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Important Bird Areas AMERICAS

CANADA

L. Sarah Wren & Andrew R. Couturier



The only wild, natural population of the Endangered Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) breeds in the northeastern portion of Wood Buffalo National Park (CA247) and winters in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, USA. The population numbers less than 300 individuals. Photo: iStock



Country facts at a glance

Area:	9,984,670 km ²
Population (2006):	31,612,897
Capital:	Ottawa
Altitude:	0–5959 m
Number of IBAs:	325
Total IBA area:	30,312,241 ha
IBA coverage of land area:	2.4 %
Total number of birds:	460
Globally threatened birds:	16
Globally threatened birds in IBAs:	3
Country endemics:	0

General introduction

Canada is the second largest country in the world by total area, and the northernmost in the Western Hemisphere. Canadian territory stretches from the island of Newfoundland in the east to the islands off British Columbia in the west, and in the north encompasses many large Arctic archipelagos. Canada has the longest coastline in the world, and has land borders with the United States to the south and to the northwest.

Canada's political system is a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy. The country is a federation comprising ten provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia) and three northern territories (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut), with governance responsibilities divided between the provinces/territories and the federal system. Canada's population was 31,612,897 people in 2006. Canada has a very low population density, with most of the population based in the southern part of the country, and increasingly concentrated in a few large urban centers. English and French are Canada's official languages, and the country has a multicultural composition arising from a high immigration rate. People of over 200 ethnic origins live in Canada, with approximately 16% of Canadians belonging to a non-aboriginal visible minority. There are approximately 1 million aboriginal peoples (North American Indian, Inuit and Métis) in Canada.

Most regions of Canada have a continental climate with four distinct seasons. Major Canadian terrestrial biomes are: tundra, overlaying the permafrost zone in the Arctic; boreal forest, comprising a very large and relatively intact swath of the country; mixed forest, south of the boreal region; temperate forest, found in southern, generally lowland regions; prairies, found primarily in the Northern Great Plains regions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; Rocky Mountains, found in eastern British Columbia and western Alberta; and temperate coniferous forests, such as those found in coastal British Columbia.

Major land uses are agriculture in southern Canada, and resource extraction (forestry, oil and gas and mining) which are generally concentrated in more northern regions. Threats to biodiversity in Canada arise primarily from habitat loss, particularly from urbanization and agricultural conversion in the south, and large-scale forestry and petroleum extraction in the north. Climate change is a significant concern in Canada, particularly for northern habitats where permafrost and seasonal sea ice are already being impacted by warming temperatures.



Boundary Bay - Roberts Bank - Sturgeon Bank (Fraser River Estuary) IBA (CA057) has the highest number of trigger species of all Canadian IBAs. The site has many mixed uses and much development pressure including agriculture, urbanization, invasives, ship traffic and pollution among others. It is largely unprotected and in need of significant stewardship.

Photo: Anne Murray

Conservation and protected area system



Canada has had federally-designated protected areas since 1885 and the current protected areas system comprises designations including national parks, bird sanctuaries, wildlife areas, and forest and wilderness reserves. These protected areas have different but often complementary goals and permitted uses, and are managed by federal or provincial/territorial governments. Protected areas account for 9% of Canada's total land area (Natural Resources Canada 2008). A process has begun for identifying Canadian marine protected areas, but to date very few of these sites have been designated. Private land stewardship for conservation values complements legally-designated protected areas, particularly in southern areas of Canada. Canada has introduced tax measures to provide financial incentives for landowners to donate or otherwise steward their ecologically sensitive lands.

“The first federally-designated protected area was created in 1885 and the first bird sanctuary in 1887.”

Canada has a relatively long-standing ornithological tradition. The first bird sanctuary was created at Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan in 1887. In 1916, in response primarily to overexploitation pressures from market hunters, Canada signed the Migratory Birds Convention with the United States. The domestic enactment of this convention, in 1917, resulted in a federal government mandate for the protection of birds (Burnett 2003). Currently, scientific ornithology in Canada is conducted in four main domains: government; non-government organizations (such as Bird Studies Canada-BSC, and Ducks Unlimited Canada); academia and museums; and amateurs. Government ornithological capacity is housed primarily within the federal Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada, given its legal responsibility for the protection of birds. Provincial and territorial governments also have significant ornithological expertise. Many Canadian universities have ornithology programs or researchers, but capacity for museum research on birds has contracted greatly in recent decades. Skilled amateurs make significant ornithological contributions across the country, participating in a variety of “citizen science” data collection projects focused on birds, such as regional breeding bird atlases and breeding bird surveys (Cooke 2003). The Society of Canadian Ornithologists has around 350 members, largely comprised of academic and government scientists.

Canada's partnership with the United States and Mexico on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), whose goal is to



The salt marshes of La Perouse Bay in the Churchill & Vicinity IBA (CA130) are triggered by seasonal congregations of thousands of waterbirds, all of which migrate south during the winter months.
Photo: Shutterstock

return waterfowl populations to their 1970s levels through wetland and upland habitat conservation, is an important approach to Canadian bird conservation. Conservation activities are delivered through joint ventures that bring together diverse stakeholders with an interest in waterfowl populations. Through this program in Canada, plan partners have contributed towards the conservation of 2.3 million hectares of bird habitat. Together with Mexico and the United States, Canada is a partner in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). NABCI Canada's goal is to deliver a full spectrum of bird conservation in Canada through regionally-based partnerships. Under NABCI there are four major bird conservation pillars in Canada: NAWMP, Partners in Flight (landbirds), the Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. In Canada, NABCI members include federal, territorial and provincial governments, conservation NGOs, private sector organizations, and partners from the four bird conservation pillars. Planning for and implementing integrated bird conservation through NABCI occurs at the scale of Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) which are defined by common biophysical elements, vegetation, and associated bird species. There are 12 BCRs wholly or partly in Canada.

