

# FEASIBILITY STATEMENTS FOR MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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**Goal 1: Maintain or enhance vital shorebird staging and wintering habitats in Maine.**

**Goal 2: Maintain or enhance nesting, feeding, and roosting habitat to support viable breeding shorebird populations in Maine.**

**Population Objective: Develop by 2002, and implement by 2005, an interim, standardized, scientifically sound system to inventory and monitor migrating and wintering shorebird populations in Maine, pending implementation of a national plan.**

Desirability: Continual monitoring is required to document changes in use of Maine stopover sites and identify factors that may limit shorebird use of Maine staging and wintering habitats. Use of volunteers is cost effective and will increase awareness and appreciation of shorebird populations that use the Maine coast.

Feasibility: A standardized, scientifically sound system for inventorying and monitoring shorebird populations staging and wintering in Maine can be developed according to protocol developed by the Shorebird Monitoring Working Group established under the National Shorebird Management Plan. Implementation is feasible through use of department personnel and a coordinated volunteer network to survey designated stopover and wintering sites coast wide. Maine has a large number of avid birdwatchers, many of which may be willing to donate their time to survey shorebirds with minimal guidance from department staff.

Capability of Habitat: Does not apply.

Possible Consequences: Monitoring shorebird populations in Maine would enable department staff to identify and address factors that may be limiting populations using Maine staging and wintering habitats. Information collected in Maine would also contribute to international efforts concerning hemispheric shorebird management.

**Nesting Population Objective: Develop objectives for maintaining or enhancing viable nesting populations of American oystercatchers by 2002 and willets by 2005.**

## *Migratory Shorebird Feasibility Statements*

Desirability and Feasibility: Development of objectives for maintaining or enhancing viable nesting populations of American oystercatchers and willets in Maine is feasible and desirable to ensure continued sustainable nesting populations.

Capability of Habitat: Does not apply.

Possible consequences: Secure and viable nesting populations of American oystercatchers and willets in Maine.

**Staging and Wintering Habitat Objective: By 2015, prioritize unprotected Areas of Shorebird Management Concern by species importance and level of threat and increase the acreage of habitat in conservation status within each Shorebird Management Unit by 20% from 2000 levels.**

Desirability: This objective will be desirable to nonconsumptive users of shorebird resources.

Feasibility: This objective can be met through habitat protection initiatives such as acquisition, resource protection zoning, land use planning, conservation easements, and landowner agreements and through enhancement of the habitat itself on 20% of the highest priority areas.

Capability of Habitat: Since 1980, 534 sites have been documented providing feeding and/or roosting habitat for 1 or more migrating shorebirds. MIDFW has identified 94 roosting areas and 120 feeding areas as Areas of Shorebird Management Concern that meet criteria as defined in the Shorebird Management System.

Possible Consequences: Restricted land uses and activities on some private land will likely result in conflicts between resource managers and landowners. Shorebird habitats, such as sand beaches and gravel bars, are popular areas for summer recreation, and these activities would be restricted for most of the summer.

**Nesting Habitat Objective: Conserve nesting habitat for breeding shorebirds in Maine (spotted sandpipers, killdeer, common snipe, willets, and American oystercatcher) at 5 priority sites by 2005 and at 20 additional sites by 2015.**

Desirability: This objective will be desirable to nonconsumptive users of shorebird resources.

Feasibility: This objective can be met through habitat protection initiatives such as acquisition, resource protection zoning, land use planning, conservation easements, and landowner agreements.

## *Migratory Shorebird Feasibility Statements*

Capability of Habitat: Maine's inland and coastal wetlands provide nesting habitat for five species of migratory shorebirds. American oystercatchers are documented nesting at three different sites in eastern Maine. Nesting willets are locally common on salt marshes in southern Maine. Spotted sandpipers, killdeer, and common snipe are common breeders on inland habitats throughout Maine.

Possible Consequences: Restricted land uses and activities on some private land will likely result in conflicts between resource managers and landowners.

### **Outreach Objective 1: By 2005 and in conjunction with partners, develop and implement an outreach plan containing measurable objectives to increase awareness and promote stewardship of migratory shorebirds and their habitats in Maine.**

Desirability: Development and implementation of a public outreach program is desirable to increase awareness and promote stewardship of migratory shorebirds and their habitats in Maine.

Feasibility: Department biologists and Information and Education staff working in collaboration with interested partners can meet this objective.

Capability of Habitat: Does not apply.

Possible consequences: A greater number of Maine residents and nonresidents will have greater awareness and appreciation of Maine's shorebird resources, which ultimately may decrease human disturbance issues.

### **Outreach Objective 2: Develop and implement a landowner assistance and recognition program by 2005.**

Desirability: A landowner assistance and recognition program is desirable to encourage landowners to protect shorebird habitats from physical and functional degradation.

Feasibility: Development and implementation of a landowner assistance and recognition program by department staff is feasible if time and resources are allocated for this effort.

Capability of Habitat: Does not apply.

Possible Consequences: An increase in protection of shorebird habitats by landowners.