

Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey – Update August 2021

Point Blue Conservation Science would like to THANK YOU, our integral volunteers and partners, for supporting conservation of migratory shorebirds and their habitats. Due to safety issues from the COVID-19 pandemic, this survey was our most challenging yet. It's a real testament to your dedication that we were able to complete the 10th consecutive year of long-term, multi-scale monitoring in many locations! You stepped up, stayed safe, and made your contribution to a vast network of shorebird aficionados as part of the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey and [Migratory Shorebird Project](#), which consists of over 40 partner agencies and organizations from 13 countries on the Pacific Coast of the Americas, from Canada to Chile. The dataset you are helping to build is critical to studying the populations of these world travelling shorebirds.

Let's Do the Numbers

During last winter, surveys were conducted for 37 projects by >200 biologists and citizen scientists, and from the data received so far we've recorded nearly 240,000 shorebirds across California, Oregon, and Washington! Some projects were not able to survey all of their sites due to access or safety issues due to COVID-19, but the vast majority of sites were surveyed.

In 2020, the most common species encountered was Dunlin (>66,000), followed by Western Sandpiper (>36,000), Least Sandpiper (>26,000), and Marbled Godwit (>14,000). Of course, thousands of "peeps" were recorded (>49,000) that included mostly Dunlin, Least, and Western Sandpipers. These species, plus American Avocet, also had the highest relative abundance (birds counted/# units surveyed) among shorebirds from 2012 – 2020 in Washington, Oregon and California combined (Figure 1).

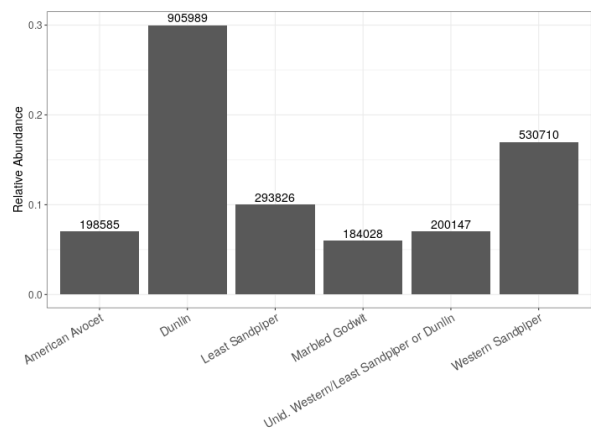


Figure 1. Relative abundance of top five shorebird species counted from 2012-2020 for PFSS in the USA. Total birds counted on top of each bar. Created with our interactive tools.

Recent Publication

Data from PFSS surveys contributed to a recent publication by Point Blue and partners looking at the effects of drought on wintering shorebirds. Read more [here](#).

Resources and Data Visualization

Visit www.pointblue.org/pfss for project resources and to explore PFSS data using [visualization tools](#) and an [interactive map](#). All figures in this update were generated using the visualization tools!

Data Sharing

We strive to promote shorebird conservation by collaborating and sharing data! Please contact us if you are interested.

Sincerely,

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PFSS – a partnership for conservation of shorebirds and their ecosystems

