

Conservation Objectives

Overall Conservation Goal:

Sustain the distribution, diversity,
and abundance of native landbird
populations and their habitats in
Ontario's Bird Conservation Regions

High Level Conservation Objectives:

- Maintain Pop'ns of Priority Species (Reverse Declines)
- Recover Endangered & Threatened Species
- Maintain Distribution of Priority Species
- Ensure Habitat of sufficient Quality & Quantity to meet population & distribution objectives
- Monitor Trends & Distribution of all Landbirds, and their Habitats
- Research Reasons for Declines, Landbird Needs, Impacts & Success of Actions

Population Objectives

Why?

Marketing tools – Motivate Action

Performance Indicators

Basis for establishing other program objectives
such as habitat objectives

Characteristics of Useful Objectives

Easy to Communicate - Understandable

Easy to Measure and Assess Progress

Easily Translated into Action

Linked to overall Goal / Vision

Timeframe?

Current or Historic Start Point?

1960s/1970s reference years? (NAWMP, PIF)

Base on Habitat History? (vary across BCRs)

Current, with exceptions for severe past declines? (BCR13 all bird workshop, 2001)

Future? (once a baseline is established)

Ontario BCR 13 - Data-dependant:

- 1st decade of BBS (1968-77), 1st BB Atlas (1981-85)
- Exceptions – Current start point for Grassland Birds

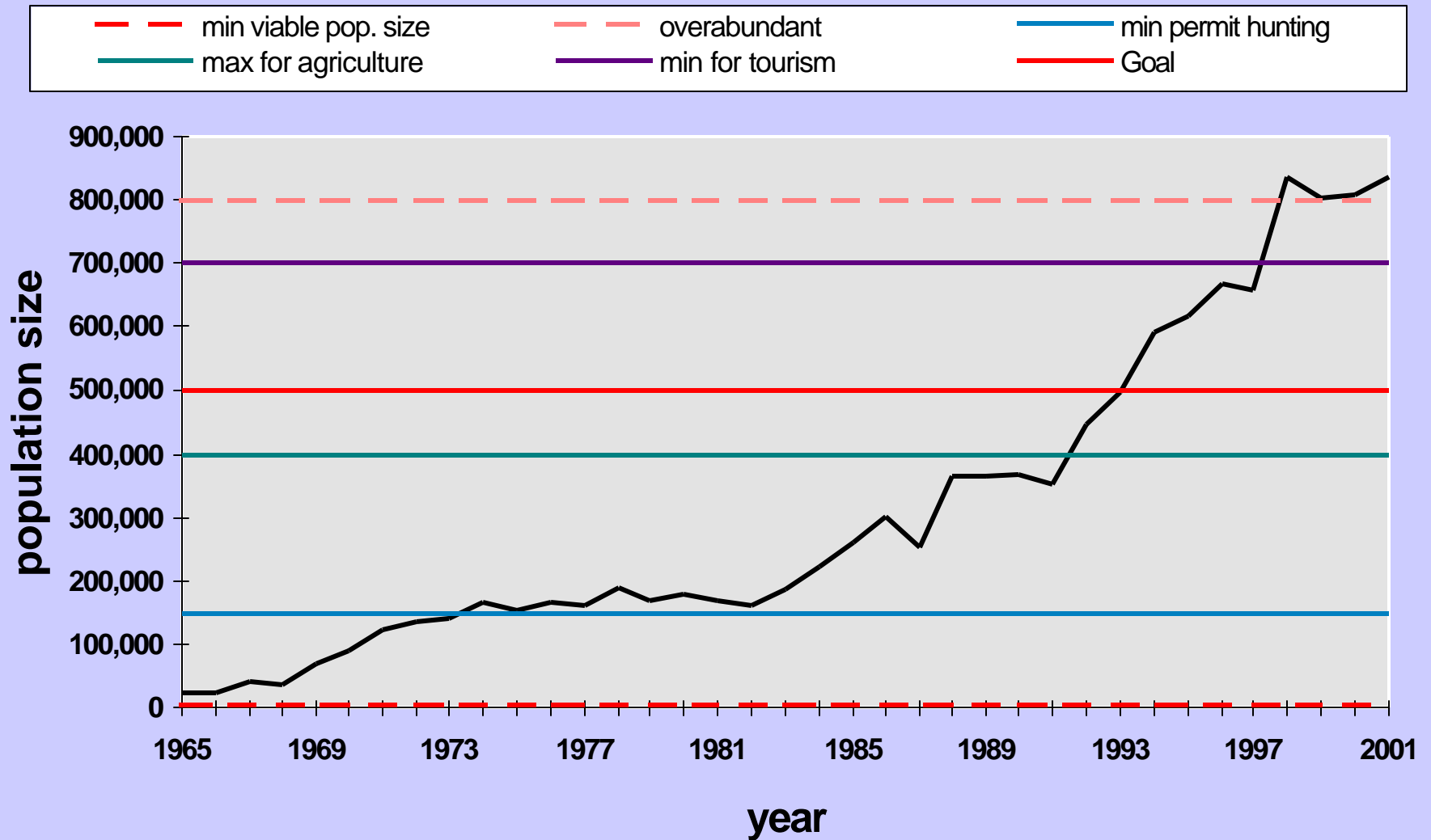
Types of Objectives?

