FOCUS AREAS

The development of geographic focus areas has great potential to provide more efficient and effective delivery of bird habitat conservation. In theory, focus areas can be thought of as the most important areas for migratory bird habitats, and should be considered as the highest priority landscapes for allocating limited financial resources and bird conservation efforts. For more discussion of focus areas, including their limitations, see Chapter 4 of the BCR13_Final_Plan.

One goal of this plan is to identify and raise the visibility of specific sites or areas that are considered by expert opinion to be important for bird conservation. BCR 13 partners identified a set of approximately 250 discrete (but often overlapping) polygons, which correspond to 156 named focus areas and approximately 50 unnamed polygons (See maps below). Focus areas for BCR 13 were developed independently for each of the major bird initiatives (i.e., waterfowl, waterbird, landbird, and shorebird), by bird experts that attended the BCR 13 workshops in 2001. Focus areas for landbirds, waterbirds, and shorebirds were reviewed by each jurisdiction in the U.S. and Canada. Waterfowl focus areas also have been identified for the U.S. portion of BCR 13 through the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture's Waterfowl Implementation Plan. Though most focus areas were designated by just one of the four initiatives, many key areas were identified by two, three, or even all four bird initiatives. For these overlapping focus areas, exact polygon size and boundaries do not always correspond closely, even for focus areas sharing the same name.

Focus areas range in size from small, discrete sites (e.g., a particular island or beach) to large sites (e.g., military bases), to landscapes that can encompass many different ownerships over several thousand hectares (See maps below). Additional details on BCR 13 Focus areas, including a list of all designated Important Bird Areas in BCR 13 are provided in the BCR13_Final_plan. Work is underway to improve on the map and list of focus areas produced at the 2001 workshops, as some focus areas currently remain without names attached to them or without specific attributes. Therefore, the rationale for originally delineating some focus area (e.g., priority species or habitats associated with the area) is no longer clear. Future updates of the focus area list and map(s) will be posted at the BCR13 website, available through www.acjv.org.

Limitations

The focus areas identified in this initial BCR 13 bird conservation plan should be viewed as a rough, first-step attempt at identifying some of the region's most important bird habitats. The process used to generate focus areas has important limitations that should be understood by anyone using the maps or list in this plan. The list of focus areas is biased in terms of taxonomic groups, habitats, jurisdictions, and existing knowledge. These biases include:

- Which bird experts attended BCR 13 workshops in 2001
- Which geographic areas were represented by experts at the BCR 13 workshops in 2001
- Which species were familiar to the experts at the BCR 13 workshops in 2001

The preliminary focus areas identified in this plan are probably important to most priority bird species listed in the BCR13 Plan, but do *not* adequately represent all the species listed.

For more discussion of focus areas, including their limitations, see Chapter 4 of the BCR13_Final_Plan.

Priority Regions

In the early stages of conservation planning for BCR 13, three priority regions were identified as being the most important areas to advance conservation objectives for all bird species in BCR 13:

- 1) Upper St. Lawrence/ Lake Ontario region
- 2) Lower St. Lawrence/Champlain/Ottawa/Richelieu River region
- 3) Lake Erie/Niagara River region (consisting of three disjunct subregions)

Each is discussed briefly in the BCR13 Plan.

Important Bird Areas

Around the world, partners of Birdlife International have participated in an effort to identify and protect a network of sites, or Important Bird Areas (IBA), critical for the conservation of the world's birds. In the United States this effort is being led by the National Audubon Society, and carried out through its state offices and various partners. Co-partners for the IBA Program in Canada are Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada (Formerly the Canadian Nature Federation). IBA programs differ across jurisdictions in terms of the criteria, analyses, and data used to identify sites. Methodologies have evolved over time, and in at least some cases IBA identification is based on objective evaluations that include GIS-based landscape analysis, and attempts to deal with wide-ranging species by identifying landscapes and habitats most likely to be valuable to particular species (e.g., see 2005 IBA book published by Audubon New York). Official IBAs in the US and Canada were identified independently—both before and after—the workshops that resulted in the list of focus areas in the BCR 13 plan. Therefore, IBAs and focus areas should be viewed as separate but complementary to efforts to conserve birds in this region. Many of the BCR 13 focus areas are recognized as IBAs; larger focus areas may even encompass multiple IBAs, as both IBAs and BCR 13 focus areas vary in scale. Until and unless BCR 13 partners decide to refine the current focus area list (e.g., by objectively evaluating bird and habitat distribution data and producing new maps), IBAs should be considered just as important to regional bird conservation efforts as the focus areas identified in this plan.

