



# Forest Co-op Ontario Forest Birds Workshop

A Workshop Sponsored by the SFM Network and



Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative Inc.

Holiday Inn Waterfront, Sault Ste. Marie, ON  
April 8-10, 2008

*Registration Deadline: March 28, 2008*

The objective for the workshop is to summarise the considerable research that has occurred in Ontario during the past 8-10 years to provide direction for future forest bird research and to provide management recommendations to managers.

The workshop will have four major themes (status of forest birds; state of science with respect to forest birds; recommendations for management and monitoring of forest birds; uncertainties, knowledge gaps, and research needs), each with science/background papers followed by breakout topics. Participants will be asked to record data gaps and research needs that they perceive. These will be discussed at the end of the workshop.

## **Program:**

The three day program consists of presentations by invited national researchers, as well as panels and discussion sessions with the following objectives:

- summarize the status of birds in Ontario (in relation to forest management);
- provide a summary of the state of science about birds and forest management in Ontario;
- provide an overview of the effects of forest management on bird communities in forests and adjacent wetlands;

- present implementation options within a forest management context for bird conservation and planning practices;
- identify future research needs, information needs, tools, and emerging issue to improve management of habitats for forest birds; and
- discuss how to transfer scientific information to forest policy and practice.

### **Theme 1 - Status of Forest Birds**

- What do we know about the status and distribution of birds that might be affected by forest management?
- Presenters will address this theme by presenting information from a variety of sources of trend information, commenting on the strengths and weaknesses, the significant population trends suggested by those surveys, and which of the species showing significant trends are likely to be affected by forest management. A panel discussion will follow. Taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of individual survey methods, the panel will assess the weight of evidence for increase, decrease, or stability of the forest bird species likely to be affected by forest management.

### **Theme 2 - State of Science With Respect to Forest Birds:**

- What do we know about effects of forest management on forest and forest-wetland birds?
- At what scales are bird responses measurable or detectable?

### **Theme 3 – Recommendations for Management and Monitoring of Forest Birds**

- Do we need to direct forest management actions towards any individual species? Can specific mitigating measures and implementation options be recommended, or is further study required?
- What limits our capability re: 1-4 above? (e.g., understanding the link between habitat supply and population response)
- What species (if any) or groups of species are useful as indicators of forest change?
- Are there reliable models to assess the effects of management options on long-term change in habitat supply and/or population response?
- What do we need to know to increase reliability and precision of these models?

### **Theme 4 – Uncertainties, Knowledge Gaps, and Research Needs**

- What are the policy issues faced by forest managers and how can science improve policy?
- Can we identify future research needs (gaps, uncertainties), information needs, tools, emerging issues, etc. to improve management of habitats for forest birds?

The draft agenda (subject to change and refinement) is presented below.

The outcome of the workshop will be a state of the science report about birds dependent on forests and adjacent wetlands in the Boreal and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Regions of Ontario. It will be a summary of what we currently understand about (1) changes over time in bird populations and distributions; (2) the effects of forest management; and (3) what needs to be done to improve certainty associated with predictions of effects. This information will inform MNR management of resources through the Stand and Site Guide, Landscape Guide, the Biodiversity strategy, and State of Resource Reporting.

### ***Who should attend:***

Forest practitioners in Ontario and Quebec at the regional and head office levels, from both government and forest industry would benefit from this workshop. A limited number of workshop spaces will be reserved for SFM Network partners.

### ***Date:***

April 8-10, 2008

(Registration check-in 7:30 a.m. on Tues. April 8, 2008; workshop finishes Thurs. April 10 at 3 p.m.)

### ***Location:***

Holiday Inn Waterfront, Sault Ste. Marie, ON  
208 St. Mary's River Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5V4  
1-888-465-4329 (booking) 1-705-949-0611 (front desk)

### ***Registration:***

Please register on-line via our website ([Registration website](#)).

**Registration closes March 28, 2008.** The registration fee is \$100 plus GST, and includes all workshop facilities, lunches and breaks.

### ***Accommodation:***

A block booking has been made at the Holiday Inn Sault Ste. Marie - Waterfront. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations; ask for the group rate for the Canadian Forest Service (code CFS) at 1-888-465-4329 (national) or 705-949-0611 (local), or click here to make your reservation online:

[http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/yamca?\\_requestid=237555](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/yamca?_requestid=237555).

Room costs are \$94 + taxes per night (standard room) or \$109 + taxes per night, (upgraded) subject to availability. **Reservations must be made before MARCH 15, 2008.**

### ***Transportation:***

Jazz (an Air Canada connector) flies into Sault Ste. Marie 5 times daily from Toronto and Bearskin offers service from Ottawa and Thunder Bay. The Holiday Inn has a shuttle service (cost ca. \$15) that must be pre-booked. Or, several limousine services (cost ca. \$30) are available (e.g., Elite 705 759 5757, Skyline 705 942 0500) but these also must

be pre-booked. **DO NOT** fly into Sault Ste. Marie without arranged ground transportation or you will be waiting for quite a while.

