**CANADIAN LANDBIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**Canadian Landbird Conservation Working Group**

# *Framework for Landbird Conservation in Canada*

**Partners in Flight Canada**

March 1996

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Partners in Flight—Canada

CANADIAN LANDBIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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**Partners in Flight—Canada**
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# Executive Summary

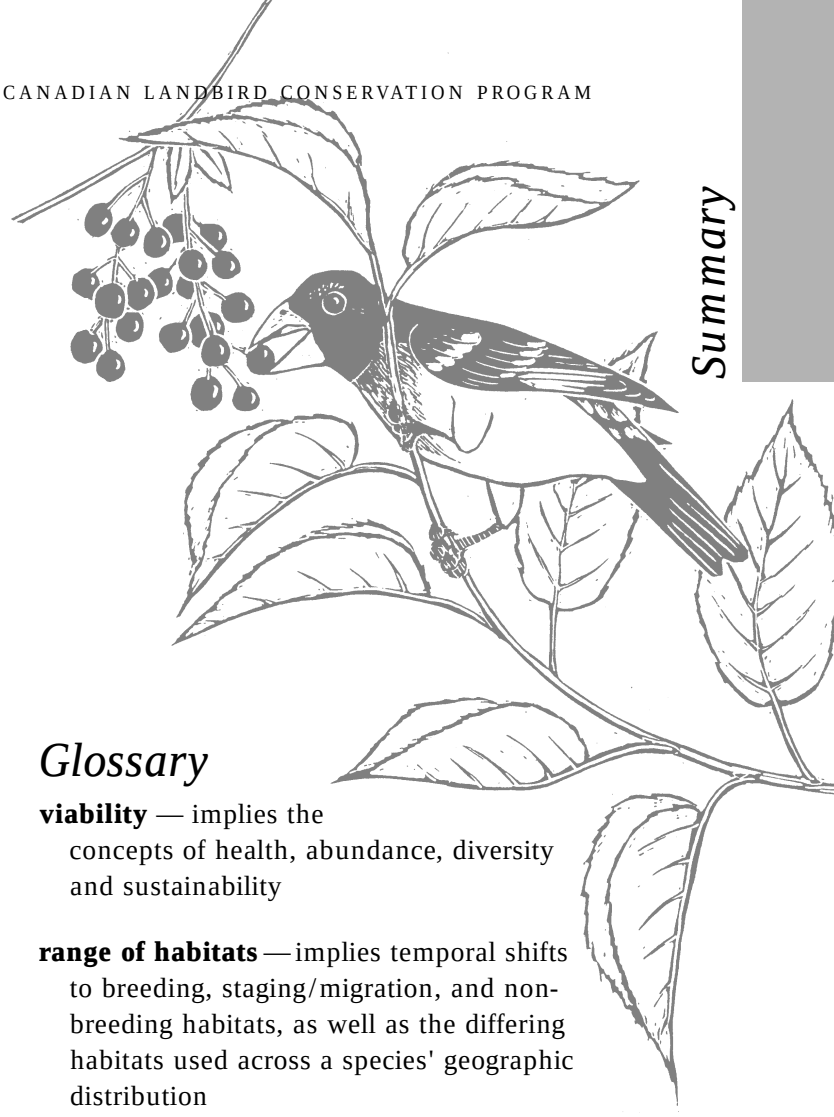
Landbird populations, a conspicuous component of Canadian vertebrate biodiversity, have shown long-term declines over the last 30 years. Loss and degradation of wildlife habitat through land development and some resource use practices is believed to be the primary cause of these declines.

Conservation programs for other groups of birds (e.g., waterfowl and shorebirds) are in place, as are management programs for those groups under provincial jurisdiction (upland game birds and some raptors and endangered species.) This leaves over half of Canada's breeding bird species without a conservation effort organized on their behalf. This group, dubbed 'landbirds' for their principally terrestrial lifecycles, represents approximately 220 species of hawks, eagles, and falcons; partridges, grouse, and quail; pigeons and doves; cuckoos; owls; nightjars; swifts and hummingbirds; kingfishers; woodpeckers; and passerines.

Landbird conservation requires the cooperation of many government jurisdictions, non-government organizations, private industry, academics, aboriginal communities, landowners, and individuals. Broad support from stakeholders is necessary to successfully change existing conditions for these species and their habitats. International cooperation is also required to ensure their conservation on the migration and wintering grounds in addition to Canadian breeding territory.

Consultations with interested parties resulted in the development of a draft Canadian Landbird Conservation Strategy in 1994. Those discussions supported the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada (CWS) in taking the lead to develop a framework for implementing landbird conservation at the national level. The goal of the Canadian Landbird Conservation Program is *to ensure the long-term viability of populations of native Canadian landbirds across their range of habitats.*[1] Part of this program includes the formation of a Working Group to oversee the implementation of national-level programs. The role of this group is discussed in the document *Terms of Reference: Canadian Landbird Conservation Working Group*. Regional and provincial-territorial landbird conservation efforts will be undertaken independently through frameworks that will be developed by partners working with CWS and local governments.

[1] see the glossary on next page for a discussion of terms.



