



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

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Ms. Jennifer Wheeler
Coordinator, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Migratory Bird Management
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Dear Jennifer,

The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP) Council discussed your proposal to form a joint U.S. Shorebird-Waterbird Council. Although some efficiency could be gained through a joint structure, the USSCP Council felt that the different culture, focus, and messages of waterbird folks would likely dilute the conservation message for waterbirds and shorebirds in the U.S. For example, we could lose representation for waterbirds and shorebirds on the US-North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) Committee. Although some members would likely participate in both Councils, the overlap was thought to be less than previously anticipated. The Council also believed there would be little overlap among members of the technical teams/committees already established under the USSCP.

That said, the USSCP Council believes there would be opportunities for collaboration on shared conservation and management issues once a U.S. Waterbird Council is formed. For example, greater communication among Councils and their staff could help elevate waterbird/shorebird needs to the US-NABCI Committee. The USSCP Council would certainly be willing to work with a U.S. Waterbird Council in developing technical tools and building relationships with habitat conservation groups, such as JVs. When possible, the USSCP Council will consider meeting with the U.S. Waterbird Council to allow for discussion of items of mutual concern. The upcoming Waterbird Society meeting in November 2011 may provide a forum to begin discussion of joint approaches to waterbird/shorebird conservation issues.

For additional information or comments, please contact Brad Andres, USSCP Coordinator. We welcome any suggestions on how we can increase our effectiveness by working together.

Sincerely,

John Cecil
Chair USSCP Council
National Audubon Society