

## Contribute to the Conservation of Wild Birds and their Habitats in Minnesota



### Buy Minnesota Wildlife Stamps

State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp sales alone generate between \$400,000 and \$600,000 per year for the development, restoration, maintenance, and preservation of wildlife habitat in Minnesota.

### Get Involved in Community Planning

Community decision makers are usually receptive to input from citizens, especially if they have a good understanding of the issues. Support wise land-use planning in your community.

### Join a Conservation Group

Support our BCM partners in Minnesota that protect and enhance wildlife through habitat improvement, public awareness, education, and advocacy for land conservation and management.

### Create Backyard Habitat

Plant native wildflowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs that provide food and cover for birds and other wildlife. Reduce the size of your lawn.

### Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day!

Share your interest, enjoyment, and concern with others. Find and attend an IMBD event (second Saturday in May) in your community, or better yet, start something yourself.

### Learn about Important Bird Areas

Volunteer to monitor bird populations and habitat conditions, and organizing education programs at officially recognized IBAs, where such public activities are appropriate.

### Keep Your Cat Indoors

Protect your cat from injuries and diseases while preventing the deaths of wild songbirds by keeping it indoors or on a leash.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Buy a Duck Stamp

One of the easiest and most effective actions anyone can take for birds is to purchase a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the Duck Stamp. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar raised by Duck Stamp sales are used to buy wetland habitat, which benefits migratory waterfowl and a host of other bird and wildlife species. Visit [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com) or a U.S. Post Office to purchase one (or two)!

### Endorse Bird Conservation Minnesota

BCM welcomes all partners and encourages bird conservationists to complete the Endorsement Form. The form can be obtained from the BCM Partnership Coordinator: Ron Windingstad at Audubon Minnesota, 2357 Ventura Drive, Suite 106, St. Paul, MN 55125. 651-739-9332. [rwindingstad@audubon.org](mailto:rwindingstad@audubon.org)

[www.birdconservationminnesota.org](http://www.birdconservationminnesota.org)

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## Bird Conservation Minnesota

# keeping common birds common



Facilitating partnerships in  
keeping common birds common  
and reversing species declines

Photo: MN DNR

## What is BCM?

Bird Conservation Minnesota (BCM) has been established to keep common birds common and reverse species declines. BCM is a cooperative conservation initiative made up of more than 100 partners from federal, state, and local government agencies, conservation groups, academic communities, industry, and private individuals committed to conservation of birds in Minnesota.

## Goal of BCM:

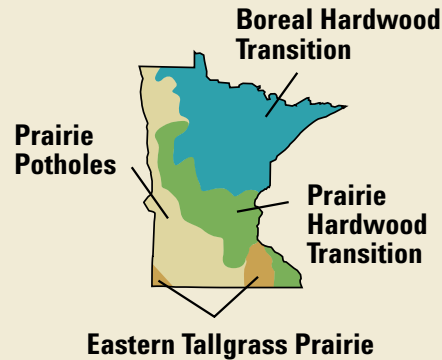
It is the goal of BCM to direct resources to the conservation of all birds and their habitats through cooperative efforts in the areas of research, monitoring, management, and education.

## Need for BCM:

The task of all-bird conservation is too complex for any single organization to accomplish alone. BCM thus began when representatives of state fish and wildlife agencies and a diverse set of other bird conservation organizations met in St. Cloud in 2003 and 2004 to chart a course for statewide bird conservation.

**Our challenge is to manage landscapes, control development, and alter our activities in such a way that people and birds can coexist.**

## Bird Conservation Regions



## Threats to Birds

### Habitat Loss and Degradation

By 1900, millions of immigrants had arrived in North America, clearing forests, draining wetlands, and converting native grasslands for farming, grazing, and fuel. Despite the fact that extensive areas have been set aside for wildlife, some bird populations are still at risk from habitat loss.

Birds face tremendous challenges to their survival every day and the majority of these challenges are related to human activities. The greatest threat to birds continues to be loss and/or degradation of habitat due to human development and disturbance.

Unchecked development is fragmenting and decimating tracts of pristine wilderness.

Wetland habitat threats continue and include draining, urbanization, degradation, recreational development, peat harvesting, and agricultural expansion.

Continued fragmentation of grasslands threaten future suitability of grassland birds. Threats include urbanization, recreational development, and agricultural expansion.

## What Will BCM Do?

Bird Conservation Minnesota will work to:

- Build strong connections among bird conservation organizations and individuals in the state.
- Understand how various bird conservation efforts relate to each other in Minnesota.
- Identify priority species and habitats, and establish objectives for bird populations and their habitats in Minnesota.
- Identify focus areas for bird conservation in Minnesota. Find people knowledgeable in these areas and identify conservation work to address the needs.
- Create an all-bird conservation plan or strategy for Minnesota that coordinates with other local, state, and national wildlife planning efforts.
- Plan ongoing implementation opportunities that engage all the BCM partners in conservation efforts.
- Build public support through education, tourism, and bird-friendly communities.



Western Meadowlark. Photo: Jim Williams