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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

March 2019

CWS Transformation

- **The Wildlife Assessment and Information Directorate (WAID)** – David Ingstrup, (Acting) Director General
 - *MB Assessment/Monitoring*
- **The Wildlife Management Directorate (WMD)** – Julie Spallin, Director General
 - *MB Regulations, 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
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Budget 2018...a year later

- **Government of Canada announced, as part of Federal Budget 2018, \$1.3 billion over five years** for conservation
- The funding will:
 - Continue implementation of the *Species at Risk Act*
 - Increase the federal capacity to put in place new recovery initiatives for priority species, areas and threats
 - Increase the federal capacity to manage protected areas, including national parks.
 - Expand national wildlife areas and migratory bird sanctuaries.
 - Establish a coordinated network of conservation areas working with provincial, territorial and Indigenous partners.
- Includes \$500 million investment from the federal government to create a new \$1 billion **Nature Fund** in partnership with corporate, not-for profit, provincial, territorial and other partners.



Canada Nature Fund

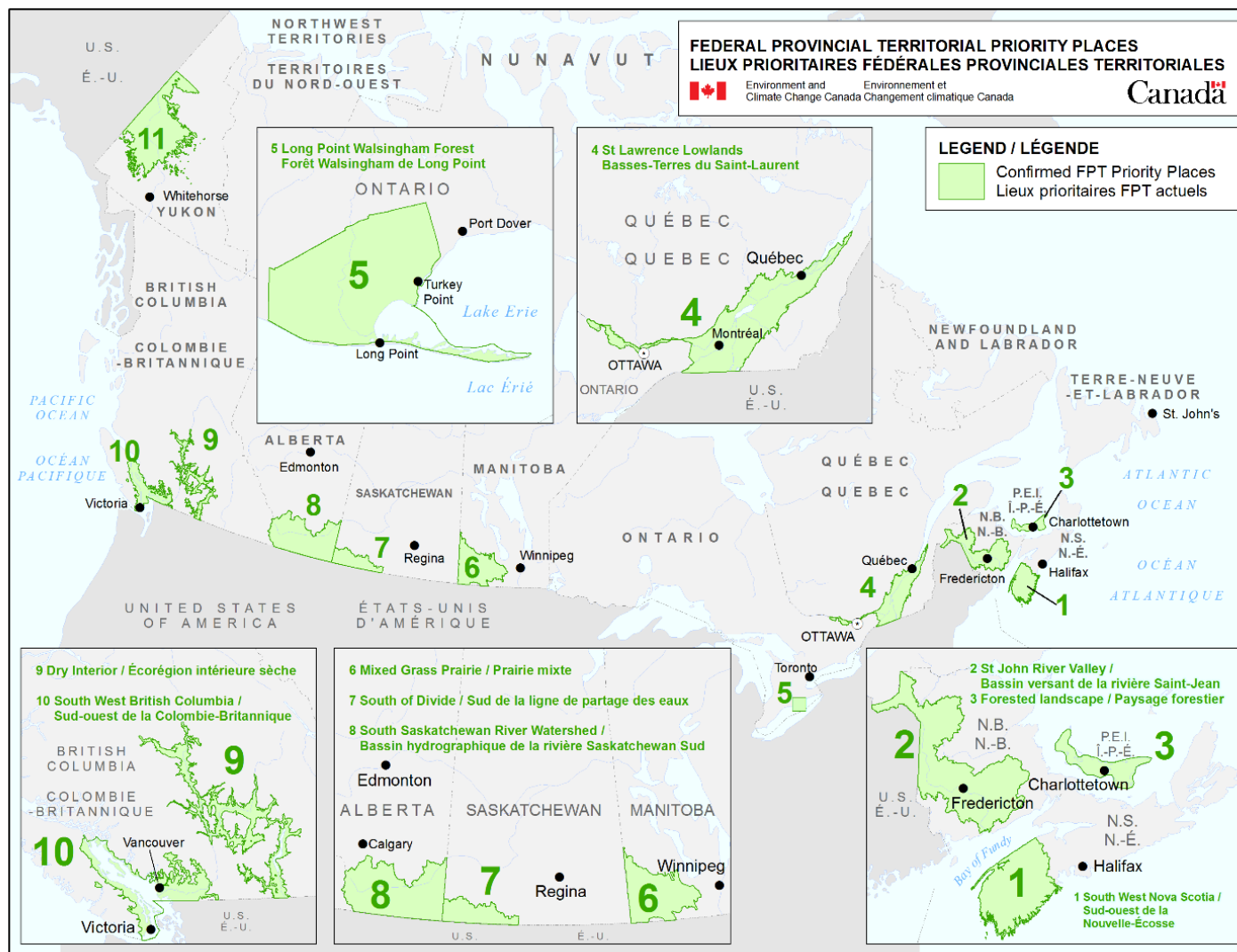
To date:

- Almost \$15M invested in “Quick Start” protected and conserved areas projects in 2018-19.
- Project proposals under review for the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (\$100M over 4 years) to secure privately owned ecosensitive lands.
- Project proposals under review for the Wetlands Fund (up to \$20M over 4 years) directed at NAWMP partners for wetlands securement.
- 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.

Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species Conservation in Canada

- Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers agreed to transform approaches to SAR and biodiversity conservation (Fall 2018)
- Key strategic shifts, from:
 - Predominantly single species to more multi-species and ecosystem based approaches
 - Broad, independent efforts to more targeted and collaborative efforts on shared **priority places, species and threats**
 - Assessment and planning emphasis to increased effort on implementing actions that achieve meaningful outcomes

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
- working with sectors to enhance beneficial practices
- Priority Threats:
 - Invasive Species
 - Wildlife Disease
 - Illegal Wildlife Trade



Priority Species

- Six confirmed priority species
 - Boreal and Southern Mountain Caribou: negotiation of *Species at Risk Acts*.11 conservation agreements and contributions with jurisdictions and Indigenous peoples
 - Peary Caribou: development of a recovery strategy
 - Barren Ground Caribou: listing consultations through to recovery planning
 - Wood Bison and Greater Sage Grouse: to be elaborated



North American Waterfowl Management Plan (Canada)

- Habitat Matters 2018 - Canadian Waterfowl Habitat and the Benefits to All North Americans.

	Wetland and Associated Upland Habitat secured	Contributions (CAD\$)
Since Inception (1986)	22.3 Million Acres	\$2,433 Million
2017-2018	1.4 Million Acres	\$92 Million



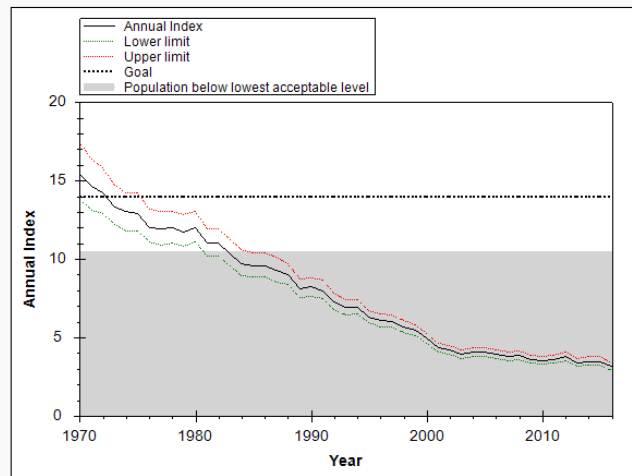
Status of Birds in Canada

- 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
- Will be 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](#).



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For additional photos and songs, visit [Dendroica](#)

