

Manomet

FALL 2023



Attention Species

Manomet is watching, monitoring, and measuring.

Massachusetts Shorebird Survey Blitz

Results of coastal migratory stopover sites.

The Lil' Sit

A page of science fun for kids.



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ON THE COVER: Liana DiNunzio, Shorebird Biologist, at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge on Cape Cod.

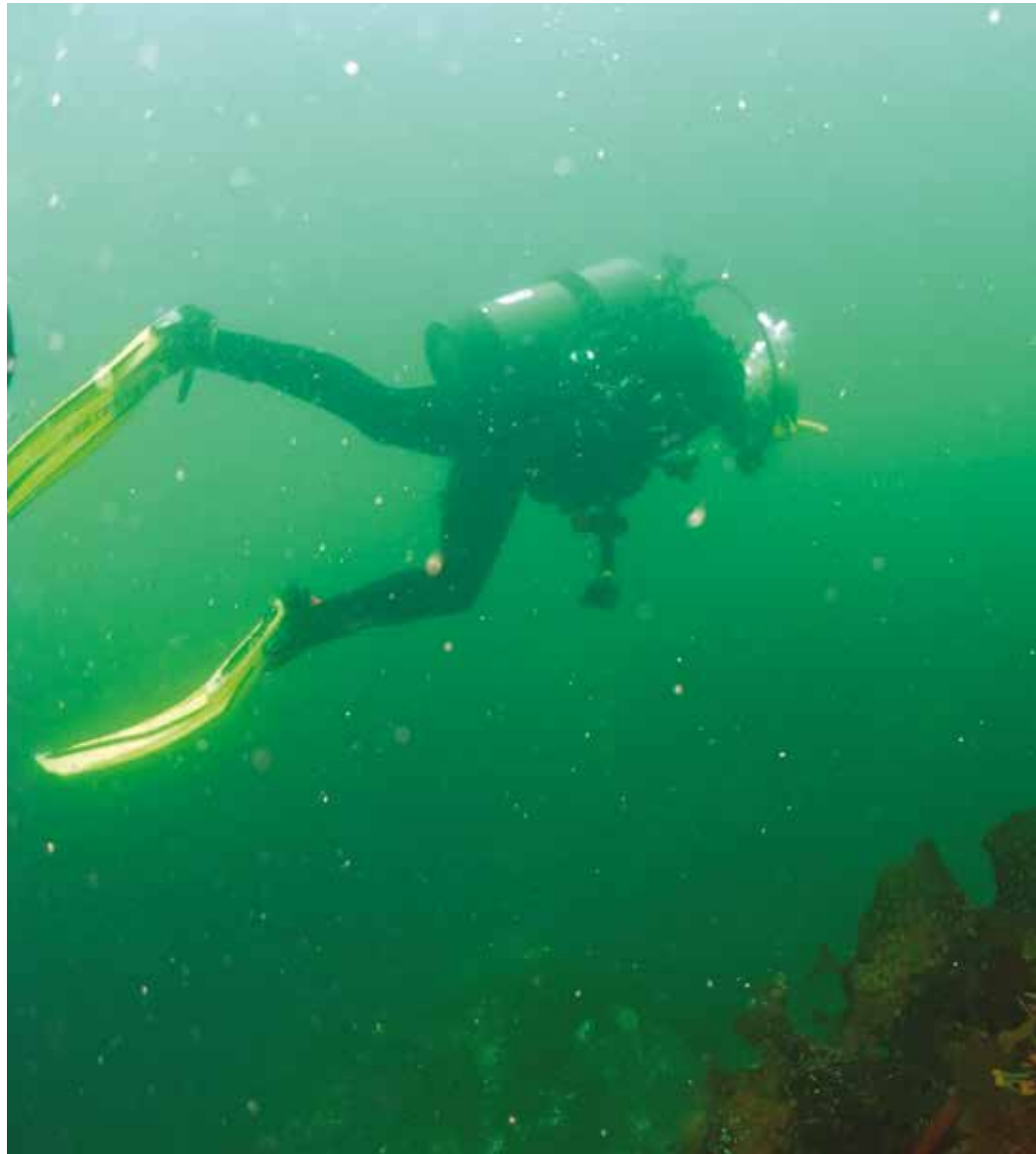
 [MANOMET/MOLLY JACOBS](https://www.instagram.com/manomet/molly_jacobs)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Three and a half years into my tenure at Manomet, I read the content of this magazine and am blown away. I can feel the energy of each and every colleague. Today, our work is matching the urgency of the challenges we are facing in our natural world. Our scientists across the organization and the hemisphere are tirelessly doing research and monitoring on the ground to determine how to manage rapidly changing ecosystems, how to restore shorebird populations, and how to expose new and curious young minds to the magic of nature.

We are working faster than ever and asking more questions so we can deliver reliable and real-time science to manage coastal resilience, habitats, and species. And as we work to collect data and analyze it along with our current generation of partners, we are also committed to engaging the next generation of scientists. You'll see that we have launched a new activity page for mini scientists — we hope you share it with your own kids and grandkids.


