

## Draft Version

### *Shorebird Monitoring Projects*

Several large-scale projects, including the International Shorebird Surveys (Manomet Conservation Center), Maritimes Shorebird Survey (Canadian Wildlife Service), Pacific Flyway Project (PRBO Conservation Science), and Western Shorebird Survey (U. S. Geologic Survey), have attempted to monitor shorebird population trajectories on the non-breeding grounds in North and South America or obtain baseline population estimates for some species. Numerous local studies have been designed to describe seasonal or spatial abundance patterns, to determine habitat characteristics that affect abundance patterns, or to determine the effects of habitat conversion or restoration or the effect of disturbance on shorebird abundance or distribution. Since 2001, the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM), a collaboration of the shorebird working groups from Canada and the U. S., has attempted to address monitoring needs that currently are unmet. Notably, they have been developing and testing methods to estimate trends in the numbers of breeding shorebirds in Arctic habitat.

In recent years, a great deal of thought and work has been put into developing monitoring methods for wildlife. The USGS *Manager's Monitoring Manual* (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/monmanual/>), designed for managers of refuges and other areas in which wildlife habitat is protected and monitored, and the National Park Service's *Inventory and Monitoring Guidance for Designing an Integrated Monitoring Program* (<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/monitor/vsmTG.htm#Design>) may be especially helpful to you in designing your study or monitoring program. These manuals describe a wide range of monitoring methods and considerations; at this site we will provide background information and highlight methodology that is specific to shorebirds in non-breeding habitat.