



Oystercatcher Research and Management in Latin America

Gulf of Fonseca, Central America

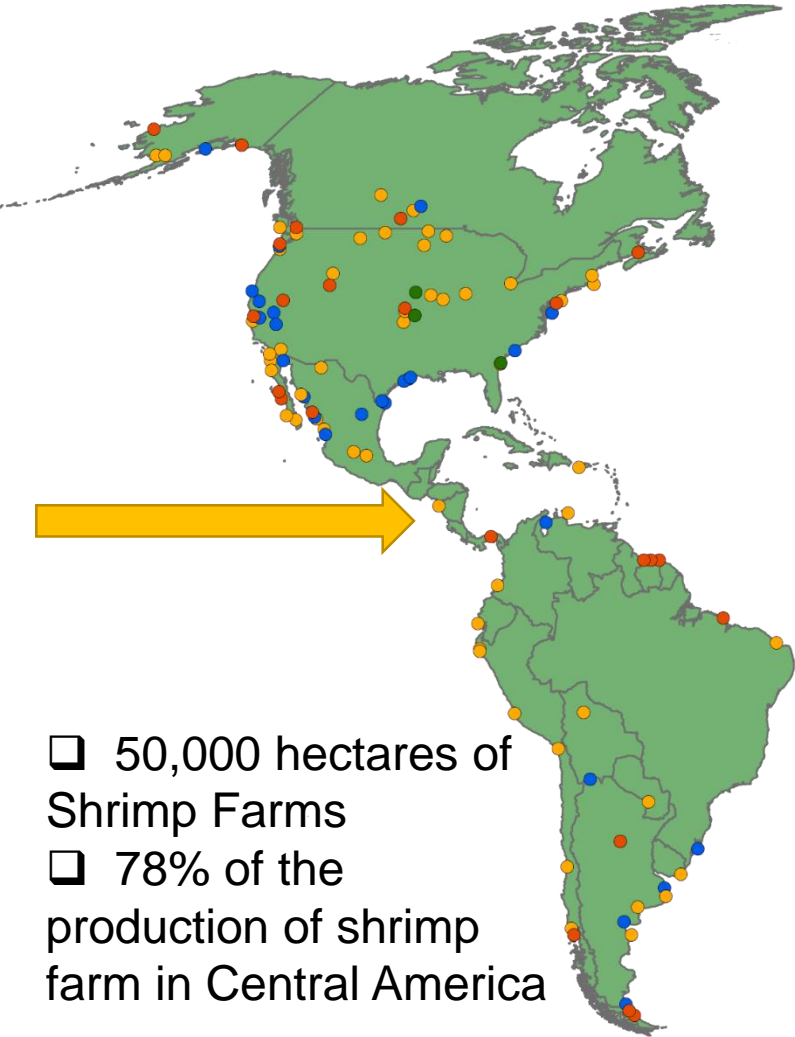
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Golfo de Fonseca

Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador



- 50,000 hectares of Shrimp Farms
- 78% of the production of shrimp farm in Central America

Diversity of hábitats in the Gulf of Fonseca



What we did

Migratory Season

Shorebirds Surveys



2012-2013

- ☐ Monthly shorebird count in Honduras and Nicaragua (Nov-March).

2013-2014



2014-2015

- ☐ www.migratoryshorebirdproject.com
- ☐ Central America Waterbirds Census

2015-2016



2016-2017

- ☐ Three simultaneous count with our local partners (november (2017) , may (2018) and september (2019)

