

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN

for the

KINOSOTA-LEIFUR SHORELINE IMPORTANT BIRD AREA

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Manitoba IBA Program

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Executive Summary

Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA

The Important Bird Area Program

The Canadian Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) was established by the Canadian Birdlife Partners, the Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada, as part of an international effort to identify and conserve sites important to all bird species worldwide. In Manitoba, the IBA program was initiated in August of 1999 and is being delivered and administered by the Manitoba Naturalists Society.

Goals of the Canadian IBA Program

The goals of the IBA program are to identify a network of sites that conserve the natural diversity of Canadian bird species and are critical to the long-term viability of naturally occurring bird populations. To determine the type of protection or stewardship required for each site, and ensure the conservation of each site through partnerships with local stakeholder groups who develop and implement an on-the-ground community conservation plan.

Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA

The IBA encompasses the west side of Lake Manitoba from the towns of Leifur to Kinosota, all within the rural municipality of Alonsa. Alonsa and the surrounding areas provide some of the best birding opportunities in Manitoba such as the Bacon Ridge Self-Guided Birding Tour, Bluff Creek Nature Trail, Portia Marsh Interpretive Centre, Medicine Rock and opportunities to view rare Lady's Slippers.

Significant Bird Species

The Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA is a region used extensively by cavity

nesting birds. The keystone species are the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). The Red-headed woodpecker is a species that is generally uncommon or rare in Manitoba and listed as nationally vulnerable by COSEWIC. Each breeding season, at least 100 birds are estimated to be present in the area, which corresponds to 3% or more of the Canadian population. In the Kinosota area, the preferred habitat are over-grazed pastures containing old trees or snags that provide nesting cavities.

The Lake Manitoba shoreline is also used by numerous shorebirds such as Piping and American Golden Plovers, as well as Ruddy Turnstones during spring and fall migrations. Colonial nesting waterbirds also use the shoreline and coastal islands to nest. A number of neotropical migrants can be found at this IBA site. Wetland species including waterfowl, bitterns, rails, hawks and blackbirds can be found along the shoreline and inland marshes.

Conservation Efforts

Efforts to conserve and manage populations of breeding Red-headed Woodpeckers will include monitoring, a landowner education program, construction of nesting boxes and interpretative signage.

Contacts

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1.0 The IBA Program

The IBA program is an international initiative coordinated by BirdLife International, a global partnership of over 100 countries seeking to identify and protect sites important to the conservation of bird species worldwide. Through the protection of birds and habitats, IBA's also promote the conservation of the world's biodiversity. IBA programs are currently in place in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas.

The Canadian IBA Program was initiated in 1996 by two Canadian environmental non-government organizations - Bird Studies Canada (BSC) and the Canadian Nature Federation (CNF). The Canadian IBA program forms part of the Americas IBA program which includes the United States, Mexico, and 17 countries in Central and South America.

The goals of the Canadian IBA program are to:

- identify a network of sites that illustrate and conserve the natural diversity of Canadian bird species and are critical to the long-term viability of naturally occurring bird populations;
- determine the type of protection or stewardship required for each site, and ensure the conservation of sites through partnerships between local stakeholder groups who develop and implement appropriate on-the-ground conservation plans;

- establish ongoing local involvement in site protection and monitoring.

IBA Site Criteria

IBA sites are identified by the presence of birds falling under one or more of the following internationally agreed-upon categories:

- 1) Sites regularly holding significant numbers of an endangered, threatened, or vulnerable species,
- 2) Sites regularly holding an endemic species, or species with restricted-ranges,
- 3) Sites regularly holding an assemblage of species largely restricted to a biome, and
- 4) Sites where birds congregate in significant numbers when breeding, in winter, or during migration.

Important Bird Areas Funding

In October 1998, the Government of Canada announced funding for the Natural Legacy 2000 project, a major initiative under the Canadian Millennium Partnership Program. In total, \$10 million CDN were awarded to a consortium of four of Canada's largest nature conservation organizations - Canadian Nature Federation, World Wildlife Fund Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada. A portion of the grant, \$1.25 million was awarded to the Canadian Nature Federation for the Canadian Birdlife International Partners to conduct the Important Bird Areas Program in Canada.

For further information on the IBA Program contact:

www.ibacanada.com

1.1 IBA Manitoba

The Manitoba Naturalists Society (MNS) is cooperating with the Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada to deliver the conservation planning component of the Manitoba IBA program. The MNS is a non-profit organization made up of individuals who share a common concern for the well-being of Manitoba's nature. It was founded in 1920 for the popular and scientific study of nature.

The MNS believes that the chance to experience an undamaged environment in peace and tranquility is a joy and a privilege. It also believes in the importance of sound stewardship, the wise use of our natural resources, fostering an awareness and appreciation of the natural environment and an understanding of humanity's place therein.

