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Update from the Canadian Wildlife Service

Bird Conservation Committee

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Canadian Wildlife Service

Environment and Climate Change Canada

September 2019

Budget 2018...a year later

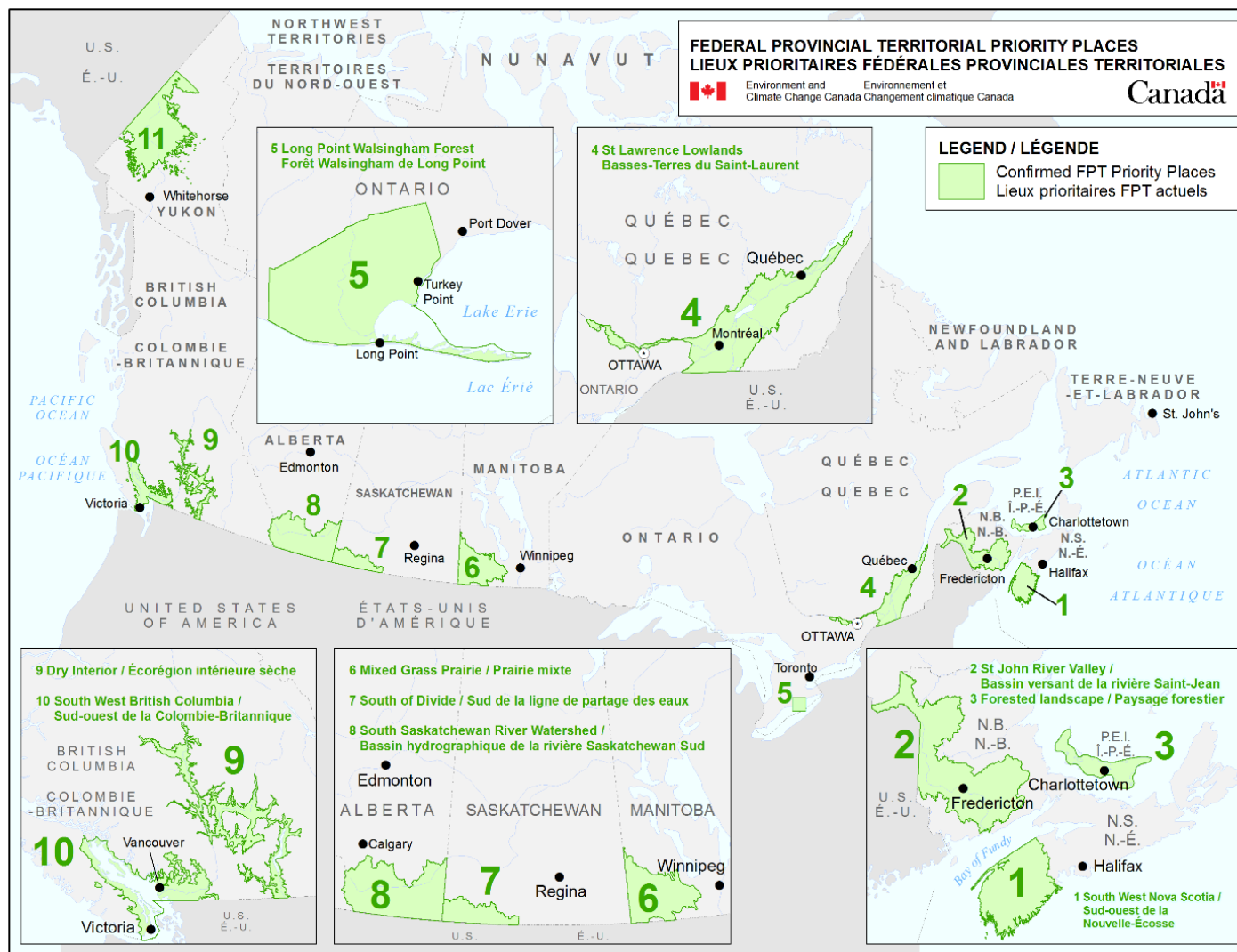
- **Government of Canada announced, as part of Federal Budget 2018, \$1.3 billion over five years** for conservation
- This investment will contribute \$500 million from the federal government to create a new \$1 billion **Nature Fund** in partnership with corporate, not-for profit, provincial, territorial and other partners.
 - Nature Fund will make it possible to secure private land, support provincial and territorial species protection efforts, and help build Indigenous capacity to conserve land and species, for our benefit and the benefit of future generations.
- The remaining funding will:
 - Continue implementation of the *Species at Risk Act* by supporting assessment, listing, recovery planning and action planning activities.
 - Increase the federal capacity to **protect species at risk** and put in place new recovery initiatives for priority species, areas and threats to our environment.
 - **Expand national wildlife areas and migratory bird sanctuaries.**
 - **Increase the federal capacity to manage protected areas**, including national parks.
 - **Establish a coordinated network of conservation areas** working with provincial, territorial and Indigenous partners.

