Langruth - RM of Lakeview IBA

Community Conservation Plan

"Bird Watching Capital of Manitoba"

Prepared by:

Cory Lindgren
Manitoba IBA Program
Oak Hammock Marsh
Box 1160, Stonewall, Manitoba R0E 2Z0
&
Phyllis Thordarson
Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation
Langruth, MB ROH 0N0

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Preamble.

This document is not intended to be static. It is hoped that the community groups involved will use this CCP to guide their conservation efforts and continue to add to sections of this document over time.

Executive Summary

Langruth -RM of Lakeview Important Bird Area

Important Bird Areas

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 is being delivered and administered by the Manitoba Naturalists Society. Community conservation planning (CCP) began in Manitoba in August of 1999.

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 on-the-ground community conservation planning.

Langruth & Rural Municipality (RM) of Lakeview

Langruth can be found along the west shore of Lake Manitoba along PTH #50 and is located between two significant bird habitats - Big Grass Marsh to the west and Hollywood Beach along the shore of Lake Manitoba to the east. The Langruth area of Manitoba has a long history of birding and has proclaimed itself the ***"Bird Watching Capital of Manitoba".*** This is further evident as one drives PTH #50 into Langruth and is greeted by a large silhouette of a Great Blue Heron. Since Langruth, Big Grass Marsh, Stoney Lake, and Big Point are all within the RM of Lakeview, the stakeholder groups will use the RM of Lakeview as the boundaries of this IBA.

Significant Bird Species

Big Grass Marsh. The Big Grass Marsh is an important moulting and staging area for waterfowl including Mallards, Snow Geese and Canada Geese. It is recognized as a globally significant IBA based upon the numbers of Snow Geese (>200,000) and waterfowl (> 79,000) observed at Big Grass Marsh. The site also has globally significant populations of nesting Franklin's Gulls (>5,000 birds). Mallards during the fall migration have exceeded 10,000 birds exceeding IBA population criteria for national significance. As many as 6,500 migrating Sandhill Cranes (exceeds IBA criteria for North American significance) have been recorded in the Jackfish Lake portion of Big Grass Marsh.

Hollywood Beach Shoreline.

Hollywood Beach and Big Point are located east of Langruth along the Lake Manitoba's shoreline. Hollywood Beach is a popular location for swimming and

camping. The shoreline hosts numerous species of colonial waterbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl during the spring and fall migrations. The forested ridge along Hollywood Beach provides habitat for a variety of neo-tropical songbirds as well as excellent opportunities for viewing various migrating shorebirds. Piping Plovers have also been observed along the beach.

Big Point. Big Point lies on the west side of Lake Manitoba and, as the name implies, extends far out into the lake. Bird species common to Big Point include American White Pelicans, Ring-billed Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, and American Bitterns.

Stoney Lake. Stoney Lake is located on the south side of Provincial Road #265 approximately 7 km west of Langruth. The lake is 1.5 km long and approximately 200 meters wide, relatively shallow with a sand and gravel bottom. Waterfowl are common at Stoney Lake.

Current Conservation Initiatives

- Ducks Unlimited Canada has license to control water levels at Big Grass Marsh north of the Provincial Road #265.
- Manitoba Conservation annually conducts surveys for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Piping Plovers (Hollywood Beach) in the RM of Lakeview.
- Big Grass Marsh is a candidate Manitoba Heritage Marsh.
- The Canadian Wildlife Service operates a waterfowl banding station at Big Grass Marsh.
- The Whitemud Watershed Conservation District is developing a detailed management plan for Big Grass Marsh.
- Initiatives are underway to develop the Jackfish Lake Nature Site which will include a self-guided nature trail.
- The RM of Lakeview and the Big Grass Marsh will be further promoted as an ecotourism destination through the efforts of the Westlake Tourism Association.

Conservation Goals and Objectives

The champion of this IBA community conservation plan is the Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation. The Langruth/Lakeview IBA Working Group has identified the following problem statement: *"Bird watchers travel from around the world to the RM of Lakeview, (the bird watching capital of Manitoba), to observe birds and find no infrastructure (i.e. self-guided trails, direction, information, observation area, etc.) available to assist in their birding endeavors"* There is a need to promote and develop birding opportunities in the RM of Lakeview.

In an effort to address the above problem statement, the following conservation goals and objectives have been identified:

(1) preservation and restoration of the Hollywood Beach shoreline habitat,
(2) improve infrastructure (access) to the Jackfish Lake area of Big Grass Marsh,
(3) develop walking trails and viewing sites at Hollywood Beach and Jackfish Lake,

(4) develop birding signage and brochures, IBA website,
(5) foster community education,
(6) promote ecotourism/birding,
(7) develop an educational birding slide show.

Community Conservation Contacts

Manitoba Important Bird Areas Community Conservation Planner
Cory Lindgren - 204-467-3269

Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation
Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee
Phyllis Thordarson - 204-445-2323

Westlake Tourism Association
Harry Harris - 204-767-2101

Local Naturalist
Raymond O'Connor - 204-445-2044

Reeve RM of Lakeview
Isaac Wiebe - 204-445-2059

Councilor RM of Lakeview
Philip Thordarson 204-445-2323

RM of Lakeview
Ron Brown 204-445-2243

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; and

- establish ongoing local involvement in site protection and monitoring.

IBA Site Identification & 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 biome.
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 (CMPP). 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. In Manitoba, funding was received from the Murphy Foundation in 1999 and the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund in 2001.

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 groups including 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

The boundaries of the IBA will be the Rural Municipality (RM) of Lakeview. Within the RM the significant bird habitats are Big Grass Marsh, Hollywood Beach, Lake Manitoba shoreline, Big Point, and Stoney Lake (see Appendix II). The lead group, the Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation is based out of Langruth.

2.1 Langruth

Langruth can be found along the west shore of Lake Manitoba along Provincial Road #50 and located between two significant bird habitats - Big Grass Marsh to the west and Hollywood Beach along the shore of Lake Manitoba to the east. The Langruth area of Manitoba has a long history of birding and has proclaimed itself the "Bird Watching Capital of Manitoba". This is further evident as one drives Provincial Road #50 into Langruth and is greeted by a large silhouette of a Great Blue Heron. Langruth is within the Rural Municipality of Lakeview.

2.2 RM of Lakeview

The RM of Lakeview contains a number of significant bird habitats including the Big Grass Marsh IBA, Stoney Lake, Hollywood Beach and Big Point along Lake Manitoba, as well as the many wetlands adjacent to Lake Manitoba.

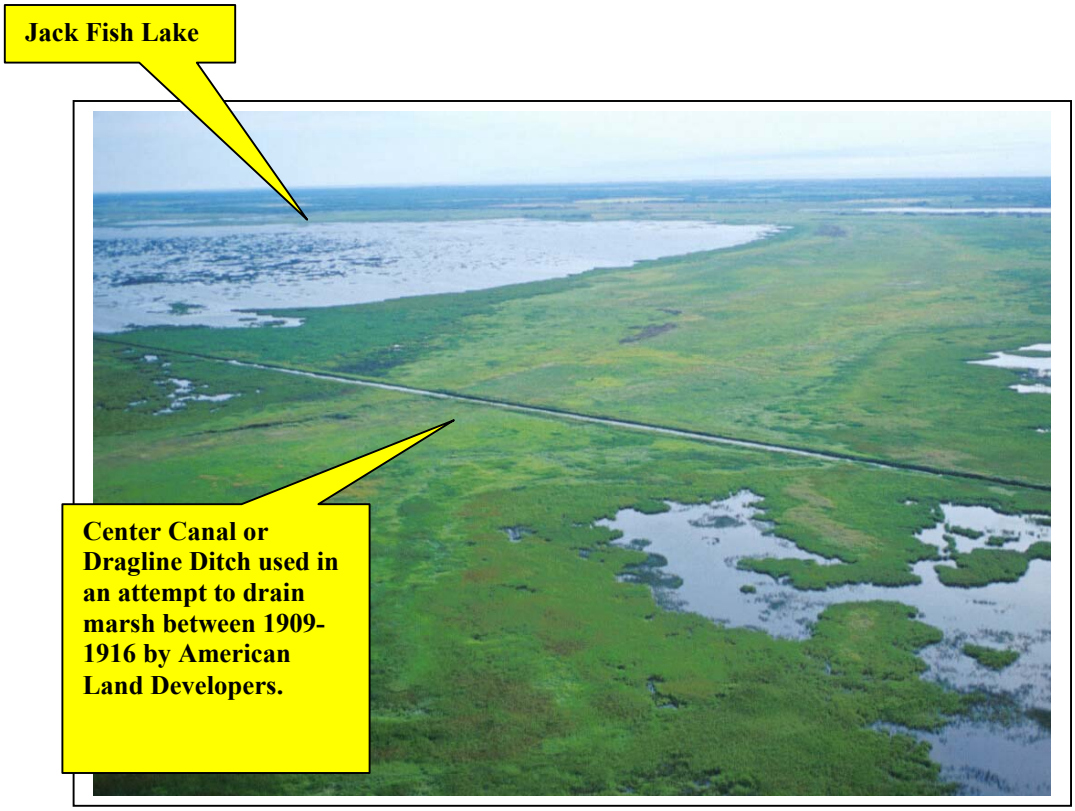
2.3 Big Grass Marsh IBA

Big Grass Marsh (see photo) is comprised of Jackfish Lake and Chandler Lake, the Lakeview community pasture, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Community pasture and surrounding agricultural land. Jackfish Lake is north of Provincial Road #265 embracing 220 quarter sections of land (McKay 1997). Jackfish Lake and the associated lands have a long history of high waterfowl use (McKay 1997).

