

Lock up these sickos

It's one thing to accidentally harm piping plovers, their eggs or chicks, but a news item this week was particularly disturbing.

On Sunday, a piping plover chick, an endangered species, was found dead on Sampsons Island off Cotuit. Deliberate human interference is considered a definite possibility. Fencing that protected the birds on the island had been removed and burned last Friday, said Rebecca Harris of the Coastal Waterbird Program. She noted that two wire protective enclosures for plover nests were also vandalized last month.

Earlier, four eggs went missing on the island, and on nearby Popponesset Beach in Mashpee, one egg was taken out of the nest and smashed.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should offer a handsome reward for information leading to the arrest of these brain-dead hooligans.