The objectives of the MNS include:

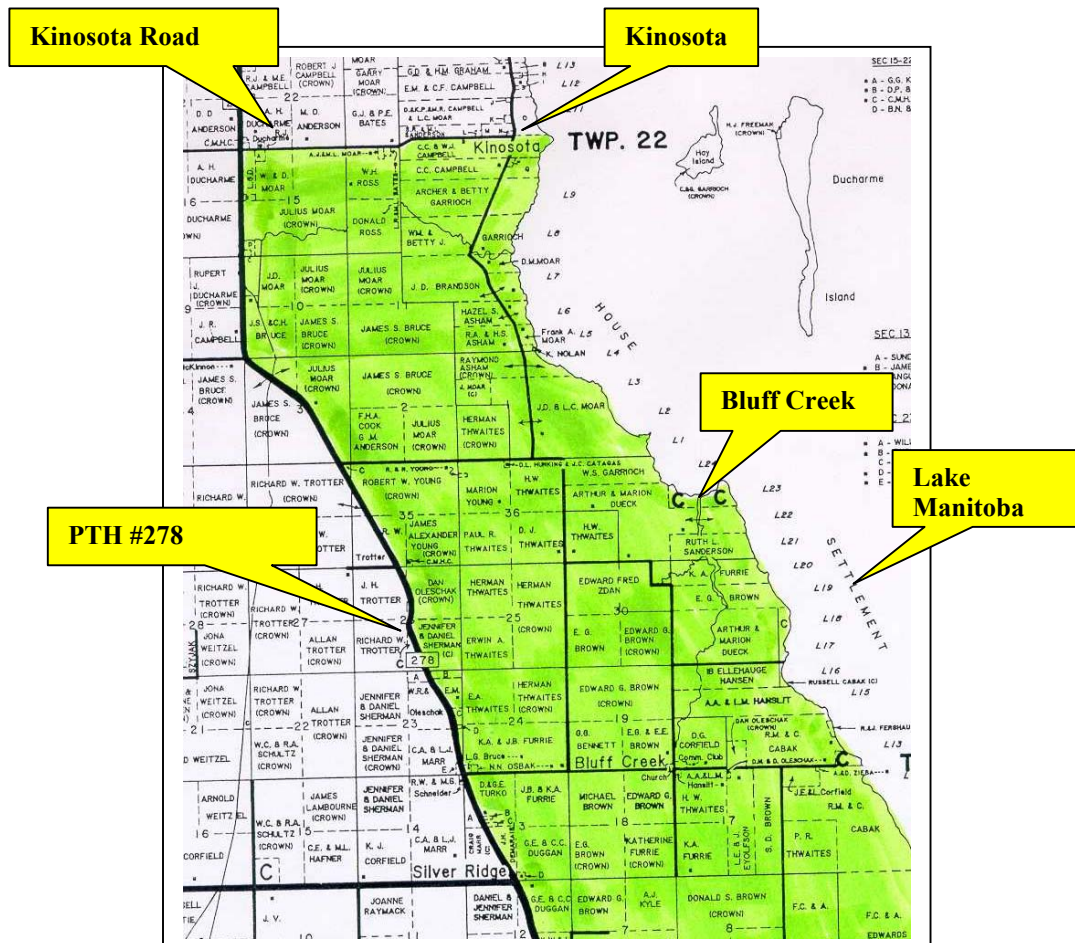
- providing an association and a voice for those interested in natural history and the outdoors,
- to cooperate with individuals and organizations with similar objectives,
- to arrange educational and recreational programs and field trips to promote an understanding of the natural environment,
- to stimulate research and to record and preserve data and material in natural history and allied subjects,
- and to work for the preservation of our natural environment.

In 1996, a number of Manitoba birders gathered to begin identification of potential Manitoba IBA's. By 1999, over 100 locations were nominated for IBA status in Manitoba. In August of 1999, the MNS began IBA community conservation planning with the hiring of a conservation biologist. Shortly after, strategy meetings were held to further identify Manitoba IBA's with local community interest. Advice was solicited from the Manitoba Naturalists Society (Avian Research Committee), Canadian Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Manitoba Conservation, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and local birders.

2.0 Introduction Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA

The IBA encompasses the west side of Lake Manitoba from the towns of Leifur to Kinosota, all within the rural municipality of Alonsa. The general location of the IBA area is 12 miles north of the town of Amaranth on PTH# 50 and then take virtually any road east towards Lake Manitoba. The north boundary of the IBA is Kinosota Road which is 7 miles north of Silver Ridge off Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) #278. Terrain rises westwards from Lake Manitoba shoreline approximately 80 feet to the Kinosota Ridge (PTH #50 and PR #278). The area consists of interspersed deciduous woodlots (mainly aspen) with pastureland and hayland (see below map and Appendix I).

The stakeholder groups involved in the Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA include the Alonsa Conservation District and the Westlake Tourism Association. The entire IBA is within the boundaries of the Alonsa Conservation District. The Alonsa Conservation District is a member of the Westlake Tourism Association. The Westlake Tourism Association will coordinate IBA efforts between the Kinosota-Leifur IBA, Langruth IBA (Big Grass Marsh) and a potential IBA that would include McCreary and the eastern escarpment of Riding Mountain National Park.



3.0 IBA Site Information

Name:	Kinosota-Leifur IBA
IBA site number:	CAMB100N
Central Coordinates (Lat/Lon):	50° 50' N and 98° 50' W
NTS Sheet or other site map:	62J (Neepawa)
Area:	Approx. 9,065-ha

3.1 Land Use and Ownership

The Kinosota-Leifur area is composed approximately of 75% private land and 25% Crown land, all of the latter being leased to farmers for the purposes of hay production or beef cattle grazing. Most of the land immediately adjacent to Lake Manitoba is divided into Lake Lots, rather than sections, reflecting the historical land allotment to fur traders and their descendants.

