

# Block Island

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

#### Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)  
Senator Lincoln D. Chafee (R)  
Rep. James Langevin (D-2nd)

#### Contact

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Block Island National Wildlife Refuge is one of five national wildlife refuges in the Rhode Island Complex.

#### Purpose

Block Island National Wildlife Refuge was established for particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

#### Public Use Notes

- Open to surf fishing
- .5 miles of walkable shoreline
- Wildlife/nature photography
- Renowned for birding during song bird migration

#### Management Activities

- Implementing the approved comprehensive conservation plan (2002) to enhance wildlife habitats, control invasive species, eliminate non-compatible uses and increase visitor services
- Land protection plan targets 95 acres for land acquisition
- Lead in cooperative, interagency-financed, island-wide piping plover program
- Cooperatively planning public uses
- Restoring Beane Point facility for environmental education and employee housing
- New complex-wide \$2.6 million office and visitor center building in Charlestown opened in fall 2005

#### Highlights

The refuge is world-renowned for its unusually high density of migratory songbirds in spring and fall, with over 75 species recorded at one time and over 1,900 birds banded in 2005.

The refuge has an active and involved cadre of volunteers, and an award-winning friends group.

The refuge continues to host an open house at the partially renovated Beane Point facility.

The refuge enjoys strong partnerships with non-government organizations.

The refuge is home to the federally listed threatened American burying beetle.

The refuge is pursuing a collaborative management program involving state, town and conservation organizations.



Piping plover

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#### Issues

High cost of land acquisition

Refuge is unstaffed due to budgetary constraints

Isolated parcels make management difficult

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use areas, including off-road vehicle use

Implementing seasonal closures on barrier beach with limited law enforcement

Managing incompatible public uses

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/344 WILD**  
**<http://www.fws.gov>**

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