2018-2019



2019-2020

2020-2021

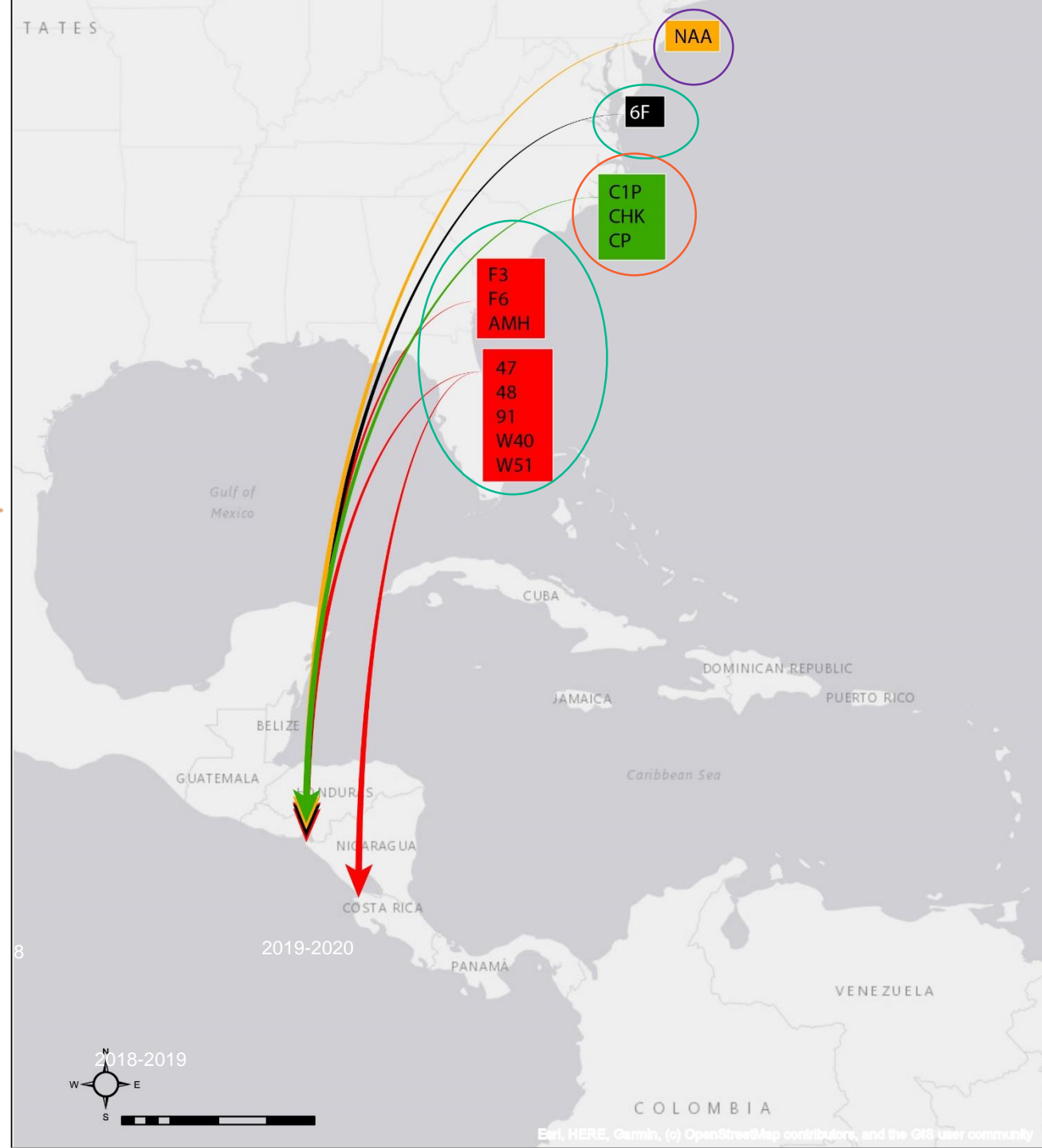


- ☐ Environmental education and identification of Best Practices in Shrimp farming

