Mediterranews

CONSERVING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

No.6 • Ensenada, Baja California • April 2017

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

FAUNA

The Migration Scenario

Contents

Terra Peninsular

FIRST RESULTS OF THE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

CUIDANDO LA CASA

The campaign started on November 29, 2016 and ended on January 10, 2017. It included fundraising strategies such as:

A crowdfunding campaign.
A fundraising event called A Toast to Conservation.
Action alerts and letters to our contacts.

Thanks to these strategies we raised

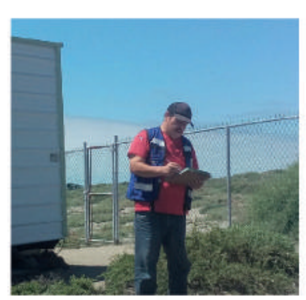
$19,917 DOLLARS!

If you were one of the 94 people who joined this campaign, take a look at what you're helping us accomplish:

With your contribution, we're covering gas and mechanical repairs expenses of the cars used in the reserves.

There are 4 park rangers who keep track of visitors and patrol the nature reserves.
Park rangers were given uniforms.
And also radio equipment.

We bought 12 camera traps, 24 memory cards, and 1 GPS digital camera for monitoring the reserves.



THANK YOU!

We'll keep you posted on the progress of more results!

Message from the Director

We are very happy because in March we presented the first Bird Festival in Ensenada, this event was a huge success and it was very exciting to see that every time, more people are aware of the importance of having beaches and natural areas for recreational activities that they also share with other species, just like migratory birds.

Similarly, we realized that the nomination of Bahía de Todos Santos as a shorebird reserve is well accepted in the community, and that leaves us satisfied with the efforts we have been doing as part of this project.

Despite the initial enthusiasm, watching the news and seeing that Ensenada has the most polluted beach in Mexico illustrates a contrasting scenario. It is discouraging that our city is defined in that category.

"Dad, let's go to a beach that is not polluted", said my 6-year-old daughter during Spring Break vacations. Such an innocent quote shows the frustration of not being able to comply with this obvious requirement, and it is also a concern to see that each time there are less available spaces.

And even though this situation occurred due to different reasons, seeing polluted beaches reaffirms the need to continue working in conservations and awareness schemes not only in Ensenada, but also in Baja California.

Since 2016, Terra Peninsular is part of Waterkeeper Alliance and through the San Quintín Bay Waterkeeper program we seek to maintain and guarantee clean beaches and water in the southern area of Ensenada.

That commitment together with the nomination project of Bahía de Todos Santos as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) can be an opportunity to expand our efforts to continue promoting the protection of coastal environments in Baja California through different conservation schemes.

César Guerrero

César Guerrero
Executive Director of Terra Peninsular A.C.

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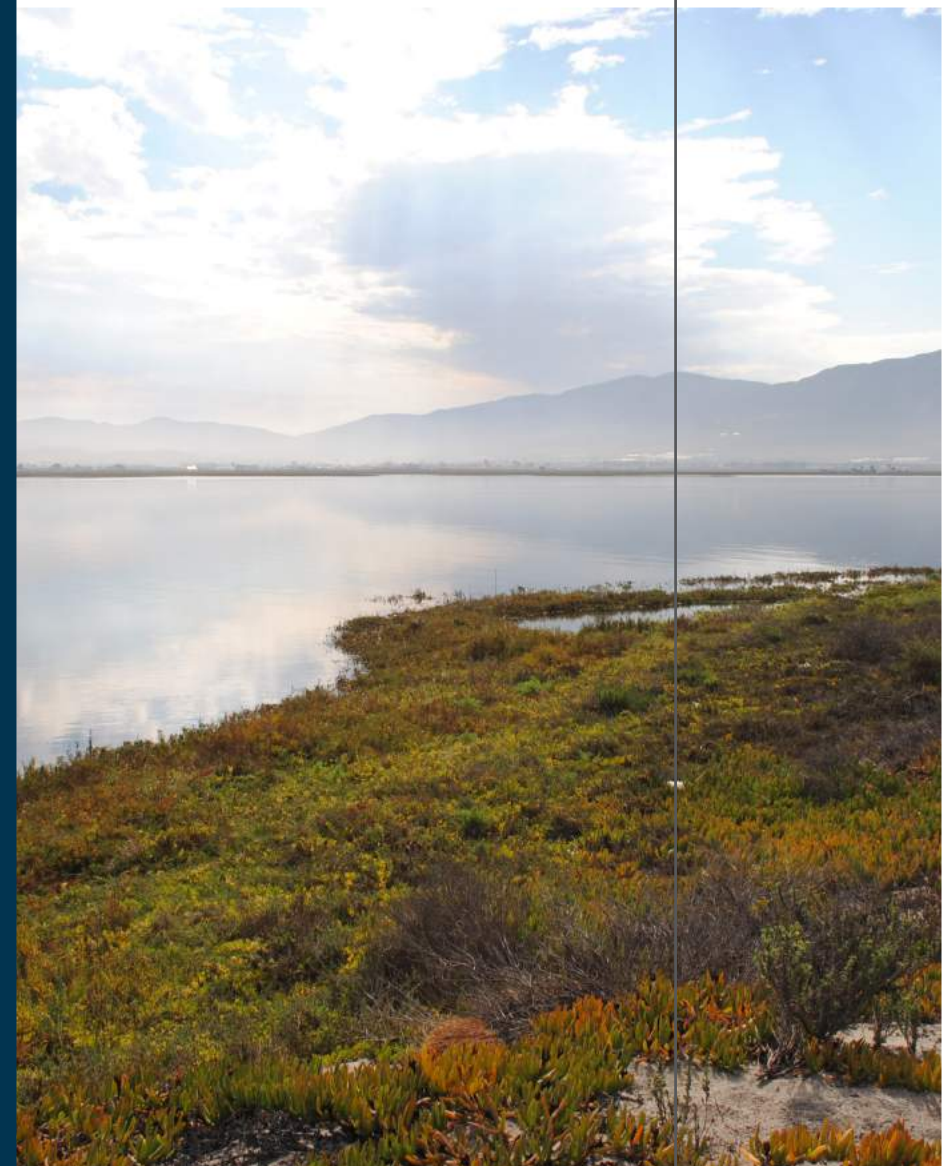

