



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
Ivylnd, 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 **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group** (WHSG) was held in conjunction with the VIII Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Maturin, Venezuela, on the 16th May 2007. The WHSG was well attended by 50 people from 16 countries, including Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador, Columbia, Venezuela, Suriname, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Cuba, Mexico, Australia, Canada and the United States. Latin Americans expressed their desire to form a WHSG, although the role of the group varied by person. Discussion included enabling the transfer of information within and across hemispheres via meetings, websites, and newsletters, and various people expressed the need to share and learn about conservation, research, and outreach/education issues. Follow-up communications were discussed.

Partners from the U.S. Shorebird Conservation 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. Many species working groups have been, or are being, developed to address priority species. This effort complements the Focal Species strategy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see http://www.nbii.gov/portal/community/Communities/Ecological_Topics/Bird_Conservation/FWS_Focal_Species/). Among new groups forming are ones for Hudsonian Godwit, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Mountain Plover.

The **PRISM (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring)** Steering Committee met in Petaluma, CA, in early December to review shorebird monitoring progress over the last several years and to plot a course for future endeavors. After a series of presentations on temperate breeders, temperate migrants, boreal breeders, arctic breeders, and neotropical/southern non-breeders, we developed a set of actions to re-work PRISM's goals within the context of ideas presented in the US-NABCI Committee's monitoring report, evaluate utility of the International Shorebird Survey and Maritime Shorebird Survey, address data management bottlenecks, and provide guidance for conducting ground surveys for shorebirds. As an indication of the progress made under the PRISM banner, a bibliography of reports and publications is attached.

Among a number of actions identified in California, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Council will explore ways to **harmonize their species assessment process** with that used by Partners in Flight in time for the PIF McAllen conference.