

# 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).

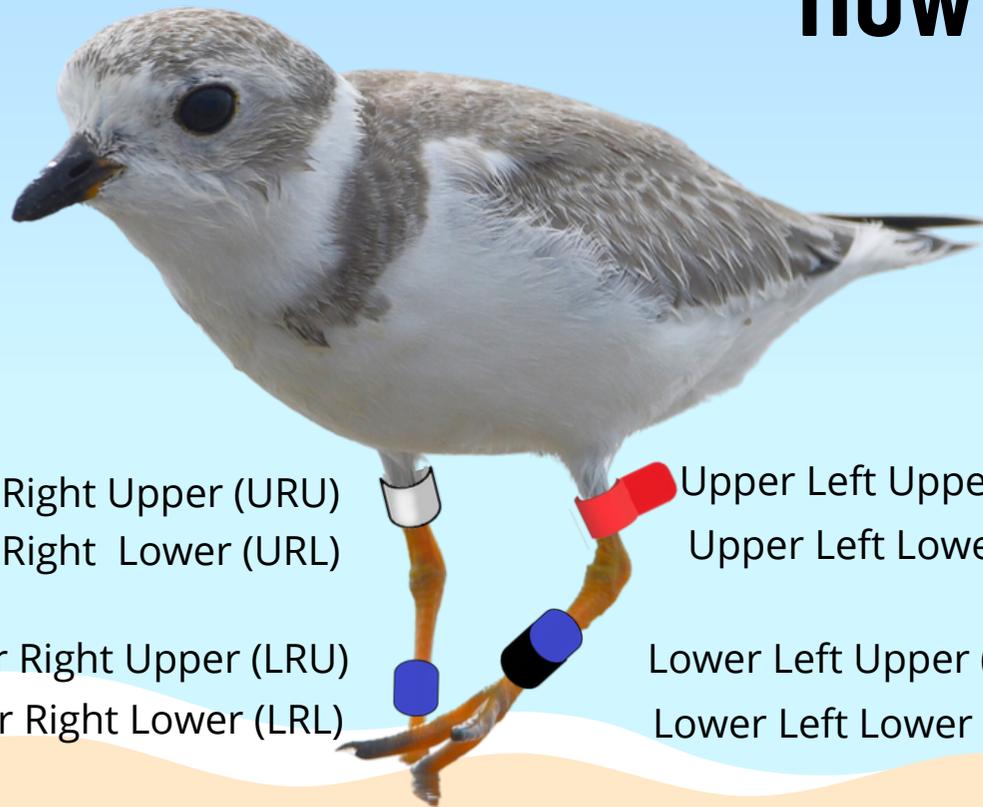
Flags on birds that carry no lower leg bands are almost always coded with either two or three alphanumeric characters that must be reported to identify the bird's history. If a bird also has lower leg bands, then the flag is generally blank with no numbers or letters (only the color matters).

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. 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>



Upper Right Upper (URU)  
Upper Right Lower (URL)

Lower Right Upper (LRU)  
Lower Right Lower (LRL)

Upper Left Upper (ULU)  
Upper Left Lower (ULL)

Lower Left Upper (LLU)  
Lower Left Lower (LLL)

**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*