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UPDATE FROM THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

Bird Conservation Committee

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Environment and Climate Change Canada

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Canada 

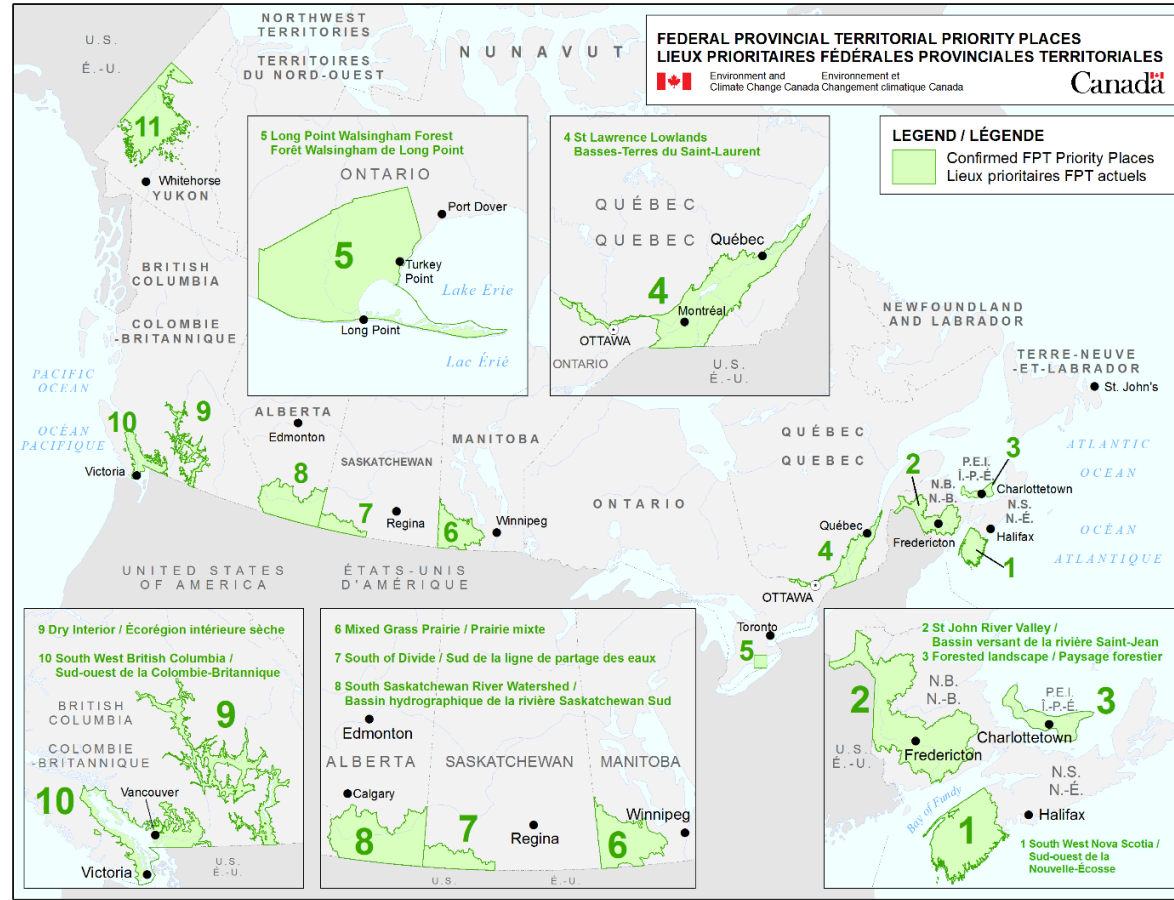
CANADA NATURE FUND

To date:

- 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 2019, 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 (MULTI-SPP/STAKEHOLDERS)



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PRIORITY SECTORS

- Priority Sectors (\$4M over 4 years):
 - Forestry
 - Agriculture
 - Urban Development

Focus in working with these sectors to enhance BMPs and to mitigate/minimize/avoid harm to wildlife/species at risk



COVID-19 AND FIELDWORK



- In response to COVID-19 pandemic, except for critical business operations, fieldwork was suspended mid-March 2020.
- In June, National Wildlife Areas were re-opened to allow Canadians to enjoy natural areas during the pandemic, and minor fieldwork for animal welfare considerations was undertaken
- In collaboration with other branches, CWS work to lead development of a strategy and implementation plan to safely resume fieldwork.
- On July 31, CWS announced resumption of priority fieldwork including pre-season banding for some waterfowl
- With a sound framework in place, CWS will continue to safely deliver priority field programs where risk of COVID-19 can be mitigated.



QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT REGARDING THE RISK OF THE TRANSMISSION OF SARS-COV2 FROM HUMANS TO BIRDS DURING BIRD-HANDLING ACTIVITIES PERMITTED

- CWS led an expert elicitation workshop to determine the risk of the transmission of SARS-COV-2) from humans to birds during ECCC permitted bird-handling activities.
- These include bird banding and associated activities, rehabilitation, aviculture, and relocation
- **Summary of conclusions and recommendations**
 - Based on the current state of knowledge, the expert panel considered the risk of birds becoming infected with SARS-CoV-2 through bird handling activities to be extremely low.
 - Betacoronaviruses (the genus associated with significant illness in humans: Covid-19, SARS, MERS) have not been found in birds, and to date attempts to inoculate birds with SARS-CoV-2 in laboratory studies have not been successful.
 - It would be unlikely that a sufficient amount of virus would survive on feathers or items such as bird bands long enough to expose another animal to an infectious dose, given exposure to environmental parameters such as wind, rain and sun.
 - As part of a precautionary approach, recommendations on biosecurity protocols were provided (e.g. human hygiene, use of clean or dedicated field clothing, decontamination of surfaces etc.) for activities that involve bird handling.



THE AIMS OF A PAN-CANADIAN APPROACH TO WILDLIFE HEALTH (PCAWH) ARE TO:

1. Protect and conserve native fauna from harm due to pollutants, and emerging pathogens and sustain ecological and economic services provided by wildlife;
2. Provide assurances to Canadians that depend upon healthy wildlife for sustenance and livelihood;
3. Enable Canada to meet its national and international obligations for disease surveillance in relation to public health, agriculture and trade;
4. Reduce surprises from emerging disease threats, particularly those anticipated with climate change, globalization, and erosion of ecological integrity.



A Pan-Canadian Approach to Wildlife Health

June 2018
Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Governments of Canada



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NATURE FUND – INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRDS

Action in Caribbean,
Mexico and Central and
South America.
*Threats pose greater
risks to recovery*

Actions from Recovery docs
and International Conservation
Strategies

Improve non-breeding habitat

Engagement & delivery

Partnerships

Canada

2.4 M: Nature Fund

4.8 M
over 5 years

2.4 M: Match (funds and in-kind)

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

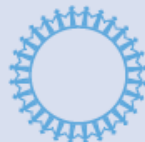
19 A blue silhouette of a bird, possibly a gull or a similar large bird, standing on its legs.

High Priority Species

23 Three blue silhouettes of birds in flight, arranged in a line.

Community Engagement

4,023
People



Hectares Conserved or Managed











1,790



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Canada The Canadian flag, featuring a red maple leaf on a white background, flanked by red vertical bars.

NATURE FUND FUNDING (G&C) – INTERNATIONAL MB 2018-2023

| | | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|---|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Countries | G&C Recipient | 200k | 400k | 600k | 600k | 600k |
| | | 200k committed | 400k committed | 300k committed | 300k committed | (-)* |
| Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Venezuela |  | 50,000 | 60,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | |
| Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama |  | 10,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | |
| Grenada |  | 20,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | |
| Mexico |  | 16,000 | 45,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | |
| Cuba |  | 15,000 | 45,000 | 43,000 | 43,000 | |
| Brazil, Chile |  | 24,000 | 20,000 | | | |
| Brazil |  | 37,500 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | |
| French Guiana |  | 15,000 | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | |
| Bahamas, Turks and Caicos |  | | 32,500 | 32,500 | 32,500 | |
| Chile |  | | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | |
| Chile + others (many miles of ocean) | | | 40,000 | | | |

