Plover Restrictions Journal April 1st 2026

1. [redacted] **Gretchen** – 03/29/2026- Jenn-Yesterday 03/29/26- around 9 am I was at Higgins with a friend looking for the plovers. Finally saw 2 plovers on the beach around white sands path and a large black and white dog came up chasing them to flight. I spoke with the owner but he was dismissive. See photo of the dog and owner. (**No violations not April 1st yet**) There were also tracks within stake and twine on Friday. I will send you those pictures too. I sent an email to Audubon and IFW regarding the same.
2. **Caroline** [redacted]- Today Wednesday April 1st I saw a woman with 2 dogs off leash, she and the dogs got as far as the sign but then went away from restricted area. (**No violation**) There was also a man with one dog off leash reading the sign. I went up to him and pointed out the nearby plovers (there were four that fortunately walked away) and also informed him that dogs need to be leashed 1-3:00 He did not care and continued to read the sign, ultimately he got rude. His dog was never more than a couple feet into the restricted area and he and the off leash dog eventually walked away. (**1-3 violation pointed out by plover volunteer**)
3. **Glennis**- Sunday April 5th 6:40 pm- Off leash dog running into restricted area toward Kent St. Owner stopped at Champion but she did not try to call her dog. She turned and headed back towards Vesper St. and the dog finally followed. Was unable to catch up with her from my location.
4. **26-6865**-04/10/26- 11:08 Sue [redacted] reports 5 dogs in plover area. Dispatch entered in the notes that there was no need for ACO to respond. Sue stated she requested a response from ACO. Must have been a miscommunication. (I was monitoring beaches all day for off leash and plover dog violations)
5. **26-6867-** 04/10/26- Dog plover violation reported by Sue [redacted] and volunteer Bruce. One woman with a black off leash dog within the plover zone. The dog ran into the restricted zone and into the grassy area at 1500 just after I left. (26-6860) They did not identify the woman but spoke to her about the violation as she used an electric collar to call the dog back to her. The plover volunteer reported that it chased the birds on the beach before returning to her.
6. **Glennis-** April 11th between 2-3:15 extending the stake and twine. At 2:30 p.m. there were 12 dogs on the beach and 9 unleashed. 4 of the unleashed dogs and owners entered the restricted area. Counted 7 plover pairs this morning.
7. **26-7139-** 04/14/26- Sue reports a dog walker walked past the first sign before realizing her mistake. I spoke with Leslie [redacted] of [redacted] Cape Elizabeth regarding her dog off leash in the plover area and unlicensed. She was issued an **ordinance citation** after refusing to identify herself.
8. Glennis- April 24th- At 2:15 today off leash dog with two women in restricted area beyond Kent St.

9. 04/24/26 about 04/15/26 violation **26-7919**- On Thu, Apr 23, 2:48 PM I received and email from Game Warden Thomas Di Tomasso regarding a dog in the restricted plover area in what seems to be Ferry Beach. He included three photos in the email one of which includes the information 04/15/26- at 5:59 p.m. Two women walking two unleashed dogs into the plover area. Contact name David [redacted] Jenn, Thanks again, this was an operation game thief complaint that came through. If you have any questions let me know! Respectfully, Tom Di Tomasso
   District Game Warden
   Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
   Warden Service
   15 Game Farm Road
   Gray, ME 04039
   SP Dispatch (207) 624-7076
   Headquarters (207) 657-2345
   Drivers name Natasha [redacted]
10. Bev [redacted] plover volunteer 04/27/26 12:16 p.m. A black lab with a man and a woman came from the plover direction past the no dogs signs and proceeded west until I approached them. I asked if they saw the no dog signs and he said he lives here, apparently meaning its ok for his dog to get on the beach beyond the no dog signs. I agreed this was in violation and to call dispatch if she encountered it again.
11. 26-9218-10:05-10:19 Sue [redacted] reports that a couple of women walked past the plover signs while she was looking at nests. She informed them of the violation. She stated that the signs weren't out to the shore yet and believes that's why they walked by.
12. 05/18/26- Beverly [redacted] reports she spoke with two dog owners with dogs off leash. The no dogs on beach restrictions 9-5 started on the 15th. She called dispatch.
13. 05/19/25- Susan [redacted] reports that Tuesday (05/19/) at 8:45 am. A dog owner was walking along low tide, signs were posted. He walked through the signs posted at the low tide area next to the river. I approached him/discussed the restrictions, he leashed his dog and returned to the appropriate area.
14. Plover volunteer Sybill reports she spoke to kite flyers too close to plovers 05/26/26
15. Plover volunteer Abby [redacted] reports that one dog crossed the restricted line at Higgins on Thursday 05/27/26 at approximately 7:10 p.m. The dog owners were very friendly and understanding but did cross.
16. Glennis [redacted] reports on Friday May 29th that there was an off leash dog in restricted area close to the river. Person entered beach at Pearl St. Sandwich boards were prominently displayed with dog rules.
17. Shannon [redacted] reports on June 1st at 7:01 Pine Point multiple dog owners and even though I tell them they need to put their dog on leash they ignore me and their dogs are just running loose literally through several piping plovers. I told them the birds were there and they did not care and just ignored me. I don't know if I'm supposed to contact

you or what not but I thought I should share. It was a woman in a yellow jacket and she was quite rude. Good luck!

