Russell (1983) estimated an 1800s total population of 492 to 682 breeding pairs of Piping Plovers in the Great Lakes region, with most located in Michigan (215), followed by Ontario (152-162), Illinois (125-130), Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin (≤ 100 each), and Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania (< 30 pairs). The historical estimate for Ontario has been described as ‘liberal’ (Heyens 2007) and is thought to be too high (S. Matteson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, pers. comm. 1988 in United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2003), because there was likely insufficient habitat available for this number of birds. Historically, Piping Plovers nested on all of the Great Lakes in Ontario, except perhaps Lake Superior (Appendix 1). Numbers declined dramatically with market hunting at the turn of the century but some recovery occurred following protection of the species (Lambert 1987, Gratto-Trevor and Abbott 2011). Following this, the Piping Plover nesting population is believed to have peaked in the 1920s but then went into a long-term decline. Russell (1983) stated that the Piping Plover was ‘likely a common summer resident’ in the limited habitat of the four Great