



Snowy Plover

Snowy Plover *(Charadrius nivosus)*

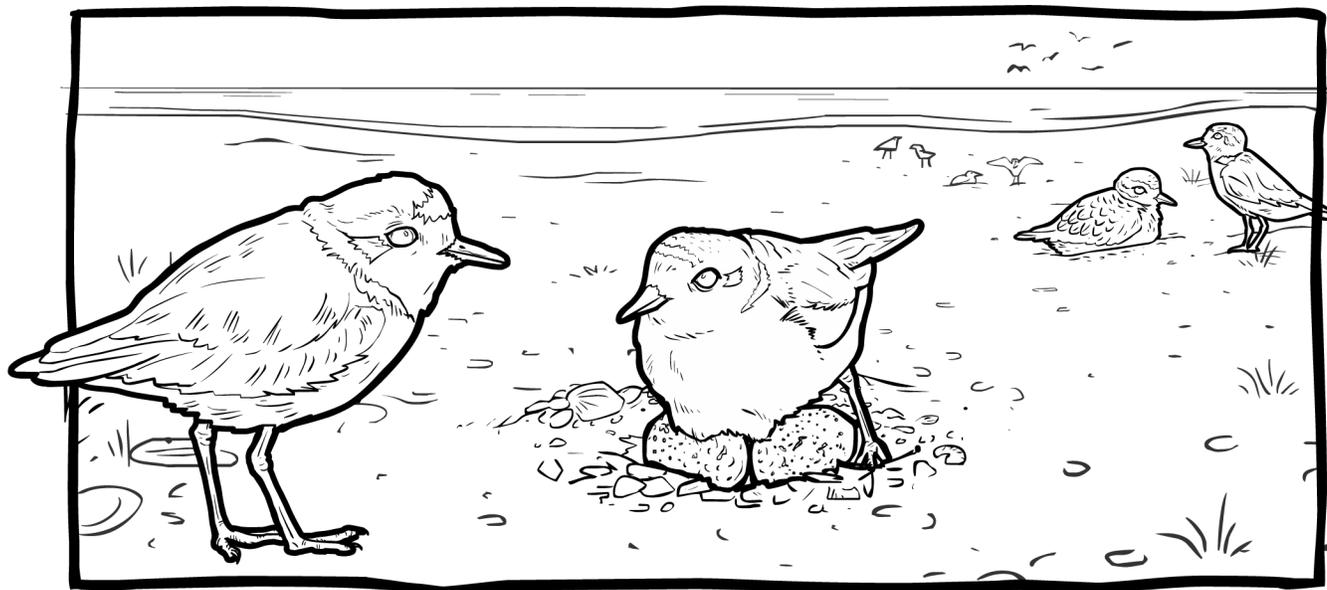
Instant ID

- A small shorebird with a tan cap and back and white face and belly
- It grows to 6 1/4 inches in length and can have a wingspan up to 17 inches
- Unlike the similar piping plover, its beak is solid black
- In spring and summer adults have black markings behind the eye, on the forehead and around the back and sides of the neck
- Juveniles and winter adults are similar in appearance

Native Niches

- Raises young on beaches of the Gulf Coast and Pacific Coast and shores of some inland saline (saltwater) lakes
- Rarely uses bodies of freshwater





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Favorite Foods

- Eats small invertebrates (animals without backbones) found in and around shorelines

Critter Characteristics

- Nests on open beach in a shallow depression lined with pieces of plant and animal debris
- Chicks are precocial (fully mobile soon after hatching) and can hide in nearby vegetation within three hours of hatching

Population Protection

- Listed as a threatened species in Florida
- If parents are frightened away, unshielded eggs easily overheat
- Avoid approaching or allowing pets to approach designated resting / nesting zones