Terra Peninsular

Mediterranews is published in February, April, June, August and December by Terra Peninsular, a non-profit environmental organization that works in Baja California since 2001.

Address: Calle Tercera 1282, Zona Centro, C.P. 22800. Ensenada, Baja California, México.

www.terrapeninsular.org

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COVER PHOTO Estero de Punta Banda, in Ensenada, Baja California. Photo: Alan Harper.

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MANAGING EDITOR Antonieta Valenzuela

EDITORIAL BOARD Alan Harper, César Guerrero, Mauricio Guerrero

WRITERS Abril Heredia, Antonieta Valenzuela, Eduardo Palacios, Jorge Andrade, Karen Villegas

TRANSLATION José María Vizcarra, Sber Nacul

COPY EDITOR Antonieta Valenzuela

ART AND DESIGN Laura Tamayo, Blank Design Factory

For more information or subscription inquiries, please contact info@terrapeninsular.org

Volunteers dressed as the 5 birds representing the festival. From left to right: Red Knot, Sanderling, Marbled Godwit, Snowy Plover and Willet.

Bahía de Todos Santos **Bird Festival**

By: *Karen R. Villegas Manríquez and Antonieta Valenzuela*
Photos by: *Antonieta Valenzuela*

The Bahía de Todos Santos Bird Festival took place on March 11, 2017 in Macroplaza del Mar, this event was the third bird festival organized by Terra Peninsular and the first one held in Ensenada, Baja California.

The festival is part of a project to nominate Bahía de Todos Santos as a shorebird reserve by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHRSN), an international cooperation strategy to conserve and protect the habitat of shorebirds in America.

Bahía de Todos Santos is an indispensable site for birds, as it is located along the Pacific Flyway, a migratory route used by shorebirds every year, some of these species are even endangered.

For this event, five birds of the bay were chosen to represent the festival:

- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*).
- Marbled Godwit(*Limosa fedoa*).
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).
- Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*).
- Red Knot(*Caldris canutus roselaari*).

Opening ceremony of the Bahía de Todos Santos Bird Festival.

In addition, all the activities were aligned to the following objectives:

- Teach about the importance of Bahía de Todos Santos for migratory birds.
- Provide information about the importance of migratory shorebirds.
- Promote friendly actions to help protect birds in the bay.

The first activity of the day was the opening ceremony with two special guests: César Cuevas Ceseña, the Director of Urban Administration, Ecology and Environment of Ensenada, and Sergio Caldera Claudio, the Director of Natural Resources of the Secretary of Environmental Protection. Both shared the head table with the Executive Director of Terra Peninsular, César Guerrero Ávila.

DRAWING WORKSHOP AND PAINTING CONTEST

The drawing workshop was given by the plastic artist, Louise Aceves.

The drawing workshop was given by the plastic artist Louise Aceves and was aimed for children. For this activity, Terra Peninsular created a drawing book which served as guidance for the participants to draw the five birds representing the festival.

On the other hand, the art competition was held as a part of a project of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), to create awareness about the shorebirds through the "Connecting People through Shorebirds" friendship quilt.

This initiative was supported by environmental organizations from 7 cities of North America, among them, Terra Peninsular, and each participating city had to send fabric squares painted by children aged between 8 and 14 years with pictures and messages highlighting the importance of shorebirds and their habitat.

BIRDWATCHING

Throughout that day, people from all ages participated in four birdwatching tours to La Lagunita and had the opportunity to identify and count birds using a bird guide also created by Terra Peninsular.

Some of the members of the bird watching club *Los Correcaminos* volunteer to help during the birdwatching activity and teach the participants how to observe and identify birds, they also provided binoculars and telescopes alongside the organization Pro Esteros.

Some attendees took a photo at La Lagunita with the famous wings #WeAreAllShorebirds. This photo has become a tradition in different bird festivals, mainly in Latin America, and it has the purpose of raising awareness about the importance of shorebirds.

Birdwatching activity in La Lagunita, this activity was open to the general public.

PUPPET SHOW

The puppet show "Do you know birds?" aimed to inform about the impact of human activities on the beach, especially the garbage situation, and how making the beach dirty and not respecting the habitat has an impact on the welfare of the shorebirds, since they use the beach to rest and feed.

The show was presented by the artistic group Media Luna Artes Escénicas and the story of revolved around a Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*), one of the 5 emblematic birds of the Bahía de Todos Santos Bird Festival.

The puppet show "Do you know birds?" was presented by Media Luna Artes Escénicas.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

An environmental educational activity was aimed at a general audience and was presented by Marilú Fraga, who focused on promoting the site proposed as a shorebird reserve in Bahía de Todos Santos. In this activity, the kids were integrated together with their parents, and was presented 2 times throughout the festival.