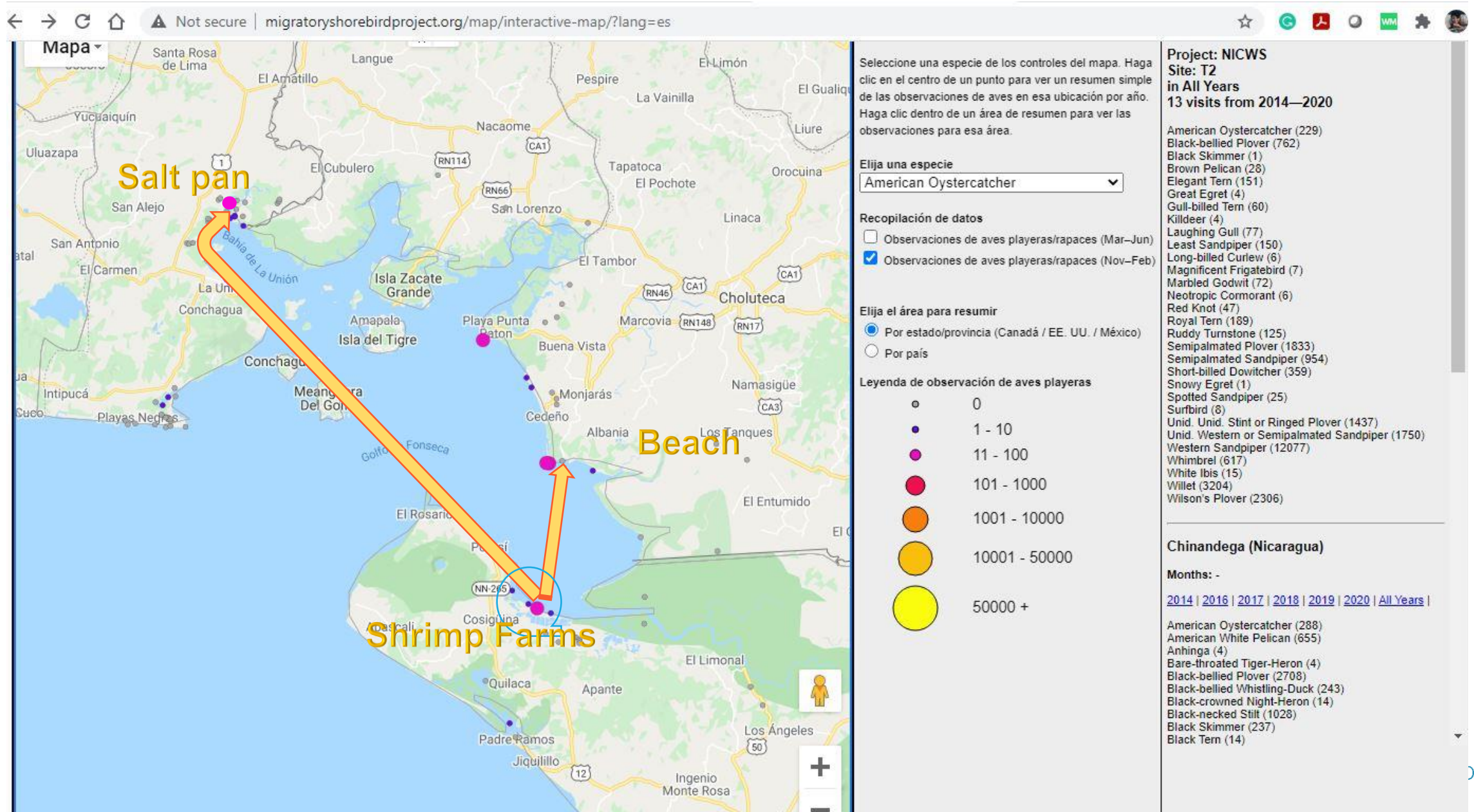


RESULTS

- ❑ Increased our knowledge of the **non-breeding areas** of American Oystercatcher and other shorebird species.
- ❑ Resighted 17 banded birds and 100 + resights



- ❑ **Golfo de Fonseca as a Unit:** We increase our understanding of the movement of the AMOY between feeding and roosting areas. 231 birds in September 2019 (1.9% biogeographic population *H. palliatus palliatus*)