The following historical introduction to the Big Grass Marsh was taken from Leitch's (1978) book on the history of Ducks Unlimited entitled "Ducks and Men". Big Grass Marsh, west of Langruth, became Ducks Unlimited Canada first project in 1938 and has been referred to as "Big Grass Marsh Duck Factory No 1". The marsh (40,000 acres) was drained between 1909 and 1916 as part of a proposed 100,000 acre agricultural reclamation project. It was soon found to be unsuitable for agriculture and the two municipalities involved were in serious financial difficulties because drainage levies still had to be paid. Subsequently, the marsh fell under Ducks Unlimited management beginning in 1939.

In 1941, planning began for a PFRA community pasture in the RM of Westbourne. The PFRA suggested that in order to facilitate pasture operations, water levels had to be kept low. As a result the Chandler Lake section of Big Grass Marsh has always operated below its waterfowl potential. Excessive rains in June of 1947 caused flooding of the surrounding agricultural lands resulting in a lawsuit by local farmers against Ducks Unlimited. The local farmers lost the lawsuit in 1951.

During these early years, the Big Grass Muskrat Management Ranch was very successful and contributed significantly to the local economy. In 1943, marsh and muskrat management was turned over to the two municipalities as a self-supporting profitable enterprise. After a series of floods the muskrat crop deteriorated and the area was neglected by the municipalities and Ducks Unlimited resumed control in 1953.


Jack Fish Lake
Center Canal or Dragline Ditch used in an attempt to drain marsh between 1909-1916 by American Land Developers.

3.0 IBA Site Information

Name: Langruth - RM of Lakeview IBA
IBA site number: CAMB033G
NTS Sheet : 62 J/7 (Langruth)
Area: 260,000 hectares

The RM of Lakeview is located in southwestern Manitoba along Lake Manitoba. The RM, including the town of Langruth, had 407 people in 1996. The RM is 19 miles long and 12 miles wide. Originally, Icelandic's settled in the Big Point area in the early 1800's. Mr. Langdon and Mr. Ruth were thought to be some of the first settlers in 1907. The first grain elevator arrived in 1915 while the first electricity arrived in Langruth on December 9th 1949. The town was almost destroyed by a bush fire in 1914. The area is indicative of the demise of rural Manitoba as it no longer has the grain elevators, railway or a bank. Langruth is along what was once known as the Kinosota Trail. The Kinosota Trail followed a beach ridge formed by glacial Lake Agassiz. Provincial Highway #50 roughly follows the old Kinosota Trial. The area is characterized by mixed farming (Ron Brown, personal communication, April 2001).

Big Grass Marsh is located west of the town of Langruth and north of Plumas, Manitoba. It is a low-lying, flat area that consists of a large marsh, surrounded by community pastures and agricultural land. The marsh is comprised of Jackfish and Chandler lakes. The general habitats surrounding Big Grass marsh include remnants of tall-grass prairie, wooded areas, willow scrub, and man-made drainage ditches and dykes. The northeastern portion of Big Grass Marsh, known locally as Jackfish Lake is in the RM of Lakeview. The remainder of the marsh is in the RM of Westbourne.

Portions of the Whitemud Conservation District overlap into the RM of Lakeview. The Whitemud Conservation District was formed in 1972 to address soil erosion problems due to wind and water, and downstream flooding caused by excessive runoff from the escarpment. It also has an interest in preserving wildlife habitat and water quality in the district.

3.1 Lakeview PFRA Community Pasture

The following information on the Lakeview Community Pasture was taken from Newman et al. (2000). In general, it provides a reasonable description that can be used across most of the RM of Lakeview.

In the Lakeview pasture three general habitat types are encountered: grassland; wetland; and woodland. The Lakeview Community Pasture is primarily located within Townships 15 and 16, Range 10W within the Rural Municipality (RM) of Lakeview, approximately 3 km west of the community of Langruth. Pasture headquarters are located at NE 23-16-10W. The Lakeview Community Pasture falls within the Lake Manitoba Plain ecoregion, within the Prairie ecozone. The mean annual temperature is 2˚ C (16˚ C summer; -12.5˚ C winter). Mean annual precipitation ranges from 400-750mm. This ecoregion is typically low-relief and underlain by limestone bedrock and covered by extremely calcareous, broadly ridged glacial till. The landscape mosaic includes trembling aspen and shrubs on the moist sites and grass species growing on drier sites. Poorly drained sites are characterized by willow and sedge communities. This ecoregion is the transition between the boreal forest to the north, and the aspen parkland to the south.

The Lakeview Community Pasture soils fall into the Isafold Association; the dominant soil is a rendzina. The surface soil texture can vary between fine sandy loam to clay loam, with generally severe surface stoniness. Topography is nearly level to very gently sloping. The ridge and swale relief runs generally in a north-northwest to south-southeast direction. Surface run-off tends to accumulate in the swales resulting in many sloughs in the low lying areas. The ridges are imperfectly drained due to moderate to slow surface runoff and slow internal drainage.

Newman et al. (2000) reported finding 228 plants with 9 being rare to uncommon in Manitoba, and 15 non-native plant species in the Lakeview Community Pasture. Typical grassland species included Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*), switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), slender wheatgrass (*Agropyron trachycaulum*), porcupine grass (*Stipa spartea*), beautiful sunflower (*Helianthus laetiflorus*), everlastings (*Antennaria* spp.), many-flowered aster (*Aster ericoides*) (Newman et al. 2000).

Many sloughs of varying sizes are present throughout the Lakeview pasture. Grazing pressure was higher on nearby upland areas, though evidence of cattle grazing and use of water was apparent along the edges of many sloughs. Typical species present in these wetlands within the community pasture included reed grasses (*Calamagrostis* spp.), reed canary grass, smooth-fruited sedge (*Carex laeviconica*), bulrush, seaside arrow grass (*Triglochin maritima*), woundwort (*Stachys palustris*) and common mint (*Mentha arvensis*) (Newman et al. 2000).

Newman et al. (2000) report the dominant tree species in the woodland areas in the PFRA pasture are trembling aspen; balsam poplar (*P. balsamifera*) co-dominated in older stands. Most wooded sites tended to have an open canopy, with a moderate shrub layer and very sparse herb layer. The occasional bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) was observed in transects within the shrub layer but not at tree height. The only conifer species encountered was white spruce (*Picea glauca*), which had been planted at the former location of the pasture manager's headquarters. American elm (*Ulmus americana*) and Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*) were also found in the pasture (not in transects). These species had also been planted at the former location of the pasture manager's headquarters and on an old homestead site in the pasture. Cattle trails were evident in all woodland transects visited.

4.0 IBA Species Information

The IBA is a ***globally significant*** habitat for staging Snow Geese, Canada Geese, waterfowl, and nesting Franklin's Gulls. Numbers of fall staging Mallards also exceed IBA criteria for national significance. Numbers of Sandhill Cranes exceed IBA criteria for continental significance (see Appendix V).

Waterfowl

Schellenberg (1979) reported Big Grass Marsh as a major waterfowl staging area in the spring and fall with only moderate waterfowl production. For example, in the fall of 1977, 3,200 ducks were observed molting on Jackfish Lake. The greatest concentrations of waterfowl have traditionally occurred in

September when nearly 13,000 ducks and 200,000 Snow Geese have been observed.

Poston et al. (1990) list Big Grass Marsh as a wetland site of regional importance for duck staging - with flocks of 5000 to 20,000 birds. Waterfowl known to use Big Grass Marsh as a staging area include Mallards, Black Ducks, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, American Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, Blue-winged teals, Lesser Scaups, Ring-neck Ducks, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, Canada and Lesser Snow Geese.

Stilwell (1997) described Big Grass Marsh as a world-class wetland and one of the most important waterfowl staging areas on the continent where during spring and fall migrations as many as 200,000 Snow Geese, 25,000 ducks, and 6,500 Sandhill Cranes can be seen.

Waterfowl production in Big Grass Marsh has declined in past years and has been attributed to an unstable water regime, generally low water levels, and the encroachment of agricultural practices into the basin. The preponderance of open water areas, lack of emergent and submergent plants, and the discontinuity of fertile areas, have also been important factors limiting waterfowl production (Ducks Unlimited 1986).

Other Birds

Other migrating birds using Big Grass Marsh in large numbers have included Tundra Swans, American Coots, Franklin's Gulls (a large nesting colony) and Sandhill Cranes. In the 1940s, at least 5,000 Franklin's Gulls bred in the area, but their numbers have also decreased to where only 250 pairs were recorded at Jackfish Lake in 1977. Collins and Boothryod (1977) described the Big Grass Marsh as a major post-breeding staging area for Sandhill Cranes with peak numbers found between 7 September and 28 September. Big Grass Marsh provides a high quality roosting area as it is close to grain crops that are a food source.