Figure C1. Priority Regions in BCR 13

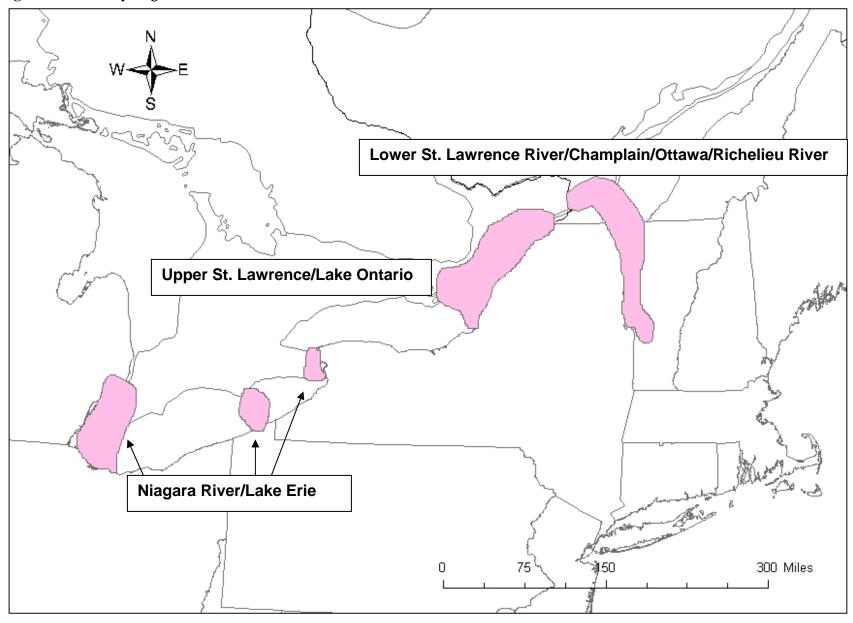


Figure C2. Waterbird Focus Areas in BCR 13

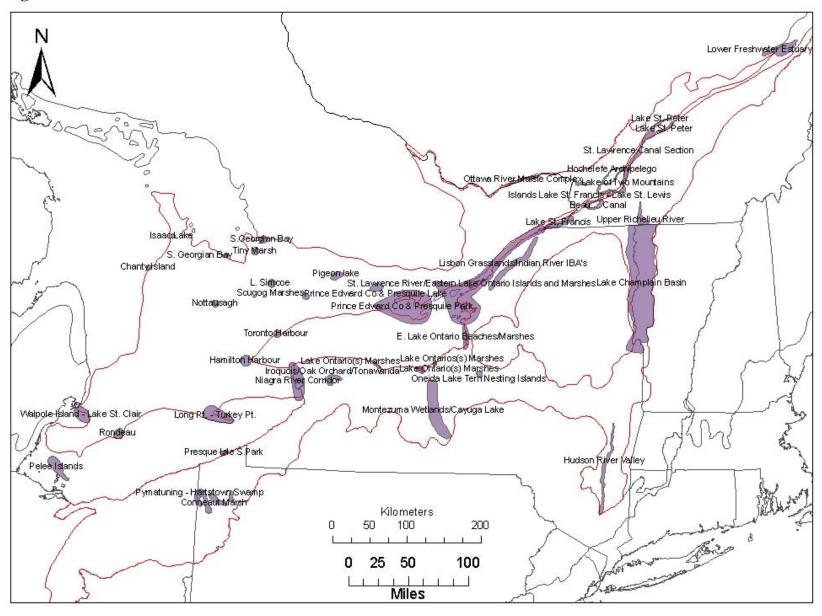


Figure C3. Shorebird Focus Areas in BCR 13