Important Sites

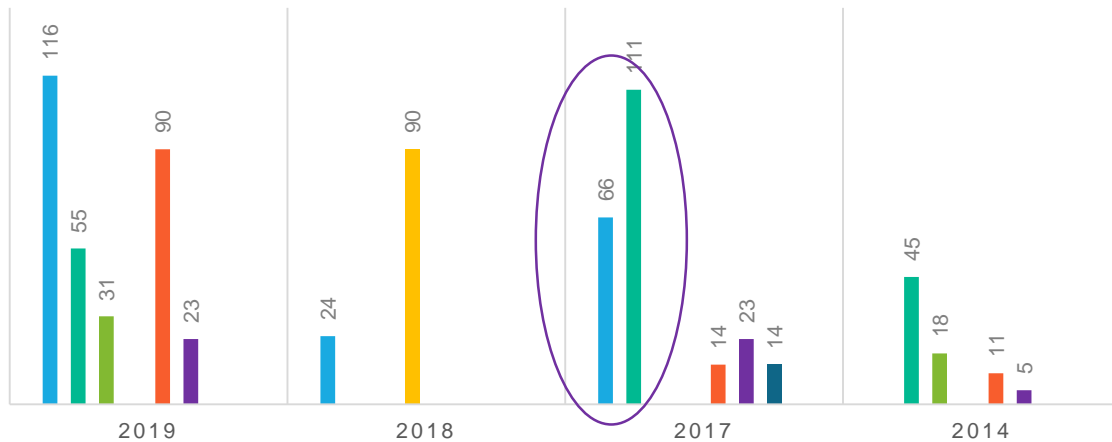
Punta Condega, Honduras: Breeding: ? pairs. Non-Breeding: 116 birds use this site primary as roosting site.

Delta del Estero Real, Nicaragua: Breeding: 2 pairs. No-breeding: 89 birds use this site as feeding area. Many Oystercatcher move off of feeding areas and get in roosting flocks at the dikes of shrimp farms.

Bahía de la Unión, El Salvador: Breeding: ? No-breeding: 120 birds use roosting site natural salt flats and salt ponds (3 pairs)

MAXIMUM COUNTS, PUNTA CONDEGA HONDURAS

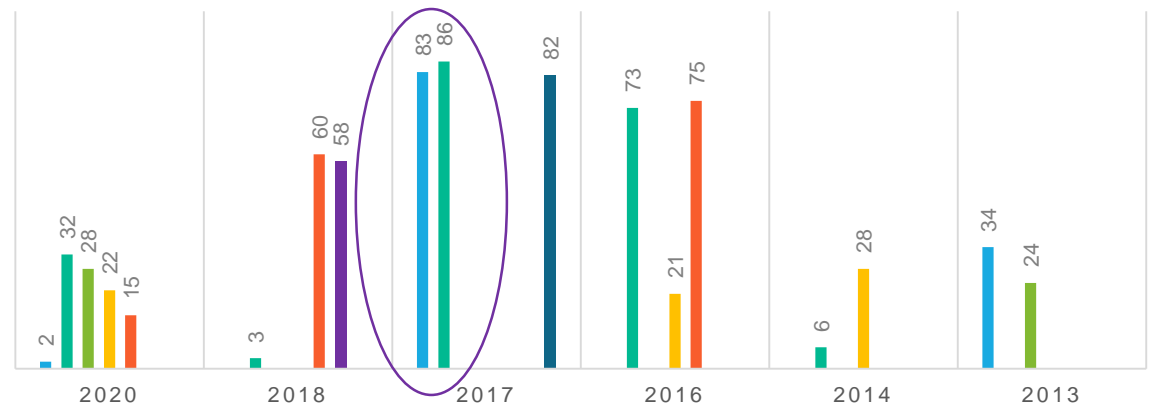
■ Ene ■ Feb ■ May ■ Aug ■ Sep ■ Oct ■ Nov ■ Dic



47, 48, 6F, C1P

MAXIMUM COUNTS, T2 DELTA ESTERO REAL

■ Jan ■ Feb ■ Mar ■ Sep ■ Oct ■ Nov ■ Dic



47, 48, 6F, C1P



- ❑ 4 Breeding Pair, two pair in Nicaragua and two in El Salvador.
- ❑ No reproductive success in recent years (extreme high tide destroy the nest and man stole the eggs).



Next Steps

- ☐ Monitoring breeding and migratory population and protect active nest.
- ☐ Protection and management of roosting sites.
- ☐ Involve shrimp farms, salt producer and local communities in the conservation of habitats and sites for shorebirds.
- ☐ Build capacities to identify the species of shorebirds within the shrimp farms.



