the dune in an area that could not be exclosed. Due to severe erosion it is difficult for ORV to access this section of beach which proved to benefit the birds here, as all four chicks fledged. The other nest was



located in front of the dune and exclosed. The nest was washed out before it hatched and the pair did not re-nest in that area.

Seven tern nests were located but none fledged chicks. No seabeach amaranth or knotweed was located.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 2 Pair, 4 Fledges

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 2.0

**Bay Sites:** (See attached maps for nesting locations)

**Red Cedar Point** is located on a private residence in which the homeowner has given the Trustees permission to access the property and manage any T&E species present. This site is closed to driving and is not open to the public. Unfortunately the homeowners are often not present and the site was being accessed by both beachgoers and kite surfers, which did not prove to be a problem this season. Predation is also a very big problem at this site. Of the four nesting plover pairs, there were a total of 6 nests, of which two hatched. None of the chicks that hatched fledged. A pair of American Oyster Catchers as well as sea gulls and other small rodents could have been an issue for these young chicks, both nests were exclosed. The remaining nests were all predated either prior to completing the clutch or suffered because the nests could not be exclosed, for example one nest was laid within a large bush. This site last year was the most successful within in the Town of Southampton, this year both Terns and Piping Plovers did not bode well. Early in the season there were many loafing Least Terns though only ten were nesting. Typically a large Tern colony this year it was very small and no birds fledged here. After a storm in late June the entire colony vanished; some Terns came back and laid a few nests, none of which fledged chicks. Fifty seabeach knotweed plants were counted at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 4 Pairs, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0

**Red Creek Pond:** The first ever Piping Plover for this site was recorded in 2008, but none have returned since then. This site is located within a private residence and although access is limited some illegal beach driving and bonfires do occur, however the beach is eroding making ORV usage limited. Last year there was Tern activity at this site, a few even fledged, though none returned this season. No seabeach knotweed was found at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Squires Pond** had no nesting piping plovers this site is very popular with dog owners and unleashed dogs were often found running. No least tern activity was observed at this site. Two seabeach knotweed plants were counted here.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pair, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Meschutt Beach East** did not have any T&E species present this season. This site does not have any suitable habitat as most of it is bulkheaded. In addition, it is very heavily used for recreational purposes. This includes boating activity and beachgoers to the Peconic Beach Club.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Canoe Place Beach:** Although there is some suitable habitat at this site, it is limited, at high tide the beach completely disappears. The area is also heavily used by the residents of the private community the beach borders. No birds have ever nested here in the past and no vegetative species were recorded as well.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Fish Cove/North Sea Harbor** is two separate sites within the same vicinity. Fish Cove is located along Noyack Rd and is very small. This site is used extensively by ORV's and the sand is very firm and not suitable. The North Sea Harbor site is a small island located within the harbor. There is currently no suitable habitat at this site.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Towd Neck** is the largest bay site monitored by the Southampton Trustees and is broken up into two sub-sites with the inlet into North Sea Harbor as the divider. Both sub-sites are high use areas but vary in regard to beach profile. The greatest threat facing Towd is the use of recreational vehicles.

**Overall PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Towd Neck West:** No T&E species were present at this site. Two immediate threats to successful nesting at this sub-site are human activity and a lack of suitable habitat. Approximately ¼ of this site is bulk headed with the tide reaching the bulkhead, while the remainder is heavily used by ORV traffic, though high tides and beach erosion are making this more difficult as conditions worsen.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Towd Neck East:** This site is different from the western sub-site in that most of the habitat here is suitable for nesting plovers and terns. Fencing here is often a challenge as Towd Neck East is buffered by residences, all of which have individual access to the beach.

One pair of Piping Plovers nested at this sub-site. The nest was found with four eggs and shortly predated. Coastal stewards later in the season were approached by residents who observed a fox and its pups in dunes behind the symbolic string fencing. The pair did not re-nest.

