



# The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

## *Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation*

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**Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere Meeting** abstracts have been published in the Wader Study Group Bulletin (April 2006, volume 109:15–66) and are also available on the website at <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/>. More than 180 participants attended, including 21 Latin Americans and 53 students.

Partners from the US Plan have helped the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network develop **Species Conservation Plans** for high priority shorebirds. The first set is available on 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. Plan have updated **estimates of populations sizes of North American shorebirds** and have submitted a manuscript for publication in the Wilson Journal of Ornithology.

Several events of interest to shorebird biologists will take place at the **VIIIth Neotropical Ornithological Congress** in Maturín, Estado Monagas, Venezuela, 13-19 May 2007. Among these shorebird activities will be the 2nd "Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere" meeting including a round-table discussion introducing the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group (WHSG). The formation of WHSG was proposed at the 1st Shorebird Science meeting at Boulder, Colorado, in March 2006. Those interested are encouraged to fill out the 1-page questionnaire on the form and function of this organization (see <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/>) and send this to Richard Lancot at [Richard\\_lancot@fws.gov](mailto:Richard_lancot@fws.gov) by 1 JANUARY 2007. There will also be three shorebird symposia: (1) challenges and advances in the conservation of important shorebirds sites in the Neotropical region (Desafíos y Avances en la Conservación de Sitios Importantes para Aves Playeras en el Neotrópico), organized by Charles Duncan, (2) the ecology of Nearctic shorebirds during the

non-breeding season (Ecología de aves playeras neárticas durante la época no-reproductiva), organized by Guillermo Fernandez and Stephen Brown, and (3) ecology of endemic Neotropical shorebirds (Aves Playeras Neotropicales) organized by Graciela Escudero, Julián Torres Dowdall and Monica Abril. In addition, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network will have a one-day meeting of site partners and others interested prior to or after the main meeting.

The coordination of the **Pan American Shorebird Program (PASP)** has recently been transferred from Cheri Gratto-Trevor and Gholam Alaie of the Canadian Wildlife Service to the Canadian Bird Banding Office (BBO). As a result, the PASP website address has changed; it is now located at <<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/default.asp?lang=en&n=CA9EA2C5-1>>. The most comprehensive reference to banding shorebirds in North America is the NABC Shorebird manual. Instructions on obtaining a copy are on the PASP website. This manual is currently only available in English but will soon be translated into French and Spanish. The website has instructions on reporting color banded shorebirds, and a more interactive communication network with banders is planned, which will help provide more timely response to reports of color-banded shorebirds. For information or questions, contact Lesley Howes or Louise Laurin at the Bird Banding Office (CWS\_BBO@ec.gc.ca; 613-998-0524).

A management workshop focusing on **best practices for waterbird-friendly rice agriculture** will be held in the Central Valley, CA, during spring 2007. The California Rice Commission and the Central Valley Joint Venture will likely help sponsor the workshop.

On the monitoring front, plans are being made for a **range-wide surveys** of interior-breeding Snowy Plovers and NW Pacific Oystercatchers, and analysis of range-wide counts of Long-billed Curlews is underway.