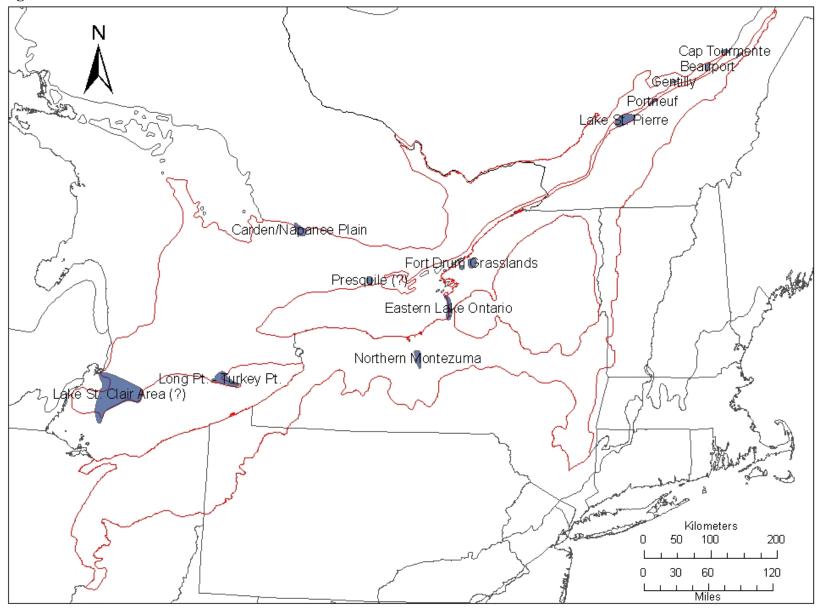
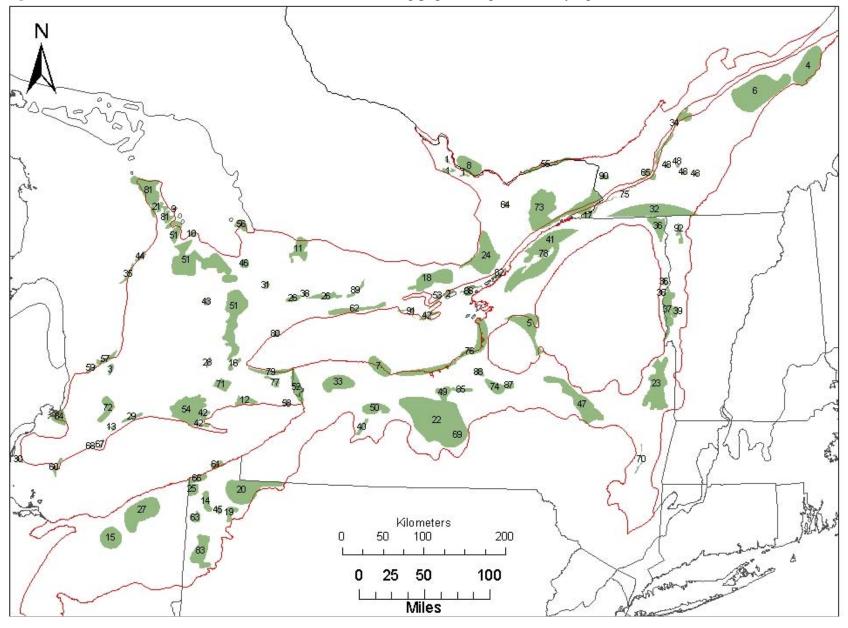


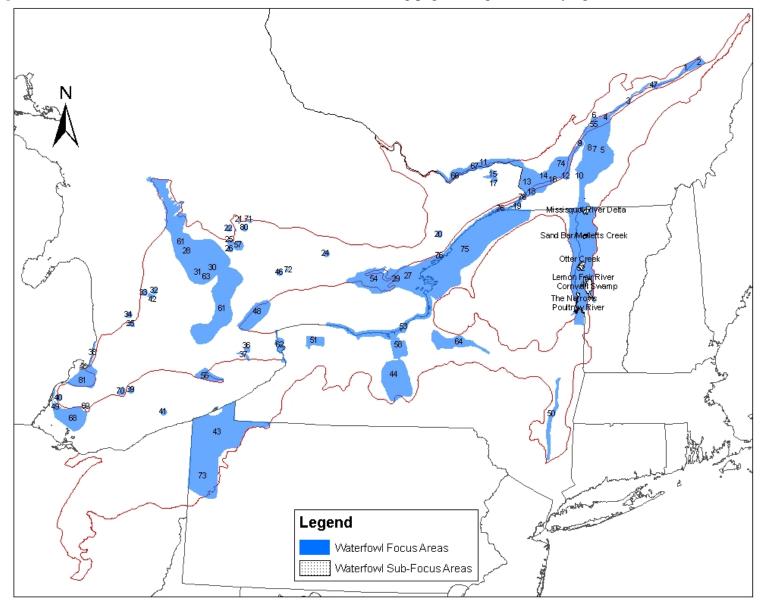
Figure C4. Landbird Focus Areas in BCR 13. See following page for legend identifying numbered focus areas.