Canada Nature Fund

To date:

- Almost \$15M invested in “Quick Start” protected and conserved areas projects in 2018-19.
- As a result of a call for proposal, the Natural Heritage Conservation Program will be delivered by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and its partners, including Ducks Unlimited Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and the Canadian Land Trusts Working Committee. The Program has a four-year duration from April 1, 2019 until March 31, 2023 and will contribute \$100 million to a nation-wide project to secure at least 200,000 hectares of ecologically sensitive private lands and private interests in lands.
- In August, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$10 million over two years to seven projects in support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). This approved funding is part of the government’s sustained commitment to invest up to \$20 million over four years in NAWMP projects.
- Call for proposals on going for the Challenge Fund (up to \$175M over 4 years) to support the creation or of protected/conserved areas, including Indigenous protected areas.

Canada Nature Fund – Priority Places



5. OUTCOME :

Conservation plans, geodatabase and data from effectiveness monitoring are publically available

- Program is adapted, improved and expanded

1. Conceptualize

- Define planning purpose and project team
- Define scope, vision, targets
- Identify critical threats
- Analyze the conservation situation

1. OUTCOME: Priority Places identified following defined criteria, Governance structure developed

- CWS coordinator in place
- Core Conservation Team with representatives from:
 - Federal government (CWS/DFO/Parks Canada);
 - Provinces/Territories/Municipalities; Indigenous communities; Industry; NGOs; Landowners; Academia/S&T; Other (e.g., Joint Ventures)

5. Capture and Share Learning

- Document learning
- Share learning
- Create learning environment

2. Plan Actions and Monitoring

- Develop goals, strategies, assumptions, and objectives
- Develop monitoring plan
- Develop operational plan

2. OUTCOME: Strategic Conservation Plan

- Partners are engaged in strategic identification of priority actions for investment using best available data, existing plans and relevant planning tools (e.g., Open Standards, Priority Threat management)

CWS Priority Places Initiative

Based on the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation
<http://cmp-openstandards.org/>

4. Analyze, Use, Adapt

- Prepare data for analysis
- Analyze results
- Adapt strategic plan

3. Implement Actions and Monitoring

- Develop work plan and timeline
- Develop and refine budget
- Implement plans

Where feasible, place-based, multi-species SARA Action Plans produced

4. Effectiveness monitoring of CONSERVATION OUTCOMES:

- Threats reduced
- Important & critical habitat conserved
- Stable or increasing MB/SAR & other important biodiversity
- Actions adapted as needed

OUTCOME:
Geodatabase developed and actions are tracked
Where feasible inventory of existing initiatives included

3. OUTCOME : On-the-ground conservation actions

- High priority actions are implemented following a stewardship first approach where appropriate
- Matching commitments identified
- Coordination and communication with other departments (e.g., DFO, PCA) and programs (e.g., Mig. Birds, HSP/AFSAR, Priority Sectors, NHCP)



