



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

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The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP) Council has **modified the “Desired Characteristics” matrix** of the species and habitat Joint Ventures to: 1) identify the core roles and responsibilities of the USSCP Partnership, 2) clarify the relationship between the USSCP Partnership and the habitat Joint Ventures, 3) serve as a tool to assess the progress toward achieving USSCP goals, and 4) determine what improvements are needed to accomplish the USSCP goals and objectives. Text of “Technical Expectations” was first generalized so that descriptions could be used by the Partners in Flight and waterbird partnerships; text specific to the USSCP was later added, and the completed matrix will be posted on the USSCP website (<<http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/>>). At our upcoming meeting in November 2009, we will develop a strategy to assess progress of the USSCP Partnership and then complete the assessment by September 2010. An important outcome will be the identification of the resources that are needed to accelerate progress toward achieving USSCP goals.

As part of the US-NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee’s **data management workshop** held in July 2009, we are undertaking a review of shorebird data management systems that are critical for providing information for making shorebird conservation decisions at a continental scale. Workshop participants developed a tool to assess the current state of data management systems and generate costs of immediate improvements and long-term maintenance of implemented improvements. Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences has completed an initial assessment of the International Shorebird Survey; the USSCP Partnership will be conducting assessments of other selected data management systems. Concurrent with assessments of the bird conservation plans’ data management needs is the generation of best management practices for avian data management systems. The practices will be applicable at multiple scales, and the effort is being led by Elizabeth Martin of the USGS’s NBII program.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is undertaking a **status review of the Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and a symposium dedicated to the status of the sandpiper will be held at the Waterbird Society meeting in November 2009. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing the need to **list the *roselaari* subspecies of Red Knot** under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and is reviewing a previous decision to not list the **Mountain Plover** under the ESA.

At the request of the NAWCA Council staff, the USSCP Council will be reviewing the areas of **continental importance for shorebirds** that are used to rank proposals for Technical Question #3. Recommendations will be provided in time for 2011 submissions.

The USSCP Council will meet, in conjunction with the Waterbird Society, on **4 November 2009** in Cape May, New Jersey. Contact Brad Andres for further details.