4.0 IBA Species

The Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA is a region used extensively by cavity nesting birds. The keystone species is the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). The Red-headed woodpecker is listed as *vulnerable* while the Pileated Woodpecker is common in Manitoba but has a restricted range. These cavity nesters utilize holes in trees or snags. The focus of this CCP will be cavity nesting bird species with the Red-headed and Pileated Woodpecker being the key IBA species. Other cavity nesting species in the IBA include:

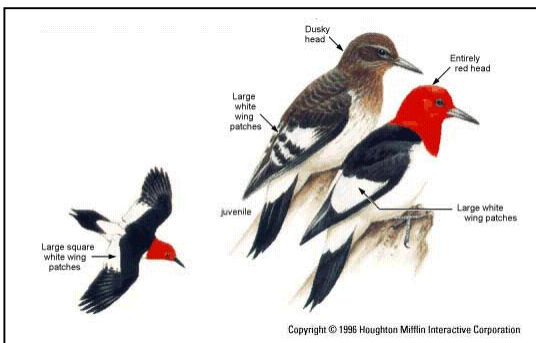
- Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)
- House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)
- Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)
- Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)
- Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*)
- Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)
- Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)
- European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)
- Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)
- Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)
- Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)

Woodpeckers

“Woodpeckers are highly specialized for climbing the trunks and branches of trees and for digging out wood-boring insects. The bill is hard, straight, and chisel-like, ideal for digging holes in either dead or living wood; the tongue is slender, fitted with a horny spear at its tip and is capable of being extended far beyond the bill tip to impale and withdraw insect larva from deep cavities. The skull is extremely thick and heavy, enabling it to withstand the shock of using the head as a hammer. The legs are short, the three or four toes, usually four, with two in front and two behind, are fitted with sharp claws for climbing. The tail is very stiff and is well fitted for bracing against tree trunks”

Godfrey (1986 p. 343).

The Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA provides the preferred breeding habitats for woodpeckers, comprised of over-grazed pastures with downed trees and dead standing snags from which nesting cavities are excavated by the birds.



4.1 Natural History of IBA Species

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Over-grazed pasture near Kinosota providing preferred Red-headed Woodpecker habitat.



Habitat. It is a bird of open country and not a forest dweller– the preferred habitat of the Red-headed Woodpecker is open groves, slashings, old burns, and tracts of half-dead forest where the trees are scattered and dead stubs are abundant (Bent 1964).

Godfrey (1986) describes the preferred habitats of Red-headed Woodpeckers as open woods, burntlands, groves and scattered large trees in open places.

Nesting. Nesting occurs in a cavity in dead wood of a tree, telephone pole or fence post (Godfrey 1986). Godfrey (1986) reported that 4-7 white

eggs are laid with 5 being the most frequently found. The incubation period is 14 days and birds will continue to lay eggs if repeatedly robbed (Bent 1964). An egg is laid each day. Bent (1964) two broods may be raised in a season.

Population Status. The Red-headed Woodpecker is a species that is generally uncommon or rare in Manitoba from mid-May to mid-September - a few may be present in Manitoba in the winter (Bezener and De Smet 2000). It is listed as nationally vulnerable by COSEWIC. Each breeding season, at least 100 birds are estimated to be present in the Alonsa area, which corresponds to 3% or more of the Canadian population.

The Red-headed Woodpecker is ranked as S3S4B, SZN (Uncommon to Widespread, abundant, and apparently secure in MB) by the Manitoba Conservation Data Center (Francois Blouin, Personal Communication, Manitoba Conservation, Jan 2001). According to Bill Koonz and Ken De Smet of Manitoba Conservation, this rank should be revised upward (S2) in Manitoba. Although we do not have any firm numbers, there are likely less than 1000 individuals in the province.

Food. Examinations of 101 stomachs by F.E.L. Beal in 1895 found the diet of the Red-headed Woodpeckers include 50% animal matter, 47% vegetable matter and 3% mineral matter. Insects consisted of ants, wasps, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, moths, caterpillars and spiders (Bent 1964). Vegetable matter included corn, dogwood berries, huckleberries, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, mulberries, seeds, acorns and beechnuts. The Red-headed Woodpecker has some

bad habits and has been known to cause considerable predation on cultivated fruit trees and damage telephone poles by excavating (Bent 1964).

Migration. The migration habits are not well understood and individuals sometimes winter north almost to the limits of their breeding ranges (Bent 1964). Red-headed Woodpeckers have been reported in Manitoba as early as May 6th (Winnipeg – East Kildonen) (Bent 1964). Bent (1964) reports the Red-headed Woodpecker may leave Manitoba as early as September 20th.

Identification. Individuals have a completely red head and neck with contrasting masses of black and white on the body and a large white patch on the wing (male and females are similar in color). Young have a blackish-brown head and dusty-streaked throat with little or no red.

