

NORTH AMERICAN SECTION No. 13



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PAN AMERICAN SHOREBIRD PROGRAM

In the August 1982 issue (Bulletin 35) we announced the formation of the North American Steering Committee, and briefly outlined a proposed program for Spring 1983. Planning and fieldwork have moved forward considerably. This has been possible because of a generous grant from the World Wildlife Fund - US to support wader banding and conservation along the Pacific Coast of South America.

The Pan American Shorebird Program is a collaborative research project examining the migration pathways of different shorebird populations as they travel northward from South America to their North American breeding grounds. Participants are capturing and banding birds in South America and in migration stopovers along the US coastline, and then searching for these marked birds at points farther north in migration. The key species chosen for fieldwork in spring 1983 are Sanderling, Knot, and Black-bellied Plover. Other species, particularly Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers, will also be marked.

Marking sites are: Mollendo, Peru; Valdivia, Chile; Antofogasta, Chile; Rio Grande, Brazil; Bodega Bay, California; The Outer Banks, North Carolina; Assateague, Virginia; Delaware Bay, New Jersey.

Participants will be searching for birds along all the major coastlines of the US, with special emphases on staging areas in: Coastal Texas; The Outer Banks, North Carolina; Assateague, Virginia; Delaware Bay, New Jersey; Central Coastal California; Willapa Bay, Oregon; Grays Harbor, Washington.

Volunteers are urgently needed to participate in the searching effort for marked birds in these and other areas. If you wish to participate, please contact one of the following:

Dr. Marshall Howe,
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The Pan American Shorebird Program is a collaborative effort involving:
The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; Bodega Marine Laboratory, University of California;
Canadian Wildlife Service; Instituto Forestal y de Fauna, Peru; Manomet Bird Observatory;
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Chile; North Carolina State University; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
The Wader Study Group; The World Wildlife Fund-US.

ABSTRACTS OF SHOREBIRD PAPERS AT THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION, CHICAGO, OCTOBER 1982

Migration of Dunlin and Western Sandpipers from Alaska.

Robert Gill, Jr., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503.

A 5-year study of the fall migration strategies of two Calidridine sandpipers breeding in southwest Alaska has shown that the Dunlin race *Calidris alpina pacifica* is represented by two populations which are centered on the Yukon Delta and Alaska Peninsula and have respective wintering areas from southern British Columbia to Oregon and from Oregon to central California. Some overlap in wintering areas occurs. The Alaska Peninsula population partakes of a direct trans-Pacific route to its wintering grounds while birds from the Yukon Delta appear to follow a more coastal route. The Arctic nesting race *C. a. sakhalina* was found to move south to the Yukon Delta to complete molt prior to migrating to wintering grounds in Japan and Korea. Western Sandpipers from the Yukon Delta and Alaska Peninsula follow a more coastal route than Dunlin and do not appear to segregate on the wintering grounds, which extend primarily along the coast from Washington to southern California and possibly beyond.

Resting Birds Tend to Tuck Their Bills in the Scapulars on Their Most Exposed Side.

Sylvia L. Halkin, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.

Observations of groups of resting Black Skimmers, *Rynchops nigra*, and Black-necked Stilts, *Himantopus mexicanus*, revealed that most birds tucked their bills in the scapulars on the side nearest to the edge of the group. After being alerted from one side of the group, many birds shifted to tucking their bills on that side. The bill-tucking