Some requisites for landbird conservation are presented for five components of the program: planning, outreach, monitoring, research, and applied conservation. Objectives, strategies, and implementation steps are suggested, but timeframes cannot be included until funding is secured for each initiative. These ideas are meant as a starting point for regional action plans that will address the specific issues of the species, ecosystems, and land-uses prevalent in each region.

Action from all stakeholders is critical for success in retaining the natural diversity of Canadian landbirds. The framework provided by the Canadian Landbird Conservation Program aims to help land managers work with conservationists to find land-use practices that accommodate viable landbird populations.

## *Glossary*

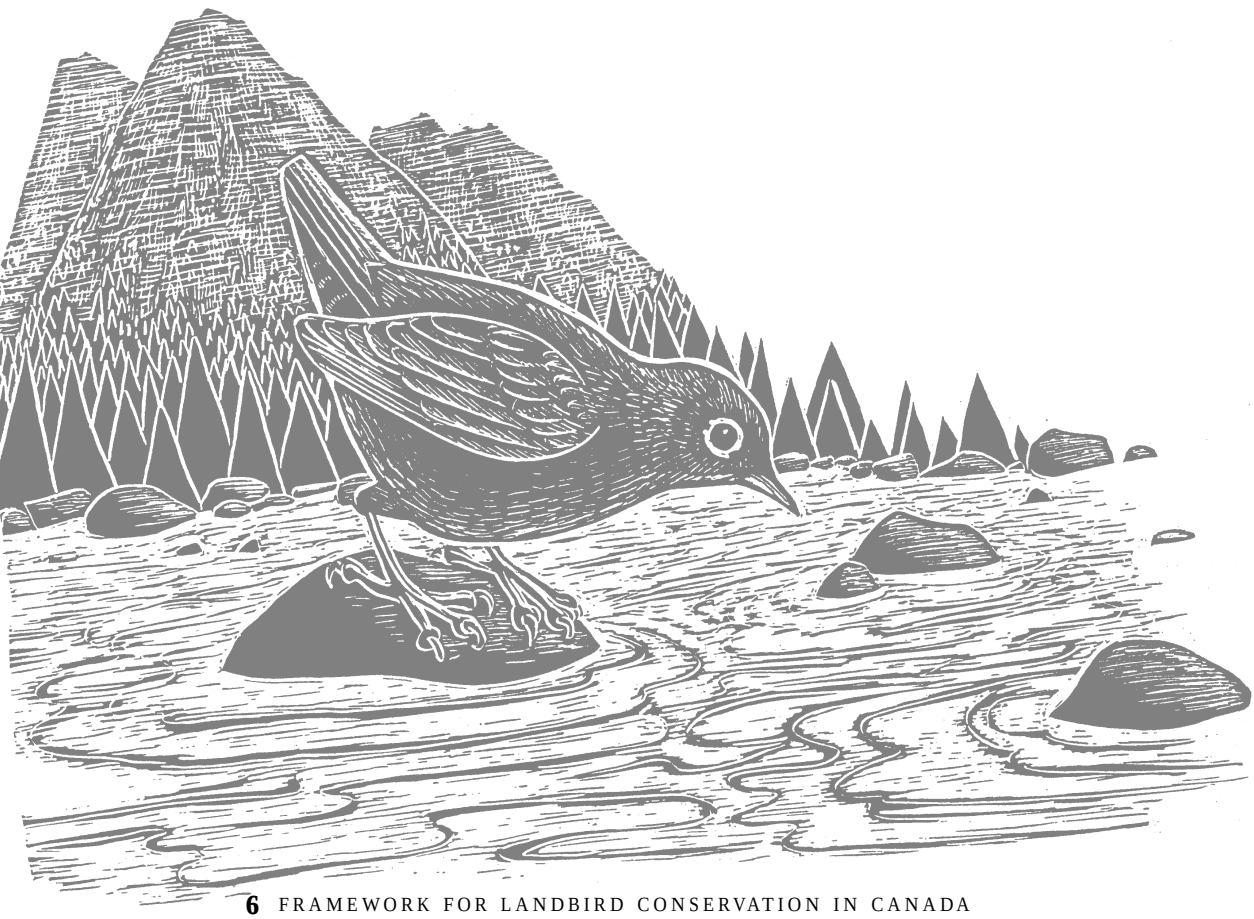
**viability** — implies the concepts of health, abundance, diversity and sustainability

**range of habitats** — implies temporal shifts to breeding, staging/migration, and non-breeding habitats, as well as the differing habitats used across a species' geographic distribution

**species**— can be construed as including subspecies and populations

# Issue

Landbirds represent a conspicuous component of Canadian vertebrate biodiversity, but human use of natural ecosystems threatens landbird diversity. Loss and degradation of wildlife habitat are frequently associated with urban, rural and industrial development, and some resource use practices. These impacts on habitat are believed to be primary causes of population declines in some bird species. Action is required to correct these downward population trends as part of Canada's commitment to protect its biological diversity. The goal of the Canadian Landbird Conservation Program is *to ensure the long-term viability of populations of native Canadian landbirds across their range of habitats.*



# Conservation concern

In recent years, concern about landbird species has arisen on several fronts. A recent publication analyzing Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data from the United States indicated long-term declines of neotropical migrant birds over the last 30 years (Robbins et al. 1989). BBS data from Canadian locations confirm declines in some of these species (Collins and Wendt 1989). Canadian and U.S. data both show declines in some forest edge and grassland species that winter in the United States.

