



ONTARIO PARTNERS IN FLIGHT
Landbird Conservation Planning
BCRs 8 (Boreal Softwood Shield) &
12 (Boreal Hardwood Transition)

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP SYNOPSIS
Canadian Ecology Centre
October 13-15, 2004

Synopsis of the Key Outcomes of the BCR 8 & 12 Technical Workshop

- 1. A preliminary list of landbird conservation issues in Ontario BCRs 8 & 12 was developed.** See Section 5, page 3 of Workshop Summary Notes.
- 2. The breeding status and preliminary threat scores for all landbirds in BCRs 8 & 12 were reviewed and updated.** See Section 6, page 4 of Workshop Summary Notes for discussion. Updated list of breeding landbirds and threat scores are presented in *TB Scores BCR 8 Nov 11 04* and *TB Scores BCR 12 Nov 11 04* spreadsheets
- 3. Updated lists (incorporating the revised threat scores) of priority species in each BCR in the continental concern, continental stewardship, regional concern, regional stewardship, federal species at risk, provincial species risk categories were reviewed and additional species of Regional Management Interest (not otherwise included as priority species) were identified.** See Section 7, pages 4-5 of the Summary Notes for the list of additional species that were considered. The revised priority species lists are presented in the *Priority Breeding Species BCR 8 Oct 22 04* and *Priority Breeding Species BCR 12 Nov 8 04* spreadsheets (along with the updated breeding scores).
- 4. Priority landbird habitats in BCRs 8 & 12 were identified and the habitat associations of each of the priority species were summarized.** See Section 8, pages 5-6 of Workshop Summary for habitat lists. The species habitat matrices are presented in the *Priority Habitats BCR 8 Oct 22 04* and *Priority Habitats BCR 12 Nov 5 04* spreadsheets.
- 5. A general approach to setting population and habitat objectives for priority landbirds in Ontario portions of BCRs 8 and 12 was proposed.** See Sections 9 and 10, pages 7-9, for a summary of the discussion. The main recommendations were that:
 - Objectives should be set based on the “natural range of variability” approach rather than using an arbitrary point as the starting time frame. This approach fits with the current approach to forest management that seeks to emulate natural disturbance patterns.
 - The geographic scale of the objectives should be linked to the scale of the natural variability habitat models (i.e. the eco-region or larger units), or the relevant forest guide (e.g. the landscape-level guide).
 - The overall goal is to maintain bird populations within the range of natural variability. A two-pronged approach is necessary: most priority landbirds can be covered by a coarse-filter, landscape-level approach based on emulating the natural range of variability in habitat availability but some species will require fine-filter approach. (See page 9 of the Notes for an explanation of the coarse and fine filter approach).
 - For most priority species, we can use habitat variability models to set habitat objectives (prescriptive) but one of the ways to measure effectiveness will be bird monitoring (evaluative indicators). There is a need for an order of magnitude population estimates, but not necessarily as part of the objective.
- 6. Species and habitat guilds requiring a fine-filter approach were identified and examples of appropriate population and habitat objectives for some of these species and guilds were proposed.** See Section 11, pages 9-11, for summary of discussion and proposed objectives. Species requiring a fine-filter approach are identified in the Priority Habitat spreadsheets.

7. **Next steps in the plan development process include:**
- **Circulation of the workshop summary to all participants for comment and feedback.**
 - **Circulation of the workshop outcomes, especially the updated threat scores, to PIF Coordinators in other parts of BCRs 8 & 12 for comment.** It is hoped that the Ontario input on threat scores will be reflected in the continental PIF database.
 - **The PIF Ontario Organizing Committee will use the direction provided by the Technical Advisory Committee at this workshop to develop preliminary objectives for all of the priority species and guilds.**
 - **No decision has yet been made as to whether it will be necessary to hold a second technical workshop for these BCRs.**