Legend of numbered focus areas from Figure C4 (Above)

Focus Area	<u>ID</u>	Focus Area	<u>ID</u>	Focus Area	<u>ID</u>
Almont Grasslands	1	Iroquois/Oak Orchard/Tonawanda	33	Pymatuning Grasslands	63
Amherst Island	2	Islands on St. Lawrence		Richmond Fen	64
Ausable Riverine Forest	3	(Montreal/Sorel)	34	Rigaud area	65
Beauce-Bellechasse	4	Kettle Point	35	Roderick	66
Black River Valley	5	Lake Champlain Grasslands	36	Rondeau	67
Bois-Francs	6	Lake Champlain Shoreline	37	Rondeau Bay / Erieau	68
Braddock Bay	7	Lake Scugog	38	Salmon Creek	69
Breckenridge area	8	Lemon Fair River/ Cornwall Swamp	39	Schodack Island SP/Stockport Flats	
Cape Croker	9	Letchworth State Park	40	area	70
Cape Rich (CFB)	10	Lisbon GrsInds, St. Lawrence Plains	41	Six Nations	71
Carden Plain / Napanee Plain	11	Long Point	42	Skunks Misery / Bothwell Sandplain	72
Cayuga / Dunnville	12	Luther Marsh	43	Smith Falls Limestone Plain	73
Clear Creek	13	McGregor Point	44	South Shore Oneida Lake	74
Cusswego Bottoms	14	Meadville/Erie NWR	45	South Shore St. Lawrence River	75
Cuyahoga Valley	15	Minnising Swamp	46	Southeastern Lake Ontario Shoreline	76
Dundas / Coots Paradise	16	Mohawk River Valley	47	St. John's Shorthills	77
Dundee Area	17	Mont Royal	48	St. Lawrence Plain, forest patch	78
Dunnville	18	Montezuma Wetland Complex	49	SW Shore Lake Ontario	79
Erie NWR/Gameland 69 Complex	19	Nation's Road & Candice/Hemlock		Toronto Harbour	80
Erie NWR/Henslows Agricultural Fields	20	Lakes	50	Upper Bruce Peninsula	81
Ferndale Flats	21	Niagra Escarpment Hardwood	51	Upper St. Lawrence Islands	82
Finger Lakes	22	Niagra River Corridor	52	Volant Grasslands	83
Fort Edwards/Saratoga	23	Norfolk Area	53	Walpole Island	84
Frontenac Axis	24	Norfolk Sand Plain	54	Whiskey Hollow	85
Gameland 101 Complex	25	Ottawa River Maisle complex	55	Wolfe Island	86
Ganaraska / Oak Ridges	26	Penetanguishene Peninsula	56	Unnamed	87
Geauga County Forests	27	Pinery	57	Unnamed	88
Grand River Forest	28	Point Abino	58	Unnamed	89
Hawk Cliff, St. Thomas	29	Point Clark	59	Unnamed	90
Holiday Beach	30	Point Pelee	60	Prince Edward Point	91
Holland Marsh	31	Presque Isle	61	Unnamed	92
Huntingdon-Cowansville Areas	32	Presquile	62		

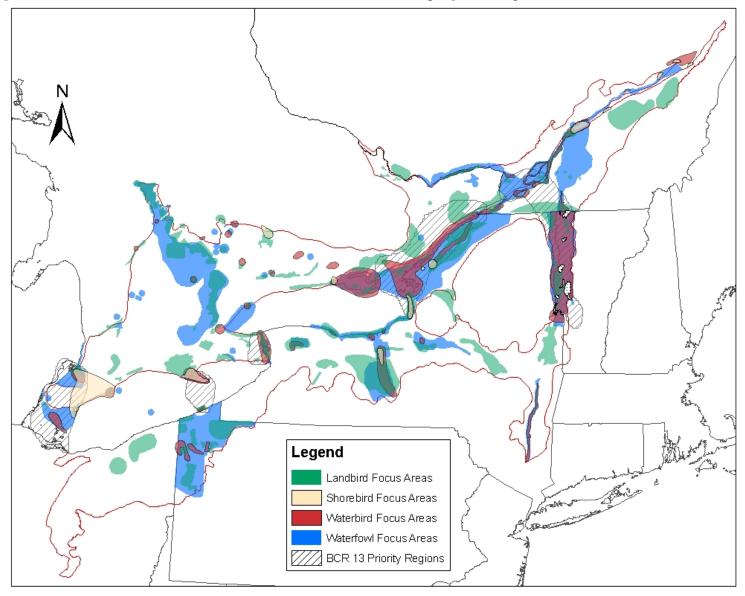
Figure C5. Waterfowl Focus Areas in BCR 13. See following page for legend identifying numbered focus areas.