Landbird populations have been affected by many changes to their environment, including:

## *Habitat fragmentation, modification or loss*

Extensive human alteration of natural areas affects breeding grounds, migration stops, as well as wintering areas. These alterations can affect a population's ability to sustain itself by leading to a reduced genepool or increased predation on nesting birds. Although some bird species have benefitted from fragmented landscapes, many have not. Sources of these changes to the landscape include:

**Agriculture:** Conversion of prairie and forest areas to intensive agriculture eliminates nesting cover;

**Forestry:** Harvesting and regeneration modify the forest landscape and alter the structural and plant species diversity;

**Urbanization:** Urban sprawl to accommodate a growing human population progressively consumes natural areas;

**Linear development:** Roads, pipelines and hydro rights-of-way open up previously difficult-to-access territory to human use;

**Climate change:** When growing conditions are altered, habitat availability is affected, especially for species at the edge of their range.

## *Toxic chemical use*

Chemical and biological controls deplete insect and weed seed food sources for birds and may be directly toxic to landbirds.

## Non-native species

Foreign or relocated bird species with few natural controls on their population growth outcompete native landbirds for food and breeding territory; foreign plants and insects alter native habitats that birds depend on.

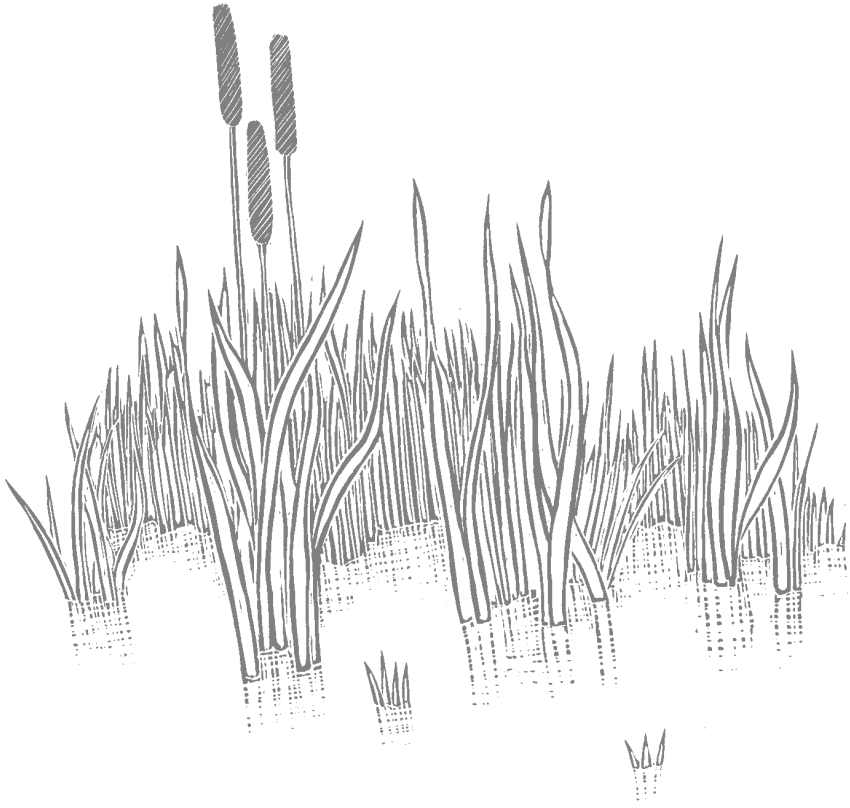
## Brood parasitism and nest predation

Decreased forest cover and the resultant expansion of Brown-headed Cowbird populations have increased brood parasitism[2] pressure to the point where, in some areas, some landbird species host more cowbird eggs than their own (Robinson 1992). Predation by other bird species and mammals is also high in fragmented habitats (Robinson 1992).

## Anthropogenic mortality

Deaths attributable to human causes add significantly to landbird mortality (Klem 1990). Sources include building and vehicle collisions, agricultural nest destruction, illegal killing of raptors, non-target poisoning, disturbance causing nest desertion, domestic cat predation, and disease epidemics or genetic contamination from contact with domesticated birds.

These large-scale environmental changes from human activity, in conjunction with scientific data on population declines, lend urgency to the development of a far-reaching conservation effort on behalf of landbird species.



[2] exploiting the parental behaviour of another species by laying eggs in its nest.

# Management concern

Our management efforts for landbird populations have not kept pace with the conservation concerns listed above.

Efforts in Canada have fallen behind the efforts to conserve other groups of birds. For example, programs are already underway to address the conservation requirements of many waterbirds, including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.[3] These programs monitor population levels and promote conservation measures that are attempting to sustain or restore viable population levels or safeguard critical habitat. Provincial governments have also implemented management programs for many of the species that fall under their jurisdiction, e.g., upland game birds, some raptors, and endangered species.