Avian diversity at Big Grass Marsh is tremendous. Collins and Boothryod (1977) provided a list of bird species observed in 1941 and 1942 at Big Grass Marsh that included species such as grebes, herons, geese, ducks, mergansers, hawks peregrine falcon, pheasants, partridge, cranes, plovers owls, various passerines shorebirds, gulls, vireo's, warbler's, sparrow's and blackbirds (see Appendix III).

4.1 Natural History of IBA Species

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

Based upon numbers, the Snow Goose is the most significant avian species associated with the Big Grass Marsh. As many as 200,000 migrating Snow Geese have used the area in the spring and fall, or about 7% of the Mid-Continent population of Snow Geese. The following information on Snow Geese is taken from the Canadian Wildlife Service (1989) Hinterlands Who's Who.

Description. The Lesser Snow Goose comes in two different color phases. The plumage of white-phase geese is almost completely white, except for black wing tips. The blue-phase goose has a white head, a bluish color on the feathers of the lower back and flanks, and a body that ranges in color from very pale, almost white to very dark. Both the white and blue-phase snow geese frequently have rusty orange faces, because

their feathers have been stained by iron in the earth where the birds feed.

Population Status. In an age of declining wildlife populations, Lesser Snow Geese have doubled in number in the past 15 years and, among North American geese, their numbers are second only to those of the Canada Goose. However, because there are many subspecies and races of Canada Geese, the Lesser Snow Goose can probably be considered the single most abundant goose in Canada.

Currently, about 2,000,000 nest in Canada, along the coast of Hudson Bay, from Cape Henrietta Maria in Ontario to Keewatin; on Southampton Island; on southern Baffin Island; in northern Mackenzie and Keewatin south of Queen Maud Gulf; and on Banks Island.

Birds from the eastern Arctic stage in very large numbers in James Bay and on the west coast of Hudson Bay before heading farther south. During migration they pass through Manitoba and Ontario, on a rather broad front, en route to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

Manitoba Migration Shift. Major shifts in autumn distribution have taken place in prairie Canada since 1975. In that year 50,000–100,000 snow geese started to use a more westerly route through eastern Saskatchewan. The shift from southwestern Manitoba to eastern Saskatchewan has continued annually to 1988. This means that birds from the central Arctic fly in two directions: one southwestward corridor takes them into Alberta and western Saskatchewan and another south-eastern corridor through southern Manitoba.

Nesting. Lesser Snow Geese, unlike most other water-fowl, usually nest close to each other in large colonies with densities of up to 2000 pairs per square kilometre. When snow geese first return to their breeding colony the ground is often still snow-covered. But snow geese are well adapted to wait for the thaw of ice and snow in order to nest. In spring they carry heavy loads of fat and protein in their body reserves and can live on these for up to two weeks, though where possible they feed on emerging vegetation. As the snow begins to melt the flock breaks into smaller groups and eventually into pairs.

The nest itself consists of a scrape in the moss or gravel that often becomes built up into a mound over the years with bits of moss, willow, and grasses. Some down is added to the nest bowl as the eggs are laid. From two to six eggs are produced, with the average clutch size being around four. Incubation begins when the last egg is laid and continues for about 23 days. Only the female incubates. The male remains nearby to protect the female and nest from predators and from other geese looking for a ready-made home. The female leaves the nest for only a few minutes each day, and in the latter part of the incubation period she may not leave at all. As a result she is very thin by the time hatching begins; she may lose up to 30% of her body weight, which she regains when she starts to feed with the goslings.

Nesting starts as early in the spring as northern snow conditions allow and varies between colonies. Depending on latitude, egg-laying begins from late May to mid-June. If delayed by snow cover after 20 June, the geese do not breed; instead, they resorb their eggs and wait until the next year. Incubation starts about five or six days after the first egg is laid.

After all the young birds have hatched they may stay together in the nest for up to 24 h. When they have dried off they leave the nest, together with both parents, and begin to feed. Initially their diet consists mostly of insects, which are never scarce during summer in the Arctic. As they grow, their need for a high-protein diet diminishes, and within about two weeks they have switched almost completely to grasses and sedges. From an initial weight of about 100 g at hatch the young grow to more than 1200 g in six to seven weeks. While the young are still small both adults moult their flight feathers, the males a week or so ahead of the females. Subadults and failed breeders moult two to three weeks before successful parents. Some goslings and their parents walk and swim up to 50 km during the eight-week period from hatching to fledging. Both the young and the adults must spend most of their time feeding in order to grow large enough to fly or to regain their flight feathers by mid-August. The family group gains its power of flight at the same time.

Management Concerns. The increased population is creating problems both for the Lesser Snow Goose and for people. When large numbers of geese concentrate in relatively small areas, they may deplete their natural food supplies. At McConnell River (on west coast of Hudson Bay) for example, a colony of about 200,000 breeding geese has denuded the original nesting area of edible vegetation so that little more than bare soil remains. On some colonies, including a recently established one on Jenny Lind Island, there may be too many geese for the food resources available.

Sandhill Crane
Grus canadensis

It is believed half of all the Sandhill Cranes migrating through southern Manitoba each fall stop at the Big Grass Marsh. As many as 15,000 Sandhill Cranes were in the Big Grass Marsh area in late August 1960 (Millar 1960).

Sandhill Cranes are large birds which walk on the ground with stately tread, and fly with their long necks and legs fully extended, often giving a wild guttural bugling in flight.

Field Marks: Note the *bald red crown*, bustlelike rear. A long-legged, long-necked, gray bird, often stained with rust. The immature is brown. In flight, the neck is extended and the wings beat with an upward flick.

Migration: Sandhill Cranes nesting in north migrate long distances. Travel in flocks, pausing at traditional stopover points such as Big Grass Marsh. Young birds apparently learn migration routes from their elders.

Habitat: *Prairies, fields, marshes, tundra*. Habitat varies with region, but usually nests around marshes or bogs, either in open grassland or surrounded by forest.

Northernmost birds nest on marshy tundra. In migration and winter, often around open prairie, agricultural fields, river valleys.

Feeding. *Omnivorous*. Diet varies widely with location and season. Major food items include insects, roots of aquatic plants; also eat rodents, snails, frogs, lizards, snakes, nestling birds, berries, seeds. May eat large quantities of cultivated grains when available.

Depredation. When large numbers of Sandhill Cranes stage in the area between Plumas, Manitoba and Big Grass Marsh crop depredation becomes a concern (Millar 1960). Concerns related to Sandhill Crane crop depredations date back to the 1950s (Cooch 1961a; 1961b). Sandhill Cranes traditionally spent the night near water at Big Grass Marsh and on the PFRA community pasture at Westbourne (Cooch 1961a). From there they will make two daily feeding flights to the nearby fields; one just prior to dawn and a second feeding flight in the late afternoon.

Behavior: Feeds on land or in shallow water. Forages by probing in soil with bill, and by taking items from surface. Except in breeding season, forages in flocks. Courtship includes elaborate "dance," with birds spreading wings, leaping in air while calling.

Breeding: Sandhill Cranes return to Manitoba around the 3rd week of April, on their way to their northern breeding grounds. The start of the breeding season is marked by spectacular courtship displays, in which members of a pair face each other, then leap into the air with wings extended and feet thrown forward. The pair then bows to each other and repeats the ritual. They construct their nest in undisturbed marshy areas, or on open tundra near water. The nest consists of a large mound of marsh vegetation, 1 - 1 ½ m across and up to 45 cm high with a slight central depression. The female lays 2 eggs, olive-buff in color, spotted with brown, which both sexes incubate for about 30 days. The young are downy at hatching, and leave the nest soon afterward. They are tended by both parents, and can feed themselves by their second week. Although they can fly at about 70 days, they remain with the adults until the following year (Source: Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature Birds of Manitoba On Line Http://www.chin.gc.ca/~anana/MMMN/English/index.html.)

Nest. Site is among marsh vegetation in shallow water (sometimes up to 3' deep), sometimes on dry ground close to water. Nest (built by both sexes) is a mound of plant material pulled up from around site; nest may be built up from bottom or may be floating, anchored to standing plants. Eggs usually 2, sometimes 1, rarely 3. Variably pale olive to buff, marked with brown or gray. Incubation is by both sexes, 29-32 days. Female does more of incubating (typically all night, part of day).

Young: Leave the nest within a day after hatching, follow parents in marsh. Both parents feed young at first, but young gradually learn to feed themselves. Age at first flight about 65-75 days. Young remain with parents for 9-10 months, accompanying them in migration.

Conservation: Most populations now stable or increasing slightly, but still vulnerable to loss of habitat. Degradation of habitat at major stopover points for migrants could have serious impact on species.

Franklin's Gull

Larus pipixcan

Unless otherwise cited, the following life history information is from Burger and Gochfeld (1994). Franklin's Gulls nest in dense colonies, forage in flocks and commute to and from foraging sites (Kopachena 1987). It is a small, black hooded gull that nests in marshes of interior North America.

"The Franklin's Gull depends on extensive prairie marshes for breeding, and entire colonies may shift from year to year depending on water levels. Once threatened by habitat loss due to large-scale drainage projects and the Dust Bowl years, this species has regained numbers with the creation of large wetlands, mainly on protected national wildlife refuges. Colony shifts continue to occur, however, influenced by drought and fluctuating water levels (Burger and Gochfeld 1994, p. 1)".

