



CANADA'S FOREST SECTOR IS COMMITTED TO BIRD CONSERVATION

Photo credit: Rory Hill

Canada's forests and wetlands provide important breeding and nesting habitat for bird species. As many as six billion breeding or migratory birds representing more than 200 species pass through Canada's boreal region annually. In recognition of this, members of the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) adhere to sustainable forestry principles that support bird conservation.

FPAC members address conservation of migratory birds, through forest management planning and certification. Member companies are:

- » protecting riparian habitat
- » creating and restoring bird habitat
- » retaining stick nests and snag trees
- » advancing bird-friendly operational awareness and training .

MAKING SURE WORKING FORESTS WORK FOR BIRDS

The country's forest products industry ensures managed forests provide a variety of bird habitat conditions through long-term planning over a large landscape. Actions include maintaining adequate coarse woody debris — such as logs, stumps and large branches cut and left in the forest or trees that have died but remain standing — and leaving buffers along lakes, streams and other waterways that are used as nesting and breeding habitat by birds.

The Canadian Forest Service at Natural Resources Canada says the overall long-term population trends of most boreal bird species are either stable or increasing. But some bird populations in Canada's forests are declining. Often there is no single cause that leads to a species decline, especially for migratory birds, which may spend more than half the year outside of Canada. Species can be positively affected by forestry, negatively affected by forestry, or not at all affected by forestry.

One of the great challenges in helping a species recover is determining the causes of its decline and then determining what can be done to stabilize and increase the population. Consider the Canada warbler, a bird that is listed as threatened nationally. Compared with the mid-1960s, today there is only one Canada warbler where there were once three. This two-thirds population decline didn't happen suddenly. On average, the population dropped by about 2.3% per year across North America between 1966 and 2013, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.

Is the problem in the Canada warbler's breeding grounds, in the wintering grounds or along its migration route around the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean through Central America? Are there one or several factors behind the decline, such as changing weather patterns, food scarcity or suitable habitats? Answering these tough questions needs a commitment to research. Fortunately, Canada's forest products industry is answering the call.

INDUSTRY FLOCKING TO BIRD CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Canada warbler conference

Weyerhaeuser was part of a group of sponsors that brought 30 scientists, conservationists and resource managers together in Ottawa to apply the best, most-recent science and problem-solving to address the decline of the threatened Canada warbler.

Modelling future boreal bird populations

The Canada warbler isn't the only species benefiting from FPAC member efforts. Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries supports the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute to promote responsible resource management and land stewardship in Alberta. Models of future boreal bird distributions, developed from a dataset of over 300,000 breeding bird surveys, are helping inform conservation planning priorities and assessments of species' vulnerability to climate change.

Putting birds on the map

LP Canada supports the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia. It's a broad-based partnership between conservation organizations, the public, government, and the private sector. It is part of a national conservation program led by Bird Studies Canada and Environment Canada in partnership with provincial governments, natural history organizations and the private sector to better understand, appreciate and conserve birds, habitats and landscapes.

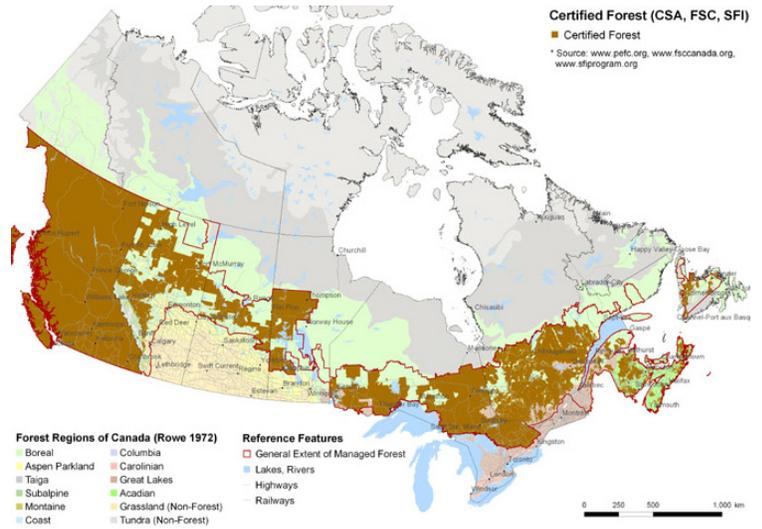
Getting bird biologists to help with harvesting schedules

Canfor has collected data on migratory birds in its operating areas in British Columbia for many years. Using this data, together with that from the Boreal Avian Modelling Project, the company can determine the relative density of nesting birds in stands planned for harvesting, and to prioritize those stands with the highest densities of nests for harvesting outside the bird breeding season. They have developed detailed training programs for their loggers, silviculture and field workers to inform them about bird nests and the protective actions to take if they discover one.



Photo credit: Rory Hill

LEARN HOW WE ARE GROWING A GREENER TOMORROW AT: FPAC.CA/ENVIRONMENT



FOREST CERTIFICATION IS FOR THE BIRDS

As a requirement of membership, FPAC members must be third-party certified to one of three internationally recognized certification standards: Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), or the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Canada is home to 43% of the world's certified forests, with more than 160 million hectares certified. No other country comes close. Globally, only 10% of forests are certified.

One of the key components of forest certification programs is conserving biodiversity, and birds are seen as a key barometer of biodiversity. How they react to harvesting and other disturbances in the forest can suggest how other species are faring.

COLLABORATING FOR THE BOREAL (AND FOR BIRDS)

All FPAC members are signatories to the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) between FPAC and eight leading Canadian environmental non-government organizations. It's the world's largest conservation agreement. It applies directly to more than 73 million hectares of public forests licensed to FPAC member companies across Canada. The Agreement's collaborative approach involves industry and conservation representatives working in consultation with world-leading scientists, governments, Aboriginal and local communities to find solutions that achieve high degrees of social and economic prosperity and ecological integrity. Learn more at CanadianBorealForestAgreement.com.



FPAC advocates on behalf of the forest sector. FPAC is also working to realize the ambitious goals of Vision2020 to help the industry transform with innovative new products, diversified markets, enhanced environmental credentials and a skilled workforce. FPAC is proud to represent Canada's largest producers of forest products.

All FPAC members are signatories of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. Our members are responsible for 66% of certified forest lands in Canada. Third-party certification of member companies' forest practices is a condition of membership in the Association — a world first.