

The State of Canada's Birds 2012

Fact Sheet

Report Findings – a Summary

The report highlights several changes in Canadian bird populations since 1970. These include:

- On average, Canadian breeding bird populations have decreased 12% since 1970, the year effective monitoring began for most species.
- Of all Canadian bird species, 44% have declined, 33% have increased and 23% have shown little overall change.
- Grassland birds, including longspurs, meadowlarks, Sprague's pipit, Greater Sage-Grouse and others, are in decline due largely to a loss of habitat.
- Aerial insectivores – swallows, flycatchers and other birds that catch insects in flight – are declining more steeply than any other group of birds, but the causes of the decline are unknown.
- Shorebirds have declined by almost half overall, while Arctic shorebirds in particular, including the endangered Red Knot, have declined by 60%.
- Increasing raptor populations, such as the peregrine falcon, point to the success of direct conservation actions, including pesticide controls.
- Waterfowl populations have increased in part due to successful management of hunting and wetlands.
- Conserving Canada's birds requires concerted efforts by all sectors of society, including individuals, corporations, non-government organizations and governments, both in Canada and internationally. The North American Bird Conservation Initiative is working to help achieve this cooperation.
- New and ongoing efforts and resources will ensure continued success for groups such as waterfowl and raptors and help to reverse the trends in groups such as grassland birds and aerial insectivores.



About NABCI-Canada

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative's vision is that populations and habitats of North America's birds are protected, restored and enhanced through coordinated efforts at international, national, regional and local levels, guided by sound science and effective management. It is designed to increase the effectiveness of existing and new programs, enhance coordination between organizations and foster greater international cooperation.

In Canada, NABCI members include federal, territorial and provincial governments, conservation NGOs, private sector organizations, representatives from Habitat Joint Ventures, and partners from Canada's four major bird initiatives: the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight - Canada, the Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.

For more information about The State of Canada's Birds, visit www.stateofcanadasbirds.org.