“Skilled amateurs make significant ornithological contributions, participating in a variety of data collection projects, such as regional breeding bird atlases and surveys.”

Canada is a signatory to several international agreements for the protection of biodiversity, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Program for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna. Domestic federal environmental and biodiversity legislation includes the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the Species at Risk Act, the Migratory Birds Convention Act, the Fisheries Act, the National Parks Act and the Canada Wildlife Act. Provinces have primary responsibility for the management of natural resources and also specific responsibilities for environmental protection. Each province also has legislation and regulations pertaining to their responsibilities.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) meets IBA criteria at seven sites in Canada, all of which are on its migratory route. Numbers of over 200,000 have been recorded at individual sites.
Photo: Shutterstock





Ornithological importance

Canada has more than 460 regularly occurring bird species. This relatively low species diversity stems from Canada's northern geography. Bird diversity is generally split into eastern and western components. There is overlap between these components in central Canada, and some species have a country-wide distribution. Canada has a high proportion of migratory birds due to its northern latitude. A small proportion of species are year-round residents, while the remainder are either short-distance or Neotropical migrants. Both of these categories of migrant bird species are demonstrating long term population declines in Canada, according to estimates derived from the Breeding Bird Survey (Downes & Collins 2007).

Canada's large continental landmass means that most Canadian birds have large breeding ranges. There are no restricted-range species in Canada, as defined by Stattersfield *et al.* (1998), only Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) could potentially be included in a Secondary Area. However, an additional four species and 14 subspecies have nationally restricted ranges (small total breeding ranges, greater than 100,000 km² but less than 250,000 km² and more than 50% of the North American population). The four species are Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*), Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) and Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). Canada has no endemic bird species or Endemic Bird Areas.

Of the 17 globally threatened bird species found in Canada, two are Critically Endangered, three are Endangered and four are Vulnerable (BirdLife International 2007)¹. Of these, the Critically Endangered Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) is possibly extinct and the Vulnerable Greater Prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) is extirpated from its former Canadian range. Six of the remaining species breed in Canada: Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), whose only wild and self-

sustaining breeding population is found wholly within Canada; Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*); Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*); Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*); Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*); and Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). All of the remaining globally threatened birds in Canada are seabirds with non-breeding distributions that include Canadian waters of the Pacific Ocean. Canada's national threatened species legislation, the Species at Risk Act, lists 56 bird species or subspecies as endangered, threatened, or special concern. The legislation prohibits killing listed extirpated, endangered or threatened species, or destroying their residences or critical habitat.

Canada's boreal forest makes a key contribution to bird diversity and abundance in the country and the hemisphere. Almost half of all North American birds rely on the boreal forest region. Close to one hundred species have at least half of their entire breeding population in the boreal, and some species such as Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*), and Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) breed almost exclusively in the boreal. Eighty percent of North American waterfowl species, 63% of finch species, and 53% of warbler species breed in the boreal. With approximately 94% of species migrating out of the boreal, it is a key source for non-breeding species found throughout the western hemisphere (Blancher & Wells 2005). Increasing demand for energy and forest products is leading to mounting landscape fragmentation within the boreal forest.

“Eighty percent of North American waterfowl species, 63% of finch species, and 53% of warbler species breed in the boreal forest.”

Abundant seasonal wetlands in the northern Great Plains region of Canada, known as prairie potholes, are of key importance for breeding waterfowl and waterbirds and also act as migratory stopovers for waterfowl breeding in the boreal forest region. Prairie grasslands and their associated wetlands are disappearing at a rapid rate due in large part to agricultural land use pressures. Many prairie-dependent

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) triggers IBA criteria in Squamish River Area (CA060) as a winter resident
Photo: Shutterstock

Three of the four sites in the Americas where Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*) triggers IBA criteria are in Canada: Cleland Island & Southeast Clayoquot Sound (CA080), Kyuquot Channel Islets (CA084) and Moore and Byers Islands and Banks (CA092).
Photo: Shutterstock

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*), one of six threatened breeding species in Canada.
Photo: M. Brennan Mulrooney

¹According to the 2008 IUCN Red List, Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) has been downlisted from VU to NT, giving Canada a total of 16 globally threatened birds.

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landbirds are demonstrating precipitous population declines (Rich *et al.* 2004).

Tundra habitat in Canada's Arctic is significant for many breeding shorebird species (Donaldson *et al.* 2000). Many coastal staging areas are used by shorebirds in Canada, with several sites hosting remarkable numbers of migrating individuals. Two key sites are the extensive mud flats of the Bay of Fundy² in eastern Canada where up to 70% of the global population of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) pass through on migration, and British Columbia's Fraser River Estuary (CA057) which hosts several million migrating shorebirds.

Canada's Great Lakes offer important habitat for many colonial nesting waterbird species like gulls and terns. Numerous waterbird colonies are found along Canada's coasts, with significant sites dotting the St. Lawrence River, the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, as well as Arctic coastlines.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) meets A4i criterion at two IBAs with up to 8% of the North American population overwintering in British Columbia at Boundary Bay - Roberts Bank - Sturgeon Bank (Fraser River Estuary) IBA (CA057).
Photo: Shutterstock



IBA overview

A total of 325 global IBAs have been declared in Canada (Table 1, Figure 1), covering 30,312,241 ha or 2.4% of Canada's land area. Of these IBAs, 31 sites have been designated under the A1 criterion and 315 IBAs meet the A4 criteria. No IBAs have been declared in Canada under A2 or A3 criteria.

