



International Shorebird Survey Spring 2018 Update



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.

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 ISS

The Manomet staff, biologists with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and all other end-users of ISS data would like to thank all current and past participants in the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) for your dedication to counting shorebirds for the ever-growing ISS database. Since 1974, ISS has relied upon volunteers and professionals to complete shorebird surveys that are vital to the success of regional, national and hemispheric management plans. As of the end of 2017, ISS data have been collected by more than 800 volunteers, who have completed over 100,000 census counts, at over 3,400 locations in 48 states, and 24 countries throughout the Western Hemisphere!

SIMPLIFIED DATA ENTRY for ISS!

If you have tried to enter ISS data recently, you may be wondering what happened to the ISS eBird data entry portal. It's gone and has now been replaced by a specific **International Shorebird Survey protocol** that is available when you enter Date and Effort information into your eBird checklist. Now you don't have to switch between portals and we think this will prevent data from getting tagged inappropriately or overlooked. As an added bonus, ISS participants can use their favorite portal while entering their surveys; just be sure to select the ISS protocol when you enter your ISS data! This change also applies to the eBird mobile app. You can find the revised submission instructions [here](#). And if you have any questions regarding this process, please contact [Evan Dalton](#).



Remember that the ISS protocol relies upon repeated visits to your site throughout the migration period. Be sure to try and get out a few times each season, we need your help to improve our coverage!

YOUR DATA IN ACTION!

-Recently, analyses based on ISS data formed the basis of the shorebird population trends reported in the 2016 State of North America's birds ([here](#)) and will be featured in an upcoming New York Times article on shorebird declines by Cornell's John Fitzpatrick. These are data that all of you have contributed to. So thank you again!

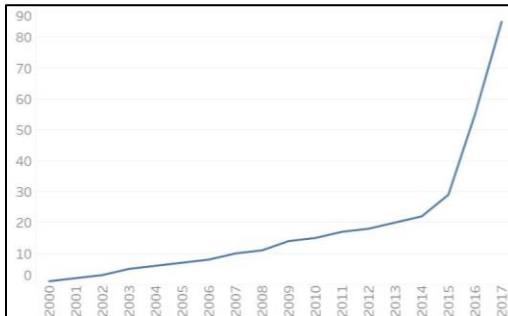
-The ISS, and Canadian counterparts, Atlantic Canada Shorebird Survey and Ontario Shorebird Survey, together demonstrate drastic declines in many species of shorebirds. Directly because of these survey results, several shorebird species are currently under review in Canada for formal listing as Species at Risk.

-All of your survey results were recently reanalyzed (by Paul Smith, and Adam Smith, quantitative ecologists with the Canadian Government) using cutting edge statistical methods, and these results will be published in the coming months.



RAMPING UP ISS PARTICIPATION OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA

Although we have decent coverage of coastal North America, our historic coverage south of the border has been inconsistent and lacking. Since many shorebirds spend their winters in Latin America, it is critical that we coordinate data gathering in order to best understand the movements and wintering patterns of shorebirds in these areas of major conservation significance. Over the last few years we have worked with

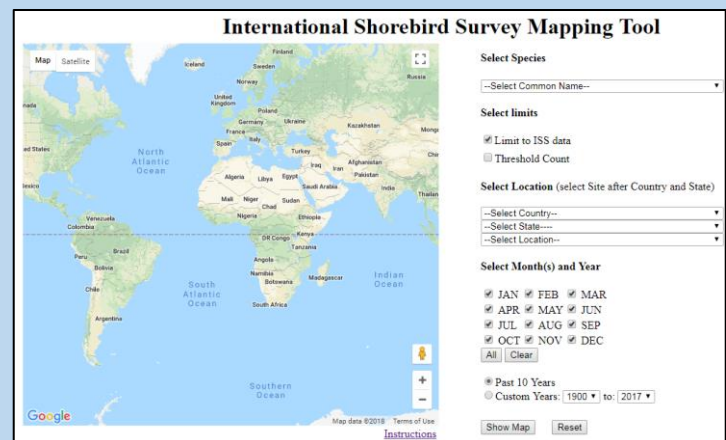


A graph showing a running total of new ISS observers in Latin America since 2000.

partners in the Caribbean region (BirdsCaribbean), in Brazil (SAVE-Brasil), and in several other countries in South America (WHSRN, Guyra Paraguay). In the last year, Manomet's Habitats for Shorebirds team has delivered shorebirds workshops, with shorebird monitoring components in Argentina (2), Brazil (1), Paraguay (1), and Chile (2). Through these workshops we have increased ISS participation significantly, and we're just getting started! The graph to the left shows the increase in the number of new ISS volunteers in Latin America over the last 18 years. To learn more or to help us improve coverage in these regions, please contact [Brad Winn](#).

A NEW ISS TOOL

Have you ever wondered how many ISS sites there are near you? Perhaps you want to see how your ISS site stacks up to other sites. For those that are curious (and for interested end-users) we are happy to introduce the ISS Map. A tool for collaborators, participants and those interested in shorebirds, this map (created by Manomet staff) includes ISS data and ALL eBird shorebird data. There's a button to toggle between ISS and eBird data so you can check to see if your surveys have been entered correctly (if not, you can learn how to change them in our data entry protocol). Users also have the ability to enter threshold counts to see areas of significance for certain species. Data from any query can be downloaded directly from the map. You can find and learn more about the ISS map on the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network website: www.whsrn.org/issmap If you have any questions regarding the map, please contact [Evan Dalton](#).



A screenshot of our new ISS Mapping tool.

UPCOMING SHOREBIRD MONITORING WORKSHOPS

Manomet staff, working with biologists from Nature Conservancy Canada, Bird Studies Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service, are conducting a shorebird migration monitoring workshop in southwestern Manitoba in May. This is a collective effort to understand more about the significance of the Saskatchewan and Manitoba southern prairies for shorebirds migrating to the region and on up into the Boreal and Arctic zones of central Canada. We hope to establish long term monitoring sites in conjunction with volunteers of the Bird Studies Canada IBA program. This spring we will also be in Cheyenne Bottoms of Kansas working with the State of Kansas and The Nature Conservancy to deliver a shorebird management focused workshop to regional biologists and land managers.