



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Update – September 2014 – St. Louis, MO

In August, the **Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Conservation Business Strategy** was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors. Shorebird conservation partners worked with NFWF staff to get the plan into a standard form, which was based on the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation and used the Miradi software. Feedback from the NFWF board was positive, and a proposal to for some immediate actions to address sustainable shorebird hunting in the Caribbean and northern South America has been submitted.

We are continuing to work on an approach for the **Pacific Flyway Shorebird Business Plan**. Audubon, Point Blue, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are discussing ways to complete the plan in the intense format undertaken on the Atlantic Coast. It will be critical to reach out to existing efforts through State Wildlife Action Plans, Joint Venture Implementation Plans, and regional and national shorebird conservation plans.

Within the U.S., there are two main efforts to **monitor passage and wintering shorebird populations** --- the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) and the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey (PFSS). Both of these programs have been supported by the Migratory Bird Program. The PFSS is has been expanding as far south as Peru. Shorebird data, generally following the ISS protocol, is also being collected on Refuges and other wetland sites through the Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring (IWMM) Project. Data collected in these projects are housed within eBird (ISS) and the California Data Center (PFSS), and the IWMM Project is developing a thematic node within the Avian Knowledge Network.

With interest from the NWRS Inventory and Monitoring program, there is a need to further standardize the field collection and data management aspects of these surveys to increase their utility to participating stakeholders. There is also a need to coordinate and integrate with the Caribbean Waterbird Census, the Neotropical Waterbird Census, the Ontario Shorebird Survey, and the Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey.

In September of 2014, the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM) Committee of the U.S. and Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plans, in consultation with members of the Avian Knowledge Alliance, began work on the development of a standardized protocol framework for nonbreeding shorebird surveys. Concurrent with the standardization of field methods, development of a standard data management scheme, through a thematic AKN node is being explored.