A least tern colony was also located at this site with an estimated 12 nests, a significant decrease from this very productive least tern colony last year, and no terns fledged. This is likely due to the same fox seen in the vicinity as well as the storm in late June. Also decreased substantially from last year the knotweed count was 582, last year there was an estimated 5200.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pairs, 0 Fledge

**PIPL Sub-Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Wooley Pond** is separated into two sites due to the inlet into the Pond. Both sub-sites have limited suitable habitat and therefore no piping plovers or least terns have ever been recorded nesting here. Nine Seabeach knotweed plants were counted here.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Roses Grove and Fresh Pond** both have a lack of suitable habitat for piping plover and least tern nesting. This may be a result of the extensive use of bulkheading and steep slope of the beach profile. Three seabeach knotweed plants were counted at Fresh Pond.

**PIPL Site Activity: 0 Pairs**

**PIPL Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Pine Neck** had one pair of nesting piping plovers this year. This site is a peninsula and therefore a high use area for recreational boaters. Beach driving is also an issue of concern and ORV restrictive fencing was erected in early April before the nest was laid to prevent vandalism that typically occurs at onset. Three of the four eggs hatched and all birds successfully fledged. The birds mainly foraged on the south east side of the peninsula in an area un-accessible to ORV, those familiar with the site should know it is the area south of the Osprey pole.

One least tern nest was observed, but no chicks hatched. Seven seabeach knotweed plants were located at Pine Neck. No seabeach amaranth was recorded.

**PIPL Site Activity: 1 Pair, 0 Fledges**

**PIPL Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Long Beach** is one of the more difficult sites to manage. Approximately one mile long, the site is a public beach run by the towns' Department of Parks and Recreation. The high level of human activity is a major threat to the nesting shorebirds at this site. Long Beach is particularly crowded on weekends and holidays. Another threat to nesting at this location is predators such as gulls, crows and unleashed dogs. The parking lot also runs parallel to the beach, making it difficult to prohibit beach driving once chicks are present. No Piping Plovers nested here this year. A least tern colony also nested in the string fencing to the easternmost area. There was an estimated 6 nests and roughly thirty loafing terns but no chicks were ever seen. The colony was gone entirely by early July. Thirty-eight seabeach knotweed plants were counted.

**PIPL Site Activity: 0 Pair, 0 Fledges**

**PIPL Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Short Beach** does not contend with a lot of the problems faced by Long Beach. Although relatively close, few beachgoers are found here and the use of recreational vehicles is not a concern as the access is blocked by pilings. In addition, there are limited homes located here. Unfortunately, the presence of predators, specifically crows, is an extremely large issue. No piping plovers were recorded at this site.

No least terns or seabeach amaranth were located at this site. There were 183 seabeach knotweed plants recorded.

**PIPL Site Activity: 0 Pair, 0 Fledges**

**PIPL Site Productivity: 0.0**

**Genet Creek** a small private beach un-accessible to ORV has been home to the Piping Plover for the past two seasons. One pair was observed in early April, never nested and was last seen in early May. This is a great site as it is very secluded and is not

open to beach driving. The only concern here is the number of hawks that were observed in the area.

Five seabeach knotweed plants were recorded. No least tern or seabeach amaranth was found.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 1 Pairs, 0 Fledges

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

**Middle Pond** is the only site located along the Shinnecock Bay System. It is a narrow, secluded beach that is not highly trafficked by people and there is no access for ORV's. Although this site once produced fledges on a consistent basis, there has been no breeding plovers or terns since 2004. This is thought to be the result of an increase in predators and the overgrowth of vegetation where suitable habitat existed.

Fifteen Seabeach Knotweed plants were counted here.