And, in service of experiencing science and nature up close: if you live near



Marissa McMahan in kelp forest.

Plymouth, we invite you to walk the brand-new nature trail at Manomet Headquarters, recently dedicated to our founder Kathleen (Betty) Anderson. It's a true testament to her legacy of encouraging inquisitive minds, both young and seasoned. And if you're not close, take a moment to hop on our website or facebook and instagram channels to connect with us online — we post about new initiatives or interesting species spotted, including the Western Tanager sighted in early November, and enjoy hearing feedback about your own destinations and discoveries.

Whether you're preparing for winter in the northern hemisphere or spring in the southern, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season, and thank you, as ever, for being a part of our work!



Elizabeth Schueler

PRESIDENT



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ATTENTION SPECIES: MANOMET IS WATCHING.

How collaborative monitoring and measuring
is imperative for a healthy future


BY GERRY OLSON

Citizen Scientist Meet Citizen Plover.

It's a misty dawn on a mythical coastline somewhere on planet Earth. A woman with binoculars and a walking stick passes through a thick veil of morning fog and treks through a series of marshes and trails. When she arrives on a pristine stretch of beach, she stops at the sight of a flock of rare plovers feeding. Feverishly making notes in a small leather journal, she counts the birds, studies their surroundings, and tracks their behaviors. As she marvels at the encounter, one of the half-dozen birds stops feeding just long enough to make contact with this interloper — a long, intense gaze as if he has something important to say.

Scenes like this play out countless times a day all across the world. These local volunteers and birders — citizen scientists — along with ecologists, biologists, scientists, statisticians, corporate partners, and government employees, are an integral part of an impressive and collaborative network - the 'secret sauce' that defines Manomet and extends its scope and impact far beyond its size.

Shorebird monitoring on
Monomoy, Cape Cod.

 MAINA HANDMAKER



It Started With a Question.

When Brian Harrington dreamed up the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) in 1974, the questions were simpler - and the stakes far less dramatic. Born out of the Christmas Day Bird Count, his idea was to enlist, empower, and engage locals to chart shorebird populations and shed light on the journey from the Arctic to the shores of the Americas. It grew from Manomet's roots as a volunteer-led organization and a couple of hundred boots-on-the-sand individuals to over 5,000 volunteers today across the Western Hemisphere. Back then, no one could have predicted the impact these data would have – or how a recent analysis would cause a seismic shift in shorebird conservation.

Data Points: Steep Shorebird Declines.

“The shorebird population is tanking,” says Manomet's VP of Science, Stephen Brown, Ph.D., and shorebird science veteran who supervised the analysis of 40 years of data from the ISS and helped pen the paper published in the Spring of 2023. “Of 28 shorebirds assessed, 19 were showing significant declines that placed them on the global threatened red list.” Brad Winn, VP of Resilient Habitats at Manomet, calls it a ‘holy crap’ moment (admittedly not exactly a scientific term). “We assumed there was a decline with some species, but we learned more were involved than we had been thinking, and the decline was much greater than anyone imagined, spanning over three generations.”



Whimbrel nest in the Arctic.

At the epicenter of this bird-ageddon moment was Manomet's new President, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Schueler. She recalls that one of her first herculean tasks was to spur the translation of a stockpile of data into a meaningful conversation. When no one could tell her what was in the data, she queried, “If we don't know, then who does?” This question sent Stephen Brown and his team into action, partnering with Canadian Paul Smith and his team in a year-long dedicated analysis using sophisticated statistical models. If the numbers were speaking for the birds, they had a very clear message: they are in real trouble.

From Passion Projects to a Passionate Purpose.

“It was time for Manomet to change our lens in terms of what we were doing and how we were working. Someone had to

make some hard decisions to better focus the organization. Lizzie explains that her focus leading Manomet has been exactly that – to focus. Smaller scattered passion projects gave way to a unified and clear purpose and a lofty mission: to improve the health of flyways and coastal ecosystems, and more specifically for our shorebird work, to reverse the decline of shorebirds. Since Manomet wrote its current Strategic Plan, 190 countries under a United Nations convention have committed to restoring or protecting 30% of our biodiversity, which includes halting and reversing extinction of species. It turns out that targeted monitoring and measuring is imperative for this work to be successful. Just ask the Oystercatcher.

“We are a small organization in a very large world addressing big challenges. Technology and partnerships are imperative if we are to reach the scale of impact we aspire to, and technology helps us monitor more species faster and more efficiently.”

LIZZIE SCHUELER

A Resurrection Story.

It is now an almost infamous case study of the recovery of a bird population. The initial goals were to increase the numbers by 30% in ten years. Dr. Shiloh Schulte, Ph.D., who coordinated the American Oystercatcher Recovery Program, explains that the secret was to have baseline population data and then to ask focused questions and pinpoint the limiting factor. “We went deep into the data and found the problem was with ‘hatching and fledging.’ With the right entry point to the research, we were able to apply it to the field – remove the disturbing factors – and see real change.” Combining aerial monitoring and on-the-ground confirmation

tracking, the work has yielded an increase in the populations of Oystercatchers of 42% over 15 years.

