



## **WHSRNews**

31 March 2006

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=> Please send news of your successes, challenges, requests for information and anything else of interest to the Network to [whsrnews@whsrn.org](mailto:whsrnews@whsrn.org). We will try to include it in the next newsletter.

If you no longer wish to receive this e-bulletin, please send a message to [whsrnews@whsrn.org](mailto:whsrnews@whsrn.org) with the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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**1. Ensenada de la Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico**, has joined WHSRN as a site of Regional Importance. Roberto Carmona, MSc. of the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, and Biol. Adriana del Moral Romero, of SEMARNAT, have been designated as the official points-of-contact for the site. The nomination was based on the site’s use by more than 20,000 shorebirds annually, including some 12,000 Western Sandpipers, *Calidris mauri*, 176 Snowy Plovers, *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus* (~7% of the total population of this race) and over 600 Wilson’s Plovers, *Charadrius wilsonia*.

The Ensenada therefore becomes WHSRN’s 64<sup>th</sup> site. Welcome!

2. In November 2004, the Manomet Center for Conservation Science, home of WHSRN's Executive Office, received a **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant** for the first year of a multi-year project devoted to conservation of shorebirds in the Americas. The delivery mechanism for the project is the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and its many partners.

In the first year, the project protected over 3,600 hectares of high-priority grasslands in Mexico, and identified private lands for cooperative conservation in Argentina and Uruguay. Monitoring of the northbound migration of imperiled Red Knots was accomplished at three sites across 750 miles of Argentine coastline to shed light on the underlying causes of their declines.

To improve conservation efficiency and accountability, the project, in partnership with Birdlife International's Americas Programme, developed a new Site Assessment Tool that is currently being piloted at WHSRN sites before eventually being used to monitor Important Bird Areas and other sites of conservation value across the Hemisphere. We have trained practitioners from over a dozen countries in the use of the Tool.

Conservation plans have been written in collaboration with species experts for the first six of 21 shorebird species identified as at-risk and amenable to a site-based conservation approach in the Western Hemisphere. These plans have been widely circulated and have had peer review. The species are:

American Oystercatcher, *Haematopus palliatus*  
Black Oystercatcher, *Haematopus bachmani*  
Marbled Godwit, *Limosa fedoa*  
Red Knot, *Calidris canutus rufa*  
Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*  
Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*

In each case, a species working group has been formed to continue the conservation effort. These groups represent the first time that scientists and conservationists have come together to develop a unified vision of the conservation needs of these species. We look forward to working with the Foundation to develop the resources needed to implement the plans.

The full text of the final programmatic report to NFWF is available at [www.manomet.org/WHSRN/NFWF\\_report](http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/NFWF_report)

**3. The first successful nesting of Mountain Plover, *Charadrius montanus*, in Mexico** is reported in current issue of "The Wilson Journal of Ornithology" by WHSRN partners Ignacio Rojas, Miguel Ángel Cruz, and coworkers. The nest was observed at the Llano de la Soledad recently recognized as a WHSRN site of International Importance, and the site of the land protection efforts mentioned above. In addition to the nesting birds, La Soledad hosts over 3500 wintering Mountain Plovers (~25% of the world's population). Wilson J. Ornith, 2006. **118** (1): 81-84.

4. A petition for "**emergency listing**" for **Western Hemisphere Red Knots** (*Calidris canutus rufa*) under the United States Endangered Species Act was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in October 2005; numbers counted in Patagonian wintering areas have declined dramatically (from roughly 100,000 to 20,000) during the last 5 years. After careful consideration and peer review, the Service decided in January not to accept the nomination for emergency listing, and instead has placed the nomination in a 'regular' track for nomination under the Act.

**5. FRIENDS of the Great Salt Lake invite all interested to attend their 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Issues Forum**, at the new James V. Hansen Wildlife Education Center located at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Brigham City (Utah, USA) from 4-6 May. This year's Issues Forum is entitled "*Range-wide Migratory Bird Conservation and Great Salt Lake's Role in Linking Partnerships in the Western Hemisphere.*"

Join FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake for a hemispheric perspective about ongoing efforts to promote migratory bird and habitat conservation in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Meet Great Salt Lake's linking partners in the Western Hemisphere and learn about the research, community efforts, support and programs that are working to fulfill the promise that habitats will be there when the migratory birds arrive.

Keynote speakers include several WHSRN partners: Brad Andres, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Ian Davidson, BirdLife International; and Charles Duncan, director of WHSRN's Executive Office.

There will also be presentations and a roundtable on "*Avian Flu-What is it? Why should we be concerned? What are the public health officials doing about it? What are the implications for migrating bird populations?*"

For more information including a complete schedule, go to <http://www.fogsl.org/research/2006issuesforum.html>.

**6. CATIE**, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, announces its XXVIII<sup>th</sup> International Intensive Course on Protected Areas (in Spanish), from 5-30 June 2006.

**Costa Rica, XXVIII Curso Intensivo Internacional de Áreas Protegidas:** 5 al 30 de junio de 2006. Costa Rica. Impartido por el CATIE, con colaboración de CI, TNC y otras organizaciones, el tema del curso es: Las zonas de amortiguamiento y los corredores biológicos en el manejo ecosistémico del paisaje. El objetivo es contribuir al proceso de profesionalización del manejo de las áreas protegidas ofreciendo herramientas y enfoques novedosos para mejorar y fortalecer los procesos de planificación y manejo de los sistemas nacionales de áreas protegidas, sus unidades de conservación y regiones de influencia, en los países de América Latina y el Caribe. El costo es de \$3000 mas el pasaje internacional. Para más información dirigirse a [capacitacion@catie.ac.cr](mailto:capacitacion@catie.ac.cr) o [grobles@catie.ac.cr](mailto:grobles@catie.ac.cr).

**7. Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival:** Grays Harbor WHSRN site in western Washington is celebrating its annual shorebird festival in Hoquiam, Washington (USA) from April 28 to 30, 2006. It is organized by the City of Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Audubon Society, and Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. More information at [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com)

**8. Communicating about shorebird conservation:** "Dakota Backroads" is a daily radio show that airs in the upper Midwest of the United States, particularly North Dakota, South Dakota and portions of surrounding states. There are three WHSRN sites in North Dakota: J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Long Lake NWR and Kelly's Slough NWR. "Dakota Backroads" primarily appeals to hunters and anglers, though programs often include conservation issues. It is produced as part of Tony Dean's network of TV and radio shows, which have won over 160 regional and national programming awards.

Recently, Tony Dean interviewed Charles Duncan, director of WHSRN's Executive Office, about shorebird conservation and WHSRN program. The two resulting three-minute programs were aired just this past week.

To listen to audio clips of the interview, select

<http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/March24.mp3>, and then  
<http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/March25.mp3>.

It is interesting to note that publicity from the celebration and site dedication ceremony of the Upper Bay of Panama as a WHSRN Site of Hemispheric Importance lead to the connection with "Dakota Backroads."