



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

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The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Council and the National Working Group of the Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan are forming two teams to address shorebird conservation assessment.

The purpose of the **Shorebird Population Size and Trend Evaluation Team** will be to provide guidance and technical advice on the use of scientific data and expert opinion in the periodic assessments of shorebird conservation status. The team will provide recommendations to the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Council and the Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan National Working Group. The team will develop a set of criteria for accepting new information on shorebird population sizes and trends and appropriate metrics for consideration (e.g., central tendencies or some bound). At a minimum, the team will review information on the three-year publication cycle of *Waterbird Population Estimates*, as will the companion Shorebird Conservation Assessment Team. The team will include representation from a wide variety of public and private organizations who are interested in the evaluation of data and observations on shorebird populations and who have the scientific background to make such evaluations.

We are also formalizing the structure of a **Shorebird Conservation Assessment Team**. The last assessment and prioritization was completed in the fall of 2004. Since that time, there has been a growing interest in developing a single assessment process for all the migratory bird initiatives. The objectives of this team are to: 1) review the revised Partners In Flight process and determine if it is appropriate for shorebirds; 2) if so, develop and review rankings meeting PIF criteria; 3) decide on the process for determining priorities for shorebird conservation (e.g., sum of the ranks or a more complex decision rule); and 4) assess the value of the multi-scale presentation of information (e.g., global, North America, subspecies).

There is a lot happening with **Red Knot conservation in Delaware Bay** including legislative action by the state of New Jersey to close horseshoe crab harvest in 2008, petitions to list the Red Knot under the Endangered Species Act, and the development of a Structured Decision Making process to integrate management of shorebirds and crabs. Lots of field work continues on Red Knots around Delaware Bay, in the southeastern United States, in eastern Canada, and in Patagonia and Brazil.

The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Council will meet at the **annual meeting of the Waterbird Society** to be held 5-8 November, 2008 on South Padre Island, and several shorebird symposia are planned. The **3rd Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere meeting** will be held in Sinoloa, Mexico, in March 2009. Check <http://www.shorebirdresearch.org/> in a few weeks for specific dates.