Legend of numbered focus areas from Figure C5 (Above)

Focus Area	` <u>ID</u> ´	Focus Area	<u>ID</u>
Unnamed	1-8	Long Pt., - Turkey Pt. (?)	<u>ID</u> 56
Contrecoeur	9	Minninsing Swamp	57
Unnamed	10-15	Montezuma Wetlands	58
Lac Saint-Louis	16	Niagra Escarpment Hardwood/Grand River Forest	61
Unnamed	17-20	Niagra Escarpment Hardwood/Upper Bruce Peninsula	61
Wye Marsh	21	Niagra River Corridor	62
Unnamed	22	Luther Marsh	63
Tiny Marsh	23	Oneida Lake	64
Unnamed	24-34	Ottawa River Corridor	66
Port Franks, Thedford Flats	35	Ottawa River Complex (?)	67
Unnamed	36-42	Lower Detroit River, Pelee Islands	68
Cussewego Bottoms, Pymatuning Reservoir area	43	Point Pelee	69
Finger Lakes	44	Rondeau	70
Ganaraska/Oak Ridges	46	S. Georgian Bay (or Matchedash Bay?)	71
Gentilly (?)	47	Lake Scugog	72
Hamilton and Toronto Harbour areas (?)	48	Shendango River, Volant Grasslands area (?)	73
Holiday Beach	49	St. Lawrence and Ottawa River Corridor	74
Hudson River Valley	50	St. Lawrence Plain	75
Iroquois/Oak Orchard/Tonawanda	51	St. Lawrence River	76
Lake Champlain Basin	52	St. Lawrence River	76
Lake Ontario Beaches and Marshes	53	St. Lawrence River	76
Lake Ontario Islands, Prince Edward Co	54	Unnamed	80
Lake St. Peter (Pierre) and St. Lawrence Canal	55	Walpole Island, E. Lake St. Clair	81

Figure C6. All-bird Focus Areas for BCR 13 (combination of map layers in Figures C1-C5)



Focus Area Information

Focus areas for bird conservation in BCR 13, designated by group for landbirds (LB), shorebirds (SB), waterbirds (WB), or waterfowl (WF), or for individual species (AOU four-letter codes). Rows in bold represent Focus Areas named but not associated with a polygon on the map. Maps contain many unnamed polygons, i.e., areas without a particular name associated with it.

