

SUMMARY REPORT- ARCTIC SHOREBIRD MONITORING PROGRAM JUNE 2006

Report for the following permits: KIA Exemption Permit KTX06N005
CWS Sanctuary Permit NUN-MBS-05-05
NIRB Permit NIRB#05AN070
GN Wildlife Research Permit WL000772

The Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program did bird surveys in the Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary from 14 - 25 June 2006. A temporary tent camp was set up at the mouth of the Perry River with a survey crew of four people plus a helicopter pilot and a helicopter engineer. We surveyed 40, 300m x 400m plots by walking through them and recording all birds observed. The surveyed plots were located in the eastern half of the Bird Sanctuary (Map 1).

During the surveys, we saw 26 species of birds. Five of these were shorebirds. The most common shorebird we saw was the Pectoral Sandpiper (Photo 1). The most common bird of any type was the Lapland Longspur (Photo 2). In total, we recorded 675 birds in the plots we surveyed, including 111 shorebirds, 51 waterfowl, and 451 songbirds. We also found 39 nests. Nine of these were shorebird nests, which are difficult to find.

The weather was good for breeding shorebirds this summer. The snow was completely gone and the good breeding areas (wetlands) were not flooded from spring melt water at the start of the breeding season. There were a few cold, snowy days, but every time these were followed by a hot, sunny day.

Our local field assistant from Cambridge Bay, Chad McCallum, was a hard worker and very helpful in surveying the study area. His bird identification skills are improving and we enjoyed having him back in camp this year.

Our camp was a small tent camp (Photo 3). Garbage was stored in a bear-proof container and taken out by helicopter at the end of the season. No trace of our presence remained at the campsite after we left. We also hired two return trip Twin Otter charters in September to remove 50 empty fuel drums from the Perry River landing strip.

We have finished the surveys we need to do in the Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary for this round of our study program. We plan to return to the region in summer 2008 to do these same surveys on King William, Jenny Lind and southern Victoria Islands.

If you would like to know more about our results from this summer, or about the Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program in general, please contact Vicky Johnston, Shorebird Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service (phone 867-669-4767; e-mail vicky.johnston@ec.gc.ca).

MAP



Map 1 – Map of Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program 2006 study area in Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary showing camp and survey plot locations.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Male Pectoral Sandpiper. The most common shorebird on the surveys.



Photo 2 – Male Lapland Longspur. The most common bird seen during the surveys.

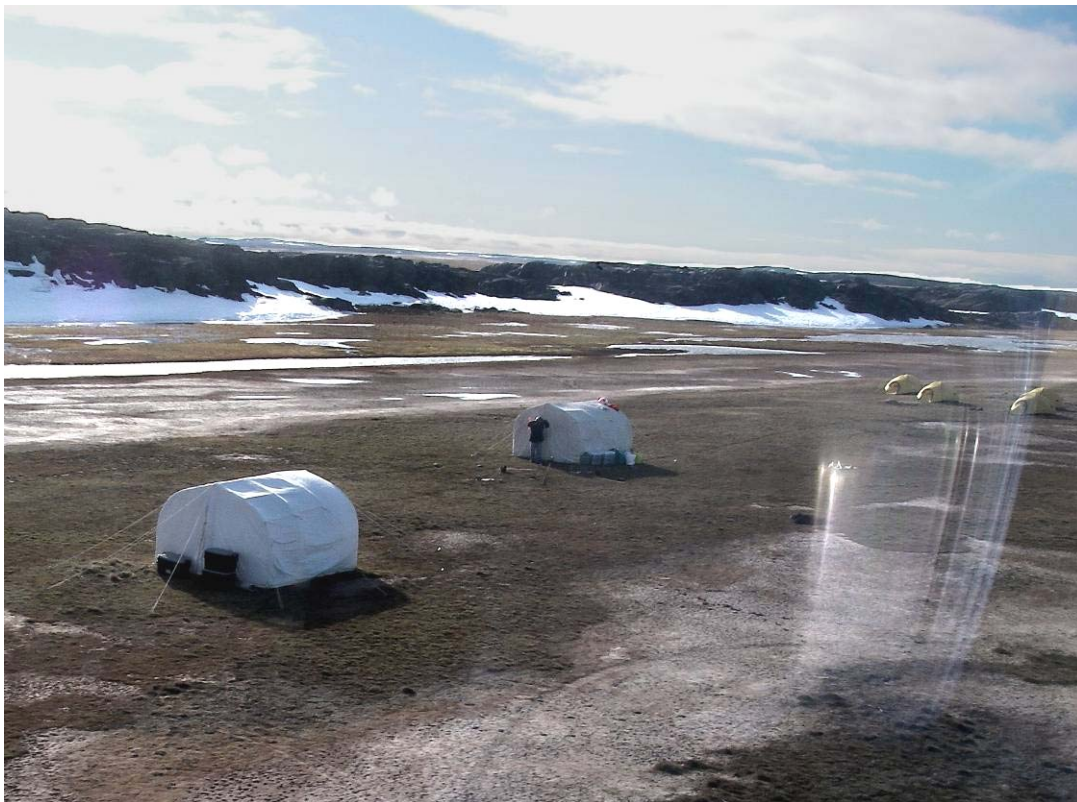


Photo 3 – Survey Crew Camp. The camp had small sleeping tents and larger tents for cooking and storage.