BCR 13

Many Possibilities

- Numerical Population Targets
- Indices of Abundance or Presence/Absence
- Population Trend Objectives
- Distribution Objectives
- Demographic Objectives
- Multi-species Objectives
- Habitat Objectives
- Indices of Ecological Integrity

Population Size Targets

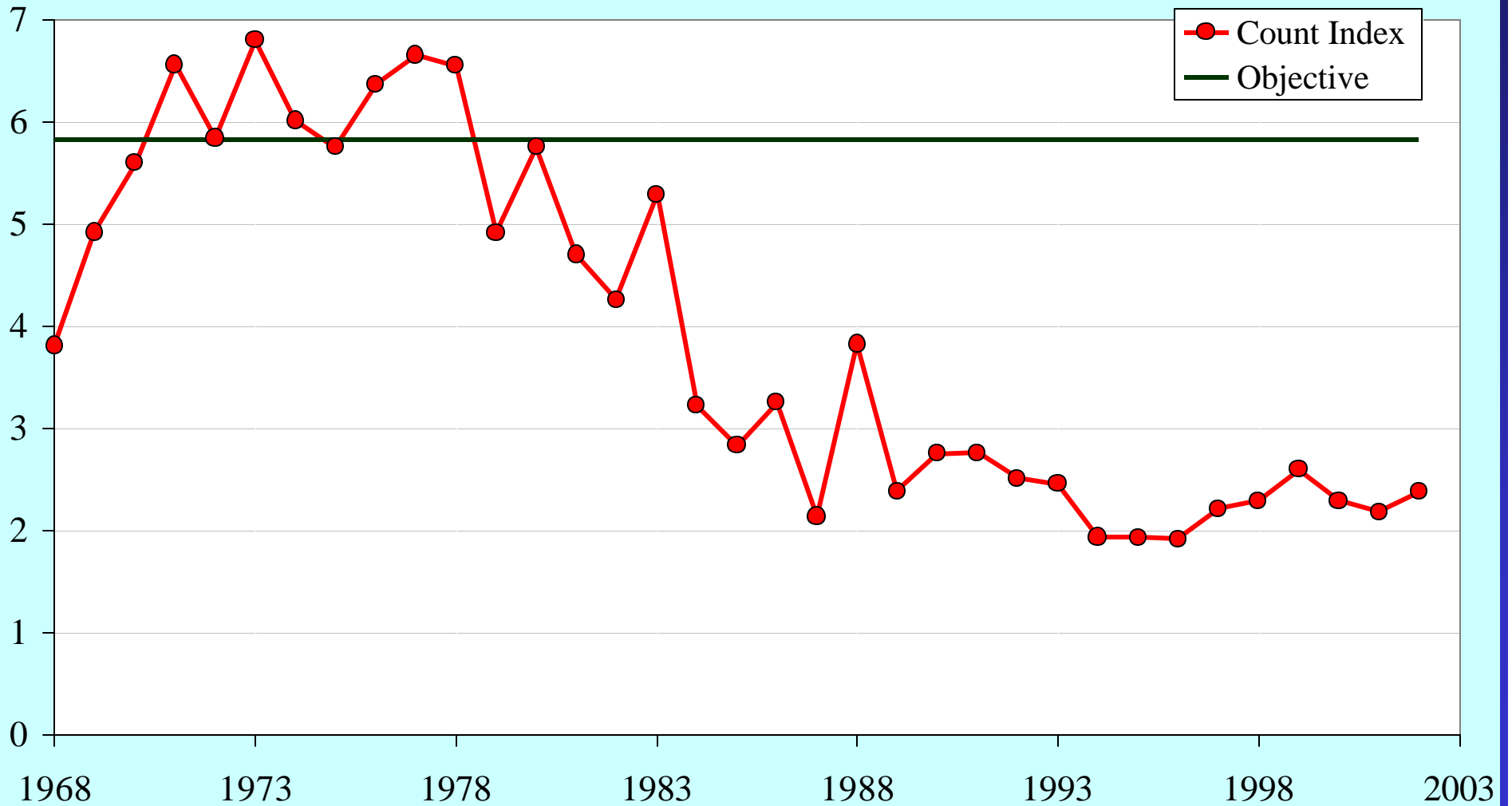


adapted from K. Dickson, 2001