Historical Population Changes. Requires large prairie marshes for nesting, depending on water levels colonies will shift nesting sites in favour of suitable sites. Many colonies disappeared entirely during the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s and these populations were not regained. Populations began increasing after the 1930s with the creation of wildlife refuges and protected areas of marshland. Many colonies have been destroyed as a result of wetland draining across the Canadian prairies.

Population Status. North American population estimated at 500,000 birds. Some controversy over recent population trends. Based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service BBS's, which reported a 7.4% annual decline or a 90% decline overall. Negative trend is not consistent with reports from breeding colonies. Nesting habits of the Franklin's Gull which prefer remote, large marshes makes breeding birds difficult to survey. Main factors regulating populations are sufficient and suitable nesting habitats on large marshes. These marshes are vulnerable to drought, draining, and burning.

It is reported as a common breeder in southwestern Manitoba. Duncan (1996) ranks the Franklin's Gull as "apparently secure" with five or six main nesting colonies with12,000 breeding pairs in 1994 (W. Koonz, personal communication, 2000).

Habitat and Predators. Birds nest over water on floating mats of vegetation, on muskrat houses or floating debris in inland freshwater marshes or lakes. Colonies can be found in cattails (*Typha* spp.), bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.), reed grass (*Phragmites communis*) or other emergents. Nests are found over water. Predators are mainly aerial or aquatic such as Mink (*Mustela vison*), Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Great Horned Owl (*Bubu virginianus*), Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*). Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and American Coots (which will take young chicks and eggs).

Food Habits. Franklin's Gulls eat earthworms, grubs, insects, seeds, mice, fish, fish offal, crab, snails, and invertebrates. They usually forages in flocks in wet pastures areas. During the breeding season, feeds aerially on swarming insects and on water for aquatic insects and on the ground for earthworms and insects.

Vocalizations and Behaviour. There has been considerable research on Franklin's Gull vocalizations and behaviour. The vocal array includes an alarm call, long call, landing call, gakkering, and a mew call. Numerous displays have been identified such as wing-flapping, swoop and soar, threat, pursuit flights, upright, oblique, head-tossing,

choking, and gakkering.

Breeding. Breeding is highly synchronous over a 21-d period. Birds arrive near breeding colonies in April (Dakotas and Minnesota). Subcolonies are formed around a series of epicentres which may later coalesce. Birds often nest on same water body year after year however often forming new colony sites. Pair formation occurs prior to arrival at the breeding colony. Egg laying begins about one week after nest construction which is usually in early to mid-May in Minnesota. Eggs hatch late May to mid June. Clutch sizes range from two to four eggs with a modal size of 3 eggs.

Conservation and Management. Franklin's Gulls are sensitive to human disturbance early in the breeding cycle and will entirely desert a colony site with excessive exposure to humans. Nesting habitat degradation occurs during drainage of marshes or intentional drawdowns for management of waterfowl habitat. Gulls cause some degradation of habitat because of net contribution of nitrogen and phosphorus to immediate area of nesting. No management programs other than the Migratory Bird Convention Act . Maintaining large marshes and suitable water levels is the main management technique.

Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus

Piping Plovers have been observed along the coast of Lake Manitoba and have used Hollywood Beach during migration and nesting seasons. However, there is no historically data on the number of Piping Plovers using Hollywood Beach. Given that Piping Plovers are listed as an endangered species in Canada, information on this species will be included in this document.

Description: The Piping Plover is a small, thrush-sized shorebird that blends well into its setting. It is primarily the color of dry sand, but has distinctive black markings (a black collar or breastband, a black band above the white forehead, and a partially black tail); a white rump; and bright orange legs.

Biology: Piping Plovers arrive on their breeding grounds in Canada in late April or May. Males establish a territory and attract a mate with dramatic aerial and ground displays. They scrape a shallow nest-site in sand or gravel, which the female then inspects. Clutches usually contain 4 eggs. Both parents participate in the incubation of eggs and care of nestlings, though the young are able to find their own food within hours of hatching. Females can begin to breed at one year of age and will renest once or twice in a season if the eggs are destroyed, but can only produce one brood per year.

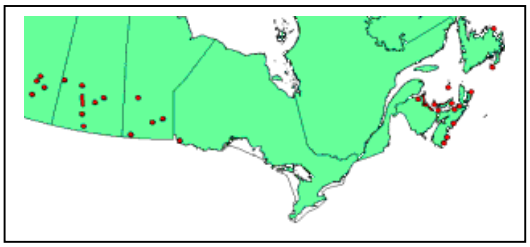


Figure. Breeding locations of Piping Plovers in Canada

Population and Distribution: The Piping Plover is a North American species that breeds in three areas: along the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland to South Carolina; on the American shores of the Great Lakes (Michigan); and throughout the Great Plains

from the southern Canadian Prairies to Nebraska. In Canada, Piping Plovers breed in central Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, southern Ontario, southern Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. The species winters along the Atlantic coast, from South Carolina to Florida, and along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

Manitoba Breeding: Breeding begins in Manitoba in late April or early May. The nest consists of a shallow scrape in the sand, lined with bits of shells or pebbles. Pipoing Plovers usually lay 4 creamy to sand colored eggs marked with dark spots which serve to camouflage them in the sand. Both sexes incubate the eggs for about 27 days. The young are fully feathered and leave the nest shortly after hatching. By mid-July, the female abandons the family, leaving the male to care for the young until they can fly independently, usually 30 - 35 days after hatch.

Status. Considered rare in Manitoba by Duncan (1996). The Piping Plover is classified as an endangered species in Canada by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). It is a declining breeder in the Midwest, and is declining along the Atlantic coast due to nesting habitat destruction. Undisturbed beaches are becoming rare, resulting in a declining Piping Plover population. Only about 4000 birds are thought to be left in North America.

The numbers of Piping Plovers have been decreasing everywhere; the most dramatic declines have occurred in the Great Lakes region. About 25% of Canada's Piping Plovers (some 450-485 birds) are found in the Atlantic provinces; the remainder are mostly in the Prairie provinces. About 25% of the Canadian Prairie population occurs in the Quill Lakes area of Saskatchewan, where more than 430 Piping Plovers were observed in 1996.

Habitat: Piping Plovers are found on lakeshores, river sand bars and ocean coasts. They nest just above the normal high-water mark on exposed sandy or gravelly beaches, in both fresh and salt water environments. On the Prairies, nesting occurs on gravel shores of shallow, saline lakes and on sandy shores of larger prairie lakes.

Their breeding habitat is vulnerable to drought, the effects of water management projects, increasing human recreation and expanding agriculture. A Piping Plover Recovery Plan has been developed to reverse the Piping Plover's decline.

Threats: The most important limiting factor for Piping Plovers is loss of habitat, mostly caused by human use of beaches, and the consequent human disturbance around nesting sites. Dogs and cats predate on the eggs and young, as do gulls which are initially attracted to the nesting areas by garbage left by picnickers. Other beach-side predators include skunks, crows, foxes and raccoons. Changes in water levels, often caused by recreational or building activities, seasonal storms and spring tides, are also detrimental to the nesting efforts of this bird. In addition, global warming may reduce the plover's habitat by causing drought in the Prairies and flooding on the Atlantic coast.

Protection: The Piping Plover is protected in Canada under the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1917, and under the Endangered Species Acts of

Manitoba, Ontario and New Brunswick. In Saskatchewan, the species was listed endangered under 1999 regulations of the provincial Wildlife Act. The Quill Lakes area of Saskatchewan received international recognition as a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA) in May 1998. Conservation plans in IBAs in Canada are developed in partnership with landowners, naturalists, hunters, government agencies and municipalities, aboriginal groups, scientists, and others. In Alberta, the Piper Plover is on the provincial red list.

Recovery efforts: Recovery Plan Status: The first recovery plan for the Piping Plover was approved in 1989; an updated plan was submitted for approval in 2000.

Plan goals are to maintain a self-sustaining population of at least 1626 adults in the Prairie and 670 adults in the Atlantic portions of its range, and to maintain at least the current range of the species. There are Prairie and Atlantic Piping Plover Recovery Teams that work cooperatively and share a common recovery plan. These teams also work cooperatively with the two U.S. Piping Plover recovery teams.

Long-term objectives include increasing the prairie population to at least 1626 adults and maintaining this population with no net loss of habitat due to human action; increasing and maintaining average chick fledging rates above 1.13 chicks/pair/year in the prairies; and to achieve minimum provincial population targets of 120 in Manitoba.

Other Birds

Within the RM of Lakeview there are a diversity of habitats which support a diversity of bird species. The Lakeview Community Pasture, for example, was found to have high numbers of Yellow Rails in 2000 (Bob Jones, Personal Communication, MB Conservation, July 2000). These Yellow Rails may have moved from traditional breeding areas such as the Douglas Marsh IBA in response to higher than normal water levels experienced in the Douglas Marsh IBA. A more recent survey of the Lakeview Community Pasture found 74 species of birds between June and August of 2000, with 6 of these being rare to uncommon in Manitoba (Newman et al. 2000).

