



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

John Cecil, Chair
National Audubon Society
545 Almshouse Road
Ivyland, PA 18974 USA

Catherine Hickey, Vice-Chair
PRBO Conservation Sciences
4990 Shoreline Highway One
Stinson Beach, CA 94970 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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USSCP Council members attended a meeting with Joint Venture (JV) science staff, PIF, and Waterbird Plan representatives in October 2010 to discuss the formation of a group that would mimic the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's National Science Support Team. The purposes of this **Tri-Initiative Science Team** are to: 1) provide coordination and guidance to JVs in advancing and strengthening the scientific foundation and delivery mechanisms for each bird initiative's population objectives within individual JVs, 2) coordinate among JVs to identify priority information needs that are most effectively addressed at multi-JV or BCR scales, 3) capitalize on synergy among JVs and bird initiatives to develop projects that will address identified priority information needs, and 4) create a forum to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas across scales (JV, national, range-wide/continental) that improve effectiveness of bird conservation efforts. Members of the team have developed draft guidance for setting population objectives, and the first meeting of the team is being planned.

The USSCP Council and members have been working with staff of the **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)** to fulfill shorebird science needs. In 2010, shorebird survey, research, and monitoring projects were funded by the California, Arctic, South Atlantic, and Plains and Prairie Potholes LCCs.

With regards to listing shorebirds as endangered, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently reconsidering listing the **Mountain Plover** as a threatened species, in response to a settlement over the 2003 decision not to list the species (decision will be published in May 2011), and found that the petition to list the **roselaari subspecies of Red Knot** did not present substantial information to warrant listing. The Mexican Federal Government recently announced the inclusion of four shorebird species or subspecies on its Endangered Species List, of which two are listed as endangered (**frazari subspecies of American Oystercatcher** and **roselaari subspecies of Red Knot**) and two are listed as threatened (**nivosus subspecies of Snowy Plover** and **Black Oystercatcher**). Comments were also sent to the International Union for Conservation of Nature on the status of Semipalmated Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs.

The Center for Wildlife Ecology at Simon Fraser University is hosting the 4th **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Science Group** meeting in British Columbia from 11 to 15 August 2011. Registration and other information are available at: <http://www.sfu.ca/biology/wildberg/4WHSG/4WHSG.htm>. The meeting brings together shorebird researchers and conservationist throughout the Western Hemisphere.