The IBA program in Canada was launched in 1996 as a partnership between the two BirdLife co-partner organizations in Canada, Nature Canada (then known as the Canadian Nature Federation) and Bird Studies Canada. In the late 1990s, an IBA technical steering committee was established comprising staff from the Canadian BirdLife co-partners, CWS, and the BirdLife International Global Secretariat. The committee refined the Canadian IBA criteria and reviewed 1246 site nominations for potential IBAs. Many IBAs were nominated based on site-specific data from CWS, and in some cases by local communities. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) provided initial support for the identification of 150 IBAs in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, with 50 IBAs initially identified in Canada (Chipley 1999). Support from the Government of Canada allowed for the official designation of 597 Canadian IBAs in 1999, encompassing sites at the global, regional (continental) and sub-regional (national) levels. These IBAs were published in an online directory in 1999, which has since been refined to provide mapping functionality and a searchable database.

Canada's IBA network encompasses a wide diversity of habitats and geographic locations. IBAs range from the most northerly site, a breeding colony of Ivory Gulls (*Pagophila eburnea*) on Ellesmere Island in Nunavut (CA275), to the most southerly IBA in Canada, colonial waterbird breeding colonies in Lake Erie in southwestern Ontario (CA332). Many IBAs flank Canada's Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic coasts and are often designated for seabird breeding colonies, nearshore areas used by foraging waterbirds, or coastal habitat used as stopovers by migratory shorebirds. IBAs in the interior of the country are generally associated with waterbodies and are designated for congregatory waterfowl and other waterbirds, but some sites encompass other important habitats for threatened species (such as prairie grasslands, Carolinian forests and alvars), or represent migratory bottlenecks for groups like passerines or raptors.

Thirty-one of Canada's IBAs are designated under the A1 criterion for globally threatened or Near Threatened species. These IBAs encompass the sole breeding habitat for the only wild and self-sustaining Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) population as well as

“By far the most common type of Canadian IBA is designated under the A4 criteria, with a total of 315 IBAs.”

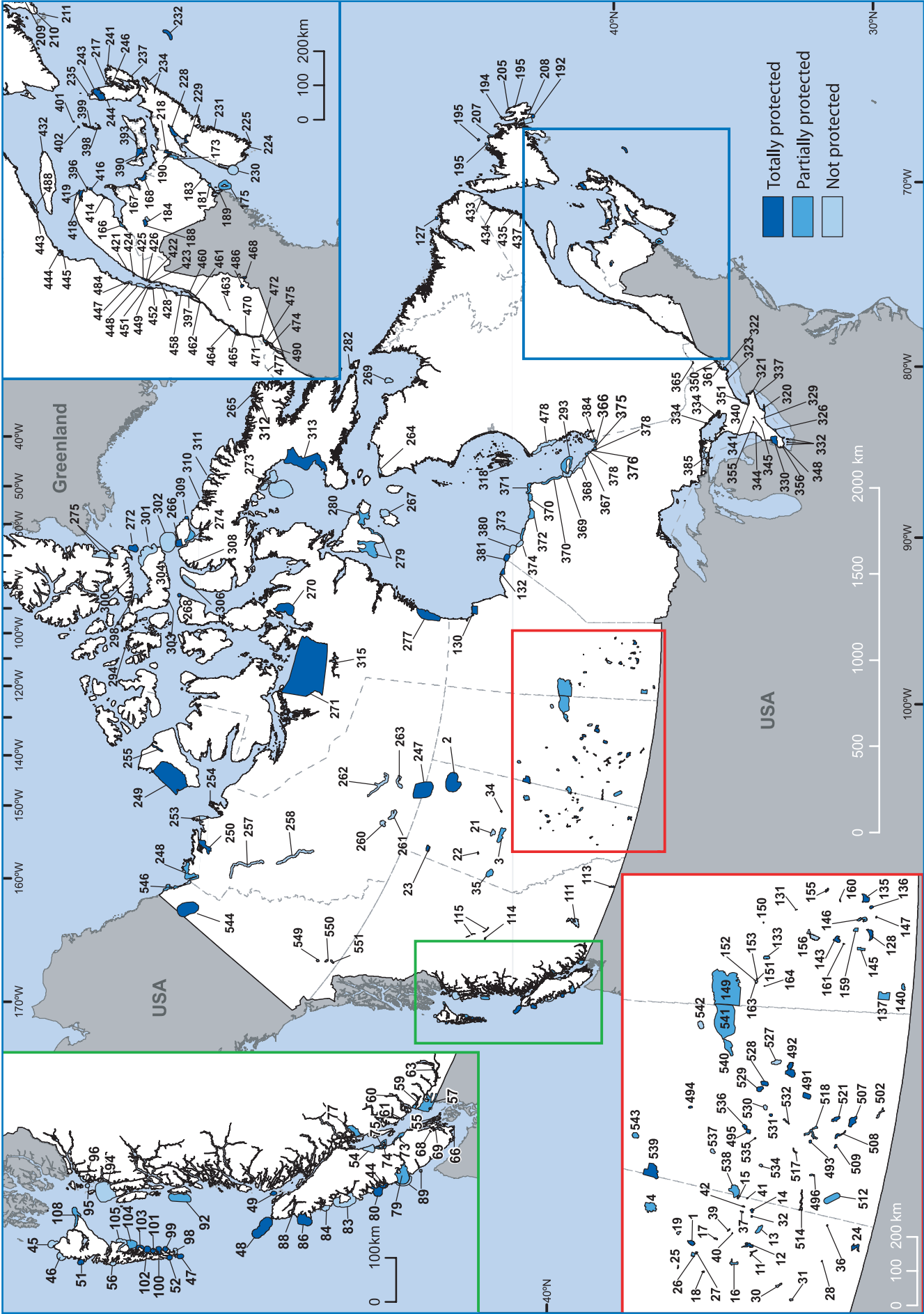
prairie wetlands used by this species as migratory stopovers; Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) breeding habitat in the high-elevation forests of Eastern Canada and marine habitat for foraging Marbled Murrelets (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). The last known breeding location of the possibly extinct Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) is not confirmed as an IBA due to the length of time since the last confirmed record at this site.

