



Environnement
Canada

Service canadien
de la faune

Environment
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service



BIRD STUDIES
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA



24 July 2003

Dear Conservation Partners,

We are writing to inform you of an initiative by the Ontario Region Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in cooperation with Bird Studies Canada (BSC) to develop Landbird Conservation Plans for Ontario. We hope that you will find this project of interest and that you or your organization will be able to contribute to its development.

The Landbird Conservation Plans will be developed within the Partners In Flight framework as part of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) (see enclosures for more details about these initiatives). The underlying vision of Partners in Flight is to sustain the distribution, diversity and abundance of landbirds throughout their natural geographic ranges.

Achieving this vision will require coordinated efforts and activities over large geographic areas, multiple scales of planning and implementation, and the involvement of numerous partners from government and nongovernmental organizations, from the scientific community, and from local communities.

We would like to keep you informed about this initiative in Ontario. We would also like to invite organizations with a particular interest and expertise in bird conservation to become more actively involved in a technical advisory committee. Please contact Brigitte Collins (Brigitte.Collins@ec.gc.ca or (613) 952-2408) to indicate whether you or your organization would like to:

- a) Receive information only – newsletters and other information items.
- b) Review draft plans and receive newsletters.
- c) Actively participate in technical advisory meetings, review draft plans, and receive newsletters.

Organizations that are interested in participating in technical advisory meetings should be aware that several workshops will be scheduled to evaluate and agree on methods and scores for biological assessment of landbirds, selection of priority species, development of population objectives, and determination of habitat targets. Organizations must provide their own financial support to attend these workshops. The first workshop is tentatively scheduled for two days in



late September 2003 and will focus on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Bird Conservation Region (BCR 13).

There are four BCRs covering Ontario and extending to adjacent provinces and states. Landbird Conservation Plans will be prepared for the Ontario portion of each of these BCRs, which include: BCR 7 - Taiga Shield / Hudson Plans; BCR 8 - Boreal Softwood Shield; BCR 12 - Boreal Hardwood Transition; and BCR 13 - Great Lakes / St. Lawrence. It is anticipated that these landbird conservation documents will be developed in stages, beginning with the southernmost BCR 13 and then proceeding north. Individuals and organizations are welcome to participate in the development of plans for all of the BCRs or alternatively, for just those that are of particular interest to them.

As this is a collaborative effort involving several agencies, financial contributions are another means of participating in this important conservation planning exercise.

We hope your organization considers Landbird Conservation Plans an important advance in conservation planning and invite you to play a role in their development. We would appreciate your response by August 22, 2003.

Sincerely,

Richard Pratt, Manager, Wildlife Resource Conservation
Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region

Deb Stetson, Manager, Wildlife Section
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Michael Bradstreet, Director and Chief Executive Officer
Bird Studies Canada