



Keep Cats Indoors

It is estimated that domestic cats kill as many as 1 billion birds each year. Cats are natural predators, no matter how well fed they may be. Some pet cats are allowed to go outside, and feral (wild) cats live outside all the time. Keeping your pet cat inside is an easy way to protect birds. Putting a small bell on your cat's collar can warn birds they're in danger, but the best way to keep birds safe is to confine your cat to the indoors.



Help Birds on the Beach



piping plover

Be a Good Egg educates people about the importance of sharing the beach with nesting birds. Learn more at www.goodeggny.org.

Although it's still winter and it will be many months before beach weather, you can still begin thinking about ways to help birds that nest on the beach. Many types of shorebirds, such as the endangered piping plover, nest on beaches and need help to successfully raise their young. Playing near nesting areas or letting your dog run loose on the beach can frighten birds into abandoning their nests. By avoiding nesting areas and keeping your dog leashed, you'll allow these birds to nest in peace. In New York and New Jersey, there is a program called Be a Good Egg; see the link above to learn more!

Visit the *Conservationist for Kids* webpage at www.dec.ny.gov/education/40248.html for links to more information about birds and citizen science opportunities.