Conservation and management actions: Best Practices

- ☐ Promoting dikes free of vegetation (grasses) simulating the natural salt flats.



- ☐ Add as part of the corridors, dikes free of vegetation, shallow reservoirs, or remnants of natural salt flats.

Disturbance



Best management Practices:

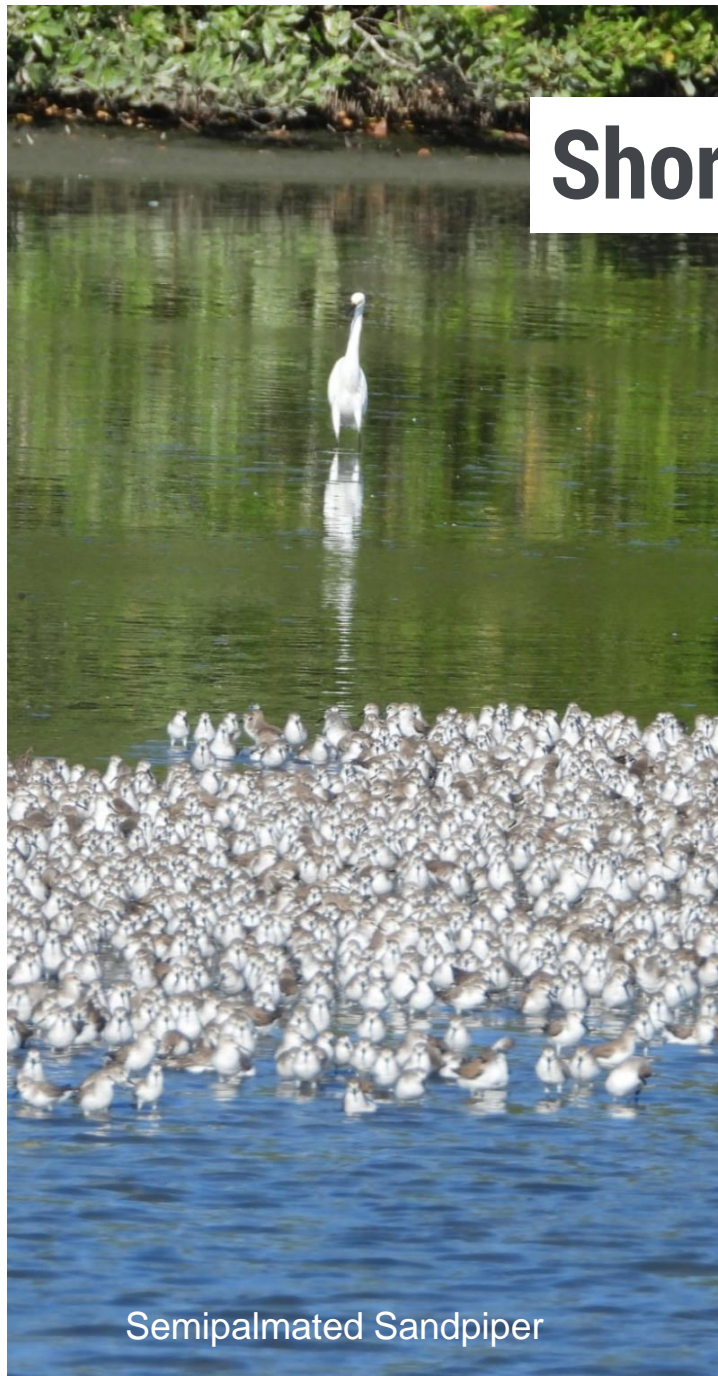
- ☐ **Development of a disturbance control plan** to protect shorebird species from predator control and other disturbances at sites used for roosting at high tides or roosting and nesting during the breeding season.
- ☐ **Employee training** to ensure employees understand how to appropriately manage buffers, barriers, and corridors for roosting, foraging, and breeding habitat for shorebird species (*Charadriiformes*).
- ☐ **Seasonal and year around signage** to ensure appropriate practices and activities (e.g., speed limit, noise control) around important bird concentration sites to minimize worker impacts.



