



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership

Building Collaborative Action for Shorebird Conservation

Update: 109th AFWA Annual Meeting, Saint Paul, MN – Sep 2019

The **U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership (USSCP)** will draft a brief synopsis over the next year **highlighting progress** since plan development in 2001 and identifying its **future direction**. The purpose of the document is to provide information to partners that illustrates the vitality of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership and Council. The structure will be organized by the recent NABCI priorities.

A **letter drafted by the USSCP Council** was crucial for the French parliament to **uphold a recently passed law** that required all hunters to obtain a license in French Guiana, where hunting of some migratory shorebirds is legal.

Publication of the revision of the 2012 **shorebird population sizes and trends** paper is still planned for late 2019 or early 2020. If anyone has information that should be considered, please forward to Brad Andres.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received a fourth allocation of federal funding, through the USAID budget, to **implement the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative and Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative**. Funding is alternated between the two flyways each year, and allocation to the Pacific in FY2019 was \$750,000. Projects must address shorebird conservation needs south of the U.S. – Mexico border.

A **workshop on the sustainable management of shorebird hunting** in the Atlantic Americas Flyway was held on Guadeloupe, 22-23 July 2019, which was attended by 28 delegates from 11 countries across the Caribbean and northern South America. During the workshop, participants shared information and updated each other on the status of shorebird harvest throughout the flyway. This meeting, organized under a Memorandum of Understanding among the USA, Canada and France on shorebird conservation, was also a great opportunity to engage with the hunting community of the French Overseas Departments. More information on recent activities of the AFSI can be found at:

<https://atlanticflywayshorebirds.org/summer-news-2019/>.

An implementation focus of the **Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative (PSCI)** has been the **development of shorebird-friendly practices for shrimp production**. To date, a multiple-flyway working group has been

formed (including producers), numerous meetings with producers have been conducted, and best management guidelines have been drafted. The next phase will be working to implement the recommendations with producers. A **website for the PACI** will be launched in the next few months.

Plans are underway to **develop a comprehensive, flyway-scale initiative for shorebird conservation in the midcontinent** regions of North and South America. The Midcontinent Americas Shorebird Conservation Initiative is envisioned as consisting of 1) building a strategic framework through a logical process and practitioner engagement throughout the Midcontinent Americas Flyway; 2) forming an engaged steering committee to guide development and promote implementation; and 3) developing new and leverage existing revenue streams to accomplish implementation. Workshops will be held during and after WHSG meeting (see below) and funding is being pursued to hold a workshop in the USA/Canada.

In general, the **nongame technical committees** of the four flyway councils are a good mechanism to **engage states** in the development and implementation of **flyway-scale shorebird conservation activities**. The USSCP and steering committees of the flyway initiatives should work to increase interaction with the committees.

Audubon Panamá will be hosting the 8th **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group (WHSG) meeting** in Panamá City, Panamá, 24-28 Oct 2019 (see <https://audubonpanama.org/index.php/2-all/89-whsg2019-eng.html>). Thanks to the Pacific Flyway Council for providing support. A number of symposia are planned for before and during the main meeting, including one on *Implementing Key Strategies from the Shorebird Conservation Flyway Initiatives*.

Recent management and monitoring publications.

Standards for Monitoring Nonbreeding Shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere <https://www.shorebirdplan.org/science/program-for-regional-and-international-shorebird-monitoring/>.

Guidance and Best Practices for Evaluating and Managing Human Disturbance on Coastal Lands available at <https://atlanticflywayshorebirds.org/resources/>.

Guidance and Best Practices for Coordinated Predation Management to Benefit Temperate Breeding Shorebirds <https://atlanticflywayshorebirds.org/guidance-bp-predation/>.

For **further information or questions**, contact Brad Andres, National Coordinator, brad_andres@fws.gov.