Focus Area Name	<u>IBA</u>	St/Prv	<u>Group</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Almonte Grasslands		ON	LB	SEOW	Grass&Shrub
Amherst Island	Υ	ON	LB	LB, SB, WF	Grass
Ausable Riverine Forest		ON	LB	LOWA	Dec-Forest
Baie Lavallière and île du Moine		QC		SEWR, SEOW	Marsh
Beauce - Bellechasse		QC	LB	BOBO, NOHA	Grass
Beauharnois Dam and Canal		QC	WB		Wetland
Beauport	Υ	QC	SB		
Berry Island		ON		BOBO,GWWA	Grass&Shrub
Black River Valley		NY	LB	вово	Grass&Shrub
Bois-Francs		QC	LB	CAWA,NOGO,YBSA,NOFL	Mix-Forest
Braddock Bay	Υ	NY	LB	WB, multi-species	Wetland, Forest
Breckenridge Area		QC	LB	RHWO, LOSH	Grass
Cap Tourmente		QC	SB	LB, raptors, SEWR	Forest, Grass
Cape Croker		ON	LB	ВОВО	Grass&Shrub
Cape Rich (CFB)		ON	LB	BAEA,BOBO	Grass&Shrub
Carden Plain	Υ	ON	LB,SB	UPSA,LOSH,RHWO,GRSP,HESP	Alvar
Cayuga Grasslands		ON	,	SEOW,wintr rptrs	Grass&Shrub
Chanty Island		ON	WB	GREG,BCNH	Marsh
Clear Creek		ON		WOTH,RSHA,BTBW	Dec-Forest
Conneaut Marsh- Geneva Marsh	Υ	PA	WB	SB	Marsh
Contrecoeur	Υ	QC	WF		Marsh
Cowansville area		QC		GWWA	Shrub, Early
Cussewego Bottoms	Υ	PA	WF	WOTH	Forest,Wetland
Cuyahoga Valley	Υ	ОН	LB	CERW,WOTH	Dec-Forest
Dead Creek WMA	Υ	VT		SB	
Delta Park	Υ	VT		SB	
Dundas/Coot's Paradise		ON	LB	LOWA	Dec-Forest
Dundee Area		QC	LB	SEWR,GWWA,RHWO	Wetland,Forest,Shrub
Dunnville/Cayuga Slough Forest		ON		SEOW	Marsh
Eastern Lake Ontario beaches		NY	WB,SB	PIPL, CATE	Beach, Shore
Eastern Manitoulin Bay		ON		YBSA,NOGO,BTBW	Mix-Forest
Erie NWR	Υ	PA	WB	SB, SEWR,BOBO,NOHA	Grass,Shrub,Marsh
Ferndale Flats		ON	LB	GWWA	Grass&Shrub
Finger Lakes		NY	WF,LB	HESP,SEWR,BOBO,NOHA	Grass&Shrub
Fitzwilliam Island		ON		YBSA,NOGO,BTBW	Mix-Forest
Fort Drum Grasslands	Υ	NY	SB,LB	UPSA	Grass
Fort Edwards/Saratoga	Υ	NY	LB	HESP,UPSA,BOBO,NOHA,GWWA	Grass&Shrub
Frontenac Axis		ON	LB	CERW,BTBW	Dec-Forest
Gameland 101 complex		PA	LB	AMWO	Dec-Forest, Shrub
Gameland 69 complex	Υ	PA	LB	WOTH, AMWO	Dec-Forest, Shrub
Ganaraska/Oak Ridges		ON	LB	RSHA,BTBW, WF?	Dec-Forest

List of focus areas for bird conservation in BCR 13 (Continued)

