

Spotted a banded Piping Plover? Now what?

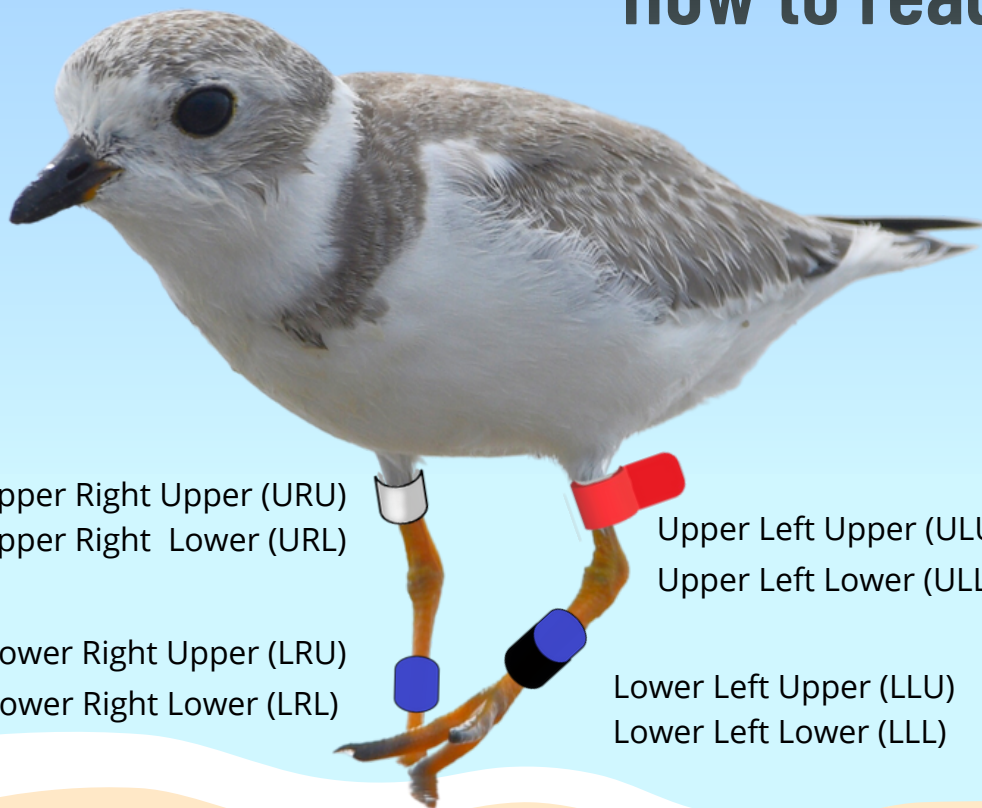
What information should I send in?

The most important information is about the bands on the birds – their color, shape, and location on the bird's legs (see below). Flags on birds that carry no lower leg bands are almost always coded with either two or three alphanumeric characters that must be reported to identify the bird's history. If a bird also has lower leg bands, then the flag is generally blank with no numbers or letters (only the color matters).

When reporting your banded bird, please include the following information:

1. Location of the bird (including geographical coordinates if possible)
2. Date bird was seen
3. Description of the bands (which may be metal or colored) and any flags. Note some schemes use white and grey bands/ flags which can look like plumage. Some characters and colors are easily confused with one another and sometimes colors fade, report what you think you saw - sometimes uncertainties can be resolved by email after reporting a sighting. **Please take your time when observing and recording the band code.**
4. Please try to **get photos** of the banded bird & send these

How to read & report bands



- pay special attention to the location of the bands on the plover you observed- take a photo if you can!
- Remember, the left leg is defined as the bird's left leg
- Report the band by emailing the scheme for which the bird was banded
- A list of schemes and email addresses can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/story/congratulations-spotting-banded-piping-plover-now-what>

This bird would be reported as: Red flag (ULL), Dark blue (LLU), Black (LLL) metal (URL), Dark blue (LRL)

*Not all potential band positions will be used but **check all locations** carefully. Remember bands can be obscured by feathers, mud, water etc. & some flags have alpha-numeric codes to read*

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Where should I report the banded bird?

There are multiple projects across North America where piping plovers are being banded. Please consult this list and send your sighting to the contact(s) that most closely matches the band combination that you saw. *Just do your best - if you get it wrong, the message will be passed along to the correct person!*

If Your Bird Has...	Report It To...
Colors bands (no flag) on just the upper legs	Christina.Davis@dep.nj.gov and VT.plover@gmail.com
Green flag	VT.plover@gmail.com
Pink flag	BahamasPIPL@audubon.org and VT.plover@gmail.com
Black flag, White flag, or Gray flag	Cheri.Gratto-Trevor@ec.gc.ca
Yellow flag or Cobalt Blue flag	npwrc.ternplover@usgs.gov
Orange flag or Metal band on an upper leg (no flag) and one or more color bands on the lower legs	plover@umn.edu
Light Blue flag	Joel.Jorgensen@nebraska.gov and npwrc.ternplover@usgs.gov
Red flag	dnewstead@cbbep.org



Some banded Piping Plovers will have flags with letter and number codes on them, look out for these and include the code on the flag in your report. Better still send a photo of the birds with your report. Remember some flags will be blank, with no code. (Photos by Patrick Leary)