Designations

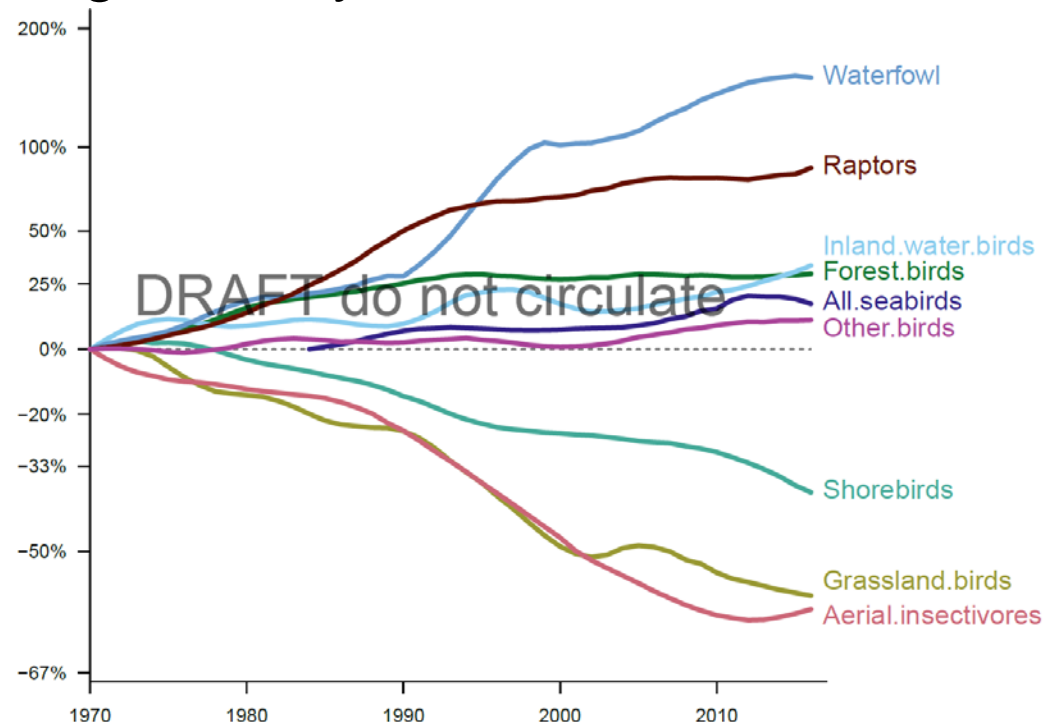
Main designations for the species

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, now updating analyses for a new State of Canada's Birds report. Aimed to highlight changes since 2012 report.
- Will be released in spring 2019 by NABCI-Canada.



Full Annual Cycle Conservation

- Increased understanding of where in the annual cycle migratory birds are most limited.
 - 78% of Canada's birds spend the majority of the year outside of Canada where they may face acute threats.
- Working with partners to move from research and planning to on the ground action. A few examples:
 - Helping to organize a workshop in Mexico focused on conservation of migratory grassland birds and their habitats in the Chihuahuan grasslands.
 - Projects with MOTUS and Geolocators shedding light on important issues of migratory connectivity
 - Building connections with the Partners In Flight network across the western hemisphere, helping to reinvigorate the new PIF Eastern Working Group.

International conservation

- Increased investments in international conservation over the next 4 years. A few of the projects
 - Providing habitat to sustain and recover declining migratory bird populations throughout the Americas
 - Building community engagement with nature in a climate change refuge (Grenada)
 - Conserving Connectivity and Migratory Bottlenecks of Canada's Declining Migratory Birds
 - Targeting Conservation of Western Mexico's Wintering Spaces for At Risk and Steeply Declining Species
 - Conservation of Overwintering Bicknell's Thrush in the Caribbean
 - Conserving migratory shorebirds, including SAR Red Knot, at key wintering sites in northeastern Brazil
 - Shorebirds conservation in Mana's polders, French Guyana
 - Protecting key habitats throughout the Americas to sustain healthy populations of shorebirds

MBR Modernization Amendments

- Key objective of MBR “modernization” effort
 - improve clarity and respond to enforcement concerns
 - implement new policy to improve the management of migratory game bird hunting
 - recognize, in the MBRs, Aboriginal and treaty rights to harvest migratory birds and their eggs according to section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
- Current Status
 - Pre-consultation efforts related to the amendments related to hunting and language dealing with Aboriginal issues occurred in 2013-2014; consultation of bait authorizations held in winter 2017.
 - Anticipate “modernized” regulations being published for public consultation in mid-2019 (given timelines associated with regulatory process)

MGBH E-permit system

- The MGBH e-permitting system with the current contractor (Tri-media) ends at the end of the 2018 MGBH permit season on June 30, 2019.
- New system should be ready for August 1
 - new contractor: Nortek
 - new MGBH e-permitting system ready for testing in late Spring 2019 in order to be ready for hunting season

Permit and Stamp Service Fee Proposal – Overview

- ECCC conducted a public consultation from February 22 to March 21, 2018 regarding proposed changes to the MGBH permit and Conservation Stamp fees
 - fees had not increased since 1998 and 1991 respectively
- The public consultation document is still available online at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/permit/proposed-service-fees.html>
- The document proposed increases to **both** the Conservation Stamp and MGBH Permit fees at the same rate and timeline (\$2.00 in 2019-20, \$2.00 in 2020-21, and \$1.50 in 2021-22)

Permit and Stamp Service Fee Proposal – Next Steps

- The proposed increased fees would be used to support conservation efforts through Wildlife Habitat Canada (Stamp) and program cost recovery for waterfowl surveys, harvest survey, permitting, etc. (Permit)
- Should the Minister decide to proceed with a formal proposal to change the service fees we would go through regulatory process and potentially have new service fees in place for 2021 hunting season

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) Approved hunting amendments for the next two hunting seasons (July Report).
- Regulatory proposals described in the July Report 2018 will remain in effect through 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)
 - 24 SC (18 MBCA)
 - 28 TH (23 MBCA)
 - 29 EN (24 MBCA)
 - 2 Extirpated

SARA – Birds added to the List

- In 2018, 9 birds were proposed to be added or reclassified to the List under the federal SARA. A final decision is anticipated by Summer 2019.

Species	SARA Status on the List
Black Swift	Endangered
Cassin's Auklet	Special Concern
Evening Grosbeak	Special Concern
Lark Bunting	Threatened
Louisiana Waterthrush	Threatened
McCown's Longspur	Threatened
Pink-footed Shearwater	Endangered
Red Crossbill perca subspecies	Threatened
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern

Questions?

