



The International Wader Study Group (WSG) is a voluntary association of amateur and professional researchers on all aspects of the biology of waders (shorebirds). The Group has rapid access to experienced people throughout the international field of wader research. Founded in Britain in 1970, the Group now has a worldwide membership. The WSG acts as the Wader Specialist Group of Wetlands International (WI).



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service

Service canadien
de la faune

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) handles wildlife matters that are the responsibility of the Canadian government. They include the protection and management of migratory birds and nationally significant wildlife habitat, endangered species, control of international trade in endangered species and research on wildlife issues of national importance.



The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) was formed in 1985 to address shorebird conservation issues arising from decades of research by the Manomet Bird Observatory, The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the Canadian Wildlife Service and others. This research showed that many species of shorebirds are declining, probably as a result of wetland habitat loss. WHSRN, a voluntary collaboration of private and government organizations, gives international recognition to critical shorebird habitats and promotes their cooperative management and protection. The Network uses shorebirds, many of which fly from continent to continent during yearly migrations, as a symbol for uniting countries in a global effort to maintain the Earth's biodiversity.

The world of migrant shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere consists of staging areas and geographical bottlenecks along a chain of migration all the way from the arctic tundra to the shores of Tierra del Fuego. Shorebird biologists in the northern and southern portions of the Western Hemisphere have long known that certain sites across this vast geography are of critical importance to shorebirds. Biologists and conservationists in North America meet regularly to discuss the importance and conservation of these sites; many South American biologists also meet to discuss the same issues in their countries. But rarely do scientists in both portions of the hemisphere have the opportunity to get together to discuss questions of mutual interest and concern. The IV Neotropical Ornithology Congress held in Quito, Ecuador, went a long way toward establishing closer links between North and South.

The 21 papers and expanded abstracts collected in this volume are based on the papers presented at the 'Quito Symposium'. They bring together information that in many cases has been available only locally. Now, researchers throughout the Western Hemisphere can benefit from the wider dissemination of data on species of concern in both the North and the South. Information from field research conducted in Alaska, California, Minnesota, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Patagonia is arranged in three parts:

- I. Populations, habitat use and breeding biology of shorebirds in North America.
- II. Ecology of migrant and resident shorebird populations in Central and South America.
- III. Shorebird foraging ecology and energetics.

This volume will be of interest to shorebird biologists, conservationists and anyone who wants to preserve the splendour of shorebirds' annual migrations. Its aim is to benefit the long-distance wanderers that we all wish to better understand and protect.



Environment
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service

Environnement
Canada

Service canadien
de la faune