Index of Abundance

e.g., BCR 13 Ontario

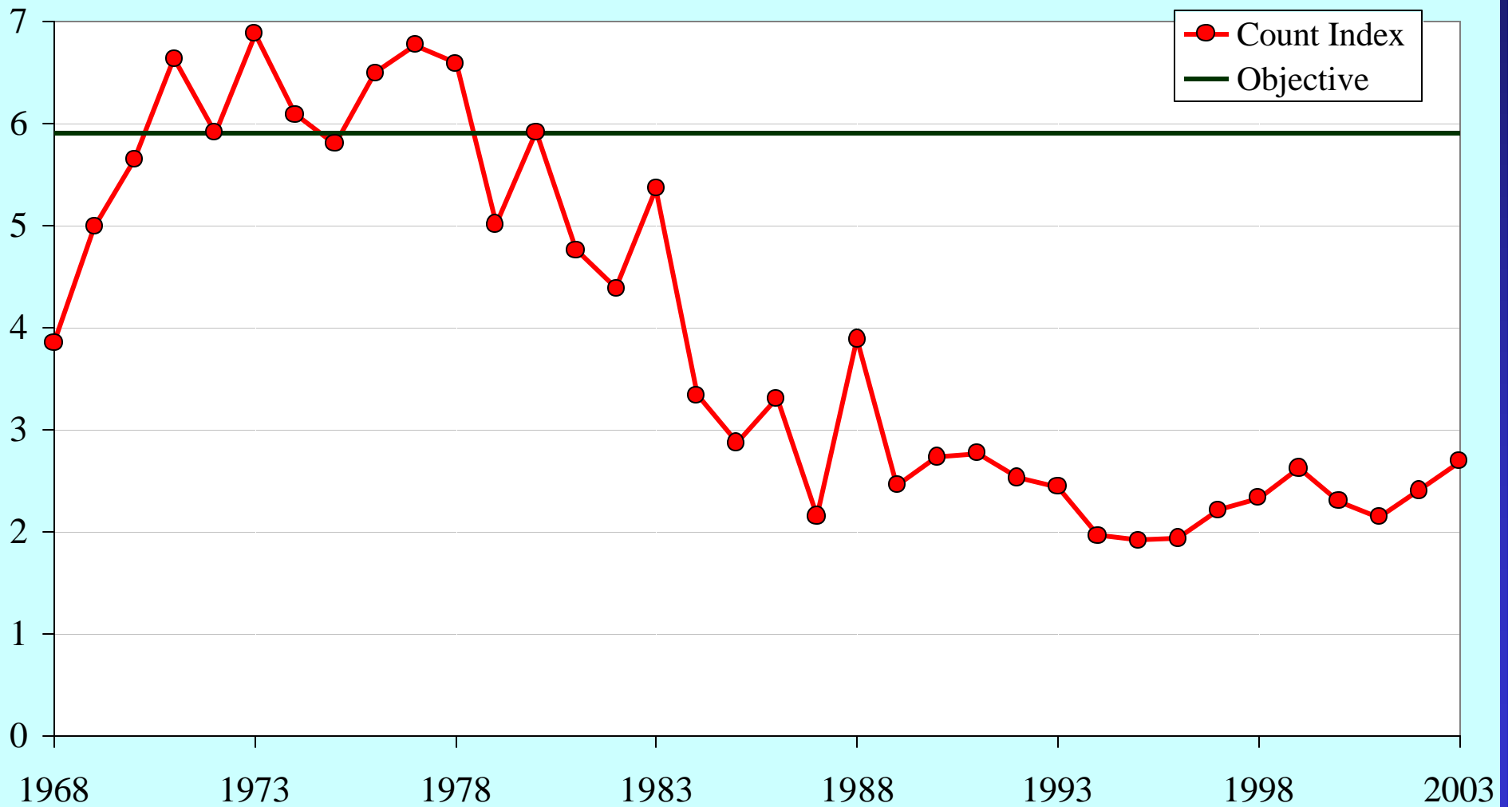
Brown Thrasher - BBS Count Index



Index of Abundance

e.g., BCR 13 Ontario

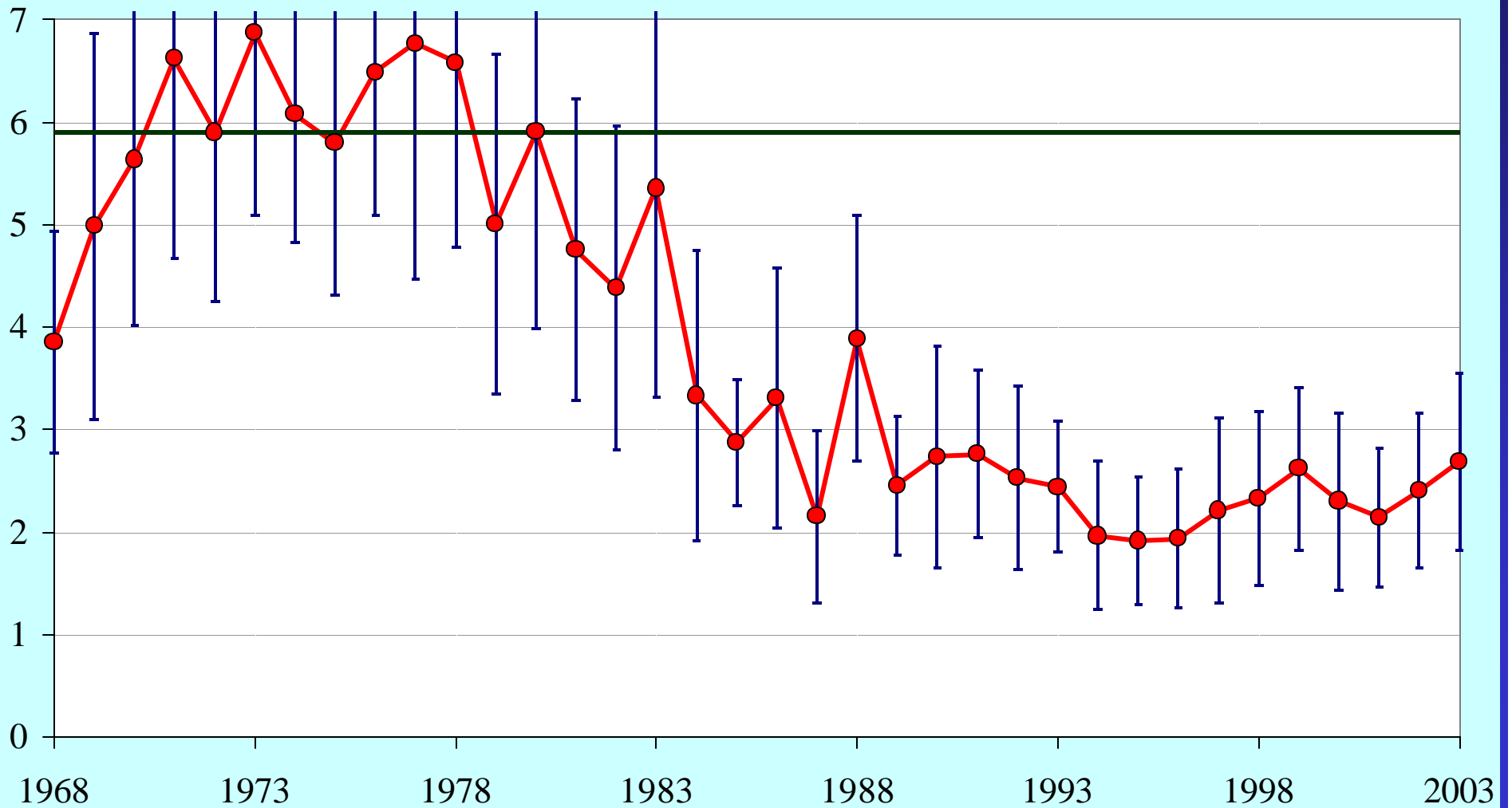
Brown Thrasher - BBS Count Index



Index of Abundance

e.g., BCR 13 Ontario

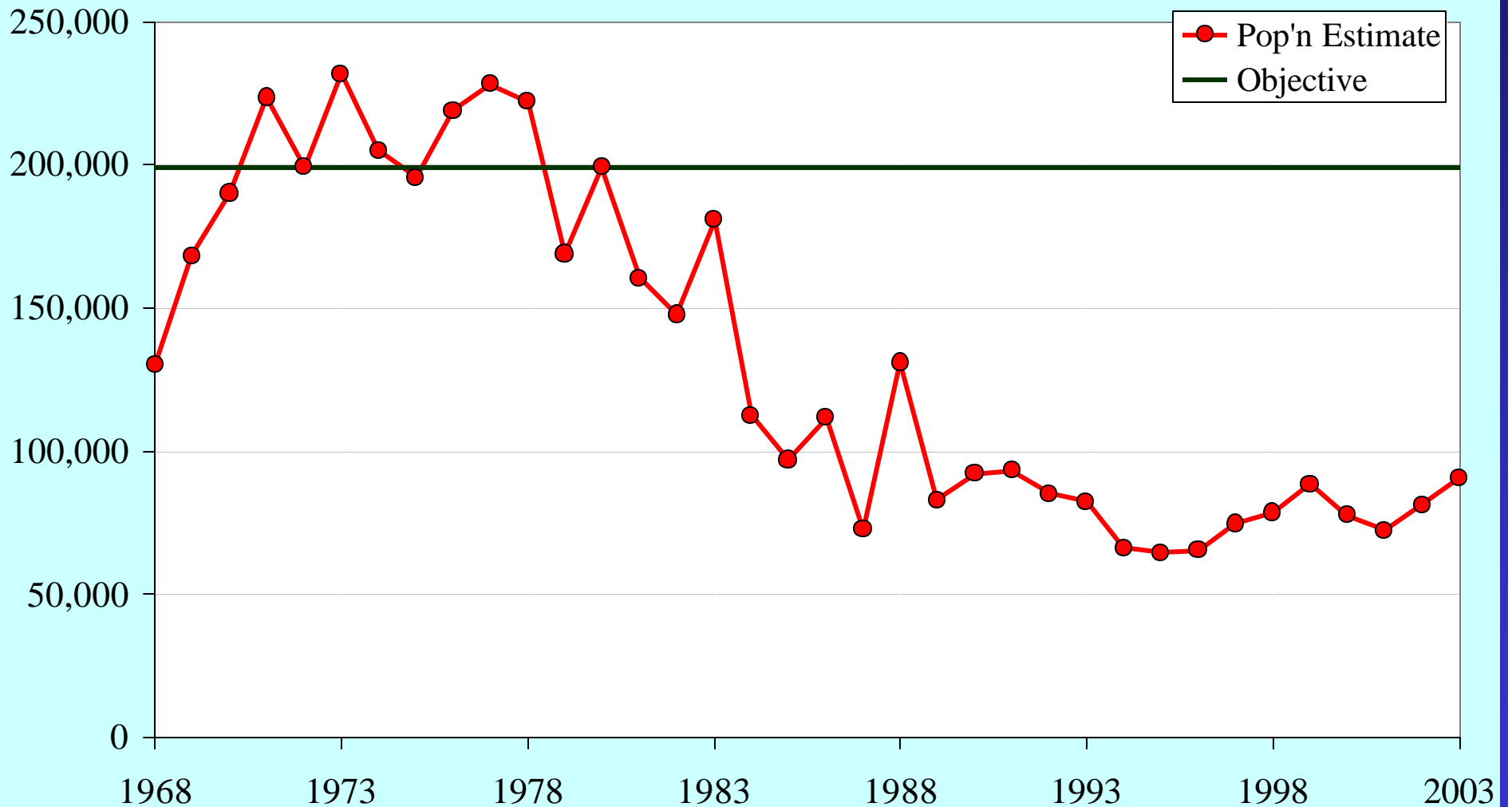
Brown Thrasher - BBS Count Index



Index of Abundance

e.g., BCR 13 Ontario

Brown Thrasher - Breeding Birds



Population Trend Objectives

e.g., PIF Bird Conservation Plan - Upper Great Lakes Plain (Physiographic Area 16)

"Increase Henslow's Sparrow and Greater Prairie-Chicken populations by 3%/yr in USFWS Region 3 from 1980-2010, based on BBS data."

"Monitor populations of other grassland species to ensure that population trends are stable or increasing through 2010."

Distribution Targets

e.g., BCR 13 Ontario

- Reverse losses of priority shrub/successional species in each subregion of BCR 13
- Maintain distribution of priority species that have not shown losses
- Maintain distribution of shrub / successional bird guild overall, in each subregion