It has become a framework and a model to replicate. Next up, Manomet will be using a similar monitoring and measuring approach to help restore the Whimbrel population, and just received a three-year \$1.2 million grant to do so. “We have proven that when we are focused and use data and state-of-the-art monitoring and measuring – the results follow,” says Schulte.

The Proof Is in the Plover.

Meanwhile in South America, Arne Lesterhuis, Shorebird Monitoring and Conservation Specialist at Manomet, is working with local partners and other team members with a focus on resident birds, so-called South American endemics. The Coastal Shorebird Survey encompasses five countries including Peru and around the tip to southern Brazil. He is enthusiastic about the challenge, “It’s a bold strategy to get population estimates and monitor all South American birds.” Already, they have been surprised by what they found out with the Magellanic Plover. Initial estimates set in the early 2000s were between 1,500-7,000 individuals but the data Manomet and partners collected revealed that there appeared to be fewer than 500 left. In November, they will begin to track another resident species, the Diademed Sandpiper-



MANOMET/BRAD WINN



JOIN US FOR...

The Small Sit: Manomet's Virtual Science Series

We're launching a new series designed to interest and intrigue our members, donors, and friends. Learn about the wonders of why birds migrate, the importance of river herring in coastal food webs, and so much more! These 45 minute sessions are happening once a month from 12:00-12:45 pm (EDT). It's a bite-sized session to take you on a tour of what's going on in the science scene at Manomet.

Scan here to learn more :





Magellanic Plovers, Patagonia



Marissa McMahan, Senior Director of Fisheries, with blue crab.

Plover. Arne says, “Manomet has prioritized resources to gather data that will enable us to make the case showing the urgency of this work. In so doing, we have been able to work with and train local partners on satellite tagging techniques which bolsters local capacity to keep this work going.”

From Sky to Warming Sea.

Though the global shorebird work is central to Manomet, understanding marine life and their ecosystems remains a priority as well, and nowhere is measuring and monitoring more important in the face of the rapidly changing climate than the Gulf of Maine. Marissa McMahan, Ph.D., Senior Director of Fisheries, from a 5th-generation Maine family, is perfectly suited to helm that ship. She explains how Manomet is uniquely positioned

to be a leading voice in this conversation. “The waters in our part of the world – Maine – are warming faster than 99% of the rest of the world.” The stakes here are deeply personal because the work is intrinsically tied to human livelihood. The data not only give the big picture of what’s happening to marine life and ecosystems but is used to communicate with fishermen and those writing fisheries policies to create a conversation around the changes. For example, when the blue crab started to appear in the Gulf, the local fisherman thought it was a fluke and that some human had just dropped them in. Manomet’s hand-built crowd sourcing website for blue crabs enables anyone to upload where they have seen crabs, which now shows them popping up everywhere.

When Marissa’s team created this mapping site, it put the blue crab on the map – literally. For the fishermen, often working in isolation, it connected the dots and gave them visibility into the bigger picture. “We give them a seat at the table. It’s this kind of open-access science that Manomet’s reputation for building relationships is built on. And with the advent of new tools and technologies like acoustic tracking or DNA sampling in the water, we can collectively make better decisions about how to preserve the ecosystems and protect their livelihoods. We are really deeply committed to understanding how we can find pathways forward where people and nature can thrive together, protecting both the species and the commerce that puts food on the table.”

Technology Footprint: Going Forward.

Despite all the moving pieces to reach Manomet's ambitious goals, Lizzie is passionate about what technology can help us do to accelerate monitoring. "We don't know what the next paradigm is, and we can't even fathom, for example, what Artificial Intelligence can do for us. We are currently using AI for the first time to help us make sense of the equivalent of 40 years of acoustic data we gathered this past summer in the Arctic over a 3.65 million acres

range. Technology has grown our knowledge exponentially. We are a small organization in a very large world addressing big challenges. Technology and partnerships are imperative if we are to reach the scale of impact we aspire to, and technology helps us monitor more species faster and more efficiently."

Lizzie underscores Manomet's dedication to results, and the importance of measuring in order to manage species and resources. She says, "We are one of a few remaining organizations that has a staff of scientists

who are in the mud and sand on a regular basis working to understand how our world is changing, and developing strategies to address these changes."

Shiloh paints a picture of what that impact looks like in the real world, "We want the skies filled with shorebirds. I want my kids to see the flock of western sandpipers overhead and not have just a story about something that used to happen in a previous century."

BELOW: Measuring in the Arctic.

BOTTOM: Shorebird surveying at Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas (a WHSRN site).

Bucket List

- Have an adventure
- Bird more
- Go somewhere new
- Patagonia?



