Shorebird Science & Conservation Collective

Conservation Contribution #17: Shedding light on Alaska's shorebird migrations

Conservation Action: Education and Awareness

April 2024

Project Summary

The Alaska Shorebird Group created a poster for the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival (web link for festival website) showcasing migration routes of ten shorebird species that breed in Alaska, U.S.A. To ensure accuracy, they requested support from the Shorebird Science and Conservation Collective (hereafter, "Shorebird Collective") to view example tracklines for some species and verify the routes featured on the poster. The Shorebird Collective explored contributed tracking data and offered guidance on the birds' general flight paths. The final version of the poster is presented in **Figure 1**.

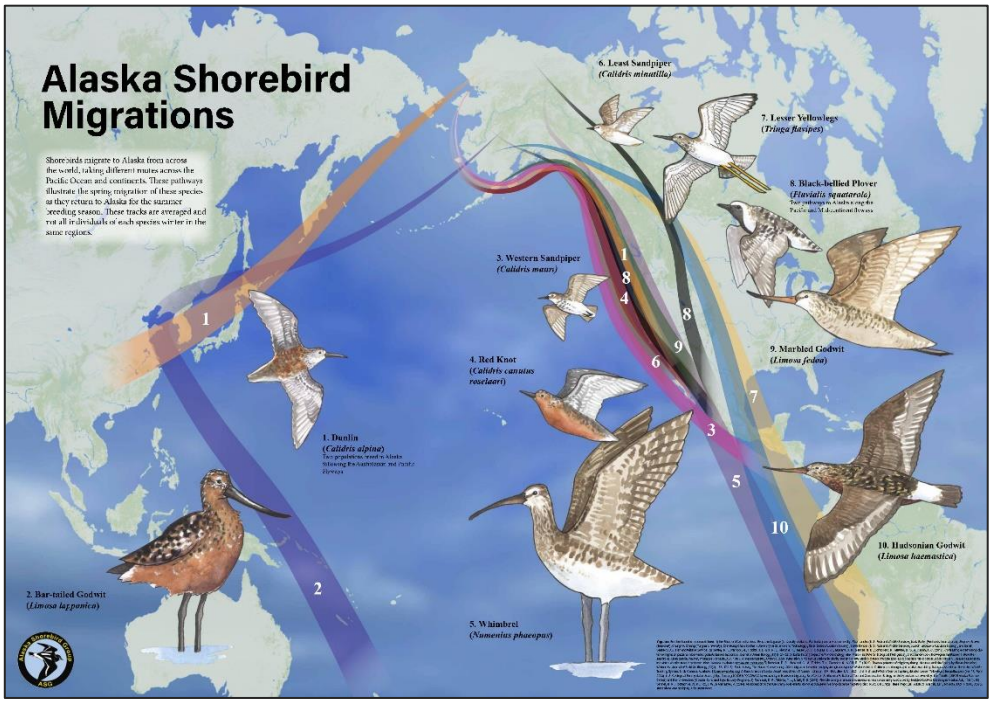

Figure 1. Final version of the Alaska shorebird migration poster developed by the Alaska Shorebird Group.

About the Shorebird Science & Conservation Collective

The Shorebird Collective is a partnership of scientists and practitioners working to translate the collective findings of shorebird tracking and community science data into effective on-the-ground actions to advance shorebird conservation in the Western Hemisphere. Learn more on our webpage: web link for the Shorebird Collective webpage.

About the Alaska Shorebird Group

The Alaska Shorebird Group represents academic and private researchers, federal and state agency staff, conservation organizations, and shorebird enthusiasts dedicated to shorebirds and the habitats they depend on throughout their annual cycle. Their mission is to raise public awareness of shorebirds and to promote their research, monitoring, management, and conservation. Learn more about the Alaska Shorebird Group on their website: web link for the Alaska Shorebird Group website.

Data Contributors and Trackline Reference Information

The Shorebird Collective provided the Alaska Shorebird Group with example tracklines for the following species from these data contributors:

Dunlin
Tracking data contributed by Benjamin Lagassé University of Alaska Fairbanks; co-owned by Richard Lanctot, Steve Kendall, and Sarah Saalfeld (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Mark Barter (Wetlands International), Stephen Brown (Manomet), Chung-Yu Chiang (Tunghai University), Chi-Yeung Choi (Southern University of Science and Technology), River Gates (National Audubon Society), Joseph Liebezeit (Portland Audubon)

Western Sandpiper
Tracking data contributed by Eunbi Kwon (Department of Ornithology, Max Planck Institute for Biological Intelligence); co-owned by Brett Sandercock (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research)

The Shorebird Collective helped the Alaska Shorebird Group verify migration routes with contributed tracking data for the following species from these data contributors:

Bar-tailed Godwit
Tracking data contributed by Lee Tibbitts and Daniel Ruthrauff (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center); co-owned by Nils Warnock (Audubon Canyon Ranch), Phil Battley (Massey University), Dave Douglas and Bob Gill (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center)

Black-bellied Plover
Tracking data contributed by Autumn-Lynn Harrison (Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center); co-owned by Lee Tibbitts (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center), David Newstead (Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program)

Lesser Yellowlegs
Tracking data contributed by Katie Christie (Alaska Department of Fish and Game); co-owned by Jim Johnson (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Marbled Godwit
Tracking data contributed by Daniel Ruthrauff and Lee Tibbitts (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center); co-owned by Bob Gill and Dave Douglas (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center)

Whimbrel
Tracking data contributed by Daniel Ruthrauff and Lee Tibbitts (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center); co-owned by Nils Warnock (Audubon Canyon Ranch), Chris Harwood (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Dave Douglas and Bob Gill (U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center)

Other references cited in the poster:

Kelsey, R., The Nature Conservancy. 2021. Migration behavior and physiological response of shorebirds in California to drought and habitat availability. Data accessed from the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. Birds Canada. Available: http://www.motus.org/.

Walther, J. G., Pronatura Noroeste, A.C. / Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst. 2020. Installation of 32 motus stations in priority wetland of NW Mexico to track multiple species of coastal birds of conservation concern. Data accessed from the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. Birds Canada. Available: http://www.motus.org/.

Senner, N. R., Hochachka, W. M., Fox, J. W., & Afanasyev, V. 2014. An exception to the rule: Carry-over effects do not accumulate in a long-distance migratory bird. *PLoS ONE*, 9(2). Base map: Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, Esri, TomTom, FAO, NOAA, USGS. Illustrations and design by Arin Underwood.