

- ♦ Nests in a shallow depression lined with plant material or pebbles

- ♦ Typically have 3 eggs, dark olive buff with black irregular shaped spots



- ♦ Young leave the nest 2-3 hours after hatching

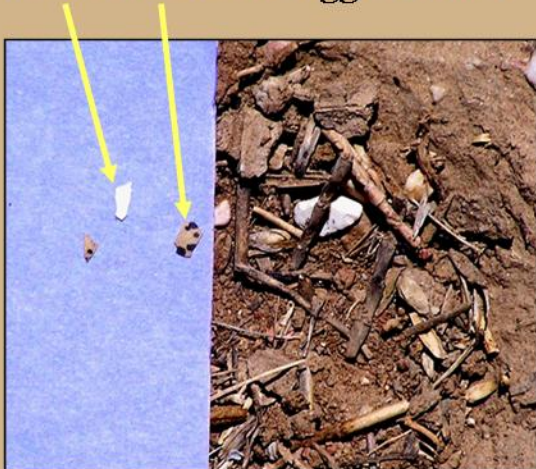


YOU CAN HELP

- ♦ Go around nests or pick up implement
- ♦ Nest only needs to be missed by inches

MEASURING SUCCESS

- ♦ Eggs hatch in 28 to 30 days
- ♦ Presence of small egg shell chips in the nest means the eggs hatched



GET INVOLVED

- ♦ Help a species of concern
- ♦ Show voluntary efforts work for conservation
- ♦ Contact RMBO for nest ID training

SHARE YOUR INFORMATION

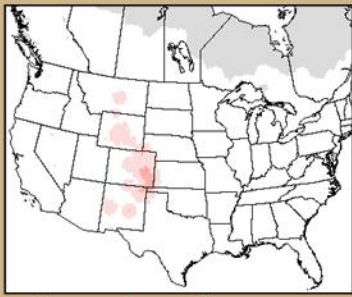
- ♦ To demonstrate how private landowners help support Mountain Plovers:
 - ♦ Record the number of nests you find
 - ♦ Record if nest(s) was successful
 - ♦ Share your information with Colorado Division of Wildlife or Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
 - ♦ CDOW 303-291-7404
 - ♦ RMBO 970-482-1707



Got Plover?



We need You



Mountain Plover breed throughout the shortgrass prairie requiring closely cropped vegetation and bare ground for nesting and foraging habitat. Grazed shortgrass prairie, prairie dog towns, and cultivated land provide good habitat. Mountain Plover can be seen in the San Luis Valley, South Park, and the eastern plains of Colorado. More than half of the world's population nests in Colorado. They nest from mid-April through early July. Private landowners provide the majority of breeding habitat.



IDENTIFICATION



- ♦ 9 inches in height, sand-colored back with white breast and belly, no breast bands
- ♦ Breeding adults have a white forehead, black patch on top of head, and black stripe from eye to beak
- ♦ Males and females similar in size and color
- ♦ White patch on belly easy to see during morning and evening hours when sun highlights breast
- ♦ Photo of the more common Killdeer which has two dark bands on its neck and breast



MOUNTAIN PLOVER ARE BENEFICIAL TO LANDOWNERS!

- ♦ They eat insects
- ♦ Economically important because they draw bird watchers to the region

NESTING ON CULTIVATED LAND

- ♦ Short vegetation and bare ground makes cultivated land attractive
- ♦ Farm implements used to work land could damage or destroy nests
- ♦ Prefer wheat fallow, sorghum, millet, and corn stubble fields with minimal residue
- ♦ Nests are more common in Weld, Lincoln, Kiowa, Prowers, Cheyenne, and Baca counties

TIPS FOR NEST IDENTIFICATION

- ♦ Look for lone adult sitting on ground or running from nest when closely approached, may do broken wing display



- ♦ Locate nest by watching adult return and sit down on eggs
- ♦ Adult on nest during heat of the day
- ♦ Prefers field edges so more likely to nest on perimeter of fields
- ♦ Semi colonial nesters, if you find one nest there most likely will be more