

The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

Catherine Hickey, Chair
PRBO Conservation Sciences
4990 Shoreline Highway One
Stinson Beach, CA 94970 USA

John Cecil, Vice-Chair
National Audubon Society
545 Almshouse Road
Ivyland, PA 18974 USA

Brad Andres, Coordinator
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O.Box 25486, DFC-Parfet
Denver, CO 80225-0486 USA

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The second meeting of **Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere** will be held in conjunction with the VIII Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Maturin, Venezuela, in mid-May 2007. As part of this meeting, we will hold a round-table discussion introducing the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group (WHSG). The formation of WHSG was proposed at the first Shorebird Science meeting in Boulder, Colorado, during March 2006. Everyone, even if you are not planning to attend this meeting, is encouraged to fill out the one-page questionnaire on the form and function of this organization, available at <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/> where there are Spanish and English versions. Please send completed forms, preferably in an electronic form, to richard_lanctot@fws.gov by 1 April. It is imperative that we receive everyone's view on the creation of the group (pro or con), as Rick hopes to present the results of this survey at the May meeting. We encourage colleagues that have contacts in Latin/South America to help make them aware of questionnaire. Thanks to those who have already completed the questionnaire.

Partners from the U.S. Plan continue to help the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network develop **Species Conservation Plans** for high priority shorebirds. Plans will gradually be added to the web at <http://www.whsrn.org>. The hope is that these plans will generate more funding streams to address needs of high priority shorebirds.

Lead by Guy Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, partners from the U.S. and Canadian Plans have updated **estimates of populations sizes of North American shorebirds**, which is currently being published in the Wader Study Group Bulletin (December 2006, volume 111:66-84). A PDF file of the article will be posted on the U.S. shorebird plan website (<http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/>).

The workshop focusing on **best practices for waterbird-friendly rice agriculture** will be held in the Central Valley of California during fall of 2007. The California Rice Commission and the Central Valley Joint Venture will likely help sponsor the workshop. We are in the process of reviving **PRISM (the Program for Regional and International**

Shorebird Monitoring) and are preparing to hold a steering committee meeting in early September of 2007. Prior to the meeting, we will compile a summary of our past five years of efforts, and then use this compilation as a tool in evaluating where we stand. In the coming weeks, we will query shorebird biologists about recent activities and will sincerely appreciate your responses. Topics that will undoubtedly influence our revisions of PRISM goals, and which will be the focus of targeted discussions, include: 1) the respective roles of broad-scale monitoring (also referred to as 'surveillance' or 'context' monitoring) and management 'effectiveness' monitoring. There has been considerable dialogue on this topic recently. Hopefully our discussions can clarify PRISM's relationship with the approach outlined in the NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee report; 2) the need to address methodological concerns (e.g., detection probability, roadside bias, estimation of flock size, spatially-balanced and probability-based design concerns, dual frame monitoring; 3) database archives; 4) revisions to our 2002 funding needs document; and 5) outreach on status and trends of shorebirds.

On the monitoring front, plans are underway for a **range-wide survey of interior-breeding Snowy Plovers** in 2007. Contact Sue_Thomas@fws.gov or Brad_Andres@fws.gov for information. For information on cooperative projects of the **American Oystercatcher Working Group**, see <http://www.ncsu.edu/project/grsmgis/AMOY/Research.htm>. Working groups have been or are being developed for a number of high priority shorebird species.