Breeding Distribution. The Red-headed Woodpecker can be found over much of North America from southern Canada to the Gulf Coast, east of the Rocky Mountains and west of New England and eastern Canada (Bent 1964). According to information provided by Godfrey (1986), the breeding distribution of the Red-headed Woodpecker encompasses most, if not all of southern Manitoba and southern Ontario, and very rarely and locally in Saskatchewan in the Cypress Hills, and southwestern Quebec and formerly in southern New Brunswick. Godfrey (1986) remarks that except in extreme southern Ontario, it is nowhere a common bird in Canada. Based upon this data, the Kinosota region of Manitoba may very well host some of

the highest numbers of breeding Red-headed Woodpeckers in Canada.

Pileated Woodpecker

Dryocopus pileatus

Order Piciformes

The Pileated Woodpecker is the largest woodpecker found in Manitoba. It is recognized by its large, dull black body and red crest. The "mustache" behind the bill is red in males and black in females. The red crest in males continues down the forehead, whereas females have a black forehead.

In North America it can be found from B.C. down to northern California, through Manitoba to eastern Canada and the U.S. It is absent from southern Saskatchewan and the U.S. Midwest (source: Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature Birds of Manitoba Online Website).



Habitat. It is a permanent resident of deciduous or coniferous forests in southern Canada. Habitats consists of conifer or mixed forests and

woodlots throughout southern, central and parts of northern Manitoba.

Similar to the Red-headed Woodpecker, dead trees provide favored sites from which to excavate nesting cavities. Bull and Jackson (1995) report that the preferred habitats include late successional stages of coniferous or deciduous forest, but also younger forests that have scattered, large, dead trees.

Food. Pileated Woodpeckers use their long, extensible, pointed tongue with barbs and sticky saliva to catch and extract ants from tunnels (Bull and Jackson 1995). Major food items include ants, beetle larva, fruit and wild nuts.

Breeding. Pileated Woodpeckers usually begin breeding in Manitoba in April. Pairs share territory all year with one brood per season. Birds excavate a cavity by striking the tree with their bill and chipping away the wood. Eggs are white with most clutches containing 4 eggs. The incubation period is reported to be 18 days.

Population Status. The Pileated Woodpecker is ranked as S5B, SZN (demonstrably widespread, abundant and secure in Manitoba). It is not listed under COSEWIC. Manitoba is estimated to have >3000 individuals. Bezener and De Smet (2000) report that the Pileated Woodpecker is uncommon in its preferred habitat (mature deciduous forest) and is a year round resident of Manitoba. Breeding Bird Surveys for 1966-1991 suggest a significant increase in Pileated Woodpeckers across North America including Canada.

Conservation and

Management. Pileated Woodpeckers were regularly shot as food and sport by hunters in the twentieth century (Bull and Jackson 1995). Timber harvest has the most significant impact on habitat. Removal of large-diameter live and dead trees, of downed wood material, and of canopy closure eliminates nest and roost sites, foraging habitat and cover (Bull and Jackson 1995). Forest fragmentation can also reduce population densities and makes birds more vulnerable to predation as the fly between forest fragments.

General habitat loss has deleteriously impact the bird in some areas. For example, it was listed as endangered in 1970 in Texas. The reason for concern being the open forests with big, old pine trees have been replaced by forests with younger, smaller pines. Also, periodic natural fires, which historically kept the pinewoods open, have been suppressed since settlement. Periodic fire is needed to control the brushy understory and keep the pinewoods open.

Pileated Woodpecker management usually consists of efforts to reduce damage caused by excavation in utility poles and buildings. Some habitats are managed for woodpeckers. For example, for the U.S. Forest Service maintains management areas of 120 ha in old growth forests for nesting and an additional 120 ha with >5 snags/ha for foraging in Oregon and Washington (Bull and Jackson 1995).

Future Research. Bull and Jackson (1995) report research is required on population dynamics through the range to determine

sustainable populations, reproductive success and genetic variability.

4.2 Other Bird Species of Interest

Neo-tropical migrants

Woodland species such as Yellow, Wilson's, Yellow-rumped, Cape May Warblers and American Redstarts are common, along with Baltimore and Orchard Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Several species of Flycatcher and Pewee's are represented in the Kinosota area along with Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Solitary and Red-eyed Vireos. All of these species are present in sufficient numbers to be observable by even casual birders.

Shorebirds

Although only Killdeer, Spotted Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs are common along the Lake Manitoba shoreline during the breeding season, almost every species of northern nesting shorebird can be observed during the spring and fall migrations.

Expect huge numbers of American Golden Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlin and Sanderlings, especially in late May.

Colonial Waterbirds

American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls nest on off-shore coastal islands in colonies numbering in the thousands. Smaller colonies of Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons as well as Common Terns also are

present in the area. Though not technically colonial, large numbers of Western Grebes also nest in the area.

Other Species

Increasing numbers of Bald Eagles nest either on the coastal islands or adjacent to the lake. Other common raptors include a huge density of Red-Tailed hawks, and lesser (but still common) numbers of Northern Harriers, Coopers and Sharp-Shinned hawks, and American Kestrels. Yellow-throated Warblers, Bobolinks, Bitterns, Sora (rail), several grebe species, several blackbird species (including Yellow-headed-Blackbirds) and numerous waterfowl species are common along shoreline marsh areas.

viewing areas for wildlife and birds. Great Blue Herons, American White Pelicans and American Bitterns may be seen. Senecal (1999) reported that during spring and fall migrations Canada and Snow Geese as well as Canvasbacks, Redheads and Blue-winged Teal can be observed.