Priority Sectors and Threats

- Priority Sectors:
 - Forestry
 - Agriculture
 - Urban Development
- Priority Threats:
 - Invasive Species
 - Wildlife Disease
 - Illegal Wildlife Trade

CWS Transformation

- **The Wildlife Assessment and Information Directorate (WAID)** – Silke Neve, (Acting) Director General
 - *MB Assessment/Monitoring*
- **The Wildlife Management Directorate (WMD)** – Julie Spallin, Director General
 - *MB Regulations, Permitting, Conservation Action, International*
- **Protected Areas Directorate (PAD)** – Mark Cauchi, Director General
- **Strategic Priorities Directorate (SPD)** – Marie-Christine Tremblay, Director General
- **Regional Operations Directorate (ROD)** – Daniel Wolfish, Director General (and chair NAWCC)
- **Biodiversity Policy and Partnerships (BPP)** – Basile Van Havre, Director General

Growing capacity

- CWS is growing as a whole with the investment of Budget 2018
- The migratory bird program within CWS is also growing
 - Increased capacity to work internationally on migratory birds
 - Increased quantitative capacity

North American Waterfowl Management Plan (Canada)

- North American Waterfowl Management Plan 2018 Update
- Habitat Matters 2019 – NAWCA: Celebrating 30 years of Success and Canada's Role in Continental Waterfowl Conservation

	Wetland and Associated Upland Habitat secured	Contributions (CAD\$)
Since Inception (1986)	22.8 Million Acres	\$2,522 Million
2018-2019	549 Thousand Acres	\$89 Million



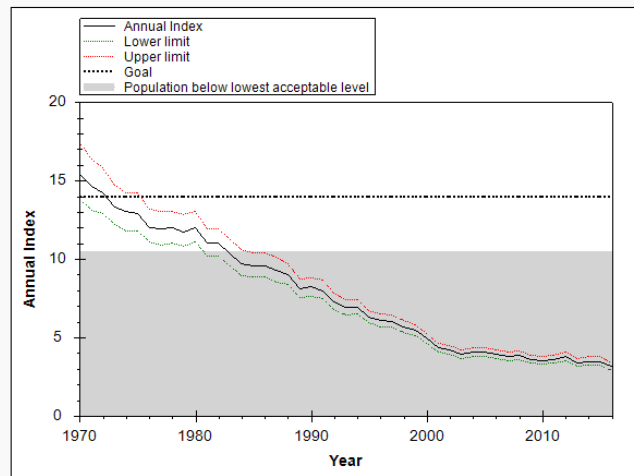
Status of Birds in Canada

- Website updated every 2-4 years summarizing the conservation status and population trends of every bird species in Canada using best data from many sources
- Was published in early spring 2019, including population goals

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) - Canadian analysis

Additional information on: [Breeding Bird Survey \(BBS\) - Canadian analysis](#)

Geographic area or population: Canada



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Overview

Summary

Widespread and familiar, the Barn Swallow is closely associated with human habitation and now nests almost exclusively on human-made structures. It is well monitored in Canada by the Breeding Bird Survey, which shows a loss of about 80% of the population since 1970. Because of this large decline, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed the Barn Swallow as Threatened in 2011 (COSEWIC 2011a). The species was listed under the Species at Risk Act in 2017. This species has been identified as a priority for conservation and/or stewardship in one or more [Bird Conservation Region Strategies in Canada](#).