**PIPL Site Activity:** 0 Pairs

**PIPL Site Productivity:** 0.0

### **PIPL Nests and Chicks:**

For the 2011 season, 32 breeding piping plover pairs produced 43 nests (including renests). Within those nests were a total of 156 eggs, out of which 59 (37.8%) successfully hatched. Of the remaining 97 eggs, 82 (84.5%) were lost to predation, 12 (12.4%) were washed out, 2 (2.1%) failed to hatch, and 1 (1.03%) was lost due to unknown causes. Overall, 16 (%) of the 43 nests hatched eggs. (See Table 2)

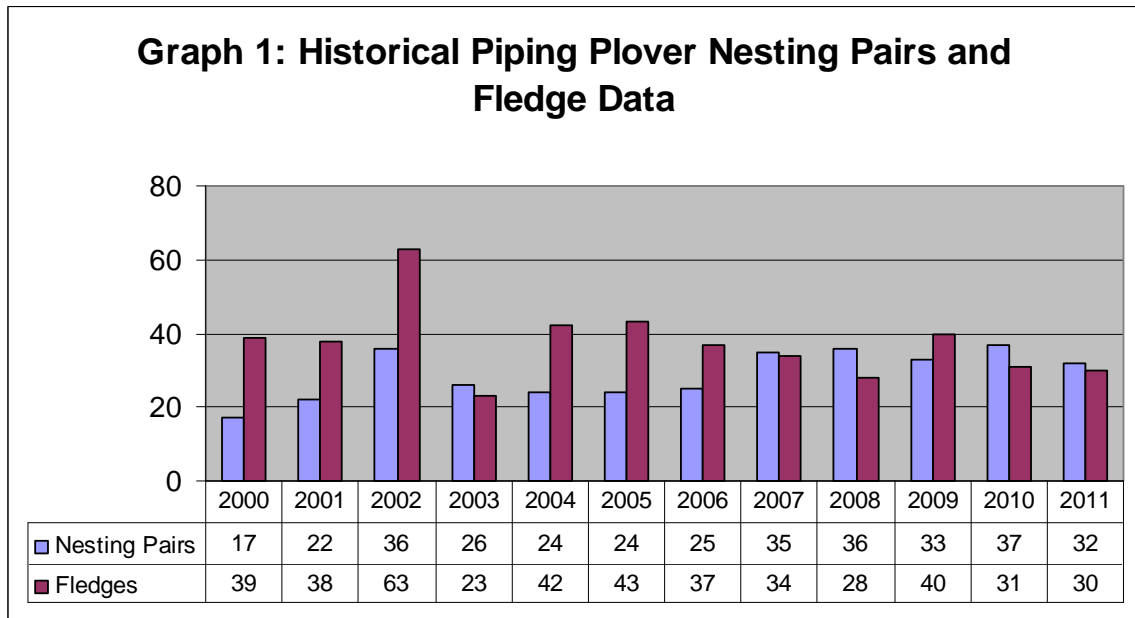
Most of this season's fledges succeeded from first nest attempts, while second nest attempts had a significantly lower success rate. Of the 43 nests, 11 were exclosed. Of the 11 nests exclosed, 14 chicks fledged from 7 nests. Of the 11 nest exclosed, 1 was washed out. Another exclosed nest was washed out as the chicks were hatching and 2 chicks survived, 1 egg was washed out, and it is unknown if the fourth egg hatched or was washed away. The remaining 2 exclosed nests' chicks were lost due to unknown causes.

Out of the 59 eggs that successfully hatched, 29 (49.2%) of them did not reach fledge status while the remaining 30 (50.8%) did. The overall productivity of the 32 pairs was then .94, an increase from last year, even though fewer chicks fledged. There are many factors that can contribute to this, which can include lack of habitat, increase in predators and a lack of understanding by beachgoers. It is the goal of the Southampton Town Board of Trustees Threatened and Endangered Species Program to work with participating agencies and the residents to recover all T&E species located within the town.

**Acknowledgements**

We at the Southampton Town Board of Trustees would like to thank all those individuals who helped make the 2011 Threatened and Endangered Species Program a success. Thank you to the Marine Maintenance Division, the Southampton Town Bay Constables, Joe Janssen and Jeff Wagenhauser of the Nature Conservancy, Steve Sinkevich, Chip Hamilton and Michelle Gibbons of the NYSDEC, James Gromely and Ross Baldwin with the Towns GIS Dept., Special thanks goes out to our volunteers Kathleen and Ken Conrad, and Gini Stowe.