Marilú Fraga exposed an educational activity for kids.

Marco Martínez from Contacto Salvaje with a peregrine falcon in the birds of prey presentation.

TERRA NEWS

BIRDS OF PREY PRESENTATION

The demonstration of birds of prey was carried out by Marco Martínez from Contacto Salvaje along with Ernesto Salmerón from the bird watching club *Los Correcaminos*. Both explained the role of the different species of birds in the ecosystem and in the trophic plot, while also giving a little more information about the avifauna found in the region. In the presentation they showed 3 birds of prey and performed some interactive activities with the public.

The famous wings #WeAreAllShorebirds are used in different bird festivals in Latin America.

SHOREBIRD RESERVE PROJECT

An information stand about the project to nominate Bahía de Todos Santos in Ensenada as a shorebird reserve was placed in the event. The stand was conducted by Verónica Meza from Terra Peninsular and the volunteers Melanni Barajas and Yessica Medina.

Throughout the day, information was provided about the WHRSN initiative, shorebird reserves in Baja California and Mexico, as well as the nomination project to designate Bahía de Todos Santos as part of the WHRSN strategy.

A stand was placed to inform about the shorebird reserve project in Ensenada.

LIVE MUSIC

To conclude the festival, the musical group "Cuatro Acordes" offered a presentation, this group also participated in the second Bird Festival in San Quintin in 2016. Once the musical repertoire ended, the Executive Director of Terra Peninsular, César Guerrero, delivered a closing speech.

Fabric squares painted by children that participated in the art competition.

TERRA NEWS

The Shorebird Reserve Network *is More Than the Sum of its Sites*

Author: *Eduardo Palacios*

Since the 1980s migratory shorebird populations have been decreasing alarmingly. Although the causes are not yet known, it is believed that the causes of such declines include climate change, pollution, human disturbance, depredators, as well as the destruction or the degradation of habitats.

Shorebirds include species of plovers, sandpipers, curlews, oystercatchers, avocets, and dunlins in general, that we found associated with shores, pastures, indoor and coastal wetlands.

The majority of this species are migratory and its reproduction occurs during spring and part of the summer when they take advantage of the great abundance of food in the Artic and temperate regions, and then they move to south, to the temperate and tropical regions to spend winter.

During spring the birds return to its reproduction zone, so they do two migratory travels each year. In every rounded travel, the majority of this birds fly over 12 thousand km some others even 25 thousand km. Of the 50 species of shorebirds breeding in North America, 40 of them migrate to tropical and subtropical regions of México, Central America and South America.

Shorebirds breed at low densities in temperate and subarctic zones, but during their non-breeding period they concentrate in only a few sites along their migratory routes. This increases their vulnerability and risk of extinction, but also gives us an opportunity to identify and protect these sites.

CONSERVATION STRATEGY

An international strategy for conservation of migratory species was created in 1985, and it consists on identifying and designating key sites as shorebird reserves.

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) is an international cooperation strategy that protects protect shorebird habitats in the American continent. During migration, shorebirds use this network of sites across the continent to rest and feed.

According to its importance for the number of shorebirds in each site, there are three categories of WHSRN sites:

· Regional Category: the site is used by at least 20,000 shorebirds in a year, or 1% of the biogeographic population for a species.
· International Category: at least 100,000 shorebirds, or 10% of the biogeographic population for a species.
· Hemispheric Category: at least 500,000 shorebirds, or 30% of the biogeographic population for a species.

Bahía de Todos Santos is important for hosting more than 5% of the population of the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus roselaari*). Photo: Javier Girón.

In addition, to deserve the WHSRN designation the administrator or site owners must commit to:

· Make the conservation of shorebirds a priority.
· Protect and manage the habitats of shorebirds.
· Update to the WHSRN when changes are made to the site.

In 1986 the first site of the network was designated in the east coast of the United States of America, in the Bay of Delaware. Currently, at 30 years, the network includes 94 WHSRN sites where they seek to protect 14.8 million hectares of habitat for shorebirds. These shorebirds habitats are distributed in 15 countries from Alaska, U.S.A. to Chile and Argentina.

WHSRN sites are generally coastal and inland wetlands, but also include grasslands and artificial wetlands such as salt marshes that may become of hemispheric importance.

RESERVES NETWORK IN MÉXICO

In Mexico there are in 17 WHSRN sites, including Laguna Madre which is a binational reserve. Two-thirds of the WHSRN sites are located in northwestern México, which supports the importance of this region for the conservation of shorebirds at continental level.

The peninsula of Baja California is known for hosting 6 of the 17 sites, and includes two of the three sites with Hemispheric Category: Reserva de la Biósfera Alto Golfo Delta del Río Colorado and Complejo Lagunar Ojo de Liebre-Guerrero Negro, which includes La Salina de Guerrero Negro.

TERRA NEWS

BAHÍA DE TODOS SANTOS

Bahía de Todos Santos is nominated as a new WHSNR site due to its importance as a habitat for migratory birds, and for hosting more than 5% of the population of the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus roselaari*), an endangered species in Mexico and the United States.