Portia Marsh Boardwalk



5.0 Other Elements of High Conservation Value

5.1 Medicine Rock (Assin KaMicha Bikisit)

A traditional gathering place where native people give offerings. The site has interpretive signage and a picnic area. Over nine acres of the Wildlife Management Area is considered an endangered space. A riding trail (12.8 km/8 mile) traverses the Alonsa Wildlife Management Area. It is located by vehicle - 6 miles southwest of Ste. Amelie on a gravel road.

5.2 Portia Marsh Interpretive Area

Located north of Alonsa, the marsh has an extensive boardwalk and

5.3 Amaranth Lady's Slipper Viewing Area

It is located 6.4 km north of Amaranth off highway #50. There are five species of Lady's Slipper found in the Canadian prairie and two of these species can be found at this site. The Showy Lady's Slipper, which is endangered can be found here. Best times for viewing are from the end of June to early July.

5.4 Bluff Creek Nature Trail



You will encounter up to three miles of wilderness as the path winds its way through the aspen forest. Pelicans, Beaver and White-tailed deer can be observed. Migrating warblers such as Wilson's, Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers can be seen in May (Senecal 1999). It is located along the shore of Lake Manitoba - 1.6 km from the Margaret Bruce Beach near Alonsa.

5.5 Bacon Ridge Birding Trail

Recognized by the World Wildlife Fund as a protected and endangered space, there are several miles of wooded trails with wildflower diversity and dense wooded areas with neotropical birds. It is located 1 km southeast of Bacon Ridge on east side of PR #278. See Appendix VI for a map of the trail system.

5.6 Northern Leopard Frog

The Northern Leopard Frog has been harvested commercially on the west shore of Lake Manitoba for several generations, reflecting the relative abundance of this species. Leopard Frogs were thought to be in serious decline throughout North America, but this is certainly not the case in the Kinosota area. Interestingly, Leopard

Frogs are quite rare on marshes inland from Lake Manitoba, even relatively close by. However, they are very common along the marshes associated with the west shore of Lake Manitoba.

5.7 Alonsa Wildlife Management Area (Source: Kowalchuk et al. 2000).

Inventories of the biodiversity of the Alonsa Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) community pasture were carried out between June 9 and August 27, 1999. The WMA is 13 km northwest of Alonsa and the PFRA is 5 km south of Alonsa, within the Lake Manitoba Plain ecoregion. The WMA was established in 1974 with recreation and subsistence hunting being the main public uses. The PFRA was established in 1935 by an Act of Parliament, as a response to widespread drought conditions, farm abandonment and land degradation.

In the 1999 survey, 73 bird species were observed in the WMA and 73 in the PFRA community pasture.

6.0 IBA Stakeholder Group Activities

The Alonsa Conservation District was formed in 1978, making it the third oldest of the thirteen conservation districts currently operating in Manitoba. The district covers an area of 1300 square miles, along the west shore of Lake Manitoba, from Sandy Bay in the South to Toutes Aides in the North. Most of this area consists of ridge and swale topography, characterized by poor

drainage and shallow, calcareous soils. Beef cattle ranching is by far the major agricultural land use.

The Kinosota-Leifur area is located in the South-eastern portion of the Alonsa Conservation District, and has played a prominent role in the history of Manitoba's fur trade. The Manitoba House trading station, operated by the Hudson's Bay Company, was the second longest operating post in the Province, also giving it's name to the newly formed Province.

The Alonsa Conservation District has provided a wide range of soil and water management programs for 23 years. Activities have included (but not restricted to) forage seed assistance, drainage design and maintenance, field shelterbelts, fisheries enhancement, well sealing, conservation corridors and a number of wildlife , habitat, recreation, and education projects. Some examples of the latter in the Kinosota area include the Bluff Creek Nature Trail, Portia Marsh Interpretive area, and the Bacon Ridge Park.

7.0 Opportunities

Ecotourism. Currently, the local community of Alonsa and surrounding areas who share the resource benefit very little, if at all, from the ecotourism expenditures in the area. The following information demonstrates ecotourism can diversify local economies.

The popularity of birding is growing according to research by Cordell et al. (1999):

- Birding is reported to be the fastest of all outdoor recreation activities tracked between 1980s and 1990s, it is moving toward attaining the status of America's most favored activities.
- Participation in birding has grown from 12% in 1983 to 27% in more recent years.
- The highest percentage of birders (59.1%) bird in private areas with resort areas as the most frequent destination.
- Birders are a powerful force in helping secure and manage bird habitat, stewardship can be pursued through citizen science.

Scace et al. (1992) defined ecotourism as "*Ecotourism is an enlightening nature travel experience that contributes to conservation of the ecosystem while respecting the integrity of host communities*". Ecotourism is a significant component of the largest growth industry on Earth - tourism (Scace et al 1992). Tourism worldwide is a \$250 billion dollar per year industry and growing dramatically (Scace et al 1992), for example, bird watching in Point Pelee National Park in Ontario generates \$6 million annually. Ecotourism can provide the economic justification to conserve areas that might otherwise not be protected. Bird watching is a significant component of ecotourism. Bird watching is conservatively estimated to be worth more than \$20 billion each year in North America. The Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline and the significance its avifauna is an identified ecotourist "product".