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MANOMET/SHILOH SCHULTE



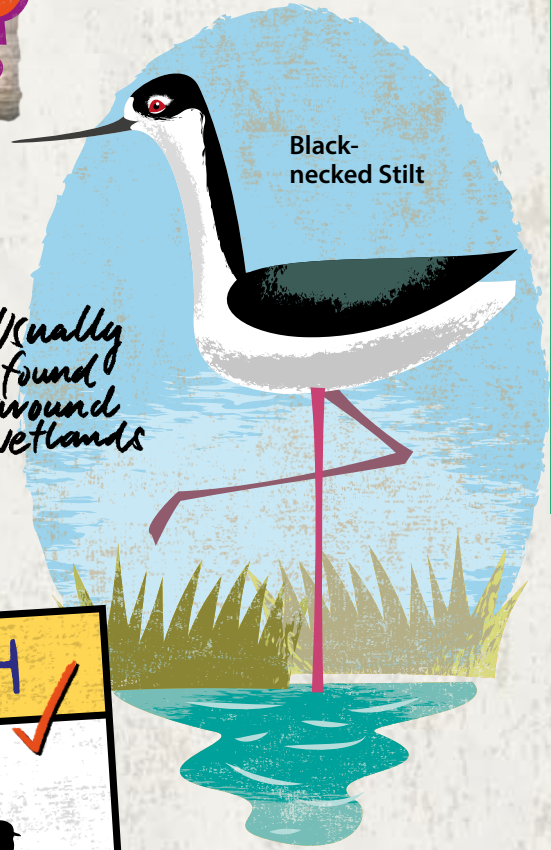
MAINA HANDMAKER

What is a SHOREBIRD?

Shorebirds are a group of long-legged birds that live in wetlands and along shorelines. The Americas have lots of shorebirds! Some species live in one place all year; these are called residents. But most species travel long distances each year. These migratory shorebirds fly amazing distances, some as far as the Arctic.

There are over 220 different species of shorebirds worldwide with 84 regularly found in the Americas. Scientists group similar species together.


Can you find these shorebirds hiding in this magazine?




Black-necked Stilt

Usually found around wetlands


SHOREBIRD SEARCH




Curlew




Yellowlegs



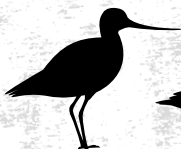
Small Sandpiper




Lapwing




Plover




Godwit




Snipe



Phalarope



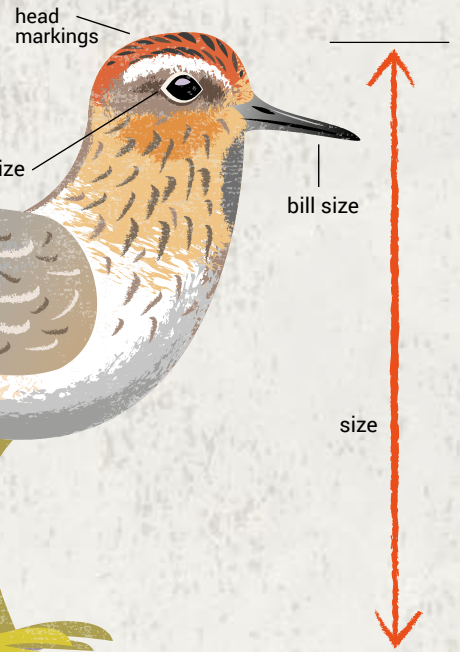
Oystercatcher



Stilt

What to look for:

How can we tell shorebirds apart? To help identify them, pay close attention to these body parts:



Long-billed Curlew

Least Sandpiper

BIG & SMALL

Shorebirds come in lots of sizes. The largest shorebird in the Americas is the Long-billed Curlew which can weigh up to 700 grams. The smallest is the Least Sandpiper, which weighs just over 23 grams.

How many Least Sandpipers would weigh as much as a single Long-billed Curlew?



Kathleen (Betty) Anderson Nature Trail Dedication

The spirit of Founding Director Betty Anderson was strong at Manomet on Saturday, October 14, which was both World Migratory Bird Day and the official dedication day of the Kathleen (Betty) Anderson Nature Trail. Birders around the world got out their binoculars to support Manomet's Bird-A-Thon, a community science event to see as many birds as possible in 24 hours. And at Manomet's HQ in Massachusetts, Betty's family, colleagues, and friends gathered to share readings and remarks by Betty's daughter Kathleen Brisette and niece Jennifer Ebert, Manomet President Lizzie Schueler, and many audience members. Molly Jacobs, Ph.D,

Vice President for Environmental Education and Outreach and Conservation Biologist Alan Kneidel highlighted the trail's unique features before Lizzie and Kathleen unveiled the sign that will mark the trail in Betty's name. An inaugural trail walk led by Alan and Molly stepped off in the afternoon.

To all who knew her, Betty, who founded the Manomet Bird Observatory and served as its President for many years, was a visionary. Let Betty's curious nature be your inspiration: we welcome you to Manomet Headquarters at 125 Manomet Point Road in Plymouth, MA, from dawn to dusk daily to enjoy your own trail walk.



