

## High Priority Shorebirds — 2004

### *U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan*

Below are listed the U.S. and Canadian shorebird populations that are considered highly imperiled or of high conservation concern by the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan as of August 2004. This revision includes the evaluation of new information, since the initial shorebird conservation assessment was completed in March 2000, and the correction of categorization errors made in the 2001 U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. In this review, shorebird biologists evaluated the differences in conservation status among the 74 shorebird populations previously identified and, where appropriate, combined taxa within a species that shared the same conservation status — the purpose being to create the most parsimonious list of distinct shorebird conservation units. Population designations are provided in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and the Plan's Conservation Assessment report (available at <http://shorebirdplan.fws.gov/USShorebird/PlanDocuments.htm>). In general, only a few, minor adjustments to the original assessment.

Re-evaluation produced a list of 7 highly imperiled shorebird taxa and 23 taxa of high concern. Within the conservation status categories of highly imperiled and high concern, taxa are grouped as: 1) global species — the entire species is restricted to breeding in Canada or the U.S.A., or 2) North American populations — the species occurs elsewhere in either the northern or western hemispheres, and concern is assessed for North American breeding populations. A few taxa that have a small portion of their population occurring in eastern Russia are considered as global in the assessment. Regional shorebird conservation plans should be consulted to determine reasons for conservation concerns of specific populations and their importance is a region. (available at: <http://shorebirdplan.fws.gov/RegionalShorebird/RegionalPlans.htm>). Table 1 displays the conservation status of all shorebird taxa considered in the re-evaluation.

Many of the shorebird biologists who conducted the original conservation assessment were consulted for this revision: Brad Andres (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Jon Bart (U.S. Geological Survey), Chris Elphick (University of Connecticut), Andy Engilis (University of California Davis), Bob Gill (U.S. Geological Survey), Susan Haig (U.S. Geological Survey), Brian Harrington (Manomet Center for Conservation Science), Chuck Hunter (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Brian McCaffery (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Lew Oring (University of Nevada-Reno), and Nils Warnock (PRBO Conservation Sciences).

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## List of High Priority Shorebird Species/Populations

### *Highly Imperiled*

#### Global species

Piping Plover  
Mountain Plover  
Long-billed Curlew  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper

#### North American populations

Snowy Plover  
Black-necked Stilt (Hawaiian population)  
Red Knot (Canadian Arctic-Atlantic Coast population)

### *High Concern*

#### Global species

American Golden-Plover  
Black Oystercatcher  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Upland Sandpiper  
Bristle-thighed Curlew  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Marbled Godwit  
Black Turnstone  
Surfbird  
Western Sandpiper  
Rock Sandpiper  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
American Woodcock  
Wilson's Phalarope

#### North American populations

Wilson's Plover  
American Oystercatcher  
Whimbrel  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Red Knot (populations other than Canadian Arctic-Atlantic Coast population)  
Sanderling  
Dunlin (Alaska-East Asian and Alaska-Pacific Coast populations)

## Priority Category Definitions

The six factors used to determine the conservation status of shorebirds include: Population Trend (PT), Population Size (PS), Breeding Threats (TB), Non-breeding Threats (TN), Breeding Distribution (BD), and Non-breeding Distribution (ND). The previous shorebird conservation assessment provides detail on the assessment process and definitions.

### *Highly Imperiled (5)*

PT = 5 and PS, TB, or TN=5  
PS = 5 and TB or TN=5

### *High Concern (4)*

PT = 4 or 5 and either PS, BD, TB, or TN = 4 or 5  
PS = 4 or 5 and either TB or TN = 4 or 5

### *Moderate Concern (3)*

PT = 4 or 5 and PS, BD, ND, TN, or TB = 3  
PT = 3 and PS, BD, ND, TN, or TB = 4 or 5  
PS = 3 and BD or ND = 4, or 5  
PS = 4 and BD and ND <4  
PT=5 and PS, BD, ND, TN, or TB > 1

### *Low Concern (2)*

PT = 3 and PS, BD, ND, TN, or TB=3  
PT = 2 and PS, BD, ND, TN, or TB=4 or 5  
PS = 3

### *Not Currently at Risk (1)*

All other species

Table 1. Scores for conservation assessment elements for shorebird taxa that have unique conservation status. Taxa are first ordered first by concern category and secondly by taxonomy. Column abbreviations follow those described above.

Common name	Species/subspecies/population	PT	PS <sup>1</sup>	TB	TN	BD	ND	Cat
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	5	5	4	4	3	4	5
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	5	5	5	4	5	4	5
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	5	5	4	4	5	4	5
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus knudseni</i>	3	5	5	5	5	5	5
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	5	4	5	4	3	3	5
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	5	4	2	5	4	2	5
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	5	5	3	4	3	4	5
American Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	5	3	2	4	2	3	4
Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	3	5	4	4	4	3	4
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	3	5	4	4	3	4	4
Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	3	5	4	3	3	4	4
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	4	5	4	2	3	2	4
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	5	2	2	4	2	3	4
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	4	5	2	3	4	3	4
Bristle-thighed Curlew	<i>Numenius tahitiensis</i>	3	5	2	4	5	3	4
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	3	5	3	4	4	4	4
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	3	4	2	4	4	3	4
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	4	5	4	4	3	3	4
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	4	5	2	4	2	2	4
Black Turnstone	<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>	3	4	4	4	5	3	4
Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>	4	4	2	4	4	3	4
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus islandica/roselarri</i>	3	4	2	4	4	3	4
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	5	2	2	4	2	1	4
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	5	1	2	4	4	2	4
Rock Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ptilocnemis</i>	4	5	4	4	5	5	4
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpine arctica/pacifica</i>	4	2	2	4	4	3	4
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	5	4	2	4	3	2	4
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	5	1	4	4	2	3	4
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	5	1	3	4	2	5	4
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	3	4	2	2	2	1	3
Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	3	5	2	2	5	4	3
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	3	5	3	4	5	3	3
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	4	1	3	3	1	2	3
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus mexicanus</i>	3	4	4	3	2	2	3
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	3	2	3	4	2	3	3
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	3	4	2	2	2	1	3
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	5	2	2	3	2	1	3
Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>	3	5	2	2	3	2	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	5	1	2	3	3	3	3

Common name	Species/subspecies/population	PT	PS <sup>1</sup>	TB	TN	BD	ND	Cat
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	5	2	2	2	2	2	3
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminatus</i>	3	3	3	4	3	3	3
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritime</i>	3	5	2	2	4	3	3
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpine hudsonia</i>	4	2	2	3	3	3	3
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	3	3	3	4	3	3	3
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	5	1	3	2	1	2	3
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	4	1	2	3	2	1	3
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	5	1	2	3	2	1	3
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	3	3	2	2	1	1	2
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	3	3	2	2	1	1	2
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	3	2	2	2	3	3	2
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	3	2	2	2	3	3	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	3	2	2	3	2	3	2
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	2	2	2	3	4	3	2

<sup>1</sup> population size reflects the smallest designated population identified for the species.