Red Knot



American Oystercatcher



Semipalmated Sandpiper

Shorebird-Friendly Shrimp

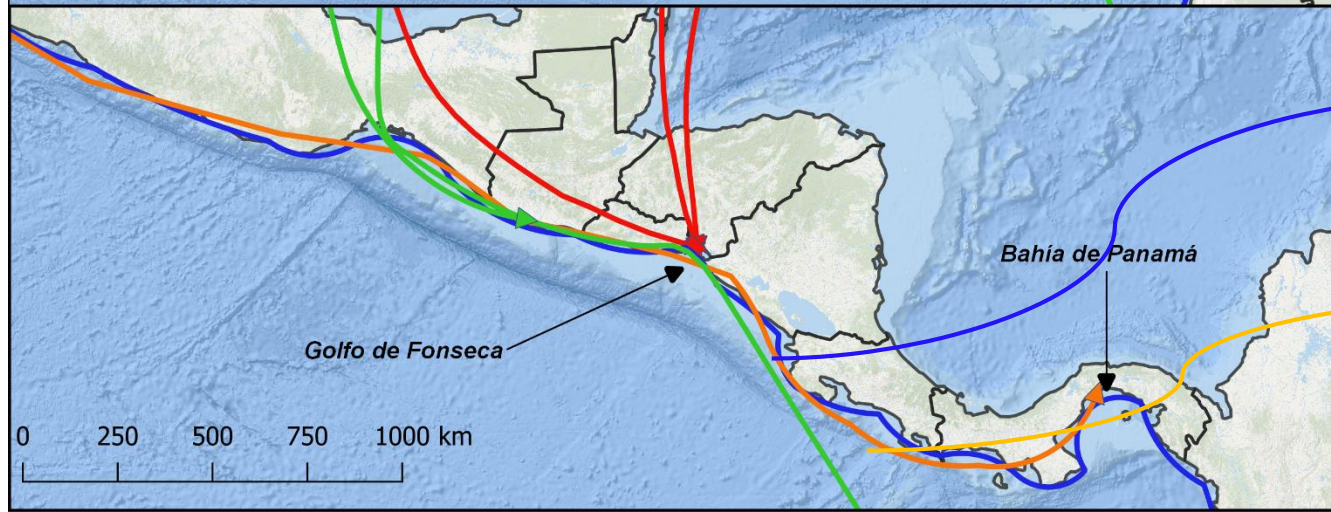
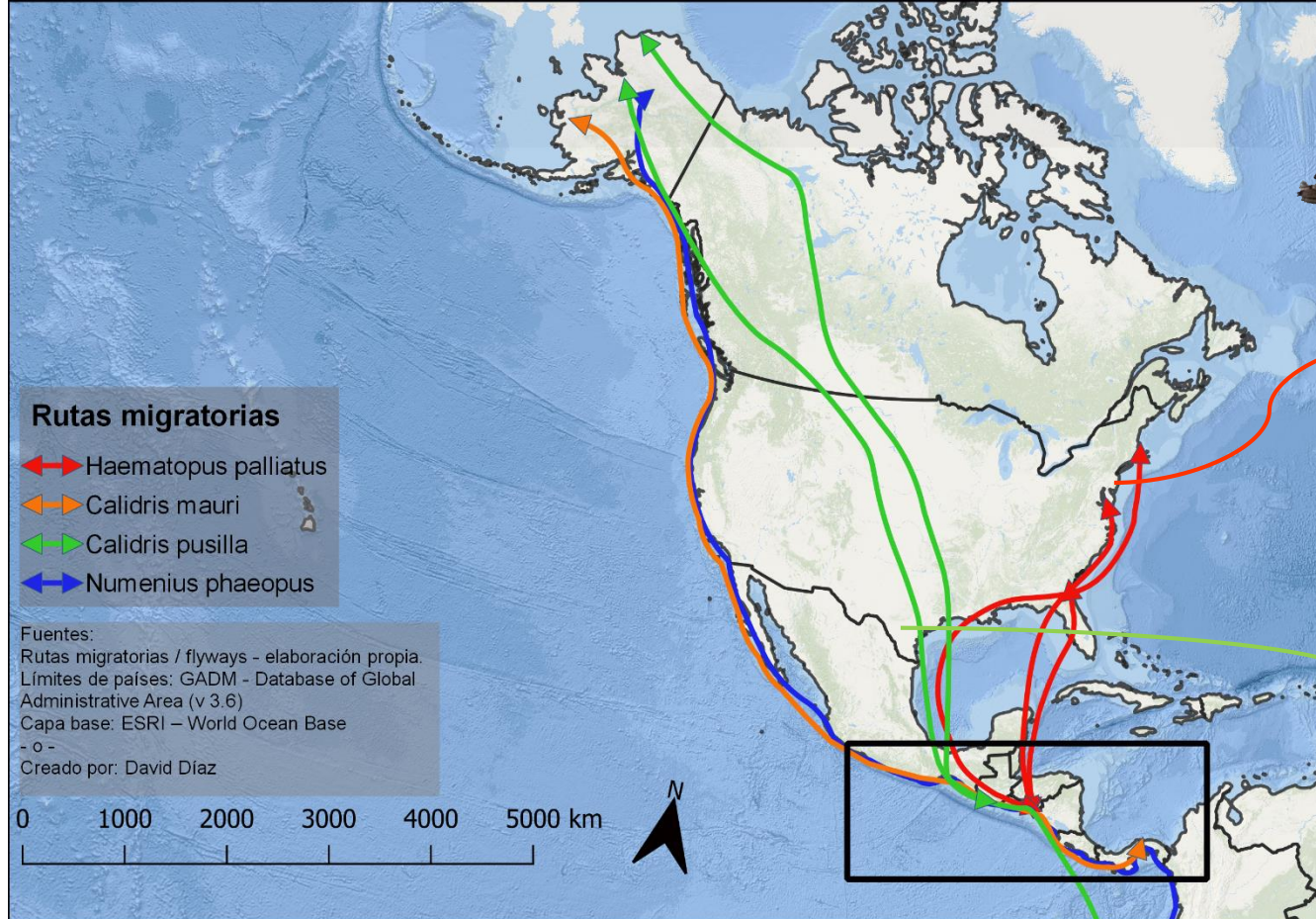
Farms located in the Western Hemisphere should maintain habitats critical for shorebird species (Charadriiformes) listed as Endangered or Threatened by the Endangered Species Act of the U.S.A., Endangered or Threatened by the Species at Risk Act of Canada, Highly Imperiled or High Concern in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and/or Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered in the Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan.