Family, friends and Manomet staff joined to dedicate the Kathleen (Betty) Anderson Nature Trail, including clockwise top left: Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Wayne Petersen, Brian Harrington; 3rd from left: Betty's daughter Kathleen Brisette and Manomet Bird Observatory Director Evan Dalton; 3rd from right: President Lizzie Schueler and Kathleen; 2nd from right: Brian Harrington, Mark Kasprzyk, and Martha Sheldon; bottom middle: Molly Jacobs, Nancy Soulette, Alan Kneidel; bottom right: Kathleen and extended family.

 LAUREN OWENS LAMBERT

“In that spirit of connection to science and nature, we hereby dedicate the Kathleen (Betty) Anderson Nature Trail: may countless more curious birders and outdoor enthusiasts take to its winding paths with the same indomitable spirit that Betty brought to all of her endeavors.”

LIZZIE SCHUELER, MANOMET PRESIDENT



Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Sudeshna Chatterjee (First photo, L) and Education Manager Clare Cunningham (First photo, R) and participated in Planet Earth Family Fun Night at the Brockton Public Library.

 JANET TRASK

Meet Sudeshna Chatterjee, Manomet's new Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice

Manomet's journey to diversify our organization, and to incorporate historically underrepresented communities into our work aligned with our mission, started in September 2020, when we launched our first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) action plan and started tracking progress toward our goals. Meet Sudeshna Chatterjee, who is leading Manomet's work to ensure we are making progress against our plan.

You joined Manomet recently. Can you tell us about your background?

I spent a number of years in higher education. I earned my Ph.D. in Global Governance and Human Security and then I taught courses in political science at Lesley University and Babson College. I enjoyed my work and my colleagues, as well as the energy of academia but, as so many did after the pandemic, I decided to pivot and leave the teaching space. My next position still had ties to education, though: I joined a search firm with a



between departments then the project won't succeed. I'm proud to say that during my tenure I helped create and sustain a set of values and norms that really advanced the way the people in town government viewed our collective diversity work. In addition, community engagement was a big part of my job, which included everything from organizing large-scale community events like a Juneteenth celebration, to designing and facilitating public-facing seminars, workshops, and group mediation sessions on difficult topics. During my time, I also spearheaded the formation of

a community board called Partners and Allies for Inclusive Reading (PAIR), which now functions as a coalition of volunteers, municipal employees and partner organizations.

Tell us what interested you about Manomet.

Something I noticed right from the beginning about Manomet is how well the job description for my position was written. That might seem an odd thing to point out, but having worked for a search firm in the past, I can tell a lot about an organization by their job descriptions! Manomet's was very well defined. And then when I got deeper into the interview process, I was really impressed to find out how willing Manomet's team is to embrace new ways of weaving DEIJ work throughout everything we do, both on an internal and an external level.

Once you got here, is there anything that has surprised you?

I knew Manomet had an excellent reputation as a leader in the conservation space but I have been so impressed by both the level of knowledge scientists and staff bring to the current work, as well as the depth and breadth of partnerships that happen on so many levels. The willingness to share their time and talent, both with our own team and with external organizations, has really impressed me. Also, it's kind of wild how geographically spread out everyone is at Manomet! There are people working in Maine, Georgia, Paraguay, Columbia, and so many other countries, and then fieldwork happening in Alaska, Texas, and the Amazon, to name just a few. It speaks well of Manomet that even with such a spread out team, so much collaboration and coordination happens in service of our conservation work.

When you're not working, what do you do for fun?

I love traveling and my husband and I try to travel as much as we can – although he loves the beach and I love the mountains, so there can be a little fun family tension in deciding on our next destination together. I'm also a history nerd and I love watching historical documentaries – it's interesting to get a different perspective of a time period other than the one we're experiencing now. Oh, and I do love experimenting with cooking. I love South Asian cuisine and learning recipes from my mother and my aunts and trying to perfect those.

Interview by Jeanne O'Rourke

higher education niche. There I had the opportunity to do a lot of training on DEIJ best practices, including hiring and recruitment strategies. I really felt drawn to the collaborative nature of that work, and after a few years at the search firm, I was hired as the Town of Reading's first Director of Diversity, Equity, Justice and Belonging.

How was your experience working in municipal government?