**Graph 1: Historical Piping Plover Nesting Pairs and Fledge Data**



**Graph 2: Historical Piping Plover Productivity Data**

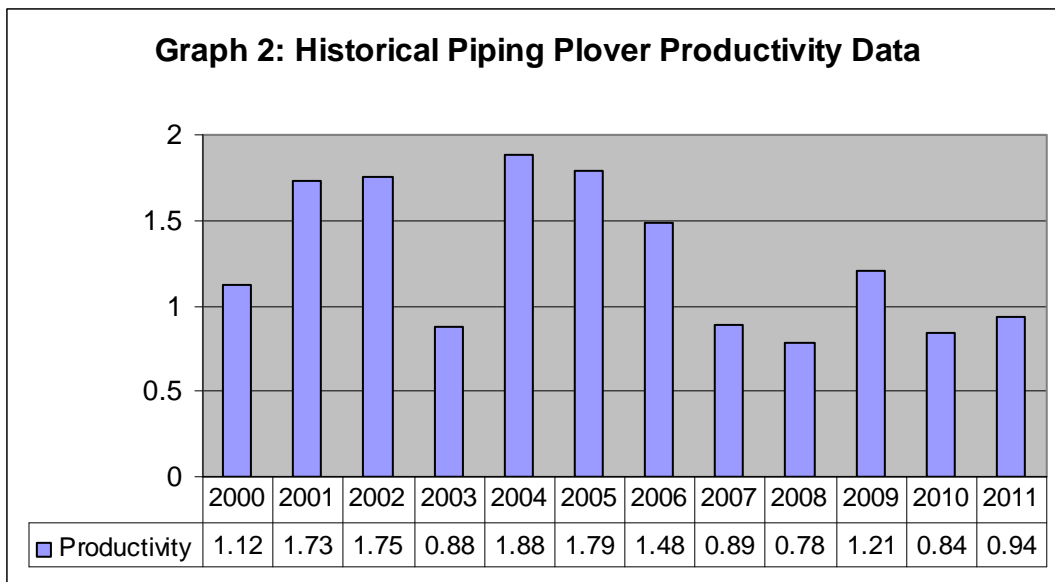


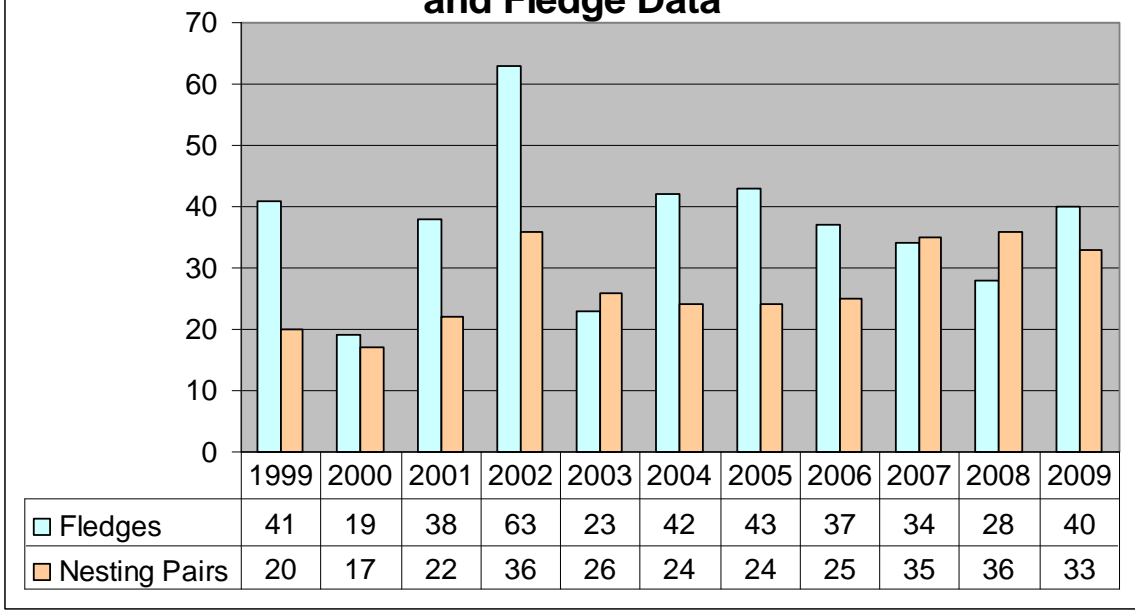
Table 1. Piping Plover Pairs and Productivity for 2011

