

News Release

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA 01950

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For Immediate Release

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Volunteer Plover Wardens Needed at Wildlife Refuge

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, located on Plum Island, MA, is looking for Volunteer Plover Wardens for the 2017 Plover Season. Beginning in April of each year, the entire Refuge beach is closed to all public entry to provide undisturbed nesting habitat for the federally threatened piping plover. The Volunteer Plover Warden Program significantly contributes to the breeding success of these birds.

Plover Wardens are stationed at both the north and south ends of the Refuge's 6 ½ mile beach. Responsibilities include greeting visitors, providing information concerning the beach closure, and notifying Refuge officers of any closure violations. These volunteers work varied 4 hour shifts (this amount is flexible) from April-August. Because they are field positions, volunteers must be prepared for the sometimes unpredictable beach weather.

The work is rewarding. The volunteer provides a valuable service to the Refuge visitor by informing them of Refuge policies and programs. They also help the Refuge wildlife by protecting valuable habitat, thus helping assure the plovers' survival.

A Plover Warden orientation will be held on Saturday, March 18 from 9 am to 11am at Refuge Headquarters, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, across the street from the Joppa MA Audubon building. The public is welcome to attend this meeting with no obligation to volunteer. Anyone interested in this opportunity or other types of volunteer positions for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Parker River, is encouraged to call the Refuge at 978-465-5754 ext 208 for more information or just show up on March 18th.