Ecotourism can create jobs and diversity local economies. The

willingness of individuals to "pay substantially" for ecotourism opportunities is high, as evident in the fees charged for 13-day birding tours from Winnipeg which average about \$2500 per person.

"Ecotourism can generate badly needed revenue for local and regional economies, heightened local awareness of the importance of conservation, and new incentives for governments and dwellers in and around appealing natural areas to preserve them" (Scace et al. 1992, p. 11).

There is a need to market and coordinate ecotourism opportunities to benefit the local community of Alonsa and the Westlake area.

8.0 Threats

8.1 Forestry

Primary threats to the area include loss of habitat through the forestry activities of Lousianna-Pacific located in Swan River and conversion of habitats to hayland. Timber harvest has the most significant impact on cavity nesting species habitat. Removal of large-diameter live and dead trees, of downed wood material, and of canopy closure eliminates nest and roost sites, foraging habitat and cover (Bull and Jackson 1995). Forest fragmentation can also reduce population densities and makes birds more vulnerable to predation as the fly between forest fragments.

8.2 Avian Invaders

The European Starling was introduced into North America in 1890, when 60 starlings were released in New York City's Central Park. Human modification of North American habitats has allowed rapid colonization of the entire continent and many regard the European Starling as a pest. Starlings are seen as a threat in the Kinosota-Leifur area as they out-compete native birds for available nesting cavities.

9.0 Conservation Goals and Objectives

The main focus of this CCP is cavity-nesting birds with emphasis on the Red-headed Woodpecker.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Rational</i>	<i>How to Achieve Goals</i>
Monitor primary Red-headed Wood Pecker nesting locations.	There is a need to collect population data on Red-headed Woodpeckers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between May and June annually. GPS nesting locations. <p>Lead Agency: Alonsa Conservation District. Timeline: Annually.</p>
Increase local landowner education.	<p>Loss of habitat for cavity nesting birds due to agricultural intensification.</p> <p>Fostering landowner awareness will lead to habitat conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three selected cooperators will be provided with gate signs and provided with suggestions on how to improve habitat for tree cavity nesting birds. Financial assistance will be provided to erect appropriate fences. <p>Lead Agency: Alonsa Conservation District. Timeline: Spring 2001.</p>
Increase available habitat for nesting Red-headed woodpeckers.	Starlings, an avian invader, are outcompeting native cavity nesting birds for nesting habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct 24 wood nesting boxes and place them at three study sites. These will be monitored for bird use over the nesting season. Six of the nesting boxes to be erected on the Bluff Creek Nature Trail. <p>Lead Agency: Alonsa Conservation District. Timeline: Spring 2001.</p>

Foster community awareness regarding importance of cavity nesting bird species and birds in general.	Fostering community awareness will lead to habitat conservation.	Interpretive Signage placed adjacent to Bluff Creek Nature Trail and historical site. Lead Agency: Alonsa Conservation District. Timeline: Fall 2001.
Starling Control Program	Starlings out-compete native birds for cavity nests.	Hire local youths to conduct a starling control program. Lead Agency: Alonsa Conservation District. Timeline: Annually.

10.0 Evaluating Success

The Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA community conservation plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Alonsa Conservation District.