No Canadian IBAs have been designated for biome-restricted species under criterion A3, although effort was made at the time of initial IBA designations to do so, with a particular focus on identifying potential IBAs holding representative suites of Neotropical migrants in the boreal forest. However, the site-based approach of IBAs may not be an appropriate or useful conservation tool for species like boreal passerines which generally occur in populations that are not yet endangered, and are found with low species abundance and have breeding populations with dispersed ranges and low densities. A further difficulty of the site-based IBA approach in the boreal forest is the fact that the boreal is the largest intact forested ecosystem in the world. While this presents a unique opportunity for conservation, it represents a challenge for designating specific sites for conservation compared to other highly fragmented forested ecosystems around the world where remaining forest patches might all be potential IBAs.

By far the most common type of Canadian IBA is designated under the A4 criteria, with a total of 315 IBAs: 213 designated for congregatory waterbirds (A4i), 42 designated for seabirds (A4ii), 222 designated for congregations of over 20,000 waterbirds or more than 10,000 seabirds (A4iii), and one bottleneck site designated for migratory soaring species.

Canadian IBAs have a mix of land ownership. Some overlap wholly or partly with federal, provincial, or territorial protected areas (Figure 1). Others are found on public land with no special protection regime. A smaller number encompass land that is privately owned, particularly in the southern portion of the country. Some private land IBAs are managed for conservation values by land-trust conservation organizations.

Figure 1. Location of Important Bird Areas in Canada



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Table 1. Important Bird Areas in Canada

IBA code	IBA name	Adm unit	Area (ha)	A1				A2	A3	A4			
				CR	EN	VU	NT			A4i	A4ii	A4iii	A4iv
CA001	Beaverhill Lake	Alberta	20,232				1			X			X
CA002	Peace-Athabasca Delta	Alberta	719,294										X
CA003	Lesser Slave Lake PP	Alberta	193,890							X			
CA004	Lakeland	Alberta	71,393							X			
CA011	Chain Lakes	Alberta	6,584										X
CA012	Sullivan Lake	Alberta	21,668										X
CA013	Kirkpatrick and Fitzgerald Lakes	Alberta	23,834										X
CA014	Sounding Lake	Alberta	7,548							X			X
CA015	Killarney, Dillberry and Leane Lakes	Alberta	5,044										X
CA016	Ewing and Erskine Lakes	Alberta	16,782										X
CA017	Wavy Lake	Alberta	3,897										X
CA018	Bearhills Lake	Alberta	2,062										X
CA019	Whitford & Rush Lakes	Alberta	6,686										X
CA021	Utikuma and Utikumasis Lakes	Alberta	71,502										X
CA022	Cardinal Lake	Ontario	9,035										X
CA023	Hay and Zama Lakes	Alberta	57,596							X			X
CA024	Pakowki Lake	Alberta	27,481										X
CA025	Big Lake	Alberta	2,898							X			X
CA026	Ministik, Joseph and Oliver Lakes	Alberta	10,423										X
CA027	Miquelon Lake	Alberta	2,952							X			X
CA028	Hays Reservoir	Alberta	892							X			
CA030	Eagle, Namaka and Stobart Lakes	Alberta	8,463							X			X
CA031	Frank Lake (south)	Alberta	4,325							X			X
CA032	Gooseberry Lake	Alberta	1,836							X			
CA034	Pelican Lake (Alberta)	Alberta	7,566							X			
CA035	Grande Prairie - Trumpeter Swan IBA	Alberta	125,724										X
CA036	Chappice Lake	Alberta	1,667							X			
CA037	Metiskow and Sunken Lakes	Alberta	2,618							X			
CA039	Bellshill Lake	Alberta	2,713										X
CA040	Shultz Lake	Alberta	332										X
CA041	St. Lawrence Lake	Alberta	1,211										X
CA042	Hansman Lake	Alberta	1,875										X
CA044	Tofino Mudflats	British Columbia	9,966							X			X
CA045	Langara Island	British Columbia	25,214									X	X
CA046	Frederick Island	British Columbia	23,013									X	X
CA047	Kerouard and St. James Islands	British Columbia	12,362									X	X
CA048	Scott Island Group	British Columbia	117,095									X	X
CA049	Duke of Edinburgh Ecological Reserve	British Columbia	9,785									X	X
CA051	Hippa Island	British Columbia	13,608									X	X
CA052	Anthony Island	British Columbia	10,794									X	X
CA054	Comox Valley	British Columbia	30,049							X			
CA055	Active Pass	British Columbia	1,685							X			
CA056	Englefield Bay Islands	British Columbia	11,484									X	X
CA057	Boundary Bay - Roberts Bank - Sturgeon Bank (Fraser River Estuary)	British Columbia	75,335							X			X
CA059	English Bay & Burrard Inlet	British Columbia	13,974							X			
CA060	Squamish River Area	British Columbia	4,851									X	
CA061	White Islets and Wilson Creek	British Columbia	2,929							X			
CA063	Chehalis River Estuary	British Columbia	3,191							X			
CA066	Chain Islets & Great Chain Islet	British Columbia	139							X			
CA068	Cowichan estuary	British Columbia	3,828							X			
CA069	Somenos Marsh Wildlife Refuge	British Columbia	571							X			
CA073	Little Qualicum Estuary to Nanoose Bay	British Columbia	16,921							X			X
CA074	Baynes Sound	British Columbia	10,046							X			
CA075	Lambert Channel/Hornby Island Waters	British Columbia	13,112							X			X
CA077	Desolation Sound	British Columbia	34,042										
CA079	Barkley Sound	British Columbia	91,257									X	X
CA080	Cleland Island & Southeast Clayoquot Sound	British Columbia	39,614									X	
CA083	Nootka Island banks	British Columbia	82,950										
CA084	Kyuquot Channel Islets	British Columbia	17,348							X			
CA086	Solander Island and Brooks Bay	British Columbia	66,494									X	X
CA088	Gillam Island	British Columbia	809									X	X
CA089	Amphitrite and Swiftsure Banks	British Columbia	22,490							X			
CA092	Moore and Byers Islands and Banks	British Columbia	77,991							X	X	X	
CA094	Kitkatla Channel, Goschen Island North to Porcher Island	British Columbia	153,318							X			X
CA095	Lucy Islands	British Columbia	7,144									X	X
CA096	Big Bay south to Delusion Bay	British Columbia	14,026										X
CA098	Kunghit Island and Luxana Bay	British Columbia	9,475									X	