18. I picked up a wounded cormorant at Pine Point and brought it to MVMC to be euthanized. The doctor stated it looked like a dog had grabbed its leg. Worth noting. 26-
19. Wednesday 06/04/26-Sibylle [redacted] reports surfers too close to shore again.
20. Kevin reports at Higgins beach 6:30-8:00 plover patrol on Friday June 19th There was an off leash dog in the restricted plover area around 8:00 p.m. I saw two other off leash dogs in the non restricted area as well and talked to all of them.
21. Glennis reports on Friday June 19th seeing more dogs off leash after 5:00 especially in the last few weeks. There are no fees in the parking lot in the evenings and there are more visitors and dog owners from out of town coming to Higgins. We have no support from the town. How do you suggest that we handle this? Should volunteers call dispatch whenever there are dogs off leash? We know no one will respond, but it would be on record. We have 15 chicks on the beach as of today and we need help during these evening hours. I need to let volunteers know how to handle this issue.
22. Sibylle [redacted] reports on Monday 06/30/26 at 7:26 p.m. that she had a couple with a white little dog on Western Beach. Told them dog was not allowed and they should turn around. They picked up the dog and refused to turn around. Heading towards Pine Point Inn.
23. Saturday July 4th 7:30 p.m. Owner removed dog from restricted area, but refused to leash dog even though all other dogs on beach were leashed.
24. Sarah reports that on Sunday July 12th there were two dogs way down by the river around 1545. They were loose and heading towards the wreck. She didn't see them after she went to look for them and doesn't know where they went.
25. Sarah reports on Monday 07/13/26- that a small dog just walked by her cottage heading to the river. They were out by the low tide mark at 6:40. At 6:44 another white dog passed by also by the tide mark.
26. Cindy and Dutch [redacted] report on Tuesday June 9th at 8:30 am dog off leash, not under voice control, charged at us and urinated on our healthy beaches water testing wagon! July 3rd, dog off leash in restricted area. It ran into water next to me and proceeded to defecate. July 15th Three separate incidents of dogs last night in restricted area. In addition, a dog in restricted area which came off kayak down by Spurwink River. Total 4.
27. Sarah: 6:45 a.m. 07/17/26- Dog ran past her house going towards the river on a leash. Way out by the low tide mark Her grandson went out to speak to him.
28. Friday 07/17/26- Dutch [redacted] reports at Higgins from 7-9:00 a.m. Three dogs passed signs in the restricted area. A fourth owner with two medium sized labradoodles 1 black dog, 1 brown, throwing ball past signs for dogs to run after. Then one of the dogs defecated in a tidal pool as tide was going out. I asked the owner if he was going to pick it up and he ignored me. I kept asking for over a minute and by then he couldn't locate it. He blamed me for not knowing where it was and said that I should know seeing that I was "looking over his shoulder".

29. 07/26/26- 1530- unknown volunteer- There was a Higgins beach violation. 3 young men early 20s with 1 dog in the protected plover area. Entered from the river area. They were approached and were very rude refused to walk away from the plover roped off area. Said they had been told 10 times already and they had equal rights and some other rude remarks. They excited the beach at the stairs. Emily [redacted] and Cybil [redacted] were monitoring at the time.
30. Sunday 07/26/26 Glennis [redacted] Dog at Higgins off leash at 7:00 pm and the owners were not able to leash him as they said he had no leash. Said they were Scarborough residents.
31. Sarah reports on Saturday August 15th at 9:43 a.m. that a dog went past her cottage towards the river. They are way down by the low tide mark. Another dog just headed towards the river. Way out at low tide mark but he is chasing the flocks of sandpipers.
32. 08/18/26-Cindy and Dutch just got done water testing on Higgins. At 8:45 am. a dog off leash near the ramp area was totally out of control and not under voice control. It continued to chase groups of birds (50 plus birds, palmated plovers, terns, sandpipers) up and down the beach. We spoke to the owner who said that the dog is "just a puppy"
33. 08/27/26- Text from Glennis [redacted] "FYI volunteer collecting water samples for Maine Healthy Beaches, which coordinate at Higgins, on Tuesday the 26th between 8:32 and 8:49 observed a dog owner walk away when off leash dog did his business right on the waters edge with tide coming in. Ugh! And young children flocking to the beach at 9:00. Would love to see you out here sometime between 8 and 9:00 before Labor Day to address some of the off leash issues. Summer is going fast.