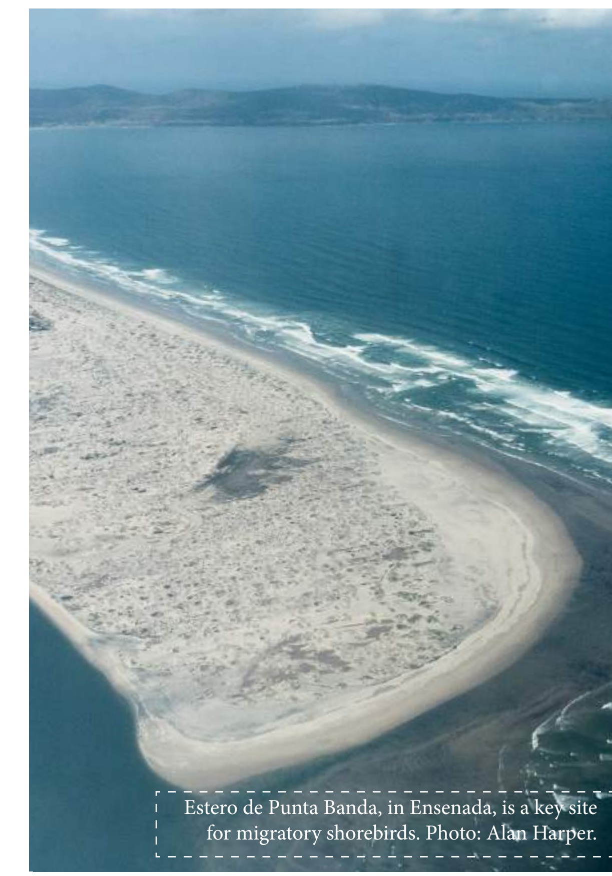
From the shorebird perspective, the reserve network is like a single large reserve that provides birds with the resources needed to carry out their life cycle.

WHSRN success will depend on convincing local, regional and national governments that this network of reserves is necessary to guarantee the sustainability not only of migratory shorebirds, but also productive activities on the site.

Shorebird reserves in the peninsula of Baja California:

· San Quintín Bay
· Reserva de la Biósfera Alto Golfo y Delta del Río Colorado
· Complejo Lagunar Ojo de Liebre-Guerrero Negro
· Bahía Magdalena
· Complejo San Ignacio
· Ensenada de La Paz

Map of the proposed shorebird reserve in Ensenada, Baja California.



Estero de Punta Banda, in Ensenada, is a key site for migratory shorebirds. Photo: Alan Harper.

Photo: Jorge Andrade

Seagrass meadows

Author: *M.S. Karen R. Villegas Manríquez*

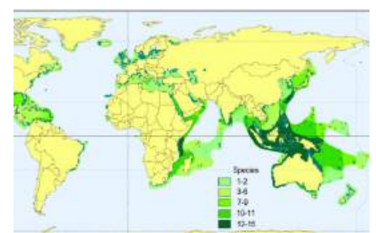
Seagrasses are phanerogam angiosperm plants that together form meadows, adapted to live under water at shallow depth, and constitute one of the most productive ecosystems worldwide, with an estimated worth of ≈1200 g C m^{-2} a $year^{-1}$ (Fry, 2006) and have a widespread global distribution except in the North and South poles (Short et al. 2007) (Picture 1).
Zostera marina is the species with the largest distribution and the most dominant in the coasts of North America (Short y Coles, 2001); Baja California is considered to be the southern limit of this species (Den Hartog, 1970).

As coastal ecosystems, seagrasses are vulnerable to human impact, which is a recurrent threat to the health and functioning of the meadows.

The two biggest causes of loss of seagrass worldwide are direct impacts, such as coastal development and dredging activities, followed by indirect impact such as the decrease of the water quality (Waycott et al. 2009).

Due to the susceptibility and services provided to the ecosystem, seagrasses are used as one of the five sensitive indicators of pollution in the U.S. National Estuarine Eutrophication Assessment (Bricker et al. 2003).

On the other hand, when the habitat conditions are healthy, seagrasses provide habitat, food, substrate and shelter for different marine organisms, as they form a tridimensional structure in the water. In addition, the associated fauna of seagrasses includes highly important species for fishery which reach up to $35,000 dollars a^{-1} $year^{-1}$ (Waycott et al. 2009).



Picture 1. Worldwide distribution of seagrass. The temperate region of the North Pacific area (that covers the peninsula of Baja California) holds 14 species of seagrasses, where the *Zostera, Ruppia and Phyllospadix* genres dominate, being *Zostera* the genre that represents the region (Short et al. 2007).

In areas such as the Mexican Caribbean, the manatees and some species of sea turtles feed on the seagrass that grows in the area, that is, warm seagrasses with poor nutrients. And in the case of San Quintín Bay, we can find dense meadows of *Zostera marina,* which grows in shallows areas and are exposed during low tide (Ibarra-Obando et al. 1997); in fact, the seagrass meadows cover up to 46 % of the substrate of San Quintín Bay (Ward et al. 2003).

In these meadows we can find fish species that use the seagrasses as habitat and/or shelter, we can find young Spotted Sand Bass (*Paralabrax maculatofasciatus y Paralabrax nebulifer*) (Rosales-Casián, 1997), Bay Pipefish (*Syngnathus leptorhyncus*), Shiner Perch (Cymatogaster aggregata) (Rosales-Casián, 2004), other invertebrate species an even small fishes that use the seagrass to breed. In addition, some birds such as the Black Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) use the Zostera marina as a source of food.

Seagrass meadows may not look as flashy as coral reefs or mangrove forests. However, seagrasses provide several ecological services that benefit us all: recycling of nutrients (McGlathery et al. 2007), modification of marine currents, waves and stabilization of the sediment thanks to its structure of leafs, roots and rhizome (Orth et al. 2006). Also, seagrasses hold a significant amount of carbon on a global level (Duarte et al. 2005).