Nevertheless, there exist gaps in our stewardship of nongame birds. Approximately 220 of the more than 420 Canadian breeding species can be classified as "landbirds," those having principally terrestrial life cycles. *Until now, no national conservation effort has been organized for these species*. For the time being, we will direct our conservation efforts to the following groups of birds: hawks, eagles, and falcons; partridges, grouse, and quail; pigeons and doves; cuckoos; owls; nightjars; swifts and hummingbirds; kingfishers; woodpeckers; and the most numerous group, passerines. As the program develops, it may link with others to include all species of birds, including some waterbirds that are not currently included in existing programs.

Because landbird conservation relates to many species, habitats, ecosystems and landscapes, progress in conservation requires the cooperation of many government jurisdictions, non-government organizations, private industry, academics, aboriginal communities, landowners, and individuals. Broad-based support from stakeholders is necessary to successfully change existing conditions. Cooperation among all those with an interest in landbird conservation will be the only means to foster new programs. Every effort will be made to tie in to existing programs, both government and other, to secure funding and other support and to harmonize our approach with other biodiversity conservation efforts.

Efforts within Canada alone will not ensure the long-term health of migratory bird populations if they and their habitats are not secure in other countries. Conservation of species and habitats on their migration and wintering grounds will require international cooperation and communication on monitoring, management and research programs, as well as promotion of effective legislation and policies. Canadian efforts will be integrated into international programs such as Partners in Flight and Birdlife International[4] to address conservation issues of mutual concern.

[3] see Appendix 1 for a brief description of these programs.

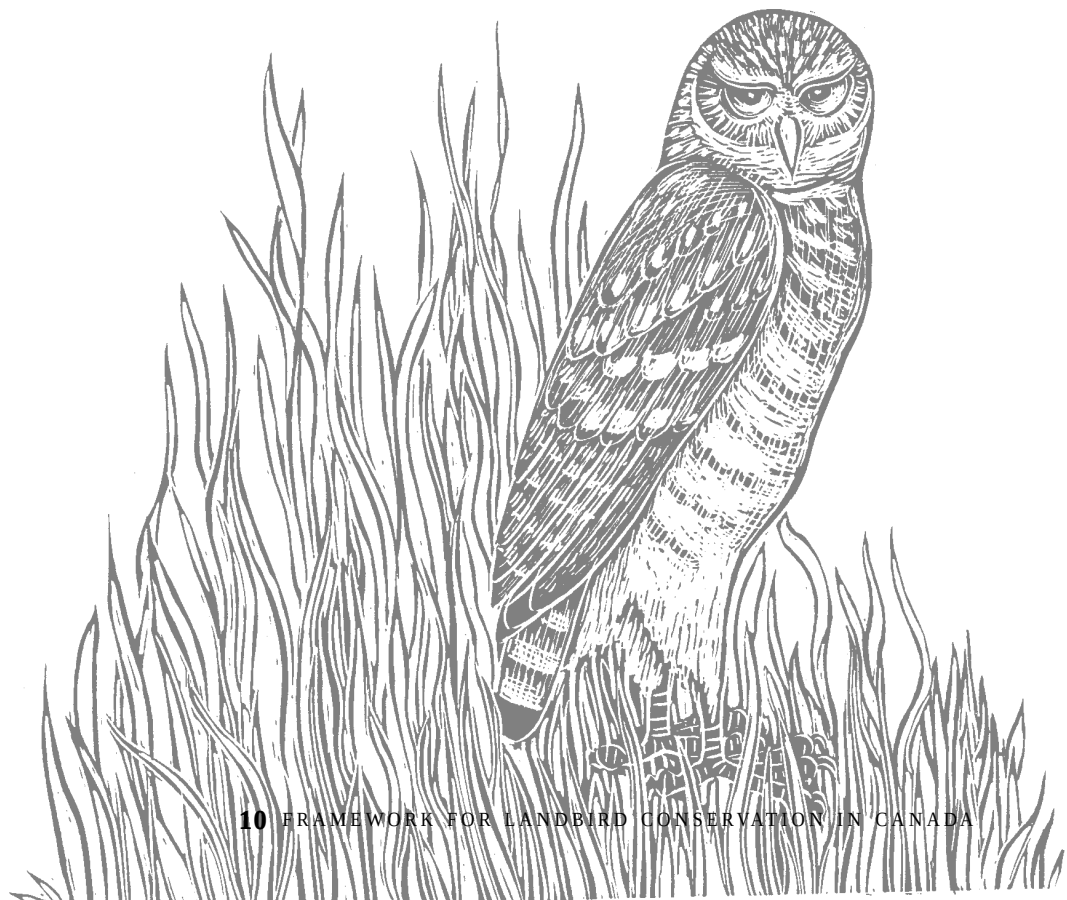
[4] see Appendix 1.

# Socio-economic concern

Canadians reap economic benefits from both resource extraction industries (forestry, agriculture, and mining) and non-consumptive ones (ecotourism, birdwatching).

Both aspects contribute significantly to the Canadian economy. However, some of the policies supporting Canada's resource-based economy have resulted in land-use practices that can result in environmental degradation.When a region's natural beauty, biodiversity, or resource base is depleted, economic opportunities in industry and ecotourism are lost, and this can occur in areas of widespread regional unemployment.

To achieve sustainable development it will be important to assess existing policies for their potential to adversely affect the environment. We should work with groups identifying policies that may counteract efforts in landbird and habitat conservation. Success in landbird conservation will depend upon our willingness to integrate the value of biodiversity into all land-use practices and policies. By discussing these economic factors with industry representatives, it may be possible to re-orient the current system to better reflect these values.



