



Audubon NEW YORK
Shorebird Migration Survey Fall 2012

Shorebird Migration Survey Protocol:

Survey Period: July 15, 2012 – October 25, 2012

Please survey from July 15th through October 25th. Survey your selected site(s) on or close to the following dates (+/- 3 days):

July: 15th, 25th

August: 5th, 15th, 25th

September: 5th, 15th, 25th

October: 5th, 15th, 25th

Surveys should not be done closer than 10 days apart.

The more surveys you can do the better, but if you are not able to survey on all of these dates please submit your data forms anyway. Even if you only accomplish one survey, please send it!

Site Selection: Surveys can be done wherever shorebirds are found, so choose a site that is convenient for you to survey consistently. There are a few sites on Long Island that are of particular importance to shorebirds, these sites are known as PRISM (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring) sites. If possible, we highly encourage you to survey one of these sites. If you are interested in covering a PRISM site they are listed here:

- 1) Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside
- 2) Jones Beach State Park
- 3) Cedar Beach on eastern portion of Jones Beach Island
- 4) Captree Island Vicinity
- 5) Carmans River Marshes
- 6) Moriches Bay and Inlet
- 7) Dune Road Marsh/Shinnecock Bay and Inlet

Data Sheet: We are using a modified version of the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) data sheet designed by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. We have added a few tern and skimmer species that are not normally part of an ISS survey and are also requesting you report any banded birds you may encounter.

Please fill out the data form as fully and accurately as possible, however if there is some information you can not provide please still submit your data form!

Please fill out and submit a data form even if you do not see any shorebirds during your survey.

Survey Method: As you walk the length of your survey site please record the number of each shorebird species that you see. The data sheet lists the species that you are most likely to see in this area, but does not include ALL of the species that you might encounter. If you see any shorebird species that are not listed, please write them in the “additional shorebird species” area; if you see more than the space provides for please write additional species on the back of the data form.

Survey Accuracy: Taken directly from the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences International Shorebird Survey protocol: “We would like to know if your tally is actually a **count**, an **estimate** made by a more or less methodical procedure, or an outright (albeit educated) **guess**. A systematically-made estimate is one where you actually have a chance to count one or more portions of a flock and then extrapolate the total

number from the count(s). An educated guess (“guesstimate”) is when you look at a flock and estimate the number of birds in it – it’s the method most of us use. **If your tally is a count, please place an asterisk (*) next to it; if it is a figure extrapolated from a count, please place two asterisks (**)** next to it, and if it is a “guesstimate,” please circle it.”

Survey Time of Day and Location: *Taken directly from the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences International Shorebird Survey protocol:* “If you are not surveying a PRISM site, please choose a new location that is convenient to you, and visit it at times convenient for you. The more sites surveyed, the more effective this effort will be! At coastal sites, please try to count during times when the census will be most accurate. At some coastal stations this will be at high tide when birds gather at resting areas, or at other sites it may be at lower tides when they are feeding. In any case, please record the tide as best as you can, as follows: **1 = high; 2 = almost high, and rising; 3 = almost high, and falling; 4 = half tide, and rising; 5 = half tide falling; 6 = almost low, rising; 7 = almost low, falling; 8 = low; 9 = not observed, not applicable or observations made during more than one these periods.**”

Species Identification: *Taken directly from the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences International Shorebird Survey protocol:* “We cannot always identify all of the shorebirds we see. Often, for example, it is not practical to look at a large flock and identify each of the 5,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers. Most of us check a portion of the flock, and make our identification, brushing over the possibility that one or two Western Sandpipers may be present. For the International Shorebird Survey, please record as “identified” **ONLY** the birds that you **HAVE** identified. Thus, if you identify 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers from among 5,000 peep please record them as 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 4,900 peep. If you did not identify any of the sandpipers but presumed they were all Semis, please record them as 5,000 peep. If you are not sure whether a flock was comprised of Sanderlings or a mixture of Sanderlings and Sandpipers, please make a new row labeled “peep/Sanderling?” or even “shorebird sp.?” In short, resist the temptation to present accuracy that does not exist!”

Data Submission: Please return your completed data sheets to: LIBCP, 134 Cove Road, Oyster Bay, NY 1771

Your data should also be recorded via ISS eBIRD which can be accessed at: <http://ebird.org/content/iss/> . You will need an eBIRD account to enter this data. **Please make sure that you enter your data into ISS eBIRD and not regular eBIRD.** ISS eBIRD assumes that all shorebird species are being reported.

Please indicate on your data form if you have entered your data into ISS eBIRD.

If you have any questions about the survey or data form please contact Kerri Dikun at kdikun@audubon.org or at 516-922-3200 ext. 31.