

Gary Slater is the Avian Ecologist of the EcoStudies Institute for the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM). He is also the founder of Ecostudies Institute, where he serves as a research associate and advisor. He received a B.S. in Wildlife Science from Purdue University (1989) and a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida (1997). Gary oversees a diverse program that uses science, restoration, and outreach to advance bird conservation. Some of his current research focuses on the wintering and stopover ecology of shorebirds in Puget Sound and the recovery of the federally listed streaked horned lark.

Ruth Milner is a District Wildlife Biologist primarily covering Island, San Juan and Snohomish Counties for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. She earned her BS and MS degrees in Wildlife Science from the University of Washington. Her position focuses on a variety of species, including game species and non-hunted species. For the last decade or more she has been fortunate to be able to devote some of her time to shorebirds, especially in the Skagit and Stillaguamish River deltas. She was instrumental in getting that area nominated as a Western Hemisphere Reserve Network site of Regional Importance and has helped facilitate understanding how avian species respond to estuary restoration projects.