# A coordinated landbird conservation program

Within Canada several major documents provide a context for the conservation of landbirds and their habitats (see Appendix 2). Strong public interest[5] and support from the major non-government nature conservation organizations has resulted in Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service taking the lead in developing a network of all Canadian stakeholders in this issue.

Consultations with interested parties resulted in the development of the Canadian Landbird Conservation Strategy, Draft for Discussion (September 1994). Comments on that draft have helped to form this proposed framework for achieving the goals of landbird conservation.

The goal of Canadian landbird conservation efforts is *to ensure the long-term viability of populations of native Canadian landbirds across their range of habitats.* At a meeting of interested parties in October 1994, implementation of this goal was discussed. It was agreed that implementation would logically occur at several levels: national, regional, and local. Many of the hands-on conservation projects will be initiated locally and may influence priority setting at the broader levels.

To begin work on national-level activities that will help others implement landbird conservation, a Canadian landbird conservation working group will be created with representatives from government and non-government conservation agencies, industry, academics, and other interested stakeholders. The working group will address national-level objectives; however, it will have roles designed to assist regional delivery of landbird conservation programs. The mandate of this group is outlined in the document *Terms of Reference: Canadian Landbird Conservation Working Group*.

Regional and provincial/territorial landbird conservation efforts will be undertaken independently. Working groups similar in structure to the national-level group may be established, or implementation may occur through other existing or proposed fora (e.g., waterfowl management joint ventures, wildlife management fora). The Canadian Wildlife Service is committed to working with provincial and territorial wildlife agencies, and other partners at the regional level, to deliver landbird conservation programs. Detailed conservation priorities, strategies, and timeframes will be developed by those groups. The following section provides an outline of some activities that should be undertaken for landbird conservation.

[5] 17.4 million Canadians (83.1% of the adult population) indicated that it is very or fairly important that the abundance of landbirds be maintained. (from Filion et al. 1993. *The importance of wildlife to Canadians: highlights of the 1991 survey*. Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa K1A 0H3)

For organizational purposes, the requisites for Canadian landbird conservation are divided into five components: planning, outreach, monitoring, research, and applied conservation. Objectives, strategies, and implementation steps are suggested for each component. Timeframes for implementation will be determined as the regional strategies are developed and as funding for the initiatives is generated.

## 1 *Planning*

**Objective**
To provide a framework that supports conservation of and research on landbirds and their habitats.

**Strategy**
Ensure that there are national and regional fora to implement landbird conservation.

***Implementation***

- set priorities for conservation issues, and baselines for measuring success or failure;
- develop funding schemes for landbird conservation projects;
- provide communications services such as program promotion and education;
- develop and/or formalize links to other biodiversity conservation efforts;
- provide a framework of guidelines to encourage voluntary adoption of sustainable practices by industry, forestry and agriculture;
- periodically review the strategy implementation to ensure continued effectiveness.

## 2 Outreach

**Objective**
Gain widespread understanding of and support for bird conservation issues and initiatives.

**Strategy**
Develop an informed and skilled pool of Canadians, and others, that can participate in landbird monitoring and conservation projects.

***Implementation***
- promote education/skill development programs in Canada and internationally;
- inform the public of research results and actions they can take to minimize their negative and maximize their beneficial impacts on bird populations and their habitats;
- promote the study of avian ecology at all levels of schooling, in Canada and internationally;
- develop standardized training courses in field ornithology and avian ecology;
- establish graduate scholarships and research grants to support academic work;
- promote public participation in projects and activities that increase awareness/knowledge of landbirds and their habitats (e.g., volunteer population monitoring programs);
- recognize individuals/groups contributing to Canadian landbird conservation (awards, signs or certificates for project participants).

## 3 Monitoring

**Objective**
Increase knowledge of the status of bird populations across the country.

**Strategy**
Fulfill the goals of the Canadian Landbird Monitoring Strategy.

***Implementation***
- collect information to assess the health of landbird populations, including abundance, distribution, productivity and survivorship, and bird/habitat associations;
- identify species or species groups that are a priority for conservation action;
- ensure data and trends are readily available to wildlife managers and the public.

## 4 Research

**Objective**
Increase knowledge and understanding of factors affecting landbird populations and their habitats throughout the breeding and non-breeding parts of their range.

**Strategy**
Identify populations of concern, causes of this concern, and actions required to remove the concern.

***Implementation***
- use data from monitoring programs to identify population characteristics that require response (e.g., develop a threshold of decline that triggers action);

## 4 Research *continued*

- link research priorities to management decisions and conservation activities, to enable the latter to be undertaken with timely information;
- recommend important issues for applied conservation to the regional landbird conservation working groups.

**Strategy**
Identify habitat characteristics and other factors that may be implicated in landbird population change on the breeding, migration, and wintering grounds.

***Implementation***
- standardize habitat classification among regions to facilitate comparison of changes;
- identify habitats in critical decline and identify the cause of decline and the resultant threats to these habitats;
- identify and protect, using a variety of mechanisms, a network of sites critical to bird populations;
- strengthen our knowledge of the ecology of populations of concern, including habitat/population relationships and the effects of alien species, brood parasitism, and nest predation;
- determine the effects of environmental contamination and land-use practices (including use of pesticides and fertilizers) on bird populations and describe practical solutions.