Grassland birds such as Upland Sandpipers, Nelsons Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Le Conte's Sparrows regularly nest in the Big Grass Marsh area.

Shorebirds. Although only Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers 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 good numbers of American Golden Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlin and Sanderling, especially in late May, along the Lake Manitoba shoreline.

5.0 Other Elements of High Conservation Value

The following habitats are considered to have high conservation value.

5.1 Langruth Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

The WMA (size: 1,813 - ha) is located just north of Langruth and west of provincial road #50 (see Appendix II). This habitat is

particularly attractive for neo-tropical migrant birds. The topography of the WMA is ridge-swale, with aspen-oak and grasslands in higher areas and wetlands in low lying areas. Used as a practice bombing range by the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War, the WMA now provides habitat for deer, waterfowl and grouse (Manitoba Conservation Land For Wildlife and People, no date).

5.2 Big Point

Big Point lies on the west side of Lake Manitoba and, as the name implies, extends far out into the lake. Starting in the late 1800's the area was homesteaded by a predominantly Icelandic community. The shoreline is characterized by tumbled rocks and boulders with intermittent stretches of sandy beach. The extremity of the point is easily accessible by an all weather road running 11 km east out of Langruth. Once at Big Point the shoreline can be traversed on foot for some distance. Species commonly seen at Big Point include American White Pelicans, Ring-billed Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, and American Bitterns.

5.3 Stoney Lake

Stoney Lake is located on the south side of Provincial #265 approximately 7-km west of Langruth. The lake is 1.5 km long and approximately 200 meters wide, and relatively shallow with a sand and gravel bottom. Stony Lake is on a section of municipal land contained within a Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Community Pasture. Access to the lake is possible from the road on foot but clearance with the PFRA Manager should be obtained as a courtesy. Species commonly seen at Stoney Lake include the American Crow, Common Raven, Warbling Vireo, Black Tern, House Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Blue-winged Teal, Brown-headed Cow Bird, Red-winged Blackbird, Canvasback, Redhead Duck, Song Sparrow, Least Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, Yellow Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, Spotted Sandpiper, American Coot, Ruddy Duck.

5.4 Tall-grass Prairie

Areas with the RM of Lakeview contain few of the last remaining remnants of Tall-grass prairie in Manitoba. Today's tall-grass prairie is only a fraction (less than 1%) of its former self. The Tall-grass prairie is unique in that it is the most biologically diverse and productive grassland in North America. At one time, Manitoba had the greatest amount of Tall-grass prairie in Canada. The Tall-grass prairie is a refuge for a variety of grassland bird species. There is a need to protect the last remnants of Tall-grass prairie in the RM of Lakeview.

6.0 Land Ownership and Use

Manitoba Conservation reports 2,500 hectares are Crown Lands with most of the remaining land owned by the R.M.'s of Lakeview and Westbourne (Manitoba Conservation 2001).

The Lakeview PFRA Community Pasture is used to graze cattle and horeses. An inactive but intact cemetery is also located in the Lakeview PFRA Community Pasture (NW 28-15-10W). The fenced plots are extremely overgrown for lack of grazing. Several gravesites are still visible; the names on the

headstones reflect the origins of some of the early settlers to the area (Newman et al. 2000).

Farming is the main industry of the area. Cropping, cattle, pasture and haying are the main activities. Big Grass Marsh has traditionally been used for fishing, hunting, trapping, haying, and grazing (CWS et al. 1977). Primary land use in the area are agriculture and land cultivation, pasture for hunting, and wildlife conservation. Secondary land uses include forestry, mining and wildlife conservation (Langruth WMA, see section 5.1).

Agricultural land use at Jackfish Lake is for production of cereal crops, special crops, forage crops and livestock grazing, with about 50 landowners (McKay 1997). Historically, there has been conflict between landowners and conservation agencies in the pursuit of agriculture and wildlife habitat (McKay 1997).

Chandler Lake is to the south of Jackfish Lake. The land south of Provincial Highway #265 with the cross ditch being the southern boundary has 103 quarters of private land and 124 quarters owned by the crown and the Municipalities of Westbourne and Lakeview (McKay 1997). Areas in the Lakeview PFRA Community Pasture are used for the production of hay, cereal grains, special crops and livestock grazing with numerous landowners. The flooding of these land are seen is a dominant factor limiting agriculture productivity (McKay 1997).

The Lake Manitoba shoreline, which includes Big Point and Hollywood Beach, are used for a variety of recreational activities including swimming and bird watching.

7.0 Conservation Management Achieved at the IBA Site

7.1 Ducks Unlimited Canada Activities in Big Grass Marsh

Big Grass Marsh was the very first restoration project undertaken by Ducks Unlimited Canada. Ducks Unlimited's 1938 development consisted of a north dam controlling Jackfish Lake and a south dam on Chandler Lake. It covers 33,000 hectares and flooded area exceeds 7,000 hectares, total drainage area of Big Grass Marsh is 260,000 hectares (Stilwell 1997).

The Northern zone is 220 quarter sections of land north of Provincial Road #265 and has a long history of high value for waterfowl breeding and staging (FM, SM), Ducks Unlimited operated a water control structure for the purposes of maintaining waterfowl habitat. Hence, conflicts exist between those in pursuit of agriculture and those in favor of wildlife habitat for many years. Ducks Unlimited has reconstructed the Jackfish Lake water control structure.

The southern zone has 227 quarter sections south of PR #265 with the Cross Ditch on the southern boundary of the zone. Agricultural use of the lands is dominant. Farming is the main concern in this area.

By 1938, Big Grass Marsh was recognized as an area with a serious flood problem. Spring run-off through the marsh to the Whitemud river exceeded the capacity of the lower portions of the river between Gladstone and Lake Manitoba. Farm lands adjacent to the marsh suffered extreme flooding (Collins and Boothryod 1977). Water does not drain out from Big Grass Marsh very quickly. Hence a large ditch was constructed

down center of marsh in an effort to enhance drainage. Unfortunately, this resulted in residents downstream being flooded.

The following history is based on the accounts from local residents and is taken from Ducks Unlimited Canada 1986 report:

> "The completion of the dredge channels, about 1914, resulted in an immediate and almost complete draining of the marsh. Jackfish Lake became nearly dry. The beds of rushes and reeds surrounding the original lakes and sloughs, died, and the peaty soil on which they had grown became dry. Fires started in the peat soon after 1914, and have continued almost uninterruptedly ever since. Soil borne by wind and water gradually accumulated in the ditch - notable at Chandler Lake. The water level rose alittle. By 1934, when a sudden four inches of rain produced a flood, drainage had been so impeded that the water was restored to a considerably higher level. Since then it was declined gradually".

7.2 Big Grass Marsh Management Plan

The board of the Whitemud Watershed Conservation District (Rick Baker, Manager) has developed a "Detailed Multi-Land Use Plan for the Big Grass Marsh" (McKay 1997). The goals include to improve capacity of the main channel and the Whitemud River to provide water regulation, to utilize the marsh as a flood storage area with a control at the south end at Cross Ditch, to reduce the exposure of the provincial government from future flood lawsuits. The Whitemud Watershed Conservation District is the leading partner with the RM of Glenella, Westbourne, Lakeview and Alonsa, PFRA, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and the Provincial Government. The boundary of the management area was described so that any land at or below the 872'A.S.L. coutour was included.

7.3 Candidate Manitoba Heritage Marsh

(Source: Manitoba Heritage Marsh Program brochure, no date)

The Big Grass Marsh is a candidate Manitoba Heritage Marsh. The numerous private land parcels surrounding the marsh most likely has prevented Big Grass Marsh from being designated a Heritage Marsh.

The Heritage Marsh program is a response to the continued loss of Manitoba's wetlands. Across Manitoba farmers have been draining wetlands to increase production and accommodate larger machinery. Partners in the program include Manitoba Conservation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation. The program is an effort to designate, conserve, manage and develop some of Manitoba's most significant marshes for the benefit of all Manitobans.

A Heritage Marsh is identified as a wetland with significant value for a diversity of wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds and furbearing animals and also provides important recreational, economic or educational benefits to people. Administration of the Heritage Marsh Program is the responsibility of Manitoba Conservation. The Manitoba Heritage Marsh Program offers new hope and security for our endangered wetlands and the diversity of wildlife they produce.

8.0 IBA Stakeholder Group Activity

8.1 Ducks Unlimited Canada

Founded in 1938, Ducks Unlimited Canada is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wetlands for the benefit of North America's waterfowl, wildlife and people. Big Grass Marsh was Ducks Unlimited Canada's first project in 1938 and has since been involved in managing water levels and uplands (also see section 7.1).

8.2 Manitoba Conservation - Wildlife Branch

Manitoba Conservation (Brandon Office) has conducted avian surveys of the Langruth area. Surveys have focused on Sharp-tailed grouse lek counts in the Langruth area and piping plover surveys at Hollywood Beach (note that no Piping Plovers have been observed) (Dan Chranowski, personal communication, November 2000). Manitoba Conservation recently completed a survey of the Lakeview PFRA Community Pasture (see section 3.1) and administers the Manitoba Heritage Marsh Program (see section 7.3).

