



International Shorebird Survey Spring 2016 Newsletter



This is an update for the many volunteers and collaborators of ISS. In 1974 Manomet organized the International Shorebird Survey to gather consistent information on shorebirds and the wetlands they use. To date, a set of more than 600 volunteers have completed over 91,000 census counts at 3,400 locations in 47 states, with additional counts from Central and South America.

Staff at Manomet continue to recruit volunteers to perform regular shorebird surveys and/or coordinate regional volunteers. For additional information, please contact:

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THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SHOREBIRD SURVEY!

The Manomet staff would like to thank all current and past participants in the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) for your dedication to helping to expand the ever-growing ISS database. Your data collection, and eBird-ISS data entry efforts, have been contributing significantly to our understanding of shorebird migration ecology and allowing quantitative biologists from the U.S.A, Canada, and Europe to understand population trends and migration ecology of shorebirds in North America. Shorebirds have been monitored annually at migratory stopover locations since 1974 as part of the ISS. The data collected during these surveys, combined with the ISS sister programs in Canada, the Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey (ACSS) and the Ontario Shorebird Survey (OSS), have documented observation of 100 million shorebirds counted during more than 100,000 surveys. These largely volunteer-based programs offer the most comprehensive source of trend information for shorebirds breeding in North America.



NEW ISS PARTNERS OUTSIDE THE STATES

This year we have been initiating ISS expansion into other regions of the hemisphere with partners in the Caribbean region (BirdsCaribbean), in Brazil (SAVE-Brasil), and into several other countries in South America (WHSRN, Guyra Paraguay). Manomet staff working with our partners were able to hold two shorebird workshops in February and early March in Brazil, with participants from Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, French Guiana, and Suriname, as well as Brazil.

As part of these expanded collaborations, we will soon be translating the ISS eBird portal into Portuguese and Spanish! In the meantime, we will offer the Portuguese and Spanish versions of the protocols on the existing ISS eBird portal.



AN UPDATE FROM BRAD WINN, DIRECTOR OF SHORBIRD HABITAT MANAGEMENT

I had the opportunity to speak to Paul Smith recently while he was driving into Ottawa. He shed light on the value of ISS from his perspective as lead shorebird research scientist with Environment Canada. Paul is partner in many of Manomet's Canadian Arctic shorebird expeditions and has been the primary data analyst for ISS data coming into ISS-eBird.

Paul expressed his gratitude for all of the shorebird surveyors contributing to ISS, and wanted to point out that that all of the survey effort contributed from so many volunteers and professional biologists across North and South America equates in value to what the Breeding Bird Survey is to understanding land bird population trends. He thought that so many dedicated individuals needed to know that their perseverance to collect shorebird data using consistent, standardized ISS methodology, even in less than ideal conditions like wet and cold, is paying off. Whenever government or academic interests are looking for geographically broad-scale, multi species, and long-time series for shorebirds, they turn to ISS data.

Paul pointed out some of the most prominent uses of ISS data, particularly the 2012 NABCI report "State of Canada's Birds" found here <http://www.stateofcanadasbirds.org> and then the most data-focused State of the Birds U.S.A. report from 2014 http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2014/2014%20SotB_FINAL_low-res.pdf. Both of these reports are used heavily by state, provincial, and federal government agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to focus research, conservation initiatives, and guide Endangered Species listing processes. The inclusive "State of North American Birds 2016" report including Canada, United States of America, and Mexico was released on May 15th for International Migratory Bird Day.

ISS EBIRD UPDATES!

All historic ISS data have been entered into eBird! Presently, nearly all ISS data are being entered directly through the ISS eBird portal. This is an incredibly efficient way for volunteers to submit data (over 7600 surveys were submitted in the last two years!), but it is easy for non-ISS surveys to be entered into the ISS portal. **We would like to remind those using the ISS eBird portal to only use it for submitting ISS surveys.** It is easy to mistakenly use the ISS portal to enter your normal checklists.

If you have any non-ISS checklists that you submitted through the portal, you can change them back to the normal eBird portal through your eBird account. Just view the checklist you want to remove in "Manage My Checklists" and select "View or Edit." Once there, you will find a button on the lower right-hand side that says "Change Portal." Simply click this and select "ISS eBird" from the drop-down list and click the green "Change Portal" button. Done!

This can also be done to change checklists that you didn't enter through the ISS eBird portal (i.e. checklists you entered on your eBird mobile phone app) from normal eBird to ISS eBird.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Evan Dalton: edalton@manomet.org.