## 5 Applied conservation

**Objective**
Ensure long-term survival of populations and habitats that indicate a trend toward non-viability, and maintain stable populations and their habitats.

**Strategy**
Identify priorities for conservation.

***Implementation***
- develop and implement a prioritization scheme to rank landbirds and habitats of concern.

**Strategy**
Conserve and protect bird species or populations showing critical decline.

***Implementation***
- continue to develop and implement recovery/control plans for species or populations of concern through COSEWIC and RENEW;
- use other processes to assess environmental degradation that has impacts on landbird populations and their habitats (e.g. Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, Priority Substance List of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.)

**Strategy**
Conserve, protect, and restore habitat required to maintain viable bird populations.

***Implementation***
- link establishment of protected areas, protected areas design, and integrity criteria to habitat requirements of birds;

- work with governments to develop incentives for habitat conservation through private stewardship, acquisition, or site management;
- encourage sustainable land-use practices through development of ecosystem objectives, codes of practice, and operational demonstration projects;
- apply successful conservation and land-use practices developed internationally for ecozones similar to those found within Canada.

**Strategy**

Link Canadian and international projects and research to maximize the effectiveness of conservation action.

***Implementation***

- integrate with projects that maintain biodiversity at large, as well as landbirds or individual species (e.g., work done under the Canada Forest Strategy, Model Forest program);
- apply results of research fostered under this program, and of related research conducted elsewhere;
- scrutinize policies, laws, and agreements to promote sustainable use of bird habitat.

# *Conclusion*

Given Canada's vast size, effective conservation will likely continue to occur largely at the regional and local levels. We hope that, through the framework provided by the Canadian Landbird Conservation Program, all land managers and conservationists will work together to find land-use practices that accommodate viable landbird populations. Improved awareness among the general public is also vital in motivating conservation. Action from all stakeholders is critical for success in maintaining the natural diversity of Canadian landbirds.

Comments on this document may be forwarded to:

**Partners in Flight—Canada**
c/o Canadian Wildlife Service,
Environment Canada, Ottawa,
Ontario K1A 0H3

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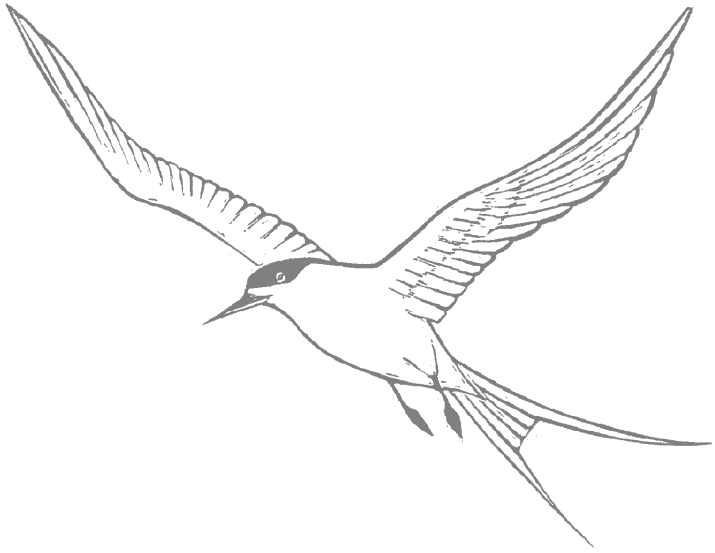


# Appendices

*Appendix 1:* **Some programs relevant to landbird conservation**

*Appendix 2:* **Documents that support landbird and habitat conservation in Canada**

*Appendix 3:* **Parties consulted during the development of the Framework for Landbird Conservation in Canada.**

# Appendix 1

*Some programs relevant to landbird conservation*

## *Bird banding program*

Under the existing North American bird banding protocol, Latin American and Caribbean species are not included in the data set and are not typically banded. These species are, however, often captured during projects studying neotropical migrants on the wintering grounds. Information on species endemic to these countries would be useful for determining species associations on the wintering grounds. The ability to band resident species would encourage Latin American and Caribbean cooperators to initiate banding projects that provide information on species of concern in Canada. A Western Hemisphere banding protocol should be developed.

## *Bird Trends*

This newsletter, published annually by CWS, reports on population trends of Canadian bird species to a wide audience of professional and amateur ornithologists. Results from research could be reported here to foster interest in the resulting applied conservation activities. Currently a fairly technical publication, *Bird Trends* could evolve into a national newsletter for bird conservation efforts.

## *Bring Back the Birds*

This program of Conservation International – Canada has resulted in a children's video on the issue of bird population declines, a travelling slide/talk show, and an education package that includes a community action guide for migratory songbird conservation. Currently centred in the Toronto area, there are plans to expand nationally.

## *Canadian bird database*

This database is being compiled by CWS and, when completed, will provide readily accessible information about birds to assist in management decisions. Breeding, migration and wintering range, guilds and habitat associations, as well as population status, will be available on line.