Focus Area Name	<u>IBA</u>	St/Prv	<u>Group</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Gatineau Park		QC		CERW,WOTH,GWWA,FISP	Forest, Shrub
Geauga County Forests		ОН	LB	CERW,WOTH	Dec-Forest
Gentilly		QC	SB,WF		
Gordon Park Impoundment/Dyke14	Υ	ОН	- /	SB	Wetland(?)
Gore Bay, Manitoulin		ON		BOBO,SEOW	Grass&Shrub
Grand River Forest		ON	LB	CERW,LOWA,RHWO	Dec-Forest
Hamilton Harbour, Toronto Harbour,		0			200:0:000
Dundas Valley	Υ	ON	WF,WB	BCNH, CATE	Wetland
Hawk Cliff, St. Thomas		ON	LB	Raptors	
Hemmingford area		QC		FISP, RSHA	Forest, Grass
Henslow's Agricultural Fields	Υ	PA	LB	BOBO, HESP	Grass
Hochelefe Archipelego		ON	WB		Wetland
Holiday Beach		ON	WF,LB	Raptors	
Holland Marsh		ON	LB	SEWR,SEOW,NOHA	Marsh
Hudson River Marshes/Islands		NY	WF,WB		Marsh
Huntingdon area		QC	LB	GWWA,FISP,WPWI	Forest, Grass
Iroquois NWR/OakOrchard WMA	Υ	NY	WF,WB, LB, SB	BOBOBO,HESP,SEWR,CERW, NOHA	Grass&Shrub
Isaac Lake		ON	WB		
Kettle Point		ON	LB	Raptors	
Killbuck WMA	Υ	ОН		SB	Wetland
LaCloche		ON		LOSH,SEOW,GWWA	Alvar, Grass
Lake Champlain Basin		NY/VT	WF,WB		Various
Lake Champlain Shoreline		VT/NY	LB,SB		
Lake Champlain Valley		NY/VT	LB	BOBO,NOHA	Grass&Shrub
Lake Ontario, Prince Edward County		ON	WF		Marsh
Lake Ontario South Shore Marshes		NY	WB		Marsh
Lake Scugog		ON	WF,WB, LB	SEWR,SEOW,NOHA	Marsh
Lake Simcoe		ON	WB		Wetland
Lake St. Clair, Rondeau, Point Pelee	Υ	ON	SB	BLTE,FOTE	Wetland
Lake St. Luis/Lk St. Francis Islands		QC	WB	GRSC	Wetland
Lake St. Pierre	Υ	QC	SB, WB	WF, Goldeneye spp. & scaup spp.	Fluvial Estuary
Lemon Fair River/ Cornwall Swamp		VT	LB	ABDU, WODU, COGO	Wetland
Leslie Street Spit	Υ	ON	WB		
Letchworth State Park area	Υ	NY	LB	CERW,WOTH,RSHA,GWWA	Dec-Forest
Lisbon Grasslands/Indian River	Υ	NY	LB,WB	GWWA,WPWI,FISP,NOHA,SEWR	Grass&Shrub
Long Point Provincal Park and NWA	Υ	ON	SB,WB	PIPL	Marsh
Long Point/Amherst/Wolfe Island	Υ	ON	LB,WF	HESP,raptors,SEOW,SEWR,	Grass&Shrub
Loraine Impoundment	Υ	ОН	SB		Wetland
Lower Detroit River, Pelee Islands	Υ	ON	WF		Wetland
Lower St. Lawrence Estuary		QC	WB		Wetland
Lower St. Lawrence River & Islands	Υ	NY	WB	BAEA	Island
Luther Marsh	Υ	ON	WF,WB	LB,NOGO,SEOW,GREG,BCNH	Grass&Shrub
McGregor Point		ON	LB	NOGO,BTBW	Mix-Forest
Meadville/Erie NWR		PA	LB	SEOW,BOBO,NOHA	
Mentor Marsh	Υ	ОН		PIPA	Marsh,Beach
Minnising Swamp		ON	LB,WF	RHWO	Marsh
Misery Bay		ON		LOSH,GWWA	Alvar, Grass

List of focus areas for bird conservation in BCR 13 (Continued)

<u>Focus Area Name</u> Missisquoi NWR	<u>IBA</u> Yes	<u>St/Prv</u> VT	<u>Group</u> SB	<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Mohawk River Valley	103	NY	LB	BOBO,UPSA,HESP,GWWA	Grass&Shrub
Mont Royal		QC	LB		0.000000
Monteregian Hills		QC		CERW,WOTH,RSHA	Dec-Forest
Montezuma Wetlands Complex	Yes	NY	All	CERW,RSHA,WOTH	Wetland, Forest
Montmagny	Yes	QC	SB	SESA, HERG	
Mosquito Creek	Yes	ОН		SB	
Napanee Limestone Plain Nation's Road, Candice/Hemlock	Yes	ON	LB,SB	LOSH HESP,BOBO,UPSA,RSHA,CE	Grass&Shrub
Lakes	Yes	NY	LB	RW,RHWO,NOGO	Grass&Shrub
Niagara Escarpment		ON	LB	WOTH,RSHA,BTBW	Dec-Forest
Niagra River Corridor	Yes	ON	WF,WB,LB	BOGU,HERG	Wetland
Niagra River Corridor	Yes	NY	WB,LB,SB		Various
Norfolk Sandplain	Yes	ON	LB	WOTH,RSHA,CERW,HOWA	Dec-Forest
Nottawasawa Island	Yes	ON	WB		
Oneida Lake	Yes	NY	WF,WB	COTE	Island
Ottawa River Valley		QC	WF,WB,LB	SEWR	Various
Otter Creek		VT	LB	SEWR,NOHA	Wetlands
Pelee Islands	Yes	ON	WB	BCNH,DCCO	Wetlands
Penetanguishene Peninsula		ON		CERW	Dec-Forest
Perch River Grasslands Philipsburg Migratory Bird	Yes	NY	SB,WB,LB	UPSA ,BLTE	Grass
Sanctuary Pigeon lake		QC ON	WB	CERW,WOTH,RSHA CATE,RBGU	Dec-Forest Wetland
Pinery		ON	VVD	RHWO,LOWA	Dec-Forest
Point Clark		ON		LB	Dec-Folest
Point Pelee NP & Hillman Marsh	Yes	ON	LB,SB,WF	LD	Wetland, forest
Point Abino	Yes	ON	LB,SB,VVI		Dec-Forest
Portneuf	165	QC	SB	LESA,WRSA	Shoreline
Port Franks, Thedford Flats	Yes	ON	WF,LB		Marsh, Forest
Presqu'ile Provincial Park	Yes	ON	WB,SB,LB	SEWR	Various
r resquite r revincial r and	100	0.1	WB,0B,EB	32	Dec-Forest,
Presque Isle State Park Prince Edward County, Presquile	Yes	PA	LB,SB,WB	PIPL	Water
Lake & Park		ON	WB		Marsh
Prince Edward Point NWA	Yes	ON	LB,SB		Various
Pymatuning / Heartstown Quarry Bay/Belanger Bay	Yes	PA ON	WB,LB,SB LB	BLTE,AMBI,KIRA,PBGR, LOSH,GWWA	Grass Alvar Grass
Réserve écologique du Pin		OIL	LD	2001,01111	Aivai Olass
rigide		QC	LB	FISP,WPWI	Shrub, Early
Richelieu River		QC	LB,WF		Wetland
Richmond Fen		ON	LB	SEWR.SEOW,NOHA	Marsh
Rigaud area		QC	LB		Forest, Grass
Roderick Preserve Rondeau Bay	Yes	PA ON	LB,SB WF,WB,LB	AMWO RHWO,LOWA	Shrub, Early Dec-Forest
South Shore St. Lawrence River		00			Dan Francis
(Montreal – Dundee) Salmon Creek	V	QC	LB	CEDW WOT!	Dec-Forest
	Yes	NY	LB	CERW,WOTH	Dec-Forest
Sandbar WMA Schodack Island in Hudson River	Yes	VT	SB LD	CEDW MOTH MP	Wetland
	Yes	NY DA	LB	CERW,WOTH,WB	Dec-Forest Wetland
Shenango Six Nations	Yes	PA ON	SB,WB,WF	WOTH,RSHA	Dec-Forest
		OIN		WOTT, NOTA	הפת-ו חופפו