Outreach campaign



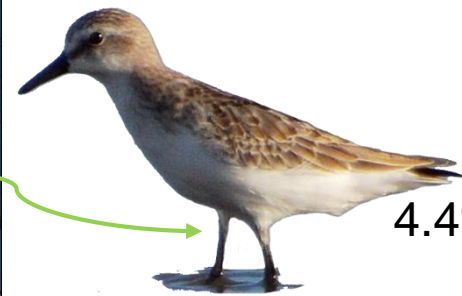
Migration and Flyways



American Oystercatcher



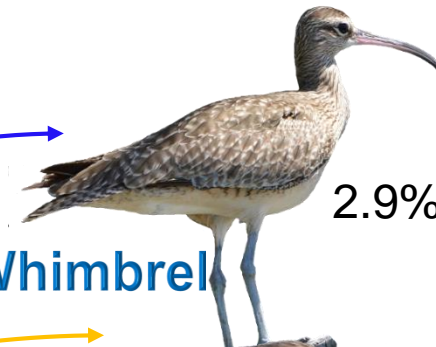
Wilson's Plover 38.6%



Semipalmated Sandpiper 4.4%



Willet 4.2%



Whimbrel 2.9%



Western Sandpiper



Short-billed Dowitcher 1.9%

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Mucha gracias



SalvaNATURA
FUNDACION ECOLOGICA



Asociación
Hondureña de
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RESERVAS PARA AVES PLAYERAS

