
Preface

The opportunity to attend a symposium on 'Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere' was an interesting experience in itself, but to have this same meeting as part of the IV Neotropical Ornithology Congress, with its varied membership, and in the beautiful city of Quito in Ecuador, made for a most memorable experience. I shall remember those days in Quito very warmly; the fascinating conversations with my South American colleagues (with and without the assistance of Spanish interpreters/translators...) will vividly remain with me for a long time. These proceedings present you with only part of this experience, but, as you will see, the papers herein make for a most important contribution to our knowledge of shorebirds, north and south of the equator.

You will note that some papers are presented in full, whereas others are presented only as expanded abstracts. This is because, at the time of the presentation of these papers, some were either already in press or soon due to be submitted for publication. Hence, those specific papers are published herein as expanded abstracts.

You will also note that many references are shown in the References sections as being in press, while in reality they have been published since this symposium was held. There are a number of reasons for this: first of all, at the time I write this (September 1995), it has been over three and a half years since this meeting was held. The need for translations (Spanish/English) as well as other work duties slowed down the process, but I hope that, like me, you will find that it was worth the wait. Also, when the presentations were made, the papers were indeed not yet in print, and to seek them all out now, so long after the symposium was held, simply was not possible. However, you will note that some references published after 1991 were added by the authors as the symposium papers went through numerous reviews and drafts.

Each year, many species of shorebirds migrate across the Western Hemisphere. Those of us who study them do not often have the same opportunity to meet with colleagues who study the same populations in different, distant reaches of this hemisphere. For me, and many others who attended this meeting, Quito gave us the opportunity to flex our wings, cross the flyways and exchange views that had, for too long, been in storage.

Peter Hicklin
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Editor-in-chief

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