



# COMPENDIUM OF CANADA'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS

## *Management of the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program*

**SUBJECT CATEGORY:**

Biodiversity / Ecosystems

**TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:**

Canada - USA

**FORM:**

Memorandum of Understanding

**STATUS:**

- Signed by Canada February 2 2012;
- In force in Canada and Internationally February 2, 2012
- Ongoing: the Canada and USA have been cooperating on this survey since 1966

**LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:**

**Lead:** Environment and Climate Change Canada

**Partners:** U.S. Geological Survey

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:****Web Links:**

- [Canadian Breeding Bird Survey](#) website
- [U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Survey](#) website

**Contacts:**

[ECCC Inquiry Centre](#)

**COMPENDIUM EDITION:**

October 2018

**PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY**

The Breeding Bird Survey helps track changes in North American birds

- Thousands of keen bird watchers help with the survey
- Over 600 routes are surveyed each year in Canada
- The survey was started more than 50 years ago in 1966
- The results tell us which species are doing well and which are becoming rare
- This can help us decide which birds need extra conservation efforts

**OBJECTIVE**

The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a cooperative survey in Canada, the U.S.A. and Mexico to collect data on population trends of North American landbirds using standardized protocols. The data support conservation and management decisions and scientific research.

**KEY ELEMENTS**

Shared data management; standardized protocols and program design; cooperative data analysis and reporting.

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

The BBS continues to collect standardized data on bird population trends throughout the continent with improved geographic coverage over time.

Updated continental data are available for distribution within several months of the end of each field season.

Updated analyses of data are available and reported each year.

Results and data continue to be used for conservation, management and research.

**CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT**

The BBS supports Canada's efforts to implement the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Monitoring the population status of migratory birds is essential for

management and protection, including identifying species that may be at risk, tracking recovery of at risk populations, and keeping other species from becoming at risk.

The U.S. and Canadian governments have a long history of cooperation on migratory bird data acquisition and management.

## **RESULTS / PROGRESS**

### ***Activities***

The Canadian BBS office has facilitated completion of over 16,000 BBS surveys since 1966; growing from 34 in the first year, to more than 500 / year recently.

Fifty years of population data have produced trends and relative abundance measures for more than 300 landbird species in Canada.

### ***Reports***

The Canadian BBS office publishes [BBS trend estimates](#) on a yearly basis.

Data have been incorporated into the [State of Canada's Birds](#) and [Status of Birds in Canada web reports](#)

### ***Results***

BBS results are used in decision making by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) status assessments for birds and in setting priorities for Bird Conservation Region Strategies.

Results have been incorporated into hundreds of scientific publications (see [publications library](#)).