Zostera marina.
Photo: Karen R. Villegas.

Zostera marina, Callinectes sapidus, Smith Island, Chesapeake Bay, Maryland/May 2013. Photo: Jay Fleming.

Karen Villegas and Cecilia Mozqueda at the seagrass meadows. San Quintín Bay/February 2014. Photo: Enrique Alfaro.

About the author

Karen R. Villegas Manríquez studied Environmental Sciences at the University of Baja California (UABC) and earned a Master of Sciences in Marine Ecology in CICESE. Her master's thesis name was "Stoichiometric changes in the leaves of seagrass, Zostera marina in San Quintín Bay: effects on mesoherbivores". She collaborated with Terra Peninsular in November of 2015 and January of 2016 in two density and coverage samples of seagrass in San Quintín Bay, alongside M.S. Cecilia Mozqueda.

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Marbled Godwits during the winter in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico.

The Migration Scenario

By: *Biologist Abril Copalli Heredia Morales*

There are some scenes in nature that turn into great memories and experiences, such as watching a couple of Marbled Godwits (Limosa fedoa) in a territorial behavior the morning after a thunderstorm in a marsh in South Dakota.

And a couple of months later, during the winter, watching hundreds of them gathered and feeding in the wetlands of Baja California. Both are contrasting situations: the habitat changes, their number, so does the behavior and even the beak color, from orange to pink in the elder Marbled Godwits.

The Marbled Godwit has a marbled plumage in shades of cinnamon and black, having a beautiful pattern in each feather, also, a distinctive long beak allows them to explore the substrates of sand and mud searching for food, especially invertebrate organisms that find shelter in the sediment.

The word *Limosa* comes from the Latin *limus,* which means mud. A mudflat represents many opportunities for birds to find food and therefore, gain energy.

In the summer, the Marbled Godwits fly to their breeding areas, most of them are in the Great Plains in North America, a place that creates a green landscape together with ponds, rivers and lagoons.

At the end of the summer and during fall, the Marbled Godwits begin to migrate towards their wintering areas, which are great extensions of wetlands next to the sea. These areas can be found in the Atlantic and Pacific side of Mexico. The migration route involves temporality, navigation mechanisms and the distance between the breeding, resting and wintering areas.

Recently, we have been able to track the movement of several Marbled Godwits through their southward and northward migration, including information about a Marbled Godwit wintering in the Ojo de Liebre Lagoon in Guerrero Negro, Baja

California Sur that flew over areas like Arizona, Nevada and Utah, USA (Olson et al. 2014).

Bird records indicate that the wetlands in the peninsula of Baja California are important areas for the Marbled Godwits (Page et al. 1997). Bahía de Todos Santos and mostly the Estuary of Punta Banda in Ensenada are areas where you can find hundreds of Marbled Godwits gathered at the mudflats during low tide.

The natural seasonality of the habitats in the different latitudes of the continent brings many conditions in which the Marbled Godwits are adapted in the annual cycle, however, the migration also involves a more abstract but yet real aspect: the birds inevitably migrate through geopolitical and cultural borders, and in this way, the relationship between man and nature also has an effect on the patterns of the available habitats of the Marbled Godwit.

And so, migration may trigger a sense of curiosity and a feeling of admiration for the events of nature, and also brings an opportunity for a better relationship with the other species that surround us.

About the author

Abril studied Biology in the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico* (UNAM) and has a Master's Degree in Marine Ecology from the *Centro de Investigación Científica y de Enseñanza Superior de Ensenada* (CICESE). Her thesis project involves an analysis of the effects of anthropogenic disturbance regarding the density of marine birds in Bahía de Todos Santos. She has collaborated in multiple projects monitoring birds with the Society of Yukon Bird Observatories, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas A.C. and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies since 2011.

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Marbled Godwit during the summer at
Fort Pierre National Grasslands, South Dakota, in the U.S.A.

Branta Negra

The first batch of the Branta Negra beer was launched in November 2016, and matched the arrival of the Black Brant to San Quintín Bay.

300 bottles of 20oz were produced.

Merchandising such as t-shirts, beer glasses, and stickers were sold.

The Branta Kit was launched and included a 20oz beer, 1 t-shirt, 1 sticker and 1 beer glass.

The Branta Negra beer was sold at the Escafandra stand in Baja Brews Colectivo y Jardín Cervecero located in Ensenada.

Two new places sold Branta Negra: Wendlandt in Ensenada, and Molino Viejo in San Quintín.

Two new places sold Branta Negra: Wendlandt in Ensenada, and Molino Viejo in San Quintín.

Over $1,300 dollars were raised with the sales of Branta Negra beer. These proceeds will go to nature conservation projects in Baja California.

We're deeply grateful to Cervecería Escafandra for being part of this project, to the new points of sale that decided to join our cause, and to all those who supported us by buying Branta Negra!

SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER 2017!

