



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

Catherine Hickey, Interim Chair
Point Blue Conservation Science
4990 Shoreline Highway One
Stinson Beach, CA 94970 USA

Brad Andres, Coordinator
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
755 Parfet, Suite 235
Lakewood, CO 80215 USA

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Update – September 2013 – Portland, OR

The fifth Meeting of the **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group (WHSG)** will be held in the Caribbean city of Santa Marta, Colombia, 17–21 September 2013. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a platform for those interested in shorebirds to share their advances in research and conservation projects and to join collaborative initiatives throughout the Western Hemisphere. Information is available at: <http://www.calidris.org/co/WHSG/home.html>.

Earlier this year, Phase I of the **Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Conservation Business Strategy** was completed (available at: http://www.manomet.org/sites/manomet.org/files/shorebird_bus_strat_phase_1.pdf). Since then, a workshop was held at the regional meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (held in Grenada, July 2013) to gather additional input and project ideas from colleagues in the Caribbean, and an additional workshop targeting South American partners is planned for Colombia during September 2013. An initial project addressing the harvest of shorebirds in the Caribbean has been submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and is currently under review.

Following on the model of the Atlantic Flyway Plan, initial steps have been taken to develop a **Pacific Flyway Shorebird Business Plan**. About twenty people participated in a two-day session at Partners in Flight V, and a follow-up workshop is planned for the Colombia meeting. A major objective of the Pacific Flyway effort is to integrate existing plans into a more comprehensive flyway approach focused on the highest priorities. From the initial workshop, it is obvious that climate-related environmental changes will interact with other threats to negatively affect shorebird populations along the Pacific coast.

A re-assessment of the **conservation status of North American shorebirds** is currently under review by USSCP partners. Partners in Flight criteria were used to score shorebird populations in an attempt to harmonize efforts across the taxonomic groups. A difference between the current and past efforts was the focus of the USSCP on Western Hemisphere, rather than global, populations. There is also interest in trying to meld, where possible, the development of the next Watchlist with the Birds of Conservation Concern (USFWS).

USSCP partners continue to work with the **Tri-plan partnership Science Team (TriST)** to develop approaches to setting population and habitat objectives across appropriate Joint Ventures. Efforts within the Joint Ventures are being incorporated into the flyway-scale plans.