List of focus areas for bird conservation in BCR 13 (Continued)

Focus Area Name Skunk's Misery/Bothwell Sandplain	<u>IBA</u>	St/Pr	Group	Species	<u>Habitat</u>
, ,	Υ	ON	LB	WOTH,RSHA,BTBW	Dec-Forest
Smith Falls Limestone Plain		ON		LOSHUPSA	Grass&Shrub
South Georgian Bay (Matchedash Bay)	Υ	ON	WF,WB		Wetland
South Shore of Oneida Lake		NY	LB	CERW,WOTH	Dec-Forest
Southeastern Lake Ontario Shoreline	Υ	NY	LB		Forest
Southern St. Lawrence Plain		NY		LB	Grass&Shrub
St. Clair Lake and Marsh Complex	Υ	ON		SB	Marsh, Grass
St. John Shorthills		ON		LOWA, WOTH	Dec-Forest
St. Lawrence River / Eastern Lake				•	
Ontario		NY		WB	Beach& marsh
St. Lawrence River Islands (Montréal -		00		DODO 050W 05WD	0 14/41 1
Sorel)		QC	LB	BOBO,SEOW,SEWR	Grass, Wetland
St. Lawrence Valley Wetlands		NY		WB	Wetland, Grass
SW Lake Ontario (?)		ON		LB	
Tiny Marsh	Υ	ON	WF		Wetland
Upper Bruce Peninsula	Υ	ON	LB,WF(?)	NOGO,BTBW	Mix-Forest
Upper Richelieu River		QC	WB		
Upper St. Lawrence Islands		ON		SEWR,SEOW,NOHA	Marsh
Vidal Bay		ON		YBSA,NOGO,BTBW	Mix-Forest
Volant Grasslands area	Υ	PA		BOBO, HESP, SEOW	Grass
Walpole Island		ON	WF,WB,LB	SEWR,SEOW,NOHA	Grass&Shrub
West end of Lake Ontario	Υ	ON		SB	
Whiskey Hollow	Υ	NY		CERW,WOTH,GWWA	Dec-Forest
Wolfe Island	Υ	ON	LB	HESP,SEOW,raptors	Grassland
Wye Marsh	Υ	ON	WF	•	Marsh