Shorebird Migration

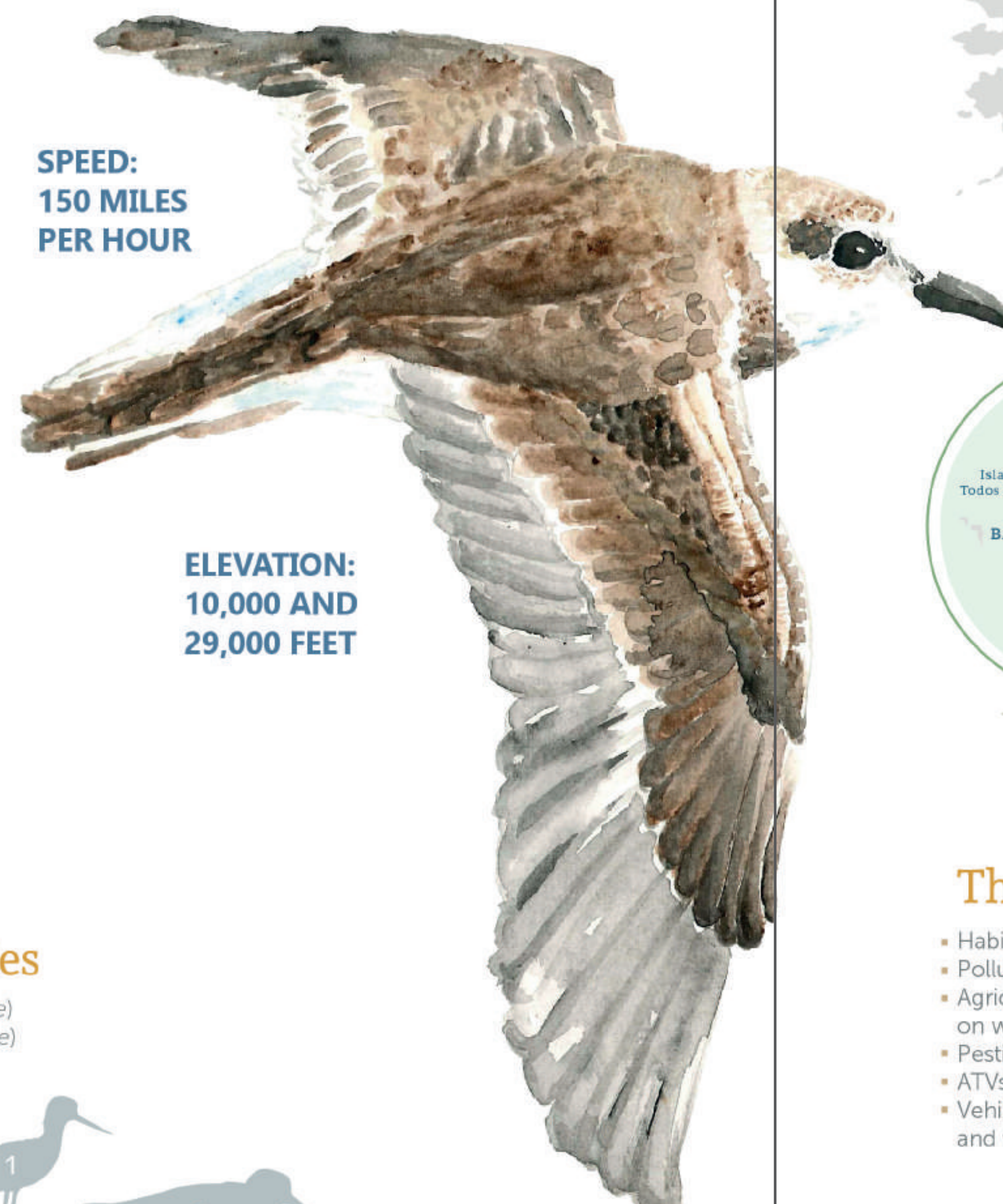
By *Antonieta Valenzuela and Laura Tamayo*

What is a shorebird?

Shorebirds area a group of birds especially adapted to live in coastal environments and have specific characteristics to adapt and survive in variable conditions.

Shorebird habitats include estuaries, mudflats, wetlands, grasslands and shorelines.

In general, the majority of shorebirds have plumage that helps to camouflage, long legs, long bills for feeding and wings to fly long distances.



SPEED: 150 MILES PER HOUR

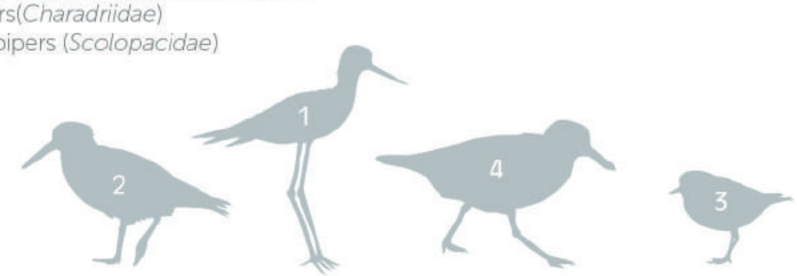
ELEVATION: 10,000 AND 29,000 FEET

Characteristics

- Most shorebirds migrate long distances.
- Although shorebirds are known for their migrations, not all of them migrate long distances or do not migrate at all.
- **Shorebirds contribute to healthy ecosystems.**
- They are indicators of healthy ecosystems.
- Shorebirds are part of the planet's biodiversity.
- They feed on insects, mollusks, crustaceans and other invertebrate animals.
- Migrate in large flocks.
- They use distraction displays to protect their nests or chicks from predators.
- Shorebirds store fat as fuel to fly long distances.