## *Canadian Landbird Monitoring Strategy*

This program, developed by the Canadian Wildlife Service, will form the information base for landbird conservation in Canada. Its goal is to expand our knowledge of landbird population status and to assess any changes that have occurred or may occur in their status. A standardized national program is required to ensure that results from different regions of the country can be compared.

There are gaps in coverage for some biogeographic areas, and some species present special challenges to monitoring. CWS is currently assessing existing surveys (Breeding Bird Survey, migration monitoring (including banding), Forest Bird Monitoring Program, census plots (territory mapping), Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS), atlas projects, etc.), their methodology and statistical analysis of results (see *Bird Trends*, Number 1, Summer 1991 for details on each of the surveys mentioned.) Copies of the *Canadian Landbird Monitoring Strategy* are available in either a short or a longer technical form from:
Non-game Bird Surveys Coordinator,
National Wildlife Research Centre,
Canadian Wildlife Service,
100 Gamelin Blvd., Hull, PQ
K1A 0H3.

## COSEWIC and RENEW

A cooperative initiative among the federal, provincial and territorial governments, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) prepares detailed status reports for endangered wildlife in Canada, including landbirds. The Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife program (RENEW) prepares recovery plans for species that have been assigned a threatened or endangered status. Successes in recovering endangered species should not imply that we can push others to the brink of extinction. True success lies in not adding any new species to the COSEWIC categories.

## Directory of Ornithologists

The Canadian Wildlife Service and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists have produced a directory of active ornithologists and their areas of interest. The directory will facilitate communication among researchers and conservationists. The directory will be available on the World Wide Web soon and will be updated on an ongoing basis.

## Ducks Unlimited's "Prairie Care" program

This project supports the conversion of agricultural land to waterfowl nesting cover using native plant species. Initial assessment of converted landscapes indicates that they are generally more beneficial to endemic grassland species than the cropland they replace (Dale 1994).

## Existing databases

Several agencies in Canada (e.g., The Nature Conservancy of Canada's "Conservation Data Centres", the National Atlas, provincial museums) have compiled databases that outline habitats and species ranges at various levels across Canada. Organized sharing of data, perhaps using the framework of Internet, would facilitate information transfer among programs and for research endeavors. International agencies would also be able to contribute data from Canada.

## Important Bird Areas

This program was initiated by BirdLife International (formerly the International Council for Bird Preservation) as a means of identifying key areas of bird habitat worldwide that have international significance. The scheme uses a set of internationally agreed criteria. BirdLife International's membership includes leading national bird conservation organizations. Their strong research program provides the basis for advocacy and field work that involves local people in solving problems faced by particular species and particular sites. The Canadian partners to BirdLife for the Important Bird Areas program are the Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada, the national program arm of the Long Point Bird Observatory.

## Model Forests

A network of forest areas was established under Canada's Green Plan to develop forestry practices that are sustainable, ecologically sound, and scientifically advanced and that recognize multiple-use and encourage biodiversity. There are approximately 10 model forest projects across Canada in the different forest regions. Some of these projects may be twinned with similar efforts in Latin America, as international model forests are established. For the model forests to be truly effective they must incorporate experimental research and adaptive management. Pre- and post-treatment evaluations and control plots with replicates will best allow assessment of the effects of forestry practices on landbirds.

## National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE)

The role of the National Round Table, as defined in pending federal legislation is "...to play the role of catalyst in identifying, explaining and promoting, in all sectors of Canadian society and in all regions of Canada, principles and practices of sustainable development..." It is an independent body reporting directly to the Prime Minister. To develop new ideas and encourage the flexibility needed to make the transition to a sustainable society, the round table reaches across institutional lines in society, business, politics, environment, and regions. It tries to identify more clearly the economic pathways to sustainable development.

## North American Waterfowl Management Program (NAWMP)

This ground-breaking waterfowl conservation program spearheaded cooperative multi-stakeholder efforts through the joint venture system. Joint ventures combine regional and species concerns and have focussed on restoring habitat required for waterfowl breeding. Some of the joint ventures are currently assessing their work in terms of benefit to non-game species.

## Partners in Flight (The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program)

This program was established in the United States with the goal "to maintain stable populations and enhance or restore declining populations of wild bird species that breed in the United States and Canada and migrate to Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Basin during the northern winter." A memorandum of agreement signed in May 1991 committed many US federal agencies to participate. Partners in Flight will coordinate and support actions to (1) determine the status and causes of population changes and then (2) establish and implement programs of information, education, research, monitoring, and management necessary to achieve the program's goal. Canada, through the Canadian Wildlife Service, is considered a cooperator in this program. The Framework for Landbird Conservation could be viewed as a Canadian counterpart to Partners in Flight.

## Protected Areas

According to Environment Canada's National Conservation Areas Database, over 9% of Canada's land area was under some form of protected area designation in 1993. Some of these areas would contribute to landbird habitat conservation goals. Effort to continue expanding this network of protected areas is required to ensure that all representative landscapes are included.

## Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)

Now a part of the Wetlands for the Americas program, WHSRN was designed to create sister sites among the breeding, migration, staging and wintering grounds of migrating shorebirds. Those sites important to the ecology of shorebirds are protected once identified.