IBA code	IBA name	Adm unit	Area (ha)	A1				A2	A3	A4			
				CR	EN	VU	NT			A4i	A4ii	A4iii	A4iv
CA099	Rankine and Langtry Islands	British Columbia	10,087									X	X
CA100	Skincuttle Inlet Islands	British Columbia	15,222									X	X
CA101	Alder Island	British Columbia	8,950									X	X
CA102	Ramsay and Northern Juan Perez Sound Islands	British Columbia	18,017									X	X
CA103	Dodge Point & Gogit Passage Island Chain	British Columbia	11,006									X	X
CA104	Laskeek Bay	British Columbia	35,481										X
CA105	Cumshewa Inlet north to Sheldens Bay	British Columbia	29,752								X		
CA108	McIntyre Beach and Rose Spit	British Columbia	35,277								X		
CA111	Douglas Lake Plateau	British Columbia	153,763								X		
CA113	Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area	British Columbia	18,543								X		X
CA114	Fraser Lake	British Columbia	7,096								X		X
CA115	Stuart, Tachie and Middle Rivers	British Columbia	15,688								X		
CA127	Gannet Islands	Newfoundland & Labrador	23,752									X	X
CA128	Delta Marsh	Manitoba	30,552								X		X
CA130	Churchill & Vicinity	Manitoba	143,550										X
CA131	Gull and Sandhill Island	Manitoba	554								X		X
CA132	Kaskattama River Mouth	Manitoba	64,161								X		X
CA133	Kaweenakumik Lake	Manitoba	13,344								X		X
CA135	Netley-Libau Marsh	Manitoba	33,223								X		X
CA136	Oak Hammock Marsh WMA	Manitoba	6,697								X		X
CA137	Oak Lake/Plum Lakes Area	Manitoba	65,049								X		X
CA140	Whitewater Lake	Manitoba	13,949								X		X
CA143	Dog Lake	Manitoba	22,029								X		
CA145	Langruth - Rm of Lakeview	Manitoba	14,534										X
CA146	North, West, and East Shoal Lakes	Manitoba	20,938				1				X		X
CA147	Grant's Lake WMA	Manitoba	1,539								X		X
CA149	Saskatchewan River Delta	Manitoba	703,301										X
CA150	Little George Island	Manitoba	793								X		
CA151	North Channel Island	Manitoba	616								X		
CA152	Dory's Reef	Manitoba	368								X		
CA153	South Long Island	Manitoba	371								X		
CA155	Kasakeemeemisekak Islands	Manitoba	5,050								X		
CA156	Lake St. Martin Islands	Manitoba	37,725								X		
CA159	Marshy Point	Manitoba	11,532										X
CA160	Riverton Sandy Bar	Manitoba	1,798								X		X
CA161	Sand Reef Islands	Manitoba	1,029								X		
CA163	Spruce Island Reef	Manitoba	4,688								X		
CA164	Balabas Island	Manitoba	432								X		
CA166	Restigouche River Estuary	New Brunswick	15,195								X		
CA167	Tabusintac Lagoon & River Estuary	New Brunswick	7,725								X		
CA168	Kouchibouguac NP Sand Islands	New Brunswick	34,649								X		
CA173	Shepody Bay West	New Brunswick	29,892								X		X
CA175	Grand Manan Archipelago	New Brunswick	103,905								X	X	X
CA181	Point Lepreau/Maces Bay	New Brunswick	10,589								X		X
CA183	Saint's Rest Marsh & Beach	New Brunswick	1,196								X		X
CA184	Nepisiguit Highlands	New Brunswick	15,760				1						
CA188	Mount Carleton Provincial Park	New Brunswick	24,412				1						
CA189	Quoddy Region	New Brunswick	13,460								X		X
CA190	Dorchester Cape and Grand Anse	New Brunswick	5,208								X		X
CA192	Cape St. Mary's	Newfoundland & Labrador	33,538									X	X
CA193	Witless Bay Islands	Newfoundland & Labrador	6,298								X	X	X
CA194	Baccalieu Island	Newfoundland & Labrador	4,554									X	X
CA195	Funk Island	Newfoundland & Labrador	13,440									X	X
CA199	Wadham Islands and adjacent Marine Area	Newfoundland & Labrador	15,855								X		X
CA205	Quidi Vidi Lake	Newfoundland & Labrador	709								X		
CA207	Cape Freels Coastline and Cabot Island	Newfoundland & Labrador	33,407								X		X
CA208	Placentia Bay	Newfoundland & Labrador	141,931										X
CA209	Corbin Island	Newfoundland & Labrador	534								X	X	X
CA210	Middle Lawn Island	Newfoundland & Labrador	424										X
CA211	Green Island	Newfoundland & Labrador	571									X	X
CA217	Bird Islands	Nova Scotia	1,113								X		
CA218	Upper Cumberland Basin	Nova Scotia	19,834								X		X
CA224	Bon Portage Island	Nova Scotia	316									X	X
CA225	Eastern Cape Sable Island	Nova Scotia	3,535								X		X
CA228	Cobequid Bay	Nova Scotia	49,288								X		X
CA229	Southern Bight, Minas Basin	Nova Scotia	22,953								X		X
CA230	Brier Island and Offshore Waters	Nova Scotia	96,394										X
CA231	South Shore - East Queens Co. Sector	Nova Scotia	5,112								X		
CA232	Sable Island, Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia	48,306								X		
CA234	Country Island Complex	Nova Scotia	1,690								X	X	X