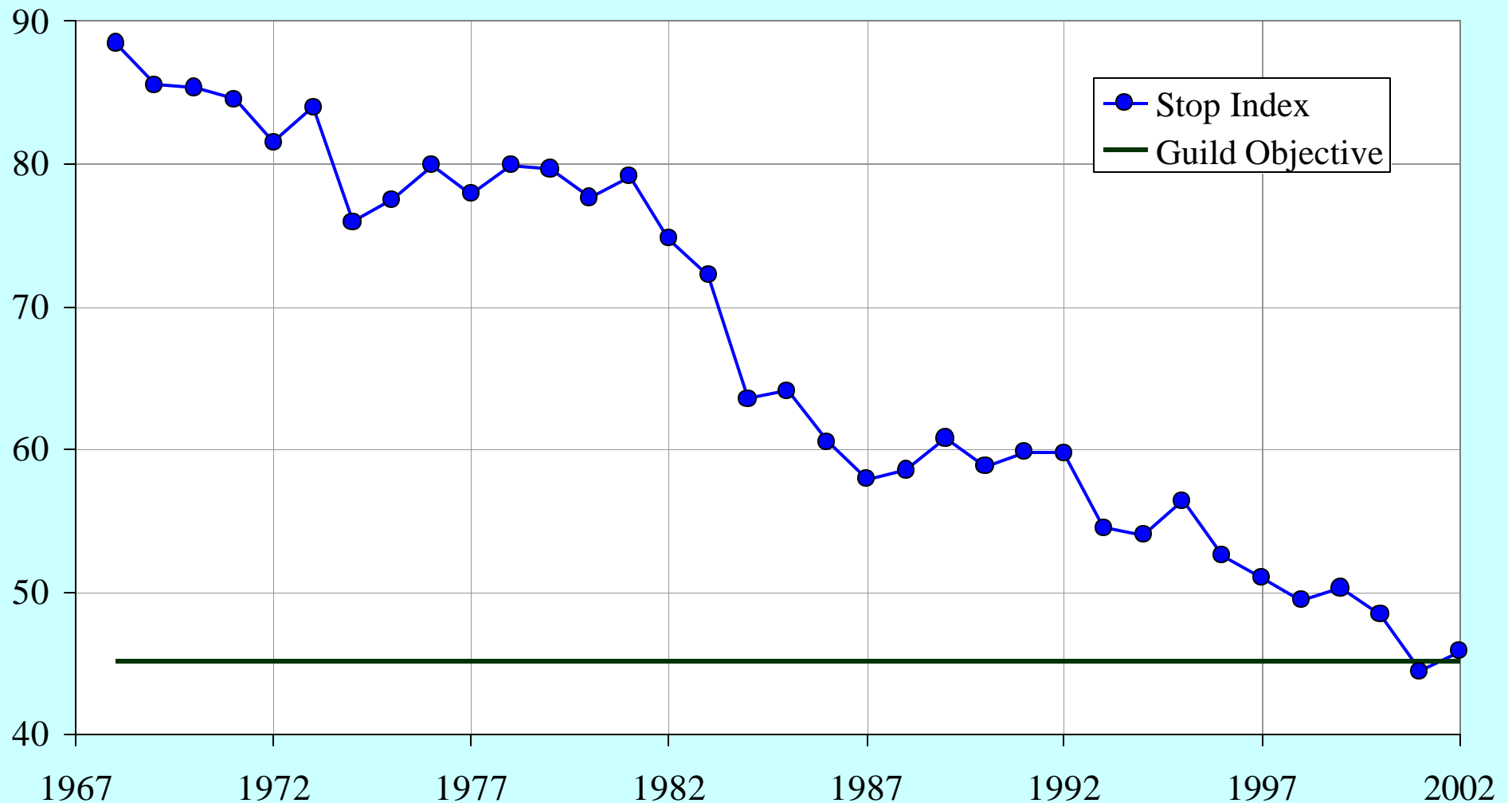
Species	Targets for % Atlas Squares with Breeding Evidence				
	BCR 13	SWest	Central	East	NWest
Brown Thrasher	98%	99.6%	99.7%	99%	81%
Field Sparrow	84%	92%	86%	83%	34%
Willow Flycatcher	69%	90%	66%	62%	15%
Eastern Towhee	67%	78%	69%	61%	31%
Whip-poor-will	42%	19%	43%	60%	78%
Golden-winged Warbler	22%	22%	27%	12%	27%
Blue-winged Warbler	14%	30%	11%	2%	2%
Yellow-breasted Chat	5%	10%	4%	1%	
Prairie Warbler	1%	3%	1%	1%	

- based on 1981-85 Atlas, squares with \geq 20 hours effort

Multi-Species Objectives

Guild	Trend Objective	BBS Index Objective
Grassland Birds	Stop Decline	45.2 (2001-02 avg)

Grassland Birds BBS Stop Index, BCR 13 Ontario



Habitat Objectives

examples

Based on Bird Population Objectives:

"Roughly 775,000 ha of grassland to support entire species suite (e.g. 680,000 prs Bobolinks), with 100,000 ha in large patches (for 7,600 prs Upland Sandpipers), and 2,000 ha intensively managed (for 1,000 prs Henslow's Sparrows) in New York and Ontario" [PIF Plan, St. Lawrence Plain]

or Not:

"Restore grasslands to > 30% of the landscape in 3 ecoregional subsections of PIF16 by 2020." [PIF Plan, Upper Great Lakes Plain (Physiographic Area 16)]

Scope?

All Species? Priority Species?
Focal Species / Habitat Obligates?

