Activity 11
Shorebirds On-line

SHOREBIRD SISTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Created by PRBO Conservation Science Education & Outreach Program
Shorebirds On-line
Activity 11

Objectives:
- To participate in web-based science research.
- To learn about the technologies used to study wildlife.
- To learn about shorebird ecology and migration.

Background:
There are numerous ways that you can get your class involved with shorebirds on the web. Many excellent opportunities are found on the web site of Shorebird Sister Schools Program (SSSP), created and run by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. We outline how to get started with three different SSSP activities: SSSP Shorebird Education Discussion Group, shorebird pen pal, and shorebird tracking projects.

1. The **SSSP Shorebird Education Discussion Group** will send regular shorebird updates from educators, students, and researchers from Japan to Alaska to the USA. Students can participate in the listserv by sending in questions, reporting data that they have collected, or perhaps announcing a shorebird website that they have created. Listserv group members have to subscribe to receive the free electronic e-mail. The discussion on the listserv is moderated (reviewed) by the SSSP Coordinator (Hilary Chapman) so you only receive information related to shorebird education and conservation.

2. **Shorebird tracking projects** offer a perfect opportunity to monitor the movements of the shorebirds as reported by researchers and volunteer participants. Many tracking projects also provide the opportunity for you and your students to get involved and help with current research. Tracking projects use state of the art technologies: from the tiny radio transmitters that the birds wear to the interactive data on the web.

3. **Shorebird pen pals** is a way for your students to communicate with other students who are also interested in shorebirds. This is a great opportunity for a student or students who have taken a strong interest in shorebirds to make broader connections—even at the international scale. Moreover, there are active schools in Latin America, so Spanish language connections are also wonderful.

Materials:
- Computer(s) with web access

National Content Standards for Grades 5-8:
- Science in Personal and Social Perspectives (Content Standard F).
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Procedure:

Join SSSP Shorebird Education Discussion Group
- Click on the “join and interact” side bar on SSSP’s home page
- Click on “listserv” logo
- Click on “E-mail Discussion Group Activity” for full description and suggested activities with the discussion group.

Shorebird Pen Pal
- Click on the “educators” side bar, then choose “Find A Pen Pal Class!”
- Read instructions for applying for a pen pal.

Shorebird Tracking Projects
- The SSSP web pages list on-going shorebird tracking projects.

For more information:
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