Important Bird Areas AMERICAS

IBA code	IBA name	Adm unit	Area (ha)	A1				A2	A3	A4				
				CR	EN	VU	NT			A4i	A4ii	A4iii	A4iv	
CA235	Cape North	Nova Scotia	7,403			1								
CA237	Basque Islands and Michaud Point	Nova Scotia	1,154							X				
CA241	Northern Head and South Head	Nova Scotia	5,160							X				
CA243	Cape Breton Highlands National Park	Nova Scotia	97,457			1								
CA244	The Capes	Nova Scotia	979							X				
CA246	Central Cape Breton Highlands	Nova Scotia	8,445			1								
CA247	Whooping Crane Nesting Area and Summer Range	Northwest Territories	884,309			1				X				
CA248	Mackenzie River Delta	Northwest Territories	349,100							X			X	
CA249	Banks Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary	Northwest Territories	2,020,616							X			X	
CA250	Kugaluk River	Northwest Territories	226,033							X			X	
CA252	Cape Bathurst Polynya	Northwest Territories	500,000										X	
CA253	Harrowby Bay	Northwest Territories	99,790										X	
CA254	Cape Parry	Northwest Territories	10,869										X	
CA255	Thomsen River	Northwest Territories	64,207							X			X	
CA257	Lower Mackenzie River Islands	Northwest Territories	348,506							X			X	
CA258	Middle Mackenzie River Islands	Northwest Territories	340,643										X	
CA260	Mills Lake	Northwest Territories	84,806							X			X	
CA261	Beaver Lake	Northwest Territories	140,324							X				
CA262	North Arm, Great Slave Lake	Northwest Territories	291,744											X
CA263	South Shore Great Slave Lake (Slave River Delta to Taltson Bay)	Northwest Territories	130,682							X				X
CA264	Digges Sound	Nunavut	53,157										X	X
CA265	Cape Searle	Nunavut	5,059										X	X
CA266	Cape Hay	Nunavut	132,320											X
CA267	Coats Island/Cape Pembroke	Nunavut	199,243											X
CA268	Prince Leopold Island	Nunavut	29,833										X	X
CA269	Akpatok Island	Nunavut	99,332										X	X
CA270	Rasmussen Lowlands	Nunavut	536,859							X			X	
CA271	Queen Maud Gulf	Nunavut	5,920,585							X			X	
CA272	Cambridge Point	Nunavut	178,350										X	X
CA273	Foxe Basin Islands	Nunavut	1,490,390							X			X	
CA274	Southwest Bylot	Nunavut	191,155				1			X	X	X		
CA275	Inglefield Mountains	Nunavut	415,223				1			X				
CA277	McConnell River	Nunavut	548,682							X			X	
CA279	Boas River and associated wetlands	Nunavut	751,786							X			X	
CA280	East Bay/Native Bay	Nunavut	313,239											X
CA282	Hantzsch Island	Nunavut	3,410											X
CA292	Northeast James Bay	Nunavut	318,600							X			X	
CA293	Akimiski Island	Nunavut	313,987							X			X	
CA294	Seymour Island	Nunavut	5,296				1			X				
CA298	Cape Vera	Nunavut	57,103											X
CA300	Sydkap Ice Field	Nunavut	3,284				1			X				
CA301	Eastern Devon Island Nunataks	Nunavut	598,600				1			X				
CA302	Lancaster Sound Polynya	Nunavut	849,466										X	X
CA303	Cape Liddon	Nunavut	6,868											X
CA304	Hobhouse Inlet	Nunavut	11,416											X
CA306	Northwestern Brodeur Peninsula	Nunavut	255,041				1			X				
CA308	Baillarge Bay	Nunavut	20,925											X
CA309	Cape Graham Moore	Nunavut	31,344											X
CA310	Buchan Gulf	Nunavut	27,330											X
CA311	Scott Inlet	Nunavut	35,286											X
CA312	Reid Bay	Nunavut	10,063										X	X
CA313	Great Plain of the Koukdjuak	Nunavut	1,484,588							X			X	
CA315	Middle Back River	Nunavut	152,535											X
CA318	South Flaherty Islands	Nunavut	24,222							X				
CA320	Long Point Peninsula and Marshes	Ontario	25,611							X			X	
CA321	Niagara River Corridor	Ontario	19,470							X			X	
CA322	Prince Edward Point	Ontario	36,576							X			X	
CA323	Presqu'île Provincial Park	Ontario	2,973							X			X	
CA325	Point Pelee	Ontario	7,554							X			X	
CA326	Greater Rondeau Area	Ontario	13,885							X			X	
CA329	Aylmer Wildlife Management Area	Ontario	1,089							X				
CA330	Eastern Lake St. Clair	Ontario	143,929							X			X	
CA332	Pelee Island Archipelago	Ontario	2,584							X				
CA334	The Watchers	Ontario	695							X			X	
CA337	Port Colborne (breakwater and mainland)	Ontario	212							X			X	
CA338	Hamilton Harbour Waterbird Colonies	Ontario	1,498											X
CA340	West End of Lake Ontario	Ontario	57,845							X			X	
CA344	Thedford Flats	Ontario	1,640							X				
CA345	Pittock Reservoir	Ontario	897							X			X	