Goal is to Conserve All Species

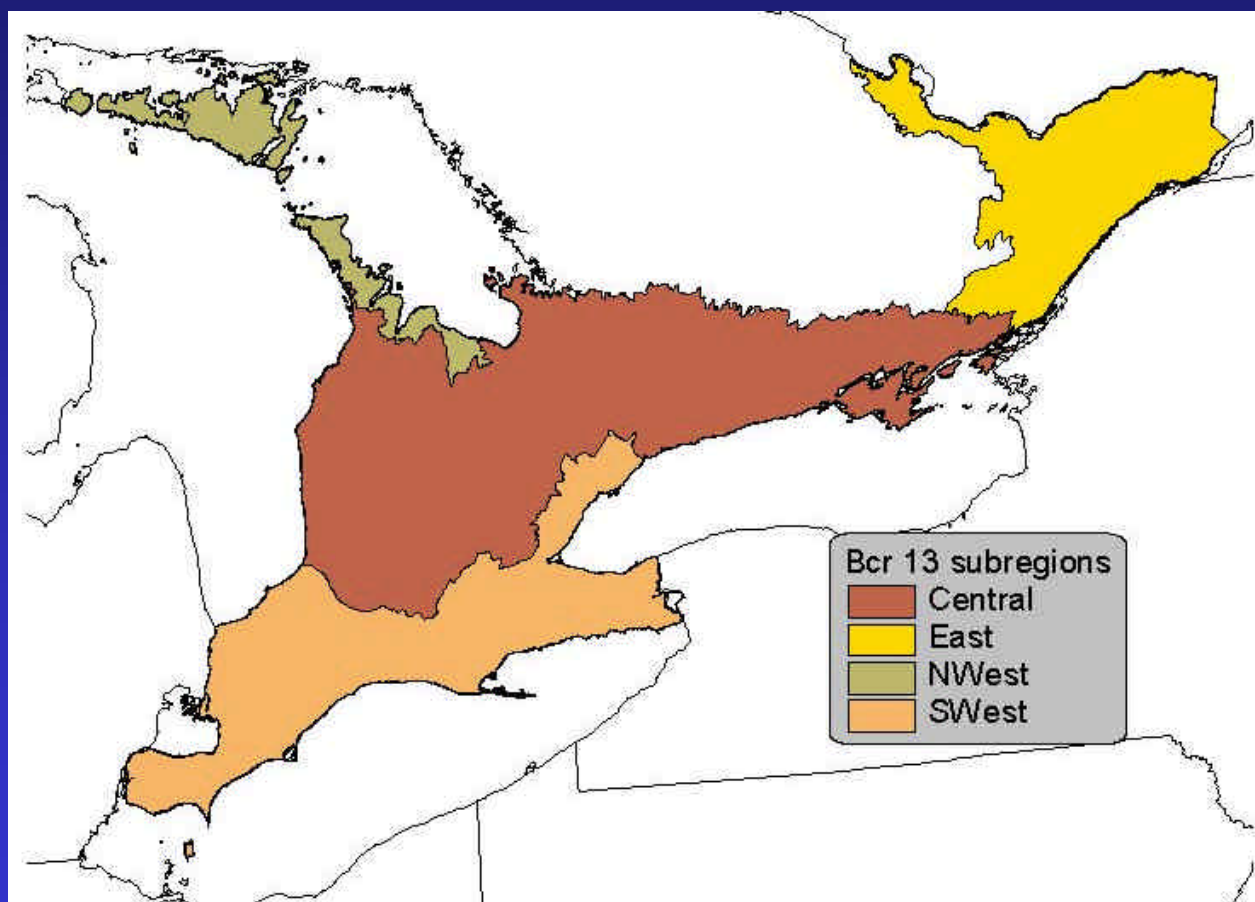
Practicalities May Dictate Focusing on a Few

Ontario BCR 13 Objectives:

- Priority Species
- Guilds: Forest Birds, Grassland, Shrubland, Wetland, and Aerial Insectivores

Geographic Scale?

Full BCR? Ontario BCR? Finer Scale?



Ontario BCR 13: Subregions for Distribution Objectives

Questions:

Timeframe for Objectives?

Type of Objectives?

Species Scope?

Geographic Scale?