*Funds spent according to direction given (only 50% in future years and for 3 years at a time)

MODERNIZING THE NORTH AMERICA BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

- USGS and CWS published an updated strategic plan for the BBS in August 2020
- **GOAL 1:** Upgrade the program's data collection and management systems to support **new data protocols, improve volunteer experience, fill priority geographic gaps, and advance model development** to better serve the bird conservation and management communities.
- **GOAL 2:** Ensure **BBS data and products are accessible and widely recognized** as the authoritative source of information on long-term changes in North American bird populations.
- **GOAL 3:** **Develop strong partnerships with other organizations** to enhance the BBS program.



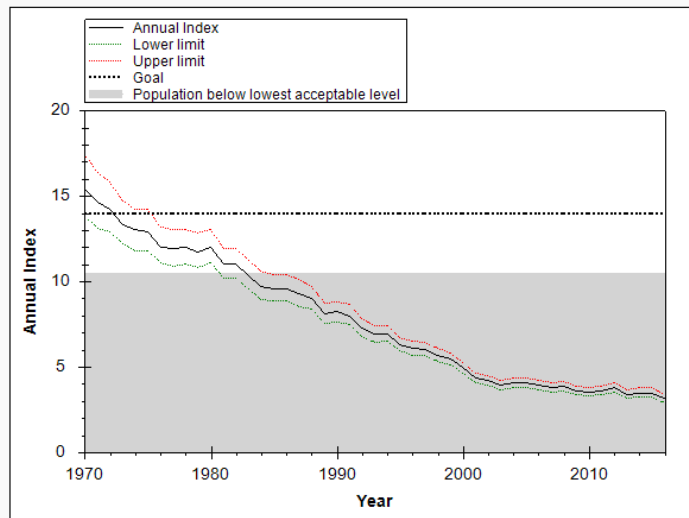
STATUS OF BIRDS IN CANADA

- Update published spring 2019 summarizing conservation status and population trends of every bird species in Canada using best data from many sources

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.



© Jukka Jantunen (flickr.com/photos/jukka_jantunen)
For additional photos and songs, visit [Dendroica](#)

Designations

Main designations for the species

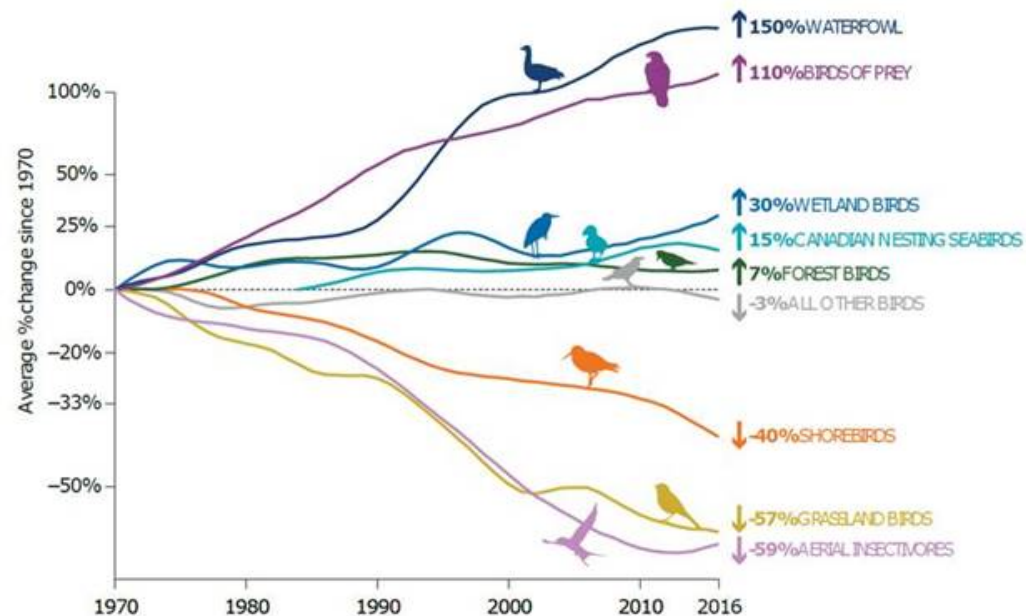
Listing of the main designations for the species

