

**Progress Report:  
Migratory Shorebird Project  
August 2011 – January 2012**

*Prepared by*

**The Steering Committee of the Migratory Shorebird Project**

Matthew Reiter (PRBO Conservation Science), Pete Davidson (Bird Studies Canada), Eduardo Palacios (Grupo Aves del Noroeste), Rob Clay (Birdlife International), and Richard Johnston (Calidris)

**General Developments:**

- Coordinated initial meeting of partners at 4<sup>th</sup> Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting, Simon Fraser University, August 2011,
- Steering Committee formed, comprising; Rob Butler, Jim Chu, Rob Clay, Pete Davidson, Richard Johnston, Eduardo Palacios, Matt Reiter

**Country Report: US and overall coordination**

Also see – [www.prbo.org/pfss](http://www.prbo.org/pfss) for more detail on this project and the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey.

***Personnel involved (organisation/institution)***

- Matt Reiter, Catherine Hickey, and Khara Strum (PRBO Conservation Science)

***Field Surveys***

- Surveys of 11 coastal estuaries and >40 road routes of interior wetland habitat throughout California, 15 Nov – 15 Dec 2011
- Data collected by >10 partnering federal and state agencies and NGOs.
- Engaged >150 volunteers statewide and counted >350,000 shorebirds.
- All data were entered into California Avian Data Center (CADC).
- Developing project portals for partners in CADC.
- Added Spanish version of “help” text in for data entry portal.

***Workshops & Presentations***

- Conducted 3 volunteer training workshops in California and developed extensive training materials for volunteers (see webpage).
- Developed materials, including study design and survey protocol, and participated in project development workshops in Vancouver, Mexico, and Panama (see highlights from other regions).
- Coordinated February 2012 meeting of the project steering committee.

***Science***

- Piloted survey protocol and currently evaluating results based on feedback from partners.
- Analysis of historic Pacific Flyway Project data from California to evaluate broad scale habitat association of wintering shorebirds. This also informs our method to allocate sampling effort.
- Simulation study to evaluate sampling designs for San Diego Bay.
- Development of iterative learning framework for project data through the California Avian Data Center.

- Developed hypothesis and project design matrix to guide project development. Refined this matrix during Vancouver workshop in November.
- Developed interactive data summary tools that can be applied to this project.

## **Country Report: México**

### ***Personnel involved (organisation/institution)***

- Eduardo Palacios (CICESE, and Grupo de Aves del Noroeste (GANO); Xico Vega (Centro de Ciencias de Sinaloa, GANO); Guillermo Fernández (UNAM, GANO)

### ***Field Surveys***

- One Winter survey (during 1-15 December) conducted at 20 sites in NW Mexico as part of ongoing CRIMBI WESA/DUNL monitoring project; data compilation, data entry and review ongoing. 50+ volunteers engaged
- Main species observed: Western Sandpiper, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitcher spp, Snowy Plover

### ***Workshops & Presentations***

- One two-day workshop (Mazatlán, Sinaloa) on standarization of shorebird monitoring protocols, data compilation and monitoring need
- One symposium on shorebird research and conservation in Mexico

## **Country Report: Canada**

### ***Personnel involved (organisation/institution)***

- Rob Butler, Pete Davidson (Bird Studies Canada); Mark Drever, Moira Lemon (Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service); Ron Ydenberg, Dov Lank, Jenn Barrett (Simon Fraser University)

### ***Field Surveys***

- Monthly surveys (Sept-Jan) conducted at ~180 pre-defined sites as part of ongoing *BC Coastal Waterbird Survey*; web-based data entry and review ongoing. 220+ volunteers engaged
- Main species captured: Dunlin, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Greater Yellowlegs, rocky shore specialists (Black Turnstone, Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird)

### ***Workshops & Presentations***

- One field workshop (Boundary Bay) on improving consistency of shorebird flock count estimates; training resource provided to surveyors
- Two presentations (Vancouver, Victoria) promoting project, field workshop and training resource
- Two-day workshop (Vancouver) to develop hypotheses for changes in shorebird distribution and abundance; input sought from Mexico and South American partners prior to and post-workshop

### ***Science***

- Analysis of *BC Coastal Waterbird Survey* to investigate potential to generate habitat-based shorebird population estimates (Drever, Barrett)

- Analysis of Pacific Coast Christmas Bird Count data on Dunlin/other shorebirds and falcons to begin investigating predator and climate hypotheses

### **Country Report: South America (Panamá, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú)**

#### ***Personnel involved (organisation/institution)***

- Richard Johnston, Diana Eusse, Carlos J. Ruiz (Asociación Calidris, Colombia); Ana Agreda (Aves y Conservación), Stive Marthans, Patricia Saravia (SERNANP RN Paracas, Perú); Rosabel Miró, Karl Kauffman (Audubon Panamá), Alvaro García O., Cesar Chávez (CNEH Internacional).

#### ***Field Surveys***

- One Winter survey (during 10 January - 10 February) conducted at 7 sites (1 in Panamá, 2 in Colombia, 2 in Ecuador, 2 in Perú) as part of ongoing CRIMBI *WESA/DUNL monitoring project*; data compilation, data entry and review ongoing. 10+ volunteers engaged
- Main species observed: Western Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Dowitcher spp, Snowy Plover.

#### ***Workshops & Presentations***

- One one-day workshop (Paracas, Perú) on introduction to the project and partner engagement.
- One three-day workshop (Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá) on introduction to the project, hypothesis review, standardization of shorebird monitoring protocols, data compilation and monitoring need