



Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting

Sinaloa, Mexico
9 - 13 March 2009

In February 2006, shorebird biologists decided to form the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group (WHSG) during the 1st Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere Meeting in Boulder, Colorado. This new and exciting group represents the first time biologists have tried to study shorebirds in a comprehensive fashion from their breeding grounds in the Arctic to their wintering grounds in South America. Over 100 professionals and 70 students from ten countries in the Western Hemisphere participated in the first meeting. The range of participants expanded greatly when the second meeting of the WHSG took place in Venezuela in May of 2007. At this time, over 50 people from 16 countries participated, including Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador, Columbia, Venezuela, Suriname, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Cuba, Mexico, Australia, Canada and the United States. This announcement is for the 3rd meeting of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group which will be held in Sinaloa

The primary function of the WHSG is to serve as the "glue" that binds the many other shorebird initiatives together throughout the Western Hemisphere. This would include research, monitoring, site-based conservation, outreach/education and other national, regional and local initiatives. One of the principal tasks of a Western Hemisphere group is to organize and hold scientific meetings. To accomplish this, we are organizing the 3rd meeting of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group at the Hotel Playa Mazatlán in Mazatlán, Mexico between 9 and 13 March 2009. The purpose of the meeting is three-fold and includes science, management and outreach. The science agenda hopes to: 1) bring together biologists studying breeding, staging and wintering shorebirds throughout the Western Hemisphere in one location, 2) promote information sharing on methodologies and study design among biologists working on different shorebird species, 3) to promote range-wide studies of shorebirds by fostering collaborations among biologists interested in particular species, 4) integrate science into the implementation of various shorebird conservation plans, and 5) to generate enthusiasm among the shorebird community to conduct additional studies of shorebirds in the future.

To further the science component, we have planned a 2-day **POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC MODELING WORKSHOP** led by Dr. Brett Sandercock on the 7 and 8 March and a 4-day **INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON AVIAN MOVEMENTS AND MIGRATION TECHNOLOGY** sponsored by **MIGRATE** (Migration Interest Group: Research Applied Toward Education) between the 16 and 19 March. We encourage people interested in shorebird management, outreach and education to use this opportunity to gain knowledge and organize symposium/give presentations at the meeting.

Travel awards will be offered to graduate students in North, Central and South America to attend the meeting and workshops. Professionals in Latin America will also be able to apply for travel support. The deadline for submission of proposed symposia is **1 Oct**

2008. Please send ideas to Stephen Brown (Sbrown@manomet.org) who is working with the Shorebird Research Group of the Americas to plan the scientific component of the meeting. Additional details of the meeting, including logistics, call for abstracts, science program, and international travel, will be posted on the US Shorebird Conservation Plan website. Sinaloa is readily accessible from the International Airport of Mazatlán. Please mark your calendars now and plan on attending. Overall coordinator for the meeting is Rick Lanctot (richard_lanctot@fws.gov, telephone: 907-786-3609), Stephen Brown is the Science Coordinator (sbrown@manomet.org, telephone: 508-224-6521) and local organizers are Xico Vega (xicovega@itesm.mx, telephone: 52-667-7166456) and Guillermo Fernández (gfernandez@ola.icmyl.unam.mx, telephone: 52-669-985-2845).