







Snowy Plover: Chicks by Age

Visual Guide

Age in Days	Photos		Description
Hatch Date 0	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>ODSVRA archive</i></p>	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>ODSVRA archive</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chicks remain in nest bowl for first few hours to full day after hatch -Wet upon hatch -Egg tooth present -“Wobbly” walk
2-3	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>M. Martinez (ODSVRA)</i></p>	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>Jay Paredes (flickr)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fuzzy appearance -Spotted head, back, & upper wings -Chicks are about 1/3 the size of an adult
5	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>S. Straton (ODSVRA)</i></p>	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"><i>S. Straton (ODSVRA)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Legs appear long (about 1/2 of chick's body size)

7

1
Week



-Neck begins to thin & “elongate” with a more patchy appearance

-Body still appears mostly fuzzy with spots on head, back, & upper wings

14

2
Weeks



-Begin to lose spots on upper wings & back as pinfeathers begin to grow

-Neck continues to appear long, patchy, & thin

-Chicks begin to appear “scruffy”

-Underside begins to “fill out”

21-27

3
Weeks



-Neck often still appears patchy



-Chicks appear very scruffy

-About ½ size of adult or larger, with a round body shape

-Spots are lost and replaced by a more scaly pattern

-Small feathers begin to form around head and tail

-Primary feathers are not fully developed

<p>28 4 Weeks Fledge Age</p>	 <p><i>S. Straton (ODSVRA)</i></p>	 <p><i>S. Straton (ODSVRA)</i></p> <p>-More uniform, scalloped appearance</p>	<p>-Primary feathers are mostly developed</p> <p>-May or may not be flight capable</p> <p>-Almost same size as adult but with smaller head & tail</p>
<p>35-43 5-6 Weeks Post-fledge</p>	 <p><i>A. Bauer (ODSVRA)</i></p>	 <p><i>ODSVRA archive</i></p>	<p>-Primary feathers fully developed</p> <p>-Flight capable</p> <p>-Tail fully emerged</p> <p>-May be mistaken for light adult female</p>

Sources:

- ODSVRA Photo Archive:

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- Snowy Plover Aging Guide: FL Shore Bird Alliance

<https://flshorebirdalliance.org/media/1204/2019-snowy-plover-chick-aging-guide.pdf>

- Flickr: Jay Paredes' Photo Stream

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jayparedes/>

Created by:

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