The great thing about working for a town is that getting shared work done is only going to happen with a high level of collaboration and cooperation – so it was an excellent opportunity to practice my DEIJ-specific training. In town government there are a LOT of departments and a lot of moving pieces and if you're not communicating well and building a shared sense of trust



First Ever Amazon Shorebird Workshop

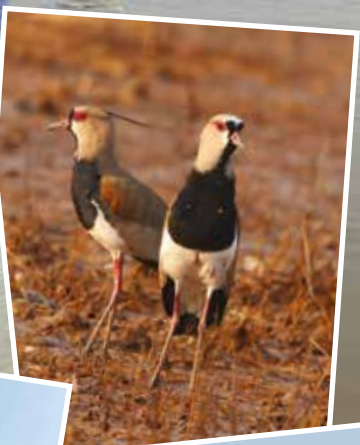
Manomet recently led a team of 15 specialists from 7 partner organizations on a 10-day onsite workshop to observe shorebird use along the Brazilian Amazon River. Juliana Bosi de Almeida, Manomet’s Managing Director, Flyways, coordinated the effort, which is the first ever of its kind. The activities in Brazil are part of a larger project to understand how many shorebirds use the Amazon Basin rivers as stopover sites, and how they distribute themselves in this region, which is greater than two thirds of the continental United States.

Preliminary efforts were conducted in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia the previous year, but this is the first time shorebirds using the Brazilian side of the Amazon were the main

focus. Our partners on the survey included the Brazilian National Institute for Amazon Research (INPA), Point Blue, the U.S. Forest Service, University of Massachusetts, SAVE Brasil, Corbidi, and Asociación Calidris. During the workshop, the team compared and contrasted the habitats found in the different countries, while also assessing habitats and shorebirds found along the Solimões River (the Brazilian name for upper Amazon River). We are still gathering information from the bird lists and will share the number of birds and species we found in the near future.

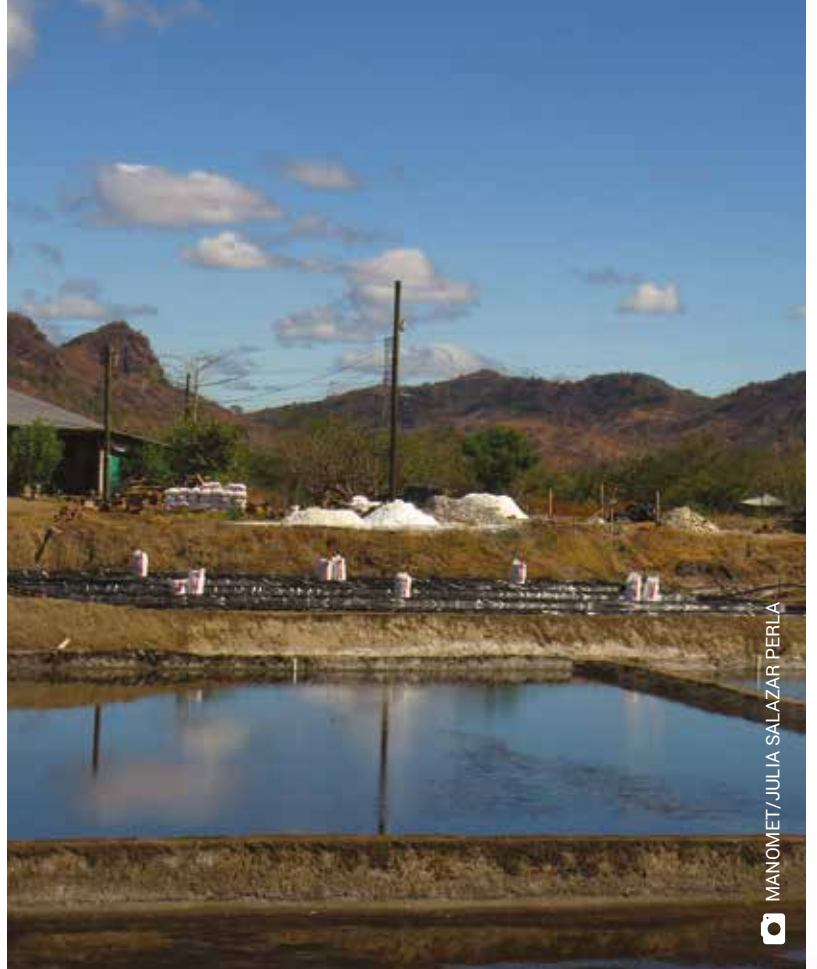
Amazon shorebird workshop participants scan the shores; some notable birds spotted included Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs (bottom left) and a Southern Lapwing pair (top right.)

MANOMET/BRAD WINN



Salt Producers & Shorebirds: Honduran Pacific Updates

Recently, working in collaboration with the boatmen dedicated to tourism in this site, Manomet conducted an exploratory field trip to visit the islands, beaches, and mangrove areas of San Lorenzo Bay in the Honduran Pacific to identify areas that shorebirds use. During the 4-hour boat trip, we observed Whimbrels, Marbled Godwits, Ruddy Turnstones, Short-billed dowitchers, Black-bellied plovers, and a variety of waterfowl. Low tide offered us the opportunity to appreciate the natural areas possibly used by shorebirds to feed and rest, and how these areas and salt farms can also provide an ideal environment for migratory birds.



MANOMET/JULIA SALAZAR PERLA

Honduran salt farm.