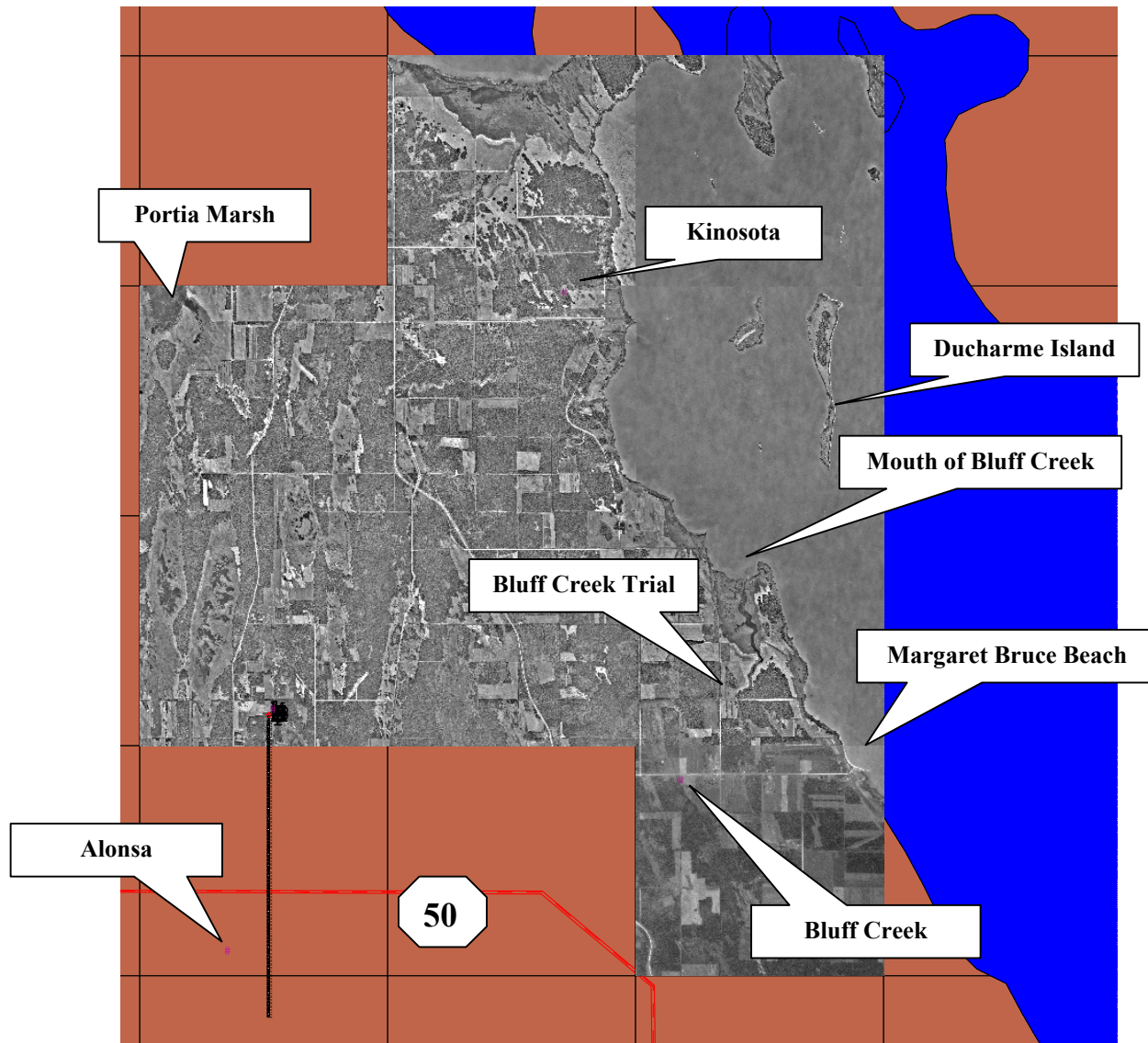
Acknowledgements

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Appendix I: Map of Kinosota-Leifur Shoreline IBA



Appendix II: CCP Contacts

<i>Individual</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>
Harry Harris, CD Manager	Alonsa Conservation District Box 33 Alonsa Manitoba	Ph: 204-767-2101 Fax: 204-767-2044 alonsacd@mb.sympatico.ca
Cory Lindgren IBA Community Conservation Planner	Manitoba IBA Box 1160, Stonewall Manitoba, ROC 2Z0	Ph: 204-467-3269 Fax: 204-467-9028 c_Lindgren@ducks.ca

**Appendix III: Bird Species List for Alonsa - Langruth Area
(Prepared by Mary Alexander June 1997)**

Western Grebe	Red-necked Grebe	Horned Grebe
American White Pelican	Double-crested Cormorant	Canada Goose
Snow Goose	Mallard	Northern Pintail
Blue-winged Teal	Redhead	Canvasback
Lesser Scaup	Bufflehead	Ruddy Duck
Red-breasted Merganser	Northern Harrier	Red Tailed Hawk
Merlin	American Kestrel	Turkey
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Great Blue Heron	American Bittern
Black-crowned Night Heron	American Coot	Killdeer
Marbled Godwit	Upland Sandpiper	Spotted Sandpiper
Willet	Common Snipe	Ring-billed Gull
Franklin's Gull	Bonaparte's Gull	Foster's Tern
Black Tern	Rock Dove	Mourning Dove
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Northern Flicker	Pileated Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hairy Woodpecker
Eastern Kingbird	Western Kingbird	Eastern Wood Pewee
Western Wood Pewee	Barn Swallow	Cliff Swallow
Tree Swallow	Bank Swallow	Purple Martin
Blue Jay	Black-billed Magpie	Common Raven
Common Crow	White-breasted Nuthatch	House Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren	Catbird	Brown Thrasher
American Robin	Veery	Eastern Bluebird
Cedar Waxwing	Starling	Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow Warbler	Magnolia Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Wilson's Warbler
House Sparrow	Bobolink	Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Red-winged Blackbird	Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird	Common Grackle	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Oriole	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Purple Finch
Pine Siskin	American Goldfinch	Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow	Le Conte's Sparrow	Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow	Song Sparrow

Appendix IV: Alonsa Birds

Prepared by H. Harris, August
2000

BIRD SPECIES AND THEIR OCCURRENCE FOR THE ALONSA AREA

SPECIES	OCCURRENCE
Common loon	frequent
Eared grebe	frequent
Tundra swan	common migrant
Black duck	rare
Gadwall	frequent
American widgeon	common
Northern Shoveler	abundant
Green-winged teal	uncommon
Wood duck	frequent
Ring-necked duck	common
Common goldeneye	uncommon migrant
Common merganser	frequent
Hooded merganser	uncommon
Turkey vulture	frequent
Northern Goshawk	rare
Cooper's hawk	common
Sharp-shinned hawk	abundant
Rough-legged hawk	uncommon
Swainson's hawk	uncommon
Broad-winged hawk	common
Golden eagle	rare
Bald eagle	common
Osprey	rare
Ruffed grouse	common
Gray partridge	uncommon
Sandhill crane	common
Whooping crane	rare migrant
Sora	common
American golden plover	uncommon migrant
Piping plover	rare
Semipalmated plover	common migrant
Hudsonian godwit	uncommon migrant
Short-billed dowitcher	common
Ruddy turnstone	common migrant
Dunlin	common migrant