IBA code	IBA name	Adm unit	Area (ha)	A1				A2	A3	A4				
				CR	EN	VU	NT			A4i	A4ii	A4iii	A4iv	
CA348	Holiday Beach / Big Creek CA	Ontario	1,522											X
CA350	Wolfe Island	Ontario	28,379							X				
CA351	Leslie Street Spit	Ontario	1,137							X		X		
CA353	Pigeon Island	Ontario	313							X				
CA355	Wildwood Gull Roost	Ontario	1,199							X		X		
CA356	Lower Detroit River	Ontario	7,872							X		X		
CA358	Limestone Islands	Ontario	319							X		X		
CA361	Amherst Island	Ontario	11,537							X				
CA365	Lac Deschênes	Ontario	4,794										X	
CA366	Hannah Bay	Ontario	15,082							X		X		
CA367	Longridge Point & Associated Coastline	Ontario	20,708							X				
CA368	Albany River Estuary & Assoc. Coastline	Ontario	187,464							X		X		
CA369	Akimiski Strait	Ontario	130,877							X		X		
CA370	Ekwan to Lakitusaki Shores	Ontario	151,786							X		X		
CA371	Cape Henrietta Maria	Ontario	97,963							X		X		
CA372	Winisk River Estuary	Ontario	147,714										X	
CA373	Shagamu River & Area	Ontario	86,421							X		X		
CA374	Severn River Coastline	Ontario	95,855										X	
CA375	Netitishi Point	Ontario	14,643							X		X		
CA376	Moose River Estuary	Ontario	19,736							X		X		
CA377	North Point	Ontario	7,182							X		X		
CA378	Big Piskwanish Point	Ontario	13,040										X	
CA379	Sutton River Coastline	Ontario	96,821										X	
CA380	Niskibi Cape	Ontario	158,322										X	
CA381	Pen Islands	Ontario	106,549								X			
CA383	Three Sisters Islands	Ontario	659								X			
CA384	East Point	Ontario	33,822								X		X	
CA385	Manitoulin Island North Shore	Ontario	116,851								X			
CA390	Malpeque Bay	Prince Edward Island	57,008											X
CA393	PEI National Park	Prince Edward Island	11,358				1							
CA396	Bonaventure Island	Québec	1,963							X	X	X		
CA397	Cap Tourmente	Québec	4,325							X		X		
CA398	Lagune du Havre aux Basques et plage de l'Ouest	Québec	3,327							X		X		
CA399	Île Shag	Québec	338							X				
CA401	Les rochers aux Oiseaux	Québec	1,237									X	X	
CA402	Île Brion	Québec	1,676							X	X			
CA414	Shigawake-Newport	Québec	13,677							X				
CA416	Cap d'Espoir	Québec	5,550							X		X		
CA418	Baie de Gaspé	Québec	27,248							X		X		
CA419	Péninsule de Forillon	Québec	7,262										X	
CA421	Marais de Pointe-au-Père	Québec	779							X		X		
CA422	Marais de la baie de L'Isle-Verte	Québec	4,165							X		X		
CA423	Marais de Gros-Cacouna	Québec	4,630							X		X		
CA424	Île Bicquette	Québec	475							X		X		
CA425	Île aux Basques et Les Razades	Québec	5,885							X				
CA426	Île aux Pommes	Québec	702							X				
CA428	Îles Pêlerins	Québec	3,431							X				
CA432	Falaise aux Goélands and pointe de l'Est	Québec	5,254							X		X		
CA433	Baie de Brador	Québec	2,430										X	
CA434	Saint-Augustin Migratory Bird Sanctuary	Québec	9,599							X				
CA435	Îles Sainte-Marie	Québec	5,661										X	
CA437	Île du Lac	Québec	3,260							X				
CA440	Petite île Sainte-Geneviève	Québec	54							X		X		
CA442	Cayes à Meck	Québec	1,245							X		X		
CA443	Île Nue de Mingan	Québec	1,319							X				
CA444	La Grosse Boule Island	Québec	2,074							X				
CA445	Corossol Island	Québec	1,698							X				
CA447	Barre de Portneuf	Québec	484							X		X		
CA448	Baie des Escoumins et Grandes-Bergeronnes	Québec	34,136							X				
CA449	Tadoussac	Québec	1,484							X		X		
CA451	Île Rouge	Québec	229							X				
CA452	Batture aux Alouettes and mouth of Saguenay River	Québec	6,263							X				
CA458	Battures aux Loups Marins	Québec	1,509							X		X		
CA460	Montmagny	Québec	762										X	
CA461	Saint-Vallier	Québec	1,437										X	
CA462	Battures de Beauport and chenal de l'île d'Orléans	Québec	3,677							X		X		
CA463	Réservoir Beaudet	Québec	156										X	
CA464	Nicolet et Baie-du-Fèbvre	Québec	5,032							X		X		
CA465	Plaine inondable de Saint-Barthélemy	Québec	4,646							X		X		

