

Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas - Criteria:

- Threatened Species – sites that hold endangered or threatened birds.
- Birds with restricted breeding ranges – endemic species: more applicable in tropical countries.
- Biome-restricted assemblages or unique natural community type: often sites of general conservation interest.
- Bird Concentrations – significant numbers when breeding, wintering, migrating. The majority of Canada's sites are in this category.

IBA Program in British Columbia

BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) coordinates the program with the support of national partners Nature Canada & Bird Studies Canada. We are enlisting the support of other birding, naturalist, conservation groups, and agencies.

The primary goals of the BC Program are to support the BC IBA Caretaker Network, monitor sites, and public education.

Keep the IBA program flying by making a donation or volunteering to help! For more information, contact BC Nature at www.bcnature.ca.

What IBAs are NOT!

- Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas are not all the areas important for birds in the province, country or world.
- They are only the sites which meet the specific, scientific criteria.
- Many other sites have important bird populations.
- Diffuse songbird habitats are rather poorly represented in the IBA Program.



Barn Owl

Photo: A.M. Bezener

BC IBA Caretaker Network

Volunteers are working as stewards of IBAs in their community. Monitoring, stewardship, public education, and advocacy are required to safeguard sites. To facilitate communication among IBA volunteers, BC Nature has set up Canada's first comprehensive IBA Caretaker Network.

To learn more about your local IBA, visit:

www.ibacanada.ca



Revised and re-printed in 2016

British Columbia Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas Program



Harlequin Duck Photo: Tom Middleton

Protecting BC Birds

IBAs in British Columbia are a partnership program of:



www.birdscanada.org



www.bcnature.ca



www.naturecanada.ca

Marbled Murrelet



Photo: Tom Middleton

BC Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas Program



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Photo: Larry Adamache

The IBA Program

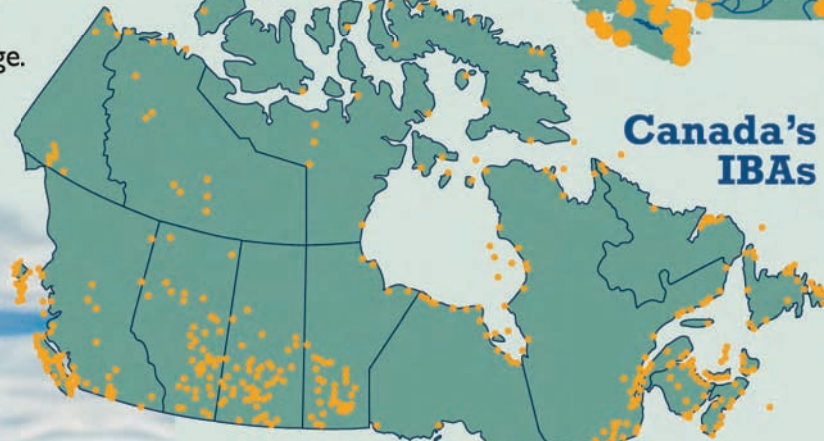
The Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas program is an international effort to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for bird populations. BirdLife International began the IBA program in the 1980s, and since that time partners in some 200 countries have joined together to build the global IBA network.

Since 1996, ~600 IBAs have been identified and designated in Canada, with over 80 of them in British Columbia. Because 89% of Canada's birds migrate beyond our borders, an international program is essential to conserve birds throughout their range. British Columbia is a vital link in the chain: our network of IBAs provide essential habitat for nesting, wintering and migrating birds.

Photo: Tom Middleton



Black Oystercatcher



Map source:
www.ibacanada.ca

Information obtained from the Canadian BirdLife International co-partners (Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada) IBA Site Directory



Goals of the IBA Program

- Identification of bird sites
- Designation of IBAs based on criteria and recognition by communities
- Protection of IBAs through support of local community, individuals, groups and governments.
 - Monitoring of IBAs to identify and address bird population trends and threats to bird conservation.

Long-billed Curlew



Photo: Ian Routley