Sanderling	common migrant
Baird's sandpiper	frequent migrant
Semipalmated sandpiper	common migrant
Western sandpiper	frequent migrant
Wilson's phalarope	common
Herring gull	abundant
Common tern	common
Caspian tern	frequent
Black-billed cuckoo	frequent
Eastern Screech owl	rare
Great-horned owl	abundant
Long-eared owl	rare
Short-eared owl	occasionally common
Snowy owl	uncommon migrant
Great gray owl	rare migrant
Northern hawk-owl	rare migrant
Northern Saw-whet owl	common
Whip-poor-will	uncommon
Common nighthawk	common
Rufous hummingbird	rare
Belted kingfisher	common
Downy woodpecker	common
Eastern phoebe	common
Least flycatcher	common
Horned lark	common
Black-capped chickadee	common
Red-breasted nuthatch	rare
Brown creeper	uncommon
Sedge wren	common
Hermit thrush	common migrant
Gray-cheeked thrush	frequent migrant
Mountain bluebird	frequent
Ruby-crowned kinglet	common
Bohemian waxwing	common migrant
Northern shrike	common migrant
Loggerhead shrike	rare
Black and white warbler	frequent
Orange-crowned warbler	frequent
Cape may warbler	common
Black-throated green warbler	frequent
Bay-breasted warbler	uncommon
Blackpoll warbler	common migrant
Palm warbler	common
Ovenbird	frequent
Northern waterthrush	frequent
Common Yellowthroat	common
American redstart	common

Orchard oriole	uncommon
Scarlet tanager	rare
Northern Cardinal	rare
Evening grosbeak	common
Indigo bunting	frequent
House finch	common
Pine grosbeak	common migrant
Hoary redpoll	common migrant
Common redpoll	abundant migrant
Red crossbill	rare
Rufous-sided towhee	uncommon
Vesper sparrow	common
Dark-eyed junco	abundant migrant
American Tree sparrow	uncommon migrant
Harris sparrow	common migrant
White-crowned sparrow	frequent migrant
Fox sparrow	common migrant
Snow bunting	abundant migrant

Appendix V: IBA Canada Partners

BirdLife International

A pioneer in its field, BirdLife International (BL) is the first non-government organization dedicated to promoting world-wide interest in and concern for the conservation of all birds and the special contribution they make to global biodiversity. BirdLife operates as a partnership of non-governmental conservation organizations, grouped together within geographic regions (e.g. Europe, Africa, Americas) for the purpose of planning and implementing regional programs. These organizations provide a link to on-the-ground conservation projects that involve local people with local expertise and knowledge. There are currently 20 countries involved in the Americas program throughout North, Central and South America.

For further information about BirdLife International, check the following web site: <<http://www.birdlife.net/>>. The Canadian Important Bird Areas Program has been undertaken by a partnership of two lead agencies. The Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada are the Canadian BirdLife International partners.

The Canadian Nature Federation

The Canadian Nature Federation is a national conservation organization with a mission to be Canada's voice for the protection of nature, its diversity, and the processes that sustain it. The CNF represents the naturalist community and works closely with our provincial, territorial and local

affiliated naturalists organizations to directly reach 100,000 Canadians. The strength of our grassroots naturalists' network allows us to work effectively and knowledgeably on national conservation issues that affect a diversity of ecosystems and human populations in Canada. The CNF also works in partnership with other environmental organizations, government and industry, wherever possible. Our approach is open and cooperative while remaining firm in our goal of developing ecologically-sound solutions to conservation problems. CNF's web site is <<http://www.cnf.ca>>.

Bird Studies Canada (BSC)

The mission of Bird Studies Canada is to advance the understanding, appreciation and conservation of wild birds and their habitats, in Canada and elsewhere, through studies that engage the skills, enthusiasm and support of its members, volunteers, staff and the interested public. Bird Studies Canada believes that thousands of volunteers working together, with the guidance of a small group of professionals, can accomplish much more than could the two groups working independently. Current programs collectively involve over 10,000 volunteer participants from across Canada.

Bird Studies Canada is recognized nation-wide as a leading and respected not-for-profit conservation organization dedicated to the study and understanding of wild birds and their habitats. Bird Studies Canada's web site is <<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/>>.

Appendix VI: Bacon Ridge Self-guided Birding Tour

Welcome to the Bacon Ridge Self-guided Birding Tour

Although trails have been improved for your convenience and comfort; sturdy, waterproof footwear is recommended. Keep your eyes open for the posts corresponding to the numbers on the map. The circle trail (marked in pink) is approximately one mile long and takes approximately twenty minutes at a brisk pace. The list on the back of this sheet tells you which bird species to expect in the various types of habitat.

The map, titled "Bacon Ridge Trail Map", shows a network of trails. A pink circle trail is highlighted, with numbered markers (1-6) indicating observation points. Other trails include the North-East Trail, Spruce Loop Trail, and S.E. Trail. Two green areas are labeled "Managed Grassland", and two pink areas are labeled "Rest Area". A blue pond is also shown. A yellow vertical bar represents "Hay Road". A parking lot is marked with a yellow rectangle. A boardwalk (Tamarack Trail) is shown as a yellow line. A compass rose indicates North, South, East, and West. Illustrations of a bird and a butterfly are at the bottom.