***Funding:***

Funding for this event is provided by the **Sustainable Forest Management Network Centre for Excellence (SFM-NCE)** and the **Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative (Forest Co-op)** and its partners.

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(780) 492-7492.

For Online registration for the workshop click [HERE](#).

*Preliminary Workshop Agenda follows this page.*

**Preliminary Agenda**  
**Forest Co-op Ontario Forest Birds Workshop**

(as of March 26, 2008, subject to revision)

**Day 1 (April 8) Moderator: Ian Thompson, Canadian Forest Service**

08:30-08:45 – Opening remarks, housekeeping announcement, etc.

Bird status theme: Moderator: Ian Thompson, Canadian Forest Service

08:45-09:15 Blancher, Phoenix *et al.*: **Status of Ontario's Forest Birds**

09:15-09:45 Francis: strengths and weaknesses among data sources

10:15-10:45 Duffe et al. **Modelling bird habitat using satellite-derived data for area-based habitat conservation plans**

10:45-11:15 Break

11:15-11:45 Song: **National Boreal Bird-Habitat Modelling Project**

11:45-12:30 Panel discussion of bird status

12:30-13:30 Lunch

Forest management effects theme: Moderator Rob Rempel, Ontario MNR

13:30-14:00 Holmes: Riparian Management

14:00-14:30 Thompson: **Effects of post-harvest silviculture on boreal breeding birds**

14:30-15:00 Donnelly and Wedeles: **Birds & Forest management: an overview of relationships & management approaches.**

15:00-15:30 break

15:30-16:00 Drapeau: **The importance of standing dead wood in the foraging and nesting ecology of birds in the boreal forest**

16:00-16:20 Nol: **Do uniform stands result in ecological traps for forest birds?**

16:20-16:45 Burke: **Impacts of selection harvest on forest breeding birds in forested and fragmented landscapes**

16:45-17:15 Zimmerling: **Do post-harvest forests emulate natural disturbances from the perspective of boreal landbirds?**

**Day 2 (April 9)**

Forest management effects theme, continued: **Moderator: Jim Baker, Ontario MNR**

08:30-08:50 Naylor: **Effects of forest management activities on stick-nesting birds: new direction for mitigation in Ontario**

08:50-09:10 Venier et al.: **Boreal bird response to spruce budworm outbreak and succession**

09:10-09:30 Szuba: Sleep, Szuba, and Dreever: **Linking the Range-wide Decline of a Songbird to Long Term Prey Cycles: The Case of the Canada Warbler**

09:30-09:50 Nudds: **Pattern, process, and bird community assembly on boreal landscapes originating from fire and timber harvest: can we have our ecosystem and preserve it too?**

09:50-10:10 Venier et al.: **Birds as ecological indicators of sustainable forest management**

10:10-10:45 break

10:45-12:00 Workshop 1: Can we manage better?

- what species need fine-filter management?
- what do we need to do in riparian areas?
- what mitigative management actions do we need?
- what evidence is available and are there knowledge and data gap?

12:00-13:00 Lunch

Bird monitoring theme: analytical tools, frameworks and conservation planning:  
**Moderator Kandyd Szuba, Domtar Inc.**

13:00-13:20 Holmes and Naylor: **A Test of Ontario's Habitat Suitability Matrix for Forest Birds.**

13:20-13:40 Hannon: **Forest Cover Thresholds in Boreal Birds: implications for managment.**

13:40-14:10 Bayne: **Development and application of biological integrity indices for reporting on the status of boreal forest bird communities**

14:10-14:35 Rempel: **Developing a Focal Species Bioassay for Assessment of Songbird Conservation Design Strategies**

14:35-15:00 break

15:00-16:30 Workshop 2: Can we predict better?

- what analytical tools (models, remote sensing, etc.) are there to predict long-term change and are there better approaches?
  - what are the knowledge and monitoring limitations?
  - how can we increase precision?
  - how do we assess model accuracy?
  - how do we assess risk and risk thresholds?
- is there any benefit to using birds as FM indicators?

### **Day 3 (April 10)**

Science into policy and practice theme: **Moderator: Bob Watt, Ontario MNR**

08:30-09:00 Rempel et al.: **Development and evaluation of coarse-filter policy options for the conservation of forest songbird communities**

09:00-09:30 Devries: **Forest Industry perspectives on MBCA Incidental take**

09:30-10:00 Hughes: **Development of a new regulatory approach for the management of the incidental take of migratory birds**

10:00-10:30 Baker, Szuba, Lucking: Difficulties and opportunities in managing for birds in Ontario's policy framework for forest management planning

10:30-11:00 break

11:00-12:00 Panel discussion on FMP for birds (Panel: Nudds, Rempel, Baker, Szuba)

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:00 Summary of outcomes from the meeting (Baker, Thompson, Rempel, Hannon)

- 1) Research needs
  - 2) what we have learned into FM
  - 3) which birds as indicators
  - 4) future concerns
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