



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

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World Shorebirds Day Planned For September 6. In an effort to celebrate conservation efforts and raise public awareness about shorebird population declines, an international network of birders and scientists is launching the first annual World Shorebirds Day on September 6, 2014. Manomet Shorebird Biologist Brad Winn is organizing efforts to celebrate World Shorebirds Day on the Atlantic coast of the United States. More than 160 locations have already been announced as shorebird count sites. We will be reaching out to states to participate in this event.

Shorebird Flyway Business Plans. "Business planning" is the latest trend that is replacing standard conservation planning. While the difference is relatively small, the potential outcomes are nothing short of species recovery. In 2007, under the leadership of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Birds in Region 5, the American Oystercatcher Recovery Campaign began. As we do in traditional conservation planning, the immediate focus was to determine the key threats that were limiting the population, and to identify the exact projects or methods to reduce those threats. Where business planning differs is by taking the extraordinary step to take those actions and tie them to an exact dollar figure and an estimated number of birds that would be "produced" by that funding -either by reducing mortality or increasing productivity. Thus began the process of developing the first-ever Business Plan for conservation. Working closely with the American Oystercatcher Working Group, the Division of Migratory Birds submitted this Business Plan for Conservation to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) who then adopted it as one of their Keystone Initiatives. This resulted in NFWF commitment to fund projects identified in the Plan. The key involvement for them, and many other funders, is that there is an explicit relationship between funding and outcomes for the population. Business Planning was born from this effort, and is now being followed in many areas across the Western Hemisphere. The American Oystercatcher Business Plan has now morphed into the first-ever hemispheric Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Conservation Business Strategy for 15 focal shorebird species. A parallel approach has also been launched for the Pacific Americas Flyway. States have been active in developing the Atlantic plan and will certainly have a continued role in developing and implementing projects on both coasts.

The Migratory Shorebird Project is the largest coordinated survey ever of wintering shorebirds on the Pacific Coast of the Americas. Initiated in 2011, it is a cooperative effort of 14 conservation science organizations (and counting) led by Point Blue Conservation Science to conserve shorebirds and wetlands from Alaska to Peru. The goals of the project are to: 1) find out where shorebirds go in the non-breeding season (fall and winter), how many there are and how that changes through time; 2) evaluate which factors (e.g. development, contaminants, climate change) are influencing shorebird populations the most; and 3) make science-based recommendations and take action to conserve and protect shorebirds and wetlands at the flyway to the site level, based on the information collected, compiled and analyzed from our shorebird population monitoring and research. Contact Matt Reiter, Migratory Shorebird Project Steering Committee Chair, Point Blue Conservation Science (mreiter@pointblue.org) to get involved. This project will be presented with an USDA Forest Service *Wings Across the Americas Bird Conservation Award* in 2014.

Coordination among NABCI, JVs, and BCPPs. At the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) meeting in February 2014, Todd Fearer summarized his findings from a survey of Joint Venture (JV) Coordinators and lengthy discussion at the recent JV Coordinators meeting regarding a potential role for NABCI in facilitating improved coordination and communication between Joint Ventures and the Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships (BCPPs; Shorebird, Waterbird, and Partners in Flight). The goals of improved coordination are for the BCPPs to best understand what tools and resources they can provide to the JVs and to better quantify the collective contributions of JVs towards continental habitat and population goals. There are lessons to be learned from the reporting between Joint Ventures and the NAWMP Plan Committee, but the majority of JV Coordinators would prefer a less formal approach. The NABCI Committee approved a recommendation from Todd to host a summit among Joint Venture staff, BCPP representatives, and a few NABCI members to exchange foundational information and determine a set of clear next steps to advance coordination among these groups. The workshop will likely occur in the fall of 2014. Along these lines, the Tri-plan Science Team (TriST) continues to address increased coordination on science needs of the JVs and BCPPs. The USSCP Council is soliciting state participation on the TriST on behalf of shorebirds.