

Southeast Coast Network

National Park Service
Inventory & Monitoring Program



Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) #2.4.18

Wintering and Migratory Shorebird Data Reporting

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Summary

This Standard Operating Procedure explains the report format, review, and distribution process and schedule for data collected under of the Wintering and Migratory Shorebird Monitoring Protocol (Byrne et al. 2009). This SOP was adapted from:

Pietz, D. G., S. G Fancy, L. P Thomas, G. A. Rowell, and M. D. DeBacker. 2004. Bird Monitoring Protocol for Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Nebraska and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas , version 1.01. USDI National Park Service, Fort Collins, CO, USA.

Revision Log

Previous Version #	Revision Date	Author	Changes Made	Reason for Change	New Version #
1	3/18/2013	SECN	SOP number changed	Incorporated into SECN SOP library.	1.1

Report Format

To facilitate integration of data collected under the Wintering and Migratory Shorebird Monitoring Protocol with those collected under other protocols (e.g., International Shorebird Survey [ISS]), several reporting functions have been built into the database. Further, the reporting requirements outlined in Appendix I of the Piping Plover Recovery Plan (USFWS 1996) guide key components of monitoring data collected in the field and included in reporting functions (except for those regarding banded-bird observations). For example, state agencies typically have the responsibility of acquiring and submitting relevant data to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission data forms are incorporated into the database and auto-populated based upon user-defined date ranges. ISS reporting forms are also an output option from the database.

The accompanying Southeast Coast Network (SECN) shorebird data management system allows for near-real time reporting and can be produced by anyone with access to SECN SharePoint website (<http://inpserosecn2/default.aspx>). Written reports or data summaries should be produced as necessary. The authors recommend an annual reporting cycle to summarize observed patterns in monitored shorebirds. Because the shorebird migratory and wintering period does not correspond with a typical end-of-the-calendar year reporting schedule, reports should be produced by the end of fiscal year. Reports should include standard outputs from the database in addition to export analyses (e.g., distance analysis, across-year comparisons). Interpretation and recommendations should be included in this document. These documents should be peer- and park-reviewed, published in the NPS Technical Report Series, and distributed to interested parties.

Review Procedure

Internal Review

One or more reviews for grammatical soundness should be conducted prior to submitting the report for review by staff in the park(s) where monitoring occurred and before external review. Internal review by person(s) skilled in technical writing for clarity and directness should fulfill this review requirement. Internal reviews will be conducted by SECN staff or persons sought out for their language skills.

Park Review

Park staff can supply details about management activities that may influence findings presented in a report and should be consulted as necessary. Further, the management recommendations directly affect park staff and therefore should be discussed for relevance and practicality; therefore, review by park staff is vital to the interpretation of findings and the assessment of proposed management implications. Review by park staff should be conducted before a report is submitted for external review.

External Review

External review by two or more experts in shorebird monitoring should be sought for the first report in a series of annual reports. In addition, analytical methods employed on data presented in the report need to be reviewed by one or more statisticians or quantitative ecologists. External review is not necessary if a report updates a previously reviewed and distributed report. However, external reviews must be sought for new reports or those that deviate significantly from previously reviewed and distributed reports. In order to conserve reviewer time, external reviews must follow the internal and park review process.

Distribution Procedure

Audience

The primary audience for reports based on shorebird monitoring efforts is the Park Service staff at Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA). Additional audiences include the National Park Service's SECN, the NCWRC, the USFWS, and the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM). Potential audiences include other state and federal wildlife agencies, universities, and the general public.

Distributing Reports

All database outputs and export analyses will be aggregated into a report on an annual basis before the end of each calendar year. The Southeast Coast Network (SECN) Wildlife Ecologist will provide support for report production. Annual reports will be provided to CAHA, NCWRC, and USFWS. Additionally, a copy will be kept on file with the SECN Cumberland Island National Seashore Office, Saint Marys, Georgia, and made available to all interested parties upon request (e.g., individual parties, Freedom of Information Act).

The reporting schedule for the automated outputs from the accompanying database for the International Shorebird Survey and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission should be identified and included in this SOP. Further, reporting requirements for the USFWS have not yet been established, but should also be identified here.

Literature Cited

- Byrne, M. W., J. C. DeVivo, J. M. Maxfield, C. J. Wright, and E. Thompson. 2009. Methods for monitoring migratory and wintering shorebirds in Southeast Coast Network Parks. Natural Resource Report NPS/SECN/NRR—2009/107. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1996. Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Atlantic Coast Population, Revised Recovery Plan. Hadley, MA. 258 pp.