Designations

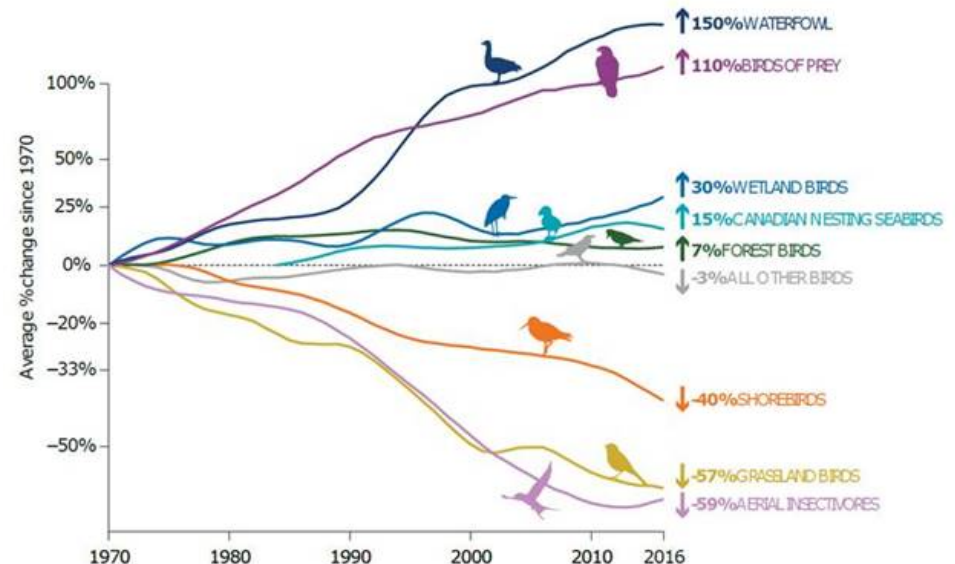
Main designations for the species

Listing of the main designations for the species

Designation	Status	Date	Subspecies, population
COSEWIC (Canada)	Threatened	2011	
SARA (Canada)	Threatened	2017	
IUCN (Global)	Least concern	2016	
Wildspecies (Canada)	Vulnerable	2015	

State of Canada's Birds 2019

- Following success of joint State of North America's Birds 2016 report, analyses for a new State of Canada's Birds report were completed that sought to highlight changes since 2012 report.
- Was released on June 20, 2019 by NABCI-Canada.



CANADA'S NATURE FUND

Addressing International Threats to Canada's Migratory Birds

78% of Canada's Birds spend over half the year outside of Canada

Long distance migrants are declining more steeply than other birds

\$2.4M over 5 years (2018-2023) to address threats to these birds



2018-2019 RESULTS

International Partnerships



Matched Funding

\$200K Canada's Nature Fund
\$250K International Partners

Species at Risk

19 

High Priority Species

23 









Community Engagement

4,023
People 

Hectares Conserved or Managed

1,790 

Canada's Nature Fund: Addressing International threats to Canada's Migratory Birds 2018-2019 project results