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



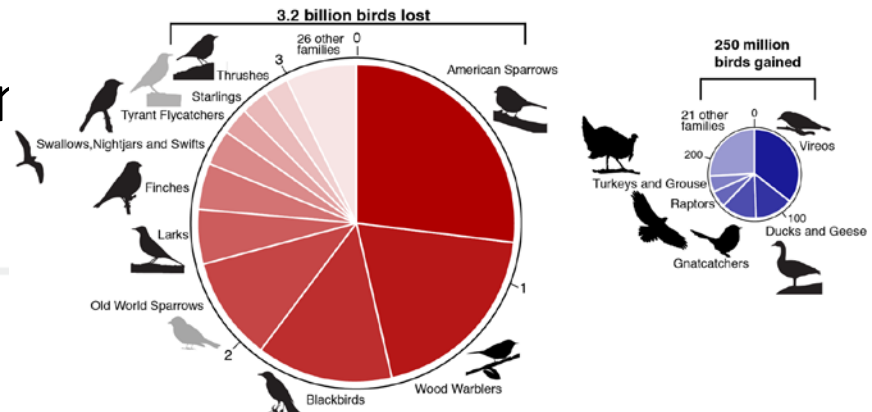
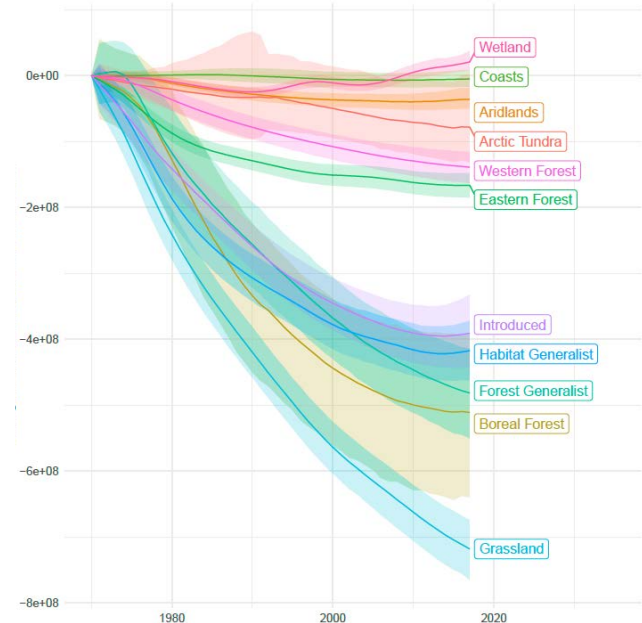
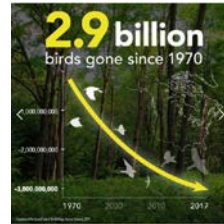
STATE OF CANADA'S BIRDS 2019

- Following success of joint State of North America's Birds 2016 report, a new State of Canada's Birds report was released in June 2019 by NABCI-Canada, noting changes since 2012 report.



LOSS OF 3 BILLION BIRDS – WHAT THEY MEAN FOR CANADA

- 3 Authors from ECCC participated
- Declines in widespread, shared species
- Full cycle conservation planning and action
- Significant attention within ECCC



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 |



MBR MODERNIZATION AMENDMENTS

- We've encountered a "delay" with respect to updates to the modernization of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (MBR)
 - Initially planned to publish in Canada Gazette Part II this past summer so that regulations would come into force before the 2020-21 hunting season
 - However, some delays and now anticipated that the final regulations will be published in CGII in fall/winter 2020-2021, and come into force in July 2021
 - Clarification related to the prohibition against killing migratory birds (incidental take is prohibited)
 - A nest provision policy to allow nests to be removed when they no longer serve a purpose



QUESTIONS?



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