



UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

*Championing UK's most special species:
the wildlife of UK's Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and
Crown Dependencies (CDs)*

FACT-SHEET ON:

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*
UK Overseas Territory: Turks & Caicos Islands

Importance: Piping Plovers breed in northern North America on beaches, and winter in the Bahamas and Turks & Caicos Islands, on sandy beaches and exposed sandbars. Following Hurricane Dorian's 2019 passage over significant Piping Plover habitat in the northern Bahamas, the species' numbers may be significantly reduced.

Ecosystem: Sandbars and sandy beaches in the Turks & Caicos Islands (wintering habitat).

Threats: Coastal development, sand-dredging, and disturbance (boat traffic and kiteboarding) are significant threats to these sensitive birds.

Needs: Establishment of stricter protection measures in their roosting and feeding habitats, and expansion of Protected Areas to include these entire areas.



Piping Plovers wintering in the Turks & Caicos Islands. © Dr Eric Salamanca