The mandate of the Wildlife Branch is to protect wildlife resources in a manner consistent with the conservation of species and ecosystems for the benefit of Manitobans. This responsibility is carried out under the authority of *The Wildlife Act, The Endangered Species Act*, and *The Conservation Agreements Act of Manitoba*, and by applying the principles of sustainable development. The Wildlife Branch develops programs, policies and legislation for hunting and trapping, biodiversity conservation, and habitat and land management on Crown and private land. The Branch also represents Manitoba in numerous provincial, national, and international initiatives.

8.3 Canadian Wildlife Service

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has operated a banding station at Big Grass Marsh since the early 1970's. Staff operate the station from the end of July through until the first week of September. The species banded are mostly Mallards, with a record high of over 5,400 Mallards banded in 1998.

Staff use a combination of equipment in their field work including; 4x4 Trucks, ATV's, Airboat, Jon-Boat & Go-Devil, and Canoe. The field camp is located on the old Skanderberg homestead (Tp17; R11; S22), which gives easy access to the marsh via the drainage ditch that runs to the northwest.

Ducks are caught using bait (funnel) traps constructed of 1" stucco wire (5' high), and covered with 1" nylon fishing nets as tops. Bait used is Barley, purchased locally.

Big Grass Marsh is considered a predominantly moulting and staging marsh by CWS and this is substantiated by:

- high male population in relation to female population,
- few broods and few locally observed young,
- low immature bird numbers,
- few nests found as daily catch on the marsh begins to fall, usually around the middle of August as the numbers of birds observed in and around the marsh begins to increase,
- most birds are in large flying flocks, most birds caught (especially earlier in the season) are either heavily in the moult, or

in poor flying condition (M. Schuster, Canadian Wildlife Service, personal communication, March 2001).

8.4 Whitemud Watershed Conservation District

The Whitemud Watershed Conservation District has been actively developing a multi-land use plan for the Big Grass Marsh. Also see section 7.2.

8.5 Jackfish Lake Nature Site

The Jackfish Lake Nature Site will be located in the northeastern corner of the Big Grass Marsh complex and within the RM of Lakeview. This project is being led by the Jackfish Lake Nature Site Working Group (there are a number of individuals involved in both the Jackfish Lake project as well as the current CCP - these group will work harmoniously). Plans include a self-guided nature trail, picnic tables and washrooms. These would be included near the existing Ducks Unlimited Canada dam on the north side of Provincial Road #265. The site will be developed for nature interpretation, nature viewing and is regarded as one of the best places in Manitoba to enjoy wildlife - especially Sandhill Cranes during the fall migration. Site development is ongoing and will make Jackfish Lake more accessible for wildlife viewing and to allow for its use as an outdoor classroom. The Jackfish Lake Nature Site will also aim to interpret and explain the local heritage, wildlife and the importance of our wetlands.

8.6 Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee

The Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee is comprised of Phyllis Thordarson, Lois Wilson, Susan Wilson, Marlene, Craik, Holly Keleman, Marie Leclerc, and Wendy Olson (as of August 2000). The objective of the group is to ensure the preservation and restoration of Hollywood Beach. Presently vehicles have created a road on the beach area that has degraded avian habitat and potential Piping Plover breeding habitat. It is proposed that a gate or tollgate (with fees) be erected to restrict beach access. Access would also be restricted through a "rocking project", that would see large rocks from within the R.M. of Lakeview transferred to Hollywood beach to provide a physical barrier. The committee would also like to create new by-laws to control beach access. By-laws would restrict vehicle and off-road vehicle access, ensure pets are on leashes, prohibit campfires except in designed fire pits, provide garbage containers, protect existing trees, prohibit glass bottles on the beach, and prohibit the discharge of any firearms. The Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee envisions raising funds for the above initiatives through fund-raising events, government grants and developing a Hollywood Beach website.

8.7 C FAN

C FAN is a stakeholder group involved in the restoration and protection of Hollywood Beach. C FAN is a community based organization which provides child care services, parent resources, parent workshops, farm safety workshops to an area of about 3000 square miles in central Manitoba. It strives to improve the lifestyle and quality of life for rural families. It is partnered with many social agencies such as Child and Family Services (Central Region), Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, Public Health, Regional Health Authority, Farm Stress Line. The focus

of our organization it to make rural Manitoba a healthy place to live and raise a family. The watch words of C FAN have become *Stronger Families.....Stronger Communities*.

9.0 Opportunities

Ecotourism

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. Currently, the local communities within the RM of Lakeview (Langruth, Plumas, Gladstone) benefit very little from ecotourism expenditures in the area.

There is a need to market and coordinate ecotourism opportunities to benefit the local community of Langruth. Ecotourism can create jobs. The willingness of individuals to "pay substantially" for ecotourism opportunities is high, as evident in the fees as high as $2,500 (USD) charged for 13-day trips from Winnipeg.

> "*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)."*

10.0 Threats

10.1 Drainage

Loss of wetland habitats such as Big Grass Marsh and the smaller wetlands in the IBA through drainage would have deleterious impacts avifauna.

The drainage of the Big Grass Marsh has been a long-standing historical threat. The marsh was actually drained dry between 1909 and 1916 in an attempt to increase agriculture (Leitch 1978). Local farmers have taken Ducks Unlimited Canada to court accusing them of flooding agricultural lands through construction of water control structures (Leitch 1978). McKay (1997) also notes that flooding is the dominant factor in regards to agricultural productivity in the southern zone of Big Grass Marsh. The multi-land use plan currently being developed for the Big Grass Marsh will address flooding and drainage issues.

10.2 Avian Botulism at Big Grass Marsh

Avian botulism represents a larger threat to the birds in the IBA. Avian botulism has a history at the Big Grass Marsh. For example in 1989, 19,923 birds were collected during a botulism cleanup. Of these birds, 15,699 were ducks and 3,637 were shorebirds (Dave Clayton, personal communication, February 2001). Avian botulism results from "food poisoning" with a neurotoxin produced predominantly by the bacterium, *Clostridium botulinum* type C. The organism is a strict anaerobe which forms dormant spores in the

presence of oxygen and other adverse environmental conditions. Spores of type C botulism are widely distributed in wetland sediments and in the tissues of aquatic insects, mollusks, and vertebrates. Despite the widespread distribution of type C botulism spores outbreaks of avian botulism are sporadic and unpredictable.

10.3 Pesticides

(Canadian Wildlife Service 2001)

Farming is a major landuse within the RM of Lakeview. The use of pesticides on farmland has further reduced the amount of safe habitat available for birds that already have to make do with fragmented habitat including small woodlots, hedgerows, shelterbelts, and farm ponds for nesting or feeding. Even habitats bordering agricultural fields can become a liability if pry items are inadvertently poisoned by insecticides. In forested habitats, herbicide use, such as in forestry, may cause ground-dwelling birds to lose the leafy cover that protects them from predators and bad weather. The potential for the herbicides to drift through the air and contaminate wetlands such as the Big Grass Marsh and Stoney Lake through water runoff is also a concern. The is a need to monitor the impacts of pesticides on bird habitats within the IBA.

10.4 Exotic Invasive Species

Second only to habitat loss, invasive alien species such as Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) present the greatest threat to the biological diversity of our natural ecosystems. Leafy spurge is present in the IBA and is having deleterious impacts on grassland habitat in the Lakeview Community Pasture. Occurrences of Leafy Spurge are currently managed with biological and chemical controls. Biological weed control through beetle releases has been established at the Lakeview pasture, with herbicide applications used on the smaller patches (Newman et al. 2000).

There is evidence that exotic invasive species threaten avifauna. In a study conducted in Manitoba, Belcher and Wilson (1989) found leafy spurge to be one of three Eurasian invaders, along with Kentucky blue grass and smooth brome grass. They quoted an experimental study that showed that disturbance by humans promotes the establishment of leafy spurge; 45 times more seeds established themselves on bare soil compared to undisturbed vegetation. Where any of the three alien species occurred in their study, coverage of native species was decreased, such that leafy spurge is considered "...a considerable threat not only to the economic use of prairie rangelands but also to its conservation as native vegetation." In Belcher and Wilson's study area, of 83 leafy spurge infested sites, 49 were centered on trails, fireguards and roads, and 30 on disturbances caused by track vehicles; only 4 sites were not associated with a visible soil disturbance.

Other aquatic exotic species of concern, but not presently known to be in the IBA, include Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) and Salt Cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima).* Purple Loosestrife, already found throughout southern Manitoba, also has the potential to invade the of numerous water bodies present in the IBA.

10.5 Brush Encroachment

Newman et al. (2000) report that brush encroachment can be a major concern on Community Pastures particularly within

the transition area between the boreal forest and parkland ecoregions where the RM of Lakeview occurs. Present day wildfire control and the loss of large roaming herds of bison contribute to the increase of woody plant expansion, beyond what would naturally and historically occur in this area (Newman et al. 2000).

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11.0 Conservation Goals and Objectives

Problem Statement: *"Bird watchers (Birders) travel from around the world to Langruth, declared the bird watching capital of Manitoba, to observe birds and find no infrastructure (i.e. self-guided trails, direction, information, observation area, etc.) available to assist in their birding endeavours"*

Langruth IBA Working Group have identified the following objectives and actions to address the above problem statement. Threats such as water management, wetland conversion and avian botulism maybe addressed at a later point in time. The working group has selected to work with achieved objectives within their scope of expertise. Objectives are not ranked in order of priority.