Shorebirds families

1 Avocet and Stilts (*Recurvirostridae*)
2 Oystercatchers (*Haematopodidae*)
3 Plovers(*Charadriidae*)
4 Sandpipers (*Scolopacidae*)

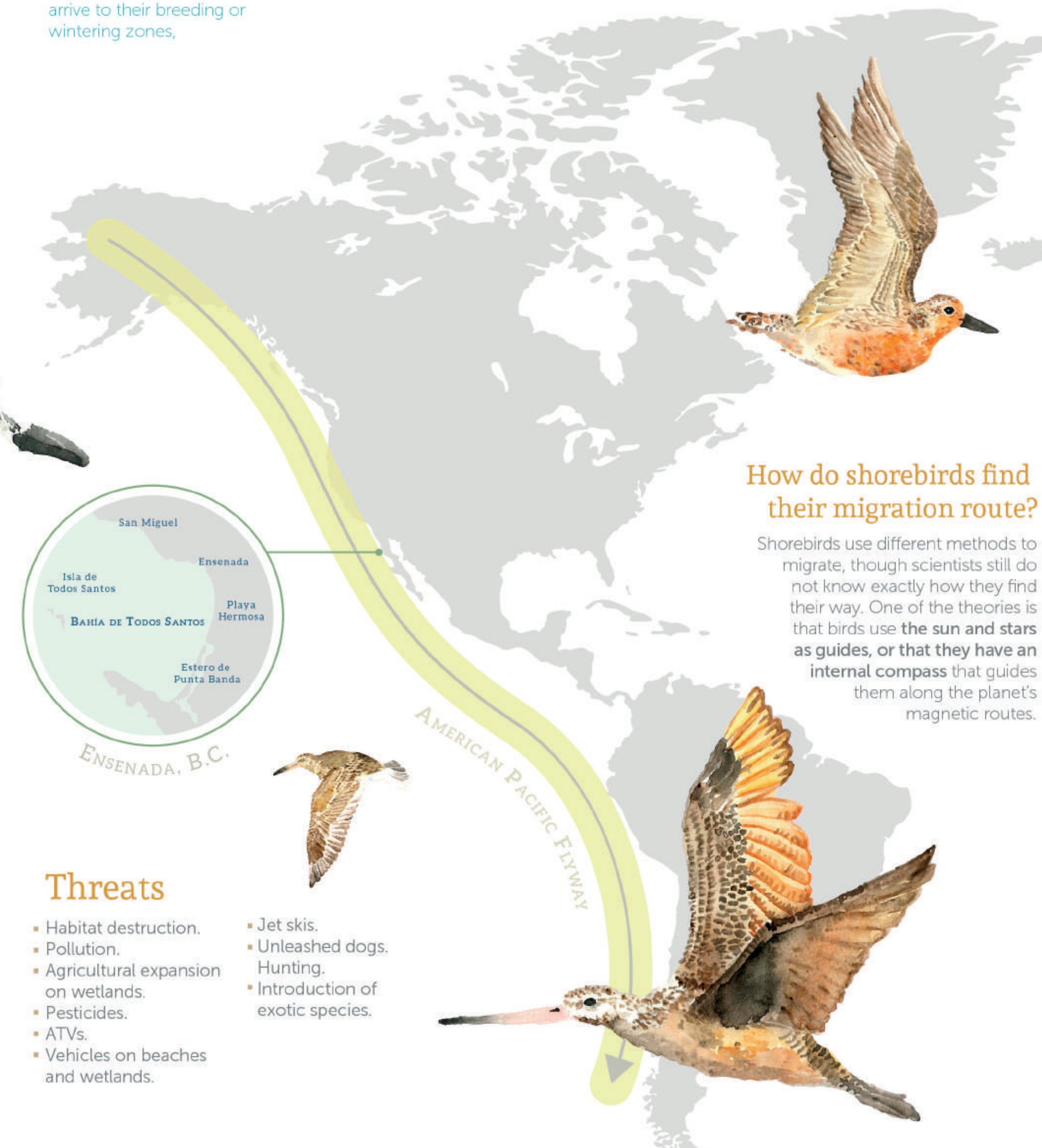


Migration

Migration is the seasonal movement of birds: in the spring they migrate north to their breeding zones, and in the fall they fly down south to their wintering zones.

Shorebirds depend on healthy habitats along the migratory route in order to arrive to their breeding or wintering zones, these areas are known as stopover sites and are necessary so birds can feed, rest and find shelter.

During migration, birds can fly up to **150 miles per hour** and at an elevation of **10,000 and 29,000 feet.**



How do shorebirds find their migration route?

Shorebirds use different methods to migrate, though scientists still do not know exactly how they find their way. One of the theories is that birds use **the sun and stars as guides, or that they have an internal compass** that guides them along the planet's magnetic routes.

Threats

- Habitat destruction.
- Pollution.
- Agricultural expansion on wetlands.
- Pesticides.
- ATVs.
- Vehicles on beaches and wetlands.
- Jet skis.
- Unleashed dogs. Hunting.
- Introduction of exotic species.

Reference: Explore the World With Shorebirds! Educator's Guide for the Shorebird Sister School Programs. (2014). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. http://sssp.fws.gov

Art competition winners 2017

festival de las aves
Bahía de Todos Santos

CEC · CCA · CCE

Terra Peninsular

1st place

Ana Sofía Flores

2nd place

Yuleidha Vázquez

3rd place

Ana Cristina Lomelí

4th place

Java Abigail Soto

5th place

Ángel Jesús Mina

6th place

Valeria Jiménez

7th place

Victoria Jiménez

The painted fabric squares of the winners were sent to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) in Canada and will be sewn into a handmade friendship quilt named "Connecting people through shorebirds".

This friendship quilt will be composed of squares painted by kids from 7 cities of Mexico, United States and Canada. The official presentation of the quilt will be on June 27 and 28, 2017 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. After that the friendship quilt will travel to the participating cities!

www.terrapeninsular.org/en/

You can help protect shorebirds!

