



**Piping Plover
(Charadrius melodus)**



Photo Source: National Park Service



03-0206-11



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This small, stocky shorebird resembles a sandpiper. The adults weigh 1.5 to 2 ounces, have a length of 7 inches, and a wingspread of 15 inches. Both sexes are similar in size and color; upper parts are pale brownish, and underparts are white. A black band across the forehead over the eye, and a black ring around the base of the neck are distinguishing marks in adults during the summer, but are obscure during the winter.

Habitat: This species inhabits mudflats and shorelines of reservoirs and lakes. Breeding birds are found on sandy open shorelines with pebbles. The species can be found in 26 Colorado counties, mostly east of the Continental Divide.

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