1. Preservation of Hollywood Beach Shoreline habitat

Item	Action	Partners
Legal protection for Hollywood Beach Shoreline habitat	RM of Lakeview to develop bylaws to protect beach habitat.	• Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation (LICDC) • RM of Lakeview • Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee • The Langruth Elks **Timeline: Fall 2001** **Lead Agency: LICDC**
Human disturbance and uncontrolled access by ATV's and vehicles are damaging the sensitive Hollywood Beach shoreline habitat used by migrating shorebirds including Piping Plovers	**"ROCKING PROJECT"** Placing large rocks (physical barrier) to eliminate ATV and vehicle access to Hollywood Beach. Constructing a gate to limit access.	• Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee • Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation • The Langruth Elks • Kinosota Trail Fish and Game **Timeline: Fall 2001** **Lead Agency: LICDC**

2. Improve infrastructure (access) to Jackfish Lake (area of Big Grass Marsh in the RM of Lakeview).

Item	Action	Partners
Improving infrastructure to Jackfish Lake for birds.	Improving road access through RM of Westbourne. Development of walking trails. Birding Information.	• Jackfish Lake Project • RM's of Lakeview and Westbourne. **Lead Agency: Jack Fish Lake Working Group. R.M. of Lakeview to provide infrastructure funding, machinery and labor.** **Timeline: Fall 2001**

2. Walking Trails and Viewing Sites at Hollywood Beach

Item	Action	Partners
Developing self-guided walking trails and bird observation areas at Hollywood Beach to view shorebirds and waterbirds along Lake Manitoba shoreline.	Integrated with the "Rocking Project"	• Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation. • Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee • The Langruth Elks **Timeline: Fall 2001** **Lead Agency: LICDC**
Jack Fish Lake Nature Site self-guided walking trail. Key species Sandhill Cranes during migration.	Jack Fish Lake Nature Site Working Group to develop and construct a self-guided nature trail.	• Jack Fish Lake Working Group. • Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation

		Timeline: Fall 2001 **Lead Agency: LICDC**

3. Education

Item	Action	Partners
Billboard size Langruth IBA sign. There is a need to direct birders/tourists to birding opportunities within the RM of Lakeview.	Sign to be placed at the junction of highways #50 and #16 providing direction to key birding areas.	• Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation • Langruth Elks **Timeline: Fall 2001** **Lead Agency: LICDC**
There is no self-guiding information available to assist birders at Hollywood Beach	Developing educational signage at Hollywood Beach	• Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation • Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee • Langruth Elks **Timeline: Fall 2001** **Lead Agency: LICDC**

4. Community Awareness

Item	Action	Partners
Langruth IBA Website. There is a need to promote birding opportunities and foster awareness of unique birding opportunities in the IBA.	Langruth Elementary School to develop and maintain IBA website.	• Langruth Elementary School • Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation • CFAN **Timeline: Spring 2001** **Lead Agency: LICDC**

Conduct bird surveys along Hollywood Beach. There is a need to collect information on current bird use and trends.	Involve local biologists from Manitoba Conservation. To be carried out by students from Langruth Elementary School grades 7 and 8.	• Manitoba Conservation • Langruth Elementary School • Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee • Raymond O'Connor **Timeline: Manitoba Conservation staff at Brandon to be approached to provide necessary training. Surveys maybe conducted as early as Spring (April-May) 2001.** **Lead Agency: LICDC**
Work towards fostering awareness within the local community and within the global birding community. The What, Where and When to observe birds Project.	Develop a brochure on birding opportunities in the area including, where and when to observe significant species.	• Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation. • CFAN • **Timeline: Finish Fall 2001.** **Lead Agency: LICDC**

5. Increase Ecotourism

Item	Action	Partners
Ecotourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Work towards providing necessary infrastructure to encourage ecotourism in the RM of Lakeview.	Through all the above objectives	• Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation. **Timeline: Finish Fall 2001.** **Lead Agency: LICDC**

5. Develop educational Birding Slide Show

Item	Action	Partners
Develop educational Birding Slideshow highlighting birds of the area and local knowledge where and when to observe significant bird species. Use to foster local awareness.	Scan bird slides of local naturalist Raymond O'Connor. Develop an educational birding slide show.	• Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation. • Raymond O'Connor **Timeline: Finish Fall 2001.** **Lead Agency: LICDC**

12.0 Evaluating Success

Langruth IBA community conservation plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the present working group comprised of community stakeholder groups.

Acknowledgements

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www.petersononline.com

www.chin.gc.ca/~anana/MMMN/English/index.html

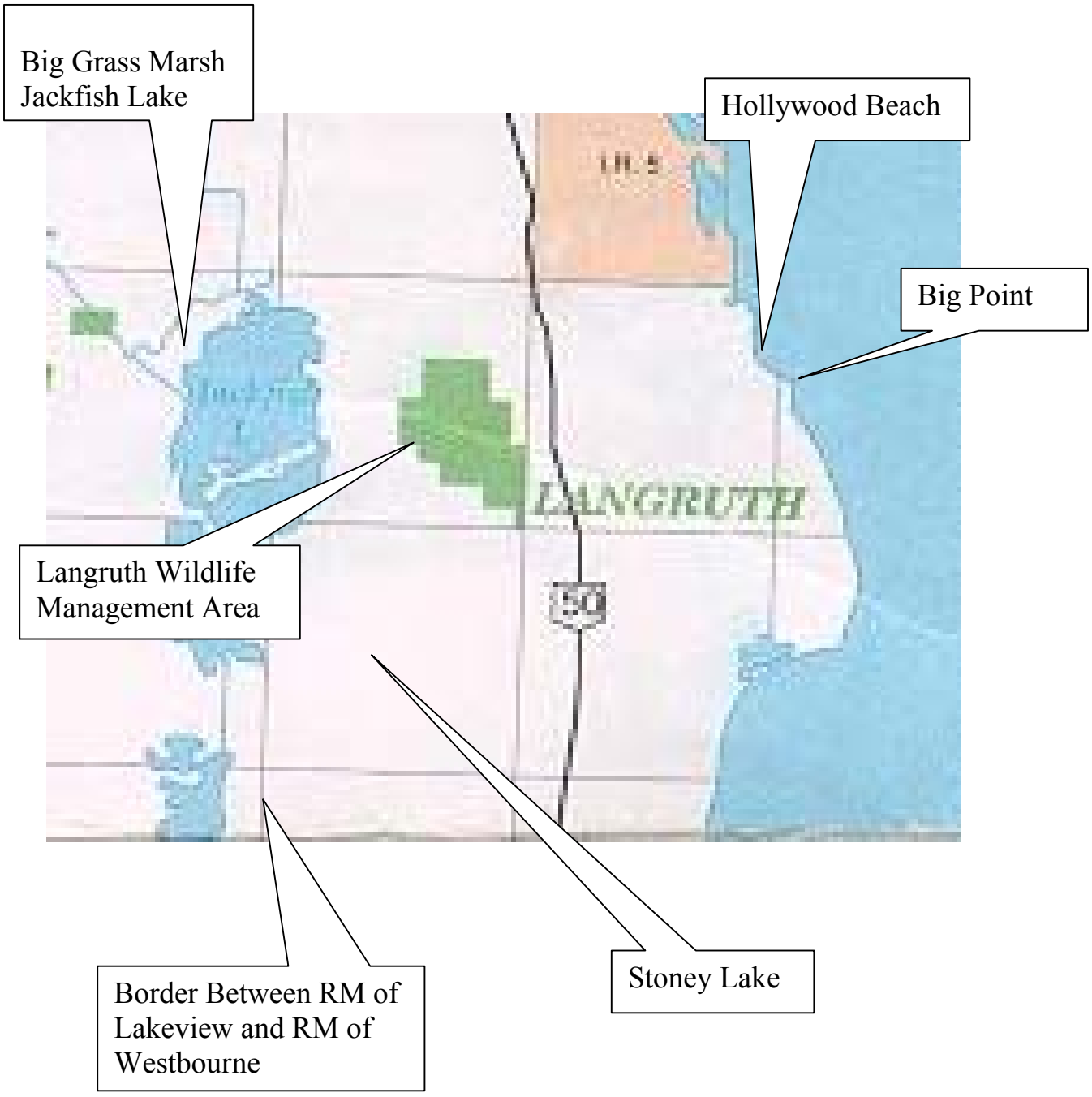
Appendices

Appendix I: Langruth IBA Contacts

Name	*Affiliations*	*Contact Numbers*
Phyllis Thordarson (Langruth) Langruth CCP Contact	Lakeview Initiatives Community Development Corporation Hollywood Beach Citizens Committee (Langruth)	Ph: 204-445-2323 Fx: 204-445-2236 Thordrsn@portage.net
Cory Lindgren (Oak Hammock)	Manitoba IBA Community Conservation Planner	Ph: 467-3269 Fx: 467-9028 Email: C_Lindgren@ducks.ca
Harry Harris (Alonsa)	Westlake Tourism Association; Alonsa Conservation District Box 33 Alonsa Manitoba	Ph: 204-767-2101 Fx: 204-767-2044
Rick Baker, Manager (Neepawa)	Whitemud Watershed Conservation District Box 130 Neepawa, MB R0J 1HO	Ph: 204-476-5019 Fx: 204-476-2811 Whitemud@escape.ca
Dan Chranowski (Brandon)	Manitoba Conservation	Ph: 204-726-6296
Isaac Wiebe	Reeve R.M. of Lakeview Jackfish Lake Project Kinosota Trail Fish and Game	Ph: 204-445-2059

Ron Brown	Economic Development Officer Langruth Kinosota Trail Fish and Game Jackfish Lake Project	Ph: 204-445-2243 Lakeview@portage.net
Philip Thordarson	Councillor RM Lakeview Jackfish Lake Project	Ph: 204-445-2323
Raymond O'Connor (Langruth)	Local Naturalist	Ph: 204-445-2044
Bill Stilwell	Consultant Jackfish Lake Project	Ph: 204-476-5210
Arnold Coutts	R.M. Westbourne Jackfish Lake Project	Ph: 204-386-2444
Jane Wilson	C Fan Director	Ph: 204-445-2360
Duncan Broadfoot **Randy Watts** **Cal Cuthbert**	Jackfish Lake Project	Ph: 204-385-2710 Ph: 204-386-2107 Ph: 204-867-5228

Appendix II: Map of Langruth-RM of Lakeview CCP area



Appendix III: Birds nesting in the Lakeview Area as compiled by Raymond O'Connor.