Site Name/ Location	No. Nesting Pairs	No. Nests	No. Eggs	No. Chicks	Hatch Rate (Chicks/ Eggs)	No. Fledges	Fledge Rate (Fledges/ Chicks)	Productivity (Fledges/ Pairs)	No. Times Site Visited
<b>Atlantic Ocean Nesting Sites</b>									
<b>Village Beaches</b>									
1. Southampton Beach	10	16	55	23	0.418	16	.33	1.6	96
a) County Park Boundary to Rd D	1	1	3	3	1.0	3	1.0	3.0	31
b) Rd D to Halsey Neck Ln	8	13	40	16	.4	12	.75	1.5	41
c) Halsey Neck Ln to S. Main St	1	2	8	4	.5	1	.25	1.0	24
2. Gin Lane Beach <i>S. Main St to Old Town Rd</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
3. Old Town Rd Beach <i>Old Town Rd to Fowlers St</i>	1	1	4	4	1.0	3	.75	3.0	32
<b>Town Beaches</b>									
4. Watermill Beach	6	8	30	8	.27	2	.25	.33	59
a) Fowlers Beach <i>Fowlers St to Flying Pt Rd</i>	1	1	4	4	1.0	1	.25	1.0	19
b) Flying Point Beach <i>Flying Pt Rd to Dune Rd</i>	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	9
c) Scott Cameron Beach <i>Dune Rd to Jobs Ln</i>	4	6	22	4	0.18	1	0.25	0.25	31
5. Sam's Creek <i>Jobs Ln to Ocean Rd</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
6. Sagaponack Lake Beach <i>Ocean Rd to Gibson Ln</i>	4	5	16	3	0.19	0	0	0	47
7. Fairfield Pond Lane Beach <i>Gibson Ln to Town Line Rd</i>	5	5	19	10	0.53	6	0.6	1.2	47
<b>Total for Ocean Nesting Sites</b>	26	35	124	44	0.35	27	.55	.92	300
<b>Peconic Bay Nesting Sites</b>									
8. Red Cedar Pt	4	6	24	8	0.33	0	0	0	38
9. Red Creek Pond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
10. Squires Pond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
11. Meschutt Beach East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
12. Canoe Place Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
13. Fish Cove/N. Sea Harbor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
14. Towd Neck	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	19
15. Wooley Pond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
16. Roses Grove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
17. Fresh Pond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
18. Pine Neck/Mill Creek	1	1	4	3	0.75	3	1.0	3.0	27
19. Long Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
20. Short Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
21. Genet Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
<b>Shinnecock Bay Nesting Sites</b>									
22. Middle Pond									6
<b>Total for Bay Nesting Sites</b>	6	8	32	11	0.34	3	1.0	3.0	162
<b>Totals for All Sites</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>.55</b>	<b>.94</b>	<b>462</b>

