



A Snowy Plover nests in the dry sand.

Watch for nesting birds

Nesting season for two federally protected shorebirds – the Snowy Plover and the Streaked Horned Lark – begins in spring when thousands of razor clam diggers are also on the beach. Wildlife managers ask that diggers take care to avoid disturbing these small birds by steering clear of their nesting areas. Both species are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

A Streaked Horned Lark chick sits in the dunes.



Watch your step: *It would be easy to trample this Streaked Horned Lark nest and never know it.*

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Razor Clamming and Nesting Birds

How you can help protect
Snowy Plovers and
Streaked Horned Larks





RAZOR CLAM DIGGING IS A HIGHLY POPULAR pursuit that draws hundreds of thousands of people to Washington's coastal beaches every year. Most diggers can harvest their limit of clams in an hour or two and still have plenty of time to enjoy beachcombing, kite-flying and a wide range of other surfside activities.

While on the beach, clam diggers should be aware that two bird species – the Snowy Plover and the Streaked Horned Lark – nest in the soft sand above the high tide line. Both birds are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Normal nesting season generally runs from April 1 through September 15. During this time, it is very easy to disturb the birds and their vulnerable young.

How to protect nesting birds

- **Beach driving:** When driving to clam-digging areas, enter the beach only at designated access points and stay on the hard-packed sand below or near the high tide line.
- **Follow the rules:** Observe all agency regulations, and never walk past "nesting birds" signs into the upper parts of the beach.
- **Keep dogs on a leash:** Don't allow your dog to play in the dunes or soft sand where birds may be nesting.
- **Avoid the dunes:** Birds often nest in these areas. If you need to take a break from clam digging, use the restrooms located at most beach-access points.
- **Kites:** Do not fly kites near nesting areas. To small shorebirds, kites look like predators.
- **Move on:** Limit the amount of time you spend near nesting areas. Once you've finished digging, move to another location.



PRIME NESTING AREAS

Active nesting areas for Snowy Plovers and Streaked Horned Larks have been identified on parts of Twin Harbors Beach and on the Long Beach Peninsula near Leadbetter Point.

Wildlife managers urge clam diggers to take special care to avoid disturbing nesting birds in these areas.