BIRD-A-THON RESULTS

So many of you got out and counted birds by sight or sound for the communal Manomet Bird-a-Thon list on October 14 - thank you! We exceeded our goal of 400 species counted globally. The final results are impressive: participants submitted 141 checklists and observed 661 species, a figure that's a whopping 277 more than last year (if anyone's counting, and we are!). We also had an amazing geographical representation, with birders logging lists for Manomet in Argentina, Canada, Columbia, Ecuador, Israel, Nicaragua, Paraguay, as well as the U.S.

Counting birds for Bird-A-Thon in Columbia.

MANOMET/JEISSON ZAMUDIO



Learn more about these stories and more on our news page!



Manomet's First Massachusetts Shorebird Blitz

LISA SCHIBLEY, ISS Coordinator, North America

LIANA DINUNZIO, Shorebird Biologist

One, two, three...go and count those shorebirds! That race-like tenor of excitement buzzed through many of us as we launched the Manomet's first annual Massachusetts Shorebird Blitz. The blitz, organized by Manomet's Cape Cod Shorebird Biologist Liana DiNunzio, Conservation Biologist Alan Kneidel, and North America ISS Coordinator Lisa Schibley, took place this past August 5-14 as a coordinated effort to survey key shorebird stopover sites throughout coastal Massachusetts during peak southbound migration. We won't hold you in suspense: the results are impressive. During the blitz, 89 staff and volunteer observers counted shorebirds at 115 sites from Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newbury to Monomoy National

Wildlife Refuge on Cape Cod, from Provincetown's Race Point to Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary in Westport, as well as sites on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Drumroll, please: thanks to new and veteran volunteer shorebird enthusiasts, we counted over 73,000 shorebirds of 29 species!

Some of you might be familiar with a "BioBlitz," an intense effort to catalog as many species within a designated location and time period. We wanted to take that concept one step beyond with the Shorebird Blitz, and increase the scientific value of the survey by asking our contributors to follow a few extra guidelines. For most sites, blitz surveys were conducted at high tide when feeding areas like mudflats and wetlands were inaccessible – and shorebirds were nestled on

their high tide roosts and able to be counted more accurately. For sites nearby to each other, we encouraged surveys to be conducted on the exact same day and tide cycle, to avoid double counting birds flying between sites. The concept for this blitz stemmed from the Georgia Mid-winter Waterbird Census, an annual, one-day, shorebird survey that is in its 35th year in Georgia. This survey, coordinated by Manomet staff and partners, was designed to have a coordinated high tide roost survey on the entire 100 miles of Georgia coastal habitats in one day.

We chose early August to coincide with the first large pulse of southward moving shorebirds. The goal was to get a snapshot of the number of shorebirds using our coastline

Mixed flock on Monomoy, Cape Cod.

 MANOMET/ALAN KNEIDEL

during peak southbound migration, and to identify significant stopover locations. While some species such as Sanderling and Dunlin peak later in the season, Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher all have their highest numbers during this early window.

BLITZ BY THE NUMBERS

There were many highlights in both quality and quantity of shorebirds. We had seven species that were spotted at only one site: an American Golden-Plover at the Powder Hole on Monomoy; a Marbled Godwit at the Forest Beach and Conservation Lands in Chatham; a Stilt Sandpiper on Plum Island in Newburyport; an Upland Sandpiper at Stauffer's Puddle in Sandwich; a Western Sandpiper at Third Cliff in Scituate; and a Wilson's Phalarope at Nauset Marsh. (Congrats if you were a finder of some of these more unusual species!)

Notable high counts included

FROM MARSHES TO HARBORS

The blitz counts around the Great Marsh north of Boston were part of a shorebird survey that partners have been undertaking in that area for years. Rather than asking volunteers to conduct two different counts, one of our partners, The Trustees, agreed we could incorporate the Great Marsh surveys on August 14 into our blitz data. The Trustees have been surveying migratory shorebirds at Crane Beach since the 1990s, but



A semipalmated Plover on Plymouth Beach.

630 Black-bellied Plovers and 3,760 Semipalmated Plovers on Sandy Neck in West Barnstable; 60 GREATER YELLOWLEGS AND 45 LESSER YELLOWLEGS AT THE FIRST LANDING PARK IN PROVINCETOWN; 41 Piping Plovers on Crane Beach in Ipswich; 6,850 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 420 Red Knots, and 290 Ruddy Turnstones on Monomoy; 96 LEAST SANDPIPERS AT ELLISVILLE STATE PARK IN PLYMOUTH; four Solitary Sandpipers on Sesachacha Pond in Nantucket; 11 Spotted Sandpipers at Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge on Martha's Vineyard; 51 WHIMBREL ON MORRIS ISLAND IN CHATHAM; and 121 Willets on Saquish Neck in Duxbury.

this year marked the largest collaborative effort across the Great Marsh ecosystem to conduct simultaneous surveys with partner organizations. Sites included barrier beach systems like Plum Island and Crane Beach, as well as marsh areas in Salisbury, Rowley, Newbury, Ipswich, and Essex Bay. Sites were chosen by where the highest number of birds are typically seen. During the Great Marsh survey, partners and volunteers counted a total of 8,959 shorebirds of 22 different species.