Pied-billed Grebe	Killdeer
Eared Grebe	
Western Grebe	Willet
Horned Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper
	Upland Sandpiper
American Bittern	Marbled godwit
	Common Snipe
Canada Goose	Wilson's Phalarope
Green-winged Teal	
Mallard	Franklin's Gull
Northern Pintail	Ring-billed Gull (visitor)
Blue-winged Teal	Herring Gull (visitor)
Northern Shoveler	Caspian Tern (visitor)
American Wigeon	Forster's Tern
Canvasback	Black Tern
Ruddy Duck	
	Mourning Dove
Northern Harrier	
Cooper's Hawk	Black-billed Cuckoo
Broad-winged Hawk	
Swainson's Hawk	Great Horned Owl
Red-tailed Hawk	Long-eared Owl
	Short-eared Owl
American Kestrel	
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Gray Partridge	
Ruffed Grouse	Northern Flicker
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Pileated Woodpecker
Sora	Least Flycather
American Coot	Eastern Phoebe
	GreatCrested Flycatcher
Horned Lark	Western Kingbird
	Eastern Kingbird
Purple Martin	
Tree Swallow	Bobolink
Cliff Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Barn Swallow	Western Meadowlark
	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Blue Jay	Brewer's Blackbird
Black-billed Magpie	Common Grackle
American Crow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Raven (visitor)	Baltimore Oriole
Black-capped Chickadee	American Goldfinch
White-breasted Nuthatch	House Sparrow
	Chipping Sparrow
House Wren	Clay-coloured Sparrow
Sedge Wren	Vesper Sparrow

Marsh Wren	
	Yellow Warbler
Eastern Bluebird	Common Yellowthroat
Mountain Bluebird	
Veery	Warbling Vireo
American Robin	Red-eyed Vireo
Gray Catbird	Cedar Waxwing
Brown Thrasher	
	European Starling

Appendix IV: Published accounts of Bird Species and Population Data.

SM- Spring Migration. FM - Fall Migration. B-Breeding.

Species	Season	No. of birds Peak Day	References
Snow Geese	SM,FM	200,000	Stilwell 1997
Snow Geese	FM	11,000 (Sept. 1977)	Schellenberg (1979)
Ducks	SM,FM	25,000	Stilwell 1997
Ducks	Stage	75,000 (1978)	BGM Study 1978
Ducks	FM	79,200 Oct. 30 1969	Collins and Boothryod 1977
Ducks	Moult	3,200 (1977)	Schellenberg (1979)
Ducks	FM	13,000 (Sept. 1977)	Schellenberg (1979)
Ducks	Stage	5,000 - 20,000	Poston (1990)
Geese	Stage	100,000 (1978)	BGM Study 1978
Mallard	FM		Collins..(1977)
Pintail	FM		Collins..(1977)
Redhead	FM		Collins..(1977)
Lesser Scaup	FM		Collins..(1977)
Canada Geese	FM,SM	2,900 Oct. 17 1974	Collins and Boothryod 1977
Canada Geese	FM	646 Oct 5 1977	Collins and Boothryod 1977
Lesser Snow Geese	FM,SM	6,500 Oct. 17 1973	Collins and Boothryod 1977
Lesser Snow Geese	FM	11,100 Sept 9 1977	Collins and Boothryod 1977
Mallard	FM	10,572 (Sept 19 1973)	Beacham & Brace
Blue-winged Teal	FM	600 (Aug 30 1972)	Beacham & Brace
Lesser Scaup	FM	1,300 (Oct 29 1974)	Beacham & Brace
Divers	FM	7,914 (Aug 29 1973)	Beacham & Brace
Snow Geese	FM	6,500 (Oct 17 1973)	Beacham & Brace
Canada Geese	FM	2,938 (Oct 17 1974)	Beacham & Brace
Coots	FM	3,335 (Sept 13 1972)	Beacham & Brace
Swans	FM	140 Oct 26 1977	Collins and Boothryod 1977
Sandhill Cranes	FM	6,500 Sept. 15 1961	Collins and Boothryod 1977*
Sandhill Cranes	SM,FM	6,500	Stilwell 1997
Sandhill Cranes	B	200 (1961)	Cooch 1961
Sandhill Cranes	FM	566 Sept 28 1977	Collins and Boothryod 1977**
Sandhill Cranes	FM	15,000 Aug. 1960	Millar 1960
Franklin's Gull	B	5,000	Stilwell 1997
Franklin's Gull	B	5,000 Aug 2 1943	Collins and Boothryod 1977
Franklin's Gulls	B (Jackfish)	250 pairs 1977	Collins and Boothryod 1977
Am. Coot	FM	2,227 Sept 7 1977	Collins and Boothryod 1977

*Sandhill Crane numbers have decreased from these fall numbers, ie. 1974 FM Oct. 29 numbers have 125-130 birds.

** Most Coots observed on Jackfish Lake

Appendix V: IBA Canada Partners

BirdLife International

A pioneer in its field, BirdLife International (BL) is the first non-government organizsation 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 (CNF)

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: IBA populations criteria

Species	IBA Population Criteria	Nos. Observed in IBA
Snow Geese	20,000 Global Significance	200,000
Waterfowl	20,000 Global Significance	79,200
Mallard	10,000 National Significance	10,572
Franklin's Gull	5,000 Global Significance	>5,000
Sandhill Crane	4,819 Continental Significance	6,500

Appendix VII: Bird accounts in the Lakeview Community Pastures
(Source: Newman et al. 2000)

List of all bird species observed in the grassland habitat, Lakeview Community Pastures.

American coot	Common snipe	Red-winged blackbird
American crow	Eastern bluebird	Ring-billed gull
American goldfinch	Eastern kingbird	Savannah sparrow
American white pelican	Franklin's gull	Sedge wren
Bald eagle	Grey catbird	Song sparrow
Barn swallow	Killdeer	Sora
Black-billed cuckoo	Least flycatcher	Upland sandpiper
Black tern	Mallard	Vesper sparrow
Blue-winged teal	Marbled godwit	Warbling vireo
Bobolink	Marsh wren	Western kingbird
Brown thrasher	Mountain bluebird	Western meadowlark
Clay-coloured sparrow	Mourning dove	Yellow warbler
Common grackle		

List of all bird species observed in the wetland habitat, Lakeview Community Pasture.

American bittern	Common yellowthroat	Red-tailed hawk
American coot	Forster's tern	Red-winged blackbird
American crow	Franklin's gull	Ring-billed gull
American robin	Grey catbird	Sandhill crane
American white pelican	Killdeer	Savannah sparrow
Barn swallow	Least flycatcher	Sedge wren
Black tern	Lesser yellow legs	Song sparrow
Black-billed cuckoo	Mallard	Sora
Black-crowned night-heron	Marbled godwit	Swamp sparrow
Blue-winged teal	Marsh wren	Tree swallow
Bobolink	Mourning dove	Veery
Cedar waxwing	Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow	Warbling vireo
Clay-coloured sparrow	Northern shoveller	Western meadowlark
Cliff swallow	Pied-billed grebe	Yellow-headed blackbird
Common snipe	Red-eyed vireo	

List of all bird species observed in the woodland habitat, Lakeview Community Pasture.

Alder flycatcher	Eastern kingbird	Red-tailed hawk
American crow	Eastern towhee	Red winged blackbird
American redstart	Eastern wood-peewee	Rose-breasted grosbeak
American robin	Grey catbird	Ruffed grouse
Bald eagle	Hermit thrush	Sedge wren
Black-capped chickadee	House wren	Song sparrow
Blue jay	Least flycatcher	Veery
Chestnut-sided warbler	Mallard	Warbling vireo
Clay-coloured sparrow	Mourning dove	Western kingbird
Common raven	Northern oriole	White-throated sparrow
Common snipe	Ovenbird	Yellow-headed blackbird
Downy woodpecker	Red-eyed vireo	Yellow warbler