Author: *Antonieta Valenzuela*

Keep your distance and observe birds from a far distance without disturbing them.

Drive slowly or avoid driving vehicles or ATVs at beaches, wetlands and sand dunes.

Leash your dogs! When birds are forced to fly they spent energy they need to continue their migration.

Learn about birdwatching and enjoy this eco touristic activity.

Pick up your trash and help to keep clean and healthy the habitats of birds.

Learn more about birds and their importance.

Teach others by example not to disturb birds.

eBird
iNaturalist.org

Become a bird observer and record the birds you see in platforms such as eBird and iNaturalist.

Boat trip during the 15th anniversary of Terra Peninsular in San Quintín.

My time at Terra Peninsular

By *Paulina Llano*

Anyone could think that an organization dedicated to environmental conservation like Terra Peninsular is only managed by scientists. Nevertheless, the reality is very different: a non-profit, no matter its field of work, thrives thanks to the efforts of a multidisciplinary team, and Terra Peninsular is not the exception.

Our staff, aside from having excellent scientists that provide the technical basis of our conservation actions, is integrated by a diverse team that includes administrators, accountants, designers and even translators, just like me. Each and every one of us plays a fundamental role in the teamwork we carry out every day.

Before I decided to be a translator, I studied Environmental Sciences for a while. I did not know it back then, but that time of my life would guide me to where I am today. From that moment, I grew interested in taking care of the planet, and I promised myself that, despite not having an environmentalist degree, I would do everything in my power to make my actions as environmentally responsible as possible.

As a graduate of Translation Studies, I encountered a work opportunity at Terra Peninsular as the Foundation Liaison Assistant. This position has allowed me not only to combine my passion for languages and the environment, but also to fulfil my promise in a larger scale, since the organization's actions can reach an impact at the continental level.

Unfortunately, my time at Terra Peninsular is coming to an end, but I can say for sure that I am leaving with a base of knowledge that will stay with me for a long time: not only technical knowledge about conservation, birds and ecosystems in Baja California, but also the knowledge provided by my coworkers.

Now, more than ever, I am convinced that extraordinary things can be accomplished regardless of age; that it is possible, and highly rewarding, to work in an environment of full acceptance no matter one's origin, preferences, tastes or gender; that if you have passion for what you do, as impossible as it may seem, any obstacle can be overcome; and, of course, that if you want to have a good time, all you need is good company and perhaps a delicious cake or beer.

I can only thank all those who were part of my journey, and although my time in this organization was shorter than I would have liked, Terra Peninsular left an unforgettable mark on me. Because once part of Terra, forever Terra.

Terra Peninsular's members of staff during the Bird Festival in San Quintín in 2016. Photo: Antonieta Valenzuela.

Jorge Andrade and Paulina Llano. Photo: Antonieta Valenzuela.

Paulina Llano participated in the second annual Bird Festival in San Quintín in 2016.

Environmental dates

April

22
International Mother Earth Day.

25
Isla Guadalupe, in Baja California, was certified as a Biosphere Reserve in 2005.

26
Sierra de San Pedro Mártir National Park, in Baja California, was created in 1947.

27
Constitution 1962 National Park in Sierra de Juárez, Baja California, was created in 1962.

28
Save The Frogs Day.

May

13
World Migratory Bird Day.

17
International Recycling Day.

22
International Day for Biological Diversity.

Glossary

Angiosperm plants:
Angiosperms are seed-bearing vascular plants.

Biodiversity:
Biodiversity is a contraction of biological diversity and it refers to the wide variety of life in the planet.

Ecotourism:
Environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and accompanying cultural features, both past and present) that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local people, definition articulated by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Distribution range:
The geographical area within which a species can be found.

Habitat:
Habitat is the area occupied by a biological population that has the adequate conditions so the species can live and reproduce.

Phanerogam plants:
Plants that reproduce by means of seeds not spores.

WHSRN:
The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network is a conservation strategy to protect shorebirds and their habitats in the American continent.

Thanks to our volunteers!

For their commitment and outstanding participation during the Bahía de Todos Santos Bird Festival on March 11, 2017 in Ensenada, Baja California, México.

Abril Heredia
Alejandra Martínez
Alma Guadalupe Rivas
Andrea Chávez
Betsabeel Córdova
Christina Treinen
Diana Ramírez
Enah Fonseca
Érika Jiménez
Ernesto Salmerón
Federico Antonio Campos
Giovanny Rivas
Irak Rodríguez
Joceline López
Karla González
Lily Ledesma
Lorena Zavaleta
Louise Aceves
María Fernanda Salcedo
Marilú Fraga
Marisol Elizarraras
Mauricio Morales
Melanni Barajas
Miguel Santamaría
Omar Ramírez
Rosalinda Rentería
Xóchitl Quetzali Barrios
Yéssica Medina

Likewise, we are grateful for the important support of:

Terra Peninsular

NOBODY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD WITHOUT FRIENDS

MARISLA FOUNDATION
CONABIO
CONAFOR
Resources Legacy Fund
THRESHOLD FOUNDATION
PROFEPA

CONANP
Copper River
RENIECYT CONACYT
FASOL Fondo Acción Solidaria, A.C.
EHL
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

FMCN Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C.
ICF
FONNOR Fondo Noroeste
JiJi Foundation
SEMARNAT
Waterkeeper Alliance Member
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Wildlife Without Borders

NAWCA
Sonoran Joint Venture Binational Bird Conservation
The Nature Conservancy Protecting nature. Preserving life.
DAN