Recipient	Project Title	Objective	Results
	BIRDSCAPES: Providing habitat to sustain and recover declining bird populations	↑ on-the-ground efforts in focal areas, of high importance to Canadian MB, in C.A. and S.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Birdscapes advanced • 350 community members, including coffee producers, reached • Strategies developed to tackle conservation, socio-economic and political challenges • 25,000 plants ready for habitat restoration
	Connectivity and migratory bottlenecks of Canada's declining migratory birds	Assess and ↑ conservation action Neotropical protected sites that are important for Canadian SAR and MB; nominate sites for ↑ conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation advanced in 3 countries: • 35 ha of habitat created; 3 native tree nurseries w/ 13,000 saplings • 3 landowners engaged; 5 local biologists trained • Communities engaged through festival, schools and workshops • 5 key stopovers identified for 12 species
	Targeting conservation of Western Mexico's wintering spaces for at risk and steeply declining species	Improve sustainable use, ↓ threats and ↑ land protection in 170 ha of tropical semi-deciduous forest to maintain quality stopover habitats for priority birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri-national science committee formed • local capacity↑ • Improved conservation and monitoring decision-making • Completed ecological assessments, inventories and threat assessments for 2 conservation areas • Conservation Management Plan (70 ha sanctuary) elaborated and landowner and personnel engaged
	Building community engagement with nature in a climate change refuge	↑ awareness and capacity of local communities and governments to reduce threats to MB and to promote habitat protection and conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 475 community members through engaged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training: "Monitoring to Protect" - Art Project: Birds and Climate Change - Banding demonstrations - Bird Festival • National protocols developed for bird surveys
	Conservation of overwintering Bicknell's Thrush in the Caribbean	Identify focal areas and advance conservation of Bicknell's Thrush in Caribbean countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline data gathered to inform conservation planning • Occupancy and distribution incorporated into winter habitat model • Peer-reviewed paper drafted
	Protecting key habitats throughout the Americas to sustain healthy populations of shorebirds	Advance full-life cycle conservation by conserving needed habitat for high priority boreal and arctic nesting shorebirds across their range and addressing threats to SAR like Buff-breasted Sandpiper).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified and assessed network of 145 sites, across 16 countries, identified for 3 for at-risk or high priority shorebirds (including 3 potential WHSRN sites) • "Live" site assessment tool developed • New WHSRN website & storymaps • Capacity building workshops on ecosystem services
	Conserving migratory shorebirds, including SAR Red Knot, at key wintering sites in northeastern Brazil	Promote and take conservation action for migratory shorebirds on Brazil wintering grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 GIS maps to council to inform zoning & management planning • Interpretative signs installed at key locations - 150 ha of habitat • Priority areas identified; fencing purchased to protect habitat and ↓ disturbance (installed in 2019) • Environmental educator hired
	Shorebirds conservation in Mana's polders, French Guyana	Reduce the impact of hunting on priority shorebirds through awareness raising and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,500 hunting licenses issued • Mandatory training (starts in 2020) for licensees, includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shorebird I.D. (game & protected species) - Ecology (e.g., migratory timing) • Additional optional field training developed • 1,200 ha reclaimed and protected

MBR Modernization Amendments

- Key objective of MBR “modernization” effort
 1. Updating references to Aboriginal people,
 2. Improving the management of hunting,
- Current Status
 - Pre-consultation efforts with major stakeholders interested in the amendments related to hunting and language dealing with Aboriginal issues occurred in 2013-2014; and baiting held in winter 2017.
 - Proposed modernized regulations were published in Canada Gazette, Part I, for public consultation on June 1, 2019 until September 30, 2019.
 - Feedback is being carefully reviewed and considered.
 - Final modernization regulations are targeted to be published in Canada Gazette, Part II, in spring 2020.

Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) Permits

- MGBH permits can be purchased:
 - At select Canada Post Corporation (CPC) outlets (59%)
<https://www.canadapost.ca>
 - At some independent vendors (12%) <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/list-vendors.html>
 - Electronically (29%) <https://www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca>
- 188,000 x 2018 MGBH Permits sold from August 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019
- ECCC has been working closely with Nortak Solutions since fall 2018 to design and develop a new e-permitting system which was successfully launched on August 1, 2019
 - Hunters like reduced data entry, improved design layout, and recovery feature for lost e-permits
 - Staff like increased administrative control for read-only, wildlife enforcement, editor and manager access for e-permit system (e.g., modify season, adjust tax rate, add users, etc.)
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Biennial Hunting Regulations

- Hunting regulations in Canada are amended on a biennial basis (every two years):
- Three regulatory reports are produced concerning:
 - i) population status of migratory birds in Canada (November Report);
 - ii) proposed amendments to the hunting regulations (December Report);
 - iii) hunting amendments related to hunting regulations that were approved for the next two hunting seasons (July Report).
- The last round of hunting amendments came into force in summer 2018 and will continue through to winter/spring 2020 inclusively.

SARA – Birds currently Listed

- SARA Schedule 1 – total birds currently listed (migratory and non-migratory combined): 83 wildlife species, (54 species, 22 subspecies and 7 populations)
 - 27 SC (21 MBCA)
 - 32 TH (27 MBCA)
 - 31 EN (26 MBCA)
 - 2 Extirpated