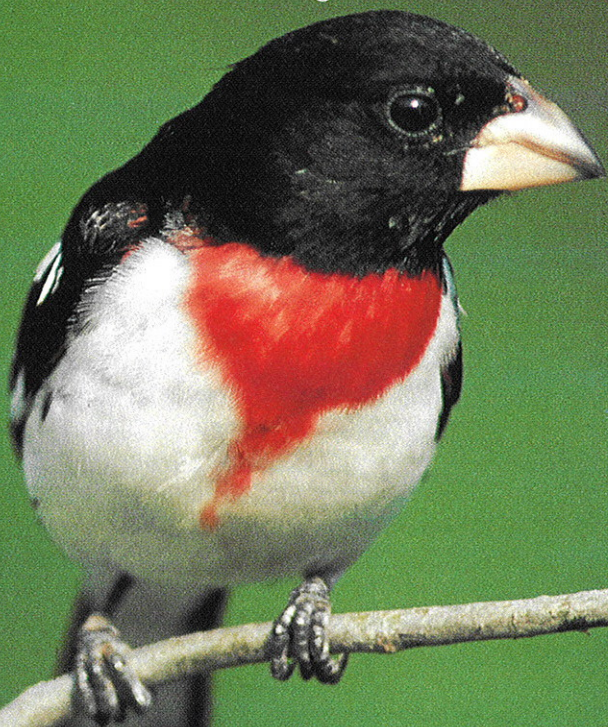


The Canadian Landbird Conservation Program

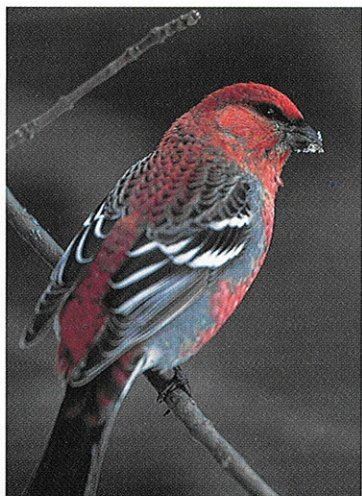
Partners in Flight—Canada





CANADA. THE VERY WORD ITSELF CONJURES images of wilderness and wildlife. Over 420 species of birds use the diverse habitats found across our country to breed and raise their young. In fact, Canadian territory provides key nesting and migration areas for many species of North American birds.

But our landscape has changed and is still changing. Wildlife habitat has been lost and degraded by such human uses as urban, rural and industrial development, extensive resource extraction and land conversion for agricultural use. This change in available habitat is believed to be the primary cause of the long-term population declines documented for a number of species over the last 30 years.



Many of the bird populations in decline use habitat based on land, and can be termed landbirds. This group includes hawks, eagles, and falcons; partridges, grouse, and quail; pigeons and doves; cuckoos; owls; nightjars; swifts and hummingbirds; kingfishers; woodpeckers; and perching birds, about 220 species in all. Many of these birds have not been targeted for conservation or management programs like those underway for waterfowl and shorebirds. For this reason, a new program has been initiated for landbirds to address these habitat and population concerns.

The goal of *Partners in Flight—Canada* is to ensure the long-term viability of populations of native Canadian landbirds across their range of habitats. A partnership of organizations working toward this goal was formed to help coordinate population and habitat conservation programs. The efforts of the partners will involve many different components:

- ◆ Planning will determine the priorities for action and allow each partner to effectively contribute;
- ◆ Education will provide Canadians with the tools to maximize their positive influences on birds;
- ◆ Monitoring and research will provide more information on how populations are affected and why;
- ◆ Applied conservation will ensure that direct action is taken to maintain healthy landbird populations and their habitats.

The challenge to keep these species from becoming endangered has been taken up by federal, provincial and territorial government agencies, non-government organizations, industry associations, academics, and individuals. Cooperating with similar programs in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, we can help keep a place for birds by conserving the habitats they use throughout the hemisphere.

Land managers are critical to the program's success. To assist their work for landbird and habitat conservation they will have access to:

- ◆ tools to help them identify the bird species present on their land;
- ◆ conservation priorities for the bird species in their region;
- ◆ action plans to help retain healthy habitat and bird populations;
- ◆ a national and international network of comparable efforts.

A national, coordinated program will reduce duplication of effort among organizations, provide links to other programs (both national and international), and facilitate communication.

For more information, please contact:

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Current core partners include:

Canadian Wildlife Service
Canadian Nature Federation
Wildlife Habitat Canada
Bird Studies Canada
Society of Canadian Ornithologists



Photos:
cover: Rose-breasted grosbeak/Robert McCaw
top, left to right:
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