And, let's not forget that we find shorebirds in cities, too. Boston Harbor was another survey area with enthusiastic coverage.

Coordinated by Sebastian Jones and Soheil Zende, the Metro Boston Shorebird Group selected the Wednesday evening high tide for their simultaneous coverage. Sixteen volunteers submitted checklists from fifteen locations. This data is especially valuable because the Boston Harbor Take a Second Look (TASL) survey project, coordinated by Soheil Zende, has covered many of the same beaches and salt marshes periodically from 1980 through 1998. The coverage during that period was also done in blitz style, and produced another rich data set with which Manomet can compare our own numbers.

investigating different stopover strategies and how different species associate with each other during migration. Next year, we'll do it all again, and incorporate many lessons learned! There are already several ideas percolating around the virtual water cooler on how to use the blitz approach for both different seasons and more species-specific surveys. Manomet is always willing to share what we know: if you live in an important shorebird region and are interested in organizing a similar shorebird blitz using ISS contributors and other volunteers, please reach out for guidance and support.

WHY THE DATA MATTERS

The importance of this effort and the ISS in general is particularly relevant based on the recent Paul Smith et al. paper that came out in 2022 highlighting the steep declining trends of shorebirds, the analysis of which was based on ISS data. The data and information collected both in the past, and from this most recent survey, has already inspired a number of shorebird research questions, including: 1) To what extent should the Boston Harbor beaches' wrack lines be kept intact to benefit shorebirds; and, 2) Are the shorebirds using the Barnstable Harbor flats part of the Monomoy population or independent? As we dig deeper into the data, additional topics of future interest could include

We are extremely grateful to all of the partners and participants who helped make Manomet's first annual Massachusetts Shorebird Blitz possible. Partner organizations include: United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, National Park Service/Cape Cod National Seashore, The Trustees, Metro Boston Shorebird Group, BiodiversityWorks, Mass Audubon, Duxbury Beach Reservation, Nantucket Land Bank, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Nasketucket Bird Club, UMass Field Station, the Town of Orleans, Monomoy Bird Observatory, MassWildlife, South Shore Bird Club, Cape Cod Bird Club, and Paskamansett Bird Club.



MANOMET/LISA SCHIBLEY



MANOMET/SARAH DUFF

TOP: Soheil Zende in Rumney Marsh near Boston.
 BOTTOM: Birders on Chapin Beach, in Dennis on Cape Cod.

Mixed flock on Monomoy, Cape Cod.


MANOMET/BRAD WINN





Meet Eric McNulty, a longtime Brookline, Massachusetts resident, bird enthusiast, author, speaker, and instructor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He shares how he was introduced to Manomet, and why he joined the Widewater Society in 2020.



 ERIC MCNULTY

The Gift of a Lifetime

"I started birding a long time ago at the beach – I was tired of sitting, so walking and observing the wildlife seemed a much better use of my time. I'm less of a travel-to-exotic-climes kind of birder and rather a go-to-my-favorite-places-and-hope-I'm-revisited-by-some-old-friends birder. Although when I travel, I do pack those binoculars... I was introduced to Manomet at a "speed dating for charity" event in Boston where several nonprofits were making pitches for their organizations. Never having heard of Manomet, I was very intrigued and ended up having coffee with a person on the development team to dig deeper.

Widewater Society was a fit for me for a few reasons. We were in the process of revising our wills, and I recognized that at the end of my life (hopefully far into the future!), the personal work that I want to accomplish will not be complete. So the question becomes: how can I continue that work after I'm gone? What's critical to me

about Manomet is that it has a holistic approach to create sustainable, long-term solutions. Manomet worries about the shorebirds, coastal ecosystems, farmers, climate change – Manomet is working for a livable and thriving planet in the future and looking at the whole picture to make positive change. Supporting this work will be part of my legacy. Making a bequest to Manomet is also important to me because smaller organizations quite simply have a harder time attracting funding than do larger ones. In the end, supporting Manomet is a statement of what I value."

Those who thoughtfully include Manomet in their will or estate plans are welcomed as members of our Widewater Society. Benefits include recognition as a Widewater Society member, exclusive updates on Manomet's programs, and invitations to special webinars and events.

To learn more, contact Justin Barrett at jbarrett@manomet.org or (508) 224-6521.



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University of Oklahoma's Paula Cimprich and Manomet's Sam Wolfe doing whimbrel research in a Texas rice field.

 MANOMET/ALAN KNEIDEL



**Less talk...
More mud.**



For over 50 years we have been getting our boots muddy and our hands dirty to help reverse the decline of shorebirds, safeguard coastal habitats, and educate the next generation of naturalists. From the north slope of Alaska to the southern tip of Argentina, we're using science to create positive change.

We can only do this because of you. Join Manomet today at manomet.org/getmuddy

 MANOMET/BRAD WINN



Pectoral Sandpiper in the Amazon, on its migratory journey south.