Important Bird Areas AMERICAS

IBA code	IBA name	Adm unit	Area (ha)	A1				A2	A3	A4				
				CR	EN	VU	NT			A4i	A4ii	A4iii	A4iv	
CA468	Massif du mont Gosford	Québec	7,435			1								
CA470	Réserve nationale de faune des Îles-de-Contrecoeur	Québec	2,130							X			X	
CA471	Île Deslauriers	Québec	99							X			X	
CA472	Île de la Couvée	Québec	94							X			X	
CA474	Barrage de Beauharnois	Québec	571										X	
CA475	Lac Saint-Louis et Îles-de-la-Paix	Québec	12,223										X	
CA477	Réserve faunique de Plaisance	Québec	348										X	
CA478	Northeast James Bay Coast	Québec	322,561							X		X	X	
CA484	Waters of Île Patte de Lièvre	Québec	12,496										X	
CA486	Mont Mégantic	Québec	9,029			1								
CA488	Eaux de l'archipel de Mingan	Québec	32,101							X			X	
CA490	Canal de Beauharnois	Québec	4,303										X	
CA491	Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area	Saskatchewan	31,389	1								X	X	
CA492	Quill Lakes	Saskatchewan	71,178	1		1						X	X	
CA493	Luck Lake	Saskatchewan	5,315	1								X	X	
CA494	Lavallée Lake	Saskatchewan	5,597									X	X	
CA495	Redberry Lake	Saskatchewan	13,274							X				
CA496	Galloway and Miry Bay	Saskatchewan	5,868							X			X	
CA502	Willow Bunch Lake	Saskatchewan	15,164				1			X				
CA507	Old Wives-Frederick Lakes	Saskatchewan	43,136							X			X	
CA508	Chaplin Lake	Saskatchewan	16,968				1			X			X	
CA509	Reed Lake	Saskatchewan	5,831							X			X	
CA512	Bigstick Lake Plain	Saskatchewan	77,644										X	
CA514	South Saskatchewan River (Empress to Lancer Ferry)	Saskatchewan	20,563										X	
CA517	Barber Lake	Saskatchewan	5,553									X		
CA518	East Lake Diefenbaker	Saskatchewan	35,628				1			X				
CA521	Pelican Lake	Saskatchewan	20,621							X			X	
CA527	Ponass Lake	Saskatchewan	28,248										X	
CA528	Lake Lenore	Saskatchewan	23,057										X	
CA529	Basin and Middle Lakes	Saskatchewan	21,575										X	
CA530	Buffer Lake	Saskatchewan	12,669	1								X		
CA531	Porter Lake	Saskatchewan	5,710							X				
CA532	Blackstrap Coulee	Saskatchewan	7,567							X				
CA534	Landis Lake	Saskatchewan	6,168							X				
CA535	Radisson Lake	Saskatchewan	1,666	1						X			X	
CA536	Blaine Lakes	Saskatchewan	12,713							X			X	
CA537	Midnight Lake	Saskatchewan	12,618	1						X				
CA538	Manito Lake Area (includes Reflex, Freshwater, Wells, Colette and CIPHER Lakes)	Saskatchewan	68,224				1			X			X	
CA539	Primrose Lake	Saskatchewan	121,265									X		
CA540	Tobin Lake	Saskatchewan	69,928							X				
CA541	Cumberland Marshes	Saskatchewan	478,068							X			X	
CA542	Suggi Lake	Saskatchewan	28,949							X				
CA543	Kazan Lake	Saskatchewan	23,919							X				
CA544	Old Crow Flats	Yukon	760,169							X			X	
CA546	Nunaluk Spit to Herschel Island	Yukon	93,853							X			X	
CA547	Babbage and Spring River Deltas	Yukon	42,237							X				
CA548	Blow River Delta (Shingle Point to Tent Island)	Yukon	46,353							X			X	
CA549	Shallow Bay, Big Slough and Swan Lake	Yukon	16,098										X	
CA550	M'Clintock Bay to Lewes River Marsh	Yukon	16,056							X			X	
CA551	Tagish Narrows	Yukon	19,556							X			X	



For information on trigger species at each IBA, see individual site accounts at Canada's Online IBA Database: www.bsc-eoc.org/iba/IBAsites.html

Opportunities

To date, the most significant contribution that IBAs have made to the Canadian conservation landscape has been their role as focal points for locally-led stewardship and protection activities. Conservation activities may be supported by the Canadian BirdLife co-partner organizations or be undertaken by local communities independent of support from the national co-partners. For example, through Nature Canada's small grants IBA Communities in Action program, which has extended close to \$1 million to around 200 community-based IBA conservation projects over the past ten years, and/or monitoring activities such as migration monitoring stations coordinated by Bird Studies Canada. IBA signs have been erected at many sites where community involvement in IBA conservation activities is ongoing, and many IBA Local Conservation

Groups (LCGs) work to raise the profile of IBAs in their communities. The Canadian BirdLife co-partner organizations are currently launching a national network of IBA Caretakers in order to increase the impact of conservation activities undertaken by IBA LCGs (Box 1).

Increasingly, IBAs are being recognized as important inputs into broad scale conservation plans focused on terrestrial and marine protected areas. Government departments are starting to view IBAs as priority areas where impacts of development on migratory birds and their habitat need to be more stringently considered (Milko 1998). They have also proven useful in policy-making, e.g. guidelines for wind turbine placement specify that IBAs should be avoided (Environment

“IBAs have made a significant contribution to conservation through their role as focal points for locally-led stewardship and protection activities.”

Canada 2007). Indeed, IBA data are requested dozens of times each year in relation to the issue of wind turbine placement, and as part of other formal environmental assessments. Generally, however, the IBA concept in Canada still has fairly low visibility, recognition, and understanding of its goals. More work needs to be done to raise the profile of IBAs in the country, and to better integrate IBAs with future protected areas networks.



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) triggers IBA criteria at seven sites in Canada, most of which lie on its migratory route. Photo: Mark Haddas

A Network of Caretakers for Canadian IBAs

Box 1



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiaca*)
Photo: Graeme Purdy

Local involvement in, and ownership of, on-the-ground stewardship projects is essential in a country as large as Canada. In partnership with provincial nature organizations, the Canadian BirdLife co-partners are launching an IBA Caretakers Network, with the goal of increasing stewardship, monitoring, and advocacy at Canadian sites. Caretakers will act as eyes on the ground for Canadian IBAs, and will deliver priority conservation activities such as IBA monitoring, restoration and advocacy for site protection. Once significant capacity exists in the network, Caretakers will undertake IBA monitoring

using BirdLife's IBA monitoring framework. An important component of this is to adapt and integrate information from a wide variety of bird monitoring programs to report on bird populations at IBAs, e.g. ebird, breeding bird atlas, Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey, etc. The Canadian BirdLife co-partners are currently developing this capacity. Another important aspect is field testing – in this regard, the global IBA monitoring framework has been adapted for Canadian sites and pilot IBA monitoring has begun at many IBAs in the province of Alberta. Lessons learned from this experience will inform the national roll-out of IBA monitoring across the country. A longer-term goal of the Canadian IBA program is the eventual linking of IBAs, and their associated Caretakers or other site support groups, along migratory flyways through a coordinated hemispheric approach.

Further information

National IBA Directory: www.ibacanada.ca

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