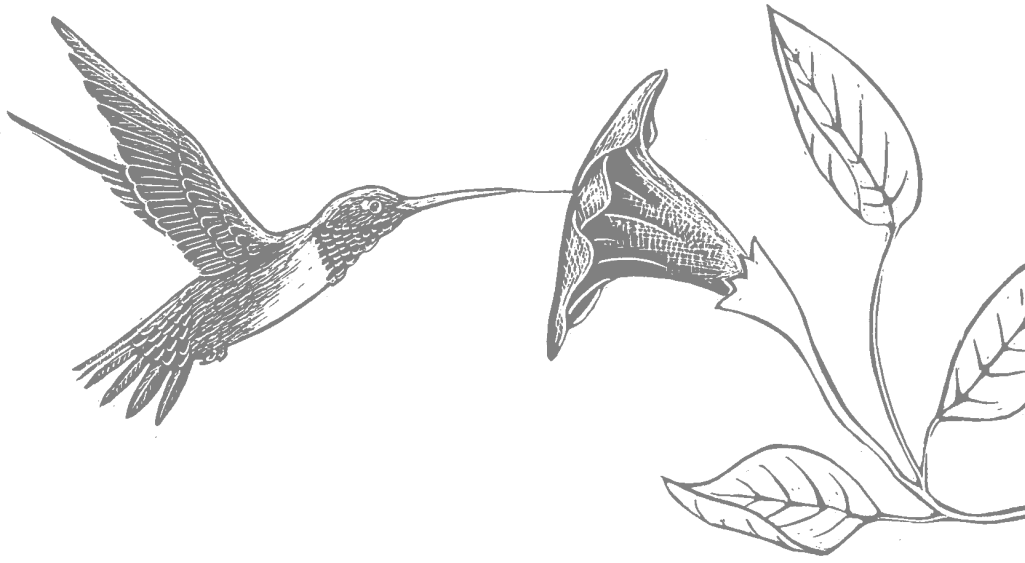
# Appendix 2

## *Documents that support landbird and habitat conservation in Canada*

### *International*

**The World Conservation Strategy** (WCS) (1980) has as its goal "...the integration of conservation and development to ensure that modifications to the planet do indeed secure the survival and wellbeing of all people." The Strategy has three objectives toward achieving its goal: to maintain the earth's essential ecological processes and life-support systems; to preserve genetic diversity; and to ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems. The Minister of the Environment for Canada endorsed the recommendations of the World Conservation Strategy on behalf of the federal government in 1981. In addition, Environment Canada recommends that, in order to implement the Priority National Actions of the WCS, the department "give priority to measures to preserve habitats critical to the maintenance of federally managed living resources (migratory birds and fish) and endangered or threatened species."

**The Convention on Biological Diversity** was signed by Canada and 156 other nations at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. This convention addresses the continued loss of the world's biological diversity, mainly from habitat destruction, overharvesting, pollution, and the inappropriate introduction of foreign plants and animals. Articles of that convention include the commitment to "Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity..." (6a); "Monitor, through sampling and other techniques, the components of biological diversity..." (7b); "Identify processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects through sampling and other techniques" (7c); "Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings" (8d).



## Continental

**The Migratory Birds Convention** of 1916 between Canada and the United States aims to establish a system of protection that will effectively ensure the preservation of such migratory birds as are "either useful or harmless". It sets out those species for which there will be legal hunting seasons and those that are protected from hunting and protects all birds covered by the Act from being "killed, captured, injured, taken, molested or sold, or their nests or eggs injured, destroyed, taken or molested."

## National

**The Canada Forest Accord**, signed 4 March 1992 by the federal and provincial ministers responsible for forests, as well as forest industry and non-government organization representatives, makes reference to wildlife conservation, which includes migratory birds. "Our forests will be managed on an integrated basis, supporting a full range of uses and values including timber production, habitat for wildlife, and areas allocated for parks and wilderness."

**A Wildlife Policy for Canada** (1990) states as its goal "to maintain and enhance the health and diversity of Canada's wildlife, for its own sake and for the benefit of present and future generations of Canadians." It defines wildlife as all wild life: wild mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, invertebrates, plants, fungi, algae, bacteria, and other wild organisms.

**The Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas** was endorsed in November 1992 by Canada's ministers of wildlife, parks, and environment. Forest ministers and national aboriginal groups also gave oral support for the Statement. Two of the five commitments made in the Statement are to accelerate the identification and protection of Canada's critical wildlife habitats, and to continue to cooperate in the protection of ecosystems, landscapes, and wildlife habitats.

# Appendix 3

## *Parties consulted during the development of the Framework for Landbird Conservation in Canada*

**Federal government agencies**
Forestry Canada
Agriculture Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Parks Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
National Defence
Canadian Museum of Nature

**Provincial government agencies**
Wildlife Divisions
Forestry Departments
Agriculture Departments

**Conservation organizations**
Canadian Nature Federation
Canadian Wildlife Federation
Conservation International – Canada
Bird Studies Canada
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Wildlife Habitat Canada
World Wildlife Fund
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Ducks Unlimited
Biodiversity Convention Advisory Group
Advisory Committee on Environmental Protection

**Academics**
Representatives across the country

**Aboriginal groups**
Representatives across the country

**Private Industry**
Representatives across the country


**Partners in Flight—Canada**

CANADIAN LANDBIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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