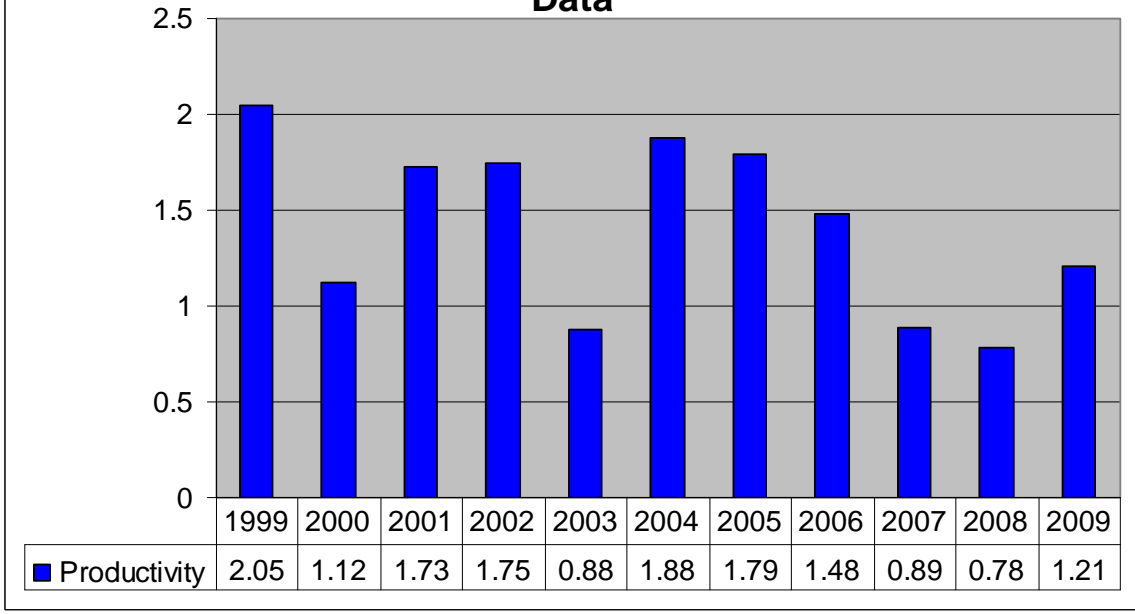
**Table 2 Outcome of All Laid Piping Plover Eggs**

32 Nesting Pairs		
	Laid 43 total nests	
	W/a total of 156 eggs	
	97 unhatched (62.2% of all eggs didn't hatch)	
	82 eggs predated (52.6% of all eggs predated)	
	1 egg unknown (0.6%)	
	12 eggs over washed (7.7%)	
	2 failed/unhatched (1.3%)	
	59 eggs hatched from 16 nests (37.8% of all eggs hatched)	
	30 Fledged (19.2%)	
	29 Did Not Fledge (18.6%)	

**Graph 1: Historical Piping Plover Nesting Pairs and Fledge Data**



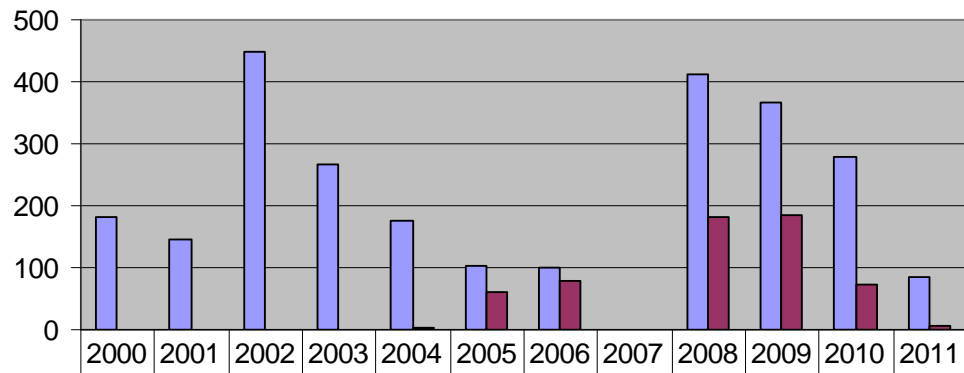
**Graph 2: Historical Piping Plover Productivity Data**







**Graph 3: Historical Least Tern Nesting Pair and Fledge Data**



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
■ Nesting Pairs	181	145	447	267	177	102	101		413	366	278	85
■ Fledges					2	60	80		183	186	73	7